A Balancing Act
Students deal with the rising cost of living

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By the students, for the students of cwu

Cover by Jackie Johanson
Gaudino speaks on tuition increases

CWU live webcast gives viewers the chance to get answers to their concerns

BY NINA KANABSKAYA
Staff Reporter

To address student submitted questions about budget cuts and tuition increases, President James Gaudino held a live webcast last Thursday. Names were omitted.

The half-hour broadcast dealt mostly with fears about rising prices, as much as 14 percent, and the capital budget versus the operational budget.

Gaudino tried to appease viewers by mentioning the positive activities that are occurring in Ellensburg; mainly, the improvement in accessibility to health care services. He stressed the importance of community and Ellensburg is not just a college town, the city is not the same without it: They are interdependent.

"The reality is, absolutely wonderful things are happening at Central Washington," Gaudino said. "As Ellensburg grows, so does Central Washington University."

He went on to answer questions about future enrollment.

"Our enrollment trends look strong for next year," Gaudino said. "The bad news is they will probably not continue."

"In the state of Washington the number of high school graduates is declining and as a result, Central will likely see fewer enrollments in the coming years. Roughly 89 percent of the accepted students are in-state," Gaudino said. "With fewer students attending Central, Gaudino suggested bringing some of the university's programs to the students.

When asked about students who will not finish their degrees or not apply to college due to the high cost of education, Gaudino encouraged students to find alternate ways to earn their degrees.

"Don't give up. Do not give up," Gaudino said. "There are many funding opportunities available." According to Gaudino, many students are not using all the resources available to them, such as the FAFSA. He said that people with a degree have a better quality of life, live longer and are less likely to be incarcerated.

"The investment in higher education is still worth it," Gaudino said. "It's only going to become more so."

While Gaudino said it's unlikely that the university will run its operating costs on 100 percent tuition in his lifetime, it will be about 70 percent this year. Eventually, he said he thinks public pressure on the legislature will force them to provide more funding as tuition increases and government funding decreases.

The university is allotted two budgets; a capital for building projects and an operational budget which Gaudino insists are not interchangeable.

"We still have to maintain the quality of our buildings," Gaudino said. "We have to keep our facilities up and meet the demands of our students."
Quick rise in gas prices keep students in town

BY KELSEY HOPKINS

Many students won’t be going home this weekend, or any weekend in the foreseeable future.

With the turmoil in the Middle East, gas prices have spiked in recent weeks, forcing students to ditch their cars and visit home less frequently.

“I’m not going home this weekend because I don’t want to pay for gas,” said Julia Luna, freshman musical theater major.

“You can’t even get half a tank for $20,” said Lia Luna, freshman musical theater major.

Gasoline prices have risen by nearly a third over the past few months, as consumers are finding ways to spend less on gas.

“You see people making a greater emphasis on car-pooling, riding their bikes, walking to school,” Hedrick said. “There are always other activities.”

The earth will thank you for riding your bike, and as of now, your wallet will too.

Washington Secretary of State visits Eburg

Sam Reed makes a quiet visit to campus for college civics week

WASHINGTON, Wash. – Sam Reed is coming to town.

The Washington Secretary of State will be on campus this week to visit the Mary Grupe Center, where he heard of the secretary’s visit.

He will also have other activities planned for both Central’s administration and the state’s government.

With such a high profile panel in attendance, it appeared that the presenters wanted more time to convey the importance of their missions.

The students clearly cared deeply about the causes they presented, but the event was already behind schedule, so students were constantly being signalled to speed up or finish.

Reed spoke after the presentations.

“Civic engagement leads to political engagement,” Reed said. “They weren’t talking theory up there.”

Reed praised the students who presented their work.

He went on to outline some of the biggest obstacles in getting college age citizens to vote and the state government’s efforts to alleviate those issues.

Despite the lack of publicity for the secretary’s visit, the event had been in the works for a long time.

“I was “working about two months to get it coordinated,” said Ashley Masin, senior art major.

The event takes place every year as a chance to showcase student involvement for both Central’s administration and the state’s government.

Central’s been one of just a few

Published: Wed, 04/20/2011 - 14:35

By Weston Morrow

There was no motorcade. There were no announcements. There were no lavish introductions when Washington’s Secretary of State Sam Reed arrived on campus. Standing among the few students gathered around the refreshment table, Reed appeared no more out of place than President James Gaudino at his side.

The scene appeared to the average observer completely ordinary, except for one small issue: Who was such a high profile visitor in the smallest building on campus, why did no one know of his expected arrival?

The Observer heard of the secretary’s visit minutes beforehand, rushing a reporter to the Mary Grupe Center.

“We’ve had a variety of different venues for Sam Reed in the past, but we wanted a more intimate venue this time,” said Lorinda Anderson, director of the Civic Engagement Center (CEC).

That intimate venue was the small circular hut placed indiscriminately between Black and Bullion halls.

Only a select handful of students were in attendance. A few were invited to present their volunteer work for Reed and Gaudino. Nearly all others in attendance worked for or closely with the CEC. Mike Merz, legislative liaison and newly appointed vice president of clubs and organizations for the ASCWU-BOD, was in attendance.

Merz said he was at the event to hear Reed’s thoughts on civic engagement and how it relates to politics.

A lot of students look for a quick return on the community service they perform, Merz said. “We don’t get that instant gratification in our politics. That’s not how it works.”

Reed spoke after the presentations.

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The event takes place every year as a chance to showcase student involvement for both Central’s administration and the state’s government.

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The students clearly cared deeply about the causes they presented, but the event was already behind schedule, so students were constantly being signalled to speed up or finish.

Reed’s visit was part of a much larger tour for college civics week. He planned to visit 28 colleges and universities in all.

While he was at Central for under an hour, the secretary took plenty of time to greet everyone.

“Central’s been one of just a few schools that, not only have done it every year, but each year they do something a little unique,” Reed said.
Experts peg NW quake risk at 15 percent

By Quinn Eddy
Staff Reporter

Earthquakes occur on the Cascadia fault on average every 400 to 500 years. There is a 15 percent chance a quake from this fault will happen during our lifetime, according to earthquake experts at Central University.

"The next Cascadia earthquake has the potential to be the biggest quake ever seen," said Tim Melbourne, professor of geophysics.

The last Cascadia earthquake took place on January 26, 1700. "We could be facing a 9.0 quake," said Nick Zeuter, professor of geology at Central. "It has happened many times in the past." The quake struck West Seattle and was felt as far away as the San Francisco Bay Area.

Sixty miles off Washington's coast lies an oceanic trench. "At its core rests the Cascadia fault. At this fault, oceanic crust from the Juan de Fuca plate slides beneath the continental crust, building continental crust down with it. When the continental crust fails, a slow板块-level downward pulling, an earthquake will take place," Yarwood said. "This is what happened in Japan. It's similar to breaking a pencil. When you bend it, it flexes, then suddenly breaks," said Tim Melbourne, Geophysics professor.

