The Observer

Central Washington University

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  - Warning, program may be cut

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Something’s brewing in the ‘Burg

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Hurry up and WEIGHT

Page 12
The Departments of Biological Science recently obtained a state-of-the-art Leica DM 5000 Upright Research Microscope for research, but also for hands-on student training. The microscope was purchased with a $160,483 grant that was funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The specific grant is called the Major Research Instrumentation. The grant is focused around an expensive piece of equipment that will benefit many different areas of research.

Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences Daniel Selski wrote the grant, along with other department heads that would be working with the microscope. The microscope also has many extra features that allow for higher quality research, along with better preparation for students who will be using similar tools throughout their careers. According to Selski, the new equipment is more technologically advanced compared to the old system.

“I just took one of my students from my research lab down there yesterday, and I couldn’t even remember how to turn it on,” Selski said.

The grant was initially rejected two years ago, but was resubmitted last year on “revise and resubmit.” According to Selski, the rejection was normal for the review process because NSF provides useful feedback when grants aren’t accepted.

“It was about to just give up, but some of the other people on the grant decided we gotta keep trying,” Selski said.

The microscope system includes the microscope, two cameras and an $8,000 computer, that is hooked up to three monitors. The image seen through the lenses is portrayed onto two of the monitors. Then the image is sent to the third monitor, where it can be altered in order to study the image more closely.

One of the major differences between the old and new systems is the speed in which changes in sample are measured. The new system can measure changes in milliseconds, whereas the old microscope was measuring by a tenth of a second. The microscope system includes the microscope, two cameras and an $8,000 computer, that is hooked up to three monitors. The image seen through the lenses is portrayed onto two of the monitors. Then the image is sent to the third monitor, where it can be altered in order to study the image more closely.

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Central may lose German program

The acting Foreign Language Department Chair, Rodney Bransdorfer, says the department is preparing to keep teaching German, as they believe every student should study a language different from their own.

“I think we shouldn’t be so pessimistic,” said German and anthropology major Veronica Houser, junior. “If you have nobody enrolled in a major, to us that’s an indication that that’s a minor or a specialization within a major, to other programs then what would those other programs and departments do if I eliminate a program that offered a lot of service courses to other departments or other programs then what would those other programs and departments do if I eliminated that program?” Johnson said.

The main thing that’s taken into account was the student demand. “If you have nobody enrolled in a major, or a minor or a specialization within a major, it’s more than just how many majors there are registered,” Bender said. “But to focus, to have the focus, to not allow a program to continue without any student to have the education value in the United States like they have in Europe. “Here, everything must pay off,” Schneider said.

Schneider, who taught languages at Central for 33 years, and his wife, Sylvia, believe every student should study a language. As an adjunct professor, both believe that the program can be saved. They are hoping to keep at least a two-year university.

“That at least keeps it alive,” Schneider said.

Several years ago, the Russian program experienced a similar positing. Administrators threatened to cut the program, but students in the program came together to organize petitions and letters to save the program. It worked, and Central still has a two-year Russian program.

“You have tremendous power as students,” Schneider said.

It wasn’t a shock to the Schneiders that German might be cut; they heard whispers of a cut a year ago, but last week was the first they’d heard of a definite possibility.

“We all shouldn’t be so pessimistic,” Schneider said.

Morgan said that she thinks learning a second language makes students more valuable to future employers.

“students in the program will still be able to graduate with a degree in that field. The program will stop admitting students and work to phase out current students within two years, according to Johnson.

Elimination of programs will be decided by the provost and the deans according to Johnson. Staff members who work in programs that are cut will have the opportunity to be retrained to work in other areas.

Programs that have been slated for reduction or revision need to reevaluate the program and may adjust the focus or departments that the majors or specializations are needed.

Most universities undergo a review of their academic planning. By the end of March, they have until Jan. 31 to respond to either the recommendation or to contest the elimination or reduction.

“From what I’m seeing, the task force has been listening to responses, and has not made final determinations. We have a chance to defend ourselves,” said Heidi Szpek, chair of the Department of Philosophy, and Religion.

The department has been slated for reduction and revision for all of the major and specializations played. The foreign language department was preparing the report which recommended that all programs remained intact.

“We are not surrendering but as we look as we’re preparing ours, is that a loss of any of our programs will result in a loss to our students,” Szpek said.

Workshops are also planned for February for department heads to meet with task force members to discuss the plan and proposals. The final recommendations are made to the administration in March.

Final recommendations will be presented to the Board of Trustees during the spring. Right now, however, he’s not sure what the task force’s decision will be. "And if [they don't approve the proposal]," Bender said. "To focus, to have the focus, to not allow a program to continue without any student to have the education value in the United States like they have in Europe. “Here, everything must pay off,” Schneider said.

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Central Washington University could soon be the first state institution without a German program.

The Academic Planning Task Force has recommended that the German program be eliminated due to low enrollment and faculty strength. The foreign language department has until Jan. 31 to write a recommendation to the task force.

“We are not surrendering about the possibility of eliminating the German major,” said Marji Morgan, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Students are required to complete two years of the language before they can declare a major or minor. With only one professor, Central doesn’t offer a full major or minor. Students who are already declared German majors or minors will be allowed to finish their programs, however, if the program is cut, new students will be accepted into the major or minor.

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BY KIMBERLY WEBSTER
Staff Reporter

Central Washington University has put the Green Printing plan into practice. The program, developed in accordance with House Bill 2287, is meant to encourage responsible printing and decrease paper waste on campus.

The Information Technology Services (ITS) department partnered with the library to collect data on student printing that will help determine how Green Printing goals should be implemented next year.

“Central is now using Papercut to help cut printing costs,” Thompson explained how his vision for the Taiwan fellowship is to encourage experts and scholars to perform advanced studies at Taiwan’s universities as a way to endorse international partnerships and mutual understanding.

“Y ou meet different people. Everyone is here for a different reason. It’s very cool to see everyone come together,” Thompson said.

Students volunteer at Habitat

BY CHANÉT STEVENSON
Staff Reporter

Central Washington University students who volunteer at the Habitat ReStore are not just picking up work on their resumes, but are also gaining knowledge and a sense of community that has been proven to be rewarding.

Walking into the ReStore, customers are greeted as a smile as employees and volunteers more than busy about the store, stopping to assist and answer questions.

