Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu_student_newspaper

Recommended Citation
Central Washington University, "The Observer" (2015). CWU Student Newspaper. 2532.
https://digitalcommons.cwu.edu/cwu_student_newspaper/2532

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives and Special Collections at ScholarWorks@CWU. It has been accepted for inclusion in CWU Student Newspaper by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@CWU. For more information, please contact scholarworks@cwu.edu.
THIN WALLS
RAs deal with loud sex in residence halls
Page 8

MISCOMMUNICATION
PR program may move out of Arts and Humanities, into College of Business
Page 3

BASEBALL HITS THE FIELD
Wildcats predicted to finish 1st in GNAC
Page 13

SWIPER NO SWIPING
Observer editors test Tinder
Page 7

Photo Illustration By: Derrick Clarit
Creating a new form of tourism in pot states

BY ZAC HENRY
Contributing Writer

Cannabis tourism is a new industry growing in Washington since the opening of recreational marijuana shops this past summer.

Even New York Magazine has an article on the “need-to-knows” of buying weed in Washington.

Some entrepreneurs have already started cashing in. Kush Tourism, a Kirkland-based company, offers services for tourists in both Washington and Colorado.

Those services include hosting cannabis-related tours, finding cannabis-friendly hotels, sharing locations of retail stores and lounges and even renting a vape pen for the trip.

Kush’s 75 tourists a week

Michael Gordon, CEO of Kush Tourism, said the company provides services to about 75 tourists a week. Among the activities Kush Tourist offers are a Sky High Gardens tour and the Boro School of Glass classes on glass blowing.

Gordon acknowledged that starting the company was difficult.

Gordon said he knew the interest was there. He just had to figure out how to self-promote and reach the market.

“People are spending $1,000 to fly across the world to places like Amsterdam.”

A $17 billion Colorado windfall

Colorado has already seen the effect of cannabis tourism. Mountain towns have reported up to 90 percent of their marijuana sales are from tourists. Those numbers may cause dismay for those who fear being labeled as a “stoner hangout” and upsetting anti-marijuana tourists.

The state saw a record number of tourists and tourism dollars in 2013 at $17.3 billion. The state projects higher numbers for 2014.

Washington is similar numbers. Main Street Marijuana, a retailer in Vancouver, has recorded sales of nearly $2.2 million between its July 2014 opening and Feb. 1, according to the Washington State Liquor Control Board (WSLCB).

The shop has averaged about 700 customers a day since its opening, said Ramsey Hamide, co-owner of Main Street Marijuana.

“Nearly all of our out-of-state customers make a special trip over specifically to visit us,” Hamide said. Main Street Marijuana’s customers are also contributing to the economy.

“What we’ve seen is our customer base is an affluent demographic with disposable income,” Hamide said.

Success near the border

Big success in Washington has come from recreational marijuana shops located near state borders. Of the top five retailers in the state, three are located near state lines: New Vansterdam and Main Street Marijuana in Vancouver, and Spokane Green Leaf in Spokane.

Eighteen of New Vansterdam’s 26 reviews on Yelp are from out-of-state, including 13 from Oregon alone. Hamide estimates 33 percent of Main Street Marijuana’s customers are from out-of-state. He said he has had visitors from all 50 states and roughly 20 countries.

Three of those shops combine for just under 9.4 percent of the state’s $64 million in sales, according to the WSLCB.

Quick start was predictable

“This quick start for cannabis tourism should come as no surprise. Marijuana has become more accepted throughout the United States. According to a Vox.com article, ‘Montana, a traditionally conservative state has a higher per-capita smoking rate than Washington.’

Over the past 50 years, the article said, marijuana approval rates in the United States have increased from 12 percent to 58 percent. Also, 69 percent of people age 18-35 approve, compared to 53 percent of people of age 35-59.

Medical facilities aren’t ignoring the numbers either. Some medical marijuana operations are trying to switch to recreational status because of the financial opportunity.

“Once all the taxes go down and everything gets easier, owning a shop is going to be a million-dollar thing,” said Elaine Wilson, a bud-tender at Iconic Cannabis Collective, a medical shop trying to go recreational in North Seattle.

Competition from Oregon

Washington legislators are working on legislation that could lower the state’s high excise taxes on recreational marijuana. The taxes have added significantly to retail prices across the state.

“At this stage, this is a blessing and a curse,” Brian Bzdak, owner of Washington’s top-selling shop, New Vansterdam, told the Seattle Times. “It’s a blessing, because obviously we need as many states as possible to legalize so we can get this changed on a federal level.”

Washington will have another year to tweak its system before marijuana sales in Oregon can begin. Still, some worry that Washington is more concerned with the Seattle market than the little guys throughout the rest of the state.

“The Seattle market is the one that drives all this,” Laura Carlson, owner of Country Cannabis in Battle Ground, told the Seattle Times. “So, [legislators] are not going to be too terribly concerned about us down here.”

DEADLINES

Weekend sports information: Sunday 5 p.m.
Letters to the editor: Sunday 5 p.m.
Entertainment, meetings, calendar events, display ads, classified ads: Friday 5 p.m.

SECTION E-MAILS

Editor-in-Chief cwuobserver@gmail.com
News cwuobservernews@gmail.com
Scene cwuobserverscene@gmail.com
Sports cwuobersports@gmail.com
Opinion cwuobserveropinion@gmail.com
Photo cwuobserverphoto@gmail.com

CONTACT US
The Observer
Central Washington University
400 East University Way
Bouillon Hall 222
Ellensburg, WA 98926
M-F 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 509-963-1073

ADVERTISING
Kristin Gaskill
Central Washington University
400 East University Way
Bouillon Hall 232B
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-963-1026
gaskillk@cwu.edu

Editorial policy: The Observer is a public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. The mission of the Observer is two-fold: to serve Central Washington University as a newspaper and to provide training for students who are seeking a career in journalism. The Observer seeks to provide complete, accurate, dependable information to the campus and community; to provide a public forum for the free debate of issues, ideas and problems facing the community at large; and to be the best source for information, education and entertainment news. As a training program, the Observer is the practical application of the theories and principles of journalism. It teaches students to analyze and communicate information that is vital to the decision making of the community at large. It provides a forum for students to learn the ethics, values, and skills needed to succeed in their chosen career. If you have questions call (509) 963-1073 or e-mail us at cwuobserver@gmail.com

STAFF
Editor-in-Chief Adam Wilson
Online Colt Sweetland (Editor)
News Chace Davy (Editor)
Rachel Charlton (Assistant Editor)
Zena Acholonu
Kyle Fenton
Felicia Kopperdahl
Aaron Kunkler
Bradly Smith
Tera Stenhous

Scene Maria Harr (Editor)
Jonathan Glover (Assistant Editor)
Brittany Allen
Deanna Bangs
Shanai Bemis
Morgan Green
Nick Oliver
Mikaila Wilkerson

Sports Chance Weeks-Williams (Editor)
Spencer Hansen (Assistant Editor)
Tylor Buchanan
Jeffrey MacMillan
Maxwell Monson
Alexa Ogle
Kyler Roberts
Shaima Shamedeen

Copy Desk Haley Curl (Copy Desk Chief)
Bradidgett
Meredith Carlsen
Zach Harris
Jessi Hammonds
Anna Kessner
Grace Lindesly

Photographers Derrick Clarit (Editor)
Kaylee Bialozor
Xander Deccio
Dakota Johnson
Alexandra Proctor
Taiyer Shaiddlin
John Whittlesey

Graphic Designer Jordan Brown

Faculty Adviser Cynthia Mitchell mitchelc@cwu.edu

Business & Ad Manager Kristin Gaskill 509-963-1026

Student Ad Manager Taylor Simental

Ad Designer Jordan Brown

Ad Sales Riley Elliott
Danny Golden
Currently hiring

The Observer • Feb. 12 - 18, 2015
STI rates on the rise around the state

By Simon Corbett
Staff Reporter

With over 3,000 condoms picked up by Central students since winter quarter began, the Central Wellness Center has been hard at work.

