

1-31-2008

Observer

Central Washington University

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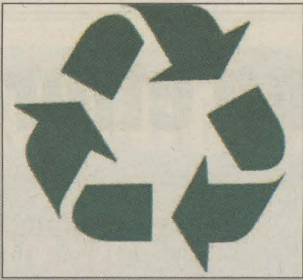
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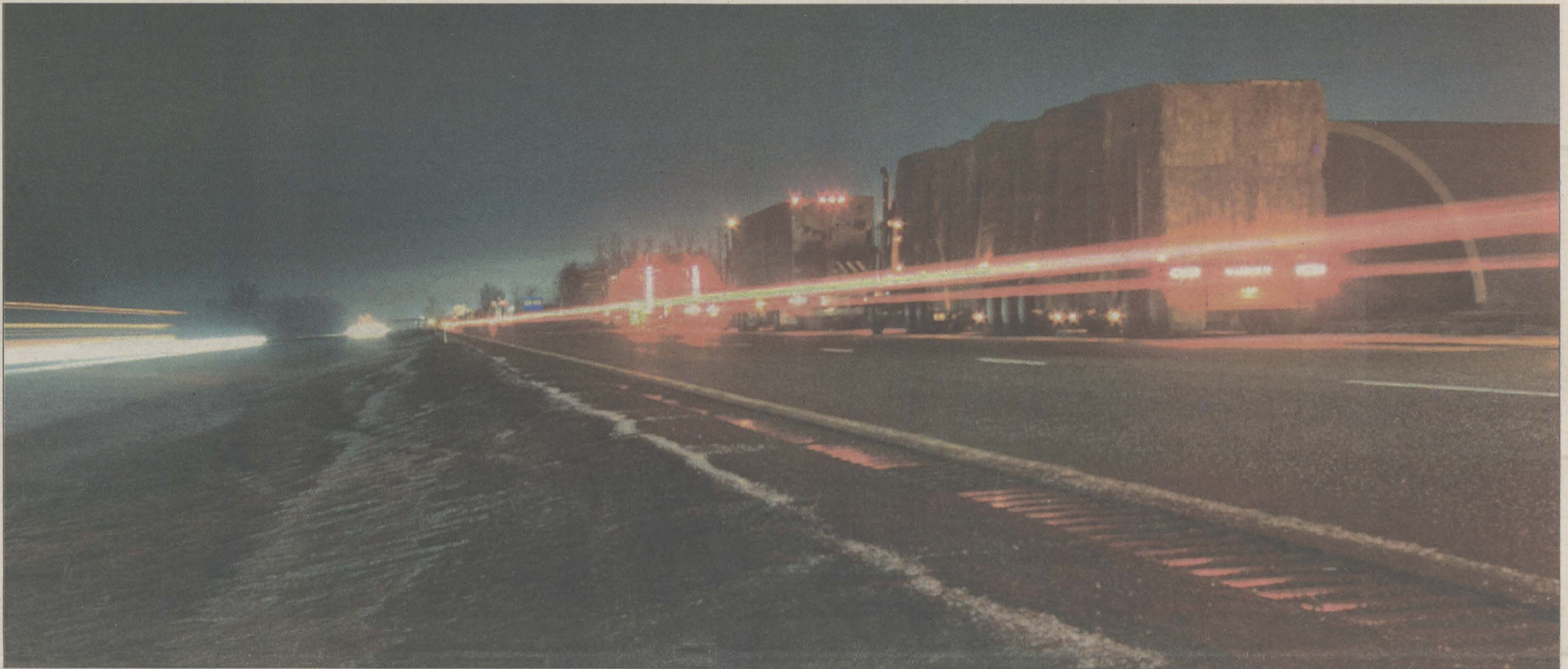
The Central Washington University

OBSERVER

**FREE,
Take One**

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January 31, 2008 - volume 81, number 12



photos by Amanda Umberger/Observer

Trucks backed up outside of Ellensburg on I-90 when roads closed Tuesday. Forecasters expected 20 inches of snow on Snoqualmie Pass Tuesday night. As of Wednesday morning, 36 inches fell.

Closure signs at exit 106 off of I-90 stopped travelers from driving toward Snoqualmie Pass Tuesday. Many truckers waited at the Pilot Station and Perkins restaurant in Ellensburg for conditions to improve.



Snoqualmie Pass reopened Wednesday morning, though snow continued to fall in the mountains. Washington State Patrol continues to monitor road conditions and check vehicles for chains.

STUCK IN SNOW

Winter storm blankets I-90 over Snoqualmie, closes pass

by Curtis Crabtree and Joseph Siemandel
Asst. Sports editor and Asst. News editor

With the day-long closure of Snoqualmie Pass between North Bend and Ellensburg on Tuesday, many motorists have been stranded with nothing to do except wait.

Some people found themselves waiting the better part of two days for the pass to open once again because avalanche control efforts were unable to resume until Wednesday.

The people most affected were semi-truck drivers.

Boris Shevchuk, a driver for Mason-Dixon, found refuge inside Perkins Family Restaurant late Tuesday night. Shevchuk was traveling from Idaho to Seattle when he had to stop in Ellensburg.

"I've been stuck here for about four hours," Shevchuk said. "I was supposed to unload in Seattle tomorrow."

Mike Bowers, a driver for Amico, said he had been stuck in Ellensburg since 4 p.m. Monday.

He was traveling from Orem, Utah, to Kent, Wash.



Pete Los/Observer

Senior recreation management major Cody Parker tests snowshoe equipment outside of Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals.

Despite being stuck, Bowers said his cargo didn't have any pressing deadlines to meet.

"For most everybody else there is a time crunch," Bowers said. "Not really for me."

Alan Larsen, a driver for Leighton Trucking was traveling from Boise, Idaho, to Seattle when he had to pull off the road. His load was set to arrive in Seattle on Wednesday morning.

"We came over the hill and got the radio report and it said [the pass] was closed," Larsen said.

Larsen said that they would look into alternate routes if it's economically sound.

"We look for other routes," Larsen said. "If we need to hurry, we do, but there's nothing to do but just sleep and wait."

By Wednesday morning, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) had recorded approximately three feet of new snow on top of Snoqualmie Pass with more expected throughout the rest of the week.

SEE SNOW PAGE 4

Central seeks to unite recycling efforts

by Ian Stacy
Staff reporter

If a group of concerned administrators and students have their way, the university community may soon see a more effective system for recovering recyclable items.

Currently, the university has no standard program for recycling. Three organizations — dining services, residence halls and custodial staff — collect waste at different locations.

For Pedro Navarrete Jr., ASCWU-BOD vice president for student life and facilities, this system is problematic.

"In one building you can recycle certain things, but in another building it's totally different," Navarrete said.

Unlike many buildings across campus, the Student Union and Recreation Center has highly visible options for recycling. Bins are located near the entrances and by garbage containers.

Navarrete credits this achievement to a sense of ownership.

"It's easier for students to change things in their building," Navarrete said. "As for the rest of campus, we can only try to push things."

To address concerns about recycling across the university, President Jerilyn McIntyre scheduled a meeting this past week to discuss the creation of a campus-wide program.

Although past efforts to create a unified program have been largely unsuccessful, Navarrete is encouraged by the president's show of support.

"We're hoping that she tries to push through a united program," Navarrete said. "She has been very supportive so far."

According to Greg Poe, a supervisor within the Facilities Management Department, the lack of a strong recycling program has as much to do with location as anything else.

"Our geographic location makes it more difficult," Poe said. "There are more avenues for recycling in metro areas."

Poe points to personal involvement as one of the keys to a successful program. Some recycling efforts, such as the collection of waste paper in academic buildings, must be initiated by individuals.

"The biggest thing to emphasize is that everyone must do their part," Poe said. "There's nothing that says that you

or I have to participate."

As part of the effort to raise awareness about recycling, Central is taking part in a 10-week, nationwide RecycleMania competition along with 403 other schools. The competition began on Monday.

The event is sponsored by the Civic Engagement Center. Kiley Baker, the environmental stewardship liaison for the Civic Engagement Center, is excited about the contest.

"We're all concerned about recycling," Baker said. "It's our passion."

According to the RecycleMania Web site, participating schools have several areas in which to compete. Central will be specifically targeting waste paper, corrugated cardboard, bottles and cans for recycling.

This year, the university's efforts will be limited to residence halls.

"We're hoping that it takes off from there," Baker said. "Once people learn about it, we definitely want a campus-wide event."

The Civic Engagement Center has considered creating an award for the competition. However, Baker is con-

Recycle connection

Find out more about the recycling competition by going to www.recyclemania.org. Students wanting to be involved with the recycling committee can contact Pedro Navarrete at 509-963-1693.

cerned that an award would take away from the message behind the contest.

"The whole point of recycling is not about getting 'things' but about reducing," Baker said.

Like Navarrete, Baker recognizes that a lack of options discourages many students from recycling.

"We need to make it easier to recycle than to throw away," Baker said.

Baker concedes that the problem is as much about attitudes as it is about convenience.

"I want people to care," Baker said. "It seems that apathy is the greatest obstacle in recruiting volunteers and getting people to understand why the environment is something to be passionate about."



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

Holmes Dining Room

Fat Tuesday February 5, 2008 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm

A CWU Dining Services Special Event


Hurricane Punch
Frog Leg Appetizer

Chicken & Sausage Gumbo
Seafood Jambalaya
White Rice
Confetti Cole Slaw
Shrimp New Orleans Salad
Fresh Fruit
Fried Blackened Catfish
Crawfish Boil w/Corn & Potatoes
Po'Boy Sandwich (Vegetarian or Seafood)
Vegetarian Stuffed Green Peppers
Dirty Rice & Beans
Sweet Potatoes
Hush Puppies

Pecan Pie Sweet Potato Pie Peach Pie
Bread Pudding w/Whiskey Sauce
Ice Cream

Regular Holmes Dinner Prices

Visual Stimulation



Sean Guffey/Observer

"If you're quiet, you're not living. You've got to be noisy and colorful and lively."

-Mel Brooks

Let's get this Party started!



New Beer & Drink Specials

FAT Tuesday Feb. 5th

Tuesday Night Theme Party

"show Hef & the Girls how it's done!"

Prizes... "Dress Naughty"

Playboy
Mansion Mischief

Observer Online

The Observer staff is working hard to get the Web site up and running this quarter. Due to technical difficulties this process has been postponed. We will continue working to get the site up and running as soon as possible.

Rushdie takes center stage at McConnell hall

Writer speaks to students on novels, roles of 21st Century writer, living a life of exile



photo illustration by Brianne Jette & Amanda Umberger/Observer

Salman Rushdie spoke to a crowd of approximately 600 in McConnell Hall last week. His speech kept the attention of his audience through laughter, as well as serious anecdotes.

by Chelsea Krotzer
News editor

Salman Rushdie claimed his childhood was happy and uneventful. Born into a traditional Indian-Muslim family, he spent his adolescent life in Bombay, India.

His experiences during this time fueled the making of his characters throughout the 19 novels he has written so far. He has been writing since his early twenties.

Such experiences began the writing process, but then grew into something that he never imagined.

"I wrote the first page [of 'Midnight's Children'] and felt this voice come out onto the page that clearly was much more powerful than anything I had ever written before," Rushdie said in regard to his character Saleem Sinai. "The voice of Saleem that just begun to speak was very loud, very noisy and had a lot to say, so I just hung on to his coat tails and let him lead the way."

During a short question and answer session with the Douglas O. Honors College, Rushdie shared that he has trouble writing good-natured characters.

"There is something attractive about writing really, really, really bad people," Rushdie said. "It's really hard to write a good person. It's really difficult to describe happiness. Happiness and goodness are as hard as it gets."

Rushdie spoke to the honors students about three of his books: "Midnight's Children" read by freshmen and juniors, "The Satanic Verses" read by seniors and "The Moor's Last Sigh" read by sophomores.

"I thought ['The Satanic Verses'] was a difficult read, but I recognize that it is very well written," Alex Pierce, history education major, said. "The entire book keeps you thinking and questioning things. Not something I would have picked up on my own, but I'm glad I read it."

To prepare Pierce and his classmates

for Rushdie's arrival, a number of lectures were given pertaining to the history of India. They also had guest lecturers as well.

"I heard that Rushdie was delighted to get to meet with a smaller group of students who had actually read and studied his works," Ruthi Erdman, DHC professor, said. "It was something unusual for him, and he thought it was a rare treat to field questions from young people who had to read his novels."

Rushdie also spoke in McConnell Hall later in the evening. He spoke on the role of the 21st century writer. The crowd present included more than 600 students, faculty and Ellensburg community members.

"Rushdie was humble and showed an eagerness to share his thoughts with us," Pierce said. "It isn't exactly what I expect when anyone with world-wide name recognition comes to a small college like Central."

Rushdie also commented on his

most controversial book, "The Satanic Verses." Upon publication of the novel, a fatwa was issued because the novel was accused of offending Islam. This put a \$1 million bounty on Rushdie's head, forcing him into hiding.

He has now come out of hiding.

According to Rushdie, journalists asked those against his novel if they had read "The Satanic Verses." Their response was that they didn't need to wade in the gutter to see filth. The journalist then asked if they had read any of his books.

The response was "ya know, books are not my thing."

"A young man, one of the leaders against the book said, 'I just read the book and I don't know what the fuss was about,'" Rushdie said. "Well, yes a--hole, but you are the one that made the fuss."

Rushdie further stated that a film titled "International Guerrilla" was made about him, placing him as the antagonist and "terrorists" as protagonists.

In the film, Rushdie said his character dons a safari suit and walks around with a bottle of Jack Daniels in one hand and a cutlass in the other.

Rushdie said when his character caught someone, he would say, "take him away and read to him from 'The Satanic Verses' all night."

The movie resulted in Rushdie's character being killed by God by a thunderbolt as a copy of the Koran is seen floating in the sky.

"The thing that is valued in novels is a person saying it how they see it," Rushdie said. "Challenging the world, especially that part of the world that doesn't like to be challenged."

