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The Observer

Central Washington University

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The OBSERVER

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AVIATION PARTNERSHIP

CENTRAL AVIATION PICKS
UP NEW CONTRACTOR
PAGE 3

CENTRAL'S STRONGEST MAN

LIFTERS COMPETE FOR
THE COVETED TITLE
PAGE 12

Two-Time ACP Pacemaker Award Finalist

The OBSERVER

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by the students & for the students of CWU

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WHAT'S UP AT CWU?

Sa	2-15	Two Radio Plays McConnell Auditorium, 7:30p.m. Men's Basketball vs. University of Alaska Fairbanks, 7p.m. at Nicholson Pavilion
Su	2-16	Youth Climbing Program, Climbing Wall, 3p.m.
M	2-17	President's Day: national holiday, no classes
T	2-18	Sexhibition: Health, Responsibility and Condom Art, 10a.m. - 7p.m. in the SURC
W	2-19	Tuba, Euphonium Studio Recital, 6p.m. at McIntyre "Blackfish" Film Screening, Q&A, 7p.m. SURC Theatre

The Observer thanks all the Central couples who submitted photos of them and their significant other for Valentine's Day.



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Aviation to work with new partner

BY AARON KUNKLER
Staff Reporter

The aviation program at Central will be undergoing some changes with the acceptance of a new flight-training contractor.

Last summer, the aviation department announced that it would no longer work with Midstate Aviation, once the current contract expired in August 2014. This was due to a variety of factors, but ultimately Midstate did not make a bid to renew the contract.

Midstate Aviation has been working with Central since the 1960s, and has been on contract with the aviation department since the 1980s. Ron Mitchell, president of Midstate Aviation, said he was disappointed that they will no longer be working with the college, but that there was no other option.

"We have a contract through August 2014, and after that we no longer have a contract with the university," Mitchell said.

He went on to explain his decision to not pursue bidding or negotiations with the aviation department.

"The main reason [for not bidding] is that they offered me a contract that would not allow us to be profitable as a business," Mitchell said.

In a letter sent out to Central aviation students by Amy Hoover, professor and chair of the aviation department, addressed this issue:

"Negotiations such as this are difficult because they mix a state institution, which is not for profit, and a private company, which has to make a profit to stay in business, so what works for one may not necessarily work for the other."

Part of the discrepancy between the two organizations has been the levels of accrediting between the current program and the standards that Central wishes to achieve.

The current aviation program is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), but there have been some concerns about the current program meeting certain requirements. Central is still accredited, however, so students in the program or interested in it can be assured that at current, and in the foreseeable future, that standing will be upheld.

Last week, the aviation department announced that they had found a new contractor to provide flight training in conjunction with the university. IASCO Flight Training (IFT) is a flight training

company based out of Redding, Calif. IASCO is proceeding with negotiations between the county and campus and exploring avenues for potential development at Bowers Field.

Linda Schacder, chief of staff at Central, expressed optimism about the new deal.

"We're very excited about the partnership with the new contractor," Schacder said. "Our goal is to create a seamless transition between contractors to ensure student training."

IFT is an internationally recognized and accredited organization within the educational and professional communities.

In conjunction with these ideas is the possibility of reducing the cost of pilot certification. Last summer, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released new guidelines allowing accredited programs to fast-track potential pilots by reducing the amount of in-flight hours from 1,500 to 1,000.

In order to achieve this, Central must retain its NWCCU standing. IFT promises

this, and with a reduction in total hours required, students could see a reduction in the \$70,000 or so price tag associated with the current program.

"We're hoping that the new contractor will be able to reduce costs for students," Schacder said.

Not everyone is as optimistic about the prospect, though. Mitchell expressed worries about the program being shifted out of Midstate.

"I'm very concerned for the students that are in the program. I'm very concerned for my employees, many of which are students at Central. I'm concerned for the airport," Mitchell said.

He may have good reason to be concerned for the airport. Approximately 75-80 percent of the flights which occur at Bowers Field are from student flights. Though owned by the county, the field receives a subsidy for every "action" which occurs on the airstrip, including landings and take-offs.

IFT was unavailable for comment at the time this article was written. Consequently, there is no specific information on potential ways in which they could maintain flight-density or transfer the physical components needed to an existing or new facility at Bowers Field.

Schacder remains confident and optimistic about future developments.

"IFT is bringing tremendous experience in the international marketplace," Schacder said. "We're excited about the possibilities of the new contract."

"Negotiations such as this are difficult because they mix a state institution, which is not for profit, and a private company."

-Amy Hoover
Professor and Chair of aviation department

E-burg works on marijuana legalization

BY COLT SWEETLAND
Staff Reporter

The city of Ellensburg is on its way to allowing marijuana businesses within the next few months.

Recently, the city council placed a moratorium on marijuana in Ellensburg to give the council more time to prepare.

Lance Bailey, the planning supervisor for the city of Ellensburg, said since Initiative 502 was passed in Washington there hasn't been much opposition to the law.

"Any licensed facility has to be a minimum of 1,000 feet from any school, playground, recreation center, child care center, public park, public transit center, library, game arcade, or any other place where minors are allowed to enter," Bailey said.

There is currently one application in Ellensburg to open a production facility in an acceptable location that does not intrude on the 1,000 foot buffer zone, Bailey said.

"It really hasn't been controversial here in Ellensburg," Bailey said.

The majority of Ellensburg is excluded from accommodating marijuana retailers due to the zoning regulations. It is easier for the applications to be accepted if they are sent to Kittitas County because there are more potential locations available with no restrictions, Bailey said.

TJ McDonald, former owner of The Lounge in Ellensburg, said the city will be prepared once the licenses are accepted.

"I think the city is doing a fair job in dealing with these zoning issues, and with a little patience, it'll all work out," McDonald said.

According to Bailey, there will be restrictions on future marijuana businesses in Ellensburg.

"The production facilities are limited to indoors, and the retail is limited to a maximum of 3,000 square feet, and they can't have drive-thrus," Bailey said.

The reasons for these limitations are to make sure businesses have a controlled



JAMIE WINTER/OBSERVER

GROWING BUSINESS Ellensburg has been working towards fixing the local issues with legalized marijuana sales businesses.

facility that can monitor the growing process.

"The best situation for someone doing this is an empty warehouse building that has full power and can be climate controlled," Bailey said.

The Washington State Liquor Control Board will regulate the marijuana business applications. They have placed some limitations for Kittitas County on the amount of businesses that can be licensed.

Brian Smith, communications director for the Washington State Liquor Board Control, said that there was a 30-day period in which people could apply for applications during November 2013.

"We received over 7,000 applications throughout Washington State during this period, which is 2,000 more than grocery stores in the state," Smith said.

The liquor board is examining the applications by checking criminal background history and how long they've lived in Ellensburg to make sure there aren't any issues with the applicant.

"It's a big process, but we estimate that we'll begin issuing licenses in March," Smith said.

Smith also said the liquor board has limited the number of retail licenses that can be issued per city, which is a maximum of two for the city of Ellensburg.

Across Washington there have been more applications than licenses available for each county and city; therefore, a lottery system will be used to pick which people will obtain the licenses, according to Smith.

"If you pass all the requirements to obtain a license, you will be eligible for the lottery," Smith said.

Many of the applications submitted thus far are from people who didn't necessarily have a location set in place for their business, so the formal process for choosing who obtains licenses will mainly be determined by who was most prepared, according to Smith.

Construction underway on campus

BY JACK JOHANNESSEN
Staff Reporter

The J8 parking lot south of the Japanese Garden is permanently closed for the construction of Science Phase II, benefiting the Physics and Geology departments.

Andy Piacsek, associate professor and physics department chair, said his department gave a lot of input into Science II facilities, classroom configurations and equipment.

According to Piacsek, Science II will include classrooms configured for lecture/lab hybrid courses and house an anechoic chamber, which is an echo free room used to study musical instrument and machinery noise. Additionally, a planetarium classroom for astronomy may be added. The ceiling would resemble a dome for projecting constellations.

The geology department had the opportunity to make similar recommendations for Science II's construction.

