Central shines light on the darkness

by Matthew Hartmann
Staff reporter

Students around Central Washington University today might notice many students wearing black shirts.

Thursdays in Black is a month long program in February that is meant to raise awareness of domestic violence and to send a message of comfort to victims of abuse.

According to Andrea Easlick, health educator and sexual assault response coordinator, the Wildcat Wellness Center has been holding Thursdays in Black for the past four years.

The program is based on a similar program which was created in Argentina during the 1970s according to Easlick. "It affects more people than a lot of us think it does," Easlick said. "In fact it's likely that each of us knows someone who has been assaulted. It just might be that they haven't shared it with us."

Easlick said that anyone can be a victim regardless of their sex, gender, race, age or socioeconomic standing.

According to a safety survey taken in Spring 2007, 28.4% of females and 10.1% of males reported that they had experienced unwanted sexual contact at some point in their lives. The survey did not ask if the assault happened during or before college.

Easlick said that the objectives of Thursdays in Black are to let victims know that they have people who support them and to encourage victims to feel comfortable with reporting the assault to police.

Samantha Fisk, freshman elementary education major, said that she will be taking part in Thursdays in Black because she feels that it will be a good way to promote awareness that can help sexually abused victims in the future.

"There are many people out there that say 'I can't do anything about what happened,'" Fisk said. "[Thursdays in Black] gives them a view that they aren't the only one."

Fisk said that she intends to participate, wearing black each Thursday next month. "Letting people know you're there for them is sometimes all you can do," Fisk said.

Ryan Hamilton, sophomore exercise major, said programs like Thursdays in Black help people talk about a taboo issue, such as domestic violence, openly.

"I think that everyone knows that it exists and it shouldn't," Hamilton said. "People need to learn how to do something about it."

Easlick said that she hopes that this program will encourage students to talk about domestic abuse more publicly.

"Those of us that believe sexual assault is wrong just outnumber those who commit the crime," Easlick said.

"However, there are few of us that choose to address the issue or actually stand up against it."

Campus promotes sexual responsibility

by Erica Spalti
Staff reporter

With this holiday of love swiftly approaching, the Wellness Center thought to start informing students and locals about sexual responsibility. The Wellness Center will host the Thursdays in Black and Sexual Responsibility Week.

"One of the main purposes of Sexual Responsibility Week is to promote healthy relationships," Kelsey Brazen, senior public health major, said. "Part of the objective is being comfortable with the other person in the relationship."

Sexual Responsibility Week is a nationwide event promoted by the Bacchus Network to raise awareness about sexual health and sexual awareness.

This week usually takes place at the majority of colleges during Valentine's Day week or before spring break.

"It is more fun than it sounds," Taylor McLaren, junior elementary education major, said. "I feel like people are uncomfortable when we talk about sexual awareness and we are really trying to make it more fun and interesting."

Sexual Responsibility Week is filled with presentations, educational booths and lectures.

Sexual Responsibility Week reaches out to the campus and the community concerning safe sex practices, sexual assault, prevention and risk programs. Also, how to help a friend and how to stand against sexual assault.

"Sexual violence is something that scares a lot of people," Audrey Luoma, sophomore health education major, said. "I volunteered with the SAFE (Sexual Assault Facts and Education) club last year and they put on outreach events. Even if it only affects one person, it's worth it."

The booth will offer facts about sexual assault, what to do and how to handle it.

Also featured is the Wellness Wheel, which visitors can spin to win prizes such as condoms, candy, etc., as well as learn facts and safe sex practices.

"Many people think that we are promoting sex, but that is not the case," Andrea Easlick, health educator, said. "The absolute number one way to protect yourself is abstinence. However, [many] Central Washington University students are sexually active. We want to provide ways to protect yourself."

(C)entral Washington University students received the shipments of Thursdays in Black T-shirts on Friday, Jan. 30 to help raise sexual awareness on campus. 103 shirts were ordered in total.

Desaundra Dixon Age:33
4/3/2006
Tacoma, Pierce Country

Coming home after a night out together, Victor and Desaundra began arguing in the early morning hours of April 3. One of Desaundra's teenage sons heard them arguing. He checked on his mother at one point and found her crying. Later he heard a loud noise and then silence. He tried to get into the bedroom but Victor would not allow him in. Victor had fatally shot Desaundra in the chest. Desaundra had seven children; three were children from four to 19 years old in the house at the time of the shooting. Most of them were asleep; one of them called 911.

Silent Witness example courtesy of Wellness Center and Wildcat bookstore
EDP relaunches reserve program
by Gloria Staley-Malenic
Staff reporter

The Ellensburg Police Department (EPD) is allowing its Reserve Officer Program to come back to life. In December, the EPD entered into a financial agreement with the Ellensburg School District that will fund reserve training and get the program up and running.

Ellensburg School District is giving the EPD $10,000 a year to go towards the School Reserve training and get the program back to life. In December, the EPD entered into a financial agreement with the Ellensburg School District that will fund reserve training and get the program up and running.

According to EPD Captain Paul Abbott, the reserve officer program was started off as a Reserve, with the old reserve program fading out sometime in 2004-2005 when training shut down because of budget cuts. Now, with the new agreement the EPD can afford the training and are looking forward to the new program.

Training will begin in the end of March and end the first or second week of June. It is three nights a week for four hours a week, with a few weekends included. EPD Detective Jason Brunk started off as a Reserve, while still in school at Central, before applying for a full-time job with the station.

"I got a great deal of experience and really enjoyed it. It was a lot more than I expected," Brunk said.

"In classes I always learned about federal law, but being a Reserve, I got to learn a lot about Washington state laws."

Jason Brunk
EPD Detective

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Training includes a little bit of everything; criminal procedure and law, patrol procedure, evidence handling and collection, interview techniques, traffic techniques, and search and seizure procedure. According to Hansberry

Two other big elements, include being qualified on firearms and also going through an "EVOC" (emergency vehicle operation course) training. Hansberry said that becoming a Reserve is great experience for those interested in law enforcement as a career.

"I think there are a lot of people who want to do stuff for the community, but they don't want to stack books at the library or work with kids in a park," Hansberry said.