As sexually transmitted infections (STI) rates are continually rising throughout the state, it is particularly important that Central students are knowledgeable about how to stay protected.

Whitaker said chlamydia is the most common STI in the county. This may be due to the fact that chlamydia is an STI that often does not show symptoms. Whitaker said there were a total of 167 reported cases of chlamydia in Kittitas County in 2014, 39 of which were diagnosed at Central.

According to the Washington Department of Health, the incidence rate for the majority of STIs is on the rise.

According to Tiffany Harms, Communications Manager at Planned Parenthood, said 75 percent of women and 50 percent of men with chlamydia have no symptoms. On average, people with HIV don’t develop symptoms for 10 years.

“One in two sexually active young people in the U.S. will contract an STD by the time they’re 25 and most won’t know it,” Harms said.

Whitaker said herpes is the second most common disease, with 14 total cases reported from Kittitas County residents. Many are unaware that STIs such as chlamydia and herpes can travel by mouth. This is one of the many reasons why any sexually active individual should get tested if either person in the relationship has had more than one partner.

The Wellness Center promotes healthy sexuality by emphasizing the significance of proper contraception with various events and programs.

“The Love Glove Club” is the Wellness Center’s free condom distribution program. Through this program, students may receive 20 free condoms per quarter when they show their student ID card.

“Last year, 650 students utilized this resource, and almost everybody does grab their full 20 when they do it,” Fulp said. “Most people use it about two out of the three quarters, if not all three quarters.”

Fulp said that the Wellness Center focuses their programs on meeting students where they are, according to results from student evaluations.

“If 73 percent of our students are sexually active, Fulp said.

One of the Wellness Center’s most popular programs is “Expect Respect,” which focuses on sexual responsibility.

Barb Stanley, registered nurse at Central’s Medical and Counseling Clinic, said that she believes people are more educated today than they used to be.

“We do have people come in for testing, which is a good idea so that there’s no finger pointing later,” Stanley said.

Stanley said she often explains to students that they should always get checked for STIs when becoming sexually active with a new partner to ensure they are both free from infections.

“Even if you’re on birth control you still have to use condoms,” Stanley said. “Same goes for guys. Guys should also protect themselves, if condoms are used all the time they will be safe.

Maisie Backlund, Professor of Speech Communication, said he opposes the move, but no one other than the president-credit hours. Fulp said.

“Legalistically, Cen- tral Wellness Center has just realized this resource, and almost everybody does grab their full 20 when they do it,” Fulp said. “Most people use it about two out of the three quarters, if not all three quarters.”

Fulp said that the Wellness Center focuses their programs on meeting students where they are, according to results from student evaluations.

“About 73 percent of our students are sexually active,” Fulp said.

One of the Wellness Center’s most popular programs is “Expect Respect,” which focuses on sexual responsibility.

Barb Stanley, registered nurse at Central’s Medical and Counseling Clinic, said that she believes people are more educated today than they used to be.

“We do have people come in for testing, which is a good idea so that there’s no finger pointing later,” Stanley said.

Stanley said she often explains to students that they should always get checked for STIs when becoming sexually active with a new partner to ensure they are both free from infections.

“If you’re on birth control but you still have to use condoms,” Stanley said. “Same goes for guys. Guys should also protect themselves, if condoms are used all the time they will be-safe.

Maisie Backlund, Professor of Speech Communication, said he opposes the move, but no one other than the president-credit hours.

“Legalistically, Central Wellness Center has just realized this resource, and almost everybody does grab their full 20 when they do it,” Fulp said. “Most people use it about two out of the three quarters, if not all three quarters.”

Fulp said that the Wellness Center focuses their programs on meeting students where they are, according to results from student evaluations.

“I don’t think it was a good idea in the first place, and now it’s completely out of my hands,” Backlund said.

Most programs have direct consequences under the new responsibility centered management revenue model, which rewards departments 80 percent of the funding from student-credit hours.

Based on a budget model provided by Clark at the last faculty senate meeting, every college in the university is generating a revenue (with summer revenues included) outside of the College of Business.

The management department of the College of Business is currently losing $8.02 million per year.

In contrast, the communications department generates a $561 thousand surplus every year.

Losing one third of its total student-credit hours, as well as students in the program, would likely hurt the communication department, but may help the management department.

However, nothing has been decided yet. Johnson said the move would largely be based around providing benefits to the students instead of university economic concerns.

“We’re a long way off from something that I think would be a done deal,” Johnson said.

Cesar Garcia, the former Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, recently stepped down, and Stacey Robertson was chosen as his replacement.

Robertson’s last day the job was Feb. 3, so it’s unknown at this time how much consideration was able to put into the proposal.

Marrell had no comment other than saying that discussions were underway with the College of Arts and Humanities.

Ultimately, students and faculty alike will have to await a decision on the college plans to get a sense of if, how and when these changes may take place.

Tiffany Harms, Communications Manager at Planned Parenthood, said 75 percent of women and 50 percent of men with chlamydia have no symptoms. On average, people with HIV don’t develop symptoms for 10 years.

“One in two sexually active young people in the U.S. will contract an STD by the time they’re 25 and most won’t know it,” Harms said.

Whitaker said herpes is the second most common disease, with 14 total cases reported from Kittitas County residents. Many are unaware that STIs such as chlamydia and herpes can travel by mouth. This is one of the many reasons why any sexually active individual should get tested if either person in the relationship has had more than one partner.

The Wellness Center promotes healthy sexuality by emphasizing the significance of proper contraception with various events and programs.

“The Love Glove Club” is the Wellness Center’s free condom distribution program. Through this program, students may receive 20 free condoms per quarter when they show their student ID card.

“Last year, 650 students utilized this resource, and almost everybody does grab their full 20 when they do it,” Fulp said. “Most people use it about two out of the three quarters, if not all three quarters.”

Fulp said that the Wellness Center focuses their programs on meeting students where they are, according to results from student evaluations.

“If 73 percent of our students are sexually active,” Fulp said.

One of the Wellness Center’s most popular programs is “Expect Respect,” which focuses on sexual responsibility.

Barb Stanley, registered nurse at Central’s Medical and Counseling Clinic, said that she believes people are more educated today than they used to be.

“We do have people come in for testing, which is a good idea so that there’s no finger pointing later,” Stanley said.

Stanley said she often explains to students that they should always get checked for STIs when becoming sexually active with a new partner to ensure they are both free from infections.

“If you’re on birth control you still have to use condoms,” Stanley said. “Same goes for guys. Guys should also protect themselves, if condoms are used all the time they will be safe.

Maisie Backlund, Professor of Speech Communication, said he opposes the move, but no one other than the president-credit hours.

“Legalistically, Central Wellness Center has just realized this resource, and almost everybody does grab their full 20 when they do it,” Fulp said. “Most people use it about two out of the three quarters, if not all three quarters.”

Fulp said that the Wellness Center focuses their programs on meeting students where they are, according to results from student evaluations.

“I don’t think it was a good idea in the first place, and now it’s completely out of my hands,” Backlund said.

Most programs have direct consequences under the new responsibility centered management revenue model, which rewards departments 80 percent of the funding from student-credit hours.

Based on a budget model provided by Clark at the last faculty senate meeting, every college in the university is generating a revenue (with summer revenues included) outside of the College of Business.

The management department of the College of Business is currently losing $8.02 million per year.

In contrast, the communications department generates a $561 thousand surplus every year.

Losing one third of its total student-credit hours, as well as students in the program, would likely hurt the communication department, but may help the management department.

However, nothing has been decided yet. Johnson said the move would largely be based around providing benefits to the students instead of university economic concerns.

“We’re a long way off from something that I think would be a done deal,” Johnson said.

