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Observer

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Student makes deal
for winter poker tournament

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Hockey club takes the ice at
Moses Lake arena

page 13

The Central Washington University Observer

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January 22, 2009 Vol. 83 Issue 2

'This could not be a worse time' Gaudino talks budget cuts amid economic woes

by Kevin Opsahl
Staff reporter

Central Washington University President James Gaudino said that the university will be making severe budget cuts for the next three years, citing in part the current economic recession. Central cuts could total up to \$7 million over the course of that time, according to Gaudino.

The cuts come after Gov. Christine Gregoire asked the state's higher education system to trim its budgets by 13 percent. Three main funds -- the State General Funds, Near State Fund (special revenue funds), and Local General Fund (tuition) will experience budget cuts. Students will also see a rise in tuition by as much as 14 percent from 2009 to 2011, according to the Central president.

"This could not be a worse time to stop and cut, [to] change," Gaudino said. "Universities might wonder how they're going to deal with a lot of budget cuts. There's a lot of ambiguity about what the state legislature is going to do ... the next two years are going to be more dramatic."

Gaudino hosted the budget discussion Jan. 15 in the Hertz Auditorium. The forum was one of the first events put on by the president, who began his tenure Jan. 5. Gaudino said that he focused on the issue of the cuts extensively with outgoing President Jerilyn McIntyre during the transition.

"We need to act now, we need to achieve more cost savings and get more revenue," Gaudino said. "I predict more cuts ... unless the economy takes a dramatic upturn. We need to be thinking things could get worse before they get better."

Along with Gaudino were the faculty Senate, the Exempt Employees Association, the president's cabinet, the ASCWU-BOD, the budget director and various staff and faculty.

Gaudino said the State General Fund makes up about 60 percent of Central's overall budget. This is where the cuts would hurt the most.

For fiscal year 2009, the state provides Central a supplement of \$59.6 million, with \$47 million in general state funds and \$12 million in near state funds. The supplement covers the anticipated 9,322 full-time equivalency (FTE) students, which is the state's estimated enrollment target for Central. Each FTE means the standard of one student taking 12 credit hours.

For this fiscal year, Central saw cuts of up to \$2.5 million, which the governor asked them to lapse, and an additional \$4.2 million was cut for the 2009-2011 biennium. This amounts to a 7 percent cut in state funding, according to Gaudino. Currently, various academic departments at Central are suffering -- non-tenure track faculty are not getting paid enough and student



Illustration by
Sylvia Armitstead/Observer

Governor Christine Gregoire behind the decision to cut 13 percent of the state's higher education system budgets over the next three years, as announced on Jan. 15 at Gaudino's budget discussion.

enrollment in certain majors are declining.

"[Gaudino] had no plans to cut at the administrative level, and I'm concerned he's not go-

ing to look very closely within his own administration," said Thomas Wellcock, member of the faculty senate and professor of history. "He didn't talk

at all about where the cuts occur. We have no idea where the axe is going to fall."

SEE BUDGET PAGE 2

Barack Obama mans White House

Top eight states for Obama

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Kansas 74% | 5. Minnesota 66% |
| 2. Nebraska 68% | 6. Georgia 66% |
| 3. Washington 68% | 7. Illinois 65% |
| 4. Colorado 67% | 8. Virginia 64% |

courtesy of nytimes.com

by Matthew Hartmann
Staff reporter

The Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) Pit was filled with students anxiously waiting for Barack Obama to be sworn in as the 44th president of the United States.

The administration of President Obama began smoothly as Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were inaugurated in Washington, D.C. on Tues-

day. Obama pledged to bring the U.S. together in time of crisis.

"Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America," Obama said during his inaugural speech.

Obama continued with an intended message of unity and hope as the new leader of the free world.

"We are shaped by every

language and culture, drawn from every end of this earth," Obama said during his speech.

"And because we have tasted the bitter swill of civil war and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united, we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass."

SEE INAGURATION PAGE 3

Severe weather calls for extreme precaution

by Mike Ingram
Staff reporter

This winter's extreme conditions have caused the mountain passes to close numerous times.

"The Washington State Department of Transportation [WSDOT] did an excellent job during the big storms this winter and thankfully there were no employee injuries agency-wide," said Alice Fiman, communications for the maintenance and operations division

of the Washington Safety Department.

Getting studded tires and buying a set of chains to keep in the back of a vehicle is a must.

"Tailgate meetings are held every morning with the WSDOT work crew," said Fiman. "Before they get ready for the day, everyone talks about what they are going to be doing and how to avoid incidents."

Skiers, boarders, truckers and commuters rely heavily on the hard work of the WSDOT and safety crews to keep the

roads safe and open.

Avalanche crews do a lot of behind-the-scenes work that goes unseen. To avoid a catastrophe, crews set charges to blow away excess snow and minimize avalanches.

Alpental parking crew employee, Stephen Minch, said despite the closures everything has been running smoothly.

"This is my first year working at the pass and I've loved every minute of it," said Minch. "The roads have been just fine and they make it easy to get to

work every day".

For now snow has subsided but, hopefully another storm won't hit Snoqualmie Pass.

"It's been sort of a winter of unusual weather; pretty dry until early this winter and really cold in mid-December, which is unusual," said Garth Ferber, avalanche meteorologist for the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center. "We had a pretty good shot of snow in late December but the rain and flood in January washed everything away."

Budget cuts

Continued from cover

After the governor's cuts were announced, some advocates for the state's colleges and universities were actually relieved by the figure, fearing cuts of up to 20 percent because of a \$5.7 billion budget deficit that is likely to get worse.

"It's very distressing that students are going to pay more for their education," Wellock said. "I've seen graduate students come out of here and have 80, 90 thousand dollars worth of debt. That increase is scary."

Logan Bahr, legislative liaison/executive intern at Central, said the tuition increase is bad, but the tuition cap proposed by the governor "protects us through good and bad."

"Our biggest challenge is to keep tuition low and to keep college affordable and accessible for those who need it," Bahr said.

Students have expressed deep concern over the tuition increases that are set to occur.

"It seems like they are going to be hurting themselves in the log run," said Tomas Sango, freshman aviation management major.

"Everybody is hurting right now, and all the schools are going to have to deal with it," said Zachary Vanzanten, ROTC.

Gaudino, who is a newcomer to the state and Olympia legislature, said the budget is one of his major concerns.

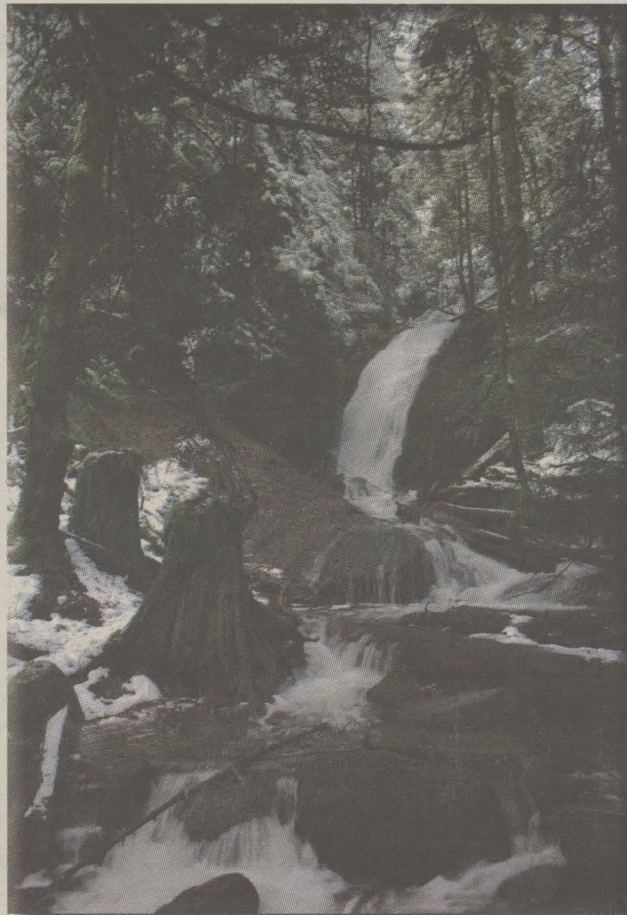
"We want to absolutely protect the corner of our university, and that means things like our mission, goals and our finance," Gaudino said. "We don't want the aid to get to our university because of a two-and-a-half year budget shortfall. The mission of this university is primarily student-centered ... it remains our top priority."

Gaudino said the university must begin thinking of ways to increase its revenues and "emphasize more self-reliance" on ways to raise money.

"We have to think more like a private university and less like a public one," Gaudino said.

Faculty, staff, students and community members are encouraged to offer tips, techniques and suggestions on how to save money at www.cwu.edu/~web/savings-suggestions.html or e-mail at CostSavingsIdeas@cwu.edu.

Visual Stimulation



Quinn Eddy/Observer

"Life is just a chance to grow a soul."
A. Powell Davies

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Flood recedes to river, wallets left soaked

by Megan Peters
Staff reporter

Nearly a foot of standing water looked tranquil as it sat in commercial buildings, a reminder of just how powerful water can be.

In a Jan. 8 press release, the Kittitas County Emergency Operations Center discussed the hidden strength of water, stating that reason so many people drown during flooding is due to the incredible power of water. Just six inches of fast-moving floodwater can knock over an adult, and two feet of rushing water will carry away most vehicles.

Commercial businesses in the area have reopened and operating normally. The flooding came as a surprise to many, and although the businesses re-opened, the cost of fixing buildings has yet to be totaled.

"There was about six employees along with some customers in the restaurant when the flooding began," said Wendy Haberman, Perkins owner. "We are all fixed up now, although we were down for 10 days. We had to put in new carpet and new linoleum all throughout [the restaurant], but we have not received the bill yet so we do not know how

much all this will cost us."

The hardest hit areas are west Ellensburg and the Elk Meadows neighborhood. In west Ellensburg, approximately 50 homes were damaged by floodwaters.

The 1996 flood covered the entire downtown area. It even covered the fairgrounds with 18 inches of water.

According to the Ellensburg Community Development Director, Mike Smith, there have already been hundreds of thousands of dollars in damages to residential and public property totaled up for just a fraction of the damaged area.

