Local piercing shop attracts students and travelers alike

by Kayla Schroader
Staff reporter

At ACE Piercing and Apparel, owner Kelly Parke runs her business by her own rules. While pursuing an anthropology degree at Central, Parke wrote several papers concerning culturally imposed piercings. It was during these assignments that she discovered her interest in the practice.

Then, after six years of running a vintage store with business partner Carol Cox, Parke stepped out on her own and opened ACE on Main Street. Her new store maintains a vintage atmosphere while selling new clothing and a small stock of jewelry.

In the three years since, ACE has expanded in both size and stock. Today, Parke not only employs her daughter, Erica as a piercer, but local Jolene Sellers as well, who has been piercing at the store for nine months.

The popularity of their piercing ability has also spread, and the staff now receives customers traveling from as far as Moses Lake, Wash., and Portland, Ore.

"She [always] had a knack for piercing and great placement," Erica Cox said. "I've been watching my mom [pierce] since I was 12. It's one of my favorite memories of [her]."

Parke's medical training includes employment with Total Care, an in-home, elderly health care organization, blood borne pathogen certification and first aid completion. She now performs approximately four to eight piercings each day.

Mayra Barragan, sophomore psychology major, has two piercings and purchases jewelry from Parke's store.

"Bullets are tightening up and that's not just us; it's across the state and across the nation," Lucy Watson, director of public relations and marketing, said.

According to the Aug. 8, 2007 President's Nominating Council meeting minutes, the council agreed that continuing the program was important. Six months later on Feb. 26, the Daily Record's circulation director received an e-mail from Charlotte Tullus, vice-president of student affairs and enrollment management.

The e-mail was sent on the Tuesday after the Daily Record ran a controversial editorial regarding Central and their need to become more "transparent" with public records, following the editorial, President Lynne Mcintyre's husband, David Smith, wrote the Daily Record a letter to the editor accusing them of having a personal vendetta against Mcintyre. He further stated the Daily Record was more interested in sensationalism than truth in its stories.

"I thought they had been pretty opinionated about things, and it's their privilege," Tullus said. "It's my privilege to make sure students get access to the right news sources."

In the email, Tullus added that the Daily Record had been 10 years to work with in the past, but she decided to take their readership program in "another direction."

"My timing was poor, and I admit that," Tullus said. "I had no idea no one was concerned about anybody writing a letter to the editor. It's about readership, students and the state's money."

Mcintyre also stated the decision to cancel the Daily Record contract had nothing to do with the editorial written, or her husband's response.

"I don't know why she did it when she did," Mcintyre said.

Tullus questioned whether or not students were interested in the local news and commentary that the Daily Record offered.

"The Daily Record is an important paper in our area," Mcintyre said. "I need to know data wise if it's important for here."

According to Mcintyre, the 2007 ASCWU-BPD surveyed the student body for which newspapers they were interested in reading. The top choices were The Seattle Times and The Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

They both are currently available to students free of charge. They are part of the Student Readership program with a budget of $6,500 allocated from the Students and Activities Committee. Mcintyre said she continued funding the Daily Record, despite it not being voted on by students.
Visual Stimulation

"Hold fast to your dreams, for without them life is a broken winged bird that cannot fly."

-Langston Hughes

Questions?
Comments?
Complaints?
Photos?

Do you have a photo that you would like to submit for the visual stimulation?
E-mail it to us at cwuobserver@cwu.edu

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

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The Observer is a class in which students are constantly learning how to interview, report and produce a newspaper.
Athletic fee increase tops BOD ballot issues

by Mimi Oh
Staff reporter

Julian Trevino works out on an abdominal machine as he describes the hardships faced by student-athletes. The proposed athletic fee increase aims to improve this situation. In May, students will vote on the $18 increase, along with their candidates for the ASCWU-BOD.

"When we travel, it's so much easier for athletes to go the day before and get a good night's sleep as opposed to a four- or five-hour car trip right before they compete," Trevino said.

Trevino related stories about traveling to competitions the day of the event in less-than-ideal passenger vans. Central’s athletic travel budget is not keeping up with inflation, or gas hikes.

The Student Athletic Advisory Committee tagged the initiative with a 5 percent increase to keep up. The athletic department is administering the initiative, for which the Student Athletic Advisory Committee is primarily responsible.

"It's really important to me to get voters out, since this year we are also voting on fee initiatives," BOD President Katie Underwood said. "[The athletic fee increase] was implemented 10 years ago and it hasn't increased since. So athletics is at a point where inflation has risen to the point where we can't expand the programs anymore, because we can't put the funds in. Lots of the athletics are going to be working to promote the initiative. They will send a representative to the candidate forums to get the word out."

"The big problem is, when we first passed the fee in 1997, it was a flat fee, and in 10 years, $35 does not buy what it bought 10 years ago," Gary Hyatt, Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and Academics, said.

"It's really important to me to get voters out, since this year we are also voting on fee initiatives," BOD President Katie Underwood said. "The athletic fee increase was implemented 10 years ago and it hasn't increased since. So athletics is at a point where inflation has risen to the point where we can't expand the programs anymore, because we can't put the funds in... Lots of the athletics are going to be working to promote the initiative. They will send a representative to the candidate forums to get the word out."

"The turnover with administration is one of four BOD members due to graduation, and one declining to run as an unopposed candidate for the next election is that there are enough contenders for the position, a positive change from the two write-in candidates last year."

The executive vice president-deputy has three contenders for the position, one positive change from the two write-in candidates last year.

One major change from last year's election is that there are enough contenders for the executive vice presidency for a primary, scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2008. With the departure of four BOD members due to graduation and one declining to run as an incumbent, the BOD feels that students should take advantage of the opportunity to inject fresh ideas into Central's student government. None of the BOD positions have an incumbent candidate. However, two current officers are running for different positions in the BOD.

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Hyatt felt that the fee would help Central maintain its longstanding tradition of offering free admission to athletic events. A handout provided by the athletic department explained that a competitive sports program helps schools retain a competitive admissions rate and aids in alumni relationships.

BOO Vice President for Student Life and Facilities Pedro Navarrete added a third reason for voters to vote in the primary and candidate forums. Navarrete said that even unopposed candidates represent students, and students need to know how those candidates want to do so. Several BOD members encouraged students to run as write-in candidates.

"The turnover with administration is going to be the biggest challenge for the next members of the BOD," Navarrete said.

Crime Update:

Ellensburg Police Department Anti-Crime Unit officers and patrol officers arrested two Central students involved in narcotic sales on Friday afternoon as the result of an ongoing investigation since March.

Police found a .45-caliber handgun, cash and some drugs in a search of the residence.

Mikalce Magnotti, 22, was booked on three counts of delivery of narcotics, one count of selling a firearm to a felon and one count of conspiracy to possess narcotics.

Jenni Branch, 20, was booked on three counts of maintaining a drug house. The $10,000 bail for each was posted earlier this week.

Election breakdown

Thursday, April 17
• Primary elections. Online voting starts at midnight.
• Preliminary results posted by 11:59 p.m.

Friday, April 18
• Receipts due by 4 p.m. (candidates not continuing to the general election only).

Monday, April 21
• Last day to file grievance for the primary election results by 4 p.m. in Student Union room 263.

Tuesday, April 22
• Last day to register as write-in candidate for general election by 4 p.m. in Student Union room 263.

Thursday, April 24
• Election debate from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Student Union Theatre (general candidates only).

Monday, April 28
• Last day to withdraw from general election at noon in Student Union room 263.

• Absentee ballots available in Student Union room 263 at the CWU office of the Off-Campus Centers by noon.

Tuesday, April 29
• Forum from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Union Pit (general candidates only). Online voting opens at midnight.

Wednesday, April 30
• Residence Halls Association (RHA) forum at 7 p.m. in Science Building room 147 (general candidates only). Online voting all day.

Thursday, May 1
• General election. Preliminary results posted by 11:59 p.m.

Friday, May 2
• Receipts due.

