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

Gaudino said that in his time as president, there have been two other attempts to overhaul the general education program, with limited success. He said that now, after a two-year period of research and study, the faculty and administration have finally been able to make progress. The new program is scheduled to be implemented by Fall 2019, which according to Gaudino, means they have worked hard for them.

Erickson presented a list of commendations CWU has received from external sources and spoke about the university’s culture and its accomplishments in recent years.

Shelter continues to help Ellensburg community

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

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

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

The annual State of the University address was one of the largest points brought up by Gaudino and Erickson.

Near the end of Fall 2019, the faculty senate voted to approve changes to the previous program and move on to the implementation stage. The new program includes updated requirements to the criteria for what courses may be considered general education, as well as changes to the way courses are organized.

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

Continued on Page 2

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

Nick Jahnke
Senior News Reporter

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Continued on Page 2

Athletes ring in the New Year

Dez Rodriguez
Assistant Sports Editor

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 10

Cold Weather Shelter continues to help Ellensburg community

Afton Prater
Staff Reporter

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

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

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Continued on Page 8

ARE YOU A CARTOONIST?

The Observer is looking to add a cartoonist to our staff.

Email: cwuobserver@gmail.com

Walk-in: Lind 115, M & T 5-6:30 p.m.
President Gaudino presents an overview of the year

Gaudino said that the goal of the new enrollment plan is to stop letting outside factors determine how CWU recruits prospective students and allow for CWU to determine what kind of student population it wants to have. “The state of this university is better than it has ever been, we are an outstanding university on the cusp of greatness,” Gaudino said.

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

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Editorial Policy: The Observer is a public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. The mission of The Observer is two-fold; to serve Central Washington University as a newspaper and to provide training for students who are seeking a career in journalism. The Observer seeks to provide complete, accurate, dependable information to the university community; to present a public forum for issues, ideas and problems facing the community at large; and to be the best source of information, education and entertainment news. As a training program, The Observer is the place within the university for student engagement in the art and craft of journalism. Student editors make policy and content decisions. The mission of The Observer is to provide complete, accurate, dependable information to the community at large; to present a public forum for issues, ideas and problems facing the community at large; and to be the best source of information, education and entertainment news. The Observer is proud of its mission to provide for inclusivity and diversity in everything it does. ‘We take pride in what we are,’ Erickson said. ‘A comprehensive university that places its highest priority on the achievement of each and every student who is admitted regardless of their educational, financial, or cultural backgrounds.’ Erickson also spoke about some of the things CWU has in the works right now, the first being the 10-year construction plan for the art, science, technology, engineering and math facilities that is nearing conclusion. Erickson mentioned that the facility to be built will be used for health science and he hopes construction will begin during summer 2019.

“With my fingers crossed on both hands, I believe that the state legislature will be able to provide the promised second half of funding needed to construct the new health science building where Hertz Hall now sits,” Gaudino said. According to Gaudino, a new strategic enrollment plan is going to be presented to the board of trustees for approval. He said the plan is the result of a year-long effort to entirely change the way CWU looks at enrollment. Gaudino said that in the past, CWU has used the same strategy that nearly all universities use for enrollment. Enrollment is predicted by studying high school graduation rates, demographic trends and historical market shares. Last Saturday was the first time I implemented my weekly break into my schedule. My stress and anxiety about school has already decreased immensely. If you find yourself needing help with your mental health, the Student Medical and Counseling Center or the Wellness Center may have resources for you. On another note, thanks for picking up this issue of The Observer. In this issue you can find information on the New Dean of Student Success, Gregg Heinselman, a review of the movie ‘Bird Box,’ along among many other stories. Take care, Mariah Valles
Editor-in-Chief

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If you were to drive about 25 minutes east of Ellensburg on Vantage Highway, you would begin to notice the pillars of wind turbines looming in the hills. On the north side of the highway, these turbines belong to the Wild Horse Wind and Solar Facility, owned by Puget Sound Energy (PSE). According to Wild Horse Program Coordinator Andrea Crawford, the facility has been producing clean, renewable energy since 2006. Crawford said that after expanding the program in 2009, the facility now boasts 149 individual wind turbines. Combined, they can power an average of 60,000 to 70,000 homes annually. Crawford explained that they use “homes” as the unit of measurement because it’s easier to picture, but in fact the facility powers large businesses as well as homes. The output of energy can also be quantified using megawatts as a unit. Wild Horse produces 273 megawatts a year on average, which makes it the second highest producer in Washington behind Windy Point Wind Farm in Klickitat County, which produces 400 megawatts.