Cesar Garcia, the former Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, recently stepped down, and Stacey Robertson was chosen as his replacement.

Robertson’s last day the job was Feb. 3, so it’s unknown at this time how much consideration was able to put into the proposal.

Marrell had no comment other than saying that discussions were underway with the College of Arts and Humanities.

Ultimately, students and faculty alike will have to await a decision on the college plans to get a sense of if, how and when these changes may take place.
UESL students remembered
Tragic accident in Los Angeles last Nov. leaves university in shock

BY KYLE PENTON
Staff Reporter

Friday, Jan. 30, marked the 49th day since the passing of two Central University English as a Second Language (UESL) students.

The importance of the 49th day since death, in some Japanese cultures, marks the estimated time it takes for the spirit to be reborn into a new life. It is also the number of days that the families and friends pray for the deceased.

Sherri Fujita, director of the UESL program at Central, was asked by the students to have a memorial on campus.

“We were doing grief counseling with the students, one of the things the students mentioned is they thought it would be good to have something after 49 days,” Fujita said.

The memorial was held in Kamola Hall and had a turnout of approximately 40 people.

“In Buddhist countries, people usually have some type of ceremony marking that event,” Fujita said.

The purpose of the event was to get the close friends of the deceased and those involved in the accident to come share their stories.

“Some people brought pictures. We had a book that people could write their memories or messages,” Fujita said. “We had a really nice event.”

The tragic loss of the two UESL students resulted from a single car crash on a stretch of highway in northern California. Four UESL students were riding in the car: two in the front and two in the back.

The students were on holiday taking a road trip during Thanksgiving break when the accident happened.

The car reportedly crossed the center lane and flipped over. The two girls who died may not have been wearing seat belts in the back seat.

“In Japan, it is not required for back seat passengers to wear seat belts. According to a press release on Central’s website, the students who died in the accident were Yosiko Hirooka from Osaka, Japan, and Saya Sonoda from Fukuoka, the capital city of Fukuoka Prefecture on the island of Kyushu, Japan.

In the same press release, President James L. Gaudino said the terrible event sent shockwaves through the Central community.

“We’re simply heartbroken. We cannot believe that these beautiful friends, daughters and students are gone,” Fujita and DeShields, associate dean of students, flew to Palm Springs to be with the students after the accident.

“Of the things the students mentioned is they thought it would be good to have something after 49 days,” Gaudino said.

DeShields said they had a wonderful response from working with the trauma center in Palm Springs and from the support of the families of those involved in the accident.

“The university purchased a plaque in the students honor, and it’s at the hospital that the students were,” DeShields said.

Injured in the accident were Aimi Hayashi and Maki Tagawa, both from Fukuoka.

One of the students is still enrolled at Central.

The other student finished fall quarter and returned home after the quarter ended.

“We’ve had a lot of meetings on how the crisis was handled,” Fujita said.

Fujita and DeShields both said that there will not be any immediate policy changes within the UESL program.

The students were adults on their own vacation, it is not Central’s policy to police its students on what they can and can’t do on their breaks.

“The best we can do is inform students on things like how important it is to wear a seat belt,” Fujita said.

As of now, there is no monument planned, but with the right funds Fujita and DeShields said it would be a “very nice” gesture.
BY TERA STENHOUSE

About 10,000 students call Ellensburg home, but many feel as though they don’t always belong.

According to the United States Census Bureau, Ellensburg is not necessarily known for its diversity. In 2013, the population consisted of 85.7 percent Caucasian, 9.7 percent Hispanic or Latino, 3.2 percent Asian and 1.5 percent African American.

Central, however, has made strides to increase diversity in their enrollment numbers. The Department Chair of Sociology, Kandee Clearly, said they increased minority population within this year’s freshman class.

“Twenty-five percent of this year’s first year students are Latino,” Clearly said.

Clearly said another factor that plays into diversity at Central is the size of the town. “Ellensburg is a farming community, and the size of the valley is small,” Clearly said. “Rural places tend to be less diverse.

Diversity doesn’t just have to do with enrollment numbers at Central. Creating awareness of different ethnic backgrounds as well as different identities plays a role in acceptance.

Garrett Nelson, president of EQuAl, said getting involved with Equality through Queers and Allies (EQuAl) helped him with his experience.

“I first began my involvement in EQuAl when I was a sophomore here at CWU,” Nelson said. “I was very unaware of the LGBT civil rights struggles in today’s society, as well as on our campus, and EQuAl gave me the chance to create change on our campus, as well as to educate myself for the future.”

To make Central a more diverse campus, Nelson said students need to be educated more on the issue and to also be exposed to more diverse faculty.

“We need to challenge our students, staff and faculty to think differently and educate themselves,” Nelson said. “We need to challenge our students, staff and faculty to think differently and educate themselves, and to also be exposed to more diverse faculty.

“We need to challenge our students, staff and faculty to think differently and educate themselves,” Nelson said. “We need to challenge our students, staff and faculty to think differently and educate themselves.”

Jonece Tallant, senior public relations major, comes from a family with two very different ethnic backgrounds; Tallant’s parents are Caucasian and African-American. She said this has helped her be more accepting of people.

“It hasn’t affected me as much as maybe in high school,” Tallant said. “It’s definitely made me more accepting of a lot of people because I have a background from two very different backgrounds.”

Tallant said having a more diverse faculty would increase the numbers, encouraging a more diverse student body.
Valentine’s Day is right around the corner, and how better to show that special someone you care about enjoying strings of kissing, talking, and emotionally manipulating them all while blatantly ignoring the skin color of the black man.

Oh wait. That’s not romance, that’s abuse. Well, common mistakes can be both articulate and black. The problem is that this book isn’t really about BDSM. It’s a fantasy taken way too far without the reminder that, outside the fantasy, this is not okay.

It leads people to seek out abusers or excuse abuse as love. It leads people to treat women like objects outside of a very specific and agreed upon situation where that would be okay.

The “Fifty Shades of Grey” movie is coming out on Friday, Feb. 9 (yes, I’m not missing the irony there) and I urge you not to go watch it.

Not even as a joke with friends. Do not give this your money. Do not support this franchise.

OPINION
Editor-in-Chief/Adam Wilson

Fifty Shades of sexual abuse

BY OCEAN LINDSEY/OPINION/2015

In America, there is a stigma associated with black culture: If you don’t talk or act a certain way, you’re not black. Anonymous Seattle Seahawk players have said Russell Wilson wasn’t black enough to play quarterback.

The real question is, ‘what makes someone black?’ Does it go beyond the color of one’s skin? The stereotypes associated with being black include listening to hip-hop, playing sports and using slang. It’s disparaging that, as a society, we have become close-minded enough to buy into this paradigm where if you’re articulate, intelligent or listen to music that isn’t hip-hop, you’re not black. As if it is impossible to be both articulate and black.

Being half-white and half-black gives you a choice: Fit in with the stereotype or break the paradigm. Growing up, people who weren’t black would tell me I “wasn’t black” because of the way I talked and act. I guess they were more shocked that I didn’t fit in with the stereotype that they had in their head.

Which, in a sense, is correct. I’m half-black and half-white. My ethnicity made it harder for people to understand that there can be people who don’t live their life behind a tag of skin color. Some people resist this idea. The same people would attribute the fact that I didn’t say my pants to my white side.

Not helping this situation are the celebrities making it worse. In very recent news, the Russell Wilson comments, Robin Parker questioned Robert Griffin III’s “blackness,” calling him a “cornball brother,” on the basis that Washington’s quarterback had possibly voted against the federal building and who gets to work, the people involved must completely respect and trust each other. This requires a lot of communication and understanding.

And here’s where the one positive of “Fifty Shades of Grey” is: people are choosing to explore themselves in ways they may have been too shy or afraid to before. And if a few people out there read this book and decided to explore BDSM in a safe and consensual way, I am not condemning that.

