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The Observer

By the students

For the students

Vol. 112 NO. 2 | Jan. 17 - Jan. 23, 2019



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Gaudino gives annual State of the University address on Jan. 15

Nick Jahnke
Senior News Reporter

The annual State of the University Address was a celebration of CWU's culture and its accomplishments in recent years. CWU President James L. Gaudino and Board of Trustees Chair Ron Erickson recounted some of the biggest changes the university has seen over the last year, the commendations CWU has received from external sources and spoke about future changes for the community.

The newly overhauled general education program was one of the larger points brought up by Gaudino and Erickson. Near the end of Fall 2019, the faculty senate voted to approve changes to the previous program and move on to the implementation stage. The new program includes updated requirements to the criteria for what courses may be considered general education, as well as changes to the way courses are organized.

Gaudino said that in his time as president, there have been two other attempts to overhaul the general education program, with limited success. He said that now, after a two-year period of research and study, the faculty and administration have finally been able to make progress. The new program is scheduled to be implemented by Fall 2019, which according to Gaudino, means they have their work cut out for them. Gaudino said that he and Provost Katherine Frank have pledged to provide any and all support the program may require to keep moving, including fi-



Courtesy of David Dick / Public Affairs Department

CWU President James L. Gaudino addresses the audience in McConnell Hall on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 15.

financial support.

Erickson said he believes that the university must evolve and adapt the way it teaches students to prepare them to live in a world that is growing ever more complex. He said that changing the curriculum is a vital step in the right direction. "In my view, education is the only armour that can protect society against the assault of cynicism, misinformation and bad actors with an agenda," Erickson said.

Erickson presented a list of commenda-

tions CWU has received from various outside sources to an audience of about 150 people. Erickson said that CWU was named a top 10 regional university in the west in US News and Report's national college ranking. When CWU was compared to universities of similar enrollment, it was placed at number one in the report.

Continued on Page 2

Cold Weather Shelter continues to help Ellensburg community

Afton Prater
Staff Reporter

The annual Cold Weather Shelter is up and running again in Ellensburg. From mid-November to mid-March, the shelter will be hosted at seven different churches in Ellensburg, opening at 7 p.m. and closing at 7 a.m. daily. With chilly winter nights upon us, the shelter provides the homeless with warm meals and a safe place to sleep.

FISH Food Bank Cold Weather Shelter Coordinator and CWU alumnus Benjamin Harbaugh said working with the shelter has made a positive impact on him and the community. He told a story about a woman who came into the shelter suffering from mental illness, which is a very common part of the homeless experience for many people. The shelter provided her with a warm place to stay, food and further connections to help in the valley.

"It was just really clear that if we weren't there that night, we don't know what would've happened to her, so those are the kind of experiences that make it all worth it," Harbaugh said.

The Cold Weather Shelter provides two meals per stay for guests, including a warm dinner and a microwaveable breakfast. Harbaugh also added that making the meals nutritious is part of their goal.

The shelter receives help from the Ellensburg community, along with HopeSource, WorkSource, InTrust and many other organizations that periodically come to the shelter to interact with the guests and help them take their next steps towards better lives, according to Harbaugh.

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Athletes ring in the New Year

Dez Rodriguez
Assistant Sports Editor

At the start of the 2016 season, the CWU women's basketball team was in search of a new manager, someone able to keep track of stats and willing to travel for road games. To their luck, traveling 2,705 miles away from Hilo, Hawaii were CWU senior guard Aliyah Pana and junior guard Alexis Pana.

"Originally I came to CWU just for school," Aliyah said. "My sister actually signed a scholarship here to play basketball so I thought I'd support her and focus on school."

The Pana sisters began their athletic career learning to dance hula, a Polynesian dance developed in the Hawaiian Islands. Pairing it with cheerleading and basketball at such a young age, they found themselves with little time for each activity. When their father became a youth basketball coach, they made the de-



Heather Stewart / The Observer

Senior guard Aliyah Pana moved to Ellensburg from Hilo, Hawaii in order to attend CWU.

cision to drop hula and cheer to focus on playing basketball for their father's team.

While Alexis Pana was highly recruited on the court, Aliyah sought after the manager position to keep a connection with both basketball and her sister. The pairing continued through the CWU's recent coaching change when new women's head coach Randi Richardson-Thornley took over for Jeff Harada in 2017. As the season concluded, Aliyah remembered how much she missed playing on the court.

"Last spring, I realized that it was my last year of eligibility," Aliyah said. "I didn't want to waste it so I talked to Randi and she gave me a chance."

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ARE YOU A CARTOONIST?

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Email:
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Walk-in:
Lind 115, M & T 5-6:30 p.m.

Editor: Jack Belcher

President Gaudino presents an overview of the year

Continued from Page 1

Erickson also listed commendations from Forbes Magazine and Money Magazine, which ranked CWU one of the top universities in the nation and in the state. Another place Erickson said CWU shines is in its online programs. For example, the online writing program is ranked fifth in the nation, according to best colleges website.

Another feat mentioned was CWU's achievement of the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity award, granted by Insight into Diversity Magazine. Erickson said this was the fourth time in five years CWU has earned the reward, and that it embodies CWU's

mission to provide for inclusivity and diversity in everything it does.

"We take pride in what we are," Erickson said. "A comprehensive university that places its highest priority on the achievement of each and every student who is admitted regardless of their educational, financial, or cultural backgrounds."

Gaudino also spoke about some of the things CWU has in the works right now, the first being the 10-year construction plan for the art, science, technology, engineering and math facilities that is nearing conclusion. Gaudino mentioned that the final facility to be built will be used for health science and he hopes construction will begin during summer 2019.

"With my fingers crossed on both hands, I believe that the state legislature will be able to provide the promised second half of funding needed to construct the new health science building where Hertz Hall now sits," Gaudino said.

According to Gaudino, a new strategic enrollment plan is going to be presented to the board of trustees for approval. He said the plan is the result of a year-long effort to entirely change the way CWU looks at enrollment.

Gaudino said that in the past, CWU has used the same strategy that nearly all universities use for enrollment. Enrollment is predicted by studying high school graduation rates, demographic trends and historical market shares.

Gaudino said that the goal of the new enrollment plan is to stop letting outside factors determine how CWU recruits prospective students and allow for CWU to determine what kind of student population it wants to have.

"The state of this university is better than it has ever been, we are an outstanding university on the cusp of greatness," Gaudino said.

Gaudino ended his speech with the sentiment that although CWU is proud of what has been accomplished, they must continue to strive for greatness. He left the audience with a commitment to raising the CWU's freshman to sophomore retention rate by at least 10 percent in the coming year.

Observation Deck: Taking time for yourself

Congrats, you made it through another week. While the previous statement may sound cliché or even sarcastic, I mean it in the most sincere way possible.

Last quarter I didn't make time to take care of myself. Monday through Friday I woke up at 6 a.m. and wouldn't return home until 11 p.m. I had just enough time to eat something small for dinner, take a 10 minute shower and head to bed around midnight. On top of the regular school week, I was finishing homework and projects on the weekends.

I was constantly on the go and forgot to eat way too often. There was no time to go to the gym. There was little time to see friends. My laundry and dishes would build up. I had no time to myself. I practically lived in Lind Hall and the library.

This of course led to a mid-quarter break down due to built up lack of sleep and energy.

This may sound familiar and very real to some of my fellow college students. If it does, I urge you

to start taking time for yourself.

When you are scheduling your classes, add a break solely to focus on your mental health and give yourself time to relax. No, this isn't a break for homework.

Don't let yourself forget about meals. If you find yourself forgetting to eat, set alarms. Make a list in your phone of possible quick and easy meals so that when the time comes, you've already got a meal idea ready to go. Pro tip: carry snacks in your backpack. In case you forget lunch or are stuck at school later than expected, you will be prepared with backup.

While these tips may sound silly or extreme, they are legitimate suggestions to help those of my peers who are too busy and end up forgetting basic human necessities.

I've never been a firm believer in New Year's Resolutions, but this year my resolution is to take one day a week to give myself a break from school and work and really focus on my mental and physical self. Meal plan, go to

the gym, take an overly long shower and even use a face mask or two.

I've decided that while school is important and a very high priority of mine, I cannot perform well if my mental health is not where it should be. I take pride in my education, extracurriculars and health.

I hope you do the same.

Anxiety is prevalent in my life and I understand the importance of stepping away from the busyness of everyday life.

Last Saturday was the first time I implemented my weekly break into my schedule. My stress and anxiety about school has already lessened immensely.

If you find yourself needing help with your mental health, the Student Medical and Counseling Center or the Wellness Center may have resources for you.

On another note, thanks for picking up this issue of The Observer. In this issue you can find information on the New Dean of Student Success, Gregg Heinselman, a review of the movie "Bird Box," along many other stories.

Take care,
Mariah Valles
Editor-in-Chief

Corrections

In the story titled, "Manweller announces resignation from Washington state legislation," published in issue 1 on page 3, it was incorrectly stated that former CWU professor Matt Manweller was pressured to step down from his position as Washington state representative after multiple allegations of sexual assault. Manweller was accused of sexual misconduct, not sexual assault.

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Editor: Jack Belcher

Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility



Heather Stewart/The Observer

Just a few miles outside Ellensburg, the wind farm lies up in the hills and provides energy for much of Kittitas County.