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

Crawford said that they do not expect any more expansion in terms of adding extra wind turbines. She said that they have shifted their focus to improving the technology, which includes finding ways to make the turbines lighter, more efficient producers of energy. “We’ve used the best, windiest ridges at this point,” Crawford said. The thing that sets Wild Horse apart from other wind farms in the U.S. is the educational and recreational activities they host. According to Crawford, it is the only wind farm in the nation that offers educational tours of the facility as well as recreational activities like hiking, horseback riding, birdwatching and hunting. Tours of the facility are held twice a day, every day, between April and November. Recreational activities require an access permit which is available on the Wild Horse website.

According to Wild Horse Senior Wind Resource Advisor Jennifer Diaz, Wild Horse is home to all kinds of wildlife, ranging from eagles to rattlesnakes. She said that due to the sheer size of the 10,000 acre property there are multiple wildlife habitats which are easily disturbed. These habitats require a heightened level of care, so Diaz regularly works with departments like Fish and Wildlife to ensure they are keeping the nature of Wild Horse safe. “We are the largest private landowner in Kittitas County, and that’s huge, so we have a big responsibility for managing this land,” Diaz said.

According to Diaz, three Wild Horse employees are being selected to become trained drone pilots. They plan to use the drones to inspect the blades of the wind turbines, which would be safer and more efficient. They are also in the process of obtaining an eagle permit, which would allow them to safely remove eagles from the property if need be. Wild Horse isn’t the only wind farm PSE owns in Washington. According to PSE’s website, they also operate a 11,000 acre farm on Hopkins Ridge, located about 300 miles southeast of Seattle and another on Lower Snake River, which is located about 12 miles west of Pomeroy, Garfield County.
Faculty senate meeting overview

Matt Escamilla
Staff Reporter

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

Student advising being reorganized

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

The restructuring of advising will start by having town hall meetings that will take place this quarter. Different advising models will be presented during the process. There will be an ongoing advising committee made up of faculty and academic advisors tasked with simplifying the process for students. That’s the goal, to make it simple, Claridge said.

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

Official free speech policy to be discussed

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

Gonzaga’s decision made CWU evaluate their free speech policy. “CWU currently does not have a policy on free speech. This new policy details the rules around engaging in free speech and other expressive activities on campus. After the internal review is complete, the policy will be out for public review for at least 30 days. If no changes are made, the policy will be presented to the president’s advisory committee, in February,” Claridge said.

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

Students retention rate dropping

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

According to Claridge, all depart- ments are in the process of evaluating unnessessary barriers that get in the way of students’ abilities to continue their education. Student account holds, financial aid, IRS verification are some of the barriers under evaluation by the task force. According to CWU President Gaudino, the university keeps track of student retention rates. Students who drop out only for financial purposes, but also to ensure students are getting a four year degree even if that means the student transfers to another university to do so. The main concern is if a student leaves school and doesn’t return or transfer to another university. At that point, the likelihood of a student entering into a graduate program and college to obtain a degree drops considerably according to president Gaudino.

The Operating and Capital Budget Priorities for 2019-2021 revealed

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

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

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

Update on general education

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

New dean of student success

Payton Parke
Staff Reporter

After a seven month search, CWU has elected Gregg Heinselman as Dean of Student Success. CWU Provost Katherine Frank was a part of the selection process.

“We are really lucky, [Heinselman] is bringing a lot of experience with him to CWU,” Frank said. “He has spent the majority of his career in student life.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

“As a first generation college student, it was important for me to have someone with personal experience and expertise to CWU, Rojas said.
The Kittitas Valley is not only home to around 46,000 people, but also a diverse ecosystem of animals. CWU’s Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) makes it one of its goals to bring students closer to the Kittitas Valley wildlife. On Wednesday, Jan. 9, one trip, planned and led by CWU students Kendall Kramer and Tonya Morrey, did just that when OPR brought a van full of students to spot one of our resident herds of elk.

