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2015 ACP Best in Show Winner

The OBSERVER

By the students and for the students of CWU

Vol. 101 No. 3, Oct. 15 - 21, 2015

Photo illustration and graphic by
Maria Harr and Grace Lindsley

A CAMPUS NIGHTMARE

How Central is prepared for a shooting situation

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WILDCATS TRACK VOICE OF SOUNDERS

Central students compete against broadcast teams to be announcers for Sounders FC2

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THE HAUNTING

Ellensburg's spooky, scary and fun Halloween events

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Oregon's first-week weed sales outpace Washington

BY ELLIOTT LLERA
Online Editor

Seattle Sounders FC or Portland Timbers; Top Pot Doughnuts or Voodoo; Starbucks Coffee or Dutch Brothers: the battle of the border between Washington and Oregon just got a whole lot more interesting.

After just one week of business, retail marijuana stores in Oregon have registered over \$11 million dollars in sales, according to Oregon Retailers of Cannabis Association.

This is substantial in comparison to Washington State which registered just \$2 million dollars in sales after the first month of legalization, according to the Washington Liquor and Control Board.

Part of the reason why Oregon's sales have been so much higher involves how the state has handled the divide between the recreational and medical industries.

When I-502 was passed in Washington, it separated the recreational and medical marijuana fields, meaning that po-

tential businesses had to apply for licenses, purchase a retail outlet and contract with growers and distributors before being able to open.

Oregon simply allowed the existent medical industry to become the new recreational industry.

With the infrastructure from medical dispensaries already in place, shops were able to expand their customer base from patients with green cards to anyone who was over 21 years old, which resulted in a huge opening week.

"When Washington went legal they had a limited amount of recreational stores selling a limited amount of product," said Taylor Choyce, co-owner of The Green Shelf in Ellensburg.

"In Oregon, there were already hundreds, if not thousands of medical dispensaries that are now able to sell to the general public. That's why Oregon has done more initial sales than Washington did."

The vast amount of stores operating in Oregon immedi-

ately after legalization isn't the only factor contributing to successful sales numbers.

Currently, marijuana in Oregon isn't being taxed.

I-502 placed a 37-percent-excise tax on pot in Washington right out of the gate, but Oregon's 25-percent tax won't kick in until January 1, 2016.

This untaxed product has resulted in recreational marijuana prices that are similar to what customers in Oregon would be paying if they were buying off of the street.

When asked if marijuana sales in Oregon would affect the industry in Washington, Brittany Choyce, co-owner of The Green Shelf, said she wasn't concerned.

"I don't think that Oregon going live will affect Washington State retail stores at this point. But the stores on the border, like the ones in Vancouver, are going to be impacted immediately."

Just as 18-year-olds in the U.S. would flock to Canada to buy alcohol, Oregonians would do the same for cannabis in Washington.



DESIGNED BY GRACE LINDSLEY/OBSERVER

Two of Washington's most successful retail stores are located in Vancouver, just a 15-minute drive north from Portland.

Main Street Marijuana in Vancouver is leading Washington State with \$13.3 million in total retail sales. Not far behind, in third place, is New Vandsterdam, totaling \$11.6 million to date.

"I would have to say that

about half of our business was coming out of Oregon," said an employee from a Vancouver based retail marijuana store who wished to remain anonymous. "It's been a slower than normal week.

"It's kind of like being the only lemonade stand on the block, and now suddenly every kid in the neighborhood has a lemonade stand."

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Editor's Note:

The cover is a composite image made using Photoshop. No firearm was on campus for the purpose of this photo.

The image is not meant to scare, however, it is meant to shock in an attempt to bring to light the frightening nature of school shootings.

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 twofold: 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.

Preparing for the unthinkable

Central's and Ellensburg's response plan in the wake of campus chaos

BY ELLIOTT LLERA
Online Editor

On top of a shelf in Capt. Dan Hansberry's office at the Ellensburg Police Department (EPD) sits a binder. Inside the white, plastic folds lies a plan; one the veteran officer of 23 years hopes he never has to follow.

"It's pretty elaborate," Hansberry said. "One of those thick books up there has the whole plan for how to react to a school shooting...It's the model plan that's used throughout the entire nation."

Unfortunately, police departments across the U.S. have found themselves following these very plans at an increasingly alarming rate.

According to data compiled by Everytown for Gun Safety, an independent organization that tracks school shootings, there have been

150 school shootings in America since 2013, averaging out to almost one shooting per week.

When it comes to mass shootings – defined as an incident involving four or more gun shot victims without a cooling off period – there were 364 in 2013. In 2014, there was a slight drop to



MARIA HARR/OBSERVER

PLANNING The recent increase of mass shootings raises a need for emergency response preparedness.

337 mass shootings. The tally for 2015 currently stands at 300.

These statistics make mass shootings seem more like an inevitability than a possibility.

Central's plan

Michael Luvera, Chief of Campus Police at Central, wants to reassure students that the university has taken several proactive

measures to ensure an effective response should a mass shooting ever occur on campus.

-Dan Hansberry
EPD Captain

“You can ‘what if’ yourself, or worry yourself, but the fact is you just don’t know.”

Police Department that has commissioned and trained officers,” Luvera wrote in an email to The Observer. “We spend considerable time training on active shooter and other dynamic situations.

“In this training we utilize our equipment to ensure that we are

ready and capable of dealing with an active shooter response. We do all of this sincerely wishing that we never have to deploy for a situation like this.”

Communication is a vital aspect of ensuring order during any chaotic situation.

During the Virginia Tech massacre that killed 33 people in 2007, groups of students were receiving conflicting messages about whether to stay inside or to evacuate their buildings.

As a response, most universities throughout the nation have adopted an emergency notification system to help streamline information and keep students informed.

Luvera said that Central has implemented both ‘CWU Alert!’ and ‘Desktop Alert!’.

‘CWU Alert!’ will send messages to students via phone calls, text messages and emails. It was recently used last February when a magnitude-4.3 earthquake struck near Ellensburg around 1 a.m.

‘Desktop Alert!’ will send

messages via any computer connected to the school’s network, as long as students manually opt in.

Seattle Pacific University, site of the 2014 shooting that killed one student, conducts emergency active shooter drills as often as university dorms are required to conduct fire drills – once per quarter.

Central also provides training for individuals regarding what they can do in the event of a shooter engaging campus.

“We offer training on personal safety for students, faculty and staff throughout the year,” Luvera said. “Each year on move-in weekend, students spend one and a half hours with me discussing safety. Part of this is active shooter situations and we watch the video ‘Run, Hide, Fight.’”

The faculty and staff training at Central includes a mandatory emergency preparedness course that is required to be completed once every two years. One of the subjects taught in this online program is a 30-minute ‘active shooter’ lesson.

Luvera said that Central isn’t only focused on the actions they’d take during a shooting situation – they’re also taking preventive measures in hopes of intervening before someone decides to pull the trigger.

“CWU has a Behavioral Intervention Team. This team is comprised of staff from University Police, Medical and Counseling and Student Success,” Luvera said. “When deemed necessary we meet and discuss issues or incidents and make decisions on how best our community should deal with it.

“Each can be very different and unique. The concept is that we don’t want people to ‘fall through the cracks’ and not have us reach out to them.”

Luvera added that students

should act as a resource to their peers and that nobody should ever hesitate to report concerns, regardless of how minimal they seem at the time.

“See something, say something,” Luvera added.

A mass response

Campus police wouldn’t be the only law enforcement agency to respond to Central in the event of a shooting.

According to EPD Capt. Dan Hansberry, all emergency-response agencies in Kittitas County have signed an Automatic Aid Agreement. This agreement gives every agency in the county jurisdiction to assist one another without having to formally ask for help.

The Automatic Aid Agreement is especially helpful in a city like Ellensburg which finds itself serviced by five different law enforcement agencies; Ellensburg Police Department, Washington State Patrol, the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office, Central’s Campus Police Department, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

“We also have an agreement with the city of Yakima for their SWAT services,” Hansberry added.

For tactical reasons, Hansberry was reluctant to disclose the specifics of his department’s response plan to a shooting at Central.

Hansberry did say that the technique of surrounding a shooter and negotiating with him or her – similar to the way a hostage situation is handled – is outdated protocol.

“One of the lessons that came out of early mass shootings like Columbine was that they’re going to keep shooting until they are stopped,” Hansberry said. “The

“We do all of this sincerely wishing that we never have to deploy for a situation like this.”

-Michael Luvera
Chief of CWU Campus Police

reality is that our procedure is to neutralize the threat as quickly as possible.”

According to Hansberry, responders’ first priority after stopping the shooter is to help victims. Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue has trained in conjunction with law enforcement agencies at Ellensburg High School, rehearsing their school shooting response procedures.

While Emergency Medical Services would be preoccupied with treating victims, Hansberry said that law enforcement would likely be focused on locking down the crime scene and searching for any devices that could have potentially been planted.

As a long time resident of Ellensburg, Hansberry said that it’s difficult to speak hypothetically about a mass shooting occurring anywhere in his town.

“You can ‘what if’ yourself, or worry yourself, but the fact is you just don’t know,” Hansberry said. “I think that if we did ever have an incident like that here, because we are such a close community, you would certainly see an outpouring of support.”

Death row investigator speaks on mass incarceration

BY JULIA MORENO
Assistant News Editor

Non-fiction writer and reporter Rene Denfeld has an interesting job. In her line of work, she meets people who society says shouldn’t be alive.