Reserves serve a minimum of 16 hours a month, but 30 hours is average.

EPD Reserve

To apply to become an EPD Reserve visit the EPD office or contact Sergeant Meffert at 962-7240 or Captain Hansberry at 962-7249. The application deadline is March 2, 2009.

Katie Evans/Observer

City Council highlights
by Kevin Opsahl
Staff reporter

* Last night, the Ellensburg City Council unanimously passed an ordinance for the Triple L Regional Retail project and adopted ordinance 4537, which provides 24 acres of land for the new shopping mall located at the Ellensburg west interchange by Interstate 90. The council gave the first reading of the ordinance on Jan. 5, but now the adoption of the ordinance makes it official. The council had previously approved the concept of the mall.

"The council also authorized two representatives for a disaster relief fund; Derek Mayo, Civil Engineer for the city of Ellensburg and Michelle Dufault, an analyst for the city. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires that at least two representatives, are needed for any city to receive their requested funds for flood control and to fill out necessary paperwork.

* Kirk Holmes, director for the Kittitas County Department of Public Works, asked the council to consider the Pre-disaster Mitigation Program, designed to conduct planning before a disaster occurs. The Public Works had recently submitted a grant application to request the funds.

"We really want this project to go through because it's timely. We've got an 8 percent chance of receiving the funds and the county really wants the money," Holmes said.

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The Observer is a class in which students are constantly learning how to interview, report and produce a newspaper.
Central recognizes academic achievers for high GPA's

by Matthew Hartmann
Staff reporter

The academic achievement Awards are given out to the on-campus students who have received a 3.7 grade point average (GPA) or higher during the previous fall quarter. Richard DeShields, senior director for University Housing said that the awards ceremony was created five years ago to recognize students who have managed to be successful in their studies.

"People sometimes think that students celebrate the negative things that we believe students are here for," DeShields said. "We believe that students are here for the right reasons and that is to celebrate their academic success."

Although 3,100 students were awarded this honor, only 70 actually showed up to the ceremony. Jenna Hyatt, director of Residence Life and New Student Programs, said that students should appreciate the chance to pause and reflect on their academic achievements.

"We know that it has meaning to live here on campus and there is so much for you both on and off campus," Hyatt said.

Micah Rowe, junior physical education and health double major, and avid juggler on campus, said that he was very proud of himself for his academic accomplishments this quarter.

"Juggling just got me inspired to go and get off my ass and do something," Rowe said.

Many family members came to Ellensburg to watch students receive awards. John Dupea, Central grandparent, said that his grandson Justin Dupea made him proud.

"He's really grown up," said Dupea. "We never expected him to be here."

Deshields said that even students who didn't receive an award should be proud of whatever achievements they have made.

"They may not achieve a 3.7 GPA, but if they achieve the goals that they set out for themselves, that is success," DeShields said.

Six more weeks of winter

According to Punxsutawney Phil, the world's most famous groundhog, there are only six weeks left of winter. Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow, Monday Feb. 2, in Pittsburg Pa.

Spring will be here soon.
Local businesses impose transaction fees

Many businesses around Ellensburg charge a transaction fee for purchases made with a Visa or MasterCard. The 18th Street Deli tacks on an additional 50 cent "credit fee" for transactions less than $5. These "credit fees" and minimum surcharges are called "checkout fees" by Visa and MasterCard.

"It's a bummer paying the extra surcharge but with the flood of chain retailers and the troubled economy I don't mind the extra 50 cents," said junior, undeclared Jesse Kerl-land.

During busier hours the Starlight imposes a $10 minimum to make up for transaction costs imposed by administrative and bank fees.

"It's not an arbitrary charge," said Starlight's owner Dorris Morgan. "All we're shooting for is offsetting the several thousand dollars spent for processing fees."

According to MasterCard customer assistance, due to policy restrictions, businesses cannot impose a minimum.

According to a Visa press release posted Dec. 1, 2005, "Since consumers prefer to pay with plastic, Visa doesn't think they should be penalized at the checkout counter with extra fees. That is why Visa's rules prohibit charging checkout fees (fees on purchases made with credit or debit cards) on cardholders paying with Visa-branded cards."

In transaction situations such as those that happen at Grant's, imposing a surcharge wouldn't make that much of a difference because the majority of purchases are above $10.

"We don't tack on anything," said Grant's owner Kathy Grant. "We just eat the cost."

Ten states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Oklahoma, and Texas) have actually outlawed checkout fees.

Generally for the first offense, Visa and MasterCard will send the merchant a warning but for further offenses the business may lose the privilege of using the MasterCard or Visa service.
Dear Editor,

We are writing regarding Kayla Schroader's editorials, "Obama Steals Newstands" (22 January) and "A Lesson in Word Choice" (29 January).

As directors of the Africana and Black Studies and Latino and Latin American Studies programs, we believe the articles require a response for not only their insensitive remarks, but also the author's lack of self-awareness and her trivialization of the historic nature of President Obama's election.

Ms. Schroader's first editorial contains offensive language that plays into stereotypes of African Americans. The title itself, which should read "Obama Steals Headlines," elicits stereotypes of black men as thieves and brigands—from Chicken Joe stealing poultry on the plantation to modern day gangsters wreaking havoc in the hood. Ms. Schroader challenges Mr. Obama's right to be in the media spotlight. Instead, he has stolen headlines, and the accompanying photos force us to "lock staves" with Mr. Obama's "strong, young, chocolate face." Here Mr. Obama is objectified and sexualized, and the image evoked is that of a black man ready to ravage white women.

For historical context, we need only reference D.W. Griffith's The Birth of a Nation or the brutal 1955 murder of 14-year-old Emmett Till for "flirting" with a white woman. The stereotypes extend to Ms. Schroader's dislike for images of the Obama family also unworthy of media coverage because "as the leader of our country," Obama has "more important duties to attend to." But the family photos described are significant to those seeking images of black men and women beyond those on Fox News, who shamefully referred to our First Lady as Obama's "baby mama" during the campaign. Instead, President Obama epitomizes the quintessential father—caring, nurturing, a role model. Perhaps unexpectedly for Ms. Schroader, those of us "ready to set race aside" covet photos that project such images of the black family and engender in all of us the hope that America will once again hold the family dear—even maybe enough to ensure that all children are educated, fed, and guaranteed medical care.