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

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

As the students stepped out of the van and started up a snowy hill towards the edge of the wildlife area, they could see moving dots along the ridge forming in lines. One shape raised its head, showing terrific antlers, and cried out, a high-pitched wail in the otherwise quiet air. Between 20 and 30 elk all made their way over the ridge following the first. The sentry had cried out a warning to them that we were coming. These elk weren’t just there by coincidence, they would be in the same place every day at around the same time from morning until early afternoon. This is because the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has a station which feeds the herd bales of hay as well as specially formulated pellets packed with grains and proteins. According to the WDFW, feeding these animals is not to help their food intake during the winter, the elk in the area have ample food supply, but instead to guide the herds away from the nearby private property which they would have to trample through to get that food. A herd of adult elk could cause extensive property damage, as well as contract diseases from domestic animals.

However, significant risks need to be addressed regarding whether or not the wildlife should be fed by people, one of which being that often people want to feed deer and elk foods that are not able to handle things like corn and apples and artificial feed that domestic animals have been bred to digestively handle. In addition, enticing the herd to be at the same place every day makes them vulnerable to diseases, as well as makes them a big target for predators and poachers. Some have also brought up that the feeding stations may draw the animals to cross roads. It is because of this that similar programs aren’t run in the entire state, in addition to the fact that the WDFW doesn’t have the resources to do so. The fish and wildlife departments of nearly every state in the US agree that feeding wildlife is generally a dangerous act, both to the animals themselves and to the ecosystem in general. Because of this there are few state-run wildlife feeding programs. Here in Ellensburg though, circumstances present the human locals of Kittitas Valley with the opportunity to see stunning views of the animals we share this area with.

Nicholas Tucker
Staff Reporter

Students interact with wildlife during Tieton River Elk Feeding

Upcoming OPR Trips

Jan 20: Full Moon Ski and Snowshoeing
Jan 26: Mission Ridge Ski Shuttle
Jan 27: Hex Mountain Snowshoe

Contact OPR for more information

Nicholas Tucker/The Observer

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

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

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

The ticket price is $40, for which you receive a wristband, a tasting glass and a five scrip. “The event is currently sold out, as this is one of the most popular events of the entire year for the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce.” Fudacz said.

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

The Brewfest brings in people from all over Washington. The average age range for attendance is about 45 to 65 years, so not so surprisingly you will not see many CWU students coming out. The Winterhop Brewfest brings in many different breweries from all over the state of Washington. “The beers are all different and provide a good mix for everyone’s different tastes. Cider has become a popular choice and some breweries carry gluten free beer,” Fudacz said.

You may recognize some familiar names like Iron Horse and Whipsaw that are attending Winterhop Brewfest. Both of these breweries are owned by Debbie Tierney. “It is an absolute blast. We have so much fun, beer is what brings people together,” Tierney said, as she described her experience with the last three years at Winterhop.

Whipsaw will serve their two flagship beers, “Buzz on Blackberry” and “Stumpblower IPA,” at the festival. The brewery has been to many other brewing events in the area, including Mountain Ale Fest, Eastern Washington brewfest and several others on the West Side. “This is how we get our name out,” Tierney said.

Many vendors help make Winterhop happen. Matt Armstrong is one of three co-owners of Dark Moon Craft Beer in downtown Ellensburg. “It is nice being a venue holder because it gives us publicity and still get to help with an amazing event,” Armstrong said. “It’s hard not to have fun at a beer event.”

Other vendors participating in the event include Royal Sports Bar, The Recycle Shop, and Troutwater Fly Shop.
MLK’s legacy reigns on within Ellensburg community

Cassandra Hays
Scene Editor

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

King is best known for his advocacy within the Black Lives Matter movement and for spreading messages of social equality. He has worked as a pastor, and established a church for good. King has also recently written The North Star, an anti-slavery newspaper founded by Frederick Douglass. King plans to bring the newspaper into the modern age by discussing current civil rights issues.

The newspaper will be published online.

King has raised over $20 million for grassroots causes and has organized protests for justice reform across the country. King is a co-founder of the Real Justice Project and a former senior justice writer for the Intercept, writer-in-residence for The New York Daily News. King also contributes to the Tom Joyner Morning Show and The Appeal podcast. King received the Humanitarian Hero award in 2008. He is a columnist for the Intercept and a contributing writer for the New York Daily News. King is also known for his contributions in identifying and arresting white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, after they had attacked multiple people of color. According to King’s website, his efforts “single-handedly led to more arrests of Neo-Nazis than that of the FBI or State Police.”