The problem is that this book has sold over 100 million copies in May 2011. According to The New York Times, it has sold over 100 million copies worldwide. Rivaling “Harry Potter” and “Twilight.”

However, its contents are highly problematic. Apart from being a poorly written atrocity, it’s disparaging that, as a society, we have become close-minded enough to buy into this paradigm where if you’re articulate and intelligent or listen to music that isn’t hip-hop, you’re not black.

The stereotypes associated with being black include listening to hip-hop, playing sports and using slang. It’s disparaging that, as a society, we have become close-minded enough to buy into this paradigm where if you’re articulate, intelligent or listen to music that isn’t hip-hop, you’re not black. As if it is impossible to be both articulate and black.

Being half-white and half-black gives you a choice: Fit in with the stereotype or break the paradigm. Growing up, people who weren’t black would tell me I “wasn’t black” because of the way I talked and act. I guess they were more shocked that I didn’t fit in with the stereotype that they had in their head.

Which, in a sense, is correct. I’m half-black and half-white. My ethnicity made it harder for people to understand that there can be people who don’t live their life behind a tag of skin color. Some people resist this idea. The same people would attribute the fact that I didn’t say my pants to my white side.

Not helping this situation are the celebrities making it worse. In very recent news, the Russell Wilson comments, Robin Parker questioned Robert Griffin III’s “blackness,” calling him a “cornball brother,” on the basis that Washington’s quarterback had possibly voted against the federal building.

Many hip-hop artists have taken satirical shots at what it means to be black. In “Backpackers” by Childish Gambino he says, “That well-spoken token, who ain’t been heard, the only white rapper who’s allowed to say the N-word.”

Chance the Rapper also talks about the struggle of being a white rapper in his song “Everybody’s Somebody’s Everything.” The lyric goes, “I used to think that if I was dark off white but I’d fight if a nigga said that I talk white and be my parents was black but they saw it that I talk right.”

In both black and hip-hop culture, there seems to be a change in culture and steering away from the paradigm that had previously oppressed them. There has been more emphasis on education in pre-dominantly black areas and less emphasis on gang violence.

Not black enough

BY CHANCE WEBB-WILLIAMS/OPINION/2015

Recently, I read The Observer and was surprised to find not one article, letter or public service announcement concerning climate change (CC). When I was a student at Central in the 70’s, we gathered at the train trestle to demonstrate against war, nuclear energy, campus issues we faced, and The Observer was always our key source of information. Speaking out was important.

Many of your parents (or grandparents) helped shape the cultural values you enjoy today. We took MAKING A DIFFERENCE seriously. The fact that you can enjoy legal marijuana today is partly due to the efforts of my generation.

So, I ask you, “What are you doing to make the world a better place?” Are you working hard about global warming? About student debt? Are you willing to face a bigger dilemma? How about the fact that your Central Foundation has nearly two million dollars invested in dirty fossil fuel, while it provides scholarships to the students not only your future, but the very life of our planet? It’s hypocrisy and it should end.

Today, students across this state, nation and the world are standing against such “Business as Usual.” They are asking their university endowments to get out of dirty fossil fuel stocks and invest in clean energy. UW, WWU, Stanford and UVic are just a few schools ahead of Central on this issue (see gofossilfree.org for details).

You can take a stand too. Our Environment, a local group made up of CWU retired faculty, staff, alums, and citizens will be in the SURC (2/12) for GLOBAL DIVESTMENT DAY. We’ll have information on ways you can help defuse CC while we still can.

I hope you’ll seek us out.

-Martha Duskin-Smith

Letter to the Editor: No more business as usual

Have an opinion? Send us a 300-400 word letter about it! Send any letters to the editor to cwuobserver@gmail.com
Tinder is trying really hard to be more than just a dating app that categorizes people based solely on looks.

But using it feels like playing God, swiping through photo after photo, making split-second decisions based on a predetermined amount of user uploaded photos.

It has a chat function where users can send pictures, like any IM service, and even has “moms,” like Snapchat’s “stories,” where users see a photo or video on their feed as people submit them.

Aside from that, Tinder is, well, a dating app.

It also is a swipe right to get the love going. When both users swipe right a match is made. If either swipes left, no match.

The Observer decided to put Tinder to the test with the ultimate battle of the swipes.

Two editors, male and female, downloaded the app on Feb. 2. For the next six days they swiped right on every profile they saw.

Both apps were set to seek matches ages 18-30, within 20-mile radius. Both uploaded five photos and had blank bios.

These are their stories.

**Burnt out**

The Tinder experiment

**By Jonathan Glover**
Assistant Scene Editor

Let’s cut to the chase: Tinder is weird. It’s like channel surfing, but instead of channels, you’re surfing people. There are humans on the other end of those pictures, but the app is set up in such a way that it dehumanizes everything and assigns a “like” or “dislike.” Also, if I were single, this would be pretty damn awesome.

But I’m not. Sorry, ladies.

In the first hour I had Tinder, I swiped right, or liked, only 22 profiles, because that’s all I had to swipe through. Luckily for me, my ego stayed intact and I was matched with two other people, whom I’ll call Jennifer and Alice (even though you know they aren’t).

Later that evening, Jennifer and Alice were joined by seven other lovely ladies, including my colleague. Yes, nothing would stop us from swiping right, not even each other.

I had swiped right on 143 profiles at this point, making my swipe to match percentage a paltry 13 percent, give or take. Mom is going to be so proud.

Some days, I’d forget to swipe, and I’d be met with groups of potential suitors (suitettes?). Unlike Rachel, though, I was never bombarded with packs of girls, looking to show me a good time.

I did, however, receive a few messages. This I did not expect. I was of the mindset that I would get a few matches here and there and maybe a message or two. My life up until this point had always been me (a man). I might add, making the first move and fishing for that first conversation.

But alas, I was pleasantly surprised (and called out on my prejudice). Emily, my third match, messaged me with, “Hey, remember when I had swiped right on you? Cool.”

Jennifer, my 13th match, messaged me a responding “well hi there.” Tiffany, my 14th, “oh hey.”

I was starting to think I’d never be the recipient of an awesome, well-thought-out introduction. It seemed my lady friends only had the courage to muster up a few words, barely putting themselves out there for connection.

Kristina, my 9th match, did say, “You are very attractive : )” I’m smitten.

One particular lady, let’s call her Irina, and commented on my then-profile bio of “I like turtles” with a message of her own.

“Turtles are pretty good, did you know that red ear sliders are actually really fast?”

Overall, I received eight messages from 37 matches; nine if you count two messages from the same girl. (I’m sorry, Tabitha, I wish I could respond but I have rules to follow!)

I also swiped right 213 times, with 36 matches. I guess that means I have a 17 percent likeability rating. What keeps me up at night, though, is this “How many matches would I have if I only swiped right on profiles I would normally be interested in?”

Online dating is weird.

I actually don’t have anything profound to say about this experience. Did it put a strain on my relationship? Kind of. Did I have fun doing it? Not really. Did I learn more about the perversion of the human soul? Definitely.

Would I do it again? Absolutely.

**By Rachel Charlon**
Assistant Lifestyle Editor

Cast a wide net and you’ll catch a lot of fish. Cast a semi-attractive Tinder profile net and you’ll catch a lot of dick. As someone who’s been in a serious relationship for years, the thought of joining Tinder — even for a social experiment — was exhilarating and scary.

It was especially daunting giving that Ellensburg is my hometown and I would likely encounter people I shared sandwiches with in elementary school. As per regulation, I would have to swipe right for everyone.

The first “match” came after four swipes. “Blake” became part of the “Excitement Stage.”

From 6 p.m. until nearly midnight Monday night, my phone was a constant buzz of notifications. I swiped nearly 400 times. I woke up Tuesday morning, having thought I had seen it all; shockingly bold messages weren’t shocking anymore, 25 new matches became uninteresting.

