

Dear Readers

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. To be printed in the following week's issue, please e-mail your letters to cwuobserveronline@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Monday. The Observer reserves the right to edit for style and length.

Anonymous letters will not be considered.



JEREMY'S JURISDICTION

Bigots? In my 'murrica?

BY JEREMY VIMISLIK | Opinion Editor

I saw something today that agitated my bile duct.

The Topeka, Kansas, Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) has several dozen members, most of whom originate from the Phelps family. Fred Phelps, the pastor, and his zealous daughter Shirley Phelps-Roper have picketed 43,327 times in over 650 cities.

They stand on street corners holding signs that read "Thank God for 9/11," "Jews are the real Nazis," "Obama is the antichrist," "God hates America," and "Thank God for dead soldiers." They are hyper-Calvinists who believe everyone is damned and everyone will burn in hell. Still, their actions speak loudly. They continue to live in America and use their freedom of speech, which has been protected by the very soldiers they picket. Found on their website; "The Ku Klux Klan, LLC. has not or EVER will have ANY connection with The 'Westboro Baptist Church.' We absolutely repudiate their activities." Now, if the KKK says, "Whoa guys, that's a bit too far," you know you have hit rock bottom.

The WBC regularly pickets fallen soldiers' funerals, claiming that since the military allows homosexuals to serve ("When Adam sinned, all sinned" - Shirley), all soldiers are guilty of sodomy and therefore deserve to burn in hell. They picketed Heath Ledger's funeral because of his leading role in the blockbuster film "Brokeback Mountain." Shirley said on FOX's Hannity & Colmes that the Pennsylvania Amish school massacre in 2008 was deserved. Several states have created laws to keep picketers hundreds of yards away from funeral services because of the actions of the WBC. They were banned from entering the United Kingdom for fostering extremism before they even stepped foot on UK soil.

In 2003, the CWU community had our very own encounter with the WBC. They travelled here to picket the Theatre Department's presentation of "The Laramie Project." For those who don't know, the Laramie Project was based off the true story of Matthew Shepard, a University of Wyoming student who was tortured and murdered in 1998 because of his homosexuality.

I am not entirely convinced either way, but I believe that if there is a God, he gave us free will to make decisions for ourselves. He wants us to test ourselves with the power of free will, to make our own decisions - mistakes and all. The true test of devotion would be to keep faith throughout life, correct? I believe the qualities of a good life are the simple ones: don't hurt others, don't squander your life, help others, etc. Since the Bible was written through the interpretation of men, I would hope that a benevolent God would appreciate my apprehension of blind faith and rather see my compassion and perseverance in everything that I do. In the meantime, I will proudly counterpicket these inbred crazies alongside my alternate-lifestyle peers and military friends.

You can check out the WBC yourself at www.godhatesfags.com/ or YouTube.

Ask Tina Sparkle:

Dear Tina,

With the sun coming out and the weather trying to get a little nicer I decided to go sun tan ... well my tan kind of turned into a BURN. Ouchies! So I was wondering if you knew how to get this sunburn to go away, it hurts!!

Thanks, Charcoal



Dear Charcoal,

Actually, yes I do know how to help with that sunburn, being as I'm a "Day-walker," lol. Hopefully people know what that is, if not, look it up on Southpark - it's basically a ginger kid.

A sunburn is obviously when you are out in the sun too much and you get burned, DUH! But a lot of people don't realize that the red skin is skin that is so hot that it's still cooking itself. The best thing to do is to get into a COLD, and I mean COLD shower. Also remember to keep sun block on the burn and stay out of the sun.

Sun block is, from what most people think, only used to keep the sun off your body. Yes and no. It's actually to help keep your skin from cooking itself. So when you put sun block on after you've already been burned it helps prevent the skin from doing any more damage than has already occurred. From my experience with this technique, it works, and it helps tan you out too!

Some people will tell you to just go get

aloe vera. WRONG! That's only if you don't do my method; Aloe Vera will NOT take away the burn, it only helps it so you don't peel after the burn has gone away. That is it, NOTHING ELSE!

So remember, when you get a sun burn, use sun screen or sun block. Or if you want a nice dark tan, get some sun tanning sun block lotion, sun tanning lotion is activated by heat. I use "Ocean Potion Suncare: Xtreme Tanning with instant bronzer." It's an indoor and outdoor sun block and sun tan all in one! And girl, let me tell you what, if you want a tan fast, get that and put it on your burn. Trust me.

Another fun fact with the sunny days to come, make sure all you kids are putting chap stick on when you go play in the sun, because YES, your lips can get sun-burned to, and your lips have the most nerve endings on your entire body. Think about that. Most nerve endings - with a sunburn! AHH!

LOVE ALWAYS, *Tina Sparkle*

Don't forget to write in, I won't bite - that hard. asktinasparkle@yahoo.com



Deep Thoughts

BY QUINN EDDY | Thinker

My friends,

I was just listening to Justin Bieber thinking of you.

