Ungrammatical identity: speaker redefines sexual orientation

by Sarah Hazel
Staff reporter

Grammar can be boring, tedious and completely useless, according to many college students, but what about when it comes to one's own body? Ungrammatical identity was just one of the issues brought up at last week's lecture presented by Dr. Melissa Wilcox.

The lecture, titled "The Sacred Land that Self: Queer Men and Identity Negotiation," included topics related to gender, sexual orientation and religion.

Wilcox is the director of the gender studies program and assistant professor of religion at Whitman College in Walla Walla. She was asked by representatives of Central's women's studies program to speak about her upcoming book, "Spirituality and Sex in the City: Queer Religiousities in Theory and Practice."

Wilcox's definition of the term ungrammatical identity was partially derived from other scholars, but explored more in-depth through research.

Ungrammatical identity occurs when two aspects of an individual's identity don't coincide or read properly. "I think my favorite part was [Wilcox] talking about how your body sort of controls your mind," Downes said. "I think that was a very interesting twist to normal thought about how our mind rules our bodies."

Another idea that Wilcox explored was the power struggle between body and mind. One example of this is the mind's unwillingness to accept the body's sexual orientation, because of any negative connotations the mind may have learned from society.

"I think the most interesting part was [Wilcox] talking about how your body sort of controls your mind," Downes said. "I think that was a very interesting twist to normal thought about how our mind rules our bodies."

Another problem with this identity dilemma is religion. The main question that Wilcox asked herself and the religious leaders she interviewed was: where are all the women?

Additional reporting by Katrina Smith
Staff reporter

Ever since Jim Gilchrist, founder of the border-watching Minuteman Project, and Michael Cutler, a retired federal immigration agent, spoke in February, the Central student body has been up in arms about diversity issues on campus.

Between several dunderheads and a heated debate, students were amazed at what they both witnessed and heard.

"Everyone felt threatened," said Diversity Education Center Program Coordinator Natalie Washington. "They wouldn't let the students be heard, students began threatening other students and it just wasn't okay."

After much thought, Washington took it upon herself to give the student body a voice.

After quick preparation, a petition was introduced and a walk scheduled for last Thursday, May 1.

"This is an act of frustration," Washington said. "The students are angry with the diverse image CWU portrays and what is actually being done about it."

Before the walk, the petition was circulated throughout campus for student signatures to solicit their help and inform them about the diversity problems at hand.

Tables lined the SURC, where diverse clubs such as the Filipino American Student Association (FASA), the Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA), Black Student Union, College Republicans, Academic Advising and the Equity and Services Council, offered students several different-colored ribbons, all signifying a different diverse aspect, such as ethnic background or sexual orientation.

These ribbons were to be attached to a black armband given to the participants to wear who were taking part in the walk.

"It allowed for students to hear about the diversity clubs CWU offers in order to obtain a ribbon, and gave them a choice to stand up for that specific group," Washington said. The walk began at 11:45 a.m. inside the SURC and ended outside of Barge Hall to serve CWU President Jerylin Mcintyre the completed petition.

At the time of the walk, there were 763 signatures and more than 100 students in attendance.

Outside of Barge Hall, speeches were given by Washington, and junior Law and Justice and Sociology major Dominique Meeks.

A scripture was read by the Central Baba's chapter and words of support were offered by members of Academic Advising.

When a small group delivered the petition to McIntyre's office, they were greeted by the Executive Assistant to the President, Libby Street.

"Interestingly enough, we were told that Dr. McIntyre was out of town," said Washington. "But, we were informed by both students and faculty members that she was still in town."

Street informed students that she would give the petition to Dr. McIntyre when she returned to campus.

SEE DIVERSITY PAGE 4
Acknowledging biases found in media

by Kevin Opsahl

Staff reporter

Conversative radio talk show personality Michael Medved accused the mainstream media of liberal bias. He said that while bias cannot be stopped, it can be stream media of liberal bias. He said that TV show, "Medved said. "I happen which medium to support.
people label and admit and acknowl­
"If you notice bias in a given news­
"I am not saying that every story is
what I am saying is that when bias is discernable – particularly in print media and particu­
ly in television – it is almost always discernable to the left.
The author and film critic said that no one can remove themselves from their own values or beliefs. "What we are talking about is human nature," Medved said. "There can be no one – no one in the United States – that is uninfluenced. One of the stu­
pidest things in the world is that there can be this pretense that ... people who
are covering the news are able to remove themselves completely from any ... agenda. ... What nonsense!"
Medved said liberal bias can be outlined through surveys of newsmakers, a content analysis on the number of stories on different party campaigns and studies of how TV watching impacts voting behavior.
He cited a 1972 survey where a large majority of reporters said they were voting for Richard Nixon's Demo­
cratic opponent George McGovern in the presidential election.
Democrats make headlines more often than Republicans on a count of 3.1, according to Medved. Of those stories, an overwhelming number of them are positive toward democrats.
The syndicated radio talk show host said people who watch more TV are likely to be liberal-leaning and peo­
ple who watch less or no TV are like­
ly to be conservative.
He went on to say that television offers no balance because bad news, invasion and immediacy are factors that "work powerfully to make people more liberal."
He cited the outing of the identity of CIA agent Valerie Plame, stories on crime and cable news coverage of the U.S. economy, which many believe is in a recession. "You know the old slogan for TV, 'If it bleeds, it leads?,'" Medved said. "That's what you want. ... Under­
stand that liberalism depends on convincing people that they are [are] powerless and that they need some sweeping new government program to help them.
Medved said liberal bias extends beyond the news – it's also in enter­
tainment media.
He cited the positive treatment of minority groups on television shows and said that most movies about the
Iraq War take an anti-war stance.
He noted that people spend far more time watching their favorite primetime shows than they do pay­
ing attention to current events.
"If these media are overwhelmingly visual, which is why you will find in movies and on televi­
sion a much greater bias than you will in print media," Medved said.
In his lecture he slammed the Fairness Doctrine, a Federal Communications Commission regulation created in 1949 that all political coverage on radio and television had to be honest and balanced (the Supreme Court over­
turned it in 1987). Medved stressed that debate is important in society.
"I'm proud to be conservative," said Medved, who is a registered indi­
vidual during his days as a student at Yale Law School. "One of the lessons I learned is that our society is diverse ... this entire world of political dis­
course and discussion is new ... Why should a government bureaucrat impose balance? It's crazy!"
The conservative talk show host, who supports Sen. John McCain, couldn't help butiddle into presidential politics.
"People in the press have been com­
pletely captivated and enchanted by Sen. Barack Obama," Medved said. "Partially it's the novelty of having a
black man as a presidential candidate. He is a very fine public speaker and it's just a great story ... The number of harsh stories about Obama is vir­
tually non-existent. Even in conserva­
tive media, people are afraid of tapping this guy."
The audience last Wednesday included CWU students, faculty and members of the Ellensburg community. Many of them were registered Republi­
cans and fans of the radio show.
"I like this radio show because he gives the opportunity for different views," John Landen of Ellensburg said. "When you look primarily on main­
tstream television you have a one-sided view and nobody counters it ... and they don't even give you a hint that it's possible that the opposite side ... has a justification for the way they think." Following the nearly hour-long speech, the commentator took several questions from the audience. After­
wards, he signed copies of his 2005 autobiography, "Right Turn: From Liberal Activist to Conservative Champion in 35 Unconventional Lessons."
Medved began his career in radio at the age of 16. His three hour daily show is now broadcast on 240 stations coast to coast and reaches more than 3.75 million listeners.
Medved's speech was sponsored by the CWU College Republicans as their fourth installment of the CWU Conserva­tive Lecture Series.
Central students question affectiveness of designated smoking areas available on campus, find no workable alternative

by Cortney Iseman
Special to The Observer

Sunny skies, hiking, the occasional snow shower and Ellensburg's famous wind: signs that winter has ended and spring is, in fact, finally here.

For those who frequent the SURC, some may also choose to add enormous clouds of cigarette smoke to that list.

On the West side of the Student Union and Recreation Center, many students and faculty members smoke on the covered patio by the basalt rock columns located outside of the building. Unfortunately for non-smokers, many walk through this area in order to enter or exit the building onto the Walnut Mall.

"It is irritating because you have no choice but to breathe in the smoke," Candice Johnson, freshman undeclared, said. "It is very offensive being so close to the door; you might as well have it anywhere, since you still have to walk through it in such an enclosed place."

Washington State Initiative 901, which banned smoking in public places and within 25 feet of any doorway, window, or vent, passed in 2005, and was designed to reduce the effects of second-hand smoke on the non-smoking population.

Although the place people smoke is outside the 25-foot boundary described in the law, the smoking area's proximity to entrances of public buildings is cause for concern within the Central Washington University community.

Ron Munson, environmental health and safety manager, stated that to his knowledge, the current smoking area is not an officially designated smoking area.

"The cigarette bud disposals are in place so that people can dispose of their cigarettes before entering the building," Munson said. "So, while it is outside the 20-foot limit, it doesn't necessarily mean that the area is for smoking in."