Monday, May 5
• Last day to file grievance by 4 p.m. in Student Union room 263.

Tuesday, May 6
• Deadline Election Commission ruling at 5 p.m. and runoff election (if needed).

OUTDOOR SPRING SYMPOSIUM

Today on the east patio of the Student Union and Recreation Center, Central will hold the Outdoor Spring Symposium. It will be complete with outdoor activity vendors, airline representatives and clothing vendors between 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. Students will also be provided with refreshments: Wingate’s Ice Cream and O’s Wall will be around with samples of their products and Dining Services will provide lunch for $1.

Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) will also host a film – “Oil and Water” – just outside their shop at 9 p.m. Just before the movie, OPR will announce the winners of this year’s Outdoor Photo Contest and give away prizes. For more information, visit OPR or call them at 509-963-5557.

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Updated Weekly to Keep You Connected
In light of—and despite—year of school shootings and various threats, students, faculty, staff weigh benefits against drawbacks of concealed weapons on university campuses

by Sarah Hazel
Staff reporter

Recent school shootings, such as the tragedy at Virginia Tech, have spurred controversy over whether or not college students should be allowed to carry concealed weapons on campus.

The Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC) believe that the presence of an armed student in the event of a shooting could potentially reduce or eliminate the number of injuries or fatalities.

On the other hand, many concerned parents, students, faculty, and staff from college campuses around the United States believe that the presence of a second gun would only escalate the problem.

According to Andrew Mars, campus leader for SCCC at CWU, law enforcement does not have the capability to respond in the amount of time that a shooting takes place, but an armed student would.

"The average shooting takes less than 30 seconds," Mars said. "So the presence of a second gun would only escalate the problem.

According to Matthew Hartmann, staff from college campuses around the event of a shooting could potentially handle them at the time on campus is intoxicated.

Currently, Central does not allow students to carry concealed weapons anywhere on campus. According to Mars, there are reasons other than recent school shootings that contributed to the university's decision.

Some of these reasons include an increase in theft, an increase in violence and the university's liability if any injuries or deaths do occur.

The SCCC has officially responded to the issue of increased theft on their Web site, www.concealedcampus.org. Their proposed solution is to make the purchase or rental of a gun safe a requirement for all students carrying concealed weapons. Because gun theft is common, students would be required to have their guns in the safe or on person at all times.

Another major concern is an increase in violence. Many people have contacted SCCC with these concerns, one being that if people have access to guns, it could turn a verbal altercation into a physical one, possibly resulting in fatalities.

"It's not fair to judge on a would-happen situation," Mars said. "I think that it needs to be allowed, and if a problem arises, then we can go back and say, 'Okay, this didn't work at this university.'"

ANDREW MARS, STUDENTS FOR CONCEALED CARRY ON CAMPUS STUDENT LEADER

NEWSPAPERS: Administrators debate possibillity of bringing national newspapers to Central campus

Tullos said that the Seattle Times and Seattle P.I. are "local news" to the large majority of students on campus who hail from the West side.

She further stated that the contract cancellation is a "reflection on the usage of the newspapers by students.

According to Tullos, she herself has walked through the Student Union and Recreation Building and seen stacks of Daily Record remaining on stands, or cluttering entryways.

The Daily Record said their carriers would drop off the 200 papers everyday and later find that "190 it not all of them were taken.

Tullos is currently seeking ways to get student input about the Daily Record and the possibility of keeping them on campus.

People's Pond:
Irene Rinehart Riverfront Park, otherwise known as People's Pond, will open to visitors this weekend. In celebration of opening weekend, mini hydro plane races will take place throughout the day on Saturday and Sunday.

Ellefsen's Parks and Recreation Department cleaned up the park in preparation for opening weekend. They also set up a new porta-potty and put up the volleyball nets in the recreation area.

There are no specific times set for the races. However, they may begin as early as 8 a.m.

People's Pond offers hiking and baking trails in addition to picnic and barbecue areas and lake swimming.

FLAG DISPLAY:
Sexual Assault Facts and Education (SAFE) is displaying flags on campus from April 21 through 25 in the field between the psychology building and the CHCl building.

The Flags represent the one in six women and one in 33 men in America that will be sexually assaulted within their lifetime.

In the process of beginning an on-campus club for people who support concealed carry. One of the club's goals will be to change the laws so that concealed carry will be allowed on campus, but the most important goal will be to educating students, regardless of their stance on the issue.

And think that if you make your opinion based on solid fact, then that's a good reason to have an opinion about something," Mars said.

The SCCC is also sponsoring a protest called "Empty Holster." The purpose of the protest is to show that people who legally should be able to defend themselves feel that they are defenseless. People supporting the cause will wear empty holsters from April 21-25. If the holster is the type that can cover a weapon, it should be taped open.

The SCCC only supports concealed carry for people who have concealed pistol licenses, and only on college campuses.

They do not have a viewpoint on concealed carry in elementary or secondary schools, or open carry of any kind.

For more information on this topic, please contact Andrew Mars at marts@cwu.edu.
Master Sgt. Christopher Ward receives his Bronze Star with Valor last Tuesday in the SURC. Master Sgt. Ward is a senior military instructor for the Army ROTC Program. Ward served a 15-month tour in Iraq.

"I was just doing my job. There were 168 guys and 168 heroes that should be decorated."

CHRISTOPHER WARD,
MASTER SERGEANT, SENIOR MILITARY INSTRUCTOR FOR THE ARMY ROTC

by Ila Dickenson
Staff reporter

Master Sgt. Christopher Ward, senior military instructor for the Army ROTC program, received the Bronze Star with Valor on Tuesday.

Master Sgt. Ward was recognized by the Air Force after going above and beyond the call of duty while on tour in Iraq.

On April 6, 2007, Master Sgt. Ward, then 1st Sgt. for C. Co 5-20 BN, and his men came under fire while doing a raid on a house that held a high-profile target.

Master Sgt. Ward guided his men to safety and acquired the target.

"I'm very excited for Master Sgt. Ward. He's an outstanding hero," Lt. Col. Gregory Solem, Central professor of military science said.

Col. Steve Smith, 13th ROTC Brigade Commander, presented Master Sgt. Ward the medal and certificate. Col. Smith oversees the ROTC program at several schools in the area.

"I'm very proud," Col. Smith said. "This is the kind of quality folks we're getting to teach our cadets."

Master Sgt. Ward admitted he felt humbled and awkward about being presented with this honor.

"I was just doing my job," Master Sgt. Ward said. "There were 168 guys and 168 heroes that should be decorated."

To be eligible for this medal, one must distinguish oneself while performing a heroic achievement while engaged in a conflict with an opposing foreign enemy of the United States. The Bronze Star was created to boost troop morale of ground forces during and after World War II.

The ceremony honoring Master Sgt. Ward was held in the Student Union Ballroom Tuesday, and was followed by a reception.

Special guests in attendance were Master Sgt. Ward's family, which was formally thanked for their support and sacrifice that allowed Ward to serve a 15-month tour in Iraq.

Also present were Central President Jerilyn McIntyre, Provost Wayne Quirk and Connie Lambert, Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Master Sgt. Ward had a message to convey to the Air Force ROTC cadets in attendance.

"Lead from the front," Master Sgt. Ward said. "Remember, there's still a war going on."
Rodeo teaches history

by Rachel Guillermo
Senior reporter

Wearing leather, roping and brandishing flesh: that was the way of life for Ellensburg ranchers nearly 100 years ago.

Today, rodeos showcase the lifestyle of the old west. Beyond that, however, most Central students don't have a clue about rodeos — and that is something the Central Rodeo Club is trying to change.

To help their message along, the Rodeo Club will be holding an informational presentation at 6:30 p.m. on April 22, 2008, in the Student Union and Recreation Center Pit to inform students about what goes on at rodeos.

"What is the percentage of students that come from the west side that have never been to a rodeo?" Kay Davis, Rodeo Club advisor, said. "We are trying to build interest in coming and get students more involved."