"We went back and forth with architects for a year or more," Carey Gasis, geology department chair, said.

According to Gasis, the geology department will acquire a geo-chemistry classroom, additional computers for accessing and storing online data and stor-

age space for maps. It will also include stream tables, used for studying how a liquid will flow through certain formations and permeameters, used for studying the permeability of soil samples.

The construction of Science II will benefit the whole university.

The physics and geology department are currently located in Lind Hall, on the south end of campus. Lind Hall is outdated for the needs of the physics and geology departments, and was built during the Truman administration, according to

Linda Schacder, chief of staff.

A modern building and equipment benefits expanding programs.

According to Piacsek and Gasis, they have both seen their departments expand over the years, increasing the need

to enhance the instruction of undergraduates research in both physics and geology. Science II will allow both departments to meet those goals.

Students majoring in either physics or geology are also excited about moving into a modern building.

"It's great. There will be space for storing samples for geology," Phil Rush, a junior environmental geology major, said.

According to Ben Freeman, a junior physics major, students in both majors are

“We went back and forth with architects for a year or more.”

-Carey Gasis
Chair of geology department



KELSEY RANDICH/OBSERVER

IN PROGRESS Construction on the new Science II Building is currently underway.

using "every occupiable space" for classes. He is glad the physics department will move into an updated building.

Lind Hall will be renovated after the physics and geology departments have moved into Science II. Lind will then consolidate different student services into one building. Those services will include student success, TRIO and financial aid, according to Schacder.

The J8 parking lot is being prepared for starting Science II's construction in the spring.

"Actual work will start in April. It's probably going to take about twenty-two months to build. So if you consider the

bidding and all that, it's virtually a twenty-four month project," said Bill Yarwood, director of facilities planning and construction.

According to Yarwood, Science II will be complete and occupied in 2016.

The construction is obstructing walkways between the central and southern parts of campus. Central warned students about the fence on the Service Outages and Closures section on MyOWU.

According to Yarwood, the fence will be pushed back to reopen the diagonal path that connects Walnut Mall and 10th Avenue Mall. This change should happen sometime in April.



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THE OBSERVER

Central design professor wins award

BY MIKAILA WILKERSON
Staff Reporter

Andrea Eklund, program coordinator and associate professor of apparel, textiles and merchandising, won the 'Educators for Socially Responsible Apparel Business award for Sustainable Design'.

Eklund won this award in a design competition in Hawaii that she took part in during November 2012. Competitions like this one take place once a year.

She is also currently teaching her seventh year here at Central.

"My goal for the program is when students graduate, they really have the skills that the industry is looking for," Eklund said.

Eklund graduated with a bachelor's and masters in Design, and has had many of her designs featured in different competitions.

Eklund, from Auburn, chose Central because she likes how Central is a smaller and more intimate school.

Alexandra Lange, the department secretary, has known Andrea for about five years and often speaks with Andrea's students.

"Her students think the world of her,"

Lange said.

She originally wanted to be a florist but the program had been cancelled. She heard about Apparel, Textile and Merchandising and decided to major in it.

Eklund, having been in the fashion industry for a while, said she keeps up with what is wanted in the industry to help her students stay up-to-date on what is best. This way she can help students in the design program rise to meet higher standards.

"I'm very casual with my students but very strict. I always tell my students they expect a lot out of me, and I expect a lot out of them. So that's kind of my philosophy," Eklund said.

Eklund said she thought the best part about designing is the creativity that's involved. She wants to ensure her students are doing work that can be seen as professional to prepare them for going into the industry.

"She really whips you into shape. She's preparing us for the fashion industry and how demanding it is," Rachael Westcott, a junior and apparel, textiles and merchandising major, said.

Sheri Hubbard, Career and Technical Education program coordinator, has

“My goal for the program is when students graduate, they really have the skills that the industry is looking for.”

—Andrea Eklund

Program Coordinator, Apparel, Textile and Merchandising



COURTESY ANDREA EKLUND/PHOTOS JOSE HUGHES



AWARD-WINNING FASHIONS

Kelsey Kraft models Eklund's winning design. Eklund, an associate professor at Central, entered the in a contest in 2012.

known Eklund since she first came to the school.

"I think she empowers her students," Hubbard said.

Hubbard described Eklund as being outgoing, enthusiastic and having great vision for her students.

"Students are excelling with her," Hubbard said.

With the competitions that Eklund takes place in, those who are trying to get into the competition create a write-up of

how they do their design process, what inspires them and what techniques they use. Then a professional photo shoot takes place where the designers take pictures from different angles of their design.

"It's about a thirty percent acceptance rate," Eklund said.

On June 7, there will be a fashion show put on by Andrea's students from the design program.

The students handle everything from choosing models to doing the make-up. Last year, there were approximately 600 people in attendance.

what is ESC?

The Equity and Services Council

(ESC) staff is committed to promoting and fostering student diversity, community service, and student equality.

ESC ORGANIZATION SHOWCASE:



Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlan (MEChA)

MEChA is a national organization that is formed to bring unity to Latino/Chicano students. MEChA constantly fights for the rights of students, staff and faculty. It also promotes Chicano Studies and the self-determination of the Latino community. In MEChA de CWU, we also promote unity within by social and cultural activities, sharing music and food, as well as fundraisers. Also, next month we will be attending the annual National Conference in Colorado MEChA, then, is more than a name; it is a spirit of unity, of sisterhood and brotherhood, and a resolve to undertake a struggle for liberation in society where justice is but a word.

UPCOMING EVENT:

Come join us and learn how to make traditional Mexican tamales! We will be making both chicken and vegetarian tamales, and we welcome all students and staff to the SURC Kitchen at 10am on Saturday 2/15 and again at 10am on Sunday 2/16 to join us in this learning experience and beautiful tradition! If you're simply interested in placing an order to have tamales delivered to you on 2/16 please email mechagowasu@cwu.edu by Friday 2/14 with any order requests or questions. They will be sold at \$10/dozen or \$1 for single!

MEChA meets Wednesdays at 5pm in the Cesar Chavez Room, SURC 135
ESC general meetings are Mondays at 4pm in SURC 202



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Freedom Riders
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in Black Hall Room 150
Introduction & Discussion by
Hope Amason



The Loving Story
February 13th at 6:30 pm
in Black Hall Room 150
Introduction & Discussion by
Bobbie Cummings
& Keith Champagne



Slavery by Another Name
February 20th at 6:30 pm
in Black Hall Room 150
Introduction & Discussion by
Professor Mark Auslander

Special Thanks to
Africana & Black Studies, Museum of Culture & Environment, and Student Success



THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN HISTORY



Interracially in love

BY MIA PATTERSON/COPY DESK CHIEF

There comes a moment when everyone, to some degree, simply stops what they're doing to people watch. We watch the friends having a discussion over coffee, or that weird guy rocking out in the corner thinking that nobody can see him, and even the couples passing by.

We envy the people who seem to carry themselves with more grace and poise than others, and we envy the chemistry that some couples seem to possess.

Let's face it: We are an envious culture that thrives on judging others based on what they have and what we don't.

However, we have generally become a more accepting society with regards to relationships. Couples we see nowadays range from big to small, tall to short, black to white and everything in between.

What those who don't pay attention in history class seem to disregard is the fact that interracial couples haven't been around for that long.

People generally assume that anyone can be with anyone and that the world has always been that way—wrong!

Based on my first- and second-hand experiences with interracial couples from both my parents' and my own relationship, interracial couples have not been 'approved' in society for that long. And, from the sideways glances to the silenced judgmental conversations, there is the underlying concern that interracial couples still face a dilemma.

There are still skeptics who hold on to the older ideals and value the separation between different races; however, we're in the 21st century, right?

Isn't it about time that we move on from judging people based solely on their skin color?

Shouldn't people appreciate the successful relationships that are resulting

from people falling in love based on their similarities and not so much on their differences?

I'm over the whole 'judging a book by its cover' B.S. that people seem to spew to their friends as a form of helpful advising advice. My advice: move on or get over it. Just because you don't like something doesn't mean that you have the right to judge. Ever hear the phrase "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything at all?"