Floodwaters may have receded back into the Yakima River, but large puddles and mud are left in pastures, orchards and roadways. While most roads have been reopened, some remain closed until maintenance crews can get to them and assess damage. Assessment crews were busy estimating damage through Jan. 20, which was the last day to report any flood damages to the city and county.

The Yakima River took its wrath down to the Tri-City area where flooding lasted a week longer than it did in Kittitas County. Fortunately for the Tri-Cities the flooding caused subtle damage.

Inauguration

Obama welcomes new responsibilities

Continued from cover

Victor Ruiz, senior law and justice major, said he hoped Obama will begin to tackle issues such as the economy, immigration and equal rights for homosexuals in his first 100 days in office.

"I feel great," Ruiz said. "Like [Obama] said, 'yes we can.'"

Kaylin Getlaff, junior biology and pre-veterinary medicine double major, wanted to see what Obama had to say to the nation.

"I really think that Obama should focus on industrializing our poor rural areas before he starts to tackle these issues in foreign countries," Getlaff said. John Mounsey, Assistant Director for the Diversity Education Center (DEC), said that while he hopes that Obama can bring America together, he will

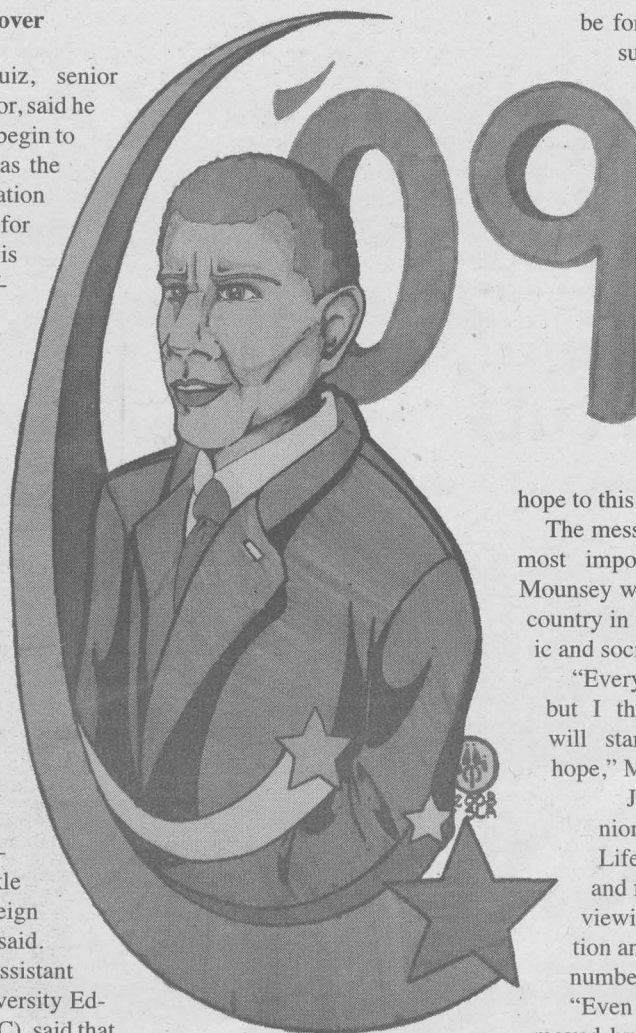


Illustration:
Sylvia Armitstead/Observer

be forced to deal with issues such as the economy and the United States' position in the world above all else.

"I'm still trying to comprehend this day," Mounsey said. "The reason that I campaigned, voted and supported him was so that he would bring a sense of

hope to this nation."

The message of hope was the most important message that Mounsey wanted to bring to the country in this time of economic and social strife.

"Everyone is hurting now but I think that everything will start rebounding with hope," Mounsey said.

John Drinkwater, senior director of Campus Life said that students and faculty requested the viewing of the inauguration and turned out in large numbers.

"Even though we were removed by a screen it was exciting to see people clap," Drinkwater said.

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Dean Hall evacuation merely false alarm



Dan Brown/Observer

Above: KVFR response vehicles sit outside of the newly-remodeled Dean Hall after a false alarm from the building's new fire alarm system. Above right: The newly renovated Dean Hall.



Kendra Gordon/Observer

Construction triggers alarm

by Matthew Hartmann
Staff reporter

All he asked for was a little peace and quiet so that he could finish his lab for the next day.

Instead the fire alarm went off and Eric Valen, senior geography major, had to leave his work alone and head to the nearest exit.

"It's a pretty nice system. It has a voice that tells you to head to the nearest stairwell," Valen said. "It's nicer than the really loud ones."

Valen was working on his lab in Dean Hall, which reopened this quarter after a 10-year hiatus. The remodeling project, which has lasted for five years, wrapped up at the end of 2008. Dean Hall was closed down due to a combination of asbestos and chemicals in the drainage system from when the hall was used for chemistry classes.

According to Fire Marshal Joe Seemiller from Kittitas County Fire and Rescue, the false alarm occurred at 9:30 p.m. last Wednesday, after a glitch in

the tamper system caused the alarm to activate.

"I think that the university does a good job of evacuating people and that's one of the greatest issues for us," Seemiller said.

Seemiller said that the most important thing for people to do is not panic when the alarms go off. At the same time people should also take the alarm seriously, according to Seemiller.

"You aren't going to know if it's a false alarm or not," Seemiller said. "You should get out regardless, unless directed differently by rescue personnel."

Ed Castaneda, manager of Environmental Technical Services, said that false alarms are common with newer construction for the first few weeks of operation.

The system was likely triggered by too much pressure in the sprinkler system.

"The flow was too sensitive and it's being checked out," Castaneda said. "It was a false alarm. It's nothing to worry about."

Science seminar reveals fungi finds

by Gloria Staley-Malenic
Staff reporter

Assembling the Fungal Tree of Life (AFTOL) Project focuses on enhancing the world's understanding of the evolution of Kingdom Fungi. A scientific core contributor to this project spoke in the Science building Friday in a seminar titled "Exploring Fungal Diversity in Forest Soils using DNA."

Rytas Vilgalys, professor of biology at Duke University, lectured about new findings in the evolution and new relations found amongst the vast species in the fungi family. According to Vilgalys, one of the end results of the project was the first ever biogenetic tree of fungi.

"At the base of the Fungal Kingdom we see a change ... instead of two basal lineages there are more like eight," Vilgalys said.

One specific part of the AFTOL research is focused on studying the evolution of eugarics, or gilled mushrooms.

According to Vilgalys 8,500 species have been found and 850 of those have been sampled.

"Not all mushrooms with gills are related to one another. There are still many groups of mushrooms who don't have any relatives," Vilgalys said.

Vilgalys said in order to develop protocols for the fungi family, they use DNA sequencing. To do so they collect soil and profile it. Then they extract the DNA straight from soil and make a clone sequence of it. Lastly, they analyze it and sequence it. The sequence then gets "blasted against the database to identify it."

55 people gathered in the science building and attentively listened to the AFTOL project findings, outcomes and ongoing process. Cade Lillquist, CWU biology major, has attended about 15 of the science seminars and said that this was the best he had been to.

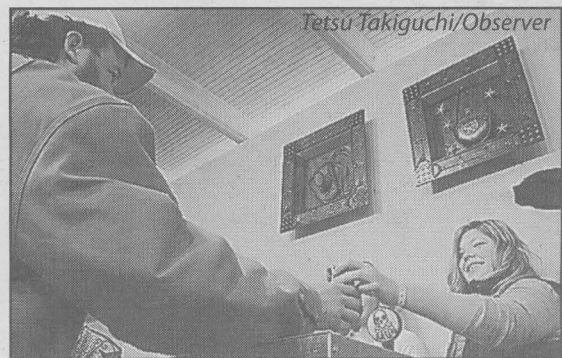
"It was awesome. I was hoping for a better idea of ancestral relationship, but there is still a

large part of fungi that we don't even know about and are still focused on learning about," Lillquist said. "And this guy is on the cutting edge of it all."

The seminar also included information about other projects in the Duke Forest Projects taking place by some of Vilgalys' graduate students, including the FACE project (Free-Air Carbon Dioxide Enrichment experiment), which focuses on the effect that elevated carbon dioxide levels have on fungi. FACE found a slight increase in the number of fungi species in trees fumigated with CO₂.

"The real challenge in the future is to try to document novel lineages of fungi still out there," said Vilgalys at the close of his seminar. "This will allow us to see what the fungi is doing in unusual habitats."

This seminar was part of the Natural Science Seminars that the Science Department puts on biweekly. The next Seminar will be at 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30 at the Science Building room 147.



Tetsu Takiguchi/Observer

Sarah Allen, senior Marketing major and bartender from Iron Horse Brewing Co. hands a visitor "Quilter's Irish Death" at Fitterer's Furniture.

Snow nor flood deters Brewfest

Quinn Eddy
Assistant News Editor

The fifth annual Winterhop Brewfest went off without a hitch, despite recent flooding and the bitter cold.

"It's a cool thing to do on a Saturday," said senior individual studies major John Snyder.

Brewfest began at noon Saturday and ended at 5 p.m. 24 brewers promoted their distinct brews from booths at 11 locations accompanied by live music sponsored by the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce.

"Brewfest is great for people-watching," said Ellensburg resi-

dent Brita Gulseth.

The 1,500 available \$20 tickets sold out two weeks ago.

"Brewfest is great, it allows locals to mingle downtown and get to know local businesses," said Joe Crawford, volunteer with the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce.

For local businesses the word of the day was "exposure," and for Lilly's Cantina, owner Tony Contarino, Brewfest "definitely" paid off.

"We weren't allowed to sell liquor during Brewfest, but the business from the people hanging out was great," Contarino said.

opinion

OBSERVER

The editorial views expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily the views of the newspaper staff at large, the student body, the faculty and administration and are certainly not to be considered as official views of Central Washington University.

Obama steals newsstands



Kayla Schroader
Editor-in-Chief

Ready or not, here comes a new year, a new president and renewed hope for America. As of Tuesday, Barack Obama made his move into the white house and the country gained a new perspective. After years of dealing with terrorism and a failing economy, I think the nation is ready for Obama's said "change," whatever it may be. But, what a transition; from a white, Republican, Texan leader to the first liberal,

African American president. If you voted for change, you better believe you got it, to some extent at least.

