Eagles win Big Sky Championship

By Troy Kirby
News Editor

Mark March 10 as the day EWU proved it was a college basketball town.

The Eagles, after dropping three consecutive Big Sky Championship games, came through with a thunderous 71-59 win over Northern Arizona at Reese Court.

For the first time, a deafening crowd of 4,615 fans filled the stands, providing an energy never before felt in the Pavilion.

Students packed their end of things, buying all 884 student tickets and several regular admission passes.

The Eagles’ Brendon Merritt, MVP of the Big Sky Tournament, scored 22 points (7-for-11 shooting), stealing the ball twice, passing off three assists and was 4-for-4 from three-point range.

“Unbelievable,” Merritt said after the victory. “I’ve always been on good teams, but always came a little short. Coach Giac worked so hard to get us here, unbelievable.”

Merritt said the past remained silent among the Eagle locker room before the championship game.

“We honestly didn’t talk about it that much,” he said. “Everything about coming up short didn’t matter. Everything, from the crowd to our coach, probably put us over the top.

The locker room had a great aura in it, said Merritt.

“Everyone was just happy for each other,” Merritt said. “The locker room was happiness and joy.”

Scoring 19 points, junior Marc Axton helped the Eagles secure its first NCAA berth.

“Boxing out helped us and denying the ball reversal,” Axton said. “All of the students that were out today, it’s fun, for the first time, to have a college atmosphere.”

Head coach Ray Giacolletti said.

See Basketball Page 18
**News**

**Police Beat**

By Helda Swift
EWU Crime Reporter

2-5-04 EWU police received a report of a 911 call where a female asked for help then there was just an open line. Female was found unconscious on the floor and medics were advised.

3-4-04 Lost property reported. A student reported that he had lost a bag with his belongings in Martin Hall room 220. Student later reported finding his belongings.

3-5-04 Drug violation in Dressler Hall. EWU responded to a report of smelling a burnt odor. Police knocked on door for several minutes. Another student reported that the owner of the room was hiding near the study closet and left down the stairs when the police were knocking on the door.

3-5-04 EWU police responded to a call about an assault on Elm St. When police arrived it was only an argument between brothers.

3-7-04 Report of assault with a knife. A registered nurse from Sacred Heart Medical Center informed the Cheney Police Department's dispatch a victim was stabbed with a knife at the PUB around midnight. Police responded to Sacred Heart to obtain information.

3-8-04 EWU police assisted Cheney police on a suspicious circumstance call to the Cheney Care Center. It was reported that someone had heard a female's voice in the field say, "Help! Get off me."

**News Briefs**

69 EWU clubs request funds for 2004-2005

By Janica Lockhart
Assistant Editor

Clubs and organizations requested $522,000 more than was available through ASEWU for next year.

Over $1.2 million was available for clubs and organizations for next year, down from $1.3 million two years ago. Every year they have money requested beyond what is available, said Katie Moffitt, ASEWU finance vice president.

Last year the requests over what was available exceeded $600,000. Clubs and organizations can use the money for events as long as they fall within Washington State law.

"They can spend money on almost anything they want," said Moffitt. Currently, 69 clubs and organizations requested and were expected to receive funding, she said.

The amount that a club receives is based on the amount requested to ASEWU, the ability to show the need for funds and how much is actually available.

**News Briefs**

Stabbing on campus being investigated

By Seth Swift
Senior Reporter

An altercation occurred March 7 when a student apparently was the victim of a stabbing. It happened between the hours of 12 a.m. and 1 a.m. in lot 10 near the PUB, and the victim was transferred to Sacred Heart Medical Center for treatment with a small cut on his arm. A nurse who treated the victim reported the incident to the Cheney Police Department.

The description of the person who allegedly stabbed the victim is currently being withheld by EWU police due to the nature of the investigation. According to Police Chief Tom McGill, EWU police do not want to compromise the investigation by releasing the description at this time, as it could disrupt the pursuit of the alleged assailant.

However, more information will be released as soon as it is deemed acceptable to do so.

This was the first stabbing to occur this school year and is one of five assaults that have occurred this school year, one of which was an aggravated assault and three of which were simple assaults.

Chief McGill said that the police are currently looking for more information. So if anyone happened to witness the event, EWU Police urge individuals to come forward with the information. The EWU PD can be reached by phone at 359-6300 or by e-mail at Thomas.McGill@ewu.edu. EWU police can also be contacted directly at the Red Barn on Washington St.

**News Briefs**

Sewing shows true colors

By Troy Kirby
News/Sports Editor

EWU shows true colors

The EWU Orchestra, under the direction of Morishiko Nakahara, will present a concert by the students and faculty of EWU in the Music Building Recital Hall March 11 at 7:30 p.m.

The solosists featured will be Dr. Philip Baldwin and Dr. John Marshall. The solosists will be in Brahms' Double Concerto.

Also on the program is the Second Symphony by Jean Sibelius. Admission to the event is free.

**News Briefs**

Paula Hall retires from EWU

By Geoff Morton
Reporters

Paula Hall, manager of student financial services, retired after 30 years of work on campus Feb. 27.

During her 30 years at EWU, Hall played many roles. She started as a baker during the graveyard shift and helped keep EWU’s students fed. Hall also did some custodial work.

Eventually a position opened up in the accounting department, and she took on a pay cut to fill the role, said her husband Montie Hall. In five years she was the department manager.

Those who worked with her had only good to say about their experiences.

"When she gets an idea, they create a life of their own," said Bill Ponder, vice president for Student Affairs. "The things we’ve done here have been greatly enhanced by her."

Hall’s ability to think creatively and grow into each of the roles she took on has earned her the respect of her co-workers.

"When I first met her, she couldn’t stand conflict of any type. Then they put her in collections," said one woman, getting a round of laughter from the crowd gathered to wish her farewell.

Hall will be moving with her husband, Montie, to Chester, Penn., to work in the accounting department of Wydner University.

**News Briefs**

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The Easterner Online
Castille presents paper on ‘Glass Key’ metaphors

By Katie Mageau

Philip Castille, the dean of the College of Arts and Letters, traveled to Las Vegas on Feb. 7 to present his paper at the Far West American Culture Association Annual Meeting.

This association is one composed of professors of several fields who present papers and forums on American pop culture topics from literary and scholarly perspectives. Castille says, “As a dean, one of the reasons why I think it important to encourage scholarship on the part of the faculty is because it helps the faculty to continually keep the materials new.”