When the earthquake hits, there would be a sudden movement of the ocean floor creating a massive tsunami that would hammer the west coast from Vancouver Island to northern California.

"All the coastal cities are going to get smashed," Melbourne said. "Coastal residents will have 20 minutes after the quake to reach high ground."

"We've done approximations on the height of the tsunami that Washington faced in 1700, and we visualize a 30 foot wave based on the deposits we have," Zeuter said.

Even though we are nowhere near the coast, Ellensburg is expected to experience a lot of shaking. "This shaking would test buildings as well," Melbourne said.

"Overall from a building standpoint, we are in pretty good shape," said Bill Vertrees, assistant vice president of facilities. "Trouble buildings such as Kamola have been specifically singled out and dealt with during major renovation projects to help them withstand earthquakes."

Most buildings on campus are concrete structures that hold together better during an earthquake. It also helps that Central's buildings tend to be shorter, with no more than three floors, and have wide bases.

Central is continuing to investigate purchasing the Albertsons building. According to Assistant Vice President of Facilities Bill Vertrees, Central has approval from bills in the House and Senate to borrow up to $2.5 million to purchase the Albertsons building.

"In an urban environment, having property available is very rare," Vertrees said.

However, Central may have to pull out of the running if one of the dozen or so others that are interested with their system.

"There might be certain areas of the state that are unviable," Lazera said.

Central could continue to look into purchasing the Albertsons building. According to Assistant Vice President of Facilities Bill Vertrees, Central has approval from bills in the House and Senate to borrow up to $2.5 million to purchase the Albertsons building.

"Every dollar it gets more expensive with time," Vertrees said. "We're trying to purchase a house with a mortgage."

"In general, the more the university and the community integrate themselves, the higher quality of life it's going to create for everyone," Barkley said.

Many believe that if Central took over the Albertsons building, Ellensburg would lose money because Central doesn't pay property or sales tax.

"The absence of property tax isn't that bad because they provide their own services that property tax goes to," Barkley said. "In lieu of taxes, they either pay for their services or they provide them." Barkley also said that the closure of Albertsons hasn't hit the Ellensburg economy too hard because most people just go to different grocery stores within Ellensburg.

For the time being, Central is concentrating on having its administration properly positioned to buy the Albertsons building.

"If it becomes available, they'll be ready to buy it," Vertrees said.

If the property is purchased, Vertrees said it would be at least a year before Central would occupy the building.
The First Amendment, The Observer and you

Thanks to protections afforded by the Constitution, we are protected from incidents at those private schools.

Every now and then, a scandal involving a student newspaper will arise, and the paper finds a creative solution. That’s exactly what happened at La Salle University.

The Collegian had a story on a professor holding an off-campus symposium apparently involving Occult dances. Thirty students attended and paid $150 each. Since La Salle is on its private Catholic university, the professors have a say on what runs in the paper. Using full administrative oversight of any sort.

Fortunately, the administration let the story run, but only if it ran “below the fold,” or on the bottom half of the front page. Here’s where the story kicks in: the editors of The Collegian ran a blank page above the fold with the words “See below the fold” in small type. There, the remaining half of the page with the stripper story.

So, 144 words into this column, and I haven’t made a point yet. But, sadly, I could see something like this possibly happening at Central.

As part of President Gaudino’s ongoing reorganization plan, proposals have The Observer reporting to a new Associate Dean of Student Life.

The integrity of a newspaper depends on its ability to remain independent. A very small number of college newspapers are independent, mostly because of cause of cost.

I toured the newsroom of The Minneapolis Daily, the student newspaper at the University of Minnesota. The paper is considered fully independent, but this meant having ad revenues of more than $2 million a year before the recession and still being housed in a building owned by the university.

The Observer to be fully independent is merely a pipe dream. The costs are too high, Ellensburg lacks advertising revenue in the way those at the University of Minnesota enjoy.

What we can do though is remain as independent as possible from administrative oversight of any sort. Otherwise, I might have to run that story below the fold.

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Letters to the Editor

Out of general curiosity, I am wondering how many people happened to read the back page of the April 18th issue of the University Bulletin. In the right-hand column there is a listing for Exempt New Hires. I know I don’t see these ads, but it is important to notice what the team is accomplishing.

The reason I am wondering about it is the budget crisis CWU is in. Students have felt the budget cuts in increased tuition and the challenge of trying to balance budgets. That sounds like being rewarded for being unable to do their jobs.

The Central has a brand new exemption hire. The position was once held by a civil service employee until administrative oversight didn’t feel it was needed anymore. I guess maybe of not being needed anymore. I guess maybe is needed some. But the positive outcome is filled by an exempt staff member at much higher salary and benefits than the civil service employee received. If you were not aware, Last year’s new hire exemption hire, is the wife of our new VP for Business and Financial Affairs. In the early years, I tried to give a data sample of my student help a 67-cent-per-hour raise in appreciation of her good work and continued employment. That request was turned down because of an employment freeze. She works an average of 27 hours each pay period, which probably results in a decrease in my budget of about $12 per payroll, or about $225 for the year.

Another concern is possibly adding more exempt positions. Many people, including a letter to the editor in this issue, have expressed their concerns about this move.

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Artwork on display draws Central students to come and view

The walls of the Sarah Spurgeon Art Gallery (SSAG) proudly display artwork created by Central students for the eighth annual Juried Student Art Show. Eight pedestals around the gallery hold an array of 3-D work.

"Some people think cats are aliens. She took off on that idea," an art gallery visitor commented on Kat Crayton's "Alfred," an acrylic painting of a space-suit wearing cat, hovering above the moon.

On one pedestal sits a ceramic creation by Central student Daniel Donovan, titled "Hiding an Anxiety Toward Inevitability." A skull sits in a box. Rooted in the skull is a birch tree that rises out of the box. A bird sits atop the tree.

"Technically, this is very difficult to do, to mimic the wood and birch and conceptually too," the visitor said.

The wide range of selected artwork includes oils, photography, ceramics, charcoal, watercolor, graphic design, jewelry and more, such as Ryan Brislawn's "Office Set," which is a desk and chair finely crafted from African Padauk, white oak and black walnut.

The selection committee consisted of one woman, Rie Palkovic. A painter and art teacher at Big Bend Community College (BBCC), Palkovic spent time one evening in the SSAG with about 126 art entries. With a keen eye and post-it notes for pieces to remember, Palkovic selected 51 entries.

"For me, I was looking for the person's commitment to the material. There was a lot of hard work. I was very proud to be a part of this process. It's a good mix of 2-D and 3-D work."

