The Teachers of the Year Informational Panel is held annually by the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). Meant to inspire students going into the field of education, they offer a panel that shares stories from the top educators in the state of Washington.

The panel, held on Thursday, Feb. 19, consisted of Central Washington University Alumni - Teacher of the Year Susan Johnson, language arts teacher from Cle Elum High School; Physical Education Teacher of the Year Brian Hagbo from Ellensburg High School, and Science Association Elementary School Science Teacher of the Year Amber Farthing of Lincoln Elementary School.

Assistant Principal of the Year Mike O’Donnell of Cle Elum-Roslyn High School was unable to attend due to taking care of a problem with a student.

Dr. Tracey Pellet introduced the panelists to the audience.

"The key word when I look at these three, read about these three and hear about these three is ‘excellence,’" Pellet said.

Johnson said that she knew she wanted to be a teacher when she took a class where everyone shared ideas about serious issues, such as the economy and civil rights.

"I knew then that I wanted to be able to discuss these issues in my own classroom," Johnson said.

One of the ways Johnson does this is by having her students write about themselves and share their thoughts during the first part of the school year.

"It’s really important to examine yourself," Johnson said. "Ask yourself if you are bringing a passion to the classroom.”

Hagbo joked to students that he wouldn’t make them do exercises. He has had to change the way he teaches his courses by not focusing only on traditional P.E. activities.

"Ellensburg is great," Hagbo said. "It’s been a great opportunity.”

Hagbo said that his P.E. classes include the use of a climbing wall. According to Hagbo, one of the most inspirational parts of his job was when a student who was afraid of heights finally made it to the top.

Hagbo said that the pyramid of success is a strong influence on his approach to P.E.

"Think outside of the box,” Hagbo said.

Farthing said that she likes teaching her classes with a hands-on approach, where students learn about science in a fun and entertaining way.

"Be mindful of the science of teaching,” Farthing said. "It really works.”

Angela Moore, CTL Secretary-Senior, was one of the organizers for the program and said that she thought that it was very successful and inspirational for educating students.

"I hope that it answers some of the questions and eased some of their fears and shows them what they can accomplish," Moore said.

Shanelle Kelley, senior elementary and special education major, said that she enjoyed the panel and tried to take the advice given to her and other students.

"I think we learned that it’s a lot of work to be a teacher,” Kelley said.
Visual Stimulation

"With every mistake we must surely be learning." The Beatles

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CORRECTION

Student Residence Lottery
In last week’s issue, the story “Lottery determines 952 new residents,” stated the new student residences would hold 952 new students between the two new buildings. The actual number of openings for the new residence, combined, is 476.

SI Leadership Tutors
Dr. Neil McFarlane is Director of Academic Achievement Programs, and his name was spelled wrong in last week’s issue.

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Registration begins at 9:00pm
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The Observer is a class in which students are constantly learning how to interview, report and produce a newspaper.
Pearl’s Closes: Co-owning couple says goodbye to customers

by Kevin Opasch
Staff reporter

A local restaurant in downtown Ellensburg will be serving meals for the last time this Saturday.

Pearl’s on Pearl Wine Bar and Bistro, located at 311 N. Pearl St., will close its doors on Feb. 28. Co-owner Ron Kohler said that the rising costs of business during the economic recession are becoming too much of a burden for them to stay open. During the fall, the business saw a 20 percent drop in customers.

“We definitely have mixed emotions about closing,” Kohler said. “We’re definitely going to miss the joy of owning a restaurant, of entertaining our friends … one of the things we won’t miss is that in this business, you really work every single day. But, it’s bittersweet.”

Kohler co-owns the restaurant with his wife, executive chef Cinda Kohler, who graduated from Central Washington University in 1981 with a bachelor’s degree in food science and holds 30 years of cooking experience. Kohler says Cinda always looks to combine her unique culinary background with her strong management skills. The first week, the local bistro did not advertise; all of their customers came through word of mouth. Mr. Kohler said they were “incredibly busy” the first few months, and Pearl’s soon gained a reputation as one of the most popular restaurants in town.

“It’s called your honey-moon period,” Mr. Kohler said. “People come here there’s a new restaurant in town, [and] people like you and they see your new menu and they want to come back for the same experience.”

The Kohlers keep a cellar of full wines from around the state of Washington in the bistro to serve their customers. In the fall 2007 issue of Wine Press Northwest Magazine the bistro was featured for their wine collection. Pearl’s, a critically acclaimed restaurant, was given four awards by the Daily Record for the Best of Kittitas County 2007, including, “best place to take a date,” “best live music,” “best restaurant service” and “best fine dining.”

According to Mr. Kohler, a troubling economy isn’t the only thing that is forcing Pearl’s to close. In just two years, the restaurant’s rent has jumped from $1,300 to $1,750. Larry Nickel, the building’s landlord, was contacted on the reason for the increase, but could not contact due to a legal procedure.

Local customers, including Central faculty and staff and Ellensburg City Council members, said their goodbyes to the Kohlers and their staff this past week. Many of them said that they are sad to see the downtown bistro go.

“We all lose when a respected business closes,” said Gerald Brong of Ellensburg, a long time Pearl’s customer. “Years of service by good people do build memories.”

Susan Cox, program assistant in the president’s residence at Central, said Pearl’s has been a favorite place for a long time.

In the last week Pearl’s is running specials to close out the store. Mr. Kohler said the bistro has seen an increase in customers, but it was probably because people wanted to see them one last time. “We just want everything gone,” Kohler said.

The Kohlers will take time after closing on Saturday to clean out the bistro, and then begin to look for a new job. Kohler did not speculate on when or if he and his wife would start another business in Ellensburg.

Ellensburg has 1,600 business licenses and with 236 businesses located downtown, according to a Chamber of Commerce survey taken in June 2008. Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Ron Criddlebaugh said that the restaurant business is getting hit particularly hard in the economic recession, as the cost to produce food, and labor costs for workers, has gone up. Also, Ellensburg residents and others across the country are shifting their buying habits.

