The Observer

Central Washington University

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The trade war’s home front

Will Ortner
Staff Reporter

Two of the biggest superpowers in the world, the United States and China, have been caught in the middle of a massive trade war. The war has been going for over a year now and has hit farmers in the Pacific Northwest very hard.

Here in the northwest, the Chinese tariffs have been felt by local farmers. Many farmers in the Pacific Northwest are afraid that if a trade agreement isn’t settled soon, other countries might step in and take their business.

President Donald Trump kicked off the action by placing tariffs on China to get Americans to buy American products according to the BBC. It took very little time for China to hit back with tariffs of their own. It is believed that Trump was trying to increase the price of Chinese goods to get Americans to buy American products. According to the BBC, China then felt the US was trying to stop them from rising to a world power and placed their own tariffs because the U.S. was trying to limit their political power. This was only the beginning of tariffs being placed on and by both countries.

According to the BBC, the U.S. has imposed over $360 billion of tariffs on Chinese goods, while China has imposed over $110 billion of U.S. products. The U.S. and the Chinese governments don’t plan on stopping here with their tariffs. Both countries plan on placing more tariffs on each other by the end of the year, according to the BBC.

The Northwest Registered Agent claimed that the $700 million a year industry of Washington grown potatoes would struggle with the newly imposed tariffs for China.

“But with China adding a 25% tax on all American fruit and vegetable imports, farmers are seeing that what was once a burgeoning market, dwindle to almost nothing,” The Northwest Registered Agent wrote.

The potato foreign market is not the only crop market that the farmers here in the Kittitas Valley are worried might be affected by the Chinese tariffs. Prices have fallen on all kinds of crop markets that the farmers in the valley produce.

Brian Cortese, a local farmer, saw the price of his Timothy hay fall when foreign buyers came to purchase his farm’s hay.

“The American farmers are really feeling that pinch right now. We had a great first cutting, mainly because we had decent weather in the springtime,” said Cortese. “I felt like our hay was the greenest I’d ever seen it in June, and I thought at that time that we were going to be getting really good prices on that hay, but that wasn’t the case.”

Cortese said after that he wasn’t sure if the trade embargoes were one of the many reasons why the hay prices were lower than normal.

The tariffs and trade war can be very frustrating for many of the farmers here in the Kittitas Valley. Cortese said that the farmers of the valley are incredibly proud of what their crops mean to the community, and are proud to help build up the agricultural notoriety that the valley is famous for.

“The farmers here take a lot of pride in growing hay because we know our hay represents this community. Everybody tries to grow premium hay every year to meet that racehorse market in Japan,” said Cortese. “We always strive to do our best and produce the best product for the buyer, whether it’s in Japan, Korea or a mom and pop buying hay for their animals. We really take pride in that, and we do whatever we can to produce the best hay that we can make.”

U.S. Congresswoman Kim Schrier said that she fears that the tariffs might cost the Northwest farmers business at a local town hall meeting held in Ellensburg.

“I am also worried that if those screws get tightened too much that our cherry farmers, for example, may not have that dependable trade with China, and that New Zealand might step in, or that Australia might step in, and that business might not come back,” Schrier said to The Daily Record.

The trade war between the U.S. and China has played a significant role in how much local Kittitas farmers have been able to make when they have sold their crops at market. The farmers hope that an agreement can be made soon, so they don’t have to worry quite as much about market prices.

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Staff Reporters
Samantha Cabeza
Pilar Cuevas
Matt Escamilla
Aeryn Kauffman
Tapanga Krause

Photographer
Meghan Rochelle

Faculty Adviser: Francesco Somaini
Email: cwuobserveradviserFS@gmail.com

Advertising: Cait Dalton
Email: Cait.Dalton@cwu.edu
Central Washington University
400 East University Way
Lind Hall 109
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Enrollment growth continues

Amy Morris
Staff Reporter

Enrollment numbers have been steadily going up each year. This year, enrollment increased by 3%. More classes are being added, along with more teachers and facilities to keep up with all the students coming in.

CWU President James L. Gaudino is pleased with the amount of students coming in. CWU is here to serve the state of Washington and based on social and economic needs, Washington educates more of its residents than enrollments from other states, according to Gaudino. Washington is one of the lowest ranked states in the country for the percentage of its residents seeking a college degree.

“We feel that it is part of our responsibility to increase opportunities for people who live in the state, who pay taxes in the state and who are more likely to stay in the state, and if they get a degree from CWU, live as we say in our mission, enlightened, productive and responsible lives,” Gaudino said.

There are other universities that are growing in the state and all the universities in Washington are taking on the responsibility of reaching out to more students. CWU is one of the most transfer-receptive schools in the state, according to Gaudino. A lot of students like the path of going to a community college where they grow up for one or two years and then transfer to a residential university, like CWU.

Enrollment growth comes in different ways and not just from students enrolling in the Ellensburg campus. CWU offers degree programs at community colleges, which is where a portion of the enrollment growth is coming from, according to Gaudino. Managing the growth between the Ellensburg campus, the university centers and online classes is a challenge, according to Gaudino.

Morgan Burrell, a senior majoring in actuarial science, thinks CWU is too crowded. Burrell does not think CWU has kept up with all the incoming students in terms of infrastructure and classes available.

“Sometimes there are not enough teachers for a class,” Burrell said. “I know someone who had to delay their graduation because they couldn’t get into a class because it was full.”

Gaudino said CWU is prepared for the enrollment growth and there is a strategic enrollment management plan in place. CWU has a financial plan that drives the tuition revenue primarily to the academic and student life units. The state is giving CWU money to increase the capacity for teacher education along with health and wellness services for the students. In the last 10 years, around $250 million has been put into new academic buildings to increase the capacity for students, according to Gaudino. That money has been put into housing for the students along with more room for classes.

Gaudino said he thinks of enrollment as a headcount because for each class a student takes, they become another person the school has to account for capacity wise. He said they also look for how many credit hours students are taking to plan for capacity so that students can get into the classes they need. A lot of the times more capacity will mean hiring more faculty, opening another section of classes and advising students better, according to Gaudino.

A challenging factor in determining enrollment capacity is students who are undecided or switch their majors. It is hard to plan in advance the sections that CWU has to have because students are experimenting early on in their academic careers, according to Gaudino. CWU looks at historical trends to determine the number of faculty needed.

There are around 60 new incoming students each year, CWU is currently doing a capacity analysis. The first stage of the analysis is determining how much space CWU has for students in classes. The second stage is determining the maximum number of hours in a day that classes can occur. Students usually prefer to take classes between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., according to Gaudino.

