University says 9 minutes acceptable delay

From when 911 received active shooter threat and when campus wide alert was sent

Jack Belcher, Hanson Lee, Mariah Valles
News Editor, Sports Editor and Editor-in-Chief

The CWU Rave Alert! System informed students, faculty and staff of an active shooter threat nine minutes after the first 911 call on Feb. 6. That is about the time needed to complete the procedure, according to CWU Chief of Staff Linda Schactler.

"The way we can get rid of humans it’ll go a lot faster," Schactler said.

The alert sent out county-wide by the Kittcom 911 service at 5:25 p.m. was only received by other law enforcement, Schactler said.

Emergency agencies were first activated; then the university warned everybody of a potential threat, nine minutes later.

CWU's alert system pushes out text messages, emails and robocalls to the entire university community. CWU has about 12,000 students and hundreds of faculty and staff members.

Last Wednesday, the alarm first sounded at Lind Hall shut down the Ellensburg campus for two hours while officers from multiple federal, state and local law enforcement agencies tried to verify rumors of multiple active shooters in Lind Hall, the SURC and Language and Literature building. The alarm would eventually prove false.

Schactler did not say what kind of threats were being made that were overheard by another student who told ROTC in Lind Hall triggering the evacuation of the building at 5:15 p.m. Schactler said that revealing the nature and content of these threats would violate the student's privacy.

"It's so important for us to know that a threat could be happening sooner rather than later," CWU freshman Devin Reed said. "Knowing that there was already a threat beforehand, before we even got the alert, kind of bothers me that we aren't fully safe."
Students could see an increase in fees

Nick Jahnke
Senior News Reporter

Several on-campus groups have requested to raise their quarterly student fees, including the SURC, Student Medical and Counseling Clinic (SMaCC) and tutoring services. If all requests are approved, the result would be an additional $45 in fees per year, according to Vice President of Student Life and Facilities Jocelyn Matheny.

ASCWU Executive Vice President Kane LeMasters said that the SMaCC and Tutoring Services requests are results of larger numbers of students reaching out for help and taking advantage of the services. The SMaCC is asking for a raise of either $15 or $25 from the current charge of $102.96 per quarter, and the tutoring services requested that their fee be raised from $5 to $15 per quarter.

According to LeMasters, there has been a push in Washington State for legislation that supports state funding for mental health services in universities. He said that if students aren’t alright with the increased fee, they have the option to travel to Olympia on Monday, Feb. 18, and lobby for the issues they are passionate about, or simply give the states legislators office a call. Registration for the ASCWU Lobby Day can be found on the ASCWU website.

“Students need things on campus and they’re not just going to form themselves. We’re at a time where health and wellness is being put at the forefront of the student body. That’s something we can maintain without having proper advisors to help us with that or having counselors or psychologists on campus,” LeMasters said.

The tutoring services office is also in need of more staff, according to LeMasters. He said that they had come to ASCWU reporting that they had had such an increase in students looking for help that they had to start turning students away.

“If that’s something that students are showing they want, then we have to put up for it,” LeMasters said.

Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Bailey Kinker said that the fee requests from the SURC are mainly results of a raise in minimum wage. Kinker said that in 2020, minimum wage in Washington will be raised from $12 per hour to $13.50 per hour. She said that the SURC needs more funding to be able to pay its employees, or they will have to reduce their numbers.

Matheny said that the members of ASCWU are still in the processes of discussing the requested fees, and are not yet ready to bring it to a vote. She said the best way for students to get their voices heard is to attend the ASCWU public meetings held every Monday. She said that where a lot of the meaning conversations on these issues occur, but ASCWU’s doors are always open to those who prefer to speak to them more personally.

$35 million funding request for final construction stages of new health sciences building

Matt Escamilia
Staff Reporter

A $35 million request by the health and science department to secure the final stage of state funding for the construction of the new health and science building is under consideration by the state of Washington. Gov. Inslee approved $32 million for the project in December. According to Ethan Bergman, department chair of health sciences, the department hopes to hear whether the request is approved by April or May.

If the bids come in lower than we expect, there may not need to be any adjustments. If we receive $32 million from the state and the bids come in at $35 million, then we will need to work with the architects to see where we can trim the budget. Basically we will ask the question: what can we live without,” Bergman said.

“Once we know the target number [budget] we will make adjustments in collaboration with our administration and the facility users,” said Doug Ryder, facilities planning officer at CWU.

After the financial adjustments are made, a process known as bids will take place. Construction companies will submit a total cost budget to construct the health sciences building.

Knowing the full cost of a project is key to ensure project funds are spent efficiently. According to Ryder, Facilities management likes to see four to six bids come in to make sure the bid for a potential project is as competitive as possible.

The building is replacing Hertz hall, which is scheduled to be demolished in March. Construction of the building will start in the summer and will be completed in the fall of 2021. According to Bergman, one of the things faculty, staff and students look forward to is having the department under one roof which isn’t the case at the moment. The health sciences department is currently spread throughout campus, and teachers have offices in Black Hall and Michaelsen hall.

“It’s definitely a task because I could be here on one side of campus and have my next class be on the completely other side of campus or not knowing exactly where classes are from day to day,” said Cameron Price a junior majors in clinical psychology.

According to an enrollment query, the health science department has seen a growth in student credit hour generation. According to Bergman, student credit hour generation is determined by multiplying the number of credits for a class by the enrollment for that class. For example, if Nutrition 191 is a 5 credit class and there are 100 people in the class that generates 500 student credit hours.

In the last 4 years, there has been a 17 percent growth in student credit hour generation in the Department of Health and Sciences.

“We’re trying to provide the needs for society for healthcare providers [workers],” said Bergman.
Ellensburg has gotten the most snow of any year since winter 2016, in what has been dubbed the “snowpocolypse” Since a large weather system moving in from the Pacific Ocean brought snow first to Seattle and then over the mountains to Ellensburg starting on Feb. 8, the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued multiple winter weather reports and even a blizzard warning. Between eight and 16 inches of snow cover the Kittitas Valley with the NWS predicting constant snow until the weekend.

Some students have expressed frustration that classes haven’t been canceled due to the weather, with an online petition which calls for a snow day reaching over five thousand signatures as of 3 p.m. Feb. 12. (For reference, roughly twelve thousand students attend CWU). In addition, and perhaps more whimsically, an event titled “shovel all the snow onto President Gaudino’s lawn” has been created by CWU students on Facebook with nearly two hundred marked as “going.”

Associate Dean of Health and Wellness Shawnté Elbert is from Indiana and says that she is used to weather like this. The first points of advice she had for students regards illness around this time of year when people are more often indoors and in contact with each other. With this in mind, multiple notices about the weather have been sent out by CWU President Gaudino advising that students use their best judgment regarding travel and safety. “From the president to the provost to the deans, we encourage the same thing: use your best judgement. We don’t want anything to happen to our students here on campus,” Elbert said. "Work with your professors on the front end and make arrangements. We can work with you. The decision to stay open or not isn’t one that one person makes or one that we take lightly.’’