My matches, however, quickly caught on to this passiveness. Many unincorporated messages quickly turned into one-sided conversations.

“Hey there : )”

“Do you have any interest in math homework?”

“Hershey’s makes millions of kisses a day... all I’m asking is one from you”

“By far the prettiest smile I’ve seen on tinder”

“Hey your a babe quite simply wanna get some coffee or something?”

I’m not used to receiving these sort of responses from men. Even if a guy does start a conversation with me in real life, he would never start with “hey beautiful.” As my inbox became increasingly overwhelmed with the new matches and messages, so did I.

I soon discovered one of the reasons why dating apps are so successful: anonymity.

The high message-to-match ratio I was experiencing was not typical of everyday life. The ambiguity that Tinder offers allows both men and women to be more confident in their approach, often engaging in behavior they might otherwise not.

The “Passive Stage.”

Instead of excitedly checking Tinder to see new matches and messages, I began to become indifferent toward the app. I thought I had seen it all; shockingly bold messages weren’t shocking anymore, 25 new matches became uninteresting.

My matches, however, quickly caught on to this passiveness. Many unincorporated messages quickly turned into one-sided conversations.

“Hey there : )”

“How are you doing tonight?”

“Are you even real?”

“Do you have any interest in talking to me or is this going to be another pointless match sitting in the inbox?”

At first, the persistence annoyed me. Were they really so desperate that they felt the need to message me two to three times within an hour, despite me not responding to the first message?

My attitude towards this experiment from the start was light-hearted and carefree. It’s a dating app designed for casual hookups and hangouts. How serious could these people be? However, it became very apparent that many users take it quite seriously.

This experiment both met my expectations and surprised me. Despite not listing a “bio,” it did not surprise me that so many guys matched with me. Relying on just three photos reinforced the idea that looks trump other qualities, especially in the (online) dating world.

What did surprise me, however, was how many men “unmatched” me. At the height of the experiment, I had over 350 matches. By Saturday evening, nearly 100 had unmatched me. This was likely a result of neither one of us starting a conversation or their messages going unanswered.

I wasn’t expecting the seriousness or the need for instant gratification that came from swiping right on every profile. It was impressive, though, that those who did unmatched me clearly knew what they were looking for and a one-sided conversation wasn’t it.
THEATER FESTIVAL

Theatre program stages festival
BY DEANNA BANGS

Dorm life has plenty of perks for incoming freshmen: involvement in campus activities, making new friends and perhaps even meeting your first college significant other.

Lining up in such close proximity to your neighbors isn’t all fun and games, though. Sometimes it results in having to hear some intimate details of your neighbors’ lives.

New freshmen spend their first year in freshman-only dorms, discovering, if not relishing in, many brand new experiences and adult responsibilities.

“First year halls like Barto and the Bassettes [usually] have noisy students,” senior Chloe Hildeman, RHA executive board president and current dorm-dweller said.

Noise complaints of the “sexytime” nature are actually not a common occurrence, even if it is Valentine’s Day, Hildeman said.

However, excess noise is more likely to happen among new students who may not be aware of or sensitive to dorm rules.

Hildeman said that loud, passion-driven moments do happen, but they are not as prevalent as students may think.

“One morning I awoke early - around 7 a.m. - to the sound of my neighbor and his girlfriend,” Hildeman said.

She didn’t need to say more. While sexy shenanigans may go unreported to RAs, everyone seems to have an awkward story from their first year of college.

A sophomore, who wished to remain anonymous, remembered her first year in the dorms.

“I could hear very loud sex from a room that wasn’t even my neighbor,” the source said.

They were across the hall and down several rooms and I could still hear it in detail.”

These types of incidents seem to be common, but freshmen dorms aren’t alone in this issue.

Another sophomore who also asked to remain anonymous said her roommate took a shower in the dorm and down several floors and she could still hear it.

“She was a little bit loud,” the anonymous said.

Room transfers are a last resort, they tend to brush it off. Loud disturbances are definitely more prevalent in the freshmen dorms; upperclassmen tend to be more mellow and quiet.

“I could hear everything,” the source said.

While not uncommon, stories of loud sex in shared spaces are rarely reported. Instead, students tend to brush it off. Loud disturbances are definitely more prevalent in the freshmen dorms; upperclassmen tend to be more mellow and quiet.

Another sophomore, who wished to remain anonymous, said her roommates took a shower in the dorm and down several floors and she could still hear it.

“She was a little bit loud,” the anonymous said.

Room transfers are a last resort, they tend to brush it off. Loud disturbances are definitely more prevalent in the freshmen dorms; upperclassmen tend to be more mellow and quiet.

“I could hear everything,” the source said.

While not uncommon, stories of loud sex in shared spaces are rarely reported. Instead, students tend to brush it off. Loud disturbances are definitely more prevalent in the freshmen dorms; upperclassmen tend to be more mellow and quiet.

“I could hear everything,” the source said.

While not uncommon, stories of loud sex in shared spaces are rarely reported. Instead, students tend to brush it off. Loud disturbances are definitely more prevalent in the freshmen dorms; upperclassmen tend to be more mellow and quiet.

“I could hear everything,” the source said.

While not uncommon, stories of loud sex in shared spaces are rarely reported. Instead, students tend to brush it off. Loud disturbances are definitely more prevalent in the freshmen dorms; upperclassmen tend to be more mellow and quiet.

“I could hear everything,” the source said.

While not uncommon, stories of loud sex in shared spaces are rarely reported. Instead, students tend to brush it off. Loud disturbances are definitely more prevalent in the freshmen dorms; upperclassmen tend to be more mellow and quiet.

“I could hear everything,” the source said.

While not uncommon, stories of loud sex in shared spaces are rarely reported. Instead, students tend to brush it off. Loud disturbances are definitely more prevalent in the freshmen dorms; upperclassmen tend to be more mellow and quiet.

“I could hear everything,” the source said.

While not uncommon, stories of loud sex in shared spaces are rarely reported. Instead, students tend to brush it off. Loud disturbances are definitely more prevalent in the freshmen dorms; upperclassmen tend to be more mellow and quiet.

“I could hear everything,” the source said.

While not uncommon, stories of loud sex in shared spaces are rarely reported. Instead, students tend to brush it off. Loud disturbances are definitely more prevalent in the freshmen dorms; upperclassmen tend to be more mellow and quiet.

“I could hear everything,” the source said.

While not uncommon, stories of loud sex in shared spaces are rarely reported. Instead, students tend to brush it off. Loud disturbances are definitely more prevalent in the freshmen dorms; upperclassmen tend to be more mellow and quiet.
The Observer • Feb. 12 - Feb. 18, 2015

Oscar movie corner

#3: The Imitation Game

BY GRACE LINDSLEY
Copy Editor

"The Imitation Game" is the true story of famous British mathematician Alan Turing, played by Benedict Cumberbatch. Turing was a genius who graduated Cambridge University at the age of 19 and went on to solve one of the world's greatest riddles: the unbreakable German code during World War II. The movie is directed by Morten Tyldum and written by Graham Moore. Tyldum won the BAFTA Award for Best Adapted Screenplay for his work on "The Imitation Game."

#5: Whiplash

BY ADAM WILSON
Editor-in-Chief

"Whiplash" doesn’t load itself well to a synopsis. Saying that it’s a story about a college student whose mentor pushes him too far is a semantic issue, the feeling of the film is better described as a heartache. Miles Teller, by himself with the drums, perfectly mirrors the sound of the drums. The only sound is the silence. He spends a lot of time outside of the sound of the drums, and yet this film is designed to draw sympathy from the audience, but left me feeling a bit of a letdown. Not to say he does a bad job, but his lines and the sequences where Andrew is playing the drums (one of which extends up to nine minutes) are dubbed over with a separate audio track, the passion and intensity Teller brings to his kit more than makes up for it.