The presentation is scheduled for the week of the Annual Todd Anderson Memorial Rodeo.

The club wants to reach out to students and community members that don't have much experience being around rodeos.

"They don't know anything about rodeos," Davis said. "How are we going to reach those kids that don't have a clue what rodeos is? And maybe they would come if they knew more about it.

The club will have some equipment at the presentation on display to spark questions and discussion.

A panel of rodeo members will also be taking turns talking about various topics.

"Last year we had all sorts of questions about rodeos," Ashley Smith, Rodeo Club president, said. "This is just a good way for us to educate the whole school. I worked in Alaska last summer and I worked with a girl that was asking me a bunch of questions about rodeo because she's never been to one.

One topic Davis was particularly emphatic about was the history of the rodeo.

"They are going to talk about the history of rodeo and how rodeo came about, which is basically the way of life it was 150 years ago in the Kittitas Valley," Davis said.

The events in rodeo now showcase what ranchers used to do in western life and how they would work their land, like branding cattle and rounding up herds from the mountain sides.

"They aren't doing that so much any more and so we don't want to lose that heritage, that history," Davis said. "And they started the rodeos.

The panel will also talk about the different events people can compete in.

There are nine different events in college rodeo, four of which are for women, six for men, with one that overlaps.

Two such events is tie down roping for the men and break away roping for the women.

Essentially the two events are the same expect for the women the event is split into two sections, break away roping and goat tying.

"We are trying to build an interest in coming and get students more involved."

KAY DAVIS,
RODEO CLUB ADVISOR

In tie down roping the calf is released, the competitor chases after it, lasso the calf around the neck, then kicks on its side, or better known as flaking, and ties up three of its legs. At the end of the competitor receives a time.

For break away roping, the first part is the same as the men expect the women do not tie down the calf. Each rider has her rope tied to her saddle horn.

So when the rope breaks free of the saddle that is the time the rider will receive. The second part is tie down roping but instead of the calf, the rider will tie down a goat.

Speakers will also explain the rules of the different events and how each competes.

"We just want to give as much information about rodeo and the different events, what goes on, how they get scored, what kind of equipment they use [and] what kind of penalties they get," Davis said. "So when those kids that have never been before, they might have a little more of an idea and they might enjoy it more.

The general consensus of the Rodeo Club is that the student body has little or no knowledge of the rodeo and what goes on.

Kyle Carrigan, junior history and English education secondary major, admits he knows nothing about the rodeo.

"They, like, ride horses and stuff," Carrigan said. "That's kind of embarrassing. I'm actually planning on going to [the rodeo] this year.

The rodeo will be held over the weekend of April 25 through April 27.

More information about the rodeo can be read in next week's Observer.

"We want to fill the stands," Davis said. "We want everyone to have fun. It just makes it more fun for everyone when there's a huge crowd cheering for the home team.

McNair Scholars Deadline

The deadline for the McNair Scholars Program is tomorrow. The Department of Education funds the program to support first generation college students with financial need. The program is funded to serve 25 students for a Fall 2008 cohort.

Though the deadline is tomorrow, students will be accepted until all spots are filled.

Students who have questions or are interested in applying should contact Karen Francis-McWhite at 509-963-2874 or visit www.cwu.edu/~mcnair.

Pat Doughty, Morgan Middle School librarian, said. "This is just a good way for us to educate the whole school. I worked in Alaska last summer and I worked with a girl that was asking me a bunch of questions about rodeo because she's never been to one.

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Central student brings drama to middle school

by Brooke Mertenson
Special to The Observer

After helping with the music program at the Morgan Middle School, Allison Sutton, Central Washington University sophomore, music education and vocal performance major, mentioned a drama program next year.

"It's such a great opportunity for them to be on stage," Sutton said. "I'm just doing this because I love it and they needed a program."

Morgan Middle School has never had a drama program, but with the help of Sutton and two other Central students, Paul Walk and Carrie Stechila and Morgan Middle School librarian, Pat Doughty, 23 middle schoolers from grades six, seven and eight are getting an opportunity to perform.

"I love these kids," Doughty said. "They are wild, insane, drama kings and queens and so much fun."

PAT DOUGHTY, MORGAN MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

about the new program.

"I've always been interested in drama, so it's nice to do it with kids my own age," sixth grader, Darby Wedekind, said.

"I think that the adults will really get a kick out of it and the community will enjoy watching the middle school," Doughty said.

Students involved are also excited

"I love these kids. They are wild, insane, drama kings and queens and so much fun."

PAT DOUGHTY, MORGAN MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN

"I'm thrilled they're offering the program. According to Doughty, this program can show the community how great the students at Morgan are.

"They're always around town as causing trouble," Doughty said. "They'll prove them wrong."

So far the drama program has shown success all-around.

"We have had a lot of support from parents and community members," Sutton said. "We want to continue the program next year."

The play will show at 7 p.m. on May 8 and 9 at the Morgan Middle School auditorium free of charge.
Walking the 'Burg
Group tests community's walkability

by Kevin Opsahl
Staff reporter

Ellensburg residents tested the quality of walking routes around the city in a survey conducted on April 5 by the local health organization and Historic Ellensburg.

The event was sponsored by Shape Up Kittitas County and the University District Interest Group First Railroad Addition, a loosely organized group of neighbors near campus in Ellensburg who are concerned about community safety and the conditions on University Way.

The two hour event saw 53 participants of every age group and brought in more than 80 surveys.

The results of the survey are still pending, but once they are made available, a group member will present them to the Ellensburg City Council.

The results are expected to be released next month, according to Sarah Bedsaul, a health educator with Shape Up.

Participants began their walk at one of two locations: the Rotary Pavilion downtown on Pearl Street or at the West Entrance of the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC).

The routes they were given brought them through campus, historic downtown and various neighborhoods along the way.

During the walk, participants filled out a survey, which included open-ended questions responding to their walking experience such as crossing the street, driver's behavior, and safety rules.

Participants were also asked how their own neighborhood's walking routes "stack up" when it comes to conditions.

The questionnaires also gave residents ideas about how to fix these potential problems.

"We're very interested in having our area, our community, be walkable," said Margaret Condit, a resident near Central campus. "We don't want to have our residents being hit by cars or anything like that."

The interest group has fought hard to challenge safety issues with the city council in recent years, according to past council minutes.

It is clear to some, even those who did not participate in the event, that the city should take more action in this area.

"A lot of people in my neighborhood walk," said Dorcy Stanley, founder of Historic Ellensburg and employee at Jerrol's Book and Supply Co. "It's very difficult to be a walker in Ellensburg because the streets are geared for cars. [University Way] is still not pedestrian friendly."

Shape Up also provided flyers to participants at the event on the benefits of walking to persuade community residents to become more physically active.

"We want a more active community environment. If it's easy, pleasant and fun to walk then you're more likely to walk," said Dorcy Stanley, Historic Ellensburg founder.

"We want a more active community environment. If it's easy, pleasant and fun to walk then you're more likely to walk."

University District Group and Shape Up both are advocating for a safer community to walk in. CWU Nutrition Science Club members provided information on nutrition and handed out healthy snacks at each of the stations.

Last month, these students collaborated with Shape Up and a dozen Ellensburg restaurants to alter one or two of their entrees from the menu to fit a healthier criterion after a local survey from the organization found that more residents were concerned about their dining experience.

Some of the restaurants included in this program were the Campus U-Tote-M and The Pita Pit.

The project was in honor of National Nutrition Month.

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It is clear to some, even those who did not participate in the event, that the city should take more action in this area.

"A lot of people in my neighborhood walk," said Dorcy Stanley, founder of Historic Ellensburg and employee at Jerrol's Book and Supply Co. "It's very difficult to be a walker in Ellensburg because the streets are geared for cars. [University Way] is still not pedestrian friendly."

Shape Up also provided flyers to participants at the event on the benefits of walking to persuade community residents to become more physically active.

"We want a more active community environment. If it's easy, pleasant and fun to walk then you're more likely to walk."

