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Dog and student bills work way through legislation

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Halo 3 tourney reveals Xbox 360 winner

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Women lose four in a row after nine straight wins

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The Central Washington University

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January 24, 2008 - volume 81, number 11

Sledding accident kills 4-year-old

Four-year-old Henry Hyatt was killed in a sledding accident last Monday afternoon.

Henry was the son of Gary Hyatt, Central Washington University's interim assistant athletic director, compliance and academics.

Gary, his wife Jenna and their two boys, Henry and Tommy, 8, were sledding at Sky Meadows, a popular recreation site in Cle Elum.

According to a Kittitas County Sheriff press release, Henry and Tommy were riding on a plastic sled that hit a concrete pumphouse found at the bottom of the hill they had been sledding on.

After revival attempts by witnesses on scene, Henry was taken to Kittitas Valley Community Hospital. There, hospital staff attempted to revive the child for three hours. Henry was pronounced dead at 3:15 p.m.

\$75,000 to be spent on art

by Mimi Oh
Staff reporter

On the way to classes, students may notice art-adorned hallways. A pleasant atmosphere, through the use of various artwork, is the aim of the new Student Union Art Committee (SUAC), chaired by Vice President for Student Life and Facilities Pedro Navarrete.

"Hopefully this will be a launching pad for the whole campus," Navarrete said. "We hope there will be more student art, including sculptures as well as an alumni aspect."

SUAC, a brainchild of the ASCWU-BOD dating back to when Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) construction started, will have its first meeting at 2 p.m. on Jan. 25, 2008, in the Board's conference room.

The SUAC will consist of nine members, with an emphasis on student representatives and participation. Four students and five staff and faculty members comprise the committee body.

The SUAC's fund for purchasing art, inventory maintenance, and showcasing art totals approximately \$75,000. The funds came from students at Central.

"I think to do the entire college would be difficult on a \$75,000 budget," said senior ceramics major Nathan McMonagle, about his opinion on the budget. "It would be hard to pay artists what they deserve, for pieces they may be very attached to."

Navarrete explained that the hope of the committee is that the budget would be replenished, or that showcasing work would eliminate the need for more funds.

The \$75,000 budget is considered part of the total SURC operational cost. It helped pay for the bond on the SURC. The three sources of funding for the budget are the quarterly Student Activity Fee, the Services and Activities Fee and developed revenue from rented out rooms and equipment, for instance.

"We've always meant to initiate a plan to purchase and develop art in the building - including art which is donated," said Senior Director of Campus Life and Student Facility Development, John Drinkwater.

SEE ART PAGE 2

Blaine Bennett replaces Baldwin



Brian Iiyama/Observer

Athletic Director Jack Bishop presents new head football coach Blaine Bennett with a jersey at last Friday's press conference. The number 12 was Bennett's number while he played as a quarterback at Walla Walla High School and Whitworth College.

Bennett returns to GNAC after six years in Big Ten Conference

by Curtis Crabtree
Asst. Sports editor

After a two week search following the resignation of Beau Baldwin, the Central Washington Wildcats have found their new football coach.

On Friday, Central Athletic Director Jack Bishop announced in a press conference held in the Student Union Theatre that Blaine Bennett had accepted the head coaching job of the Wildcats.

"All the candidates were very solid," Bishop said. "Blaine just seemed to separate himself. I'd say for me personally, the classiness, the character, the integrity I think that I see in Blaine Bennett just seemed to set it apart for me."

Bennett, who had been the head coach of Lafayette Jefferson High School in Lafayette, Ind., last season, was the only candidate with head coaching experience. Bennett was the head coach of Western Oregon University from 1995 to 2000 and led the Wolves to an NAIA Columbia Football Association championship in 1997.

Upon leaving Western Oregon in 2000, Bennett took a job as quarterbacks coach and recruiting coordinator at Purdue University where he coached current Chicago Bears quarterback Kyle Orton.

He left Purdue after the 2005 season to take a job as wide receivers coach and assistant head coach to John L. Smith. Bennett left the job following the season to return to Indiana for personal reasons.

"We spent five years in Lafayette and the kids wanted to move back and there was a high school open, so I went ahead and took that job," Bennett said.

Bennett becomes the 22nd head coach of the Wildcats and third in as many seasons.

John Zamberlin, who had been head coach of the Wildcats from 1997 through 2005, took the head coaching job at Idaho State University in December 2006.

That opened the door for Baldwin to take the job after serving as quarterbacks coach and offensive coordinator at Eastern Washington University from 2004 to 2006. Following a 10-3 season and a trip to the Division II quarterfinals, Baldwin returned to Eastern Washington

as the new head coach of the Eagles.

After considering former Washington State quarterback coach Timm Rosenbach and Missouri offensive line coach Bruce Walker, the search committee decided that Bennett was the right man to take the Wildcats into the future.

"I hope it is the most popular decision and the right decision," Bennett said while trying to hold back his emotions. "I do feel like this is home for me and being able to come back and be the head coach at Central means a lot. It means a lot."

Even though the athletic department hired a coach just a year ago, the process this time around was a smoother one.

"Last year, I felt that a lot our time was spent identifying who the candidates were and then going through the process," Bishop said. "This time we didn't go as deep into the many, many e-mails and phone calls. But we focused on the three candidates we came down to. We felt that we had some good ones and Blaine surfaced in that as well."

SEE NEW COACH PAGE 13

Visual Stimulation



Amanda Umberger/ Observer

“Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him.”

-Dwight D. Eisenhower

Art: \$75,000 allotted to cover SURC walls with student, alumni art

continued from cover

Senior studio art major and Student Art Council President Joe Churchman is one of the two art department representatives on the SUAC.

His focus this year has been spotlighting professional development for art students.

“We’ll be educating the other people on the committee about what artists hope to achieve by exhibiting their artwork,” Churchman said. “The committee is in the planning stage, so it’s important to set the rules and regulations as to how to treat artists and their artwork respectfully.”

“We will work closely with the art department, and the chair of the art department, William Volkestad,” Navarrete said. “We will try to get as many student representatives on the committee. The greater the student involvement the better.”

Navarrete and McMongale echoed the sentiment that the SUAC may spark greater participation and attention in the art department, with Navarrete adding that he hopes Central’s art alumni participation will be reinvigorated by the project.

Drinkwater added that the probable result of the SURC art development business plan is the creation of a five-year plan for art purchases and related services.

“We will try to get as many student representatives on the committee. The greater the community involvement the better.”

PEDRO NAVARETE, JR., VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT LIFE AND FACILITIES

The Art Selection and Permanent Collection Committee, chaired by Dr. Linda Marra, will make the final call on decisions on all art work that will be on display in the SURC.

Currently, some ideas on the table include hiring an art consultant and deciding on quotas, if any for the type of art that will be purchased.

For example, the SUAC may wish to purchase a certain amount of art that reflects diversity, or art which is made by students.

Construction update...



- **Crosswalk Closure:** There is construction the pedestrian bridge northeast of Dean Hall that goes over the irrigation canal. The bridge will be closed from Jan. 10, 2008 until March 10, 2008. The area will be fenced off.

- **Dean Hall:** Renovations are still underway for Dean Hall, with an expected completion in Fall 2008.

LIFE GUARD CLASSES

- ⇒ **WHAT:** Life Guard School
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Production Manager
Kim Walters
Office Assistant
Kathryn Lake
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Kathryn Lake
Adviser
Toby Staab
Business Manager
Michael Richard

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Newsroom
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Business Office
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Fax
(509) 963-1027

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- Friday, 5 p.m. - Entertainment, meetings, calendar events.
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The Observer is a class in which students are constantly learning how to interview, report and produce a newspaper.

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Bill for free speech in schools reconsidered

by Michael Johnson
Staff reporter

There's a revamped bill being introduced to the Senate that will protect public high schools and college journalists from censorship.

Senator Joe McDermott is sponsoring the bill, which is similar to the 2007 bill sponsored by Rep. Dave Upthegrove.

The bill would forbid administrators at both high schools and colleges from firing or disciplining student media advisors on the basis of something printed in student publications.

At the college level, the bill would forbid administrators from exercising prior review of a student's publication.

At the high school level, administrators will only be able to censor material that's obscene, libelous, that constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy, incites students to break laws, violate school regulations, or cause a material and substantial disruption of the school.

"This bill will provide students with minimum protection for student journalist, and allow them to do the type of journalism needed in the real world," said Brian Schraum, a alumnus of Washington State University.

Upthegrove was encouraged to look into the issue by Brian Schraum, who had proposed an anti-censorship policy at Green River Community College.

Last year, the bill gained the Senate Judiciary Committee's approval only after the bill's sponsors agreed to an amendment that removed the protections for high school journalists, leaving only the college-level protections.

"This past year, members of the Washington Journalism Education Association (WJEA) reached out to the Association of Washington School Principals," said Kathy Schrier, president of the WJEA.

"Now that they understand the bill, they seem to be taking a neutral role this time."

But this was after Greg Schwab principal at Mount Lake Terrace left to speak at the EWSP fall conference with advisor Vince Demiero, about the importance of the bill. Schwab is also an administrator of the year award winner.

The bill has been submitted again, in hopes of better results.

"It's basically the same bill, with a couple minor word changes," Schraum said. "We decided to take the bill to the Senate this time, instead of the house."

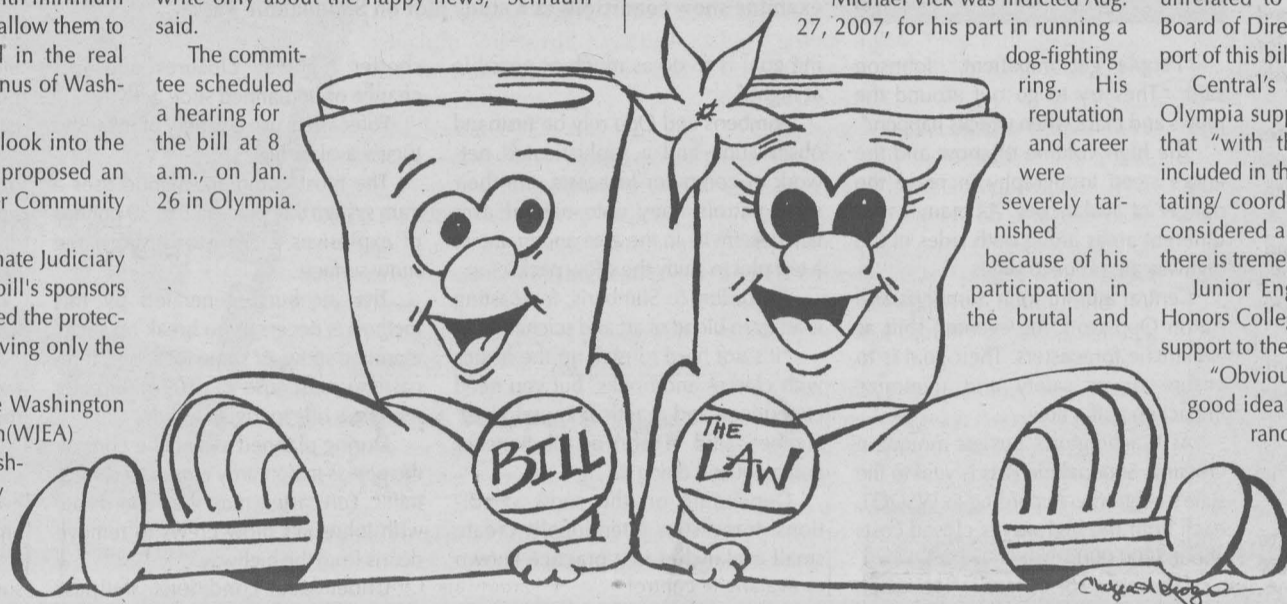
Schraum is hopeful regarding the bill, but admits he doesn't know what to expect from the Senate.

"It's been an uphill battle; it's kind of up in the air right now," Schraum said.

Last year, the bill faced strong opposition from the principals group and the Washington Association of School Administrators, which represents superintendents.

"I think this bill is particularly important for high school students; it won't force them to write only about the happy news," Schraum said.

The committee scheduled a hearing for the bill at 8 a.m., on Jan. 26 in Olympia.



HB2547 in works to protect animal rights

Legislature looks over bill that could hinder use of domestic dogs against wild canines

by Mimi Oh
Staff reporter

A wounded dog staggers back to its home, fur caked with blood, body riddled with tooth and claw marks from another canine.

The implication of her owner's guilt is unclear, legally. However, Rep. Hans Dunshee's House Bill 2547 "Preventing Cruelty to Canines" in the Washington State Legislature, aims to raise the issue of the legality of using dogs in dog fights and livestock herding.

"This bill is obviously in response to the public outcry in the light of the high-profile dog fighting case centered around NFL quarterback Michael Vick," said ASCWU-BOD Vice President of Political Affairs Mike Bogatay.

Michael Vick was indicted Aug. 27, 2007, for his part in running a

dog-fighting ring. His reputation and career were severely tarnished because of his participation in the brutal and

illegal activity. One must peel through secretive layer after layer of other illegal practices to find dog fighting, which is illegal in all 50 states.

While many applaud the increased protections for dogs, those who rely on their dogs to defend the source of their living are wary.

The Washington State Sheep Producers worry that the bill would unintentionally criminalize their practice of using guard dogs to defend their livestock from wild canines.

However, Bogatay and the ASCWU disagree that the proposed bill contains language vulnerable to liability concerns.

"It is important to note that this bill has no effect on the constructive training of dogs for use in herding livestock or hunting," Bogatay said. "ASCWU does not usually take positions on issues unrelated to higher education but here at the Board of Directors we love dogs so we are in support of this bill."

Central's Legislative Liaison Jake Stillwell in Olympia supports HB 2547, because he believes that "with this legislation, canines would be included in the list of protected animals and facilitating/ coordinating the animal fights would be considered a class C felony As far as I know, there is tremendous support for this bill."

Junior English literature major and Douglas Honors College student Sophie Bamford lends her support to the bill, but more cautiously.

"Obviously, the vague wording is not a very good idea because of the need for defense by ranchers, but the bill itself is a good idea because it's cruel to have animals fight," Bamford said. "I have never personally heard of animal fighting in Ellensburg, and I don't know if people would behave in such a way in this town."

Wildcats take a shot at the flu at Health Center

by Sarah Hazel
Staff reporter

Students have a higher risk of contracting the flu or strep throat after three-day holidays, according to the Student Health Center at Central.

To avoid the flu, over 700 students received flu shots since November of last year. Flu immunizations are available free of charge at the Health Center Monday through Friday from 10:20-10:50 a.m. and 3:20-3:50 p.m.

Some students are hesitant about receiving flu shots this year. Their reasons include concerns about different types of flu, the cost of the immunization and previous shortages.