In my time here at Central, I have come to realize that there are some people who are just plain ignorant, and then there are some who just want to watch the world burn with their arrogance and condemnatory critiques of relationships.

Some people can't tell that I am multiracial, nor would you know what features to look for. Therefore, I can "pass" and you wouldn't know that my father is African American or that my mother is Caucasian; however, when it is brought to your attention, you are able to judge me on the fact that I don't look like I'm half black. So what? Why does my ethnic background change your opinion on whether or not I am allowed to enter into a relationship?

I have been with my current boyfriend for almost five years and we have had to overcome the 'long distance' lecture as well as facing the judgment of others (who were ignorant) on the fact that we are in an interracial relationship. Again, I ask, so what? Just because we don't fit the American couple stereotype, we become victims because we are together? Yeah that seems legit—no!

People need to realize that we are in a fast-paced ever-changing society that is gradually accepting new ideas and concepts. We need to embrace the change and leave behind the negativity and the judgmental attitudes. Quite honestly, interracial couples are not, and should not, be at the top of the list of things to judge.



Gender binary: Let it go

BY PATIENCE COLLIER/NEWS EDITOR

Cultures across the globe have had non-gender-binary or third-gender pronouns since before the first colonial period.

Many nations still have a place in their language and culture for people who are neither male nor female—or both. English appears to be the exception, not the rule, to gender constructs in culture and language.

Right now, this is finally boiling to the top of our country's culture wars. The Euro-American culture needs to finally admit we've been wrong about gender.

Our culture is one of the only ones in the world so tied to a binary idea of gender—and one that is entirely linked to biological sex—that we don't have a place for intersex people, transgender people or anyone who falls into a category other than male or female.

Generally, the reason people cite for their rigid idea of gender is religion—specifically, Christianity: "It's Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve," and so on. This makes even less sense to me than the usual arguments about how we've "always done things." If you can find in the bible an argument about gender—specifically, being only a man-woman thing—I will be pretty impressed.

I looked for a while, but the only thing I could find was a quote on marriage in Matthew about how some men are born eunuchs, some are made eunuchs, and some make themselves eunuchs. It closes, "Let anyone accept this who can." I won't

even try to interpret that, but it doesn't strike me as a particularly solid argument for gender as a binary thing.

Even if there is an argument to be made by some interpretation of Christianity, that probably shouldn't be our guiding line for social norms. Mainstream Christianity has been wrong before—take slavery, for example—and will likely be wrong again. Speaking as a Christian, I think it's probably time we stop basing our laws on 20th- and 19th-century interpretations of a 3,000-year-old religious text.

In North America, tribes in all regions of the continent had five separate genders: male, non-male, female, non-female, and two-spirit. Indigenous African cultures, including the Aka, Maale and Swahili peoples, had roles for people who fell into a gender role other than binary male or female. In Thailand, kathoey or katoey can refer to a transgender person or a person of a third gender.

Some other cultures, such as Korean culture, may have a binary construct but assign entirely different qualities to the categories of "masculine" and "feminine." This seems to me to be a strong indication that what we see in our culture as an entirely black-and-white issue is, in fact, a great deal more complicated.

Thanks to Dini Cuijak, English professor, and Maria Carroll, anthropology professor, for information about gender in Native American cultures.



My favorite V-Day movies

BY CAMILLE BORDEY/ASST SCENE EDITOR

Roman Holiday

While visiting Rome on a royal tour, a bored Princess, Ann (Audrey Hepburn in her first major film role) escapes the embassy to experience Rome on her own. While wandering the streets at night, she meets Joe (Gregory Peck), a reporter. Upon realizing Ann's princess status, Joe promises his editor an interview with Ann, but as Joe and Ann explore the city they fall into a forbidden love.

Annie Hall

It may be inappropriate to discuss Woody Allen due to the recent abuse allegations against him, but this film is one of the greatest romantic comedies ever. Allen plays Alvy, a comedian whose neuroses cause him trouble in love. Alvy recalls his relationship with Annie Hall (Diane Keaton). Although the relationship is dandy at first, Alvy becomes annoyed with Annie's pot-smoking habit and her lack of education, while Annie becomes annoyed by Alvy's predictable lifestyle. Those wishing for a happy ending may be disappointed, but "Annie Hall" is an excellent analysis of relationships in 1970s New York.

Atonement

In an opulent estate in 1930s England, 13-year-old Briony falsely accuses her sister's lover, and son of the house servant, of molesting a young girl. Robbie (James McAvoy) is sent to jail, with a shortened sentence if he agrees to go to war. The rest of the film follows Robbie and Cecilia (Keira Knightley) trying to keep their love together during war times, while Briony regrets her mistake. In her review, Seattle Times film critic Moira MacDonald describes "Atonement" as "a comeback for Brit-lit period films."

500 Days of Summer

When this movie came out, a number of guy friends described this as a tale of a poor hopeless romantic who gets his heart stomped on by a cold-hearted woman. "Just because she likes the same bizarre crap you do doesn't mean she's your soul mate," Tom's sister tells him. This is the real lesson of Marc Webb's film, which is told in non-linear order, reflecting on the relationship of Tom (Joseph Gordon-Levitt) and Summer (Zooey Deschanel). As Tom reflects upon the relationship, he be-

gins to realize things were not as perfect as he thought. A lot of romantic comedies portray women as irrational beings who obsess on relationships, but "500 Days" gives a fresh perspective of a man trying to piece together what went wrong.

Never Let Me Go

At a young age, Kathy (Carey Mulligan) and Tommy (Andrew Garfield) know that they are doomed for short lives. This science-fiction drama takes place in an alternate reality of '50s and '60s England, where a scientific breakthrough allows humans to be cloned and used for their organs. When they hear rumors that couples in love can delay their organ donation, Tommy and Kathy seek a deferral in hopes of getting a year together. Even without spoilers, you can probably already tell that Mark Romanek's film is a bucket full of tears. The tragic fate of Tommy and Kathy makes you want to grab the one you love and never let go.

Ruby Sparks

A young novelist, Calvin, (Paul Dano) writes a story about his fantasy girlfriend whom he names Ruby (Zoe Kazan, who also wrote the film). One morning he wakes up to find that Ruby has come to life and believes she's Calvin's girlfriend. Even better, anything Calvin types on his typewriter, Ruby does. The question begs not only Calvin but also the audience: Is she real? After getting over the shock, Calvin relishes in his new girlfriend. Soon though, Calvin's fantasy girl turns into a real person with needs outside of the relationship. The lighthearted film takes a dark turn as Ruby acts as a puppet, and Calvin realizes he controls the strings.

Silver Lining's Playbook

After a stint in a mental hospital, Pat (Bradley Cooper) is determined to get his ex-wife back. Soon he meets Tiffany (Jennifer Lawrence), a young widow with issues of her own. Many complain that Lawrence is too young to play Cooper's love interest, but her performance is too good to care. Although the film features an excellent performance from Cooper, "Silver Lining's" is Lawrence's film. David O. Russell's film is such an endearing romance because of the characters' flaws. Pat is a mess of emotions, and Tiffany is no bowl of cherries. This isn't the story of the perfect couple, but the story of two broken souls being mended.

WHAT IS CWU RANTING ABOUT?

@evanthompson_11

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@AndrewUstad

I'm a junior here, and there are NO classes in my department that are offered next quarter. Looks like I'm finishing my minors...#CWYourant

@AdamNW251

Why does Central expect me to pay money for my internship? #CWYourant

NEED TO RANT OR RAVE?



Tweet your screams and shouts about CWU to @CWUobserver with the hashtag #CWYourant



AMBER WOOD/OBSERVER

All in the voice

CWU theatre department performs two radio plays

BY CHELSEA ALEAGA
Staff Reporter

Central Theatre Ensemble is taking its talents to the stage in a non-traditional way by performing two radio plays this year instead of one. Members of the theatre department are taking an older form of entertainment and making it their own.

The first act will be "Dick Tracy and the Big Top Murders," a murder-mystery. The second act will be "Princess O'Hara," a lighthearted comedy.

