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Observer

Central Washington University

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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.

STUCK IN SNOW
Winter storm blankets I-90 over Snoqualmie, closes pass

by Curtis Crabtree and Joseph Semandel
Ass't. Sports editor and Ass't. 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.

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."
Rushdie takes center stage at McConnell hall

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

by Chelsea Krotzer

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.

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 lectures 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," Ruth Edelman, DHHS 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 late 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 worldwide 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 fifth. The journalist then asked if they had read any of his books.

The response was "you 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 Guerrillas" was made about his book, placing him as the antagonist and "terrorists" as protagonists.

In the film, Rushdie said his character devises 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 the way 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 it general public; otherwise everyone would go and we wouldn't have a job," Rushdie said.

Free tax services now available

by Michael Johnson

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

The goal 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 1099-T IRS form. A 1099-T form is a tuition statement issued to students and to the IRS during January of each year. It is used by federal tax filers 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 locations, and if students are available, they will 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

As 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!

Sponsored by Calvary Baptist Church
Service time: Saturday Evenings 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. (Dress comfortably)
Begins Feb. 2nd
840 Cowboy Lane, Ellensburg
509-625-3088
www.eburgcbc.com
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. Burkhardt.

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 cardio floors and a new weight area simi­lar to the type of floors that are currently in the Student Union Recreation Center (SURC).

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

“It will probably be the most visible [project] because it renovates the lobby,” Courson said.

There is another reason for the reno­vation. According to Courson, one problem with Central’s office locations is that the coaches’ offices are scattered around campus. Courson said that the goal is to centralize all the offices in Nicholson Pavilion in the next few years.

According to Courson, 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-story 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 upperclassmen, 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 project is scheduled to be completed by fall quarter of this year, and the new SURC better.

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

The course will resemble an obsta­cle 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 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 need to make the project along as fast as possible,” said Pedro Navarro Jr., ASCHUROG vice president of student life and facilities, 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.”
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.

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

"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 hadnt been notified of the credit change. It would have been so much easier if the class credits were uniform. They need to make transfer information more accessible."

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

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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 Robson, faculty member Greg Cant, Alumni Board member Sandy Carlson, community member Brad Fleece, board of trustee Sam Kinsler, Dean Mary Morgan, student Stephanie Oberlander, student Derek Peepock, foundation board member Mark Pearson, faculty senate member Janet Shields, faculty member David Sherr, exempt staff member Nata Shigly-Layman, faculty senate chair Jeffrey Seashker, trustee Kerith Thompson, and trustee David Valdes.

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

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
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 really 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 camera 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 Alpental, 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 left 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.

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.

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 1-90 Inn, said.

The 1-90 Inn, which is tucked away on exit 106, usually has about 35 of its 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.”

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

“We are making sure that everyone stays warm,” Bains said. “We are offering free coffee for the drivers."

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

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

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

These numbers were accurate as of press time.
The Observer

Transportation Security

thing that slipped by the 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. 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 opened the next day. Gracie Mae traveled home to her home in Florida was Gracie Mae, a cat. Carter "screamed like a little girl" when he opened it, and many liquids — no 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 apparently cats are allowed as carry-ons. 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 call from Carter. "Hi. You’re not going to believe this, but I am at the metal detectors and X-rays weren’t complete because this is a very high security airport. I hate to imagine what else might 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 airport officials made efforts to get problems fixed. If the guy behind me is stowing a knife, firearm — or a kitten — it would be nice to know he’d actually get pulled aside.

Would you 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.

OBSERVER

The editorial views expressed are those of the writers and are not considered as official views of Central Washington University.

Observer — Opinion — January 31, 2008

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 will 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-larger-than-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 director starts 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 having me echo him normally falls within your particular idiom.

No one wants to hear a hundred geeks go "aaahh" 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 for my favorite scene — swamp castle, with the boy who just wants to sing — held several little surprises, including a family audible "Woo! Eee! (splat)!" I was too tickled to do anything else.

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. 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.
January 31, 2008 — Scene — Observer

Scene

Musical duo brings the highland to Central

by Nora Duncan
Staff reporter

The CWU Presidential Speaker Series has hosted a wide range of performances so far this year, from the Central theater’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 their education.

Master fiddlers 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 14. He played a major role in her education after that point.