“I am excited for Saturdays, not just for the weekend, but because I get to volunteer at Habitat,” said Lauren Wilson, junior clinical physiology. “I definitely take away a sense of purpose.”

Thompson, a sculptor for over 30 years, has a regular volunteer times at the Habitat ReStore, looking for old parts that could be used in sculptures before becoming the store’s manager.

Coming from an artistic background, Thompson explained how his vision for the store is to show that there are many raw materials that can be salvaged.

One way Thompson has implemented his vision is by encouraging student volunteers to use their creativity by taking part in different projects, including building a robot from materials found throughout the store, instead of simply sweeping floors, unloading, and tagging items.

“You meet different people. Everyone is here for a different reason. It’s very cool to see everyone come together,” said Lena Abuhudra, senior business.

For Abuhudra, volunteering at the ReStore has been a fun and rewarding experience.

“...It’s a good cause,” Abuhudra said. “It’s important because we don’t realize how lucky we are in the U.S. and it’s a great reminder for me to be grateful.”

Alisha Couch, junior finance and accounting major, is a regular volunteer at the ReStore. Couch began volunteering at the ReStore over the summer after hearing about it through a friend.

While volunteering, Couch has helped clean the store and take donations, as well as worked on a cashier which helped her to brush up on math skills and gave her practice counting the till and entering

into books.

“There’s a great deal of satisfaction working for this cause,” Thompson said.

The ReStore is a terrifi c way to encourage students, to fi nd furniture, home decor, building materials and many other home improvement items for reduced prices than can’t be found elsewhere.

The ReStore is also a great way for people to get rid of unwanted houseware so that they may be salvaged instead of thrown away.

Donations can be dropped off or donors can arrange to have items directly picked up by volunteers.

Students and community members interested in volunteering may do so by signing up online or by calling and directly stopping by the ReStore.

“This life is really about helping each other,” Thompson said.

Helping each other seems to be a common thread among all those who continue to work and volunteer at the Habitat ReStore.

Crunching numbers, saving trees

BY ALBA THOMAS
Staff Reporter

Faculty at Central Washington University may soon be able to conduct research in Taiwan with the help of a new agreement between Central and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Seattle.

The goal of the Taiwan fellowship is to encourage experts and scholars to perform advanced studies at Taiwan’s universities as a way to endorse international partnerships and mutual understanding.

The fellowship makes Central a contact point for the Taiwan Academy, looking for old parts that could be used in sculptures before becoming the store’s manager.

Before this year, public users were not being charged for printing. The new software monitors amount of public users printing as well.

For the public users we started charging for printing from day one,” Rahm said.

The fall data collected showed that 43 public users used the printer stations to print 660 pages. That is money the students would normally be paying for from technology fees.

“...A collection will continue throughout winter and spring quarter this year and will then be reviewed by the Technology Fee Committee, a committee comprised of six students and four faculty members.”

The Hurricane Printing plan is meant to cut out excessive waste, not to stop students from printing the pages they need.

“The data is more to see how much paper our users are using and think about if it’s necessary,” Vickery said.

Data collected showed that 3,584 pages of printed material were accumulated by one individual in the fall. That’s almost $180 in printing costs per student.

No students are being charged for the 2011-2012 school year while information is being gathered. However, public users are being charged.

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This agreement puts Central on Taiwan Academy’s distribution list.

Fall Printing Statistics

Student printers: 8,253
Public printers: 43
Most pages printed by a single student: 3,584
Most pages printed by a public user: 646
Total pages printed: 810,363

International ideas

New agreement takes faculty to Taiwan

So, as a contact point, the Taiwan Academy will update Central with its latest news and information and be given the opportunity to access academic resources such as teachers, books, and archives.

Chair of Foreign Language, Joshua Nelson was present during the signing between Director General of TECO, Daniel T.C. Liao, and Central in late December and February. This exchange agreement is a significant step of substantive progress to true internationalization.

“We’re happy and anticipate that it will help strengthen Chinese programs and increase awareness of study abroad and internationalization opportunities,” Nelson said.

Even though the agreement does not pertain to students right now, Launius anticipates that information for future student exchange will be available by the end of the year.

This agreement will make faculty led study abroad programs easier for students who wish to study in Taiwan through TECO.

The fellowship will also possibly eventually lead to more student exchange and study abroad opportunities in Taiwan.

“Study abroad turnout has been extremely low lately, we would like to send a lot more students to other countries,” Laffrey said. “Faculty might be interested in taking students along for faculty led programs.”

According to Launius, only the Jackson School of University of Washington and Central are contacts so far with the Taiwan Academy.
Carbon monoxide poisons three

BY ZACH SMITH
Staff Reporter

While cold winter weather can make venturing outside dangerous, staying inside can be potentially deadly, a lesson two Central Washington University students and their roommate learned after waking up with carbon monoxide poisoning last Thursday.

“I woke up with severe headaches and nausea,” said Mike Wooldridge, senior, paramedic program. “I barely came out of it.”

Wooldridge said he and his roommates, Amanda Bury, junior anthropology and Trevor Worchester, a student at Yakima Valley Community College, noticed a strange smell Wednesday evening, which prompted them to turn off their furnace. However, the furnace turned back on during the night, leaving them vulnerable to carbon monoxide poisoning.

“The reason it’s [carbon monoxide] so dangerous is that it has no odor to it,” said Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue Fire Marshal Joe Seemiller. “You don’t realize it until it’s too late.”

After realizing he and his roommates were all suffering from the same symptoms, Wooldridge concluded that it was something in the air causing the illness, which implied to him to call the fire department.

“I thought I had the flu at first… I didn’t know I had carbon monoxide poisoning at the time,” Worchester said. “Once the fire department got there it was fine.”

The fire department and gas services responded to the call and determined the source of the problem was a crack in the furnace. The city placed a “red tag” on their furnace, which, according to Seemiller, is standard protocol.

“It’s nothing to take lightly,” Seemiller said. “Even low-level exposure to carbon monoxide can be dangerous.”

According to Seemiller, the threat of carbon monoxide poisoning drastically increases during the winter due to the increased use of heaters and appliances, as well as the lack of fresh air in the home.

While there is an increased risk of carbon monoxide poisoning during the winter, turning off heaters is not the only way to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, carbon monoxide poisoning affects over 15,000 people each year in the United States. Seemiller stressed the importance taking the proper precaution before carbon monoxide becomes a problem.