Rushdie said that in his early writing career, he was inspired by the likes of William Faulkner and Herman Melville.

"The secret truth is there is a secret place we go to write our stories where we don't tell the general public, otherwise everyone would go and we wouldn't have a job," Rushdie said.

Free tax services now available

by Michael Johnson
Staff reporter

Preparing tax returns can be a stressful process, but the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is here for assistance.

The purpose of this program is to help taxpayers who need assistance with the preparation of relatively simple U.S. income tax returns.

This is a free service provided by student volunteers to anyone, not just Central students.

"We also do free E-filing and direct deposit," said Fred McDonald, an accounting professor at Central Washington University.

The students reviewing the tax returns are experienced when dealing with returns, and all tax returns will be reviewed.

Accounting students are required to take Accounting 346, which is an individual income tax class. Accounting students are also required to take a test and pass it before they are allowed to perform tax returns. Those who pass

can choose to take the volunteer program for a two credit pass/fail.

The accounting company uses software sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and all tax returns are completed on computers.

McDonald says bring all tax documents, along with a 1098-T IRS form.

A 1098-T form is a tuition statement issued to students and to the IRS during January of each year. It is used by federal tax files to determine eligibility for Hope and Lifetime Learning tax credits.

"If you have earned any interest from banks, you should get them to mail that to you, and bring that information with you," Accounting President Brianna Herrington said.

VITA students have laptops in several stations, and if students are available, they go to the next available person. When there is a line, students are required to put their name on a sign-up sheet and will be called in the order they arrive.

Last year, VITA completed a total of 350 tax returns.

They will be open Saturday from 10-2

What to expect:

Fill out forms with name, social security number and income. Also bring in bank info if it is requested.

Type the information into a computer.

Revise the documents.

If you are doing an E-file, they walk away with a paper copy of their own.

The students will keep nothing except the 88-79.

in Shaw-Smyser room 109, and it will be done on a first-come first-serve basis.

"Accounting students can sign up for it now," Herrington said. "We are meeting on Saturday in Shaw this year."

Tax returns will continue to be done until the April 15 deadline.

The Flood

...Is a christian worship service held every Saturday night to encourage people to follow Jesus Christ. We strive to make our preaching relevant and our worship songs uplifting. Come! Experience a genuine Christian atmosphere where people are warm and friendly. We hope to spur you on in your own life journey! Coffee and refreshments will be served after the service so as to foster good conversation and genuine Christian friendship. Come when you can; leave when you must!

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Face lift:**Construction to help improve student life**by Sarah Hazel
Staff reporter

Representatives for renovation projects currently underway at Central hope to achieve a common goal to update and create facilities for students. Projects include a renovation of Nicholson Pavilion, a new student housing facility, a challenge course and an upgrade of underground steam pipes.

The Nicholson Pavilion renovation is scheduled to begin in March of this year and be completed by September, so that when students arrive or return in the fall, they will be able to take advantage of the updated building.

Originally built in 1959, Nicholson Pavilion was named after Leo Nicholson. Nicholson was the health and physical education chairman for Central in 1931. The project originally cost almost \$1.3 million and was designed by architect Ralph H. Burkhart.

The upcoming renovation for Nicholson Pavilion will be the third phase of this renovation. Phase three will replace front lobby windows and doors that were not replaced during phase two renovation, and will also add restrooms that meet current ADA accessibility building codes.

There are many other improvements that the renovation entails. There will be new hardwood floors in the gym, similar to the type of floors that are currently in the Student Union Recreation Center (SURC) gyms.

There will also be a new storefront, bleachers, concession stand, ticket booth and an addition that will include men's and women's restrooms.

"It will probably be the most visible [project] because it renovates the lobby," Caruthers said.

There is another reason for the renovation. According to Caruthers, one problem with Central's office locations is that the coaches' offices are scattered

around campus. Caruthers said that the goal is to centralize all the offices in Nicholson Pavilion in the next few years.

According to Caruthers, the only closure involved with this renovation will be the southwest lobby of the Nicholson Pavilion. It will be closed spring quarter during the renovation.

The total estimated cost for the Nicholson Pavilion renovation is \$2 million. All costs are paid for by Capital funds provided by the Capital Projects department.

Also included in the renovation project is a new student housing facility. The new residence halls will be called Student Village South, located at the northwest corner of Alder and Dean Nicholson Blvd.

According to the comprehensive housing master plan, three buildings in all will be constructed; two will be four-storey residential buildings and the other will be a mechanical building to house the boilers. Each residence hall will include a Residence Hall Coordinator apartment, 476 beds intended for upper-class students, lounges on each floor and a multi-purpose room.

The residence halls are being built to replace Courson and Muzzall Halls located across the street from campus on University Way.

"The towers [Courson and Muzzall] were built back in the '60s," said Bill Yarwood, director of facilities planning and construction. "To be real honest, there were accessibility issues."

Courson and Muzzall Halls are not the only dormant buildings on Central's campus.

After the SURC was constructed and put to use, the old Samuelson Union Building (SUB) was left vacant. Some students have mixed feelings about whether they like the old SUB or the new SURC better.

"I like this [SURC] better, but I liked



Jessica Liddle/Observer

The old Samuelson Union Building Pit sits as a hollow shell of what students can remember. The future of the old SUB is currently unknown, but will be decided sometime this year.

the old SUB too because it had Taco Bell," Dexter Harris, senior sociology major, said. "I miss the pool tables, and I liked the pit area."

The Facilities Management Department is currently trying to determine if the old SUB has potential for adaptive re-use.

"That decision is something that is being studied," Yarwood said. "Hopefully, a decision will be made this year."

Another construction plan scheduled for this year is a challenge course. The course will be constructed on the south side of 18th Street near Brooklane Village.

The course will resemble an obsta-

cle course, but according to Yarwood, it is a team-building course.

The course will be used by ROTC for part of its training. The construction of the course is scheduled to begin by late March of this year and be completed by summer quarter.

The course will also be available to the public. There will be constant supervision in order to avoid any injuries. There will be a fee to use the course, but the amount has not yet been determined.

One project currently affecting students is the underground steam pipe upgrade. This upgrade is causing the pedestrian bridge closure.

"It is expected to take from Jan. 10, 2008, through March 10, 2008; however, facilities recognizes the needed walkway for students and are attempting to move the project along as fast as possible," Pedro Navarete Jr., ASCWU-BOD vice president of student life and facilities, wrote in an e-mail. "The area will be fenced off and additional signage installed to inform students."

Any additional campus closure information can be found at the Facilities Management Department's Web site <http://www.cwu.edu/~facility/>.

On the site, closure information can be found under "construction news."

SNOW: Pass closed due to 3 feet of snow resulting in 34 avalanche blasts with 850 pounds of explosives

continued from cover

"We have already blasted 34 times to bring down avalanches," Mike Westbay, Communication Manager of the South Central Region, WSDOT said.

"We have used approximately 850 lbs of explosives."

Since the Pass closed at 7:25 Tuesday morning, the WSDOT has been working around the clock to get the roads clear.

"We have removed over 200,000 dump truck loads of snow from a top Snoqualmie Pass," Westbay said.

With a small break in the weather today, the WSDOT hopes to have Snoqualmie Pass open, but if the forecast predicted comes true, it will be a very small window of time.

"If travelers need to get to the south side of Seattle, White Pass is open and the North side has Stevens open," Westbay said.

Westbay reminds travelers to check the WSDOT Web site before leaving home and also listen to the radio or call 511 for pass information.

Focus the Nation event ends todayby Mimi Oh
Staff reporter

The organizers of Focus the Nation hope that today's events enable students to closely examine the issue of global warming.

Through a series of workshops, debates and other educational forums all day in the SURC, global warming will, for at least the rest of today, be at the forefront of student concern.

"We want to help people to make informed decisions," said Carbon Reduction Coordinator and Focus the Nation organizer Gretchen Volker. "People oftentimes don't think of Central as being an environmentally focused school, but actions and steps are being taken every day to take Central towards its goal to become as carbon-efficient as possible."

Prominent members of the Ellensburg community will be in attendance, including Director of the Ellensburg Downtown Association Timothy Bishop, newly appointed mayor Nancy Lillquist, Recycle Bicycle owner Fred Johnston, Ellensburg public library head librarian Debby Desoer,

Ellensburg Resource Manager Gary Nystedt, Puget Sound Energy's Brian Lenz and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory senior research scientist Charlotte Sullivan.

Other schools in the Northwest will accompany Central in Focus the Nation.

"This event is not only being held in Washington state, but in higher level and secondary level institutions across the nation," Volker said. "City halls, faith groups, environmental organization all want to explore the question of global warming and its solutions. The University of Washington and Washington State University are facing and addressing the same questions as we are faced."

Preparatory work for Focus the Nation has had "help from Resource Management graduate student Casey Dombert and Environmental Studies faculty member Holly English," organizer Dr. Carey Gazis said. "A group of faculty and staff called the Carbon Task Force has also helped with planning and will be leading the various panel discussions."

VOLUNTEERS

A leadership event is being held at 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 22, in the Student Union Ballroom. The event is 12 hours long.

Students are encouraged to bring their friends and a number of energy drinks to stay awake.

Volunteers can build leadership skills while providing service to a variety of local populations.

Examples of volunteer opportunities include helping with the Salt n' Scrape to clear icy sidewalks for those walking to and from class or in the community, create gift baskets for student living in the residence halls and make baskets for on-campus offices that provide support to students.

Snacks, beverages, and entertainment will be provided, along with a complimentary 5 a.m. breakfast for those that makes it through the night.

Sign up online at www.takeactioncwu.com under activity ID 9154 to save a spot.

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Bills to provide financial assistant to students

Student loan repayment assistance program a current hot topic at state legislation

by Mimi Oh
Staff reporter

Central's representatives in Olympia are working on several issues that may cause some heads to nod in approval. Legislative liaison and ASCWU-BOD member Jake Stillwell enumerated his eight current top priorities in the Washington Legislature, and Central's Director of Government Relations Ann Anderson discussed Central's 2008 Supplemental Budget Requests.

"[House Bill 2673] would provide financial rewards for small businesses that hire debt-ridden college graduates," Stillwell said. "A small business would receive a tax credit for hiring a graduate with more than \$10,000 in government student loans, and for paying off some of the debt. For paying such an employee \$40,000 or less of a yearly salary, the business would receive a \$2,000 tax credit."

"I think that would help relieve some student worries about debt..."

ANGES CANEDO, DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID

In addition to working on a bill to ease student loan payments, Stillwell is working to reform on-campus childcare funding. Further, campus safety and security, a bill to grant immunity from administrative censorship to college and high school newspapers and a bill to streamline the process of transferring between four-year higher education institutions are on the table for Central's student representative. Student voter registration, more accessible ballot drop-off sites and the creation of a student trustee position on the BCC Board of Trustees round off the priority bills.

"I think that would help relieve some student worries about the debt they've accumulated," Director of

Financial Aid Agnes Canedo said. "It seems to me that it would help [small businesses] get wonderful, well-trained employees and a tax benefit at the same time. The bill itself does restrict the benefits to private employers."

Transfer students often malign the system of credit transfer agreements between public universities in Washington State. House Bill 2783 seeks to address these concerns.

"It was difficult to meet universal humanities requirements," Caleb Ledford senior economics major said. "I took History 102 here and I was going to transfer it back to my community college as History 101, but it turned out they were counted as different classes and I

hadn't been notified of the credit change. I wound up taking Philosophy 201 to fulfill the requirement. It would have been so much easier if the class credits were uniform. They need to make transfer information more accessible."

On the matter of budgets, Central has seven priority items on the table. The highest priority is the \$913,000 salary technical correction, which would "correct an error that excluded about 300 employees from the 2007-09 budget," according to Anderson.

Other budget items include \$100,000 in coverage for unanticipated fire protection costs. \$1.3 million in coverage is slated for the inflation to the costs of remodeling Dean Hall and \$2

million as a placeholder amount for the yet-to-be-determined deconstruction or demolition of the Courson and Muzzall residence halls has been requested. The area of faculty recruitment and retention requests \$1 million, while \$380,000 is needed to correct a disparity in private and public compensation for professional and exempt employees at Central. Lastly, Central requests \$225,000 in coverage to enhance emergency preparedness.

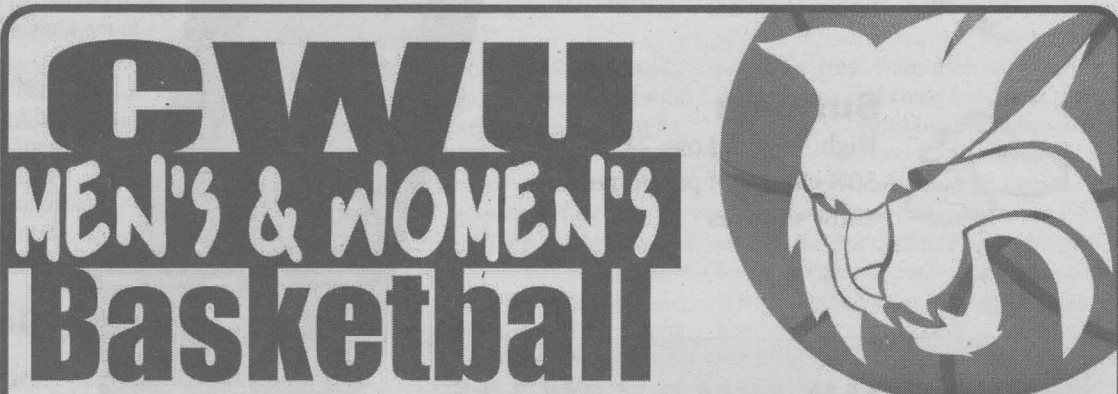
The Supplemental Budget Requests document provided by Anderson describes the state of Dean Hall's remodeling costs, which "leaves the building with a third of what is needed for the furnishings, fixtures and equipment needed to use the building."

Central's representatives Stillwell and Anderson represent some of this year's most pressing, and oft-overlooked needs, as they lobby and debate their way through Olympia.

