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The OBSERVER

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ALOHA, PLAYOFFS

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Stories in News and Scene explore issues involving students with disabilities.

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DISABILITIES

PHOTO BY CINDY GAMBOA/OBSERVER

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NUTCRACKER
CWU Dance Ensemble puts on three shows from Dec. 7-9 in McConnell Auditorium.

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Aloha, playoffs

PHOTO BY CINDY GAMBOA/OBSERVER

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The Observer
by the students & for the students of CWU

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Before you leave for the holidays:
Top 10 tips to prevent frozen water pipes

1. The temperature in the home should be no lower than 55 degrees.
2. Make sure all garden hoses are disconnected.
3. All exterior floor vents and crawl space access door should be closed and sealed properly. Foam floor vent inserts are available through local lumber and hardware stores. If you want to cut your own inserts, use 2” thick pink waterproof foam board.
4. Insulate perimeter walls in the crawl space with R-19 six-inch fiberglass batts.
5. Wrap both cold and hot water pipes with a 11 three-inch thick fiberglass batts. Insulating water pipes does not necessarily prevent frozen pipes.
6. If you wrap your pipes with heat tape, be sure to follow the manufacturer’s instructions. Improper use may cause a fire.
7. When temperatures go below zero, try letting the hot and cold water trickle overnight. This is especially critical for water pipes on the outside walls.
8. Try opening cabinet doors under a sink or appliance near an outer wall to allow heat to get to uninsulated water pipes.
9. If you plan to be away from your home for awhile, be sure to have someone check your house daily to make sure it’s warm enough to prevent frozen water pipes, or have your water turned off at the meter by the City Water Division, at no charge during normal working hours, so you can drain your pipes.
10. Make sure you and your family know how to shut off the water. If the water pipes burst, this can minimize damage.

A public service message from the City of Ellensburg Public Works Department

For more information, or for after hours emergency water shutoff, contact the City of Ellensburg Water Division at 962-7230.
Dyslexic DJ mixes it up at The ‘Burg

BY ALEA THORNE
Staff Reporter

There is a new DJ in the ‘Burg, Sam Maupin, known as “Hands the Dyslexic DJ.” He is a junior majoring in broadcast journalism. On a regular day, Maupin can be seen signing to his deaf girlfriend.

“That’s where I got the name from,” Maupin said. “I’m always trying to use sign language in order to include her in the conversation.

The rest of his DJ name has a more personal meaning to him. Maupin is dyslexic, which means he has trouble reading, dysgraphic, which means he has trouble writing, and dyscalculic, which means he has trouble with math.

Stills, these learning disabilities don’t stop Maupin from succeeding.

At age 14, Maupin finally learned to read. Before he learned to read, letters and words had no meaning for him. Instead, Maupin learned words through talking.

“I’m always looking at the CD track. I look at which CDs are playing by the picture. I choose them based on who the artist is. I then look to see if I recognize the artist. If I do, I look up the lyrics and slowly learn to read the songs. If the artist is new to me, I use Google and their words to know who the artist is. I then look for the CD on the internet and buy it,” Maupin said.

His strategy for learning in school is the same strategy he uses for his shows. He looks at which CDs are playing by the pictures on the CD covers instead of reading the words to know who the artist is.

“I’m always looking at the CD track. If I accidentally look at the wrong thing I can play the wrong song,” Maupin said. “It’s a lot of playing by ear.”

Maupin uses a 360 voice machine that reads the script on air to him during the show. Maupin attempts to verbalize material multiple times before it plays on air.

“We are using in-the-studio recording technology that allows him to record without going over the air until he touches the button,” said Chris Hull, general manager of 88.1 The ‘Burg.

Maupin said there’s still a lot of pressure to make sure he does not mess up during the show.

“If you mess up, it’s bad,” Maupin said. “You cannot afford to misquote people or say false facts.”

Maupin has wanted to be a DJ since he was 13. In high school, he was a DJ for Christian music. Now, he’s finally getting his dream of being a spin master of grunge music. Maupin is not sure if he will stick with being a DJ as a career choice.

Maupin said he has received a lot of support from his fellow staffers at the The ‘Burg.

“Sam is going to be a great addition, said Jessica Gastaneda, broadcast technician II. ‘We’re excited to have him.’

Maupin’s new show, featuring Northwest grunge music, is every Tuesday night from 10 p.m. to midnight.

A disability is defined as a medical condition that substantially limits one in a major life activity.

-IAN CAMPBELL
CDS Assistant Director

The Center for Disability Services (CDS) on campus offers a wide selection of accommodations for students with physical and learning disabilities.

Any student who has a disability can register to receive accommodations. A disability is different than a medical condition according to Ian Campbell, assistant director at the CDS.

“A disability is defined as a medical condition that substantially limits someone in a major life activity.” Campbell said. “We all have medical conditions, but when those become substantial enough they can become a disability.”

Jacy Garner, junior nutrition major, helps students with disabilities register to receive accommodations.

“The first step which I help students with is to register with a request-for-service form and start a file for the student,” Garner said.

“We then ask for documentation from their doctor with the diagnosis of their disability.”

Campbell said the accommodation process is individualized. “Someone who is blind is going to need completely different accommodations than someone with ADD or a learning disability,” he said.

Someone who is physically handicapped and in a wheelchair, for example, can receive priority snow removal. A path is cleared from a handicapped student’s dorm to their classes.

Another accommodation is speech recognition software available for someone who is unable to type.