“Every year we take thousands of people and we erase them,” said Denfeld, to a group of approximately 35 students and faculty on Tuesday in Dean Hall. Denfeld was speaking as part of Central Washington University’s year-long dialogue on mass incarceration.

The United States is the world’s leader in the number of individuals currently in the prison system at 2.2 Million. This is a 500 percent increase over the past 30 years, according to the Sentencing Project website.

Denfeld and Chris Heard, a local photographer involved in

the mass incarceration exhibit at Central, agreed convicts are generally not treated well – or like people at all – within American society.

“They are still humans,” Denfeld said. “They will go without human touch or fresh air for years and years and years.”

Denfeld said the most important aspect of her job was actually seeing and listening to the individuals she interviews. She added there is a fundamental human need to be seen and heard by other people.

During the hour-long question and answer discussion, Denfeld and Heard touched on topics such as death penalty, mental health and poverty in the United States.

However, the main event theme was the art and beauty found within the walls of prisons, whether it was people or the actual cells. Additionally, both

Heard and Denfeld said their main motivation behind pursuing this topic was the reason why people do these crimes.

“‘Why?’ is the most important question,” Denfeld said. “We have a culture obsessed with crime and violence.”

She added that her job is to find out why people do terrible things to each other.

Additionally, Denfeld took her experiences as a death row investigator and spun them into a fictional tale called “The Enchanted.” The book delves into the yin and yang of good and bad, as well as beauty existing in horrendous situations.

She has also written for The Oregonian, The New York Times Magazine and the Philadelphia Inquirer. She has published three non-fiction books.

Environmental group says 'no' to plastic bags

BY KAILAN MANANDIC
Staff Reporter

Over the next few months, the Ellensburg City Council will discuss whether or not to ban plastic bags in reaction to a letter sent to them on Sept. 21.

The letter requested action concerning single-use plastic bags by environmental advocacy group, Our Environment.

The council has forwarded the issue to the city Environmental Commission for recommendation.

"I'd prefer not to take a stand on the issue until we receive the recommendation and information," said Nancy Lillquist, city council member.

The next scheduled Environmental Commission meeting is Oct. 21, and the council is unlikely to take a stance until then.

While the Environmental Commission has begun the process of making a decision, the city council is consulting the Kittitas County Solid Waste Committee for more information.

Our Environment hopes to have the bags out of use by January 2016.

If passed, the new law would require an ordinance to ban plastic bags in Ellensburg, which could take over a year.

According to Lillquist, the council also received a letter from the Plastics Industry Trade Association arguing against the ban before the Our Environment letter was received.



CHASE TIBBLES/OBSERVER

REDUCE Environmental advocacy group, Our Environment, urges shoppers to use reusable bags more often.

Lee Califf, executive director for the American Progressive Bag Alliance, argues against the bag ban and lists alternative methods to conserve the environment.

"Our industry agrees with you that litter reduction is important," Califf wrote. "But we believe that educational ef-

forts and recycling programs—

not bans—are the most effective way to promote sustainability."

The letter provides information from Califf that suggests the ban of plastic bags is both bad for the economy and would not accomplish the desired task.

"It is our contention that recycling represents the optimal path forward on this issue,"

the letter reads.

Currently, there is no plastic bag recycling in Kittitas county.

Our Environment, founded in mid-2014, has been actively pushing for the ban of plastic bags in Ellensburg.

According to group member Martha Duskin-Smith, the group was born from the People's Climate March—a large peaceful protest started in 2014 advocating to prevent climate change.

They focus on educating the public on environmental issues and awareness of alternative ways to consume resources.

"[We are] a local, grassroots,

non-profit education and action group focusing on climate change," Duskin-Smith said, adding that Our Environment has around 40 members, and is looking to grow in both membership and outreach.

The group has been increasingly active this year, advocating and petitioning over the past few months.

In the letter to the council, they suggested alternatives to plastic bags.

Corn starch based bags, for example, are used at Better Life Natural Foods in Ellensburg and Our Environment suggests the bags could be used in other stores in addition to paper and reusable bags.

Duskin-Smith outlined the importance of a ban as opposed to a recycling plan.

"Recycling is expensive," Duskin-Smith said. "[Plastic bags] cannot be dumped into the normal recycling because it has to be recycled differently."

The group has brought their petition for the ban to Central students and have received over 200 signatures so far.

According to Our Environment, Ellensburg is the retail and population center of Kittitas county.

Ten other cities and King County in Washington have banned plastic retail bags.

"It's not a small problem," Duskin-Smith said. "We are responsible."

Recycling is expensive. [Plastic bags] cannot be dumped into normal recycling because it has to be recycled differently.

-Martha Duskin-Smith
Our Environment group member

ASCWU: No student funds used for Wildcat Way name change

BY DESTINI DICKINSON
Staff Reporter

A week after the decision to rename D Street to Wildcat Way, Vice President for Academic Affairs for the Associated Students of Central Washington University (ASCWU) Hauke Harfst has said that no student fees will be spent on the street signs for the new Wildcat Way.

Interviewed after last week's ASCWU Board of Directors meeting, Harfst said they wanted to clarify to students that no student funds were used for the street name change.

In mid-September, the ASCWU proposed changing the name of D Street to Wildcat Way. The Ellensburg City Council approved the name change last week, and new signs will be installed over the next few weeks.

Harfst said some people worried the board was going to spend student funds to buy new signs for the street, but clarified that donations from Central alumni and various other sources will cover the cost of the project.

He said that the ASCWU believes changing D Street to Wildcat Way will help bridge a gap between the community and Central.

Harfst said the new Wildcat Way signs will be officially unveiled during this year's Home-

ASCWU 2015 Meetings

Fridays at 9 a.m. in the SURC Pit

Meeting agendas are online 24-hours beforehand at www.cwu.edu/ascwu

ASCWU office in SURC 236

coming events next week

In other action, the ASCWU:

- Discussed erecting a memorial for veterans. According to Harfst, "we want to see some sort of veteran's memorial on campus." He said the Military Science Department is supportive and the project will most likely be expensive but it "is definitely something we want to see this year."

- Discussed the proposed art fee, which failed last year. Nina Caldwell, vice president for legislative affairs, said the ASCWU wanted to revisit the proposal in the future.

- Changed the board meeting time to Friday's at 9 a.m. rather than Monday's at 7 p.m., in order to enable all seven members to attend. "It's hard getting a schedule that fits for seven people," noted John De Han,

executive vice president of ASCWU. Members, however, said the meeting times could move to another day and time next quarter.

- Discussed many of ASCWU-sponsored special events planned for the coming year, including Touch a Truck, Wellington Wildfire, Homecoming, a campus Haunted House and My Costume is Not Consent. The latter, which will be held on Oct. 30, is an event designed to draw attention to the problem of sexual assault. Participants will be issued flashlights that say, "Consent is Sexy."

- The Wellington Wildfire event, held during Homecoming, will include a bonfire rally with campus athletes, a food truck and a cookout with s'mores. Touch a Truck is an event that involves a contest by student organizations to see which individual can keep his or her hand touching a fire truck the longest. The last club standing receives \$1,000. The campus Haunted House will be held in Al-Monty Residence Hall on Oct. 29 to Oct. 30.

- Reminded students that club recognition can now be attained online, and there are still vacancies on the student academic senate, which applicants can also access online.



JORDAN CAMERON/OBSERVER

CWU and YVCC receive \$3 million grant for low-income students

BY JULIA MORENO
Assistant News Editor

Central and Yakima Valley Community College (YVCC) are receiving more than \$3 million from a federal grant, according to KIMA TV.

The Department of Education Title V Developing Hispanic-Serving Institution Cooperative Grant titled "Finish What You Started" awarded both schools the amount of \$650,000 per year for the next five years, reported KVEW TV.

This is part of the effort to develop Hispanic-serving institutions across the country. However, this grant is not just for Hispanic students, it is for all low-income students attending Central and YVCC.

According to KVEW TV, the funding is available to insti-

tutions that serve a large number of low-income students, have funding per student below the national average and have a Hispanic student population of at least 25 percent.

Central will partner with YVCC to analyze and improve student support services.

Additionally, YVCC and Central will work to encourage enrollment and degree completion, identify and work with students who have dropped out of college and want to complete their degrees and develop transfer pathways from associate degrees to bachelor degrees, KIMA TV reported.

Central will hire a data analyst to look at retention rates, as well as a transfer analyst to assist students in the transfer process, according to The Yakima Herald Republic.

With Uber in town, do you plan on using it?



“Yes, I’m from Seattle so I’m already used to it. It’s also beneficial to underclassmen who don’t have their own cars.”

-Sabine Ahmed, freshman accounting major



“Yes, I think that having Uber available to students is important to their safety and experience here at Central.”

-Marcella Lane, senior exercise science major



“I’ve already used it. It’s a nicer vehicle, cleaner interior, and all-around classier option than the taxis.”

-Seth Rodriguez, cyber security graduate student



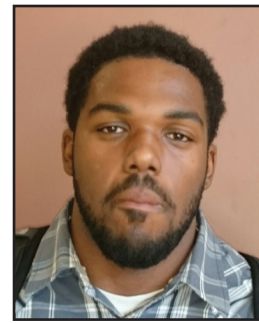
“Yes, it’s a cheap and useful option to have now.”

-Nick Aumua, junior film and video studies major



“I live close enough to town that I don’t need to use it, but during the winter it will be a good option.”