SEARCH COMMITTEE CHOSEN

The fifteen member presidential search committee has been chosen. The members include the following: search committee chair Wendy Bohrson, faculty member Greg Cant, Alumni Board member Sandy Carlson, community member Brad Fitterer, board of trustee Sam Kinzler, Dean Marji Morgan, student Stephanie Oberlander, student Derrick Peacock, foundation board member Mark Pearson, faculty senate member Janet Shields, faculty member David Shorr, exempt staff member Staci Sleigh-Layman, faculty senate chair Jeffrey Snedeker, trustee Keith Thompson, and trustee David Valdez.


The first meeting for the new search committee is tomorrow following the board of trustees meeting in Barge 412.



CWU MEN'S & WOMEN'S Basketball

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31ST

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL MEN'S BASKETBALL

Sponsored By



CWU
VS. ALASKA
5:30 PM

CWU
VS. SEATTLE
7:30 PM

NICHOLSON PAVILION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL MEN'S BASKETBALL

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CWU
VS. ALASKA ANCHORAGE
5:00 PM

CWU
VS. MONTANA STATE BILLINGS
7:00 PM

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City

News from around the Kittitas County community

Ellensburg weather



Today:

High: 35°F Low: 24°F
60% chance of precipitation
Snow showers



Tomorrow:

High: 34°F Low: 19°F
20% chance of precipitation
Partly cloudy



Saturday:

High: 31°F Low: 19°F
40% chance of precipitation
Snow showers



Sunday:

High: 33°F Low: 21°F
30% chance of precipitation
Snow showers

Mountain pass report

Today:

Snow level: 1,500 ft
Snow showers. Snow accumulation of 6 to 10 inches. The new snow total is one to two feet. Temperatures will be in the low 30s with 15 to 20 mph winds.

Tomorrow:

Snow level: 1,000 ft
Snow showers likely as afternoon pass temperatures drop to the mid 20s. There will be 10 to 15 mph winds. Rain showers are likely in the evening.

Weekend:

Snow level: 1,000 ft
Snow showers are likely.

These numbers were accurate as of press time.

More powder, more prowlers

Increasing theft occurring on Snoqualmie Pass has snowboarders more careful with their equipment

by Joseph Siemandel
Asst. News editor

Boarders and skiers beware: theft has been recurring on Snoqualmie Pass this winter. Kittitas County 911 (KITTCOM) has been busy all winter with reports from atop the summit of stolen snowboards and skis. Just over the last weekend, over 20 cases of theft were reported from the Summit at Snoqualmie ski area.

"We typically receive around 30 theft reports a month from the ski resort," Kittitas County Sheriff Gene Dana said. "It mostly depends on the weekend, though, and that is just Kittitas County's numbers. That doesn't include King County.

King and Kittitas counties both cover the summit, so not all cases come back to the Kittitas County office in Ellensburg.

"We get our reports from the ski area and from there we try to help find them," Dana said.

The Kittitas County Sheriff's office has also set up sting operations on the summit, where

they place snowboards with cameras or individuals watching the board to see if someone will try to steal it.

"It has actually been productive and has caught people trying to get away with stealing the board," Dana said.

Employees advise people to be aware of the danger of theft when they come to the pass to enjoy the snow.

"When it is generally busier, you get the greater risk of theft," said Hunter Hamilton, ski instructor for the Summit at Snoqualmie. "We have advised everyone all winter about keeping an eye on their equipment."

Hamilton, who is an instructor on Alpentel, also mentions that the busier areas, such as Summit Central and Summit West are more prone to theft because of their popularity and accessibility.

"This weekend was military appreciation day and with the fresh snow it made it a really busy weekend on Saturday and Sunday," Hamilton said.

Not only have snowboarders and skiers felt the sting of theft, so have snowmobilers. Over the weekend, two theft reports were called into KITTCOM about snowmobiles missing from outside restaurants in upper Kittitas County.

So when out enjoying the winter weather, be advised of the possible dangers out there not just from the elements but the people around.

Increase in theft means skiers and boarders should be cautious with their equipment. Below are tips when enjoying the snow:

- ❄ Have a friend stay outside to watch equipment.
- ❄ Bring equipment inside if possible.
- ❄ Check equipment when possible, pay a little now or pay a lot later.
- ❄ Lock up equipment when not in use or before leaving.
- ❄ Go when it is not as busy, such as weekdays or nights.
- ❄ For snowmobiles, ALWAYS remove keys from ignition.
- ❄ Don't trust people you don't know very well.



Inns open doors to stranded truckers

by Joseph Siemandel
Asst. News editor

With the closure of Snoqualmie Pass this week, local businesses along the freeway have been booming. Longer opening hours and reduced prices have a welcome to many truck drivers that are stuck in Ellensburg for an extended amount of time.

"I have been in Ellensburg a long time, and I don't remember it ever being this busy," Lois Jarman, manager of the I-90 Inn, said.

The I-90 Inn, which is tucked away off exit 106, usually has about 35 of their 70 rooms occupied.

Jarman said that with the closure to the

pass, 65 of the 70 rooms were occupied.

"Usually the big chains, like Holiday Inn and Best Western, are filled quickly because of reservations," Jarman said. "People will make plans for a place to stay before they get into town."

The I-90 Inn, like most motels in town, have not changed rates any because of the closure to the pass.

"We kept our rates reasonable," Jarman said. "We have about half of the rooms with truckers and we don't want to raise the prices because of this."

Gary Bains, the owner of the 76 station is also supporting the truck drivers during the closure.

"We are making sure that everyone stays warm," Bains said. "We are offer-

"I don't remember it ever being this busy."

LOIS JARMAN, I-90 INN
MANAGER

ing free coffee for the drivers."

Not only is Bains helping the truck drivers, he also dealt with the closure himself.

"I was stuck on the pass for three hours myself," Bains said.

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Opinion

Observance

Kitten spotlights security weakness

The most interesting thing that slipped by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in the past couple of weeks wasn't a homemade bomb, a firearm or even a set of nail clippers. What airport security failed to notice in an X-ray examination of suitcases in Florida was Gracie Mae, a 10-month-old tabby kitten.



Melanie Lockhart
Editor-in-Chief

Kelly Levy of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., noticed the kitten was missing when she returned home after dropping her husband, Seth Levy, off at the airport on Jan. 18. He left for Dallas, Texas, unaware that Gracie Mae had stowed away in his suitcase. His bag coincidentally was identical to Robert Carter's of Fort Worth, Texas.

Carter accidentally grabbed the wrong suitcase and realized his mistake later that evening.

According to the story on MSNBC.com, Carter "screamed like a little girl" when he opened his bag. When Gracie Mae flew into hiding under his bed, Carter decided to wait until morning to deal with her.

Meanwhile, Kelly had already spread "Lost Cat" flyers around her Florida neighborhood. She also removed bathroom tiles and cabinets in search of her feline friend. After Gracie Mae came out of hiding and Carter found her ID tag, Kelly received a phone call.

"Hi. You're not going to believe this, but I am calling from Fort Worth, Texas, and I accidentally picked up your husband's luggage. And when I opened the luggage, a cat jumped out," Carter told her, according to MSNBC.com.

Kelly texted her husband saying that the cat was in Dallas, and Seth met up with Robert at the airport the next day. Gracie Mae traveled home safely — for the required price of pet transportation.

While the story is cute and it has a happy ending, I still can't help but wonder what went wrong with airport security. We all know that since Sept. 11, security has "tightened," and even nail clippers — and many liquids — are no longer allowed through airport checkpoints in carry-on bags. Last I checked, cats weren't allowed in suitcases either, though preapproved cat carriers are allowed as carry-ons.

I'm well aware that Gracie Mae wasn't stored in a carry-on bag, but if she could get through TSA X-rays in a checked bag, she could theoretically make it through hidden in a carry-on as well. Personally, I'm more terrified at the thought of a scared cat getting loose on an airplane than somebody pulling out nail clippers, or even a pocket knife for that matter. Or imagine if Carter opened the suitcase in the airport for whatever reason. Talk about your homeland terrorist.

Besides, if cats can get through airport security, so can a whole bunch of snakes. If that happened, we'd have a really bad movie, only it would be real life.

All silliness aside, if Gracie Mae could make it through X-rays, I hate to imagine what else may be slipping past security on a daily basis. While I understand that our government has made efforts to protect us, it's still hard to feel safe in my own country.

I'm not saying I live in fear, as there is no need to be paranoid. However, it would be nice if the efforts most people make to avoid lengthy checks at the metal detectors and X-rays weren't completely worthless. If the guy behind me is stowing a knife, firearm — or a killer kitten — it would be nice to know he'd actually get pulled aside.

You would think that security would be thorough enough already, yet they missed something this big. I don't think it's too much to ask that TSA step it up a notch to avoid having this happen again. I'm sure Gracie Mae and others like her would be eternally grateful.

Chop down a tree with a herring, but don't spoil the show

On Monday at 7 p.m., anyone who knows me knows where they can find me. Along with all the other misfits and miscreants and anyone on campus with a twisted sense of humor, I'll be watching the best movie ever made: "Monty Python and the Holy Grail."

My family and friends know not to call me. If the president rings, I won't answer. Nothing — neither homework nor high water — will keep me away from my life-long dream of sitting in the killer rabbit's larger-than-life shadow. Nothing, that is, except the fear that I won't actually get to hear the movie for all the self-supposed amateur thespians in the audience.

You know who you are. As soon as the opening credits roll and the directors start getting sacked, you'll be there, tongue wagging, showing off your debatable prowess of memory and foreign accents. And it's understandable. For those of us who have watched this movie our entire lives, quoting every scene may be more than just a temptation. It may be compulsive. But try to hold back, even if revering your Idle by



Jessi Nelson
Copy editor

echoing him normally falls within your particular ... idiom. Nobody wants to hear a hundred geeks go "aaaah" with a kind of back-of-the-throat thing all at once. At least, I hope not.

I remember the first time I watched "The Holy Grail" without quoting it (yes, I even quoted it in the womb). So much texture was revealed! So much hidden depth! Okay, we won't go that far. But my favorite scene — swamp castle, with the boy who just wants to sing — held several little surprises, including a faintly audible "Woo! Eee! (splat)." I was so tickled after 14 years of memorized repetition to have a new little gem. From then on, whenever the movie wasn't on I could bring back the joy by simply saying "Woo! Eee!" The reward of novelty could be yours too, if you but listen.

Yes, the "Grail" is a cult classic. Yes, it's chock-full of quotable quotes and exciting underwear. But unlike "Rocky Horror Picture Show," it does not beg for viewer participation. If John Cleese said it once through an excrement-eating grin; if Graham Chapman proclaimed it while lighting upon his, er, coconut; if Terry Jones stood there with googly eyes and didn't say anything at all, it doesn't need to be repeated. Ever.

Perfection has been attained. You see, when it comes to the holy grail of comedy, we've already got one.

Letters to the editor

Observer Staff,

I just finished reading your excellent editorial concerning Central Transit and its lack of consistency. As painful as it is for me, I must agree totally with your assessment concerning the circumstances you described. Our service for two consecutive weekends was deplorable; I regret it, and I apologize to anyone who had to experience what Ms. Buse's roommate was forced to experience. There are no excuses for it.

I would like to inform you, and your readers,

that measures have been taken to prevent anyone having to experience that type of service from us ever again. We have hired and trained a new staff of drivers and are in the process of hiring more still.

Again, I apologize for our poor service, and I welcome you to call me and/or meet with me any time to discuss any issue relating to Central Transit.

Larry Anderson
HOPESOURCE,
TRANSPORTATION V.P.

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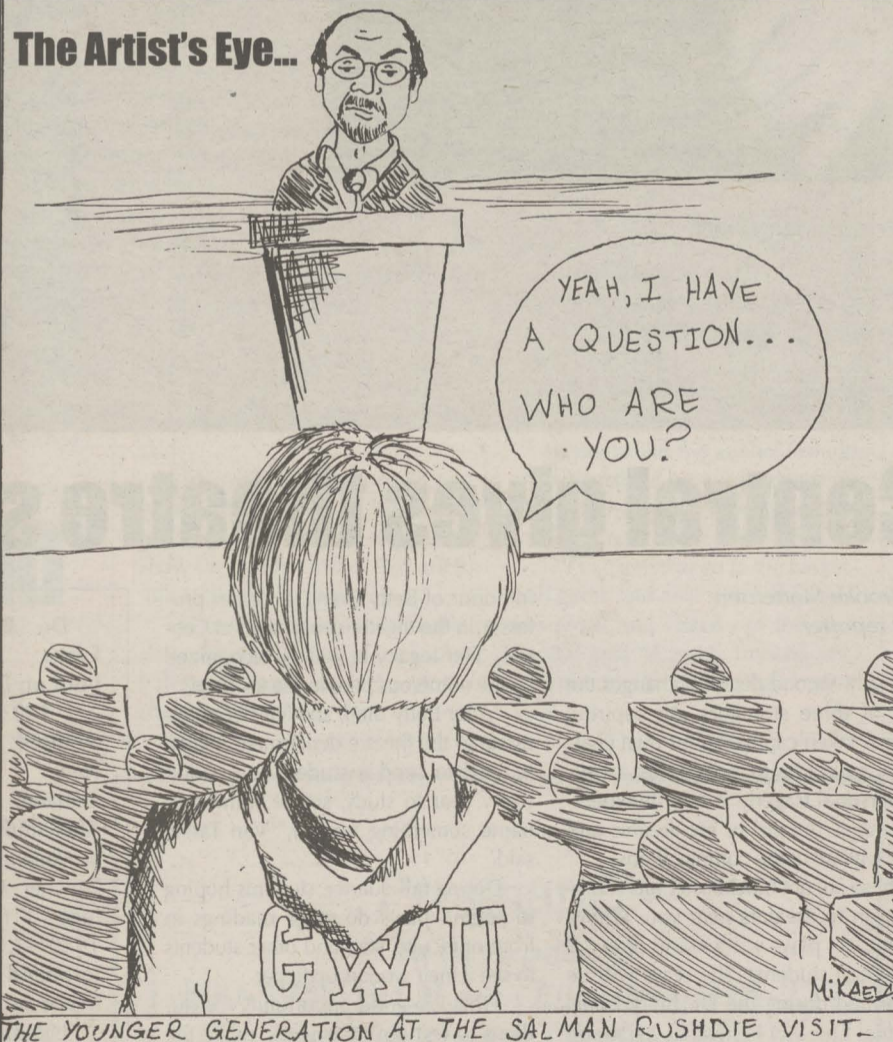


illustration by Mikaela Sanders

News tips? Letters to the editor?
E-mail The Observer at our new e-mail,
cwuobserver@gmail.com

Scene

Musical duo brings the highland to Central



Alasdair Fraser

by Nora Duncan
Staff reporter

The CWU Presidential Speaker Series has hosted a wide range of performances so far this year, from the Central theatre's performance of "Vietnam 101: The War on Campus" to the "Jazz Nutcracker." The series has provided many different opportunities for students to be exposed to things outside the normal realm of mass media.