Payton Parke
Senior Reporter

Several things have now gone into effect with applying for majors at minor online and the new update to the MyCWU page. The meeting covered some issues that students and faculty face.

New Update to MyCWU Page

The MyCWU student page is where you check your holds and where you enroll for classes as well as financial aid warnings. Gail Mackin, Associate Provost of Undergraduate and Faculty Affairs had a lot to say about this update to the student page. According to Mackin, part of doing this is having students taking apart in the what they are doing here.

“We have added student information so on their student page for the first time they can see who their advisors are in collaboration with what their academic plan is, their major and minors current GPA the number of credits attempted, earned credits and what they are currently enrolled as far as credits,” Mackin said.

Applying for Majors and Minors Online

In an attempt to make things easy for students, they will be able to apply for or drop their major or minor online. The process will entail an advisor looking over the E-form which is an electronic online form. Then the advisor will either look at the academic standing of the student and then decide with a meeting with the advisor student or give a yes or no answer, depending on what the advisor wants. According to Mackin the E-form to drop or add a major will go live no later than Feb. 11.

Retention Plan

CWU currently has the early alert system in place which an instructor would fill out if a student is failing or not doing good in a class. This is the system instructors use to report a student. Mackin has a new plan that is a snapshot in time to see grades at a specific time in the quarter.

“We are devising a mechanism for gathering information about the progress of a student at a particular point and time during a quarter, so this is different than the early alert that can be used anytime for an individual course. What we are trying to gather is a snapshot in time of the progress of the student,” Mackin said.

The CWU Wildcat Shop wants to partner with faculty

The CWU Wildcat Shop is offering help to instructors by making scanned copies of the first few chapters of the textbook available if the instructors ask for them when a book is being shipped.

The CWU Wildcat Shop wants to make sure that books do not run out for students. Amy M. Claridge, Ph.D. talked with the bookstore and got insight into how the textbook process works at CWU.

Students change their minds and sometimes buy books elsewhere. The Wildcat Shop cannot buy back all of the books that they sell, making them give an estimate of how many will be bought.

“So when they decided how many books to purchase they look at several things. The biggest thing is course history. They try to look at how many students bought the book on average over several years,” Claridge said.

The CWU Wildcat Shop is offering help to instructors by making scanned copies of the first few chapters of the textbook available if the instructors ask for them when a book is being shipped.
Hertz Hall awaiting demolition

Nick Jahnke
Senior News Reporter

Hertz Hall
Hertz Hall is set to be demolished by the end of February 2019. CWU plans to construct a new health sciences facility in its place, according to CWU Chief of Staff Linda Schactler.

Hertz Hall has been a part of the CWU campus since 1962. Schactler said that in its old age, the building has a number of problems including improper heating and cooling, a lack of insulation and inadequate internet access.

“It’s just way past its prime, and since it was created for a specialized purpose, music, and we now have a music building, the decision was made in 2010 to simply replace that building [Hertz] with a different facility,” Schactler said.

According to Vice President of Operations Andreas Bohman, Hertz is one of numerous buildings on campus that have been under a building-condition assessment. He is particularly interested in the buildings in the northern part of campus including Farrell Hall and Brooks Library.

Bohman said that most of the buildings on north campus were built in the 1960s and 1970s. He said that CWU keeps track of the condition of the buildings using a facilities condition index (FCI). The FCI uses data provided by maintenance activities to rank which buildings are in the worst and best condition.

“Even though we do invest in preventive maintenance, a building is only designed to last so long, they don’t last forever,” Bohman said.

New Science Health Facility
According to Schactler, CWU first requested funding for the pre-design of the new facility in 2010. In 2011, $300,000 in state funding was awarded to CWU to begin pre-design. CWU then received $4.3 million in the 2015-2017 biennium for the design phase, and $23 million in January 2018 to begin phase one (which includes the demolition of Hertz).

Schactler said that CWU has requested $35 million from the state in their 2019-2021 budget request. According to the state capital budget priorities document provided by Schactler, the health sciences building was CWU’s top priority in the request. The document also states that the health sciences project was awarded the highest score for any building project proposed by any four-year universities for the 2019-2021 period, in an assessment produced by the Office of Financial Management.

Schactler said that the health sciences building will be the last edition to the science neighborhood. She said that CWU began looking into the possibility of forming a science neighborhood in 2007, with the intent of grouping all the science majors together to allow for more collaboration between them.

“We literally have the best science facilities on any comprehensive university in the state, and this will cap it off,” Schactler said.

Even though we do invest in preventive maintenance, a building is only designed to last so long, they don’t last forever.

-Andreas Bohman, vice president of operations

According to the Department of Nutrition’s Exercise and Health Sciences Chair Vincent Nethery, the main issue that the faculty and students of health sciences face is separation. Nethery said that health science majors are distributed among five different buildings on campus including Black Hall, Michaelson Hall, Farrell Hall and Science buildings I & II.

“There’s a lack of cohesion and a lack of connectivity attached to the facility and to the elements of the programs, which is certainly a challenge, but when you don’t have a building you work with what you’ve got,” Nethery said.

Nethery said the new facility would provide a lot of education synergies for health science students. For example, the new building will feature a cadaver laboratory, which according to Nethery, could be utilized by exercise science students who want to get a better look at the inner workings of various body parts.

Nethery said that the health sciences department services over 600 students, along with general education components and graduate studies. He said that health science careers like public health, health care and specialty programs like emergency medical technician training have a high societal demand, and that demand is reflected in the growth of the department.

According to Nethery, the department was started in 2008, and was dedicated mostly to physical education and health education teaching programs. He said they began with about 75 students. Now, with over 600, health sciences needs room to grow.

“It’s very exciting to have a facility that actually has the spaces and functionality that is need to educate student appropriately,” Nethery said.

Hertz Hall is soon to be leveled. Faculty offices have been emptied and lecture halls remain deserted as the building is prepped for the demolition.

Nick Jahnke
Senior News Reporter
Parade of Nations will showcase cultures of CWU

Afton Prater
Staff Reporter

CWU is recognized as being a very diverse college, welcoming students from around the globe. The Diversity and Equity Center (DEC) at CWU strives to provide education and outreach to the campus community. One way of informing and educating students about different cultures is by hosting the Parade of Nations. The annual Parade of Nations is on Feb. 20 from 6-8 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom. Rozzie Cardenas gave background of what the Parade of Nations encompasses. Cardenas is the student programmer at the DEC who puts on programs that touch base with minority groups and diversity groups, and gives them equal representation around campus.