University District Group and Shape Up both are advocating for a safer community to walk in. CWU Nutrition Science Club members provided information on nutrition and handed out healthy snacks at each of the stations.

Last month, these students collaborated with Shape Up and a dozen Ellensburg restaurants to alter one or two of their entrees from the menu to fit a healthier criterion after a local survey from the organization found that more residents were concerned about their dining experience.

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It's a tragedy thought to happen only in the movies—"Saving Private Ryan," to be exact. Army Specialist Jason Hubbard, 33, was relieved from active duty in Iraq after losing his two brothers—21-year-old Corporal Jason and 23-year-old Lance Corporal Jared Ryan, to be flown home to Clovis, Calif. under the US Armed Forces' "Sole Survivor Policy."

The real tragedy for Hubbard, however, would come well after his arriving home.

Upon his return, the Army cut off his family's health care, stopped his GI educational subsi­dies—up to $40,000—and demanded that he repay his $6,000 enlistment bonus, all as a result of his early discharge—regardless of the situation.

His wife, Linnea, who was also pregnant with their second child at the time, was cut off from the tradi­tional health care they needed to ease back into civilian life after his release in October.

A family's sole survivor; a man who gave so much to serve his country and seemingly asked for so little at a monumental cost; it's such a shame to have the powers that be turn their collective back on him despite an unhinkable amount of grief.

In a time where the Iraq War's motto, if you can call it that, would be "support our troops," I find it both cruel and tragic that many people within the US gov­ernment are the biggest hypocrites in the issue.

Though it's been speculated and the accusations have flown in from every political back (not to men­tion the news), there's no question that we are mishandling our offer­ings to relieved troops.

First comes the revelation of under-garied and under-armed personnel on the front lines, and former Secretary of Defense Don­ald Rumsfeld's denial of the accusations.

Next comes the Step Loss poli­cy—the confiscatory extension of a service member's active duty serv­ice. And now, this:

Be blunt: can we screw over our troops any further?

I hate to think that this story promotes more warranti-war anti­mony, because after five years, the gap has widened, and no one is comfortable standing in the mid­dle of the whole issue.

I hope I'm not the only one, and the rest of you please speak out more.

There are so many people I have talked to throughout the years that stated, simply, "either you're for the war or you're against it." Being against the war meant being against the men and women who die in service.

Anyone who continues to believe that I will continue to oppose the war in turn, care less about the safety of our men and women—I'm sorry, but you're wrong.

There's no reason to not be con­cerned about their welfare, whether on the front lines or on the home front. We owe it to them.

Now, Hubbard is seeing better times. Since his plight, four Cali­fornia congressmen, led by Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., introduced the Hubbard Act, which details the rights of sole survivors and extends to them a number of benefits that Hubbard and some other soldiers honorably discharged from military service, such as waiving payback of enlistment bonuses, allowing par­ticipation in GI educational pro­grams, giving separation pay and access to transitional health care.

Meanwhile, Hubbard has regained permanent health cover­age now that he is again working as a Fresno County sheriff's deputy, the job he left in 2004 to serve in Iraq.

Hopefully he is the last to deal with such a problem. Support our troops.

Observer Editor-in-Chief Frank Stanley can be reached at stanleyf@cwu.edu.

Observe talk about "Supporting" troops in this new low.

"Jordan, it hap­pened again!" my girlfriend, Torrey said as she walked into the kitchen. "Horn honking at girls is making a come back and whoever is doing this needs to die!"

By my count, this is the third time in two days that guys driving honk-onIONs have done this to her. I am not sure however, that dying is the answer to this particular problem, or even if it is a problem at all.

At least, not as serious of a problem as she thinks.

The fact that other men think that she is attractive is... no surprise to me. I think that she is gorgeous, and the fact that others share my sentiment only serves to reaffirm that I am, in fact, not completely crazy.

I can understand how being honked on creates a bit of an awkward situation. Or so I am told. Here are these poor, innocent women, walking along the street, helpless to intervene on behalf of a strange man's better judge­ment.

Despite the utmost display of telekinetic power, these women cannot do anything to keep guys from reaching over on the wheel to honk the horn.

Men, remember that this is a very dangerous maneuver: whenever possi­ble, try to keep your hands at two and ten, and your eyes scanning the road in front of you. Women, especially those who are already in a relationship, have very limit­ed options when this happens. What exactly do these people expect women to do for a honk and a wink?

Men, the fact that the girl does not respond does not mean that she doesn't like you. Relationships take time to develop, and usually the knowledge of your partner's name is a good first step.

Speeding away, weeping about the cruelty of love and life is not an answer, and in this town is likely to get you a ticket and an ass-kicking.

Perhaps the only thing worse than being turned down is being turned down and having a ticket for 25 in a 20.

Jordan Boland
copy editor

Rachael Ray: a bane on the culinary world

by Rachel Guillermo
Senior reporter

I hate Rachael Ray! There, I said it and I’m not taking it back.

I know there are a lot more of you out there that feel the same way I do. For years, America has been subjected to watching this poor excuse of a "self-made" chef and her nasally laugh as she "makes an entire meal in just 30 minutes!" I don't get how this annoying woman got so popular. Everywhere I go, I see her. She’s on cookbooks, kitchen knives and cookware, not to mention her million and one TV shows. I’ll admit I have watched her shows for the most part her recipes are pretty good, but that just brings me to another reason why I can't stand her; she says the most annoying thing.

What’s the whole deal about EVOO? It’s extra virgin olive oil! What’s so hard about saying that! I might understand if she had a diffi­cult time speaking and just saying the letters would be easier for her. But no, she just says it because... well I don't know. Another one of my favorite Rachael quotes is "Um-oh." What is she, four years old?

At this point you might be thinking that I’m just jealous of her success and fame. Who wouldn’t be jealous of that? As a recent culinary school graduate I ultimately want what she has, a well­ known name in the culinary industry— that’s what everyone wants in their professional life: to be respected.

But still, I think she's broken annoying.

Observer Senior reporter Rachel Guillermo can be reached at rguillermo@cwu.edu.
Parking woes hit the tipping point

After a few cups of coffee and extensive brainstorming about how to begin this little gripe session, I've decided there's only one way to go about it, by stating the obvious: parking at Central sucks!

Trying to find a parking spot on campus makes me want to gouge my eyes out with a rusty spoon. You can sit and sit and wait for a spot only to be snaked in line by some douchebag that comes flying around the corner, sliming right in to the spot hoggers will soon be flocking to.

You've got your eye on the prize, and you can taste that asphalt! Your mind starts whirling as your prey enters their car, "Why aren't they going to increase the parking permit fees, again, by $35 for an academic year."

After a few meetings (they are suggesting the modest price of $500 for one spot) perhaps they could reserve the underground levels for such parking? Now the issue of cost arises... well, if they are going to pay for that.

Are you kidding me? I'm already paying $145 a year to never be able to find a parking spot! The amount of money I've spent on parking tickets in the many years that I've attended Central has been enough for them to make me my own personal personal parking spot. All we need is a structure would allow plenty of parking spots!

When looking at his insane depictions of trees and birds, it's hard not to view Campbell's work as avant-garde. A world without the bizarre and wild eccentricity of the psychadelic: parking at Central.

Observer Staff reporter Ryanne Gerry can be reached at ryannegerry@gmail.com.

VERSATILE ARTIST REDEFINING AVANT-GARDE

The first time I saw the artwork of Thomas Campbell, it was on the album sleeve for the indie rock band Ugly Camasino, founded and headlined by Modest Mouse frontman Isaac Brock.

Not only did the artwork fit the off-the-wall musical talents of the group, but it stood on a realm all its own. It spoke its own language.

Campbell's drawings center mostly around bright psychedelic landscapes that can't help but catch the viewer's eye. His wild style of drawing people, landscapes, plant life and animals seems to come from an altered view of life and the world around. When looking at his insane depictions of trees and birds, it's hard not to view Campbell's work as avant-garde.