“When people think of disabilities, they think blind or deaf, but actually our number one disability here on campus is ADD/ADHD followed by learning disabilities and then psychiatric disabilities,” Campbell said.

Some accommodations that help people with ADD/ADHD or learning disabilities are early registration, having a note taker in class, audio recordings of lectures, extra time on tests or in-class assignments, and even early notification of assignments.

“The early registration of classes is really helpful for many different disabilities,” Campbell said.

“If someone is really depressed and has a hard time getting out of bed in the morning, being able to take classes later in the day is really nice. Technology plays a big role in helping students with disabilities. Electronic textbooks are available to students who are blind or have learning disabilities. Screen reading makes the whole textbook available to an individual by making it completely audible, including menu options to select certain chapters.”

Text-to-speech software allows people with learning disabilities to select which paragraphs of the textbook they want read out loud.

“If a book isn’t available in braille or having screen reading or literary software, then we will translate it ourselves here on campus for the student,” said Pam Wilson, associate director at the CDS. “A math book, for example, can take as long as three months, while a novel can take just a couple hours.”

Other schools send books to Central to be translated, which is a way the CDS earns money, Wilson said.

“We even translate the Washington State voters pamphlet,” Wilson said.

Central Washington University has the highest number of students with disabilities per capita in the state, with about five to six percent.

“We have been offering accommodations for disabled people longer than most schools in the state,” Campbell said.

“It really seems to be part of the CWU culture. The professors here are really understanding, and to me that’s as important for a learning disability as a ramp is for a physical disability.”

For more stories about disability services and students with disabilities, see page 5 in News and page 10 in Scene.
E.M.P.I.R.E state of mind
Central club joins admissions in Seattle college recruitment fair

BY JAYNA SMITH
Assisted News Editor

This school year’s incoming freshmen represented the most diverse freshmen class in Central’s history.

A club on campus, Extraordinary Men Pursuing Intellectual Readiness through Education (E.M.P.I.R.E) is working to make sure next year’s freshmen will represent even more diversity.

Andre Dickerson, a Central alum who now works for Central’s admissions, invited E.M.P.I.R.E to join admissions in a recruitment effort which took place at Rainier Beach High School in Seattle.

According to the Seattle Public School Report last updated in March of 2011, Rainier Beach’s ethnicity demographics are 57 percent African American, 18 percent Asian, 13 percent Chicano/Latino and nine percent White/Caucasian.

When E.M.P.I.R.E was invited to the college fair, club president Saeed Mohamed knew the club needed to participate.

His goal was to show students from diverse backgrounds they can attend college as well.

“If I can do it, any young brother coming from anywhere can do it,” Mohamed said.

More than 200 high school students attended the event, and Central alone got over 60 students to sign up for more information regarding admission. According to Dickerson, that is almost double the average amount of signatures admissions gets at recruitment fairs.

“For me personally, it was a way to show people who were underrepresented that Central is the key,” Mohamed said.

E.M.P.I.R.E started in 2010 from a focus group Keith Champagne and Adam Hazlip began along with Anthony Peterson and Dickerson. The pillars the club is built on are scholarship, mentorship and service. With over 50 members and about 20 active members, male and female, E.M.P.I.R.E looks to expand and develop a presence outside of Central.

E.M.P.I.R.E has helped students who weren’t taking high school seriously and needed to become more responsible about their education transitioning into college.

Delshawn Staten, a freshman exercise science major, met Dickerson and Mohamed at a college fair at Seattle University and they recruited him to come to Central.

“E.M.P.I.R.E gave me a second chance because I was messing up back home,” Staten said. “It gives students who are serious about succeeding opportunities and connections.”

He said being a part of E.M.P.I.R.E showed him people of all backgrounds getting college degrees and paving the way for other students from various walks of life to do the same.

“Our goal is to build global leaders,” Mohamed said.

James Sia Jr., sophomore aviation major at Central, attended Rainier Beach High School but graduated from Garfield High School.

Hailing from Nicaragua, he has lived in the U.S. since 2007 but didn’t become fluent in English until about three years later.

He was always active in high school, and joined E.M.P.I.R.E because he liked what it stood for.

“E.M.P.I.R.E is helping us get the best out of college,” Sia said.

E.M.P.I.R.E is working to expand and offer scholarships for students. Other schools contacted E.M.P.I.R.E and made donations.

“I think we are expanding now and will keep expanding to other schools,” Sia said.

Saeed Mohamed

“I challenge myself and I’m proud of myself.”

Delshawn Staten

“You have to be true to yourself and your culture.”

James Sia Jr.

“I see myself as a positive person. Negative things are not seen as an option.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTIANNE BURGONIO

E.M.P.I.R.E Meetings
6 p.m. Thursday
SURC Room 301

RECRUITING
President of E.M.P.I.R.E Saeed Mohamed talks to prospective students as they sign up for information about attending Central after they graduate.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTIANNE BURGONIO
Disabled students seek campus improvements

By Matt Thompson

Staff Reporter

The Ellenburg Puppies Club, which is affiliated with Guide Dogs for the Blind, is training guide dogs and also has a support base for people in Ellenburg who are blind and use guide dogs.

The puppies are about 8 weeks old and are fostered until they are 14 to 15 months old, when they are sent back to Oregon or California for evaluation and advancement.

