



Editor's NOTE: Saturday marks 36 years since Bundy struck CWU

BY DARCY WYTKO | Editor-in-Chief

It's not an urban legend. On April 17, 1974, serial killer Ted Bundy abducted 18-year-old Susan Elaine Rancourt from Central Washington University's campus.

The book "The Only Living Witness: The True Story of Serial Sex Killer Ted Bundy" by Stephen G. Michaud and Hugh Aynesworth describes the incident in detail based on police reports.

According to Michaud and Aynesworth, Susan attended a meeting for prospective dorm counselors at 8 p.m. on the night of her abduction. After the meeting ended, she was off to meet a friend to see a movie. Susan never showed. She never returned to her dorm either. Her roommate reported her missing to campus police the next afternoon.

The police searched for her for nearly a year. Ads were placed in Washington newspapers offering a \$1,000 reward for any information leading to her whereabouts. She was described as being 5'2" and 118 pounds with blue eyes and blonde shoulder-length hair.

"She has not called home, her residence hall at Central Washington State College, any of her known friends, or has been seen with anyone since Wednesday," the ad read. "She was last seen wearing a bright yellow finger-tip length ski jacket ..."

The ad said to contact Central or any local law enforcement agency. He listed 509-963-1111 as a phone number to call - the number for CWU campus directory.

At the bottom of the listing it read, "This ad placed by her father, Dale Rancourt," followed by his Alaska address. He told the Seattle Times that if it had been any of his other children (Susan was one of six), he wouldn't have worried because they'd have been back in a few days.

"But not Susan," he said. "She always was very careful."

Around the same time, several female students reported being approached on campus by a man with his arm in a sling. The man asked for help carrying a load of books to his Volkswagen Beetle. It is believed that Susan agreed to help the seemingly injured Bundy, and this is how he was able to abduct her.

In March of 1975, Susan's fractured skull was found on Taylor Mountain, located just off Highway 18 between Hobart and Issaquah, alongside the remains of several other victims. Only skulls, lower jaws, and teeth were found, as Bundy had taken to decapitating his victims with a hacksaw after beating and raping them to death. Bundy admitted to killing Susan shortly before his execution in 1989. He was never formally charged with her murder.

Susan was a freshmen biology major and former cheerleader and high school homecoming queen. She had hoped to become a doctor someday.

This Saturday marks 36 years since her abduction. Though Central's campus may feel safe, it is important to remember that sexual assault and murder are more than just a possibility - they are common occurrences. If you don't feel safe walking on campus in the evenings, call CWU's Courtesy Assistance Team (CAT) at 509-963-2950. CAT provides walking companions for students and staff during primarily at night. The service is free and provided daily. You can also call CWU Public Safety and Police Services at 509-963-2959. For information on how to prevent sexual assault, visit the Wildcat Wellness Center online at www.cwu.edu/~wellness.

The editorial views expressed here are those of the writers and not necessarily the views of the staff at large, the student body, or the faculty and administration. They are not to be considered the official views of CWU.



Observance Hey you, riding the bicycle!

BY BENJAMIN PITMAN | Copy Desk

I am saluting those of us who are giving an honest effort to reduce the amount of everyday waste. That's right, you riding the bicycle. I am applauding you for your efforts to reduce the amount of money spent at the gas pump and taking one car off of the roads.

Why is this sort of behavior not encouraged more?

Are we truly going green? Sure, the CWU campus does a good job with recycling issues. There are recycling bins all throughout this campus.

However, there are so many more ways that our college can do better.

One area that could have a better resolution is the parking situation. We have students who are driving around in circles for 30-45 minutes.

I don't need to go into a terrible amount of depth as to how harmful this kind of activity is to our planet, because by now we should all be aware that CO2 emissions are destroying the Ozone

Layer and in return our environment along with endangering human health.

If I were the individual calling the shots here at CWU, I would tackle this issue head on, by turning this campus into a pedestrian campus.

This means that all individuals entering campus would be either on foot, bicycle or long board/skateboard.