“They usually do fashion shows to show cultural pieces and clothing, and they can either sing, dance, or perform with instruments they have where they’re from. They may also share some piece of cultural information or knowledge that they would like the university to know,” Cardenas said. “It’s basically a night for them to really express themselves and to be open to showing everyone else in the university.”

There are many clubs on campus performing at this event, such as the Black Student Union (BSU), Central African Student Association (CASA) and the Filipino American Student Association (FASA), as well as international students from China. People from the Ellensburg community will also be participating, including a group that does traditional dances from Mexico featuring CWU students.

The President of CASA, Mounia Traore, will be performing with her club at the Parade of Nations. Traore is majoring in leadership and management and minorinng in entrepreneurship. She is going on two years with the DEC and is currently a student program coordinator. Traore discussed that this is an event that showcases the variety of culture on campus, aiming to help people show the richness of their culture. CASA will be showcasing modern and traditional African dances and Traore is very excited to be back onstage for the Parade of Nations again this year.

The Parade of Nations has been successful in the past, and there is expected to be anywhere from 100-175 people in attendance this year. This is a place for people to connect with others and become educated about people from different cultures. Anna Kriuchkova, a senior majoring in cultural and linguistic anthropology and minoring in Asian studies, Chinese language and dance performance, sees many benefits to attending this event.

“I noticed, as being an international student from Ukraine and of a Russian ethnicity, the difference between getting information about different cultures from the news and websites is a lot different from getting firsthand experience and from the people who have actually been there and have that heritage,” Kriuchkova said. “We’re excited to provide an opportunity for the students to tap into those cultures and learn more about them from their peers.”

Kriuchkova also expressed that a lot of international students feel alone when coming to CWU for the first time, and that an event like this provides unity and exposure to people that creates friendships. She implores students to attend and talk with the performers if they have any questions.

“I encourage people to stop by to visit and cheer on the students. Don’t hesitate after the performances to come up to the performer and talk to the performer. I know from my personal experience, I really like educating people about my culture and about my language and I feel really happy when people showcase a real interest in my heritage,” Kriuchkova said.

The Parade of Nations is a free event that will be an educational experience about different cultures, providing an atmosphere for students to take pride in their heritage.
Scott Wilson
Staff Reporter

From Feb. 18 to Feb. 23, several restaurants downtown will participate in Ellensburg’s annual Restaurant Week. Many different restaurants come up with their own three course meals. This is a great way for customers to try new food for a good price, and it lets chefs show off their culinary skills by making something that’s not usually on their menus.

Participating restaurants include Cornerstone Pie, Brix, Ellensburg Pasta Company, the Mule, the Pearl, Iron Horse Brewery, Grapes and Crepes, Dakota Café and many more. The list of all restaurants participating can be found on Ellensburg Downtown Association website.

The event has gone on for a few years and has proved effective for the growth of customer bases. February tends to be the slowest month for restaurants and has proved effective for the growth of customer bases. Many different restaurants come up with their own three course meals at fixed price points of $15, $25, and $35.

Participating Locations
- BRIX
- Lunchbox Café
- The Mule
- Blue Rock Saloon
- Bruce’s Place
- Café CS
- Cornerstone Pie
- Dakota Café
- Ellensburg Brewing Co.
- Grapes & Crepes
- Ellensburg Pasta Co.
- Iron Horse Brewery
- The Pearl Bar and Grill
- Red Pickle
- Kabob House

It’s definitely an opportunity for people to try restaurants they haven’t before.

Taylor Castillo, Public Relations Coordinator

“From salads to appetizers, hummus to desserts, and of course our entrees, we don’t just serve one style of things. If you’re looking for desserts, or entrees, or appetizers and drinks with a friend, we have it all for you,” Hernandez said.

Another restaurant involved in the event is Grapes and Crepes. The family-owned creperie and wine shop is serving a three course meal for $25. The first course gives the customer an option of soup or salad. The second course gives the option of two different style of crepes. The first one is named the “under the sea” crepe that has shrimp, crab, roasted tomato, cheese, asparagus and hollandaise sauce. The second option is the “castle” crepe, it includes risotto, mushrooms and ham.

The third course is crème brûlée or fruit and cream. The meal does not include drinks.

According to Debbie Hinkle, one of the owners of the restaurant, Grapes and Crepes opens at 4 p.m. and serves savory dinner crepes as well as charcuterie boards, vegetarian options, gluten-free selections, appetizers, salads and desserts.

Hinkle applauds the EDA and says this is a wonderful event that has been very successful for them.

Students can look forward to a wide variety of three course meals from a wide variety of Ellensburg restaurants.
New store brings life to old furniture

Skyler Jensen-Hampton
Staff Reporter

Restorations in the Burg, located on 312 N Pine Street, offers antique, vintage and modern furniture along with home decor. On Jan. 5 Jeff Nordrum and Diane Rubio brought Restorations to life. “My wife and I strengths are finding good pieces of furniture that still have viability, which have lost its appeal,” Nordrum said. Nordrum and Rubio elected to part ways with the business after they had successfully restored furniture that had lost their appeal. This put them on a pathway to open their own store. “We just wanted to have our own store and control the inventory a little bit tighter,” Nordrum said. The owners find items that have lost their appeal over time. They look at the paint, the color, the condition or damage to the furniture. “There is a lot that happens over time to just a piece of furniture. If a piece of furniture loses its appeal, it kind of loses its value. We restore the value by restoring the appeal,” Nordrum said. The owners do all their restorations in the kitchen of their home, according to Nordrum. Heindi Anderson of Brick Road Lavender and NW Rain Handcrafted is a vendor at Restorations in the Burg. “We like to give our product something special to make it more appealing, giving us an competitive edge,” Nordrum said. Anderson formulates her own recipes and products with her background in biology and chemistry, and has been a vendor since opening day of the shop. “I love how responsibly priced the shop is. Everyone can find something they can afford,” Anderson said. “This is great for young families and even college students that are just starting out with purchasing furniture and home decor.” David Wheeler is a co-owner with Restorations and provides recycled, refined and renewed lamps. “I just came in the first day they were open and I said ‘well I have a few things are you interested?’ and a dialogue started at that point, which then has now accumulated to nine lamps in here,” Wheeler said. “I have collected all of these dissimilar pieces from all over the place and then I’ve put those pieces together to put it all together in what I consider a unique way.” Wheeler was a student at CWU in 1970 for two years, then graduated from Oregon State University. He came back to Ellensburg in 1979 to work as a preservation planner with the Ellensburg Down-town Association. Wheeler said he has enjoyed working at Restorations since their opening. “This really has been a nice opportunity. What I really enjoy about Restorations is there are lots of places that are recapturing and redoing things in China and other places that look like something from our past, and these are kind of like taking something from our past and pushing them in a way that will have another lifetime in someone’s home,” Wheeler said. Restorations in the Burg is open Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-6.p.m. and Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

Library Growth and Change: An Insider’s Perspective

Cassidy Simpson/The Observer

Tom Dell Jr. works in Brooks Library’s Circulation and Media Services units. Dell is known for being able to help students visiting the library with absolutely anything.