The West SURC patio is not the only place for smokers to congregate on campus.

"I don't care about where the smoking places are, but you will get jackasses who demand to be as close to the door as they can be," Jonathan Arthur, junior geography major, said.

"While Arthur is a smoker, he doesn't have any problem with banning smoking on the patio because there are plenty of other places on campus to inhale."

Despite some student concerns, complaints about second-hand smoke are few.

"We don't get many smoking-related complaints in this office," Munson said. "If people do have a problem, it is the responsibility of the administration to do something about it."

According to Steve Rittereiser, assistant vice president of business auxiliaries and public safety, complaints about smokers focus more on the location of benches and smoke than the behavior of certain individuals.

"For the most part, the smokers on campus have respected the lines drawn out by the law and the school," Rittereiser said.

However, students have voiced concerns about secondhand smoke drifting into designated "non-smoking areas."

"The smoking outside the West side of the SURC, is a big issue; it has been ever since the building opened," said Pedro Navarette, ASCWU VP for Student Life and Facilities.

Navarette points out that the location where people smoke outside buildings is usually confined to one spot, which limits the spread of smoke.

"Anyway you point them, smokers are in the path of the students, and those students who do not smoke will have to breathe it in," Navarette said.

Secondhand smoke kills 35,000 from heart disease yearly.

Students who smoke worldwide, 70 percent want to quit.

In the U.S. alone, 20 percent of adults smoke cigarettes.

More than 400,000 people die per year from smoking.

Of 44.5 million people who smoke worldwide, 70 percent want to quit.

People in the highest group of smokers, 40 percent, have at least their basic General Educational Development diplomas.

Secondhand smoke kills 3,000 from lung cancer.

What are you smoking?

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient:</th>
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<td>Car exhaust</td>
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<td>Electric wiring</td>
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Smoking Facts

People in the highest group of smokers, 40 percent, have at least their basic General Educational Development diplomas.

Current smoking is more prevalent among men (23.4 percent) than women (18.5 percent).

For every packet of cigarettes smoked, add $8 that society pays for medical and lost productivity costs. The economic costs of smoking total approximately $3780 per smoker per year. This equates to over $160 billion in health-related costs due to smoking.

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Don't Forget to Check Out

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According to Wilcox, gay men drastically outnumbered gay women in almost every congregation she researched. “Over and over again we’re seeing congregations with something like 70 percent, 80 percent, 90 percent male membership. The religious leaders are puzzled [and] the academics studying them are puzzled.”

Wilcox, in order to find possible participants for her research, decided to change her wording. Instead of asking women if they identified with a religion, she opted to ask if they considered themselves spiritual. She ended up with 29 core participants.

“When you broaden the question, that’s when you start to really pick up answers,” Wilcox said. “The naminess of the questions themselves in the previous research is what had been keeping people from seeing what women were doing.”

The previous research that Wilcox is referring to is the number of studies conducted on religious identity referring to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people (LGBT) dating back to the ’70s. Wilcox wanted to focus on the topic of religion and identity because she felt would eventually come to accept gay men and lesbians because she said, “I don’t think religion is predominantly religious or otherwise.

One woman Wilcox spoke to was open about religion, about God and about the predominant perception regarding LGBT people and religion. ‘(The participant) thought that God would eventually come to accept gay men and lesbians because she said, ‘I don’t think he has a choice,’ Wilcox said.”

The response to the lecture was overwhelmingly positive, and most of the audience members hoped that more time could have been allotted. “I thought it was very interesting,” Peter Jewell, sophomore religious studies major, said. “She was very knowledgeable on the subjects. I wish we would have had more time just so she could delve more into what she’s really passionate about.”

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The audience members hoped that more time could have been allotted. “I always tell my students, both in karate and biology class, to work harder, because I know they can do better than they think,” Quitadamo said.

“Students and faculty alike find Quitadamo’s disciplined nature to be one of his best attributes.”

“I thought it was very interesting,” Peter Jewell, sophomore religious studies major, said. “She was very knowledgeable on the subjects. I wish we would have had more time just so she could delve more into what she’s really passionate about.”

“I was really fascinated with getting involved into karate,” said Quitadamo. “I actually started training from jujutsu when I was 17-years-old. But there is no punching or kicking in jujutsu.”

According to Quitadamo, Kyokushin is much harder than any other martial arts, because it pushes athletes to their physical and mental limit. As a result, he spends as much time training mentally and physically.

“I have never thought of quitting karate even though it was not easy to train and study at the same time,” said Quitadamo.

Quitadamo has had to balance training and studies en-route to earning his doctorate in biological studies in 2002. Despite a lack of support by his professors, Quitadamo used his kyokushin skills to mentally prepare for his dissertation.

“Kyokushin had trained me mentally, and taught me to push harder and harder to my limit,” said Quitadamo.

As a professor at Central, Quitadamo finds parallels with the natural sciences and karate.

“People may think of karate as only a physical discipline, but it is not,” Quitadamo said. “Karate is also a mental exercise as well.”

He noted that study is boring, but an essential part of achieving success in school and life. The mental strengthening that comes with Kyokushin training helps people overcome a variety of life’s challenges.

“I always tell my students, both in karate and biology class, to work harder, because I know they can do better than they think,” Quitadamo said.

Because he seeks high expectations and is willing to see his students grow, Quitadamo is seen by many as someone who truly cares about each student, and is very helpful if students do not understand.

“Each time I pass students in the hallway or the biology department said: ‘He always encourages students to do their best.’”

This willingness to help students is reflective of the mentoring he has received from his karate instructor.

“His is the toughest professor I have ever taken,” Riyo Awa, senior biology major said. “He expects students to do tons of work in the class and spend extra time in labs. Tests are always brutal. I felt like I was always behind the class, but in the end, my grade was much higher than I anticipated.”

Students are surprised to learn that Quitadamo does not rely solely on tests when factoring course grade. He truly cares about an eagerness to learn and how much effort students put into their work.

“When students have problems with him, he always tries to hear them,” Awa said. “He follows the argument through until the conclusion makes sense with each other.”

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Students donate pint, save three lives
by Ila Dickenson
Staff writer

Central students have the opportunity to save three lives, but 650 students have an excuse to skip class by donating a pint of blood this Tuesday.

The Civic Engagement Center (CEC) and the American Red Cross are co-sponsoring a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on May 13 in the Student Union Ballroom.

Patricia Dosher, senior elementary education major and community health liaison for the CEC, is excited to help students help the people around them.

"It thought I'd be a really nice event to get stu­dents involved on campus as well as doing some­thing good for the community and the nation," Dosher said. "It's just the right thing to do.

Only 37 percent of Americans are eligible to donate in blood. Of this, those who can are making a difference.

To donate, the Red Cross requires that one must be at least 17 years old, 110 pounds and in good health. A person's blood cannot be accepted if they have received a tattoo within the past year, have donated whole blood within the past 56 days, have received a blood transfusion within one year or have an antibiotic within 24 hours.

Each donor will answer a questionnaire and meet with a Red Cross volunteer to validate eligi­bility under a quick blood test.

The donor will then have the blood drawn by a Red Cross technician and be escorted to a recovery area. Food and snacks will be available.

The whole process takes about one hour.

Donors can ensure a smooth donation by bringing plenty of fluids before the blood drive.

Dosher and fellow volunteers will be easing students through the stressful process of donating blood by escorting to and from donation stations, as well as by promoting a relaxed envi­ronment in the recovery area by providing maga­zines and coloring books.

Everything is being done to make the event comfortable and fun for participants.

"We want to make it really hip and upbeat," Dosher said. "It's a good cause."

Jeff St. John, police officer with Central's Uni­versity Police, has first-hand experience with the American Red Cross and being on the other side of blood donation.

In 2004 during a tour in Iraq, St. John was wounded and relied on blood donations to the Red Cross to save his life.

St. John was hit in the stomach and lost nine units of blood within minutes. He went into shock and woke up a week later, after having been given 11 units of blood to keep him alive.

"Without blood donations, I wouldn't be alive," Officer St. John said.

In addition to blood donors, the CEC and Red Cross are looking for volunteers to help at the event.

Positions available include escorts to help donors to and from the donation area, food and juice serves at the recovery area, and floaters to assist Red Cross technicians.

One can get involved by emailing takeaction@cwc.edu, visiting the blood drive table in the S U mall between noon and 1 p.m. on the Thurs­day, Friday or Monday before the event, or by calling or visiting the Civic Engagement Center.

Low down on donating

• Females receive 53 percent of blood transfused, males 47 percent.

• Blood donors can donate every 56 days.

• Each whole blood donation can help up to three people.

• Someone needs blood every two seconds.

• 94 percent of blood donors are registered voters.

• Donated red blood cells can be stored for donation for six weeks.

• Blood type AB is the universal recipient.

• Blood type O is the universal donor.

• The average adult body con­tains 10 pints of blood.

• One burn causes 650 calories by donating a pint of blood.