Master fiddler Alasdair Fraser will collaborate with cellist Natalie Haas in a performance for the Presidential Speaker Series. The two will explore traditional Scottish dance music. Fraser and Haas have put out their debut album, "Fire and Ice," displaying their love for the traditional Scottish fiddle and cello. Haas was first introduced to Fraser when she participated in one of his many workshops at the age of 11. He played a major role in her education after that point.

"In my opinion, there is nothing more beautiful than a violin and a cello," said Marian Lien, director of the Diversity Education Center, "The music can be so haunting, yet so quaint ... it is just so appropriate."

Many students and faculty members are excited about the upcoming presentation, and particularly look forward to the improvisation-based workshops the performers will offer.

"It will be a really good learning experience," said Kim Roy, assistant con-

ductor of the CWU orchestra. "I know many students, as well as myself, have a hard time with improvisation, and these workshops should be really interesting."

Fraser and Haas have traveled the world playing in the Smithsonian Festival in Washington D.C., Glasgow's Celtic Connections, the Festival Interceltique Lorient and throughout Europe.

"I feel incredibly fortunate to have found such a sympathetic sparring partner in Natalie Haas," Fraser said, "We can 'duck and dive' around each other, swap melody and harmony lines, or play off each other's rhythmic riffs. We're releasing the cello from its orchestral shackles, and unleashing its rhythmic power; it's very exciting."

In the upcoming months, students can also look forward to the CWU Percussion Ensemble in February, the band Sweet Honey in the Rock in April, and "Peter Pan" in May.

"The mission of the speaker series is to bring extra layers to the cultural experience students receive around this campus," Lien said. "There is a committee that makes the decisions about who should come and present, and we decided [the duo] would be perfect for this area."

The performance will be Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Tickets are \$30 reserved, \$20 general and \$10 for students.



Central gives theatre students chance to shine

by Brooke Mortensen
Staff reporter

A split-second decision changes the lives of three strangers. An aspiring writer is taken captive by his own characters. A girl tries to forgive after a terrible personal tragedy. A boy unexpectedly meets the girl of his dreams and deals with all of the complications.

These are not blockbuster hits "coming soon to theaters near you." These are one-act plays written and directed by Central students. The plays will be performed during the Dr. Betty Evans Original One-Act Festival at 2 p.m. on Feb. 10 and at 7 p.m. on Feb. 12-14 in the Milo Smith Tower Theatre.

"I started these plays because a number of the faculty are believers in producing the students' plays and giving young writers a chance to grow," said Wesley Van Tassel, former instructor in the theatre department and creator of the One-Act Festival.

Van Tassel began the festival in 1995

in honor of Betty Evans, a former professor in the theatre department at Central. Her legacy is widely recognized by the numerous people she touched.

"After Betty died, she left her entire estate to the theatre department, which is used to send a student to London every year to study, so we wanted to name something for her," Van Tassel said.

During fall quarter, students hoping to submit plays do stage readings in front of faculty, staff and other students to see if their work is up to par.

"This is a good opportunity for students to test out their work, make the corrections and then submit them for production," Leslee Caul, director of marketing and development, said.

This year, four plays will be performed: "Split Seconds" by Josh Darby, "Noise in the Attic" by Brady Dundas, "Dying to Forgive" by Kacie Prather and "Grounded for Death" by Jaryl Allen Draper.

"I wanted to tell a story about the

Dr. Betty Evans was born on Dec. 27, 1923 in Stratford, New Zealand. After studying at Auckland's Teacher College from 1940-43, Evans moved to London to attend the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Ultimately receiving her bache-



lor's and master's in education from the University of Alberta, "Dr. Betty" (as she was affectionately referred to by her students) completed her education in 1966 with her Ph.D. from the University of Oregon.

After a year as assistant professor of speech at the University of Hawaii, Evans made her final move to Ellensburg in 1967 to assume the position of associate professor of drama at CWU, a title she held until her retirement in 1991.

Despite her declining health,

Dr. Evans continued to teach well into her retirement, mentoring students and maintaining professional relationships up until her last days.

"As she became ill, I actually saw her hold class in her house and at the hospital," said Paulette Bond, costume shop supervisor for the CWU theatre department and a personal friend of Evans. "She didn't have kids of her own, and felt the theatre students were her children."

Dr. Betty Evans died in Ellensburg on Oct. 8, 1997.

choices that we are all faced with and what would happen if you actually got a second chance to fix a mistake," Josh Darby, senior theatre arts major, said.

Later this year, these plays will have the chance to go on to compete at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival at the University of

Wyoming.

"The plays get selected by a panel and the winner gets a free trip to the Kennedy Center to have their play produced in Washington, D.C.," Van Tassel said.

The one-act play festival, proven to be successful in the past, gives students

opportunities that they would not otherwise have.

"To be able to have had a production done by a theater group is great to put on my résumé and it all brings me one step closer to my career choice of being a professional playwright," Darby said.

LEVINE: MEN NEED A FIRM GRIP ON THEIR N.U.T.S

Relationship expert coaches men on being men

by Kevin Opsahl
Staff reporter

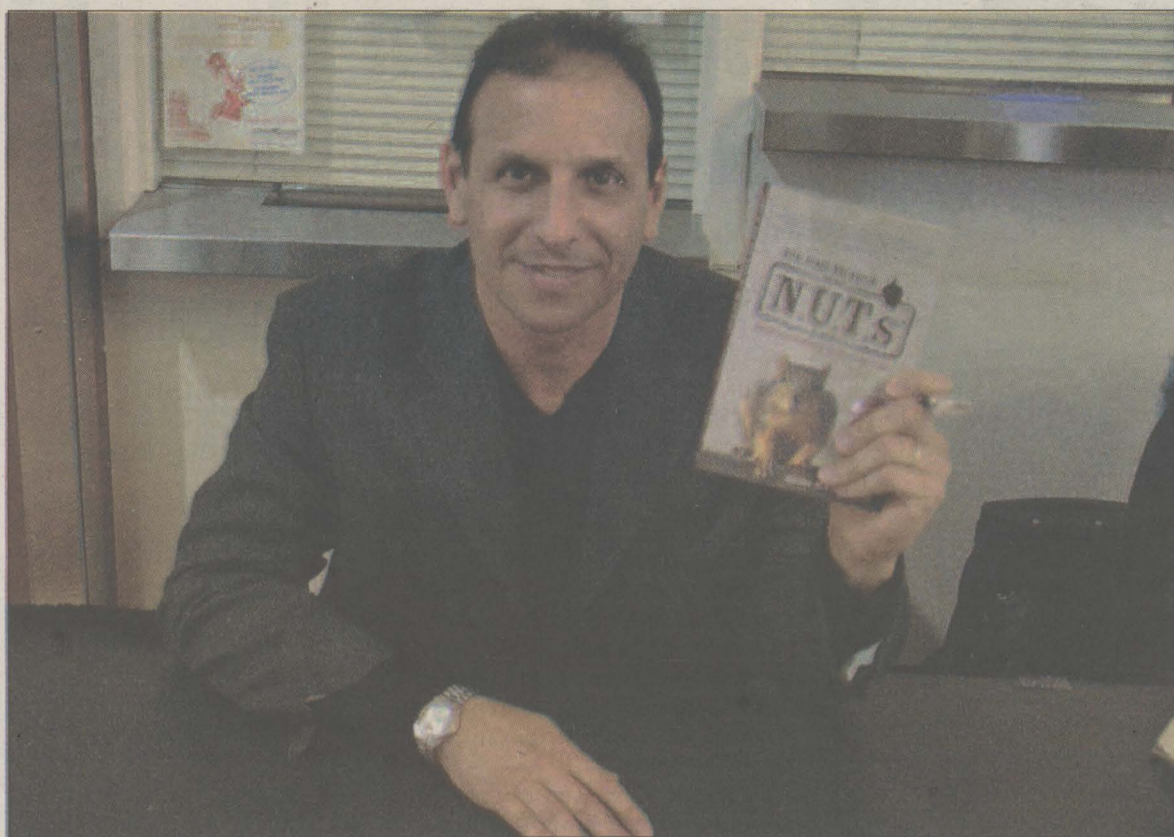
"Hold on to your N.U.T.s." was the message of last Thursday's lecturer sponsored by the Center for Student Empowerment, but it was not manly advice for keeping warm during Ellensburg's frigid January temperatures.

Wayne M. Levine, speaker and mentor, came to Central to give a talk as an installment of "MANuary" in the Student Union and Recreation Center Theatre to discuss men's issues and give male Wildcats a few pointers on how they can be "BetterMen."

Mal Stewman, program support supervisor for the Center for Student Empowerment and Central alumnus, said Levine made a good impression on the program coordinators before they asked him to lecture on campus.

"We found him through menstuff.org, a site that deals with men's issues," Stewman said. "When we saw the title [of his new book], we thought it was interesting ... it was good to have him come speak directly to the men of CWU."

Levine is the director and part-time mentor for the West Coast Men's Center in Agoura Hills, Calif. The center aims to



Sean Guffey/Observer

Wayne M. Levine, M.A., author of "Hold on to your N.U.T.s," spoke at the SURC Theatre Thursday evening.

help men overcome personal hardships and become better fathers, sons, husbands and leaders through counseling sessions and retreats. Levine earned his B.A. at the University of Southern California and his M.A. in clinical psychology at Antioch University.

Levine gave his lecture to an intimate

audience with PowerPoint presentation as his backdrop. The talk was focused around his new book, "Hold on to your N.U.T.s: A Relationship Guide for Men." The acronym N.U.T.s (Non-negotiable Unalterable Terms) stands for the qualities that men should hold onto to better themselves. Throughout the presentation

Levine was fluid, relaxed and confident. The mentor was eager to get the men in the audience to open up about "what [it] means to be the man you want be." Sure enough, they spoke out.

One man in attendance said he did not have many friends in the Ellensburg area, claiming the people with whom he

really connected to are only reachable by phone because they live across the country. He thought it meant he was being "picky" with whom he surrounded himself with. Levine reassured him, and took the moment to remind the audience of men's vulnerability.

"Men have so much shame in revealing who they are," Levine said. "All men feel lonely We want to have men in our lives to share commitments."

The second portion of the presentation was what Levine described as eight tools to become "BetterMen." Silence the Little Boy Inside You, Express but don't Defend your Feelings, and Develop Trusting Relationships with Men, were just a few of them. Others tools were on the lighter side. A tool titled Run the Sex and Romance Department, got some chuckles from the audience. But Levine assured men that if you don't romance your wife or girlfriend, you won't get sex.

Levine brought his mentoring skills that he applies to his Men's Center directly to the audience by getting them to open up their feelings. Even though the talk was aimed at men's issues, he got women in attendance to open up as well. The talk was really all-inclusive, designed for everyone to walk away having learned something about relationships.

"His talk was great, it really helped me realize the importance of my relationship with my girlfriend," said a freshman construction management major. "I haven't read [Levine's] book yet, but I did walk out of here with a new perspective."



Sean Guffey/Observer

Music department recreated a bit of the past last Sunday by playing baroque-style music with old-styled instruments.

Central sounds forth on the old

by Donna Buse
Staff reporter

On Sunday, the music department at Central put on Musica Antiqua, a baroque-style concert using instruments and singing styles from the era (1600s through 1750s).

There were a choir and soloists singing in German. Instruments have evolved over time, so to bring back the past in this concert they didn't use any modern instruments.

"It's nice to get people together who can play these instruments for a concert," Dr. Peter Gries, head of the music department, said.

Instead of a horn with valves, a natural horn was used. Instead of the modern flute, they had a wooden flute called a traverse. They also played the harpsichord and an instrument called the oboe d'amore, or the oboe of love.

"There's a repertoire of music we think sounds better when played on period music."

PETER GRIES,

MUSIC DEPARTMENT HEAD

"It's bigger, has a deeper sound and has fewer keys than the modern oboe," Gries said.

This is the fourth year the music department has put on Musica Antiqua.

"There's a repertoire of music we think sounds better when played on

period music," Gries said.

The recital hall was nearly full. Some music students came to support the performers.

"I thought it was great," Natalie Mehio, junior music education major, said. "A lot of my friends are in the chorale."

Students who are not majoring in music appeared to enjoy it as well.

"I thought it was very musically rich and involving," Joel Stamm, business administration major, said. "Margaret Gries's organ playing was superb."

Some of the performers appeared to get something out of the show as well.

"It's a great look back in the history so we can appreciate what we have now," Micah Parker, bass singer, said.

The next performance is the flute choir concert at 7 p.m., Feb. 6 in the recital hall.

The show goes on

by Mahsa Jafari
Staff reporter

On Feb. 2, 2008, the Wildcat men's basketball team will take on Montana State Bobcats at the Nicholson Pavilion at 7 p.m. Students and faculty alike are encouraged to come and show their school spirit and enjoy the halftime fashion show put on by the Fashion Merchandising Club and family and consumer sciences department.

"I haven't heard much about the fashion show, but it makes me want to go to the game now and see what they are going to do," Jessica Morgan, senior public relations major, said.