Based on the strategic enrollment plan, CWU Ellensburg campus is planning for a total enrollment of around 12,000 students as their capacity. Off campus centers and online classes allow for more students because their hours are more flexible during the day. In total, including online classes, centers and the Ellensburg campus, the capacity for enrollment is around 14,000 students.

With enrollment going up, the staff and faculty will also go up, according to Gaudino. Some majors will reach capacity before other majors do because there is only a certain number of facilities students can use that pertains to their major. There is only a certain number of labs, music rooms, ensembles, student media positions and so forth.

CWU also has to take into account how students will be changing and what they will want in 10 or 15 years from now, according to Gaudino. The job market will also change which will be a variable. It is hard for CWU to determine exactly how to plan for the future when there are so many moving variables, according to Gaudino.

Vice President of Public Affairs Kremiere Jackson, said CWU is being very strategic about how they market to students to get them to enroll. She is working very closely with enrollment management in terms of what location students want to be at. CWU is also doing a lot more social media, texting and geo marketing than they use to. CWU is advertising in high schools and K-12 schools so that students know about college education before they are seniors in high school.
New public health masters program

Alkharnda currently majors in biology and said that she would have been a public health major if she had known about the importance of aiding and prolonging life. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), public health work is achieved by promoting healthy lifestyles, researching disease and injury prevention and detecting, preventing and responding to infectious diseases. It also works towards limiting health disparities.

Dr. Tishra Beeson is the program director for public health at CWU. According to Dr. Beeson, there has been a lot of demand for expansion in public health. Since she started working at CWU, public health is broad as it combines epidemiology, environmental health, infectious disease and behavioral health. Beeson said there is a discipline into learning all the modules in the health science.

“In the long run we should be working to preventing disease rather than treating” said Dr. Beeson.

Dr. Beeson mentions that anyone can benefit from learning different aspects of health sciences. There are a lot of vacancies in public health and a great need for workers in the program with interest from students in the undergrad. The curriculum is built based off of what professions are looking for from the degree. According to Dr. Beeson, the MPH is more focused on a rural aspect.

Alkharnda currently majors in biology and said that she would have been a public health major if she had known as a first year what she knows now. Alkharnda’s best friend is currently a public health major. She finds public health interesting because of the way her friend speaks about the curriculum.

“As a senior, Alkharnda finds that most students do not talk about their majors but when I first came to CWU,” said Alkharnda.

Senior Eloise Sheets, a nutrition major, majored in theatre her first year. She decided to change her major from theatre to health sciences because she wanted a “real job.” Prior to choosing theatre, Sheets had wanted to major in epidemiology, the study of diseases.

“I was very interested in public health when I first came to CWU,” said Alkharnda.

Sophomore Eloise Sheets, a nutrition major, majored in theatre her first year. She decided to change her major from theatre to health sciences because she wanted a “real job.” Prior to choosing theatre, Sheets had wanted to major in epidemiology, the study of diseases.
Tech changes across CWU campus

Matt Escamilla
Staff Reporter

The Student Tech Fee Council is in the process of making the old heat building into an esports gaming center and tech lounge. Student Technology Fee Council Chairman Lwin Het said that on Oct. 31 members of the council, project managers from the CWU facilities department, architects and others will be heading to the west side to checkout locations that already have esports complexes.

According to Het, if the complex gets completed, it will be the biggest esports facility in Washington.

“It’s going to be a place where students can go hangout. They can play video games in there,” Het said.

The facility will have classrooms to teach people how to use the equipment. It will also have computers, gaming consoles and a virtual reality area. The people involved with the project are currently speaking with CWU Dining Services about putting some kind of food area in the facility. The price and timeline for completion of the facility is still to be determined.

Het mentioned there will be a survey coming out to see what students would want in the esports complex.

In the beginning of fall quarter, students noticed new printing stations around campus. Given the fact WEPA is a new printing system, ASCWU Vice President of Student Life and Facilities Mickael Candelaria knew there was potential for student frustration.

“We know that with our returning students, second years and above … and those new to the campus [were] going to have different perspectives,” Candelaria said.

Candelaria also serves on the Student Technology Fee Council as an ASCWU representative.

According to Het, the biggest issue students are currently having with the WEPA system is their unfamiliarity with WEPA.

“If you knew everything that you could do on this new [WEPA] system you would like it a lot more than the previous system,” Het said.

Candelaria mentioned some individuals might be afraid to use the new system because it’s so new.

Agnes Husko, a freshman pre-medicine major, is one of those students hesitant to try the new WEPA system.

“My phone is pretty slow so I just don’t know how to work with the phone and the kiosks … I kind of get nervous about [it]. Is it going to print the right thing?” Husko said.

Husko mentioned she tried to follow the instructions on a flyer she was given, however, the directions were vague on how to upload documents.

Het said the tech council are in talks with WEPA right now to develop pamphlets and other informational channels that tell students how the system works.

Candelaria said the new system provides students more places on campus to print than the past busy areas in the SURC and Brooks Library.

For people who are disappointed with the printing balance being deducted this quarter, it is not considered a deduction in printing funds, according to Het.

“You never really had $15. We just gave you a $5 buffer just in case of a misprint,” Het said.

According to Het and Candelaria, people can contact WEPA for a refund if there are any misprints while using the system.

For more information, contact:
Dr. Sathy Rajendran, PhD, CSP, CRIS, ARM, SHM Program Director at rajendrans@cwu.edu or 509-963-1152
Pilar Cuevas
Staff Reporter

“Hip hop? Hip hop saved my life,” Edwin Rodriguez, vice president of Hip Hop Central, said. “If it weren’t for having an outlet to let go of my frustrations, things can impact your day-to-day and get into some dark places. [But] this is a tool that made my lifestyle a lot better.”

Hip hop is not just a genre of music. It is four elements comprised of art, poetry, dance, and of course music. When these elements come together, a meaningful space and energy are created to develop a culture.

Hip Hop Central is a student-led club that includes four different elements of hip hop, including DJing, MCing or rapping, graffiti art and B-boying or breakdancing.

The group gathers every Friday from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the lobby of Dean Hall.

“We don’t limit [our practice time] to that,” Rodriguez said. “Hip hop is a culture that resides in multiple facets. And some of those facets are created by the individual and so the individual will practice on their own craft and then once we come together we will build off each other’s energy and skill sets.”

Rodriguez, who is also a senior majoring in public health, mentioned that he wasn’t going to try to get stressed out. We are here to be a resourceful outlet to de-stress.”