“Unlike it’s portrayed on television, you don’t just take a step outside and take a deep breath and you’re fine,” Seemiller said. “It’s a silent killer.”

Avoid poisoning by following these steps.

- Install working carbon monoxide detectors in areas people sleep.
- Replace detectors every 5 years.
- Maintain and inspect all heating devices, chimneys and appliances that produce CO annually.
- Use appliances as directed. Never use outdoor heaters indoors.

According to the fire department, gas services and the electrical company were notified about the issue, which, according to Seemiller, is standard protocol.

“I thought I had the flu at first… I didn’t know I had carbon monoxide poisoning at the time,” Worchester said. “Once the fire department got there it was fine.”

It’s too late.

Unusual Anatomical Structures and the Stories They Tell. A presentation by Professor Darda

BY JUSTIN RUHE
Staff Reporter

Evo-Devo isn’t the name of a band, and the uvula and coccyx aren’t dirty words. But all three of these words were explained on Tuesday Jan. 17th at Raw Space when Biological Sciences Professor and the Associate Dean of the College of Sciences at Central Washington University, Professor Darda, gave a presentation called “Oddball Anatomical Structures and The Stories They Tell.” The presentation enlightened audience members on the prospective function of the dangling soft tissue matter hanging down in the back of humans’ throats: the uvula.

In 2002, Professor Darda was awarded the Central Washington University Distinguished Professor Award, and he is the co-author of the book Reptiles of Washington and Oregon. Inspired by questions and discussions with his students, Darda decided to give the presentation at Raw Space on the uvula.

He covered many prospectives functions of the uvula, starting with hypotheses from scientists back in the first century such as Galen, and theories from Leonardo Da Vinci, as well as different cultural beliefs from groups such as the Bedouins, to theories that have some credibility in today’s world.

“Different plausible theories of the function of the uvula include lubricating the throat and aiding in directing food down the esophagus. It has been speculated that removing the uvula could help sufferers of sleep apnea, a disease which causes difficulty breathing because of inflated parts of the throat,” said Claire Hurrey, an artist and private art lessons teacher who was present at the presentation.

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No Phone Calls Please!
There's an igloo on the Student Village basketball court. If there's enough snow to build an igloo, there's enough snow to cancel class for a day. All of the other major universities in the state have canceled classes for at least one day during this storm.

Everyone except for Central is.

If we're nearing over two feet of snow on the ground, and it just keeps coming over the last week, we've seen snowfall at rates of almost two inches an hour. How much has it fallen to before Central deems the conditions too dangerous for its students, faculty and staff to commute to classes?

Central is more equipped to deal with snow than, say, Seattle. So is Washington State University in Pullman. But even Central closed class last Thursday.

This much snow is dangerous to the Health of Central students, faculty and staff. Even if most Central employees and students live close to or on campus, there are still many more who live miles away, or even as far as Cle Elum or Yakima.

Central's Facilities and Maintenance cannot keep up with the snowfall. As long as it continues to fall, it will be impossible to catch up with the snow.

Let them plow the roads and walkways, remove excess snow and salt footpaths. Let students in classes with strict attendance policies off the hook so they don't risk life and limb for a check mark in the grade-book.

Beware the cheard! Stay alert for wild chin beards interstate 90 near Easton. Chains were even as far as Cle Elum or Yakima.

Large herds of cheard bearers have been sighted on college campuses around the country. They seem, however, most prominent in college gyms, their natural habitat.

The cheard requires vigilant supervision, emmaculate trimming and constant supervision, lest it grow upward and become unruly, or worse, grow southerly and turn into a beard.

Some species of cheard can be found in different environments around the world.

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WHO'S BRINGING THE BEER?

Ellensburg’s 8th annual Winterhop Brewfest hit downtown last Saturday. Over 22 breweries participated this year including hometown Iron Horse Brewery.

By Ashton Cermak | Staff Reporter

Conside r a moment that most of the political discourses that lead to the American Revolution took place in Bostonian pubs, usually over beer. Over 200 years later, home brewing and microbrewing are still both a passion and a pastime across the country. Last Saturday, Ellensburg saw its 8th annual Brewfest. It was a sea of gray beards, rosy cheeks, cowboy hats and pretzel necklaces that left everyone in high spirits.

Ten venues around downtown Ellensburg hosted 22 breweries across Washington and Oregon including Ellensburg’s Iron Horse Brewery. At Shaw’s Furniture, people could be found either standing in line to sample brews from Harmon Brewing Co. from Tacoma and Icicle Brewing Co. from Leavenworth, or relaxing on fancy sofas, arguably the best thing to do while enjoying a good brew. The Dakota Café, Gallery One and the Daily Record hosted live bands playing everything from Johnny Cash to the Beatles to Adele.

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At Mountain High Sports, people were packed elbow to elbow trying to see if any other IPA. It had the qualities you want from an IPA, a strong start and a subtle finish with a flowery, hoppy bite but with a sweet after taste. For Corey, it is all about balance. "I try to make a wide spectrum of flavors for people to enjoy but our IPA is about 35-40 percent of our sales."

"We want everything that we brew to be paired with food," Russell said. "Balance also plays a large role in how they flavor their beers."

"We want everything that we brew to be paired with food," Russell said.

For Corey, it is all about balance. "I try to make a wide spectrum of flavors for people to enjoy but our IPA is about 35-40 percent of our sales." Russell’s prerogative is to get good beer everyone.

"We've got a lager series coming out in the summer and a pilsner that is out about now," Russell said. "We don’t want to get pigeon holed as one kind of brewery."

For them, crafting a good beer is all about character, to them character is everything in a beer. "If you're going to start a brewery anywhere in the world, you ought to be in Yakima," Winn said. "That is where the hops come from.

One of the fastest growing breweries of the past six years is Ninkasi from Eugene, Ore., who set up shop at Old Skool’s Retro Center on Main Street. "Beer and music just go together," said Josh Russell, a representative from Ninkasi Brewery. "Ninkasi has begun to branch out past its hoppy roots.

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Yakima Craft Brewing Co. shared the spotlight with Iron Horse at Fitner’s Furniture. "This is our fourth year here and we just love it," said Jeff Winn, brew master for Yakima Craft. "We brought two Belgian style beers, Good Monkey and Bad Monkey, 7.96 and 8.2 percent (respectively) those ran out first."

Yakima Craft’s IPA got an A+ from Beer Advent Magazine. "Our IPA is one of our favorites," said Chris Swedin, head brewer at Yakima Craft.