In a world that demands structure and sense, art should be used to get away and keep some creativity and expression. Campbell is one individual who strays from academic artwork and gives his audience a taste of a bizarre.

It's not just the wild and creative aspect of Campbell's work that brings the art to life. His unique style of supports and protrusions give a three-dimensional aspect, turning the art away from a flat surface and into a unique, engaging piece of work.

For example, some of his work is presented on a birdhouse-type structure on stilts or paper cutouts protruding out of a frame.

The unique style of Campbell's art has even found its way onto popular skateboards.

Campbell, a self-taught painter, photographer, filmmaker and writer was born in 1969 in the US and currently resides in Santa Cruz, Calif., where his studio is located. He spends most of his time traveling and directing surfing films.

Campbell also designs an independent record label, Galaxa, which has signed artists such as Peggy Honeywell and The Black Heart Procession, among others.

He's had solo art exhibitions in New York, Paris, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Morocco and in 1999 he completed his first full-length surfing film, titled "The Seeding."

A world without the bizarre and wild talent of artists, such as Campbell, would be incredibly drab and boring. The psychadelic and obscure renderings of what ever area we call home are ways of furthering our understanding of what we are a part of.

Everyone should try pulling ideas from the deepest part of their minds, to create new ways of looking at what is all around. Being an artist myself, I can already see how Campbell's style has influenced my own work. He has reminded me to keep working at art for the sake of art and dig deep into my mind to create wild visions. This what I'll pass on: bend this world in all ways. Color it as you please. Break it in half and put it back together.

Observer Copy editor Charlie Wainger can be reached at waingerc@cwu.edu.
DeSiga displays art depicting Hispanic workers in America

by Megan O'Malley
Staff reporter

He's a small man who believes that colossal canvases are his perfect size. Painter Daniel DeSiga has been making waves in artistic circles for more than 30 years.

Born in 1949, DeSiga is the son of migrant farm workers. The Yakima-based painter realized back in the first grade that art was his calling.

"I remember this table of all these dishes of all this color," DeSiga said. "I was just captivated." He painted a three-ring circus, complete with elephants, clowns and trapeze artists. At such a young age, his teachers and peers believed he was a prodigy. The attention he received is what inspires him to keep on and continue with his art.

"Art gave me that recognition I wanted as a human being," DeSiga said.

He is best known for his figurative work, but has expanded into other series as well. He has his own gallery in Yakima, and currently on display in the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery are his newest works: large-scale abstract pieces created from acrylics and plastics.

Although he painted throughout school, it wasn't until college that he really began to prosper. He began to gain a sense of what he liked and who motivated his interests.

DeSiga's earlier works depict the life of the Mexican immigrant worker in America. Inspired by Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, he holds a special place in his heart for both artists.

Rivera birthed the American Chicano art movement in 1969. His art encouraged DeSiga to put different lifestyles and cultures into color.

DeSiga relates to Kahlo on a more personal level. He had many health problems and was often in traction. At the same time Kahlo was in her car accident, DeSiga became addicted to morphine. He feels their lives are intertwined.

An alumnus of the University of Washington, DeSiga continued on with his work after college. He became the art director for Colegio Cesar Chavez in Mount Angel, Ore. He also traveled to Santa Fe, N.M. and worked with artist Amando Peña for four years.

DeSiga was part of the whole Chicano artistic culture of the southwest. He used his relationship with Peña to cultivate and create connections with the artistic movement around him.

While he has created other series, DeSiga will always be known for his paintings and murals about Hispanic workers in America. Many of his works are in hospitals and clinics across the country. Two of his posters can be found in the Smithsonian Institute.

"I've been really lucky with my career by being at the right place in history," DeSiga said.

Heather Horn Johnson, director of the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery, loves the stories he tells with his figurative work.

"I think it's fantastic," Johnson said. "He sort of brings to life that experience of Hispanic people coming to America."

DeSiga is trying to break away from the portrait of his earlier works, and create something more fluid. He is showing both his newer abstract works and some of his older figurative works. His art, along with the works of 20 other artists, will be on display until April 27.
Seeds of protest: Dalai Lama’s Seattle visit sparks Chinese opposition

by Darcy Wytko
Staff reporter

The Life of the Dalai Lama: A Timeline

1935 Born in Taktser, Amdo, Tibet.
1950 Assumes full temporal (political) power after China’s invasion of Tibet in 1949.
1950 Departs Lhasa because of Chinese threat.
1959 Tibetan People’s Uprising begins in Lhasa.
1960 Arrives in Dharamsala to take up residence.
1963 Drafts a democratic constitution for Tibet. First exile Tibetan Parliament established in Dharamsala.
1979 First contact with the Government of the Peoples Republic of China established since coming into exile in 1959.
1987 Delivers historic Five Point Peace Plan for Tibet in Washington, D.C. to members of the U.S. Congress.
1989 Awarded Nobel Prize for Peace in Oslo, Norway.
2001 First direct democratic elections held by the Tibetan people for the post of Kalon Tripa (senior minister) in the history of Tibet.

THE DALAI LAMA’S PHILOSOPHY

“I believe all suffering is caused by ignorance. People inflict pain on others in the selfish pursuit of their happiness or satisfaction. Yet true happiness comes from a sense of brotherhood and sisterhood. We need to cultivate a universal responsibility for one another and the planet we share.” — Dec. 10, 1989 acceptance speech of the Nobel Prize

The Dalai Lama’s Three Commitments in Life.
Firstly, on the level of a human being, His Holiness first commitment is the promotion of human values such as compassion, forgiveness, tolerance, commitment and self-discipline.
Secondly, on the level of a religious practitioner, His Holiness second commitment is the promotion of religious harmony and understanding among the world’s major religious traditions.
Thirdly, His Holiness is a Tibetan and carries the name of the Dalai Lama. His Holiness has a responsibility to act as the free spokesperson of the Tibetans in their struggle for justice.

Information courtesy of Dalailama.com

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www.optionline.org

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The crew of Roadtrip Nation parked the big green RV on the east patio of the Student Union and Recru­

tor Jaqualyn Johnson, Central was one come to the university. RTN was at Cen­

tral in the fall and requested to come

students be open to possibilities and to

life.

If you did not notice the huge green RV at Central on Tuesday you missed

rt RTN at a conference and contacted

rt is a grass roots organization

...not just settle for graduation and get

opportunities in the informational session from

students: They can apply for a grant, get in their cars, road trip, listen, and

have students to be open to possibilities and to

be possibility thinkers," Johnson said.

"Students find their passion and learn

from other people."

RTN is about giving students the opportunity to find their passion and not settle for the first thing they find.

RTN has gained so much support that it keeps growing and is now avail­

able, not only in the United States, but also around the world in areas such as

New Zealand, Australia, Poland and Uganda. They have several opportuni­
ties for students: They can apply for a road trip in the Green RVs, the symbol of

RTN, they can take their own cars and they can even travel to other coun­

cries and road trip.

"I hope that it broadens their minds... not just settle for graduation and get

a job, there is plenty of time for 8 to 5 so explore your horizons," Senior Lecturer

Kate Horowitz said.

According to Career Services Direc­
tor Jaqualyn Johnson, Central was one of the founding hundred campuses to

sponsor RTN. Central found out about

RTN is a grass roots organization

started by four friends just out of college

who were unsure about what they

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**Miss Pettigrew pleasantly predictable**

**After playing Condemned 2: Bloodshot, I can tell you that this is a game of firsts. It's the first time I've ever had to beat down an electrocuted and melting drug addict with a medieval battle-axe in a darkened museum. It's the first - and likely the last - time I've had to run through a dilapidated doll factory at night, frantically swinging a baseball bat to fend off a crazed meth addict.**

**All in all, Condemned 2: Bloodshot is the best single-player game. Although the multiplayer aspects of the game are shallower than Hal, the single-player experience will give players enough thrills and frights to warrant a play through. Through my verdict, rent this one over a weekend for a good few days of brutal horror. Oh, and if you want a really good time, I suggest playing this one in the dark.**

---

**Condemned 2: Bloodshot makes players cringe**

**Miss Pettigrew and the gold-digging fanciful Delysia somehow make a character, who seems to spend the entire film gasping and giggling, endearing and quite disturbing, to say the least.**

---

**Lavish parties, scandalous love affairs and then, there is Miss Pettigrew.**

---

**Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day is a film of fantastic coincidences, "Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day" was an enjoyable new take on a classical style of film and a pleasant way to spend an afternoon.**
Central speakers to present at natural science seminar

by Charlie Daehne
Staff reporter

CWU professors David Darda and David Lygre will take part in the Natural Science Seminar Spring Session already underway on campus.