Nick Jahnke
Senior Reporter

If you were to drive about 25 minutes east of Ellensburg on Vantage Highway, you would begin to notice the pillars of wind turbines looming in the hills. On the north side of the highway, these turbines belong to the Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility, owned by Puget Sound Energy (PSE). According to Wild Horse Program Coordinator Andrea Crawford, the facility has been producing clean, renewable energy since 2006.

Crawford said that after expanding the program in 2009, the facility now boasts 149 individual wind turbines. Combined, they can power an average of 60,000 to 70,000 homes annually. Crawford explained that they use “homes” as the unit of measurement because it’s easier to picture, but in fact the facility powers large businesses as well as homes. The output of energy can also be quantified using megawatts as a unit. Wild Horse produces 273 megawatts a year on average, which makes it the second highest producer in Washington behind Windy Point Wind Farm in Klickitat County, which produces 400 megawatts.

Wild Horse also employs two solar panel arrays. The first, smaller array consists of 315 panels, which can produce a peak of 52 kilowatts of energy and provides all the necessary power to Wild Horse’s visitor center. The second array is larger, with 2,408 panels, capable of producing up to 500 kilowatts. According to Crawford, the larger array is used more for research and development since the energy it produces is not as cost effective as that of the wind turbines.

Crawford said that they do not expect any more expansion in terms of adding extra wind turbines. She said that they have shifted their focus to improving the technology, which includes finding ways to make the turbines light-

er, more efficient producers of energy.

“We’ve used the best, windiest ridges at this point,” Crawford said.

The thing that sets Wild Horse apart from other wind farms in the U.S. is the educational and recreational activities they host. According to Crawford, it is the only wind farm in the nation that offers educational tours of the facility as well as recreational activities like hiking, horseback riding, birdwatching and hunting. Tours of the facility are held twice a day, every day, between April and November. Recreational activities require an access permit which is available on the Wild Horse website.

According to Wild Horse Senior Wind Resource Advisor Jennifer Diaz, Wild Horse is home to all kinds of wildlife, ranging from eagles to rattlesnakes. She said that due to the sheer size of the 10,000 acre property, there are multiple wildlife habitats which are easily disturbed. These habitats require a heightened level of care, so Diaz regularly works with departments like Fish and Wildlife to ensure they are keeping the nature of Wild Horse safe.

“We are the largest private landowner in Kittitas County, and that’s huge, so we have a big responsibility for managing this land,” Diaz said.

According to Diaz, three Wild Horse employees are being selected to become trained drone pilots. They plan to use the drones to inspect the blades of the wind turbines, which would be safer and more efficient. They are also in the process of obtaining an eagle permit, which would allow them to safely remove eagles from the property if need be.

Wild Horse isn’t the only wind farm PSE owns in Washington. According to PSE’s website, they also operate a 11,000 acre farm on Hopkins Ridge, located about 300 miles southeast of Seattle and another on Lower Snake River, which is located about 12 miles west of Pomeroy, Garfield County.



Heather Stewart/The Observer

Visiting a wind turbine up close is sure to make anyone feel small. The turbines put in lots of work considering the consistent windy conditions of Ellensburg.

Editor: Jack Belcher

Faculty senate meeting overview

Matt Escamilla

Staff Reporter

Last week was the first monthly faculty senate meeting of the quarter. Here are the most important topics discussed during the meeting. These topics have the potential to be talked about all quarter and into the foreseeable future.

Student advising being reorganized

According to the CWU faculty senate, student advising is a top priority. Concerns about advising came up last quarter when the accreditation report came out. The current advising model is set up for students to have a different advisor for every program they're involved in. According to Faculty Senate Chair Amy Claridge, some students have five or six advisors.

The restructuring of advising will start by having town hall meetings that will take place this quarter. Different advising models will be presented during the process. There will be an ongoing advising committee made up of faculty and academic advisors tasked with simplifying the process for students.

"That's the goal, to make it simple," Claridge said.

Students will begin to see changes in the spring. The plan at this time, is to have advising running under a new model by next fall.

Official free speech policy to be discussed

Last year, Gonzaga University denied conservative Ben Shapiro the opportunity to speak at the university.

Gonzaga's decision made CWU evaluate their free speech policy. "CWU currently does not have a policy on free speech. This new policy details the rules around engaging in free speech and other expressive activities on campus. After the internal review is complete, the policy will be out for public review for at least 30 days," Claridge said.

An expressive activities policy (free speech) will be presented to the president's advisory committee, in February. After it's presented there will be 30 days for public feedback.

Students retention rate dropping

CWU lost around 100 students from last quarter going into this winter. According to Claridge, there are a number of factors that go into the retention drop. Students drop out because of financial, family and/or health issues. Students may transfer to another university because a degree isn't offered at CWU. CWU developed a retention task force last year to work on increasing the retention rates of the university. The task force will continue working together this year.

According to Claridge all departments are in the process of evaluating unnecessary barriers that get in the way of students' abilities to continue their education. Student account holds, financial aid, IRS verification are some of the barriers under evaluation by the task force.

According to CWU President Gaudino, the university keeps track of student retention rates; not only for revenue purposes, but also to ensure students are getting a four year degree even if that means the student transfers to another university to do so. The main concern is if a student leaves school and



Cassidy Simpson/The Observer

Dr. Amy Claridge of the Family and Consumer Sciences Department motivates the meeting as 2018-2019 Faculty Senate Chair.

doesn't return or transfer to another university. At that point, the likelihood of a student returning to a four year college to obtain a degree drops considerably according to president Gaudino

The Operating and Capital Budget Priorities for 2019-2021 revealed

The Health Sciences academic facility has the highest allotment, a total of \$35 million was requested to finish construction on the facility. CWU also hopes to improve its aviation program, potentially giving it \$5.3 million in a lump sum payment to purchase 10 new planes and four flight simulators. CWU is the only institution in the Pacific Northwest to offer a bachelors program in aviation according to the Operating Budget Report. CWU also hopes to expand its aviation programs, for which Aviation would receive \$9.9 million. In total, aviation would be looking at a total investment of \$15.2 million from the university.

In 2009, Aviation had 150 student majors; in 2018 the program had 250 majors. According to the Capital Budget the \$9.9 million degree expansion is needed.

"The project supports intense industry and student demand for aviation degrees. CWU requests funds to expand training facilities that are needed to grow the capacity of this academic program, which is expected to more than triple enrollment in the upcoming biennial," states the State Capital Budget Priorities report.

Update on general education

General education curriculum changes are almost complete, and starting spring quarter students currently enrolled in general education programs can switch over to the new program. Incoming freshmen and sophomores attending general education courses will be under the new guidelines starting fall quarter. The next faculty senate meeting will be on Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. in Barge 412.

New dean of student success

Payton Parke

Staff Reporter

After a seven month search, CWU has elected Gregg Heinselman as Dean of Student Success.

CWU Provost Katherine Frank was a part of the selection process. "We are really lucky, [Heinselman] is bringing a lot of experience with him to CWU," Frank said. "He has spent the majority of his career in student life."

Heinselman made the 22-hour drive to CWU from the upper midwest in Wisconsin.

Heinselman started at CWU on Jan. 14. He will be replacing William Schafer, who served as the interim Dean of Student Success during the university's search for a permanent one. According to Frank, the university is thankful to Schafer for taking the position while the university looked for someone to fill it permanently.

Heinselman brings more than 30 years of experience with all of those years being in student affairs. The university is excited to have his experience added to the staff.

Heinselman is a first-generation college student who has passion and drive. Heinselman has been in student success at the University of Duke as well as the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Heinselman began his career at Duke University serving as dean of student life, from there he went to Executive Director of University Centers and Campus Life at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Heinselman also was the Director of the Overman Student Center and Student Life at Pittsburg State University.

Heinselman resigned from being Assistant Chancellor for Student Affairs and Title IX Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls to join us wildcats at CWU.

"As a first generation college student, I benefited greatly from the many faculty mentors and advisors that took the

time and interest in support of my learning," Heinselman said in a CWU press release. Heinselman finds it deeply personal to help students/faculty and assist them with anything they might need.

The position of Dean of Student Success concerns the life of students from housing to compliance.

"He understands and recognizes that financial aid and expenses matter, he understands that our students has complex lives in many cases, that not only involves outside obligations but might in family connections or that they also have work commitments and busy lives, he understands the pressures that face students with complex lives," Frank said.

ASCWU President Edith Rojas was also on the selection committee, and said that she encouraged students to call him "Triple G" as students did at past universities because of the three "g's" in his first name. Heinselman is going to be a great fit for our Wildcat culture and really bring all his experience and expertise to CWU, Rojas said.



Photo courtesy of Student Success.

Editor: Cassandra Hays



Nicholas Tucker/The Observer

A herd of elk, led by the alpha male, travel up the side of the hill. The herd was made up of 20 to 30 elk, who followed the alpha after he called to the rest of the herd. The alpha male is followed closely by the alpha female.

Students interact with wildlife during Tieton River Elk Feeding

Nicholas Tucker
Staff Reporter

The Kittitas Valley is not only home to around 46,000 people, but also a diverse ecosystem of animals. CWU's Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) makes it one of its goals to bring students closer to the Kittitas Valley wildlife. On Wednesday, Jan. 9, one trip, planned and led by CWU students Kendall Kramer and Tonya Morrey, did just that when OPR brought a van full of students to spot one of our resident herds of elk.

One of these students was 19 year old Uriel Piezer who has also joined OPR for many of their skiing trips. "I chase adventure," Piezer said.