Brew master Winn attributes the recent explosion of microbrews to “an awakening” amongst beer enthusiasts. For them, crafting a good beer is all about character, to them character is everything in a beer.

"We like a good mouth feel, not a thin beer, good texture," Winn said. "And in the end, we have to like it," added Swedin. After moving up from Portland, several years ago to start a brewery in Yakima, they are now working to expand their current 3.5 barrel load to a 20 barrel load by the end of the year. "If you're going to start a brewery anywhere in the world, it ought to be in Yakima," Winn said. "That is where the hops come from.

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"We want everything that we brew to be paired with food," Russell said. "If there is anything in your beer that is overpowering the flavors in your food, then you’re screwing something up, they should be complimentary with the foods you’re eating."

Josh Russell, Ninkasi Brewery representative

Known for it’s hoppy delights like the Tricerahops, a three-time National IPA Award winner, Yakima Craft has been doubling their previous year’s sales for six years running. "Total domination wasn’t an accidental name," Russell said. "That’s kind of what we plan to do, we are only in four states now.

Russell’s prerogative is to get good beer everywhere.

"There are some breweries that think their beer is too good to be sold in certain stores, we aren’t like that. Everybody deserves a good beer."

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Turn tables are spinning
DJ at 88.1 The ‘Burg leads the way for electronica

BY CHRISTOPHER SPARKS Staff Reporter

By having the most successful show in 2011 on 88.1 The ‘Burg, Christopher Pearce—also known as DJ KP, is helping the electronic music genre rise around campus.

In the spring of 2010, DJ KP was hired to be the Production Director at Central’s radio station, The ‘Burg. Shortly after, he produced his radio show Electropolis.

The show plays Fridays from 8 to 10 p.m. on The ‘Burg. Various music genres are played on the show such as Dubstep, Electrohouse, and Progressive House.

“I am first and foremost a producer,” Pearce said.

He spins some of his own music that he produced himself.

“I love it,” Pearce said. “I live, breathe and eat it.”

His passion helped the show become very popular both on campus and online where the shows stream live.

Pearce is currently a junior broadcast journalism student at Central’s radio station. The ‘Burg, he has a lot of responsibilities. He is included in voice tracking at the station including promotions, public service announcements and audio editing. He used to spin at the Starlight lounge on Saturday nights and will continue to spin after graduation.

Not all of his work for the show is paid, so he volunteers time to prepare for the his unyielding services in 2011-2012.

She is always willing to work with other teachers, even if it means without reimbursement. Cummings has been nominated for National Teaching Awards, and is the co-director of the CWU Africana and Black Studies Program.

She discussed the difficulties she faced while growing up amongst poverty and in a time of diversity. She had very little guidance throughout school, and still managed to become a student at San Francisco State University. She often went to bed hungry and suffered from impaired vision.

“I am first and foremost a producer,” Pearce said.

“Threat, shout, bellow, hit, slap, smack” started off the first monologue, “Connect: A Web of Words” written by Robin Morgan and performed by Richard DeSheilds.

DeSheilds’ powerful performance set the tone for the evening, and the night of spoken word continued to pull the audience’s heartstrings throughout the entire hour and a half of monologues.

Some funny, some tragic, some educational and some difficult to listen to, each monologue brought light to so many ideas, concepts and events that many people are too ignorant to see.

Many stories were presented in each of the monologues. Stories such as five-year-old girls being sent to marry 55 year old men, women being raped on their five-mile trek to get water for their tribe in Africa and young women being brought up in a society in which they are treated as if their body is everyone else’s but their own.

These are the stories presented in each of the monologues, and the Center for Student Empowerment’s production of this play was so full of passion and sincerity that the social injustice behind each monologue came to life.

“We create events to examine the issues that affect our campus and our world,” says the Center for Student Empowerment mission statement, and their rendition of “A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer” did just that.
Some kind of wonderpho!

A love for this hearty noodle soup endures from Hanoi to Jamaica, The Republic of the Philippines to New York, Los Angeles to Portland, and now Seattle to Ellensburg—the super food warms us to our bones. The miracle of finding a great bowl of pho (pronounced “fuuh”) in Central Washington is as compelling and reassuring as the beefy steam that rises and curls from a bowl of Vietnamese beef noodle soup called pho.

Pho originated in the 20th century in northern Vietnam. First served in Nam Dinh province—in a textile market for local silk manufacturers to sustain them through a long work week. Traditionally a food made for the working class, it is no wonder the first pho restaurant opened in Hanoi in the mid 1920s, shortly after the Great Depression made resources scarce around the traveling population.

Pho has been insanely popular among tourists and locals in every Asian country since the mid 1950s. Some believe the origin of the odd-named cuisine comes from the Chinese “fen” for noodles. Pho contains a universal set of ingredients that give the Saigon-style soup its signature Asian flavor: beef bone meal, blood meal and onion broth flush with warm rice noodles garnished with fresh mint, cilantro, bean sprouts, Saigon cinnamon, anise seed, basil and sliced chili peppers. Toss in thin raw sliced beef (fast-cooked in the steamy broth) or cooked chicken, and voila! Perfection.

Pho is so popular among the Asian-fusion restaurants world over that virtually any city of moderate population is bound to adopt a traditional pho recipe.

In Ellensburg, there is just one place to find this gem of Vietnam: The Golden Dragon. Lisa Chang, manages her uncle’s restaurant in Ellensburg. She is a bright and friendly host with a penchant for hospitality. Chang said pho has been increasingly popular since it was first served last spring.

“The people keep coming in and asking for it since the sign went in our window,” Chang said.

The menu boasts that The Golden Dragon “serves only the freshest and finest ingredients in preparing your food.” From the first layer of pho to the last, they proudly deliver a four-star product.

This restaurant, serving Ellensburg traditional Asian faire, has added the Vietnamese soup to their menu at $8.99 per heaping bowlful. The Golden Dragon serves pho daily Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., and weekends 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. They are located at 1302 S. Ruby St. next to the Nights Inn Motel.

MENDE SMITH/OBSERVER

Pho Chicken from the Golden Dragon.
Strings of wrath
Violinist defies gravity and simpler terms

BY MENDE SMITH
Assistant Scene Editor

At the upcoming concert at Central Washington University on Jan. 26, Geoffrey Castle will be performing as a soloist. Castle started his musical career as an under-graduate student playing for change in the streets of New York City. He fell into it as a “cool job” to supplement his education, while attending Columbia University.