King has launched numerous initiatives to promote social justice. He is recognized for his use of social media to advocate for social change and to further the Black Lives Matter Movement. King received the Humanitarian Hero award at the 2018 BET awards for exhibiting bravery and strength through his advocacy throughout the year.

King will speak on Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom. He will be sharing how people can generate change by using their voice on social media platforms. Free tickets are currently available to CWU students online or at The Wildcat Shop, while the general public may purchase tickets starting Jan. 25. General admission tickets will be $10 with a non-perishable food donation, which will be accepted at the door before the event and will be donated to the P.U.S.H. Food Bank. Tickets will be $15 with no donation.

MLK Vigil and Peace March

Where: SURC Ballroom
Cost: Free

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

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

“We want to help the young kids grow in appreciation for diversity and recognize we are different in many ways, but those differences should not create a division.” CLCE and the Diversity Equity Center (DEC) will be running the “Make A Difference” program where the two programs bring in students from second to fifth grade from Mount Stewart Elementary and teach them about the importance of diversity and inclusion with a focus on Dr. King.

The kids will be engaged in activities like plays, group discussions, writing, crafts and games along with performances by a band and choir. There will also be a campus wide peace march open to students and the community. Sydney Riel, student leader for the program, explains that the goal of the event is for students to gain knowledge on what King Jr’s life was about and to explore topics like stereotypes, racism, and current world issues in a fun and interactive way.

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

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

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

The event has been going on for about 10 years now and has received positive feedback every year. Teachers and parents who participat-
ed have done surveys and let program directors know how great the event was and how big of an impact it has had on the students and the school.

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

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

Shaun King

Who: Shaun King
What: Speaking on topics such as racism, BLM movement and use of social media to create change
When: February 25
Where: SURC Ballroom
Cost: Free

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

MLK’s legacy reigns on within Ellensburg community

Shaun King

Scott Wilson
Staff Reporter

Civil rights activist Shaun King to speak at CWU

Staff Reporter

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

King is best known for his advocacy within the Black Lives Matter movement and for spreading messages of social equality. He has worked as a pastor, and established a church in Atlanta called Courageous Church in 2008. He is a columnist for the Intercept, writer-in-residence for Harvard Law School’s Fair Punishment Project and a former senior justice writer for the New York Daily News. King also contributes to the Tom Joyner Morning Show and The Appeal podcast. King has also recently written The North Star, an anti-slavery newspaper founded by Frederick Douglass. King plans to bring the newspaper into the modern age by discussing current civil rights issues. The newspaper will be published online.

King has raised over $20 million for grassroots causes and has organized protests for justice reform across the country. King is a co-founder of the Real Justice Project and a former senior justice writer for the Intercept, writer-in-residence for The New York Daily News. King also contributes to the Tom Joyner Morning Show and The Appeal podcast. King received the Humanitarian Hero award in 2008. He is a columnist for the Intercept and a contributing writer for the New York Daily News. King is also known for his contributions in identifying and arresting white supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia, after they had attacked multiple people of color. According to King’s website, his efforts “single-handedly led to more arrests of Neo-Nazis than that of the FBI or State Police.”

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

King will speak on Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom. He will be sharing how people can generate change by using their voice on social media platforms. Free tickets are currently available to CWU students online or at The Wildcat Shop, while the general public may purchase tickets starting Jan. 25. General admission tickets will be $10 with a non-perishable food donation, which will be accepted at the door before the event and will be donated to the P.U.S.H. Food Bank. Tickets will be $15 with no donation.

MLK Vigil and Peace March

Where: CWU students, faculty, and the general public
What: a peace vigil and march around campus to celebrate MLK, followed by a presentation and musical performance
When: January 17 at 5 p.m.
Where: SURC Pit
Cost: Free

Andre Dickerson, CLCE program director

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Cold Weather Shelter and CLCE encourage people to volunteer and to have a good time while making a positive difference in the community.
If you or someone you know would be interested in volunteering with the shelter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Volunteer Thor overviewing a new sign up, Fred, as an addition to the Cold Weather Shelter team.
CWU athletes aim to take 2019 head on

Continued from Page 1

Now in 2019, the team is off to a 10-3 record, their best start since the 2015 season when they started 10-4, but cooled off down the stretch. Now sharing the court with her sister once again, Aliyah hopes her new year’s resolution will help her career on and off the court. “I’m the kind of person that wants everything scheduled out all the time,” Aliyah said. “I just want to be more open about going with the flow and living in the moment.”