The L.T. Murray Wildlife Area lies about 15 miles west of Ellensburg and contains 54,070 acres of hills and rivers. It was originally purchased jointly by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) and the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (ICOR) in 1968 to provide a safe range for deer and elk to migrate through and feed, as well

as providing a habitat for game birds.

As the students stepped out of the van and started up a snowy hill towards the edge of the wildlife area, they could see moving dots along the ridge forming in lines. One shape raised its head showing terrific antlers, and cried out, a high-pitched wail in the otherwise quiet air. Between 20 and 30 elk all made their way over the ridge following the first. The sentry had cried out a warning to them that we were coming.

These elk weren't just there by coincidence, they would be in the same place every day at around the same time from morning until early afternoon. This is because the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has a station which feeds the herd bales of hay as well as specially formulated pellets packed with grains and proteins.

According to the WDFW, feeding these animals is not to help their food intake during the winter, the elk in the area have ample food supply, but instead to guide the herds away from the nearby private property which they would have to trample through to get that food. A

herd of adult elk could cause extensive property damage, as well as contract diseases from domestic animals.

However, significant risks need to be addressed regarding whether or not the wildlife should be fed by people, one of which being that often people want to feed deer and elk foods that are not able to handle things like corn and apples and artificial feed that domestic animals have been bred to digestively handle. In addition, enticing the herd to be at the same place every day makes them vulnerable to diseases, as well as makes them a big target for predators and poachers. Some have also brought up that the feeding stations may draw the animals to cross roads.

It is because of this that similar programs aren't run in the entire state, in addition to the fact that the WDFW doesn't have the resources to do so. The fish and wildlife departments of nearly every state in the US agree that feeding wildlife is generally a dangerous act, both to the animals themselves and to the ecosystem in general. Because of this there are few state-run wildlife

feeding programs. Here in Ellensburg though, circumstances present the human locals of Kittitas Valley with the opportunity to see stunning views of the animals we share this area with.

Upcoming OPR Trips

Jan 20: Full Moon Ski and Snowshoeing

Jan 26: Mission Ridge Ski Shuttle

Jan 27: Hex Mountain Snowshoe

Contact OPR for more information



Nicholas Tucker/The Observer

CWU students Tonya Morrey, Grace Oatfield, Serena Herman, Uriel Piezer and Stephan Johnston pose in front of a herd of elk. The students got the opportunity to feed and interact with the wild elk last Wednesday.

Editor: Cassandra Hays

Brewfest attracts breweries from around the state

Skyler Jensen-Hampton

Staff Reporter

As we enter the new year and the weather gets colder, the city of Ellensburg seems to slow down. During the winter, it may not seem like there are a lot of exciting things happening. For the last 15 years, the city of Ellensburg and the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce has put on the Winterhop Brewfest in downtown Ellensburg. The event kicks off on Saturday, Jan. 19, at noon. Jarred Fudacz, director of events at the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, has been in charge of Winterhop Brewfest for the last five years.

"We have no problem selling tickets," Fudacz said. "We sell 1,700 tickets and sell out every year."

The ticket price is \$40, for which you receive a wristband, a tasting glass and a five scrip.

"The event is currently sold out, as this is one of the most popular events of the entire year for the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce," Fudacz said.

The money received from Winterhop goes toward the programs that the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce offers. The money will go to tourism, member services and economic development.

The Brewfest brings in people from all over Washington. The average age range for attendance is about 45 to 65 years, so not so surprisingly you will not



Cassidy Simpson/The Observer

Whipsaw Brewery provides a variety of beers including their popular Stump Blower IPA and Hoot Owl Stout.

see many CWU students coming out.

The Winterhop Brewfest brings in many different breweries from all over the state of Washington.

"The beers are all different and provide a good mix for everyone's different tastes. Cider has become a popular choice and some breweries carry gluten free beer," Fudacz said.

You may recognize some fa-

miliar names like Iron Horse and Whipsaw that are attending Winterhop Brewfest. Both of these breweries are based here in Ellensburg.

Whipsaw is owned by Debbie Tierney.

"It is an absolute blast. We have so much fun, beer is what brings people together," Tierney said, as she described her experience with the last three years at Winterhop.

Whipsaw will serve their two flagship beers, "Buzz on Blackberry" and "Stumpblower IPA," at the festival.

The brewery has been to many other brewing events in the area, including Mountain Ale Fest, Eastern Washington brewfest and

“

We are a logger family. The names of our beers, the feel inside our place, and the name of our brewery comes down to who we are.

-Debbie Tierney, owner of Whipsaw Brewery”

several others on the West Side.

"This is how we get our name out," Tierney said.

Many vendors help make Winterhop happen. Matt Armstrong is one of three co-owners of Dark Moon Craft Beer in downtown Ellensburg.

"It is nice being a venue holder because it gives us publicity and still get to help with an amazing event," Armstrong said. "It's hard not to have fun at a beer event."

Other vendors participating in the event include Royal Sports Bar, The Recycle Shop, and Troutwater Fly Shop.



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019 • 4:30 - 7 P.M.

HOLMES DINING ROOM

General Public \$25.00 + tax

Students \$18.00 + tax (meal plan discounts apply)

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Fresh Cracked Crab

Clam Chowder

Butterfly Shrimp

Smoked Salmon
Caesar Salad

Cajun Linguin

Rosemary Potatoes

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CWU's Famous
Cheddar Biscuits

Ice Cream Sundae Bar

SPECIAL EVENT GLASS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST



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The Observer

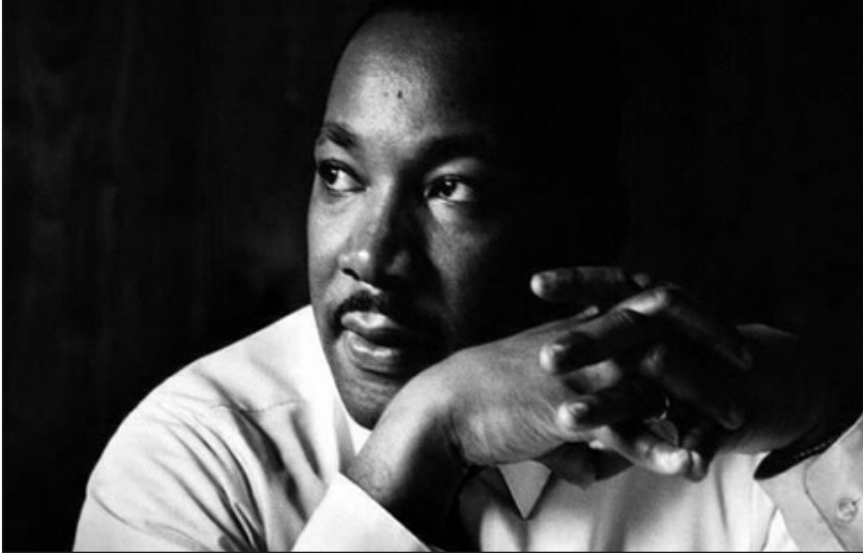
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Editor: Cassandra Hays

MLK's legacy reigns on within Ellensburg community



Flickr

The Make a Difference Program focuses on Dr. King Jr.'s messages of equality and peace.

Scott Wilson
Staff Reporter

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s actions have impacted all of us since his passing in 1968. The Ellensburg community will not let his work be forgotten, and groups at CWU are doing what it takes to pass on his greatness to upcoming generations.

Andre Dickerson, program director of Center of Leadership and Community Engagement (CLCE), explained the intent of the event.

"We want to help the young kids grow in appreciation for diversity and recognize we are different

in many ways, but those differences should not create a division."

CLCE and the Diversity Equity Center (DEC) will be running the "Make A Difference" program where the two programs bring in students from second to fifth grade from Mount Stewart Elementary and teach them about the importance of diversity and inclusion with a focus on Dr. King. The kids will be engaged in activities like plays, group discussions, writing, crafts and games along with performances by a band and choir. There will also be a campus wide peace march open to students and the community.

Sydney Riel, student leader for the program, explains that the goal of the

event is for students to gain knowledge on what King Jr.'s life was about and to explore topics like stereotypes, racism, and current world issues in a fun and interactive way.

Specifically, Riel wants the kids to understand that King devoted his life to spreading peace across the world, and that they can do little things in their everyday lives to promote the peace he fought so hard for.

Nate McMillion, program planner from DEC, explains that everything King stood for still influences current generations.

McMillion says that it is important for the kids to learn how King's message pertains to them. Instilling why he is important and how he still affects them today will show them what he fought for.

The event has been going on for about 10 years now and has received positive feedback every year. Teachers and parents who participat-

"Over time, you hope that the seed being planted will grow in the hearts and minds of those young people as they get older,"

-Andre Dickerson, CLCE
program director

MLK Vigil and Peace March

Who: CWU students, faculty, and the general public

What: a peace vigil and march around campus to celebrate MLK, followed by a presentation and musical performance

When: January 17 at 5 p.m.

Where: SURC Pit

Cost: Free

ed have done surveys and let program directors know how great the event was and how big of an impact it has had on the students and the school.

Dickerson wants the kids to walk away knowing that one person can make a difference by promoting social change through diversity and inclusion.

The event takes place on Jan. 16 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom. The second and third graders will be there on Wednesday, and the fourth and fifth graders will be there on Thursday.

Civil rights activist Shaun King to speak at CWU

Cassandra Hays
Scene Editor

Civil rights activist and journalist Shaun King will be speaking at CWU on Feb. 25, with tickets available to students now.