-Sarah Joyce, senior physical education and school health major



“No, I’ve taken it before and it was more expensive than a taxi.”

-Dejaun Ransaw, sophomore undecided

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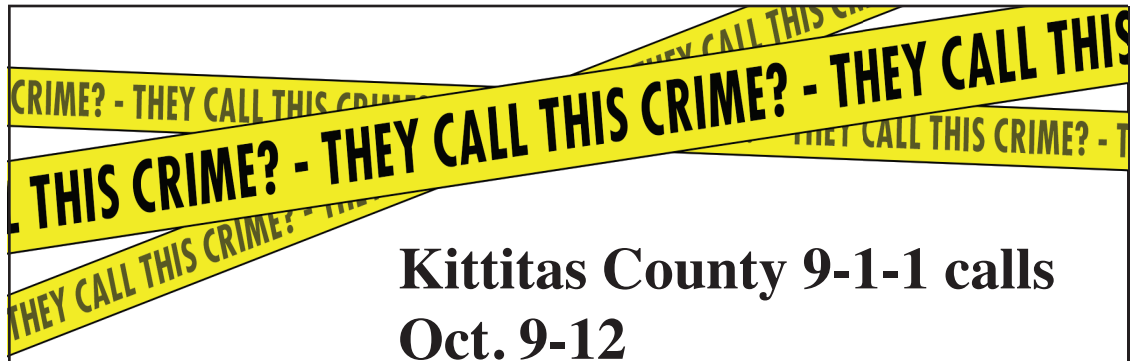
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Kittitas County 9-1-1 calls Oct. 9-12

A caller reported theft of a hot dog

at 8:53 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 07 near Gladmar Road that the caller said happened 20 hours earlier. The caller reported that the subject was on tape and the thief was no longer on scene.

A caller reported an unwanted person on SR-970 at 7:56 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 07 and requested assistance in evicting him. The caller reported the man left garbage around the area.

A girl's abandoned blue bicycle with a white seat was found and reported at 9:18 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 07 on 11th Avenue. The caller reported the bicycle had been abandoned since 7 p.m. the previous day.

A noise complaint involving a large truck stopped on Osprey Drive in Cle Elum at around 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday Oct. 07, turned on its lights and back-up alarm, waking up the neighbors. The caller reported it was not a garbage truck, and this has happened the past two Tuesdays.

A caller reported a student was locked out of her apartment on Walnut Street at 11:07 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 07.

An outside fire was reported at 12:12 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 07 near I-90, where subjects were burning material in a 50-gallon burn barrel.

A noise complaint call was taken at 1:37 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 07 by a resident of Dean Nicholson Boulevard, who said every day the Central Marching band practices too loud and it makes all the dogs in the neighborhood bark.

A caller requested an officer on scene to remove a weapon from patient's room at 2:17 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 07. There were no threats or assaults reported, only that "weapons cannot be in the ER."

A caller reported a black SUV with no RPZ Parking Permit near 10th Avenue at

3 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 07 claiming this is an ongoing problem.

Fireworks were reportedly being lit off outside near 15th Avenue by 13 participants at 4:51 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 07. The caller said they were upsetting the animals.

A caller reported a man and women in a verbal altercation at 7:21 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 07, 2015, near 6th Avenue. According to the caller, there was a lot of cursing and items were being thrown.

An unwanted alleged homeless person was sleeping in a parking lot near Main Street that a caller reported at 8:32 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 07. The caller said the man had been asked to leave and that he was startling employees leaving at night.

A caller reported a 20-year-old male sitting on the sidewalk, holding his ankle, at 2:10 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 08, 2015 on N. Water Street and West Indiana Avenue. The caller said they asked the man if he was alright, to which he responded he was fine.

A caller reported a Chevrolet Blazer parked in a parking lot for five hours near Sparks Road at 7:50 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 09, 2015. They said a dog was loose in the parking lot and would not allow anyone to approach the vehicle.

A caller reported a female in a red SUV on Hannah Road in Ellensburg screaming obscenities at 11:23 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 09.

A caller reported three to four subjects holding signs and panhandling on 1:50 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 09, 2015, at West University Way

and North Dolarway Road in Ellensburg. They said the panhandlers were distracting drivers and almost caused an accident.

People staying in their trailers and smoking and burning holes in the trailers was reported at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 09. The caller requested extra patrols at night.

A caller reported dogs barking excessively on Delphine Street, at 4:13 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 09. The caller has called three to four times in the past.

A caller reported they were going to set up traps to catch abandoned kittens at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 09.

A caller reported his wife picked up their child and backed onto their lawn and peeled out at 12:56 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10. The caller lives on East Hobert Avenue.

A caller reported a tree falling on her vehicle, no wires or injuries were reported. This occurred at 4:50 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10.

A call was taken reporting someone tried to access their email from their iPhone at 10:03 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11.

A caller reported three to four Russian males wandering around Yellowstone Road at 1:01 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11. The caller said they told a man it was a private property and could not be there.

Loud explosions near Killmore Road were reported at 5:51 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 11. The caller said he believed the same thing happened last year and it may be dynamite.

The Nerdiest Journalist

The Witcher 3 is not for kids – no kidding



CD PROJEKT RED



BY MARIA HARR/EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt is more than a mature game, it's a matured game.

The game is the result of designers putting all their effort into designing a strong narrative with a matured artistic sensibility.

It's not the first game to come out that's given players a deep, engaging and meaningful story to play through, but it's the most recent.

Witcher 3 reminds adult players that they're adults, with all the responsibility and consequences of their actions laid out in front of them.

It also reminds players that we can get more out of video games than flashy graphics and a great engine – they can have more soul than that.

The game is a serious fairy tale. It's not dumbed down or Disney-fied for a younger audience.

Narrative freedom was given to the game – it's uncompromisingly a story-driven, single player game.

For a time AAA game developers were incapable of designing a completely single player game.

There was a fear any game that wasn't multiplayer would lose out on revenue from the multi-playing masses. Even games as recent as Crystal Dynamics' Lara Croft had weirdly added on multiplayer game modes.

Choose your own adventure games such as Skyrim (or any other Bethesda game) or big MMOs lack a strong narrative kick.

They're hampered by allowing too many options – decisions are simplified and don't significantly affect the story, because they don't want to ruin options later.

Giving players a named character who they must follow allows for the serious, nuanced story that Witcher 3 has.

The game offers up subtlety – it's unafraid to spend fifteen minutes to an hour on one per-

son's story, from their history to their relevance in the world.

It slows itself down to give characters sufficient time to act out their thoughts

and motivations, rather than giving players copious amounts of verbal information.

Witcher 3 doesn't waste time explaining, it just is.

It's a deliberate, unhurried stroll through Geralt's life, rather than a wild, thrilling rollercoaster.

Playing this game, compared to others in the same genre, is like playing the difference between watching summer action flick and an Oscar winning film.

The action flick is fun, but it's not a moving experience. It doesn't have an impact on your life, on your thoughts, beyond "Well, that was fun."

Whether it's the best example of this or merely the most recent, Witcher 3 is just one step closer in the right direction towards Oscar-worthy storytelling.

It's certainly an experience I'm excited to have taken part of.

“Playing this game, compared to others in the same genre, is like the difference between watching a summer action flick and an Oscar winning film.”





CWU

HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 19 - 24, 2015

MONDAY, OCT. 19

Spirit Door/Hall Decorating Contest must be completed by 5 p.m.!

Judges will pick winners on Wednesday.

Monday Movie Madness: "Friday Night Lights"

Two showings: 7 and 9:30 p.m. • SURC Theatre
Free for CWU students w/ ID, \$3 GA

TUESDAY, OCT. 20

Mr. & Ms. Central

7 p.m. • SURC Ballroom • Free
Best of the best talent winners from each residence hall will battle for the crown!

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21

Spirit Decorating Contest Judging

Steak Night

4:30 - 7 p.m. • Holmes Dining
Meal plan or cash

Silent Candlelight Walk & Program

5 p.m. meet at SURC Pit, 5:30 march
Support domestic violence awareness

Wellington's Wildfire

7 - 9 p.m. • Alder Street Rec. Complex
Free for CWU students
Gather around the bonfire to celebrate CWU Homecoming with Challenge Course activities, free food from CWU's new food truck, a Wildcat Shop gift card raffle, pep rally and more!

THURSDAY, OCT. 22

Women's Soccer vs Seattle Pacific

11 a.m. • CWU Soccer Field
Free for CWU students w/ ID

Open Mic-Homecoming Hootenany

7:30 p.m. signups, 8 p.m. start • SURC Pit
Show off your skills! 2 speakers, 2 monitors, 3 mics, 2 DIs and 1 keyboard available.

FRIDAY, OCT. 23

Touch-a-Truck Contest

10 a.m. - midnight • SURC East Patio
Representatives from recognized CWU clubs and organizations compete to win up to \$1000 for their club! First, second and third place awards for the last ones standing!

Clubs Fair

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. • SURC 137
Stop by and learn how you can get involved with one of the many clubs on campus!

Wildcat Way Dedication

4 p.m. • Wildcat Way (formerly D Street)
The ceremony will begin in front of Shaw-Smyser Hall to celebrate the adoption of Wildcat Way. Your ASCWU Student Government will officiate the ceremonial occasion. Hope to see you there for the community photo that will be taken!