Personally, I haven't yet decided whether or not I am ready to jump on the Obama fan wagon. I do agree that we have progressed in the right direction if we are ready to set race aside for the good of our country. On the other hand, words have little bearing on the future stance of our politicians. They can talk all they want about change but what we really need to see is the action that follows.

I understand that he is the primary subject of our media today. With his strong, young, chocolate face, you can't walk through a newsstand or check-out line without locking stares with Obama. But not only has the news latched on, the entertainment industry has also shared in his spotlight. Life and Style magazine features

a family photo with text reading, "helping with homework, explaining the birds and bees and fixing the economy. Barack Obama reveals how he'll do it all." This is a lovely sentiment and I appreciate the Obamas approaching society as a 'real' family. But as the leader of our country, doesn't Barack have more important duties to attend to before interviewing with lifestyle magazines and dancing on Ellen's talk show? Don't be fooled. As a nation, we have an excruciatingly long journey ahead of us before we can take that anxiously-awaited breath of relief.

It is clear he has already won over the majority, with little to actually show for it. My opinion remains open. I do not love him. I do not hate him. I just hope that we haven't been too quick in our judgment disregarding the critical eye. I just hope he can lead as well as he can speak.

A new president, a new American dream



Darcy Wytko
Managing
Online Editor

and action more than now. No matter what our opinions of Obama, or our distrust in politics and the economy, I call on us all to support and respect our president, and take care of each other in the best ways we know how for the survival our great nation.

In closing, I offer you the following selected words of our 44th President Barack Obama in his inaugural address to the nation:

Our 44th president was not born of wealth, or privilege. There was nothing in his upbringing or his appearance to suggest he would reach the greatest station of political power in the free world. Yet the bi-racial son of a Kansas-born woman and a Kenyan-born man attended Columbia University, and then Harvard Law. Brought up largely by his grandparents, he rose from working-class ranks to take on Chicago as a community organizer and civil rights attorney, before serving in the Illinois Senate. Without the aid of affluence or social standing, President Barack Obama arrived at his destination as America's commander-in-chief.

Rather than argue my conviction in President Obama's ability to resurrect the nation's ailing spirit, or praise the life his family breathes into the stuffy White House walls, I admit the words I write fail to acknowledge the magnitude of his election. I say this not only because of Obama's historical role as the nation's first African American to hold presidential office, but because I believe he represents a generation that envisions a new American Dream. This new American Dream is not of marriage, 2.5 children, or a home with a white picket fence; but of the average citizen rising through education and hard work to become a self-defined individual.

I want to believe in a country where everyone can safely strive to become whoever he or she wishes to become. I want to believe in a president who began like me. I want to believe in America again. As a nation, we are all exhausted, frightened and doubtful. The Bush administration has left our economy in crisis, our nation politically divided, and our people distrusting of those in public office. Yet never has America needed belief, unity,

"The time has come to reaffirm our enduring spirit; to choose our better history; to carry forward that precious gift, that noble idea, passed on from generation to generation: the God-given promise that all are equal, all are free, and all deserve a chance to pursue their full measure of happiness.

... our time of standing pat; of protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions - that time has surely passed. Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America.

For as much as government can do and must do, it is ultimately the faith and determination of the American people upon which this nation relies. It is the kindness to take in a stranger when the levees break, the selflessness of workers who would rather cut their hours than see a friend lose their job which sees us through our darkest hours. It is the firefighter's courage to storm a stairway filled with smoke, but also a parent's willingness to nurture a child, that finally decides our fate.

What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility - a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task.

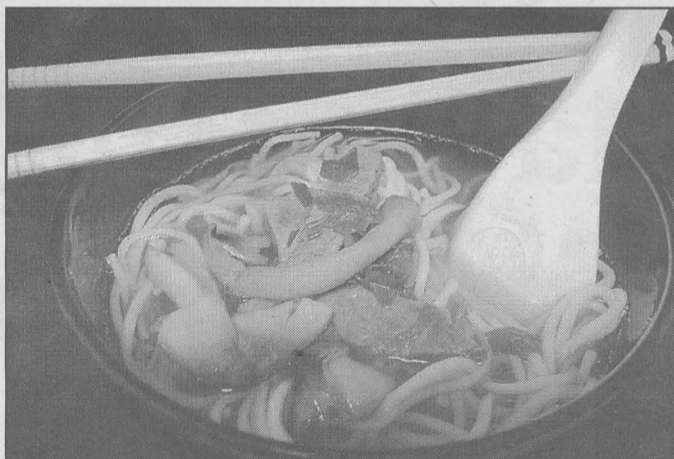
This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed - why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath."

Culinary Corner:

Beef and mushroom noodle soup



Rachel Guillermo
Culinary Columnist



The only thing that makes me feel better when it's so cold outside is homemade soup. And it's a lot easier to make than most people think. You can take ready made broths from the can and add different seasoning to make it your own. Then when you serve it you can tell people that you spent all day making it and they will never know the difference!

Ingredients

- 64 oz. can of chicken broth
- 4 C. Water
- 1 bunch of green onions, sliced thinly
- 1 can of straw mushroom, drained
- 1 lb. of beef, thinly sliced
- 5 T. of Soy Sauce
- 3 T. of Oyster sauce
- 2 T. of Hoisen sauce
- juice of one lemon
- 1 package of any type of Asian noodles
(For this recipe I used thick Chinese rice noodles)

Bring a large pot of water to a boil, make sure to season the water with salt, about three tablespoons should be enough. Cook the noodles according to the packaging. Then set aside to be used later.

In another large pot, combine chicken broth and water and bring to a slight boil. Once the broth is heated, add the Soy sauce, Oyster sauce, Hoisen sauce and lemon juice.

Once the broth is seasoned, add the beef and the straw mushrooms and simmer for about 15 minutes. Serve while hot and garnish with green onions.

You can send your comments, questions and concerns to cwculinarycorner@gmail.com.

Obama: King of America



David Guzman
Assistant
Copy Desk

Last week, New York Congressman Jose E. Serrano introduced a bill that would repeal the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution. This amendment makes it impossible for any president to serve more than two terms. What Serrano wants to do is to take that requirement away so that our new president can serve as many terms in office as he fancies.

Maybe I'm engaging in moron thinking here, but shouldn't we wait until Barack Obama spends some time in office before deciding that he can be America's first President for Life? If this show of gun-jumpingness is any example of how congressional leaders think, then I'm fearful of how they'll push the inexperienced Obama around during his presidency. That's what they do, you know – push presidents around.

I'll admit that I didn't vote for Obama during this last election. I didn't vote for John McCain either, for that matter. I was afraid to put my vote behind either candidate, because neither of them (to me, anyway) seemed completely clear about how they were going to realistically pull off all their ambitious ideas, during our current economic crisis.

Serrano could have proposed this bill during George Bush Sr.'s presidency, during Clinton's two terms, or George Dubya's two terms, as he was part of Congress that whole time. But he didn't. Serrano has reserved this honor to the man who will apparently defeat terrorism around the world, get rid of our national debt, and create jobs (and more days off, natch) with an eloquent snap of his fingers.

This is just more evidence of the completely unrealistic expectations that people have of President Obama. In the midst of our Obama honeymoon, let's not forget all those things he said he was going to do when he got elected. Great ideas, certainly, but some will take up to 10 years to be fully

realized. Heeey...10 years? That's longer than the mere eight years that a president can currently hold office. Now, who else would Serrano's amendment be tailor-made for?

Here's a situation that Serrano, many Democrats and – oh yes – several media outlets seem to not be considering: What if nobody wants to re-elect Obama in 2012? What if he doesn't accomplish the umpteen-gabillion things that he promised us, and all these people turn on him? What if Chuck Norris (a Republican who helped Mike Huckabee with his campaign) decides to run for president in the next election? You know you would vote for Chuck – regardless of his views – most likely out of fear.

Many historians say that the the reason why the 22nd Amendment was proposed in the first place was to prevent the possibility of a monarchy. How are we supposed to know that Obama is our prime candidate for King of America? He hasn't done anything yet! Well, I guess you could say that he has brought the words "hope" and "change" into America's subconscious, and has made Americans feel "hopeful" about "change." He also made some white people believe that they got a "Get Out of Racism Free" card just for voting for him.

There is one thing I am glad about, though. I'm glad that Americans of all shapes, sizes, colors, hues and textures can be excited about a new president with ideas. I do hope that our new president can sort out our country's various messes and unite everybody. But Barack Obama can not cure cancer with the touch of his finger. He also can not stop the conflict in Israel using an Etch-a-Sketch and just the right words. The more insane expectations we have of Obama, the more disappointed we may be.

We need to be realistic about these next four years. It's exciting, yes. But let's not let our excitement get in the way of our better judgment. Do your own research and form your own opinions. Get your news from a variety of outlets, and take the words from cheerleaders like MSNBC with a grain of salt (hey, I'd say the same thing about Fox News if McCain won). I say, as long as we are allowed the freedoms in this country to use our brains, we should take advantage of it.

SUDOKU:

Have Fun!

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PICK-UP LINES: preparation for snagging a Valentine

- Did it hurt?...When you fell from the sky.
- Your body is like a visa card...it's everywhere I want to be.
- Do you have a band-aid?...because I skinned my knee when I fell for you.
- Are you an alien?...because you've abducted my heart.
- Is that a mirror in your pocket?...because I can see myself in your pants.
- Are you from outer space?...because your butt is out of this world.
- Your legs must be tired because you've been running through my mind all day.

Pick-up lines courtesy of our 'creative' Observer staff.

The Observer welcomes brief letters (300 words) from readers on current issues. Include the author's full name and University affiliation: year and major, degree and year graduated or department. All letters become property of The Observer. E-mail letters to cwiobserver@gmail.com.

Playing the game



Erica Spalti
Staff reporter

One of the crucial things about college is to be who you want to be and start forming your own opinions.

Last quarter I had taken this class; I am not going to say which or who the professor was, but the class was not fun. Students in this class were expected to conform to the professor's opinion.

Then I started to think about college as a whole and the courses we take in order to succeed. I realized that the

purpose of almost every class taken is to play the game some professors want you to play. The more I sat and thought about it, the more it aggravated me. I wouldn't say angered, because after all, being students, we have to respect those with more authority than us.