His paper, “Hansel and Gretel Noir: Defeated Relationships in Dashiell Hammett’s The Glass Key” showcases his background of studying mythical material in modern day literature. The essay discusses how a dream sequence in Dashiell Hammett’s “The Glass Key” metaphors Hansel and Gretel.

In the novel, one of the main characters describes her dream to the man she is romantically involved with, and tells him that it ended well. However, at the end of the novel, she tells him that she lied, and that it actually ended poorly.

When the Grimm brothers originally heard the Hansel and Gretel story from their various sources around the world, they heard a darker version than the one that they published. When Walt Disney published the story, they lightened the story up even further.

Bruno Bettelheim, a psychoanalyst, published his theory on why these writers have toned down the fables. He believes that the fables include dark and mature issues, but that children cannot understand them. He goes on to say that they do not need to understand them to learn the lessons from them.

Castille explains all of these issues in his paper, saying that, “Fairytales develop as a way of teaching children that the world is a scary place.”

Undergrad Affairs rejects changes to repeat policy

By Cassius Ledebor

The Undergraduate Affairs Council (UAC) unanimously voted Feb. 6 to reject the proposed changes to the university’s course repeat policy.

The proposal, put forth by the Counseling, Advising, Registration and Placement Committee (CAARP), called for policy changes which would allow students one course repeat (per class) for replacement of the previous grade, and would average students’ grades from all additional course repeats.

However, after the UAC voted down the measure, the Faculty Organization Rules Committee voiced their opposition to UAC’s decision, said UAC member and ASEWU councilman Ben Wick. Instead of honoring UAC’s decision, Wick added, the Rules Committee sent the measure back to CAARP.

Dr. Anthony Flinn, president of the Faculty Organization, said he hopes that CAARP sends back a stronger proposal.

“We, the Rules Committee, felt that the problem created by eternal course repeats had not been solved by either the proposal or the rejection of the proposal,” said Flinn. “Perpetual course repeats are bad for the university and bad for students.”

Under the university’s current policy, students are allowed to retake a course as many times as they wish.

Students are automatically deterred from dropping and retesting courses because they don’t want to pay for the course again, and they don’t want to spend the time to re-take a course, said Wick, who added, “often times students have legitimate reasons for having to retake classes, such as family emergencies.”

According to Flinn, “the current situation encourages students to quit a course midway, take a 0.0 and decide to take the class later.” It is like a videogame, said Flinn, where if students fail they can simply revert to a previously saved position.

“It has been my experience that students who attend class and do the work cannot fail,” said Flinn.

Wick said the Rules Committee’s actions represent a faculty perspective, not a pro-student perspective.

“It shouldn’t be the sole responsibility of the students to pass their classes, that responsibility should be shared with the faculty,” said Wick.

Although no definite timeline has been determined, Flinn said that the Rules Committee made it clear that this issue needs to be dealt with this year.

When CAARP releases the new proposal, it might bypass the UAC and go straight to the Faculty Senate for a vote, said Flinn, who added, “we are interested in the UAC’s response to the new proposal.”

“The process for a new course repeat policy should involve the UAC,” said Wick.
News

Student discounts available in Spokane

By Janica Lockhart

The next time your parents come to town, they don’t have to stay in the dorms with you.

A cheap and affordable way to get family and friends of Eastern students, staff and faculty to visit the campus is to stay at a local area hotel.

Local area hotels offer students and their families a discount, just by saying that they are visiting Eastern or seeing their child, who is an Eastern student.

“Anyone that is affiliated with Eastern can get the discount,” said Ceci Zurr, tour coordinator.

Some of the hotels that offer a student discount are the Davenport hotel located in downtown Spokane at $99 for a standard room, $119 for a suite, and $169 for a parlor suite. The Ramada Inn near Geiger International Airport at $69/90 also offers a student discount.

The Ramada Inn offers the discount so that students who want to tour the campus can stay near Eastern.

“It just makes sense,” said Jean Berg, director of sales at the Ramada Inn, about offering the discount. “We are one of the closest hotels to Eastern.”

She added “We have tried to support Eastern every way that we can.”

Another hotel that offers the discount is the Best Western Pepper Tree Inn at $69.95 for two queen beds or one king bed.

“The closeness of the hotel to Eastern and to get future students to stay when they tour the campus is why they offer the discount,” said Chris Morgan, assistant manager at the Best Western Pepper Tree.

“We would like you guys to stay with us, of course,” he said.

Motel 8 at $59.90 and Microtel Inn and Suites at $49 for a single bed and $59 for a double queen also offer a student rate, and the Hampton Inn, located in Spokane, will possibly be offering a discount rate in the future.

“The Hampton Inn would like to set up a discount rate as soon as possible,” said a regional sales manager.

Students also get discounts at other locations besides hotels, making the Eagle Card more useful than just 10 percent off at Baldy’s in the Pence Union Building.

In the bookstore students can buy discount tickets to the IMAX theater, depending on the film being shown, select Spokane Chief hockey games and LaserQuest, a local gaming venue. LaserQuest tickets are $4.50, and IMAX and hockey tickets vary in price. Tickets can be purchased in the bookstore, the Pub, the Spokane Center’s front desk and the Eagle Outpost in Beverst’s Hall.

Basically we are the Costco of tickets,” said Director of the office of Student Activities Stephanie Ennis.

Cross-listed courses at EWU have different fee charges for same class

By Cassius Ledeboer

EWU students are being charged unequal course fees in 25 to 30 cross-listed courses, said ASEEWU Academic Affairs Counselman Ben Wick.

For example, ART 425, 450 and 525 are the exact same class, yet students who enroll in ART 425 and 525 are charged over $30 in course fees. Students who enroll in 450 do not pay a fee at all.

As another example, CSCD 460 and TECH 425 are the same class.

However, students in CSCD 460 pay a $30 course fee, and students in TECH 425 do not pay anything.

Not all of the discrepancies are quite this glaring, however. Students in PSYC 316 pay an $8.52 course fee, while students in the cross-listed equivalent, PSYC 316L pay $8.26.

Under current university policy, instructors who want to attach a fee to a particular class put in a request to the Board of Trustees. According to Wick, the problem of uneven course fees arose because many of the instructors who filled out request forms failed to list each of the cross-listed numbers.

“No one bothered to see if the classes were cross-listed,” said Wick.

The university is in the process of correcting the discrepancies among these fees, said Dr. Ronald Dalla, dean for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies.

According to Dalla, the university is finishing up an audit that has identified all of the various problems concerning course fees.