Distinguished Alumni Banquet

Register at cwu.edu/alumni

Homecoming Dance

9 p.m. • SURC Ballroom
\$5 in advance at cwu.edu/tickets
\$10 at the door
RHA presents a Hollywood themed bash. Enjoy refreshments, selfie booth & great tunes from 88.1 The 'Burg! First 100 to hit the red carpet get a prize!

SATURDAY, OCT. 24

Wildcat Color 5K

9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. race
Departs/returns OPR Patio
Pre register (\$15) by Oct. 16 for guaranteed shirt and sunglasses! \$20 day reg. registration.
cwu.edu/tickets or at Rec Center front desk.

SATURDAY, OCT. 24 continued

Kittitas Connect: Make a Difference Day

9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Downtown Ellensburg
Register at cwu.edu/leadership-engage

Wildcat Statue Dedication

11 a.m. • SURC East Patio
Presidents Gaudino (CWU) and Ryan Anderson (ASCWU) will preside over the official dedication of our big cat! Festivities include free treats, music with The Burg, and a shout out to the CWU Class of '65 members here for their 50th reunion! At 12:15 p.m., the CWU Marching Band will lead the way to the fan zone up at Tomlinson Stadium.

Collegiate Swim Meet

10 a.m. - Noon • CWU Aquatic Center • Free

Women's Rugby vs Brigham Young

11 a.m. • CWU Rugby Field
Free for CWU students w/ ID

Women's Soccer vs Simon Fraser

11 a.m. • CWU Soccer Field
Free for CWU students w/ ID

Football vs Humboldt State

1 p.m. • Tomlinson Stadium
Free for CWU students w/ ID

Men's Soccer vs WSU

1 p.m. • Alder Recreation Complex • Free

Men's Lacrosse vs. Seattle U

3 p.m. • Alder Recreation Complex • Free

Homecoming Entertainment: Iliza Shlesinger

8 p.m. • SURC Ballroom
\$12 CWU students GA, \$18 non-student GA
\$25 reserved • cwu.edu/tickets
Winner of Last Comic Standing, star of Netflix special Freezing Hot -- don't miss your chance to see one of the fastest rising comics touring!



Updates will be posted at www.cwu.edu/homecoming. Tickets available at www.cwu.edu/tickets

Preventing mass shootings



BY SARAH QUARTARARO/COPY EDITOR

Last week we saw not only the shooting at Umpqua Community College plastered across headlines, but also shootings on Northern Arizona University and Texas Southern University campus'..

That's three shootings in less a week. Chances are, there were signs leading up to these shootings.

School shooters don't exist in a vacuum. They have family, friends, internet personas and more. We see and hear about them on the news in the wake of gunfire and body counts on campuses across the country.

Statistically, most of these shooters show signs of what they're planning.

They often Google "bombs" and look up famous shootings, read manifestos, research weap-

ons, buy guns and join groups or organizations that relate to anger they have.

Another common denominator among perpetrators of mass violence, is a feeling of persecution or being targeted. This feeling may not seem valid to others, but the feeling tends to haunt shooters.

For example, the Isla Vista shooting that rocked the UC Santa Barbara community in 2014 was perpetrated by Elliot Rogers, who felt that he had not received the attention he deserved from women.

These signs attract attention. Friends and family notice. Admittedly not always, the same way people don't always notice the symptoms of an illness or the impending signs of a suicide attempt.

But these signs could potentially be used to address potential shooters.

How we could spot potential shooters

Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) is training offered by the QPR institute, most notably and relevantly, on college campuses

across the country.

QPR teaches those in training how to recognize possible signs that someone is suicidal, and how to ask them if they need help. I've gone through QPR training twice now.

We as a society have learned that someone exhibiting unusually "down" behavior, or behaviors of concern, should be checked on. When people talk about ending their life, when they give away possessions, when they stop planning for the future, most people have been trained to see these things as warning signs.

QPR training had one strong point they drove home - you have to ask that uncomfortable question. You'll normally get an answer.

The question, "Are you considering killing yourself?" is difficult for a lot of people to say, but it allows "gatekeepers" to know how serious a potential situation is.

A "Gatekeeper", according to QPR's website, is "someone in a position to recognize a crisis and the warning signs that someone may be contemplating suicide."

The QPR site lists friends, family, neighbors, nurses, doctors, spiritual leaders, police, firefighters and office supervisors, among others, as people that could notice the potential changes in behavior that could signify that someone is considering suicide.

When we see someone angry at the world, someone who seems to hate everyone and everything, our natural instinct seems to be to avoid that person.

We need to train ourselves as a society, and especially those in "gatekeeper" positions, to see people that exhibit concerning behaviors that could point toward perpetrating an event of mass violence.

If our society and it's leaders can learn to ask if someone intends to kill themselves, we should also be able to learn to ask the question "Are you planning or thinking of hurting or killing other people?"

This by no means excuses the actions of shooters, and I'm not comparing people who are suicidal or have struggled with suicidal thoughts with shooters.

I'm comparing how our society used to respond to suicide and the change over recent decades to a possible change in how we approach potential shooters.

As a society we once avoided the topic of suicide, never learned about it in school and lied about the cause of death when someone committed suicide. Lives have been saved today because people are willing to ask difficult questions in the interest of the safety of individuals.

School shooters are vastly different in many aspects, but the point is that we need to ask that uncomfortable question in the interest of saving lives further on down the road.

Even with studies and training, spotting a potential shooter will never become an exact science.

This article argues that certain authority figures should be trained to spot the potential for mass violence in people, but there isn't necessarily always a readable pattern. This could be the first part of a foundation that alters the way we approach concerning, angry behaviors.

Flashy vs. trashy



BY VICTORIA SHAMRELL/ASSISTANT SCENE EDITOR

It's once again that time of year when stores fill up their racks with over sexualized women halloween costumes.

It's not only women's costumes, but young girl's costumes are over sexualized as well. This past September, a mother criticized Party City over a sexy cop costume offered to girls.

A real life police officer uniform for women does not consist of a short dress and knee high boots. How hard is it to offer a realistic version of a costume to girls and women, you don't see the sexy version offered to boys and men.

Most Halloween costumes for women consist of a short dress, short skirt, crop top or bikini top. That's fine for some women, but



MARK TAYLOR CUNNINGHAM

if you're like me, and are not comfortable showing a lot of skin, than these costumes are not an option. It's meant to be sexy, but why does sexy have to involve everything being short or showing a bunch of cleavage?

Even career costumes have to be sexy. Nurses, police officers and teachers are all portrayed as sex symbols. When in real life

do you even see a nurse wearing a short dress or a police officer wearing a crop top and a short skirt? It's ridiculous and it seems like these types of costumes just insult the people working in those real careers.

I wish I could go into a Halloween store and not have to be appalled by the lack of normal and not over sexualized costumes

offered for women. Having sexy costumes is fine for some women, but why can't regular and simpler versions be offered as well?

Why can't I go into a Halloween store and find a normal Gryffindor uniform for women instead of a "sexy Hermione" costume?

As a cosplayer, I'm also all about character accuracy and

these over sexualized character costumes for women just make me cringe. It's quite common in Disney costumes, especially the princess costumes. The floor length yellow ball gown that Belle wears in *Beauty and the Beast* has been changed to a short dress, to make it sexier.

Why can't the costume be screen accurate and not be over sexualized? I'm so tired of seeing these great characters be ruined because for some reason it's now the norm to create these sexy versions.

In real life, clothing for women comes in all sort of different shapes and sizes, so why do Halloween costumes have to be so drastically different?

It may only be once a year, but why don't more women protest against these sexy Halloween costumes? These over sexualized costumes just create false stereotypes and make many women uncomfortable. They set bad examples for young girls and sexy career costumes insult the real life people who work the jobs.

DEAR READERS:

The Observer welcomes brief letters of 300 words or less from readers on current issues. Please include your full name and university affiliation: year and major, degree and year graduated, or staff position and department. The Observer reserves the right to reject or edit for style and length. All letters become property of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS:

Issue 1, Oct. 1-7, page 10, in the article "Bringing back College Radio," several names were misspelled, including Jeff Macmillan, Thunderhound and Ayrton Jones. Issue 2, Oct. 8-14, page 3, in the article "CWU online English wins national award" implied tenured faculty members only taught the program. Both tenured and non-tenured faculty members teach the Online English Program. Additionally, the program is not open to on-campus students. Additionally, Katharine Whitcomb's name was misspelled.

Ghouls, ghosts and goblins galore

BY DAKOTA SEGURA
Staff Reporter

From haunted houses to pumpkin patches, there are a few upcoming events happening around Ellensburg throughout October for students and the community alike.

Boo Central

Boo Central is a free annual Halloween event that takes place on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom.

This is the 23rd annual Boo Central. It has grown in popularity throughout the community, as it provides a fun and safe environment for children and families to celebrate Halloween.

"It's a Halloween festival for kids, preschool through fifth grade," said Alyssia Ready, campus activities special events coordinator.

Clubs at Central come up with their own activities or games for children to participate in, including ring tosses, craft stations and face painting.

"These clubs and organizations pre-register for booths and then they're in charge of that booth," Ready said. "Basically an activity or a game or trick or treating for the little kids."

Ready prepared a registration form and information sheet for clubs wishing to participate. Clubs have until Oct. 23 to submit their paperwork.

"A young lady named Timi Reid came up with the idea," Scott Drummond, director of Student Activities, said. Boo Central "Originally started just for students with families and Central employees...It started to balloon in the second and third year."

Now, Boo Central involves not just Central's students and staff, but the whole Ellensburg community. Over the years, it has become a highly anticipated event.