Now, I hate getting into arguments about politics because I simply do not know enough about the topic to fight over it. However, I do hold my own views. Understanding that everyone has their own views, I tend not to try and sway people one way or the other. Now, I am sitting in this one class and it is the day after the election. My professor decides to start slamming McCain, which is totally fine, despite the fact that I was a big McCain supporter. This was fine and dandy until the professor said, "no one should have voted for McCain."

This was not OK with me.

I noticed that as the quarter went on, more and more students in my class failed to hold their own ground and their own opinions. I noticed that the professor knew exactly what to say and how to say it to get the students to conform to this particular view, like it was all some big game the professor was playing.

The faster finals week approached, the easier it was for me to realize that in some classes you just have to play by the professor's rules in order to pass, in order to win the game. However, once in a great while you get those one or two professors who encourage you to fight back; those who encourage you to change the rules and form your own opinions. Those are the professors that know that they helped a student find themselves and set them on the right path during their college education. These are the professors that play the students' game.



Amanda Shore, freshman

Ryan Fawcett, senior

Stephanie Capatan, senior

Bluffing, betting, blinds

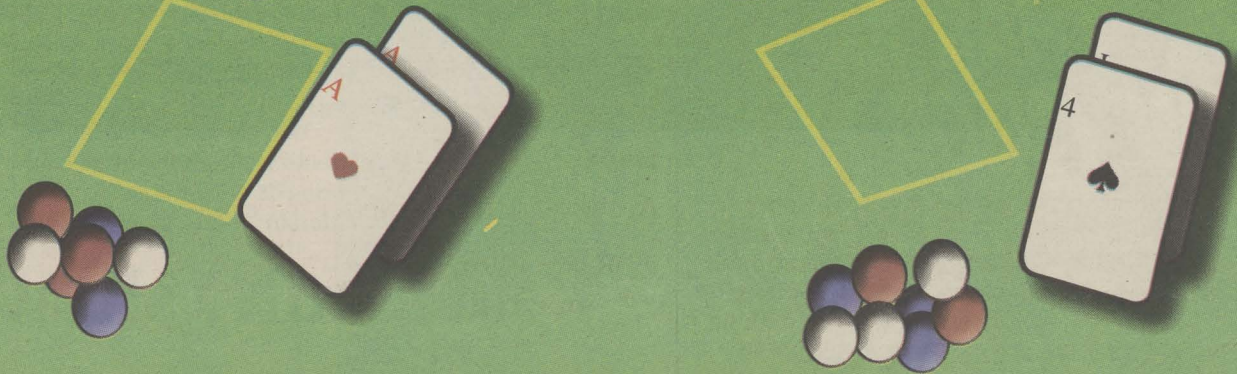


Illustration by Tristan Gorringer/Observer and Amanda Umberger/Observer and Photos by Brianan Stanley/Observer

Central students go all in at the second annual poker tournament

by Ryan Ricigliano
Staff reporter

Kenan Topaloglu looks down at the two cards dealt to him: ace king suited. Without showing the slightest hint of emotion, he looks up to analyze the players around him. The guy across the table fiddles with his chips before making the call. The gentleman on his right folds and throws his cards away. The flop brings no help. Looking down at his dwindling chip stack, Topaloglu moves all in. This is it, go big or go home.

No, this isn't The World Series of Poker on ESPN 2, it's Central's second annual Poker Tournament. The card game held on Tuesday, Jan. 20, along with one scheduled for Feb. 3, are just a few in a series of tournaments being put on by student Sara Abouhamad, senior biology and chemistry double major.

"I am just a huge poker lover myself," Abouhamad said. "I love the bluffing, I love the playing the cards right, I just love this game."

Abouhamad got the idea last fall when she realized Central really had nothing to offer

for poker enthusiasts. She decided to throw a small tournament together and the turnout was tremendous.

"These tournaments have been very popular, so they will continue," Abouhamad said.

Tuesday's game was one of eight to be held this school year. Three were held fall quarter, three more in winter and finally two will be held in spring. A final culminating grand prize tournament will take place in May.

According to Abouhamad, the top three players in each of the eight tournaments will have a spot in the final tournament, though she won't say what prizes will be up for grabs.

For Tuesday's tournament, a case of Red Bull, gift packages from the 'Burg and various gift certificates were available to the winners.

"This year a lot of local and some out-of-town businesses will be contributing prizes," Abouhamad said. "I'm still trying to get bigger prizes though."

However, one thing Abouhamad made apparent was that these poker tournaments pay for themselves. The tournaments do not receive funding from the school and the only

way to keep them going is through the buy-in, an entry fee that players must pay in order to play.

The \$5 buy-in gets competitors a stack of chips, a round of home-baked cookies and a \$5 match play coupon good at Ellensburg's Wild Goose Casino.

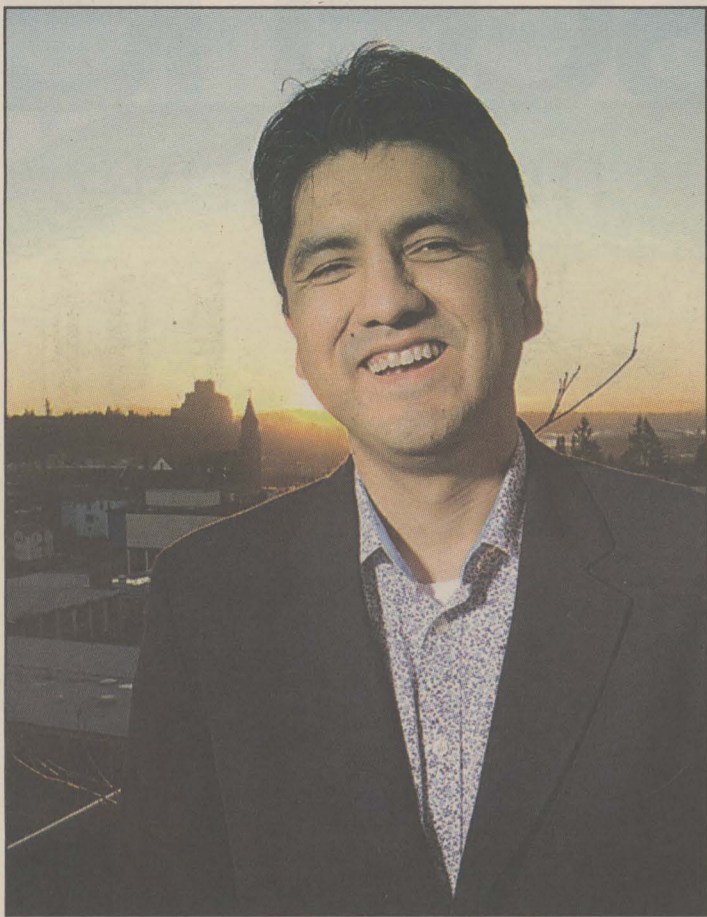
So just exactly how popular are these poker tournaments? All 48 spots for Tuesday's tournament were filled by 6:05 p.m.

"I played in last year's tournaments and I did about as well too," said Michael Fedotov, Central senior electrical engineer major, who was eliminated about halfway through the tournament. "I will keep coming though, what else is there to do on a Tuesday night?"

With all those players, one might wonder what kind of talent there is at Central.

"A lot of players were getting lucky," said Amanda Shore, Central freshman business major, who got to the final table in last quarter's tournament. "But there are some good players."

The next poker tournament will be at 6 p.m. on Feb. 3 in the Student Union and Recreation Center room 137A.



Courtesy of the Diversity Education Center

Alexie breaks boundaries

by Brooke Mortensen
Asst. Scene Editor

Overcoming brain surgery at 6 months old, suffering side effects such as seizures throughout childhood and always being made fun of by classmates was the life of Sherman Alexie. Today Alexie has a new story; a story of filmmaking, poetry writing and even comedy.

Alexie's films "The Business of Fancy Dancing" and "Smoke Signals" will be showing at Central Washington University at 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 27 in the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC) Theatre.

"Smoke Signals," released at the Sundance Film Festival in 1998 and was derived from one of Alexie's short stories, "This is What it Means to Say Phoenix, Arizona." The film tells the story of two men on a search for the ashes of a man who is the father to one and a hero to the other. The film won the Audience Award and Filmmakers Trophy at the festival.

"The film introduces people to a little bit of life on the reservation in the Northwest; a snapshot," Emily Washines, Native American Liaison, said. "It conveys it through film and uses comedy."

At 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 29, Alexie will do a 45

minutes presentation at "Without Reservations: An Urban Indian's Comic, Poetic and Highly Irreverent Look at the World" in the SURC Ballroom. It will be free to students and the public.

"[Alexie] talks about his hardships in life and issues that students may not be aware of, such as alcohol, struggles for job opportunities on the reservations and lack of education," said Tony Foland, senior sociology, ethnic studies major and student programmer.

"He's real; he doesn't sugar-coat it or anything."

The event is part of Central's Symposium Without Boundaries series, which is meant to encourage others to converse about current issues through education, culture and politics. The Symposium Without Boundaries consists of several departments, such as the Diversity Education Center, Center for Student Empowerment and the department of sociology.

"We try to take what students are studying in class and bring it onto the stage," said Marian Lien, interim direc-

tor at the Diversity Education Center.

According to Lien, English students on campus are currently reading Alexie's books while the film studies students are watching his films. This encouraged bringing Alexie to Central.

Alexie graduated from Reardan High in Reardan, Wa. He

Works of Alexie

- "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven"
- "Indian Killer"
- "Up All Night"
- "Reservation Blues"

attended Gonzaga University and Washington State University and enrolled in pre-med courses. After realizing that pre-med wasn't for him, Alexie began writing and graduated with

a Bachelor of Arts in American studies.

He made his stand-up comedy debut at the Foolproof Northwest Comedy Festival in Seattle in 1999 and continues to perform stand-up today.

"Sometimes the best way to get a point across is to be comedic," Foland said. "Alexie gets his point across without being too direct."

Alexie's recent works include the books "Flight" and "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian," both released in 2007. In April he will be releasing "Radioactive Love Song."

Central faculty show-off talent

by Erica Spalti
Staff reporter

While many professors on campus are passionate about their field of expertise, those participating in the Central Washington University Department of Art Faculty Exhibition are giving the term "practice what you preach" a whole new meaning.

Starting Friday, Jan. 23 the art department will be opening its doors from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. to a brand new exhibit.