As soon as university officials have been able to examine the findings of this audit, recommendations for fee changes will be made to the Board of Trustees. “All course-fee changes must be approved by the Board of Trustees,” said Dalla.

Because the Board doesn’t meet again until May, no course fee corrections will be implemented until the fall quarter of 2004.
EWU student loses home in fire

By Janica Lockhart
ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Deborah Aldridge never knew that a joyful evening of building forts with blankets and cardboard boxes Aldridge said her son, when he dog and two cats, without injury, but was his fault.

Jerseys: Native Americans upset that Easterner ran March 4 story on ‘throwback’ jerseys

Continued from Front Page

This is the heart of the matter. To some it’s trivial and inconsequential, to others a matter of forced herin

Dr. Deidre Almeida, director of the American Indian Studies Program and of Delaware and Shawnee descent, provided an allegory to facilitate understanding of her perspective.

“They would not do this with any other ethnic group,” she said. “Imagine if one showed up at the gym wearing a shirt with a caricature of a black man, or a Chiscano. People would be very upset.”

The polemic is found in the dynamics of interaction between the native tribes and the raiders from Europe. Relationships of abuse, oppression, relocation and eradication are glorified when groups of people are made into caricatures.

Some Native Americans feel that perspective and attitude needs to change on campus towards Easterners past. The past is still playing a huge part on campus with such topics as race.

To the denizens of the oppressors, the past is best when glorified, his story immutability change is unnecessary and there is pleasure in connecting to the past with throwback clothes.

Programs like the American Indian Studies are an attempt at changing minds and making certain that the mistakes of the past are left behind.

“Our faculty, students and staff take a lot of pride in who they are, where they come from and in this commu

Dr. Patricia Chantrell, professor in the Department of Communications, is challenging her students with service learning. What is service learning? It is a program where students take the lessons from the classroom out into the “real world.” Students are able to provide some desperately needed help to non-profit organizations while enhancing their own education.

This quarter Dr. Chantrell is having her persuasion class work with the Arc of Spokane. The Arc works to improve living, working and schooling conditions for mentally and developmentally disabled individuals in the Spokane community. This quarter Dr. Chantrell’s persuasion class is developing a plan to persuade the Spokane community to more fully welcome disabled individuals.

Want to get involved and make a difference? Want a great education? Take a class from Dr. Chantrell. Or you can make a call and get information. Dr. Patricia Chantrell can be reached at (509) 359-8626, and the Arc of Spokane can be reached at (509) 789-2247.

Learning is a service for EWU

By Holly Heikkila
REPORTER

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Opinion

The marketing of the Christian messiah

By Steven Wilber

EAGLE CHOW EORO11

By Angeleanna Bumpas

STAFF WRITER

The "Fashion of the Christ"

There are many biblical brouhahas erupting about Mel Gibson's Middle-Eastern waft film, "The Passion of the Christ." One of these controversies is the plague of "Passion" movie tie-in merchandise swarming into the mainstream like locusts. One can now shell out their 40 pieces of silver on the movie's soundtrack, coffee mugs, T-shirts or even, for those fashion-conscious Christians, a nail-shaped pendant that is modeled after the very spikes used to suspend Christ on the cross. It is no surprise to hear about Mel Gibson's Middle-Eastern snuff film, "The Passion of the Christ." It's obviously something that people would be foolish for merchandise to not exist it the most reserved ticket sales in movie history (source: Internet Movie Database), despite the intense subject matter of the film. It's obviously something that people care about intensely and would want something physical to keep around as a reminder of the cinematic experience. It also says in 1 Timothy 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evils..." so why not spend your money on Jesus' heart-shaped pendant that is modeled after the tools of my execution..." He died for your sins." I am not about to wear tools of primitive dentistry around my neck to prove the point that some innovative thinker in the 15th century thought of the clamp method for removing teeth. People would laugh. Dentists might be offended and refuse to fill a cavity. Who knows what would happen.

Overcrowded prisons are the root of all evil

By Kelsey Howard

An Oregon man was sent to jail for stealing his ex-wife. The prison was grossly overcrowded and, as a result of early release programs instituted by officials to lessen prisoner population official, they set him free. On the day he was released, the man found his ex-wife and murdered her. This should not have happened. Somebody dropped the ball, and the poor woman paid a high price for the oversight.

Prisons in America are so overcrowded that officials are taking drastic measures to fix this problem. This sometimes endangers innocent people's lives. I do not agree with this reasoning, and I suggest that the lawmakers make a good look at several ways to fix this problem before they let dangerous criminals back out on the streets.

Our prison system is the fastest growing industry in America, and our incarceration rate leads the world. Although we account for less than 5 percent of the world's population, it holds over a quarter of the globe's prisoners.

With these sorts of numbers, it is no wonder that the nation's prisons are overloaded.

Many of the prisons are well beyond their maximum capacity limits. This forces some officials to resort to drastic measures, such as turning the gymnasiums into barracks, or housing inmates in tents during the summer.

The main reason why the prisons are so crowded in the first place is because people with drug addiction sent to prison.

The U.S. Department of Justice reports that the number of inmates imprisoned for drug abuse and other nonviolent offenses is seven out of every 10.

Instead of receiving treatment these people are sent to jail. We are treating them as criminals, when they should be recognized as patients.

If we could find a way to get these people the treatment that they need, the amount of people in the prison system would be greatly reduced.

Prisons would not be overflowing with people, and they would not have to release dangerous people out onto the streets.
Pretty people annoy me

After watching the final episode of "Average Joe 2," I came to the conclusion that there is a master plan underway to create a special race of beautiful children. A little background for the sake of those of you without a clue. In the last show Larissa had to choose between the "average Joe" in Brian (the not-so-homely-not-quite-a-hunk from Boston) and Gil, the pretty boy construction worker who won Larissa over with his line, "I want to be an actor" which he provided when asked where he saw the two of them going.

Well, the time came and (gasp) Larissa chose the pretty boy. I guess Boston just can't win anything these days. Oh, how stupid Brian was to watch Larissa to Fenway Park for part of their final date; the curse of the Bambino is alive and well.

In the end, Larissa got what she deserved. On a beautifully blustery day in Mexico, she confided her watching Fabio's pectoralis and eating Bon-Bons while reminiscing of a better time. The consolation to this whole matter is that Brian is probably in relationship heaven while Larissa is back at home watching soap operas and eating Bon-Bons while watching Fabio's pectoralis and reminiscing of a better time.