***Facts were retrieved from americasblood.org.***

Children's museum receives funding
by Katrina Smith
Staff reporter

This time last year, the Ellensburg Children's Activity Museum was reeling with an uncertain future. Riding the up and downs of the economy like many non-profit organizations, CAM is alive and active for now.

The Washington State Department of Early Learning announced a partner­ship on April 17 with Washington chil­dren’s museums that will include $19,750 in funding for projects pro­posed by CAM of Ellensburg and the other children’s museums in the state.

This grant will provide a great deal of help to CAM, allowing them to cel­ebrate their re-opening with free admission.

The Children’s Activity Museum (CAM) is open 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

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PATRICIA DOSHER, HEALTH LIASON

Children's Activity Museum

"One member would work so late, he would just sleep here," said Mike Ingraham, executive director for the non-profit.

Ingraham, originally from Oregon, worked in a variety of fundraising posi­tions including serving as director of development for The Foundation for the Performing Arts in San Louis Obispo, Calif., executive director for Friends of the Sea Otter in Monterey, Calif., and senior campaign director with Ketchum Inc., a national fundraising group.

The CAMP has been a valued preschool edu­cation program in Ellensburg for many years.

It is offered two hours a morning, three days a week and is for petty-trained children, ages 3 to 5. Tuition is $125 a month.

"Children who discover early on that learning is fun are much better pre­pared to succeed in school and life," said Distance Education Learning Director Jone Bosworth.

Although CAM is experiencing an eco­nomic up at the moment, they aren’t sure if the sale doesn’t work, we will stay here and work with what we have."

The 1889 building located on 400 Main St. is expensive to heat and is not ADA compliant, so the board is plan­ning to sell it.

Until that happens, the board is con­tent with CAM operating from its cur­rent location.

In order to help CAM, they wel­come involve­ment from communi­ty members in many ways. Some include, sponsoring, volun­teers to greet customers and clean, helping to create new playroom themes, procuring auction items, and donations. Donations may include craft materials, toys, and cleaning materials.

CAM is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

The result is a rejuvenated facility, ready for energetic kids, parents and volunteers.

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"Children who discover early on that learning is fun are much better pre­pared to succeed in school and life," said Distance Education Learning Director Jone Bosworth.

Although CAM is experiencing an eco­nomic up at the moment, they aren’t sure if the sale doesn’t work, we will stay here and work with what we have."

The 1889 building located on 400 Main St. is expensive to heat and is not ADA compliant, so the board is plan­ning to sell it.

Until that happens, the board is con­tent with CAM operating from its cur­rent location.

In order to help CAM, they wel­come involve­ment from communi­ty members in many ways. Some include, sponsoring, volun­teers to greet customers and clean, helping to create new playroom themes, procuring auction items, and donations. Donations may include craft materials, toys, and cleaning materials.

CAM is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.
DIVERSITY: Students show support for more student, faculty diversity on Central campus continued from cover

“I thought it was very impressive that many people showed up,” Joshua Rumley, GALA President said. “There is a lot of talk about minorities being exploited. CWU says it’s a diverse campus, but you have to be able to support the whole community to make it function right.”

The ethnic diversity rate is 19.2 percent for the student body and the staff and faculty should mirror that percentage but is nowhere near it, Washington said. “The course catalog is a good example; it portrays a happy, well-diverse college campus, but that is not the case,” said John Simons, Equity and Service Representative for GALA. “I don’t believe we are integrated enough. You see groups of different ethnicities congregating all over the place.”

“By students showing up, it showed that they cared,” Meeks said. “The signatures made a huge impact and it also let McIntyre know of our determination.”

Except for mentioning receiving the petition during her yearly state of diversity address this Monday, McIntyre has taken no action as of yet. Afterwards, a student panel with a Q & A was carried out.

“I would like to see her actually show up to a diversity event, instead of only making phone calls to give speeches,” Rumley said. “We are having a drag show on May 29th in the SURC Ballroom, and we will have a nice roped off section with a comfy chair just for her.”

Joshua Rumley
GALA President

“I was very fake, if you ask me,” Washington said. “Why have a Q & A where the questions are already on a list?” Students want answers, and with the walk a success to open up an opportunity, they are going to take it.

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Above: Seniors Harvey Cu and Natalie exit the SURC and carry the banner as they Washington lead students in a march to support diversity last Thursday, May 1.

Left: Washington delivered a petition signed by more than 700 students to Barge Hall as a message to President McIntyre. The petition was accepted by Chief Planning Officer Libby Street, who expressed support for the march, saying, “I was a student in the ‘60s so this brings back wonderful memories for me.”

ASCWU Board of Directors Election 2008 results

President: Pedro Navarrete

Major goals: “To get students involved more and instill a sense of school pride and enthusiasm in them. I also would like to see the University start thinking greener.”

Executive Vice President: Brent Weisel

Major goals: “To increase student involvement, that’s a problem right now. We’ll do this with programs and committees.”

VP for Clubs and Organizations: Nick Peacock,

VP for Academic Affairs: Sarah Ruiz

Major goals: “I want to see students be more hands-on academically in general. I also want to see if there’s a possibility for students to get on 10-year committees.”

VP for Equity and Community Service: Keith James

Major goals: “I want to do more to bridge the campus and the community, bringing the campus and local community together. I also want to expand some of our programs that promote the education of diversity.”

VP for Student Life and Facilities: Rachel Simonson

VP for Political Affairs: Derrick Peacock

**Not all of the candidates could be reached by press time.**
Committee looks to make University Way safer for pedestrians, bicyclists

by Mimi Ch
Staff reporter

Mayor Nancy Lillquist wants Ellensburg to become a friendlier city for bicyclists and walkers.

Lillquist chairs the Non-motorized Transportation Committee, which hopes that their May 21 public hearing at 6 p.m. in the Hal Holmes Center will attract many people.

"We're real excited to have this open house and hope that a lot of people will come and give us comments," Lillquist said. "I'm encouraged because I see more and more people talking about trying to find alternatives to driving everywhere and people talking about global warming and the price of gas. If we can minimize the barriers that people see to biking and walking and somehow encourage people to bike and walk, then we'll have done our job."

John Akers, public works director, says that every other week on Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the City Council conference room the committee holds open meetings.

The next meeting is on May 13.

Akers also says that the committee identified approximately 45 problem areas for the city's sidewalks.

"The plan that the group is proposing is to do a test section and reduce the number of lanes on University Way from four to three and add bike lanes," Akers said.

While the other draft document provided by Lillquist says that Ellensburg wants to increase pedestrian traffic on University Way between the university and downtown.

Between 2004-2006, four pedestrian or bicyclist collisions were reported.

The problem with the current four-lane structure is that pedestrians must watch out for two lanes of traffic simultaneously, and if one lane stops, the other lane may not be able to see the pedestrian or bicyclist.

The draft document includes several ideas for increasing pedestrian traffic along University Way. These ideas include pedestrian-activated stoplight signals with a countdown, visibility flags for pedestrians to carry as they cross, elevated crosswalks, road diets, restriping the four-lane street to three, raised mid-street refuge islands and a central median.

The Ellensburg Windwalkers' Treasurer Lynn Blazek feels that many improvements can be made to the city's sidewalks.

"The Windwalkers walk for exercise and to form friendships. Blazek says that improvements have to be done as funds become available.

"Many of the sidewalks are both old and cracked," Blazek said. "And then, of course, the sidewalks at the time didn't need to be put in at the time the houses were built so that poses a problem."

Committee member and bicyclist Dan Davis emphasizes the health and environmental benefits of walking and biking more.

Davis wants Ellensburg to retain its walker and bike-friendly aspects as it grows.

"You can have a plan and you can have a city council adopt the plan and you can have public works implement the plan ... and you can even advertise it, but it doesn't do anything unless people use it," Davis said. "Right now we have a choice to use non-motorized transportation but it may not be a choice in the future ... it's harder to put in the infrastructure in later. Hopefully we can get out of our cars, turn off our TV and move around."

Mobile slaughter units pending approval

Jay Jay Renwick
Staff reporter

Grocery shoppers may be in luck when it comes to shopping for locally grown meat.

A bill proposed by Sen. Ken Jacobsen is under a pilot stage that hopes that their May 21 public hearing at 6 p.m. in the Hal Holmes Center will attract many people.

"We're real excited to have this open house and hope that a lot of people will come and give us comments," Jacobsen said. "I'm encouraged because I see more and more people talking about trying to find alternatives to driving everywhere."

The bill proposes that the University of Washington, with no affiliation to the state of Washington, hopes that their May 21 public hearing at 6 p.m. in the Hal Holmes Center will attract many people.

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Staff reporter

Grocery shoppers may be in luck when it comes to shopping for locally grown meat.

A bill proposed by Sen. Ken Jacobsen is under a pilot stage that would allow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to approve mobile slaughter units to work in Washington state.

Currently there are two state operated mobile slaughter units in Washington state.

One is located on Lopez Island while the other is located in Stevens County. Both of these USDA approved units only operate on the island and within Stevens County.

There are a few privately owned USDA approved mobile slaughter units in Washington also.

Having a state wide mobile slaughter unit would allow small farmers to sell their meat products on a local level.