#4: American Sniper

BY MORGAN GREEN
Staff Reporter

"American Sniper" takes the viewer on an emotional roller coaster as they experience the highs and the lows of Kyle’s wedding and family life, and the goods of struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Eastwood solidifies himself as an accomplished director with "American Sniper" by adding another dimension to the movie with the use of well-placed symbolism and metaphors.

The editing during battle scenes was outstanding, giving viewers just enough action without bombarding the viewer with gore. Eastwood does an incredible job of telling the story of the Iraq War without bringing politics into the mix, which is a feat considering the very polarized opinions on the war.

#2: American Hustle

BY MORGAN GREEN
Staff Reporter

"American Hustle" follows the journey of the most lethal con man in American history, con artist Irving Rosenfeld and his accomplice, Rosemary, played by Christian Bale and Amy Adams, respectively. Directed by David O. Russell, the movie is based on a true story that earned it a Best Picture nod.

#1: 12 Years a Slave

BY MORGAN GREEN
Staff Reporter

Steve McQueen’s film "12 Years a Slave" tells the true story of Solomon Northup, a man who was kidnapped, brainwashed, and sold into slavery in the South. McQueen’s film is not for the faint of heart, but it is an important story that needs to be told. The movie is directed by Steve McQueen and produced by Brad Pitt's Plan B Entertainment.

"12 Years a Slave" is a powerful and moving film that has been praised for its direction, acting, and overall production. The movie has been nominated for several awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor (Chiwetel Ejiofor). It is a story that needs to be told, and "12 Years a Slave" is a great way to do it.
Valentine’s ideas just in time

BY NICK OLIVER | Staff Reporter

Love is in the air as men and women rush to the nearest store to spend their paychecks on flowers, chocolate and even those cheesy boxers or “man-thongs,” with hearts and lips on them. However, gifts can only get you so far in the world of love. Whether you’re trying to impress that special person in your life or you’re just going out with a group of close friends, a night out on the town could be just what it takes to show them how much you appreciate them.

There are quite a few romantic and entertaining activities to do in Ellensburg for Valentine’s Day.

For those of you trying to woo the partner of your dreams, you may want to check out The Palace Café and Yellow Church Café.

The intimate Yellow Church Café on South Pearl Street is offering a special V-Day meal: filet mignon served with crab legs. If you’ve got a sweet tooth, don’t worry; red velvet cake with whipped cream and seasonal berries, as well as chocolate mousse, will be available.

The Palace Café on Main Street pulls out all the stops when it comes to celebrating V-Day. They are offering a prawn salad, prime rib served with battered prawns and chicken marsala. For dessert, tie it all together with a homemade Snickers cheesecake. The Palace will be putting candles on the table, dimming the lights and setting the scene for a night full of picturesque V-Day moments.

If you’re looking for dinner and a show, The Dakota Café on North Pearl Street will be offering a bacon wrapped scampi, a slow roasted prime rib, and lobster mac and cheese. But wait, that’s not all. A violin trio will also be performing while you dine on delicious food. Just be sure to make reservations.

If you are proactive and call ahead of time to make reservations, The Roadhouse Grill on Umptanum Road will be serving a steak gorgonzola and prime rib. They will also be having a wine special.

If you are feeling lonely, or if you just want to go somewhere and hang out with friends, then you may want to go to The Un-Valentine’s Day Show with “Dating Doctor” David Coleman on Friday, Feb. 13.

Campus Activities and 88.1 The ‘Burg are inviting Central students to the SURC ballroom for a night that includes a variety of free activities starting at 8 p.m. The night will include a “destruction zone” for destroying gifts or reminders from ex-partners and “Anti-Valentine’s Bingo.” The main event at 9 p.m., a lecture on love and relationships from “dating doctor” Coleman. If that’s not your cup of tea, then you can get a group of friends and go to the Central theatre department’s presentation of Radio Dramas: “Candy Manon P.I.,” “The Cable Car Murder,” “Richard Diamond,” “Private Detective” and “The Gibson Murder Case.” So for all those students trying to impress that special someone but find themselves “ballin on a budget,” and for all of the students just looking for somewhere to go with friends, Ellensburg’s got your back.

Un-Valentine’s Day
When: Friday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m.
Where: SURC Ballroom

Radio Dramas
When: Feb. 12, 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 14 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.
Where: McConnell Auditorium
Tickets: $10 students with ID, $12 general admission

Un-Valentine’s Day Show
When: Friday, Feb. 13, 8 p.m.
Where: SURC Ballroom

Radio Dramas
When: Feb. 12, 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 14 at 2 and 7:30 p.m.
Where: McConnell Auditorium
Tickets: $10 students with ID, $12 general admission
Most awkward online-dating interaction?

“I was talking to a girl on [Plenty of Fish] and she was very forward in her sexual advances. I was trying to diverge the conversation into something I wanted, but it just wasn’t happening.”

Natasha Sorensen
Alumna

“I matched with someone [and] had no idea who she was. After a little bit, we decided to meet up casually. Then when I arrived at Starbucks, she showed up with her boyfriend. [She’d] never mentioned him at all.”

Jared Baxter
Biomedical freshman

“I met this guy on Tinder. We talked for a bit. I came to the SURC one day and saw him in person. I was standing right next to him and didn’t realize it. He kept looking at me and I was thinking ‘what is going on?’ I felt bad when I figured out it was him because I didn’t do anything.”

Audrey Kramer
Exercise science sophomore

“I was on Tinder. A guy in his 50s messaged me and told me he wanted to eat brisket out of my belly button.”

Emily Williamson
Community health education junior

“I met up with a guy [on Tinder] and we said we were going to hang out. We talked long enough that I thought he wasn’t going to be creepy. Sure enough, he wanted more than just hanging out. The awkward part was rejecting him and leaving.”

Rebekah Gehrke
Film junior

“I was talking to a girl on [Plenty of Fish] and she was very forward in her sexual advances. I was trying to diverge the conversation into something I wanted, but it just wasn’t happening.”

Natasha Sorensen
Alumna
BY JEFFREY MACMILLAN
Staff Reporter

With only six games left before the GNAC tournament the Central men’s basketball team (13-6, GNAC 8-4) looks to sink their claws into Simon Fraser en route to a high playoff seed.

The Wildcats currently sit at 8-4, tied for third in the conference with Northwest Nazarene, but only a game back of Alaska Anchorage (9-3), for second place and a coveted first round bye in the tournament.

With the tournament nearing, Central players could easily start looking ahead, as every game becomes more important as the standings shape out.

Senior guard, Dom Williams knows that the Wildcats face two tough challenges this week.

"Every game is tough," Dom Williams said. "I know that it is about trust with me and my teammates and when we are all playing with trust we can beat any team."

The Wildcats will go on a two game road trip north to face archrival Western Washington University Vikings (6-7) and the run-and-gun scoring machines of Simon Fraser Clan (4-9).

The Wildcat's last meeting versus the Vikings was one for the ages, as Dom Williams hit a three-point buzzer beater that sent a capacity crowd at Nichols Pavilion into a frenzy.

That win sent the Vikings on a short slide that saw them lose three of their next four games.

Since that meeting, the Wildcats have seen the reemergence of junior guard, Gary Jacobs, who had been dealing with a few nagging injuries.

In the last three games, Jacobs has scored 14 points per game, and nabbed four steals.

Jacobs knows he needs to continue to be aggressive against up coming opponents.

"Since I got hurt I had a lot of time to learn from the bench," Jacobs said.

Central travels to Bellingham to face the Vikings at Carver Gymnasium, where the Vikings have been almost unbeatable, winning 10 of 12 home games.

The Vikings will rely on the rebounding of senior forward, Anye Turner and junior center, Mac Johnson, to control the boards for the Vikings. The two combine to average 14.7 rebounds per game.

Central’s last meeting versus the Clan saw four players reach double figures in scoring, including 28 points by Dom Williams.