Opinion

Only lower life forms drink juice, water or milk

By James Peterson

There are many things in this wonderful country of ours that make me extremely proud. One of them is the recent emphasis of our public schools to ensure that our children become physically larger than ever. This is the same guy who last year, in state government. This is just another year without the contracts that have sprung up with the increases in net revenues as expected. Great, another tax break for the wealthy at the expense of the increases in problem gambling in our neighborhoods.

This is just fantastic. Tim Eyman wants to replace $400 million worth of state property tax revenue with slot machines. Remember, this is the same guy who brought us $30 car tabs and who finances his cushy lifestyle. He says, "Yes, this is just fantastic. Tim Eyman wants to replace $400 million worth of state property tax revenue with slot machines."

This is the same guy who took for granted the Governing Board's responsibility and quoting Horatio Alger. True, gambling addiction is a problem and needs to be dealt with. However, until societal attitudes change, problem gambling will negatively affect lower economic classes. That's why he is right now looking at increasing the offsetting effect in net revenues. What Eyman is really trying to do is to get someone else to pay his property taxes for him. Sorry Tim, we're not buying it. We have seen the negative effects that have sprung up with the increase in gambling in our communities in the last decade or so, and we won't stand for it.

It comes down to this: Tim's forecast about the dry. The slot machines will bring in is correct and the initiative is budget neutral. Terrific, we've succeeded only in subsidizing the lifestyles of the rich at the expense of the increases in problem gambling in our neighborhoods.

This is just fantastic. Tim Eyman wants to replace $400 million worth of state property tax revenue with slot machines.
The “Skull and Bones” has a monopoly on the presidency

More than not Republicans and Democrats actively work toward incongruity. Most presidential candidates are members of Yale University shadowy organization “Skull and Bones.”

The club is somewhat like a regular run-of-the-mill fraternity with rituals, select membership, etc. But Skull and Bones allegedly goes far beyond our-run-of-the-mill male bonding that is open to all of us outsiders of its elitist core know about. Insiders, who rarely admit membership, know it as “The Order,” “Brotherhood of Death,” “Skull and Bones,” “Bones,” or more commonly “Chapter 322.”

General William Huntington Russell and Alphonso Taft at Yale University founded the German Skull and Bones group in 1833. Russell later worked for the Grant administration as Secretary of War in 1876, and Taft was father of former President William Howard Taft. On a side note, Taft was the only president to be both Chief Justice and President of the United States. That would be impressive even if the long line of members did not include Lillibury, Rockefeller, Lord Brown and the famous Bush. Only 15 men are selected each year since 1832, which translates into about 2,500 Yale graduates since the establishment.

Members must all be motivated and make sacrifices toward the common goal of The Order, including annual meetings with its still 500-600 active members.

Back to Bush and Kerry. It seems peculiar to me that these two men are involved in this odd camaraderie. Due to the lack of information about the goal of The Order, it is surprising that more questions have not been raised about the intentions of these two and if any of them derive from their Yale society roots. For instance, is there anything conceivable that would permit such needed secrecy? And, more candidly, is it something the American public should be concerned about?

Perhaps the group is harmless, but there is much evidence to the contrary. The missing piece of the puzzle might be the political side of The Order. With membership on both sides of the political spectrum, liberal Democrats and the quintessential conservative Republicans, there may be an argument that The Order is striving for what every television evangelist and extreme right wing conservatives fear: the fabled one world order.

Eating pork is an abomination

Marriage is a center piece of our society showcasing the love between two individuals. Across the country more and more states are allowing same-sex marriage, much to the joy or chagrin of many.

Numerous reasons have been drummed out for allowing or disallowing the civil right of marriage to homosexuals.

One of the toughest is the consideration of gay couples with children. Some claim that children need only a loving union in order to provide a healthy family environment, while others claim that homosexual unions will scar them for life.

It all comes down to the individual. This is not a true disadvantage. People could be placed on the wrong side of the line.

The time has come for a gutsy discussion: Is homosexuality moral? Society is changing, despite centuries of taboo; homosexuality is becoming a common reality. It’s inescapable. The time has come for a gutsy discussion: Is homosexuality moral? Society is changing, despite centuries of taboo; homosexuality is becoming a common reality. It’s inescapable.

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Haiti carries a long history of intervention

By Ami Manning
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Anyone walking across Higgins St. Bridge in Missoula will be regaled with some profound graffiti covering U.S. foreign policy.

The sidewalk reads "Know Your Empire," followed by a list of countries and years. In 1991, I knew nothing of Aristide, Duvalier and little of the United States' history of overthrowing popular third world governments. The story of Haiti is like that of so many other countries in the developing world, whose sovereignty and democracy continue to be undermined by imperial powers.

The United States has a long and sordid history of interfering and often undermining the political, economic and social landscape of the developing world. Countries like Chile, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, Argentina, Uruguay, Angola, Indonesia, Haiti, Venezuela and many others serve as examples of such intervention. The American media's coverage of Haiti has been confusing and contradictory. The Haitian crisis has been covered incompletely and at times dishonestly. Those familiar with the history of Haiti are wise to question the veracity of these reports. Especially when it comes to the doubts regarding Aristide's allegations of an American-backed coup d'etat.

The Writing on the Sidewalk: Haiti 2004. In 1915, the United States invaded and occupied Haiti; 15,000 Haitians were killed. The U.S. invasion and 20-year occupation systematically destroyed Haitian sovereignty. No elections were permitted. The "treaty" that legalized the U.S. occupation was a unilateral declaration by the U.S. Constitution, which opened up the Haitian economy to foreign (mainly U.S.) interests, was ratified only after American marines disbanded the Haitian National Assembly.

The country was sold to foreign investors, its peasantry exploited, finance and commercial structures centralized, democratic institutions destroyed and a race-based political elite re-established.

What has been written in American history books as a U.S. intervention to restore order, in fact institutionalized virtual slavery, tyranny and corruption.

The situation is apocalyptic in Haiti. The United States has supported corrupt dictators, undermined democratic institutions, proclaimed war criminals, and thrown a democratically elected government twice. Yet it is credited with "benevolent interventions." This "double game" has created mass confusion in the U.S. about Haiti and American colonial conquest.

Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically elected president was swept into office by an impressive grassroots campaign and overthrow eight months later.

The media mentions controversy, such as Haiti's first democratically elected president was swept into office... It must continue to be undermined by imperial powers.