The new art exhibit is a collection of art from faculty

members on campus. The reception will be a chance for the community to view art pieces. Visitors will also have this time to visit with the artists, giving people a chance to see the inspiration behind the artists' work.

"I'm interested to see what they have to offer," said Tim Rassmussen, freshman education major. "I mean, it's not every day that teachers put on a show."

The exhibit will feature 18 faculty artists, including Keith Lewis and Michael Chinn.

"This is a chance for the

university community, the Ellensburg community and students to see what we as a faculty do," Lewis said. "We get to show, as working professionals, what we teach."

The faculty has put on this exhibit every two years during winter quarter and features art from faculty past and present. The art work ranges from jewelry, painting, drawing and wood design.

"I have designed a table, like a hall or sofa table," Chinn said about his piece this year.

Many of the current faculty have been participating in this showcase for a while. For some of them this will be their sixth showcase.

While the artists are not asked specifically to join the showcase, many of them do it to show their students and the community their many talents. They try to convey these to their students through education.

"It sounds amazing," said Sanita Zayshlyy, junior business and Russian double major. "It should be really interesting to see more of the talent we have here on campus from those who inspire students' talents. I'm really excited to go check it out."

The exhibit will run from Jan. 24 to March 8 and will feature art from 18 current and retired faculty artists.

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JANUARY 28

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'A real man' Katz shares ideals about masculinity

by Rachel Guillermo
Culinary columnist

The phrase "real men" can mean different things to different people. To Jackson Katz, masculinity is portrayed in a negative way. Through his studies and speeches, Katz is trying to change that image.

Katz is coming to Central Washington University to speak at the conclusion of Manuary.

"Manuary is a month-long program dedicated to promote awareness of issues men face in today's society such as testicular cancer, violence against women and what it means to be a man," said Chris Lubnow, sophomore construction management major and student programmer for the Center for the Student Empowerment.

"We know we didn't have a whole lot of programming for men," said Mal Stewman, Center for Student Empowerment Assistant Director. "One day I was thinking about it and I thought it would be cool to create a program that had lots of pieces in it that directed towards men."

This is the second year the Empowerment Center is hosting Manuary.

"This year we are moving into some other things and we're ready to go," Stewman said.

Katz is an author, filmmaker, educator and one of America's leading anti-sexist male activists. He is internationally known for his field work

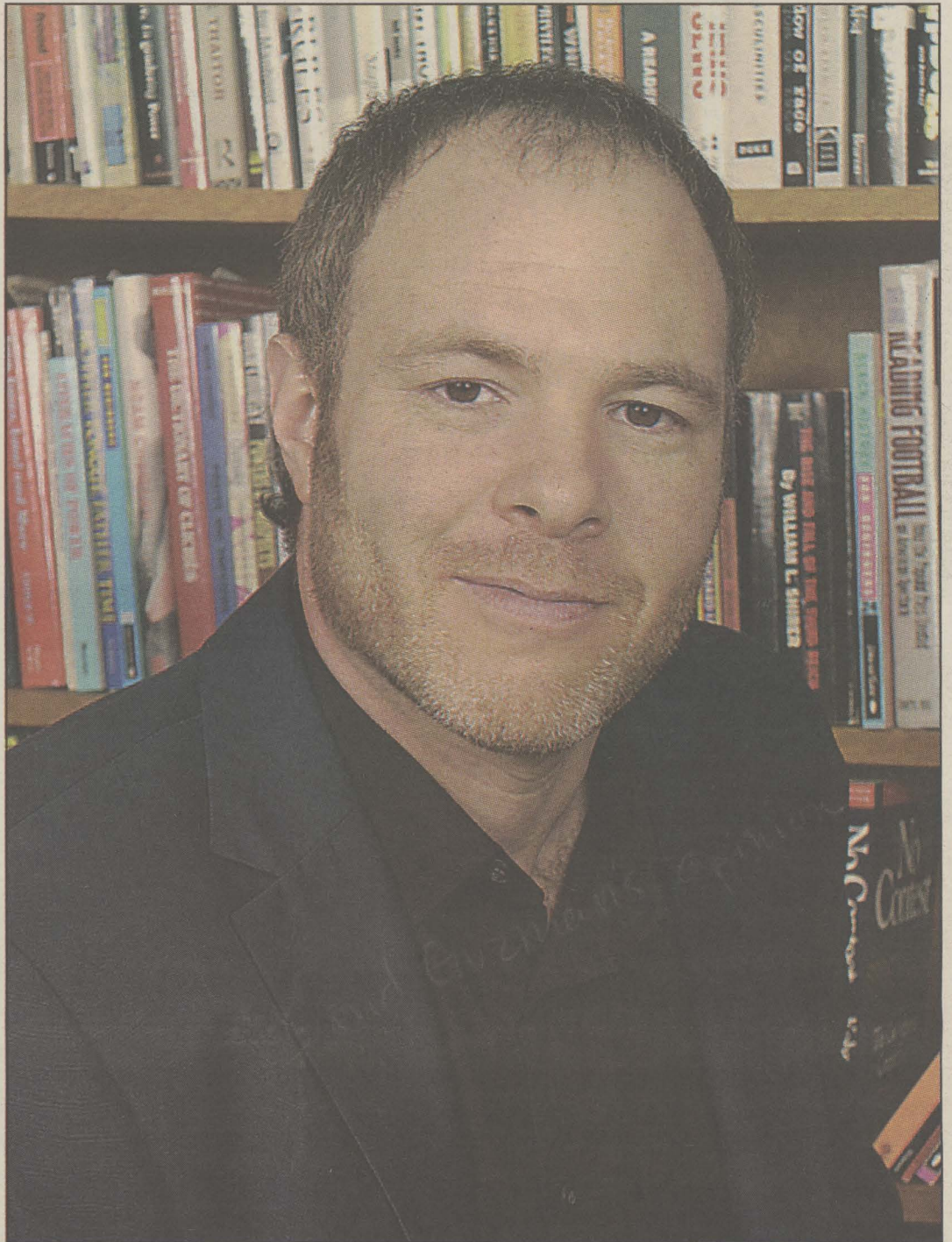
in gender violence prevention education with boys and men.

"He is a very interesting guy," Stewman said. "We have a film we've watched called 'Tough Guise' and it talks about masculinity and how it's portrayed in the media and our society and how many men are forced in a box because of that portrayal. It's a portrayal that says they have to be a certain way: violent, a womanizer, all these different things. And he's done some different things to talk about ways to get out of that box... and also to realize that masculinity is more than just those things. We just wanted to talk about masculinity with someone who's studied it and share some of his ideals with us."

Katz's speech will take place at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 28 in the Student Union and Recreation Center.

For more information about other events sponsored by the Center for Student Empowerment, call 509-963-2127.

"I think this is a good opportunity to evaluate yourself as what you think in regards to masculinity to be challenged and also to be educated," Stewman said. "... He [Katz] understands masculinity is a big issue that is not solved in one talk or one discussion. But it defiantly has to be talked about to get to the bottom of some of the issues we have in our society. For example, violence is a serious issue and a lot of it is done by men and we have to look at why that is."



Courtesy of the Center for Student Empowerment

Katz's resume

Books

"The Macho Paradox: Why some men hurt women and how all men can help"

"So You Think You're Jewish" by Dode Levenson and Jackson Katz

Films written

Tough Guise: Violence, Media & the Crisis in Masculinity (1999)

Films appearances

Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats & Rhymes (2006)

Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear & the Selling of American Empire (2004)

Guts and Glory (2002)

TV appearances

Good Morning America, The Oprah Winfrey Show, ABC News 20/20

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A Seafood Extravaganza

HOLMES DINING ROOM

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A Seafood Extravaganza

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Manhattan Chowder
Coleslaw Crabby Annie Salad Shrimp
Pasta Salad
Steamed Clams & Mussels
FRESH DUNGENESS CRAB
Fresh Fish
Deep Fried Captains Platter
Roasted Red Potatoes
Steamed Vegetables
Cheesy Biscuits
Rum Berry Sauce w/Pound Cake
Ice Cream

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A Seafood Extravaganza

HOLMES DINING ROOM

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

4:30 PM to 7:00 PM

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\$14.00 Cash Price
\$7.00 Children Price

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- | | |
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| <p>23 Madden Xbox Tournament
Noon to 5 p.m.
SURC Pit, \$5</p> <p>24 Ultimate Ab Lab
10:30 a.m.
REC Center</p> <p>24 Madden Xbox Tournament
Noon to 5 p.m.
SURC Pit, \$5</p> <p>24 CWU Dept. of Art Faculty Exhibition</p> | <p>26 "The Dark Knight"
7 p.m. SURC Theatre, FREE</p> <p>26 Super Smash Brothers Tourney
8 p.m.
SURC 137</p> <p>28 John Stimbers/Charlie Rubin
7 p.m. SURC 137
FREE</p> <p>28 Super Smash Brothers Tourney
8 p.m.
SURC 137</p> |
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January 22-29

Ellensburg Songwriters Club builds confidence

by Amber Ramento
Staff reporter

The CWU/Ellensburg Songwriters Association was created for musicians to build confidence, write songs, share music and perform around Ellensburg.

Jan Jaffe, not only a grad student at Central Washington University but also the president of the CWU/Ellensburg Songwriters Association, helped create this association. According to Jaffe, music has been a part of her just about her whole life.

The CWU Ellensburg Songwriters Association was created by Jaffe because she wanted to make a place where students and people in the community can get together and write songs.

"When I first came to Ellensburg I wasn't a student. I wanted to make a place to go for musicians to get together and play ideas off each other," Jaffe said.

Usually, the songwriters club performs around Ellensburg and holds open-mic

nights.

"I've seen some of them perform at Gallery One," said Mikaela Lamb, an Ellensburg resident. "It was really laid back and pretty enjoyable."

Though they typically have something planned for each quarter, there is nothing planned yet for this quarter.

Jaffe has performed at many places in Ellensburg like coffee shops, Gallery One, and Ellensburg Extreme, a local television show broadcast on KCWU.

"I started playing the violin in the fourth grade; in middle school I did choir and in high school I started band. As far as the guitar and piano, I didn't start those until I was in the freshman dorms back in 2000, and I had my dad's old guitar," Jaffe said.

Jaffe is thrilled to be so involved with music and sharing her passion with other people.

"I love working with other people and being a part of a group such as our ensemble," Jaffe said.

