HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Central student leads the fight against trafficking
The Observer
by the students & for the students of CWU

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Ten minutes with Jeff Charbonneau

BY ALYSSA MARTINEZ
Staff Reporter

How do you feel now that you've made it to this point in your teaching career?

I think the best part of being on campus was that I always felt at home. I was a campus tour guide and visitation coordinator. As such, I had the great opportunity to meet so many people who became friends the next year.

Tell me about one/some of your favorite memories about CWU and being a student here.

I think the best part of being on campus was that I always felt at home. I was a campus tour guide and visitation coordinator. As such, I had the great opportunity to meet so many people who became friends the next year.

Of course the snow storms of the winter of 1996 (canceled classes, cross country skiing around the campus), helping sand bag days later during the ensuing flood waters, campus-wide power outages turned massive outdoor gatherings at 11 p.m. at night...those were certainly some good times!

What advice would you give to this year's graduating class from CWU?

First and foremost, choose your career and your area of expertise based on what you love: Those who are greatest at their profession – whether teacher, nurse, accountant, or musician – see their work as their calling. If teaching is calling you, do not hesitate!

To the teachers who are reading this, what do you do in the classroom that has made you so successful?

I welcome my students to class the first day of every class period of every day. It requires sweat equity, triumphs over adversity and consistently positive attitudes.

Great teachers do not allow failure.
Great teachers create a paradise not only within their own classroom, but also in their school and greater community.

Great teachers create a paradise not only within their own classroom, but also in their school and greater community.

To create my teaching paradise I follow six strategies:

1. Today is the most important day for every one of my students.
2. Great teachers do not allow failure.
3. Great teachers create a culture of high ambition and lead by example.
4. Great teachers help all students, not just the students in their classes.
5. Great teachers are part of the solution.
6. Great teachers help their peers become better.

How did you feel meeting President Obama?

It was very surreal! President Obama was extremely welcoming and did his best to make myself and my family feel very comfortable. I know it is odd to say about the President of the United States, but he really gave the impression of being a "regular guy." I say that with great respect. It was so humbling to be treated so kindly by someone in his position.
Campus recycling is not fulfilling potential

By Evan Pappas
Staff Reporter

Tons and tons of recycling and trash are produced by Central every year, but while quite a lot of waste is properly recycled, there is so much more that could be done.

Steve Johnson, facilities manager for University Housing, said Central has an infrastructure in place to handle two to three times the recycling it currently does, but getting students to recycle is tough.

“We always support any student that’s doing recycling programs,” Johnson said. “We do what we can for them. We are always there, but the enthusiasm doesn’t seem to be as good as it should be.”

According to Johnson, about 10 percent of students are true recyclers. Johnson said when a recycling program is done in a hall, recycling goes way up, but quickly drops off again once the program is over.

Last year, housing recycled 35,000 pounds of cardboard, 10,000 pounds of aluminum, 25,000 pounds of paper, 14,000 pounds of plastic, and 46,000 pounds of glass. Johnson also said housing contributes about 433 tons of garbage to the landfill per year.

An item that is often overlooked as a potential recycling product is food. Food is not recycled on campus and is instead thrown away with the rest of the trash.

Dan Layman, food service director, said that because the university is not set up with any kind of composting facility, the food ends up just being thrown away.

Layman said that creating compost on campus would be a challenge, but the opportunity is there.

“That involves a whole buy-in from the campus community on where to place it, how to maintain it, who’s going to pay to maintain it, keep it stirred, keep it moving, where to put it once it’s broken down and used back up,” Layman said. “They’ve never gone that far in their whole commitment, so we don’t have a place to put it, so we, in essence, throw it away.”

Dining Services in the SURC sends about 2,600 pounds of trash to the landfill each week, he said.

“That ranges from napkins, consumer food waste, over-production waste, people who don’t care about recycling,” Layman said.

Greg Poe, manager of custodial grounds and motor pool services for Facilities Management, said one of the issues with recyclable materials here in Ellensburg is the transportation of the material to Seattle to be recycled.

“There’s nobody here really that does it, so we have to rely upon these other people, Poe said. “On the West Side, they’ve got quite a few vendors that they can use, so geography plays a part in how much we can get done.”

The recycling of paper, plastic, aluminum, and glass is put through a community-supported system by Elmview Industries to help people with developmental disabilities. They work to sort the recycled materials and they make revenue from the actual sorting.

Poe says the partnership with Elmview has been intact since 1988 and has been beneficial for both parties involved, saving the university money and supporting Elmview with jobs.

According to Poe, the academic buildings on campus put in about 160 tons per year to the East Wenatchee landfill.

Both Poe and Johnson agree that one of the issues is a lack of funding for the recycling program.

“One of the big problems is funding,” Poe said. “We were never funded to get this program going and it really would benefit the campus to have a person that’s really excited about doing recycling and to consolidate the efforts.”

