

Editor's NOTE: Ralph Nader, the Dusty 45s, & why music matters

BY DARCY WYTKO | Editor-in-Chief

In 2000, I went to a Ralph Nader benefit at Madison Square Garden – but it wasn't to see Ralph Nader. Patti Smith was playing. So was Eddie Vedder, Ani DiFranco, and Ben Harper.

Now, Nader's speech was impressive (the man is the reason there are seatbelts in cars, after all), but it was the music that truly held all the power.

Music is everything to me. My most treasured possessions are the guitars given to me by my family, and my favorite gifts are mixed tapes and homemade CDs from friends.

I once spent a summer working part time for musician Mark Pickerel at Ellensburg's Rodeo Records before it closed. It was the worst financial decision I ever made. This was at a time before iPods, back when the term "pirate" still referred to a drunk person on a boat. You had to rifle through thrift store racks for vinyl, and had to special order CDs by Tom Waits and the Velvet Underground.

Mark was an absolute prince. He would let me order whatever I wanted, and at a discount price, too. It was like a cheap candy store for my ears.

Every cent I earned went right back into the shop. I ordered tons of Nina Simone, developed an unhealthy love for Motorhead, and got turned on to bands like the Sonics and the Saints (Mark, Mike and Jason, I'm eternally grateful). Then, as

broke as ever, I moved back to New York, where I saw Nader.

The Nader benefit sold out, and I had an amazing seat behind Thom Yorke from Radiohead and watched him talk politics with MCA from the Beastie Boys. After Nader was finished speaking, Patti Smith closed the night with a performance of "People Have the Power," and it was mind-blowing.

Music is political, it's passionate, and it expresses all the things that words can't. It can be felt and experienced in a way that cuts to the core of all of us, or it can be a simple, fun, creature comfort.

This weekend, spend some time with music you love. Check out the amazing Dusty 45s and Ellensburg's own Star Anna at Raw Space tonight. Tomorrow, help local band Open Country Joy celebrate the release of their debut album.

If you're getting ready for the Sasquatch Festival, check out "The Sounds of Sasquatch," our new weekly music review of the latest albums by Sasquatch bands.

If rock isn't your thing, check out the CWU musical "Secret Garden," the John Moawad tribute, or an upcoming Jazz Nite.

Or just turn on the radio and listen.



For information on the Dusty 45s, see "Dusty 45s" p. 11

For more information on Ralph Nader, see "Ralph Nader" on p. 3

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 Constantly Wasted University = C.W.U. (but don't judge the tailgaters too quickly)

BY TIM PARK | Copy Desk

Last Saturday folks started pouring into the gravel parking lot in front of Tomlinson Stadium as early as 9 a.m. to set up their pre-game festivities, otherwise known as tailgating, for the annual Crimson vs. White spring football game. The team may have lost 15 starters from last year's championship squad, but it was obvious they still own the hearts of the fans.

As I walked around the parking lot and checked out everyone's tailgate, I realized how proud I was to be a Central student. We may be a Division II school that loses out on sports headlines to schools like UW and WSU, but damn it, we sure know how to party!

Tailgating is a huge part of American culture during football season, and Central fans may have raised the bar of what a real tailgate should look like.

One set-up that stood out above the rest was the Constantly Wasted University tailgate in the northwest corner of the parking lot. In my opinion, the CWU acronym doesn't belong to the school anymore. I'd say it belongs to the Constantly Wasted University crew.

Their crew consisted of 15-20 college friends who didn't want to just set up your every day tailgate. Instead, they raised the bar by hiring everyone's favorite disk jockey, DJ Gunshot, to setup his bumpin' system and really get the party moving.

On top of that, the crew set up a BBQ grill,

couches, a pong table, and even went through the trouble of pitching a six-man tent with a hookah burning.

The Constantly Wasted University crew plans to have this same setup going for every home football game this fall. They all wear the infamous Constantly Wasted University T-shirts that feature a picture of a stick-man doing a keg stand on the front.

If you see someone wearing a Constantly Wasted University T-shirt, don't be quick to judge. Sure, they're college kids who love to have a good time and socialize, but partying is not all they're involved in.

On Friday before the game, the group hosted a charity car wash at 7-11 to raise money and canned food for the local food bank, F.I.S.H.. They washed cars for five hours, raised nearly \$100 dollars in donations and collected more than 80 non-perishable food items.

They enjoyed themselves so much during their community service efforts that they plan on continuing the donation car wash once a month at the same location.