Williams is currently second in the GNAC in scoring, averaging 18.3 points per game.

"I'll get my shots," Williams said.

The Wildcats defense starts and ends with their rim protector, Stroud.

Stroud is currently 8th in the nation with 2.9 blocks per game.

Stroud understands that the Clan will keep a fast pace, but that will not change how he plays defense on Saturday night.

Central's last meeting versus the Clan saw four players reach double figures in scoring, including 28 points by Dom Williams.

While the Clan scores often, the Wildcats like to play stingy defense.

The Wildcats defense starts and ends with their rim protector, Stroud.

Stroud is currently 8th in the nation with 2.9 blocks per game.

Stroud understands that the Clan will keep a fast pace, but that will not change how he plays defense on Saturday night.

Central's last meeting versus the Clan saw four players reach double figures in scoring, including 28 points by Dom Williams.

Williams is currently second in the GNAC in scoring, averaging 18.3 points per game. Williams should expect to see many opportunities to create on the offensive end.

"I'll get my shots," Williams said.
Central picked to finish first
Wildcat baseball team favored by GNAC coaches to finish first

BY TYLER BUCHANAN
Staff Reporter

Coming off a 31-18 GNAC campaign and a conference championship, the Wildcat baseball team is favored to defend their first ever GNAC tournament title, according to the pre-season GNAC coaches poll. The team is determined to repeat their success and have made strides in the off-season to achieve that goal.

“This team has worked really hard. They truly want to accomplish some big things,” Coach Desi Storey said.

And what better way to start a season than proving their determination with a 4-0 record? This baseball team has some high expectations coming into the season, and Storey believes they have the make up to get it done.

“Obviously we want to win conference again, we plan on playing well enough that we can also make the push into regionals this year,” Storey said.

2015 marks Storey’s 24th season as the head coach of the Wildcats. He led the Wildcats team through nine winning seasons and five runner-up finishes in GNAC play. Storey now has over 500 career wins and five runner-up finishes in GNAC play.

Some key players to keep an eye on are returning pitcher Brandon Williams, who will need to be huge for this season’s team. “My expectations for the team is nothing under a championship to be honest,” Williams said. “We have a great group of guys that have a solid foundation of skill and physical ability to take us deep into the season. We lost some key components from last year, but this year we are better overall.”

Williams is already off to a great start throwing for a no hitter last week. He is looking to build off his 2014 GNAC pitcher of the year award. “The few of us that felt what it felt like to win the GNAC want nothing else than to win it again, and hopefully move on to regionals,” Williams said. “It’s tough with so many new guys that didn’t see or feel what we did last year, but this team is full of motivated players.”

Sonya Good

GNAC Coaches Poll
1. Central Washington
2. Western Oregon
3. Saint Martins
4. Northwest Nazarene
5. MSU-B

Brandon Williams

2014 Season Stats
Position: Pitcher
ERA: 1.81
Strikeouts: 89
Opponent BA: .216

BY TYLER BUCHANAN
Staff Reporter

Obviously we want to win conference again, we plan on playing well enough that we can also make the push into regionals this year.

-Desi Storey
Head Baseball Coach
Central looks to cage Falcons

BY MAXWELL MONSON
Staff Reporter

The Central Wildcat’s women’s basketball team (11-10 overall, 6-7 GNAC) are set to take on Seattle Pacific University (SPU) (17-3 overall, 9-3 GNAC) Thursday night at Nicholson Pavilion.

The Wildcats are coming off a tough road trip losing to Simon Fraser University (SFU) and in-state rival Western Washington University (WWU).

The two losses were a minor setback for the Wildcats playoff chances, but they are still right in the mix with five games remaining.

As the season gets close to playoff time the games become so much bigger.

Teams need to find a way to scratch out a few they shouldn’t have to win all the games you should.

The Wildcats will start the home stretch by trying to pull the upset on second place SPU.

Senior guard, Courtney Johnson, knows how tough the last stretch of the season will be playing five conference games.

“I think top to bottom we have one of the most competitive leagues in the nation,” Johnson said. “There are no easy wins.”

SPU has been on fire all year, having only three losses on the season.

The Falcons are currently riding a three game win streak as they get ready to come to Ellensburg.

The Wildcats are coming off a three game win streak having only three losses on the season.

SPU is exceptional all the way throughout the roster but the two senior guards, Suzanna Ohlsen and Aahree Callen, have led the charge. Ohlsen is averaging 17.7 points per a game, good for third in the GNAC. Ohlsen has the ability to take over games with her offensive production. She has multiple games with more than 20 points.

She is able to shoot the three ball with probability be able put up 20 plus points.

She is shooting 41 percent from the three point line this year. If Ohlsen isn’t on you can count on Callens to have a big night.

Callens is averaging an impressive 15.6 points per a game.

The Wildcats will need to keep both guards in check come Thursday night.

The Wildcats will be relying on their three normal stars to get it done as the season closes out and they prepare for the playoffs.

Senior guard Courtney Johnson, senior center Jasmine Parker, and freshman guard Jasmin Edwards have been the go to trio for the Wildcats this season.

Johnson has been big all year for the Wildcats whether it’s her scoring on the offense, stout defense, or overall leadership, she has done it all.

Johnson had a big night in the loss against WWU putting up 19 points.

Harada has been pleased with the play and leadership by Johnson as well as all the returners on this team.

“She has a chance to close out her career in a special way, like getting to the conference tournament for the first time,” Harada said. “All the returners are eager to see how far we can go, our seniors are really stepping up.”

With Johnson taking care of the guard duties, the Wildcats have come to rely on Parker to dominate down low, and she has done just that.

Parker has had a big year averaging 10.1 points per game and 7.7 rebounds per game.

The Wildcats need her rebounding and defensive presence by the rim to keep them in the playoff hunt.

Harada knows how important the play of Parker is to this Wildcat team.

“She has to be aggressive,” Harada said. “When she is in a good rhythm it helps her defensive efforts and her ability on the glass.”

Edwards will be another key piece for the Wildcats playoff chances. As the point guard, she is the controller of the Wildcat offense.

The freshman guard has been great at it all year, averaging 12.8 points per a game and dishing out 4.4 assists per a game.

Her ability to keep this Wildcat offense going will be crucial to their ability to make the playoffs.

The Wildcats are primed to take on the Montana State Billings Yellowjackets (MSU-B) Saturday night. This game presents another opportunity for the Wildcats to control their destiny in the GNAC race.

MSU-B is sitting in the eighth spot currently, but with seventh place Alaska Fairbanks ineligible for the post season.

MSU-B could possibly be the last team in the playoffs for the GNAC.

The Wildcats need to make sure to get a win against them to keep their playoff spot secure.

Central Wildcat’s women’s basketball team (11-10 overall, 6-7 GNAC) are set to take on Seattle Pacific University (SPU) (17-3 overall, 9-3 GNAC) Thursday night at Nicholson Pavilion.

The Wildcats are coming off a tough road trip losing to Simon Fraser University (SFU) and in-state rival Western Washington University (WWU).

The two losses were a minor setback for the Wildcats playoff chances, but they are still right in the mix with five games remaining.

As the season gets close to playoff time the games become so much bigger.

Teams need to find a way to scratch out a few they shouldn’t have to win all the games you should.

The Wildcats will start the home stretch by trying to pull the upset on second place SPU.

Senior guard, Courtney Johnson, knows how tough the last stretch of the season will be playing five conference games.

“I think top to bottom we have one of the most competitive leagues in the nation,” Johnson said. “There are no easy wins.”

SPU has been on fire all year, having only three losses on the season.

The Falcons are currently riding a three game win streak as they get ready to come to Ellensburg.

The Wildcats are coming off a three game win streak having only three losses on the season.