"There are so many types of flu," Jason Swingle, sophomore music major, said. "The costs outweigh the benefits."

Swingle learned later about the free immunizations available at the Health Center, but still felt that the flu shot was unnecessary.

Emily Yost, a sophomore elementary education major, learned about the free immunizations at the Student Health Center, but is not planning on receiving one.

"I didn't feel like I needed it," Yost said. "It's a gamble; I don't know what flu they are vaccinating for."

Jackson Horsley, a physician at the Student Health Center, acknowledges the student concerns regarding the different types of flu.

"The influenza vaccination protects against what [types of flu] will be prevalent in the community this year," Horsley said.

In the past few years, there has been a shortage of flu shots throughout the country, and people believe that is still the case this year. However, according to the Student Health Center, there is no shortage this year. Students are encouraged to stop by to receive immunizations.

The flu is highly contagious, primarily in the first 24 hours of contraction, when there are no symptoms. The immunization is 90 percent effective, according to Horsley.

Horsley said that the flu has a variety of symptoms, including fever, headache, muscle aches, chills, fatigue and dry cough. The cases range from mild to severe, some cases resulting in death.

"Influenza causes 40,000 deaths per year," Horsley said. "However, most of the deaths are a result of a combination of influenza and another disease, such as emphysema or diabetes."

The flu is not the only health problem facing the Central community. Strep throat diagnoses

are also on the rise. Although strep throat is not as contagious as the flu, it still should be diagnosed and treated. The Health Center physicians have already diagnosed between 10-15 cases of strep throat this year, according to Horsley.

Horsley said that the symptoms of strep throat are throat pain, redness and swelling of the throat and fever. Being seen by a doctor and, if necessary, being prescribed antibiotics, is important when any of these symptoms are noticed.

The Health Center's representatives want students to make an appointment if they show any symptoms of strep throat or the flu.

They encourage all students to receive flu immunizations.

"My son, a senior in college, gets his [immunization] every year," Horsley said. "If you get sick, you may miss finals. Do [students] like to feel sick?"

The flu season is far from over. In the past, flu patients have been seen at the Health Center as late as March.

It is not too late to receive a flu immunization. For more information, please contact the Student Health Center at 509-963-1881.



Tyler Rogers/Observer

Andy King, a sophomore business administration major, checks out the options for over-the-counter cold and flu remedies at the Cats C-Store. The C-Store stocked up on cold medicine.

WSDOT JUST DOING JOB TO KEEP ROADS CLEAR

by Ian Stacy
Staff reporter

For many Central students with ties to the west side, a wintertime drive over Snoqualmie Pass is like a visit to the dentist — unpleasant, but necessary. Conditions on Interstate 90 can rapidly deteriorate as moisture-laden air masses collide with the Cascade Range. Snarled traffic, blinding snow and the threat of avalanches can intimidate even experienced drivers.

But for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) crews charged with keeping the highway open, these harrowing conditions are simply part of the job.

Snoqualmie Pass receives about 30 feet of snow annually. From November through April, winter supervisor Bob Johnson oversees an average of 50 WSDOT employees at the Hyak maintenance facility located near exit 54 on I-90.

Most motorists are probably familiar with the yellow plows, blowers and graders that clear the road surface.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated group of radio dispatchers, mechanics and electronics technicians provide support to the road crews.

As a supervisor, Johnson determines when to restrict vehicle traffic over the pass. He relies on a combination of factors to make his decision.

"You get a feel for it," Johnson said. "I look at the forecasts, the length of the storm, temperatures and what traffic will be like."

Despite their best efforts to minimize traffic disruption, WSDOT crews must still deal with frustrated drivers.

"We're not out there to get in the way," Johnson said. "We're just trying to keep the roads clear and do our job."

Still, some drivers don't seem to recognize the importance of the plow crews. Johnson urges drivers to be cautious.

WSDOT Information

According to the Washington State Department of Transportation Web site, drivers planning a trip over the mountain passes should observe the following:

- Always stay at least 15 car lengths (200 feet) behind snow plows.

- Be prepared for delays and closures. Always have warm clothing, food, water and a full tank of gas.

- When tire chains are required, Washington State Patrol slows traffic for inspection. Drivers may be fined \$500 for failing to 'chain up.'

- Current road and pass conditions can be found at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov>, on stations 530AM and 1610AM, and by dialing 511.

"People get impatient," Johnson said. "They try to go out around the plows and that's when wrecks happen."

The high volume of snow and the area's steep topography increase the danger of avalanches. As many as 30 different areas along both sides of the highway are prone to slides.

Central alumni John Stimberis and Aaron Opp work the evening shift as avalanche forecasters. Their goal is to ensure driver safety and minimize impact on traffic flow.

As Washington's busiest mountain crossing, Snoqualmie Pass is vital to the state's economy. According to WSDOT, each hour the highway is closed costs about \$700,000.

"There's a lot of frustration when it's closed," Stimberis said. "Our driv-



Ian Stacy/Observer

Avalanche forecasters John Stimberis and Aaron Opp of the Washington State Department of Transportation examine snow conditions at a study plot on Snoqualmie Pass.

ing goal is to do as much as possible at night."

Stimberis and Opp rely on firsthand observation and a sophisticated network of computer forecasts. On their daily patrols, they note natural avalanche activity in the area and maintain a test plot to study the snow pack.

According to Stimberis, forecasting is an even blend of art and science.

"It's not hard to pick up the basics with classes and books, but you need experience and practical knowledge," Stimberis said. "There's no substitute for going out and doing it."

Depending on the snow conditions, forecasters intentionally create small avalanches in a practice known as avalanche control.

Frequent avalanche control means

shorter highway closures and less chance of unplanned slide activity.

Forecasters use a variety of means to trigger avalanches.

The most common method uses a tram system that places 25 to 30 pounds of explosives a few yards above the snow surface.

The air burst generated by this method is necessary to break up sticky maritime snow. At some locations, forecasters must use a 105-millimeter recoilless rifle to trigger a slide.

During planned avalanche control, the pass is temporarily closed to vehicle traffic. Forecasters must then coordinate with Johnson's plow crews to remove debris from the highway.

Under ideal conditions, the pass will be closed for less than 15 min-

utes. Some operations require up to 45 minutes, with the longer closures occurring at night.

If a driver encounters an avalanche on the road, Stimberis recommends staying in the vehicle. Injuries and fatalities tend to occur when onlookers are caught by secondary slides.

Stimberis is one of two year-round avalanche forecasters.

Like many employees at the Hyak facility, Opp is laid off in the warmer months.

Both Stimberis and Opp enjoy the challenge of avalanche forecasting, even if the general public is largely unaware of their efforts.

"We're lucky to have this job, doing something we enjoy and are interested in," Opp said.

Career Jumpstart

Central students majoring in communications or public relations are invited to attend an opportunity to learn about the career of public relations. The PRSA Puget Sound Chapter is hosting the PR Career jumpstart on Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008 at Seattle University. It is a one-day event to give students an inside look at their potential future career. Registration begins at 8 a.m. The cost of the event is \$25 if registered by Feb. 2, and \$40 after Feb. 2 or at the door. For more information visit <http://asi-seattle.com/agent/prsajumpstart> or call 206-623-8632.

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Demolition of downtown building

by Ian Stacy
Staff reporter

Tempers flared at the Ellensburg City Council meeting Tuesday as Mayor Nancy Lillquist and council members reviewed two appeals about the proposed demolition of the Hubbel Building in downtown Ellensburg. A court reporter was present to record official testimony since the matter was a quasi-judicial public hearing.

Community Development Director Robert Witkowski spoke in defense of the city's decision to deny the Certifi-

cate of Approval (COA) needed for demolition as well as his ruling on a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determination.

The SEPA received a Determination of Significance threshold decision, which requires a completed Environmental Impact Statement before demolition.

According to the Washington State Department of Ecology website, a SEPA is "a state policy that requires state and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of a proposal before approving or denying the

proposal."

Larry Nickel, Managing Partner of Renaissance Properties, was at the meeting to appeal both decisions. As he addressed the council, Nickel was visibly agitated.

"I'm here to wave the red flag of caution and the red flag of reason," Nickel said.

After a series of sharp exchanges between the mayor, council members, Witkowski and Nickel, the council voted to uphold the denial of the COA but tabled the SEPA matter for further review.

Earlier in the meeting, the council heard statements from CWU Transfer Admissions Coordinator Bruce Simpson and Central alumna Michoan Spoelstra. Simpson was applying to serve on the Planning Commission while Spoelstra was seeking a spot on the Parks and Recreation Commission. The applications for both candidates were approved by the council.

The council also discussed a proposed 'Buy Local' proclamation, sparking debate among residents about the future of economic development in the region. The council agreed in principle to the proclamation but decided to alter the wording to endorse American-made products as well as local goods before the proclamation receives final approval.

The next city council meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 4, 2008 at Ellensburg City Hall.

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News from around the Ellensburg community

Big town appeal with a small town wist

Ellensburg Wine Works brings new beverage choices to E-burg

by Joseph Siemandel
Asst. News editor

Two years ago, Gordy and Kathy Wollen looked at the booming wine industry of Washington's central valley and took a chance. The couple, having been in Ellensburg for 18 years, had already created a successful business, Yellow Church Café, yet decided to open Ellensburg's first wine house, Ellensburg Wine Works.

"It truly is a family-owned business," Assistant Manager Susan Wollen said. "Gordy and Kathy are the entrepreneurs of Ellensburg."

Ellensburg Wine Works, which in March will have been open for two years, has flourished into a local favorite.

The house, which was built in 1887, was originally a doctor's office before the turn of the 20th century. In 2005, the Wollens bought the property and stayed true to the historic Ellensburg traditions by remodeling the house to give it a rustic feel.

"The house is a nice place; people can just come and drink wine and socialize," Wollen said.

Ellensburg Wine Works has established itself as a place for many to come and socialize. Every Friday of the month, events take place.

During the First Friday Art Walk, the winery

hosts works of art by various artists. They also host live music and have different types of wine to sample.

The second Friday is set aside for regional favorites, showcasing wines from one specific area which are accompanied by food from the region that has been selected.

"We do different wines from regions like the Pacific Northwest, southern France, Napa Valley, Italy; it's just a good time," Wollen said.

The third Friday is staff picks. This is where the staff selects the featured wines and they also offer food and listen to music.

"We always have a good time, and everyone enjoys themselves," Wollen said.

This last Friday, in honor of WinterHop BrewFest, the Wine Works hosted a European beer tasting night. They brought in many imported beers and talked about beer to prepare for the event.

Ellensburg Wine Works also hosts a members program for wine lovers. For \$50 a year, you can join the Ellensburg Wine Club.

You receive 10 percent off of all purchases at Wine Works, half price on all wine tastings and discounted price and priority on all special events at Wine Works. For joining, one also receive special discounts at Yellow Church Café.

But Wollen wants to remind everyone that it's not just for members. Anyone can come and join in on the fun that happens at the Wine Works.

"Some art walks and special events usually yield around 100 people and the events can

last anywhere from three to five hours," Wollen said.

Wine Works is not just a business, it is also a charitable organization. The Wollens' granddaughter Ali helped start the Ellensburg Wine Works Humanitarian Project in Rwanda, Africa.

After a visit to Rwanda, Ali and her grandparents joined with the Ellensburg Rotary Club to help fund the Mejecres Catch-Up School, which helps orphans of the war-torn country get an education and gives them a chance to get ahead in life. The goal of the project is to get the school running self-sufficiently in one to two years.

With all the things happening at Ellensburg Wine Works, one would think that they would want to take a break and relax, but no. Sometime this year, Wine Works plans to move to a larger location and continue to bring joy to all Ellensburg wine enthusiasts.

"Right now I cannot say anything about it, but we will continue to have the same feel of the original wine works," Wollen said.

To learn more about events at Ellensburg Wine Works or to become a member of the Wine Club, go to their Web site at www.ellensburgwineworks.com or visit the wine house located at 606 N. Main St.

Ellensburg Wine Works can also be contacted at 509-962-8463.



Joe Siemandel/Observer

A sample of numerous wines at Ellensburg Wine Works

Safety Task Force to help support Ellensburg's public safety needs

City to model plan after the state of Wisconsin's plans

by Paul Boutte
Staff reporter

If the Ellensburg Police Department (EPD) could choose where people drink, they would prefer it was downtown at the bars versus at house parties. There are more filters to control the environment at the bars.

For example, the Liquor Control Board (LCB) officers rove undercover, checking IDs, and bouncers serve as the unofficial first line of defense for law enforcement.

In response from community outcries, however, the Ellensburg City Council formed the Ellensburg Downtown Public Safety Task Force (DTTF) to address some concerns that result from boozing college students.

At the last DTTF meeting the LCB, reported eight alcohol sales to minors in the last couple of months.

The DTTF meets monthly at varying downtown locations.

Matt Murphy, representing the LCB has requested more undercover officers to patrol in the downtown area.

They also talked about the possibility of a "road crew" project. This is a program originally from Wisconsin geared to give rides to and from the bars to discourage drinking and unruly behavior.

"We discussed transportation to safely, quietly get students out of downtown," said Lynne Harrison, coordinator of the Campus-Community Coalition.

Questions always surface when the

topic of transporting drinkers is raised. Is providing a designated driver service going to enable more drinking? Is there enough demand and subsequent support from the student body? Where would funding come from?

The Hospitality Resource Alliance (HRA) will survey the local populace to determine if this might be a viable option.

Currently Central Transit runs from 7 a.m. to midnight with a break at midnight. According to Katie Underwood, ASCWU president, Central Transit ran until 1 a.m. all last year, yet but few students rode Central Transit at those late hours that they scaled its schedule back.

Central Transit was created in 2004, after its predecessor SafeRide switched control from the Wellness Center to Campus Police.

Central Transit is funded from grants by Hopesource and has changed their philosophical outlook. SafeRide was door-to-door, but cost \$25-30 an hour, whereas Central Transit costs about \$3-4 an hour.

SafeRide's downfall was that they served students until 3 a.m., but the job included putting up with vomit buckets and a large amount of verbal abuse from passengers.

"About 10 percent of students used SafeRide, but all students paid," said Captain Kevin R. Higgins of Campus Police. "We wanted to serve more students."

DTTF is also looking into experi-

mental approaches. The current experiment on tap is a "multi-venue ejection policy."

Basically if a person got asked to leave a bar due to poor behavior or over-consumption, he/she would be banned from downtown establishments participating in the project for a specified period of time (currently undecided).

Teddy Kollman, owner of the Oak Rail, would supply eight two-way radios to communicate for the pilot project.

There will only be three bars partaking in the initial experiment: The Oak Rail, Lily's Cantina and Arnie's Horseshoe.

The DTTF's last experiment took place in the first two weekends, October. They strategically placed four 1,000-watt lights in the downtown area to discourage crime and loiters after the bars close.