Reuben Ludick Senior Center, Durban, South Africa

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

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

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

Match stats:

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Next up: vs Cal Poly

“WE’re all working hard to get our set pieces down and looking to make an improvement because without the set pieces, you cannot play any rugby,” Ludick said. “I think we’re getting there.” Normally not used to setting new year’s resolutions, Ludick decided to make one this year realizing his college career is coming to a close. With only two more quarters to go, he wants to focus on his performance not only on the field, but off of it as well.

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

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

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

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

Like many high schools, baseball and track took place during the same season, so making the switch from baseball to track was too difficult for Vallatini to make one this year realizing his college career is coming to a close. With only two more quarters to go, he wants to focus on his performance not only on the field, but off of it as well. “I want to keep track of my academics and be sure its top notch as well as on the rugby field.”

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OPR bundles up for Mission Ridge ski trip

By Bryce Weedman
Sports Reporter

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

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

Tonya Morrey, trip leader

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

The group going to Mission Ridge plans on meeting at OPR around 7 a.m. and getting back around 7 p.m. which makes for a solid eight to nine hours of shredding. OPR encourages students of all skill sets, when it comes to snowboarding and skiing, to join in for the trip. In past shuttle trips to the mountains, OPR has seen anywhere from 20 to 30 students in attendance. OPR will be taking the school’s vans which include Bluetooth, giving students a chance to play some good tunes all the way to the mountain and back.

“I think it is a great way for students to meet each other, and it’s great because they all have skiing and snowboarding in common,” said trip leader Tonya Morrey. “I myself met friends through this trip when I first went on it. Even if you have never shredded the slopes a day in your life, there is a chance to get lessons up on the mountain. OPR assistant trip leader Grace Burke is certified as a ski instructor, so get the chance to pick her brain and get acclimated with skiing or snowboarding. If you’re interested in backcountry skiing, OPR has rentals that you can get for a decent price. You can also buy passes for the mountain at OPR which include the opportunity to skip the line.

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

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

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

Ski & snowboard bus welcomes students

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

By Tianbai Dun
Sports Reporter

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

OPR staff member Tonya Morrey said that for the time being, ski buses depart every Tuesday from the OPR office at 3:15 p.m. and return to campus around 9:30 p.m. the same day. Morrey added that the buses cost $10 for CWU students and $12 for non-students.

“Join the OPR crew on these Tuesdays for a bus ride up to Snoqualmie Pass and have some fun skiing at night,” Morrey said. Morrey also said that sledding and snow tubing are offered as well and are great for those who may not be into skiing and snowboarding.

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

Athletics Review

MBB

vs. WWU
65-73 (6-6)

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

WBB

vs. NNU
69-89 (10-4)

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

Men’s Rugby

@ SMCC
6-50 (1-1)

Most recently, men’s rugby fell to Saint Mary’s College of California, 0-50. Next, the team will hit the road to square off against Cal Poly State University on Saturday, Jan. 19.
**Wildcats gear up for first meeting with the Clan**

By Micah Chen

The CWU women's basketball team is hopeful they can take care of business on the road this week against conference rival Simon Fraser. Anytime you play a conference game, there are playoff implications on the line. Currently, CWU holds a slim two game lead over Simon Fraser in the GNAC standings. Head women's basketball coach Randy Richardson-Thorney believes that Simon Fraser will be one of their toughest opponents yet.

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

If CWU is going to win this game, they're going to need key contributors to continue stepping up. 5-foot-11 sophomore forward Kasidy Malcolm and 5-foot-9 junior guard Alexis Pana have been breakout players for the Wildcats this year. Right now Malcolm is second in the GNAC in rebounding with an average of 9.1 rebounds per game, and a total of 118 over the season. Pana is averaging 14.9 points per game which is the best record on the team and fourth overall in the conference.

That's not to say that Simon Fraser doesn't boast their own high talent level. The Clan's starting lineup is highlighted by 5-foot-11 senior guard Sophie Swant. The MVP candidate is averaging a quality 13.8 points per game and 5.6 rebounds per game. CWU forward Malorie Fassler knows the importance of taking care of the fundamentals against a team of Simon Fraser's caliber.