SPU is exceptional all the way throughout the roster but the two senior guards, Suzanna Ohlsen and Aahree Callen, have led the charge. Ohlsen is averaging 17.7 points per a game, good for third in the GNAC. Ohlsen has the ability to take over games with her offensive production. She has multiple games with more than 20 points.

She is able to shoot the three ball with probability be able put up 20 plus points.

She is shooting 41 percent from the three point line this year. If Ohlsen isn’t on you can count on Callens to have a big night.

Callens is averaging an impressive 15.6 points per a game.

The Wildcats will need to keep both guards in check come Thursday night.

The Wildcats will be relying on their three normal stars to get it done as the season closes out and they prepare for the playoffs.

Senior guard Courtney Johnson, senior center Jasmine Parker, and freshman guard Jasmin Edwards have been the go to trio for the Wildcats this season.

Johnson has been big all year for the Wildcats whether it’s her scoring on the offense, stout defense, or overall leadership, she has done it all.

Johnson had a big night in the loss against WWU putting up 19 points.

Harada has been pleased with the play and leadership by Johnson as well as all the returners on this team.

“She has a chance to close out her career in a special way, like getting to the conference tournament for the first time,” Harada said. “All the returners are eager to see how far we can go, our seniors are really stepping up.”

With Johnson taking care of the guard duties, the Wildcats have come to rely on Parker to dominate down low, and she has done just that.

Parker has had a big year averaging 10.1 points per game and 7.7 rebounds per game.

The Wildcats need her rebounding and defensive presence by the rim to keep them in the playoff hunt.

Harada knows how important the play of Parker is to this Wildcat team.

“She has to be aggressive,” Harada said. “When she is in a good rhythm it helps her defensive efforts and her ability on the glass.”

Edwards will be another key piece for the Wildcats playoff chances. As the point guard, she is the controller of the Wildcat offense.

The freshman guard has been great at it all year, averaging 12.8 points per a game and dishing out 4.4 assists per a game.

Her ability to keep this Wildcat offense going will be crucial to their ability to make the playoffs.

The Wildcats are primed to take on the Montana State Billings Yellowjackets (MSU-B) Saturday night. This game presents another opportunity for the Wildcats to control their destiny in the GNAC race.

MSU-B is sitting in the eighth spot currently, but with seventh place Alaska Fairbanks ineligible for the post season.

MSU-B could possibly be the last team in the playoffs for the GNAC.

The Wildcats need to make sure to get a win against them to keep their playoff spot secure.
Finish line in sight for CWU

Track team looks to finish strong before heading into GNAC Championships

BY KYLER ROBERTS
Staff Reporter

The Wildcats track team performed admirably in the Cougar Indoor last Friday, and they are peaking at the right time with the GNAC championships coming up in two weeks.

Head Coach Kevin Adkisson was pleased with the team’s performance. “We saw the majority of all of our competitors improve their marks, so that was great,” Adkisson said. “On the women’s side, we’ve got 20, maybe 21 people in the top ten.”

A few members of the track and field squad will be competing this weekend, Feb. 14 and 15, at the University of Washington (UW) Indoor Meet, as he sees this meet as one last pit stop before the championships begin.

I think that we are really looking forward to having people continue their progress and show us who is going to be competitive at the conference meet.

“We know almost all of the other conference schools will be there in force, so it’s safe to say it’s a preview for the conference meet. We want to go and increase marks to show that we are going to be ready,” Adkisson said.

Several personal records (PR) were set last week at the Cougar Indoor meet, including weight thrower Becki Durham, who placed third with a 17.59 meters throw.

“We know there’s people that need to go to improve their marks, and we know there’s other people who are better off resting this week,” Adkisson said.

Adkisson is confident that team members competing this weekend will do well and improve their marks.

“We know almost all of the other conference schools will be there in force, so it’s safe to say it’s a preview for the conference meet. We want to go and increase marks to show that we are going to be ready,” Adkisson said.

“I think that we are really looking forward to having people continue their progress and show us who is going to be competitive at the conference meet,” Adkisson said.

Some of the people who need to improve their marks will also be in Seattle this weekend to try and qualify for the GNAC.

“The others who have made it will most likely rest at least one of the two days at the UW Indoor Invitational. “We know there’s people that need to go to improve their marks, and we know there’s other people who are better off resting this week,” Adkisson said.

“Conference is where it gets fun, where things really count… as we start to build towards conference people are getting more focused on their placings and really competing hard,” Adkisson said. “That’s really the fun part of the team aspect.”

Th e GNAC conference meet is the only meet of the season that counts and gets scored.

Adkisson says that this is the time of year when the competitors really lock down and focus on their marks.

“Conference is where it gets fun, where things really count… as we start to build towards conference people are getting more focused on their placings and really competing hard,” Adkisson said. “That’s really the fun part of the team aspect.”

The UW Indoor Meet is the last regular indoor meet of this season before the GNAC Championships.
BY SHAIMA SHAMDIB \n
Staff Reporter

The Wildcats softball team is looking to take the next step from last year’s success. They are predicted to win the GNAC this season.

The Wildcats will start the season on the road as they open the 2015 season this Friday in Las Vegas, Nev., at the Desert Stinger Invitational.

Coming off a 16-8 conference record last year, the team is scheduled to play against Humboldt and Dixie State.

Which are both teams to which they lost in the NCAA Division II West Regional Tournament last year, as well as New Mexico Highlands University.

The Wildcats are ready to tackle the competition and Lindsey Kamphuis, junior pitcher, said people should expect more pitcher Kiana Wood.

“Last year, I didn’t really know what to expect against Humboldt,” Wood said. “I just knew they were really good. My mentality this year is to focus on the weaknesses that we picked up on last year and finding them early in the game.”

With three new transfer players and five freshmen, Wood said the team has a lot more power this year.

“We have girls that can hit over the fence, which we didn’t have a lot of girls that could do that last year,” Wood said.

One of those transfers is junior pitcher and 2014 Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) Northern region Pitcher of the Year, Brielle Copodonna, who is ready to bring her A-game when the team needs it most.

“I’m really good in clutch situations,” Copodonna said. “If it’s two outs, bases loaded, I can clutch up and get some RBIs.”

The team has been practicing with new game tactics that they hope will bring them the win.

They have increased their conditioning workouts to make sure they can outlast other teams and have been looking at the mental portion of the game to remain focused.

“To get myself prepared for the next pitch, I always rap some Ludacris or old school E-40 to myself in my head,” Kamphuis said. “It keeps me pumped and the next pitch, I always rap some Ludacris or old school E-40 to myself in my head,” Kamphuis said. “It keeps me pumped and

“With a new group of talented players added to the mix, the team is ready to prove itself and push towards the NCAA tourney.

Wildcat softball 2015 schedule

Feb. 13 New Mexico Highlands University
Feb. 13 Humboldt State
Feb. 14 Dixie State
Feb. 14 Cal State Dominguez
Feb. 15 Eastern New Mexico University
Feb. 21 Dominican University of California
Feb. 22 Holy Names University
Feb. 23 Academy of Art University
Mar. 7 Simon Fraser Mar. 8 Western Washington Mar. 13-14 NNU Mar. 21 Saint Martins Mar. 22 Western Oregon Mar. 25 Cal State Monterey Bay Mar. 27 Cal State University Chico Mar. 27 Academy of Art Mar. 27 University of Hawaii at Hilo Mar. 28 Cal State University Monterey Bay Mar. 28 Cal State University Stanislaus Mar. 29 Bracket Play April 3-4 MSUB April 18 Saint Martins April 19 Western Oregon April 24 Western Washington April 26 Simon Fraser April 30 Playoff Starts

STUDENTS RETURNING AS SOPHOMORES for the 2015-2016 academic year are eligible for a $1,000 HOUSING WAIVER when reapplying into the residence halls.

All Residence Halls including LLC/Theme Communities

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO LIVE NEXT YEAR?

DID YOU KNOW...

about 1,000 students returned to campus housing last year?