Layman said that the level of recycling in years prior has been steady, but there needs to be more of a conscious effort to recycle.

“There’s always room to recycle more,” Layman said.
Body ID’d, police suspect heroin OD

BY PATIENCE COLLIER
Staff Reporter

A dead body was found on Sunday afternoon in Kiwanis Park. Police believe the cause of death to be a heroin overdose, pending a toxicology test.

The victim was identified as Chase Wade, a 28-year-old male resident of Ellensburg. Ellensburg police are still looking into the death, said Captain Jim Keightley.

“There are no indications of foul play, as far as what caused the death,” Keightley said.

The police do not believe the overdose was intentional, or an attempt at suicide.

“People who overdose on drugs typically don’t overdose on purpose, they’re not trying to commit suicide on overdose,” Keightley said. “We have no reason to believe that was his intent.”

Keightley denied that Kiwanis Park is an area where buying or selling heroin is common, saying that the victim had likely just stopped at the park for a chance to administer the drug, rather than buying it in the area.

“Ellensburg is too small to have places like that,” Keightley said, regarding areas where heroin would be commonly sold or obtained.

Keightley said the use of heroin in the area has been on the rise in the past few years, and there seems to be a rise in fatalities, which has been shocking to the community. He believed that this was due to fewer opium-derivative drugs being available as pharmaceuticals.

“You’re no longer capable of getting the same effect from a drug as you do from heroin itself, so individuals are going back to heroin, and heroin is a drug that an overdose can kill you,” Keightley said.

Keightley believes that drug culture has not widened, but the fatalities were mainly caused by users returning to heroin, rather than painkillers based on opiates.

He said that heroin as a drug is more potent, and unpredictable in its potency, leading users to more easily overdose unintentionally.

“The typical drug user doesn’t know the potency of that drug that they’re taking on any given day,” Keightley said.
S I had a 6.8 out of 10 review when I first saw my Lulu profile after my friend showed me the app on her phone.

Lulu is a free new app that allows women to rate guys after they meet or hook up with them, with a plethora of options and phrases that define our best and worst attributes. Let’s just say I was taken aback by the whole thing. I’m a little flattered that girls are taking the time to rate me. Just kidding, but seriously! What’s up with this app? I think it’s funny, really, and it’s entertaining poking fun at myself straight from other people’s mouths. But there were only two ratings for me at the time (there’s three— I’m up to 7.5. At least it’s not all bad— hours of which happened to be the exact same ratings down the line. Making matters worse, one of the comments says I am “about as funny as a funeral.”

Okay, ka-bibbles.

I think aside from that, and a few other discrepancies, Lulu is a fun and interesting new app that I expect will probably be pretty popular in the next couple of months. But I new app that I expect will probably be pretty discrepancies, Lulu is a fun and interesting app might be fake, but it was mostly because I was scrambling to defend myself as my friends shouted, quite loudly I might add, every intimate detail the app conveyed about me. I was blushing, yes. But anyways, back to my theory. I’ll admit, as the app becomes more popular and more guys are rated, their mission is starting to look more clear, which lowers the likelihood of my conspiracy theory.

But here’s how I explained it to them: Take a start-up app. With an idea like Lulu, it did for me.

There’s red flag No. 2.

So then I got to thinking about why the app might be fake, but it was mostly because I usually don’t jump straight into talking about myself. Both of the first two ratings, however, say that “my ambition is crazy-hot,” and “is without compare.” (Those weren’t complimentary, just statements.) Then there’s the issue with both of my first two ratings, where the categories matched and were the exact same score. Does that not strike you as a little odd? Well, it did for me.

There’s red flag No. 1.

Then there’s the issue with both of my first two ratings, where the categories matched and were the exact same score. Does that not strike you as a little odd? Well, it did for me.

As I near my last few weeks as an editor of this paper, I want to take this opportunity to talk about a few of my biggest inspirations: my dogs. Just about everyone who knows me knows that I am a ‘premature dog lady.’ My best friend and I share three dogs, a heeler/jack-russel terrier mix who has more energy than a battery and two brothers who are some kind of chihuahua mix. All three dogs are about two-and-a-half years old and are so cute they should be in a calendar. And I’m not just saying that because I’m their mother.

Anika Pontour Lewis-Genson

She’s the terrier mix, and she is actually the devil.

When my roommate and I decided we wanted a dog two years ago, we did little to no research into the breeds we were looking into. So one day I skipped math class and we jumped in the car and drove to Cle Elum to see this little puppy who was the last of her litter who hadn’t been adopted. We arrived to meet this lady who was giving her away, and I could see my roommate instantly fall in love with her.

It was hard not to. She was a tiny beautiful white and black puppy with little, floppy ears. We decided almost immediately that she was ours, and we took her home.

Now, I’m not sure how much you know about jack russel terriers, but they are the single most energized dogs known to man. I am not even kidding when I say she broke a window because she was running around the room so fast that when she brushed against the glass, it shattered.