“I believe there is nothing more beautiful than a violin and cello,” said Marian Lee, director of the Diversity Education Center. “The music can be so haunting, yet so quant 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 conductor 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 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 cells 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 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 wanted to tell a story about the 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 a production done by a theater group is great to put on my resume and it all brings me one step closer to my career choice of being a professional playwright,” Darby said.

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

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 bachelors and masters in education from the University of Alberta, “Dr. Betty” was affectionately referred to by her students to complete 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, 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.
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 lecture sponsored by the Center for Student Empowerment, but it was not exactly 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 Recreational Center Theatre to discuss men's issues and give male Wildcats a few pointers on how they can be "bettermen."

Mall Stewman, program support supervisor for the Center for Student Empowerment and Central alumna, 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 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 help men overcome personal hardships and become better fathers, sons, husbands and leaders through counseling sessions and retreats.

"It's bigger, has a deeper sound and it's warmer," said Gries. "There's a repertoire of music we haven't read [Levine's] book yet, but I did walk out of here with a new perspective."

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 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 thought it was great," Natalie Mehio, junior music education major, said. "A lot of my friends are in the choir." Students who are not majoring in music appeared to enjoy it as well.

"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," Gries said.

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

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

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

The second portion of the presentation was what Levine described as eight tools to become "BetterMen." Silence the Little Boys Inside You, Express but don't Defend your Feelings, and Develop Trusting Relationships with Men, were just a few of them.

"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 show was really all-inclusive, designed for everyone to walk away having learned something about relationship-ships.

"This 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."

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January 31, 2008 — Scene — Observer

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 Lippert, 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 moisture in the clouds,” said Jerri Barkley, Mission Ridge marketing 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,” said Winston. “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 difficulties 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.

Washington Ski Spots

1. Crystal Mountain
   Hours: 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
   Prices: $58 all day
   Season Pass: $569
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 - $41.30
   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: $599

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

More than one way to write a story

by Jessi Nelson

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 photocopies 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 stories were chosen as editors, and faculty had most of the say when it came to the 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 An蓓dow, 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 of the school’s best writing. 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 professor of art, is among those who would like to see art return to Manastash. “I’d like to see the awareness notch up; I’d like to see more art in it,” Cawley-Crane said. “English and art... it’s like a natural partnership to me.”

Katharine Whittenb, assistant professor of English, teaches the editorial practicum of 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 resumes.

Student submissions should be shorter than 4,000 words each. The author’s name, address, telephone number and e-mail address, as well as any department of the work itself, should be listed on a separate page, and the author’s name should not appear anywhere on the work itself, but should be hid on the page 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 creative 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 Schroeder

Just when I began to lose faith in the creative genius of today’s filmmakers, writer Diablo Cody and director Jason Reitman brought us “Juno.”

In the film, 16-year-old Juno MacGuff, played by Ellen Page, finds herself faced with the issue of teenage 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 political 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 movie songs. Not only was the plot of “Juno” unpredictable, but it took a serious twist by entertaining the film on a very real level.

While the movie focuses primarily on feminine matters, Juno offers a little something for everybody, be it the awkwardly charming Michael Cera or a cameo appearance by Raines 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 it is in the church and here it is the siple, we sure are cute for two ugly people...” or originally by Moldy Peaches, contribute to the movie’s light-hearted tone while showcasing the leading actor’s natural singing abilities.

“Juno,” winner of the Critics’ 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.
**Wildcats swarm Vikings in victory**

by Marc Boone  
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 outrebounded by the CWC, losing a 15-6 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 come 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 Daub and Penoncello, who came out to watch the two highest scoring teams in the GNAC. The Vikings won the tip-off and took total control with a 13-2 run, forcing Central to take an early Daub and Penoncello, who came out to watch the two highest scoring teams in the GNAC.

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 14-4 run, ending the half with a score of 34-19.

In the first half, both Santa Saints and Western Oregon University were in awe about their performance, but it was Western’s Graham who said, “We were definitely coming in here with hopes of a win, they just played excellent tonight.”

Ira Graham  
Western Washington  
Guard

“The guys are playing for us,” Penoncello 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 Montana State-Billings. The Wildcats are hoping for a big crowd for those games like the one they had against Western.

“They haven’t seen an atmosphere like this 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 skirt, 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 Western Oregon 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 14-4 run, ending the half with a score of 34-19.

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

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

by Curtis Crabtree

Athletic 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 the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) play.