The Art Club selected Palkovic as juror after a review of her credentials. Palkovic earned a Master of Fine Arts, with honors, from New Mexico State University in 1995 with a major in painting and a minor in drawing. In 2006, Palkovic was awarded the Faculty Excellence Award at BBCC. She has also juried art shows before.

"The art juror did a good job picking out the pieces and making a nice, cohesive show," said Katrina White, art show employee.

Chad Carignan almost joined the Army a couple years ago, but instead he's in Central's art department. He has two teapots and a flask in the show.

"They work," Carignan said of his flasks. He has 18 flasks in the making. Most hold three to four ounces.

"I try to get more and more volume," Carignan said.

Carignan's curious flasks have an organic form with a structural base.

"Art has to talk," Carignan said. "Or it has to bark and lick your face, like Tanya Pierson's large ceramic dog head titled One Track Mind. Whatever art does, the array of student work is sure to impress all. The art show runs through next Thursday when they will hold the awards ceremony from 6-8 p.m. Students will receive prizes from alumni, community members and art organizations.

Lindsay Trott contributed to this article.
Panda Bear’s “Tomboy” vibes in the 90s grunge scene

BY CHANILE Fournier
Staff Reporter

When describing the music of Panda Bear, aka Noah Lennox, the long list of characteristics generally do not include the thrashing guitars and screech-until-your-throat-bleeds sounds of 90s grunge rock.

However, the inspiration for the Animal Collective front man’s April 12 release, “Tomboy,” came from the raw sound of Nirvana, according to Rolling Stone.

Lennox “wanted to do something really basic, to take the songs out of the soup, and like, crush them down,” he told Rolling Stone. “I saw footage of Nirvana and thought, ‘Wow, that’s amazing.’”

Lennox told Rolling Stone, “That wouldn’t have felt like me.”

Not only would he have lost his sense of self, but he would have likely lost a great portion of his fan base. Nobody listens to Panda Bear for hard rock; audiences tune into his music to be pulled into their own imagination, which is where the real strength of this album lies.

Purling sounds from many aspects of life, each song on the album begs for stories and similes that are likely to change with each listener.

Key tracks include “You Can Count on Me,” in which the clapping beat gives the impression of an army of children playing paddy-cake in the background. Completing the sound are Lennox’s vocals with lyrics well suited for a lullaby. “Wanna put a bubble around you,” he sings. “Like a force field switch, keep you secure just a little bit.”

The addictive “Slow Motion” sounds like a morning stroll that is periodically interrupted by martians throwing some sort of alien grenades. “Scherezade” brings to mind a somber Catholic church service from the 16th century.

Leading in with the mellow sound waves, “Stare’s Hymn,” does nothing to refute the Brian Wilson comparisons that Lennox has garnered. However, the song stands on its own with Lennox’s multi-layered vocals, jittery beat, pop-music melody and lyrics full of self-questioning and doubt.

“How do I know it’s time? Even if I got mine, it is wise to know what wisdom is? If I could err on every good side every time?” he sings. “Out on the water, a rider can roam. Though waves come crashing, a good board can stay.”

Because the album is more instrumentally based than previous Panda Bear albums, it could be opened for a larger audience, though not by much. The listener of “Tomboy” brings in will more than likely be confined to those who are loyal Animal Collective fans, phase, or those who are already fond of the genre, but have not been exposed to Lennox’s solo work.

Those who are already fans are not likely to be disappointed. “Tomboy” offers enough unusual sounds, addictive melodies, introspective lyrics and imagination-stirring songs to create a listening experience that fans can curl up with and love the way that Kurt laced Courtney.
Walking the extra miles
Grad tells why she is participating in 3-Day Walk
BY ASHTON CERMAK
Staff Reporter

Central graduate student Stefanie Buxel-Florenzen does a lot of walking. In the near future, she’ll be walking 18 miles a day. Buxel-Florenzen is preparing to walk 60 miles in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day walk for the cure in Seattle this fall.

“Ultimately I like this walk because it is a challenge and I feel like I’m going to get something out of it,” Buxel-Florenzen said.

For her, part of doing this walk is raising money to help celebrate the women who have survived and to honor the ones who haven’t. Though no one in her family has had breast cancer, she wants to be a part of generating funds that will hopefully end this one day.

“Just because breast cancer isn’t in my family doesn’t mean it couldn’t be in my family,” Buxel-Florenzen said.

“I don’t want it there, I want to do what I can to make sure it doesn’t go there.”

She is walking on a two-person team with her older sister Brandy Bricks; together they make the High Beam Hunny’s walking team.

“We’re gonna get T-shirts that we’ll be selling at our fundraiser events,” Florenzen said.”I’ve always been one to be involved,” she said. “It’s great that I get to do this with my sister.”

To donate to the cause go to the-3day.org and search for High Beam Hunny’s or find them on Facebook.

SUSAN G. KOMEN WALK In preparation for the Susan G. Komen “3 day for the cure,” Stefanie Buxel-Florenzen, graduate student and biology major, practices walking around Central’s campus to get in shape for the upcoming event.

Locks of Love prompts students to cut off their hair
BY MACY DOER Staff Reporter

Central students and staff came to donate their hair for Locks of Love, an organization that accepts hair donations from six to 10 inches, which can make a full wig. The wigs are then donated to help children who suffer from medical hair loss diagnoses.

Students from the National Residents Hall Honorary put on this event for the fifth time and try to make each year more successful than the last.

Meghan Jones, junior nutrition major, who helped plan the event this year, along with Shyleene Waterer, senior sociology and law and justice major, said that she was excited to donate for the second time.

“It’s fun, and it goes for a good cause,” Jones said.

Helping out for a good cause was a common consensus of all the individuals who donated their hair to this Locks of Love event.

Lindsay Myers, sophomore psychology major, said that she had never had her hair as short as it was after she donated, but had wanted to participate in the event for a while and knew friends who had also done it before.

David Marshall, sophomore music major, donated his hair for the first time.

Last year it wasn’t long enough, it was for a good cause and he needed to find a job, so he decided to participate.

Katy Rolland, junior English education major, donated once before giving 14 inches, this time giving eight inches. She was glad to have shorter hair for the spring season.

“Just doing something different and doing it for a good cause,” Rolland said.

Amy Alder, marketing and scheduling supervisor for student union relations, came to drop off 14 inches of hair she recently cut off.

Jainie Graves, tutor coordinator for the academic achievement program, heard about the organization a long time ago and believes it’s a great cause.

After her hair was chopped off, they were given one last chance to say goodbye, and were given a coupon to the Blueteen Academy, a cosmetology school in Ellensburg.

Jainie Jones, a student of Blueteen Academy, came to help at this event for the first time to cut people’s hair.

This event is held every year and Meghan wants to plan it again next year.