"It seemed to me and other officers that downtown cleared out pretty quick," said EPD Chief Dale Miller.

While police were upbeat about the impact of the lighting experiment on lingering downtown drinkers, the statistical margin of offenses and infractions did not subside enough to warrant regular use of the expensive lights and generators.

"There's been no change in legislation; the stats didn't encourage funding for lighting downtown," said Harrison.

Ironhorse Brewery being renovated for customers

by Joseph Siemandel
Asst. News editor

The Ironhorse Brewery has recently been undergoing construction in order to make it more customer friendly.

"We are adding a beer-tasting and sitting room, so when customers come in they can relax," owner and brewmaster Greg Parker said.

Construction is underway and employees hope to have the tasting area finished by the end of February.

In the meantime, patrons shouldn't drop their decision to go down to the Ironhorse.

They are still selling their straight-from-the-tap microbrews, and still enjoying crowds that come in and drink with the staff.

"We also are hoping to host more events every month at the brewery," Parker said. "It will be nice to have a place to drink now though."

The Ironhorse Brewery is located on Prospect Drive off of Dolarway.

Signdog has moved from the corner of 7th Avenue and Pine Street to Dollar Way and Prospect Drive. Signdog also opened a new business, Copydog, a copy and print shop in the old location.

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Opinion

Observance

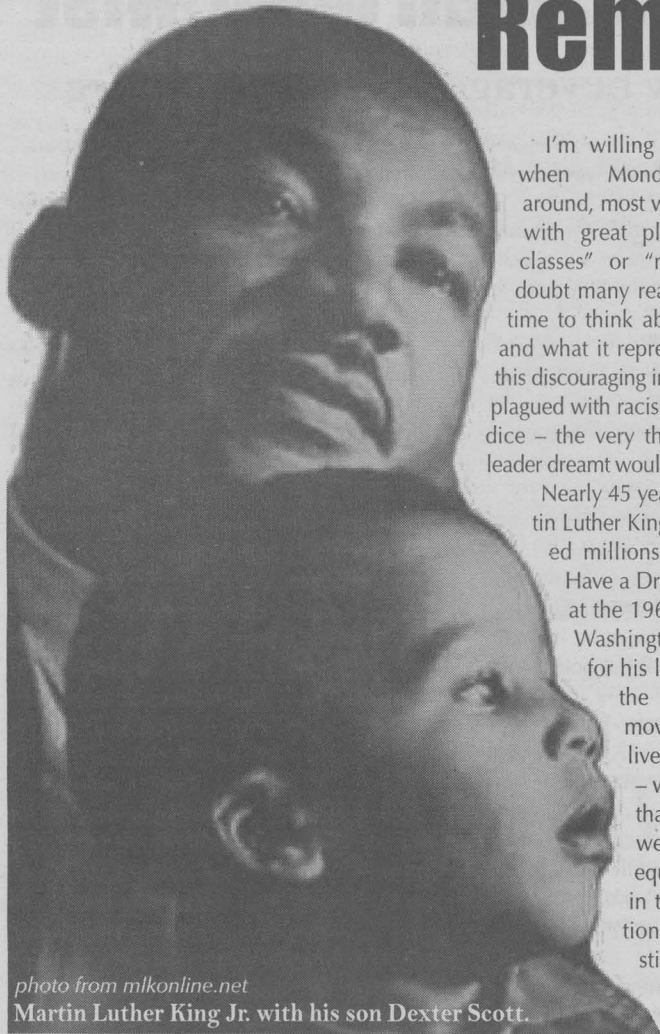


photo from mlkonline.net

Martin Luther King Jr. with his son Dexter Scott.

Remembering a dwindling dream

I'm willing to bet that when Monday rolled around, most were thinking with great pleasure, "no classes" or "no work." I doubt many really took the time to think about the day and what it represents. I find this discouraging in a world still plagued with racism and prejudice — the very things a great leader dreamt would disappear.

Nearly 45 years ago, Martin Luther King Jr. captivated millions with his "I Have a Dream" speech at the 1963 March on Washington. Known for his leadership in the civil rights movement, King lived — and died — with the hope that all men were created equal, as stated in the Constitution. Too often, I still hear cruel words depicting

racial and cultural stereotypes.

I can't help but lay partial blame on the views we have regarding the war in Iraq. I can't even begin to count the number of times I have heard somebody refer to "the Muslims" or "the Arabs" as a general term for terrorists.

Forget that only a select number of people in the world are involved in terrorist activities. Forget that terrorists not only attack from foreign countries, but from our home soil as well. People don't seem to care that terrorists come in all colors, nationalities, religions and genders.

Instead, people use the war as an excuse to pour hatred — perhaps subconsciously — on an entire group of people. Whether it's based on the Islamic faith as a whole, or on the fact that somebody "looks Arabic," too many people have shaped a huge group of people in a stereotypical mould. Not



Melanie Lockhart
Editor-in-Chief

only is it hurtful to those people, but it is insulting even to me.

One of my mother's cousins was born and raised in the United States. She married a man from Kuwait, and they moved there and started a family. Every few years she visits us with the kids, who are all teenagers at this point. I'll never forget the looks we got from people in a grocery store when I took them to get some snacks. Thankfully, my cousins didn't seem to notice.

Later, a friend of mine, who worked at the store, approached me and asked who they were. When I told her, she said "Oh, you're related? I just figured they weren't from here."

"They're not," I replied.

She proceeded to ask me if they were from the Middle East, and when I told her they were, I was shocked at her response.

"That's kind of creepy, no offense."

No offense? Last I checked, Kuwait and the United States are allies. Last I checked, we have troops stationed in Kuwait and with the country's cooperation, we have been able to fight against those who actually are a threat to people throughout the world.

Yet because they share a skin tone

with this particular group of terrorists, and yes, they share a faith, my cousins are automatically associated with all terrorists in the eyes of many.

Horrible people come from all walks of life. I would assume that not all white people are automatically associated with the Ku Klux Klan, and I would hope that not all religions are judged based only on the radical extremists practicing those faiths. Yet we still carelessly make rude comments and put racial and prejudice remarks in a soft light.

What would Martin Luther King Jr. think if he saw us today? I wonder if his words would even mean anything.

At the time King may have been fighting for the freedom and equality of blacks in America. But his dream was bigger than just black and white.

He wanted to live not only in a country, but in a world where all men — and women — are created equal.

The day of remembrance in honor of King has passed, but his dream shouldn't be forgotten. In his words:

"I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream."

Letters to the editor

Observer Staff,

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of going off to college? Parties, homework and late nights. But the one thing that we all really look forward to ... is the parties. Whether we partied before college or not, you can guarantee within your first year of college you will participate in quite a few 'get-togethers' with friends, and maybe a few strangers too.

But exactly how safe are these get-togethers? Are participants going to drink and drive? What if someone gets alcohol poisoning? What if the neighbors call the cops because of the loud noise? That's just what the Campus-Community Coalition (CCC) wanted to find out.

The CCC's Neighborhood Relations Committee (NRC) and student volunteers conducted a survey throughout the town collecting information on parties in neighborhoods and neighborhood conduct. Students went door to door in various neighborhoods around Ellensburg and on campus to ask residents 10 questions about their neighborhood and parties within the area.

Questions ranged from how safe residents felt in their neighborhood to whether residents knew the steps to take in case of alcohol poisoning. It has become clear that things around the community have settled down much since last year. Many residents noted that, compared to last year, this year is very calm; there have been few complaints about noise disturbances and alcohol-related parties. Residents feel safe in their neighborhoods, parking is not a problem, and alcohol-related parties were not noted as a problem.

However, garbage around the area was a big concern and not very many residents knew what steps to take in case of alcohol poisoning. The majority of those surveyed believed that all they had to do was call 911 or rush the person to the hospital. Even more disturbing was the fact that many households did not have plans in place to keep intoxicated people from driving when leaving the party.

The NRC will be analyzing the information gained from this survey and brainstorming ways to better educate the community about alcohol-

related issues. Also, after the appropriate educational materials are provided to the community, the committee will conduct a post-test to those who took this survey to see how effective our information was to the public.

I would like to thank all the volunteers for the numerous hours they put into making this project succeed and run smoothly, and I'd like to thank all those on campus and in the community who participated in the survey. Also, I'd like to remind all those students out there to be safe when partying!

Megan Peters

JUNIOR, COMM. STUDIES MAJOR

Observer Staff,

I need to correct a statement I made that was quoted in the article on Dean Hall trees (from 11/29/07). I misinterpreted a discussion we had at a project meeting regarding relocating memorial and class tree plaques prior to tree removal.

Contrary to my quote, the contractor was NOT required to coordinate tree removal with CWU facilities prior to removal. The trees were identified for removal during design to accommodate new construction, and the GC was contracted to remove them. Furthermore, they carefully salvaged the plaques and have been coordinating with us to relocate the memorial and class tree plaques in appropriate new locations (either a different existing tree or a newly planted tree).

The contractor's team has done an excellent job coordinating and minimizing campus impacts. And after construction is finished, the completed Dean Hall site will contain a beautiful, native garden with numerous new trees, shrubs and ground-cover plants and an outdoor classroom area.

And, by the way, the tree stump in the photograph was not the ginkgo memorial tree — it was a pine stump.

Thank you.

Joanne Hillemann

MANAGER, FACILITIES PLANNING & CONSTRUCTION

Here lies American motor sports, R.I.P.

Dear America, it is with the deepest regret that I must inform you motor sports has died from wounds received by boredom and unpopularity.

Now, this is where most of you expect me to launch into a tirade about the shortcomings of NASCAR and condemnation of oval track racing.

In fact, I contend that many NASCAR drivers are the highest caliber of racers. Examples such as Tony Stewart and Jeff Gordon have proven time and time again that they can hold their own in sports cars and even open wheel. Gordon also carries the elite distinction of being eligible for an International Automobile Federation (FIA) Super License, almost unheard of in the realms of stock car racing (sans drivers who have moved from Formula One to NASCAR). It is worthy to note, however, that these two examples of Nextel Cup's most talented drivers are among those who garner the most animosity from fans.

There is no way to proclaim the death of motor sports in the United States without mentioning Formula One (F1). The upcoming 2008 season will mark the first time in 49 years the United States lacks an F1 Grand Prix. A move marred by political motives and missed deadlines, it is but the first step in America slamming the door on F1 altogether.

But can you really blame America? While F1 is one of the, if not *the*, most popular sport in the world, most races air at odd times to compensate for time zone differences, and we don't even have a driver to call our own. Bringing me to Scott Speed.

I am ashamed to say that Scott Speed is all we had to offer to F1. Failing to live up to his last name, Speed was one of the biggest disappointments to F1 since Toyota F1.

It has been 17 years since an American, Michael Andretti, has scored a point in F1 and he didn't even break into the double digits. We used to be the



Eric Haugland
Copy editor

home of Phil Hill and Mario Andretti. Now we can barely muster a driver who can last a full season.

At least the United States can lay claim to a handful of F1 drivers, some even successful. World Rally Championship (WRC), on the other hand, has only one active driver with an American flag next to his name — Travis Pastrana — and he doesn't even compete in every race of the season.

The closest the United States has ever come to being involved seriously in WRC is the presence of the Ford nameplate, but everyone in the know understands that Ford is just a badge that covers the fire-breathing tuning of Briton's own Cosworth.

WRC also has no events scheduled in the United States, going so far as to not even carry televised events. Speed Channel dropped its coverage due to poor ratings. The retirement of rally great Marcus Grönholm and the tragic death of Colin McRae remain virtually unknown to mainstream Americans.

I see the American Le Mans Series (ALMS) as our only glimmer of hope, but even it has lost its dominance of American winners. While the 2006 and 2007 seasons may have seen American-based teams reigning victory over all four driving classes, they did so with eight foreign drivers.

Driving elites such as Boris Said and Andy Lally go fameless when they are the true faces of American driving prowess. Instead, their talent is relegated to an almost underground following of fans.

I refer to the death of motor sports only at the highest level of competition and sponsorship. The Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) and Rally America host some of the most exciting racing ever to be seen. Rally America even holds two races beloved to Pacific Northwest race fans: Olympus Rally and The Oregon Trail Rally.

But it is unfair to expect these largely grassroots and amateur forms of racing to hold the future success of American motor sports on their shoulders. They need support from fans as they grow.

As a fan of motor sports, I ask you — no I urge you — to help shape the next generation of American racing.

Networking offers great 'real world' experience

Over the holiday break I had the opportunity to get a glimpse into the world of a professional sports writer. In the last month and half, I've had a chance to get some of my stories published and attend Seattle professional sporting events with access that a typical fan wouldn't have. All of this is thanks to networking.



Curtis Crabtree
Asst. Sports editor

We've all heard the phrase, "It's not what you know, but who you know," and I believe that to be true.

Thanks to the CWU football team's run into the NCAA Division II football playoffs, I was able to first get my foot in the door by covering Central's home game against Ashland University in the first round on Nov. 17 for the Associated Press (AP).

Tim Booth, a CWU alumnus and

sports writer for the AP, has been mentoring me and critiquing the writing I've submitted to them. He recruited me to cover the playoff game for them.

I had the opportunity to see that story published in the Seattle Times and ESPN.com and pieces of it used in various places across the country. Not bad for my first professional story.

A few weeks later, Tim got back in contact with me and asked if I would be willing to go to Tacoma to cover two of the state high school football championship games on Dec. 1. Wanting the experience, and needing the money, I went to cover the 2B and 4A State title games.

Even though Tim had asked me if I was interested, his colleague Gregg Bell was in charge of setting up freelancers for that game, so I worked with Gregg for the two games.

After working those games, I got back in touch with Gregg to see if I could job shadow him at a Seahawks practice during winter break. He let me come out to the Seahawks practice facility in Kirkland and join him in sit-

ting in on a Mike Holmgren press conference and watch a practice.

As it turns out, Rick Neuheisel was picking up steam as the leading candidate for the UCLA head coaching job. Gregg was put on that story by the AP desk in New York because the Baltimore Ravens were coming to play the Seahawks that weekend and Neuheisel had a history at the University of Washington. Neuheisel was the Ravens offensive coordinator at the time.

Gregg put me in touch with Clare Farnsworth, the Seahawks beat writer for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, because he wasn't able to watch practice due to the Neuheisel story.

Clare told me that only the local media is allowed to watch practice and that there are certain things you may see in practice that you can't write about. For instance, in 2005 when Seattle was making its Super Bowl run, the media was able to watch Seneca Wallace practice as a wide receiver for weeks leading up to the NFC Championship game but couldn't write about it. Wallace made his first appearance as a

wide receiver in that game.

Two nights later, I went with Tim to gather quotes for the Seattle Supersonics game against the Toronto Raptors. I watched the game from the press bench on the baseline where I had one of the best seats in the house and saw Kevin Durant dunk over the top of seven-foot center Rasha Nesterovic right in front of me.