In the process of unconsciously recreating these stereotypes, Ms. Schroader trivializes the historic nature of Obama's election. Her portrayal of President Bush, "a white, Republi­can, Texan leader," to Mr. Obama, "a liberal, African American" diminishes the long struggle that made this moment possible. From black men being defined as 3/5 of a person to an African American being elected president was no short journey. Ms. Schroader missed an opportunity to celebrate just how ready we are to set race aside. But that wouldn't reconcile with the author's headline hang-up. Obama didn't steal the headlines. He made history.

Interestingly, Ms. Schroader has no regrets. In her follow-up editorial she apologized for the "misinterpretation" of which word you were referring to, and I'm pretty sure I found it. I can see how, taken out of context, this word was not meant to be offensive. It was merely used as an adjective, and, I thought, a good adjective; if anything, be sorry that people took offense when none was meant, as I am. But don't be sorry for being a good writer.

Gloria Staley-Malenic did a nice job in her article "Obama triggers worry among firearm owners." She at least chose a title that showed reason and not hysteria, and wrote well. Two small points of clarification: Point 1. Reloading supplies (powder, primers, bullets) are not ammunition until assembled into a cartridge. She wrote a paragraph that said "Some of the ammo Bi-Mart is short on includes powder, primers, and reloading bullets." It is a little like calling a ream of paper, a bottle of ink, and a pen a book. No big deal, just a minor point of information. Point 2 is her third paragraph, which is a bit misleading. She ended it with the words "...despite his support of gun rights," suggesting that there should be perhaps, less cause for concern among firearm owners with Mr. Obama's election than appears to exist. A little publicized fact is that President Obama has never in his political career supported gun ownership rights. He made statements to that effect late in his campaign, but his history made his words falsehoods. He supported every restrictive bill even proposed in his stint in the Illinois legislature. He supported fully the massive restrictions on gun rights by Cook County and the City of Chicago as attempts were made by citizens to overthrow them. Furthermore he has assembled many gun ban enthusiasts from the Clinton administration into his close advisory group including his Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel and his candidate for US Attorney General. He has not, does not, and very likely will never support the Second Amendment, as ratified recently by the U.S. Supreme Court, nor approve the exercise of those rights by the populace of the United States. There is a great deal of valid concern across this land as to what President Obama is capable of doing and is willing to try.

Steven Douglas
CWU staff member

The article by Nicole Weinheimer in the Observer this week was dead on. I drive to school daily because I live more than a mile away from campus, and it is one of the most frustrating things to on campus and see that there is no parking anywhere; except for a major distance away. I fully recognize that I myself could walk to campus, but by the time I leave campus at night it is dark and I prefer to have my vehicle for safety reasons. I also understand that those residing on campus need a location to park their vehicles, but I question the reasoning for parking in the main lot directly adjacent to the SURC. I understand the convenience factor but I also know that most students use the same lot. I hope that we can find a way to work together and solve this problem.

Julia Cain
Senior
Recreation Management Major

There is no need for you [Kayla Schroader] to apologize for your word choice in your Jan. 22 editorial. I re-read the piece in question (that's right, I keep the back issues, mostly because I'm still working on the Sudoku from last week), after reading this week's column, in search of the word you were referring to, and I'm pretty sure I found it. I can see how, taken out of context, this word might be considered offensive. But, any astute reader should have been able to see that it was not meant to be offensive. It was merely used as an adjective, and, I thought, a good adjective; it made what could have been a cliché description, vivid and unique. So don't apologize for your word choice. If anything, be sorry that people took offense when none was meant, as I am. But don't be sorry for being a good writer.

Rhonda Watts
Junior
English Major

The Observer welcomes brief letters (300 words) from readers on current issues. Include the author's full name and University affiliation: year and major, degree and year graduated or department.

All letters become property of The Observer. E-mail letters to cwsobserver@gmail.com.

The artist's eye...

Wellington takes a break from his midterm studies to relax in a favorite pastime.

Sylvia Armistead/Observer

Bobby Cummings
Africana and Black Studies

Michael Ervin
Latino and Latin American Studies

Julia Cain
Senior
Recreation Management Major

Rhonda Watts
Junior
English Major
Sun rises on new business

Kayla Schroeder
Editor-in-Chief

The front page story of last week's Observer depicted a Triple L mall in Ellensburg's future. The city has approved the project and expects completion date within eight to 10 years. The Exit 106 at the west interchange will then boast big names and quick stops luring locals and those passing through the valley. Thanks to the support of the Ellensburg City Council and Chamber of Commerce, Ellensburg's economy is likely to thrive.

On the other hand, I have an inkling that IHOP and Trader Joe's, and other chain truck-stop town, "but even I to see happen to our "sleepy town with my long black dress dragging behind me: the lookout at the water tower, recycled art adorning the home of Dick and Jane and castle apartments. The university towered majestically and the slow speed limits reflected a simpler pace of life. Ellensburg was charming and homey.

The sun set that evening as we piddled across the bus for our return home to the west side. The sky was illuminated in bursts of vivid color in every shade. For a minute, the sun and stars shared the same canvas, stretching from one hillside to the other and blan­keting the scenery below in blissful screenery.

It is Ellensburg's small town mentality that makes a relaxed atmosphere possible. In other cities, large advertisements and billboards, skyscrapers and other structures impede natural beauty. Kittitas Valley embraces har­mony of the landscape and skyline. Locals and travelers, at the right time, can experi­ence an Ellensburg sunrise or sunset in all of its' glory.

Some nights I'll find myself frozen in awe on the side of the road, pausing in the bustle of my day just to take it all in - the moments I live for.

These are the priceless treasures too often taken for granted. The sky never stays the same - sun and stars span, clouds gather and break as the swift Northwest winds sweep them away. So, regardless of what new grocery stores, restaurants or retail stores make their way to Ellensburg, I hope they see and respect this town for all the natural beauty it possess­es. We will make the needed room for a new mall, but it better not block the view.