"We've seen kids come in as infants in strollers all the way until fifth grade," Drummond said.

Boo Central is made possible by the clubs who dedicate their time, energy and money to create a festive atmosphere for children within this community.

"This is very student generated...Alyssia, the student clubs, even the staff that's in the building that night, is doing this," Drummond said. "For about two hours at a certain point, we'll have close to 2,000 people [volunteers and those attending] doing Boo Central."

Boo Central is one of the many ways Central students work



JORDAN CAMERON/OBSERVER

PUMPKIN PATCH Central students search for the perfect pumpkin to bring home at the U-pick pumpkin patch at Huffman farms.

together to cultivate the relationship between the community and the university.

"I think it's a really good opportunity to connect the university with the community and kind of create good connections and good vibes," Ready said.

Huffman Farms

Pumpkin Patch by day and hauntings by night, there are all sorts of activities happening at Huffman Farms during the fall.

Beginning Oct. 3, on Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Huffman Farms hosts a "u-pick" pumpkin patch.

During the day, admission is free. There is a free petting zoo along with hay rides and duck races.

Additional charges, ranging from \$1 to \$5, apply to the corn maze, pony hop races and kid zone.

"Friday and Saturday nights... we start to bring the body parts out and the clowns get cranked up and that is then the evening of the haunted forest maze," Hilary Huffman, owner of Huffman farms, said.

The haunted forest begins Oct. 9 and continues through the month every Friday and Saturday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for ages 12 and up and \$8 for children 11

and under.

"At the end, if you make it out alive, then you're invited to stay as long as you'd like," Huffman said.

A grain silo-turned-café will also be selling hot chocolate, s'more kits and coffee. There will be a fire where visitors can roast marshmallows after surviving the maze.

Huffman and her husband have been running Huffman Farms for the past three years.

Though they had no prior farming experience, Huffman felt that after working as general manager for seven years at a winery in Quincy, it was a natural transition.

"It's about experiences, and I love providing experiences for people to come and enjoy," Huffman said.

"I like the fact that [Huffman Farms] is an outdoor attraction" Huffman said. "It's a 36-acre farm and 50 percent of it is forested."

Huffman Farms helps provide volunteers, who act as creepers in the haunted forest and maze, with community service opportunities.

"For every shift they work, volunteers get 10 to 20 pounds of farm fresh produce," Huffman said. "Whatever food they earn, they get to go donate to FISH food bank on their behalf."

The main objective of Huffman Farms is to give people a complete fall experience.

"I think a lot of [college students] have the pumpkin patch experience with their families," Huffman said. "If they can kind of relive that family experience by coming here, I think that's awesome."

HELLburg Village

Haunting Ellensburg's "HELLburg Village" is meant to both frighten and excite visitors.

There are three haunted events, ranging from completely family friendly, to terrifying and for mature audiences only.

"The main event takes place in front of Frontier Village at the fairgrounds," Eric Slyter, director of Haunting Ellensburg, said. At Frontier Village "There is a collection of old West cabins."

HELLburg Village takes place on Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 9-24, and Thursday through Saturday Oct. 29 through Oct. 31.

Tickets are \$9 for general admission during the hours of 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. There is also a family friendly version that takes place between 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

"Come in one side of the village and make it out the other side of the village in one piece," Slyter said.

VIP tickets are available online for \$12. VIP tickets allow visitors to jump most of the line and move to the front.

"Last year, we had people in line for up to an hour to an hour and a half," Slyter said.

For people looking for a more tame experience, the Barnyard Barn will be open for groups of all ages. This event takes place between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. for a \$5 entry fee.

"If you want completely tame, you want to go to Barnyard Barn," Slyter said.

This is the second year of Haunting Ellensburg. According to Slyter, last year's theme was "zombies" and this year's theme will be something completely new.

"We had a lot of students from Central coming through last year," Slyter said, "If they came last year, they're going to really enjoy this year."

Fall deals around town

Plenty of bars and restaurants are offering fall deals and special events.

Club 301 is hosting a Halloween costume contest on Oct. 31 where the winner can earn a prize of \$100.

Wing Central is also hosting a costume contest on Halloween where the prizes are to be determined. There will likely be drink specials as well.

As Halloween approaches, bars and restaurants will continue announcing more specials and events.

Halloween Events

Huffman Farms
Haunted Forest Maze
Friday and Saturday
Oct. 9-31
Tickets: \$10 ages 12 and up
\$8 ages 11 and under

HELLburg Village
Friday and Saturday
Oct. 9-29
Tickets: \$9
VIP:\$12

“Friday and Saturday nights ... we start to bring the body parts out and the clowns get cranked up and that is then the evening of the haunted forest maze.”

-Hilary Huffman

Top five free shows on Hulu

BY CODY NILSON
Staff Reporter

The fall TV lineup is here.

Hit shows like *Empire* and *How to Get Away with Murder* are off to an explosive start, the laughs are rolling in with *Modern Family* and shows like *Blind Spot* and *Quantico* are leaving audiences craving answers.

The best part about these shows is that they're all offered on Hulu.com for free, and it's not too late to catch up.

1. Empire



FOX BROADCASTING COMPANY

According to TV Nielsen ratings, *Empire* is ranked number one overall in musical dramas for adults.

Terrence Howard plays Lucious Lion, a gangster turned music icon and CEO of Empire Entertainment.

However, even with all of his wealth and power, Lion can't change the fact that money can't buy everything, especially a cure for his amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), otherwise known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

There are a lot of reasons why audiences are drawn to *Empire*. An all-star cast for one.

Terrence Howard, has already proven he has what it takes to play a gangster and musician in his award-winning role as DJay in the movie *Hustle and Flow*.

Howard's co-stars, while lesser known, have no trouble matching his caliber of acting and musical talent.

Jussie Smollett and Bryshere Yazshawn play the roles of Lion's sons, Jamal and Hakeem. Both actors play their roles well, making the characters relatable.

Another reason viewer keep tuning in is the music.

The songs used in the show are not covers, but original songs, a majority of which are radio worthy.

In addition, some big name appearances are on the way, including Chris Rock and Ludacris.

Add in murder, betrayal, drama and blackmail in the first two episodes alone, *Empire* is a show that draws in viewers and keeps them watching.

2. How to Get Away with Murder



ABC

If that's not enough drama, *How to Get Away with Murder* started up on Sept. 24.

Coming in fifth on the TV Nielsen ratings, *How to Get Away with Murder* stars Viola Davis, who plays Annalise Keating, a professor of defense law.

Every year she selects a group four of students with the most potential to work actual cases with her.

This season follows the latest group of student she selects, as they apply the knowledge they're gaining in law school

to cover up a murder they themselves committed.

The show often leaves audiences questioning their ability to recognize the innocent from the guilty.

Although it's Keating who brings the show to life, actor Viola Davis is also a powerhouse. She adds a human aspect and makes the story relatable.

Recently, Davis was the first African-American woman to win an Emmy for best actress in a drama.

3. Modern Family



ABC

Coming in at third on the TV Nielsen ratings is not a drama, but a comedy.

Modern Family premiered its seventh season on Sept. 23.

The sitcom revolves around the Pritchett-Dunphy-Tucker clan.

The Dunphy's have a traditional household, being married with three kids.

The Tuckers are a gay couple with an adopted child from China.

The families are connected by Jay Pritchett, the grandfather of both families, who has a young wife, stepson and infant son.

The three families together make up a

"modern family."

Over its seven seasons, the show has won 22 Emmys out of 73 nominations.

Modern Family is a well-rounded show when it comes to comedy, ranging from simplistic to sophisticated.

All of the characters have rich, interesting and hilarious backstories worth catching up on.

Alternatively, what makes this show great is the fact it can be watched at any point in the series. Each episode has its own self contained story that means first time viewers are never lost or out-of-place.

4. Blindspot



NBC TV NETWORK

For audiences looking for something a little different, NBC's new show *Blindspot*, coming in at sixth on the Nielsen rankings, could be for them.

Blindspot premiered on Sept. 21 starring Jaimie Alexander.

Alexander plays a woman with no knowledge of her past and whose identity is shrouded in strange secrecy.

Alexander's character wakes up in a bag in the middle of Time Square, naked with no memories and her entire body covered in tattoos.

The only clue she has is the name Kurt

Weller FBI, who is played by Sullivan Stapleton.

Everything about this show is a mystery, including if it is worth continuing to watch, but there have been high hopes so far.

The season premier wasted no time catching the audience's attention with Alexander taking down the bad guys with ease and looking great doing it.

The show has a fast-paced, action-packed plot, and it seems *Blindspot* will continue in the right direction.

5. Quantico



ABC

ABC's new series, *Quantico*, is ranked seventh on the Nielsen ranking, right behind *Blindspot*, after premiering on Sept. 27.

The show focuses on the youngest and most capable recruits for the FBI, and the first episode didn't disappoint.

Starring Priyanka Chopra as Alex Parrish, an already established Bollywood actress who left her career to join the FBI.

After the biggest terrorist attack since 9/11 hits New York City, Parrish finds herself being considered suspect number one.

It's up to Alex to prove her innocence

by finding the recruit who is trying to frame her.

Quantico is based on the relevant issue of national security, making it exciting and entertaining, but also causing the viewers think.

Adding this aspect of reality makes the audience more engaged which is what makes this show one of the best this season.

With this lineup, finding some free time to watch a few episodes or even an entire season this October may be worth it.