She’s the terrier mix, and she is actually the devil.

Also, she can chase her tail at dangerous speeds for half hours at a time. All right, to be honest, she’s a pain in the ass, but she has more personality and excitement than most of my human companions, and I love her for it.

Calvin Ray Lewis-Genson

Oh Calvin…Calvin, Calvin, Calvin, Cal... Calvin is definitely the cutest of our dogs. He looks like a perpetual golden-renter puppy.

Honestly, the cutest. Everyone who walks through our doors says it. Here’s the problem: He has the charisma and social skills of an awkward 6-year-old.

If you try to cuddle or get too close, he slowly throws back his head while staring at you. Trust me, it’s as weird as it sounds. On top of that, he has a hard time making friends, and can’t compete with other dogs for a human’s attention. Life seems slightly more complicated for Cal-Cal, but at least he’s...

Jude Giamatti Lewis-Genson

Jude wins the award for having the most nicknames in the house. Judy, Judy, Dune, Judy Drach, Judy Bloom, Fatty and princess. He is a boy, but has the most delicate disposition on the planet. Most of the time, he either just wants to be with his brother, Calvin, or with one of his mommies.

Being held and eating would be his ideal schedule, with maybe a little bit of rolling around looking cute. He is possibly the cutest living creature I have ever seen, and can turn the angriest or most ratcheted person into a baby voice-talking buffoon.

The only problem is that he knows how cute he is, hence the nickname princess.

People call us crazy for adopting three dogs during our college years, and admittedly, we probably are.

But the most amazing part of my dogs is that I can have the worst possible day mixed with the worst weather added to an even worse traffic day, and the only things that can make me forget about all of that instantly are my dogs.

It’s a big responsibility to have dogs, but for all they do for me, the least I can do is offer them a safe home with some of the most dedicated pet owners in Ellensburg.
Central has been active in the fight against human trafficking for the past two years, with a student leading the cause. Krista LaComb, a senior anthropology major, doesn’t think it’s her calling, she knows it is.

The United Cambodia last summer on a mission trip with Mercer Creek Church. She was the first to sign up to go.

It was really hard because in the morning I went to an orphanage where these kids are just crazy and want to jump on you,” LaComb said. “And in the afternoon I’d go to Rapha House and the girls were just blank. They had attitudes, and you could just tell that they had been through a lot.”

She asked simple questions, like what is favorite color. The little girl didn’t understand her, so a third little girl is asked to translate.

Purple, the little one says.

She asks another simple one, and gets a simple answer.

A third question: When is your birthday? The answer for this question was not so simple. The little girl had no idea. This shook LaComb to her core.

“Knowing what she had been through, I couldn’t believe it,” Lacomb said. “She’s 10 years old.”

When LaComb returned from the trip, she contacted Juneteenth Central Washington, a local organization committed to offering awareness about human trafficking and providing education and resources to the community and victims.

After LaComb shared her experiences, she was asked to join Juneteenth. After praying for a week, she received her answer to begin work with the organization. She is now the housing leader, but can’t fill her full job requirements until they have a shelter.

“It’s quite a movement. It’s kind of like the seatbelt laws. People were horrified by how many were dying. Some of these grassroots movement,” Surkatty said.

According to weaveinc.org, human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the 21st century, and is a $9 billion industry.

Human trafficking is also the second largest criminal enterprise in the world, after drugs and firearms dealing.

When individuals are enslaved, more likely than not, they also experience physical and emotional abuse, as well as becoming addicted to drugs in order to stay compliant with the work.

“It’s not going to go away. What we want is really strong penalties on the pimps and the johns,” Surkatty said. “You have to make the penalties harsher than the money you are going to make.”

The best thing for community members to do to get involved and help the cause is to become educated. Many girls being trafficked will not tell someone who asks in fear of being beaten or killed as a consequence.

“I think that because it’s everywhere, and because it’s so hidden—literally as hidden as secret gardens—that if people were more aware of it and just keeping eyes open, that it would help a lot,” LaComb said. “It could save a lot of different people.”

Efforts to battle human trafficking in Central Washington are strong. If things go according to plan, soon there will be shelters where victims can stay and recuperate from the terrible situations they have endured.

Surkatty suggests that people support organizations that are already working against human trafficking rather than beginning their own efforts.

“Parent your kids, and go beyond that and invest in the lives of young people,” Surkatty said. “We live in a small community. We need to take care of each other.”
Ellensburg’s got the blues

BY SAMANTHA MONTERREY
Staff Reporter

Upper Green Canyon and Reecer Creek may not look like the hidden gems that they are, but over 162 acres produce a sparse stone that, according to Forbes, is the third-rarest gem after alexandrite and alunite. For locals it’s a treasure, and rock enthusiasts from around the world come to hunt the Ellensburg Blue agate stone.