The consumer science department and the Fashion Merchandising Club have come together to show off trendy clothes that are for sale at the Wildcat Shop.

"The decision to do the fashion show during halftime of the basketball game was made in an effort to show off the club's Central pride,"

Lana Hotchkiss, Fashion Merchandising Club president, said. "With the help of Kendra Chesley, the facility manager at the Nicholson Pavilion, we were able to reserve the room," Hotchkiss said.

Approximately 40 models will participate in this year's show. The models are comprised of student volunteers, including members of the Fashion Merchandising Club, women's volleyball and basketball teams, along with Wildcat Shop employees. Some faculty, including Peggy Roberts, lecturer of family studies, offered extra credit to students who volunteered to model for the fashion show.

Students find the annual fashion show beneficial because it shows off much of the new apparel the Wildcat Shop has to offer.

"I'm excited to go to the basketball game and also watch the fashion show and check out the new Central gear," Amanda Trelstad, senior information technology major, said.

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Courtesy of The Summit at Snoqualmie

An experienced snowboarder pulls a huge hand-plant on the lip of a half pipe at The Summit at Snoqualmie. Parks and pipes provide skiers and snowboarders with an opportunity to challenge themselves.

Bitter cold weather has its perks on the ski slopes

Snowfall and snowpack exceeds expectations

by Tyler Rogers
Staff reporter

This winter season is providing skiers and snowboarders with ideal snow conditions. With Ellensburg's central location, residents can choose from several nearby ski resorts, including Mission Ridge and The Summit at Snoqualmie. Both resorts are experiencing heavy snowfall and sustained temperatures below freezing, presenting a perfect opportunity for all who enjoy the snow.

"We have received 140 percent of our average snowfall up to this point in the year," said Holly Lipfert, the communications manager at The Summit at Snoqualmie.

Snoqualmie, which is located west of Ellensburg on Interstate 90, currently has a total snowpack of 129 inches at the highest point, with an unusual amount of powder compared to past years.

Mission Ridge, near Wenatchee, Wash., is also having a great year. Its quantity of snowfall is slightly lower this year than in past years; however, its snowpack is higher due to the consistent snow showers and

"I can't stand being cooped up all winter long and snowboarding allows me to get outside and stay active."

TERRI WINSTON,

JUNIOR MARKETING MAJOR

cold temperatures.

"The snowpack is 51 inches at the summit, which has made it our best year in a while," said Nick Clesceri, the maintenance and lift operations manager at Mission Ridge.

A snowpack of 51 inches may seem minute compared to other ski resorts in the state, but Mission Ridge prides itself on the quality of the snow.

"Because we are located further away from the coast, there is less moisture in the clouds," said Jerri Barkley, Mission Ridge marketing and sales manager. "This is why we receive less snow. However, the snow we get is almost always light and powdery."

Both of these ski areas have been significantly impacted by the quality and quantity of snow this season. It has brought an abundance of

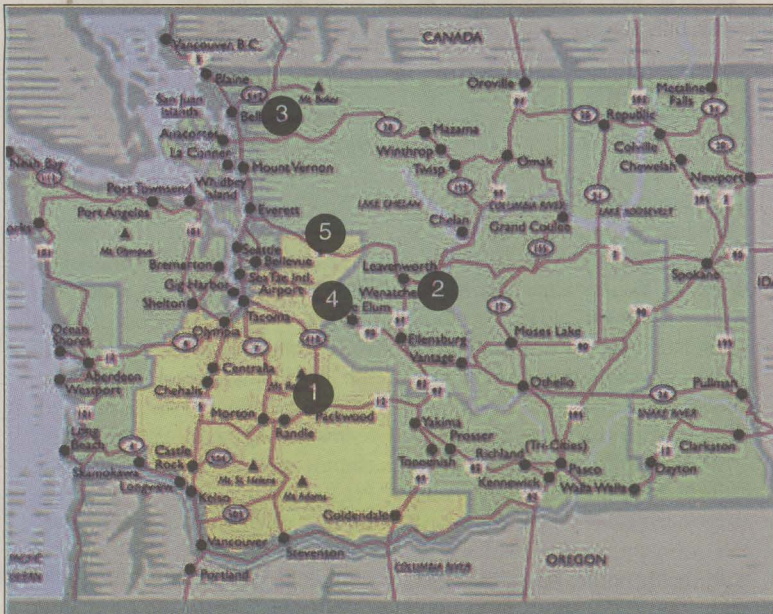
business, yet there is still plenty of area to ski because these resorts cover such large pieces of land. This type of snow also increases the duration of the season. It will allow for great spring skiing and snowboarding, which may go deep into April this year at both resorts.

Many Central students take weekend day-trips to these two resorts, and truly enjoy what they have to offer. Terra Winston, junior marketing major, has been snowboarding at these two ski areas for the last five years, and she insisted that this year has easily been one of the best years in terms of snow conditions.

"I can't stand being cooped up all winter long, and snowboarding allows me to get outside and stay active," Winston said. "I guess that is why I have gotten so hooked on the sport."

Mission Ridge and The Summit at Snoqualmie currently have all lifts open on the weekends, and offer numerous runs with a wide range of difficulty levels. Season passes are available allowing skiers to skip the lines when going to buy a lift pass. This allows beginners through advanced skiers and snowboarders to enjoy the resorts.

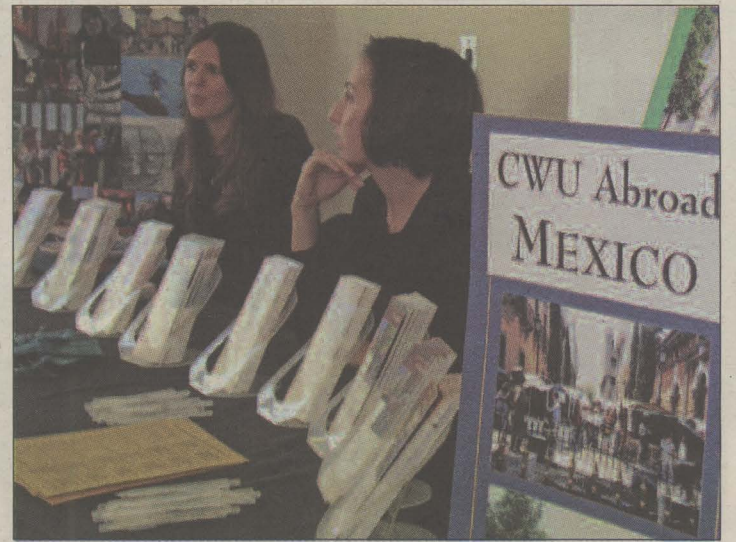
So, rather than sitting inside wishing it were spring, grab a snowboard or a pair of skis, and take advantage of these exciting winter activities.



Map from www.washington-hiking-advisor.com

Washington Ski Spots

- 1. Crystal Mountain**
Hours: 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Prices: \$58 all day
Season Pass: \$859
- 2. Mission Ridge**
Hours: Mon. - Thurs.
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Prices: \$48
Season Pass: \$499
- 3. Mt. Baker**
Hours: 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Prices: \$33.90 - \$41.32
Season Pass: \$640 - \$705
- 4. Snoqualmie Pass**
Hours: 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Prices: \$32 - \$51
Season Pass: \$329 - \$419
- 5. Stevens Pass**
Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Tues./Wed.
9 a.m. - 10 p.m. (other days)
Prices: \$30 - \$50
Season Pass: \$859



Darcy Wytko/Observer

Skye Clifford, AHA's Student Services Coordinator and Marcy Freddi, an AHA Director, speak with students about international programs.

Study and Travel

Part of being a well-rounded student is having the opportunities to learn from diverse cultures and experiences. The International Center provides these opportunities for students.

Last Wednesday, the Study and Exchange Program held its Annual Study Abroad Fair in the SURC. The fair allows students to learn about the chances they have to travel and study in another country. More than 150 study abroad opportunities were demonstrated at the fair. Approximately 100 people showed up.

"We had visitors from Montana, sponsors [and] Peace Corps were there," Kate McCarthy, interim director of study abroad, said. "We have faculty serving as leaders for study abroad programs. [They]

came and advertised the programs."

According to McCarthy, "study abroad" creates the opportunity to go to more than 40 countries, take classes in English or another language; receive major, minor or general education credit - and use financial aid for it. Also, only 1 percent of college graduates nationally study abroad, so those students who do study abroad are more likely to catch the eye of future employers.

"A lot of students may not realize we have programs as short as 10 days and as long as 10 months and everything in between," McCarthy said.

The International Center is located on the north side of campus to the east of the L&L Building.

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
- BBQ with KCWU live

FESTIVAL DETAILS:

- Guitar hero contest in SURC room 117 10-25
- Seminar in SURC PM 11-30
- Battle of the bands SURC PM 12-30

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for more info and to sign up your band

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
The Heart of Learning

February

31 * Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas perform in the Concert Hall. \$10 students, \$20 general.

* Debra Arlyn performs at 7p.m. in the SURC Pit. Free.

I * Yakima Valley Inter-scholastic Athletic Association district meet, Aquatics facility pool

* First Friday Art Walk



2 * Yakima Valley Music solo and ensemble competition, all day, Music building.

* First Saturday Bird Walk

3 * Sunday Cinema Series- "Seven Samurai," 7 p.m. in the SURC Theatre, \$3

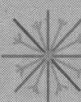


4 * Monday Movie Madness- "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," 7 p.m. in the SURC Theatre, free

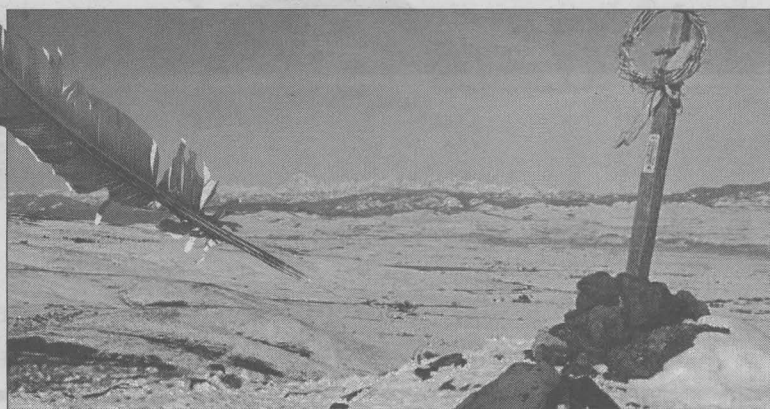
* Fireside Chat at 8 p.m. in the SURC Pit

5 * Poker Tournament at 6:30 p.m. in SURC215A

* Trio Financial Aid Workshop, 4 p.m. in Hertz125



6 * Artist Justin Gibbens lectures at 7 p.m. in Randall 117



Brianne Jette/Observer

A view from the summit of Manastash Ridge, also known as "The Book."

More than one way to write a story

by Jessi Nelson
Copy editor

Writing for The Observer isn't the only way for students to have their work published. Every year, the English department helps produce a literary journal — and the deadline for submissions is Monday.

Manastash, Central's literary journal, has been around since its humble beginnings in 1989. According to Joseph Powell, professor of English and one of the instigators of the project, the first Manastash was printed on photocopiers and compiled by means of a "giant stapler" found in Bouillon Hall. Since then, it has evolved into an opportunity for students not only to get published, but to gain experience as part of an editorial, design and publishing staff as well.

In years past, one or two students were chosen as editors, and faculty had more say over acceptance. But this will be the third year that a class of students gets to decide as a committee.

"It all comes out of S & A funds now," Powell said. "It seems only fair; if the money is coming from students, they should be able to make those choices."

Despite its low budget, the first editions of Manastash included some student art. After the literary work was selected, samples were presented to art students, who in turn submitted visual interpretations of the themes. Then a handful of English students selected which pieces to include. Although art has not been featured in recent editions, it may return.

Joan Cawley-Crane, adjunct profes-

sor of art, is among those who would like to see art return to Manastash.

"I'd like to see the awareness notched up; I'd like to see more art in it," Cawley-Crane said. "English and art seems like a natural partnership to me."

Katharine Whitcomb, assistant professor of English, teaches the editorial practicum of Manastash this year. The two courses — one for winter and one for spring quarter — were developed as part of the new writing specialization program and give students a chance to beef up their résumés.

Student submissions should be shorter than 4,000 words each. The author's name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, as well as the title of the work itself, should be listed on a separate page, and the author's name should not appear anywhere on the work itself, for the sake of anonymity. Submissions, which may be in paper or disk form, are due Monday, Feb. 4, in the English department office, which is located in the L & L Building, room 423.

According to Powell, students from any department should not hesitate to turn in carefully edited work, such as poetry, prose or fiction, because the chance of being published is exciting.

"It gives them an opportunity to get in print," Powell said. "And they break that print barrier and it's not so intimidating."

Cawley-Crane keeps a copy of Manastash in her office.

"It reinforces why I teach," Cawley-Crane said. "It's a reminder of what students can accomplish."

Juno steals the screen

by Kayla Schroader
Staff reporter



Kayla Schroader
Staff reporter

Just when I begin to lose faith in the creative genius of today's filmwriters, writer Diablo Cody and director Jason Reitman bring us "Juno."

In the film, 16-year-old Juno MacGuff, played by Ellen Page, finds herself faced with the issue of teen pregnancy after knocking boots with long-time friend Paulie Bleaker, played by Michael Cera. When considering her options and choosing adoption, the process proves far more complicated than expected. The movie follows the girl as she is forced to make life-changing decisions in the midst of everyday adolescence.

My first of three times seeing the movie, I was unsure as to whether I would be embarking on a romance, light-hearted teen film or another politi-

cal statement. During the next hour and 36 minutes, I was very impressed with Juno's narration and a cast of unique characters, including the dog-loving stepmother, played by Allison Janney, and the seemingly perfect adoption couple, played by Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman.