The role that our current administration has taken in both domestic and foreign policies is troubling for anyone, not just the Democrats. Following are some salient points of our present day:

WMD lies. It's frustrating to see my fellow Democrats use Bush, lying about WMD, as their primary argument against the war. However, the whole thing is not surprising, as it was one of the main "reasons" for going to war with Iraq presented by our president last spring. Bush did as he wanted, regardless of what our allies, or the United Nations, or to do. We supplied Saddam with some of his weapons, so obviously there has always been the question of what to do once he became powerful. Therefore, saying that Bush lied about WMD shouldn't be a reason to condemn all Democrats as hypocrites. My candidate accomplished, as Kerry, the one thing common to their victims was that they lived in America.

Bottom line: if you don't like the ads, don't vote for Bush. You guys just have to get to quit whining about every little thing, it gets annoying after a while.

Democrats are not to blame for Bush's mistakes

By Jordan Levy
STAFF WRITER

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Being under 21 doesn’t mean a boring time in the City of Sin, Vegas

By Atia Lockhart

Are you thinking of booking Las Vegas for a spring break or vacation trip? You should know that under-21s are welcome! There is no need to worry about your age restrictions in Sin City. In fact, there are many things you can do in Vegas. However, you should be aware of the rules and regulations that apply to your situation. For example, if you are 20 and under, you need to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to enter the casinos. The only exception is if you are 21 and over, you can enter the clubs and nightclubs alone. This means that you can still have a great time in Vegas, but you need to be aware of the rules and regulations that apply to your situation.

The cheapest flights to Vegas are from $12.50 per person. Also, if you are under 21, you need to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to enter the casinos. The only exception is if you are 21 and over, you can enter the clubs and nightclubs alone. This means that you can still have a great time in Vegas, but you need to be aware of the rules and regulations that apply to your situation.

The malls offer everything from roller coasters on top of the hotel to 3-D movies. The Bellagio offers the fountains shows every 15 minutes, while the High Roller offers views of the Strip and the city. The Cosmopolitan offers the high roller ride, which is free for under-21s. The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino offers a free buffet at the Boardwalk hotel, which is known for being Britney Spears’ favorite place to eat. The Venetian offers the Grand Canal Shoppes, which is a 15-minute gondola ride. The Flamingo offers the GoGuns range, which is a 15-minute gondola ride. The Rio offers the High Roller ride, which is free for under-21s. The Circus Circus offers the High Roller ride, which is free for under-21s.

The two highlights of shopping in Vegas are the Century of Darkness and the Century of Light. The Century of Darkness is a 30-minute ride through the city of Las Vegas. The Century of Light is a 30-minute show of lights and music. The Century of Darkness is free for under-21s and the Century of Light is $10 for under-21s.

The Hard Rock Hotel and Casino offers a free buffet at the Boardwalk hotel, which is known for being Britney Spears’ favorite place to eat. The Venetian offers the Grand Canal Shoppes, which is a 15-minute gondola ride. The Flamingo offers the GoGuns range, which is a 15-minute gondola ride. The Rio offers the High Roller ride, which is free for under-21s. The Circus Circus offers the High Roller ride, which is free for under-21s. The Nevada State Museum offers the Nevada State Museum, which is free for under-21s.

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The Evergreen State’s music scene emerges from the shadow of its early-’90s heyday

Almost 10 years ago the Seattle music scene was flourishing. The now-dirty word “grunge” was the hottest trend in the country, as the youth represented their individuality through ripped-up jeans, long hair, flannel, and Converse. Then, on an early April morning, there was an inappropriate photo on the front page of the “Seattle Times.” It showed Kurt Cobain’s lower half, complete with torn jeans and Chuck Taylors, and it marked the end of a short era in music.

The word “alternative” related to music has always been a joke. Alternative to what? The best answer is whatever could be called mainstream.

Unfortunately, grunge became the mainstream and Cobain had issues with his overnight success. The big, bad corporations took over, signing many Seattle musicians with long hair, loud guitars, and a heroin habit. But it was around this time that another form of music came along in the Northwest underground. They were completely different than all of those that preceded them, being influenced by bands like Joy Division and Pixies, instead of Black Sabbath and Metallica. It was intelligence over raw emotion.

So now, 10 years later music in the northwest is back and on the brink. Bellingham’s Death Cab For Cutie recently appeared on “The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn.” They were smiling from ear to ear as they ripped through “New Year,” on their national television debut. The band has ended up on many critics’ top 10 picks of the year for the album “Transatlanticism” and will be making an appearance at the Big Easy, March 20 in Spokane.

By Paul Dillon Reporter

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In the chart are some examples of GEUR books researched. Prices are subject to change and are all for new books without shipping.

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By Tami Mitchell Reporter

The Evergreen State’s music scene emerges from the shadow of its early-’90s heyday.

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By Tami Mitchell Reporter
Spears shook the MGM Grand last Saturday with “Oops...I Did It Again,” one of the most famous hits, a chunk of the show was from her new material, including her presence could be felt. She did everything to bring the crowd into the arena. With her great style, she opened for Spears, with an intense finale. Finally, when they took the stage and began their set, the place became unrecognizable. From beginning to end, the show was full of energy and definitely had some good head banging music to recommend that the next time anyone is at a CD store go and look up Five Foot Thick and their newest album “Blood Puddle.” It’s emerging music, and it supports one of the local bands.

Five Foot Thick had some particular words of wisdom for bands that are trying to make it: “Longevity is the key to Everything. Keep going for it hard everyday. Don’t stop, don’t ever give up. If you keep with it, it’s going to catch on. Someone is going to here it,” said George. In the word of Silas, “Be prepared to eat a lot of chicken and sleep on a lot of fucking floors.”

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**By Helda Swift**

**Reporter**

Last Saturday night, March 6, one of Spokane’s newest rock bands was having its grand opening. Gatesley’s has been formerly known by the names: Way Station, The Perpetuals, and Bombay. They hosted Five Foot Thick for opening night.

Five Foot Thick, for all those who are unaware, is one of Spokane’s premier local rock bands, who have been together for eight years. These are guys who have been able to capture the audience with their unique sound and kept them coming back.

Bryan, the lead singer, is from Spokane, and he brought the audience to their feet with a passion for music. His energy was contagious, and it will be remembered for a very long time.

This was a significant night for the group because this was their keyboard player’s final night with the band. “We are all sad to see Matt go,” said George. “But there has been a revolving door in this band and it is really, really, really hard to replace him.”

“Matt is a really talented guy, and it will be hard to replace him, but we will do our best to fill that void because that is a huge part of our sound, and we will miss his energy on stage.”