After the game, I went into the Raptors' locker room and talked with head coach Sam Mitchell and two-time NBA all-star Chris Bosh.

I was then able to help both Gregg and Tim collect quotes following the game against the Ravens that Sunday. I was able to watch the game from the press box and then talked to Neuheisel, Derrick Mason, Troy Smith, Ed Reed, Lofa Tatupu and Deon Grant.

Most of the interviews I had done were in a group setting with several reporters around one player. Now, I had to interview Ed Reed, one-on-one. Talk about nerve-wracking. Having to interview a four-time Pro-Bowler by yourself at your first NFL game as a reporter cer-

tainly ranks high on the list.

I was able to do the same thing for the playoff game against the Washington Redskins two weeks later.

Up in the press box I was seated next to ESPN.com writer John Clayton, someone I really look up to in the business. I also ran into Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver TJ Houshmandzadeh and Washington Post writer and ESPN personality Michael Wilbon.

Being a fan of the Seahawks, it was a great experience to be in the winning locker room following that game. All the players were in a good mood and were great to talk to.

Basically what I am trying to say is that you can do some pretty neat things in your field if you take the time to meet people and ask them for help. Most of the people you meet remember how hard it was to get their start and they are willing to help you out.

Tim and Gregg have been great in allowing me to help them cover these games and in helping me to improve my writing. There are people in your field that will hopefully do the same.

Central Transit not consistent

While most Central students have their own cars in town, some do not, such as the international students and those without a driver's license. In order for them to get off campus, they either have to walk, get a ride from a friend or take Central Transit from one of the many stops around town. Central Transit runs from 2 p.m. – midnight Monday through Sunday, and some mornings.



Donna Buse
Staff reporter

On Sunday, Jan. 13, my roommate was going to take Central Transit to Blockbuster and return some movies.

At 2:07 p.m. she headed out to the stop at the corner of 19th Street. At 3:30 she came back home, cold and upset because the bus had not arrived yet. For 83 minutes, she was out there at the bus stop, waiting for a bus that never came. She could have walked to Blockbuster in that amount of time.

We both wondered what was going on because this has never happened to either of us before. Did a bus break down? Was there an accident somewhere?

So we called the information

booth at the Student Union and Recreation Center to see if they knew what was going on. The person on the other end of the line told us about Central Transit's operating hours and gave us their after-hours phone number. The person there directed us to Hopesource, the non-profit organization that sponsors Central Transit. But they are closed on Sundays. Nobody we talked to that Sunday told us more than what we already knew.

That's when I realized it: Central Transit does not have a schedule. They tell you where the stops are, yes. But you never know what time the bus is going to be there – just that it's supposed to be there every 15-20 minutes. I understand that, with mass transportation, it can sometimes take longer than expected to complete routes. When the weather is bad, you need to go slower for safety reasons. Sometimes people take longer to get on and off at the stops. I don't mind paying a quarterly fee that goes toward Central Transit. I think it is a worthwhile service.

But students should have an idea of when to be at the bus stop. That way, they're not out there waiting and wondering when the bus is going to show, especially when it's really cold outside. Whether you're a student, teacher or administrator, everyone's time is valuable on campus.

The Artist's Eye...



THE BOO... HARD AT WORK.

illustration by Mikaela Sanders

Time to defeat driving demons

Contrary to popular belief, outlawing text messaging and cell phone use, putting restrictions on minor driving and lowering insurance rates to those rude teenagers who take driver's ed, people still cannot drive. Monday alone, on my drive to and from Seattle, there were at least seven accidents, people going the wrong direction on one-way streets, not using their blinkers, cutting others off, running red lights and, of course, speeding.

Now, I don't drive like a perfect saint, but I at least try not to endanger the lives of others. There are times and places for idiotic driving – events even – for those of you who like to drift or drag or whatever else it is that some of you guys need to do to compensate for something else.

I'm like everyone else when it comes to driving on Interstate 90. I speed, I drive in the left lane for a long time when I'm not passing other cars, I've been known to tailgate and every once in a while I make a mistake and turn down a road I shouldn't be on. Mistakes are bound to happen, and with hundreds of thousands

of people in one general area, more mistakes are going to be noticed.

But there are people out there – you know who you are – who blatantly disregard signs when you're driving!

For instance, I live in an apartment complex that has one entrance and one exit. Now, the entrance may be used as an exit, as it is wide enough for two cars to fit through, and is also a two-way parking area. The building in which I live, however, has a one-way exit-only parking area. On my way home to an editors meeting and finally home on Monday, I pulled into my driveway, the correct way, and what happens? You can see this coming: a car facing the wrong way on a one-way street.

Now, this didn't bother me so much when I first moved in. I figured it was an accident, somebody just didn't realize that it was one-way and made a mistake. Well, now it's been a few months and this happens on a daily basis, it's no longer a once-a-week mishap. The parking area in which I park cannot easily fit two cars side by side when it's nearly full, and as it was evening, nearly every car was already parked. So I stopped and waited as the driver in the car facing me waited for their passenger to get out of the car, get something out of the apartment, come back and finally get ready to leave. The driver, of course, glares at me as if I were in the wrong. That's what really gets

to me. Not a moment after this first car begins to move does another car enter facing me. So once again, I wait, and once again, I get glared at.

So here's another point: cruise control people, learn to use it. It's a wonderful tool on the highway, especially on I-90. I can understand not using this tool in certain areas, like the pass when it's been snowing, or on roads that have severe curves. But for the majority, people should really learn to maintain their speed.

I was driving back Monday and ended up stuck behind several drivers that could not, for the life of them, keep their speed the same. One minute the person in front of me would be going 75 mph, the next 60 mph, and then once I try to pass them for going 10 under the posted speed limit, they speed up. Why is it that people do this? That people purposely speed up once you try to pass them?

Despite many rules and laws that we can come up with, people are still not going to listen nor are they going to follow these new rules. They never really have, so why would they start now? As for those of you who probably think that this rant has nothing to do with you, think about this the next time you drive around anywhere, or even if you are just a pedestrian on the side of the road: accidents happen every day to someone. Small things help. Learn to drive!

The Observer Opinion Forum

Designed to generate discussion and encourage reader interaction with The Observer.

Question: What rumors did you hear about the "serial killer" in Ellensburg?

Please e-mail your answers along with your year and major to The Observer's NEW e-mail at: cvuobserver@gmail.com

Scene



The spring 2007 jazz band performs for music-loving spectators under the leadership of Jazz Director Chris Bruya

Central jazz dad



Courtesy of CWU Archives

John Moawad, circa 1980 Past Moawad students praise jazz legacy

by Brooke Mortensen
Staff reporter

People who leave a legacy are hard to come by, but Central is lucky enough to have one such person. John Moawad was the director of jazz studies at Central from 1970 to 1998.

During this time he taught many subjects such as choir and history of jazz. He also directed the marching band and started the vocal jazz program.

"He, along with Waldo King, set the standard for excellence in jazz, both here in the Northwest and, indeed, all of the U.S.," Dennis Haldane, student of Moawad, said.

Haldane was under Moawad's instruction at both Nathan Hale High School in Seattle and Central.

"He was the one who believed in me and helped me to develop my talent, and my love of making music is because of him," Haldane said.

Norm Wallen, another former student of Moawad, first met Moawad in 1969 when he played for him at Nathan Hale and uses the word 'atypical' to describe him during those days.

"John wore long hair and was impeccably dressed in the latest trendy fashions and spoke to us in a very colorful vernacular that we could understand," Wallen said. "It may seem like a contradiction, but he was an excellent role model and brilliant teacher; students flocked to him."

Moawad grew up in Kalama near Long View, Wash. He started his career at Nathan Hale and then came to Central after they recruited him to start a full jazz program, as well as a percussion department.

"He really put Central on the map as the school became quite the powerhouse," said Chris Bruya, director of jazz studies and student of Moawad.

Because of all he has done, Central honors him with the John Moawad Invitational Jazz Festival on Jan. 24 and 25.

"The festival is named after him because of the legacy of all he did in the 28 years of teaching here," Bruya said.

SEE MOAWAD PAGE 11

Alumni return home for festival

by Kayla Schroeder
Staff reporter

After nearly five months of preparation, the John Moawad Invitational Jazz Festival is kicking off a week later than in years past.

The festival will run from approximately 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both Thursday, Jan. 23, and Friday, Jan. 24, in the Music Building Concert and Recital Halls. Performers will include jazz choirs and jazz bands from schools around the state. Feature performances will be held each night at 5 p.m. by Central's vocal jazz I and jazz band I along with guests John Harbaugh and Lenny Price.

"The audience is mainly visiting high school students," said Brandon Jones, sophomore music education and performance major. "They can come see what other schools are working on and broaden their own perspective. It's also a great eye-open-

er to the future of jazz music." The annual event began over 30 years ago as the Central Washington University Invitational Jazz Festival, and in 2003 was renamed the John Moawad Invitational Jazz Festival in order to recognize longtime director of jazz studies, John Moawad.

In his time at Central, Moawad transformed the festival into an opportunity for alumni to "come on home" and return to the music, Chris Bruya, current director of jazz studies, said.

Bruya has planned and organized the event for the past six years. Due to scheduling conflicts and the pressure of a new quarter, the festival date was pushed back one week later than in previous years. Still, the two days are booked with 42 jazz groups, compared to a mere eight groups five years ago.

Lara Nelson, sophomore music education major, participated in the festival for two years when attending Eisenhower High

School in Yakima. Now a Central student, Nelson is grateful to have had the opportunity to visit the campus and music building during the jazz festival.

"It's an all-day event," Nelson said. "Even if you only have 10 minutes, you can stop in and listen or talk to the different music teachers."

The event books the entire Music Building for the two-day period and provides an opportunity for student recruitment. Visiting students are able to see the campus facilities and observe Central's music program firsthand. Furthermore, while performing, groups are evaluated by judges and then provided with a clinic to focus on areas in need of improvement and enhance the educational experience.

"There are no awards," Bruya said. "[The jazz festival is] an opportunity to share the gift of music while playing for, and learning from, other groups. The atmosphere is educational, but relaxed."

Campus Activities works for Central students

by Tim Kukes
Scene editor

Over the course of the years Campus Activities has been brining entertainment to Central students, faculty and Ellensburg residents. They strive hard to bring acts that appeal to a wide base of people with differing views and backgrounds.

"The purpose of Campus Activities is to prepare and present broad-based programming and activities for the students of Central Washington University," Scott Drummond, associate director of Campus Life, said. "Activities are developed by CWU students for CWU students to enhance their university experience, both in and out of the classroom."

To this end, Campus Activities is allocated a bi-annual budget of approximately \$123,000, said Drummond. This means that for the next two years, Campus Activities has approximately \$123,000 to spend for each year. Not only do fees for booking acts come from these monies, so do all the expenses that Campus Activities incurs. \$20,000 to \$30,000 goes to pay for the eight student employees who work an average of 15 hours a week, said Drummond. Other expenses include advertising, facility expenses, supplies, travel, etc.

"There is an old rule I think that [says] you'll spend 20 percent - 30 percent of your event budget on advertising," Drummond said.



Brianne Jette/Observer

Campus Activities employees Sarah Grant, senior tourism major, and Jenny Eakins, senior anthropology major, showoff posters of upcoming events that Campus Activities sponsor for the entertainment of students.

One of the resources that helps support Campus Activities is the Publicity Center. The Publicity Center provides marketing and advertising for many campus groups. There are currently 13 students working for the Publicity Center.

"Our students are clearly more in touch with what catches the eyes of their peers," said Lola Gallagher, assistant director of Campus Life and Publicity Manager.

Events can range from \$400 for small one-night acts, such as Star Anna,

to \$50,000 for homecoming events. Programs that students may be familiar with are Welcome Week, Homecoming, Family Weekend, Boo Central, Ware Fair and Student Appreciation Day. Some guest speakers have been Jodi Sweetin of "Full House," Dr. Ruth Westheimer and actor Edward James Olmos.

Over the last six years, Homecoming has brought Jim Gaffigan, Kathy Griffith, Damon Wayans, Drew Carey, Jay Leno and David Spade. At this time next year's Homecoming show is unknown, Drummond said.

"I don't know if people realize that they [Campus Activities] are responsible for bringing in the big name entertainment," Gallagher said.

The decision to decide what events and acts Campus Activities features is primarily made by the programming agency, Drummond said. This group consists of students who are hired by the director of Campus Life to research ideas for different events and activities that students may enjoy. They set the budget for events, coordinate venues, and check availability of acts.

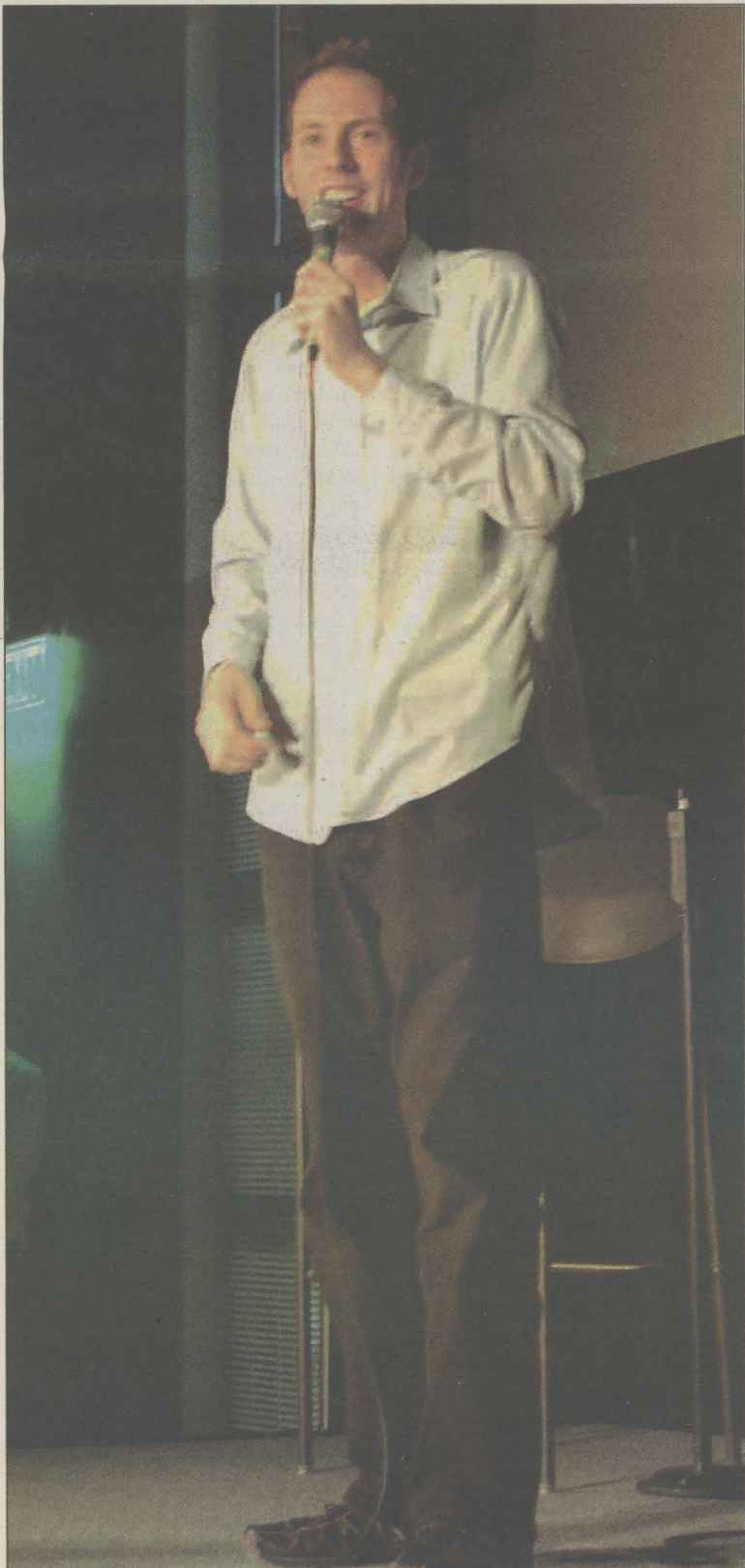
"To start the quarter we had 22 planned [events] for winter," Drummond said. "Ultimately we'll probably do close to 40 [events] by the end of the quarter."