Radio plays are what people would entertain themselves with before television was invented. They feature animated voices, songs and dramatic sound effects, but the imagination of the listener is what's so unique about the art form.

"I wanted to bring back the past, reminding people radio shows are interesting, fun and entertaining dynamic," Michael Smith, the play's director and theatre professor, said.

The layout of the show is simple. Each actor has their own microphone and performs his or her role standing still, as if the audience isn't even there—thus creating the illusion that they are performing in the privacy of a radio station.

Freshman Jake Sapp, theater design and production major, creates all the sound effects behind them.

Sapp uses a technique called foley sound. He uses items like coconut shells to imitate the sound of horse hooves.

"It was a challenge finding the right items to use to make the sound effects seem realistic," Sapp said. "But this is the first time here at Central I get to showcase my work. I'm really excited about that."

Stage manager and senior theatre major Holly Lofgren is confident in running the show, considering it is the thirteenth

one she has run since attending Central.

"It's such a fun show to run," Lofgren said. "The songs, production and the 1940s feel is what makes this show so authentic."

Since the actors are not physically performing the plays, their voice acting is put to the test. Lead actress and senior musical theatre major Whitney Ward plays Tess Trueheart, Dick Tracy's love interest. Ward has learned the voice holds a lot of power in acting.

"The voice is everything in these plays," Ward said. "Having to base acting off of just words is challenging, but the audience is hearing the performance how it's meant to be heard."

Acting in such an authentic play, Ward appreciates older generations of acting.

"Radio plays were the first form of entertainment to reach the masses before the television. It's such a classic way to entertain," Ward said.

In Princess O'Hara, Ward stars as the mom in a Cheerio's commercial. Sources of entertainment were hugely different along with the language they used.

"My role in the Cheerio's commercial is so funny to me," said Ward. "I play a chipper, wholesome mom who uses phrases like 'Gosh Golly!' It's so funny to me."

Lead actor, Paul Bugallo, senior performance major, finds different challenges on the stage.

"I'm generally not a singer, so these plays are a bit challenging for me," Bugallo said.

Besides the minor set-back of not normally singing, his lead role as Dick Tracy really makes him feel more connected to the other actors on stage than any other play he's done.

"We can't move away from the mics, so voice acting and connecting on stage



AMBER WOOD/OBSERVER

THREE'S COMPANY A trio from the ensemble singing during dress rehearsal.

like that is really cool," Bugallo said. "This play is just as much acting as any other play, if not more since we have to put every bit of acting into our voices."

The double-feature will also include a pre-show and intermission entertainment of songs from past generation spanning over 50 years.

The entire night is filled with an authentic blast from the past type of entertainment. The young talents in the theatre department are excited to exhibit what they've been working on all quarter.

"It's on Valentine's day, so bring a date," Ward said.

Performances will be Feb. 13, 14, and 15 in McConnell Auditorium starting at 7 p.m. each night.

Show Info

When: Feb. 13, 14 and 15 @ 7 p.m.

Where: McConnell Auditorium

Cost: \$10 (\$7 w/ CWU ID)

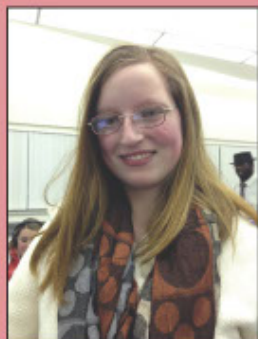
Tickets can be purchased at www.cwu.edu/tickets

Central's worst Valentine's gifts



"In fifth grade my neighbor who was also my crush left a little cat statue made of real cat hair on my porch, and I hate cats. It was weird but kind of romantic."

-Ciara Powell
Senior ITAM major



"I had to go to a funeral on Valentine's day and got hot coffee spilled on me"

Kim Malella
Junior education major

LOVE, CENTRAL-LY:

Same-sex couples in Ellensburg

BY SPENCER BAKER
Staff Reporter

Garrett Nelson and Sean Leek met like any other couple would—the only difference is that they are two men.

"Every time I saw him, I would tell my friends that I saw 'him' again," Leek, senior psychology major, said. "You can compare it to how any other couples meet."

Nelson and Leek eventually started to talk, and now are in a relationship which has lasted for a year-and-a-half.

Nelson and Leek's families are accepting of their relationship. The relationship actually brought both of their families together.

"Both our families are very open," Nelson said. "We are very lucky."

Additionally, none of their friends have had a problem with Nelson and Leek's relationship. Like their families, the couple's friends now hang out with each other.

In their 18-month relationship, they have had no serious problems with homophobia. They hold hands when walking to class together, and only notice occasional staring.

The couple believes the staring is not out of hate or anger, and no one has had a problem with them. Nelson said that the gay community "jumps to a conclusion of [staring] being negative."

Leek recalled a time when he heard a woman talking to their friends as he and Nelson walked by. Leek overheard the woman saying how awesome it is same-sex couples can do that at Central and no one discriminates against them.

Central's apparent acceptance of Nelson and Leek's relationship is similar to what Shane L. Windmeyer found during his research of LGBT treatment on campuses.



SARAH RUIZ/OBSERVER

LOVE BIRDS Students Garrett Nelson and Sean Leek share a sweet moment on Central's campus.

In his 2006 book "The Advocate College Guide for LGBT Students," Windmeyer showcased the top 100 gay-friendly campuses based on a 20-point checklist. Central was listed in the book meeting 17 of the 20 criteria, only missing points for "variety of LGBT studies," "LGBT graduation ceremony" and "active LGBT alumni group."

In 2012 Washington State legalized same-sex marriage with 53.7 percent of the votes. The Yakima Herald reported that 7,071 same-sex couples married in Washington in 2013—totaling 17 percent of the state's marriages that year.

Kittitas County alone had 23 same-sex marriages in 2013, despite Kittitas County rejecting the marriage bill with 54.3 percent of the votes.

Based on this statistic, one can be led to believe that Kittitas County is homophobic.

For Central employee Michelle Adams, this assumption was proven false.

Adams has worked at the Wildcat Shop for 17 years, and is married to Diane Roanik. Adams and Roanik have been together for 14 years, and they were the first gay couple to get their marriage license in Kittitas County.

"I had a lot of coming out to do," Adams said.

Adams was married to her ex-husband for 20 years and had three children with him before she met Diane online on a non-dating web site. The couple is skeptical to tell people where they met because they don't want people to think that they were on a dating site looking for each other.

After Adams was publicly outed and, according to her, "more or less forced out of

the relationship" with her husband, Roanik moved from Wisconsin to Ellensburg to be with her. They then started their relationship and moved in together.

Adams and Roanik raised all three of Adams' children together in Ellensburg. Although Adams was scared to raise her children in such a small community as a same-sex couple, she was surprised to find Ellensburg is more tolerant than she expected.

Her youngest daughter was a student at Ellensburg High School when the school started the Tolerance Awareness Alliance. Adams was scared of the program because she thought students and parents would protest.

One teacher did not feel comfortable putting up the programs "safe place" sign in their classroom, and one school board member did not agree with the program but did not argue against it. Adams said she expected more opposition.

In Puyallup, they tried to implement a similar program, and half of the student body's parents allowed their kids to stay home for a day to protest the program.

"I thought Puyallup would be much more progressive and accept it more than Ellensburg did," Adams said.

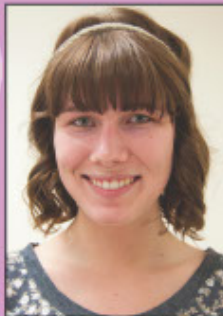
The only issue with homophobia they have encountered was when one of their kid's friends was not allowed to stay at their house, because of her parents.

Adams said that working at Central has made this process easier for them.

"CWU has been a supportive place to work from the start," Adams said, adding that the university "has probably helped me the most through this."

Picking the perfect

BY RACHEL CHARLTON
Staff Reporter



February is the month of hypocrites. People spend months convincing themselves that Valentine's Day is the biggest commercialized holiday, swearing that they won't submit to the pressures that the day brings.