"The puppy graduation is an emotional culminating experience but also really rewarding," Sheely said. "I eventually will assign the "good dog," then the "go-to guide for the raising process," Gernandt said. "It tells you everything you need to know for if a dog gets sick, or for brushing its teeth, clipping its nails, and stuff like that."

Once members receive training and approval by the club leader, they are ready to raise a dog full time.

"My job is to train potential raisers, give them weekly quizzes on the guide book and even do a home inspection to make sure it's a fit environment for the dog" Sheely said. "I eventually will assign them an older dog for a couple days to sit, which is basically like the final test."

Once the dogs are fostered and sent back to Oregon or California, there is a puppy graduation.

"The puppy graduation an emotional experience but also really rewarding," Sheely said. "I've done this with three dogs and cried every time."
Don’t Jewish you could celebrate?

BY DANNY SCHMIDT
Assistant in-Chief

Being Jewish is on a whole other level. I feel like no one quite realizes the difficulties I, and other young Jews, go through, around the holidays. Many of these feelings stem from the desire to just be a normal kid, with a Christmas tree in front of the window and mistletoe over my door. I used to think the reason my house didn’t have a fireplace and chimney was because we celebrated Hanukkah, and Santa Claus didn’t come to our house. I had to deal with a menorah and latkes with a plescence growing up. Not that this was at all a problem, but let me just say, it wasn’t easy being the only one in my childhood neighborhood with eight days of presents.

I’ll just stop you right there. Eight days of presents sounds amazing, but you don’t know the start of it. For the first two days, life is great; getting awesome presents like a boss—then things start to change. On the third night, I start receiving things like Butterfinger candy bars.

Fast-forward three days and I’m getting two pairs of socks—that I already own.

My parents would always say: “We are leaving the best for last,” which was never the question, of course they were, but in the mean time, let’s kick it up a notch.

Something happened to me this past week that has definitely happened before, but it still stings just the same.

I posted a lovely holiday photo on my Instagram to share with my loved ones. Just moments later, my phone went off with a text from one of my best friends, Pam, who lives in Seattle. The text read something like, “You don’t celebrate Christmas.”

Whoa, shots fired. This is something every Jewish boy and girl has to go through, which is the terrible feeling of being shot down for having Christmas spirit. I mean, so what if I happen to love green and red put together, and I have a certain soft spot in my heart for the smell of fresh ham on Christmas morning—that doesn’t mean I believe Jesus is the messiah or anything.

All too often I’m sitting there as everyone talks about their favorite Christ- mas experiences and traditions, and sure enough, someone looks at me and says something along the lines of “Well I won’t ask you.”

I loved Santa Claus growing up. I had a Santa hat and was not afraid to wear it—even if it wasn’t December. But whenever people saw me in the hat, they asked me why I was wearing it. How dare you!

On a melodic note, I love Christmas music. Most people do, I believe, but some of that stuff is weird if you listen to the lyrics. Most of them appear to be religious, which is cool, but sometimes weird.

Jewish songs are pretty upbeat, and normally don’t contain any more content then a how-to on making a clay dreidel—which is helpful to people of all religions, if you ask me.

I hope everyone has a great winter break, and a great Christmas, Christmas for Jewish people is full of air condition movie theaters, family bonding and beef and broccoli.

Chinese restaurants seem to be the only ones open on Dec 25, so instead of ham and mashed potatoes, I get to eat Mongolian beef and dumplings.

Sure, Christmas trees are beautiful, but does it illuminate for eight nights? Well yeah, I guess lights on the tree are up for about a month, but you get my point.

It’s hard to not get sucked into the Christmas spirit, with all the commercials, music, movies and more.

So to all you Christmas celebraters, if your Jewish friend is humming “Jingle Bells,” or wears a Santa hat, let them be. We won’t get mad if we see you spinning a dreidel.

BY CONNOR VANDERWYST
Sports Editor

I have figured out I have serious separation anxiety. This past summer I had to move out of the apartment I lived in for three years and spend my last quarter living in the dorms.

Even though I haven’t been a resident of The Grove since June, I still catch myself referring to Bryan and Drew as my roommates on several occasions.

I don’t mess with change, but I am about to go through one of the most drastic changes in a person’s life: the transition from going to college to living in the real world and being an adult.

At the time this opinion is published I will have five days left in my college career. When I first arrived at Central I wasn’t sure if it was the right place for me.

Eventually, I found a great group of friends and realized I made the best decision of my life. For my English degree I had to take a practicum course and the choices were writing for The Observer, working in the Writing Center or working on Manastash.

Being a sports junkie, I decided to work for The Observer. Little did I know, being a part of the Observer editorial staff would completely change my entire outlook on life.

Being a part of The Observer editorial staff is like being in the Illuminati. The only way out is in a box—or if you graduate.

Spending my Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights, and Wednesday mornings in the newsroom has completely warped my mind and turned me into the most ratchet version of myself. warped my mind and turned me into the most ratchet version of myself.

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I would have never thought I would listen to so much Tyga in my life, but I was not afraid to wear it—even if it wasn’t December. But whenever people saw me in the hat, they asked me why I was wearing it. How dare you!

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Dear Readers,

The Observer welcomes brief letters of 300 words or less from readers on current issues. Please include your full name and university affiliation year and major, degree and year graduated, or staff position and department. To be printed in the following week’s issue, please e-mail your letters to cwuobserveropinion@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Sunday. The Observer reserves the right to reject or edit for style and length. All letters become property of The Observer. Anonymous letters will not be considered.
The Christmas season always brings certain traditions which warm the hearts of the community. This year, the Central Washington Dance Ensemble, the Central Washington University Orchesis Dance Company and the Central Theatre Ensemble have banded together to bring an old tradition back to Ellensburg, with three performances of The Nutcracker in early December.