This was definitely a memorable night for everyone involved. The place became unrecognizable. From beginning to end, the show was full of energy and definitely had some good head banging music.

---

**By Janice Lockhart**

**Assignment Editor**

Edgy and sexy, Britney Spears shook the MGM Grand Arena last Saturday night with a non-stop explosion of song and dance, bringing the audience to their feet for most of the show.

Spears got the crowd first-moving to her latest hit, “Toxic,” which immediately hooked the audience and brought screams for the main pre-teen to the scarce middle-age crowd.

The dance moves, catchy lyrics and 180-degree video screens brought Spears to the nosebleed section of the arena where her presence could be felt.

She did everything to bring the crowd into the music following with her hits “Overprotected” and her worst single “Boys.”

Spears stayed away from her old material and a good chunk of the show was from her new album, “In the Zone.”

When she did sing her most famous hits, “...Baby One More Time” and “Oops!... I Did It Again,” it was in jazz style that showed-case her lack of a strong singing voice. The jazzed-up version of “Oops... I Did It Again” was okay, but would have been better in the original format, and “...Baby One More Time” lacked the punch of the original song.

“I’m a Slave 4 U,” though, still had the rhythm and lyrics to bring the audience to their feet again and make them dance in the aisles. Quite a few members of the audience knew the exact dance moves from the video, and weren’t scared to show off their Britney-style.

She then went back to her new material, including “Touch of My Hand,” where she wore only the suit and did a racy dance on stage. It was very similar to a Madonna stunt on the Truth or Dare tour in the early ’90s, without the shock value.

After “Touch of My Hand,” Spears came out in pink Victoria’s Secret lingerie where she pushed the boundaries even further by getting on a bed with one of her dancers to the song “Breathe on Me.”

She continued with songs from her new compact disc including the “Outrageous” and “[I Got That] Boom, Boom,” which was the last song before the encore. Both featured Spears great dance moves, but also showed her lip-syncing ability.

She ended the show with “Me Against the Music,” even though most of the audience was leaving by the time she hit the stage for the encore.

At the end of the short 90-minute set, it was noticeable that some of Spears’ biggest hits were missing from the set including “Stronger,” “Lucky” and “Sometimes.” She could have added them for a long concert for her fans that have only seen Spears sing just a short set that rarely reaches an hour and a half.

Even though she has definitely left her innocent, pop image behind with the Onyx Hotel tour, the mostly young crowd of 12 to 20 year-olds didn’t seem to notice the new over-the-top Spears. She still has the ability to capture an audience with her great style, showmanship and lack of a great voice.

Kelis, famous for her song “Millihabe,” opened for Spears with the bumpy sound, and definitely will be a one-hit wonder.

Skye Sweetnam also opened for Spears, with an Avril Lavigne rock sound. Her new album comes out in May.

Spears will be at Seattle’s Key Arena Friday, March 12. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

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Spring is in the air

Students enjoy a meal and conversation outside the PUB March 10. The weather has been unusually nice lately allowing for many students to get outside and get active. The weather looks to continue hovering around the 50 degree barrier for the rest of the week. Whether this is good or bad, enjoy the sunny skies while they last.

Cancer benefit concert planned

By Colin Haffner

Members of the community will be putting on a benefit show for cancer awareness on March 12. Performing at the show, which will be held at 7 p.m. in the Showalter Auditorium, will be the Empire Theatre Department and various musical groups, both featuring EWU students. Joining the theatre group and musical performers will be cancer patients from Providence Cancer Center in Spokane and speeches by others from the area.

The event is being organized by theatre director Scott Dougherty, Lucille and Omar Canaday, who have already produced a benefit Compact Disc for their Fight for ME Campaign with all proceeds from the CD going to Cancer Patient Care.

"Songs for Life," as the event is being called, will be broken into two acts with music, stories and a speaker in each.

Featured speakers will be Dr. Arvin Chaudhry from the Providence Cancer Center and Spokane mayor Jim West, who will give his speech on being mayor while fighting colon cancer through a taped video message.

In addition to Chaudhry and Mayor West's speeches, cancer patients from Providence Cancer Center, Cancer Patient Care and EWU students will be telling their own stories of hope.

The purpose of this benefit is to raise awareness of cancer and the importance of early cancer detection. Roughly 3,000 new patients are admitted to Providence Cancer Center each year from the local Spokane area.

Organizers of the event urge the EWU and surrounding community to attend the event in order to show support for cancer patients. Information on cancer and treatment for cancer will be available during the show in the foyer outside the auditorium as well.

Tickets for the event are $10 for general admission and $5 for students, children and seniors. They can be purchased through the EWU Theatre Department at 359-2459, at Artist Café and Kafka Coffee in Cheney or Auntie's Bookstore in Spokane. Tickets will also be available at the door for the same price.

All proceeds from the event will go to help out Providence Cancer Center.

The "Songs for Life" concert is presented by the Empire Theatre Group, EWU Pre-Med/Pre-Dent Society and Fight for ME Campaign, and is also sponsored by McDonald's, Coca-Cola and Caffe Appassionato.

For more information on "Songs for Life" or the Fight for ME Campaign visit www.FightForMe.org or email FightForMe@hotmail.com.

What:
“Songs for Life” benefit concert.

When:
March 12 @ 7 p.m.

Where:
Showalter Hall Auditorium

Featured:
Empire Theatre Group, Lucille & Omar Canaday, Stories by cancer patients and Musical performances
Environmentalists get a raw shake

By Angeleana Bumpas

"Individuals who want to leave the next generation a legacy of clean air and water, of old-growth trees and essential habitats, are being branded radical troublemakers," Dr. Paul Lindholdt, associate professor in the Department of English, will inform the audience at Unitarian Universalist Church on Sunday, March 14.

His speech will raise consciousness about a new trend in American culture. Environmentalists are gaining the reputation for being radical dissenters whose endeavors at conservation are being sighted as anti-American. New proposed (but not passed) legislation includes registration of environmentalists as a means to track any activity.

"Anybody who participated in a protest could be included in a registry similar to that of sex offenders," Lindholdt said.

Terms such as eco-terrorism are being coined to describe environmentalists who care more about the long-term effects of species extinctions than their own immediate gratification. The Wise-Use Movement that started in 1988 is still in motion with a mind-set geared more toward financial gain than ecological stability.

The conflict between the Wise-Use Movement and the environmentalists has been heated throughout the years.