All motorized vehicles would be banned from campus. On the pedestrian campus there would be special permits of course for the individuals with special needs. There would be parking lots for those who still need to drive to Ellensburg everyday in order to attend class, but these parking lots would be miles away from campus.

A solution to the long walk from these lots on the cold and windy days that the Kittitas Valley is known for could be a shuttle bus system.

"If I were the individual calling the shots here at CWU, I would tackle this issue head on, by turning this campus into a pedestrian campus."

Dear Reader,

No letters this week ...

[Even with Jeremy's article last week bashing Obama for procrastination? Really?]

The Observer welcomes brief letters (300 words or less) from readers on current issues. Please include your full name and university affiliation: year and major, degree and year graduated, or staff position and department. For letters to be printed in the following week's issue, please e-mail your letters to cwuobserveropinion@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Monday. The Observer reserves the right to edit for style and length. Anonymous letters will not be considered.



Observance Yeah, that's my real hair. I donated it to Locks of Love.

BY KATHARINE LOTZE
Asst. Photo Editor

The last time my hair was this short, I was in the eighth grade, and I hated it. I wore my hair up every single day until I determined it was long enough. So, when Central's National Residence Hall honorary chapter put on its yearly Locks of Love drive, I thought I would be the last person to donate my hair, even though nearly everyone I knew suggested that I should. I just thought, especially since it was windy, that I could stick it up in a bun and avoid the SURC at all costs on the day of the event.

But as the day of the event neared, I found myself flip-flopping back and forth over the idea of donating 10 inches - no wait - six, well, maybe four, but six would be better. And then I would remember how much I had hated my last "short" haircut and completely change my mind again. The closer April 8 came, the more I leaned toward donating.

And I did. Between the actual donation itself and the cut-n-style, my hair now falls about seven inches shorter than it's been in nearly five years.

It was a bittersweet feeling to look in the mirror afterward and see just how short my once Rapunzel-like locks had become, but the feeling of regret was quickly replaced by the thought of the child who would receive a hairpiece made of my hair.

Last quarter, in Toby Staab's Writing and Reporting for Print Journalism class, I wrote an article highlighting the "Look Good ... Feel Better" program provided by the American Cancer Society and local cosmetologist Mary McClary. LGFB provides local cancer patients with makeup, wigs and other head coverings, along with instruction on how to apply the makeup and hairpieces so that patients can look their best while undergoing radiation therapy for cancer.

In the course of writing my article, I attended a LGFB class and I saw firsthand how important something as simple as having a wig can be to someone who has lost their hair to a medical condition. It can truly make a difference in how a person feels about themselves and increases their self-esteem dramatically.

Knowing that my hair will go to someone who needs it more than I do is possibly one of the best feelings I have ever experienced.

Makai Hirschman, my roommate Khylee's little brother, is 10 years old and has already donated all of his hair, totaling 10 inches, and is currently in the process of growing it out again with the intention of once again, shaving his head and donating every inch to Locks of Love. His older sister plans to join him next time, and perhaps, if mine grows quickly enough, so will I.

Tips on donating your hair to Locks of Love:

- * Hair that is colored or permed is acceptable.
- * Hair cut years ago is usable if it has been stored in a ponytail or braid.
- * Hair that has been bleached is not usable.
- * Hair that is shaved off and not in a ponytail or braid is not usable. If shaving your head, first divide hair into multiple ponytails to cut off.
- * Dreadlocks, wigs, falls, hair extensions and synthetic hair cannot be donated.
- * Layered hair is acceptable if the longest layer is 10 inches.
- * Layered hair may be divided into multiple ponytails.
- * Curly hair may be pulled straight to measure the minimum 10 inches.
- * 10 inches measured tip to tip is the minimum length needed for a hairpiece.

Deadlines:

Weekend sports information: Mon. 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Letters to the editor: Sun. 5 p.m.

Entertainment, meetings, calendar events: Fri. 5 p.m.
Display ads: Fri. 5 p.m.
Classified Ads: Fri. 5 p.m.
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