“We’ve been sort of trying to get a collaboration going with the university ever since I arrived,” said Jane Venezia, artistic director of the Central Washington Dance Ensemble and production director of The Nutcracker. Venezia has been in Ellensburg for four years, but aside from a collaboration with the other music department during her first year here, this is the first time she has worked with the school.

Before Venezia came to Central, the Ellensburg Youth Ballet had a yearly tradition of performing The Nutcracker and A Christmas Carol on alternating years with the college. When the Ellensburg Youth Ballet disbanded, the performances stopped.

The Central Washington Dance Ensemble used to do all of their performances in the Morgan Middle School auditorium, but due to safety issues concerning the age of the auditorium, it closed down last year.

“It was just lucky for us that this was the year they wanted to do the collaboration again,” Venezia said.

The biggest difference for Venezia in this year’s production, as opposed to the ten other productions of The Nutcracker which she has been a part of, is having to stay in touch with university personnel.

“Jane [Venezia] and I have talked before about wanting to have The Nutcracker and having it be a collaboration,” said Therese Young, dance program director for Central Washington University. “We used to have The Nutcracker every other year and I miss it. It’s a great performance and opportunity for our students and they work so hard for it.”

Since the Central Washington University Orchesis Dance Company is made up of college students and the Central Washington Dance Ensemble is mostly younger kids, the oldest being 17, the collaboration between the two groups definitely presents a different atmosphere for the older dancers.

“It’s like going from being hands-on to being a spectator,” said Jenani Keene, junior musical theatre major playing the roles of Arabian, Chinese and bug soldier in the play. “Orchesis is a peer-to-peer atmosphere and the Central Washington Dance Ensemble is us sitting back and being taught things. It’s almost like being in class again.”

Despite the age difference, the two groups of dancers don’t have a problem interacting with each other.

“Since we’re older, we usually dance with just us,” said Krista Bebling, junior elementary education major playing a daw drop and a snowflake. “We are only really in contact with the younger kids when we’re on a break.”

Keene agreed, but went on to talk about how even though the older performers were children, they were professional.

“They know exactly what they are supposed to be doing and they do it,” Keen said.

Before Venezia came to Central, the Ellensburg Youth Ballet had a yearly tradition of performing The Nutcracker and A Christmas Carol on alternating years with the college. When the Ellensburg Youth Ballet disbanded, the performances stopped.

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The beginning of the school year is always so promising. The weather is nice, everyone is still rockin’ the remnants of a summer tan, and we have some money left over from working for the past three months.

Fast forward to the end of November. With finals week closing in, the student body is irritable and tired because of the workload from their classes, and, to top it all off, holiday shopping is right around the corner.

Luckily, there are some companies out there who appear to have the poor college student in mind.

“Definitely hit up Amazon for deals on anything,” said Julio Holsten, junior aviation management major. “Amazon Prime, if you don’t have that, for students it’s free shipping, so that saves a couple bucks there.”

Around the holiday season, companies offer ridiculously low prices on their products. The most notable online holiday shopping deals take place on “Cyber Monday,” the Monday following the infamous “Black Friday.”

Websites like woot.com and dogfunk.com are excellent examples of sites offering a wide variety of products at only half the retail price.

Groupon.com is a website with a huge selection of great gift ideas. At the site, shoppers are presented with a number of deals for everything from event tickets to coupons for massages to discounts on family portraits. The site also offers great deals for up to 99 percent off the suggested retail value.

With deals like this, and a credit given out in exchange for referrals, it would be wise not to visit this site.

But even with all the deals, buying gifts for all of your family and friends can get expensive. One way to combat this harsh reality is to put in a little time and diligence.

“Don’t always go for the first thing you see, website-wise,” Holsten said. “Always do a little research, trying to find the best deals.”

eBay has a wide array of products that offer the possibility of one-stop shopping.

“I buy a lot of stuff on eBay because you can find a lot of obscure things there,” said Camille Borodey, junior welding specialization major. “There are so many categories and so many things you can randomly buy on eBay.”

One of the great things about eBay is the ability to make your gifts more personalized. These gifts tend to be hugely popular amongst recipients and are a good way to spread a little holiday cheer.

“You can find everything from key chains, to movie posters and movies you cannot find anywhere,” Borodey said. “Things like band t-shirts—I got my sister a Morrissey t-shirt because that is her favorite singer—stuff you just cannot find in the mall because that stuff gets a little boring.”

Still not helping? Maybe went out to Wing’s a couple times more this month than you should have? There are still ways around this, but you are going to have to get creative.

“My favorite gift to give is Planters nuts inside a fancy tin,” said Hunter Burke, junior safety and health management major. “It is cheap and people do not really realize that you only spent five dollars.” Brilliant.
Ain’t no thang but a brain game

Students and professors explain the importance of memory

BY DEREK SHUCK
Daily Reporter

During finals week at Central, students try to cram for upcoming tests in a variety of ways. Some wait until minutes before a test to study, making sure the information is as fresh as possible. Others spend days buried in the Brooks Library Fishbowl, not leaving until they have every important fact memorized. Still others try a different path, turning to modern psychology to boost their brain and ace their finals.