Twenty-two years later, everything is serene and peaceful on Finn Hill, in Kirkland. There is about eight inches of snow on the ground as musician and performance artist Geoffrey Castle settles in. The sudden snowstorm has relieved him of his internet and power for the duration of the day. His voice is energetic and he laughs often.

Born on the East Coast, Castle is used to the harsh weather. He said that he wishes more of his Kirkland-area neighbors were too. The crazy weather aside, Castle has a recording session in the studio later in the afternoon, despite the storm.

The New Year brought many gigs and projects to his door. For the next few weeks, traveling into the mess of traffic is imminent—yet he is cheerful about the road ahead.

On his cajon strings, with a bow in hand, Castle has shattered the mold. A devil-may-care pluckier takes it to the edge—a man of so many styles, undefined. Where his heavy metal band days meet classic rock hits from years past, it is where the Bluegrass spin-off punk and new folk Ballardry meets traditional classic pieces that his heart lies.

Castle’s fully animated style performances leave audiences in awe. Reviews of his gigs from coast to coast are in line with the musical conundrum that Castle builds.

“Frankly,” Castle said, “My basic intent is that there is nothing that you can’t do on a violin, really my concert is more of an exposition on what’s possible...This is not your father’s Oldsmobile.”

With the use of loop samplers, Castle said he could recreate a symphony all by himself—and revels in that. While playing upscale venues and concerts for students and their mothers, he attributes his upbringing to classical training as he churns out “Canonic Sonatas for Two Violins” all on his own.

Castle has been recording professionally for many years and considers himself a multi-genre artist. Castle performed scores written expressly for small ensembles in an independent film and finished a thriller movie sound track project for Paramount Picture’s “The Gift” in 2003.

“I have opened up myself to trying a mix of all of my prior recordings over the years, my fans are asking for what’s next.”

In an East-meets-West collaboration with friend and traditional Chinese Jing Hu player, Lacy Wu, Castle is excited to get the duo ensemble’s first recording project done before the worldwide tour kicks off in May. As for now, Castle said, he will be performing for local youth orchestras as a soloist.

Castle will be performing Thursday Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the McIntyre Music Building.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEOFFREY CASTLE

For upcoming dates to events and performances, visit www.geoffreycastle.com

Lady of the shop

BY BOBBIE BLACK
Staff Reporter

On the second floor of McConnell Hall sits the Central Washington University costume shop. Once inside, one will instantly see shelves full of supplies, rows of sewing machines, and Cat McMillen. McMillen is the costume shop manager and central and has been for the last four years.

“A huge part of my job is making sure everything runs properly,” McMillen said. She has an extensive background in her field. While attending the University of Texas, she was the wig supervisor and handled all student costumes.

Today, she has over 20 years of experience in costume design, wig building, and stage make-up. McMillen also teaches a class covering run way and stage make-up.

Jennifer Leavitt, senior costume technician, has been working in the shop for three years. Leavitt has benefited from McMillen’s experience quite a bit.

“I’ve learned a lot from her,” Leavitt said. “There are not very many schools in the US that teach wig building and she knows all about it.”

Even with all her experience and knowledge about her field and industry, McMillen still takes an occasional class to learn new skills.

“In theatre the more trade knowledge you have the more marketable you become,” McMillen said.

Her main objective is to provide the students with the skills and abilities they need to be able to produce a show on their own. She believes the best way for students to learn is with hands-on experience. Caitlin Cardinale, freshman costume design, is a great example of that.

“It’s my first year and I’ve already had so many opportunities,” Cardinale said. Each student has to complete 30 hours of lab time during a quarter in order to receive credit. Lab time can be spent in a variety of different ways, such as making wigs, designing costumes, painting fabric or sewing. There is always something that needs to be stitched, sewn, or built.

With 35 students currently in and out of the shop putting in their time, McMillen has her hands full. During lab hours, she bounces from student to student, giving suggestions and feedback whenever needed. When she is not mentoring, McMillen is responsible for keeping the show fully stocked with supplies.

Although the shop can get hectic, especially when a big show is just around the corner, it remains in tip-top shape. McMillen keeps a clean house.

“I have the Cadillac of costume shops,” McMillen said.

The current play that the shop is preparing for is Eccars. One hundred percent of the costumes and wigs used for this show were made in the costume shop. A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes for these shows. Before any show debuts, there are production meetings where all the different parties involved come together and discuss the current status of the show.

“It’s a lot of different personalities in one room, but we make it work. Collaboration is our art.”

PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAT McMILLEN & BRIANAN STANLEY

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It’s a lot of different personalities in one room but we make it work. Collaboration is our art.

CAT McMILLEN
Costume shop manager

SCENE

A SMILE AND A VIOLIN

Geoffrey Castle will be performing Thursday Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in the McIntyre Music Building.

McMillen said. “Collaboration is our art.”

The passion and dedication McMillen has for her job and towards her students is prominent and shines through her spirit and the work that is produced from her shop.
Extremely awful and incredibly crappy

BY JEFFREY ALAN COTÉ
Observer Film Critic

Film is a marvelous thing. If there is one statement I could personally attest to above any other, it would be this: there is little else that comes to mind that can parallel a film’s ability to enlighten, broaden horizons, bond friends and inflict emotion in such a widespread and accessible fashion. The exploitation of these elegant vulnerabilities is what makes Stephen Daldry’s treachery and foul “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” such an unbelievable sin.

Newcomer Thomas Horn stars as Oskar, an eccentric and possibly prophetic young boy who tragically loses his father (Tom Hanks) on the morning of September 11, 2001. Upon finding a metal key with no clues to its existence other than the word ‘black,’ Oskar searches all over New York City for an answer to what he has interpreted to be a final message from his late father.

What makes the film so blindly offensive is how it takes advantage of the ability to make audiences experience an emotional response. At the film’s first few tearjerker moments, the method works. Yet, once the film gets to the point where there’s a melodramatic scene every five minutes, it becomes apparent that a grave mistake has been made. One can only wince in pain as the film regurgitates every possible drama cliché with little set-up, overly saccharine emotion and a complete lack of subtlety. Combined with the narrative’s dark and complex setting for the death of Oskar’s father, “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” ends up feeling manipulative and blindly exploitative.