Rune Torgeresen
Copy Desk Chief

Most CWU students come and go from the library for a variety of reasons. Some meet up in the fishbowl to study with peers, some need to put ink to paper at the printers and others just like a quiet space in which to appreciate literature. One thing ties all of these goals together; walking past the front desk. According to Twitter user “beebs_55,” “The guy who works at the front desk of Central’s library is easily one of the top five nicest people ever.”

The guy in question is Tom Dell Jr., who works as a shift supervisor at the circulation desk, in addition to being in charge of the interlibrary loan depart-ment. He has seen the library change a lot over the 22 years he’s worked there, and so far, enjoys his work. “It’s really cool. We get a lot of rare things that you can’t get hardly anywhere, and we also loan some of our rare things to other places, so it’s really nice to be able to help people with their research,” Dell Jr. said.

In general, Dell Jr. feels that a lot of his job satisfaction comes from help- ing others accomplish their academic goals. As a former philosophy major at CWU, he’s no stranger to poring over old books and articles in the at- tempt to glean knowledge from the resources at the library. The logic and problem-solving aspects of philosophy helped him in his current position as well, though according to him, the deep thinking parts of the discipline aren’t needed for who come to the library for information, as opposed to those who come to provide it.

Dell Jr. graduated CWU in 2000, but decided to stay in Ellensburg, mostly because he had no real reason to leave. His kids were going to school locally, and he already had the job at the library locked down. “I didn’t really have any impetus to leave, or to move. It’s a good job, and I like my coworkers,” Dell Jr. said. Having been on campus every week for over 20 years, Dell Jr. has seen a lot of changes take place. Chief among them is the student population, which has risen dramatically since the mid-1990s. One thing that hasn’t expanded is the library, which hasn’t increased in size since Dell Jr. started working there in 1997. “Unfortunately, I think we’re on the list to get a new building, but, you know, we’re kind of down on that list,” Dell Jr. said.

That’s not to say that the library hasn’t evolved in function over the years. Student needs have changed a lot over the last 20 years, and the biggest resource for information on campus has had to change along with them. “A lot of the change in the library has been technological,” Dell Jr. said. “When I first started working here, the internet was basically in its infancy, so things have gotten a lot more online over the years.”

When Dell Jr. first started working at the circulation desk, the most fre- quently checked out resources were articles from news publications. Now, its MacBooks.

Mitch Vandeman, a fourth-year communications major, works with Dell Jr., and sees him as a valuable asset for the library.

“He’s pretty knowledgeable about a lot of things that happen around the library.”

Mitch Vandeman,
Communications major

“He has a pretty quick sense of hu- mor, and he’s pretty friendly with stu- dents,” Vandeman said. “He’s pretty knowledgeable about a lot of things that happen around the library.”

Dell Jr. said that there are many things that students aren’t aware of offered in the library, such as audio/visual equipment available for check-out, specialized light treatment boxes designed to alleviate seasonal affective disorder and GoPro cameras.

Dell Jr. works at the library most days, and is available to help students find exactly the resource they need, whatever that need may be.
Freshman Seth James Keeney was in the SURC eating with his friends when the message came. With no real direction, everyone started to move to the front doors when a worker stopped them and directed them to shelter in the bookstore. Keeney said. It made sense to Keeney that the university or police didn’t want large groups of people to be walking around outside, but after 10-15 minutes it felt like nobody knew what to do.

From there, Keeney said people in the SURC were escorted outside. “We were just outside. They didn’t tell us to go home. They didn’t tell us to do anything. They just walked us out,” Keeney said.

“I was highly disappointed because I was at a point where I felt unsafe and I had no idea what was going on,” Keeney said.

Keeney felt like there was no organization, which could have led to people walking back into danger after being escorted out of it.

“If I was in the university’s position, I would definitely get ahold of everybody sooner, keep them more intact with everything that was going on,” Keeney said.

Other students were in secluded areas, alone or with a couple of other people. Senior Carlos Sullivan was on the north side of campus in Randall Hall when he got the alert. He said he was shocked and found it hard to believe. He turned to the student next to him to ask if he also got the message.

“We went into a room and barricaded ourselves and we thought, ‘Well this will be over probably shortly.’ I just had such a hard time believing that it could be real at that moment because it was such a shocking thing,” Sullivan said. “But as the night kept going and we’re hearing crazy stories, we kept barricading the doors.”

Andrea Eklund, associate professor in apparel, textiles, and merchandising, said that she was proud of her students’ concern for each other. Using the group’s private Facebook chat, Eklund posted, “Are you ok?” Immediately students began posting replies confirming they were okay and checking in with each other to make sure everyone was safe.

Other students were taking shelter in Michaelen, and were told by Eklund not to leave until the police said it was okay. However, even though the campus sent out an alert stating that the police had secured all buildings and the campus was all-clear, Michaelsen was never visited by the police. “No-one ever checked the rooms or anything, so they, the students, called the police and asked if it was safe to leave because they were not sure if it was safe or not,” Eklund said. According to Eklund, students were hiding in Michaelsen past the all-clear, almost until 8 p.m.

Senior Erica Lawson was in class on the second floor of Black Hall when she first heard from a peer that there was a possible active shooter on campus. A few minutes later the official alert came through and the class locked all of the doors, turned off the lights and hid in the classroom.

Because nobody in the class knew where the active shooter was, they had to be very quiet, so no one was listening to the police scanner, Lawson said.

“Our professor finally called the police again and she said, ‘I’ve got students in here that are terrified. We would like a police escort out of here,’ and they told us to just walk out through one of the doors,” Lawson said.

According to Lawson, the police said it was safe to leave Black Hall before the all-clear was given. Once they were out of the building, they didn’t know where to go because the police didn’t tell them. The class decided that everyone should get home safely so they decided to travel back in groups.

Lawson said that she thinks the university handled the situation well, although she wishes she had had some sort of police escort.

“People in my class where terrified; some people actually thought they were gonna die,” Lawson said. "Some of us also kept getting false information, like the girl next to me: she got [a message] from one of her friends, I think, and it said that one person was dead.”

ASCWU President Edith Rojas said that she wished the administration focused more on being as transparent as possible about what happened.

“I had a parent email me concerned for their child’s safety. As the student body president, it was hard to read that. As a peer, I understood,” Rojas said.

Rojas, in partnership with the President’s Office, will be hosting an open listening session on Feb. 14 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the SURC Pit for students to discuss their experiences and thoughts about the situation.
The CWU Alert! System notifies employees and students in Ellensburg of the threat via text, email, and voicemail. A student in the SURC gym contacts her father to let him know of the alert. At 5:53 KittCom receives a call indicating “actual shots heard” in SURC gym. Law enforcement converges on the SURC, finding no evidence of active shooter or assault, and begin to clear the building.