The Human Cognition Project is a program sponsored by Lumosity.com which helps improve brain activity through the use of online puzzles and games.

“I wanted a more constructive way to spend my time,” said Nikolai Sheppard, a senior communications major who participates in the Human Cognition Project. “You get to play games and improve yourself!”

The program works to identify weak areas of every individual’s brain, separated into five categories: speed, attention, memory, flexibility and problem solving. Once a participant understands these categories, it becomes important to rank them, focusing on the area which needs the most improvement.

“It’s important to strengthen areas you need help in,” Sheppard said.

Once a participant is aware of the area they want to improve, the project narrows down the categories. Several of these narrowed down categories benefit college students studying for finals, including focusing on the task at hand and improving productivity and precision while working at home.

After prioritizing these sub-categories and entering some basic personal information, the Human Cognition Project will develop a daily regimen which has been statistically proven to boost the chosen areas of the brain. The site tracks your improvement through a system known as the Brain Performance Index, or BPI. The BPI is a numerical value which compares a participant to every other participant in their respective age group.

While the site provides a map for three months of brain training, it becomes important to rank them, focusing on the area which needs the most improvement.

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“It’s important to strengthen areas you need help in,” Sheppard said.

As you participate and train your brain through games, Lumosity.com will keep track of the results and apply them to your BPI. The site then estimates how your BPI will change over a three-month period of brain training for 15 minutes a day. Studies have shown that a month of the program’s memory puzzles can provide significant improvement in a subject’s ability to remember important facts.

While the site provides a map for three months of brain training, it becomes important to rank them, focusing on the area which needs the most improvement.

“Brain games are great,” said Maggie Caetano, senior family studies major. “I sing important things to Backstreet Boys songs to remember them.”

Many students familiar with finals have learned the value of psychology in studying. Often, when simplifying paying attention in class is not enough to do well on the final, mnemonic devices and rituals are what get students through the trials of finals week.

“Always on the fourth floor, away from everyone else where no one can bother you, that’s my spot,” Caetano said.

For other students, proper study methods depend more on timing than place.

“Try to study as soon as possible so you have time to digest the information and lower your anxiety before a test,” said Alex Walker, senior political science major.

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-MAGGIE CAETANO
Senior, Family Studies major

Try to study as soon as possible, so you have time to digest the information and lower your anxiety before a test.

-ALEX WALKER
Senior, Political Science major

Central AIDS in the fight against AIDS

BY ISA CUMMINS
Daily Reporter

In observance of World AIDS Day, the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement, the Wellness Center, and the Center for Diversity and Social Justice are hosting the film “We Were Here,” in the SRC Theater today at 4 p.m. The film will be shown to raise awareness and to educate the public on the impact of HIV/AIDS in our community and worldwide.

“We Were Here” is a historical documentary which focuses on the experiences of the gay community in San Francisco and worldwide. It depicts issues which arose in the community due to AIDS and provides a greater understanding of how people reacted to the virus. The film also provides ways to cope with the epidemic, as it explains what could and still can be done to help people get through the emotional trials AIDS causes.

This is the first documentary to publicize the impact of AIDS in San Francisco. Five individuals who lived in San Francisco prior to the outbreak are the main focus of the movie. These individuals share their stories and emphasize the importance of this topic and debate.

This film centers on the idea that everyone needs to come together in order for things to be accomplished.

After the showing, Dr. Kimberly McBride, faculty in the Department of Physical Education, School and Public Health, will be leading a discussion.

Center for Diversity and Social Justice visit:
• http://www.cwu.edu/diver-
sity/node/3518

Student Wellness Center:
• http://www.cwu.edu/well-
ness

Center for Leadership and Community Engagement:
• http://www.cwu.edu/sace/
center-leadership-and-community-engagement

SCENE
The holiday season is a time for togetherness, community, and yuletide cheer. Nowhere else on campus, or in Ellensburg, is this more evident than at the Holiday Extravaganza put on by the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement.

On Saturday, more than 500 people are expected to invade the SURC for this year’s Holiday Extravaganza. The event takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Central Market Place.

“There’s a check-in table for the kids to come through so we can count how many,” Amber Plotke, sophomore education major, said. “We usually expect around 300, and then we expect to have from 100 and 200 CWU volunteers come through.”

The event will feature a variety of different crafts, including making elf hats and building gingerbread houses. Children will also have the option to make some environmentally friendly crafts, such as bird feeders made of recycled toilet paper rolls. They also will have the option of writing letters to the troops. “It is very hectic and crazy, but it is really fun,” Krista LaComb, senior sociology major, said. “It is cool to give CWU students the opportunity to work with children in the community, because normally you do not really have that interaction unless you are an education major.”

The Center for Leadership and Community Engagement puts on the event, but invites other clubs on campus to volunteer. “We have a really good team, too,” LaComb said. “There is usually five or six of us on a team, and this year we are working really well together. [The event] is going to go a lot smoother than last year because of how quickly we are getting everything done.”

Students are encouraged to come and volunteer regardless of their club affiliation. Just a 10-minute registration at the Center for Leadership and Community Engagement office in SURC 256 allows students to participate in the club’s wide array of events for the rest of the year.

“We have a lot of opportunities for people to come get involved and do something they are passionate about,” Mandy McClure, senior public relations major, said. “The whole planning-your-own event thing is pretty cool too. I feel like if people know they could come in and do that, they would come up here more.”