Steve Townsend, owner of Ellensburg Blue Agate and Bead shop, cuts and molds the stone, handcrafting custom Ellensburg Blue jewelry.

“Each piece is unique to itself,” Townsend said. “I can cut two stones from the same rock and they won’t match up in color.”

The rock itself is indigenous to the Teanaway area and formations near Ellensburg. According to Townsend, the rock is only found on the northwest side of town, in a very small area on Upper Green Canyon and Reecer Creek. About 95 percent of the property is privately owned, which makes it difficult to hunt for the stone.

“I depend a lot on the farm workers and land owners to find Ellensburg Blue and bring it in,” Townsend said.

Nick Zentner, senior lecturer in geology, studies the geology of Washington. His interest in the blue agate lies in the history of how it came to be.

“The Ellensburg Blue agates in the valley came from a layer of basalt lava north of Ellensburg, the Teanaway basalt, which is 47 million years old. “That’s the host for these blue agates; all these blue agates are coming out of this one lava flow of town,” Zentner said. “There are a bunch of holes in the Teanaway-basalt. It’s like a big sponge or Swiss cheese. It’s got all these open places in it.”

Deep underground, hot fluids pass through these holes and that is where the blue agates are formed.

“So they are kind of a secondary feature instead of a primary one,” Zentner said. The blue agates found in the valley weren’t created here, but came by way of a river that once flowed through the area.

“For a long time, there was this delivery system,” Zentner said. “All these little blue agates coming from north of town were brought right into the northwest part of our valley. That’s not happening anymore. That river isn’t coming into our valley anymore.”

What hunters are finding in the valley is a pile of blue agates, waiting to be uncovered.

“We allow people to go rock hunting on the ranch,” Best said. “Right now I also raise Boer goats. I used to, but am no longer doing guided horse tours.”

Best said she no longer does much hunting, but the process requires her to keep an eye on the dirt.

“You just have to watch the ground and look for rocks with a little bit of blue showing,” Best said. Hunters are normally asked to bring a screwdriver with them—a basic tool necessary for digging.

“Then all you need to do is pry the rock out of the ground,” Best said.

A lot of the Best’s frequent hunters will sell their gems to the businesses in town, but she prefers not to.

“We just allow the permits for people to come to our ranch and hunt for them, but I don’t sell,” Best said. Rock N’ Tomahawk Ranch allows hunting at $5 per person and $2.50 for children 5-10. Children under 5 are free.
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BY MARGAUX MASSEY Staff Reporter

The fourth stop on Illust Uminati’s Illumination tour is in Ellensburg on May 18. The tour is to promote his first nationally distributed EP, and the first thing he has released under this name, Huggy Boson.

The 25-year-old Illust Uminati, formerly known as Young Jay, has been making music for a long time. “I’ve been doing music since I was 13,” Uminati said. “But I really got into it when I turned 18.” Uminati got his start in Ellensburg. The first studio he ever recorded at was in Ellensburg working with the guys from Respect My Region when he was only 16. Before his name change he had put out one CD, two DVD’s and a five mix tape series called the Northwest Kingdom Series.

He says this new EP is different than anything he has done before because it is being distributed on a wider scale. “It’s pretty crazy. I thought I was doing a lot before,” Uminati said. “But doing it all this way is an eye opening experience, I feel like I can do anything now.”

His influences include E-40, Tech N9ne and Eminem, but says that as far as what music he listens to, he has a wide variety of interests, including Nirvana and The Doors.

He describes his music as both a party and, oddly enough, an insane asylum. “My mind is crazy, so I’ve got some crazy songs,” Uminati said. “It’s all over the place.” All of the lyrics come from his self-proclaimed crazy mind, but the instruments, he says, come from multiple people and “each project is different, it’s like a collective.”

Along with his crazy songs comes a crazy name, which he says came from wanting to do something against the grain. He is against the whole idea of using a name to go with it,” Uminati said. The show on Friday will include not only Illust Uminati, but also a local DJ, DJ Lince. DJ Lince has been a DJ for about 10 years but this is his first time working with Illust Uminati. The two grew up together but only recently reconnected.

“He knows that I’ve been doing stuff with Respect my Region,” DJ Lince said. “He hit me up on Facebook and asked if I wanted two be his tour DJ, then he asked if I wanted to be his label’s DJ.”

DJ Lince is accompanying Illust Uminati for the whole tour, along with LM Genius, Team Blue Drama and Chris B and Gondi, all as co-headliners.

For Chris B and Gondi, this is their first tour. They have travelled to places before and opened for other artists, but have never done a full tour. That is how they met Illust Uminati and how they were invited on this tour.

“We met him opening up for people and we had some shows we opened for and he asked us if we wanted to do the tour with him,” Chris B and Gondi said. “They hope that by going on tour with him they can promote hype for their album “The Antidote Vol. 2,” coming out at the end of July.