It would also help them cut back on travel which cost them money for fuel.

Also driving cattle in a truck creates a stressful environment that can make the cattle lose weight.

Keith Swanson, co-owner of Thundering Hooves, which sells pasture-fed organic beef, likes the idea of mobile slaughter units.

"We actually have our own mobile slaughter unit that is USDA approved but it's privately owned with no affiliation to the state of Washington," Swanson said. "It's nice to have because we can walk our cattle to the unit and slaughter them right on the farm, this way we are skipping out on travel so we can save money and keep the cattle from being stressed."

Once the state-operated mobile slaughter units get rolling they will be able to travel state wide and people will be able to get locally produced meat that hasn't been administered any antibiotics.

According to Korbick Vicklund who was part of the policy analysis and research on bill 6955 local beef has the potential for a large market.

"There is a large potential market in urban communities for locally grown meat products that can come directly from the producer through a farmers market or a local grocery store," Vicklund said.

Terry Swagerty the Small Farm program director at Washington State University-Stevens County Extension said people in Washington state will really enjoy this program.

"People like to get specialty meats like organic beef or grass fed beef and with this mobile slaughter unit program they can," Swagerty said.

During the pilot stage of the bill the statewide mobile slaughter unit will be stationed in Pullman at Washington State University.

Currently the pilot for Bill 6955 will last from July 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010.

Mobile slaughter house facts

- USDA inspected meats can be sold at local stores and restaurants.
- Slaughter on-farm reduces transport costs.
- Wastes are sold as hides or composted into nutrient used on the farm.
- Value of processing local products stays within the county.
Missing for the big day: another BOD gaffe

I would like to offer my congratulations to the newly-elected members of the 2008-2009 Associated Students of Central Washington University Board of Directors. More specifically, I would like to give thanks to elected members Brent Weisel, Rachel Simmons and Keith James. Another admirable performance can go to candidate Joe Zeiger — despite the losing effort. These four put forth an effort to get students out and voting beyond what was expected.

Hell, I'm walking to class before 9 a.m., the sprinkler system is still on and the construction crew is still out doing something with the water line, I assume, and there's Zeiger, quietly setting up his table with no one else in sight. It's still a bitter cold morning and he's there alone and ready, shirt, slacks and tie. That's dedication. The rest of the candidates, however, should be ashamed of themselves.

In running for this election, they aim to offer a service to the students; give a voice to those who cannot speak and, as a whole, represent the student body of this university. Yet most were nowhere to be seen. I can understand being gone an hour or two for class and what not, but I didn't see anyone else campaigning all day.

Imagine how much higher that figure could have been if every candidate was out there all day. Just an hour of time for some­thing so important to them. Yet most were nowhere to be seen. In this quarter's first issue, Observer Editor-in-Chief Frank Stanley can be reached at stanleyf@cwu.edu.

The most significant statement, however, came from being behind closed doors when they needed to be the most visible. If the other four candidates put as much effort into their job as they did getting people to a ballot box, well, that's a different article for a different time.

I really want to tell myself "I'm out of here in June, so why should I care?" But, there's so much I've done here that I don't want to see fall flat after I'm gone. Or, can I call myself spoiled? I spent my time here working with the likes of Tony Aronica, Jeff Rosenberry, Lucas Westcoat and Heather Yeager, among others. In other words, people that got stuff done.

I hope that Brent, Rachel and Keith can put as much effort into their positions as they showed in their campaign, and that the rest of them will certainly learn from what they were not.

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

Equal opportunity lost in classes

Recently, The Yakima Herald printed an article about the A11-too-well known politics on campus, which mentioned retaliation, cronynism and overall interference of several campus activities by administrators. Sounds, to me, like another typ­ical day at Central Washington University. I realize that politics will always exist to a degree, but let's get real, people.

If I recall, the motto of this school is Doscendo Discimus which, in Latin, means "by teaching, we learn." If the current situation in certain programs was applied to this motto, then this distribution is truly moving backwards.

A shiny new campus can hide deficiencies in the curriculum for only so long. If we, as a college, can't certify teachers for real world situations, then to what true pur­pose does this college exist?

Burning up taxpayer money in edifices of glass and steel, ques­tionably justified and forced through legislation until passed by umpteen votes of the student body I would hope not.

Need I mention the SURC, but then in the past I've already covered that. Can someone say monstrosity of a hybrid mall and airport I can. This is a major factor here. One important standard, especially in an educational setting, is a fair chance that allows each student to understand and learn the presented concepts presented by instructors.

This ethical standard would ideally happen at Central, except certain instructors that I have experienced prejudice students and discriminate solely on personal feelings towards the student to the point of outright discrimination.

Now, if anyone is wondering if this rant is just my personal feeling, then let's talk about the other stu­dents who were so disgruntled with their individual program structure that they changed majors just to get away from one professor. A state­ment in itself.

The big picture of this program, hint hint, is that any worthwhile program is never easy — it's true.

However, developing the stu­dents, the emulation of the current program is putting it lightly. Over­exposing any poor undergraduate to improperly mixed chemicals, in a manner of speaking, which for any photo's aim for mediocrity, if it develops at all.

No matter what the drive in the student, if an instructor is outright predisposed in their intentions from day one, then an unequal instruction and bias will be excused by the instructor, negatively affect­ing any future possibilities for said involved students.

While the previous instructor was well liked and respected by all students, the current replacement leaves much to be desired in all aspects.

The faculty deserve respect, no doubt, but, so do students likewise.

Respect is a two-way street and apparently the ethics of some fac­ulty do not align with this belief.

Even in the military, respect is given to subordinates within reason by higher-ups.

Not to mention to truly lead, people must be able to willingly follow, not coercively.

Coercion only leads to further problems. A true professional leader or educator should not have to coerce, especially at the level of education at Central.

But then again, it's just business as usual here.

Observer staff photographer Sean Guffey can be reached at flyboyl01st@yahoo.com.
Human origin debate rages on in new film

by Rachel Guillermo

The Culinary Corner:

Having fine dining the easy way with brie

by Rachel Guillermo

Culinary columnist

I love eating Fuji apples and cheddar cheese as an anytime snack. Sounds a bit weird I know, but a cheese and fruit pairing is classic French. I wanted more people to try this combination of flavors and thought the best way to get someone to try something new, is to package it in something that was familiar. I don’t know anyone that doesn’t like wontons. So why not put cheese in them and deep fry? Besides, anything deep fried just tastes better!

Like to use brie for this recipe because it’s easier to form, pliable, when heated, oozes in your mouth. These are great by themselves but adding a little extra sugar will kick taste back over the edge. Have fun playing with or serving them like chips and salsa.

Brie wontons with strawberry preserves

1 1/2 cups shredded brie cheese
1 package of wonton wrappers
Strawberry preserves or any other fruit preserve you like
1/2 C. of top water

Remove the outer white rind with a spoon. Form molded-sized balls by rolling the cheese in dough. Place a brie ball in the center of the sheet, then pull the remaining sides of the wrapper toward the tip, and pinch all sides to seal.

Deep by the wontons to a golden brown, season with a pinch of salt – serve while hot and with fruit preserve.

Observer — Opinion — May 8, 2008

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

Former Observer editor responds to softball coverage

So there I am, sitting in a bar at John Wayne Airport in Los Angeles. I’ve just ordered a Bloody Mary and I’ve got 20 minutes until my flight begins to board.

The bartender says to me, “did you see this?” He points me to an ESPN story on the TV screen above and I see a picture of two women carrying another. He tells me the story.

Coincidentally, I’m wearing a Central T-shirt that I bought from Jerrold’s the last time I was in E-burg and showed him.

“That’s my school.”

I’ve always been proud of Central. I’ve had job interviewers tell me that they get more qualified applicants from Central than from UW or WSU or any other Washington college. I recommend Central to everyone, and my step­brother is there now.

I have CWU license plate frames on my Las Vegas­licensed truck. And I’m obviously so fashion-deficient that I wear a CWU tee- shirt on a business trip.

I graduated in 1990, and as a founder of the Observer, I follow the news regarding the university and the community, but have never felt the urge to write until now.

And that’s because I’ve never been so proud to be a Wildcat.

The women of CWU Softball have reaffirmed the university’s philosophy and have provided the sporting world with an example of the way things should be.

I like to believe that it’s not just the extraordinary character of these women and their coach, but the influence of the university itself. The interaction with the community of Ellensburg. The dedication of the student body.

The plain fact that there isn’t much else to do but get along with the people at hand. It all works together to create a university experience that not only makes you a more educated person, but a better person as well.

Anyway, there it is. I’m enormously proud. I miss Central. I miss the Super Mother. I miss The Frontier. I miss weekends spent at Vantage.

But all said, I’m more proud than ever to be a graduate of CWU.