KittCom reports shots fired at Nicholson Pavilion, where an officer had been conducting a self-defense course. The officer confirmed no shots fired. For the next hour, officers clear every building where shots were reported, finding nothing. All clear is announced, indicating everyone is safe to return to usual activities.

The official CWU Twitter account announced buildings were all clear.

Information sourced from CWU President James L. Gaudino’s Emergency Response Update released on Feb. 8.
A perfect try to life: Cole Zarcone

By Dez Rodriguez
Assistant Sports Editor

Senior Cole Zarcone has been hitting the pitch hard for the Wildcats this season. The former walk-on-turned-co-captain initially joined CWU to play football, but made the decision to switch to rugby at the conclusion of his freshman year.

"The experience I was having wasn’t really what I was looking for," Zarcone said. "It’s a great program with great coaches, but I loved playing both defense and offense which rugby allows me to do each game."

Zarcone’s Early Career

Zarcone played football and ran track at Camas High School in Camas, WA. He decided to walk on for football his freshman year at CWU and ultimately made the team. After playing the season out and finishing the year, he decided football just wasn’t for him anymore. It was time for something new.

His brother, Austin Colvill, had previously made the switch from football to rugby at Western Washington University after they dropped their football program in 2009. Zarcone had an idea of what rugby was like because of this, which is one of the reasons why he maintained an interest in the new sport going to college.

Zarcone got in touch with a college friend whose dad was a rugby coach near Camas. He returned home that summer and learned the basics of rugby. After getting more comfortable catching and passing, Zarcone tried his luck playing in seven on seven tournaments. The similarities between football and rugby allowed for the transition to be smoother, so he picked up the concept of the game rather quickly. The experience he got in that short amount of time would wind up setting up his future collegiate athletic career.

Making the switch

CWU men’s rugby head coach, Todd Thornley, stumbled across Zarcone’s résumé one day on the rugby team at the beginning of his sophomore year in 2016. Thornley reviewed his highlight video of his seven’s action and was very pleased with what he saw. He asked staff about Zarcone’s academics, and the football coach es about what kind of person he was like. It all checked out positively according to Thornley.

"His footwork and change of direction and speed really stood out," Thornley said. "You can tell he’s a really balanced athlete when he runs." Zarcone’s first game for CWU was against the Vancouver Rowing Club in Vancouver, BC. He admitted that his nerves got the best of him with the new experience, but continuing to learn how to play kept him excited for the rest of the season.

“It was a lot to take in. It was definitely a fast paced game that I wasn’t really ready for," Zarcone said. "Todd put me in the situations so that I can grow really fast, so I was able to catch on really quick because of that."

The natural talent caught up quickly, as he remained a starter in just his second year of learning a completely new sport. The best thing he’ll remember about rugby is the opportunity he got to play on a roster filled with international players every year. Zarcone loves the brotherhood and culture around the locker room and on the field that the international players bring with them.

“They add such a fun dynamic to the team, it’s fun to learn from all of them,” Zarcone said. "When we go on roadtrips, it’s exciting for them to travel and on the field that the international players bring with them."

At the beginning of last season, Zarcone capped his year by earning the Men’s Sevens Collegiate All-American D1 Honorable Mention. The progression set him up nicely entering his senior year at CWU.

"He is probably our best all-around athlete in terms of strength and conditioning wise," Thornley said. "It’s nice that Alex and I can be an other leading voice instead of Todd trip ping at the team the whole time."

Making the switch

"Really I just try to lead by example. It’s nice to be someone that they can look to for advice and to follow," Zarcone said. "It’s nice that Alex and I can be another leading voice instead of Todd tripping at the team the whole time."

At the conclusion of last season, Zarcone was voted as co-captain by his teammates this season alongside Alex Mackenzie. He is tasked with keeping the team on track at practice and/or in games, while answering any questions that teammates might have. In the end, he wants to be someone that the team can look up to if they need anything when times get tough, even after the season ends.

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At the beginning of last season, the team played in a west coast sevens tournament in San Francisco on Treasure Island. They beat the University of Arizona in the championship game, 17-15, which ended up being the biggest tournament win in CWU’s rugby history. Zarcone was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament, scoring 10 tries in their 6 matches.

"He’s not afraid to get on the guys if the effort or intensity isn’t there,” Thornley said. "He’s not going to talk for the sake of talking, he picks his moments really really well!"

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Todd Thornley, head coach

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Most of us grew up playing team sports, or have dabbled with the thought of joining a team. Behind every great team, there is usually an even greater coach calling the shots and pushing their team to its max potential. Most fans see the finished product on game day, but what happens behind the scenes? Different athletes adapt differently to new coaching styles, and new coaching styles have paid off for coaches in the past. Over time, coaching styles have changed dramatically. Treatment of players has changed as well in the last 20 years.

CWU is filled with different coaches from all walks of life and they all have unique ways of getting the job done.

Todd Thornley, head coach of CWU men’s rugby, was hired for the job in July of 2016 and still has a lot to learn. In Thornley’s third year of coaching the Wildcats, he has found strong success, taking his overall coaching record at CWU to 31-14.

“Communication is a big part of how I coach,” Thornley said. “If my players are doing something wrong and they don’t know what they are doing wrong then how can they fix it?”

Good communication seems to be something many coaches have adopted as a key way to improve their teams. There has been a debate for years between the old and new-school styles of coaching. When old-school coaching is brought up, most people think of the punish-first and converse-later mindset. New-school coaching adopts the idea that communicating with players and teaching them the best ways to play is better. Brandon Rinta is the head coach of CWU men’s basketball and when it comes to coaching, he feels it is not about him, but more about the team as a whole.

“The way I coach is that I make sure it’s about the players, and the sacrifices and relationships we have as a team,” Rinta said.

Coaches find ways to build on the way they lead a team based on the lessons they learn from past coaches and players. In a nutshell, coaching is about trial and error. Rinta believes he learned a lot from coach Dean Nicholson who is the winningest coach in CWU basketball history. Coach Nicholson won over 500 games at CWU, had his number retired and was eventually inducted into the CWU hall of fame in 2017 as a result of his success. A lot of the success behind Nicholson’s career came from his ability to coach for so long.

Head coach Desi Storey of CWU baseball knows the feeling of coaching for a very long time. Storey is going on his 28th year as head coach at CWU. Storey also spent five years as an assistant coach at CWU and played his collegiate career at Centralia Community College and CWU. Most would agree that a coach has to do something right to be named the head coach for so many years.