“It’s a chance to enjoy some entertainment and help the greater good,” said Shannon Lowey, CLCE program coordinator.

The event will be held outdoors and will consist of volunteer student performers. Performances will include singing, guitar playing, a full band and a comedic act. Participants will be able to order coffee and food from D&M.

“This is a chance to enjoy some entertainment and help the greater good,” said Shannon Lowey, CLCE program coordinator.

One of the first things most kids learn when they are young is how to tie their shoes. For children in Cameroon, Africa, they simply want to be able to call a pair of shoes their own.

The Center for Leadership and Community Engagement has partnered with the pre-med club at Central Washington University to create Kicks for Cameroon, an event to send gently used shoes and clothing to Cameroon in order to provide children with their very own shoes.

“Many children and adults are in desperate need of shoes and clothing, some things that most of us have a closet full of,” said Gierra Miller, president of the pre-med club. “Why not donate those shoes and clothes that you never wear instead of letting them sit in your closet?”

A benefit concert is being held on Thursday, May 16 at the downtown Ellensburg D&M. People are being asked to bring the clothing and monetary donations to help with the shipping costs to Africa.

The event will be held outdoors and will consist of volunteer student performers. Performances will include singing, guitar playing, a full band and a comedic act. Participants will be able to order coffee and food from D&M.

“This is a chance to enjoy some entertainment and help the greater good,” said Shannon Lowey, CLCE program coordinator.

Many individuals take for granted the amenities they have in their everyday life. Events such as Kicks for Cameroon provide the opportunity for students and community members to give back to individuals who are less fortunate.

“It’s a way to make a small difference in the world,” Lowey said. “Because it really does matter and can make an impact.”

It is a common occurrence in African villages that shoes and clothing are passed down to younger individuals, already greatly worn out. Smaller children frequently grow out of items, and families don’t have the means to provide a new wardrobe, or even a single pair of shoes.

People are being urged to check their closets for shoes and clothing they no longer use. Goodwill also offers great deals on these items that would be beneficial in changing lives. A small donation could make a make all the difference in the world to a child struggling for shoes and clothing.

“I think it’s a great cause and everyone can sacrifice a little something in order to help someone else,” said Ashley Stevens, senior environmental science.

The organizers of the event hope to raise enough clothing and funds to make a dramatic difference in the lives of people they don’t even know.

“I hope that people will walk away from the event knowing that they have truly contributed to a great cause,” Miller said. “I also want people to realize how lucky most of us are to be able to have the things we do and that it’s important to give back to those who need our help.”
Upcoming comedian gets in ‘Yo’ business

“Chelsea Lately” star talks about working with her and life as a red carpet correspondent

BY ADAM WILSON

Chelsea Handler, “Chelsea Lately” star talks about working with her and life as a red carpet correspondent

Michael Yo isn’t the kind of comedian who writes jokes. Instead, he talks about his life stories—andhippos.

“I tell real facts about hippos,” Yo said. “I like to educate the audience.”

Stand-up comedian and entertainment news correspondent Michael Yo will be performing in the SURC Theatre on Saturday May 18 at 7:30 p.m. He is best known for his work on “Chelsea Lately” as one of the original correspondents on the talk show.

“I’ve been on the show every two to three weeks since it aired,” Yo said.

“It’s amazing that people who didn’t want to do it are not doing it. I’m just lucky that I was there from the beginning.”

Working with Chelsea Handler, the host of “Chelsea Lately,” has been a great experience for Yo. The two have formed a strong bond with each other since the show premiered in July 2007.

“There’s the thing, if she doesn’t make fun of you on the show, she doesn’t like you,” Yo said. “Chelsea gives me a hard time, but if she really didn’t like me then I wouldn’t be on the show.”

Yo has also appeared as a news correspondent on “Showbiz Tonight” and “The Today Show.”

Campus Activities student program manager Maddie Schlesinger recognized Yo from “Chelsea Lately,” but first heard his stand-up routine at a National Association of Campus Activities National Convention last November. She thought Yo would be a great way to begin Student Appreciation Week.

“He isn’t G-rated,” Schlesinger said. “It’s like what you see on MTV all the time, it’s very relatable to this generation.”

Yo has been on the show every two to three weeks for its second year of broadcast, allows Yo to show who he is as a person, he believes.

Yo also jokes about his favorite stories from the red carpet, his marital status and his parents’ relationship. Yo believes talking about his life stories, rather than just telling jokes, will keep people interested in him after the performance.

“A lot of people tell jokes, but after the laughs you don’t connect with them,” Yo said. “I talk about my family, people are like, ‘okay, I’ve gone through that,’ and they’ll grow with you.”

Through “Chelsea Lately,” Yo met Jo Koy, a stand-up comedian whom Yo describes as both his mentor and his idol.