Kohler, a former executive director of the Chamber himself, said a lot of residents are hitting the buying “convenience food,” a cheaper alternative to more expensive restaurants.

“One of the types of restaurants that are hit hardest during an economic recession [is] the higher quality ones,” Criddlebaugh said. “As the economy gets tighter, people aren’t able to spend the same amount of money as they had before.”

Central students and faculty receive more spam control

by Quinn Eddy
Asst. News editor

If everything goes according to plan at the next meeting of Central Washington University’s Student Tech Committee, students will receive an update to their e-mail accounts. This update will allow for greater control over the amount of spam coming into their accounts.

“If there’s someone you don’t want to get an e-mail from, you can now block e-mails,” said Carmen Rahm, Assistant Vice President for Information Technology.

According to Information Technology Services, in an average month 90,000 e-mails are received from off campus. 84.5 percent of incoming e-mails are either blocked by fresh at the Precise-Mail spam filter.

Before e-mail reaches GroupWise, it goes through three main filters that check for spam and viruses. The first step is the blacklist check. Here, mail is sent through algorithms such as SpamHouse, which specifically points out and neutralizes spam from known spammers.

“These sites say, ‘hey, all the e-mail coming from this domain is bad stuff’—those just get blocked,” Rahm said.

From the blacklist check, mail passes through the Precise-Mail spam filter.

“According to IT Services, all e-mail received from off-campus sources undergoes a scoring process in the Precise-Mail spam filter. Depending on the e-mail’s spam score, Precise-Mail determines whether or not to allow the mail to proceed to the next stage.”

With increased control over the Precise-Mail spam filter, users will now be able to adjust their “quarantine level” settings.

“Users can go in and customize for themselves; the number can be made lower but not higher,” Rahm said.

When e-mail is sent to quarantine, mail is considered spam and held for 14 days. If an e-mail was unnecessarily quarantined it can be retrieved.

“The big difference is that you can accept or reject mail on the basis of a block and allow list,” said Roland Tollefson, Associate Director with Central Washington University’s Computing and Telecommunications Services.

Following the Precise-Mail filter, e-mail reaches the Sophos Virus Scanning software to be checked for known viruses. Once that is completed, the mail is sent to student and faculty inboxes.

“I think a spam blocker would be a great addition to our e-mail accounts,” Angelica Mejia, junior Spanish education major said. “I’d rather not deal with all the junk e-mail so that’s a plus.”

“From a support perspective, it’s one less help desk call,” Rahm said. “The best help desk call is the one that the user doesn’t have to make.”

IT Services hopes to have this update set in place for students by late March or early April.
Every morning when Dan Zacharias wakes up, instead of getting ready for work, he must sit down and receive a two-hour breathing treatment. Then he must continue to take albuterol every four hours to keep his airways open—all the while being connected to three liters of oxygen.

His wife, Abbey, describes her husband’s daily activities as if they were a normal part of every American’s day. It is a day in the life of someone with cystic fibrosis (CF).

“Never once, have I heard Dan complain about having CF,” Abbey said. “Some days he will say he doesn’t feel like doing [the treatments], but he never complains about it. He knows that this is what he needs to do to keep living.”

CF is a hereditary disease that affects the mucus glands in the lungs, liver, pancreas and/or intestines. It is a progressive disability, due to a multi-system failure, and is caused by a mutation in a specific gene.

In the early stages, incessant coughing, abundant phlegm production, and decreased ability to exercise are common. Many of these symptoms occur when bacteria that normally inhabit the thick mucus grow out of control and cause pneumonia. In later stages of CF, changes in the architecture of the lung further worsen the already present difficulties in breathing.

The UESL program is for those of foreign cultures who want to study English. Approximately half of the students in the program continue their education and earn a bachelor’s degree at Central. Students in the UESL program want to learn English and experience American culture. Students want to learn more about American culture, hopes of attending Central in the future or wanting a better understanding of English. Students from foreign colleges are not the only people enrolled in the UESL program. Two men from Nepal, who live in Quincy, Wash., also participate in some UESL programs. Residents have more flexibility within the program, which can be tailored to an individual’s specific needs.

One student who lives on Central’s campus is Chae Won (Amy) Jeon, who came to Ellensburg in January.

“It is difficult for me to talk with Americans because my English is not good,” said Jeon, a Korean participant in the UESL program. “I can have only short conversations.”

One of the components of the program involves matching students with American conversation partners. UESL students can choose not to participate in the conversation partner program, but most do.

American conversation partners are Central students enrolled in classes that require international conversation partnerships, give extra credit for or recommend participation by instructors.

Conversing across languages throughout Central’s campus

by Megan Hammond
Special to Observer

For students or faculty who frequently cross Central Washington University’s campus, most will notice its diversity. This is due in large to the English as a Second Language (UESL) Program.

“The UESL program is for those of foreign cultures who want to study English,” said Steve Horowitz, Director of the UESL Program. “These students should not be confused with exchange students.”

Horowitz added that many American students and faculty confuse the UESL students (who go through a separate admission process) with foreign exchange students who come to Central through exchange programs or from other universities. Those enrolled in the UESL program do not attend Central for a set period of time, and can stay for as long as they please while they progress through the different levels of their individual education program. Approximately half of the students in the program continue their education and earn a bachelor’s degree at Central.

Students in the UESL program want to learn English and experience American culture. Students want to learn more about American culture, hopes of attending Central in the future or wanting a better understanding of English. Students from foreign colleges are not the only people enrolled in the UESL program.

“Students from foreign colleges are not the only people enrolled in the UESL program.”

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The UESL program is for those of foreign cultures who want to study English.

Steve Horowitz
UESL Program Director

Communication professor Cesar Garcia offers conversation partnerships as an option for intercultural communication classes. Students who participate must meet with someone from a foreign country, but have the option of collaborating with the UESL program.