According to Rodriguez, the founder of Hip Hop Central was his friend Bilal Abubakar. Rodriguez kept the club running after Abubakar. He then stepped up into the president role. He said that he stepped down to the vice president role this year to keep up with school work.

Rodriguez mentioned that anyone from the Ellensburg community can join Hip Hop Central even if they don’t go to CWU.

“People who join the club don’t need to have experience,” Rodriguez said. “And this is the fun thing about it. The co-chairs and founders navigate through people’s interest and we will help [new members] with expanding that skill set.”

Another officer of Hip Hop Central is Treasurer Robert Yew, a sophomore. He explained what Hip Hop Central is in regards to the four elements of hip hop.

Yew said tagging is the graffiti and art aspect of hip hop, “like sketching up books.” B-boying can be separated into four different categories: freezes, footwork, power moves and top rock. MCing is poetry and rhythm about struggles. And DJing is scratching or producing mixtapes.

According to Yew, the birthplace of hip hop was in the Bronx, New York in the mid to late 1970s, when there was a lot of political injustice against black people and when there was a lot of crime.

“DJ Kool Herc had an event for kids and he just wanted to do something for the Bronx,” Yew said. “They would mix for all these kids and they would party. People got down on the floor and that’s where B-boying originated from. Whatever the DJ was spinning, people would spit to. Tagging was a part of the art form and so people would trade and tag up each other’s books.”

Yew also explained the history of B-boying and the word “breakdancing.”

“We don’t call it breakdancing because B-boying was the original term,” Rodriguez said people from across the country and even across the world attended the event.

“They created an impact and influence that made the students get encouraged,” Rodriguez said. “And at that moment they fell something real and it is hard nowadays to feel that energy.”

Yew mentioned his own major personal highlights and his favorite thing about being in Hip Hop Central.

“I found people and a space where I can be comfortable,” Yew said. “When I left Hawaii, having a community where I could do [B-boying] I could get down to something I missed a lot and it brings back nostalgia.”

Yew described Hip Hop Central as a platform to express yourself.

“There is a freedom of expression through different means of Hip Hop,” Yew said. “If you feel like you move to music better than you create the music. If you illustrate better than you feel or write better it isn’t limited to one form.”

Kyle Wilkinson/The Observer

Edwin Rodriguez (DJ Ely Slick) works on his DJing during a Hip Hop Central gathering. The lobby of Dean Hall bounced with the beats as members of Hip Hop Central got down to the music.
Old Skool’s open mic jewels

Jackson McMurray
Staff Reporter

Every Sunday night, Old Skool’s, a record store in downtown Ellensburg, holds an open mic night, which is available to anyone who wants to perform. From 7-9 p.m. the building hosts performances from amateur and aspiring performers for free.

On a typical night, one can experience poetry readings on topics from cute boys to climate change, musicians performing both covers of their favorite songs and original tunes and sometimes even dance performances.

The event appeals to a broad category of people. It is usually attended by students and Ellensburg locals alike. On a given Sunday night, high school students and senior citizens will often appear back-to-back on the signup sheet.

Old Skool’s, and by extension their open mic night, is run by Carol Cox, who has been organizing the event for eight years.

The back room of Old Skool’s, which is home to many concerts from local talent besides just open mic night, wasn’t always reserved for that function. Cox used to sublet the space to other businesses before she was convinced to convert it to a concert venue.

“I had some musician friends who wanted to use the back room, and I was like ‘this is much more fun!’” Cox said.

The event is hosted by a rotating cast of volunteers, many of whom are frequent performers themselves. Sophomore biology major Eliza Sterne has been attending for less than six months.

“I first went to open mic night in early June of 2019, and I ended up performing that night,” Sterne said. “I performed ‘Glen the Dawg’ by Cherry Glazerr. It was actually the first time I had ever performed anything in front of an audience.”

All the current volunteer hosts are relatively new faces to the event, which was previously typically hosted by one person.

“It started with Kyle Bain, but that didn’t last, he only did it a couple of times,” Cox said. “And then Berget Mitchell took over and she’s now in Saudi Arabia. She comes back and runs it sometimes when she’s in town, and then she goes off to another foreign country.”

Mitchell, an Ellensburg local, was hosting open mic night when Sterne was just starting out in her open mic career.

“Berget was the best host in the entire world,” Sterne said. “That’s probably the reason that I wanted to host it, because she did such a great job at making people feel welcome and making it fun.”

Hosting the event typically means not just introducing acts and plugging the donation box, but also running the sound system for participants and moving microphones and music stands to ensure the event runs smoothly.

According to Sterne, the event is a great place for creative people to meet and interact with one another.

“My favorite part about open mic night is getting to meet other musicians that are often at the same level as you,” Sterne said. “I just think the collaboration that comes out of it is really cool, being able to find new people to play with.”

If you’re into seeing or performing improvised piano pieces, poetry, Irish dancing, acoustic guitar covers of rap songs, short stories or are just looking for someone to play music with, Old Skool’s open mic night is a great place to look.

Open mic night takes place at Old Skool’s record store on Sunday nights from 7-9 p.m.

‘I feel most myself when I’m dancing’

Tapanga Krause
Staff Reporter

Two majors, three minors, a club and a wide variety of classes to choose from. Whether you have 10 years of experience or no experience at all, the CWU Dance Program has it all. Student Dance Association (SDA), the dance club on campus meets Fridays from 3-5 p.m. in the Nicholson Pavilion 106. The club offers a wide variety of master classes.

SDA President and fifth year student Katelyn Stewart and SDA Vice President and senior Kaelin Smith-Rockne said that a variety of master classes are chosen.

“We kind of just pick and choose what works with our schedule and availability, as well as what the club wants,” Smith-Rockne said.

Master classes include things like “workshop,” Argentine tango and heels classes. Companies and businesses around the state can reach out to the advisors within the dance program to teach a class.

Director and Associate Professor Therese Young explained the styles, classes, majors and minors that are offered in the program.

“We offer a Bachelor of Arts, a major in dance and we offer three different minors,” Young said. “A performance minor [in collaboration with the theater program], a dance education minor where you can get an endorsement for K-12. It’s a funny little loophole in the state where just with a minor in dance you can teach K-12. And then we have a general dance minor.”

The core styles for any program are modern and ballet. Other styles include tap, jazz, ballroom and more. The program also offers history, choreography, composition and music classes.

“We were asked if they believe anyone can learn to dance, the simple answer was yes, it’s all about movement and the way you use your body. Freshman and theater studies major Sarah Bersh explained why we need dance.

“Everyone can dance, everyone has a way of expressing their emotions through movement,” Bersh said. “That’s why we have dancing, because music moves you so much that you have to express it through your body.”