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

Outside of executing the game plan, Flores believes that getting everything involved will maximize their potential.

At the mid-way point of the season, CWU currently sits at 10-5. It's not a bad record by any stretch, but senior captain Sadie Mensing knows that improvements still need to be made.

"I don't want to lose at all," Mensing said. "We're doing good and overall I'm happy with how we're playing together."

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

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

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

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

This group has been vocal about their belief in taking it one game at a time, but the ultimate goal is to hoist the GNAC trophy at the end of the season. According to Mensing, the pieces are there to make that happen.

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

Combine that with CWU's high pressure defense, and Mensing is confident in their chances to win a conference title. Winning the GNAC is the long term goal, but for now, Mensing's focus is 100 percent on preparing for the Clan.

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

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**Opinion: Mariners vs. Martin - too early to tell**

By Austin Lane

For the Observer

The Seattle Mariners hired Doctor Lorena Martin as MLB’s first ever Director of High Performance in November 2017 for the 2018 season. After the season was over, Martin filed a lawsuit and accused the organization’s team owners John Stanton and Buck Ferguson and team CEO Kevin Mather of discriminating and treating her poorly. Martin also told The News Tribune that Mariners General Manager (GM) Jerry DiPoto had called her a “cocky doctor even though team trainers were concerned with her engaging in medical practices without a license.”

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

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

For example, my question is why did Martin only accuse the team after she was fired? On the other hand, I question the Mariners staff in not firing her sooner if she did indeed begin to show signs of toxicity, even as soon as spring training, weeks before the regular season even began. To me, Martin’s accusations sound a little more unbelievable than the Mariners’ accusations. Scott Servais has had to play with and coach many Dominican players, I’m not so sure he thinks they are all dumb.
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Interactive films are the future of entertainment

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

Alexa Murdock
Managing Editor

Disclaimer: This review contains minor spoilers of "Black Mirror's" interactive episode "Bandersnatch."

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

Interactivity in media

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

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

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

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

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

Free will in predetermined choice

"Bandersnatch" has a myriad of possible endings. In some circumstances, when the viewer reaches an ending, they are given the option to either view the credits or continue on with the story by trying a different possibility from one they previously picked.

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

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

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

"This is where the moral dilemmas in "Bandersnatch" become real. Surely any one would go insane if they knew their actions were not their own. Regardless of your religion or spiritual belief, if you knew that some otherworldly being was forcing you to read this newspaper rather than doing it of your own free will, you would feel violated, confused and helpless."

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

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

"Bandersnatch" explores the theme of free will through its plotline, yet also challenges this concept through predetermined choices and scenes given to the viewer.

Interactivity in the future

The sheer novelty of interactive media makes it fun to use, but in the future, films like "Bandersnatch" could be used in ways that benefit both the viewers, producers, and streaming services. The first choices "Bandersnatch" presents the viewer are to pick which breakfast cereal the protagonist eats and which soundtrack he listens to on the bus (which is then played in that scene). These details are trivial in the grand scheme of the plot and mainly serve as aesthetic.

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

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

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

When interactivity is no longer a choice

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

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

User data of interactive film choices could be sold to advertisers or used against us. In the future, it's possible advertisers might buy the right way into TV shows similar to how they end up in our Facebook feed. Streaming companies could use this data to sell us things subliminally in our favorite TV shows. Instead of being able to choose to watch a Froot Loops advertisement on Hulu, Froot Loops might find their way onto the breakfast table of the TV show you're watching.
It’s not often that a film is more well known for its meme status than its cinematic prowess, but “Bird Box” is a rare exception. Seeing memes containing scene grabs from the film or videos of people attempting the “Bird Box Challenge” (AKA trying to complete everyday tasks while blindfolded) could almost be considered a set of instructions on how to make me curious; how does the actual movie hold up?

“Bird Box” is a 2018 post-apocalyptic thriller/horror based on a 2014 novel of the same name. Susanne Bier directs the story of Malorie (Sandra Bullock) through multiple time periods: present day where she is rowing a boat with two children down a river while all three are blindfolded, five years prior to that where she and her eventual partner Tom (Trevante Rhodes) are raising their children down a river. It’s a film that details Malorie’s experiences with a group of survivors that she takes refuge with after the creatures make first contact.