“He’s really taken me in and shown me this business, and how to do it,” Yo said. In addition to stand-up comedy, Yo is an aspiring actor. He wants his career to follow the pattern of comedic actors such as Seth Rogen and Jonah Hill, who he describes as actors who play themselves on screen.

Yo said doing stand-up comedy has helped him be more confident in himself as an actor.

“With stand-up it’s you, a mic, and it’s comedy from my childhood.”

Yo recently shot a scene for Sofia Coppola’s upcoming movie “The Bling Ring,” which stars Emma Watson. He described the experience as a moment he will never forget.

“I didn’t even know I was going to be in the scene with Emma Watson,” Yo said. “It was such a surprise. I am such a Harry Potter fan.”

Yo also hosts an original webshow called “The Yo Show” which airs on Yahoo.com. The show focuses on entertainment news, but not the typical A-list celebrities, Yo said.

The show, which was recently renewed for its second year of broadcast, allows Yo to show who he is as a person, he believes.

“They let me show my full personality, as opposed to other shows were I get a few questions and that’s it,” Yo said. “It’s not just a sound clip of the most gossip question you can ask.”

Michael Yo: Saturday May 18 SURC Theater 7:30 pm
Talk the talk, walk the SlutWalk

BY ALLYSA FOLAND
Staff Reporter

York University once invited a police officer to speak about crime prevention. The officer told women if they stopped dressing like sluts, they wouldn’t be victimized. Thus the SlutWalk was born, blossoming into a countrywide movement to stop slut shaming and victim blaming.

“My clothes are not my consent,” said Casy Collins, psychology major. “I’m allowed to wear whatever I want and that doesn’t give you the right to assault me.”

Collins, who is the president of the Feminist Club at Central Washington University, is helping to organize and lead the march on May 17. The march will start at the SURC patio and continue on to the Hal Holmes Center, where they will then begin the ‘Take Back the Night’ rally. She said they have over 55 volunteers, both men and women.

“I would like people to learn a little bit more about the cause and maybe see that it’s not just women who are involved in this,” Brennan Weiding, theater major, said. “Everybody can take a part in this, everybody can be victimized and everybody can be part of the solution.”

Weiding is a participant in this year’s SlutWalk, and is very excited about it. He said people should come because it’s something fun to do and it supports a great cause. He believes the name itself makes the march a worthy event.

“I just love that it’s so blatant. It’s just in your face,” Weiding said. “There’s no way to create a second meaning from that. It’s literally SlutWalk.”

Sacheen Mobley, assistant professor of communications, believes this movement allows for feminism to assert itself. She said the SlutWalk allows people to embrace the things that are used against them and allow themselves to not be defined by them. The word “slut” is used against women to shame them and it makes them believe there’s a problem with wearing heels, a short skirt or a tight shirt.

“We have to fight against this belief that there is such a thing called a ‘slut.’ There is no such thing,” Mobley said. “There are women who are sexual creatures and they should be allowed to express that in ways that are appropriate for them and not be shamed by it.”

Pamela McMullin-Messier, assistant professor of sociology, is the faculty mentor for the feminist club. She said anytime you hear the word “slut,” it has a negative feeling behind it, and empowerment, along with taking back the term, is really what the walk represents.

“We call feminism the ‘F’ word and we really kind of need to move beyond that,” Messier said.

Collins wants people to gain awareness about the issue, and to stop telling women that it’s their fault. She said many people put the responsibility in the wrong place. Instead of teaching people how to not get raped, it should be about putting the responsibility back on the assailants.

“Slut-shaming and victim-blaming affects everybody. It teaches our girls that sex is wrong and bad and if you have it then you’re wrong and bad,” Collins said. “It teaches men that women are just objects to be played with and it really is just de-meaning toward women, and it also takes responsibility away from the rapists.”

Mobley said she wants people to express their ideas for how to get the message out in different ways that are comfortable for different people. She said if the word offends you then you should find a new way to find your voice. Mobley believes the SlutWalk is in-your-face activism. It’s a way to call attention to a really big problem.

“It’s never any woman’s fault if she’s the victim of sexual assault, regardless of how high her heels are or how low her shirt is,” Mobley said. “And that’s what this is all about.”

TORONTO

This SlutWalk in Toronto is similar to the one planned for Ellensburg this Friday, May 17.

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Two winners will be announced May 30!

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Elizabeth Barth is a driving force behind women’s athletics

Barth is the strength and conditioning coach for all female athletes in Central athletics. She’s already dominated the weight room and conditioning coach. To her athletes she’s known as “Drill Sergeant Izzy.” Barth stands tall with a show. She bounces around the weight room making her comfortable laughing and joking around with the men. As the strength and conditioning coach, her job requires exercise prescription, strength training, conditioning specific to the sport and weight room supervision.

To her athletes she’s known as “Drill Sergeant Izzy.” Barth stands tall with her shoulders back, watching her athletes closely. She has an air of intimidating, she seems to be in 10 places at once. The pair is commonly seen working out together, playfully competing against each other. Barth’s many hours in the gym make her comfortable laughing and joking around with the men.