Third year elementary education major student Serena Thompson said she doesn’t have a dance background.

“It’s kind of hard if you didn’t grow up with a dance background,” Thompson said. “Speaking in personal and emotional language, but I think that anyone can do it.”

Many of the students expressed the fact that movement is the biggest component of dance.

“We are born to move,” Young said. “Movement is a natural part of who we are.”

When students were asked what their favorite thing about dance was, answers consisted of how expressive it was and how it tells a story.

Second year student and dance major Jackson McMurray described how it makes her feel.

“I feel most myself when I’m dancing,” McMurray said. “You always act like different people around everyone, but when I’m in a dance environment and when I’m around others who love to dance, I feel like that’s my truest self out there.”

Fourth year dance major student Baily Erwin talked about what being apart of SDA was like.

“I get to come dance and hang out with my best friends every day,” Erwin said. “I think that’s the best part about it.”

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The Observer holds transparency between the publication and its readers as a top priority. We believe it’s our duty and a crucial factor in our pursuit of journalistic integrity. For these reasons, we are compelled to inform the readership of the past year working with administrators and departments on campus. Student media censorship and regulation is more common than many may think, coming in many different forms. In our case, administrators have been increasingly requiring student journalists to send in interview questions before giving any university worker, including faculty and student employees, permission to be interviewed.

The Observer staff has attempted to resolve this issue directly and amiably with the CWU Public Affairs, Athletics and Student Success departments. We are now faced with the reality that there is no option but to define the parameters of the relationship we have with oursource. If, for example, interview questions are sent in regarding a sensitive subject, answers from administrators may be formed in advance without being recorded, notes were taken by both parties. The Observer, while a fully student-run publication, works under the same ethical standards and strives for the same credibility as any professional outlet. We constantly attempt to conduct ourselves as professional journalists and, in doing so, hold the expectation that we will be treated with the same level of professionalism and respect.

Journalism and public affairs are fields that have the potential for both great synergy and conflict. The two professions have very different interests and, while at times The Observer acknowledges the interests of the university, we believe that moral and ethical boundaries have been crossed. Our mission is, and always has been, to serve the interests of CWU’s community with accuracy, thoughtful reporting. We believe in the importance of an informed public and hope that the public believes in our ability to inform.

Why we don't send interview questions

The Observer believes that the general public may not understand our resistance towards allowing journalists to send interview questions prior to an interview. One of the reasons is because it prevents us from getting genuine answers from our sources. If, for example, interview questions were sent in regarding a sensitive subject, answers from administrators may be formed in advance with a focus on public image over truth. Arguably one of the most vital reasons for not sending interview questions in advance is because it invites outside interference into story content. If The Observer allowed sending interview questions and the questions were sent back with “edits” or “suggested questions,” it could directly affect the outcome of the interview and thus the accuracy of the story. We believe this causes a strong ethical dilemma, setting a precedent for the future which allows interviewees to get out of uncomfortable yet necessary questions. Everybody has the right to deny answering any question asked during an interview, but that doesn’t mean that those questions shouldn’t be asked.

If a journalist is doing their job right, interviews are dynamic with follow-up questions that build upon themselves. There is no way to predict which direction an interview will take, because it’s a conversation between the reporter and the person being interviewed. During many of the most successful interviews, an answer that the interviewee gives can reframe the direction an interview will take, because it’s a conversation between the reporter and the person being interviewed. While this provided the necessary baseline information, it lacked the depth we seek in reporting, and the story suffered because of it.

In the beginning of the email Elbert referenced the April meeting between student media and Student Success and said, “At this meeting we asked that the questions or context of questions be shared to ensure the right staff were speaking on the desired topic.”

As mentioned earlier, this was not the agreement that all parties came to during the meeting. The agreement was that student journalists would provide context, but not specific questions and was told that the interview would need to be approved by Associate Dean for Health and Wellness Shawnté Elbert, despite the fact that Park had appropriately described the nature of the interview.

Rather than sending specific questions, Park replied with context and general topics that she would be talking about in order to get the interview approved. Director of Counseling Dr. Cindy Bruns said she needed permission from Elbert in order to be interviewed by Park. In this case, Park ended up being able to go forward with the interview after sending the additional context to Dr. Bruns.

Current staff reporter Amy Morris emailed the Wellness Center with an interview request on Oct. 22 regarding her story about safe drinking on Halloween. The Wellness Center replied:

“All interview questions must be approved by the Associate Dean of Health and Wellness: Shawnté Elbert...When she has approved of the interview questions, we can schedule an interview with one of our professional staff members.”

Morris then emailed Elbert saying, “I am a reporter from the Observer and I am doing a story on the party scene at Central and how students can stay safe and healthy.”

She continued by saying, “I was told you have to approve the questions ahead of time but we are not allowed to send specific questions.”

Elbert responded on the same day. In an email, Elbert wrote that sending interview questions gives her staff the chance to prepare in advance, as many of the topics The Observer covers are “quite broad,” which puts her staff in a position where they are not fully prepared to answer questions.

Having worked at 3 other campuses, sending the questions in advance has never been an issue, and allowed me to be better prepared for the interview and share relevant data,” Elbert said.

In the beginning of the email Elbert referenced the April meeting between student media and Student Success and said, “At this meeting we asked that the questions or context of questions be shared to ensure the right staff were speaking on the desired topic.”

Regardless of which academic year it is, sending questions prior to an interview will never be acceptable.
Athletics Department

On Oct. 7, CWU Athletics announced that former basketball coach Mike Larabee would be leaving CWU to be a coach at the University of Maryland. Senior Sports Reporter Austin Lane, whose job is to cover breaking news within sports, reached out to the athletics department to set up interviews. The coach’s departure was announced on a Monday and The Observer goes to press on Wednesday morning, leaving about 24 hours to complete interviews, write, edit and publish the story.

Every time The Observer wants to interview anybody within the athletics department, reporters go through either the Director of Athletic Communications Will McLaughlin or Assistant Director of Athletic Communications Caleb Dunlop. Typically what happens is a reporter will send an email stating who they want to interview and what they want to talk about in general, and either McLaughlin or Dunlop will set up interview times.

On Oct. 7 at 11:54 a.m., Lane texted Dunlop to set up interviews with current athletes to get their perspective on Larabee leaving. Lane gave a list of times he was available on Oct. 7 and 8 to complete interviews. Dunlop responded at 4:56 p.m. and said that one interview was confirmed for the following day and that he was working on setting the other two requested interviews. At 5:10 p.m., Dunlop said that another athlete was set up for 1:30 p.m. the next day but that he couldn’t get the third.