Here's where the hypocrisy kicks in. What person, man or woman, has the balls to say to their significant other, "I don't

want to participate in the economy-driven facade that is Valentine's Day?" They've spent 364 days telling themselves cheap roses and a heart-shaped piece of cardboard containing over-priced chocolates is not the way to show their love, yet so many fall off the wagon.

The truth lies in the lack of realism within our generation. There are many individuals who have the best of intentions leading up to V-Day, but for reasons unknown, dinner

reservations are forgotten, the \$30 bouquet is never ordered. The only reminder is the heartbroken look of their significant other as they stand empty handed.

It is experiences such as those that lead people to believe that grand gestures are pointless. Something will go wrong. The pressure that accompanies Valentine's Day corrupts those who "fail" to fulfill fantasies that only happen in movies. Sure, guys (and girls) can plan a fan-

VALENTINE'S DAY 2014

Interracial couples on campus

BY KATHERINE
GOLARZ
Staff Reporter

Love is not based on culture and most certainly not the color of one's skin.

Historically, interracial couples have run into troubles with society regarding their relationships. But in recent years, this has mellowed out.

Nowadays, couples that span all types of races and cultures are much more common than they used to be.

Couple Isabel Casillas and Cameron Thomson have been together for eight months. Casillas has a Spanish background while Thomson is Caucasian.

"His friends think I'm black, so they will crack jokes," Casillas said.

When the couple hangs out with Casillas's family, her mom actually talks to Thomson in Spanish because Casillas's mother thinks he is Spanish.

"This past Thanksgiving was the first time I met her dad ... I started speaking Spanish to him and he, pulled out a bottle of tequila," Thomson said. "I speak that kind of language."

Race is one of the last things that make their relationship different. They are like any



COURTNEY LEWIS/OBSERVER

ALL THE SAME Students Samantha Tidd and Dan Chavez have never felt like racial differences have caused problems in their relationship.

non-interracial couple. They enjoy smoking hookah and gaming together, and when it's sunny, they enjoy going on hikes and going camping.

"The way we interact is what's different. We bully each other constantly," Thomson said.

Samantha Tidd and Dan Chavez, another couple at Central, have been dating for two years.

"We have never been aware of ever being stereotypes," Chavez said.

Chavez is Mexican, Greek, and Native and Tidd is Caucasian. They enjoy spending time together and going to a lot of concerts.

"We are both pretty sassy and like to make jokes," Tidd said. "We started off as friends and just kept going with our relationship."

Inter-racial couples have become more common in the last 20 years, but it was not always this way. Interracial couples used to hide their relationships from friends and families. This secrecy varies by groups in America, while public display of affection varies from couple to couple.

"Even today, there is not as much public displays of affection," Delores Cleary, chief diversity officer and sociology professor, said. "Interracial couples are less likely to hold hands or kiss in public even today, that to some extent de-

Interracial couples are less likely to hold hands or kiss in public even today.

-Delores Cleary
Central Chief Diversity Officer

"About 70 percent of the population thinks there is nothing wrong with it, which is quite an increase." The United States has made significant progress in overcoming racism in the past three decades. It is important to remember that there is still discrimination that occurs, and educating society can continue to make a better change for the future.

"If you dismiss people because of their race, then you are kind of denying yourself from a whole lot of people that you may be very compatible with," Cleary said. "It's important to look at all opportunities and look at all types of relationships."

pend on region or where they are at." Historically, there were laws against interracial marriage. According to the last census, 14 percent of Americans are biracial. Today, society is more accepting of these types of relationships.

Having a native background herself, Cleary was able to inform on the past, present and future of interracial couples in America.

"People are much more accepting of [interracial relationships]," Cleary said.

Central's best Valentine's gifts



"Last year it was me and my boyfriend's first Valentine's Day together, and I got sick. My boyfriend made me soup and stayed up until six in the morning drawing me a picture. He told me 'You got sick just so we couldn't have a Valentine's Day kiss!' because it was our first kiss."

-Caidin Clark
Sophomore graphic design major



"My most memorable experience was in 3rd or 4th grade. We had to put valentines in everyone's basket at school, and I took some of my mom's flowers and made a special one for this girl I had a crush on in class."

-Blake McBride

(last minute) present

tastic date, but it should never be modeled after a movie, since an entire production crew planned that date.

Those 'failures,' as many see them, push people away from making the unique romantic gestures they otherwise would. It's at this point that there is a spike in the purchases of wilted roses from 7-11 and cheap perfume from K-Mart the day before Valentine's. But what so many should realize before they get to this point is that you

don't have to plan the perfect Hollywood date or spend a fortune on a five-course meal that doesn't even satisfy your appetite. Part of being in a relationship on Valentine's Day is planning something unique.

With the big day looming, here are some last minute, non-déjà, ideas that are sure to show you are unique and less likely to succumb to the commercialization of Valentine's.

Coupon Books

This, quite literally, is the gift that keeps on giving. Write out little 'coupons' that read 'one free...' This is your chance to be unique! Depending on your significant other, the coupon could be for a massage, dinner, day-trip etc.

Tickets

These could be for his or her favorite sports team or indie concert that's coming to Seattle next month. Although possibly pricey, tickets to an event prove

that you know what they like. (Hint: You don't need to have the actual ticket on V-Day, but make sure you follow through on your promise!)

Picnic

Yes, it's not standard picnic weather, but if you're an outdoorsy sort of couple, rent some snow shoes and hike into snow covered hills. Warm clothing and hot chocolate is a necessity, and your wallet will likely thank you later for the inexpensive, yet memorable date.

Central students compete to catch 'em all

BY MARIA HARR
Staff Reporter

This past Sunday RHA held a live Pokémon game, where students were able to step into the role of a Pokémon trainer, catch wild Pokémon and battle RHA members for the chance to become Pokémon Masters.

Based on the popular video game and animated TV series "Pokémon," players used printouts that gave detailed Pokémon stats and a dice rolling system to catch and battle. A scavenger hunt using cell phone cameras mimicked the "Pokémon Snap" game. Finding all 15 hidden legendary Pokémon earned the player a powerful Mewtwo.

The event started at 11 a.m. when the "Pokémon Lab," the first stop on the trainers' journey to Pokémon mastery, opened in SURO 137. Trainers were introduced to the game through Professor Tumbleweed, a character made up by RHA, who functioned very similarly to the iconic Professor Oak of the series.

Tumbleweed introduced himself, to the amusement of onlookers, then took newcomers through the rules of the game. She then handed out dice for them to use, and helped them choose their first Pokémon, which were based on the original

starting Pokémon: Bulbasaur, Charmander and Squirtle.

For the week leading up to the event, RHA tabled in the SURO, offering Pokémon egg slips and raffle tickets for rare "shiny" Pokémon. Trainers who

picked up a Pokémon egg had the QR code on their paper scanned and were given one of three special baby Pokémon, Magby, Cleffa or Togepi at the event.

Trainers were then given the opportunity to test out the battle and capture system in the Lab at the first "Tall

Grass" station. The name

for Pokémon catching stations, "Tall Grass," comes from the tall grass in the video games where players could find wild Pokémon to capture and add to their team.

A single die, provided by RHA for those who did not bring their own, was rolled to determine the strength of attacks, then multiplied if the Pokémon's type had an advantage to the enemy's; Water

against Fire, for example, does double damage.

Once the wild Pokémon's health was sufficiently low, players rolled again to attempt catching the Pokémon and adding it to their team.

When a trainer felt they had a good enough team, they could begin challenging Gym Leaders. Pokémon Gyms were scattered all across

campus in residence halls, from Kamola to Wendell Hill A and B. A map of the gyms, which could be visited in any order, was available in the back of a game guide handed out to participants in the Pokémon Lab.

RHA had eight gyms set up across campus, each one included one Gym Leader, a Tall Grass area and a picture of a legendary Pokémon, for the scavenger hunt.