If Oskar’s father had died in a car crash, this would just be another bad film among many. The 9/11 backdrop makes it an inexcusable one. Though I was fairly young on 9/11, I still remember experiencing a considerable amount of confusion, shock and distress for some time after. How these events must have affected New Yorkers and how they continue to affect victims’ families is simply incomprehensible.

In one scene, Oskar’s mother (Sandra Bullock), pleads with her son that he can’t possibly fully understand the circumstances of his father’s death because it “just doesn’t make sense.” This might be the film’s only shining moment, which ironically enough perfectly explains why the rest of the film is so alarmingly distasteful. Though topics like 9/11 are not impossible to use as inspiration for a film, handling such incendiary and traumatic material is a very delicate process. A filmmaker needs the right amount of finesse to portray such events successfully and honestly.

On the other hand, Bullock truly deserves recognition as the film’s only saving grace. With her performance as Oskar’s mother, she has concretely proved her worth as a dramatic actor. Despite Horn’s increasingly aggravating portrayal and Hanks’ surprisingly bland take on his character, Bullock’s remarkable presence generally makes her scenes worth watching. She does such a fine job that if she were featured more than just the three or so sequences she appears in, this could have been a completely different review.

“Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close” is a perfect example of drama for the sake of drama. This tactic is not only ineffective, but in this case, overwhelmingly disrespectful to those whose lives have been affected by this disaster. Though I can see why one might connect with this film, I left the theater with the impression that it was one of the most offensive, repugnant and reprehensible things I had ever seen on screen. Should the circumstance ever arise that someone ask me my least favorite film, in an answer that certainly be “Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close.”

The Bro Code
What makes a man a “real” man?

BY MEGHAN BRAUN
Rall Reporter

On Jan. 17, the Center for Student Empowerment hosted a documentary film called “The Bro Code: How Contemporary Culture Creates Sexist Men” as part of Manuary. Throughout the month of January, the center has and will continue to host events to talk about how to be a complete man and pose the question “Is it really about how big a man’s ego is or can he have emotions and express them and not be considered un-manly?”

Tuesday’s event showed students and others how today’s society depicts what a “real man” looks like and how he acts. Many people believe they must be athletic, with a great body, have a tough guy personality, enjoy all sports and sleep with as many girls as possible.

Director, writer and producer, Thomas Keith talks about how the culture submises men and makes it okay for boys and men to dehumanize and disrespect women. Just look at the shows on television today.

For example, while MTV’s hit reality show “Jersey Shore” may be entertaining, to most young boys that are watching it they see how the men treat women and how it comes across as humorous. When the reality is that most people think it’s not okay to bring home four girls and take your turn with them.

“The Bro Code” had four steps on how the media coaches males to do this starting with training men to womanize and have power over the “lesser” sex. Step two was immerse men in pornography. Step three was to make rape into a joke.

This section was interesting to listen to because the producer Keith, surveyed college males and in which at least half of them said they would rape a girl if they knew they would get away with it.

Phil Top, senior law and justice, said that was the most surprising thing he heard.

“I couldn’t believe that statistic when I heard it.”

Finally, the fourth step was to obey the masculinity cops. Do not fall short of being a “real man.” While some of the film’s content was surprising to many, that wasn’t the case for Patrick Mehler, junior physics.

“Nothing really surprised me because it is all true,” Mehler said.

Mal Stewman, the assistant director at the Center for Student Empowerment explained how Manuary and other events focus on genders and violence prevention.

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It’s that time again!

From January 3-31, come into the Connection Card office, put money on your Freedom Plan to redeem at CWU Dining Locations and receive an extra bonus percentage*

$1-$199 5% Bonus!
$200-$399 10% Bonus!
$400 & up 15% Bonus!

*Bonus Bucks must be spent at CWU Dining locations and will not be refunded.

If anyone is interested in other information on Manuary and the remaining events or wants to get involved visit their website at www.cwu.edu/~ceman.

cwu.edu/~card
Heart & courage

BY EVAN THOMPSON
Senior Reporter

Lying in her hospital bed at Harborview Medical Center, Ali McWeeny was told by her doctors that her left leg would be amputated from above the knee.

Not only would she be without her leg, she was also informed that it would be very difficult returning to school to finish studying for her physical education degree. About a month prior, McWeeny, as a junior, had won the title of Central Strong Woman, held 22 Washington state powerlifting records, and was an accomplished thrower for the Wildcats track and field team. But after her surgery, it was incredibly unlikely she would ever be able to return to the level of physical fitness that she was in before.

Five months later, McWeeny defied the odds and returned to competitive powerlifting. She’s set four Washington state lifting records since her comeback and is set to graduate this year.

But the fact that McWeeny was still alive in the first place was equally as unlikely, showing McWeeny’s determination and resilience by overcoming adversity to continue with her dreams through whatever life gives and takes.

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On July 4, 2009, McWeeny was out boating with friends on the Columbia River. When the wake boarder that they were towing dropped the line, the driver whipped around to pick the boarder up. While doing so, he sped up, which created several large waves. Two of the waves were in their immediate way; the first wave came over the bow and doused the entire boat, but no harm was done.

“After it, the second wake wave came that we were going to pass but we were heading straight for it,” McWeeny said. “It was larger than the other one and so we went full throttle to jump it and instead we nose-dived straight into the middle of the wave.”

The boat launched about eight feet into the air. McWeeny jumped off the left side of the boat and began swimming away. When the boat slammed back down onto the water, it had tilted on its right side and remained in full throttle.

McWeeny was around 10 feet away when the strong currents dragged her back underneath the boat and through the propellers, mangling her left leg and severely damaging the other. After surfacing, McWeeny was forced to tread water for over 20 minutes until a nearby boat spotted her. In the five hours between being pulled from the water to when she was finally airlifted to Harborview Medical Center, she had lost over 60 percent of her body’s blood. Doctors said that had her evacuation to the hospital taken any longer than it did, she would have died.

Had it not been for McWeeny’s education in first-aid training she almost certainly would have succumbed to the blood loss. Part of McWeeny’s major requires her to take first-aid classes every year and learn what to do in an emergency, and ironically, her first real-life test held her own life at stake. Once she was pulled from the water, she immediately instructed the people helping her to create tourniquets and place them around both of her legs in an attempt to slow the blood loss.

Ali McWeeny
CONTINUED ON P.15
Men’s basketball struggles

By Chace Davy
Ball Reporter

Central went on a two-game road trip last week, playing Wednesday against Western Washington University and Saturday against Simon Fraser.