“I’d like to say I’m pretty calm and somewhat of a teacher of the game,” Storey said. “No need to yell. If a guy isn’t getting the job done, then simply get someone who can.”
## GNAC standings: Winter sports 2019

### Men's basketball
- Saint Martin’s 19-3
- Northwest Nazarene 16-4
- Western Oregon 17-6
- Seattle Pacific 13-6
- Alaska Anchorage 12-10
- Simon Fraser 12-10
- Western Washington 12-12
- Montana State Billings 11-11
- Concordia 9-13
- **Central Washington 9-13**
- Alaska Fairbanks 5-16

### Women's basketball
- Alaska Anchorage 21-1
- Northwest Nazarene 21-1
- Simon Fraser 14-7
- **Central Washington 14-7**
- Western Washington 12-10
- Concordia 11-11
- Montana State Billings 10-10
- Seattle Pacific 7-14
- Western Oregon 7-13
- Saint Martin’s 5-17
- Alaska Fairbanks 3-17

### Baseball
- Concordia 2-6
- **Northwest Nazarene 1-3**
- **Central Washington 14-7**
- Western Oregon 0-0

### Softball
- Western Oregon 3-0
- Saint Martin’s 2-1
- **Central Washington 5-3**
- Montana State Billings 6-4
- Northwest Nazarene 5-5
- Western Washington 4-4
- Concordia 2-5
- Simon Fraser 0-0

### Men's rugby
- **Central Washington 2-1**

### Women's rugby
- Notre Dame 4-3
- Central Washington 2-1
- Utah Valley 0-0

Standings updated as of Wednesday, Feb. 13

## Release your inner Wildcat

- **Men's basketball vs. Alaska Anchorage (Feb. 16)**
- **Women's basketball @ Montana State Billings (Feb. 16)**
- **Baseball @ Corban University (Feb. 16-17)**
- **Softball @ Cavalier Classic (Feb. 22-24)**
- **Men's rugby vs. Utah State (Feb. 16)**
- **Women's rugby @ Oregon Sports Union (Feb. 16)**

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**GNAC standings: Winter sports 2019**

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Canceling classes because of snow is irresponsible

Rune Torgersen
Copy Desk Chief

Canceling school because of snowy weather is a far-reaching solution that has more unintended consequences than one might initially realize. It’s easy to catch oneself partially hoping for a day off every now and again. A snow day seems like a way out of the daily grind, and it’s easy enough to back up the call for one with concerns about traffic conditions. However, a more delicate solution to dealing with inclement weather would be worth examining, as canceling all of a university’s operations because of snowfall would be a mistake, both financially and academically.

For the sake of argument, let’s assume most students paid the Washington resident quarterly tuition and fees of $2,690.56 for winter quarter. Let us then go on to assume that this student has classes equally distributed throughout a five-day week, with three classes every day. According to CWU’s website, there are 50 instructional days per quarter. If one does the math, this comes out to $53.81 that this hypothetical student is paying for every single day of classes this quarter. If one of those days of class is canceled, that’s $53.81 out the window, as there is currently no system in place for refunding students for canceled classes. Considering that winters in Ellensburg are consistently bad enough that they might warrant a school cancellation on the west side of the mountains, throwing that money away every time snow makes travel difficult would be a massive waste.

And then there’s the whole reason any of us are here: to learn. According to CWU, approximately 2,800 students currently live on campus. Presumably, those 2,800 students would have no issue whatsoever walking to class barring something like the ice rain the region got in 2017. I think that, in lieu of doing a sweeping cancelation of classes over snow, it should be left to professors to facilitate the students who can’t make it to campus because of road conditions. It’s fairly simple to email an instructor about ways to make up for class time lost, but if there was no class to attend in the first place, a whole day’s worth of potential education ends up missing from the curriculum. This puts undue pressure on instructors to finish teaching planned material in less time than they initially thought they’d have, and inevitably leads to a lower-quality education than CWU would like to provide.

Since an education is something we pay for up front, and choose to commit ourselves to, canceling class because of snow is a reckless decision that directly impacts the value of the time we spend here at CWU. In a high school setting, where class is compulsory and publicly funded, canceling classes comes at no direct cost to students, as the yearly schedule can be modified to accommodate dates lost to the whims of the weather. But in college, barring catastrophically dangerous inclement weather, losing a day of learning just isn’t something we can afford.

Student safety is at risk when classes continue in snow

Heather Stewart
Photo Editor

As we receive a weather alert on all student accounts, I begin to wonder how much snow Ellensburg will get before campus closes for classes. According to Craig Revels, who has lectured at CWU for 14 years now, classes have only been cancelled a few times. The most recent time was in winter of 2017 where freezing rain poured in the area and covered everything with a few inches of solid ice. This prevented those that drive from opening their car doors and those who walk from taking a step on our conveniently heated sidewalks.

But back to present day, here we are, on Feb. 11 with 10 inches of snow and five more likely on the way. Those who are recruited from out of state to play sports here from places such as Hawaii, Georgia and the more exotic Australia are unprepared to walk in the depths of snow to attend class, let alone those of us who are from the west side of the state where school is typically cancelled after one inch of snow.

This is understanding of course, that when it snows on the other side of the Cascades, whole cities and towns shut down due to ice and people who don’t know how to drive. However, the same thing is capable of happening in Ellensburg, a college town where the same people who don’t know how to drive over on the west side are attending CWU courses and amazingly still do not know how to drive in the snow. Our school’s naiveté in allowing teenagers and early 20-year-olds alike to drive in the snow with an average of only four years of driving experience is dangerous and questionable.

Even walking to class in this blizzard weather is dangerous as the snow can cover ice and prevent a walker from noticing the threats underneath the powdery beauty which may just be the last thing they see as their head hits the pavement. The specific emergency weather guidelines given by CWU are as follows: “examples of the types of conditions [which would result in school closure] could be snow or ice affecting the county or city roads, high wind or expected high wind, moderate earthquake, fire, chemical spill, or flood, etc,” according to cwu.edu/resources.

For snow or ice to be used in conjunction with earthquakes, fire or floods shows that the dangers of their existence should be one that is taken seriously. University classes, despite already being paid for, should be seen as optional or cancelled in the event of extreme snowfall over the span of a week because of the potential buildup of ice on sidewalks. It would be a shame for a student death to occur from the matter of not having the money to buy proper snow boots or clothing because that money goes towards tuition and food that isn’t bagged ramen. So here’s to hoping that our university will take into consideration those who have to walk from Student Village to Shaw Smyser or Wahle to Lind Hall before continuing classes through this deadly snow.