The Natural Science Seminar is a biweekly presentation from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in room 147 of the science building. Refreshments are provided prior to each session and a discussion will follow the presentations.

Professor Darda, biology department vertebrate morphologist, is set to make his presentation entitled "The Human Tailbone and That Thing Hanging Down the Back of Your Throat: Oddball Anatomical Structures and the Stories They Tell" on Friday, April 25. Darda says that he plans to show what these "oddball" structures are able to tell us about human anatomy.

While the discussion will mainly involve information on the coccyx and uvula, Darda says that his and other sessions in the seminar are directed at the general public rather than to academic colleagues. He said his hope is that people will be curious about the structures he will speak on.

"The idea is that people are genuinely interested in their own bodies and each of the structures has interesting stories to tell," Darda said.

In the 21 years Darda has been teaching, he has focused on human anatomy and comparative vertebrate anatomy, but never both in one lesson. He says this presentation is a way for him to discuss human anatomy in an evolutionary context.

David Lygre of the Chemistry Department will present his piece on aging and retirement on Friday, May 23. This will be Lygre's first time lecturing in the Natural Science Seminar.

Lygre's selected topic was of personal interest, as he had written a manuscript on aging several years ago and taught a biology class on aging. He says he wants to address what the passage of time does to people's bodies.

In addition, Lygre will speak on his experience at CWU as he intends to retire in June.

The remaining speakers of the seminar are Mark Roth of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and University of Washington School of Medicine and Peter Zani from the Department of Biology of Lafayette College in Easton, Penn. on May 30.

Students are welcome to attend each session of the Natural Science Seminar through the end of May.

Central speakers to present at natural science seminar

by Charlie Daehne
Staff reporter

Central hosts the Grammy award-winning a cappella group Sweet Honey in the Rock in the Music Building Concert Hall on Saturday.
Central suffers two losses to Montana State-Billings

by Dusty Kindred
Staff repoter

The Central Washington softball team lost both games of a doubleheader last Thursday to Montana State-Billings (MSUB) to fall out of first place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC).

The Wildcats first game was a disappointing one, losing to Montana State-Billings, 11-1 in five innings.

"We were not ready to play," head coach Gary Frederick said. "I didn't do a very good job of preparing the girls."

Central was out-hit 13-3 and managed to get only five runners on base in the 11-1 defeat. It was the worst loss of the season for the squad. It took Yellowjackets pitcher Lisa Moore just 48 pitches to earn a complete game victory.

Central pitchers Linse Vlahovich and Katriina Reime had poor outings in the first game, yielding a combined 13 hits, and 11 earned runs. Vlahovich struck out five in two-and-two-thirds innings pitched.

In game two the Wildcats bounced back, hoping to take the second game to earn a series split.

"We were trying to prove ourselves and show we are not that team that gets ten-runned," senior first baseman Malory Holtman said.

The Yellowjackets struck first in the top of the first with a double by MSUB third baseman Leslie Davis that scored shortstop Jessica Frank to give Billings a 1-0 lead.

Central was able to get even in the bottom of the third. Junior outfielder Tam Potter was hit by a pitch and advanced to second on a sacrifice bunt by senior outfielder Kasey Drufzel. Junior shortstop Liz Wallace then hit a bunt into center field on the first pitch she saw to score Potter from second, tying the game at 1-1.

"I am just trying to do my part" Wallace said.

Wallace was 3-6 with one RBI in game two. Holtman went 2-4 in game two.

The Yellowjackets struck again in the top of the fifth. Sophomore pitcher Katy Jones loaded the bases with a pair of hits and a walk. Davis then drove in Frank once again to retake the lead, 2-1.

The Wildcats rallied in the bottom of the sixth. Junior catcher Holley Rossman led off the inning with a triple. Then, senior third baseman Logan Mohr hit a ground ball to MSUB second baseman Jenna Haacke allowing Rossman to score on a throwing error, tying the game at 2-2.

Sophomore outfielder Ashley Fix then laid down a sacrifice bunt to move Mohr to second to move her into scoring position.

The Yellowjackets struck first in the top of the first with a double by MSUB third baseman Leslie Davis that scored shortstop Jessica Frank to give Billings an early 1-0 lead.

The lead didn't last long for the Wildcats. Billings scored two runs in the top of the seventh to take the lead for good.

The loss was the Wildcats ninth one-run loss of the season.

"Other than the last inning of the game Katy Jones pitched great," Frederick said. "She had a lot of ground balls, and basically shut them down."

With the two losses on Thursday, the Wildcats fall to 14-20 overall and 9-5 in GNAC play. Central fell out of first place in the conference standings behind Seattle University. Montana State-Billings improved to 6-4 in the GNAC and 17-16 overall having won 11 of their last 12 games.

"This is the most important weekend for our team this year," Frederick said.

The Wildcats have an important road trip this weekend.

"We have got to go out there and leave it all on the field; do whatever you can do to help the team win," Wallace said.

The Wildcats start with a doubleheader against conference leader Seattle on Saturday, where they are 1-2 against the Redhawks.

"We are hoping to sweep Seattle U," Frederick said.

Central then travels to Bellingham on Sunday to play rival Western Washington, who they are also 1-2 against on the season.

"If we can split the series with the Vikings, that would be a key part to getting us back at the top of the conference again," Frederick said. "Going on the road is tough and our players are capable of sweeping both these teams."
How the Red Sox-Yankees rivalry has not only changed Major League Baseball, but a nation

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The UFC’s move to network TV

Is mixed martial arts too violent for prime time?

Once called "barbaric" and "sports fighting" by Sena­
tor John McCain, Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is now a thriving sports enterprise that has passed both box­ing and the WWE in pay-per-view (PPV) buys.

I know that many may still think that MMA is too violent for television, but let me tell you this, I think they are wrong. Yeah, you might see swollen faces or blood during a bout, but it’s exciting. I find it to be like a chess match that happened to include, kicking, punching, throwing, elbowing and sub­missions.

At least the UFC has rounds so the fighter can go back to his corner and have the cut looked at and have a chance to slow down the bleeding. If the cut is too bad, the doctors on site will stop the fight. What is so bad about that? Nothing. This helps save fighters’ careers and allows them to compete in a competitive sport at the age of 44.

If you want to compare the UFC to boxing, many experts will tell you that MMA is more violent than boxing, but I think they’re wrong. Granted there may be more blood in MMA, but I feel that the referee will stop the fight before it gets too bad to save a fighter who’s in a serious amount of pain.

According to www.sherdog.com, there have been zero deaths related to MMA in fully sanctioned MMA events in the last 50 years. 450 boxers have died due to boxing related injuries according to the Associated Press Sports Editors.

I don’t know MMA hasn’t been around as long as boxing but still, those concerns are valid. How can some­body say that boxing is less violent when they’ve had 450 people die in a 50 year time span? You can say that MMA is more dangerous because of the lack of blood, but boxers will take more hits than an MMA fighter, I think.

In June of 2001 ESPN2 broadcast­ed a fight that showed a fighter beaten unconscious that lasted six days. It’s crazy that I can turn on the TV and find boxing shown on more channels than MMA when boxing is having more light-related deaths than MMA.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m a fan of both boxing and MMA, but I really don’t see how people can still say that MMA is too violent to be on TV. Athletes who com­pete in MMA are well-educated people who know what they are doing and have trained for years to get as good as they are.