“It’s not a common experience that people get to see or participate in,” Meghan said.

More than 20 people participated in this event and 237 inches were collected.

Open mic night at D&M
Raising awareness for local and global causes
BY ASHTON CERMAK
Staff Reporter

D&M Coffee has partnered with the Civic Engagement Center (CEC) to bring you a night of entertainment and coffee that was grown and farmed on fair trade arrestations for the Susan G. Komen “3 day for the cure,” Stefanie Buxel-Florenzen, graduate student and biology major, practices walking around Central’s campus to get in shape for the upcoming event.

“We have fair trade coffees and we really value the opportunity to present those,” Lutz said. “She sees the program as a win-win. “It’s a great opportunity to work alongside Central, we think the relationship is a very positive one for Ell-enburg,” Lutz said.

This is not the first open mic night of its kind. Every quarter, the CEC has put on at least two open mic’s nights for various causes. Ferguson’s main goal is for this to continue to grow.

“I think this is a very positive program,” Ferguson said. “We are all students here, we are all studying, but we also have talents and some of us don’t even get to share those, so it’s a way for students to show their talents for a good cause.

“Of course, we love to bring in music, but it’s about the money and awareness,” Ferguson said.

“My goal is to raise awareness for causes ranging from human trafficking to domestic violence through another program called “Art for a Cause.”

“Basically students donate art such as paintings, photography, sculptures, anything you think of, and auction it off, all the money goes to a certain organization in town or a certain cause,” Ferguson said.

Fair trade open mic night is April 22 at 7 p.m. at D&M Coffee on 301 North Pine Street.

Ingrid Lutz, wholesale manager of D&M Coffee, sees this as an opportunity for students to present information in a nice environment.

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Not just for hippies
Earth day encourages all people to go green
BY IRIS DIMMICK
Assistant Online Editor
This year, more than 1 billion people worldwide are estimated to participate in Earth Day, or Earth Week – though speeches, lectures to pledging conservation efforts, and general awareness campaigns are involved. “It’s a time for students to be creative and express themselves,” said Liz Rich, Campus Activities Coordinator.

Performers are not just limited to single performances; there are a number of comedians, poets and bands. Although there are other similar events on campus, open mic night has a different vibe.

“Open mic night is held on a weekly basis from 7 to 9 p.m. in the SURC Pit. Performers are generally given 15 minutes to play their song, accompanied by a band. It’s a great way to showcase students’ talents,” said Monique Watkins, Staff Reporter.

Performers are not just limited to singing and playing the piano, sing and watch people perform.

“Open mic night is one of the smaller events that actually attract students,” said Josh McDonald, junior political science major. “Students who frequent open mic night perform because they enjoy performing or have favorite performers that they come back to see and may even sing along.”

Parks was surprised to see very little garbage during Earth Day last year at Central. “But there’s no question that these activities extend beyond a week, and there is a popular saying among the environmentalist community: technically, every day is Earth Day.”

5 things to reduce your carbon footprint
• Bring reusable grocery bags when shopping. The U.S. goes through 100 billion single-use plastic bags a year, which can take to 1,000 years to degrade (BBC). Some stores give you a 10 cent discount per bag.
• Bring Your Own Cup (BYOC) According to Sustainability Engineer Pablo Päster, the environmental impacts (carbon, electricity and material use) of a reusable cup/bottle breaks even with the use of a paper cup after about 24 uses. Home water filtration is one tenth the cost of bottled water.
• Phantom load. Many appliances and electronic devices use power even when they’re switched off: computers, modems, microwaves, cell phone chargers. You can reduce your electricity bill by up to 10 percent by simply unplugging them.
• Wash with cold: the heated cycles on washing machines are energy intensive and usually optional – cold water cleans, too!
• Recycle: All dorms on campus have recycling bins and curb-side recycling is free from Waste Management if you already receive their trash service. The less trash in landfills, the less we have to smell and the less we have to pay to maintain them.

Earth day encourages all people to go green
BY MONIQUE PARKER
Staff Reporter
What started as a non-violent environmental protest, or “teach-in,” has become a week-long national celebration of the ground beneath our feet. Earth Day began strong with 20 million Americans gathered together on April 22, 1970 to call attention to the pollution around us. Now, as we walk beneath our feet, the air we breathe and the ecosystems we live in.

Earth Day is not just for tree-huggers anymore. Once considered a fringe concern in the 70s, the environmental issues have earned a large portion of worldwide social and political spotlight due in large part to technological research advancements.

These advancements have also shifted attitudes from a place to tell us the effects of carbon emissions, global climate change and petroleum geologists’ findings that an increase in the use of fossil fuels, are now the highlights of the environmental movement. “It’s now much more than dirty water and a hole in the ground,” said Raychel Parks, Environmental Resource Management Association (ERMA) president and resource management graduate student, is assisting the organizing of Friday’s on-campus events, which include several student clubs and off-campus groups.

Performers are generally given 15 minutes to play their song, accompanied by a band. It’s a great way to showcase students’ talents, Watkins said. Students get a chance to see some of their fellow classmates perform as well as meet some new faces on campus.

“We get something different every time,” Rich said. “We’ve had everything from majorette music to string quartets.”

Students who frequent open mic night perform because they enjoy performing just because,” said Josh McDonald, junior political science major. “It takes a lot to get up and sing in front of classmates, especially when there’s no incentive behind it, everyone is great.

Open mic night is also a way to connect with others because of the set up at the SURC Pit.

“Open mic night is one of the smaller events on campus,” McDonald said. “You come twice and you already know everyone there.”

Performers are generally given 15 minutes on stage depending on the amount of performers. Pianos and sound equipment are provided.

Open mic night is tonight at 7 p.m. in the SURC Pit. Sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Open mic night allows performers to entertain students in the pit
BY MONIQUE PARKER
Staff Reporter
Performers are not just limited to singing. “Open mic night is tonight at 7 p.m. in the SURC Pit. Sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. Performers are generally given 15 minutes to play their song, accompanied by a band. It’s a great way to showcase students’ talents, Watkins said. Students get a chance to see some of their fellow classmates perform as well as meet some new faces on campus.

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Connor Arquette and Spencer Moore perform at the SURC Pit. Connor is a junior philosophy major and Spencer is a junior political science major. Open Mic Night also allows students to showcase their talents on stage.

According to Nelson over the past few years there has been an increase in nominations. For each award there have been dozens of nominations.

While all of the nominees will not be awarded, they will be recognized. A poster with pictures of each nominee and displayed at the event and in the SURC Ballroom on May 25 at 6 p.m.

We all have that one person in our life that has inspired us to become the best version of ourselves that we can be. This person dedicates their life to making a positive impact on the people around them. These people deserve to be recognized, and awarded for everything they do.