As much as I love cooking, every week I struggle with coming up with recipes to write for my column. I can write about anywhere and, this was no exception. I started out making lasagna, a beloved newsroom. Like most people, I love pasta. It's easy and relatively cheap to make. But unlike most people I like white sauce and not red. So here's my recipe for a chicken, spinach and mushroom lasagna.

Culinary Corner:
Chicken, spinach and mushroom lasagna

Rachel Guillermo
Culinary Columnist

Ingredients:
8 tsp. (1 stick) unsalted butter
1 lb button mushrooms, thinly sliced
1 C. finely chopped yellow onion
3 T. minced garlic
1/2 to 2 C. all-purpose flour
7 C. milk
2 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1 lb. spinach, stemmed, washed, blanched and roughly chopped
2 C. grated Parmesan
2 C. Mozzarella cheese
2 T. olive oil, plus more for coating casserole dish
2 lb. boneless skinless chicken breast
1 lb. oven-ready lasagna sheets
1 T. butter, cut into 8 pieces

In a pan, melt the butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add the mushrooms and cook until they are browned and the liquid is gone. Add the onions and garlic and sauté until soft and translu­cent. Add the flour and cook to a paste. Stir the mixture continuously, slowly add the milk to it and stir while cooking. Add 1 1/2 tsp. of the salt, pepper, spinach and 1 1/2 C. of the Parmesan and the Mozzarella stirring until thickened. Remove from heat.

Set a large sauté pan over moderate heat and add olive oil. Season the chicken with the remaining 1 tsp. of kosher salt and place in the hot pan. Saute the chicken and cook through. Set aside, when cool, cut into small pieces.

Coat a 9 by 13 by 3-inch casserole dish with olive oil, and spread about 1/2 C. of the sauce on the bottom of the dish. Lay 3 sheets of pasta across the bottom of the dish and spread 3/4 C. of the sauce over the pasta. Sprinkle 1/4 C. of the chicken over that, and then sprinkle with 1/4 C. of the remaining sauce.

Layer another 3 sheets of pasta over the chicken. Repe­tate 2 additional times end­ing with a layer of pasta cov­ered with the sauce, the remaining cheese, over the sauce and scatter the butter pieces over the top. Bake uncovered, until bubbly and well browned, about 45 min­utes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool for at least 20 minutes before serving.

Taxes bailout irresponsible spenders

Eryn Darlington
Copy desk

Every morning when I watch or read the news I am appalled at how the "bailed-out" businesses are squandering our tax dollars. American International Group Inc. spent $440,000 on spa treatments after an $85 billion bailout and Goldman Sachs received $9.8 billion in bailout money and are paying $1 billion in bonuses. I have become completely disheartened by the so­cial irresponsibility of the bail­out junkies. I understand the need behind the bailout mon­ey, but I don't think the busi­nesses do. Despite the billion dollar hand-outs, businesses continue to lay off employees, award unwarranted bonuses and spend frivolously, hoping that their recklessness and impru­dences and tactics will go un­noticed.

Most recently I read an ar­ticle on the Fox News site about Wells Fargo receiving $25 billion in bailout money, but they are still planning on layoffs in the next few months and they are going to waive the mandatory retirement age for their CEO. Does that make sense to anyone? Last time I checked, Joe Shmoe the teller doesn't exactly decide to neg­ligently lend billions of dollars to subprime borrowers or tact­i­cally target low credit score clientele. Isn't the CEO the person who ultimately calls the shots?

Apparently this practice isn't uncommon because according to the article, in the last two years, more than 100,000 bank employees have been laid off. Still, the same executives who were in control as the industry unemployment almost tripled, bank stocks plunged, credit withered away and the bank­ing system nearly buckled, are still in control. In fact, at banks that are receiving federal bail­out money, nearly nine out of every 10 of the former ex­ecutives from 2006 are still on the job.

I don't know about anyone else, but I am sickened and baf­fléd as to how investors and governing bodies approve of this nonsense. I think it may be time for some new blood. Maybe instead of spamking the CEOs and sending them off to their vacation homes to contemplate how to spend our hard-earned cash, we ought to hold them accountable. I say we send those slapdash spenders out the door to job­hunt with the other 10 million unemployed.

I am an expert on finances, politics, or laws regarding big business, and I don't know the solution to stimulating the economy. Maybe there has to be a more efficient way to regulate executives and their irresponsible busi­ness strategies and spending. I guess one can only hope that we have learned our lesson on alloting billion dollar hand­outs with no strings attached.

You can send your comments, questions and concerns to cwculinarycorner@gmail.com.
Outlandish love story enchants stage

by Amy Thompson  
Staff reporter

South Philadelphia in 1979 is the setting of an unconventional love story. "The Woolgatherer" features capricious and bawdy characters who stumble onto an unlikely romance.

The play follows the story of Rose and Cliff, played by Anna Newbury and Tyson Dailey, respectively.

These strangers find more than they were expecting from each other's company.

"The characters are interesting and engaging," said George Bellah, director. "It's a play that's full of wonderful language and has very poetic dialogue in some ways."

Rose, played by Newbury, junior theatre arts performance major, is a nervous and hesitant woman who works a candy counter at a local store. She finds herself in the company of a crude truck driver who is looking for entertainment while his truck is being fixed at an auto shop.

Cliff, played by Dailey, senior theatre arts performance major, is a hard-hearted man who has seen his share of troubles and has developed a hard outer shell of emotion. He spends most of his time working and driving his truck, which allows him ample time to think and begrudge the cruel world around him.

The play begins with Cliff and Rose, after having just met the same day, going to her apartment where the entire play of the unexpected growing relationship between the two characters unfolds.

Laura Hahn, senior theatre arts major, is the scenic designer for "The Woolgatherer."

She is working on setting up the stage to model a simple and somewhat rundown apartment, resembling a late 1970s design with striped walls and appliances.

Through both dramatic dialogue and monologue, Rose's cautious character and Cliff's rough character learn about each other throughout the play, discussing various topics and at the same time they begin to make a connection.

Bellah said he chose this play because it has been one of his favorite plays for several years and it is a good way for the students involved to work on their crafts.

"This play is unique in the sense that it's two people who are damaged and find each other," Dailey said. "The issues are very real, the characters are very real. It definitely has moments of humor, but it gets really intense."