When leaving the theater, I wasn't quite sure how to perceive the film until days later when I still couldn't stop smiling about the witty dialogue and catchy song lyrics. Not only was the plot of "Juno" unpredictable, but it took a serious yet entertaining twist on a very real issue.

While the movie focuses primarily on feminine matters, Juno offers a little something for everyone, be it the awkwardly charming Michael Cera or a cameo appearance by Rainn Wilson from "The Office." While characters Juno and Bleaker drop a few cheesy lines, their romance is far from sappy and does not override the rest of the film's other qualities. Furthermore, the "Juno" soundtrack is fresh. Simple lyrics like, "... here is the church and here is the steeple, we sure are cute for two ugly

90 minutes of soul this Friday

by Ila Dickenson
Staff reporter

Tomorrow night, Seattle-based musician Jonathan Kingham will play for free at 7 p.m. in the Student Union Pit.

Kingham has had a busy career since getting a record deal in 2003 with Universal South Records. He's played all over the country with famous musicians like Vanessa Carlton and Shawn Colvin. Kingham has also made television appearances on shows including WB's "Felicity."

His latest album, "That Changes Everything," was independently released in 2006 and has such songs as "Every Little Step" and "Real Woman." The CD was Kingham's fourth since 1997.

Even with these accomplishments he says he doesn't believe in catching that big start.

"I'm not sure you ever really have that one big break," Kingham said. "You just keep working, touring, writing and

as long as the bills stay paid and we can stay healthy, I consider it a blessing."

Kingham started performing and touring 10 years ago after he got out of the Navy and began playing live.

He plays a unique blend of jazz and country that is smooth and soulful. By utilizing a clarinet or a steel guitar, Kingham makes music that fits every mood.

He also likes to write songs that take the country approach and tell a story.

"For me, lyrics usually start with a cool line or hook that I try to

expand on," Kingham said about writing a song.

His favorite song that he's written is called "Grace," and he loves it because of the subtlety of one of the lyrics: "I have taken life for granted

when I don't deserve to live / I have given up on trying and it is all I have to give."

Sarah Ruiz, a student programmer with Campus Activities, is organizing the concert Friday night.

"I wanted to bring Jonathan Kingham to CWU because of his unique sound," Ruiz said. "I had seen him play at other campuses on the west side and whether it was a whole show or a few songs, you have a good time. And I thought that it would be a type of music that will play to everyone's tastes."

Kingham's hour-and-a-half set will be the second consecutive night for a Campus Activities concert in the Student Union Pit, with Debra Arlyn performing tonight in the SURC Pit. Ruiz attributes this to an effort being made to bring a variety of musical acts to campus.

"They are different artists with their own unique sounds, so why not have them both play?" Ruiz said. "The more the better, that's my thought."

"I think it's a good idea because it introduces students on campus to what's coming up," Brett Morrison, freshman vocal performance major, said.

Music samples are available at www.jonathankingham.com or by visiting their Myspace page at www.myspace.com/exactrecords.

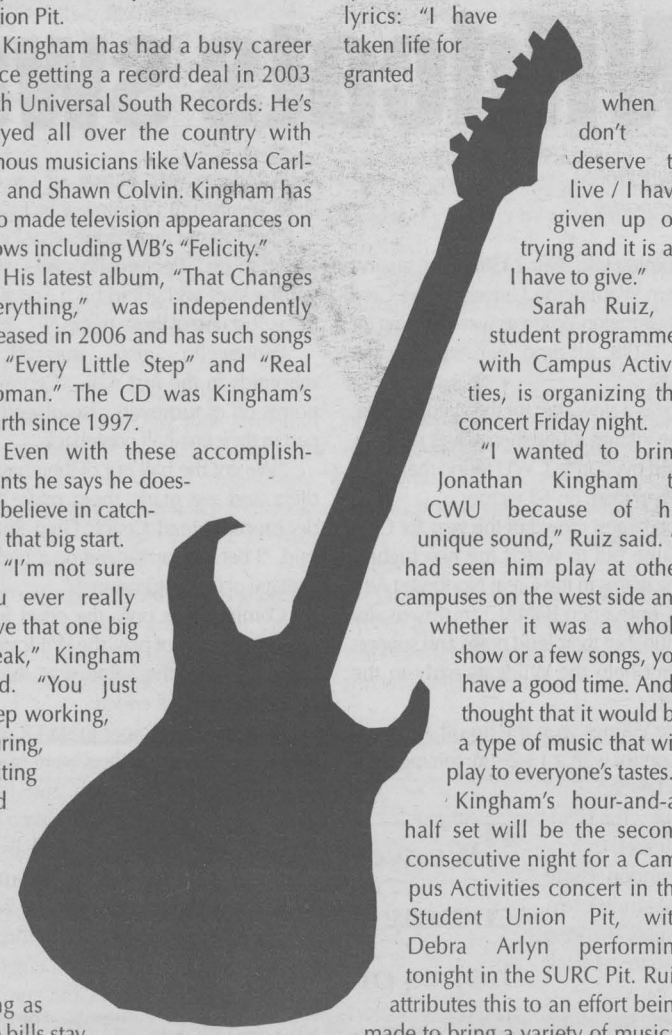


photo from www.firstshowing.net

people...", originally by Moldy Peaches, contribute to the movie's light-hearted appeal while showcasing the leading actors' natural singing abilities.

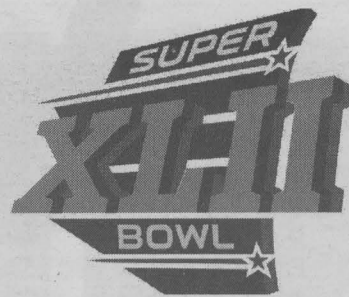
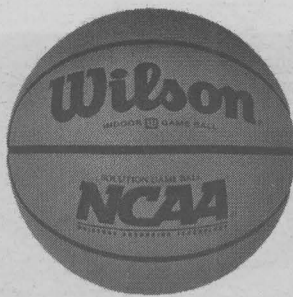
"Juno," winner of the Critic's Choice Award for best comedy, keeps the audience on its toes while offering a few tears and countless laughs. This one is well worth the movie ticket price.

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SPORTS



A midseason report card on
Central Basketball (Page 15)

Super Bowl XLII kicks off
Sunday. (Page 16)

Wildcats swarm Vikings in victory

by Marc Boese
Staff reporter

Coming into their 235th game against Western Washington University, the Central Washington Wildcats were looking for their 150th all-time win against the Vikings.

It was a slow start for the Wildcat men, but the Vikings found themselves out-hustled and overran as CWU found that milestone win in an 86-63 victory.

The largest crowd of the year for Central came out to watch the two highest scoring teams in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) in this rivalry matchup, but their loud noise and support couldn't help the Wildcats early in the contest.

The Vikings won the tip-off and took total control with a 13-2 run, forcing Central to take an early timeout. The Wildcats subbed in junior Brandon Foote and began to use a full-court press defense to get back in the game.

Foote started the Wildcats' comeback with a successful jumper and continued to put up numbers from the bench all night with 14 points and a team-high eight rebounds.

Contributions

then came from a three-point play by junior center Jake Beiting and a dunk from junior forward Matt Penoncello to close the gap 11-15.

In an attempt to expand the lead, Western guard Ira Graham, the GNAC's leading scorer averaging 20.4 points per game, went up for a breakaway lay-up but was blocked by Beiting.

Continuing the early comeback, senior point guard Nate Jackson knocked down a three-pointer to tie the game at 23 with 6:24 left in the first half.

After a steal by the Wildcats' senior forward Bryce Daub, Penoncello, who led the team with 20 points on the night, hit a three-point shot of his own to take Central's first lead of the game 26-23.

Central did not let up at all, as they went into half-time on a 15-6 run, making it 38-29.

Going into the locker room, Penon-

cello led the way hitting all six of his shots, giving him 13 points at half.

"I'm just out there doin' what I'm supposed to do," Penoncello said. "If you got the shot you got to hit it and it's just there, just one of those nights."

Penoncello also snagged five rebounds in the first half. Central's 18 points off of turnovers also played a big part in their first-half comeback.

"We got the ball out of their ball-handlers and we made them make tough decisions," Head Coach Greg Sparling said. "I bet we capitalized on a high percentage of those [turnovers]."

Coming back onto the court for the next 20 minutes of play, the Wildcats continued to play the same way they did before the first half ended.

Jackson hit a jumper to start it off and then two more quick shots were made by Daub and Penoncello to force Western to call an early 30-second timeout.

Central kept a substantial lead for the next eight minutes, but going into the second part of the half, the Vikings made an 8-0 run to cut the lead back down to 13 with 8:05 left in the game.

Foote then got the Wildcats back on track by hitting a jump shot and a three-pointer to regain momentum.

With 3:52 left, junior guard Johnny Spevak stole the ball and made a three-point play off of a lay-up to give Central their biggest lead of the night, 79-55, and sealed the deal for the Wildcats.

After back-and-forth points made between the teams in the last few minutes, the Wildcats kept control during the final minutes and the game buzzer sounded, the final score 86-63 in Central's favor.

Twenty-seven of the Wildcats' points came from off the bench, Foote having 14 of them.

"The guy I'm happy for is Brandon Foote," Sparling said. "He stepped up and made some huge shots."

Daub was another player from the bench with an impressive performance, according to Sparling.

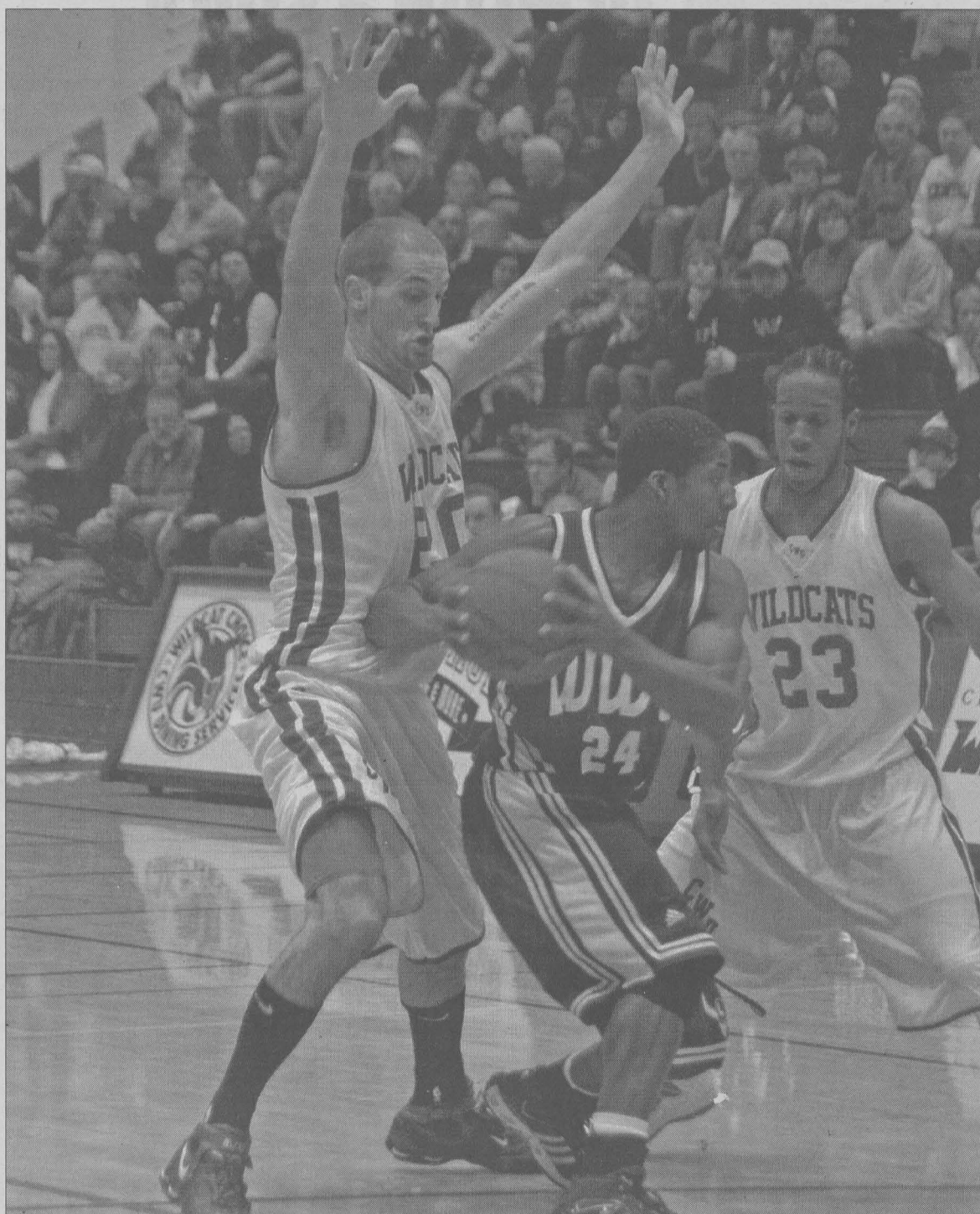
"I thought [Daub] did a lot of things that didn't show up in the stat sheet,"

"We were definitely coming in here with hopes of a win, they just played excellent tonight."

IRA GRAHAM

WESTERN WASHINGTON

GUARD



Amanda Umberger/Observer

Junior guard Matt Penoncello (20) and senior guard Nate Jackson (23) pressure Western Washington guard Andrew Ready (24) last Saturday. The Wildcats defeated the Vikings 86-63 in their first meeting of the season.

Sparling said. "I thought that Daub had a great night."

Not only were Central's coach and players in awe about their performance, but so was Western's Graham.

"We were definitely coming in here with hopes of a win, they just played excellent tonight," Graham said. "We got

a lot of hands up on a lot of their shots, but they were just falling tonight and when a team gets hot like that, it's hard to stop them."

Central has two home games this week, starting 7:30 p.m. tonight against Seattle Pacific and 7 p.m. Saturday night against Montana State-Billings.

The Wildcats are hoping for of another big crowd for those games like the one they had against Western.

"We haven't seen an atmosphere like that all year, so hopefully we can get those crowds to keep coming back, because it's a lot of fun to play for them," Penoncello said.