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Get extravagant for the holidays

BY JOE COLUCCIO
Staff Reporter

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Kelsie Summit, freshman math major, has carried a considerably heavy schedule since her high school days. Between clubs, being a teacher’s assistant, attending classes and participating in sports like water polo, it can be difficult at times to make room for school work. However, Summit makes it all happen, even with dyslexia.

Summit was diagnosed with severe dyslexia, a disease that runs in her family, when she was six years old. Early on, Summit gravitated towards math and found comfort in it.

“Math stays the same,” Summit said. “The numbers are always constant.”

As far as other schoolwork is concerned, it has always been a little tougher, but manageable.

“I have an excellent support system at home,” Summit said. “Family and friends help me with editing papers and essays.”

When attending Lakes High School in Lakewood, WA, Summit used her skills in math as a teacher’s assistant for a freshman math class. “I would grade papers and even teach the class sometimes,” Summit said.

When Summit is not crunching numbers in math classes, she can be found in the pool with the water polo team, which she plays in all three seasons at Central including the men’s, co-ed and women’s teams.

Summit began water polo her junior year of high school. Not being able to swim very well, she decided on a whim to give it a shot.

“I just went for it,” Summit said. “I worked my butt off and by the end of the year I was starting.”

Throughout her senior year of high school, Summit continued to play in numerous club teams. She became captain and helped take her high school team for the first time in school history to state in water polo.

Summit enjoys her time here with her new teammates at Central. “It’s like a family,” Summit said. “We go over to each other’s houses and chill or watch movies.”

As if Summit could not be any more multitalented, she also played soccer and basketball at Lakes high school and helped run a culinary arts program. The program would get together and volunteer to cater for local businesses in the Lakewood area.

“I pretty much lived at high school,” Summit said.

When her water polo days come to an end at Central, Summit hopes to become a math teacher, an interest sparked from her days of assisting math classes in high school.
**SHAKESPEARE**  The theatre ensemble put a new twist on Shakespeare’s “The Tempest” by dressing in 1940’s era clothing instead of traditional medieval costumes.

**TEMPEST WITH A TWIST**

**BY JOIE SULLIVAN**  Staff Reporter

The Central Theatre Ensemble’s production of William Shakespeare’s “The Tempest” kicked off the season with flair. “The Tempest” is the story of Duke of Milan, Prospero, and his daughter Miranda. Prospero’s brother, Antonio, overthrows him as the Duke, and sends him and Miranda to live on an island. There, Prospero becomes a great sorcerer and controls several different spirits, one by the name of Ariel.

Prospero discovers that Antonio, as well as several others, are returning to Naples after a wedding in Tunis. He causes the ship to run aground, and separates the survivors of the shipwreck using his spells. The play splits into three different plot lines. One includes Antonio, Alonso (the King of Naples) and others; one includes Stephano, Trinculo, and Prospero’s despised slave Caliban; the third includes Prospero, Miranda, and Ferdinand, the king’s son, who falls in love with Miranda.

Eventually, all the characters are brought in front of Prospero through his use of the spirits of the island and Ariel. His last command to Ariel required her to create perfect sailing weather so Ferdinand and Miranda may be married. “The Tempest” ends with Prospero breaking his magic staff and renouncing his powers while surrounded by the spirits of the island.

The theatre ensemble performed the Tempest with some serious flair. Instead of adopting traditional medieval costumes, characters dressed in 1940’s era clothing, with the exception of the island-dwellers.

“I loved my costume. I loved everyone’s costume. It gave me this suaveness, or Italian mob boss feel,” said Henry Van Leishout, sophomore musical theatre major. Leishout played the role of Antonio.

Stephano and Trinculo, who were drunks in the original play, became musicians and were joined by others on stage. Their period music, marked by steel pails and washboards, filled up the theatre during the pre-show and several times during the performance.

Another highlight of “The Tempest” were the spirits. Each represented a different element and had matching costumes.

“We came up with the concept of what the spirit would look like, then we worked that some top-notch acting and singing, the performance was fresh and new. Add on top of the set also added a dynamic to the performance with its impressive height and simplistic design.

Moving away from the traditional medieval and renaissance styles, the performance was outstanding.
Playoff Paradise

Volleyball headed to Hawaii for NCAA Division-II Championships

BY AMBER THORP
Staff Reporter

For the first time in six years, Central Washington University’s volleyball team will have the chance to compete for a national championship.

The Wildcats finished their regular season strong, winning six consecutive matches and qualifying for the NCAA Division II volleyball championships held in Laie, Hawaii. The team is seeded sixth in the West Region and will face third-seeded and last year’s national runner up, Calif. State San Bernardino (22-8).

“Our goal wasn’t to make the playoffs, but rather to get better every day and it has lead us to a seat in the playoffs,” head coach Mario Andaya said. “It’s a true honor to be able to go to the playoffs.”

This will be the first playoff appearance for the Wildcats since 2006. CWU advanced to the championships three consecutive years, from 2004 to 2006, and are excited to have finally returned.

“I’m not surprised that we made it to the playoffs but more thrilled,” said redshirt freshman outside hitter Rachel Hannes. “All of our prepping and hard work has paid off. It’s like getting a special prize at the end of the season.”

This will be the Wildcats’ seventh all-time match versus CSU-SB, CWU having lost the previous six. The teams met during the Wildcats’ 2006 tournament run and were swept by the Coyotes. They played again in 2010 during a non-conference tournament where CSU-SB swept them for a second time.