King is best known for his advocacy within the Black Lives Matter Movement and for spreading messages of social equality. He has worked as a pastor, and established a church in Atlanta called Courageous Church in 2008. He is a columnist for the Intercept, writer-in-residence for Harvard Law School's Fair Punishment Project and a former senior justice writer for the New York Daily News. King also contributes to the Tom Joyner Morning Show and The Appeal podcast.

King has also recently revived The North Star, originally an antislavery newspaper founded by Frederick Douglass. King plans to bring the newspaper into the modern age by discussing current civil rights issues. The newspaper will be published online.

King has raised over \$20 million for grassroots causes and has organized people for justice reform across the country. King is a co-founder of the Real Justice PAC, a political action committee devoted to justice reform through the election of "reform-minded prosecutors at the county and municipal level who are committed to using the powers of their office to fight structural racism and defend our communities from abuse by state power," according to their website.

King has launched numerous internet campaigns, including aHomeinHaiti.org which raised \$1.5 million to send tents to Haiti following the earthquake

in 2010. He also displayed activism against police brutality, and denounced discrimination against people of color.

King is also known for his contributions in identifying and arresting white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, after they had attacked multiple people of color. According to King's website, his efforts "single-handedly led to more arrests of Neo-Nazis there than that of the FBI or State Police."

King speaks at universities, prisons and civic groups around the country to promote social justice. He is recognized for his use of social media to advocate for social change and to further the Black Lives Matter Movement. King received the Humanitarian Hero honor at the 2018 BET awards for exhibiting bravery and strength through his advocacy throughout the year.

King will speak on Feb. 25 at 6:30

Shaun King

Who: Shaun King

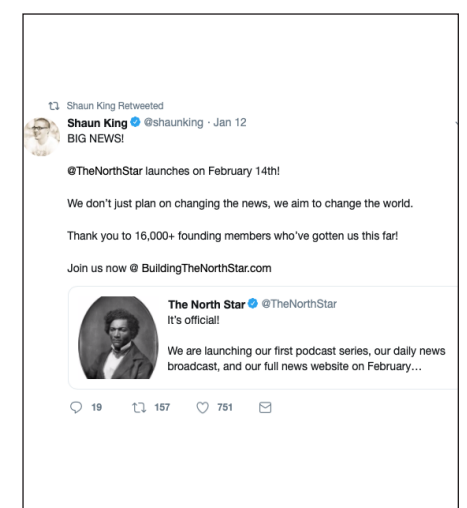
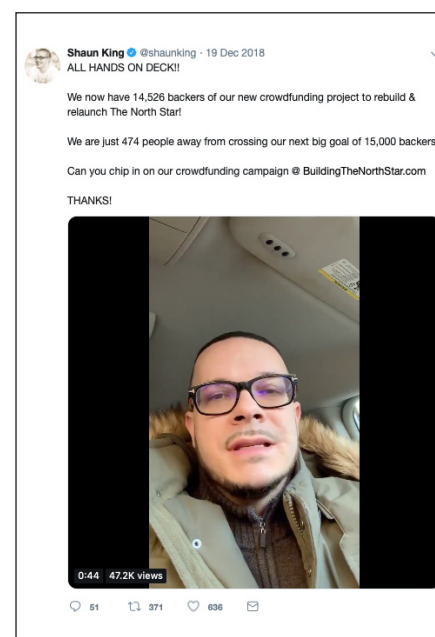
What: Speaking on topics such as racism, BLM movement and use of social media to create change

When: February 25

Where: SURC Ballroom

Cost: Free to students, \$10 with food donation and \$15 without to general public

p.m. in the SURC Ballroom. He will be sharing how people can generate change by using their voice on social media platforms. Free tickets are currently available to CWU students online or at the Wildcat Shop, while the general public may purchase tickets starting Jan. 25. General admission tickets will be \$10 with a non-perishable food donation, which will be accepted at the door before the event and will be donated to the P.U.S.H. Food Bank. Tickets will be \$15 with no donation.



Shaun King is known for his activism across social media platforms such as Twitter. Tweets on this page were screenshots from King's verified Twitter account on Tuesday, Jan. 15.



Cold Weather Shelter Helps Homeless And Seeks Volunteers

Story by Afton Prater | Photos by Heather Stewart | Design by Ryan Edwards

Continued from Page 1

The Center for Leadership and Community Engagement (CLCE) at CWU encourages students to volunteer to make food for the guests at the shelter from 2 to 4 p.m. every Tuesday. Nola Longacre, event coordinator with CLCE, explained that after meeting in the SURC, volunteers go down to The FourSquare Church to help prepare soups and sandwiches that guests enjoy later that night. In order to be a volunteer, one must have a food handler's permit and go through training.

Longacre explained that after being a part of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), she wanted to continue helping the homeless and started the CLCE volunteer program at the Cold Weather Shelter to bring extra support to the cause.

Tiffany Metzger, who is formerly homeless and currently volunteers with the shelter, talked about how she enjoys giving back to the community and tries to make each night volunteering as normal as possible.

"Almost everybody is so close to needing this Cold Weather Shelter that they just don't even know it. There is a thin line between a regular day and being homeless. Nobody knows when they're going to cross that line because homelessness doesn't happen expectedly. It's always unexpected and that's why I want to make it as normal as possible," Metzger said.

The Cold Weather Shelter and CLCE encourage people to volunteer and to have a good time while making a positive difference in the community.



If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering with the shelter

Please contact the Cold Weather Shelter at 509-312-5602 or at CWS@kvfish.org. For volunteering with the CLCE please contact (509) 963-1850 or at CLCE@cwu.edu.



Guest Joseph waits in line for the showers that First Lutheran Church provides on Thursday night.



Volunteer Jim bakes a tuna casserole and garlic bread for guests. Food is donated by FISH food bank.



Volunteer Brian greets guests at the entryway weekly to hand out towels, toiletries, and socks.



Volunteer Thor makes sure all sleeping bags and mats are suitable for incoming guests.



Volunteer Thor overviewing a new sign up, Fred, as an addition to the Cold Weather Shelter team.



Volunteer Jim chats with weeknight head, Ben Harbaugh, about the meal FISH food bank delivered.



Unnamed volunteer listens intently and empathetically to a guest who just arrived from outside.

Editor: Hanson Lee | Assistant Sports Editor: Dez Rodriguez

CWU athletes aim to take 2019 head on

Continued from Page 1

Now in 2019, the team is off to a 10-3 record, their best start since the 2015 season when they started 10-4, but cooled off down the stretch. Now sharing the court with her sister once again, Aliyah believes the early season magic will continue.

"As a team, we get along with each other very well, a lot of the time you can see that on the court," Aliyah said. "We share the ball and like to get everyone involved. We just love playing together."

The team is riding a four game win streak following the new year. Aliyah Pana hopes her new year's resolution will help her career on and off the court.

"I'm the kind of person that wants everything scheduled out all the time," Aliyah said. "I just want to be more open about going with the flow and living in the moment."

Reuben Ludick Senior Center. Durban, South Africa



Hanson Lee / The Observer

Reuben Ludick - CWU men's rugby center.

Born and raised in Durban, South Africa, CWU senior center Reuben Ludick always knew he wanted to play rugby growing up. The rugby culture is taught at a young age in South Africa and is carried on through the early stages of schooling. Ludick was first introduced to the sport he loves at just five years old.

"It's kind of like here (USA), when you grow up you want to be a football or basketball star," Ludick said. "That's the culture in South Africa. From day one when I touched a rugby ball, that was what was in my mind."

Ludick is only one of four seniors returning to the CWU men's rugby team this season. Going through three previous seasons with CWU, Ludick loves the family environment every time he gets together with the team. Completing tasks collectively as opposed to doing them individually is what he enjoys most about the sport of rugby.

"I think it's awesome when you can come together as a team and be successful and work together to get the best results," Ludick said. "I definitely enjoy the brotherhood and being victorious as a team. It's always as a team."

The men's rugby team took a break in December before facing off against Saint Mary's and UC Davis, coming away with both a win and a loss. Ludick admits that the team looked slow returning to the field, but the problems that showed are easily fixable. The senior center trusts that the young quad can make the corrections and have another successful season moving forward.

Match stats:

vs UC Davis 72-14

vs SMCC 0-50

Next up: @ Cal Poly

Later on: vs WSU

"We're all working hard to get our set pieces down and looking to make an improvement because without the set pieces, you cannot play any rugby," Ludick said. "I think we're getting there."

Normally not used to setting new year's resolutions, Ludick decided to make one this year realizing his college career is coming to a close. With only two more quarters to go, he wants to focus on his performance not only on the field, but off of it as well.

"My goal for the last bit of this school year is to have fun and just enjoy every single moment," Ludick said. "I want to keep track of my academics and be sure its top notch as well as on the rugby field."

Gunner Vallatini Freshman Sprints. Lihue, Hawaii. Kauai High School.

CWU track and field sprinter Gunner Vallatini always knew he had the talent to run. Growing up in Lihue Hawaii, his ability was on display at Kauai High School in Hawaii while he played baseball, soccer and cross country. It wasn't until his senior year of high school when he decided to try his talent on the track.

"I've been playing baseball since I was six or seven years old," Vallatini said. "But something about track always caught my eye."

Like many high schools, baseball and track took place during the same season, so making the switch from baseball to track was too difficult for



Hanson Lee / The Observer

Gunner Vallatini - CWU Track & Field sprinter.