One of the challenges for Campus Activities is dealing with the changes that new technology brings to entertaining students. Newer technology and changes from the past now allow students greater access to all forms of entertainment. Students can now speed 70 mph down the highway, see a show, and be back at Central all in the same day, Drummond said. Also with computers and sophisticated video equipment it is possible for students to keep themselves entertained without leaving their home.

"Distractions are a challenge - our entertainment has become so self-contained, it's hard to get people out and about," Drummond said.

But there have been significant changes over the last 15 years. Campus Activities is in the new SURC, which opens up capabilities for the agency and a whole new venue. Larger spaces, greater power accessibility, and better equipment allow Campus Activities to sponsor more sophisticated activities. It also raises the bar.

"I would like to see more activities that will benefit us after graduation other than job fairs and workshops," Britta Gidican, senior public relations major, said.



Courtesy of Sean Smith

Dax Jordan lit up the stage with jokes to a crowd of 100 Central students



Courtesy of Sean Smith

Jeff Dye says he supports education, not babies, because "100 percent of babies don't read or write."

Comedy night at Central

by Ila Dickenson
Staff reporter

Last Friday night, a group of Central students gathered to watch two skinny white guys talk about everything that college kids care about: Canada, video games and being badass.

Comedians Dax Jordan and Jeff Dye entertained the audience at Holmes Dining for a comedy show hosted by Campus Activities and student programmer Carter Thomas.

Holmes had been transformed from the light and spacious all-you-can-eat dining hall into a chic comedy club with the help of a few spotlights and a perimeter of black curtains.

First to hit the stage was Dax Jordan from Portland. Jordan made light of heavy topics by joking about everything from autism to the Vietnam Conflict to Michael J. Fox and Canada.

As a tip to the audience, Jordan suggests telling this joke next time you want a good laugh.

"Why do girls wear makeup and perfume?" said Jordan. "Because they're ugly and they stink."

Next up was Jeff Dye, a local from the Kentwood High School class of 2001. Dye's influences include some Central favorites like Jim Gaffigan and Mitch Hed-

berg, both of whom have performed at Central before.

Dye spent his set talking about his life as a badass, his gym habits and creepy clay baby anti-tobacco commercials.

Over the past few years, Dye has learned about hope from two places: his dad and his car.

He loves that his dad is going bald but grows a full beard. Just because his hair stops growing one place, doesn't mean it should give up and stop growing altogether.

Dye drives a 1995 Jetta and is inspired

by the fact that the speedometer goes up to 155 miles per hour. "My Jetta's got dreams!" Dye said.

The night ended after two hours of non-stop laughter from two Central favorites.

"I think that they were good," Christy Vallade, senior history major, said. "They were not the best - I've seen better, but for \$2 they were alright."

Both comedians were chosen from a talent agency to perform for the crowd of about 100 said Thomas, senior community health major.

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Tryouts test the drama in students

by Kevin Opsahl
Staff reporter

What goes on in the theatre department at Central is more than meets the eye. Department majors are not only expected to be seasoned actors, but also demonstrate the ability to become well-rounded in show business, whether it's working as stage crew, participating in costume and puppet labs or writing original one-act material.

Auditioning for a play remains a constant challenge for students. The spring production of "Peter Pan," the musical, was recently cast by director Terri Brown, associate professor with the Central Theatre Ensemble (CTE). Students who aspire to be the leading roles must be versatile and ready to bring their singing, acting, and dancing skills to the stage.

Michael J. Smith, associate professor of performance and artistic director of CTE, has been in the business long enough to know what qualities are needed in the tryout process.

"I look at quality of commitment, energy and truth," Smith said. "In other words, they're creating a set of circumstances that are unique to this piece. If they can ... believe in this world that they are creating, then that's great. It means that they can take us on a journey; [that's] what theater is."

On audition day, a swarm of students file into the McConnell Auditorium. They must perform a four-minute monologue, poem, nursery-rhyme or story, followed by 16 bars of a Broadway song of the faculty choosing.

"I have always been a huge fan of the story of Peter Pan ever since I was little and saw the Disney movie,"

Amanda Carpp, freshman undeclared, who was cast as Peter Pan, said. "I can't wait to bring my interpretation of the much-loved character to life."

Based on the first audition, Brown develops a list of people she wants to see again during the call-back session. Later in call-backs, she splits them into groups to do acting exercises. The groups read excerpts from the script to see how their chemistry works on stage and how they can interpret the lines.

David Brown, production manager and music director, then has them sing in harmony as a group.

Choreographer and faculty lecturer Anneliese Childress gives students an approximate 45-minute lecture to learn a dance routine that may last only three minutes. They are given a half-hour to go through the motions, then an additional 15 to rehearse privately. The groups then come together to perform all at once, while Childress



and Brown review their individual performances.

"Some kids would stomp, or get really mad because they hold themselves to such a high standard," Jordan Thayer, junior business major, said of those who did not make the final cut in the dance auditions. Thayer was cast as a firefighter in "Working, the Musical" in 2005.

Leslee Caul, director of marketing and development, and an accomplished actress who has participated in

various CTE productions since 1994, knows the importance of tryouts.

"This is like a job interview," Caul said. "If you pursue this as a professional actor ... your job really becomes the audition process. Even if you're in a play or a TV commercial ... you're always looking for that next job."

The rigors of the dance auditions are given special attention this quarter. Childress is instructing a special course for stage dance to prepare those who made the cut for the intricate steps needed in musicals. The department is always finding new ways to connect classwork and production.

Although the audition process sounds competitive from the perspective of a major, the CTE is truly all-inclusive. Central wants all people to feel that they are welcome to participate in the productions — including people from the community. The cast of "Peter Pan" includes a number of community members as pirates and children as extras.

"Peter Pan" will play at 2 p.m. May 10, 11, 17 and 18 in McConnell Hall, and repeat on the 16 and 17 at 7 p.m. General admission is \$15, students and seniors admission is \$7, and CWU students admission is \$4.

Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas

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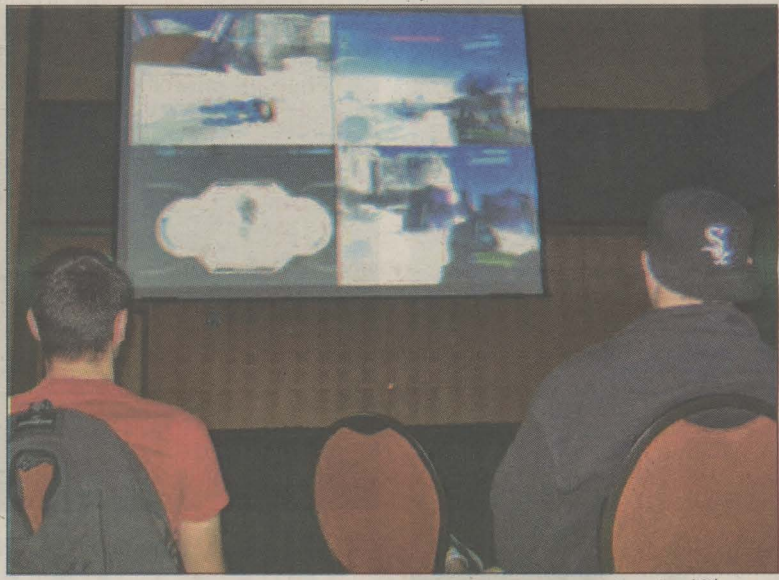
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Justin Peace (left) and Connor Belair (right) duel for a brand new XBOX 360 at the Halo 3 tournament held in the SURC Ballroom Tuesday night.

Halo reigns supreme

by Dan Fisher
Asst. Scene editor

On Tuesday, video game enthusiasts from the Central community came together to compete for bragging rights in the Halo 3 tournament.

The atmosphere of the Student Union Ballroom was reflective of the gaming activities it was housing.

The electronic glow of several drop-down projector screens, along with the chaotic sounds of gunfire, yelling, cheering and jeering, set the mood for this all-out fight to the (virtual) death.

Hosted by Campus Activities and organized by the Central Washington Gamers (club), the tournament started with 22 participants, all competing for the grand prize: a brand new XBOX 360, two games and a case of Red Bull.

Campus Activities strives to provide the student body with ample entertainment and a variety of events throughout the year.

"Besides classes, of course, activities on campus are the best part of college," said Sarah Ruiz, junior political science major and Campus Activities family outreach programmer.

Ruiz worked closely with the Central Washington Gamers to bring everything together for this tournament.

"Campus Activities actually approached us for help in setting up the brackets," said Evan Belfiglio, senior information technology / network administration major and president of the Central Washington Gamers.

Once the competition was whittled down to the top four players, the final match kicked off with a four-way, last-man-standing battle. In the end, Kyle Weyand, junior anthropology major, proved to be that man.

"I've been playing Halo for four years," Weyand said. "This was definitely the most intense game I've ever played."

Video gaming is a very popular pastime on campus, and though the tournament is now over, opportunities to network with fellow gamers still stand.

Officially recognized by Central Washington University as a student club, the Central Washington Gamers consists of Central students who are passionate about video games.

Anyone interested in joining the club should visit their Web site at www.centralwashingtongamers.com.

January

24 • "Hold on to Your N.U.T.S.I!" plays at 6:30 p.m. in the SURC Theatre

• John Moawad Invitational Jazz Festival in the Music Building, all day

25 • Teton Gravity Research's "Lost and Found" plays at 8 p.m. in the SURC Theatre. \$8 for students, \$12 general

• John Moawad Invitational Jazz Festival in the Music Building, all day

26 • Heather Netz, violin recital at 4 p.m. in the Music Building recital hall

27 • Pan's Labyrinth plays at 7 p.m. in the SURC Theatre. Admission is \$3.

• Music Antiqua, 3 p.m. in the Music Building recital hall.

• NHL All-Star game. Western conference vs. Eastern conference, 6 p.m. Eastern Time

28 • The Matrix plays at 7 p.m. in the SURC Theatre. Admission is free.

29 • Poker Tournament at 6:30 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom.

30 • Lowell Skoog presents "Skiing the Cascade Crest" at 7 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom.

"Sicko" finds U.S. health care wanting

In his latest documentary, "Sicko," director Michael Moore addresses health care in America with his own personal cynicism added in.



Donna Buse
Staff reporter

In the beginning, he profiles people with health insurance issues and their struggles to receive proper treatment.

For example, an uninsured man accidentally sawed off the top of his middle and ring fingers. The doctors said that for \$60,000, they could reattach his middle finger. For \$12,000 they could also sew on his ring finger. So he chose just to have his ring finger re-attached.

What about those who do have insurance? Donna and Larry Smith had to move into their daughter's spare room in Denver, Colo., because they had to sell their house. They both had steady jobs and health insurance. Donna was a newspaper editor and Larry was a machinist. But Larry had three heart attacks, and then Donna was diagnosed with cancer. Their co-pays and deductibles added up to the point where they had to sell their home.

Moore talked about how our healthcare system was created, including what the application process is like and why some people are denied. For example, one woman didn't get approved for payment because she didn't tell her insurance

company she had a yeast infection years ago.

Later in the documentary, Michael Moore went to England, France, Canada and even Cuba where they have national health care, which means citizens don't have to worry about money if something should happen to them or someone they care about. Are they drowning in taxes in order to pay for this? No, they pay according to their means. They get according to their needs. He compares and contrasts our system to theirs.

After his trip to France, Michael Moore returns to America and shows people being dropped off at a Union Rescue Mission in Los Angeles, Calif., because they couldn't afford to pay their hospital bill. They still had their hospital gowns on. But the name of the hospital they came from had been removed from their I.D. tags. In a chilling scene, one woman they showed was so disoriented when they took her to the mission, she didn't even know where she was.

It made me wonder, do we really live in a society where we kick people to the curb when they clearly need help? It's shocking to know that what he's talking about really is happening in America.

My friend Melanie broke her ankle one day because she landed the wrong way when doing a cannonball off the stage at Yakima Valley Community College. Even with insurance, her family had to pay \$11,000 for her surgery. On top of that, they also had to cover part of the ambulance ride, her therapy, cast, wheel cart and

crutches.