"What we really have here is a culture war," Lindholdt said. The Patriot Act has activists of all stripes running scared due to the erosion of our civil liberties that potentially extend to all forms of social protests, said Lindholdt.

Sustainability is a key concept for environmentalists. We must learn how to sustain our present rates of growth — in population, in housing, in cars and in the economy, he said.

Environmentalists are concerned with how much abuse the Earth can endure before humans face a problem that cannot be solved via technological improvisation, Lindholdt said.
Eating is something of an art for college students. Without a whole lot of time to cook since most of their efforts are devoted to school and playing around, individuals must come up with inventive ways to eat a suitable meal. Mainly, finding a place that sells any sort of food at a reasonable price.

So basically the average student ends up eating at McDonalds for most of their college career. No wonder America is obese and unhealthy. Luckily, this university provides the average student many places to go and get a bite to eat, all varying in price and variety. This makes life a whole lot easier, but how good is the food that students are consuming?

Here is a comprehensive ranking of all eateries available here on campus.

1. Tawanka's

Despite only being open a limited amount of time during the day, Tawanka's seems to draw a lot of traffic through its doors mainly because of the quality of food that it serves. Featuring more of a deli-style selection, the food always seems to be fresh and varied. Not to mention all-you-can-eat meal. Although it's somewhat reminiscent of a high school cafeteria set up which is sure to bring back a plethora of bad memories, Tawanka's still maintains a level of excellence that the lunch lady could only dream of achieving.

2. Eagle Shop

Grocery stores can be good places to get grub as well. While offering freshly cooked food, other than a single soup pot located in the back of the store, the Eagle Shop offers brand name packaged goods. Students can rejoice in the fact that they won't have to wait through hours of Safeway Select merchandise to get to the real deal. Everything is here, except for a warmed up meal. But that's what the microwave is for.

3. Mo-Street Cafe

Looking for a snack late at night? Mo-Street stays open until 11 p.m. to serve food to the masses of the dorm halls. Main course meals are served as well, but they tend to be a little on the greasy side. Rest assured though, there is still a wide selection of drinks and packaged goods like chips and candy bars. Perfect when the hunger bug strikes and students don't want to go all the way into Cheney to get food because everything else is closed.

4. Alleyway Street Grill

Considering that this place is hardly ever open, you would think that the food would be better. The Sticks and Spoons section seems to serve a fairly decent oriental selection, but the food always seems to be fresh and varied. Nor to mention the all-you-can-eat section, the lunch lady could only dream of achieving.

On the rare occasion that you actually do have a chance to take a break from the studying madness, don't just waste your time in front of the TV. Do something that is fun and calming at the same time. Here are a couple of ideas that will help relax and clear your mind.

At the top of the list is an absolute necessity for relaxation and fun. Take a 20 minute break and bake some cookies (chocolate chip is my personal recommendation). Making cookies is a soothing activity, and when you are done, there is nothing better than warm cookies with gooey chocolate chips just begging to be eaten.

For those of you out there who don't have time to take a 20 minute break, here is a time saving variation. Buy some cookies and microwave until warm and gooey, and then chew down.

Another quick relaxing activity is a mini-manicure. Take a 15 minute break from your studies, dust off your spring colors of nail polish and dress up your fingers for the sun. Scrunch around your room for ribbon, glitter, beads or anything that you can find to dress up your nail polish with. Then paint. Before you know it your fingers will be styled perfectly for spring.

Boys, if you aren't into painting your nails, paint your dog's, or your roommate's when he is asleep.

Time saving variation: Skip the polish and opt for a spring smelling lotion break instead. Take about five seconds to soothe your dry cracked hands, and then get back to studying.

This next suggestion isn't going to be much fun, but it has to be done. Before you leave your house for the next week and a half, it is a definite must to clean out your refrigerator.

Get down and dirty with a sponge in one hand and a high powered corrosive in the other. We are college students here so let's be reasonable, if it still smells and looks edible then keep it. If the mold has taken up permanent residence, then toss it. It's not rocket science.

If there isn't enough time to conquer the jungle that is your refrigerator, then try this time saving tip: open the door, spray an air freshener inside (two sprays if it is an extreme case) and close the door, promising to clean it the next chance you get.

Rio section could use some work. The "Rico wraps" tend to be a little soggy and Luke warm. Nothing worse than biting into a burrito that isn't cooked all the way. The menus are rather lacking too, as both sections only offer a few different types of food. Plus, its location is right next to the utopia known as the Eagle Shop, doesn't help.

By Brandon Hansen

Ways to beat the stress of finals abound

By Kelsey Howard

Finals week is on its way along with the certain high levels of stress and anxiety that accompany it. It is time to prepare for the frantic all night cramming sessions spent downing pizza and caffeine loaded beverages. Drowsy days will be spent studying at the window daydreaming about the fast approaching Spring Break and itching to be outside playing in the newly founded blue skies and sunshine.

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Basketball: Fourth time's a charm for Eagles hoops

Continued from Front Page

EWU will be changed by the Big Sky Championship win.

"Perception alone validates Eastern," Giacoletti said. "Being D-I for 20 years, anytime you do something for the first time, it's special."

Giacoletti said that the victory over Weber State in the Big Sky semifinal March 9 had phases and minutes.

"We were just so charged up last night," he said. "At shoot around, we were focused but laid back. In the game tonight, we didn't guard with the same energy. I told them to play as each defensive possession as their last, its not just words anymore, its truth."

Scott Barnes, EWU athletic director, said the decision to bring in Giacoletti four years ago was a mutual trust.

"We both felt and believed that this would come true," Barnes said.

"We've been knocking on the door three straight years. You keep knocking and hope the NCAA tournament answers."

Barnes said that the student support was a key to the Eagles' newfound success.

"The student support and the community support keeps getting better and better," he said.

President Dr. Stephen Jordan said that he would be wherever the Eagles played in the NCAA tournament.

"I wouldn't miss it," Jordan said.

"There's no reason that these guys can't advance in the tournament." Jordan said the student audience encapsulated his vision of a college atmosphere at EWU.

"That's the kind of celebration and school spirit," Jordan said. "It's been a six-year journey, great for a residential campus, also a great time."

Eagle Athletics Association President Curly Rousseau, and alum of EWU, said he has been a long-time supporter through thick and thin of Eastern sports.

"I've been waiting 35 years, back since the days of the Savages," Rousseau said. "It's been worth the wait."

Rousseau said that the student support only emphasized the passion and potential that EWU has as a college town.