Vallatini to make. But in Hawaii, the limited participants allowed for him to take part in both sports at the same time. The unique ruling allowed him to compete against more of his friends in each sport, what he recalls being his best memory of his high school career.

"Sports in Hawaii, it's very different than the competitive sports here," Vallatini said. "There's very limited competition, so coming here was really an eye opening experience for me."

“

The main thing for me was proving to my coaches that I'm willing to put in the work and effort to be able to compete at my highest level

”

Gunner Vallatini, sprints

Vallatini decided that walking on at CWU would be his best chance at making a collegiate roster. He went through workouts with the team and was able to see what the training process was like at the next level. An aspect of his athletic experience that he said pushed himself to be better after he was exposed to more competition.

"The main thing for me was proving to my coaches that I'm willing to put in the work and effort to be able to compete at my highest level," Vallatini said. "I just wanted to prove to myself and my coaches that I could dedicate myself to this sport and show my commitment."

The CWU track and field team is preparing for their upcoming meet at the WSU indoor collegiate on Jan. 18-19. Vallatini says his new year's resolution stays consistent with how he lives life everyday.

"Just bring out my best self each and every day," Vallatini said. "Keep on bettering myself and spreading the love around to people. Just enjoying my time here at CWU and living in the moment."

New Year's Resolutions

"I'm the kind of person that wants everything scheduled out all the time. I just want to be more open about going with the flow and living in the moment."

-Aliyah Pana

"My goal for the last bit of this school year is to have fun and just enjoy every single moment. I want to keep track of my academics and be sure its top notch as well as on the rugby field."

-Reuben Ludick

"Just bring out my best self each and every day. Keep on bettering myself and spreading the love around to people. Just enjoying my time here at CWU and living in the moment."

-Gunner Vallatini

Top 5 NYR:

1. Diet
2. Exercise
3. Lose weight
4. Save more
5. Learn a new skill or hobby

Editor: Hanson Lee

OPR bundles up for Mission Ridge ski trip

By Bryce Weedman

Sports Reporter

It's winter in the Northwest, and what better way to enjoy the cold weather than a trip to the mountain. On Jan. 26, OPR (Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals) will be taking a group of CWU students up to Mission Ridge, which is around an hour and 45-minute drive from campus. OPR has been doing this trip annually for years now, not only to Mission Ridge, but to other mountains like the Summit at Snoqualmie.

“

We look forward to this year's trip to Mission Ridge and to get to know some new students.

”

Tonya Morrey, trip leader

“It is a great chance to get up to the mountain to get some turns in, and for a good price,” said trip leader Ryan Moran.

The group going to Mission Ridge plans on meeting at OPR around 7 a.m. and getting back around 7 p.m. which makes for a solid eight to nine hours of shredding. OPR encourages students

of all skill sets, when it comes to snowboarding and skiing, to join for the trip. In past shuttle trips to the mountains, OPR has seen anywhere from 20 to 30 students in attendance. OPR will be taking the school's vans which include Bluetooth, giving students a chance to play some good tunes all the way to the mountain and back.

“I think it is a great way for students to meet each other, and it's great because they all have skiing and snowboarding in common,” said trip leader Tonya Morrey. “I myself met friends through this trip when I first went on it.”

Even if you have never shredded the slopes a day in your life, there is a chance to get lessons up on the mountain. OPR assistant trip leader Grace Burke is certified as a ski instructor, so get the chance to pick her brain and get acclimated with skiing or snowboarding. If you're interested in backcountry skiing, OPR has rentals that you can get for a decent price. You can also buy passes for the mountain at OPR which include the opportunity to skip the line.

“We unfortunately don't offer the chance for a free day pass to Mission anymore,” Morrey said.

In the past, the free day pass was a huge selling point for the trip to Mission Ridge, but it looks to still be a popular trip this year nonetheless.

“We look forward to this year's trip to Mission Ridge and to get to know some new students,” Morrey said.



Heather Stewart / The Observer

Skis and snowboards can be seen gathered in the OPR along with additional gear and equipment needed for trips like the one to Mission Ridge. This trip can be seen as a great way for students to bring in the new year.

Ski & snowboard bus welcomes students



Heather Stewart / The Observer

OPR ski & snowboard buses currently depart every Tuesday and are a great way for students to get some work in on the slopes. Whether you're just beginning or ready to give lessons, the OPR wants to provide this experience to anybody who is interested.

By Tianbai Dun

Sports Reporter

Ellensburg is gearing up for another cold winter season, and that means interesting and exciting activities for CWU students and the Ellensburg community. Skiing is one of the activities that students can have fun pursuing in the coming months. Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) is a well-known place on CWU's campus where anybody can rent winter sports equipment.

OPR staff member Tonya Morrey said that for the time being, ski buses depart every Tuesday from the OPR office at 3:15 p.m. and return to campus around 9:30 p.m. the same day. Morrey

added that the buses cost \$10 for CWU students and \$12 for non-students.

“Join the OPR crew on these Tuesdays for a bus ride up to Snoqualmie Pass and have some fun skiing at night,” Morrey said.

Morrey also said that sledding and snow tubing are offered as well and are great for those who may not be into skiing and snowboarding.

OPR encourages participants to develop through their outdoor experience. Whether it's building a solid community of friends through rafting or enhancing your academic research through adventure, OPR will challenge you to become a stronger person, and the ski and snowboard bus is just one example.

Athletics Review

MBB

vs. WWU
65-73 (8-6)

Men's basketball fell to rival WWU, 65-73, at home on Saturday, Jan. 12. Next, the team will hit the road to face the University of Alaska Anchorage this Thursday, Jan. 17 followed by Alaska Fairbanks on Saturday, Jan. 19.

WBB

vs. NNU
69-89 (10-4)

This past Tuesday, women's basketball played Northwest Nazarene University, falling 69-89. Next, the women will face Montana State University Billings on Thursday, Jan. 17 followed by Simon Fraser University on Thursday, Jan. 24

Men's Rugby

@ SMCC
0-50 (1-1)

Most recently, men's rugby fell to Saint Mary's College of California, 0-50. Next, the team will hit the road to square off against Cal Poly State University on Saturday, Jan. 19.

Save the dates!

- Tuesday, Jan. 22
- Tuesday, Jan. 29

(All trips are scheduled to

depart @ 3:15 pm and return

by 9:30 pm)

Editor: Hanson Lee

Wildcats gear up for first meeting with the Clan

By Micah Chen
Sports Reporter

The CWU women's basketball team is hoping they can take care of business on the road this week against conference rival Simon Fraser.

Anytime you play a conference game, there are playoff implications on the line. Currently, CWU holds a slim two game lead over Simon Fraser in the GNAC standings.

Head women's basketball coach Randi Richardson-Thornley believes that Simon Fraser will be one of their toughest opponents yet.

"They have a lot of returning kids," Richardson-Thornley said. "They're a team that has notoriously been successful in the GNAC."

If CWU is going to win this game, they're going to need key contributors to continue stepping up.

5-foot-11 sophomore forward Kassidy Malcolm and 5-foot-9 junior guard Alexis Pana have been breakout players for the Wildcats this year.

Right now Malcolm is second in the GNAC in rebounding with an average of 9.1 rebounds per game, and a total of 118 over the season.

Pana is averaging 14.9 points per game which is the best record on the team and fourth overall in the conference. That's not to say that Simon Fraser doesn't boast their own high talent level.

The Clan's starting lineup is highlighted by 5-foot-11 senior guard Sophie Swant. The MVP candidate is averaging a quality 13.8 points per game



Shawna Hettick / The Observer

Kassidy Malcolm (SO) passes the ball to teammates during the game on Saturday, Jan. 12. The Wildcats will head for the border next Thursday, Jan. 24 to take on GNAC opponent Simon Fraser University.

and 5.6 rebounds per game.

CWU forward Kaelie Flores knows the importance of taking care of the fundamentals against a team of Simon Fraser's caliber.

"We just need to do what we do," Flores said. "Expand our offense and make stops on defense."

Outside of executing the game

plan, Flores believes that getting everyone involved will maximize their potential.

At the mid-way point of the season, CWU currently sits at 10-3. It's not a bad record by any stretch, but senior captain Sadie Mensing knows that improvements still need to be made.

"I don't want to lose at all," Mensing

said. "We're doing good and overall I'm happy with how we're playing together."

If there was one trait that made Mensing believe they could be successful this season, it was the chemistry that her group plays with.

That team chemistry has led to high point totals this season. Right now, the team is averaging 77.1 points per game which is good for second in the conference behind Northwest Nazarene University.

Richardson-Thornley credits the tempo her team plays at as a reason for the team's early offensive success. Right now there are five total players averaging at least nine points per game.

That high power offense could be tempered a little against a Simon Fraser team that's ranked top seven overall in the GNAC in total defense.

This group has been vocal about their belief in taking it one game at a time, but the ultimate goal is to hoist the GNAC trophy at the end of the season.

According to Mensing, the pieces are there to make that happen.

"If you stop one person we're just going to hit the next person that's open," Mensing said. "It's really hard for teams to guard."

Combine that with CWU's high pressure defense, and Mensing is confident in their chances to win a conference title.

Winning the GNAC is the long term goal, but for now, Mensing's focus is 100 percent on preparing for the Clan.