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

Five fellow GNAC schools are ahead of Central in the poll. Nationally-ranked Seattle Pacific leads the GNAC charge into the top 10.

The Central baseball team returns a conference leading 13 players this season and has been picked to finish fourth in the GNAC in the preseason coaches poll released on Tuesday.

The Central football team returns 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 seniors in 2008.

Outfielder Kasey Druffel, third baseman Logan Mohr and first baseman Mal- koy Holman lead the Wildcats offense. Holman is looking to earn all-conference honors for a fourth consecutive season, a mark unprecedented in school history.

Seattle was selected to win the conference for the third time in the last four seasons.

Western Oregon and Northwest Nazarene are next in the GNAC poll.

Frank Stanley

Sports guy

Playing the race card: wrong place, wrong time

Tighman, accepted her apology, issu- ing 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 to be successful in the highest levels of sports: basketball, football, and baseball, all of which are dominated by black players.

Golf clearly does not fall in that cate- gory, 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 debate 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-guy, 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 claim- ing up to this point.

The difference? Bonds is the victim in "the unbelievably deep hypocrisy that has fueled the federal governments' 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 in a factor in the way the fairness seems so skewed, why the verdict seems so severe, why the pursuit was so unmerit- ting."

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 notwithstanding.

I hate to make this story sound like a "big mouth thing" will keep writing to entertain.

I'll start with her most recent story, Briefly, Tilghman was suspended for two weeks for saying that young players were still too young to like a sport, let alone play it.

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

Neither Bennett nor athletic director Jack Bishop would comment on 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 in close to being finished.

"We expect the contracts to be completed by the end of this week," Gordon said.

The contracts would be filling the positions left open by John Graham and Ryan Sawyer, both of whom no longer coach.

Graham was the Wildcats defensive coordinator and line- backers coach. Sawyer coached the defense.

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.

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

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Assistant coaches close to contracts

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The Wildcats are the best shooting team in the GNAC. They average 87.3% eight points better than second-placed Seattle. They are also first in the conference in field goal percentage shooting 46 percent from the field. Jake Bestleig is averaging 15.5 points per game, good for fifth-best in the GNAC.

Central still struggling to collect rebounds. The Wildcats place eighth in the conference in defensive rebounds despite having two players, Matt Pezzella and Jake Bestleig in the top 15 in rebounding.

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 5.1 per game and Spevak is seventh with 3.45 per contest. Central's +31 turnover margin leads the league.

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 against Western Washington last Saturday. Colton Monti is averaging close to 10 points and Bryce Duda is bringing about 4.6 rebounds per contest.

Despite having a conference-leading turnover margin, the Wildcats are still allowing 7.6 per game, good for only seventh best in the conference. Coachilng Head coach Jeff Hug and assistant coach Amber Hatfield 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.

Central has the most consistent and deepest bench in the GNAC. Freshman wing Jess Jacobs and senior wing Elise Macs 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, Macs is averaging 7.7 ppg.
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, 36-35, but who really thought that the Giants, who weren't playing for anything other than stepping New England from a perfect regular season, would be able to defeat the undefeated Patriots at that time?

The Patriots came out to the field with fire in their eyes 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 rarely throws 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 reason the Patriots are going to have to be careful about. They definitely cannot forget about running back Brandon Jacobs.

In the Giant's 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 initial 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, backing 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 Pats last year as a running 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—its 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 defense is 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.

Predictor: Giants 29, Patriots 20, New England is going to miss having its old left end Adam Vinatieri in this Super Bowl.

Marc Boese
Staff reporter

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 how amazing the Patriots’ defense 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 (4,825) 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 (1,486) behind Reggie Wayne of the Indianapolis Colts.

However, don't forget about the ground attack the Pats have. When the weather was warm in Floroda, 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 yard 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 veteran linebacking corps of Tedy Bruschi, Mike Vrabel, and Junior Seau.

The Patriots are ranked fourth in the NFL in yards allowed per game (338.3), points allowed per game (17.1) and sacks 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 opponents after opponent.

The Patriots’ offense is the engine that runs this team, but the defense is the fuel that keeps the engine running.

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 Pats.

On the offensive line, making it very difficult for the pass rush of Michael Strahan and the Giants, and the more time the line gives Brady to knock back 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 touchdowns passes for New England this season. Brady tosses downs 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 workload 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, Vonte Davis 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 a 16-0 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.

Dusty Kindred
Staff reporter

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