"There isn't a kid out there I wouldn't take home to call my own," he said.

Senior Alvin Snow, the player that Giacoletti constantly credits for believing in the men's basketball program first, was euphoric.

"I wish I could tell you how this feels," Snow said. "Can't describe how good this feels."

Snow responded to media who asked about the championship victory with his own question.

"How good is it?" Snow said. "Eh? How great is it?"

The three straight losses in the championship game had haunted the team, Snow said.

"It's been an eternity, or seemed like it," Snow said. "We got it done, finally. We got it done."

Snow said that he had been teased by people in Seattle when he chose to attend EWU.

"I took a ton of heat from people," Snow said. "They'd ask, 'Eastern? What are you doing?'

Some people questioned whether EWU was even Division-I, said Snow.

"When I show them my championship ring, they'll know," Snow said.

Women's hoops fall to Montana St

By Troy Kirby
News/Sports Editor

The Eagles' efforts are getting shot down by six-shooters.

Nailing down the sixth spot in the Big Sky Conference Tournament with a season-ending loss March 6 to Montana State 67-58, the Eagles fell to 12-15 (5-9 BSC) after starting conference play 3-0.

In front of 1,427 Bozeman fans, EWU's sixth-consecutive loss, showcased senior Kathleen Nygaard's six rebounds as well as her 18 points (7-of-13). Being 4-of-4 in free throws, Nygaard was followed by a 6-of-6 shooting performance from sophomore Felicia Moore (13 points, 7 rebounds).

Junior Stephanie Ulmer's 1-of-6 performance from behind the arch hurt the Eagles' offense. Ulmer finished with three points, one rebound and two assists.

Sophomore Raelynn Chaffee grabbed eight rebounds, scoring one point in only six minutes of action. Freshman Joanna Chadd was 2-of-8 in shooting, 2-of-5 in three-pointers and dished off four assists, grabbing three rebounds and scoring six total points.

EWU as a team was 6-for-22 from three-point range and 6-of-8 in free throws.

The Eagles were up 31-28 at half but were outscored 39-27 in the second half. Montana State shot 39 percent overall for the game while EWU shot 36 percent.

NCAA Men's Basketball

Selection Sunday Schedule

The Eagles will watch on Sunday, March 14 in the PHASE's Dance Studio to see who their opponent will be in the first round of the NCAA 64-Tournament and the public is invited to attend.
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Residential Wanted for spring quar­
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The Easterner 19

The Eagle mascot “Swoop” has soared hiphis season along with EWU’s success on the court.

Reese fun starts with Swoop
By Leena Hajja Reporter
If you’ve been to an EWU bas­ketball game, then you’ve had the op­portunity to see the Eagle’s mascot, “Swoop,” in action.
He has pride, school spirit and a positive attitude toward EWU fans. However, many people don’t realize that Swoop is a new addition to the EWU family.
The previous mascot was also an eagle, however, his name was Victor E. Swoop had just recently replaced Victor E. and added his own enthu­siasm to basketball games.
“I am an eagle that loves to win, loves the crowd and loves the game,” said Swoop.
Swoop arrives at each game with an endless amount of energy.
“Before a game, I crank up the Michael Jackson, stretch and get into the mind set,” said the Eagle.
Swoop has had the opportunity to represent Eastern at home games, away games and most recently at a mas­cot football game.
“I performed at Seahawk Sta­tion. We played mascot against Iowa State. It was lots of fun,” said Swoop.
EWU assistant athletic director Michael Allen said that before the cur­rent student who cheers each sideline for the Eagles’ mascot was around, the mascot itself was missing from EWU athletics for about four to five years.
“Many people just didn’t have the talent to be successful at it,” Allen said.
“About a year and a half ago, we found a good fit in through the cheerleading squad. Frankly, along with the skills to be entertaining, Swoop has repre­sented the university, made public appearances and we’ve gotten many compliments about how good Swoop is with fans and kids.”
For those students who are inter­ested in becoming a future mascot, they will have the opportunity to try out and show their stuff.
In the next school year, we will have auditions for Swoop. The new Swoop will keep his main characteristics (Swoop’s signature for autographs and enthusiasm),” said Swoop. “The new Swoop will be asked to make a two-year commitment as the mascot.”
As the Eastern Eagles head into the Big Sky Conference, look for Swoop to be crowd surfing, dancing with the cheerleaders or just pumping up the crowd.
“Don’t be afraid to let go and have fun at the games,” said Swoop.

The ideas of Spring Training baseball
Remember the Shire from “Lord of the Rings”?
That lovely little green Garden of Eden inhabited by smiling hobbits almost seems out of place compared to the other dreary and dangerous lands that inhabit most of Middle Earth. It’s a pleasant place, one where an individual can forget about his worries and live out his merry little existence.
It’s almost perfect.
Spring training is baseball’s equivalent to the Shire. Here, teams are start­ing anew, getting a fresh per­spective on what they’ll be doing this upcoming season. Everything is new for the Yankees. They’re practicing in the fiery pits of Mordor under the supervision of the great eye known as Steinbrenner.
It’s that time of year where base­ball enthusiasts can come up with re­ason after reason why their favorite team will make it to the playoffs. Red Sox fans are saying that their supe­rior pitching will lead them to a World Series. Mariners fans are saying that they will have the opportunity to win one more year before the team files for bankruptcy. For social security and Tiger fans are hoping for a meteor to strike the earth.
Peace, serenity and the highest de­gree of Zen accompany spring train­ing. For a split-second an individual player might actually be having fun in the newly cut grass and forget about the fact that this is his job. Af­ter all, compared to the NFL’s pre­season workouts, spring training is a glorified walk through the ballpark.
But that’s the beauty of it, you don’t see players passing out because of heat exhaustion, you see them having fun. It’s like little league: the games don’t count, the players get snacks afterwards and the manager is usually having a few light beers in the dugout. Of course, the games are being attended by a couple thousand people, the players are millionaires whose “snacks” include a grand banquet in the local four-star hotel, and the manager has moved on to hard liquor. But hey! This is America’s past­time. Isn’t it wonderful?
For some reason or another, spring training seems just a little more fun in the spring warmth, only baseball be­ing played and that’s the way it should be.
I know this is a rather romantic and philosophical view of spring training, but that’s what baseball is all about. Unlike other sports enti­ties, baseball has a long heritage, and Americans just seem to have a spe­cial place in their hearts for it.
So right now we can just sit back, watch the fly balls and enjoy the Shire.

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The Easterner 19
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