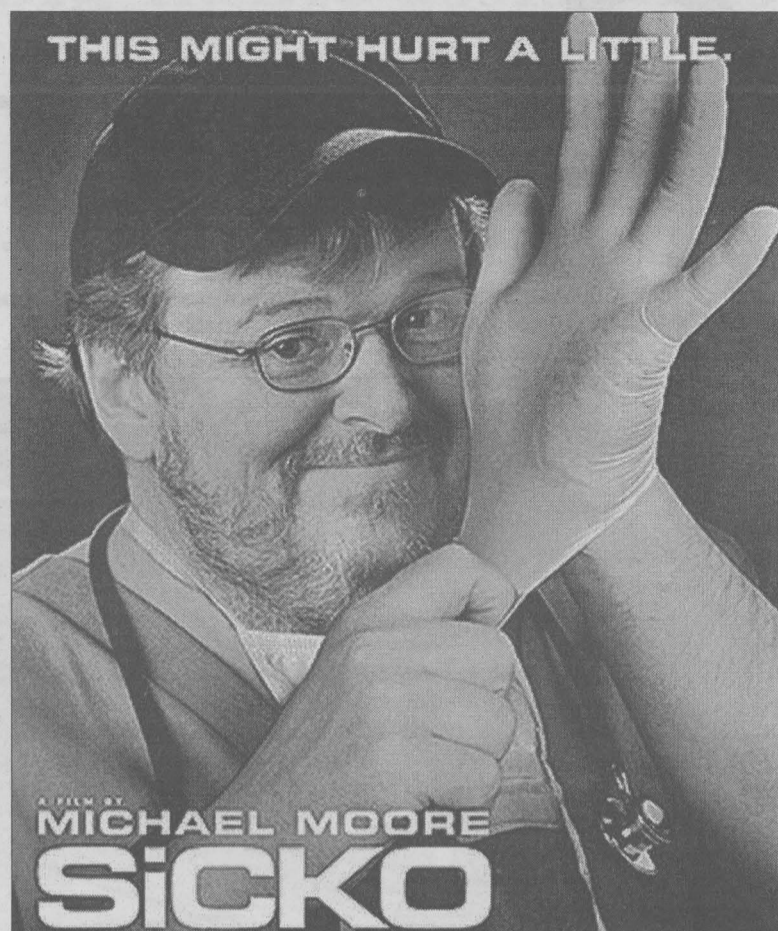
According to the National Coalition on Health Care (NCHC), 47 million Americans are without health care. This is because many small employers can't afford to offer health benefits due to rising health care premiums. As for the companies that do offer health insurance, they usually require employees to contribute more toward their coverage. A lot of people don't get insurance simply because they can't afford it.

My mom works as an auditor for Tower of Life Insurance Company. She says medical costs for the uninsured are reduced. However, the rest of the costs are carried to people with insurance.

There are options for people with lower incomes, such as Medicaid. However, Medicaid's Web site states, "Medicaid does not provide medical assistance for all poor persons. Even under the broadest provisions of the Federal statute (except for emergency services for certain persons), the Medicaid program does not provide health care services, even for very poor persons, unless they are in one of the designated eligibility groups. Low income is only one test for Medicaid eligibility."

According to NHCH, when people are unable to pay the full medical bill in cash at the time of service, they can be turned away, except in life-threatening circumstances.

Toward the end of the movie, Michael Moore takes ailing Sept. 11 workers and volunteers along with other people in need of treatment to Guantanamo Bay to get the help they

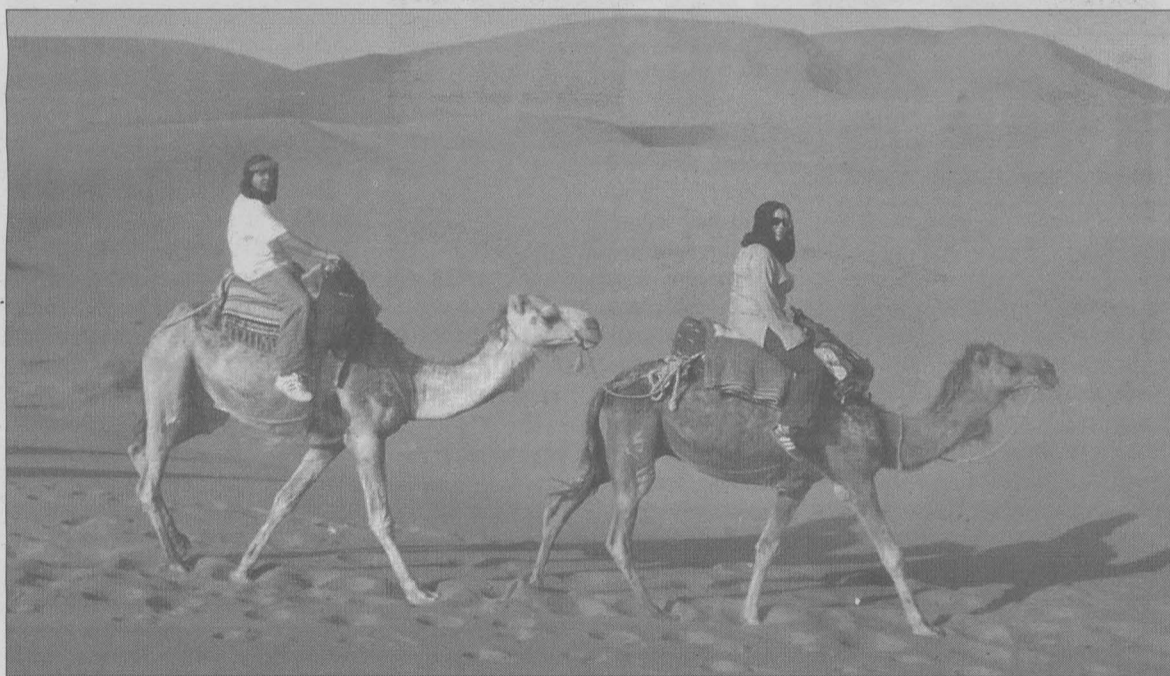


Courtesy of www.sicko-movie.com

need. Afterward they discovered that Cuba has National Health Care.

I think taking people to Guantanamo Bay to get medical care is a bit extreme. I also know that there are people who can afford to buy insurance. However, they still don't choose to get it for one reason or another. Instead they would spend their money on other things like a

nicer car or television. But when it comes to health care, the French, British, Canadians and Cubans apparently do have something on us Americans. Take it from my friend who lives in Liverpool, England. He says, "It's nice knowing that if anything ever happens to me I will be taken in an ambulance, operated on and looked after and all free of charge."



Courtesy of Alexandra Johnston

Alexandra Johnston and companion travel the sands of Morocco by camel-back while studying abroad.

Series talks travel learning

by Nora Duncan
Scene staff

How many women can say they've been the only blonde female for miles? If Central students are curious, or want the experience for themselves, the College of Arts and Humanities is presenting Alexandra Johnston, an international communication major, and Professor Gary Weidenaar from the music department. Both speakers will present their experience with studying abroad.

Johnston will focus on the seven months she spent in Morocco, whereas Weidenaar will talk about overseas job opportunities.

"Studying abroad is important because there are just some things you cannot learn at Central," Johnston said. "Stepping outside of your comfort zone and leaving what you know is an

experience in itself."

Since the university at which Johnston studied was in a smaller town, where her culture and appearance were more accepted, traveling posed a few issues.

"For the most part, everything was fine," Johnston said. "But when we went to the bigger cities, I would get hollered at. A lot of these people had never seen a blonde, pale girl before. The stereotype about white girls was that they were always happy, easy and dumb. Some people were very surprised that I wasn't like that."

Knowledge of other cultures is a popular message on campus.

"It's important to have presentations on study abroad programs so that students will see the value of getting outside of their own comfortable, cultural environments," said Marji Mor-

gan, dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. "They also need to hear about the funding and travel logistics so that they realize how possible such trips are for most students who decide to go."

Morgan knows firsthand what an impact studying abroad can have.

"My own experience traveling and studying abroad has been the most meaningful educational experience of my life," Morgan said. "It has taught me about what it means to be American, given me confidence to deal with the new and unexpected, and enhanced my sensitivity to other cultures by making me realize that my value system is only one among many."

The presentation was held at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 22, in the Science Building.

Moawad: "Coach" is admired by Central faculty and students

continued from page 8

Moawad is also a part of Jazz in the Valley, where he directs the All-Star Big Band. Due to health conditions Bruya assists Moawad as director.

"Because John is facing some health issues, I take over the band when needed, but when he is feeling well, he's there to direct and I help out," Bruya said.

According to Sydney Moe, member of the board of directors for Jazz in the Valley, about 90 percent of the All-Star Big Band includes students whom Moawad once

taught at Central.

"My brother has always told me that the highlight of the weekend during Jazz in the Valley is to watch John direct and watch the band work with him," Moe said.

Today Moawad lives in Ellensburg with his wife. Although he is retired and no longer with Central, he keeps busy while archiving recordings that were made while he was teaching.

"John is more than a music educator: he's more like a life educator," Bruya said. "He's concerned about you developing as a human being and because of that, he is Coach."



Darcy Wytko/Observer

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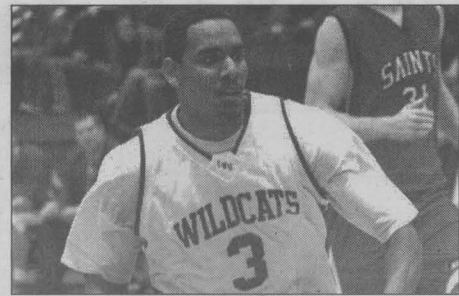
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SPORTS



Face-off for 1-24: steroids in the Hall of Fame? (Page 14)



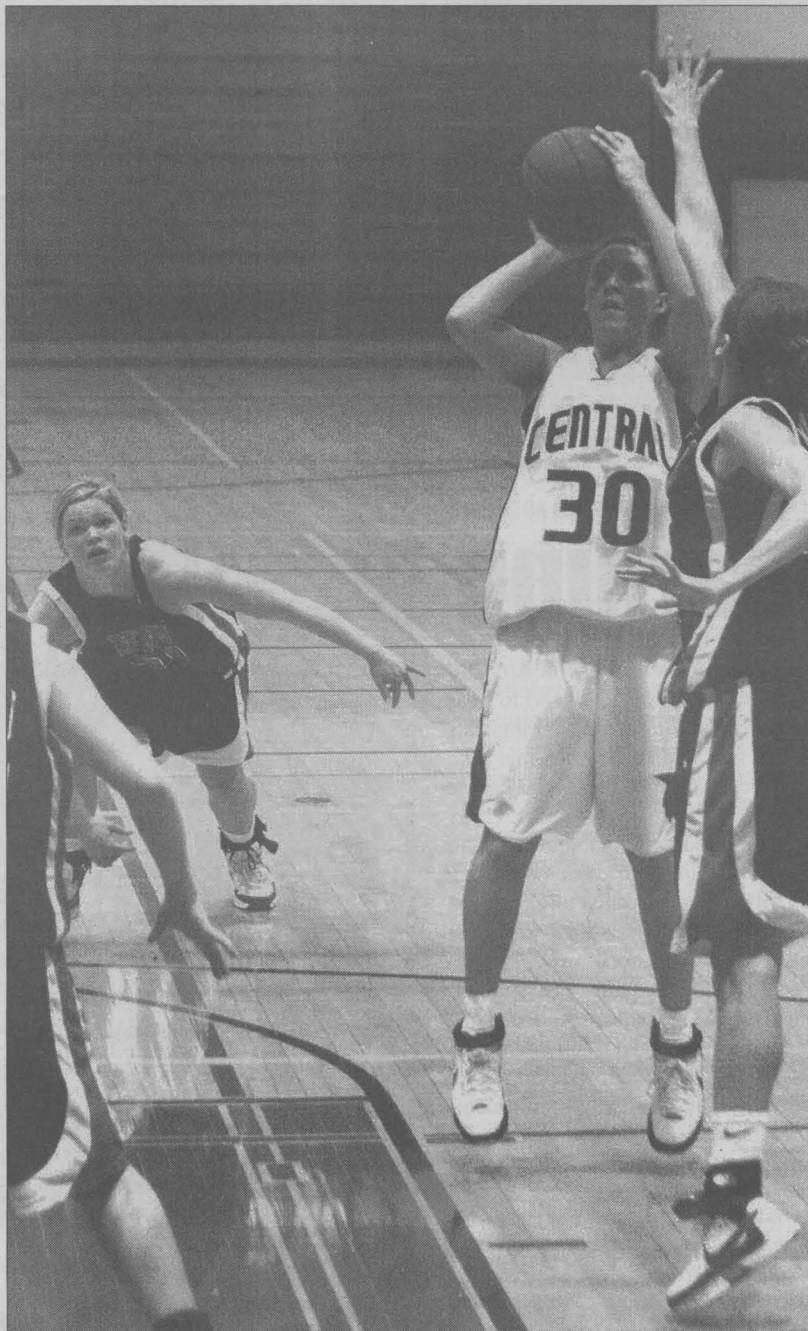
Wildcat men go 1-1 in Alaska trip (Page 15)



THE GNAC BLUES

Above: Senior wing Hanna Hull drives to the basket against Lindsay Brady of Northwest Nazarene on Jan. 17, at Nicholson Pavilion. Hull had 23 points in a 107-76 loss to the Crusaders, just the second time in four years that a team has scored at least 100 against Central.

Right: Senior wing Elyse Maras spots up for a mid-range jumper against Northwest Nazarene last week. Maras scored 13 points from the bench and was perfect from the free throw line. The loss to the Crusaders was the Wildcats' third straight since winning their GNAC opener on Jan. 5.



Wildcat women are 1-4 since beginning conference play

by Brianna Freeman and Frank Stanley
Staff reporter and Sports editor

As they continue to try to turn things around in the midst of a four-game losing streak, a good strategy for the Central Washington women's basketball team might be to find more non-conference opponents.

Since opening the season 9-0 and beginning Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) play with a win over archrival Western Washington, the Wildcats have lost four straight, all coming in GNAC play.

The two most recent losses were a 107-76 blowout by Northwest Nazarene University and an 81-73 loss to Seattle Pacific University, who is currently ranked as the number three team in the nation, according to the latest USA Today/ESPN Division II Top 25 Coaches' Poll.

The loss against NNU was only the second time under head coach Jeff Whitney that a team has scored 100 or more on CWU. The last time was also against the Crusaders on Jan. 31, 2004, when they scored 101.

Regardless, Whitney and the team are putting the loss behind them.

"We're a family, [and] whether you win by 20 or lose by 30, it doesn't matter," Whitney said. "We have to work, get on them and start a new page; that's what you have to do."

After keeping it close early, NNU took control and led by as many as 17 points before CWU called a time out while down 47-34 with five minutes left in the first half. The Wildcats were able to regroup and narrow the gap to four with a score of 57-53 at halftime behind 18 first-half points from senior wing Hanna Hull.

Returning to the floor after halftime, CWU took their third and final lead of the game with a lay-up by junior wing Brooke Fernandez to give the Wildcats a one-point advantage, 60-59. The Crusaders then took control and never looked back, going on a 48-16 scoring run to end the game with a 31-point advantage.

"We've never been up against a team that fast and that deep," Hull said. "They subbed really well and had fresh legs in there all the time and you can see from the score [that] it got the best of us."

Senior wing Elyse Maras added 13 points and was a perfect 8-of-8 from the free-throw line. Hull had 23 points in

33 minutes of action.

The Crusaders had six players score in double figures, led by a team-high 19 from reserve post Kristin Hein. NNU also out-rebounded CWU, who is second in the GNAC in rebounds, 35 to 32.

The Wildcats' play against NNU exposed one of their biggest troubles this season in containing quick-transition teams, which would prove to be more of a challenge against the SPU Falcons, one of the fastest transitioning teams in the nation.