This rivalry game between CWU and SFU takes place this Thursday in Surrey, British Columbia with tip-off scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

Opinion: Mariners vs. Martin - too early to tell

By Austin Lane
For the Observer

The Seattle Mariners hired Doctor Lorena Martin as MLB's first ever Director of High Performance in November 2017 for the 2018 season. After the season was over, Martin filed a lawsuit and accused the organization's team owners John Stanton and Buck Ferguson and team CEO Kevin Mather of discriminatory treatment. Martin believed she had been fired for being Latina and a woman. Martin also told The News Tribune that Mariners General Manager (GM) Jerry DiPoto had called her a "cocky Latina" during the season. On top of that, Martin said that Director of Player Development Andy McKay called Dominican players "just plain stupid" and that Mariners Head Coach Scott Servais wouldn't allow her into team meetings in spring training. Servais said that you don't see Latino catchers or managers because "they aren't bright enough. They are dumb," according to Martin.

All members of the Seattle Mariners organization that are involved in the lawsuit have refuted the statements made by Martin. Servais told the media,

"I think people who know me and know Scott Servais and how I'm wired understand what's important to me and that I try to understand where players come from and help them get over the hump and become productive major league players and be good citizens and good people."

The Seattle Mariners main argument is that Martin was fired because she "created a hostile work environ-

ment." The Mariners allege that Martin threatened to fire people if they spoke about medical issues with players with GM DiPoto, asked trainers for prescriptions for players when they had no prescription, ignored doctor's orders when treating injured players, and told MLB staff she was a medical doctor even though team trainers were "concerned with her engaging in medical practices without a license."

The last update on the story was the team's accusations against Martin on December 29, 2018. Now, the investigation by Major League Baseball will enter phase one.

A similar lawsuit was filed in 2017 when Atlanta Hawks security manager Samuel Hayes was fired by the organization. After the firing, Hayes filed a lawsuit against the team for firing him based on his race. The Hawks denied this, saying he was fired "based on poor performance." As of Jan. 14, 2019, the only documents I could find online about the lawsuit was an affidavit and subpoena (for the Atlanta Hawks) posted on Jan. 4, and a filing declaration on Jan. 10.

It is a tough time in America to know who is telling the truth before an investigation's findings is released, but more times than not, I believe the person who was fired is just angry and looking to get back at their employer. Personally, I feel it's hard to trust what I think is true and what is false. Both parties could be lying and both could very well be telling the truth. The ongoing MLB investigation should answer many people's, myself included, questions on the allegations.



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

For example, my question is why did Martin only accuse the team after she was fired? On the other hand though, I question the Mariners staff in not firing her sooner if she did indeed begin to show signs of toxicity, even as soon as spring training, weeks

before the regular season even began. To me, Martin's accusations sound a little more unbelievable than the Mariners' accusations. Scott Servais has had to play with and coach many Dominican players, I'm not so sure he thinks they are all dumb.



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Editor: Alexa Murdock

Interactive films are the future of entertainment

“Black Mirror: Bandersnatch” may be ushering in a new era of media, but it is also raising consumer privacy concerns

Alexa Murdock

Managing Editor



Disclaimer: This review contains minor spoilers of “Black Mirror’s” interactive episode “Bandersnatch.”

The most recent installment of Netflix’s “Black Mirror” is drawing attention not only for the content of the episode, but also for its unique execution and nonlinear storyline. While the series is known for exploring sci-fi technology through macabre plotlines, the themes and moral issues explored in “Bandersnatch” are not as far off into the future as we think. Interactive media is more than just a gimmick, and the choice to opt out of it might not be ours to make.

Interactivity in media

“Bandersnatch” is an interactive film. Similar to “Choose Your Own Adventure” books (the publisher of which is actually suing Netflix over trademark infringement) or early computer adventure games, the viewer is presented with simple choices throughout the show. Media in this format gives the viewer a personalized experience, as different choices lead to different subplots or entire endings of a story.

Interactive films are not a new phenomenon. Netflix alone has released a handful of interactive episodes since 2017, and the idea of interactive movies was popularized by the video game/film hybrid “Dragon’s Lair” in 1983. Until now, the most common audiences of this format have been children and niche audiences.

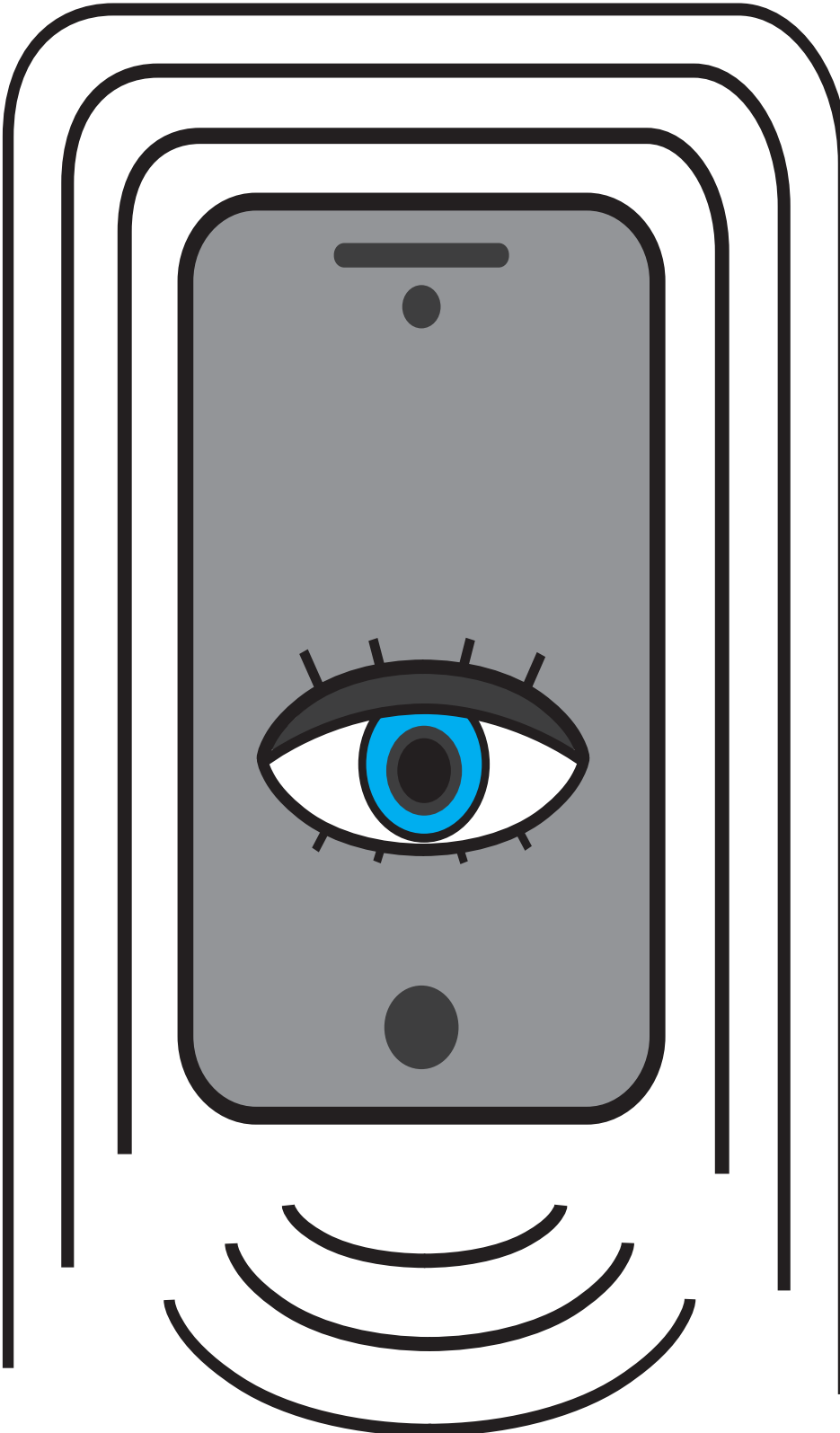
Unlike its predecessors, “Bandersnatch” is the first truly modern iteration of an interactive film for a widespread adult audience. The options feel natural to the storyline and the scene transitions are seamless. A timer counts down and automatically selects a default if the viewer fails to make a decision in time. Characters continue talking while the timer counts down, emulating real life pressures and immersing you further into the episode. No awkward pauses, repeated dialogue, or dead air surround the choices.

“Bandersnatch” also saves prior decisions, regardless of whether they are the “wrong” option. If you make a choice that forces you back to an earlier part of the episode or makes you “re-do” a scene, characters hint at a feeling of déjà vu. This self-awareness gives you a sense of full control over the film because no possibility is truly wrong or right.

This concept of interactivity amplifies the effects of the viewer’s choices rather than making them a gimmick. Outcomes of choices are often unpredictable and there are times where the plot feels like it is leading you to a decision but doesn’t actually give you one. “Bandersnatch” pushes the limits and expectations of the interactive film genre.

Free will in predetermined choice

“Bandersnatch” has a myriad of possible endings. In some circumstances, when the viewer reaches an ending, they are given the option to either view the



credits or continue on with the story by trying a different possibility from one they previously picked.

Still, all of the endings share similar themes. In true “Black Mirror” fashion, the protagonist grapples with moral and existential questions throughout the story. The endings either sum up the story or leave you with an unsettled feeling—depending on which ending you get and how you interpret it.

The theme of choice is what makes “Bandersnatch” entertaining. Choices range from seemingly trivial things such as picking which brand of cereal the protagonist eats to much darker situations such as choosing which characters live or die, and each one entirely up to the viewer.