Michael Pratt

CWU Alumni

CLASS of 1990

Letters Policy

The Observer welcomes letters (500 words or fewer) from readers on current issues. Letters must include the author’s full name and Central Washington University affiliation, year and major for students, department for faculty and staff or degree and your graduation year for alumni. The Observer will not publish letters that exceed tips. All letters become property of The Observer and may be edited for length, style, spelling, grammar, tense and unnecessary elements. Letters may be emailed to cwnobserver@gmail.com.
Some say "Peter Pan" is about staying young. Others believe the opposite, that the story is about Wendy growing up. Terri Brown, musical theater program director and director of the show, says that it is just a lot of fun. "It's about entertaining and enjoying each other and being part of that experience," Brown said.

"Peter Pan" opens with a special preview at 7 p.m. on Friday in the McConnell Auditorium as part of the Performing Arts and Presidential Speaker Series. Despite it's title, "Peter Pan" is really about Wendy Darling, a young girl who leaves with Peter for Neverland — where one can stay forever young — and finds herself thrust into the role of mother to the Lost Boys. Madeline Cartwright, junior theater performance major, plays Wendy in the show. She pointed out the irony in the story of Wendy's adventures in Neverland — which include encounters with stereotypical pirates, Indians and fairies. "She has to grow up and leave [Neverland] behind, and she realizes that there's a balance in life," Cartwright said. "You can't always just have fun and play all the time. It is necessary to grow up and there's good things about that too."

Brown believes that the message of Peter Pan is needed more today than at any other time. "As we get bogged down with the trials and tribulations that we have in the world today, we have to recognize that it is still a wonderful life," Brown said. "We need to live life and appreciate and embrace the joy that is there for us."

According to Leslee Caul, director of marketing and development, "Peter Pan" is an incredible task for the Central Theater Ensemble (CTE) to undertake. "It's one of the bigger shows we have done in several years," Caul said. "It's about six times bigger than an average show."

The cast for "Peter Pan" is more than 50 people. "About 14 community children are involved, ranging from six years old to high school," Caul said. "They all have a different walk, they all have a different thing about them, they all have different voices. They're really fun to watch."

Cartwright said that every performer has a different way of "becoming" their character, but that she herself "can do it that way," Cartwright said. "I like to establish my own interpretation of that character and find my own ways of getting them through that journey." Brown also hinted at surprises in the performance, and wants to see McConnell packed.

"There's nothing offensive, there's nothing that anybody could have a difficult time with," Brown said. "Nobody at this show sits in the back and is just observing; everybody is a part of it."

Brown, Caul and the cast members that were interviewed all felt that the rehearsal schedule was the most difficult part of producing the show. Although the design team has been working since the end of fall quarter, the actors — who auditioned in January — could not begin choreography and rehearsals until late March because of the break between winter and spring quarters. "They're basically putting a show together in five- and-a-half weeks," Caul said. "Due to the fact that CTE can only rehearse for about three hours per day, the actors only have about half as many rehearsal hours as a professional theater would use."

"This group is totally up to the challenge, which is amazing," Brown said. "They are pulling this together in a way that I would not have expected from most professionals I've worked with."

Cartwright said that the short time available has stopped CTE from putting as much depth as possible into every character. "The pirates are awesome," Cartwright said. "Every pirate has a different personality, they all have a different walk, they all have a different thing about them, they all have different voices. They're really fun to watch."

Cartwright said that every performer has a different way of "becoming" their character, but that she chooses to study the script and avoid watching other performances when possible. "I don't want to see a specific thing that an actress did previously in the role, and then feel the need to do it that way," Cartwright said. "I like to establish my own interpretation of that character and find my own ways of getting them through that journey."

Ticket information

Tickets are available online at www.cwu.edu/theatre/tix, by phone at 509-963-1301, or in person at the Milo Smith Tower Theatre box office. Tickets for the May 9 performance are only available at the Student Union and Recreation Center Ticket office or by phone. Tickets are $15 for general admission, $7 for seniors and students, and $4 for CWU students (except May 9, which costs CWU students $7).
together to master the six step, one of the fundamental break dancing moves. Kennetik -- CWU BlackBox Hip-Hop Club sub group -- formed at the beginning of spring quarter, uniting six Central stu-
dents in dance. The crew was inspired by Randy Jackson's MTV series, America's Best Dance Crew. The first season con-
cluded on March 31 when Jabbawockeez, a six-man dance crew in white face masks, were declared America's best dance crew according to approximately 38 million audience votes. As avid fans of the winning crew, Kennetik has fashioned its own style after the Jabbawockeez, including replicating the group's choreography for Omari Lens' "Ice
Box."

"At first we were just messing around and dancing," James Cho, freshman undeclared, said. "Then we started a crew. Everyone has its own style and we can learn something from everyone else."

Kennetik is a diverse group lead by Stephen Glover, junior paramedic major, and Cece Mar-
tinez, senior psychology major, who manage the crew's practices and choreography. Other estab-
lished members include Danielle Gagnon, soph-
omore psychology major, Natsumi Itto, junior Japanese-exchange student, Jacob Chung, junior law and justice major and Cho. Itto practiced hip-hop in Japan and had hoped to find another dance outfit while visiting Central this year. While dancing in front of the fitness center mirrors last month, she happened to notice Kennetik during one of their weekly practices. After displaying her dance skills for the other members, the group eagerly accept-
ed her request to join.

"My style was different from their style," Itto said. "At first I was very confused, but it was very fun once I learned the new hip-hop. I just really wanted to dance."

Practice begins with a warm up, as dancers energetically move across the floor, often laying across the room in a triple back handspring. They attempt new moves and assist one another with new choreography. After free-
styling for approximately an hour, the crew then polishes and works on completing dances in preparation for future performances.

After rehearsing each Tuesday and Thursday for the past two months, Kennetik is currently preparing for their first live perform-
ance at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 15, when they will show-
off the Jabbawockeez tribute.

"Hopefully Kennetik will continue as the years go by," Cho said. "To keep growing and get others involved."

Roblox

by Megan O'Malley

Staff reporter

Finding a band for Family Weekend seems easy, but take into consideration finding a band that is both family-friendly and hip and the search becomes much harder.

The guitar duo Ryanhood is playing this year's Family Weekend and they seem to have what it takes to woo both undergrads and parents alike.

The group is made up of two members, Ryan Green and Cameron Hood. Hailing from Arizona, the two were once rivals each other in the music scene. Eventually they realized it was easier to work together than battle against one another.

Together, they have released four albums, their latest being a live EP from 2006. Currently they are awaiting the release of their fifth album, "The World Waits."

Ryanhood was the first unsigned band to ever be recruited by Little Big Man Booking, which supports the likes of Coldplay.

They have been compared to both Simon and Garfunkel and U2. It isn't just their notoriety that made them the opti-
mal choice for Family Weekend. Director of Campus Life, Scott Drummond, saw their first performance at the National Associa-
tion for Campus Activities conference and was thoroughly impressed.

"These guys can take something and play with it," Drummond explained.

Calling them worthwhiled, Drummond compares the duo's abilities toinger laws and regulations, particularly his from the 2005 tour. Drummond also hears a gli-
mer of comet's due flight of the Con-
chords' Flight of the Conchords in the music of Ryanhood.

Ryanhood has a way of bringing humor and charm to their songs.

Jenny Ekins, a student programmer for Campus Activities likes the comedic element of their work. "They're funny," Ekins said. "It's just two guys playing guitars, but they bring in a slightly comedic element."

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Ryanhood isn't a comedy duo, they are both serious musicians. Their guitar playing prowess is evident in each set they do.

"This young fella, [Ryan Green] is a ridiculous guitarist," Drummond said.

The duo mostly plays their own music, but mix in covers and conversa-
tions as well. Past critics have praised them for their ability to create a small coffee house feel in the midst of a huge audi-
cence. Making a large show feel intimate against one another.

While the definition may vary between films, mumblecore's overall classification typically relies on the presence of post-graduate, white, "20-somethings," dealing with diffi-
culties in love or sex.

"I guess there are a lot of defini-
tions floating around," said filmmak-
er and contributing editor for the Austin Chronicle, Spencer Parsons. "Mumblecore films are really made for nothing and the economical fac-
tors are important across the board. Improv always comes into play, where with other films there is more of a rehearsal process and they're ultimately very scripted."

In the past few years, film critics and cinephiles alike have praised the work of mumblecore filmmakers such as Joe Swanberg, the Duplass brothers, Andrew Bujalski and Aron Katz for their cinematic depictions of post-graduate relations between young men and women.

In the summer of 2007, the Inde-
pendent Film Channel (IFC) held a two-
week long, 10-film gathering of the most popular films of the genre titled "The New Palines: Generation DIY" at the IFC Center in New York City.

In 2007, Swanberg cut a distribu-
tion deal with IFC Films for his proj-
et "Hannah Takes the Stairs." Although the picture is considered one of the most popular in the cate-
gory, reviews were mixed.

"It's a labor of love, they're not really very scripted," Parsons said. "Everyone is set up for something more when really it's a labor of love, they're not expecting to go to movies where people talk and not a lot happens."

The success of most mumblecore films rely heavily on keeping produc-
tion costs to a minimum, most com-
monly under $10,000.

"I wonder, would all of these filmmakers even alter a production com-
pany throw all their money at them?" said Maria Sanders, Central professor of Film/Video studies.