Since this is her last year

as a grad student, it will also be her last year as president for the songwriters club. The position will be passed on to Clayton Kaiser.

The club has a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, as well as senators. Pierce Gunderson, the club's alternate senator, has been a part of the songwriters club for about a year, as an alternate senator there hasn't been much for him to help with yet. However, it hasn't stopped him from his studies at Central Washington University.

"I studied digital music production and audio engineering at a community college, and have been studying classical guitar here at Central," Gunderson said. "I hope to find a job as a technical writer and continue writing songs and performing with my band Aria Forte. I also hope to own my own studio one day."

The CWU/Ellensburg Songwriters Association meets once every two weeks and is open to any student or Ellensburg resident with an aspiration for music.

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Marchers continue living the dream



Pete Los/Observer

Banners waved and voices filled the evening air as candles illuminated the walkways of Central's campus. Students and faculty joined by the Ellensburg community came together to 'Walk with King' at 6 p.m. last Thursday, Jan. 5 to remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (Bottom left) Central's new president Dr. James Gaudino marched alongside his staff and students.



A normal Ellensburg day washed away

by Amy Thompson
Staff reporter

It seemed like a typical day. Maybe there was a little rain and some run off from the melting snow, but nothing really out of the ordinary. Little did people in west Ellensburg know, their homes would be at risk of flooding and a possible evacuation.

Diane Rogers, a media circulation technician at Central Washington University's Brooks Library, experienced the reality of being evacuated from her home on Jan. 7.

Rogers began her day with the challenge of capturing her pet cat to take to a veterinarian

appointment. After leaving her home in her Ford Escort she headed to the intersection of West 5th and Dolarway where water had overtaken the roadway.

"The street looked like a river, it was pretty frightening," Rogers said. "It's stressful to think of anything that threatens your home."

Around 2 p.m., Rogers found she now had reason to worry.

"I looked outside and was shocked to see at least a foot of water surrounding my house," Rogers said.

After turning on her television in hopes of finding information on how she should

proceed, Rogers learned of a mandatory evacuation that was going to take place in west Ellensburg.

Shortly thereafter, a policeman came to her door and told her she would need to leave as soon as possible. Rogers didn't feel safe with the idea of driving her car through the water, so the policeman called the fire department to escort Rogers from her home.

Rogers packed a bag and set out extra food for her pets. She was on the phone telling her daughter in Denver, Colo. what was happening when the firemen arrived to take her. Telling her daughter a reassuring good bye, Rogers left with

the firemen.

After escorting Rogers from her home, the firemen picked up three other passengers along the way. Rogers said she could see that water had actually gotten into other people's homes at that point.

After arriving at St. Andrews Catholic Church around 6 p.m. where the Red Cross would house about 12 evacuees, Rogers spent the evening working on a jigsaw puzzle and wondering about the state of her home.

"Just a little water could mean extensive damage and a lot of work to fix it," Rogers said. "It was scary, there wasn't any information the

night of the evacuation."

The next morning, Rogers called her employer to let him know her situation. After work that night, she was allowed to return home. To her relief, the water had not risen high enough to enter her home. Her belongings and pets were safe. Her small vehicle however, had some water inside.

"There was no water in my house," said Rogers. "I feel really lucky."

Rogers considers herself lucky. However, the unfortunate flooding that took place in west Ellensburg will long be remembered. The feelings of concern were very real.

sports



Men's Basketball tied for first in GNAC

by Laura Mittleider
Staff reporter

The Wildcats won their seventh straight with a win against the Seattle Pacific University Falcons Thursday, Jan. 15.

This puts the Wildcats with an 8-3 record and the Falcons at 9-5. Senior Matt Penoncello posted a double-double in the first half along with 10 rebounds and 15 points as Central finished that half with a 35-21 lead.

The Wildcats came off a week of travel to Alaska, with a series of setbacks to add to their travel time, which made their win much more enjoyable.

"It was planes, trains and automobiles," said Head Coach Greg Sparling. "Whatever could happen did happen." It didn't stop the team from knowing what they had to do.

Early on the Falcons jumped ahead by three and left the Wildcats behind with an 8-5 lead.

Senior Brandon Foote and Penoncello had a 14-point drive to bring back the lead to 19-8 and kept the lead for the

rest of the game.

The Wildcats increased their lead to a 16-point gain over the Falcons.

"We knew they were good but we knew what we had to do," said senior forward Jake Beitinger.

Soon after the half Central fell to a three point lead with 11:37 remaining in the second half, as the top shooting team in the nation started coming back.

However, Central fought back and had a nine point drive to take over the next two minutes of the game.

With 4:38 remaining in the game Penoncello left due to injury. He finished with 10/20 from the floor.

The Wildcats shot 46.2 percent from the floor and dominated in boards, 42-30.

The Wildcats took the game with a score of 77-62.

"It was all-around team ball," Sparling said.

The Wildcats faced off with visiting Saint Martin's Jan. 17 to put them in a tie for first place in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference standings. This win puts them at a 3-1 and 9-3 overall mark.

"We just have to get it done

with Saint Martins,"v Penoncello said before the game.

Penoncello scored a career high of 36 points after coming back from an injury in the Seattle Pacific University game.

He scored 25 points in the first half, taking the Wildcats to a 52-45 lead at half time.

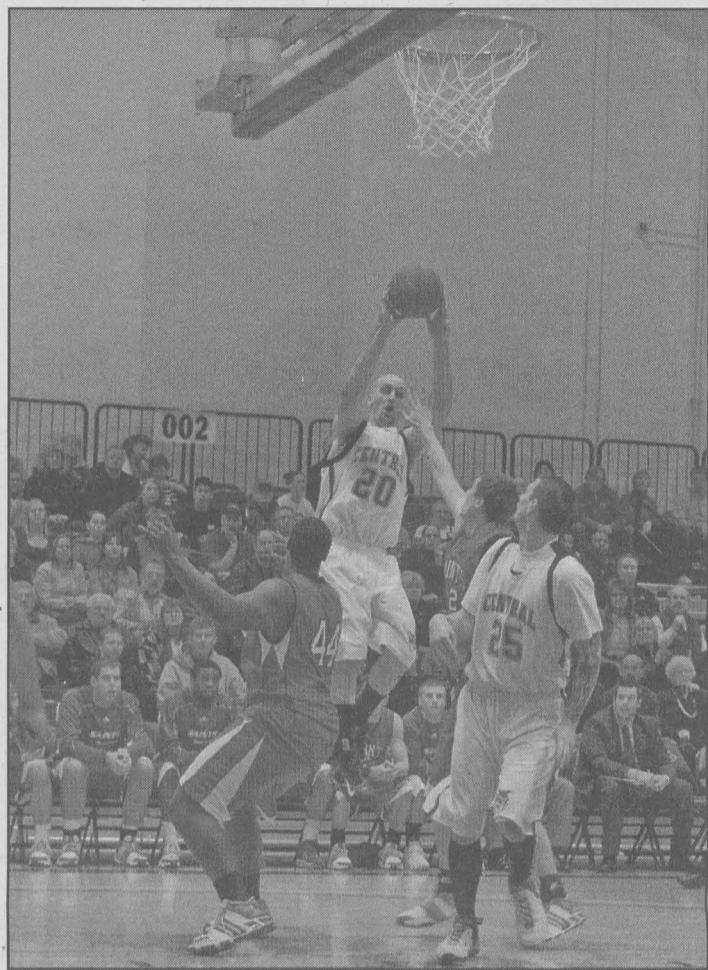
Shortly after the second half began, Saint Martins brought back the lead, outscoring the Wildcats 17-5 in the first five minutes and taking the lead by five points.

Saint Martins stayed in the lead until there was 7:51 left. Central bounced back with a 3-point sinker by senior guard Colton Monti. Central kept the lead for the rest of the game.

Monti made 11 of his 14 points in this period with forward Jake Beitinger and forward/center Chris Sprinker, scoring in double figures the second half.

Central took the game with an 11-point lead, leaving it at 100-89.

The Wildcats take it to the road Wednesday Jan. 21 against Montana State Billings before coming home again for two more games against Western Washington and Northwest Nazarene.



Dan Brown /Observer

Senior guard Matt Penoncello looks to pass the ball to senior forward Jake Beitinger against Saint Martins on Saturday at Nicholson Pavilion. The Wildcats won 100-89 to improve their overall record to 9-3.

Bronson, Reilly play in Shrine game

by James Anderson
Asst. sports editor

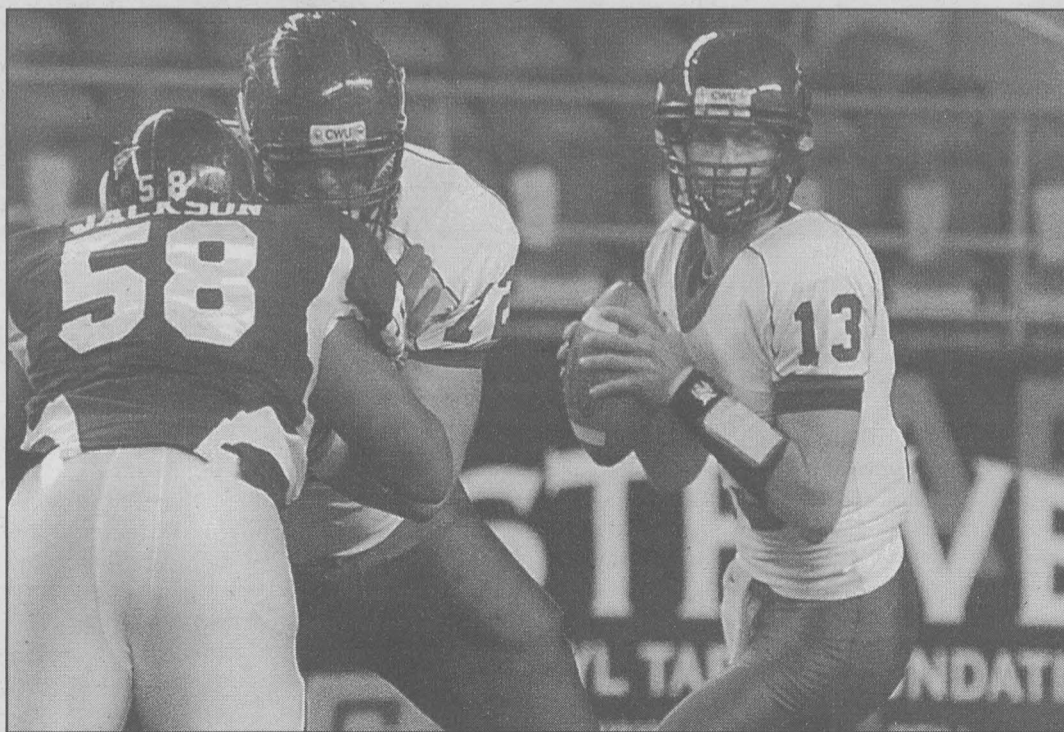
Every year thousands of football fans gather in Houston, Texas for an all-star battle of the best college football players around the nation.