Snapchat's nudes are on fleek

BY THOMAS PATTISON
Staff Reporter

Recently, the popular app Snapchat has been surrounded in controversy. The Campus Story feature in particular has given rise to conflict.

Snapchat is an app meant to take pictures and video that captures a moment as it's happening.

Users take pictures then send them to their friends to be erased from the Snapchat server in less than ten seconds.

Snap stories are a series of snapchats, or snaps, that are saved for a period of a couple days and can be viewed multiple times by anyone that is friended by that account.

In order to combat a number of inappropriate widely-viewed snap stories that included graphic nudity, drug use and illegal activity posted to a Campus Story, Snapchat has added a new feature.

Campus Stories feature will now only allow appropriate pictures to be posted to a campus feed.

In order to fill that gap and provide a media platform for all the snaps deemed inappropriate by Snapchat, a new app named Fleek - College Stories has ap-



DESIGNED BY GRACE LINDSLEY/OBSERVER

peared on the Apple iOS market. The app is a cross between Snapchat and Yik Yak (an anonymous community forum app).

Upon downloading the new app, users must find their desired college.

Those who choose Central will come to a screen with two options: CWU Snaps, which contains fairly tame photos of college students and their various pets, and CWU After Dark, which mostly consist of nudity and drug use.

Students can submit pictures to either account, and then the account admin can choose to

add or not add those pictures to the story feed.

From here, users upvote or downvote photos, deciding what visual stories stay on the feed and what comes down.

Darryl Galloway, sophomore construction hygiene major, has had Fleek - College Stories since the beginning of the quarter, after his peers told him about the app's popularity.

"[CWU Snaps] is friendly stuff, but CWU After Dark is mostly female nudes," Galloway said.

Galloway also felt that the app could have some negative reper-

cussions.

"I support Fleek, but it is dangerous because of the opportunity for cyber bullying," Galloway said.

With the majority of college students constantly on social media, cyberbullying has the potential to be more of a threat on campus than ever before.

Jace Rowland, junior double major in music performance and music education, has a very different opinion of the app.

"Something like that is going to cause trouble and not produce good of any kind," Rowland said.

He has no intention of down-

loading the app due to its lewd content.

"As a future teacher, something like that would be crossing a lot of [moral and ethical] lines," Rowland said.

The format of Fleek - College Stories was interesting to Rowland, but he found CWU After Dark to be questionable.

"I can understand the value of a community local based snapchat, but there are certain boundaries that shouldn't be crossed," Rowland said.

Released on Sept. 10, Fleek - College Stories is still a relatively young app and no apparent legal action has been taken against it.

Moe Izumi is a 20-year-old AUAP student and international leadership major from Japan.

Up until she came to America, Izumi had no access to Snapchat or Fleek.

"I think an app like [Fleek - College Stories]...is interesting and people should be able to post what they want to post," Izumi said. "We have Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, but not Snapchat [in Japan]."

Fleek - College Stories has made its way into the social media mainstream at Central and shows no signs of slowing down.

PULSE

magazine

Have you checked your Pulse lately?

CWU's student-run Online interactive lifestyle magazine.

Pulse is covering college life from top to bottom and everywhere in between. So, come check it out, share your thoughts, and show it to all your friends.

If you want to contribute to Pulse or want to give us your comments send us an email at : cwupulsemagazine@gmail.com.

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OKTOBERFEST DINNER

HOLMES DINING ROOM

OCTOBER 21 4:30 PM to 7:00 PM

MENU

- Pretzels & Mustard
- Cheese Tray
- Cabbage Soup
- Hot Potato Salad
- Cabbage Salad
- Roasted Vegetables
- Potato Pancakes
- Spaetzel
- Bratwurst
- Glazed Ham
- Cod
- Rolls & Butter
- Caramel Apple Pie
- Fresh Fruit

\$13.20 CASH PRICE

*meal plan discounts applied

Central Washington University is an AAAC/CAI/IX Institution - For accreditation, visit www.cwu.edu - Food provided by Dining Services

Mitch Pfeifer: respect his region

BY NIC COOPER
Staff Reporter

Music, fashion, art, cuisine, sports and culture; these are the concepts Mitch Pfeifer, 27-year-old co-owner of Respect My Region and Ellensburg native, aims to embody in his clothing line and online blog.

“The name Respect My Region was something I had in my head for many years before we formed the LLC and started doing clothing,” Pfeifer said. “Respect My Region is all about a platform for all things dope and urban within the Northwest region. It’s about the pride you have for your hometown/area and championing the local scene.”

Apart of RMR, Pfeifer stays active and immersed in hip-hop music and culture. Not only within Washington, but outside of the region as well.

Pfeifer pays attention to the Portland, Ore. scene and stays up to date with all big name hip-hop artists.

Pfeifer shared that as he was growing up, one of his first gateways into hip-hop culture was skateboarding.

“Being around the skate park, I met some older heads that DJ’d and recorded.” Pfeifer said. “They would always be playing different music at the park and spinning records occasionally.”

Pfeifer said what captivated him most was the hip-hop style of skating, which came with new fashion, music and skate videos attached to it.

Pfeifer said that outside of skateboarding, he was exposed to hip-hop through radio and music his parents played.

“My parents listened to all sorts of music, and I fell in love with the funk and soul music they played.” Pfeifer said

“It’s about the pride you have for your hometown/area and championing the local scene.”

-Mitch Pfeifer
Co-owner of RMR

Pfeifer said some of his favorite artists while growing up were Marvin Gaye, Tower of Power, The Temptations and The Four Tops.

Some of his current favorite artists include Jay-Z, Nas, Jadakiss, Drake, J. Cole, Travis Scott and Kendrick Lamar.

As his interest in hip-hop began to increase, Pfeifer explored other realms of hip-hop culture.

Pfeifer got involved with sound engineering and even began to produce his own songs.

“If I have an interest in something...I’m going to get involved and probably find a way to monetize it,” Pfeifer said.

Pfeifer said he initially only had interest in producing his own beats, but over time that began to change.

“I originally had no interest in engineering,” Pfeifer said. “I started recording first out of



COURTESY OF THSGRL/THTBOY

MITCH PFEIFER Co-owner of Respect My Region has made his mark in his native town of Ellensburg with multiple talents to share.

necessity... I’ve found a love for mixing sounds as it allows so much creativity and that creativity flows over into making beats and shaping sounds in that realm.”

Pfeifer said he really enjoys creating things that inspire people to write and getting his music to the point where people can’t help but nod their heads and say “oh shit” to themselves.

Music and clothing are some of the most difficult industries to gain recognition in, but Pfeifer initially decided to stay rooted in Ellensburg despite the advantages of moving to a large market like Seattle.

“I was conflicted on it for a while, but I purchased a home towards the end of college and had an opportunity to run my business and studio out of my house,” Pfeifer said.

Pfeifer said that, for an extended period of time, he was bringing so many artists to Ellensburg that he didn’t need to make such a move, but recently he has had to move to the west side to widen his outreach.

Although Pfeifer is always striving to push his agenda with the RMR clothing line and broaden his network as a sound engineer and producer, this

hasn’t stopped him from providing opportunities for others.

“I’m always interested in having interns for RMR and/or music,” Pfeifer said. “I have previously done three internships and all individuals have gone on to gain employment with my reference.”

Pfeifer said some of his goals with RMR are to get major

placements and establish his brand as a producer in the Pacific Northwest.

“We want to expand to more regions in terms of the Northwest and further establish us as the premier Northwest urban culture blog,” Pfeifer said.

Pfeifer said he has recently revamped the RMR website, built an online company for his

productions under Panoramic-Dreams.com and has a new studio under construction.

Moving forward, Pfeifer said he just wants to continue getting paid for what he enjoys doing most and providing a platform for the music he loves.

“I’m going to keep pushing all artists I work with and hopefully one of the homies blows up.”



COURTESY OF MITCH PFEIFER

MUSIC STUDIO Pfeifer works on one of his many talents in his home studio, making new sounds.

Sports clubs stronger than ever

BY ZAC HERETH
 Sports Editor

Since the club sport program was officially created at Central in 2000, nearly 20 teams have been added to the program for a total of 24 different club sports students can participate in.

Some of the sports offered include lacrosse, soccer, ultimate disk, equestrian, rodeo, climbing, wrestling, wake sports and tennis.

Most of the clubs have formed over the last 15 years. However, the oldest club, rodeo, dates back to the '50s.

These clubs are offered to give students a chance to compete in sports that aren't offered at a varsity level at Central or varsity sports that have a high demand and not all students can participate in.

Men's soccer, lacrosse, wake sports, wrestling and ultimate disk are some of the more popular clubs on campus that aren't offered as varsity sports.

Women's soccer is offered as a varsity sport, but a club sport team answers the demand for students that want to compete, but don't play on the varsity team.

"Every one of our clubs have started because there was a student that is passionate about a certain activity," said Corey Sinclair, coordinator of competitive club sports and camps.

Sinclair has been at Central since his position was created in 2005. Before arriving at Central, Sinclair helped set up after-school sports programs at elementary and middle schools.

At Central, he helps teams fundraise, travel and join leagues, in addition to organizing the sports camps Central offers in the summer.

While Sinclair doesn't see more clubs being added soon, he doesn't rule it out either.

Sinclair said the quality and organization of the current teams has been getting stronger every year.

The clubs receive some financial support from Central, but are also funded by the participants themselves. The members pay some of that money out-of-pocket, and the rest is paid for by fundraising for the clubs.