“I think that some people in this part of the country have not had the opportunity to meet and get to know someone in depth from another country,” Garcia said.

Sophomore special education major Courtney Peters met with her conversation partner from Japan and enjoyed the conversation they had.

“We just talked about ourselves, where we’re from, our families, stuff like that,” Peters said. “It was kind of difficult to communicate because she had trouble pronouncing some English words and I’m deaf. It wasn’t easy, but still fun.”

Another difficulty that UESL students experience comes from American student assignees not responding to attempts of contact by the UESL student.

“I had a conversation partner with my conversation partner to play basketball, but I called him the night before and his phone was out of service, so I do not know what happened to him,” said Patrick Peng, UESL student from China who arrived in America on Dec. 15, 2008. “I don’t need a different conversation partner because I talk to many Americans, and I have lots of American friends. Americans are friendly and nice, so I make friends very easy.”

American students do not have to be enrolled in a class where the UESL program is offered to sign up for a conversation partner.

For more information

Contact Steve Horowitz at 963-1375 or visit the International Center for a simple application.

Photo courtesy of Abbey Zacharias

Dan Zacharias awaits a donor for a lung transplant to treat his CF.
First off, I want to tell [Ms. Schroader], I absolutely agree with your expression of discontent for contemporary film, at least what Hollywood churns out. What happened to the great studio days of old, when Carey Grant and Humphrey Bogart owned the "town"? I don't have an answer to that question, sadly. For quite some time it has been my opinion that if I want to see a quality picture I'd best be looking in the independent market or overseas with foreign language films. It's for this reason that I seldom spend my time watching new movies in a theater, but rather in my home on a DVD player.

Eight DVDs straight! I commend your devotion! I'm only sorry you had to suffer through 'Surfer Dude' AND 'My Best Friend's Girl' in one sitting. I have one question: Had you read anything about 'Funny Games' prior to watching it? This is an interesting film. What Michael Haneke has chosen to do is turn his tools against the viewer in an attempt to make us realize the absurdity of our own love for violence. In a way he's chastising us. The two antagonists are driven by some unmistakably dysfunctional boredom. Even when the plot takes a turn for the better (in the middle of it) Haneke allows them to literally rewind time and correct their mistake. The payoff for the viewer is nil. Haneke originally made this film in his native tongue back in 1997, and during a screening at the Cannes Film Festival many people walked out. Apparently he felt his script was necessary for the majority of our spoiled generation know about a great depression? Not much, I'm guessing. There is only so much you can learn from his film, 'The Grapes of Wrath.'

I prefer to look at the world with optimistic eyes. Nonetheless, with graduation creeping less, with graduation creeping right around the corner, we have to be realistic. Get your ducks in a row people. Prepare those internships. Send out those resumes. Spread your wings and network! Because who wants to invest thousands of dollars on those kids who opted for minimum wage job? You have heard of the genre mumblecore? This is one of those. Two complete strangers getting to know one another and the excitement, confusion and spontaneity of all that encompasses it. In the eighth paragraph, you claimed that our tutors "miss their tutor-ing sessions sometimes ... In effect [the tutees are] teaching themselves.

The community transit program is a transportation program that would provide "safe transportation" for any community members at night. Considering our town has a limited taxi cab service at night (in the family's case) Haneke allows them to literally rewind time and correct their mistake. The payoff for the viewer is nil. Haneke originally made this film in his native tongue back in 1997, and during a screening at the Cannes Film Festival many people walked out. Apparently he felt his script was necessary for the majority of our spoiled generation know about a great depression? Not much, I'm guessing. There is only so much you can learn from his film, 'The Grapes of Wrath.'

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Tripping on technology

Justine Fowler
Copy desk

Technology has advanced so far beyond what people expected in the last 10 years. I wonder sometimes, if all this new technology is making our lives easier or more complicated.

There have been advances in technology over the last five years that have affected how we communicate with each other. These advances include (you guessed it) Facebook and MySpace. These two forms of technology are meant to be friend networks, places where you can keep in touch with friends and also reconnect with old friends.

I can’t help but wonder though, if we have taken it too far. There are few people this day and age who don’t have a Facebook or MySpace account, and many people have both. It has been stated that on average, people check these sites three times a day. MySpace and Facebook are also among the top Web sites visited daily. This sounds great; I mean all these people are staying in touch, but have we lost all sense of common courtesy in the process of being so dependent on the Internet? Are we too open about our lives, putting everything on these sites?

On average, people’s Facebook and MySpace pages include everything from their birthdays to their contact information and personal information, like who they are in a relationship with. You never call a person anymore to see what they are doing; you simply check their Facebook status. Plus you don’t invite people to parties by word of mouth, you just send them an invite. And if I hear one more person say they are going to message me on Facebook or MySpace, I might just scream!

Culinary Corner:
Beef Burgundy over noodles

Rachel Guillermo
Culinary Columnist

It’s snowing again. And when it’s snowing, all I want to do is stay at home where it’s nice and warm. Unfortunately, there’s a little thing called school. I like to do is use my slow cooker to make my meals during the week. There is nothing better than coming home to eat something nice and warm. For those of you who don’t have a slow cooker, here is one of my favorites, modified so that it can be cooked in a regular pot.

The best thing about this recipe is that you can make one day and it tastes even better the next.

Ingredients
-1/2 C. flour
-1 tsp. salt
-3/4 tsp. black pepper
-2 lb. beef stew meat (precut meat)
-3 bacon slices, chopped
-1 C. chopped onions
-1 C. sliced carrots
-4 cloves garlic, minced
-1/4 C. dry red wine
-1 (16 oz.) can beef broth
-3 C. halved mushrooms
-2 tsp. fresh thyme chopped

Directions
Combine the flour, half of the salt and 1/4 of the pepper in a bowl. Mix. Add the beef to the flour mixture and mix to coat.