Dunlop, after confirming two interviews already said, "Please email me your questions for the interview before noon tomorrow, thanks."

Lane responded and asked why Dunlop needed questions, stating that The Observer does not typically send questions in advance.

Dunlop replied via text message that the CWU Athletic Department “reserves the right to request questions in advance.” Dunlop also said that, “the higher the magnitude of the subject matter, the more we want to know going in.” Lane was told that the request from the department was for informational purposes and to help the athletes get a chance to give the subject matter a thorough think through prior to.

Lane then communicated with McLaughlin, who said he fully supported Dunlop’s decision to request questions. McLaughlin said in an email that Dunlop was “not out of line” in requesting questions in advance so that the student athletes knew what to expect. McLaughlin added if there was any disagreement on the subject that Lane could bring the matter to Associate Athletic Director for External Affairs Tyler Unsicker.

Lane did not send interview questions by the given submission deadline, Oct. 8 at noon, and therefore interviews with the athletes were cancelled.

Dunlop emailed Lane at 12:03 p.m. on Oct. 8 and said, “given the subject matter, and quick turn-around on your request for the interviews, I had hoped there would be a mutual understanding regarding the matter. As it appears we cannot reach that understanding, the interviews will not be conducted.”

In an attempt to still give readers the full perspective, Lane reached out via text to two former CWU Softball athletes who played under Larabee. One former athlete responded, offering that herself and another former athlete could proceed with interviews.

After multiple reschedules on both Lane and the athlete’s side, the athlete texted Lane the following:

“We, got a phone call today saying not to answer your questions. The athletics department wants you to send them your questions before anyone answers them. [Another athlete] and I just received a text about it. Once you give them your questions they will okay the players to interview with you as well as us! Sorry, I really want to help you out, but gotta play by the rules on this one!”

In the May 2 edition of The Observer, Lane wrote a story on former CWU Basketball athlete Malik Montoya about his decision to declare for the NBA Draft. For that story, the athletics department told Lane that he did not have to go through them to speak with Montoya. This was because Montoya’s final basketball season was already over, making him no longer a CWU student athlete. This should have also been the case for former softball athletes.

Lane was able to call and use the athletic department’s website for his story, but no student athletes were quoted. Without comments from student athletes, the story was missing the essential element of genuine, unrehersal student perspective.

Meeting with CWU Athletics

A meeting was set up for Oct. 28 to discuss the matter with the athletics department. Those in the meeting for athletics included Dunlop, McLaughlin, Unsicker and CWU Athletics Intern Christian Bond. Those attending for student media’s representation include Valles, Hays, Lane, Somaini and Central News Watch Adviser Terri Reddout.

The meeting was not recorded but both parties took notes.

During this meeting, concerns were raised about the athletics department requiring questions for both current and former athletes. When The Observer asked why there wasn’t an alternative to sending questions, for example sending more context if necessary, Dunlop said the reporter didn’t ask for an alternative. While not directly asking for an alternative, Lane said the publication does not send interview questions and Dunlop did not suggest an alternative.

When asked why the athletics department was requiring interview questions for this story, they had two responses. The first was that the athletes wanted to know the questions, but this was not stated until Reddout communicated with CWU Athletics on Thursday, Oct. 10, when communication about the story began on Oct. 7. The second reason, provided by Unsicker, was that the athletics department didn’t want athletes to say anything that would make them look bad to the community, saying they didn’t want the athletes to speak from emotion.

Another point mentioned was that on two instances McLaughlin told current Sports Editor Nick Jahnhke that he and The Observer staff are “still just students.” McLaughlin said that since The Observer is student-run, CWU Athletics has the authority to dictate how the staff goes about reporting for stories within the athletic department. In the Oct. 28 meeting, McLaughlin denied ever saying such things to Jahnhke.

This sort of conduct has not been typical of the athletics department in the past. However, in light of the current situation with other departments on campus and in the spirit of transparency, we felt it necessary to disclose everything that has transpired.

Conclusion

Journalists have spent years and gallons of ink justifying our existence over and over again, and we will keep doing so out of necessity long into the future.

In writing this piece, we seek two things. The first is recognition for the importance of student journalists. Not personal glory, but respect for the roles we are honored to fill. The second is the freedom to do our jobs, which we will continue to do regardless of however much respect we are given or deserving of. The writers of this piece will eventually move on from CWU, but student journalists and The Observer are here to stay.
Student veterans share memories of service

Mary Park

Scene Editor

Roses of the star-spangled banner waved along both sides of North Walnut Street. Starting from Nov. 4, CWU Veterans Center is hosting Veterans Week to remember the service of veterans and current military servicemen and servicewomen.

On Monday, students from the CWU Veterans Club, Veterans Center and ROTC helped set up the flags all along North Walnut Street to prepare for Veterans Day.

Sherice Fraser, president of the Veterans Club, said that on Nov. 7, Marine Cake Day will take place to celebrate the birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Veterans are invited to Bouillion 214 from 10 a.m. to noon to have a slice of cake with fellow veterans.

That same day from noon to 2 p.m., “Thank a Vet Day” will happen in the SURC Marketplace, where veterans will table a booth.

“People can come up and thank veterans in person, or they can thank them in a written form on a poster that we’re going to have out there,” Fraser said.

On Veterans Day, there will be a movie showing of “Saving Private Ryan” (1998) in the SURC Theatre at 7 p.m.

Fraser, who joined the Army as a 17-year-old and served for six years as a cook, said she remembers the difficult part of the job.

“When I first joined … I would also work on the weekends and I would also work on holidays,” Fraser said. “Being a cook was very demanding and strenuous.”

Fraser said she motivated herself with the goal of transitioning from enlisted to becoming an officer and took college classes and obtained certificates during the limited time she had for herself.

“Before getting to where I am now, I knew I had to serve a certain amount of years,” Fraser said. “I would be up at 4 a.m. and not be done until 5 p.m. and after that when I get home, that’s when I would knock out my classes or home-work that I have.”

Fraser said her service in the military had helped her to grow and learn to be humble.

“Because I joined when I was 17 years old, I still had that child-like mind-set, so the military helped me to mature, and I took that maturity out into my civilian life,” Fraser said. “I felt like it was a duty I needed to fulfill.”

After basic training in South Carolina, Fraser said he was in his high school’s JROTC program for four years before enlisting in the Army.

There used to be an old commercial where guys are running to the phone, because they’re answering the call,” Salazar said with a laugh. “That’s how I describe my decision. I felt like it was a duty I needed to fulfill.”