Though the play is classified as a drama, as the two lonely characters talk to each other, there are also humorous moments to be found throughout the performance.

"It's a drama, [the audience] can expect some serious subject matter, but it's also very funny," Bellah said. "These two lost people who have been beat up by the world manage to find each other in all the mess. These two hurt people somehow manage to make a connection."

Samantha Shields, junior theatre arts major, is the costume designer for the play. The clever clothing styles, modeled after the era's fashion, with sweaters to colorful pants, will have the audience feeling as if they have gone back in time.

"It's a great story about how two opposites attract," Dailey said. "The way the show will affect the audience will be interesting, they won't know who to side with. It's a rollercoaster for everybody."

The performance of "The Woolgatherer" is intended for mature audiences, due to some foul language.

The play is at 7 p.m. on Feb. 7 and 8 at 2 p.m. in the Central Washington University Hertz Auditorium.

General admission is $8 and $5 for Central students.
Cakes, flowers, tuxes, gowns, food, make-up and hair are all the little aspects to an important day in someone's life: a wedding.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, Central Washington University will be holding its first wedding expo in the Student Union and Recreation (SURC) Ballroom.

"Most of the wedding expos are in Seattle and Yakima so we thought it would be nice to have one in more of a central area," Amy Alder, marketing and scheduling supervisor, said.

There are about five or six weddings a year in the SURC Ballroom, half of them being Central students.

The Winter Wedding Expo will be a good chance to showcase the ballroom to potential hosts more weddings.

The expo will feature dresses, wedding planners, tuxes, a little taste of food, an assortment of cakes and flower arrangements such as those from Bouquet Corral, located on 706 E. University Way.

"Weddings are my top priority and my favorite thing to do," said Abby Reynolds, junior public relations major and owner of the Bouquet Corral. "They are challenging, but also the most fun for me."

This upcoming summer will be Bouquet Corral's second year of business in Ellensburg.

They have already done a few weddings. Typically, all the pieces are unique in their arrangement and include everything from roses to daisies.

Monday's Formal Wear, owned by John Malissos, will be another local vendor at this event. They have been renting and selling tuxes for about 14 years.

Before he got into the tux business, Malissos had a shop called Monday's Shoes, where he sold tuxes in a small corner of the store.

He then built a showroom behind his house and it became Monday's Formal Wear.

"I wanted a way to make it easier for people, so they didn't have to drive back and forth the between here and Bellevue or Yakima," Malissos said. "At Monday's Formal Wear you can see, touch and look at the 29 tuxes we have on display and the 40 different vests, rather than look at them in a photo in a magazine."

Monday's Formal Wear is located on 108 N. Mount Daniels Dr. in Ellensburg.

In last week's issue on Jan. 29, the wrong name was printed as the owner of Grant's. The correct names of the owners are John and Kathy Grant.
Central artist enters international art show

by Mimi Oh
Staff reporter

Joe Churchman, senior studio art major, competed against the world to go to New Jersey. He will attend an international art show called Decorative Resurgence.

There were 429 entries from 33 states, and eight other countries. Jurors selected 90 works from 71 artists. Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ will host the exhibition, which is open April 20 to May 28.

Winners will be announced during the reception on April 23. Each participant gets a full color catalog and there are three cash awards. The first place winner gets $500, the second place winner gets $200, and the third place winner gets $100.

For the first time Churchman will participate in an international art show.

As a jewelry maker, Churchman says he chose neoprene when silver became too expensive to fashion. As he photographed an art piece unrelated to the competition, he explained how he landed on the material. "I had the material from a summer job from years before in excavation," Churchman said. "It was supposed to be a gasket for a very large pipe, but the inspector said we didn't need it. I realized with the material being so light that I could open it up and broaden my way of thinking to include larger shapes that wouldn't be possible with metal."

Churchman operated a bull-dozzer for the Department of Natural Resources, putting in culverts, a large gravel-filled pipe which mimics a fish's natural habitat. He worked in rainy Clallum Bay, Wash. where culverts are common. Churchman demonstrates neoprene's resilience, tearing it messily.

Neoprene is water proof, oil resistant, self extinguishing, lightweight and very inert (non-toxic on the skin), it can be found in diverse forms such as pipe sealsants and wetsuits. It can also be "cooked" into shapes. Churchman, like many artists, puts limitations on himself. He wanted to make neoprene jewelry without traditional jewelry structures.

"Ruff," one of Churchman's hand-cut pieces, was inspired by and modeled after an Elizabethan ruff. It incorporates riveting forms Churchman learned in class.

Just like metal, the piece is held by tension caused by compression. "Ruff" joins other works inspired by antiquated clothes and technology.

The c-shaped opening hugs around all sizes of rocks. Churchman said he got it to fit best for a thick-necked male model.

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"I am extremely excited at the opportunities that this show represents for me," Churchman said.

Keith Lewis, Churchman's advisor and art professor, explained how being in an exhibition catalog helps preserve a more permanent record of exhibitions, which are temporary in nature.

"What doesn't get made permanent through publication might as well have not existed in a certain way," Lewis said.

Decorative Resurgence seems to hold some serendipity for Churchman, because it will be held at the same time as an annual Philadelphia jewelry show.

Lewis himself entered the competitive exhibition and told Churchman to enter it as well. Lewis said that participating in professional exhibitions indicates to graduate schools, study abroad programs and the professional world that Churchman took his undergraduate years seriously.

Animal Collective release fresh album

by Mimi Oh
Staff reporter

Animal Collective release fresh album

When Animal Collective (AC) released their new album, Merriweather Post Pavilion, last month, it was immediately clear that they took their game to a new level.

By mixing various permutations of electronic beat and standard rock guitar, AC unleashes one majestic track after another. Each track changes pace at the drop of a dime.

The opening track, "In The Flowers," begins with a disarming, strange beat before embarking on a cryptic description of an arrestingly beautiful dance. Meanwhile, the instrumental hum before erupting in the middle of the song in an electronic haze. The mashed together sounds fade slowly until the end, then vanish into the next track.