Randy Couture has a degree in automotive technology from community college and George St John has a degree in community college.

They are both model people for the sport and are able to compete at the highest level of a sport that is poorly known in the sport, which isn’t as violent as people think.

The UFC can use an arm bar instead of being humiliated in the head so many times that I actually died two days later. So in my opinion I can’t believe that MMA will be shown all over the T.V. and people will be able to enjoy a sport that takes training and a proper game plan to make a fighter competitive.

Observer Staff reporter Jay Renwick can be reached at renwickj@cwu.edu
Lakers favored to win first title since 2003

Before this year people called Kobe Bryant selfish and self-centered, but, as always, he answered his critics by taking fewer shots than any time in his previous six seasons. Even so, Kobe is still second in the league in scoring at 28.2 per game.

His rebounding is his best in five years at six rebounds a game, and his field-goal shooting (46 percent) is his best in six years. Playing this season with a finger that will need surgery, he still managed to lead the Lakers in clinching the number one spot in the Western Conference playoff standings over the New Orleans Hornets.

With so many dominant teams this year, and the playoffs approaching Saturday, who will be the NBA champions?

The answer is easy - the Los Angeles Lakers. If the season ended today, the Lakers would play the Denver Nuggets, who, if I'm putting no threat to the Lakers making a championship run. With that settled I'll quickly sweep past them and look at the second place round matchup between the Utah Jazz and Houston Rockets winner.

The Rockets were great this year and their 22-game winning streak gave Houston fans something to cheer for. However, this is the playoffs and unfortunately I see Tracy McGrady whining about another missed opportunity, and how next year he'll put him on his shoulders and lead them past the first round. I see the Lakers facing off against Utah - a fundamentally sound team.

The Jazz play a different style of basketball than they did in the Stockton-Malone era. They have a variety of players that can run and score points with the best in the league.

Unfortunately, they have the same coach that was there when Phil Jackson and the Chicago Bulls took the Jazz in the 90s. Jackson has not just recently become a great head coach.

Jerry Sloan is the same coach he was then, and Jackson is aware of that. Although this can become an interesting matchup, I see this becoming a game with the same results of old: the Lakers winning.

Instead of Jordan this time, you have Kobe letting rain from the free throw line for the win.

The next opponent I expect the Lakers to face in the Western Conference finals is the San Antonio Spurs. One of the problems the Lakers faced with the Spurs was handling their height under the basket. At that time the Lakers had Kwame Brown and Ronny Turiaf guarding Duncan. Turiaf could not afford to play physical against Duncan and give up fouls, so eventually it led to Duncan abusing the Lakers' low post players.

By the time the Lakers play the Spurs, their center, Andrew Bynum, should be in enough shape to play Tim Duncan physically.

The Lakers no longer have Smush Parker playing point guard, but they acquired veteran Derek Fisher, who's an athletic point guard and off and championship experience.

The past two years, Tony Parker was able to park his SUV down the Lakers' driving lane, but with two-seventh-foot post players in Bynum and Pau Gasol, he'll be negated to shooting outside jump shots.

Unfortunately, I expect to see a lot less of the Derigentos Housewives favorite Eva Longoria Parker in the stands.

I'll briefly mention the New Orleans Hornets. Frankly, they are a team that will be left behind with a team with no depth and no playoff experience to compete with the other teams in the West, especially in a first round game against the Denver Nuggets, a team filled with playoff experience.

Chris Paul is a great player, but the playoffs are played at a different level, and I think it'll take him a couple years to understand that.

Moving along to the Eastern Conference. Before I mention the teams, let me mention the difference in team strength by conference. In the Western Conference, the last place team has a 49-32 record. Currently in the Eastern Conference, that's good enough for fourth place.

The Eastern Conference also has two teams currently with losing records slated to make the playoffs: the Philadelphia 76ers (40-41) and the Atlanta Hawks (37-43). This disparity between first and eighth place makes the climb in the Eastern Conference easier than the Western Conference.

There's room for more potential upsets in the Eastern Conference, leaving the better teams with fresh legs throughout the Playoffs while most of the Western Conference are not expected to have that luxury.

Now to the teams I think the scarcest team the Lakers could face would be theERTICAL and Cavaliers. Unfortunately for the Cavaliers, they won't make it that far.

At this moment, they'd have to beat the Washington Wizards who sit at fifth place, which means they'd face the Boston Celtics in the next round. The Celtics are a team loaded with talent, and quality depth, especially with the addition of Sam Cassell, whom they acquired from the Los Angeles Clippers.

Even though Boston has an outstanding record against Western Conference opponents, I don't see them stacking up well against the Lakers, with or without Andrew Bynum. So the team I see making it to the championship game against the Lakers is the Detroit Pistons.

The Pistons are an experienced team with great depth, experience, and team defense. In 2004, the Lakers were manhandled by the Pistons; Ben Wallace outplayed Shaquille O'Neal, and Tayshaun Prince played the best defense on Kobe that anyone had seen up to that point.

Kobe has not forgotten that moment, and even though he's more of a team player now, an athlete like Kobe will take that match up personally. I would love to see Detroit Pistons and Los Angeles Lakers go head to head again, but this time see different results.

Lakers win the series 4-2 with Kobe named MVP.

Observer Sports reporter Michael Johnson

Baseball: Central hopes to get back on winning track this week

In game four, left-handed starter Jordan Moore was solid until giving up back-to-back walks to start the fifth inning. Moore made a throwing error on a bunt, leaving three runs score tying the game. Western Oregon won 6-5 in game four.

Nilsen acknowledged that the way the game played was aggressive and hard the entire series.

"I'm personally not disappointed at all," Nilsen said. "We gave it every- thing we had by playing with a lot of emotion and intensity. Mistakes were made by going hard all the time.

"The only win in the series for Central came in game three, winning 6-4. Right-hander Michael McCanna threw three perfect innings of four run ball.

Right-hander Jake Millbauer pitched the rest of the game, earning his third save of the season.

"Our pitching was solid; we couldn't ask for a whole lot more from them," Nilsen said. "They were the ones that kept us in every game."

Storey was pleased that Central out-hit Western Oregon in every game and looks back at the series as a time of frustration for the ballclub.

Nilsen said that every baseball game has different possibilities, and it didn't go to Central's favor last weekend.

"The beauty of baseball is you can come back and play again," Nilsen said. "It has been a rollercoaster season and its not over yet."

Observed in the series for Central was a five run outburst in the third inning to give the Lumberjacks a 6-4 victory.

"It was huge," Storey said. "The Lumberjacks were able to break through a bit and come back from a 4-1 deficit."
Central attacker J.R. de Raoulz gets stripped of the ball by a Southern Oregon defender on Sunday. The Wildcats would defeat the Raiders 18-11. The Wildcats also earned a forfeit victory over Lewis and Clark college on Saturday, who has forfeited the remainder of their 2008 season. Three goals in quick succession to close the Sunday.

By Curtis Crabtree

WEST COLLEGIATE LACROSSE LEAGUE ACTION ON Thursday, April 17

Central Washington University track and field had two meets this past week. One was at the 37th annual Pella Invitation track and field meet at Eastern Washington University on Friday. The other meet was at the Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) Invitational, which took place last Saturday.

In Cheney, Central's sophomore thrower Tyler Fischer placed third in the discus with a Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) season-best throw of 158 feet and 11 inches. Fischer added 15 inches to his previous conference-leading mark.

Central also posted the GNAC's best mark this spring in the men's 4x400-meter relay, finishing second with a time of 3:21.59.

Senior sprinter Matt Rogstad placed third in the men's 100-meter dash with a time of 10.82 and the women's 400-meter dash with a time of 1:01.31.

Gonzalez, who recently picked up the 400-meter hurdles, said that she was not happy with the time she ran, even though she won the race.

She said that the race was pretty smooth, the weather was great and that there was little of good competition.

Senior distance runner Trevor Kulvi won the steeplechase with a time of 10:19.45.