Sherice Fraser/The Observer

Specifically, what I remember is like I look at my name tape and my rank and that’s all everybody knows me as,” Salazar recalled. “It’s kind of like here when you’re a freshman, nobody knows your high school past or whatever you did, it’s like a fresh slate, and what are you going to do with it, kind of a thought I had to myself, what am I going to do with this new fresh slate I had.”

Salazar said his time in the Army has made him and his family be more grateful and proud of being an American.

“I look at my name tape both from El Salvador, and I’m the first person born in [the U.S.] out of my family,” Salazar said. “I think at least it really helped my family, we’re a lot more patriotic than a lot of my cousins and their families, just because I joined.”

Salazar said the Veterans Center has helped him a lot to transition becoming a student and civilian.

“[Everybody in the Veterans Center] is honestly like good friends, good mentors,” Salazar said. “I think the Veterans Center is really good place to take off the uniform.”

Edwin Torres, a senior in geography with an environmental resource geography specialization, was a corporal in the Marines who worked on power plants of helicopters.

Torres recalled his first day at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego after being bussed from the airport.

“You kind of just sit there when this guy suddenly come out and he’s yelling these instructions at you and gives you a time limit and says, ‘Go!’” Torres said.

“And so I immediately regretted my decision when I got off the bus [thinking] ‘what am I doing here, what did I sign up for?’”

Edwin Torres said after growing accustomed to the training, his memories of working as a helicopter mechanic is filled with hot summers in North Carolina and crunching on grasshoppers in Afghanistan, where he was stationed in 2013.

“We worked on the flight line a lot so the sun would cook you if you’re out there all day,” Torres said with a chuckle.

Torres said D. Kellerman and Ruben Cardenas at the Veterans Center helped his process of becoming a student, with handing in documents and answering questions.

“Every veteran’s transition is going to be different,” Torres said. “I’m actually the Vet Corps Navigator for the school this year so what I focus on is helping veterans transition from military life to civilian life.”

Torres said his time as a Marine and the values instilled in him has made him look at things differently.

“I don’t feel like my service is anything out of the ordinary, I just do what I was asked to do and I feel like anybody could have done that service,” Torres said. “I definitely appreciate it and just say thank you right back, because … I’m just as thankful for that opportunity.”

To Fraser, the words, “Thank you for your service,” means she has done something to help someone else’s life.

“Thank you for putting in that time, for caring enough to make my life better, and that to me is like selfless service,” Fraser said. “And that’s what I think ‘Thank you for your service’ means.”
PAC Program: a place for transfer students

Aeryn Kauffman
Columnist

If you are a transfer student and you have not signed up for the CWU Peer Accountability Connections (PAC) program, what are you doing with your life?

PAC started fall 2018 as a program designed specifically with transfer students in mind. Associate Professor and Instruction Coordinator Eliza-Beth Brown collaborated with library staff, Academic Advising staff and the Academic Success Center, creating a smorgasbord of resources and support for transfer students.

The group meets once a week in the library to discuss mainly careers and academics. Often, though, there is a focus on study strategies, time management and future plans. Speakers have visited from the Wellness Center, Career Services and the Academic Success Center, creating a unique position because we are looked at as traditional students, but we are anything but. Many of us struggle to make friends and find support on campus. We have already lived on our own for years, some of us have children, and many of us have worked in careers. This makes it hard to relate to many of our peers.

PAC therefore has been an unexpected source of friendship (and people to go to bars with, yay!). I love my roommate, but we cannot go to bars together which is something I enjoy doing on the weekends, occasionally.

The PAC cohort arranged a Sunday scholarship workshop where we researched and applied to dozens of scholarships as a group. This is critical for transfer students, who experience the unique difficulty of securing financial aid.

“Universities typically have not offered [transfer students] scholarships and grants available to first-year students,” Alina Tugend with The New York Times wrote.

The students who are moved out of their parents’ house but aren’t old enough to be considered independent students are in a bind. They must report their parents’ earnings, but their parents’ earnings do not go toward college costs. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) grants “independent student” status to students at 24 years old, which means students do not have to report their parents’ earnings. Transfer students younger than 24, but living independently from their parents are left to struggle. PAC is a great resource for these students.

Transfer students at CWU, PAC is here to support you. If you are juggling two jobs plus full time classes, PAC has tips for you. If you furrow your brow indecisively at the question, “what year are you?” PAC has got you covered.

If you are struggling making friends, PAC is the place to be.
The purr-fect companion

Amy Morris
Columnist

College can get lonely and stressful at times, but having a companion by your side helps. I personally recommend getting a cat over a dog for various reasons. Cats are not only easier to take care of, but they are also not very noisy or high energy pets.

Cats are very low maintenance and take up very little space. In college, it can be hard taking care of a pet when you have classes to go to and other activities you are involved in. Dogs need to be walked very often and are usually high energy. Cats can be left alone for long periods of time because they are a lot more independent.

If you are torn between adopting a puppy or a kitten, there are many pros and cons to each. If you are generally busy, have a lot on your plate, or have roommates, a cat is your best bet. If you are more laid back and have a lot of free time, a puppy is your best bet. You can find a lot of information online to help you decide which animal is best for you.

The downsides to plastic bags should be obvious. They are a danger to our oceans, air, and even sneak their way into our ecosystems and overall biodiversity. Plastic pollution is one of the many problems that is only going to keep expanding exponentially.

According to the National Geographic website, nearly 1 trillion plastic bags are used every year across the globe. And as the world continues to sink deeper into the abyss of pollution, it is important to know the effects of plastic bags. This should, of course, be done before you pick up such handy pollutants.

The amount of plastic all over the world will be hard to manage. Cats are perfect size and will be a lot easier to take care of than dogs. With limited space, cats also can be left alone for long periods of time because they are a lot more independent. If you are worried about having to take it outside all the time when you are busy, don’t worry! The last thing you want to do after a long day is go for a walk, especially during the extremely cold fall and winter.

Another positive of having a cat is that they groom themselves. Dogs are prone to getting dirty when they play outside, and then they bring all that dirt in with them. Grooming a dog can be very time consuming and expensive.

While the above points are all good reasons to get a cat, the main reason I got one was for emotional support. Cats can help reduce anxiety and stress, according to an article by Health Fitness Revolution. College can lead to many mental breakdowns, but cats can provide therapeutic benefits.

Studies have shown that cat owners are less likely to have a stroke than other pet owners. Cat owners also have lower blood pressure. A study done by the University of Minnesota’s Stroke Institute in Minneapolis, found out that people who don’t own cats are 30-40% more likely to have a heart attack than cat owners, according to Health Fitness Revolution. These are just a few of the many benefits cats can have to a person’s health.