Women end skid, split on weekend road trip

by Brianna Freeman
Staff reporter

Rebounding from a four-game losing streak is a daunting task for anyone, but the Central Washington University Wildcats were ready to turn their luck around.

On Thursday night, Central took on Saint Martin's University with a point to prove. Central kept it close for the first 15 minutes of the first half, but when the

score reached 18-15, SMU took control. With just under nine minutes left in the first half, the Saints went on a 16-4 run, ending the half with a score of 34-19.

In the first half, all but two Saints in the lineup scored points, despite having only four offensive rebounds.

Central came out of the locker room and went on a 25-12 scoring run to tie the game at 46 with 8:21 left in the game.

With just over three minutes left,

Central took the lead at 53-50 with a three-pointer by senior guard Elyse Maras. The Wildcats held on to the lead to end the game with a score of 59-56, breaking their four-game losing streak and regaining the confidence they had at the beginning of the season.

"As a team, we played together, played smart, and played with a ton of heart," Maras said. "It was a huge game for us."

Two Wildcats scored double-digits in

the second half. Maras scored 13 points and went 5-for-6 from the floor. Senior wing Hanna Hull scored 14 points and went 4-for-6 from three-point range.

"It's nice to get a win again," Hull said. "We are a very capable team."

The win brought the Wildcats to 10-4 overall and 2-4 in the Great Athletic Northwest Conference (GNAC). SMU fell to 10-5 overall and 3-3 in the GNAC.

Coming off the win at SMU, the

Wildcats traveled to Oregon to take on the Western Oregon University Wolves on Saturday night.

The Wolves struck first with a 4-0 run to start the game and the Wildcats were never able to recover. Central was able to come within reach after bringing the score to a two-point deficit with just under 16 minutes in the first half, but then WOU took control.

SEE WOMEN PAGE 14

Senior guard Jackson leading by example

by Ryan Larsen
Staff reporter

From playing at Cleveland High School in Seattle to Central Washington University, senior guard Nate Jackson has come a long way from the beginning of his basketball career.

Before Jackson came to Central he played basketball at Portland State University. Jackson red-shirted his first year in Portland under head coach Heath Schroyer. When Schroyer quit at the end of the season, Jackson decided to leave as well.

He then decided to enroll at Highline Community College in Des Moines, Wash. In his second year with the team, Highline won the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) championship.

"My championship has shaped me into who I am, it's something I feed off of when I am playing basketball," Jackson said. "I just bring that to the table and make the other guys play that type of basketball."

One of the reasons Jackson was recruited to Central was because of his experience in a championship atmosphere.

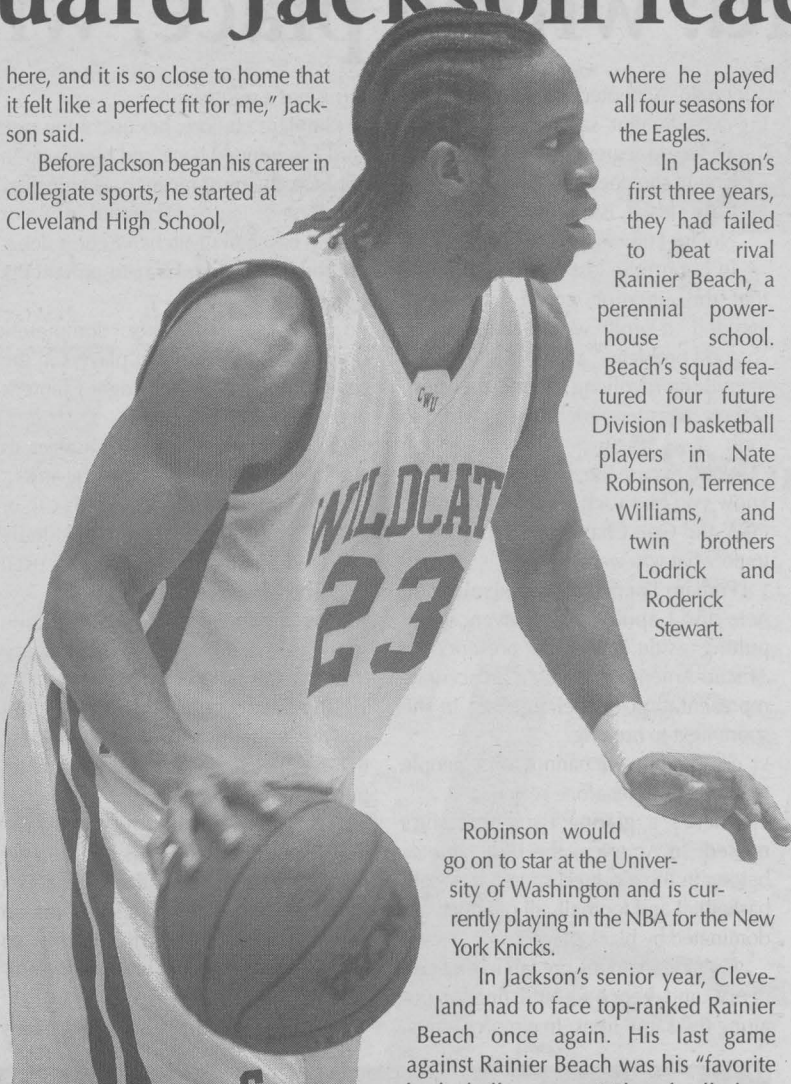
"We liked how hard he played and we liked that he won a championship at Highline," Central head basketball coach Greg Sparling said.

Central's proximity to Seattle was one of Jackson's major reasons for coming to Central.

"I heard so much about the tradition

here, and it is so close to home that it felt like a perfect fit for me," Jackson said.

Before Jackson began his career in collegiate sports, he started at Cleveland High School,



Amanda Umberger/Observer

where he played all four seasons for the Eagles.

In Jackson's first three years, they had failed to beat rival Rainier Beach, a perennial powerhouse school. Beach's squad featured four future Division I basketball players in Nate Robinson, Terrence Williams, and twin brothers Lodrick and Roderick Stewart.

Robinson would go on to star at the University of Washington and is currently playing in the NBA for the New York Knicks.

In Jackson's senior year, Cleveland had to face top-ranked Rainier Beach once again. His last game against Rainier Beach was his "favorite basketball moment." They finally beat

the Vikings.

Jackson is one of those players that everyone is aware of, not just for his speed and awareness but for his defense. His defensive prowess was a big reason why Central recruited him.

"We thought defensively we couldn't find a better guard out there and also offensively he has done, as much, or more than we thought he would do here," Sparling said.

This season, Jackson has played much better than his first season at Central, averaging more than 12 points and playing more than 24 minutes per game.

"Nate has made huge strides from last year to this year," Sparling said. "He stepped up and took the reins of the team and that's part of why we have had success this year."

Some of his teammates have other ideas about why he has been more successful this season.

"He is more confident this season," junior guard Johnny Spevak said. "In our first league game versus Seattle Pacific University, he basically took over the game himself. He realized he could go around anyone he wanted to, and any time we needed a basket when the clock was going down, it just seemed he had that confidence."

One of Jackson's role models growing up was his adopted grandfather Eddie Miles, who played in the NBA for nine years and went to Seattle University where

his number is retired.

Jackson said that Miles was a big influence in his life and development as a basketball player.

When Jackson is on the floor he is one of the team's leaders and isn't as quiet as he seems off the court.

"On the court he becomes more vocal, and when he is doing well he's even more vocal," Spevak said. "He is a pretty quiet guy off the court but when he speaks out he can be a very funny guy."

Despite enjoying his time on the court, he doesn't care for every aspect of Ellensburg.

"In Seattle, if it snowed a little bit, there wouldn't be school," Jackson said. "But over here at Central all of that snow, it just keeps going. Before I came here I liked snow but when I got here it was just too much."

Basketball isn't Jackson's only hobby. Currently he is writing a book on his life experiences, people he has met and things that he has been through.

After college, Jackson wants to coach or volunteer at his old high school or continue to play professionally.

"I would like to continue playing basketball if that was an option," Jackson said. "Maybe try to get into another league or go over seas."

Jackson already has one championship and hopefully this season he can help Central win another in his final season with the Wildcats.

Wildcat teams make the polls

by Curtis Crabtree
Asst. Sports editor

The Central Washington Wildcats women's basketball team debuted at number 10 in the NCAA Division II West Regional poll. After a fast start to the season that included a victory over nationally-ranked UC-San Diego, the Wildcats have struggled since returning to Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) play.

The Wildcats are only 2-5 since the conclusion of their non-conference schedule.

Five fellow GNAC schools are ahead of Central in the poll.

Nationally third-ranked Seattle Pacific leads the GNAC charge into the regional poll as the number-one ranked team in the West.

Alaska-Anchorage is ranked fifth in

the poll behind Cal State San Bernadino, Chico State and Sonoma State.

Northwest Nazarene follows Anchorage at number six with UC-San Diego, Saint Martin's and Seattle rounding out the top 10.

The Central baseball team returns a conference leading 15 players this season and has been picked to finish second in the GNAC in the preseason coaches poll released on Tuesday.

The Wildcats return senior shortstop Jamie Nilsen and senior pitcher Tyler Levin who were named the GNAC player and pitcher of the year, respectively, in 2007.

The team is picked to finish behind Western Oregon, who has won the GNAC title each of the last six seasons.

Montana State-Billings, a newcomer

to the conference, was picked to finish third ahead of Northwest Nazarene and Saint Martin's.

Central's softball team had been picked to finish fourth in the GNAC in 2008 in the preseason coaches poll.

The program experienced only its second winning season in 2007 and returns three standout senior in 2008.

Outfielder Kasey Druffel, third baseman Logan Mohr and first baseman Malory Holtman lead the Wildcats offense.

Holtman is looking to earn all-conference honors for a fourth consecutive season, a mark unprecedented in school history.

Seattle was picked to win the conference with Western Washington and Western Oregon placing ahead of the Wildcats.

GNAC at a Glance

Men's Basketball

January 24

UAA 45 - SU 38
UAF 55 - MSUB 65
WOU 60 - SPU 62
NNU 74 - SMU 57

January 26

WWU 63 - CWU 86
WOU 58 - NNU 84
SMU 79 - SPU 89
UAA 79 - MSUB 43
UAF 56 - SU 78

Women's Basketball

January 24

SU 62 - NNU 73
MSUB 74 - SPU 78
CWU 59 - SMU 56
WWU 76 - WOU 72

January 26

SU 47 - SPU 63
MSUB 71 - NNU 90
UAA 61 - UAF 46
WWU 37 - SMU 54
CWU 55 - WOU 65

OBSERVER CLASSIFIEDS

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Happy Hour During Game

Feb. 5 Fat Tuesday

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\$2 Jello Shots

\$4 Bomb Shots

\$1 Flasher Shots

9pm-Midnight

\$5 Hurricanes

SUPERBOWL

SUNDAY

\$1 Dogs during game

OAKRAIL

10PM - 1AM

The Sports Guy's Big Mouth:

Playing the race card: wrong place, wrong time

Being a sports columnist in today's world is tough work.

People thrive on lauding or loathing the latest piece from Seattle's Steve Kelley, Jerry Brewer or Ted Miller, or even more so to ESPN's own sports guy, Bill Simmons.

We can write about anything: a junk trade, the steroids debacle in baseball, Jerramy Stevens, even how our favorite coaches would bake a cake.

As long as it reads well and people can give some feedback on how great or how moronic our argument is, we will keep writing to entertain.

Gimmicks we develop are always hit or miss (I hope this Big Mouth thing can stick while I'm still around). Something that always proves to be a laugh ends up being a grudge against another writer.

Look at the Denver Post's Woody Paige and the Chicago Sun-Times' Jay Mariotti, or The Washington Post's Michael Wilbon and Tony Kornheiser (yes, before Pardon the Interruption).

My grudge, however, isn't humor-



Frank Stanley
Sports guy

ous. It exists solely because someone strives to force an issue where it really shouldn't belong, and usually damages her own argument and credibility in the process.

Oh, pardon me for not mentioning her yet. My issues are with ESPN Page 2 writer Jemele Hill.

Regardless of what we do, it's difficult to entertain when our work gets serious, more so when we deal with tougher topics, especially when it's such a serious issue in talking about race.

Unfortunately, Hill has put race where it doesn't belong, and put herself in situations where playing the race card just doesn't work, let alone she shoots herself in the foot with articles that cry "double standard."

I hate to make this story sound like a term paper, but hey, it's what I have to do, since her stories hold all of the proof.

I'll start with her most recent story, regarding the "lynching" comment by Golf Channel anchor Kelly Tilghman toward Tiger Woods.

Briefly, Tilghman was suspended for two weeks for saying that young players who wanted to challenge Tiger Woods should "lynch him in a back alley."

Woods, who is a close friend of

Tilghman, accepted her apology, issuing a statement saying, "We all say things we do regret, and that's certainly a moment she does regret."

Case closed, issue resolved, right? Not for Hill.

In her article last week, Hill stated that the situation could have been avoided if golf would address its "biggest problem:" a lack of diversity in everything revolving around the sport: players, reporters, anchors, so on and so forth.

Well, excuse me, Jemele, but I didn't know you had such a firm hold on the PGA and Golf Channel and their effort to do what you want.

Perhaps I'm making a generalization here and I apologize in advance, but putting aside Tiger, the presence of African-Americans in golf is an accurate representation of their interest in the sport: next to nothing.

Simply put: we cannot force people to like a sport, let alone play it.

There's a glaring issue that she's missed: in America, the best athletes belong in the top-level sports: baseball, basketball and football, all of which are dominated by black players.

Golf clearly does not fall in that category, and hence should not be put along the same lines. In simpler terms,

this is not a quota issue.

Similar to before, her use of the race card has jumped back and blown up in her face, the most recent case being her handling of issues presented in major league baseball's Mitchell Report debacle regarding performance-enhancing drugs.

most notably her completely opposing stances on two players in the same problem: pitcher Roger Clemens and outfielder Barry Bonds.