Instead of using experience points to evolve and strengthen Pokémon, the game's system was based on the number of Gym Badges trainers collected from defeating

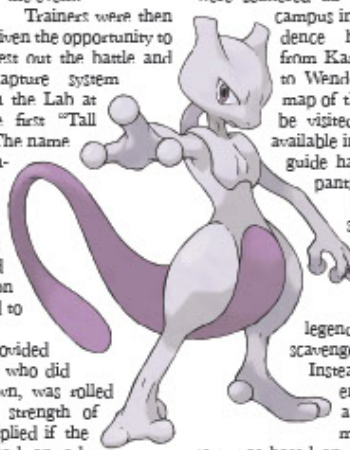
Gym Leaders. After defeating all eight Gym Leaders, trainers could challenge the Elite Four in Wellington Event Center for the chance to become Pokémon Masters.

To spice things up, Pokémon Outbreaks occurred over the course of the game, allowing for special Pokémon to be caught in specific areas. The outbreaks were released through 88.1 The Burg, a sponsor of the event, and RHA's Twitter

feed. Tyler Van Sickle, a psychology and business senior and the President of RHA, said they hadn't done much during Winter quarter in the past and wanted to do something more, so they came up with the "Be a Master!" event.

"We just started talking about how cool it would be and talked about it for three hours," RHA Secretary Chloe Hildeman, public relations senior, said. Hildeman thinks that Pokémon fans on campus are either those coming back to it for nostalgic value or those who have stuck with it over the years because of its wide range of appeal.

RHA has asked for suggestions from players for the next "Be a Master!" event. Email RHA@cwu.edu to submit ideas and suggestions.



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Bateman team hosts Pop of Orange 5k

Central Public Relations students raise money for scholarship

BY JUSTIN MERRELL
Staff Reporter

A team of seven Central students is taking part in the Bateman Case Study Competition, a premiere national case study competition for public relations students. In this year's competition, students from more than 75 schools will compete to produce the best public relations campaign for the app Popmoney.

"Our teams have been getting stronger," Elisabeth Kerns, Bateman team adviser and assistant professor of public relations, said. "We learn from the feedback nationals [PRSSA] gives us and from our mistakes. I hope we can go all the way to nationals this year. We want to show that we can compete with the best public relations schools in the country."

The Central team's campaign will come to fruition when it hosts the Pop of Orange 5k, powered by Popmoney. The event will take place on Sunday, Feb. 23 at 10 a.m., with registration at 9 a.m. Students can register by downloading the Popmoney app, registering their account with their Central e-mail and paying the \$6 registration fee to giddyuppayup@gmail.com using the app. Proceeds of the 5k will go to the Central Foundation to create a student scholarship.

The 5k will have prizes for first place, male and female, and for the participant with the most outrageous orange outfit. Participants will also have the chance to

win prizes from local businesses in a raffle after the race.

The team, composed of Alex Homer, Hailey Nelsen, Samantha Monterrey, Ann Reynolds, Mia Patterson and alternates Maribel Castellanos and Jessie Fisher (all public relations majors), is the fourth team Central has put together. The members applied for selection last May and were chosen by Kerns.

The team is aiming to build on last year's accomplishments of placing honorable mention among 15 other universities nationwide for their "Stomp Out Bullying" campaign.

"Every year they give out a national topic, and each school gets to put their own spin on it," senior Alex Homer, the only remaining member from last year, said. "This one's a lot different of a dynamic than last year where it was intangible, an idea. An idea [like anti-bullying] is really hard to turn down; no one wants kids to feel bullied. This year we're selling something, a product, which can be especially difficult to pitch to college students."

Popmoney is an app for mobile devices that enables users to request, send and receive money directly from one bank account to another. The team's campaign name, Giddy Up Pay Up, brings the product home.

"We wanted to tie in the local aspect," Samantha Monterrey said. "We live in a rodeo, country town, so we brainstormed

names to bring [the campaign] back local."

The team has received support throughout campus and the community, including promotion of the event to local running clubs, partnering with local businesses such as Cornerstone Pie, Dominos, Napalm Dreams, U.S. Bank and the Wildcat Shop.

"Almost every business that we talk to wants to help in some way," Homer said. "They're all willing to sit down and talk to us; they want to know what's going on. They're just as willing to work with us as we are with them."

Along with the 5k, the Bateman team paired up with students from the Film & Video Studies program to produce commercials and viral videos. The commercials are entirely student produced and will be aired throughout the Central community on channels 14 and 15 with help from OATV. The viral video "The Most Interesting Man in Ellensburg pt. 1" can be found on YouTube.

Additionally, the team will be broadcasting on 88.1 the Burg from 12:30 to 1 p.m. every Monday and Wednesday this month, giving away hot chocolate on the SURC patio from 8 to 11 a.m. Feb. 10, 11, 18, 24 and 25, and visiting residence halls with U.S. Bank to hold student financial nights, giving Central students the opportunity to learn about the app's functions and benefits.



KELSEY RANDICH/OBSERVER

HOT COCOA Bateman team member Alex Homer handing out free hot chocolate to promote Popmoney and their 5k.

Pop of Orange 5k

When: Sunday, Feb. 23 @ 9 a.m.

Where: SURC East Patio

Cost: \$6 w/ download of Popmoney app

For more information, visit the Bateman team's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/giddyuppayup

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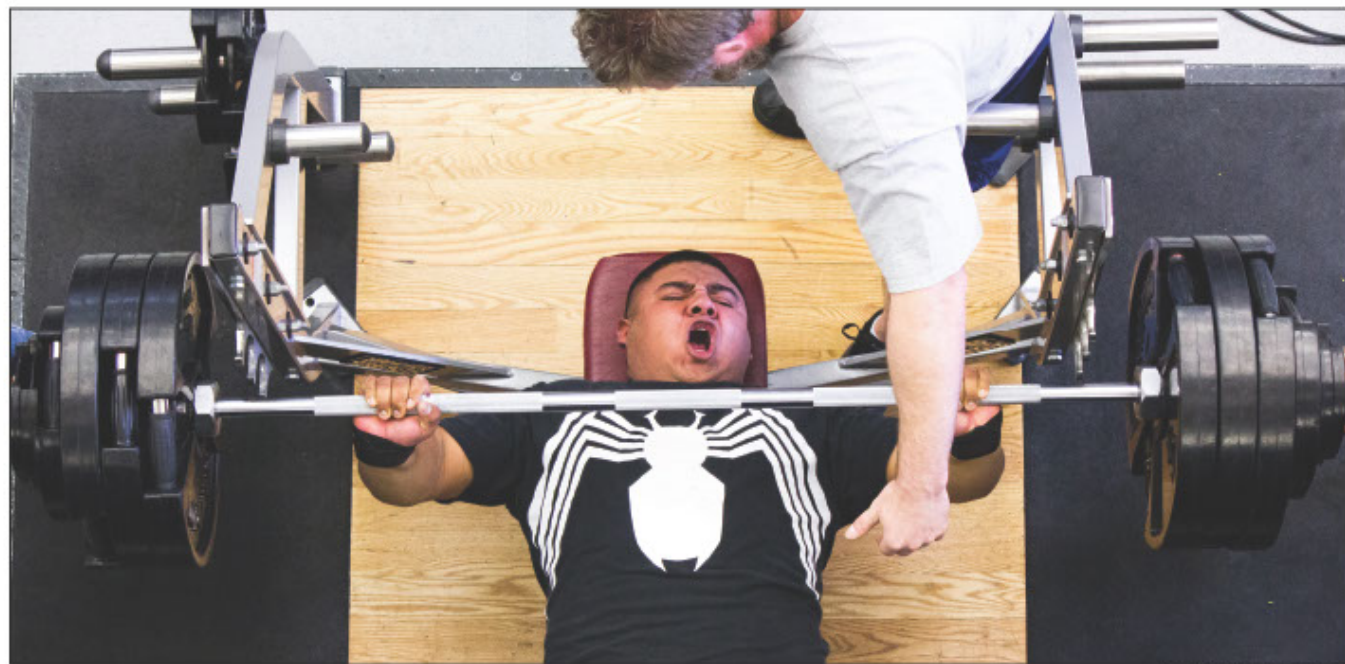


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UNIVERSITY RECREATION



DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

BENCH PRESS BOSS Central senior Danny Herrera lifts close to 400 pounds in the bench press on Sunday's Aaron Harrison Memorial Powerlifting Competition. Herrera took first place in both the bench press and deadlift events in the heavy-weight group, deadlifting 650 pounds, 90 more than the second place finisher.