Where “Bird Box” really makes an impact is in its ability to create anxiety and unease in those watching. The decision to not show what the creatures look like (as John Krasinski did in his film, “A Quiet Place”) is pretty brilliant. By doing this, the film allows the viewer to create their own horrifying imagery of what the creature would appear as to them personally. The movie also utilizes a wide variety of sound effects for the monsters in their movements or vocalizations that adds to the tension felt throughout the film, as do the cinematography and visuals. With a few exceptions, when the characters are outside the sky is overcast, and the terrain is mucky and wet. When the characters feel little hope, we feel just as desperate through the lack of positive imagery in the film. Another strong suit of this film is the combination between pacing and editing. Sometimes jumping back and forth between different points in the story is jarring, but here it is incredibly novel came before John Krasinski’s film. A creature that takes the form of your greatest fear, love or loss? We’ve seen that in “IT” (2017) and “It Follows” (2014). Humans being forced to commit suicide through some sort of stunt? The infamous “The Happening” (2008). One way “Bird Box” does stand out from these other movies is the secondary threats/antagonists that are as much as dangerous as the mysterious creatures themselves. In this extreme situation, which the characters’ circumstances and actions become more dangerous and the lack of development feels more cheap in correspondence. While I honestly recommend “Bird Box” to the casual viewer based on the more technical aspects and what the film does well, I would say its similarities to so many films that are still fresh in our memory may be a big turn off for some. According to Rotten Tomatoes’ official site, the film has a critic score of 64 percent, while the audience score comes in at 62 percent.

One way “Bird Box” does stand out is its use of imagery in the film. A creature that takes the form of your greatest fear, love or loss? We’ve seen that in “IT” (2017) and “It Follows” (2014). Humans being forced to commit suicide through some sort of stunt? The infamous “The Happening” (2008). One way “Bird Box” does stand out from these other movies is the secondary threats/antagonists that are as much as dangerous as the mysterious creatures themselves. In this extreme time period and continues from that point. There’s also an uncanny feeling with the film that when you need to know something, the film shows you it; there are no frustrating “what is going on” moments. So, what are the problems with the film? As it turns out, we’ve seen most of this story before. Very powerful creatures invading earth and people trying to survive in a depressing future without a key physical sense? See “A Quiet Place” (2018), though it is worth noting that the Bird Box film, while most people that see the creatures immediately fatally harm themselves as a result, the insane and mentally unstable are not affected in the same way. Instead, after seeing the creatures they are seemingly corrupted to the point to essentially becoming slaves for the creatures, with the only goal for these unstable individuals being to get the mentally healthy (therefore not immune) people to look at the deadly entities. These crazy people constantly drive from some experience earlier in her life that the viewers don’t get to see. She doesn’t even name the children, referring to them as “boy” and “girl,” which just feels so cold and uncaring to the viewer that Malorie could almost be considered an unlikable character. Malorie is just one of multiple characters whose negative actions or attitude are only explained by brief parts of dialogue, and some even aren’t explained at all leaving the viewer the responsibility of trying to make the characters’ rationalities up in your head. As the characters’ circumstances and actions become more dangerous and the lack of development feels more cheap in correspondence.

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

Ben Wheeler
Online and Social Media Editor

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January 17, 2019

OPINION

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

Editor: Alexa Murdock

Graphic by Will Yi
**Ellensburg weekly weather forecast**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**Observer Polls**

**The Observer @CWUObserver - Jan 13**

Did you like Netflix's "Bird Box"?

- **36%** Yes
- **26%** No
- **38%** Haven't seen it

53 votes • Final results

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**Crossword**

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

**Across:**
1. A glass is typically used to serve beer
8. A small, independently-owned brewery
10. Container used to mature beer
11. A strong, dark beer
12. Scale at which bitterness is measured

**Down:**
2. "The F" in IPA
3. Large jug used to hold beer
4. This element is added to beers to make them smooth
5. During this period of time in the 1920s, beer was outlawed
6. The process that gives beer its alcohol and bubbles
7. This type of beer is often described as "clean" and "crisp"
9. Ingredient added to beer and bread
10. This type of ale is light in color, bitterness and maltiness.

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**Ask Rune**

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

**Dear Rune,**

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

Sincerely,
Normal Pants

**Dear Pants,**

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

Sincerely,
Rune

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**Call for reader work**

Want to submit a question for Rune?

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

We would love your work!

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