This year, two of Central Washington University's football stars were invited to participate in the exclusive East-West Shrine game.

Senior quarterback Mike Reilly and senior tight-end Jared Bronson were the first players representing Central in the Shrine game since 1947.

Traditionally, the East-West Shrine game has been made up almost entirely of gifted players from Division I teams. As two players from a Division II team, Reilly and Bronson are breaking this tradition, and have become a rare exception to the common idea that only the best players come from Division I.

"They are both very deserving," said Jonathan Gordon, director of athletic media relations for Central. "This is a chance to showcase their stuff for the draft."



Brianan Stanley/Observer

Senior quarterback Mike Reilly drops back for a pass at the Battle in Seattle. Reilly and Jared Bronson played in the East-West shrine game on Saturday in Houston, TX.

During the game, this past Saturday, Reilly passed for 30 yards and Bronson had one reception that equated to nine yards total.

Although both teams played

valiantly, the East came out on top in the end, 24-19.

"It was a pretty good game," said Blaze Pattison, junior construction management major. "It was fun seeing the Central

players on the field."

The East-West Shrine game has been in existence since 1925 and has become one of the oldest and most respected collegiate bowl games.

Only the best players from either western and eastern universities will be invited to play. This year's game was played on Robertson Stadium at the University of Houston.

The purpose of the game, besides providing the finest college football entertainment fans will ever see, is to raise funds for the 22 Shriners Hospitals for Children so they can continue to provide spinal cord rehabilitation, cleft lip and palate care along with other treatments free of charge.

Before the game, all the players that are invited to play visit the hospital and talk personally to the patients and staff.

"I think what the Shriners Hospitals are doing is pretty cool," said Lindsey Thompson, junior elementary education major. "[The Shrine Game] is a good way to raise money."

Although only three people have represented Central in the East-West Shrine game, Central football players have proven that you don't need to be from a Division I team to be taken seriously.

Road not too friendly for Wildcats

by Drew Ritchie
Staff reporter

The Wildcats lost both games Thursday and Saturday at Western Washington and Seattle Pacific University, respectively.

Jenn Jacobs, sophomore guard, tied a career high 21 points as the Central Washington Wildcats lost Thursday to archrivals the Western Washington Vikings at Carver Gym.

The Wildcats fall to 3-9 overall and 0-2 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC). Western improved to 9-4 and 1-1 in the conference.

Jacobs was 7 of 14 from the floor and 3 of 5 from three-point range.

The 21 points from Jacobs was the highest single-game scoring effort by a Wildcat player this season.

Jacobs had 11 of her points in the first half as Central Washington was only down by five points at halftime.

The Wildcats' lowest point deficit was five until there was 9:35 left to go when the deficit became four.

Western responded by going on a 5-0 run and holding Central scoreless for more than three minutes.

The Wildcats made it a five-point game with three minutes to go, but Western went on to score 10 of the final 13 points to seal the 12-point victory.

Central shot 40 percent from the field, while Western shot 35.7 percent.

Western did, however, have a 44-30 advantage in rebounding and forced the Wildcats to

have 27 turnovers.

Two other Wildcats scored in double figures. Shaina Afoa, junior forward/center, and Stephanie Wenke, senior point guard, both had 12 points.

Wenke also had a game high six assists.

Hilary Tanneberg, senior center, did not score, but did contribute six rebounds.

Willow Cabe, junior forward, led Western with 17 points and a game-high eight rebounds. While Liz McCarrrell, senior forward, led the bench with 14 points.

On Saturday, Central Washington lost their fourth straight game as they stayed on the road.

They take on 16th ranked Seattle Pacific University (SPU) on Saturday at Brougham Pavilion in Seattle.

Sophie Russell, Wildcat freshman guard/forward, scored a career high 10 points but that wasn't enough as the Wildcats lost 57-34.

The 34 points was the lowest point total since Jan. 31, 1995 when they lost 59-32 to Seattle University.

This was the third time this year that the Wildcats were held to under 40 points.

The Wildcats fall to 3-10 on the season and 0-3 in GNAC play.

SPU improves to 11-2 and 4-0 in conference play.

Russell made four out of eight baskets off the bench.

Tanneberg chipped in with nine points and four rebounds. Russell and Tanneberg were two of only five Wildcat players who scored.

SPU led the whole game, with their largest lead being

28 points with less than four minutes left.

Maddie Maloney, sophomore guard, and Megan Hoisington, junior forward, each scored 11 points to lead SPU.

Central Washington forced SPU to commit 21 turnovers but committed 30 turnovers of their own that converted into 24 points for the Falcons.

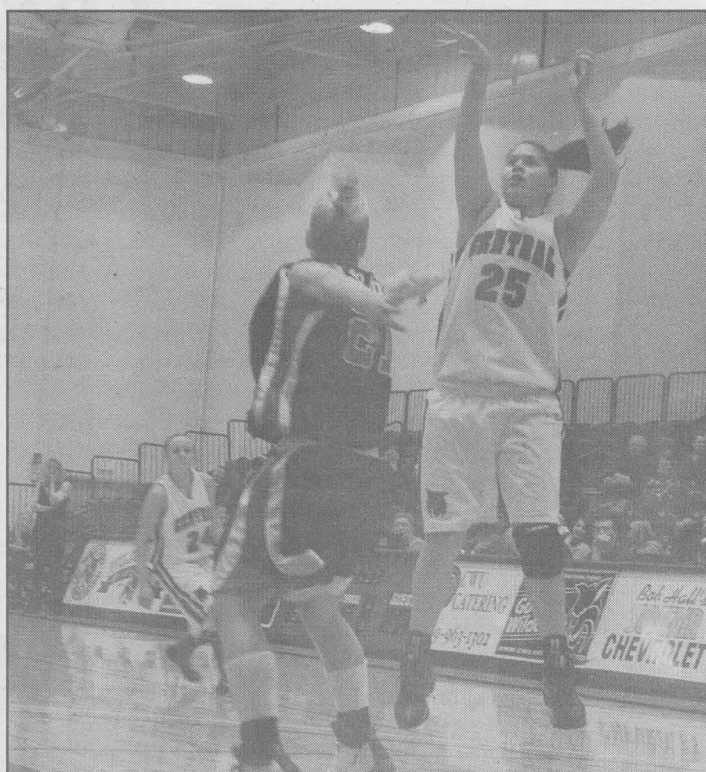
The next game for the Wildcats will be at home when they host Montana State Billings on Thursday, Jan. 22 at Nicholson Pavilion.

After Montana, the Wildcats will return to the road when they go to Saint Martins on Saturday Jan. 24.

Women's home schedule

Jan. 22 MSB	7 p.m.
Jan. 31 WWU	7 p.m.
Feb. 5 SPU	7 p.m.
Feb. 18 St. Martin's	7 p.m.
Feb. 26 Ak. Anchorage	5:15 p.m.
Feb 28 Alaska	5:15 p.m.
March 7 W. Oregon	2 p.m.

For more information regarding Central Women's basketball or other Wildcat athletics go to www.wildcatsports.com.



Brianan Stanley/Observer

Junior center Shaina Afoa takes a jumper against a NNU defender Jan 10. Afoa finished with 12 points and three rebounds against Western on Jan. 15, but Central lost the game 60-72.

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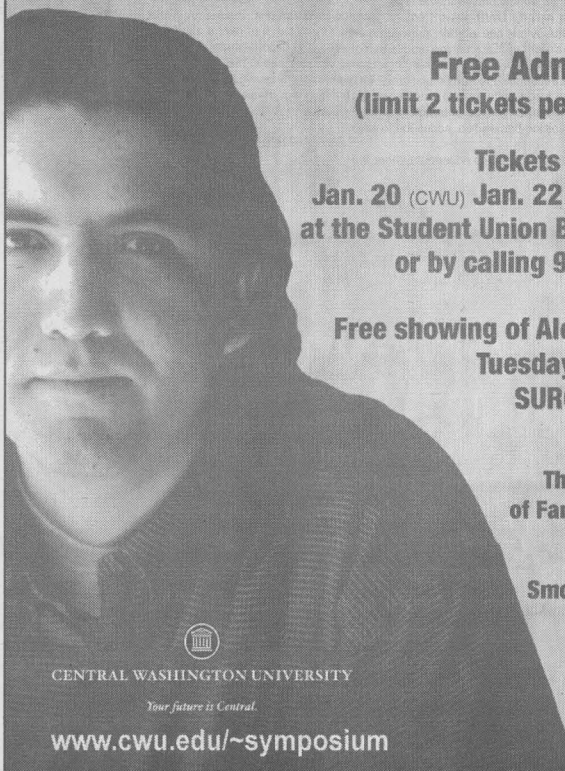
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Goal: CWU hockey club

by Andrew Hogarth
Staff reporter

Hockey does not have a huge following at Central. In fact, CWU does not have an official hockey team, so the only way students can enjoy the sport is to sign up for the hockey club.

The CWU hockey club is headed by club president, Jaymes Kirkham, and runs in association with the Moses Lake Adult Hockey Association (MLAHA) in Moses Lake.

Registration for the league is closed for the season, but anyone can join the club.

"The hockey club is a group of guys that enjoy the game and enjoy having fun playing," Kirkham said.

Enrollment for the club is open to all students, and there is even a beginner's class for those just starting out.

The beginners are coached by Matt Ballantyne, a student at Central, and meet every Sunday at 8:15 p.m. at Moses Lake.

There is also an advanced team that plays in the MLAHA league every Thursday night at 8:15. Kirkham and Ballant-

“We are a good group of people that will help new players learn the game....”