"Some of the reasons why so many people love them is because of their low-budget and indie status.

Film festivals such as SXSW find it advantageous to market films to a very specific demographic under the moniker "mumblecore," a term that was irrevocably created in jest by sound mixer Eric Musnongu at the 2005 SXSW film festival.

"Distribution has pretty much been restricted to film festivals where the rather low-low production values and a stream of low-volume chatter, often perceived as induls-
ence, have given the effort the name 'mumblecore,'" said Michael Ogden, Central professor and inde-
pendent filmmaker.

Fans wonder what the future holds for mumblecore. Some feel it is a sad and films will slowly lose their following, while others believe the possibility of increased production budgets could greatly improve popularity.

"These people should have a chance to expand their talents," said Parsons. "The fact is, younger people in social circles are most likely to grab a tape and make one of these pictures. They can't expect these films to change all that much."
Drive on in to the SURC for 'The Goonies'

by Myja Freese
Staff reporter

Interested in going on a wild adventure looking for long lost hidden treasure with Mikey, Chunk, Mouth and Data? Campus Activities is hosting CWU's first ever Great College Drive-in. The showing will be "The Goonies" at 8:30 p.m. May 8 East side of the Student Union and Recitation Center.

According to Mindy Holliday, marketing supervisor, the classic film will be in all its wonder on a 13 by 26 foot screen with a 5.1 surround sound system. The showing will be held on the east lawn beside the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC). Admission is free so grab some friends, a lawn chair and claim a spot.

"The Goonies was the movie of choice because it was not college age and people walking by would not be insulted or offended," said Sarah Ruiz campus activities. "And it is just a classic."

According to Ruiz, she is hoping and praying for good weather, but if it rains, the movie will be moved inside to the SURC. The Campus Activities office got the idea of a drive-in from a conference they attended and were very excited about the idea.

For those that have not seen The Goonies it is about four boys who come in contact with a legend and a treasure map from 17 century pirate One Eyed Willy. To save their suburban neighborhood in Astoria, Ore. from being destroyed, The Goonies start looking for the treasure, ending up in a cave packed with traps. To find out the end, come watch tonight, at 8:30 p.m.

Campus activities are anticipation more than 100 people to attend because of the great turn out they've had for the Monday night movies. They are thinking about putting on more than one drive-in this year if they have good turn out. For the next drive-in here are some of the movies they are considering are Psycho, the Shinng, Slater House, and Fools Gold.

Barbecue and Fun Day!

Come join the Central Wildcats football team at their spring closer!

Afterwards we will be hanging out at The Grove!

WHO: Everyone is invited!
WHAT: Burgers - Hotdogs - Horseshoes - Volleyball - Basketball and DUAL SLIP-N-SLIDES!!!
WHEN: May 10th 2008

BBQ and fun day!

$ FREE $
"Iron Man" blows the audience away

What can I say about "Iron Man" that 12 million viewers haven’t already said? Indeed, "Iron Man" is simply a bad-as-movie. End of story. I can’t disagree with anyone in the crowded Liberty Theater; Iron Man waved the crowd.

From the start of the movie, Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) shows that he is not just any young, rich, single millionaire in any movie. He is a player, an artist, and is always looking for the new thing.

If you never read the comics, the only thing you need to know about Stark is that he is the heir to Stark Industries, the world’s largest manufacturer and that he is a patriot who only wants to help the U.S. military. Meanwhile, Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson) is a band of terrorists after getting hurt with a flame thrower from a mis­ile. The terrorists want him to create a super-weapon that can kill villages with a single shot.

The next scene is almost a blur; you see a doctor performing surgery on Stark, and then you see Stark waking up with a metal piece stuck in his chest and hooked up to a car battery. The metal piece, which is a magnet, is saving Stark.

Stark is forced by the terrorists to build the weapon, but Stark keeps the reactor that can run his heart and also a reactor that can run a suit of iron that later helps him escape.

After Stark is rescued and returned home, he vows to stop making weapons and becomes a playboy. The Greeks have enlisted the aid of Odysseus (Seth Numrich), the son of Achilles' son Neoptolemus (Seth Numrich) to try and put an end to the ongoing War. The Greeks plan to trick the Trojans into entering the Trojan horse.

The storyline mimics some of the classic stories in the United States. The Trojan War, according to the Greek play, is characterized by the battle between the Trojans and the Greeks which according to prophecy, they need to win the war.

The scene starts with Odysseus (Hans Altwies) and Neoptolemus entering the stage flooded with darkness. As the set becomes visible, Philoctetes, a Greek mythology enthusiast who is the main character of the play and honest does not approve and later reveals his foot sends him into a rage of kicking and rolling around in a puddle and then he doesn’t want to leave. Then he wants to leave the island of Philoctetes which both carried on longer than expected. Philoctetes is a magnet, is saving himself.

The movie wasn’t my favorite, in fact, I only really agreed to drive to Seattle to see it. Maybe I have seen too many action movies and when I thought of a play about Troy I could imagine how epic and heroic the characters would be.

But I find it extremely distracting to pay attention to the story. The implementation of this system makes attaining jobs and retrying missions much easier. GTA IV, one of the most ambitious and phenomenally successful games I have ever played. Players begin their adventure arriving in Liberty City, a massive metropolis based on New York City, as Niko Bellic. Niko has immigrated to Liberty City in order to start a new life and leave behind his dreadful past in Serbia. Without troubling anything, I just say that this system is becoming more and more popular.

Since the dawn of modern video games, players have dreamed about playing in a virtual world that emulates real-world physics perfectly. This fantasy is nearly realized in Grand Theft Auto: IV (GTA IV), one of the most ambitious and phenomenally successful games I have ever played. Players begin their adventure arriving in Liberty City, a massive metropolis based on New York City, as Niko Bellic. Niko has immigrated to Liberty City in order to start a new life and leave behind his dreadful past in Serbia. Without troubling anything, I just say that this system is becoming more and more popular.

While the story is relevant, and the characters are real; however, I was overwhelmed by the absence of the main character. The story is about the Iraq War and the U.S. military’s role in it. I would have loved to see the story told through the eyes of a soldier or a civilian. The movie is set in the present day, and it is not clear if the events that took place in the past will have any impact on the present.

The movie doesn’t get much different until Stark creates his suit and the last five to ten minutes becomes an all out battle royale between the two. Stark ultimately wins with the help of Pepper and the two live happily together.

The movie was amazing and the final scene was up to everyone’s expectations. But I find it extremely distracting to pay attention to the story. The implementation of this system makes attaining jobs and retrying missions much easier.

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Fashion show benefits club

by Dan Fisher
ASt. Scene editor

Fashionable minds are hard at work, focused on a common goal of bringing the Central community this year's annual fashion show.

At 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 16 in the Milo Smith Tower Theatre, CWU's Fashion Merchandising Club will be hosting a fashion show, the culmination of an entire quarter's worth of work.

"I want people to know about this annual event, and to recognize what it's all about," Jenni Martini, senior fashion merchandising major, said.

Along with the values of applying the merchandising skill these students are learning, the show also serves as a fundraiser for the club. At an auction will be held.

"It's a ready-to-wear fashion show," Lana Hotchkiss, senior fashion merchandising major, said. "We came up with a theme, then decided what clothing fit that theme. We then went out to find that clothing."

The theme for this year's show has been deemed "retrospective," highlighting fashion details from years past.

According to Chelsea Peterson, junior fashion merchandising major, aspirations for next year's show include "showcasing clothing designed by Central students."

This will be supported by two new classes being introduced to the major, aimed at giving students an introduction to the design side of the industry. At this point, merchandising is the only focus.

For these students, the excitement of hosting this show serves as a constant reminder of the pace of the industry they are training to be a part of.

"It never stops changing," Peterson said. "There's lots of travel in the industry and there's so many directions you can go with fashion merchandising."

Like so many other majors being offered at Central, this club allows its members to immerse themselves in the daily life of their field of interest before ever graduating the program. For some students, this involvement can serve as a catalyst to their success, holding their focus on the real purpose of a college education while keeping the petty stress of classes in perspective.

"Working with the show is nice because you actually get to experience what it's like to work in the industry," Tiffany Moore, sophomore fashion merchandising major, said.

Along with the numerous students collaborating efforts to coordinate this event, scores more are being recruited to serve as models.

"A friend of mine pulled me into it," Samuel Clark, sophomore electrical engineering major, said. "I thought it'd be cool, I've always been interested in modeling. I used to do some acting, I have some stage experience."

With the show looming just more than a week away, the fashion club members and event coordinators eagerly await their big night.

"I just want people to think 'wow, this is cool, I didn't know our campus had this,'" Hotchkiss said. "People need exposure to the major."

Campus Crusade for Christ spreads the word

by Mya Freese
Staff reporter

Campus Crusade for Christ has come up with a new name for the clubs Thursday night meetings. If you want to start a relationship or strengthen an exciting one with Christ this is a club to check out.