The band members, Avey Tare (David Portner), Deakin (Joss Dibb), Geologist (Brian Weitz), and Panda Bear (Noah Lennox) all contribute vocally, creating melodies and contrasts that add layers to the already rich sound, best defined as "noise rock."

A fair example would be the track "Also Frightened," with lyrics steeped in metaphor. Lines like, "Face your money into the dark, but you can't sweat unless swung by the hem" could be a social statement, or babbling.

Regardless, the freshness of the sound cannot be ignored. This track also alerts the listener to the power of megaphone distortion, creating an unnatural but beautiful pitch to the vocals.

"In The Flowers" and "Also Frightened" are fine examples of the great tracks this album offers, but it is important to note that this album will shock a listener not acclimated to hearing such a fusion of genres.

Animal Collective draws inspiration from bands such as Pink Floyd, Neutral Milk Hotel, Of Montreal and Grizzly Bear. Imagine a reckless integration of all of those unique, beautiful bands into one smooth, very well-mastered 11-track album. That's Merriweather Post Pavilion.
A typical employment rejection letter.

Dear (Insert Your Name Here):

Thank you for your interest in (Insert Your Potential Employer Here). We regret to inform you that we will be offering the position of (Insert Your Dream Job Here) to another candidate.

Thank you for applying for employment with our company and we wish you luck in your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

HR Director
(Insert Company Name Here)

Employer of Your Dreams - 3900 Perfect Job Way - Anytown, USA

Ever wonder who sees your MySpace or FaceBook page besides your “friends”?

- Current or potential employers
- Prospective landlords
- Law enforcement
- Criminals

Dear (Insert Your Name Here):

Thank you for your interest in (Insert Your Potential Employer Here) and for interviewing with us for the position of (Insert Your Dream Job Here).

You can imagine our disappointment when, as part of your background check, we did a routine web search including (Insert MySpace, FaceBook or any other social site) and found photographs and web postings of questionable content which do not adhere to the morals, standards and values upheld by (Insert Your Potential Employer Here) or the image we strive to uphold. Therefore, we have offered the position of (Insert Your Dream Job Here) to another candidate.

Thank you for applying for (Insert Your Lost Job Opportunity Here) and good luck. You’ll need it!

Sincerely,

What that same employer might have wanted to say.

- Think before you post.
- Your “friends” may not share your sense of privacy.
- Once it’s posted on the web, you’ll never get every copy removed.

A questionable choice now can haunt you later!!

Be smart, be safe, be secure about what you post on the web.

This is #3 in a series of safety/security related messages from your ITS Department. For more information about the safety and security risks of social networking, visit: http://www.cwu.edu/~its/cybersecurity

Central Washington University is an AA/EO/Title IX Institution. TDD 509-963-2143
The ‘Burg auctions off DJs for date

by Ryan Ricigliano
Staff reporter

Valentine’s Day brings dating and relationships to the forefront of many young minds. For those on the prowl, 88.1 The ‘Burg will host its first annual date auction.

From 6 to 8 p.m. on Feb. 11 in the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) Pit, aptly timed right before the holiday of love, 10 to 14 of Central’s most adventurous DJs and on-air talents will be auctioned off to the highest bidder for a special date.

“One of our goals for this year is to be more involved with the student body,” Nick Songsangchamtara, promotions director for The ‘Burg, said. “This date auction is a great way to do that and raise money for The ‘Burg.”

Some of the most prominent DJs, including Little Nikki, Brother Nie, Billy Shears, Sunny Daye and Suzy B, will be offering their date services for a starting bid of $5. Bidding increments, along with the specifics of the date, will be decided by the winning bidders.

“We think it would be best to let the people going on the date decide what they want to do,” Songsangchamtara said. “They can decide where they want to go and who will pay.”

Songsangchamtara has worked with local businesses to sponsor dinner packages. So far Fiesta En Jalisco, Palace Café, Sugar Thai and Cattleman’s Restaurant have donated dinner packages.

One of the DJs being auctioned off, Doris Torres, aka Janet D, junior public relations major, is excited about the idea of trying something new and want to support it any way she can.

“We went to a carnival and I hate roller coasters so I didn’t go on any of the rides,” Torres said. “The worst part was that I was 16 at the time and didn’t have my license so I couldn’t just leave. It was awful.”

Nic Bate, junior pre-construction management major, or Brother Nie, will be auctioned off but is hoping for a special bidder.

“I think someone might be planning on bidding for me,” Bate said.

“I want to keep it simple on the date, maybe dinner and a movie or just going for coffee.”

When asked if he was nervous, Bate sarcastically replied, “Me? Nervous? Yeah!” He later admitted that nervousness doesn’t apply to him and that he was excited to be involved.

“I went on a blind date once and it was the most awkward date I’ve ever been on,” Bate said. “I new to the area and didn’t really know what to do. I was hoping she would have some ideas, but nothing. We ended up driving around and talking for two hours.”

Another DJ up for auction is sophomore psychology major Pria Joshi, aka Suzy B.

“The whole thing sounded really fun and I’ve always wanted to be auctioned off,” Joshi said. “I have a boyfriend and at first he wasn’t too into the idea but he came around and is OK with it.

For the admittedly nervous Joshi, the idea of an Ellensburg night out is refreshing. “I haven’t tried too many restaurants around here. It would be nice to do something like this or speed dating,” Joshi said.

According to Songsangchamtara, the proceeds will go to buy promotional items, giveaways and to expand the music catalog for The ‘Burg’s specialty shows.

“The money will go directly to the ‘Burg and help us to keep things running,” Songsangchamtara said.

I really love The ‘Burg and want to support it any way I can.

Doris Torres aka Janet D
PUBLIC RELATIONS MAJOR

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Penoncello enjoying season so far

by Laura Mittieider
Staff reporter

Graduating this spring, senior Matt Penoncello has been hitting the books and the court hard this basketball season.

Penoncello, #20, says that his college basketball experience has been just what he thought it would be.

In addition to the great games, there have been a few setbacks in Penoncello’s time here at Central.

With a new kind of injury Penoncello hasn’t experienced before, he was not sure how it was going to play out.

He separated his shoulder early on but the team did a great job of supporting him as he healed and returned to the court. “The experience was great,” said Penoncello. “It was just like I thought it would be like in high school.”