Men’s basketball struggles

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Ball Reporter

Central went on a two-game road trip last week, playing Wednesday against Western Washington University and Saturday against Simon Fraser.

Central lost 85-71, despite the second half comeback, to PacWest Western Washington. Saturday’s game against Simon Fraser ended in similar fashion, but instead of coming from behind, Central gave up a double-digit lead in the final minute of the contest, 67-64.

Western decided to show up with their “A” game. About midway through the first half they formed a 19-2 run to get them to a double-digit lead. The Vikings held the lead for the remainder of the first half, leaving the floor with a comfortable, 14-point lead.

“That was really the difference in the game, was that run they went on in the first half, which was key’d off our missed shots,” Head Coach Shawn Nelson said. “Central sat at 5-10 overall and 2-6 in the GNAC, after losing to Western 2-6 in the GNAC. So, it was a battle on the boards, but not when the boards counted the most in the final minute of the game.

Russell and Van Dyke were the two leading scorers for the Wildcats with 19 apiece, Van Dyke was 8 for 13 on the night, and most of those attempts came in the first half of the game. Dwan added 12 points and also had seven assists on the night, while Albrecht grabbed nine boards.

“We had the game won and we have been working so hard on sync rebounding, and that’s what got us beat tonight,” Nelson said. “They took and missed a bad shot, and we didn’t have anyone to box out their post player, and that consequently lost us the game.”

Central will once again hit the road next week playing on the Alaska team’s Fairbanks on Thursday, Jan. 26, and Anchorage on Saturday, Jan. 28. Both games are scheduled to tip off at 7 p.m. Alaska Standard Time.

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The Wildcats held the ball, each heading into the final minute of play before a Simon Fraser lay-up tied the game at 64. There was a foul on the play, resulting in a one and one, but the Clan with a one-point lead.

Central was in perfect position for the go-ahead basket, Van Dyke took the floor and he took the hoop loop ahead of Simon Fraser with the ball and the lead. As Simon Fraser headed down in motion to score an easy breakaway lay-up, Amber Moser came from behind and blocked the shot attempt, but left the ball for another Simon Fraser player to get the easy put back.

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“The last six minutes of the game we got away from our offense,” Nelson said. “The group that was on at the time was thinking that having the lead and just going one-on-one was going to get us a win.”

With just 3.4 seconds left in the game, Van Dyke attempted a contested three-pointer, but was off the mark at the buzzer, the Clan went on to win 67-64.

“I think we just have to get the mentality that we can win,” Dunn said. “A lot of us aren’t used to winning games so we get in that position and we aren’t used to doing it and so we fell away from what we had been doing the whole game because we are not experienced enough.”

Central won the battle on the boards, but not when the boards counted the most in the final minute of the game.

Russell and Van Dyke were the two leading scorers for the Wildcats with 19 apiece, Van Dyke was 8 for 13 on the night, and most of those attempts came in the first half of the game. Dwan added 12 points and also had seven assists on the night, while Albrecht grabbed nine boards.

“When we cut the lead to seven, we were playing well,” Sparling said. “Bad shot selection and a couple of turnovers led to a 13 point game in three possessions.”

Sophomores Lucy Haddock and Kevin Davis combined for 36 points in the loss, which dropped the Wildcats to 8-10 on the season.

The Simon Fraser game had a similar storyline, but the roles were reversed, with Central winning.

Sophomore Sue Albrecht grabbed 12 rebounds, including the game winner, a 3-point play, leaving the Clan with a one-point lead.

If our offense was having distance as the Vikings were up by 19 with five minutes left to go in the game.

Junior guard Alex Dunn and senior Sophie Russell were Central’s leading scorers, both snagging 16 points. Sophomore Jessica Van Dyke added 14 points. Junior Stacy Allbrecht came off the bench to contribute 10 second half points to try and take a stab at the Viking lead.

Central made 31 percent of their shots attempts in the first half, only to turn around and shoot 42.9 percent in the second half of the game. Each team turned the ball over about 13 times, but Central outscored Western in the second half.

“Western Washington is a very good basketball team, but we didn’t get beat because we’re not good enough,” Nelson said. “We got beat because we missed shots and we did not have a very good week in practice, I thought we played offensively tonight like we did in practice.”

The Wildcats sat at 5-10 overall and 2-6 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC). Their post player, and that consequently lost us the game.”

Central went on to take their largest lead of the night, but were trampled over by the Clan with an 18-6 run.

With nine games left in the season the Wildcats still can make the conference tournament at the end of the regular season.

“Encourage fans to come out and support us when we come back home,” Sparling said. “We need to have home court advantage.”

Central’s next home games are Thursday, Jan. 26th against Alaska and Saturday, Jan. 28th against Alaska Anchorage.

Central led the whole first half and into the second half until Simon Fraser took their first lead but it was only for a couple of minutes. The Wildcats buckled down to take back the lead with 14:55 left on the clock. Central went on to take their largest lead of the night, but were trampled over by the Clan with an 18-6 run.

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Don’t puck with the hockey club

BY SANTOS HERRERA
Staff Reporter

Central’s Ice Hockey Club has found a new home. Originally playing at the Town Toyota Center in Wenatchee, the team will now call the Fugert Sound Hockey Center Ice Skating Rink their home.

It is a long drive, but the team feels that it is a great place to play and well worth the trip. The rink, located in Tacoma, was opened by Brandyn Kaufman’s parents in 1993.

Kaufman, junior aviation, is currently in his third year with the Central Ice Hockey Club. His teammates refer to him as Bubba and their “go-to-guy.”

“Whatever he says to do, we do,” said Justin Canada, the club’s current president. “We don’t currently have a captain, but if we did, he would be it.”

Kaufman said that he has been skating since he was three years old and playing hockey since the age of five.

“I just have a little more experience,” Kaufman said.

Kaufman also played in the Southwest- ern League with the Tacoma Rockets, a junior team, for eight years.

“I share every bit of experience I can with them,” Kaufman said. “I don’t hold back any knowledge because I want them to improve.”

The club feels that their biggest issues are having only nine players on the roster and finding players in Ellensburg. Six players, including the goalie, need to be on the ice. Therefore, it is difficult to compete with teams that have 20 players and even harder to prepare for them.

While teams with well-established programs have the numbers to scrimmage one another and work on real game situations, Central’s team simply tries to perfect the fundamental skills: skate, pass, and shoot.