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Ferrell didn’t know about the Wildcats drought the past couple of years, but was moved at how far they have gone in his first season playing with their, and he is excited to see how far the baseball program will go in the coming years. “We worked toward this goal and did something that has never been done before,” Ferrell said. “I want to keep working. We have a young team and seeing how much we can achieve just motivates me to do more for my team to help us get a championship.” Engel continued to describe Ferrell as “a calm player” and somebody who just comes out everyday to better the team. “He doesn’t look like he’s ever panic –kicking when he’s on the plate,” Engel said. “He’s just playing baseball and that’s a good thing to have: you fail all the time, you have to deal with adversity.” Ferrell is hoping to graduate from one of the most prestigious majors Central has to offer in construction management, and hopes to continue his work ethic off the field to come back in the fall healthy and ready to have another season like this year.”

“I’m not really focused so much in the future,” Ferrell said. “I am just here trying to make this team better and everyone else around me better.”

BY JAROD CLINE
Staff Reporter

After bypassing past Day 1 of the Great Northwest Athletic Conference tournament with wins over Montana State Billings and Western Oregon University, the Wildcats were well on their way to capturing the inaugural GNAC tournament championship.

The Wildcats didn’t have the opportunity to lose Western Oregon’s reign in the GNAC, however, losing twice on Day 2 and giving up double digit runs in both games as the Wolves won their 12th consecutive GNAC tournament.

“When you get to the end and you’re that close and you lose… it was difficult for the guys and everybody,” head coach Desi Storey said.

When playing in the round robin double-elimination tournament format, teams play each other once on the first day.

The team that loses twice on the first day is eliminated, and the final two teams battle it out on the second day for the championship.

After losing to WOU 7-0 in its first game, Montana State Billings faced elimination in their second game against the Wildcats.

One bad inning for the Yellowjackets’ pitching staff led the Wildcats to a 6-5 win. MSUB got on the scoreboard early after some first-inning doubles that gave them a 1-0 advantage over the Wildcats.

The Yellowjackets increased their lead after third baseman Colter Stormhagen hit a solo homerun to lead off the fourth inning. A fielding error in the bottom half of the inning proved costly for the Yellowjackets, which led to a six-run inning for the Wildcats.

After the fielding error left runners on first and second, freshman left fielder Kramer Ferrell loaded the bases up after safely reaching first on his bunt, which went right back to the pitcher.

Junior shortstop Joel Johnson put the Wildcats on the board with his RBI single and junior centerfielder Joe Castor’s sacrifice fly tied the game up at two again.

The hits continued for Central, junior second baseman Justen Weigel singled to left field and GNAC RBI leader Kyle Sani cleared the bases with his three-run double down the left field line, pushing the Wildcat lead to 6-2.

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MSUB threatened the lead but never took control of the game, scoring two runs in the fifth after junior Wildcat pitcher Skye Adams hit a batter with the bases loaded and balked, giving each MSUB base runner a free base.

You can read the rest of this recap online. Visit cwosobserver.com to see photo galleries and recaps from this weekend’s games.

BY DANI SOLTERO
Staff Reporter

Something that comes naturally is something most people take advantage of. That’s exactly what Kramer Ferrell is doing with baseball.

Although the Wildcats fell short on their run to a Great Northwest Athletic Conference tournament championship, losing to Western Oregon in the final series, one win short of the title. But this wasn’t a discouraging season as the Wildcats have played their best baseball in years, and part of that success is thanks to Kramer Ferrell.

Ferrell is an Ellensburg native, who played baseball at Ellensburg High School. When he graduated, he ended up going to Oregon State University to walk-on to the football team, but something didn’t feel right. Ferrell soon left OSU to come play baseball at Central.

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Seven athletes headed to Nationals
Wildcats send largest number of competitors since 2007

BY CHELSEA BRONN
Staff Reporter

The Wildcats are going to send a lot more athletes to the NCAA Division II Championship meet this year, compared to previous seasons.

Seven of Central Washington University’s top track and field athletes will be on their way to Pueblo, Colo., May 23-25.

Three of Central’s men’s track and field athletes clinched individual event titles last weekend in Monmouth, Ore. at the 2013 Great Northwest Athletic Conference Championship meet.

The men’s team received a second place finish last weekend, while the women’s team placed in the top 10 at the meet.

Senior Bryan Mack took first place in the long jump at 23 feet, four inches. Mack also placed second in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.85 seconds.

“Troy Martin and Quinton Agosta both had a great weekend,” Mack said.

Mack received third place in the triple jump with a jump of 46 feet, 6.25 inches. “The triple jump was terrible,” Mack said. “Unfortunately it’s the last event I do, once I finally got there I had nothing left in the tank.”

Mack will be heading to Pueblo for the championship in the triple jump.