CSU-SB enters the championships after claiming their seventh consecutive California Collegiate Athletic Association title, which granted them an automatic berth to Hawaii. Andaya believes the Wildcats have more experience while the Coyotes might have more talent.

“CSU-SB is in favor for this match,” Andaya said. “But on paper they are the younger team. Our team has more experience playing together.”

64 teams will compete in the single-elimination tournament, which requires five victories to win the championship. The Wildcats will be facing their toughest competition early on.

“We have to be on our best game,” Andaya said. “We’re polishing up our offense and defense. We’re going to prepare like we did all season.”

The Wildcats are led by senior outside hitter Marcy Hjellum, who is the team’s outstanding scorer. Hjellum has the third most kills in the GNAC with 303 on the season. Junior outside hitter Erin Smith finished second in the GNAC with .360 hitting percentage, and sophomore libero Kaely Kight ranked second with 3.06 digs per set.

“None of us have been to the NCAA [championships],” Kight said. “I’m so excited to see how the team does, to play in a new environment, and the fact that the playoffs are held in Hawaii is just a plus.”

JOIN THE CONVERSATION WITH A TWEET AND A HASHTAG #CWUVBALL

HIGH STAKES: The Wildcats (21-7) will play in the West Region bracket at the NCAA Division II volleyball championships, which are single elimination. Their opening match is against the 2011 runner-up, California State San Bernardino (22-8).
Wildcats too sweet for Walla Walla

BY CHACE DAVY Staff Reporter

The fourth meeting between Central Washington and Walla Walla University was the same as the previous three. The Wildcats defeated the Wolves in grand fashion.

The CWU men’s basketball team is off to a strong start for the 2012-2013 season. The team is now 4-1 in conference play after beating the Wolves with a final score of 92-74 on Monday. CWU had a blowout win on Walla Walla for the entire game, only allowing the Wolves to come within one point of the lead. The game became even more lopsided as time went on.

At one point in the second half, the Wildcats were up by 30 points due to three free throws by freshman guard Joey Roppo. It was the first home game of Roppo’s CWU career and he admitted to being nervous. “Once I got in the game and worked the pre-game jitters out, I felt all right,” Roppo said. Roppo ended up with six points and three rebounds for the game.

Five Wildcats had 10 or more points and senior Brandon Magre ended the night with a double-double.

“One thing we did well was share the ball,” head coach Greg Spalding said. Only one player on the Central team did not score any points.

The CWU offense has been on fire this pre-season, outscoring their opponents by 13 points in their five games so far. The Wildcats one loss came at the hands of Alaska Pacific in overtime. The CWU defense, on the other hand, is something Spalding isn’t making any excuses for. “It’s not accepting,” Spalding said. “At the end of the day, we started scrambling and trapping, and we have to get our rotation down. Defensively we’ve got to clean it up.”

Magre shared Spalding’s determination to step up the defense.

“We can outscore any team in the country,” I think,” Magre said. “We’ve got so many talented shooters on the team this year.”

Walla Walla was an unusual team for CWU to play according to Spalding because the Wildcats had a lack of film to study on the Wolves. Walla Walla’s play style was also something the Wildcats had to prepare for.

Wildcats drop two games in Idaho

BY JARYD CLINE Staff Reporter

While students at Central Washington University were relaxing and enjoying the break, the women’s basketball team couldn’t catch a break of its own.

Two games of tough shooting doomed the Wildcats (3-2) as they lost 67-76 to Metro State (2-2) and 66-73 to the Academy of Art University (5-1).

Playing the first game at the Fairfield Inn Classic at Northwest Nazarene University, the Wildcats faced their toughest test of the season when they played 24th-ranked Metro State. The Wildcats hit only 20 percent from the field overall but were able to stay in the game by converting on 27 of 37 free throws.

“I thought we played pretty well overall,” head coach Shawn Nelson said. “We knew going in that we were facing two tough opponents. And really the difference between us and them right now is they just shot the ball better than we did.”

“The preseason was a really good opportunity for us to go and see some really tough competition and what we’re going to see in conference,” Nelson said. “It gave us a lot of things to work on and we’re excited to start conference play.”

Powerhouse

Wildcats redshirt junior forward Nate Walker (11) lays in underneath the hoop. Central leads the GNAC in scoring, averaging 94.2 points a game.

Scoring

1. Anto Olah-SFU
2. Megan Hingston-NNU
3. Riley Stockton-SPU
4. Sergej Pucar-UAF
5. ibrahim Appiah-SFU
6. Austin Bragg-WWU
7. Austin Bragg-WWU
Pac-12
1. Anto Olah-SFU
2. Logan Johnson-BSU
3. Riley Stockton-SPU
4. Sergej Pucar-UAF
5. ibrahim Appiah-SFU
GNAC Leaders

Powerhouse

JOEY ROOPPO TWEET AND A HASHTAG #CWUWBBALL

JOIN THE CONVERSATION WITH A TWEET AND A HASHTAG #CWUWBBALL

GNAC Leaders

Scoring

1. Sasha King-UAA
2. Bobbi Knudsen-MSUB
3. Elijah Matthews-SFU
4. John Allen-WWU
5. Paul Jones-WWU

Rebounding

1. John Allen-WWU
2. Megan Hingston-NNU
3. Riley Stockton-SPU
5. Britt Harris-WWU

T6. Sasha King-UAA

3PT FG Made

1. Austin Bragg-WWU
2. Rei Jensen-SMU
3. Riley Stockton-SPU
4. Sergej Pucar-UAF
5. ibrahim Appiah-SFU

T1. Anto Olah-SFU
2. Central Washington
3. Simon Fraser
4. Seattle Pacific
5. Western Washington
6. Portland

JOIN THE CONVERSATION WITH A TWEET AND A HASHTAG #CWUWBBALL

GNAC Leaders

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Magre shared Spalding’s determination to step up the defense.