Penoncello has been setting personal best all season long on the court.

With a season high of 33 points in Fairbanks, Alaska Penoncello has been doing well after his injury.

Penoncello had a double-double with 22 points and nine rebounds in the first 20 minutes of that game.

On Jan. 10 against Anchorage, Penoncello put up 12 points of his 16 in the final 20 minutes of the game to seal the victory for the Wildcats.

With the numbers he is putting up and the injuries he has come back from, it just goes to show how big his heart is for the game.

Along with his shoulder injury, Penoncello for our Central Wildcat’s went down hard on Jan. 15 against the visiting team Seattle Pacific.

He came down wrong on his ankle and left the game with 4:38 remaining. The coach quickly got him off his feet and had ice on his ankle, within seconds of him being helped off the court.

“He will play through anything,” said wife Kelan Penoncello.

Before exiting the game Penoncello posted a double-double with 24 points and 13 rebounds.

Penoncello has one moment that has been his most memorable.

Last season the polls were starting to bother players and when the team came back, they won two big games at home and got into the post season.

However the Wildcats spirits were stopped short when they lost their first game of the playoffs on a last second shot.

Penoncello is an economic business major, and has extensive plans for his future as well.

According to his wife, they are thinking of going overseas to continue his basketball career.

The season is slowly coming to an end and number 20 is nearing his graduation day.

The Wildcats are ranked fifth in the first official NCAA Division II West Region poll of the 2008-2009 season, which came out Jan. 28, 2009.
Before 4 p.m., the players come to field house 109 in Nicholson Pavilion one after another. Staff members of Central's Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) are rushing to prepare for the game.

They set white plastic fences to surround the soccer field and place the digital timer outside of the field.

Compared to Europeans, Americans are more likely to prefer other sports such as football or baseball to soccer. But many students at Central Washington University love soccer and the diversity makes the league like the World Cup.

Phuong Nguyen, freshman business major from Vietnam, also joins the Central intramural league every weekend. His team, Azzurri, joins the competitive league and is mainly composed of Vietnamese exchange students.

Today, his team plays with the Lost Boys, composed of American students. "I love soccer," Nguyen said. "I came here last quarter to play soccer to make friends."

Nguyen had attended a high school in Houston, Texas as an exchange student and a few years before he came to Washington.

After high school, he went back to Vietnam and he returned to the United States a few months ago. At 4 p.m., the players gather on the field. Azzurri's game is starting. The players on Azzurri wear blue and yellow uniforms. On the uniforms are the number and name of the team's sponsors, Viet nam Airline.

"Some players are from the company, Vietnam Airline," Nguyen said. "That's why they wear Vietnam Airline's uniforms."

Each game is 40 minutes long. Each team about when something large happened, he decided to throw the ball to anyone wearing a helmet. "Deaf!" ["Good" in Vietnamese]."

Nguyen yells at his teammates to cheer them from the sidelines of the field. He takes a break for a while. Many drops of sweat stick to his face. They all play hard, but the Lost Boys beat them by a score of 15-7.

"We lost the game but soccer is a really fun sport," said Tri Nguyen, a Vietnamese American and graduated engineering technology major student, said. "I am tired of school pretty much. I need to play soccer to take fresh air.

"It's really fun to play with players from other countries," said Kevin Eggen, senior business marketing major and staff of Central is recreation center.

Eggen plays soccer for the Lost Boys. "Everybody has different play styles. I like to see that," Eggen said.

Central intramural soccer takes place every Saturday and Sunday at Nicholson Pavilion.

There are 10 teams, including the team from Asia University America Program (AUAP). They make up two leagues, co-ed and competitive.

"Anyone can play," Eggen said. "Even women can play with men and enjoy the game."

photo by Tetsu Takiguchi

Coaches and GMs take rap for poor play

In today's society, "instant gratification" has become somewhat of a norm. We want things done fast and we want them to come easy.

This motto has become evident in the sports world. This NBA season has been one for the record books when the seventh coach was fired earlier this month. It became the most coach firings in a single season. It all began with Eddie Jordan of the Washington Wizards. The underachieving Wizards decided to fire Jordan early in the season, starting a trend in the NBA.

Toronto's Sam Mitchell, Philadelphia's Maurice Cheeks, Minnesota's Randy Wittman, Oklahoma City's P.J. Carlesimo, Sacramento's Reggie Theus, and Memphis' Marc Iavaroni have all seen the unemployment line since then.

The NBA isn't the only league with a plethora of firings. The NFL has joined the movement and has seen eight coaches fired since the beginning of the 2008 season. Scott Linehan, Mike Nolan, Lane Kiffin, Eric Mangini, Rod Marinelli, Romeo Crennel, Jon Gruden, and Mike Shanahan all lost their jobs after having disappointing seasons.

"What ever happened to the right players cause the success, while the remaining 25% goes to the coaches."

The reason for a team to have a losing season is almost always because they don't have the right players in the system. If we take a look at all the teams in the NFL, you can immediately spot the weakness.

The Rams had a very questionable offensive line and defense, while their players battled a lack of a good quarterback and had to settle with backup J.T. O'Sullivan. The Raiders are just a young team with a quarterback that needs a mentor to help him develop.

The Buccaneers have a solid team, but just didn't play consistently down the stretch. The Jets ran into problems when Brett Favre forgot who was on his team and decided to throw it to anyone wearing a helmet.

The Browns had their quarterback issues. The Broncos were close to making it back into the playoffs, but sending seven running backs to injured reserve will step any team from making it to the post season.

The Lions? Well, they're the Lions. Calvin Johnson has shown promise, but with a lack of a star quarterback, and with a suspect defense, the Lions are still a few more seasons away from a winning season.

With that said I think the NFL firings are completely unjustified. I don't think it is the coach's fault that the team doesn't succeed. I feel the GMs have a much larger responsibility for the team's success. For the most part, they can pull the trigger on trades and signings, allowing for the pieces to come together.

The NBA is the same story. A perfect example that shows that the right players cause success is the Boston Celtics. Before last season, the Celtics looked like they'd never make it back to the playoffs, and head coach Doc Rivers looked like he was out of a job.