In a large heavy pot, cook the bacon drippings, making sure to shake off any extra flour. Cook for approximately five minutes, browning all sides. If all the beef can’t fit, divide it into two batches. Remove beef from pan, cover to keep warm and set aside.

Add chopped onions, carrots and garlic to the pan, sauté for approximately five minutes, browning all sides. If all the beef can’t fit, divide it into two batches. Remove beef from pan, cover to keep warm and set aside.

Add chopped onions, carrots and garlic to the pan, sauté for approximately five minutes, browning all sides. If all the beef can’t fit, divide it into two batches. Remove beef from pan, cover to keep warm and set aside. Add the remaining ingredients except the noodles and parsley to the pan and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 45 minutes. Uncover and cook for one hour or until beef is tender. Stir occasionally.

Discard bay leaf and serve stew over hot cooked noodles and garnish with parsley.

You can send your comments, questions and concerns to cwculinarycorner@gmail.com.

Packing peeves need new solution

Every quarter: new students arrive, all the parking spaces fill up until the next academic year and everyone knows it. Unfortunately, there never seem to be any solutions, except to create even more parking lots. Well, there is a better solution that doesn’t involve tearing down trees and paving the ground over in black tar.

There are already 24 student parking lots, 16 of which allow overnight parking as well as a few side streets around campus. The parking lots closest to the SURC and the Bassettis are the main lots that people complain about being full. As always, the lots farthest from campus are the ones that do not allow overnight parking.

These, of course, are the most inconvenient when trying to make a quick stop into the SURC or when late to class. The mentality behind driving to school for people living close to campus is that they are running late, will be there until after dark, have too many things to carry or are just plain lazy.

Someone who is running late will circle the lots closest to campus, trying to find a space, rather than parking farther away and walking. Circling usually takes more time.

If you look around campus for a space along the street, you’ll be truly lucky to find one mid-week. Most of the streets lining campus either don’t allow parking unless you live in the area and have a parking pass, don’t allow parking at all or allow two hours parking, with a few exceptions.

Then there is the matter of freshman cars. Most freshmen with cars will pay to park on campus because there is limited free parking off campus. The problem with this situation is that they park in the overnight parking lots which, again, are the closest to campus and thus our issue arises.

Of course, not all freshmen drive home for the weekend or breaks to visit family; they usually carpool to save money or don’t go at all. Those freshmen who have jobs usually work nearby which doesn’t make it any easier. All that needs to happen to free up parking spaces is to switch some signs around. The parking lots farthest from campus should switch to the “overnighters” and the ones closest should be open for day parking only.

With that little switch, more parking spaces closer to campus will be available and open to the general student living off campus, running late, staying late, carrying too much stuff or just being lazy.

Random words with...

*I think [slippers] are the sho...I just bought some. They have to have a hard sole so I can wear them to class.*

Jordan Clark
Junior
Construction management

*A If I were an animal...I would kill things and eat them.*

*R How often should you check your Facebook/MySpace? No more than once a day, but I break my own rule all the time.*
Forty-eight hours to write a script, gather a cast, shoot and edit footage and compose a score. That's the amount of time Central Washington University students had to create their film masterpiece last weekend as they competed in the first ever 48 Hour Film Slam put together by the Film and Video Studies Program.

Contestants gathered on Friday for a mandatory meeting to determine the required elements for the film short. Each of the four teams drew a random film genre out of a hat along with a prop (a necktie), a character (Max the Mayor) and a phrase ("If you can't stand the heat...") that must be incorporated into the film. From there they were let loose to create to their heart's desire, provided that a final copy was submitted by the deadline of 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Winners were determined by an audience vote and a panel of judges based on categories such as best directing, best screen writing and best acting. The honors were handed out at the film screening in McConnell Auditorium.

Michael Ogden, program director for Film and Video Studies, who helped put the competition together, said his inspiration came from a similar enjoyable experience in his undergraduate years. "Some of the film programs like UNLV, USC, UCLA, these schools also have these 48 hour film competitions built into their curriculum. So we thought it would be fun to have one of our own," Ogden said.

Ogden feels that these types of hands-on, out-of-class applications will help students to get more out of the experience. "If you practice your craft in a crucible of 48 hours of no sleep, adrenaline and caffeine fueled creativity, that kind of a high stress situation is a really good test of a person's creativity and command of a genre and equipment they would use," Ogden said.

Many of the contestants could certainly attest to those high levels of stress and caffeine intake. Brian Iiyama, senior film and video studies major, said his project faced numerous obstacles ranging from having to reformulate the story because of a building being unavailable to having to deal with nearly all the theatre majors being out of town for a prior engagement.

Iiyama's project, "Man's Own Martyr," was a gritty, suspense-filled drama piece involving gleaming political figures and mysterious dead bodies. The film garnered the most awards Sunday night and was the work of students Iiyama, Jeff Knight, Jacob Chase, Nick Brown, Michael Winersey and Patrick Polsin. "The idea came from everywhere. We brainstormed and threw ideas out and the project just sort of developed on its own over the course of shooting," Iiyama said.

The group was certainly proud of their achievements, but for Iiyama more was to be had than simply getting an award nod. "Everything you do with film makes you a better filmmaker, so the experience itself is worthwhile," Iiyama said.

Another filmmaker in Sunday's competition, Kyle Boynton, senior film and video studies major, was faced with a different set of challenges. Boynton and his group drew the comedy genre and created a mockumentary called "Man of Cala" based on a mancala competition that's taken a bit too seriously. "The big challenge was that... we're not really funny people so just coming up with ideas and trying to figure out what would make other people laugh besides ourselves," Boynton said.

Yet, for Boynton being forced to make a film in a genre he might not otherwise delve into, was a valuable learning process. He admits that his team, who prefer to do thrillers or horror films, had some pre-planned ideas going into the competition. "Doing this helped us broaden our horizons into a different type of genre we hadn't done before," Boynton said.