Kulvi was frustrated with the lack of competition as his opponent, did not show up.

Freshman thrower Andrew Steiger won the javelin with a toss of 184 feet. Sophomore distance runner Rachel Gonzalez won both the women's 100-meter hurdle race with a time of 15.82 and the women's 300-meter hurdle race with a time of 46.81.

"It was really good," Bakeman said. "It was really hot that day, which was unpleasant.

On the women's 3,000-meter, Bakerman is close to making provisionals.

Central will be hosting the Spike Art Invitational at 10 a.m. Saturday at Tomlinson Stadium.

"It's getting down to the wire," head coach Kevin Norris said.

Adkisson added that there are two weeks left to get marks and that he expects this weekend to be a good meet because everyone is getting into shape.

Kulvi said that he is shooting for a time between 15:30 and 15:35. He plans on running a smart race and trying to improve his spot, which is currently 17th place.

"Hopefully people will come," Bakeman said about the upcoming meet at Central.

Adkisson believes there will be about 10 teams at the meet this weekend.

"It's a little smaller this year," Adkisson said.

They will also be hosting the GNAC Multi-Event Championships at 12 p.m. on Sunday and MIAC-ECC Championships at 11 a.m. on Tuesday at Tomlinson Stadium.

"It's a mixed blessing," Adkisson said, "the team does not have to travel, but will have a ton to do."
2008 NFL Draft mock draft

by Curtis Crabtree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Round</th>
<th>Pick</th>
<th>Player</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>College</th>
<th>Analysis</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>MIA</td>
<td>Jake Long, OT, Michigan</td>
<td>OT</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>Long could become a Pro Bowl left tackle and would be a great pick for Miami to rebuild around.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>STL</td>
<td>Chris Long, DE, Virginia</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Long combined with Adam Carriker should make the foundation for a strong defensive line in St. Louis.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ATL</td>
<td>Glenn Dorsey, DT, LSU</td>
<td>DT</td>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>Dorsey is a force at defensive tackle and should help steady the disparity in Atlanta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OAK</td>
<td>Darren McFadden, RB, Arkansas</td>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>Al Davis loves speed and McFadden ran a blistering 4.33 40-yard dash at the NFL Combine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KC</td>
<td>Ryan Clady, OT, Boise St.</td>
<td>OT</td>
<td>Boise St.</td>
<td>The Chiefs line has been suspect ever since the retirements of Pro Bowlers Willie Roaf and Will Shields.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NYJ</td>
<td>Vernon Gholston, DE/OLB Ohio State</td>
<td>DE/OLB</td>
<td>Ohio State</td>
<td>Gholston would fit nicely as a rush linebacker in the Jets 3-4 defensive scheme.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Leodis McKelvin, CB, Troy</td>
<td>CB</td>
<td>Troy</td>
<td>McKelvin is the top rated corner in this year's draft and should help fix the Pats' secondary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BAL</td>
<td>Matt Ryan, QB, Boston College</td>
<td>QB</td>
<td>Boston College</td>
<td>Ryan is this year's best.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CIN</td>
<td>Glen Dorsey, DT, LSU</td>
<td>DT</td>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>The Bengals need to play better run defense and a big defensive tackle like Ellis should help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, CB, LSU</td>
<td>CB</td>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>Rodgers-Cromartie, a 6-foot, 1-inch, 195-pounder, could be a steal at pick 5.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BUF</td>
<td>Malcolm Kelly, WR, Oklahoma</td>
<td>WR</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>Lee Evans needs a receiver to complement him and Kelly is the best in the 2008 class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DEN</td>
<td>Chris Williams, OT, Vanderbilt</td>
<td>OT</td>
<td>Vanderbilt</td>
<td>The Broncos need line help to open holes for Cedric Benson isn't working out in Chicago and Williams should help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CAR</td>
<td>Jeff Otah, OT, Pittsburgh</td>
<td>OT</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>Carolina was middle of the pack in rush offense and quarterback protection. Otah should help both.</td>
</tr>
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<td>CHI</td>
<td>Rashard Mendenhall, RB, Illinois</td>
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<td>Illinois</td>
<td>Cedric Benson isn't working out in Chicago and Mendenhall had a fantastic senior season at Illinois.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DET</td>
<td>Derrick Harvey, DE, Florida</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>Running back is a bigger need, but there is better depth at RB than DE and the Lions need both.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ARI</td>
<td>Mike Jenkins, CB, South Florida</td>
<td>CB</td>
<td>South Florida</td>
<td>The Cardinals are moving Antrel Rolle to safety and Eric Green isn't a starting quality CB in the NFL.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MIN</td>
<td>Philip Merling, DE, Clemson</td>
<td>DE</td>
<td>Clemson</td>
<td>Despite drafting defensive ends regularly in recent years, they still haven't found the presence they need.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HOU</td>
<td>Aqib Talib, CB, Kansas</td>
<td>CB</td>
<td>Kansas</td>
<td>The Texans continue to lack starting talent at corner and are looking to turn their defense into a force.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PHI</td>
<td>DeSean Jackson, WR, Virginia</td>
<td>WR</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Albert is the best guard in this year's class and could provide competition for the left guard spot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PIT</td>
<td>Mario Manningham, WR, Michigan</td>
<td>WR</td>
<td>Michigan</td>
<td>Manningham is the best wideout in this year's class and could provide competition for the left guard spot.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TEN</td>
<td>Keith Rivers, OLB, USC</td>
<td>OLB</td>
<td>USC</td>
<td>Owner Jerry Jones played at Arkansas and will go back home to find a compliment to Marion Barber III.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DAL</td>
<td>Felix Jones, RR, Arkansas</td>
<td>RB</td>
<td>Arkansas</td>
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Central set to host Dixie State this weekend

Wildcats looking to rebound after dropping three of four to WOU.

by Casey Donovan
Senior reporter

This weekend the Central baseball team will host its toughest non-conference competitor, Dixie State. The series will begin Central's most important stretch of baseball as they need to win virtually all of their remaining games to have a shot at post-season play.

"We've got to dial it up, focus on every single game and take advantage of every opportunity," head coach Desi Storey said.

This weekend is the beginning of that stretch, as Central will play Dixie State at 1 p.m. with a second game to follow. Sunday follows the same schedule.

"We have the possibility to win out the rest of the year," senior shortstop Jamie Nilsen said.

Ideally, that is what Central will have to do. Strong pitching from Central's starters and the relief work of freshman right-hander Jake Millbauer have been key to Central's identity this year. The offense has not been able to generate enough runs when the pitching has faltered.

Nilsen, who is now batting .507 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference play, leads the team in virtually every offensive category. But Storey is reluctant to move Nilsen into the three or four hole in the lineup.

"He does so many things in the leadoff hole," Storey said. "You put your best hitter in the leadoff hole if he has above average speed. He [has] above average speed."

Hitting in the three hole is something that Nilsen would like to do, but understands that batting leadoff will get him the most at-bats in every game.

"It would be nice to hit in the number three spot, but with our right and nine hole scrappy hitters, it works out right and puts guys on in front of me," Nilsen said.

Although Dixie State is not conference competition, rankings by media outlets put emphasis on every game, conference or not.

After starting the season 0-7, the Central baseball team finally got their first win against Dixie State. Nearly two months later, that same lift is what they are looking for after losing three of four at Western Oregon last weekend.

Dixie State has played well against solid competition this season, and comes to Central riding a two-game winning streak over baseball powerhouse Lewis and Clark State College.

The two games at Central are Dixie State's last road trip of the season. They finish out their final seven games at home.

"Over the years, it is difficult for out-of-conference teams to come here and handle the weather," Nilsen said.

If Central is to get back into the picture of post-season play, they will need to, "Control what we can control," as Nilsen said. Help from other schools to steal a game or two from Western Oregon would also be a big boost to Central.

"It is possible that Western Oregon will lose again," Nilsen said. "St. Martin's is capable of stealing a game away from them."