Campus Crusade for Christ, an on campus club, holds meetings at 7 p.m. Thursday nights in the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) room 137. The meetings are open to all students and the club has now changed the name of the meetings from CRU, which was short for "Crusaders" to Fuel.

According to Stacy Groton, campus director of CRU, the change in name was because Fuel better describes the club's goal on campus. The goal of Fuel is for students to refuel and revitalize for life and the best way to refuel is through a relationship with Christ, according to Groton. The change in name also because the Crusaders has a negative connotation in today's society and does not represent the club's goals. The members of the club and the students who attend the Thursday meet- ings are the people who came up with the new name and logo for advertising of the club.

The club has changed the name during spring quarter and is starting to promote with posters and a new banner outside the meet- ing place. This quarter is a trial run for fall when they are going to do much more promoting.

The meetings have a variety of topics for students to discuss. The spiritual realm of life is one of many topics discussed during the meetings.

"My favorite part of the club is the group's genuine and real love for people and I like the atmosphere," said junior Mekhaan Hooton a member of CRU. "I don't feel like I have to be someone I am not."

According to Hooton, she found out about the club during her freshman year at a table located in the SURC at the beginning of the year. "People feel welcome, open to all. God loves everyone and desires a relationship with them," said Groton.

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STACY GROTON
CRU campus director

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Track and field falls short at GNAC championships

Men finish fourth and women finish sixth after last year's strong first place finishes at event

Central's track and field team received fourth place in men's and sixth place in women's at the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) Outdoor Track and Field Championships held at Tomlinson Stadium last weekend. Central placed first in last year's event.

"Things were very good, we met expectations," said Western Oregon's head coach Mike Johnson. "Our expectations are for everyone to do the best job they can."

Wester Oregon women's team received first place with 162 points, where as Central came in sixth with 71 points. Western Oregon men's team received 166-and-a-half points and Central had 151-and-a-half points taking sixth.

"We were thankful," Johnson said. He also added that it was a remarkable weekend filled with great weather.

Some of Central men's team highlights included the performances by Central freshman sprinter Zeke Hill, who placed fourth in the 100-meter race with a time of 11.14 and third in the 200-meter with a time of 22.14.

"We did the best we could; we still got third," Velasquez said. "It was a kind of a big deal we didn't win." Central won the men's 4x400 relay every year between 2004 and 2007.

The conference also came with some downsides. It was the last conference for many graduating seniors. In the 110 hurdles, senior hurdler Josh Kirk came in seventh.

"Overall, I'm really happy and just grateful that I could compete," Kirk said.

"That's the nature of hurdles. Unforgiving, sometimes you have a great day, but other days you don't."

SEE TRACK PAGE 19
After a hard road trip the Mariners hope to right the ship while in the Port of Seattle this week.

The White Sox, on the other hand, are not in a position that manager Ozzie Guillen is making sure that all of America knows that he is pissed off. Guillen took a line from former Cubs Manager Ken Elia and counselled out his team, and the city of Chicago for not supporting his team.

The Mariners, who started free home­

standing on Monday against the Texas Rangers, hope to get back to smoothe seas as they will play 10 of their next 13 at home. This week the Mariners will see the Rangers for four games and then will meet the White Sox on Friday to start a three game set.

The Mariners will then hit the road for a three game series in Texas with the Rangers and will be back at Safeco for a three game set against the San Diego Padres to start interleague play for the season.

The next two weeks will be important for the Mariners as they get the tide turned back in their favor. They are playing all at this moment in the season and the Mariners can easily make a big jump by winning 13 games.

The Rangers, who have a bottom­

field fielding crew, have a hot bat in outfielder Michael Young, who has in the recent couple weeks compiled nine hits in 10 at bats. Erubiel Durfler, the center fielder, has continued to florish as a cocaine and heroin addiction could be the last good story of the season in baseball.

The Mariners need a left hander that can hit home runs and only two players really come to mind. Barry Bonds is one and Ken Griffey Jr. is the other.

Griffey is probably not going to leave the Reds until next off season, but Bonds is available right now and could fill a designated hitter gap that is being occupied by Jose Vidro currently.

I know that Bonds comes with baggage and could destroy a team’s fan base, but he could also do the opposite; Bonds could be a big name that the Mariners need to get fans and nationally televised games to Seattle. He will also be a star in the clubhouse for a team that is not showing that they what it takes to get to a World Series.

But again Barry wants to put together a team that could compete for a division title not a World Series. That makes it okay not to go after the man that passed Ruth and Hank Aaron on the all-time home run list.

It seems to be his philosophy to go after the players that are destined to fail in a Mariners uniform. Let’s name a few: Carl Everett, Miguel Olivo, Scott Spiezio, Matt Lawton, Ben Broussard, Jeff Weaver and Jarrod Washburn. Don’t get me wrong, I like Washburn, but he is nothing like he used to be with the Angels.

Bavasi also cashed out for Eric Bedard. I like Bedard, he is a great pitcher, but giving up five players for one is not a great deal, and the fact that he gave up on Johan San­
tana showed what he is really doing, and it is just building a team that can beat the nobody but the Baltimore Orioles. We

haven’t done that well either this season.

So as the Mariners embark on a long trip home, we will see if the moves that have been made will help the team out or if it talk with Barry Bonds will have to be made.

Look on the bright side though you can always get the free promotional items; Fri­

days in Mariners gym bag night from Emerald Queen Casino and Saturday is Mariners Matt Shirt Day. Then on May 16, you can get a J.J. Putz bobble head to go along with your Ichiro bobble head. So in case the Mariners don’t win the pen­

nant, you can always say you got the J.J. Putz bobble head doll, that makes it all better for the real fans.

Players from the Wildcat softball team gather around the pitching mound after winning a game earlier this season against Montana State Billings.

Jennifer Bratt/Observer

Softball struggles to close season

After losing last six, team ends season outside of playoffs

by Dusty Knicked

Staff reporter

The Central Wildcats women’s softball team played their last games of the season on Saturday May 3, at Montana States Billings.

The doubleheader didn’t turn out in Central’s favor, who lost both games, 5-2 and 2-0.

The first contest of the day was a disap­

pointing one. Central finished the game with only four hits and no runs. This was only the fourth time the Wildcats have been shut out all season.

The second game of the doubleheader was better for the Wildcats.

The action started in the bottom of the second inning when MURB scored one run, and then put the game out of reach in the third inning. Central had to play catch up back in the top of the third with an 8-run single by junior catcher Holley Rosman.

Joining Holley as first team GNAC

selection in the history of the conference. She

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Senior Nilsen tears through Montana State-Billings

Monster weekend from Nilsen keeps playoff hopes afloat

by Casey Donovan
Senior reporter

Look inside the record books for the Central Washington baseball team and one name appears at the top of almost every offensive category.

Jamie Nilsen, Central Washington's senior shortstop and leadoff man, has become the single most prolific player to ever wear a Wildcat uniform.

This weekend in Billings, Mont., Nilsen had one personal goal in mind: hit a home run. Nilsen got his home run and four more.

"That was simply phenomenal," head coach Desi Storey said. "Their fans were yelling and screaming to not pitch to him."

Nilsen blasted five home runs including two grand slams against Montana State-Billings en-route to being named Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) Co-Hitter of The Week. Nilsen now holds the GNAC career home run record.

On the weekend, Nilsen went a combined 11 for 19 at the plate with 14 RBIs and seven runs scored.

"He's been hitting good all year, so this is something that is not out of the ordinary," Storey said. "It's a combination of him feeling comfortable at the plate. It just one of the deals that's hard to explain."

Unfortunately, the shortstop's stellar performance came in only three of the four games. In game two, Nilsen went 0-1 and the Yellowjackets earned only their fourth conference victory in 24 games, defeating Central 7-5. Central's record after the weekend is 29-18 overall and 19-9 in the GNAC, leaving the Wildcats precariously hanging on to a possible playoff berth.

"The playoffs are a longshot," Storey said. "I never want to say never. I've seen crazier things happen. The disappointing thing is that we could be tied with Western Oregon. Our goal is to win out and make [the voting committee] look at us." Central State Stanislaus hardly squirmed into their conference tournament, taking the final spot by a half-game.

"Metro State is going to drop real hard," Storey said. "We need Stanislaus and Metro to go two in the barbeque for us to get in.

Even if Central falls short of the playoffs, Storey said that this team has a chance to be ranked as Central's best baseball team ever. The Wildcats goal has been to get better every year, and this year stands out as one of the best. Storey said that the 29 wins that Central already has is creeping up on the win totals from the Wildcats golden years of 1997 and 1999.

"We want to break the school record for most wins," Storey said. "That would say a lot about how great this team really is." Now Central must battle the GNAC's fourth-ranked Northwest Nazarene. The 12-14 Cougars have a decisive hitting ballpark which is right up Central's alley.