If you pick a certain path, the protagonist begins to wonder whether he has free will or if someone is making decisions for him. You have free reign over the protagonist, can choose to solidify this thought and drive him to insanity.

This is where the moral dilemmas in

“Bandersnatch” become real. Surely anyone would go insane if they knew their actions were not their own. Regardless of your religion or spiritual belief, if you knew that some otherworldly being was forcing you to read this newspaper rather than doing it of your own free will, you would feel violated, confused and helpless.

We enjoy making extreme decisions when they do not affect us. For example, I had no problem driving the protagonist to a murderous rage simply because I wanted to see how my choice would play out in the story. I’m sure many other viewers would pick the same option.

Yet, regardless of the decisions that led us to whichever ending, all of the scenes are predetermined. The writers and producers carefully created each choice and each scene for the viewer. No matter which pathway you take or which ending you get, the entire episode is predetermined. As the viewer, you have no true free will throughout the episode.

“Bandersnatch” explores the theme of free will through its plotline, yet also

challenges this concept through predetermined choices and scenes given to the viewer.

Interactivity in the future

The sheer novelty of interactive media makes it fun to use, but in the future, films like “Bandersnatch” could be used in ways that benefit both the viewers, producers, and streaming services.

The first choices “Bandersnatch” presents the viewer are to pick which breakfast cereal the protagonist eats and which soundtrack he listens to on the bus (which is then played in that scene). These details are trivial in the grand scheme of the plot and mainly serve as aesthetics.

In the future, the implementation of allowing the viewer to choose their preferred details in a film could be used to widen the films’ intended audience and make viewers happier. If Netflix knows that I love fruity cereal and jazz, incorporating those aspects into the show I am watching might subconsciously make me enjoy the show more.

Netflix could also use data about viewers to alter the genres of the shows. For example, if I continuously choose to kill characters in interactive films, Netflix might use this data to recommend me horror films. This could be taken even further to alter scenes in the shows I choose to watch. If I were watching an action film, scenes involving romance might be shortened and scenes involving violence or action might be lengthened in an attempt to appeal to my taste.

It’s not far-fetched to think of possibilities like this in the near future. Netflix has already implemented complex algorithms into their recommendations and curates show title cards to appeal to individual users. Interactive films are just another way for streaming services to gather data about their customers.

When interactivity is no longer a choice

The applications of the technology of interactive film have the potential to change media in ways that run much deeper than simply choosing what cereal a protagonist eats for breakfast.

It’s no secret media companies track consumers in possibly unethical ways to get our money. Facebook is notorious for tapping into smartphone microphones without our knowledge to show us advertisements curated to our recent conversations. Google constantly tracks the location of Android phones and shows advertisements or recommendations based on where we go. While these are occasionally helpful, many people find this sort of tracking unsettling, especially when they didn’t explicitly consent to it.

User data of interactive film choices could be sold to advertisers or used against us. In the future, it’s possible advertisements might make their way into TV shows similar to how they end up in our Facebook feed. Streaming companies could use this data to sell us things subliminally in our favorite TV shows. Instead of being able to choose to watch a Froot Loops advertisement on Hulu, Froot Loops might find their way onto the breakfast table of the TV show you’re watching.

Editor: Alexa Murdock

“Bird Box”: More than a meme, but still derivative

Ben Wheeler
Online and Social Media Editor

It’s not often that a film is more well known for its meme status than its cinematic prowess, but “Bird Box” is a rare exception. Seeing memes containing screen grabs from the film or videos of people attempting the “Bird Box Challenge” (AKA trying to complete everyday tasks while blindfolded), started to make me curious; how does the actual movie hold up?

“Bird Box” is a 2018 post-apocalyptic thriller/horror based on a 2014 novel of the same name. Susanne Bier directs the story of Malorie (Sandra Bullock) through multiple time periods: present day where she is rowing a boat with two children down a river while all three are blindfolded, five years prior where a pregnant Malorie is with her sister when mysterious creatures arrive that cause humans to commit suicide when they see them, and a sort of bridge-the-gap time period between the two that details Malorie’s experiences with a group of survivors that she takes refuge with after the creatures make first contact.

Where “Bird Box” really makes an impact is in its ability to create anxiety and unease in those watching. The decision to not show what the creatures look like any form (though it is said they take the form of your greatest fear or loss) is pretty brilliant. By doing this, the film allows the viewer to create their own horrifying image of what the creature would appear as to them personally. The movie also utilizes a wide variety of sound effects for the monsters in their movements or vocalizations that adds to the uncertainty and fear of what these creatures could be. The lack of any kind of consistent score also adds to the tension felt throughout

the film, as do the cinematography and visuals. With a few exceptions, when the characters are outside the sky is overcast, and the terrain is mucky and wet. When the characters feel little hope, we feel just as desperate through the lack of positive imagery in the film. Another strong suit of this film is the combination between pacing and editing. Sometimes jumping back and forth between different points in the story is jarring, but here it is incredi-

novel came before John Krasinski’s film. A creature that takes the form of your greatest fear, love or loss? We’ve seen that in “IT” (2017) and “It Follows” (2014). Humans being forced to commit suicide through some sort of stimuli? The infamous “The Happening” (2008).

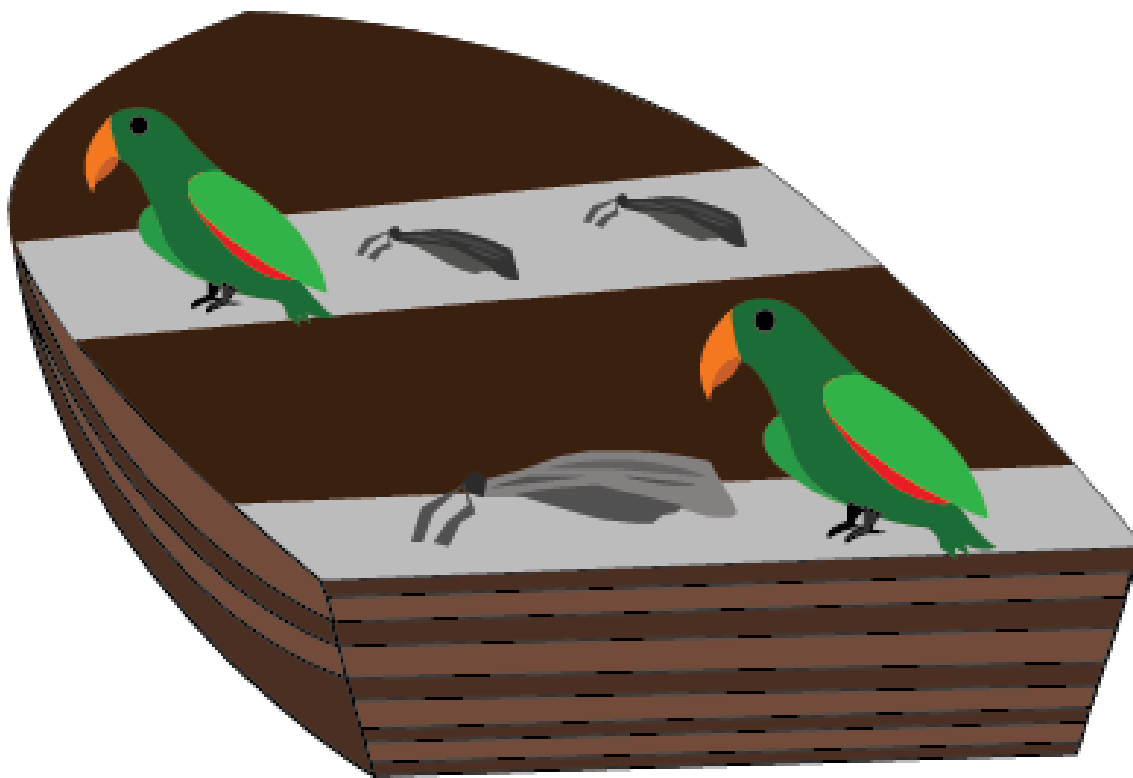
One way “Bird Box” does stand out from these other movies is the secondary threats/antagonists that are almost as dangerous as the mysterious creatures themselves. In this

movies, “Bird Box” takes very little time to develop its characters, which can be frustrating at times, especially early in the film. A prime example is the character Malorie, whose disposition towards her pregnancy and later to the children (one of which is hers) that she and her eventual partner Tom (Trevante Rhodes) are raising by themselves is so extreme and negative at times that you wish you had more insight into her emotional state and the history behind it. You could of course chalk it up

to the stress tied to their dreadful situation, which “Bird Box” does, but Malorie’s extreme way of handling the children has to be driven from some experience earlier in her life that the viewers don’t get to see. She doesn’t even name the children, referring to them as “boy” and “girl,” which just feels so cold and uncaring to the viewer that Malorie could almost be considered an unlikable character. Malorie is just one of multiple characters whose negative actions or attitude are only explained by brief parts of dialogue, and some even aren’t explained at all, leaving you the viewer the responsibility of trying to make the characters’ rationales up in your head. As the characters’ circumstances and actions become more

extreme, the lack of development feels more cheap in correspondence.