The Center of Excellence in Leadership (CEL) is sponsoring the 14th Annual Evening of Recognition, where these inspiring and dedicated people can be recognized.

“Students, staff and faculty deserve to be recognized,” said Alyssa Caudill, CEL event coordinator. “They are the ones that inspire us and keep us here at Central.”

The area of recognition is broken into four categories: serving with integrity student award, most inspirational student award, most inspirational staff award and most inspirational faculty award.

“People deserve to be recognized and have some light shed on them,” Caudill said.

CEL is currently putting together a committee to vote on who will receive the award.

CEL helps host and sponsor this event to help highlight and recognize those who inspire and go above and beyond their call of duty.

There are so many wonderful things that students, staff and faculty do,” said Jesse Nelson, director of CEL. “It is important to celebrate that.”

Nelson believes that it is important to celebrate the great things happening on campus.

This semi-final event will be held in the SURC Ballroom on May 25 at 6 p.m. There is a reception for recipients, presenters and guests from 5:30-6 p.m. The general public is welcome to sit in on the award ceremony starting at 6 p.m.

During the event, the president welcomes the guests, recipients and presenters. Each presenter makes a speech about their nominee.

According to Nelson over the past two years there has been an increase in nominations. For each award there have been dozens of nominations.

While all of the nominees will not be awarded, they will be recognized. A poster is made with pictures of each nominee and displayed at the event and in the SURC Ballroom on May 25 at 6 p.m. It is important to recognize all of the students, staff and faculty for all of the hard work that they do,” said Sacha Hiaia, student programmer for CEL.

Evening of recognition
Inspirating and dedicated people awarded
BY KELSEE DODSON-CARTER
Junior Reporter
Open mic night allows students to showcase their talents as the SURC Pit becomes a stage for all. Performers are not just limited to singing, they just wanna have fun, enjoy themselves and share their art to wow the crowd, they just wanna have fun, enjoy themselves and share their art to wow the crowd, they just wanna have fun, enjoy themselves and share their art.
Two stand-up acts come to make Central laugh

BY ALYSSA HOARD
Staff Reporter
Are you a cat person or like paga- nes? Maybe still embarrassed by those elementary school pictures or team sports! Well even if you, not you’ll be able to laugh about them when two sharp comedians hit the stage tonight. The show, featuring Brian Moote and Spencer King, will not be one to miss.

Moote, who calls Seattle home, decided his career path from a fam- ily influence. According to his web- site, “Moote’s mother said to him in her usual Irish sarcasm, ‘Well, if you think you are so funny, why don’t you become a comedic then?”

Moote has since appeared on TV sitcom pilots such as “The Good Guys!” and a finalist in Com- edy Central’s “Open Mic Fight” in 2007. Moote’s most current achievement is a “recently recorded full-length comedy album entitled “Payin’ for Grad School a sadly true title,” featured on his biography and for sale online. His video act from the Great American Comedy Festival found on Moote’s website is packed with energy, impressions of little league baseball players and animated faces.

King, a laid back performer, has a clever Arabic accent and a humble charm that brings a smile to your face. His previous demo video rou- tines found on his website consisted of zoos, therapy and the struggles braves created for him as a middle- aged man. Confessions of having depression, staring cats and army surplus body bags, could also be in store for you.

“I’m really excited for both of these comedians because we haven’t had a traditional stand-up show for a while. The latest groups have been improv and we need more stand-up,” said John Bliss, event programmer for campus activities. “Both comedians are funny without being offensive; their acts will ap- peal to a large demographic from what I’ve found online, perfect for our campus.”

See them tonight at 9 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom. Tickets are $5 for students and $5 general.

Nintendo 3DS released

By far, it is one of the most fun games I’ve ever played. In “Face Raiders,” you take a photo of someone near you or an image of a person. Nintao seems to be a very popular choice and they become the enemies for the next round you play. In addition, the game is augmented reality based. Players will find themselves stuck for a while in this great game. It’s addicting, but fun.

The 3DS, in a forthcoming update, will also have internet browser access and a recent update included a 3-D Jop music video implying that the system may have 3-D video recording features at some point. It does feel like the hardware is holding back, so don’t think that this is the end of Nintendo’s bag of tricks. The recently announced “Project Café” home console system has already been stated as having a touch screen controller and par- tial portability. It would not be a stretch to assume that the 3DS and this new system will have some portability.

Currently, the 3DS’s game library is very limited, likely to give the DS its last moments in the limelight with “Pokémon Black and White,” but will get better with the summer release schedule. The release of “Ocarina of Time” will come in mid-June as will “Kid Icarus Uprising,” “Sonic Generations” and several other games that are all due this year.

For now, the 3DS is more a braggart right than a true game system. It’s $250 and there aren’t many games for it. You can trade in your old DS for a dis- count on a 3DS at Gamestop if you absolutely need one, but you can prob- ably wait a few months when the price drops and save money that way. It’s a good system and I can’t wait to see where it goes.

Two stand-up acts come to make Central laugh

Card games

These cards and Link.

Mario, Sam-

game stars like

Christian Anderson and tells the story of best friends Kai and Gerda whose friendship is tested as Kai falls under a spell by an evil wizard and becomes the Snow Queen’s slave. Gerda must then go on a quest to find and save her best friend. The Snow Queen is described as “both a thrilling ad- venture and a fable about the healing power of love.” Tickets are $5 CWU students with ID and $7 all seats.

Ellensburg’s new hookah lounge

Students can now enjoy smoking hookah at Ellensburg’s new hookah lounge, “The Lounge,” which is located across the street from Fred Meyer. The Lounge is open Tues. - Sun. from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. It’s $10 for a lifetime membership which also includes your first bowl.

KTIV headlines

Karaoke night

Songbirds of Central will soon have an opportunity to showcase their voices and entertain fellow students. Campus Ac- tivities will be hosting karaoke night April 20 at 7 p.m. in the SURC Pit. A live DJ will be providing the music and lyrics for the performances. Admission is free.

The Snow Queen

The Snow Queen will be performed at the Milo Smith Tower Theatre April 22 and 23, at 7:30 p.m and April 23 and 24 at 2 p.m. The Snow Queen is based on the fairytale by Hans Christian Andersen and tells the story of best friends Kai and Gerda whose friendship is tested as Kai falls under a spell by an evil wizard and becomes the Snow Queen’s slave. Gerda must then go on a quest to find and save her best friend. The Snow Queen is described as “both a thrilling ad- venture and a fable about the healing power of love.” Tickets are $5 CWU students with ID and $7 all seats.