Graphics by Will Yu/For The Observer
“Velvet Buzzsaw”: A weird, mesmerizing mixed bag

Ben Wheeler
Online Manager

“Velvet Buzzsaw” is a Netflix original film that was directed by Dan Gilroy and released Feb. 1 on the streaming platform and in select theaters. An interesting clash of modern horror and the elite art scene, “Velvet Buzzsaw” opens with the seemingly daily routine of art critic Morf Vandewalt (Jake Gyllenhaal) and his colleagues as they seek to impress or be impressed in art showcases in Miami Beach. The movie makes a dark turn when a friend and colleague of Morf, Josephina (Zawe Ashton), discovers the body of a man named Ventril Dease in her apartment building. Josephina soon discovers that Dease was an artist himself and steals his art to showcase and sell, as it has a mesmerizing effect. The cast of characters soon learns that Dease’s personal demons did not die with him. They live on through his art, ready to horrify and inflict pain (or worse) on the living.

Where this film is perhaps most effective is in its visual choices, mostly in shot selection. What lingered most in my memory after watching the film were the medium and close up point-of-view shots of Dease’s paintings. The extensive duration of these shots is what makes them work; Dease’s paintings are usually at minimum weird and at their worst, very disturbing. Having the viewer look at them for such a long stretch creates a similar mesmerizing effect to what the characters feel when looking at the paintings in the movie. It is uncomfortable, but at the same time the audience can’t look away.

The film has a significant psychological influence on its visual effects, most noticeable in the opening credits where drawings morph and dissolve into different images while the drawings themselves spin around the screen as they change. Equally trippy is the blurred motion with which the subjects in the paintings seem to move when stared at for an extensive period of time.

The horror elements are a bit of a mixed bag. While the buildings to the big scares and set pieces are quite good, not all of them have big payoffs. Some of these scenes take unexpected turns, but others are telegraphed pretty badly and, as a result, are easy to predict. I will say the scares get more creative as the film moves along, so the viewer has to just “tolerate” the first couple of scares that are quite bland. One tense scene uses brightly colored paints in a digital effect that is simply a spectacle to behold. A scene from a horror film has no business being that beautiful to look at; it makes you wish that the film had employed more color in its other dire scenes.

The characters and actor performance are another mixed bag. The big problem with the characters themselves is that they are not likable, not in the slightest. I promise you, those stereotypes you have seen, read or heard about their work are not likable, not in the slightest. Some, scary for none. A night with them work; Dease’s paintings are usually weird and at their worst, very disturbing. Having the viewer look at them for such a long stretch creates a similar mesmerizing effect to what the characters feel when looking at the paintings in the movie. It is uncomfortable, but at the same time the audience can’t look away.

The police were never called, and the bullying and sexual harassment were obviously separate plots that were supposed to paint the characters as villains and heroes, but after those kids literally murdered someone I had very little sympathy for them. Everyone on screen was just as bad as Stitches, but at least the clown was funny. There is an expositional clown cult and weird teenage romance, one of which felt badly timed and creepy.

The police were never called, and neither clown nor teen faces consequences for a single death.

Overall, the movie is funny for some, scary for none. A night with Stitches the clown is recommended for anyone who wants a cheap laugh and has a strong stomach.

“Terrifier” takes itself far more seriously and makes even less sense. The last time I was this scared I had lost my high caffeine tea at 10 a.m. Spooky, right?

“Terrifier” is fantastic as always, but Natalie Dyer, who plays the minor character Coco, is uncharacteristically bad. In multiple scenes she dramatically overacts, which is a shame because she is one of the best performers on Netflix’s star-studded show “Stranger Things.” “Velvet Buzzsaw” is a very unique film, which both helps and hinders it. There are a lot of new and fresh ideas on display, which makes it worth checking out. However, I am unsure about its re-watch value with its clichés and pretentious dialogue/sequences. Since it seems to have a very specific niche, I can only give it a rating of three out of five stars. According to the Rotten Tomatoes official website, it has a critic score of 66 percent and audience score of 42 percent.

A bitter critique of two subpar Netflix horror flicks

TyYonna Kitchen
Copy Desk Staff

Everyone knows that Netflix makes questionable choices when it comes to horror movies. “Terrifier” (2018) and “Stitches” (2013) are no exceptions. Both are killer clown movies, with little to no permitting. “Terrifier” (2018) and “Stitches” (2013) are no exceptions. Both are killer clown movies, with little to no

terrifying effect. The cast of characters is quite diverse in their actions and overall, very well-acted. Both performers are on Netflix’s star-studded list, yet they work; Dease’s paintings are usually weird and at their worst, very disturbing. Having the viewer look at them for such a long stretch creates a similar mesmerizing effect to what the characters feel when looking at the paintings in the movie. It is uncomfortable, but at the same time the audience can’t look away.

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I wanted to fight the movie itself but learned that it would just shoot me, so I watched on.

Two unsurprising plot twists and 40 minutes later, the horror torture porn was over, and I could finally watch some quality entertainment. “Terrifier” is a total 10/10 with all the combined elements of “Saw” and “Stranger Things.”

“Terrifier” is a total 10/10 with all the combined elements of “Saw” and “Stranger Things.”

I loved it. Every second.
Let MLB players hit free agency sooner

Matt Escamilla
Staff Reporter

The MLB payment structure has players play six full seasons before they can go into free agency. That needs to change.

Over the last two off-seasons, free agency has been a bust. According to Matt Kelly of MLB.com, there are 150 free agents who remain unsigned off-season.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, it was normal for players to hit free agency when they were 28-30 years old. David Ortiz was 27 years old when he signed with the Boston Red Sox after being released by the Minnesota Twins.

According to Baseball reference, Ortiz made about $159.5 million during his baseball career.

Alex Rodriguez was 25 when he signed with Texas for 10 years, for $252 million. He was 18 years old when he played his first game as a Mariner.

In today’s world, players start playing in the majors quicker than in the past. The top two position players in free agency this year are Bryce Harper, who’s 28 years old, and Manny Machado, who’s 26. Teams aren’t willing to give players in their 30s a long-term deal (five years or longer) anymore. Craig Kimbrel, a World Series champion and former Boston Red Sox closer, will be 31 years old in May.

He reportedly wants a six year contract, meaning he will be 36 years old when the contract ends. He won’t get that long of a contract unless a team is just looking to make headlines in the media.

I would make players play three full seasons in the majors before hitting free agency. It gives players a shorter time to wait for the big payday. It helps the teams as well. If the teams know they have a Bryce Harper or Felix Hernandez they can plan and pay them accordingly.

Her- nandez was 19 years old when he made his MLB debut. The Mariners could have signed him to a legit MLB contract, say five years for $50 million. If the Mariners didn’t want to sign Felix to that large of a deal, they could have waited until he was 21 years old to discuss a new contract.

On the contrary, if teams only have three years until players can hit free agency, how does the three year system protect a players original team from los- ing him in free agency to teams like the Yankees, Dodgers or Red Sox?

In response, I would put in a franchise tag system like the NFL to stop big mar- ket teams from signing another teams player without having protections in place for the players original team.

If a player starts to move up at 22 years old and proves himself to be a le- git major leaguer, then he would ideally hit free agency around 24 or 25 years old.