Text that to someone and see what happens.

When someone says they're about to study, they say, "I'm gonna go hit the books." I always feel like the books hit me. Are Central's textbooks too abusive?

Some day I want to walk into a bar and order a Quinnocolada.

The funniest thing that's ever happened to me at Safeway was when I ran into a good friend and attempted to engage in small talk by casually asking, "Hey, what'd you get?" She replied, "doughnuts and tampons," since then I've never entered a Safeway with a straight face.

Instead of saying "I'm leaving" I like to say that I'm hitting the dusty trail.

It's really awesome when my Mom does my laundry because she'll make sure my chapstick won't go through the dryer and get all stupid. There's nothing that hurts more than when a Burt's Bees has to be thrown away due to the classic dryer mistake. Don't be afraid to ask her if she's still dating that wimpy dude.

If I ever stole a bike, I'd spray paint it yellow. They wouldn't suspect a thing because it's just a yellow bike.

The Observer editorial staff hates it

when I switch gears like this but it has to be done. Sometimes you have to put on your writing pants.

Sunday night at 11:30 Jared Thomas a Central Alumnus passed away. I lived with Jared in Sparks freshman year; he fixed my Xbox.

Earlier that day I went to Zeek's Pizza in the Issaquah Highlands where he worked for my Mother's Day dinner. I wondered where he was and if he'd ever found that job he was looking for. This is what King 5 had to say about his accident:

"The Washington State Patrol says a trooper was in the middle of a traffic stop on the state route in King County when a motorcycle sped by him doing a wheelie at a speed he estimated to be about 100 mph."

I wanted a street bike very badly up until about the end of this sentence.

The fact that I'm playing the original Halo on the Xbox that he fixed for me must fit under the definition of hitting home.

Maybe my car chase dream is something that should be left as just that - a dream. Jared, you taught me a very important lesson this week.

No matter how badly I wish it were so, we aren't invincible.



REALationships 101: Got noisy neighbors?

BY ERICA SPALTI | Online Editor

We have all experienced it at some point: you had an early start to your day and you are about ready to crawl into bed and then you hear it. Your next-door neighbors start blasting the "Thizz" song or they start playing older T-Swift. Now, I am not against T-Swift, but I am against loud music blasting after the hour of 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday.

If you didn't know already, Ellensburg's noise ordinance is in effect 24 hours a day. If someone can hear you from 100 feet away they can call the police and you could get a noise violation. However, that distance is reduced to 50 feet away if it is between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 p.m. If you didn't know that, then you might not know that noise violations can get quite spendy.

Now you might be thinking "how do I avoid that?" Well, I'll tell you. I am an intern in the Wellness Center on campus and I work with the Campus - Community Coalition. If you have not already gone to the neighborhood relations website, I strongly encourage you to, because if you have problems with your neighbors like I did, this website will become your new best friend. I am not going to repeat the whole website back to you (I'll give you a chance to go explore for yourself), but I will give you some advice on how to prevent and solve problems with your noisy neighbors.

Communication is key! The best ad-

vice I can give is to introduce yourself to your neighbor and tell them what kind of person you are (BEFORE there even is a problem). Be polite and courteous and tell them "My name is Jane and I kind of like peace and quiet. However, I don't mind if you are going to throw a party, but if you could let me know in advance that would be really awesome. Or if you could just keep it down after say 11 p.m.?"

And if you are the one throwing the parties, go to your surrounding neighbors and just give them a heads up! Say "Hey we are having a party this weekend and we just wanted to let you know. If the noise becomes a problem please come and let us know."

This past fall, we went out and surveyed a few neighborhoods in the community and on campus, just to get an idea as to how things were going on and off campus. What we found was very interesting. Check out the facts, and the website, and remember to be a good neighbor. If you have some concerns about your neighborhood and want to do something about it, sign up to volunteer for the good neighbor follow up survey.

We will be going out May 18 through 27. If you are interested, please visit www.takeactioncwu.com and look for the "Wellness Center: Good Neighbor Survey Follow-up."

X.O.X.O. Erica

- 74.8% of CWU students said that they have a plan in place to prevent guests from driving drunk.
- 97.5% of Students said that they would prevent people from drinking and driving and 83.4% said they would keep the noise level down in order to keep the party safe and legal.
- 88.9% of all the people surveyed think that CWU students make good neighbors!

• Did you know your first noise violation is \$250.00, your second is \$500.00, and your third is \$1000.00! If you think you can just write a check and pay it off, think again. If you get a violation and you are a CWU student, CWU is notified and you face campus sanctions. This includes meetings with the Chief Conduct Officer and the Campus-Community Coalition.

Got a relationship problem and you need some outside advice? Send me an e-mail me at cwuobserveronline@gmail.com