However, two trades later brought in Ray Allen from the unnamable Sonics, and Kevin Garnett from the Timberwolves, enabling the Celtics to have the best record in the NBA to win the Championship. People now look at Rivers like he's a great coach; however it was Danny Ainge who put it all together.

This shows how important GMs and executives are. They are the gatekeepers to the teams. Fire GMs, not coaches.
Amanda Umberger / Observer  
Junior guard Amanda Murdoch goes up for a lay-in against the Vikings on Saturday, Jan. 31 at Nicholson Pavilion. Central lost 72-82.

Stephanie Wenke, senior guard, put in a great effort with 29 points, but Central still lost to their rival Western Washington Vikings 82-72 on Saturday, Jan. 31 at Nicholson Pavilion.

This defeat puts the Wildcats at 3-14 on the season overall, and 0-6 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) play. The win puts the Vikings at 12-5 overall and 4-2 in GNAC play.

Along with the 29 points, Wenke shot 10-16 from the field and 1-2 from the three. Wenke was averaging 5.3 points per game coming into Saturday’s game, though she was hurt for most of the year.

The Wildcats kept it close in the first half until the Vikings went up one point with 4:49 to 12 points up with 10 seconds left. The Vikings went into halftime ahead by that same spread, 31-43.

The Wildcats fought back in the second half by out-scoring Western 41-39, but it wasn’t enough, as they lost their seventh straight game.

“We ran our sets pretty well tonight which is a big improvement,” Wenke said. “We need to step up defensively. You can’t give up 82 points and expect to win a game. We put up offensively good numbers, but you can’t give up that many points...You got to play tough half court D, too.”

It was a shooter’s game, as Central shot 50 percent from the field and Western shot 57.1 percent from the field.

Two other Wildcats were in double digits as junior guard Amanda Murdoch had 15 and junior forward center Shaina Afoa had 11. Hilary Tanneberg added nine rebounds to lead the team.

Amanda Dunbar, sophomore guard, led the Vikings with 20 points and they had three others in double figures; Claire Pallansch, senior center, with 18, Jessica Summers, senior forward, with 16 and Willow Cable, junior forward, with 10.

The Wildcats will stay at home as they try to avenge their 34-57 loss against Seattle Pacific.

The game will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday Feb. 5 in Nicholson Pavilion. Seattle Pacific is coming off a 66-46 win over Montana State Billings. That win brought them to 13-4 overall and 6-2 in the GNAC.

Junior forward Katie Torland is their leading scorer averaging 16.8 points per game. She also leads in rebounds with a 6.9 per game average.

Sarah Zahler, sophomore guard, is their deep threat, averaging 58.2 percent from three point range.

“The key is she is going to get her points. If we can keep her to 15 or 16 I can live with that. Then you got to keep everybody else right at or below their averages,” Wildcat Head Coach Jeff Whitney said.

Junior center Katie Torland is their leading scorer averaging 11.9 points per game. Kelsey Hill, senior center, is their leading rebounder with an average of 6.7 per game.

Seattle Pacific brings a very good shooting team as seven players average over 40 percent from the field, and they average 43 percent as a team this season.

The key will be to watch footage of their last game against Seattle Pacific.

“Just watch film, really,” Murdoch said. “It’s not us, it’s not the teams that we are playing, it’s us understanding what we are doing wrong and fixing the things.”

After Seattle Pacific, Central will play the Western Oregon Wolves at Western Oregon in the New PE Building.

The game starts at 2 p.m. on Saturday Feb. 7. As of Jan. 31, the Wolves are 8-10 overall and 3-4 in the GNAC.

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Wildcats dominate at home court

by Laura Mitteler
Staff reporter

On Jan. 29 the Wildcats took on the Northwest Nazareth University Crusaders. The Wildcats started out with a 1-0 lead after senior guard Johnny Spevak sunk a free throw 2:03 into the first half. Senior guard Matt Penoncello scored two points to put the Wildcats up to 3-0.

The ball finally got rolling after a rough start for both teams around the 11 minute mark of the first half.

While starting out slow, the score finally reached double digits, making it 11-5 at 11:03.

Central went in at halftime with a 36-31 lead.

"We knew we were in for it," said junior guard Chris Scott. "We knew we had to limit their shots."

Once they hit the court again the Crusaders quickly started coming back from behind and took the lead by the 10 minute mark of the half.

They had a lead of two points until Penoncello came back and tied the score with a king-sized dunk.

"It was a great street fight," said Head Coach Greg Sparling.

Spevak matched his season high with 15 points and contributed seven points to the 11 point run to break the 65-65 tie.

The win bumped the Wildcats' record to 11-4 overall and 5-2 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC).

Central finished out the game with a 46.7 shooting percentage and 21 assists with only 10 turnovers.

The Wildcat defense was also putting up the points with 14 steals with 16 Crusader turnovers.

Scott had a key steal in the end and made it a Wildcat ball to secure the win.

"It felt great, I knew it was coming," Scott said.

Scott walked away with a game high of six assists and only one turnover.

On Jan. 31 the Wildcats continued their winning streak by defeating the Seattle Pacific University Falcons 91-83.

This win is the Wildcat's seventh straight season win, which brought Central to a 12-4 record overall and 6-2 in the GNAC.

Senior forward Brandon Foote had his first career double-double with a career high of 27 points and 12 rebounds.

Foote kept pursuing the court adding seven assists to his stats.

After falling behind, the Wildcats fought back and extended a 22-5 run.

Senior guard Colton Monti added a three-point shot to put the team into double figures in the first half.

The second half of the game is where Foote dominated the court with 15 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

The team as a whole made 22 of the 27 foul shots given to them by their opponents.

Along with Foote, senior forward Jake Beiting contributed to the big win with 17 points, five rebounds and three steals.

The team ended the game with and eight-point lead.

The Wildcats closed out the game with a score of 72-69. They will be hitting the road for their next five games.

Their next home game will be Saturday Feb. 7 where they face off with the Western Oregon University Wolves.

Brandon Foote was named co-offensive player of the week for the GNAC for his 27 points, 12 rebounds, and seven assists against Seattle Pacific.

It was Central's seventh straight season win against the Falcons.

Foote shares the award with WWU's Ira Graham.

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