Northwest Collegiate Rodeo

CWU Rodeo Club is hosting the Northwest Collegiate Rodeo this Friday through Sunday. It will be at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. The rodeo club will be competing against schools all across the North- west such as, University of Idaho, Walla Walla Community College and Blue Mountain Community College. There will also be a special rodeo performance called “Tough Enough to wear Pink” Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m. to raise money for the Ohana Mammography Center in Yakima. Admission is free.

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Hittin’ Haupert fuels Wildcats playoff hopes

**BY GIANCARLO GONZALEZ  Senior Sports Reporter**

It’s the final game in a four game set for Central’s softball team against Northwest Nazarene. The cheers from the Central dugout continue as long as there’s someone up to bat for the Wildcats.

“OH YEAH!” “OH YEAH!” third baseman Kelsey Haupert leads the good- like, full throated cheers and her teammates respond in kind. It’s a fabric of the game, part encouragement, part intimidation, all fun.

The infield chatter continues when Central takes the field to play defense. Haupert shouts encouragement to her teammates while reminding everyone how many outs have been recorded.

The right-run mercy rule goes into effect and Central completes the sweep of the Crusaders as the Wildcats celebrate. Haupert has a hand in the victory, going 4-for-4, scoring two and driving in one.

Haupert shouts encouragement to her teammates as they work together and become more comfortable with the new mercy rule. She encourages the team to stay positive, to keep working hard, and to enjoy the game.

Throughout the game, Haupert is accompanied by one of her cousins. Her love for softball and her family is evident as she leads the cheering and encourages her teammates.

Haupert’s family life is important to her. Her proud parents, Dave and Diane, are waiting for Haupert afterwards and are accompanied by one of her cousins. The Hauperts are from Tumwater and have been to practically all of her games, even the ones when she was playing at Purdue University. Sports are a family affair in the Haupert household and they all support one another.

For Haupert, playing softball has been a major part of her life. Her brother Mike, an undeclared sophomore at Central, says that she was always positive,” Mike said. “Whether she was playing softball or basketball, her nickname has always been ‘Mom.’

Kelsey’s always been a vocal leader, always positive,” Mike said. “Whether she was playing softball or basketball, her nickname has always been ‘Mom.’

Her love of entertainment extends to her favorite films. Classic jazz singers like Frank Sinatra and early country music like Elvis Presley are among her favorite films.

Her competitive 18-and-under Gold Glove, a player of the year award, at Central is a testament to her skills on the field. Haupert has a .917 fielding percentage on the season. Her strong morals and values play into her choices in life. As a Catholic, she’s been baptized, confirmed and received her early education at St. Michael’s in Olympia. Her tight-knit family life is something she’s proud of and if she had a choice between a vacation at Disneyland or Las Vegas, she’d pick Disney.

Her competitive 18-and-under Gold Glove softball coach Paula Grande, is a role model and friend.

“When I first met Kelsey, you could see that she was crushing the ball,” Grande said. Her observations on Haupert deepened as they worked together and became friends.

“Kelsey cares about others and puts other people first. She knows who she is and is proud of who she is and won’t hesitate to stand up for others,” Grande said.

Haupert confided in Grande that when softball ends in a month, “there are going to be lots of tears.”

Coaching softball is something on her horizon. “I would love to coach with” Grande, Haupert said.

Her coach at Central, Mallory Holtman, describes Haupert as “a lot of energy, a lot of glitter, a gamer and a hitter.”

Haupert has all the tools of an excellent softball player, but it’s the intangibles that set her apart.

“All the glitter, and the big hair and the bows, [along] with her energy on the field and how loud she is in the dugout, how into it she is, she’s a great person to have on the team, she’s going to be missed,” Holtman said.

Kelsey and her teammates care for each other.

“You can ask anybody on this team and they would tell you that Kelsey is their best friend,” said junior first baseman, Natasha Wood. “She’s one of the sweetest girls and she’s an awesome player, but she cares about everybody.”

During the Tournament of Champions, the Wildcats dropped a close game, but rather than hang their heads, Kelsey made sure they saw the lesson learned.

“She’s amazing, she’s so optimistic,” Wood said. “It was like ‘Hey, you know what? We love each other, we’re having fun, let’s just have fun, we know how to do this.’ That’s the kind of thing that helps the team.”

Matt Carstens  Sports Editor

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Gold Glove

Wildcat third baseman Kelsey Haupert, fields a ball and prepares to throw to first base. Haupert has a .917 fielding percentage on the season.

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**ON YEBAN ON YEBAN**

(LEFT) Wildcat third baseman Kelsey Haupert swings in a game against Northwest Nazarene University. (RIGHT) Haupert talks with teammates prior to the double header against Northwest Nazarene University. She is currently batting .421 with 10 home runs and 30 RBIs.
Baseball bats come alive in non-conference wins

BY DANNY SCHMIDT
Staff Reporter

It’s possible that a break from the rigors of conference play can be just what the doctor ordered to snap Central baseball out of a season-long funk.

Central traveled to Oregon’s capital to play a doubleheader on Thursday against the Corban College Warriors.

The opening act tested the Wildcats’ toughness in an extra-innings thriller.

After giving up the first three runs of the game, Central knotted the game up in the top of the fifth inning. Junior outfielder Brett Bicek drove in Central’s first run of the game with a double, scoring freshman outfielder Ethan Sterkel.

“Tough game against a good team,” said senior middle-infielder Jimmy Ryerson.

With two outs in the inning, in a rare pinch-hit appearance, sophomore outfielder Jimmy Ryerson tied the game with a two-run single.

“I think pinch-hitting is especially difficult,” Ryerson said. “A lot of times it’s cold and you’re stiff and not loose. In that at bat, he threw me a fastball right at the knees and I turned it on it.”

The Warriors and Wildcats each scored a run apiece in the seventh and eighth frames. After a scoreless ninth inning, the Wildcats looked to win it in extras.

In the top of the tenth inning sophomore infielder Brady Kin- dslon finished the job for the Wildcats, driving in Ryerson for the go-ahead run.

The second and final game of the weekend’s series proved to be more of a challenge.

Redhawks’ pitcher Brandon Kizer stiffled the Central bats for seven and two-thirds innings, giving up only three hits and three runs.

“Joe is really good and he did all of the damage,” said senior pitcher Brandon Rohde.

Rohde picked up the win. The Kennewick native tossed six strong innings, giving up three runs on six hits.

Junior shortstop/pitcher Deren Jones also turned in a great game. Jones was 2-for-3 with three RBIs and two runs.

Senior first-baseman Kris Henderson went 2-for-6 with four RBIs and two runs, pinch-hitting junior catcher Daniel Kathman was 2-for-3 from the plate with three RBIs and a run. Junior shortstop/pitcher Deren Jones also turned in a great game. Jones was 2-for-3 with three runs scored.

“Hits are obviously really contagious and we did a good job in that second game. It’s a big time booster,” said senior middle-infielder Kelly Gau.