Jaymes Kirkham
Club President

yne both play on the advanced team.

In fact, all seven members of the hockey club are on the advanced team.

Even though the league is currently in the middle of the season and registration is closed, there is a drop-in night, every Monday at 8:15, and the cost to play is only \$6.

Adult drop-in hockey sessions on Mondays are times when anyone can come to the ice rink and play pick-up hockey. During these sessions, players will typically divide into two teams and play a scrimmage game if there are enough players.

The skill levels of players vary widely for these sessions, anywhere from beginners to advanced players.

The hockey club at CWU is still accepting new members and they encourage anyone who has an interest in the sport to sign up.

Right now, the hockey club is looking to expand.

"We need people," Kirkham said. "We are a good group of guys that will help new players learn the game and help each other build a better team together to hopefully get the club to the point that we are playing other schools."

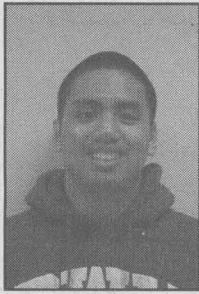
Some equipment is required, such as hockey sticks, skates and pads, but rentals are available.

For more formation visit the club's Web site at www.cwu.edu and search for hockey club, or contact the club by e-mail at cwuhockey@gmail.com.

The Fate of Ichiro

He should stay

The Seattle Mariners as of late have become a joke as a sports team in Washington State. With only one season with a winning record in the past five years, the Mariners seemed to have lost the swagger they once had.



Adrian Acosta
Staff reporter

Coming off a 61-101 record in 2008, the team faces a tough choice, whether or not to bring back outfielder Ichiro Suzuki.

If the Mariners do not bring Ichiro back, I feel that they will be making a big mistake for the franchise. Ichiro has proven to be one of the elite baseball players since his entrance in 2001.

He was the first Japanese position player to play for a Major League Baseball team.

In his first year in the league, Ichiro finished first in batting average and stolen bases.

The last player to do that was the great Jackie Robinson. Since then, Ichiro has consistently contributed to the Seattle Mariners.

He has hit above .300 in all of his seasons as a Mariner, averaging about 225 hits a year.

Aside from being a prolific batter, Ichiro has shown great ability as an outfielder.

His huge throwing arm has provided a great threat from a distance.

This enabled him to win the AL Gold Glove every year since 2001. Since losing Ken Griffey Jr. and Alex Rodriguez, Ichiro has become the face of the Mariner franchise.

By having a star Japanese player and a Japanese-American manager in Don Wakamatsu, the Mariners show a lot of appeal overseas.

Instead of thinking about getting rid of Ichiro, the Mariners should think about trading Adrian Beltre.

While I will admit I did like the initial signing, I think he hasn't lived up to expectations.

Since playing for the majors, Beltre has struggled with the bat, averaging under .280.

The Mariners could trade him for a solid player who would actually get some hits.

This upcoming season will be Beltre's contract year. During his last contract year with the Los Angeles Dodgers, he batted .334 and hit 48 home runs while finishing second in the MVP race. However, I wouldn't want to take that risk.

I think Beltre will again bat without success by averaging under .280.

Although he offers a great threat on the defensive side, I feel a hitter is much harder to come by than a fielder. This has been a "rebuilding" stage for the Mariners these past couple of

years. If the Mariners want to rebuild, they have to get rid of the underperformers, Beltre being one of them. Ichiro has consistently contributed solid numbers year after year. If it wasn't for Ichiro, I don't think the Mariners would have won 50 games. Even though Ichiro is 35, he still has a good five years left in the tank. This would allow for the Mariners to develop a prospect to become the new face of the franchise.

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Last weekend, I felt bored and anytime I am feeling bored I look up Japanese Web sites.

I went to Yahoo Japan first to check what was going on in Japan and catch up on changes there.

Recently, I found a story on Ichiro. He has gone back to Japan to prepare for the upcoming international baseball event, World Baseball Classic (WBC) 2009.

Japan is selecting members for WBC, including players in Major League Baseball.

Ichiro also plans to take part in

He should go

sonally. I don't know who they are, but there are a lot."

Trading Seattle's most famous player is a big deal. Ichiro brings fans to Safeco Field every game, so if the Mariners want more money, then they should keep him in Seattle. Many Japanese international students on Central's campus are looking forward to going to Mariners games next year. "I like Ichiro so much," said Japanese exchange student Kohei Matsuoka, who is from the same area where Ichiro grew up. "I plan to go to Mariners games next season. If Ichiro would not be on the team, I would not be going. Ichiro made a tie between Seattle and Japanese people."

Last season Ichiro hit .310 and had 213 hits in 162 games, but Seattle lost over 100 games, which is after 25 years in the league (the team recorded 103 losses in 1983).

Ichiro received a \$5 million signing bonus and will get an annual salary of \$17 million through 2012 under the deal of 2007. The Mariners will pay \$12 million in salary each year and defer \$5 million per season at 5.5 percent interest. In addition, Ichiro got a housing allowance of \$32,000 this year, an increase of \$1,000 from the 2007 season, and the amount will rise by \$1,000 each year.

Reportedly the team provided either a new Jeep or Mercedes SUV to him and also gave him four first-class round trip tickets from Japan each year for his family.

What if the Mariners would spend these expenses not on Ichiro but on other things such as getting some good players from other teams?

If the Mariners really want to improve their team, they have to trade Ichiro. It is about time for a change. Getting rid of Ichiro would free up more money for younger talent and a brighter future for the Mariners.

port- ed that a fellow Mariner tried to knock Ichiro out, but former manager John McLaren stopped him by having a meeting; Ichiro wasn't hurt. This story shows how bad relationships are between Ichiro and other players on the Mariners. Former Mariners closer J.J. Putz answered to the Seattle Times: "There are more players who really hate Ichiro per-

team. However, what Ichiro is concerned about is not only WBC's Japan team but also his team, the Seattle Mariners. At the end of last season, the Seattle Times re-

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Former

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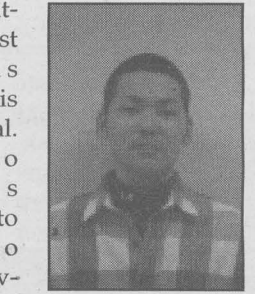
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Satoshi Hasegawa
Staff reporter

Illustration by Sylvia Armitstead

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OPR kayak session starts to paddle

by Satoshi Hasegawa
Staff reporter

Central Washington University students in swimsuits were chatting by a squared shaped pool like a scene happening on a summer beach.

These students were waiting for the start of the Kayak Pool Session on Jan. 11, sponsored by Central Outdoors Pursuits and Rentals (OPR).

"This is a great opportunity to know kayaking," said Ryan Johnson, senior recreation and tourism major and OPR staff member.

Now that it's winter, it's too cold to kayak in a river or open body of water, but 11 participants were enjoying kayaking in a nice warm pool at Central's aquatic facility.

Before the session started, eleven kayakers picked boats.

OPR staff members arranged different types of boats along the side of the pool.

Troy Hughes, kayak instructor, said the short boat is for Playboating and the long boat is for normal kayaking.

Each boat is designed to fit with where or how people kayak.

Playboating is the skilled art of water tricks using waves, holes, and pour-overs.

The moves and tricks are

similar to those performed by snowboarders.

During the session, a few staff members practiced moves and tricks while listening to Hughes' advice.

After choosing boats, kayakers wear kayak spray skirts that connect to the cockpit of the kayak to create a water-tight seal.

This prevents the cockpit from filling up with water and at the same time keeps the paddler dry.

Everybody got in the boats and then each boat jumped in the water one after the other.

They seemed like they had kayaked before and paddled around freely for the first 20 minutes.

"I'm nervous," said Drew Perry, sophomore paramedic major, who is the only kayaker who brought his own gear.

"Everyone seems to be good at kayaking. I've not kayaked lately."

During the class, each staff member was taking care of the participants.

The friendly staff showed the movements carefully and kayakers tried what they were shown. They spent a lot of time dealing with overturned boats.

Amateur kayakers made sure they got out of the boat and the experienced kayak-



Satoshi Hasegawa/Observer

Central students kayak in the crystal clear waters of the CWU pool on Jan. 11. The next kayaking session will be at 9 p.m. on Jan. 25. The sessions are sponsored by OPR.

ers tried to get back to good posture when the boat turned over.

Sometimes, a kayaker could not roll his body and a nearby staff would paddle up to him in haste and get him up.

"This is initial technique, but one of the hardest technique and important," said instructor Hughes, sitting down the opposite side.

"I always take much time for students to learn how to roll in my class."

In the latter half of the ses-

sion, instructor Hughes started a game.

One might call the game "kayak polo."

People carry a ball forward while paddling, and then hit the target, which is built with two kickboards on the each side of the pool.

Throughout the game, all participants had a lot of fun kayaking. The next session will be at 9 p.m. Jan. 25. "People don't have to pre-register," Johnson said.

Today's participants just

came to the pool and signed up.

"Participants don't need any experience. People should get in. It is totally fun."

Contact

OPR offers kayaking and other events. For more information visit www.cwu.edu/~rec/opr/index.html.

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Public Safety & Police Services can utilize the **CWU Alert!** System to send safety related messages to students, faculty, and staff by e-mail, telephone, cell phone, TTY/TTD, and text messaging. Alerts can also be sent to all computers on the network.

Why are we testing it?

The purpose of the quarterly **CWU Alert!** test is to measure how CWU phone and e-mail systems handle the large volume of messages, and to gauge roughly how many campus community members receive a message. The quarterly test is also meant to remind students, faculty, and staff that messages from **CWU Alert!** are important and worthy of their attention.

What will happen during the test?

CWU's Emergency Management Coordinator is currently planning the test for mid-February. Messages will be delivered to all CWU. EDU e-mail addresses, and to all student, faculty, and staff phone numbers in Safari. Computers on the network will display a test message pop-up if the Desktop Alert! program has been loaded. Messages will go to **voice mail** if the call is not answered. Watch for further details in an upcoming edition of the Observer.

Why didn't I get a phone message?

Your phone number in Safari is not up to date. Log into **Wildcat Connection** and navigate to Safari where you can update your phone numbers and other contact information. See <http://www.cwu.edu/alert/faqs.html> for more information or call the **Help Desk** at ext. 2001.

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