Boynton, much like fellow filmmaker Iiyama, echoed the proverbial lesson learned about practice, practice, practice. "Any kind of film that you do helps you get better and better as you go on," Boynton said.

The 100 people in attendance for Sunday's slam is one indicator of the popularity of these events. Ogden hopes to continue these endeavors in the future.

In addition to the Apple Pie Film Festival planned for the spring, he plans to host the film slam every year. Sleeplessness and caffeine included.
Students ‘act out’ at Dr. Betty festival

by Michele Zorrilla
Special to Observer

Central Theatre Ensemble (CTE) will present the annual "Dr. Betty Evans Original One-Act Festival" at 7 p.m. on Feb. 27 and 28 and at 2 p.m. March 1 in the McConnell Auditorium.

The Festival showcases four individual productions written, directed and designed by Central Washington University students.

"The Bettys are fully mounted productions with sets, costumes, props, lighting and sound," said Michael J. Smith, CTE artistic director and co-producer of the Festival. "The Festival also provides entry-level opportunities for students to design and direct."

The process begins with a Brown Bag Series in the fall quarter where plays are presented to gauge audience responses. After several rewrites a bill of one-act plays is chosen for a full production. The acts may range from comedies to serious dramas.

"You never know what you're going to see," said Leslee Caul, CTE director of marketing and development. "It has been interesting to watch over the years, [you see] the same themes but with a different voice."

This season's Bettys run the gamut of themes, taking audiences on an emotional roller-coaster ride.

Sets include typical college apartments, a used bookstore and a spiritual caseworker's office. Themes such as friendship, romance, and facing your past are presented in both comedic and thought-provoking ways.

The scent of Cheerios wafts into the audience as Dan, played by Patrick Polsin and Sarah, played by Erin Hayes, rehearse for Dr. Betty Evans Original One Act Festival on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

"Dan Brown/Observer"

"We Think We're Funny." La-menting the woes of romance, they sink onto the cushions of a faded plaid couch surrounded by empty pizza boxes and ice cream cartons typical of a college student's apartment.

Unexpectedly, a kiss occurs, followed by sputtering, tumbling and a hastily drunk glass of water.

"We Think We're Funny" by Jeff Carpenter and Josh Darby, who graduated last year with a BA in theater arts, this past summer and is directing David Race's "Rob."

"Seeing a story take shape is wonderful; it's exactly what I didn't expect," Carpenter said. "[Directing] is very enjoyable, very challenging, and extremely collaborative."

For Jeff Carpenter, senior graphic design major and theatre arts major, this is his first full writing, as well as directing. Carpenter co-wrote "We Think We're Funny" with best friend Josh Darby, who graduated last year with a BA in theater arts, this past summer and is directing David Race's "Rob."

"I love the fact that our department allows us to pursue new works," Carpenter said. "It provides much needed experience to writers and directors. [And] it's not just about the individual shows, it's about the collective festival. We're all supporting each other."
Kweli, Chang promote ‘One Book’

by Erica Spaht & Darcy Wytko
Online Media

Tonight, at 7 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom, Central's One Book One Campus and Diversity Education Center will present "Talking Hip Hop with Talib Kweli and Jeff Chang."

Rap artist Kweli and music journalist Chang will debate the impact rap and hip-hop have on race, gender, sexuality, multiculturalism, and politics in society.

"People don't see both sides of rap. They don't see the culture and education of some rap," said Anthony Peterson, senior sociology and law and justice major, and co-president of the Black Student Union.

Kweli is a world-renowned hip-hop artist famed for his first album, "Quality," and his work with Mos Def in the rap duo Black Star.

Chang writes and debates on subjects such as race, culture and music. He is the organizer of the National Hip-Hop Political Convention and works for social change.

The discussion between Kweli and Chang is being held as part of CWU's One Book, One Campus program. This year's book, "This I Believe," focuses on 79 essays that were written by citizens and famous people such as Eleanor Roosevelt.

"We want to round out the presentation by bringing in Jeff Chang," said Marian Lien, director of the Diversity Education Center. "His award-winning book 'Can't Stop, Won't Stop' is a great read on how hip-hop as an art form has influenced society."

Some students feel that rap and hip-hop have a negative effect on today's society.

"Rappers often rap for three minutes about drugs, women, sex, money, and bling - and then the next track they rap about how they want God's forgiveness," said Zachary VanZanten, sophomore exercise science major. "Those two are going to have to 90 a lot to change my mind about hip hop and rap."

Peterson believes that rap deserves its place as a respected artistic medium.

"Rap in general is a cultural capital for African Americans," Peterson said. "Since the beginning of our history in America, music has helped us grow. If people have mixed feelings about hip-hop and rap then they need to come to this presentation - it will open their eyes."
Opportunities presented at festival

by Amy Thompson
Staff reporter

Central Washington University students in the theatre department spent four days showing off their creative work, attending seminars and gaining experience in their chosen fields of study.

At the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Conference this year, 700 students gathered in Moscow, Idaho. Students from nine western states attended the festival, including 41 students and faculty from Central. The festival took place Feb. 16 through Feb. 20.

This annual festival is a jam-packed event with opportunities for students involved in theatre to show their talents, make new acquaintances and attend conferences.

"When you go to an event like this, you never know who might offer you a job," said Michael Smith, artistic director of the Central Theatre Ensemble. "Or who might lead them to an organization that could get them a job. It's a way for them to see how they stack up to their peers in a region."

During the festival, there were conferences and events scheduled early in the morning until the late evening. Although much of the material is serious, there is also plenty of fun planned in the session, according to Smith.

There was a luau welcome party on opening night and an "improv" night where the students were allowed to relax and mingle with their peers.

"There is fun involved," Smith said. "This is a way to have fun, to learn, to meet people and make contacts. There is a number of possibilities for students."

Throughout the festival, eight Central students competed in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship auditions, which honor the students who are judged most talented in their art.

If students' acts are selected as finalists through the preliminary, semifinal, and final round they will have the opportunity to go to a national conference in Washington, D.C.