To start the game, the Wildcats opened with a half-court press and managed to hold SPU from any fast breaks. However, Central could only keep up in the first half after seven lead changes. The Wildcat women managed to close a 10-point deficit before going into the locker rooms down 38-34.

During halftime, SPU head coach Julie van Beek urged her team to improve, despite the lead.

"We weren't communicating well on screens with defense and [CWU was] getting some wide open looks," van Beek said. "We talked about how important it was to rebound; we only had two offensive boards in the half and we needed to pick it up."

With the start of the second half, CWU took a one-point lead at 48-

47 with a jumper from freshman wing Jenn Jacobs, but it would be the Wildcats' final lead of the night. The defense broke down and led to the Falcons' speeding up their transition offense.

The Wildcat women's defense looked tired as SPU found open players constantly on the perimeter, most notably senior guard Jackie Hollands, who shot 8-of-14 from the field and 5-of-8 from three-point range for a game- and season-high 25 points. As with the game against NNU, the Wildcats were again out-rebounded, 35 to 27.

Even with the win, van Beek and Hollands both said it was one of the toughest games they've played so far, and this game really came down to the final minutes.

"Teams don't shoot 50 percent every game, and tonight, they were on fire," Hollands said. "We knew they were going to give it everything. When it came down to free throws, that really helped with how they were shooting."

The Wildcats return to the road this week as they continue GNAC play tonight at Saint Martin's University and then Western Oregon on Saturday before opening a four-game homestand against Alaska next week in Nicholson Pavilion.

"Teams don't shoot 50 percent every game, and tonight, they were on fire."

JACKIE HOLLANDS,
SEATTLE PACIFIC GUARD

The Sports Guy's Big Mouth:

NFL vacancies open door for big-name assistants

We were on the cusp of what could have been a national (football) disaster.



Frank Stanley
Sports guy

Earlier this month, Washington Redskins head coach Joe Gibbs announced his retirement. After their respective playoff losses, Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy and Seattle coach Mike Holmgren also mulled over stepping down from their positions.

Since then, Dungy has opted to stay with the Colts for one more year and us 'Hawks fans will see the angry walrus on the sidelines again next season.

Three Hall of Fame coaches, all could have been long gone by now. Add this to the year's coaching carousel and the NFL higher-ups would have seen one huge shakedown of coaches.

So, let's just stick to the three aforementioned coaches and ask ourselves, "What if they all retired? Who would replace them?" Well, that's what I'm hoping to answer today: the pecking order from a list of current and former NFL coaches, current coaches and a flurry of assistants.

One thing: I am not including college coaches because frankly, they've ruined their rep with the NFL, thanks to Little Nicky Saban and Bobby "The Greedy Weasel" Petrino.

That said, here's my "power ranking" list of coaching candidates for what could have been three different jobs, now down to one:

The "If Only" Wild Card: Mike Ditka, former head coach, now ESPN analyst.

Yeah, I had to get the big joke out of the way because, hey, it's Ditka. Washington could actually find something meaningful in his hiring and he could, oddly enough, fit in their system. But we all know the answer to this, so no, joke's over, get your ha-has out now.

Oh former head coaches, where are you now?: Denny Green, Cam Cameron, Mike Tice and Dom Capers, former head coaches.

So one of these guys is a current assistant (Tice is the tight ends coach at Jacksonville), and all four have been fired at some point, but are any of them a good fit for anyone? Green is all for a vertical passing attack (only Indianapolis may apply, but would rather stick to running back Joseph Addai), Capers is too

much of a defensive mind and both Tice and Cameron are better fits as offensive assistants. They're pretty names on the list, but no.

Oh man, look at all of the assistant coaches!: Jim Haslett, Russ Grimm, Ron Rivera, Monte Kiffin, Al Saunders, Gregg Williams, Jim Caldwell, all current NFL assistant coaches.

So many assistants, so little space, so I'll just brief each one. Haslett: doing fine with the Rams. Grimm: doing fine with the Cardinals. Rivera: doing fine with the Cardinals. Kiffin: won't leave Tampa Bay. Saunders and Williams: one should take the 'Skin's head coaching job while the other will work under. Caldwell: won't leave Tony Dungy.

They'd be good, but can we get them out of retirement?: Marty Schottenheimer, former head coach, now ESPN insider, and Bill Cowher, former head coach, now CBS analyst.

Even though they are only one year removed from coaching, the talk of when they're coming back started just as the 2007 season started. Now they are enjoying their new jobs behind desks: Marty works at ESPN, and we see Bill's chin with every pregame and halftime show on CBS.

So, where do they fit? Oddly enough, all three teams could have benefited from either. Both of them emphasize the run (Marty Ball, anyone?) and include a balanced passing attack (Seattle is more proficient), but the biggest change would most likely be changing both teams to a 3-4 defense.

If that were the case, Cowher would be a better fit for Washington or Indianapolis, building around their blitzing safeties (Bob Sanders for the Colts and LaRon Landry for the 'Skins) and Schotty keeps to the front seven: something more useful to the Seahawks.

The frontrunners: Steve Spagnuolo and Rex Ryan, both current defensive coordinators.

Let their teams do the talking. Spagnuolo led one of the fastest pass rushes in the NFL with the New York Giants and Ryan headed the Baltimore Ravens' defense, the best in the NFL. Since Washington is the only vacancy available with a young, maturing defense, both are a perfect fit, creating a three-way fight between these two and my next candidate.

The "mystery candidate:" Jim Fassel, former head coach.

Fassel was recently announced as

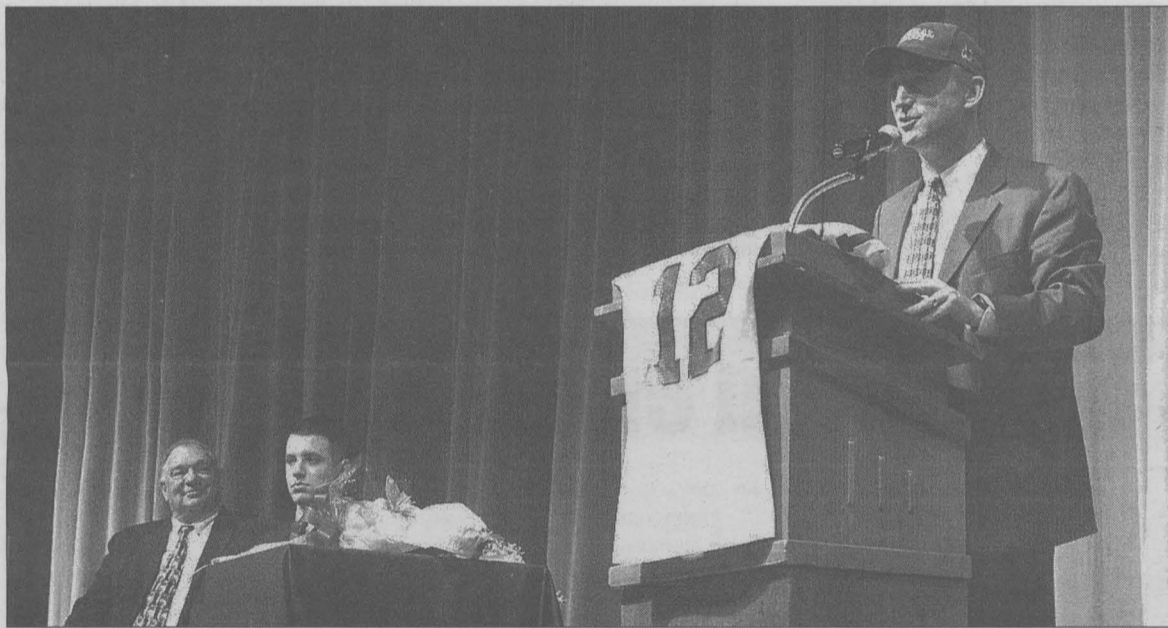
one of the leading candidates for the Washington job, and frankly, he's a great fit. Despite his offensive downslide as the Baltimore Ravens offensive coordinator in 2006, he's had success at the head coaching level and he can just step in for Gibbs and things would keep running as they are now.

It's his until Holmgren comes ba—oh, wait: Jim Mora, current NFL assistant.

He has local ties, he knows the system, he's already with the team, he's got a good coaching background and, hey, he's a likable guy. He wanted the University of Washington job and got the second best opportunity instead.

Most people were wondering why there was little media coverage on who Seattle would hire should Holmgren step down, and the clear answer is they already had their choice. With Mora, it's not a matter of how, it's when, because he will become the next head coach of the Seattle Seahawks.

That's 18 candidates that could make a viable head coach, so who needs college coaches? Pete Carroll can keep winning and everyone can be happy. **Next Week:** I'll discuss the blunders of sports columnists and what to avoid reading.



Brian Iiyama/Observer

New head football coach Blaine Bennett speaks at a press conference held at the SURC Theatre last Friday. Athletic Director Jack Bishop, left, and Director of Athletic Media Relations Jonathan Gordon, center, look on.

New Coach: Bennett becomes Central's 23rd head coach, beating out Timm Rosenbach and Bruce Walker

continued from cover

Central returns to the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) in 2008 after spending the last two seasons as a part of the now-defunct North Central Conference.

Bennett didn't waste much time before throwing his first verbal shot at rival Western Washington.

"We have the advantage over our opponent across the mountains," Bennett said. "I will probably never say their name publicly very often, but you know who I'm talking about."

The Bennett family has a long history in the city of Ellensburg. Bennett's father, Blaine "Shorty" Bennett, led Ellensburg High School to the state 2A football championship in 1973, the only one in the school's history.

Bennett played quarterback for Dennis Erickson at the University of Idaho from 1983 to 1985 before transferring to Whitworth College to play for his father.

Upon graduation, Bennett got into coaching as a graduate assistant under Erickson and Mike Price at Washington State in 1988. He spent a year as offensive coordinator at Chico State in 1990 before moving on to Western Oregon as an assis-

"I do feel like this is home for me and being able to come back and be the head coach at Central means a lot."

BLAINE BENNETT HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

tant in 1992. Bennett then took over the Wolves head coaching job three years later.

Bennett said that he plans on bringing his version of the spread offense to Central which may bring even more passing than seen last season. Bennett worked with quarterback Mike Reilly when Reilly was still in high school and Bennett was at Western Oregon.

"He has really matured," Bennett said. "I told him that the other day that he doesn't look like the same Mike Reilly I remembered, so until I have a chance to work with him, it's really hard to compare. I know his numbers are excellent. I know he is a phenomenal quarterback."

Reilly also spoke very highly of his previous experience with Bennett.

"He was very knowledgeable as far as his football knowledge and technique," Reilly said. "Just a very good teacher. He was able to convey that knowledge in a way that

was very easy to learn and very easy to understand what he was talking about."

Bennett said that one of the questions posed to him by the search committee was how long he intends to stay at Central.

"I'm not going to sit up here and say I will retire from Central Washington University," Bennett said. "But I do promise I am going to do my very best. I plan on being here a long, long time, win a lot of games, a lot of championships and I am very excited to be a part of this GNAC conference."

After going through three coaches in three years, stability at the head coaching position would be something Bishop would like to see.

"I felt that both years [were] a good process, but it's not one that I hope I go through every year," Bishop said. "I'm getting so dang good at it but I don't really want to do it a lot."

INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Central Washington's indoor track and field team opened its 2008 season at the University of Washington Invitational last Saturday in the Dempsey Indoor Facility in Seattle, Wash.

Top performers at the meet include junior thrower Matt Valdez, who got third place in the men's shot put with a throw of 14.45m, and senior sprinter Chelsea Evans, who placed fourth in the women's 400-meter dash with a time of 59.93 seconds. Valdez also placed eighth in the weight throw.

Other top-10 finishes include: junior sprinter Rachael Kaercher, 400-meter dash (eighth), the women's 4x400 relay team (10th), junior sprinter Matt Rogstad, men's 200-meter dash (eighth), the men's 4x400 relay team (sixth), the men's distance medley team (fifth), senior jumper Scott McCoy, men's pole vault (eighth), sophomore thrower Tyler Fischer, men's shot put (10th) and weight throw (fourth) and sophomore thrower Mike Ostler, men's weight throw (seventh).

The team's next meet is the McDonald's Collegiate invite at the University of Idaho in Moscow.

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THE WEEKLY SPORTS FACE-OFF:

'Roid Rage: putting users in the Hall of Fame

Remember the good ol' days, when baseball cards were king and it mattered to everybody else what cards you had?

Whether you had a Ken Griffey, Jr., Frank Thomas, Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens or a Nolan Ryan card, there was always a feeling of fulfillment of having the card of the player you idolized.

Major League Baseball has obviously been going through some tough times lately. As we all already know, the Mitchell Report is destroying our generation's role models.

I don't know about you, but I'm sick of hearing all of this naysay about some of the best players ever to star in our national pastime. These players have made their mark and deserve to be in the Hall of Fame.

Steroids. What else is there to write? What more to talk about? When the word "steroids" is brought up, people freak out.

Some of Major League Baseball's credentials for induction to the Hall of Fame include: statistics, personality, and sportsmanship. Little do people know, there are players who have done things worse than steroids and made it to Cooperstown.

A player by the name of Ty Cobb is in the Hall of Fame. Cobb played from 1905-1928 and is considered one of the greatest players of all time with the highest career batting average.

Cobb is also known for starting a fistfight in the stands of a game, stabbing a man and being an extreme racist. It looks to me like Cobb's statistics played a larger part for induction than personality.

Pitcher Gaylord Perry had 314 career wins and will always be known for throwing the now-illegal "spitball." The same instance from Perry goes here for Mark McGwire, because McGwire was using androstenedione which was, at the time, legal.

By not inducting one of the greatest home run hitters of all time for something that wasn't against the rules is ridiculous. Pete Rose had a gambling problem, sure, but he never assaulted anyone, or spit on any baseballs to



Cody Gapp
Staff reporter

improve his grip. Rose deserves the Hall of Fame because of his outstanding hitting statistics.

Players have used performance-enhancing drugs since the beginning of baseball. Only now it is becoming a much bigger deal.

Brad Ausmus, a catcher for the Houston Astros, stated "There are roided pitchers and roided hitters, so basically there's an even playing field," which I find to be very true.

Amphetamines have run rampant throughout the decades, and there are many players who used and are now in the Hall.

MLB Commissioner Bud Selig has avoided the steroid problem for years, probably because he knew the extent of the use and he knew what baseball had become in the new era and it was too far out of his reach.

The allegations these days against Roger Clemens and that other guy from the San Francisco Giants are headlines everywhere. Roger Clemens has won seven Cy Young awards, has 4,800 strikeouts and is hailed as the greatest pitcher of our time. Those achievements are Hall of Fame worthy.