“I ended up being able to do what my coaches needed me to do,” Mack said, “in order to score the amount of points we needed.”

Freshman Troy Martin and junior Quinton Agosta both placed first in throwing events. Martin threw 160 feet, eight inches in the discuss leading to his first place finish. Martin also placed in the top five in the shot put.

Agosta threw 185 feet, 11 inches in the hammer throw, and was able to place within the top 10 of the shot put competitors.

By the end of the two-day-long meet on May 10 and 11, the men’s team had racked up a final score of 135 points, putting the men in second place behind rival Western Washington University.

Some other teammates who helped the team reach its second place standing were senior Andrew Venero, who placed second in the men’s 110 meter hurdles with a time of 14.72 seconds, and senior Brennan Boyes, who placed second in the high jump with a 6-foot-5 inch jump.

The Central women finished in seventh place with 61.5 points. The women’s top athlete for the weekend was junior thrower Becki Duhamel, who placed second in both the hammer throw and discus, and took third in the shot put.

Senior Jamie Larson also helped the Wildcats, with a second place finish in the pole vault with a vault of 11 feet, 8.5 inches.

The regular season has come to a close, but for a top group of seven Central athletes, the journey is not yet over.

These athletes have either met the provisional standards or have automatically qualified for the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field National Championships.

The top seven athletes include senior Braden Keller, senior Bryan Mack, and junior Quinton Agosta on the men’s side. Senior Kelsey Kreft, senior Jamie Larson, junior Becki Duhamel, and sophomore Tayler Fettig qualified on the women’s side.

ZACH OLNEY/OBSERVER

CLEAN HANDOFF Sophomore’s Tayler Fettig and Brittany Carterby compete in the 4x1 meter relay at the GNAC Championship meet this past weekend in Monmouth, Ore.

SHOW student ID for entry. (First time through is free.)
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Jim Libenow, BROKER
Wildcats finish 2013 on an even keel

BY Sarah Ruiz

The Central women’s softball team celebrates after a big win over the Saint Martin’s in 2013.

The season ended for the team after placing fourth in the GNAC Tournament. In the first game, the team lost to Saint Martin’s, a team Central had beat only once out of four games in the regular season.

“I think just knowing we have each other’s backs and no matter what at the end of the day we are still a team,” Ellis said, “and end my career on a good note.”

Police said a little bit more aggressive this season. If they keep being aggressive at the plate they’ll be fine.”

Team bonding proved to be vital to the Wildcats who often credited their come-backs to the energy in the dugout.

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“It being my senior season, it was the season for me to just go out and play,” Ellis said, “and end my career on a good note.”

After losing to Simon Fraser University in Day 2, the team wrapped up its season with a record of 20-20 in the regular season and 13-11 in conference play.

Junior Jill McDaniels was titled Newcomer of the Year. Five Wildcat players fell in the top 20 for batting averages in conference play: Bradley ranked fifth with a .370. Junior Maikala Galiuska ranked tenth with .333, tied with Ellis who also hit a .333. McDaniels hit a .327 and freshman Andrea Holman finished with a .319.

“[Batting] was going well for us this season,” Ellis said. “I think we were a little bit more aggressive this season. If they keep being aggressive at the plate they’ll be fine.”

The team wrapped up their 2013 season with a 20-20 record.

The tournament was held in Las Vegas, and proved to be a tough starting point for the team. But the Wildcats just wrapped and proved to be a tough starting point for the Desert Stinger.

The Wildcats' softball season started and the team I did this year.”

Winning five straight games in the opening games did nothing to stop the team from pushing on. Following the the Desert Stinger, their first two home exhibition games against Washington State University’s club team proved to be the spark the team needed.

“I think [the Desert Stinger] taught us that we needed to finish and define who we are as a team,” head coach Mallor Fletcher-Holman said, “which is aggressive offensively. At this point we weren’t starting our leading freshman of the year, Remy Bradley.

Eight players of the full 23-player team were freshmen. Holman said that toward the end of the season, as many as five freshmen would start in the games.

“Some people might see the freshman as a challenge,” Holman-Fletcher said, “but they are just exciting for the next four years. We have so many people who haven’t played, and we graduated most of our starters. Every year it’s a new team.”

Bradley has been selected to the Great Northwest Athletic Conference first team and named the ‘Freshman of the Year’.

At the end of the season, Bradley was batting .391 batting average, the highest on the Central softball team.

“They will grow with what they can do,” senior Cassi Ellis said “They are all really good people. I think all they can do now is grow and improve every year.”

The Wildcats finished with four wins and only two losses in the Tournament of Champions. Humboldt State University and the University of Hawaii Hilo both beat the Wildcats, while California State University San Bernidino, California State University Chico, California State University Monterey Bay and the Academy of Art University San Bernidino.

“We really showed our strength to the people in our region,” Holtman-Fletcher said. “It set a precedent for the year.”

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