Cats overall are just superior to dogs. If you are thinking about getting a pet, do your research. While the idea of getting a pet may sound nice, do not get one if you can’t take care of it. Pets require a lot of love and attention so before you get that pet, make sure you are giving it the best home possible.

The people versus plastic

Pilar Cuevas
Columnist

Dear earthlings, by the time you finish reading this paragraph, almost 2 million plastic bags will be used worldwide. According to the official Earth Day website, nearly 1 trillion plastic bags are used every year across the globe. And as the world continues to sink deeper into the abyss of pollution, it is important to know the effects of plastic bags. This should, of course, be done before you pick up such handy pollutants.

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Samantha Cabeza  
Staff Reporter

Ski season is almost here which means students can experience the Pacific Northwest by skiing with a group of other students, friends and nonstudents. OPR offers weekly shuttles to The Summit at Snoqualmie starting winter quarter 2020. The shuttle cost is $10 for students and $12 for nonstudents. The official start date is Jan. 14, 2020, a week after winter quarter begins.

At 3:45 p.m. on Tuesdays, students can climb into a shuttle bus and ride to the summit for a night on the slopes. Night skiing offered by the summit starts at 4 p.m. and goes until 10 p.m. Students are responsible for their own tickets which can be purchased on the website of the ski resort, Summit at Snoqualmie, or at the resort.

The OPR crew will take students to Central or Alpental, depending on the weather or day. Summit Central is located in the middle of the resort and holds ski lifts and runs that are for all skill levels. Alpental is considered a more difficult area for skiers, containing steep hills and longer runs. Depending on how the students are feeling, the OPR shuttle will leave the resort around 9 p.m., an hour before the park closes.

Taking advantage of the OPR ski shuttle gives students the opportunity to connect with fellow students and reduce the risk of having to drive in icy conditions.

Driving over the pass may be considered dangerous in harsh winter conditions, especially if a student is alone.

OPR’s website offers a list of ski and snow activity rentals for students who are looking to rent gear. Lines at the summit can become long so renting your gear at OPR not only saves students time, but money. Gear prices start at $10.27 for boots and $10.27 for skis. Students can rent for a day or for up to seven days if need be.

Waxing at the OPR office is also offered for students who own gear. OPR is located to the left of the East Patio off of 11th street by the SURC.

OPR Staff Manager Tonya Morrey said that students who are not experienced in skiing are still invited to join them on the adventure up to the mountain. The OPR staff is filled with experienced skiers, such as Morrey herself. Morrey said the staff is open to students with no ski or snow sport experience.

Fit lab testing is available to all students. The lab operates on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. According to the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, cardiac arrest is a leading cause of unexpected deaths in NCAA athletes. Getting the cardiovascular test done can forewarn against health issues.

“Fit Lab can ... identify areas in need of improvement to optimize sport performance,” Conner said.

Fall quarter hours are Tuesdays from 3-7 p.m., Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m. and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m. Students sign up at the reception desk in Purser Hall 101 or call 509-963-1912.

For any questions regarding rentals and shuttle rides, contact Tonya Morrey and the rest of the OPR staff at outdoor.pursuits@cwu.edu.
Opinion: Hawks facing biggest game of the season

Austin Lane
Senior Sports Reporter

After a big win last week against the Atlanta Falcons, to move to 7-2 on the season the Seattle Seahawks have their biggest test of the season this Monday night against the undefeated San Francisco 49ers (8-0). The Niners are the last remaining undefeated team in the NFL since the New England Patriots were handed their first loss of the season last weekend, losing to the Baltimore Ravens by a score of 37-20.

The Seahawks were able to escape Tampa Bay with a win last weekend with Russell Wilson leading the team to a 40-34 win in overtime. Wilson continued to show why he will be named MVP at the end of the season with five touchdowns and no interceptions. The Seahawks continue to show an ability to overcome adversity as once again they trailed at halftime before coming back and winning the game. This is the fourth win out of seven that the team was behind at the halftime break.

The 49ers also had a close game against the Arizona Cardinals. The Niners left Glendale with a 28-25 win on Thursday Night Football. They will try to get back on track early against the Seahawks after not scoring a single point in the fourth quarter against the Cards. Quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo was a big factor in winning the game, throwing four touchdowns and no interceptions. Another reason the 49ers have been so good this season is their defense. In the four games before their game against the Arizona Cardinals, they allowed 23 points total, including a shutout against the Washington Redskins on the road a couple weeks ago.

The Seahawks recently added a well-known name at the wide receiver position, Josh Gordon. Gordon passed his physical and head coach Pete Carroll said earlier this week that the receiver is "ready to go" for the Monday night matchup. Gordon has been all over the league in his eight seasons in the NFL, mainly due to suspensions and injuries. Gordon was most recently cut by the New England Patriots before being picked up by the Seahawks. Gordon adds a dimension to the wide receivers core on the team and with Tyler Lockett and D.K. Metcalf beside him, the Seahawks passing game looks scary good on paper.

A feeling of nostalgia might wash over you if you’re a fan of either of these teams. This game gives off vibes of the previously hyped-up matchups between these two teams earlier this decade. The last time both of these teams felt this good at the same time was the 2013 season, when the Seahawks finished 13-3 and the 49ers finished 12-4. It was the season the two teams met in the NFC Championship game and the Seahawks won it with “The Tip” and proceeded to make and win the Super Bowl after beating the Niners. After the 2013 season, the Niners began to decline. A season later, the Seahawks began their decline. Since then, both teams haven’t both been great at the same time, with the Los Angeles Rams showing dominance in the NFC West for awhile. Now, entering this week, both teams are finally both in a situation where a win could potentially result in winning the division or even home field advantage in the playoffs.

This is the biggest game of the season for the Seahawks, without a doubt. Russell Wilson will need to have another MVP game, running back Chris Carson will have to be able to find gaps created by a young and banged up offensive line and the defense will have to find ways to stop the Niners’ relentless offense. I believe whoever has the ball last in this game will win. I also believe that team will be the Seahawks. Final score prediction: 31-28 Seahawks.
The Wildcats will go into their fifth game of the season against West Texas A&M with a 1-3 record.

Alumni challenge in full swing

The Wildcat Alumni Challenge is a fundraising event hosted by CWU Athletics once a year. The event gives former CWU athletes a chance to donate money that goes towards the different sporting teams at CWU. This year is the sixth annual Wildcat Alumni Challenge, and it is currently operating. The fundraiser will end on Dec. 3.