The Wildcats finished with 25 hits and no errors. Central sent 17 different players to the plate and 16 of them came away with at least one hit. Gau finished the game a perfect 4-for-4 from the dish, with three RBIs and two runs.

Senior pitcher Rohde got the start for the Wildcats and turned in a beautiful performance against the Division-I Redhawks, despite picking up the loss. Rohde threw six innings, giving up four hits and three earned runs while collecting three strikeouts.

Rohde is now 1-3 on the season, but has a 3.00 ERA, showing that the lack of run support is the key reason behind his poor record. Rohde leads the team in innings pitched, strikeouts and opponents are hitting .253 off of the lefty. Even with the team’s offensive troubles, with Rohde on the mound, don’t expect the southpaw to complain.

“I’m more happy just to be out there playing than anything else,” Rohde said. “I do my best to help the team win and that’s what I’m all about.”

After Central’s first series sweep of the season, they traveled to Bellevue to take on the nationally ranked Redhawks. The Redhawks are in Division-I, which proved to be more of a challenge.

Redhawks’ pitcher Brandon Kizer stiffled the Central bats for seven and three innings, giving up only three hits. Conor Spink finished the job for the Redhawks, picking up the save, recording one and two-thirds innings.

Central had a hard time getting on base, coming away with no walks and six strikeouts.

Junior starting pitcher Branden Rohde got the start for the Wildcats and turned in a beautiful performance against the Division-I Redhawks, despite picking up the loss. Rohde threw six innings, giving up four hits and three earned runs while collecting three strikeouts.

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“It’s a big time booster. It’s a confidence booster,” Rohde said.

“I’m more happy just to be out there playing than anything else,” Rohde said. “I do my best to help the team win and that’s what I’m all about.”

After Central’s first series sweep of the

Weekly Honors

BY BRYCE HUDSON
Assistant Sports Editor

Two Central Washington softball players have been named Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) players of the week for their performances in last weekend’s series.

Senior pitcher Samantha Petrich was awarded co-hitter of the week for the second time this season, while senior pitcher Lauren Hadenfeldt was awarded pitcher of the week for her second time this season and seventh in her two year career with Central.

Petrich had two home runs and two doubles, with a total of 10 RBIs through the series. Petrich leads the GNAC in hitting with a .468 average.

Hadenfeldt recorded the series fifth no-hitter in history, while recording the second of her career. Throughout the se- ries, she allowed 12 hits with 26 strikeouts and only three earned runs in 18 1/3 innings. Hadenfeldt has won her last eight pitching decisions.

Up next, the Wildcats travel to Simon Fraser University (SFU) and West- ern Washington University (WWU) for double headers. Central is currently riding an 11-game winning streak and is second to WWU in the GNAC standings.
Wildcat Rugby to compete at sevens nationals

BY SKYLLAR ST. YVBS
Senior Sports Reporter

For those of you who don’t religiously follow the rugby chat buzzing across the land, WSU’s Central will play home to one of the top 16 collegiate teams in the country.

Central will be competing in the 2011 USA Sevens Collegiate rugby championship in June. The top sixteen teams in the nation are invited to the event. However, Central’s road to the tournament was quite the journey.

Seven’s rugby is faster paced and more intense than the traditional game. It’s known as a ‘sevens’ rugby. The duration of the game is 7 minutes, compared to the typical 40.

Central’s vice captain Ryan Hamilton believes the team has plenty of athletic ability. “Sevens is so wide open, athleticism outweighs skill and we have tons of athleticism,” Hamilton said.

When the original invitations were sent out, only 15 universities had mailed in their wild card spot to be determined. Central competed in a 28-team qualifying event in Las Vegas last February. They methodically picked apart their opposition, winning seven matches to earn their way in to the national Sevens collegiate championships.

The last team in might just be the last team standing. Head coach Bob Ford thinks so. “There’s a good chance we’ll do an extremely well,” Ford said.

Ford’s confidence is reflected by his roster. “We won’t be the last team in.”

The tenth-ranked Wildcats view the loss as motivation to prove their ability, especially in the popular Sevens, which was recently added as an Olympic event. According to Hamilton, players are seeking redemption in the collegiate fifteen a-side playoffs, but fell short to the fifth-ranked Gaels of St. Mary’s.

Central had control until the waning minutes of the match, when a costly turnover in their attacking end led to a game-winning score for the Gaels.

“The Wildcat fed 1-17 in the closing minutes. However, they coughed up the ball. St. Mary’s took advantage of the misstep, driving almost the length of the field and scoring in the final seconds of regulation. Central was unable to recover and the Gaels emerged victorious with a 22-17 win.”

It was definitely disappointing and I think we fell a little short of our expectations,” said head coach Bob Ford. “This is now two years in a row that we’ve lost our squad,” Ford is referring to the one point loss the Wildcats suffered in last years Pacific Conference final.

The Pacific Conference is one of four premier collegiate rugby conferences in the nation. Had Central won, they would have moved on to the elite eight to face Arkansas State who is currently ranked number one in their respective conference.

CWU vice captain Ryan Hamilton felt like they let that one slip away. “It was quite the heartbreak, we had them… it’s just really disappointing right now, but we’ll move on and use it as motivation.”

Though their shot at a national championship is gone, Central isn’t done for the season. They play Friday night at UCLA and conclude their season with a home match against San Diego State on April 30.

With the game tied at one, the Wildcats picked it up again in search of that winning goal, but WSU hung on. Without Anya Stoba side ball on the line, the Gaels went into the corner with only seconds remaining.

The officials made a call, two ten minute halves, with the golden goal deciding the outcome. The Wildcats went straight for the kill with a blistering counter attack that ended with a corner kick nearly ending, as the WSU keeper had to come to the rescue once again to clear off the line.

With a goal kick to WSU, they took exactly the same counter attack that Central applied, if not better, to win the corner on the other end.

From that resulting corner came the winning goal for WSU, as the keeper tried to hold on to the ball, but couldn’t.

The visitors went into jubilation running to their bench as the Wildcats remained at a standstill. None of the Wildcats could believe what had just happened after their domination in regulation.

“Everybody doesn’t want to talk right now,” Ryan Edwards said. “I think everybody is pissed right now.”

THE BIG GREEN
Jordan Yergler (LEFT) and Ryan Edwards (RIGHT) play in the conference tournament last Saturday at Mountain View Park.

Soccer strikes fools gold, loses tournament

BY PETER MALATH
Staff Reporter

The first day of the two-day soccer tournament hosted by Central at Mountain View Park started bright with a 3-1 win over Gonzaga University.

If that moral boosting win was not enough to get things started, the Wildcats won by forfeit when Eastern Washington University did not show up for Saturday’s 3:30 p.m. kickoff.