While I honestly recommend “Bird Box” to the casual viewer based on the more technical aspects and what the film does well, I would say its similarities to so many films that are still fresh in our memory may be a big turn off for some. According to Rotten Tomatoes’ official site, the film has a critic score of 64 percent, while the audience score comes in at 62 percent.



bly smooth. Just as we get curious about another point in time in the story, the film transitions to that time period and continues from that point. There’s also an uncanny feeling with the film that when you need to know something, the film shows you it; there are no frustrating “what is going on” moments.

So, what are the problems with the film? As it turns out, we’ve seen most of this story before. Very powerful creatures invading earth and people trying to survive in a depressing future without a key physical sense? See “A Quiet Place” (2018), though it is worth noting that the Bird Box

film, while most people that see the creatures immediately fatally harm themselves as a result, the insane and mentally unstable are not affected in the same way. Instead, after seeing the creatures they are seemingly corrupted to the point to essentially becoming slaves for the creatures, with the only goal for these unstable individuals being to get the mentally healthy (therefore not immune) people to look at the deadly entities. These crazy people constantly refer to the creatures as “beautiful” which is hauntingly disturbing.

As is the case with many horror films and some post-apocalyptic

Graphic by Will Yi

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WHAT'S HAPPENING
HYPE
JAN. 17 - 24, 2019

THUR. JAN. 17

Influencing People Through Spoken Word (WLA workshop)

3 p.m. • Black Hall 152
Go beyond digital communication and harness the power of the spoken word. Presented by CWU Professor Emeritus Phil Backlund, Ph.D.

10th Annual MLK Celebration

5 p.m. SURC Pit, 6 p.m. SURC Theatre
Celebrate the life and legacy of Martin Luther King. Create your own signs and participate in a peace vigil at 5 p.m. then head upstairs for the program featuring the soulful, award-winning music of the Langston Hughes Project.

MON. JAN. 21

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

No Classes

TUE. JAN. 22

Cold Weather Shelter food prep

2 - 4 p.m., advance sign up and food handler's permit required. Visit CLCE (SURC 256) for details.

WED. JAN. 23

Wellness Wagon

12 p.m. • Campus (look for the golf cart)
This is the Wildcat version of Cash Cab: get a ride to class, answer trivia questions about health and wellness, win prizes!

Marvel Movie Trivia

8 p.m. • 1891 Bistro
Make a trivia team of six, and test your knowledge of Marvel super-teams like Avengers, X-men, Fantastic Four, Guardians of the Galaxy, and more! Free food and activities for CWU students.

THUR. JAN. 24

Resiliency and Grit: Learn to Juggle in 45 Minutes! (WLA workshop)

3 p.m. • SURC Ballroom
We've all experienced "drops" in our lives. This interactive workshop will help develop a resilient mindset.

ALL WEEK/NOW OPEN: VOLUNTEER AND EVENT REGISTRATIONS, TICKETS

Parade of Nations

Represent at this annual cultural showcase! Register at the DEC in Black Hall 101 by Jan. 21.

Leadership Conference (Feb)

Featuring CWU alumni from Seattle Sounders, Google, Respect My Region and more. Registration opens Jan. 21, visit cwu.edu/leadership-engage

Indoor Ironman

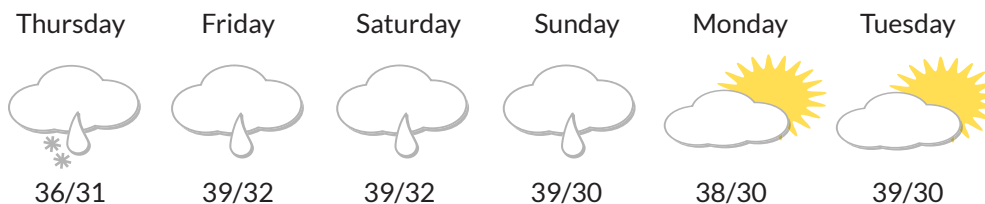
You can do it! 2.4 miles swimming, 112 miles biking, 26.2 miles of running. Fully complete the Ironman challenge and receive an Ironman shirt. Register at the Rec Center front desk by Jan. 31, \$15.

The New Civil Rights Movement

CWU students, get your FREE ticket to see social activist Shaun King, coming to CWU Feb. 25! cwu.edu/tickets

Editor: Alexa Murdock

Ellensburg weekly weather forecast



Thursday: Snow and rain mix in the morning, turning to rain in the afternoon. Snow accumulation of less than 1 inch. High of 36.

Friday: Slight chance of showers in the morning. Mostly cloudy in the evening. High of 39.

Saturday: Chance of rain. Cloudy. High of 39.

Sunday: Chance of rain. Mostly cloudy. High of 39.

Monday: Partly sunny. High of 38.

Tuesday: Slight chance of rain. Partly sunny. High of 39.

Weather data sourced from forecast.weather.gov. Information current as of print. Weather subject to change.

Ask Rune

The "Ask" column is written by one of our staff members. Opinions in this column are meant to be lighthearted and entertaining.

Dear Rune,
The other day, I slipped on some snow and spilled my coffee all down the front of my pants. To make matters worse, I had to give a presentation in the class I was walking to and didn't have time to go home and change. Now all my friends keep calling me "coffee pants." What are some (harmless) pranks I can play on them to get back at them?
Sincerely,
Normal Pants

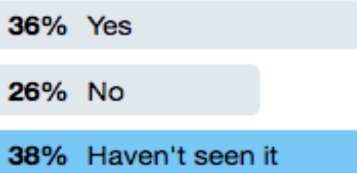
Dear Pants,
First of all, it sounds like you need to get some new friends. If they think calling someone "coffee pants" is the epitome of humor, they probably also worship the artistic complexity of Adam Sandler's corniest potty jokes. Fortunately enough, this also means that you have a lot of leeway to work with for pranks, as these are the kinds of people who think poorly-timed face punches count as practical jokes. I'd recommend starting with something simple, like the old water-bucket-on-doorway gag, potentially subbing in red gatorade or some other suitably staining substance. Once that gets old, you can move on to other, more permanently staining methods to really give their clothes a color palette Bob Ross would be proud of. Sneak a red wooly sock into their laundry, pour a little grape juice into their laundry detergent, construct a homemade paint-balloon trebuchet and launch a siege on their clothesline, the options are truly endless. Once their clothes are painted with all the colors of the wind, your own coffee situation ought to pale in comparison. Or, you know, just get new friends. These ones clearly suck.
Sincerely,
Rune

Observer Polls



The Observer @CWUObserver · Jan 13

Did you like Netflix's "Bird Box?"



53 votes • Final results

Watch our Twitter for a chance to vote in next week's poll!

Call for a cartoonist!

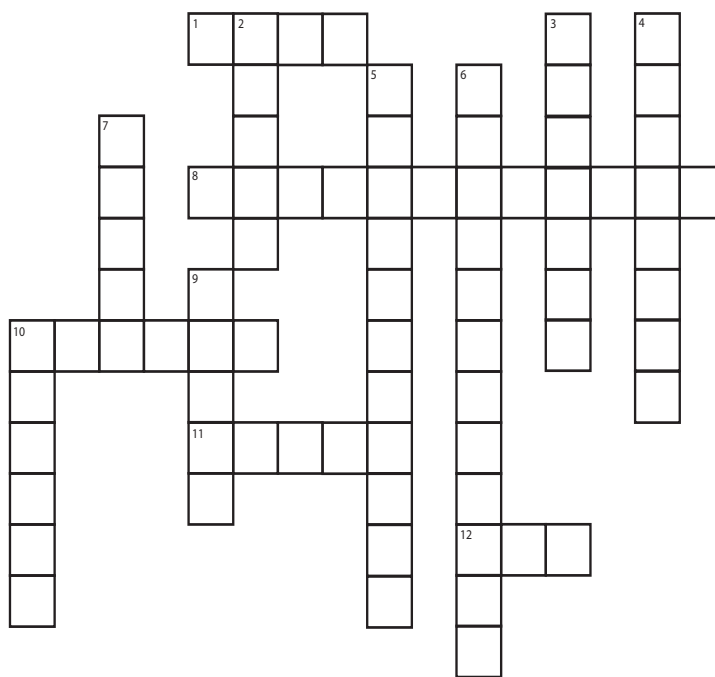
Are you an artist? Do you love to doodle? Do you know someone who loves to draw?

The Observer is looking for a cartoonist. If you're interested, send work to cwuobserver@gmail.com or stop by Lind 115 M-Tu 5-6 p.m.

Crossword

Beer lovers rejoice, because this week's crossword is all about that special brew.

Fill out the puzzle, snap a photo and tweet us @cwuobserver for a chance to win a prize.



Across:

- A ___ glass is typically used to serve beer
- A small, independently-owned brewery
- Container used to mature beer
- A strong, dark beer
- Scale at which bitterness is measured

Down:

- The "T" in IPA
- Large jug used to hold beer
- This element is added to beers to make them smooth

- During this period of time in the 1920s, beer was outlawed
- The process that gives beer its alcohol and bubbles
- This type of beer is often described as "clean" and "crisp"
- Ingredient added to beer and bread
- This type of ale is light in color, bitterness and maltiness.

Answers: Across: 1. Pint 8. Microbrewery 10. Barrel 11. Stout 12. IBU Down: 2. India 3. Growler 4. Nitrogen 5. Prohibition 6. Fermentation 7. Lager 9. Yeast 10. Blonde

Call for reader work

Want to submit a question for Rune?

Do you have a letter to the editor or a burning opinion you want published?

We would love your work!

Email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com or stop by Lind 115 M - Tu 5-6 p.m. for inquiries.

#CWUHYPE