Brute force

Powerlifters show off extreme strength in annual university event, honoring a former lifting champion

BY RACHEL CHARLTON
Staff Reporter

Each competitor stared down the bar as they sauntered towards the platform. Clouds of chalk rising from their palms as they clapped their hands together. Varying in age, size and weight, all six participants in this year's Aaron Harrison Memorial Powerlifting Competition possessed grim determination to beat their previous record and ultimately become "Best Lifter" of the contest.

The annual Powerlifting competition was in honor of the late Aaron Harrison, a University Recreation employee and avid powerlifter, who passed away last summer.

"It was a great chance for the students, staff and friends of Aaron to come together, meet in a place that he called home for a number of years and participate in an activity that he was so passionate about," Eric Scott, director of University Recreation said. "For the people that attended the service and competition, it was a great opportunity to share stories and remember the best parts of Aaron's time with us."

The lifts consisted of bench press and deadlift, with each contender attempting to better their previous lift.

Participants chose their starting weight and how many pounds they would add for the next round.

Those who made it to the third round had the option of competing in a final fourth round.

During the first attempt, the deadlift weight ranged from 385 pounds to 550 pounds. Four participants chose to compete in the final round, with weight spanning 445 pounds to 650 pounds.

For the light-weight bench press section, Jason Civich placed first, with Ryan Nelson coming in second. Colin Gould placed first in the overall deadlift section and Civich placed second.

Of the six participants, Central se-

nior Daniel Herrera was a formidable presence in the weight room, commanding the attention of the audience as he stomped his feet on the platform to

"It was a great chance for the students, staff and friends of Aaron to come together, meet in a place that he called home for a number of years, and participate in an activity that he was so passionate about."

-Eric Scott
Director of University Recreation

gain footing before attempting each lift.

Herrera dominated the heavy-weight group, placing first in both bench press and deadlift.

The most impressive per-

formance of the day came from Herrera, as he deadlifted 650 pounds, 90 pounds more than the next highest weight for that lift.

Herrera, a bio-chemistry major, had never competed before but had been inspired by Harrison.

"We barely started talking and we were going to start deadlifting and working out together, but he passed away," Herrera said. "I thought I should come and do it."

Herrera's outstanding performances throughout the day earned him the coveted title of "Best Lifter."

After the competition, Herrera was given the opportunity to participate in a powerlifting competition next month in Kennewick.

Larry Bush, the Washington state chairman for the National United Powerlifting Association, also participated in Sunday's competition in honor of Harrison, who he had known for roughly four years before Harrison's death.

Harrison "came to one of the contests that we host in the Tri-Cities and he was just kind of a quiet guy in the back. He had that little smirk on his face," Bush said. "I thought, 'You know, there is something going on there, I got to meet that guy.' Being quiet like he was, I really wasn't sure what to expect, but when he got on that platform it was obvious that he had passion and enthusiasm."

In comparison to last year's competition, the turnout was roughly half of what it has been previously. Scott attributed the lack of numbers to the absence of Harrison.

"It is entirely because we don't have Aaron that the event was smaller. Aaron made a personal connection with most of our powerlifters last year and encouraged them to compete," Scott said. "Without him in the weights room every evening encouraging students to sign up, we were not as successful sharing the information."



DERRICK CLARIT/OBSERVER

POWER PLAY Larry Bush, the Washington state chairman for the National United Powerlifting Association, took part in the competition in honor of the late Aaron Harrison.

WINTER SURVIVAL



Survival of the fittest

BY NICK TERREL
Assistant Photo Editor

This past weekend I had the experience of sleeping in an ice cave while half a foot of fresh powder fell overnight.

Myself and 23 other students got to take our survival skills into the wild. We were given the chance to put skills that recreation and tourism Professor Robert Perkins taught us to good use.

We parked our cars down on the west shores of Kachess Lake and snowshoed a mile into the snowy wooded forest to set up camp.

Over the three days we each learned how to build a fire using flint and tinder and how to construct a snow cave/shelter to sleep in. We also learned how to determine a potential avalanche hazard and

how to forecast weather and to find your location on a map using a compass.

Being able to understand how and why people get lost when hiking is essential to any person who is going on any outdoor adventure in order to keep yourself alive and not get lost.

This is the fourth year that recreation and tourism has offered the Outdoor Survival class, which is open to any student no matter their major.

The course is broken down into four different sections: winter camping, survival technique reading, skills development (Camp), and a book review.

I can truly say that I hiked away from this experience with a greater appreciation of the environment that surrounds us and what it takes to survive in some of the roughest conditions.

SURVIVING WITH FIRE

Students in the recreation and tourism department's winter survival class learned to build a fire using the bare necessities. With the hands-on experience, students learned to protect themselves and gain a sense of self control in a harsh environment.



UNIVERSITY RECREATION

Students face extreme fitness challenge

BY CHACE DAVY
Staff Reporter

You'll see them wearing their unique shirts in the University Recreation Center for the rest of the month of February.

Forty-nine Central Washington University students signed up to participate in the inaugural "Indoor Iron Man" competition in January. Each participant received a dirt-fit shirt to show off while they spend February striving to complete one of the hardest tests of physical fitness a person could participate in.

A traditional Iron Man competition is an extreme fitness test in which competitors go on a 112-mile bike ride, run a full marathon and swim 2.4 miles—equivalent to 154 one-way trips across the Aquatic Center pool—typically done in a single day.

This Iron Man competition is spread out over all 28 days of February. According to Eric Scott, Intramural Sports special events coordinator, the competition is intended in part to help keep students true to their New Year's resolutions.

"Now is about the time where you see people drop those resolutions," Scott said. "Hopefully this 28 days creates a lifestyle,

rather than a one day event."

Competitors can keep track of their progress via the "LF Connect" app that is available for users of Android devices and iPhones. University Recreation recently

things, are going to be used as weekly prizes for winners of random criteria, such as most miles run or biked.

He stressed, however, that winning these prizes is not the primary goal of the

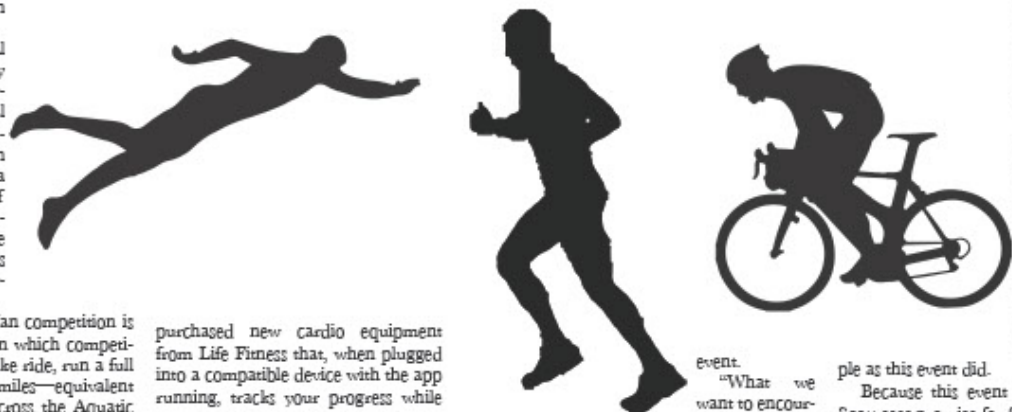
progress throughout the month.

If you missed out on signing up this year, there isn't much to worry about, unless you're graduating between now and next February. According to Scott, this event might be run annually during the shortest month of the year.

University Recreation has hosted fitness events, such as an NFL Combine Day and Kings and Queens of Fitness, before this event, but never quite had the draw of people as this event did.

Because this event had such a draw, Scott sees promise for future fitness events based on events that other universities host.