With the first two rounds having gone Central’s way, they met their close rivals, Washington State University (WSU).

The Wildcats started the first half dominating possession, however WSU hung in the game, thanks to their solid defense and the reflexes of their goalkeeper who basically nullified the Wildcats many times. The Wildcats were not to be denied through the first half as they broke the deadlock in the 35th minute when forward, Yusuke Iwata scored to take the lead going into halftime.

After the start of the second half, the Wildcats picked up where they left off, controlling the flow of the game while being cheered on by the few fans that made it to the field.

With 20 minutes to go in regulation, WSU grew confident. The very windy conditions canceled out Central’s attempt on a goal and WSU benefited from it on the other end. The momentum of the game shifted drastically as Central’s keeper was called into action on countless occasions. In the 80th minute, WSU finally found the net with the goal they had been longing for throughout the period.

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“Everybody doesn’t want to talk right now,” Ryan Edwards said. “I think everybody is pissed right now.”

That was the feeling at the Central camp as goal scorer, Iwata was not able to say a word as he laid down flat and gutted, as did the rest of his teammates.
Wildcats un-hittable in sweep over Nazarene

BY GIANCARLO GONZALEZ
Senior Reporter

The Wildcat softball team continued its recent domination of teams in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC). Between the two day, four game sweep of Northwest Nazarene.

Senior pitcher Lauren Hadenfeldt threw a no-hitter in the first game and the team picked up a "W" on Friday behind the strength of her pitching.

“It really hard to get a no-hitter, it would have been better with a perfect game,” Hadenfeldt said.

“I love no-hitters, always an awesome feeling”.

Central's offense scored eight runs from the first two innings, including a two-run shot by sophomore infielder Carrina Wagner and a three-run blast by junior infielder Molly Coppinger.

The Wildcats finished with 11 hits as Coppinger hit a career-high four RBIs. Senior center fielder Keilani Cruz got in on the action. Thomas' shot by sophomore infielder Carrina Wagner, and junior outfielder Bre Thomas and Petty-rich getting in on the action. Thomas' had an impressive inside-the-park home run.

“It felt like a once in a lifetime kind of thing,” Thomas said.

As players high-lived with Nazarene, the focus shifted to the next challenge.

“If we knew we really needed these games,” Haupert said.

Central travels to Burnaby, B.C. to play Simon Fraser on Thursday and then to Bellingham to play Western Washington University on Friday.

The Wildcats currently sit a lonesome one-game back of the Vikings with 16 games left on their conference schedule. Central is 0-2 against the Vikings this year.

Softball coach becomes bride to be

BY GIANCARLO GONZALEZ
Senior Reporter

Fans and players saw a moment at the end of the softball game that they will remember for the rest of their lives.

As the Wildcats huddled and cheered in the outfield, basking in the afterglow of a walk-off, three-run homer victory, Ryan Fletcher walked across the field and the two started hanging out.

The storybook romance started years as Holtman's cousin. She stopped by the house and the two started hanging out.

Two and a half years later, Holtman's known they would end up married.

He lifted her off the ground as they got down on one knee and held a ring case with his hand. He inserted the ring in the case and got down on one knee and held a ring case with his hand. He inserted the ring in the case and then to Bellingham to play Western Washington University on Friday.

The players were excited for their wedding, Ryan Fletcher walked across the grass field towards the players and coaches and called out to head coach Mallory Holtman.

“IT's indescribable,” Cruz said. “I can’t even describe the feeling.”

Their “never give up” motto, emblazoned across the back of their warm up jerseys, is defining them as a result of their recent success.

The players were excited for their coach as well as for their own performance as a team and felt everything was clicking.

On Saturday, the Wildcats prevailed in the third game of the series against Northwest Nazarene, as they clawed to a tough 8-5 victory over the Crusaders.

Central went ahead in the second inning 2-1 and then extended their lead to 7-1 in the third behind an offense that has found its rhythm. Coppinger swatted a two-run homer to complete the scoring in the third inning in what proved to be the game winning runs.

Central had 10 hits, including two junior infielder Liz Judko, Coppinger and Cruz.

In the final game of the series, Central grabbed the lead and then dismantled the Crusaders, putting an exclamation point to the series.

Central tallied four homers with Wagner, sophomore catcher Elena Carter, junior outfielder Bre Thomas and Pett-rich getting in on the action. Thomas' had an impressive inside-the-park home run.

“It felt like a once in a lifetime kind of thing,” Thomas said.

As players high-lived with Nazarene, the focus shifted to the next challenge.

“We knew we really needed these games,” Haupert said.

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Track shows off at only home meet of the spring

BY RANDY RAJKOVICH
Staff Reporter

Despite howling winds, Central's track and field teams blew past their competition in front of a home crowd at the Spike Arlt Invitational last Saturday.

In their only home meet of the season, the Wildcats benefited from the home field advantage.

“I love throwing at home,” said senior Torrie Self. “I know how my ring feels.”

The throwers had a dominant performance, helping the women narrowly defeat conference rival, Seattle Pacific University by 12 1/2 points. The women captured four of the top five rankings, including a one-two finish in two field events.

In the hammer throw, Self and fellow senior thrower Jordan Stuekle finished in the top two spots.

Self took first place with a stadium record hammer throw of 181 feet, 2 inches, beating the previous stadium record by four feet. Her throw was 23 feet farther than Stuekle's, who took second place in the hammer throw event.

“Hammer went really, really well,” Self said. “I got first and beat the meet record.”

Self also placed second in the discus event with a toss of 138-3 1/2 inches.

The women's second field one-two finish was in the shot put. Senior Shaina Afoa took first in the event with a mark of 41-3 inches. Stuekle took a close second with a toss of 41-1 inches.

Sophomore Katharine Lotze also broke the triple jump stadium and meet records with a leap of 38-3 3/4 inches. Lotze broke the previous record by 3 3/4 inches, falling just an inch short of her career best.

The men's team had a comfortable 114-point win over Spokane Community College.

The Wildcats had three individual winners for the men's team. One first place finisher was sophomore Scott Morrison, who took first in the 400-meter dash with a mark of 49.83 seconds. Scott also took a close second place 200-meter dash with a time of 22.49.

The men's team swept the relay races, placing first in the 4X100, with a time of 43.17 seconds. Colin Alexander anchored the men's 4X400 relay, leading the Wildcats to a victory with a time of 3:29.83.

Central will participate in the WWU Twilight meet in Bellingham next week in final preparation for the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) championships.

“I’m looking forward to getting better. Being one of the better throwing schools out there we’ve got to get our people through to the championship,” said freshman Paul Oursland, who threw a personal record in the hammer throw.

The GNAC outdoor championships will be held on May 13-14 in Monmouth, Ore., leaving the Wildcats three weeks to get as many athletes into the championships as possible.