Central's club sport teams have a contract with Nike, which allows them to set up flash stores online to sell merchandise for fundraising.

Nike flash stores are designed to be short-term sites—they generally stay up for one to two weeks—where teams can design and sell apparel.

Profits from the stores go to the clubs, and gives teams the opportunity to reach out to friends, family and alumni for



JOHN WHITTLESEY/OBSERVER

DRILLS Lacrosse team uses foot-ladder to work on their agility.

support.

Other teams have raised funds from letter drives, working security at The Gorge and selling homemade goods.

The equestrian team makes horse flowerpots to sell every year at Back Country Horseman Rendezvous in March. They are also planning to sell them at Spirit of the West for the first time in February.

Both events are gatherings to celebrate "cowboy" culture. They feature competitive events, activities for visitors and arts and crafts sales.

Events like these provide valuable opportunities for clubs to fundraise and gain exposure within that community.

Club costs vary by sport. Clubs like lacrosse and hockey are more expensive due to equipment costs. Lacrosse's league fee is nearly \$4,000 and membership dues can run upwards of \$500.

Other sports, like climbing, have relatively low membership dues that are below \$50.

Club sports generates over \$100,000 through member dues, donations and fundraising.

The equestrian club has to make rent on their team barn, which allows competitors to bring their horses to Ellensburg.

The equestrian club president, senior business major Ashley Johnson, has been with the team since her freshman year. She also credits the equestrian club for being her deciding factor in attending Central.

"I've been doing it all my life," Johnson said. "So it was a good avenue to go into college and have that opportunity as well."

While some clubs have been able to find adequate facilities in Ellensburg, others have to make do with what they can.

Just a year after their first national qualification, Central's bowling club took a huge blow when Rodeo City Bowl shut down, leaving their nearest practice facility 45 minutes away in Yakima.

Hockey is another club that faces commuting issues. The nearest ice rinks are in Yakima and Wenatchee, adding more personal travel costs to an already expensive sport.

Club expenses do not stop at equipment and facilities though. Travel expenses can be costly.

In 2013, Central's Services and Activities allocated \$60,000 a year to club sports for travel costs. A council of senior club officers appointed by Sinclair divides those costs among the clubs.

Travel can range from a regional match-up against nearby schools to trips to places like New Orleans or California for national events.

On average, the school sends 8-10 teams with 1-20 members to those events per year.

Sports can gain varsity status through success at a club level. Men and women's rugby did that two years ago.

According to Thomas "TJ"



JOHN WHITTLESEY/OBSERVER

EXTENSION Central ultimate disc competitor leaps for the catch.

president, the rugby team became a school sport by winning.

Burford, senior double major in law and justice and sociology, would like to see men's soccer recognized as a varsity sport, but realizes the team needs to first build a winning tradition and strong relationship with the school and community.

According to Sinclair, clubs being picked up as a varsity sport is contrary to the normal trend.

In 2004, Central cut its men's wrestling and men's and women's swimming programs in order to cut down on athletic expenses. Those sports became recognized as clubs and are still competing today.

Talent levels on teams vary by sport, and even within a team. Men's soccer had over 50 players try out for this year's squad, which made building the squad tougher than before.

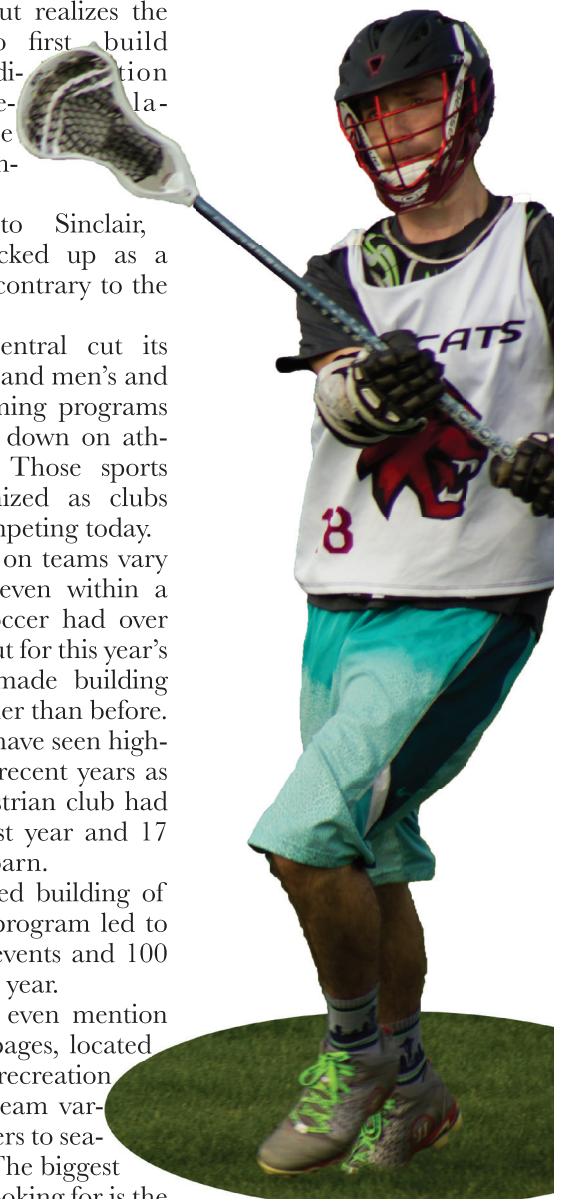
Other clubs have seen higher turn-outs in recent years as well. The equestrian club had 19 members last year and 17 horses in their barn.

The continued building of the club sport program led to over 40 home events and 100 away events last year.

Some sports even mention on their team pages, located in Central's recreation page, that the team varies from beginners to seasoned players. The biggest thing they are looking for is the

build a relationship with their teammates.

"It really creates an opportunity for students to connect and kind of build a community," Sinclair said.



JOHN WHITTLESEY/OBSERVER

Central hosts top-ranked Western

BY SAMUEL BEAUMONTE
Staff Reporter

After taking a 2-1 loss in overtime at the hands of Western Washington University (WWU), the second ranked team in Division II women's soccer, last week in Bellingham, Wash., Central is looking to sink the Vikings in a home rematch.

"For me, I feel like our performance in our games have been a good breakthrough for the team," sophomore forward Mackenzie Nolte said. "It was a close game with two very good teams going against each other."

The Wildcats were able to take away a few things from the loss.

"I feel that we played to the best of our abilities that game. It was the best of the year for a complete game," head coach Michael Farrand said. "We've gone week to week to prepare for whatever situation we're in. Overall, I feel that the Western game shows us how we should play."

The Wildcats were the first team of the season to bring

WWU, undefeated in conference play, into overtime. The Wildcats had expected a good fight.

"The Western game had a good intensity, we were mentally prepared for a tough game," senior goalkeeper Sydney Williams said.

WWU enters the rematch with a 6-0 conference record, giving the Wildcats an opportunity to hand WWU their first conference game loss of the season.

Central hasn't beaten WWU since 2011, an eight game stretch, in which they have been outscored 13-3 with a 0-7-1 record.

WWU's last conference loss came in last year's GNAC play-offs.

On Oct. 10, the Wildcats beat Saint Martin's University (SMU) at home 3-0, bringing their conference record to 2-4.

"It's a great morale booster going into our next game," Williams said.

Even though the team managed to keep SMU from scoring during the game, the Wildcats



BRITTANY ALLEN/OBSERVER

PRACTICE Sophomore Mackenzie Nolte concentrates on footwork.

recognize that it was a hard-fought battle and that there was something to take away from it.

"We could see what we needed to work on as we played," Nolte said. "It showed us that we need to go in with the same mentality. We have to use that same intensity that we have with Western in every game going forward. We need to have that same winning mental state."

So far this season, Central's women's soccer team has won

every home game. Some players believe that the crowd can be a huge help to the team's performance.

"Having the students, the staff and the other student athletes to come out to support us is amazing," Williams said. "They're taking time out of their schedules to come cheer us on."

The crowd also instills a different type of motivation.

"You don't want to lose in

**CWU
vs.
WWU
3 p.m.
Oct. 15
@
CWU Soccer
Field**

front of your school," Nolte said. "It's a pride thing, and you don't want to be known as the player that messed up."

Farrand will be looking for a big crowd against conference leading WWU.

"It would be a great day to get a good crowd out here," Farrand said. "Beating Western in anything is always a good thing to see. We've had great crowds all year round, and it'd be nice to have everyone come out here to enjoy the day with us and watch us take care of Western."

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Central Washington University
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Men's rugby wins Viking Cup

BY JAKE NELSON
Staff Reporter

Central men's rugby team became the first American school to win the Vikings Sevens Tournament held at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash.

Central accomplished this in the tournament's fourth year of existence.

Central beat Arizona State University, an NCAA Division I school from the Pac-12, 22-19 to take home the Viking Cup.

"We really only had one day of training and had four All-Americans out with minor injuries," head coach Tony Pacheco said. "For the guys to grind it out and suck it up, it was good to see and was a good character building type win for us."

With the four All-Americans not playing in the Viking Sevens Tournament, it really allowed some other team members to get playing time and gain experience on the field.

It was an opportunity for the younger players to show what they can do in a game situation.

Pacheco was very pleased with how the guys played.

"It was great to see some new

guys on the field for the first time at Central," Pacheco said. "For them to do that shows their character."

Junior Ian Wright led the charge for the Wildcats.