Currently in the works is what Scott referred to as "Century Club," where students would attempt to complete 100 miles running, or 500 miles on a bike (the logistics haven't quite been figured out yet) over the course of the entire quarter. The winner would get a t-shirt and their photo on a wall of fame.



purchased new cardio equipment from Life Fitness that, when plugged into a comparable device with the app running, tracks your progress while you run on the treadmill. Unfortunately for the competitors, things aren't quite that easy for the swim and the bike portions of the event.

"They have to track it all, then sit down on their app and type in the information for their activity," Scott said. "It's really an honor-based system."

Scott pulled open a drawer in his office that was filled with coffee mugs, water bottles, and Olif bars, which, among other

event. "What we want to encourage is that we support everybody throughout the process and they all finish by February 28," Scott said. "That would be the best part of the program to me, is if we have 100 percent retention of all these people and they all finish the event."

To help advertise how participants are doing, there will be a big bar graph displayed across one of the walls in the Recreation Center displaying participants'

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

'Cats confident against Alaska schools



KELSEY RANDICH/OBSERVER

DRIVING THE LANE Freshman guard Marc Rodgers finds a crease in the defense, resulting in a layup earlier in the season against Northwest Nazarene University. Rodgers has started 11 games his freshman year, averaging 3.8 points-per-game.

BY JULIA SANDERSON
Staff Reporter

The Central Washington University men's basketball team will take on Alaska Anchorage and the Alaska Nanooks this coming week in Nicholson Pavilion.

First up they will face Alaska Anchorage at 7 p.m. on Thursday, followed by the Alaska Nanooks Saturday at 7 p.m.

This will be the second time this year that the Wildcats have played both the Alaska teams.

"We split earlier in the season, we would like to get both this week," head coach Greg Spading said.

Central beat Alaska Anchorage 95-88, but lost to Fairbanks in overtime 84-80.

Earlier in the season when they played Alaska Anchorage, senior forward JB Pillard led all scorers with 23 points. Senior guard Mark McLaughlin was close behind with 22 points and passed the 1,000 points scored mark.

In their last game against Alaska Fairbanks, the Nanooks led 42-31 going into the half. However, they came out strong for the second half and outscored Fairbanks 40-29, but ended up losing in overtime. The Wildcats also outrebounded the Nanooks 35-30 in that game.

"Really want to beat Fairbanks since we lost a tough overtime game up there earlier this season," McLaughlin said.

Central is currently 11-9 overall and 7-5 in the Great Northwest Athletic Con-

ference.

Alaska Anchorage is 13-11 overall and 6-7 in GNAO play. Alaska Fairbanks is 13-8 overall and 8-5 in the GNAO.

"I'm really excited for these games, we have a chance to really separate ourselves from some of the teams that we are close with in the standings," McLaughlin said.

All three teams are trying to move up in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference standings.

"They are big games because we are all battling for the third spot in the GNAO and are all tied for the spot," sophomore guard Joey Roppo said.

"Both teams are very good and well coached so we will have to have great practices all week to come out and play

great basketball," McLaughlin said.

The Wildcats believe that they have a good chance at winning both games.

"We are very confident," Roppo said.

"We won our last game against St. Martins this past weekend. We are going to prepare like any other game and come out strong this next week."

It is a big week for the Wildcats, and they will need to be playing some great basketball in order to advance in the GNAO standings.

They are looking forward to playing at home.

"Big week, it's nice to be back home and play in front of our home crowd," head coach Greg Spading said. "Hopefully everyone comes out and supports us."

FOOTBALL

Shoemaker brings in 25 football recruits

BY QUIN WALKER
Staff Reporter

For the Central Washington football team, signing day was an exciting one. Head Coach Ian Shoemaker received 25 commits in his first class as the head coach.

Because he's new, Shoemaker had to squeeze 12 weeks of recruiting into four. One thing Shoemaker focused on was recruiting in state; only one recruit was from outside of Washington, Idaho.

"The idea for me moving forward is that we are going to recruit in-state kids. We are going to develop them over five years and make sure that they are investing in Central and Central is investing in those kids over time," Shoemaker said.

Shoemaker wanted to make sure this class was balanced. He made sure that he recruited the whole state and not just one side of the mountains.

"We had a great group of defensive and offensive linemen. You can just look at the numbers and see we had bulk in those numbers," Shoemaker said.

"The skill and the back end of defensive side is positive as well," Shoemaker said.

"We don't want to single out one position group until they prove themselves as a student, a citizen, and then on the football field."

The type of person was a focal point in this year's recruiting. The focal point in this year's recruiting was looking for a particular type of person who could not only do the job on the football field, but

"We are building this as a program idea. This is a long-term commitment, that they are going to be here five years, and moving this forward."

-Ian Shoemaker
Head football coach

in the classroom as well.

The average GPA of this recruiting class was above a 3.0, and also included two ASB class presidents. Shoemaker said he emphasized character, leadership, and academic ability as a

big part of recruiting a player.

Selling Central was something Shoemaker had little difficulty doing. Going into homes and talking to the families of recruits helped Shoemaker sell the culture of Central as well.

"We are building this as a program idea. This is a long-term commitment, that they

are going to be here five years, and moving this forward," Shoemaker said.

"We can win a National Championship here at Central, we can win it with these guys, and we can win it with five-year Washington high school players."

The group as a whole consisted of 10 defensive players and 15 offensive players. Getting players who fit the system will be big for Coach Shoemaker.

Shoemaker runs a multiple formation spread offense which requires depth and talent throughout the program.

When asked what Coach Shoemaker wants us to remember about this recruiting class he responded with:

"Hopefully this class over five years will find a way to win a National Championship. They are going to have great graduation rates, and be great people around Central Washington and Ellensburg."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Ice-cold Wildcats look to break streak

BY CHANCE WEEKS-WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

The Central Washington University women's basketball team is currently riding a five-game losing streak and are looking to snap it cold streak as they go on the road for their next two games.

The Wildcats take on the Seattle Pacific Falcons in Seattle on Feb. 15 and then head back east to play the Montana State University Billings Yellow Jackets on Feb. 15.

Central's most recent loss was against bitter rival Western Washington University 82-61. Some of the losses seem to be coming close as five of their last 10 losses have been by single digits.

"It's the little things that have been biting us in the butt, like turnovers and free throws and just our defense, so we need to fix those," junior forward Courtney Johnson said.

The last time Central matched up with Seattle Pacific it was back on Jan. 18 where the Wildcats fell to the Falcons 73-65. Johnson and senior guard Jessica VanDyke led the Wildcats that game with 14 points apiece and will look to help out in a major way against Seattle Pacific.

"We just got to put a whole 40 minutes together and be consistent throughout those 40 minutes," Johnson said.

It will be challenge for the Wildcats going against the Falcons since they lead the



NICK TERRELL/OBSERVER

TRIPLE THREAT Sophomore guard Hannah Shine scans the court for an open teammate in an early season game against Quest University.

Great Northwest Athletic Conference in blocked shots, averaging 4.9 blocks-per-game. They also are in the top three in scoring defense only giving up 63.8 points

per game. On offense they boast the second leading scorer in Katie Benson (19.8 points-per-game) and also is second in rebounds-per-game with 9.3. Stopping her

will be a key to victory for the Wildcats.

"I think we can attack SPU from the inside out," head coach Shawn Nelson said. "Meaning we want to pound the ball into our post players, really be aggressive and attack the rim. They're [SPU] strong enough to score in the post, but they also play outside. With our team and our personnel it's a better match up for us."

After that game Central will have all it can handle when they take on Montana state University Billings.

The Yellowjackets are currently the hottest team in the GNAO with a league leading eight-game win streak. They are absolutely dominant in the paint on defense, only allowing opponents a conference low 30 rebounds-per-game and also lead the GNAO in rebounding margin with +8.3.

The last time Central met up with Billings they suffered a rough loss, losing 72-44. The Yellowjacket defense was absolutely stifling, allowing a Wildcat to 10 or more points while Johnson led the Central with nine.

"We keep fighting, I don't think our record shows how good of a team we are, but we've stuck together and we're close and were ready to break through any time" VanDyke said.

Nelson says that despite their records they know how good they are and how a couple of games are separating them from being in the top 5 in the GNAO.

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