In the case of Roger (or Fraud-ger, as she lovingly floods it across the story), who has vehemently denied his use of illegal substances and repeatedly changed his story with what he's used and where he applied it.

His argument now sounds quite similar to what Bonds has been claiming up to this point.

The difference? Bonds is the victim in "the unbelievably deep hypocrisy that has fueled the federal government's pursuit for four years."

Even more so, Hill proceeds to say that "Bonds' blackness is not the sole reason Bonds is in this mess, but it is a factor in why the fairness seems so skewed, why the vitriol seems so severe, why the pursuit was so unrelenting."

Clemens, on the other hand, faces

the same vitriol. So much so that the previous six weeks of the Clemens witch hunt has bumped Bonds out of the public consciousness, the color of his skin not withstanding.

Roger errs in what he says in his argument, which, according to Hill, was "compelling, but not very informative. He said little we hadn't already heard. All Clemens did was supply measurements — as in exactly how much rope Clemens was going to use to hang himself."

The whole Steroid debacle worked with names: Bonds, Sosa, McGwire, Palmeiro, Bonds again with the perjury indictment and now Clemens.

I look at this and it has nothing to do with race, it worked to bash the name of the next big player involved.

Unfortunately, it's our fault as the media that race has been pushed as an issue, but rather than do her job and find the real reasoning, Hill plays the race card in a place where it was never warranted, adding an unnecessary element in an already-hostile situation.

We all have our motivations to write. We find reasons to be funny, angry, proud, whatever drives us. If Race drives you to write, which really looks to be Jemele Hill's motivation, then sports is the wrong place.

Assistant coaches close to contracts

The Central Washington Wildcats are very close to filling their two open assistant football coaching positions.

During the press conference to announce Blaine Bennett as the new head football coach of the Wildcats on Jan. 18, Bennett noted that they were in negotiations to fill the two open positions.

Neither Bennett nor athletic director Jack Bishop would comment about the names of the coaches or the positions to which they would be signed.

According to Jonathan Gordon, director of athletic media relations, the process of signing the coaches is close to being finished.

"We expect the contracts to be

completed by the end of this week," Gordon said.

The coaches would be filling the positions left open by John Graham and Ryan Sawyer, both of whom followed former head coach Beau Baldwin to Eastern Washington University.

Graham was the Wildcats defensive coordinator and linebackers coach. Sawyer coached the defensive line.

Graham had coached at Central for the last 13 seasons with Sawyer being on staff the last four years.

The names of the assistant coaches will be made available to the public once the contracts are formally signed.



Amanda Umberger/Observer

Junior guard Ashley Fenimore drives to the basket in Central's previous homestand against Northwest Nazarene University. The Wildcat women begin a four-game home set tonight against University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

Women: Loss to WOU snaps a 218-game streak where Wildcats have at least one double-digit scorer

continued from page 12

With the help of freshman center Whitney Chase's nine first-half points, the Wolves sent the Wildcats to the locker room with a score of 31-24.

In the second half, the Wildcats closed the gap to two at 38-36 with just over 15 minutes left in the game. Central kept things close until WOU went on a 20-7 with 6:28 left in the game. The run took the air out of Central's sails and the Wildcats were never able to regain con-

rol, dropping the contest, 65-55.

Hull and senior forward Kristina Klapperich were the Wildcats' two leading scorers with nine points each, snapping a streak of 218 games with at least one double-digit scorer.

Chase led the Wolves in scoring with 21 points and went 11-for-15 from the free-throw line.

"This game was a let-down for us as a whole," Hull said. "The only thing we can do is learn from our mistakes and move forward."

This loss brings Central to 10-5 overall and 2-5 in the GNAC. The Wolves improve to 5-11 overall and 1-6 in the GNAC with their first conference win.

"All of us know we are a very good basketball team," Maras says. "We are working some things out right now and with some hard work I know we will get right back on track."

The Wildcats return home for four-games beginning at 5:30 p.m. tonight against Alaska-Fairbanks and against Alaska Anchorage at 5 p.m. Saturday.

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Driving the Lane

A midseason report on Central basketball



Men's Basketball

Shooting

A-

The Wildcats are the best shooting team in the GNAC. They average 87.3 ppg, eight points better than second-placed Seattle.

They are also first in the conference in field goal percentage shooting 48 percent from the field.

Jake Beitinger is averaging 15.5 points per game, good for fifth-best in the GNAC.



Rebounds

C+

Central is still struggling to collect rebounds.

The Wildcats place eighth in the conference in defensive rebounds despite having two players, Matt Penoncello and Jake Beitinger, in the top 15 in rebounding.

Central is better on the offensive glass, averaging more than 12 offensive rebounds a game, which is third best in the conference.



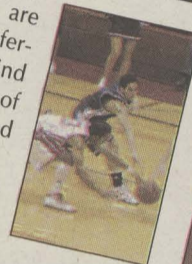
Turnovers

A-

Central is the best team in the GNAC in turnovers.

The Wildcats are second in the conference in steals behind the strong play of Johnny Spevak and Nate Jackson.

Jackson is third in the GNAC in steals with 1.56 per game and Spevak is seventh with 1.45 per contest. Central's +5.31 turnover margin leads the league.



Bench

B

Brandon Foote has provided a great spark off the bench in recent games. His 21 points against Alaska-Fairbanks was a career-high and he had 14 points against Western Washington last Saturday.

Colton Monti is averaging close to 10 points and Bryce Daub is bringing down 4.6 rebounds per contest.



Defense

C

Despite having a conference-leading turnover margin, the Wildcats are still allowing 76.1 points per game, good for only seventh best in the conference.

The Wildcats are eighth in the GNAC in field goal percentage defense allowing opposing teams to shoot over 47 percent from the field ahead of only Northwest Nazarene and Alaska-Fairbanks.



Coaching

B+

Coach Greg Sparling has the Wildcats playing very well offensively and in pressure defense. They have only lost back-to-back games once this season with two of their losses being one-point overtime defeats. The Wildcats still need to improve their rebounding on both ends of the court and force some more difficult scoring opportunities.



Women's Basketball

Shooting

A-

The Wildcats are averaging 75.8 ppg, good for third in the conference. They also continue to be the best shooting team in the GNAC, shooting 46.2 percent from the field and 40.3 percent from three-point range, good for second and first.

Hanna Hull, CWU's leading scorer, is fourth in the GNAC with 14.2 ppg.



Rebounds

B+

Central is the best defensive rebounding team in the conference with 29.4 per game.

Offensively, they are struggling, managing only 12.7 per game, ranking the Wildcat women at seventh in the conference.

Shaina Afoa is the GNAC's leader in rebounding. After 13 games, Afoa has totaled 113 boards, good for an average of 8.7 rpg.



Turnovers

C-

Forcing turnovers is the weak point of the Wildcats so far this season.

Guard Ashley Fenimore leads the team with 1.31 steals per game, ranking her at 22nd in the conference.

As a team, Central is last in steals per game with 6.38 and second to last in turnover margin with -3.23.



Bench

A

Central has the most consistent and deepest bench in the GNAC.

Freshman wing Jenn Jacobs and senior wing Elyse Maras are the team's top two shooters, dropping 51 percent and 47 percent from field goal range.

In limited play from injury and with three starts, Maras is averaging 6.7 ppg.



Defense

C

The Wildcats are allowing 63 points per game and opponents are shooting 36 percent, both are fifth-best in GNAC play.

The main issue in defense has been handling quick transition teams.

During the losing streak, CWU was outscored 27-6 in fast-break scoring and 144-82 in the paint.



Coaching

B

Head coach Jeff Whitney and assistant coach Amber Hall are keeping the team together in tough matchups and has the team playing well.

The Wildcats are still struggling to address key issues on defense and are failing to create turnovers to give their quick and efficient offense more scoring opportunities.



THE WEEKLY SPORTS FACE-OFF:

Super Bowl XLII: New York vs New England

Of course the obvious choice of who will win Super Bowl XLII would be the New England Patriots, considering they have won all of their games this year and are the number one offense in the league, but if that is your pick, you are very wrong.

Let's start off with Week 17. The Patriots beat the New York Giants 38-35, but who really thought that the Giants, who weren't playing for anything other than stopping New England from a perfect regular season, would be able to defeat the undefeatable Patriots at that time?

The Patriots came out to the field with fire in their eyes as if it were already in the Super Bowl. On the other side, pressure from the league and the 1972 Miami Dolphins influenced the Giants to play their starters in a situation where they normally wouldn't have.

Before the regular season started, I picked the Patriots to win it all, but watching New York in the playoffs has changed my mind.

If anyone can beat New England right now, it's Eli Manning and the Giants. Manning is the only quarterback who hasn't thrown an interception during the playoffs and don't expect him to throw any in the Super Bowl, either. He only threw one pick in Week 17 against the Pats, with experience from playing them already.

With the Super Bowl on the road, I don't see him throwing another interception until next season.

Manning isn't the only person the Patriots are going to have to be careful about. They definitely cannot forget about running back Brandon Jacobs.

In the Giants' Wild Card game, Jacobs ran through Tampa Bay's linebackers — the best in the game — for a rushing touchdown and a receiving touchdown. He then ran all over Dallas' and Green Bay's front seven in his next two playoff games.

The Patriots will be no different. Their linebackers are some of the oldest in the NFL and are getting slower and slower as the season goes on.

Most analysts had it right when they made their ini-



Marc Boese
Staff reporter

tial call: no one wants to be in front of Jacobs, and New England's defense should be afraid to stand in his way.

Also, when Jacobs needs a break from overpowering the linebackers, backup running back Ahmad Bradshaw will be able to run to the outside and run right around them.

While the Patriots defensive backs are concerned with the running backs, they are going to have to pay close attention to Manning's favorite target, Pro Bowl wide

receiver Plaxico Burress, who really stepped up his game against the Packers as a receiving threat.

Enough about the offense; New York has the perfect defense to matchup against the Patriots: a very fast, very aggressive defensive line and linebacking corps that lays constant pressure on the quarterback.

By the way, the last two teams with the number one offense in the league — Seattle and Oakland — to reach the Super Bowl have lost. Guess who the number one offense was this year?

Tom Brady is considered a "pretty boy" and what pretty boy likes to get hit?

Look for the Giants to blitz their linebackers constantly in this game and even when they stay back in coverage, Brady will always have to watch out for the best pass rushing duo in the league, defensive ends Michael Strahan and Osi Umenyiora.

The only thing the Patriots have going for their offense against the Giants would be the "big play" to wide receivers Randy Moss or Donte Stallworth.

As long as the Giants defensive backs don't allow Moss or Stallworth to get behind them the Patriots will have a tougher time scoring on them than they did the last time they played each other.

Prediction: Giants 27, Patriots 20. New England is going to miss having its old kicker Adam Vinatieri in this Super Bowl.

A perfect 18-0. Tom Brady, Randy Moss, and Bill Belichick. The New England Patriots and the New York Giants are facing off at the University of Phoenix Stadium, located in Glendale, Ariz. for Super Bowl XLII, on Feb. 3, 2008.

We all know about how amazing the Patriots' offense is, with quarterback Tom Brady probably having the best passing season of all time. He won the Triple Crown for quarterbacks for touchdowns (50), yards (4806) and quarterback rating (117.2).

However it's not just Brady who will beat the Giants in the Super Bowl. Tom also has one of the best receiving corps in the NFL with Randy Moss leading the way.

Moss set the new single season touchdown record (23) and placed second in yards (1493) behind Reggie Wayne of the Indianapolis Colts.

However, don't forget about the ground attack the Pats have. When the weather was warm in Foxboro, Moss and Brady were hot and the offense had everything going right for them in the air, but when the temperature started to drop at Gillette Stadium, the duo of running backs, Laurence Maroney and Kevin Faulk, played a key part of the Patriots offense on the ground.

The Patriots are averaging 147 yards per game in the postseason, the most of any team in the AFC. Furthermore, the Giants have given up more than 100 rushing yards per game in the postseason, and the combination of Faulk and Maroney will prove to be too much for the Giants' defense.

Maroney had 122 yards on 25 carries to help beat the San Diego Chargers 21-12 in the AFC Championship Game last Sunday, his fourth 100-yard game in the past five and 106 of those yards came in the fourth quarter.

The defense is led by three savvy and seasoned



Dusty Kindred
Staff reporter

veteran linebacking corps of Tedy Bruschi, Mike Vrabel, and Junior Seau.

The Patriots are ranked fourth in the NFL in yards allowed per game (288.3), points allowed per game (17.1) and sixth in the league in passing yards allowed (190.1). It's very easy to overlook this defense, because of how the offense keeps on obliterating opponent after opponent.

The Patriots' offense is the engine that runs this team, but the defense is the fuel that runs the engine.

Another part of the Patriots that keeps on getting overlooked and is going to play an enormous role in beating the Giants this Sunday is the defense and offensive lines of the Pat's.

The offensive line is going to make it very difficult for the pass rush of Michael Strahan and the Giants, and the more time the line gives Brady to pick apart an average at best Giants secondary, the more we will see Brady throwing bombs down field to Randy Moss.

However it wasn't just Moss who caught touchdown pass for New England this season. Brady threw touchdown passes to eight different receivers, so the Giants cannot double team Moss in efforts to slow down the Patriots' aerial attack when Donte Stallworth can also stretch the field and wideout Wes Welker can beat linebackers underneath. Tight end Benjamin Watson is also a key threat in the receiving group.

There are two starters in the Pro Bowl for the Patriots on the offensive line, tackle Matt Light, guard Logan Mankins, and reserved center Dan Koppen.

On the defensive side, Vince Wilfork for defensive tackle and outside linebacker Mike Vrabel are also Hawaii-bound. The Giants only have one player going to the Pro Bowl and that's defensive end Osi Umenyiora.

The Patriots are the only team in NFL history to post an 18-0 record in a single season, and have won three out of the last six Super Bowls. Tom Brady has a record of 3-0 in the Super Bowl and is trying to tie the record of four victories with Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw.

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