"It was a fantastic experience, you learned a lot taking classes while you were there," said Breann Walker, senior theatre performance major who had been to the festival the previous year. "I'm looking forward to learning more, refining skills, maybe running into some teachers I met last year. I feel very strong about our preparedness; we've been practicing this since October."

Walker performed two events at the festival with her partner Ryan Beard.

To be eligible to participate, Central students must be enrolled in a specific class in the theatre department where they are required to write papers and respond to workshops and other events they attend.

The student's works are judged and could be nominated to enter in a scholarship competition.

"I'll be performing in the Irene Ryan competition this year," said Amanda Carpp, sophomore theatre performance major. "Our works were nominated for being in shows last year too."

The Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship competition gives 19 awards to the students judged with the best performances. A select few are nominated to perform at another festival in Washington, D.C. where the competition continues with the possibility of winning more awards.
Cell phone donations conserve gorilla habitat

by Ryan Ricigliano
Staff reporter

Central Washington University has a rich history in the involvement of primate research and awareness. The university’s Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute (CHCI) is nationally and globally recognized. Degree options are available in the fields of primate behavior and ecology, and for students interested in learning more about humans’ closest relatives, a new student organization, the Primate Awareness Network Club, is now encouraging members to join.

“Our club has a lot of primate behavior and ecology students in it currently, but we’re hoping to get people from all different majors,” said Julie Reveles, senior primate technician for the CHCI, but Reveles said many of the members also volunteer with the center.

“I am really, really interested in conservation work that you can do from right where you are,” said Lisa Schuster, animal technician for the CHCI, and graduate of Central. “It’s a great way to become involved on a level where students are capable of getting involved.”

One way for Central students to get involved locally is through the recycled cell phone drive that the Primate Awareness Club is hosting. From Feb. 23 to March 6 there will be boxes placed in Dean Hall outside Primate Reading Room 204.

Students are encouraged to recycle any old cell phones they have, no matter the condition. The drive is being put on notably by Zoo Atlanta and is a really great apes. Reveles also hopes to put together an orangutan awareness week to inform students of one of the main problems: the production of palm oil. This heavily farmed oil is used throughout the world for cooking, personal care products and biofuel, but is obtained from prime orangutan habitats.

The whole idea of this Saturday’s showing is to raise awareness about the Ellensburg Film Festival and its efforts to involve students and unite the community.

“We are active all year and we are truly trying to bring something to the community,” Haven said. “We provide a place for people to see all kinds of films, especially when we live in a geographically challenged area. So many people can take advantage of this, especially students.”

Following the showing of “Beyond the Call” will be Bar Noir with DJ Dropkick.

“Abar Noir is different than what is around, you know you can get a drink anywhere and dance anywhere, but I try to bring a fun variety of music that you wouldn’t hear other places,” Sean LeClaire (DJ Dropkick) said. “It is really a unique event for Ellensburg and it is a place to dance and be social with a wide variety of people.”

While there is no cover charge, people do have to pay for drinks. However, they are not too expensive and donations are welcome.

“They do serve beer and other beverages, but wine tends to be brought in.” LeClaire said.

As the club’s goals is to start assemblies through local middle schools and high schools. She hopes to make kids aware of primate issues and concerns, while also informing them of the CHCI.

The Primate Awareness Club meets every other Thursday in the Glass Conference Room in Dean Hall. Its next meeting is at 7 p.m. on Thursday March 5.
Sports

Softball sweeps four games against Saint Martin's

by Laura Mitteldeier
Staff reporter

In their two day four game series against St. Martin's University the Wildcat softball team walked away with four big wins.

Central Washington University took game one with a score of 11-1 with help from senior shortstop Liz Wallace, who had four hits and six runs batted in (RBI) and junior first baseman Taylor Trautmann, who helped by going six for seven at the plate.

Eight of the nine Wildcat starters had hits that contributed to the game blow-out.

The game was put away for Central when freshman outfielder Natasha Wood and junior second baseman Molly Coppinger had back-to-back doubles which were followed by a two-run home run from senior second baseman Jackie Hawkins.

"What was impressive to me is when St. Martin's scored we always answered back," said Head Coach Gary Frederick.

Game one of the series ended after just four and half innings because of the substantial lead.

In game two of the series Central ended with a 11-4 win.

Junior pitcher Karina Reime opened the game throwing a perfect first three innings. She was then relieved in the sixth inning by freshman pitcher Lindy Baxter, who earned her first collegiate save.

"I think we are going to do really great this year," Baxter said.

On Feb. 23 in game three, with just a four-hit shutout, senior pitcher Linse Vlahovich struck out five players in the five innings she played.

The Wildcats jumped out on top with one run, then turned that into a seven-run load with six runs scored in the third inning.

Sunday's games were both big games, with six RBIs by senior shortstop Liz Wallace in both game one and game two.

The game was finished with a two-out-two run single in the bottom of the fourth by Wood. Game three of the series was promising with a 9-0 shut-out by the Wildcats.

Game four was started off with a three-run homerun by senior catcher Holly Rossman.

The bats were silent until the fifth inning when St. Martin's scored their first run but Central answered back with four more runs.

Coppinger pinch hit and came away with a two-run double. Central took advantage of a wild pitch and scored another run.

"It felt really good," said junior outfielder Danielle Monson.

Rossman scored in the sixth inning to make the final score of game four 8-4.

The Wildcats hit the road next weekend, to face arch rival Western Washington University Feb. 28 and March 1 before coming home again for two weeks.

Photos by Dan Brown / Observer

Top: Senior Pitcher Linse Vlahovich winds up during one of four games played against St. Martin's last weekend. Vlahovich gave up just one run in 10 innings and struck out 11 while only walking three. Vlahovich was named the Great Northwest Athletic Conference Pitcher of the Week, for the week of Feb. 16-22. This is her second pitcher of the week award of her career.