The crew is hopeful that more people will come out and tailgate for the games. Everyone is invited to join the real C.W.U. party, whether it's in the Tomlinson Stadium parking lot pre-funking the football games or weekend afternoons at 7-11 washing cars.

"We may be a Division II school that loses out on sports headlines to schools like UW and WSU, but damn it, we sure know how to party!"

Dear Editor,

It is interesting to read people's responses to religion. Mr. Seidl recently stated his nausea over a sign that called for a National Day of Prayer. He asked why there was no day of Islamic prayer, or Jewish prayer. I saw that sign and I don't remember any mention of whom was asked to pray. Anyone of any faith was asked to pray in their own way according to their own faith. How much more open can one get?

I suppose it is not who can pray but that prayer was even suggested which upset him. I have a suggestion for people who want to use the First Amendment or our Founding Fathers to ban religious practices. This country was founded in a large part by people who believed in God. They each worshipped or acknowledged God in their own way, but few denied his existence. If the Founding Fathers had wanted secular humanism to be the standard, why are their documents so full of references to God, Divine Creator, or similar phrases? What they vehemently fought against was the establishment of what in 15th through 18th century parlance, was called a religion, the making of a certain manner of worship to be the only "authorized" practice. In England it was the Anglican religion, in Germany Lutheran, in Scotland various forms of Presbyterianism, France, Spain, and Italy, Roman Catholic, etc. They were fighting against prescribing a practice, never against God's existence. The atheist "standard" didn't come about until the 1940s and '50s with the work of people like Madelyn Murray O'Hair.

Like you, I too am thankful that I do not live in an Islamic nation. At least here you can be a vocal atheist and no one will haul you off to a re-education camp in the desert or simply execute you for speaking your opposition.

Steven Douglas
CWU Staff

As a student parent on campus I understand that I am a minority. But what I hope other students and staff on campus realize is that we have a lot more going on than the traditional student. We don't get to sleep in until all hours of the morning, maybe our kids were up sick in the middle of the night or the baby woke up screaming at 5 a.m. I have learned to function on very little sleep. On occasion I bring my boys with me to the library or computer lab to print off my homework. What I don't appreciate is all the stares and snickers as I walk by with my children. I understand that it may not seem like a big deal to the people who are snickering and whispering but let me tell you I notice it and it makes me feel as though I'm not very welcome on campus, at least in places like the SURC and the library fishbowl.

I feel it is very important to bring my kids on campus so they can see where I am during the day while they are at daycare and why it is that I cannot be home with them. So I will continue to bring my kids with me so they feel welcome as well and feel like they are part of my "student life" because, after all, my "student life" and my "mom life" are one in the same. Please if you feel that my kids are out of line in the SURC or even if you think they are cute, please tell me to my face rather than say it behind my back. It is after all because of my kids that I'm here furthering my education.

Lisa Fields
Junior, Public Health Pre-Nursing Specialization
Wife and Mother of three

You may have seen the posters in campus buildings and residence halls, or seen us tabling in the SURC or downtown at Lilly's and wondered: "GYT? What is that?"

The Get Yourself Tested (GYT) campaign is an ongoing partnership of MTV, the Kaiser Family Foundation, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to help young people make responsible decisions about their sexual health.

It's a scary fact that one in two people will get a sexually transmitted disease (STD) by the age of 25—and even scarier that most won't know it. Of the approximately 19 million cases of new sexually transmitted diseases that occur every year in the U.S., most will go undiagnosed. STDs often have no symptoms; so many of those who are infected don't know it and can give the diseases to someone else.

Lack of information, misconceptions and social stigma keep many people from getting tested. That's why we're here—to help remove the taboos surrounding STD testing, and to remind our friends and peers to take care of themselves.

Testing for chlamydia and gonorrhea, two of the most common STDs, is easier than ever before with many clinics—including our local Planned Parenthood health center on Pine Street—now offering urine-based tests. Diagnosis and treatment of STDs is critical to safeguarding personal health, fostering sexual responsibility and addressing the wider STD epidemic.

It's easy, it's fast, and it'll keep you healthy. For more information, visit iysl.com (It's Your Sex Life.com) or call Planned Parenthood at 925-7113. Seriously, CWU. GYT.

Katie Wood
Senior, Psychology Major, Social Services Minor

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.
cwuobserver@gmail.com

Observer Newsroom
9 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Bouillion 222
CWU, 400 E. University Way
Ellensburg, WA 98926
509-963-1073