Wright, elementary education major, really impressed Pacheco during the tournament.

During the final game, Wright got to the try zone two times and converted one attempt.

"Everyone was working together and we only really had one practice to get the chemistry going," Wright said. "Everyone played to their top level and it really opened up gaps for me."

When asked if Wright was proud of how the guys played, he couldn't stop smiling.

"I was really proud," Wright said. "Playing full sprint games with one practice under your belt, it's great to see guys coming out and showing the heart that we had."

It is a big deal for Wright and the team to win the Viking Sevens Tournament, as it helps put Central on the map.

"It is a really big achievement for us," Wright said. "There are some really good sides so it's nice to see that we can hang with



JOHN WHITTLESEY/OBSERVER

HARDWORK Central rugby players push each other to improve and get stronger during practice.

them. It is always nice to beat the Canadians and take that from them."

Senior Maverick Schirmer, double major in finance and economics, also played a big part in the tournament.

During the final game, Schirmer scored a try to help Central win the tournament.

"I just wanted to play for my team and that is what kept me going," Schirmer said. "My

teammates were supporting me."

This year is Schirmer's senior year and last year wearing crimson and black on the field.

"I'm looking forward to playing my last year with these guys," Schirmer said. "It is going to be real fun and I can't wait to see what is in store."

Playing for Central means a lot to Schirmer.

"This team is the next biggest thing to a family that I have be-

sides my real family," Schirmer said. "They are all like my brothers."

Junior Cameron Marek, global wine studies major, helped Central win the final game against Arizona State by scoring a try.

"It was huge to beat ASU in the finals," Marek said. "They beat us last year and to beat them is huge because we have a pretty big rivalry now."

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CWU Central Washington University
Department of Communication

Finding the right 'Sound'

BY AUSTIN BENNETT
Assistant Sports Editor

Central sophomores Drew Wallen and Payton Berens recently finished up their trial games to become the next voices of the Seattle Sounders' S2 club. Wallen and Berens were one of the three pairs selected out of thousands of applicants to try out for the Sounders S2 commentator positions.

The Sounders S2 club team is a minor league team for the major league soccer team Seattle Sounders FC.

Berens approached Wallen at Barto Hall last February, and told him about an opportunity to audition for the play-by-play position for the Seattle Sounders S2 team.

Wallen did play-by-play for Central's basketball teams last season, and said he is always looking for new opportunities to perfect his craft.

However, the contest required a pair of commentators to audition for both the play-by-play and color commentary positions.

"Payton is a huge Sounders fan and I'm not really a soccer guy, so I said, 'I know nothing about soccer, why don't you do it with me?'" Wallen said.

A few days later, Wallen and Berens dressed up in suits and ties, went up to the fourth floor in Barto Hall and made their audition video.

"We stood up my iPhone on a stack of books to balance it, and from there made our audition video," Wallen said.

The applicants were sent a two-minute clip of a Sounders game leading to a goal, which Wallen and Berens commented over. They decided early on that since Wallen already had background in play-by-play, he would assume that role and Berens would provide the color commentary.

In March, Wallen and Berens were one of the top three pairs selected and got to call five games this past spring. Wallen and Berens received the honors of calling the first game of the Sounders' season, which turned out to be one of their favorite moments.

"It was like watching 'The Office' for a full season and then interviewing Steve Carell."
-Drew Wallen
Sophomore Central student



BRANDEN GRIFFITH/SOUNDERS FC

CALLING THE GAME Wallen (left) and Berens (right) suit up.

During halftime, Wallen and Berens had the opportunity to interview Sounders FC forward Andy Craven. Craven began his career with the Sounders S2 squad and was called up to Sounders FC during their regular season. Craven was easily one of Wallen's favorite players to watch.

"It was like watching 'The Office' for a full season and then interviewing Steve Carell," Wallen said.

Wallen and Berens said they feel like they went into the contest with the same mindset the Sounders S2 players have going into their own games.

The S2 organization is all about the upcoming players and getting those younger players ready for the big leagues.

"Payton and I are kind of those upcoming guys where we have the same mindset as they do on the field, but in the broadcast

booth," Wallen said.

This was the first time Wallen had commentated for soccer and the first time Berens had any experience broadcasting. The chemistry between the two helped them grow and compete for the commentator positions.

Berens has played soccer his entire life, and being a big Sounders fan, he understands the ins and outs of the organization.

Wallen already had broadcasting experience, which not only helped his own confidence, but gave Berens an opportunity to learn something he was unfamiliar with. Ideally, their roles matched their characteristics.

"For me, I really liked watching the other groups. I learned from their mistakes, which helped me a lot," Berens said. "Mistakes happen, but for the most part Drew and I kept the mistakes to a minimum."

Berens said he likes to focus on the analytical aspect of the game for his color guy personality. He looks up to the Sounders FC color commentator Kasey Keller, who has more of a dry personality.

"My broadcast style was statistical and analytical, and I tried to keep it that way for all the games," Berens said.

Wallen said he looks up to ex-CBS commentator Gus Johnson, who is now the voice of the Milwaukee Bucks. One of Johnson's calls during a March Madness basketball game actually inspired Wallen to become a sports broadcaster.

"I remember watching that Gonzaga-UCLA game as a kid, and after Gus Johnson yelled 'heartbreak city!' I was hooked," Wallen said.

Both Wallen and Berens believe they have a similar style to that of Seattle Sounders commentators Kasey Keller and Ross Fletcher.

For example, Wallen tries to mimic Gus Johnson's on-air personality; he's outgoing, exciting and strong with his words. Berens is similar to ESPN commentator Kirk Herbstreit; he's concise, understanding and thoughtful.

The style goes against the traditional way of commentating, where the color guy is exciting and outgoing, and the play-by-play commentator is dry and concise.

Wallen and Berens, who are both undecided about their majors, are still uncertain where their broadcast careers will take them.

"I have always been interested in broadcasting, it seemed more like a dream, so I never really pursued it," Berens said.

Wallen said he loves being a commentator, but says that his first love is really teaching and coaching. He also plays defensive back for the football team. Many professional commentators and analysts have experience on the field as well.

Both agreed they will ride this to the end if the Sounders S2 job works out.

"I would love to do this every day for the rest of my life, it's the coolest job in the world," Berens said.

Before next season the Sounders organization is turning the voting over to the fans, who will vote for the pair of commentators they enjoyed listening to the most.

You can vote on the Seattle Sounders FC homepage under contests. You can also listen to Wallen and Berens on 88.1 The Burg's Sports Central broadcast every Monday from 4-6 p.m.

Relax, 12s

BY ZAC HERETH
Sports Editor

"Relax." That simple word came out of Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers' mouth after the Packers 0-2 start last season.

It's time for Seahawks fans to take the advice of last year's league MVP.

A 2-3 start to the season, low-lighted by blowing a 17-point lead in the fourth quarter at Cincinnati on Sunday, has the 12th Man reeling.

After Bobby Wagner's fumble return for a touchdown made it a 24-7 game, 12s rejoiced with just over 20 minutes to go in regulation, thinking they were on their way to take back over as the class of the NFC.

Then the unthinkable happened. The seemingly forever un-clutch Bengals came back and tied the game as time expired, eventually winning in overtime.

The discouraging collapse has inspired panic about the outlook of the season and the team's future.

It's time to relax. The Seahawks' three losses have come against quality opponents on the road, and Kam Chancellor missed two of them. Both the Packers and Bengals, traditionally good home teams, are undefeated, and the St. Louis Rams have been a thorn in the Seahawks' side for the past couple of seasons.

The Hawks can still get to the playoffs if they do what they do best—win at home.

If the Hawks take care of business at CenturyLink Field, their remaining schedule includes very winnable road games against San Francisco, Baltimore, Dallas and Minnesota.

In order for the team to get things back on track over the next few weeks, the biggest problem they need to address is cornerback Cary Williams.

The Bengals exploited the Hawks' biggest weakness on defense by lining up physical pass-catching tight end Tyler Eifert and star wide receiver AJ Green against him most of the game.

The good news is that the team's next three opponents rank near the bottom of the league in passing, or are missing key pieces of their pass attack. That gives the Hawks three games to figure out the second cornerback spot, before the team takes on division-leading Arizona.

This week's match-up against the undefeated Carolina Panthers will test the team's ability to stop the run and grind out a win against a tough defense, which plays right into this team's identity.

If the Hawks chalk up another loss this week, then we can talk about panicking.



GNAC Standings



Football

Humboldt State University	(3-0)
South Dakota University	(1-1)
Central Washington University	(1-1)
Western Oregon University	(1-1)
Asuza Pacific University	(1-2)
Dixie State University	(1-2)
Simon Fraser University	(0-1)

Volleyball

Western Washington University	(8-0)
University of Alaska Anchorage	(7-1)
Central Washington University	(6-2)
Northwest Nazarene	(6-2)
Simon Fraser University	(4-4)
Seattle Pacific University	(4-4)
Concordia University	(3-5)
Montana State Billings University	(2-6)
University of Alaska	(2-6)
Western Oregon University	(1-7)
Saint Martin University	(1-7)

Soccer

Western Washington University	(6-0)
Concordia University	(4-1-1)
Seattle Pacific University	(4-2-1)
Simon Fraser University	(4-2-1)
Montana State University Billings	(3-3-1)
Northwest Nazarene University	(2-4-1)
Central Washington University	(2-4)
Western Oregon University	(1-4-1)
Saint Martin University	(0-6)