Left: Freshman outfielder and first baseman Natasha Wood hits the ball at this weekend's games. Wood finished 3 for 9 with three RBIs. Central won all four games and improved their overall record to 6-3 and their league record to 4-0.
**Wildcat bounce back with win**

by Andrew Hoggarth
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University Wildcats picked up a big win Thursday night against the Western Oregon Wolves.

The convincing 87-69 victory was the eighth win in their last 10 games and the Wildcats improved to 15-5 overall and 9-3 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) play. Ranked fifth in the NCAA Division II West Region this week, the Wildcats remain one-half game behind rival Western Washington in the GNAC standings with this victory.

Senior guard Giovanni Woods finished with his second career double-double, with 13 points and 15 rebounds. Woods made six of the 11 shots he took from the floor and his 15 rebounds were three more than his previous career high.

"We had to adjust our game because of injuries to some of our guys," Woods said. "We did a great job of running the fast break, getting up and down the floor, and playing a more fast-paced game."

Senior forward Brandon Foote led all scorers with 21 points and 15 rebounds for the second career double-double, including 1,752 hits, 1,152 strokes, and junior Riley Sivak came off the bench to score nine points and grab seven rebounds in just seven minutes.

The Wildcats dominated on the glass, pulling down 49 rebounds (21 offensive and 28 defensive) compared to the Wolves' 23 total rebounds. The lack of rebounding efficiency really hurt the Wolves, as the Wildcats used those 21 offensive rebounds and turned them into 41 second-chance points, including 28 in the second half.

"The coach, reiterated before the game that we need to do a good job rebounding," Woods said. "He challenged the guards to clean up the missed free throws and pick up any lose rebounds so that we can get out and run [the fast break]."

Senior forward Travis Kuhns led the Wolves with 16 points. The Wolves, as a team, shot 37.5 percent in the first half before being cooled to 38.5 percent in the second half and finished at 48.1 percent for the game.

With just four games left in the regular season, every game from here on out becomes critical.

"These upcoming games are huge," Foote said. "These are the biggest games of the year so far and we have to take care of our home court. If we can do that, I think we will be the GNAC champs."

The Wildcats had their final bye of the season on Saturday and will return to play three straight games beginning on Thursday, Feb. 26 against Alaska Anchorage and continuing on Saturday, Feb. 28 against Alaska as part of a doubleheader at Nicholson Pavilion. After that, they will be at home again to play Montana State Billings before heading to Western Washington for their final regular season game.

**Griffey comes back to Seattle to finish out career**

Nearly two decades ago on April 3, 1989 a young player was introduced to the Major Leagues by the Seattle Mariners.

He quickly became not only a very respected player in the league, but a huge fan favorite within the 11 years he was with the Mariners.

He won the American League Most Valuable Player award in 1997 and 10 consecutively sold out home games from 1990 to 1999.

He had a career .297 batting average with the Mariners. This included 1,752 hits, 1,152 runs batted in (RBIs), and 396 home runs.

People became to know him simply as "The Kid," otherwise known as Ken Griffey, Jr. Griffey is also a very good hitter at the Chicago White Sox when he was traded from the Reds to the White Sox at the end of the season.

A raging debate now exists over the acquisition of "The Kid" back to Seattle. Some even call this move a gimmick just to bring the fans back to watch the Mariners, who have struggled, to say the least, over the past seven years.

They haven’t made the playoffs since 2001 and haven’t had a winning record since 2003.

This is a good move by the Mariners. First off, Griffey is still a big presence in the lineup. Last year he was hurt, and it showed in his stats. He hit around .250 with 18 home runs and 71 RBIs.

Yes, he is 30 years old but if healthy, Griffey is still capable of hitting, at least. 270.

The year before last, Griffey hit 30 home runs and drove in 93 runs.

Plus, Griffey’s performance last year on a bad leg was better than the combined numbers of the 16 players the Mariners used in the designated hitter spot, the place where Griffey will likely get most of his playing time.

I am not saying Griffey will carry the team, the other players have to produce as well, but Griffey’s leg is better and I think that Griffey can still put up decent numbers this season, especially with the short porch in right field at Safeco Field, which is very friendly to left-handed hitters like Griffey.

His presence will not only be felt on the field, but in the clubhouse as well. The Mariners have a very young team overall, and Griffey can help by mentoring the young players. Griffey is also a very good teammate and can help with the chemistry of the team.

Last year it was reported that there was some bickering that was going on in the clubhouse.

The Mariners have since gotten rid of the bad attitudes and the presence of Griffey will certainly help.

The Mariners, as most people in the Pacific Northwest have witnessed, haven’t lived up to fans’ expectations over the last seven years and ticket sales have gone down in response. The signing of Griffey will undoubtedly help get the ticket prices back up, as they have already begun to rise.

Last Thursday, 16,000 tickets were sold. In contrast, about 1,000 tickets were being sold per day before the signing of Griffey was announced.

Griffey is one of the most beloved figures in Mariners’ history. When Griffey came back to play at Safeco with the Reds, all three games of the series were sold out.

Baseball at Safeco will be redefined now that Griffey is back with the Mariners.

You can just imagine what it is going to be like at Safeco now that Griffey is back with the Mariners.

Many may think this is just a publicity stunt to attract fans to boost sales or, as I have made an argument for someone who can also help on the field as well as in the club house.

Griffey’s signing is going to be extremely positive for the Mariners.
The Wildcats came up short Wednesday night against Saint Martin’s, losing 74-55.

The loss was just a footnote to what really happened in the game.

With just four minutes in, senior guard Tanna Radtke severely injured her left knee when she was going after a loose ball near half court.

Nicholson Pavilion stood still while Radtke screamed in pain.

After being carried off the court, the Wildcats had the very difficult job of maintaining their early 6-3 lead.

Down to just six players, the Wildcats had no choice but to play conservatively.

They needed to be able to play almost the whole game, so overworking themselves was something they couldn’t do.