“All in all, both Canada and Kaufman agree that it is all about the passion and love for the game that keeps them and the rest of the team motivated.”

“No one comes to Central to play hockey,” Kaufman said. “Therefore, it is hard to find people in Ellensburg with a hockey background.”

In addition to a small number of players, Central doesn’t begin practicing for the season until a month after the other teams, giving Central an uphill battle before the season even begins.

The team is currently 0-3 with its most current loss coming in an 11-0 shut-out against Washington State University on Saturday, Jan. 14.

According to Canada, the team has taken a step back any knowledge because I want them with them,” Kaufman said. “I don’t hold back any knowledge because I want them to improve.”

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Jeff Bayley/OBSERVER

ICE MAN Brandyn Kaufman takes a slap shot at Central’s Wednesday night practice.

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Ali McWeeny
CONTINUED FROM P.12
She was airlifted from Rye Grass, which is the highest point near Vantage, and was taken to Harborview Medical Center. At the hospital, she had four surgeries between both legs. Her right leg had five lacerations bone deep, from the back of her knee to her hip.

But these surgeries were only a road bump for McWeeny. She still felt the drive to compete boiling inside of her.

“I don’t think she missed a beat actually,” said Zack McCarley, a training partner of McWeeny’s. “She had her coach Kevin Stewart [bring] in some weights to the hospital and she was lifting weights in the hospital right after getting out of surgery.”

After the operations were completed, McWeeny was once again given the short-hand by her doctors. They projected her stay to be as long as three months. Remarkably, McWeeny left in only three and a half weeks.

McWeeny began the recovery process with physical rehabilitation at a clinic for two weeks until she decided to part ways because she wanted to increase the intensity of her workouts.

“The workouts they had me do were perfect for me at first, but I don’t know, me being an athlete: I wanted to keep pushing myself and wanted to keep growing and getting stronger,” McWeeny said.

Working out in the SURC, McWeeny performed several different stretches for both legs and worked to recover her hips and lower back as well. But simple rehab wasn’t enough, she was recovering from her accident, she had a higher purpose than that: return to competition as soon as possible.

In December, only five months after her amputation, McWeeny competed in the Fife Holiday Classic bench press.

This year, she returned, this time competing in the deadlift. This past October, McWeeny made her debut in her first full-on professional powerlifting meet, the Night of the Living Deadlift, which was held in Tennessee.

“If I’m so proud and inspired by her courage and strength,” said Denise McWeeny, Ali’s mother. “She’s just an incredibly determined, powerful individual.”

McWeeny uses a prosthetic leg for walking and during competitions, but recently has been training and lifting without it. McWeeny says it throws out her back and makes the heavier lifts more difficult.

At the professional meet, she completed all three lifts of deadlift and hit 171 pounds, a new personal record. But the fact that she was even lifting drew the attention and the spirit of the crowd. McWeeny said that while she was halfway up on her lift the crowd rose in support to cheer her through it.

“It was the craziest experience I’ve ever had of my life,” McWeeny said. “I’ve never had a crowd of people screaming bloody murder; [they] were just so amped for me to lift.”

McWeeny’s upcoming meet is in March. She will be doing deadlift in April, she will compete in the full circuit: bench press, squat, and deadlift. She’s set on doing all of them without the aid of the prosthetic leg.

The competition will be held by USA Power Lifting Nationals in Boise, Idaho.

McWeeny is prepared to make a run at nationals. She trains four days a week and also works on the spin bike everyday and goes swimming two to three times a week.

“My motivation is to think of the good things, thank God that you’re here for one, and thank yourself,” McWeeny said. “You need to be happy. Everyone knows that happiness is the key to life, and therefore, you are your own key to your life because you are the one that controls your happiness.”

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IV INCLINE

McWeeny incline presses some dumbbells in her hospital bed.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALI MCWEENY

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ALI MCWEENY
Some people find it difficult to throw a Frisbee, and many get so frustrated that they quit and retreat to a sport with a ball. It’s almost as if it’s an art form, one that requires technique and finesse. A Frisbee is a hybrid of basketball, football and of course, Frisbee. Competitors take turns trying to move their disc by tossing it to teammates downfield. The key rule is that there is no running with the Frisbee, which makes team chemistry one of the critical aspects of the game.

When Chris Nash, junior computer science, first came to Central as a transfer from Montana State, he checked to see if Central had an Ultimate team. When he showed up to the club team’s practice field, he found himself to be one of the only few who turned out for the team. Nash took the initiative to plan and organize the club and bring his love of Ultimate to the students here at Central. The team now has grown and consists of 25 players. “Practices just really weren’t organized or anything last year,” Nash said. “It really disappointed me, so I really made a big effort to be really participatory and sort of push to change things to make it more competitive.”

Many students are familiar with Ultimate, a sport popularized by high school and college students around the country. Often, students are seen playing it recreationally on any available grass field on campus, especially in the spring. Nash said the competitive version of the game involves more strategy. Handlers act similarly to quarterbacks football, throwing downfield to players called cutters, who attempt to catch the disc for a score in the opponent’s end zone. Players run about as much as soccer players do throughout the course of the game, making conditioning and training a vital part of the sport. Although the sport’s rules indicate that it’s not a physical game, the gameplay is anything but passive. Casey Croshaw, junior biology education, relates the style of play to another popular sport. “It’s kind of like basketball in a way,” Croshaw said. “It’s a non-contact sport but when you watch basketball there’s contact and people get hurt and stuff, it’s kind of the same way.”

Nash also knows first-hand about the physicality of the game from one of his most memorable moments playing. “One year in high school I actually broke a kid’s nose diving for a Frisbee,” Nash said. “So it can get really intense and competitive.”

Crosawl has enjoyed his first experience with an organized Ultimate team, bonding with a close-knit group of guys. “I didn’t really know what to expect going in, I had never played Frisbee competitively,” Croshaw said. “But it’s definitely been a lot of fun. It gives me a reason to work out and stuff.”

The team recently placed sixth out of 36 teams in a tournament held by UNI, marking the growth the team has made. However, they have their eyes set on a bigger prize. They hope to make it through sectionals in late April. If they place high enough, they could qualify to play in the National tournament sponsored by the governing body of the sport.

Nash and Croshaw encourage students who are interested in participating to attend one of their practices and give it a try to see if it’s for them.

The Ultimate team practices on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 11 p.m. in Nicholson Pavilion.