Barry Bonds has broken the extremely sought-after home run title with 73 in a season and 762 for his career, and has five MVP awards. Those statistics are also Hall of Fame worthy. These players have both been accused of using steroids. There's definitely a pattern with all of these problems in baseball.

Cheating is cheating. It comes in many forms, but when it comes down to it there's no difference. People make mistakes in their lives, and people grow and learn. These athletes I have mentioned, have succeeded in being the best at their sport. They deserve to be rewarded with a trip to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame, not only because I don't want to lose my childhood idols, but because they have taken the necessary steps for induction.

Steroids. Remove all of the tape around it, all of the controversy, all of the issues it has brought to baseball and all of the people that are involved, and one point still rings true through the issue: its use is and should always be considered cheating.

It's so hard to argue about this since there's so much that we don't know and most of it this point is becoming less of a formal investigation and more of an old-time witch hunt. With how everyone is handling the situation, Major League Baseball and the federal government didn't need tens of millions of dollars to fund something as large as the Mitchell Report, they just needed one player and one trainer to start pointing fingers and scream, "That player used human growth hormone! I gave him the doses!"

If arguing about steroids in baseball is so difficult, arguing about players implicated in the Mitchell Report is even harder. Talking about our question at hand, there's more to it than "if you're named, you're screwed," but most signs, for me point to no — if you were implicated in the Mitchell Report, your eligibility for the Baseball Hall of Fame is shot.

I'm a fundamentalist. If I were in Commissioner Bud Selig's shoes, the line wouldn't be drawn at performance-enhancing drugs, it would be set at performance-enhancers. Cork in the hitter's bat, pine tar on the pitcher's glove and steroids in the player's posterior are all in the same cart to me, and should all be treated as such. Basically, it's all the same: it presents an unfair advantage to playing the game.

Saying that is so difficult for me, because there's so much that players have accomplished, yet it's tough to gauge just how much of those achievements can actually be attributed as clean



Frank Stanley
Sports editor

play. It's much like the New England Patriots' reputation after the Spygate incident: just how far back does it go? Did they cheat during their Super Bowl victories? Unfortunately, we'll never know.

Carry it over to baseball and use, say, Roger Clemens: did he strike out 20 Mariners in 1986 while on the juice? I know that far back would more than likely be ludicrous, but what about his time with the Yankees? Was he 'roided up in 1999 and 2000 when he won two rings in the Fall Classic? We'll most likely never know.

What I do know is if he's going on his own crusade to clear his name and further ruin his credibility, he can go ahead and dig his own grave.

While I do commend the players that have come forward and admitted their use, it's no way to absolve them of their wrongs. I wouldn't let the kid who broke my window off the hook because he apologized; I just look at it better than the spoiled brat who would just deny everything and blame his friends.

While I continue my abhorrence for cheaters, I will also respect the rules of baseball, and as the steroid issue is so new, the cheating does have its exceptions. This means well for former slugger Mark McGwire who used androstenedione while it was still legal in baseball. As doctoring balls would go, yes: Gaylord Perry would not be in my Hall of Fame.

Finally, with the actual list of names in the report, it's not like everyone there was bound to be on the ballot. Does anyone here seriously think that former Mariners pitcher Ryan Franklin has a shot of being in Cooperstown? How about former outfielder Glenallen Hill? Does anyone here remember who that is, anyway? The report didn't smear the greatness of the sport; it simply picked the bad apples out of the crop.

Just remember the big picture in the end: cheating is cheating, and should be treated as such.

VS.

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Holmgren era to continue

This year's Seattle Seahawks season was just as much of a roller coaster as it was last year.

The Seahawks looked like they could stand toe-to-toe against any other team in the NFL, and then they drop two or three straight to teams that, on paper, they should have beat.

They had to deal with injuries all season long and having a former MVP not producing as he was expected. And to top it all off, there was the heart breaking loss to the Green Bay Packers in the NFC divisional playoff game.

These issues are part of a long list of some things that head coach Mike Holmgren looks at each year at the end of the season and decides if he wants to return the next season.

After a week of vacation with his family, Holmgren came back to Seattle and held a press conference to tell the press that he is going to come back next season to finish up

his contract.

Holmgren wants to give everything he has next season and try to do what he came here to do, and that was to win a Super Bowl with the Seahawks. In the nine seasons that Holmgren has been with Seattle, his record is 86-68 with four consecutive divisional titles and six playoff appearances, and one Super Bowl appearance.

Before Holmgren, the Seahawks were a joke in the NFL. They didn't have much of a direction except to lose almost all of these games. Holmgren brought a winning attitude to Seattle that every Seahawk fan now expects. Before Holmgren Seahawk fans could only dream of going to the Super Bowl but in 2005, he made that dream a reality when they faced the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XL.

When Holmgren came over to Seattle he completely changed the roster bringing in his guys he wanted to take over the team. His first move was to get now pro-bowl quarterback Matt Hasselbeck. Like many other quarterbacks Holmgren has groomed, such as Brett Favre, Holmgren took Hasselbeck under his wing and gave the reins to him to

take the Hawks into the playoffs.

Next he drafted former MVP running back Shaun Alexander and made more additions to the offensive line by drafting Steve Hutchinson. Other key additions Holmgren made were drafting linebacker Lofa Tatupu, cornerback Marcus Trufant, free safety Ken Hamlin, wide receiver Darrell Jackson, and many others that became the faces of the franchise.

Holmgren has turned this once pitiful franchise into a top contender in the NFC that most now fear.

With Holmgren returning for one more season as head coach he gives the fans one more year of contending football. Much of Holmgren's staff is going to return with him, as well as defensive backs coach Jim Mora. It has been speculated that Mora will be the next head coach for Seattle when Holmgren leaves the Hawks for retirement.

But right now we are interested in the 2008-09 season in which Holmgren will be returning to the Hawks. In his final season, Holmgren is going to give it one more shot at making this Seattle Seahawks team a Super Bowl Champion, and hopefully he will deliver.



Ryan Larsen
Staff reporter

Weekly Sports Trivia Question

Who hit the game winning shot for the University of Indiana to defeat Syracuse University in the final game of the 1987 NCAA Tournament?

Answers can be sent to crabtree@cwu.edu.
The first correct answer will be noted in next week's issue.
Please include year and major in your answer to qualify.

Men's basketball splits on Frontier state trip

by Curtis Crabtree
Asst. Sports editor

The Central Washington Wildcats had won six of their last seven games and were riding a wave of confidence as they made their only road trip to Alaska this season.

Central was coming off a weekend sweep of Western Oregon and Saint Martin's at home with junior forward Jake Beitinger scoring 20 and 19 points to lead the Wildcats.

The Wildcats first game on the road trip was against Great Northwest Athletic Conference leading Alaska-Anchorage last Thursday.

Central was able to build a lead against Alaska-Anchorage with a 9-0 run to open the game including three-pointers from junior guard Matt Penoncello and Beitinger. After the Seawolves took a one-point lead, 14-13, midway through the half, the Wildcats pushed the lead to seven on a three-pointer by junior guard Johnny Spevak with 5:24 to go in the half.

Alaska-Anchorage was able to close the gap back down to three points on a jumper by Carl Arts with eight seconds to play.

Beitinger led the Wildcats once again in the first half. He had 11 points on 5-of-10 shooting and four rebounds as Central took a 38-35 lead into halftime.

The Wildcats took their largest lead of the second half on a lay-up by Beitinger gave Central an eight-point edge just four minutes into the second

half.

The Seawolves were able to close the deficit behind the play of senior guard Chris Bryant as his 13 second-half points led the Alaska-Anchorage offense.

Jeremiah Trueman gave Anchorage their first lead of the second half with 6:58 remaining in the contest. The Seawolves continued hitting shots and pushed the lead to eight points with three minutes to play.

"For about two and a half minutes, we didn't make good decisions," head coach Greg Sparling said. "They're a very powerful team at home."

The lead held at eight until only 1:24 was left to play. Senior guard Nate Jackson hit a three-pointer to close the deficit to five.

Penoncello hit a three-pointer of his own to close the gap to three. A steal by Beitinger gave the Wildcats a chance to tie in the closing seconds.

Senior forward Bryce Daub's three-pointer was off the mark and free throws from Anchorage sealed the game for the Wildcats as they fell to the Seawolves 78-73.

"We were playing pretty well the whole game and there was a stretch of about four to six minutes where shots weren't really falling," Spevak said. "We got down a few, hit a couple of threes and they missed some free throws. We had a chance to tie late but it didn't quite fall for us."

Central had a chance to redeem themselves two nights later as they took

on the Alaska-Fairbanks Nanooks.

Beitinger, who had led the Wildcats in recent games, was only on the court for 17 minutes after getting sick following the game against Alaska-Anchorage.

Junior forward Brandon Foote picked up the slack.

Foote came off the bench the lead the Wildcats with a career-high 21 points on 9-of-12 shooting from the field.

"He's capable of doing that just about every night," Spevak said about Foote's performance.

The Wildcats never trailed in the contest with the game being tied only once at 4-4. Central build a comfortable first half lead as the lead pushed to double-digits midway through the first half.

Penoncello poured in 10 points and pulled down seven rebounds in the first half as the Wildcats took a 49-26 lead to the break.

The Nanooks closed the deficit in the waning minutes but couldn't erase the lead of the Wildcats as Central took the back end of the road trip, 91-69.

The Wildcats play host to rival Western Washington this Saturday at 7 p.m. The Vikings are coming off of a one-point loss to Alaska-Anchorage last Saturday night. They are led by junior guard Ira Graham who is averaging 20.4 points per game for the Vikings.

"It's going to be a hard fought battle," Sparling said. "Every time Western and Central get together it usually comes down to one of the last plays of the game."



Amanda Umberger/Observer

Junior guard Johnny Spevak looks to pass the ball while being guarded by Jake Linton of Saint Martin's. Spevak had five assists in the 84-71 victory.

The midseason NBA report: Marc's top 10 candidates for MVP

We have come to the mid-way point of this year's NBA season, and the list for MVP frontrunners continues to get a little more clear.



Marc Boese
Staff reporter

As things pick up down the stretch to the playoffs, here's my personal list of the top 10 candidates for this year's Maurice Podoloff Trophy as the NBA's Most Valuable Player.

10. Allen Iverson, Denver Nuggets: A.I. is taking his team over this year just like he used to in Philadelphia. He's showing good numbers again with more than 27 points and almost seven assists per game.

He's actually playing defense this year, too, having more than two steals each time he plays. If only he would practice more, he would be higher on the list.

9. Dirk Nowitzki, Dallas Mavericks: Consistency. Each year this guy is a candidate for the MVP and he finally won it last year.

Even though his team is tied for first in its division and he is leading his team in points and boards, it looks like he'll be considered again this year, but he'll be nothing spectacular.

8. Steve Nash, Phoenix Suns: Nash made the list?! Of course. He continues to lead the league in assists with more than 12 per game and knocks down 45 percent of his three-pointers.

Nash is the biggest playmaker this league has seen since Magic Johnson and his Suns have the best record in the West. If it wasn't for his high turnover rate and Amare Stoudemire taking over, Nash would be in the top five.

7. Tim Duncan, San Antonio Spurs: I can't stand watching "Mr. Fundamental" play, but his numbers and his team leadership every year can't be ignored. Duncan makes his teammates better and his Spurs are defending champs. Don't be surprised if Duncan leads them to a second championship in a row (Even though they seem to like to win it every other year).

6. Chris Paul, New Orleans Hornets: Paul used to look good only off the court when posing for GQ, but this year he looks better on the court. He leads all players with almost three steals per game and is third in the NBA in assists.

His team isn't just tied for first in its division because he can find the open man, but because he can always find the hoop when it's time. With a little more experience, look for his name in the top three next year.

5. Kobe Bryant, Los Angeles Lakers: Starting off the top five is who else but Kobe. Changing his number from eight to 24 has really changed him as a player. He isn't the ball hog this year like we've all seen, and he has still managed to be second in the league in scoring behind King James.

If the playoffs were to start today, the Lakers would be the fourth seed in the Western Conference and it's because Kobe knows when to shoot and when not to. You might not like the new Kobe, but his teammates love him.

4. Yao Ming, Houston Rockets: Yes, Yao Ming. I never thought I would put him in the top 10, with McGrady always leading the way, but again T-Mac has been sidelined off and on all season with injuries, and somebody had to step up. Finally, Yao has.

His second best free-throw percentage among all Centers keeps his team in games and doesn't let them lose leads when they have it late. Ming is the reason why the Rockets are still competing in, arguably, the hardest division in the West.

3. LeBron James, Cleveland Cavaliers: He's not the next MJ, but he could be the next MVP. This kid is leading the league with almost 30 points per game and still finds time to get a team-high 7.5 assists each night. The Cavs have won eight of their last 10 games and James dropped 51 points on Memphis just over a week ago.

With all the expectations this guy has to live up to, and does, he could easily be at the top of the list in no time.

2. Dwight Howard, Orlando Magic: The "new" and improved Shaq. This 22-year-old beast brings home a double-double almost every night.

He's on the best up and coming team in the NBA and he is leading the way by leading the league in rebounds with 15.2 a game. He's also fourth in blocks and scores over 22 points per game. Like Shaq, he can't shoot free throws, but his 60 percent is better than O'Neal's was in his fourth season.

1. Kevin Garnett, Boston Celtics: Just saying his name should be enough, but, just in case, here's why he is number one on my list. KG year-in and year-out produces the best all around numbers and this year he is doing it on the best team in the league.

Averaging almost 20 points and 10 rebounds per game, this freak on the court can literally do it all, especially in the clutch. If I need to build my team around one guy this year, it's Garnett.

GNAC at a Glance

Men's Basketball

January 17

CWU 73 - UAA 78
2 tied with 23

WWU 81 - UAF 63
Graham (WWU) 21

MSUB 52 - SMU 81
Richardson (SMU) 21

SU 72 - WOU 78
2 tied with 20

January 19

CWU 91 - UAF 69
Foote (CWU) 21

WWU 62 - UAA 63
Webb (WWU) 27

MSUB 72 - WOU 85
Brooks (MSUB) 32

SPU 72 - NNU 87
Roberts (NNU) 19

SU 77 - SMU 88
Linton (SMU) 27

Women's Basketball

January 17

NNU 107 - CWU 76
Hein (NNU) 19

WOU 60 - UAF 77
Brown (UAF) 24

SPU 86 - WWU 44
Hollands (SPU) 20

SMU 52 - UAA 63
Kielpinski (UAA) 15

January 19

SPU 83 - CWU 71
Hollands (SPU) 25

MSUB 75 - SU 56
Carpenter (MSUB) 20

SMU 63 - UAF 61
2 tied with 15

NNU 69 - WWU 53
Dunbar (WWU) 21

WOU 39 - UAA 78
Nilsson (UAA) 17

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