“We can outscore any team in the country,” I think,” Magre said. “We’ve got so many talented shooters on the team this year.”

Walla Walla was an unusual team for CWU to play according to Spalding because the Wildcats had a lack of film to study on the Wolves. Walla Walla’s play style was also something the Wildcats had to prepare for.

The CWU men’s basketball team is off to a strong start for the 2012-2013 season. The team is now 4-1 in conference play after beating the Wolves with a final score of 92-74 on Monday. CWU had a blowout win on Walla Walla for the entire game, only allowing the Wolves to come within one point of the lead. The game became even more lopsided as time went on.

At one point in the second half, the Wildcats were up by 30 points due to three free throws by freshman guard Joey Roppo. It was the first home game of Roppo’s CWU career and he admitted to being nervous. “Once I got in the game and worked the pre-game jitters out, I felt all right,” Roppo said. Roppo ended up with six points and three rebounds for the game.

Five Wildcats had 10 or more points and senior Brandon Magre ended the night with a double-double.

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Men’s rugby advances to National 7’s

BY SARAH RUIZ
Staff Reporter

Central Washington University’s intramural rugby team will be making another trip to the National 7’s tournament this season, which will be held in College Station, Texas.

After taking home wins in three major tournaments, the Wildcats have momentum on their side for the two-day tournament, which will be played Friday and Saturday.

The Wildcats finished second in the tournament last year, and the team is more than ready to make a deep run into the tournament again.

The Wildcats dominated in the NCRC 7’s Qualifier, a test the Wildcats needed to pass in order to advance to the national tournament. The Wildcats outscored their final two opponents 114-0, with the highlight of the qualifiers being their crushing victory over Western Washington in the finals.

“We started off [with a victory over] Oregon State, and then [won] every game we’ve played,” said sophomore Tanner Barnes. “We had to work around the air when we came here, but we’ve been getting better and better.”

Between regular practices and time in the gym, the team trains hard to be its best.

“We really just have to work on our principle to play,” said sophomore Shelby Williams. “We’ve been going over [this] at practice and running our system and accuracy with passes and not missing tackles.”

The Wildcats will be competing against some of the best teams in the nation at College Station.

“Last year we took second,” Barnes said. “I’m excited to go back and play against a lot of good teams. It’s just a really fun tournament.”

Although the team has only six games under its belt on this season, they are hoping that their dedication is what will bring home the gold.

“We’ve all worked ridiculously hard to get where we are,” Williams said. “It would be great to be able to say we are the best rugby team in the nation and see all that hard work pay off.”

For the team, bonding with fellow teammates has helped make this season even more memorable. Barnes’ three roommates are also fellow rugby players, and he describes the team as a family who connects outside of practice regularly. By coming together, the team hopes to keep its performance tight by being in tune with one another.
Junior Guard Mark McLaughlin lingers at the top of the key early in a blowout win over Walla Walla, probing the defense for any gaps. The ball whips around the perimeter in and out of the hands of point guard Jordan Starr and relaxes in Mark’s grasp. McLaughlin takes a bit, setting up his favorite move, the hesitation three-pointer.

The ball rests in his left hand, below a tattoo of his niece on his wrist. On his right wrist, he has inked “Faith.”

The snap of his defenders’ ankles after his next move would have echoed in a emptier gym. He sets back on his feet and plants a jumper. Visible on his right shoulder, his son’s name in black: ‘Jaylen.’ The sphere tickles the twine and unlocks a chorus of “oh’s and ah’s” from the Catpack. It’s only fitting that the same combination of his family, faith, and son enable McLaughlin’s success.

He’s bounced around from team to team like the ball’s he uses in his pregame warm-ups. After attending prep school in New Hampshire he had signed to play for Nevada, Baylor, Seattle University, Tacoma Community College and the University of Washington before finally suiting up in Wildcat crimson and black.

Some of the moves were his choice and others were not, but he chalks it up to a battle with immaturity and sincerely owns up to his past mistakes.

“I don’t have any excuses for what I’ve done in the past,” said McLaughlin.

He hopes to shed to his reputation as “a player with baggage” here in Ellensburg. He feels like he’s found a home here, where his coaching staff and teammates have welcomed him with open arms.

“Just as it adorns the muscle that provides the power behind his textbook jump shot, his son is his powerful driving force that helps him succeed and provide for his young family.

“Playing in the NBA is McLaughlin’s dream, and he has two years left here to clean up his image and hone his game in hopes of playing professionally. If not, he wants to absorb everything he learns and use his knowledge to coach. He helps coach an 8th grade select team in Seattle, the same one that he played for when he was younger, Roxy Select. McLaughlin knows that he is a role model for the young kids that he coaches, something he credits with helping him mature.

“They really look up to me, so I’ve got to set an example for them that you can make it and hard work does pay off,” McLaughlin said. “I love giving back. Those kids are so much fun, I’ve been with them since 6th grade. To see them develop, it’s fun man, it reminds me of myself when I used to play.”

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