Central played the first half well, keeping the score close at 29-27.

Senior center Hilary Tanneberg had 12 points and six boards in the first half, while seniors Stephanie Wenke and Nicole Jordan added a combined 11 points and six rebounds.

While their game plan worked in the first half, it wasn’t as successful in the second.

“We had to contain Dara Zack and Jamey Gelhar,” said Head Coach Jeff Whitney. “We did that until we just ran out of gas.”

The Wildcats held Zack to five points and Gelhar to just four in the first half.

However Zack and Gelhar were able to score seven points in the second half.

Tanneberg came close to a double-double, scoring 18 points with 6 coming from beyond the arc.

Tanneberg finished one rebound short of a double-double with nine rebounds and 18 points.

“Tanneberg went off,” Whitney said. “They kept fighting, kept giving. Their legs just gave out. With Tanna healthy, it’s a win. We were ready to play.”

The emotions coming out of the locker room were overwhelming. Players were distraught by the losses of both the game, and another teammate.

The girls have been playing through adversity all season, and this blow just seems to be much bigger than it appears.

With just three of the six players playing healthy, the final five games of the season will pose a problem for Central.

Their biggest enemy this season has been durability.

Now the Wildcats will have to play safer than ever in order to keep five players on the court.

Their next game for the Wildcats was Saturday, Feb. 21 where Montana State Billings hosted the Wildcats.

Montana State is 12-10 overall, and 4-7 in GNAC play. They are coming off a 78-63 win over Sacramento State.

Erica Perry was the Wildcats’ main target.

Perry has scored 13.8 points per game, while averaging 3.7 assists. Nubia Garcia, and Ka-tie Bussey both average over 10 points per game.

The shorthanded Wildcats lost by 29 to Montana State Billings Saturday, Feb. 21. The 77-48 loss extends the losing streak at three.

While only suiting up six players, the Wildcats went to Allenwitz Gymnasium looking to just keep whatever remaining players healthy enough to finish out the season.

The Wildcats kept it close in the first half, only down 25-19, however a scoring run by Montana State helped the Yellowjackets to an 11 point lead with 18:45 left in the second half.

Central struggled to keep up, unable to cut the lead to less than seven points.

Senior forward Nicole Jordan led the team in rebounds with 15, to go along with her nine points.

Freshman Sophie Russell got her first start, scoring a career high 13 points, and grabbing five boards.

“I liked watching the flow of the game,” said Russell. “But now that it’s been a few months, I’m comfortable starting.”

She was the only Wildcat to hit from beyond the arc. Stephanie Wenke scored a team high 14.

“When the six players we had, we battled hard in the first half,” freshman Sophie Russell said. “The 3rd quarter was when we started to run out energy.”

Wenke has played in 161 out of the Wildcats’ 165 total minutes in the past four games.

The Yellowjackets found a hole in the defense in the second half, and was able to improve to 44 percent shooting, while the Wildcats shot a poor 24 percent.

Alira Carpenter helped Montana State by scoring 25 points, and pulling down four rebounds.

The loss brings the Wildcats to 5-18 overall, and 2-10 in GNAC play.

The Wildcats will be hosting top ranked Alaska Anchorage, at 5:15 p.m., on Thursday, Feb. 26, at Nicolson Pavilion.

The last time these two teams met, Alaska defeated the Wildcats 76-48.
Students miss out on OPR opportunities

by Satoshi Hasegawa
Staff reporter

On Saturday, Feb. 7, Kurt McCanelles, Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) expedition leader called participants to cancel Sunday's snowshoe trip. "We are not going to snowshoe tomorrow because we do not have enough people," McCanelles said. "We are going to reschedule it."

It is not the first time OPR has postponed an event. "Last year, we had more participants for snowshoe trips and cross-country skiing," McCanelles said. "But, this year, more students take advantage of the ski shuttle, instead of our trips."

Ellensburg is located in Kittitas Valley. The residents of the city can access the sites easily, which provide excellent opportunities for winter activities and viewing snowly landscape.

Ellensburg's landscape provides Central Washington OPR good recreational opportunities for students.

OPR also helps people who do not have items for winter activities, further enticing them to the world of winter recreation.

OPR offers a wide array of equipment, guided excursions and special events for students, faculty, staff and alumni of Central Washington University.

During this quarter, OPR offers a variety of fun events. Snowshoe trips or cross-country skiing will take place every other Sunday.

Snowshoes are specifically designed footwear for walking over snow.

Snowshoes work by distributing the weight of a person over a larger area so the person's foot does not sink completely into the snow.

In the day of the trips, participants will depart from the OPR office at 10 a.m. and return to campus by 4 p.m. Participants will be asked to check in 15 minutes before departure.

"Participants will hike up to the ridge for 45 minutes," OPR coordinator, Ryan Hopkins said. "At the ridge, people eat lunch while watching good views."

The cost to take part in OPR events is reasonable. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing is $15 for students and recreation center members who pay for fees. Non-recreation center members have to pay $18 for each event.

"People don't need any experience," Fitzpatrick said. "Experienced staff will guide professionally. We also provide snowshoes and gear for a fee."

OPR also sells discount lift tickets.

Anyone can save money on lift tickets when they purchase them at the OPR office. For example, a day pass to Snoqualmie Summit costs $50, instead of $60 regularly, which means people can get approximately 17 percent off tickets at OPR office.

"If you're looking for an adventure, participate in these events," Collin Fitzpatrick, senior recreation management major, said. "It's a chance to experience the great natural environment around this area."

OPR also offers numerous other events for students. From Feb. 28 through March 1, people can join the "Cascade Powder Cats."

This is an event for skiing or snowboarding in remote locations in the Northern Cascades.

"People don't need any experience," Fitzpatrick said. "Experienced staff will guide professionally. We also provide snowshoes and gear for a fee."

For more information concerning OPR events and trips, visit the OPR web site at http://www.cwu.edu/~rec/opr/eventsTrips.html.