"We are by far the best hitting team in the conference," Storey said. "If we get good pitching we will have another good weekend. The thing is, we have been dis-appointed with two of our starters. All four pitchers need to be going aggressively after hitters. It is a case of focus and consistency and not attacking hitters."
New MLS team brings world's game to Seattle

Garrett Shawstad

It's out with the old Seattle "less-than-super" SuperSonics and in with the new and improved Seattle Sounders FC. Sure, I am talking about two different sports, but with a new ownership style, "Qwest field" as their home and super star names, what's there not to love about this new club? Seattle Sounders FC is the newest professional soccer club. For those of you who didn't already know, there is, or shall I say, was, a Seattle Sounders soccer team which was part of the United Soccer League (USL). The "FC" in the new team is meant to differentiate Seattle Sounders FC from teams of the past and ultimately move forward to far greater things such as a new era in Major League Soccer (MLS). Seattle Sounders FC is basically taking the spot of the old USL team, thus creating the newest expansion team in the MLS. There will be some players making the switch, but it's going to be a totally different level of play. Seattle Sounders FC isn't just a new name, but a new face with a new attitude, not to mention a bigger bank account to lure in some spectacular players from overseas.

Seattle's addition puts the MLS team at a total of 15, with more expected in the years to come.

Last November, comedian Drew Carey was one of the first owners to the new soccer team in Seattle. Carey, along with Hollywood movie studio executives Joe Roth, Seattle Sounders owner John Stanton and billionaire and Seattle Seahawks owner Paul Allen, are part owners of the team.

It's easy to recognize Taylor Stubblefield's attention to detail. One day in one-on-one drills, Stubblefield gave Spevak instructions on how to run a football route. While running the follow-up route, Stubblefield instructed Spevak not to chase the defensive back, and make the defensive back adjust to what he was doing. Spevak liked the results.

"He's teaching us to focus on the fundamentals," Spevak said. "Finishing routes, finishing plays whether the ball went to you or not, just finishing the plays."

Instead of setting lofty goals of the NFL, Stubblefield wants to instill discipline and pride; something they could use in the real world.

"That's what I want to accomplish," Stubblefield said. "When they get in the real world they're going to compete in some sort."

Stubblefield hopes this discipline provides a consistency and dedication to their careers.

"Consistency is a true measure of greatness," Stubblefield said. Look at Michael Jordan and Tiger Woods.

Career Stats

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Putting the fans first for the Seattle Sounders team started early with the selection of the team name. The fans, or anyone interested, had a Seattle Sounders FC. The Sounders games will offer an affordable alternative to the high-priced Mariners and Seahawks tickets with perhaps more fan support.

At this time, soccer is only getting bigger and better in the U.S. The signing of soccer superstar David Beckham with the L.A. Galaxy is one example of that. Beckham alone will probably sellout the entire stadium, making it one of the best players from across the globe to come play in Seattle.

Seattle's new franchise offers a new experience, something only available overseas with packed stadiums. Beckham, one of the best players from across the pond, played in front of a crowd of 66,000 at Qwest Field in August of 2006 in an international friendly between Beckham's Real Madrid and the MLS' DC United.

The new team will play at Qwest Field in or around April of 2009 and this couldn't come at a better time with the recent possibility leaving for Oklahoma City.
Central also had an unfortunate injury with the loss of junior sprinter Matt Rogstad.

During Friday's 200-meter preliminaries, Rogstad experienced a hamstring injury when he was in the straight away, which took him out of the meet.

In the discus, Fischer broke a record set by Isaiah Haines of Western Oregon State in 2003. His distance was 51.67 meters. Coming in second place was Valdez with a distance of 45.85 meters. In the men's triple jump, senior jumper Christian Goodwin came in fourth with a distance of 12.09 meters.

Some of the high points of the meet were due to Chelsea Evans' second place victory in the 400-meter dash with a time of 57.85 and the help of sophomore thrower Shaina Afoa.

In the shot put, Afoa came in first place with a distance of 12.99 meters. "Shaina came in and won," Adkisson said. "She wasn't slated to do that."

Teammate Jordan Stueckle came in fourth with a distance of 12.09 meters. "I threw my personal best in both events," Afoa said. "I had a lot of adrenaline and was at the top of my game when it counted."

Also also came in second in the discus with a distance of 40.89 meters. "It was really weird," Afoa said about her discus throw. "It just connected. I had a great week at practice and I don't know, it just all came together."

Other notable stats for Central were in the men's 3,000 meter steeplechase, where senior distance runner Brian Bickenbach came in fifth with a time of 9:58.0.

In the 400-meter hurdles, senior hurdler Charles Velasquez came in fifth with a time of 55.59. In the 4x100 men's relay, Central came in third with sophomore hurdler Christian Demouchet, Hill, Brydson and Jonathan Hamilton taking part in the 42.71 relay for Central's track and field team.

This upcoming weekend, individuals from Central's track and field team will be competing in the Hamblin Invitational. The time has yet to be announced.

Adkisson expects Central to be represented by senior distance runner, Marcie Mullen, Benson, freshman thrower Andrew Stiger and Rogstad, depending on his injury. He also noted that a few other athletes will show up.

Afoa will also be going to the meet. Her goal for the weekend is to get a dis- cuss throw of at least 44 meters. "I'm not sure if in shot put, it is pretty tough," Afoa said. Also added that she would have to hit 45 meters and 44 meters to qualify but a 45 meters or 46 meters to go to nationals.

This upcoming weekend, individuals from Central's track and field team will competing Saturday May 18 in Seattle at the Ken Foreman Invitational. The time has yet to be announced.
Wildcats prepare for annual Spring Game

New head coach Blaine Bennett and staff is preparing for first look at the 2008 team.

by Curtis Crabtree
Sports editor

Wildcat football fans will get their first glimpse into the Blaine Bennett era this Saturday during the spring football game this Saturday.

Bennett takes control of the Wildcats, who are coming off their best season since winning a share of the NAM National Championship in 1995. The star of that team was quarterback Jon Kima, who currently plays for the Detroit Lions in the NFL.

The star of this team? Senior quarterback Mike Reilly. In 2007, Reilly threw for 3,306 yards and 30 touchdowns, leading the Wildcats to a second place finish.

On defense, the Wildcats lost the heart of their defense, including senior wide receiver Chris Hemphill. On offense, Central only lost running back and wide receiver Justin Spevak, the team's leading receiver last season.

However, graduation was kind to the Wildcats on both sides of the ball. Experience is as important in football as in any other sport and most teams need a senior laden squad to make a playoff push.

As is usual in spring practices, and especially springs where new offenses are being installed, the defensive unit has been outplaying the offense in prior scrimmages and practices.

"That usually happens with the offense, who is going to start at running back and at wide receiver alongside Spevak and Rohrbach. Redshirt freshman Anthony Stewart, known to his teammates as "Chicken," and sophomore Micah Lape seem to be the leaders in the clubhouse to take control of the running back position.

The battle at wide receiver isn't as easy to call. Fifteen wide receivers are vying for roster spots.

"Sam Togar was having a nice spring," head coach Blaine Bennett said. "He's been a real nice surprise. Junior wide receiver Johnny Spevak and Spevak will have to watch the spring game from the sidelines. Rohrbach has to be a part-time student in the fall and cannot practice with the team as such. Spevak broke a bone in his right hand in practice two weeks ago and will likely not see action Saturday.

Senior tight end Jared Bronson, also a former transfer from Washington State, will continue to anchor the end of the line and be a major threat to opposing defenses. Bronson was a first team all-NCC selection last season.

The questions still remaining on offense are, who is going to start at running back and at wide receiver alongside Spevak and Rohrbach.

Redshirt freshman Anthony Stewart, known to his teammates as "Chicken," and sophomore Micah Lape seem to be the leaders in the clubhouse to take control of the running back position.

The battle at wide receiver isn't as easy to call. Fifteen wide receivers are vying for roster spots.

"Sam Togar was having a nice spring," head coach Blaine Bennett said. "He's been a real nice surprise. Justin Helwege is doing a nice job."

We moved Reggie Wilson over there. Matt Snell is a solid guy, so I am excited about our receiving corps."

Togar, like Spevak, also hurt his hand and will not be able to play this Saturday.

The defense is switching back to a 4-3 defense from the 3-4 defense they ran under Beau Baldwin last year. To accommodate the switch, Bennett has moved sophomore Paul Haecherl from offensive line to defensive line and Andrew Oney from tight end to defensive line.

"I think we've got some good ends," Bennett said. "Tyrrell (Nicholas) and Andrew Oney are probably the two (defensive) ends if we had to choose right now. Mitch Keefit is a real nice (defensive) tackle and Haecherl is doing a good job."

With Hemphill graduating, a space is open at starting safety, alongside incumbent Jerome Williams.

Sophomore Justin Gran and senior J.R. Jimerson have impressed so far in spring ball and are the favorites to win the starting job.

As is usual in spring practices, and especially springs where new offenses are being installed, the defensive unit has been outplaying the offense in prior scrimmages and practices.

"That usually happens with the spring," Bennett said. "We don't try to scheme each other. The defense is putting a lot of stuff in and they already know what formation we are going to be in and what play we are going to run, so I think the scrimmage will probably even things out a little bit because they won't know what we are going to do."

Eckolt for the spring game is scheduled for 12 p.m. on Saturday at Tomlinson Stadium.