A minimum donation of $25 is required, which goes to the Wildcat Club. Any dollar amount after the initial $25 goes towards the sport of the former athletes’ choice.

At the end of the event, the sport with the most funds raised will receive an additional $2,500 from Andrew Mork of Mork Wealth Management at UBS Financial Services Inc., a 2011 CWU graduate. Any dollar amount after the initial $25 goes towards the sport of the former athletes’ choice.

According to the 2019 Wildcat Alumni Challenge, last year the Wildcat Club helped raise $250,000 for student-athlete scholarships and $250,000 for athletics facility upgrades. The CWU Athletics department’s goal for this year is to have at least 1,000 unique donors.

According to wildcatsports.com, last year, CWU Volleyball had the top percentage of alumni, breaking women’s soccer’s streak of winning the category in the first four years of the competition. The CWU Baseball team had the highest number of unique donors. The CWU Football team had the highest total dollar amount. Overall, there was a 23% increase in money raised between 2017 and 2018 and in 2018 the event raised over $55,000. Over the past five events the alumni have donated over $190,000 in total.

For this year’s event, women’s soccer leads the challenge scoreboard, which can be found on CWU’s Athletics page. Results of this year’s event aren’t shown in monetary value but rather percentages ranging from zero to 20%.

Women’s soccer currently sits at 2.9289% with baseball right behind them at 2.9248% and track and cross country are currently in third place at 2.7675%.

“My expectation is that it’s up to each sport and how much they want to invest into making this successful,” Nealey said. “It’s great that we’re all athletes and we all get competitive. There’s other sports that really want to compete and really want to win this year.”

For more information, contact: Warren Plugge, Ph.D.
Houge 101
wplugge@cwu.edu
509-963-2427

Accredited by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE).

Sponsored by the Construction Management Program.

Graduates enter careers as estimators, project engineers, assistant project managers, coordinators, and administrators.
ALL WEEK
19th Holiday Extravaganza
The Center for Leadership and Community Engagement needs volunteers for Holiday Extravaganza. Volunteers will assist K-5 children at the 30 different tables with winter-themed crafts and activities. T-shirt registration deadline is Friday, November 22.

THURS. NOV. 7
Wildcat Success Day
11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. • SURC 137
Get a refresher on what resources are offered at CWU. Enjoy free hot chocolate and pastries.

2019 INTERSTATE: Where I-90 Meets I-82 Exhibit
4-7 p.m. • Sarah Spurgeon Gallery
INTERSTATE is a biennial juried exhibition, the proceeds of which support student scholarships in the CWU Department of Art & Design.

Museums Sites of Healing, Co-Curation, Restorative Placemaking
5:30 p.m. • Dean Hall Lobby • Free
Mark Auslander, Ph.D. will discuss his partnership with sister-survivors of the MSU gymnastics sexual assault crisis, as they collaboratively co-curated the exhibition “Finding our Voice: Sister Survivors Speak.”

Campus Activities Presents:
Fall Open Mics
7:30 p.m. Sign-up • 1891 Bistro
Come showcase your talents at Open Mic!

MON. NOV. 11
Monday Movie Madness: “Saving Private Ryan”
7 p.m. • SURC Theatre Free for CWU Students, $3/GA
A U.S. Army captain leads a mission to rescue a GI trapped behind enemy lines in France on D-Day after all three of the soldier’s brothers are killed in action.

TUE. NOV. 12
Chinese Film Festival: “Eat Drink Man Woman”
4 p.m. • Samuelson 104 • Free
Watch Ang Lee’s “Eat Drink Man Woman” (1994) and then stay for snacks and a discussion.

WED. NOV. 13
Step Up Wildcats!
6 p.m. • SURC 137 • Free
Learn how to support and respond to struggling friends and crisis situations at this Bystander Intervention Workshop. Topics include mental health, alcohol and drugs, sexual assault and more.

TEGAN KIMBRO

winter word scramble
1. snowiff
   hint: Ellensburg typically gets a lot of this
2. renfzge
   hint: when the temperature drops, it’s
3. eonnwsm
   hint: build these out of snow
4. etoooolhihta
   hint: chocolate drink
5. ath
   hint: winter headwear
6. viganknights
   hint: November holiday
7. dindgles
   hint: activity to do in the snow
8. bwasnoooidng
   hint: winter sport
9. rtwnebarei
   hint: time where there’s no school
10. nipensco
    hint: stores sell these scented with cinnamon

Dear Linus,
Dear Holiday Enthusiast,
I’ve been trying to get my friends to bump some sweet Christmas jams for six days, but they absolutely refuse to do so. When’s the appropriate time to start listening to Christmas music and how can I convince them that I’m right?

Sincerely,
Wondering

Dear Wondering,
Let’s get straight to the point, Wondering. The best time to listen to Christmas music would have to be Nov. 1 to Jan. 31.
Thanksgiving is a controversial excuse to get way too into food for half a week. However, other than “A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving” (1973), Thanksgiving is a songless wasteland.
January is hardly any better. Before and after MLK’s birthday, we are hopelessly screwed in the holiday music department.
Christmas gives us all the backwards break ins, red nosed freaks and stranger (no) danger songs that we could ever want. From “Frosty the Snowman” to “Up on the Housetop,” listeners have their pick of questionable holiday lyrics.
Anyway, don’t you want to contribute to the millions of dollars Mariah Carey has made off of “All I Want for Christmas” one month before the official Christmas month? I for one don’t, but I will because no one has ever written a multi-million dollar song about turkeys and ugly Pilgrim hats.
Now, when it comes to your friends, I would like to first mention that you can in no way force someone into agreeing with your beliefs. With that out of the way, have you tried psychological warfare?
You should start by figuring out where they sleep. MacGyver up a small speaker setup near their beds that you can set on a timer. Everytime they lay their heads down, boom “Santa Claus is Coming to Town,” “Jingle Bells” and any other favorites you may have are playing on a loop. By the time your pals wake up, they will be in the highest holiday spirits.
Now that the songs are already stuck in their heads, they’ll love listening to those sweet wintery toons with you. If not, there may be one more option for you.
Get new friends. Anyone who can’t appreciate the sultry tones of Justin Bieber’s “Mistletoe,” isn’t worthy of your attention.

Sincerely,
Holiday Enthusiast

Ask Column

Answers:
1. Snowfall
2. Freezing
3. Snowmen
4. Hot Chocolate
5. Hat
6. Thanksgiving
7. Sledding
8. Snowboarding
9. Winter Break
10. Pinecones

November 1st

EDITOR: Mariah Valles

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ATTEND AN EVENT OR HOST AN EVENT IN THE CWU COMMUNITY TODAY.