The team he’s on can either sign him to a new contract or use the franchise tag, which would pay him top-dollar based on his position that year. I would allow a team to franchise tag a player in each of the next two years, meaning that player would still be under the original team’s control until he’s 26-27 years old.

Top talents like Bryce Harper and Felix Hernandez will always get paid, but this free agency adjustment is for the rest of the players who can’t find a job because either they’re too old or waiting for the free agent market to heat up. The reason the NBA and NFL are so successful is that the players hit free agency younger than MLB. If MLB wants to gain viewership and stop the narrative of being a local sport, meaning fans only watch if their team is involved, then the players’ union and owners need to change the free agency system.

Are stereotypes bringing you down? It’s not your fault

The desire to fit in is a natural human behavior, just don’t lose yourself in pursuit of another personality

Nick Tucker
Staff Reporter

Every generation thinks in somewhat of a unique way and one of the things that sets ours apart is the concept of “The brand” which has made its way into our collective consciousness.

It’s this notion that we need to develop an easily defined and instantly recogniz- able aesthetic that is somehow also totally unique. While it is a paradoxical thing to aspire to, it does make sense. We’ve got- ten tired of the old archetypes that a per- son can embody: hipster, skater, jock are all too simple and cliché for us now; and we want to be seen as the complex beings that we are.

However, our aspirations don’t change the facts that we all, on some level, want to belong and people naturally categorize things into easily understandable groups, including other people. How are you going to decide whether you want to spend time interacting with someone other than to make an assumption about their person- ality based off of the limited information you have? This leaves many people feeling like they have to put on an oversimplified mask of themselves that will never be as nuanced as people actually are.

But appearances aren’t just the clothes you wear and the things you own. It’s the way you act and carry yourself. The Darth Vader costume is impressive, but it doesn’t really inspire fear if the man inside it hums showtunes.

So we make little changes to fit in. We try to talk more like the people we want to fit in with, we dress a little differently than we might otherwise. This is fine and natural, as everybody adapts a little to fit in with the people we want to associate with. However, our aspirations don’t change, the environment we put ourselves in changes us. The brain is very adaptable, it always will be. It’s adaptive, it adapts to fit into that environment.

There is plenty of research showing that the environment we put ourselves in, there are going to be ways that people are negatively impacted. We act like characters created by people who aren’t always like those characters. The creators we love aren’t always like their online personas, and while our conscious brain may recognize that, the subconscious brain only sees the face they present and tries to adapt to that face.

The environment we put ourselves in, the narrative of being a local sport, meaning fans only watch if their team is involved, then the players’ union and owners need to change the free agency system.
**WHAT’S HAPPENING**

**FEB. 14-20, 2019**

**THUR. FEB. 14**
Communication Superpowers: Empathy and Active Listening 3 p.m. • Black Hall 152 • Free
Build your capacity for empathy and make meaningful connections.

“Walking in Our Shoes: For All the World to See” tours with CWU’s Black Student Leaders 3 p.m. • Dean Hall Lobby • Free
View the exhibit on guided tours.

Lunch n’ Learn: Disability in Children’s Media 4 - 5 p.m. • Black Hall 105 • Free
Learn how children’s media talks about disability, and its impact.

**CWU Student Forum**
5 - 6:30 p.m. • SURC Pit
ASCWU will host an open forum to talk about last Wednesday’s event. All thoughts and feedback welcome.

Valentine’s Day Soirée featuring Ellensburg Big Band
8 p.m. • Sue Lombard Ballroom
Free CWU students/$5 CA (cash) Music, dessert and activities. Free dance lessons starting at 6 p.m.

**THURS. FEB. 14 - MARCH 10**
**CWU Ceramics Invitational Exhibition: Residency Reflections**
February 14 Opening Events 4 p.m., Randall Hall 116: Panel discussion; 5 - 7 p.m: Reception in Sarah Spurgeon Gallery, Randall Hall

**SAT. FEB. 16**
Cupid’s Classic Archery Tag
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Rec Center
Register your team of four at sign up in SURC 256

**TUE. FEB. 19**
Student Academic Senate
5:55 - 7 p.m. • Black 151
Stop by and learn how you can have a voice in CWU’s academic matters.

**Cold Weather Shelter**
2 - 4 p.m. • sign up in SURC 256
Help prepare food for our local shelters.

**Being Black in Ellensburg**
5 p.m. • Wellington Event Center
Black students, faculty, staff and community share their stories.

**To Live: NEA Big Read Discussion**
7 - 8:30 p.m. • Brooks Library 4th Floor
Talk, film clips and discussion around themes in the novel “To Live.”

**WED. FEB. 20**
**Wellness Wagon**
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. • Around campus
Answer trivia, win prizes, get a ride!

**Step Up! Workshop**
3 p.m. • SURC 170 • Free
Learn how to support and respond to struggling friends and crises.

**Parade of Nations**
6 - 8 p.m. • SURC Ballroom • Free
Ethnic and cultural identities celebrated through attire, music, and dance.

**ENGAGEMENT**

** Ellensburg weekly weather forecast **

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Temperature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Chance of snow in the morning with snow and freezing rain likely in the afternoon. High of 28. Snow accumulation of less than one inch.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Chance of snow in the morning with a chance of rain and snow in the afternoon. High of 32.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>20 percent chance of snow. Mostly cloudy with a high of 31.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Partly sunny with a high of 30.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Mostly sunny with a high of 29.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Chance of snow showers. High of 30.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data sourced from forecast.weather.gov. Information current as of publication date. 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,

With all this cold weather, how am I supposed to stay warm? I have an 8 a.m. and by the time I get from my apartment north of campus to Samuelson, my hands are so cold that I can barely hold a pencil. Staying home isn’t an option since my professor takes attendance.

Sincerely,

Edward Ice-Hands

Dear Hands,

The cold weather gets us all this time of year. You have a couple of options for dealing with the temperatures, which I’ll cover individually.

You can strap a car battery to your back and use it to power a portable space heater. This should produce a small bubble of heated air around you, and allow you to take a leisurely stroll to class wearing your finest tacky tourist short-sleeved button up. The upside of this is that it doubles as an epic-level flex on your non-space-heater-having peers.

You can use all the snow laying around to craft an anatomically correct snow replica of yourself and leave it in your seat in Samuelson. Since it’s rude to ask someone why they’re actually melting, your professor will never suspect a thing. For added realism, throw in your space heater from earlier, just so your classmates don’t get suspicious either.

You can cut off your hands. Can’t have cold fingers if you don’t have hands.

You could just wear gloves and invest in some hand-warmers, I guess, but where’s the fun in that?

Hope this helps,

Rune

**Submit a question**

Email us at cwuobserver@gmail.com

**Call for reader work**

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 H5 M - Tu 5-6 p.m. for inquiries.

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**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 H5 M - Tu 5-6 p.m.