



Editor's

NOTE: I have a better idea ...

BY DARCY WYTKO | Editor-in-Chief

If you like a clean campus, hug a custodian. If you like people who help you navigate the choppy waters of university paperwork, bring an office worker flowers. Speaking of flowers – if you like them adorning our university’s landscape, thank a groundskeeper.

These custodians, office workers and groundskeepers make up a large percentage of the classified staff of Central Washington University, and they all too often go unappreciated.

On Monday, during the campus budget forum, President Gaudino announced that 10 to 15 classified or exempt staff members will lose their jobs at the end of June. Another 175 will have their hours slashed. Within the next two weeks, staff will be notified of how their jobs will be affected.

“If you have a better idea, you have two weeks,” Gaudino said.

I have a better idea.

Instead of classified employees carrying the burden of the budget on their backs, why don’t high-up members of the administration take a pay cut in addition to the much-appreciated weeks of work without pay they’ve donated to the CWU Foundation? Instead of making cuts from the bottom to the top, why not make a few cuts from the top down? It’s the classified staff who are already struggling financially, and it’s not fair to balance the budget on their backs.

The yearly salaries earned by classified staff are peanuts compared to the six-figure incomes earned by many members of the administration. Why not eliminate one six-figure position and keep several classified staff members? Or better yet, what if several six-figure salary earners were to sacrifice \$5,000 from their yearly salary so that just one classified staff member could keep their job? (That said, some of the layoffs may indeed involve administrators, but details haven’t been announced yet.)

I think that people like custodians and secretaries matter. They’re the ones who say hello and make me feel welcome on campus. I believe that no matter what your position, the point of working at a university is to promote learning and responsible citizenship, not just earn a salary.

To the CWU administration: If you’re here because you’re in it for a high salary and don’t care about education, you’re the ones we can’t afford to keep. We all understand that a job is a job, but deep down, most students still believe a heart is a heart. If you want to make a living and help some kids learn and become better people, fight to stay here. You’re the ones the students can’t afford to lose - no matter what budget battles we face in the months ahead.

*Darcy Wytko*

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

Ahh, geez ...

My life as a Wisconsinite

BY MCKENZIE GARDNER | Copy Desk

I come from a land of beer, cheese and brats; a land where the Green Bay Packers are a religion and tailgating is a sport. My neighbors talk like they’re straight out of “Fargo” and when they need a drink of water, they go to the bubbler.

That’s right, I hail all the way from the great Dairy State of Wisconsin. Although Washington is just a few wide open states away, it feels like a whole new world out here. Who knew that so many little cultural differences could add up and make me feel so homesick for my cheesehead-wearing pals back east?

For example, in Wisconsin, we don’t “pre-funk,” we pre-game. When things are “bomb,” that does not mean they are cool; it means they are dangerous and explosive. Also, in Wisconsin, you can buy liquor just about anywhere. It’s a one-stop shop to get a bottle, a chaser and a case of beer – all until 9 p.m. (and all for about \$20 cheaper than it is here).

And what about the stereotype that the West Coast is incredibly laid back? Well, as an outsider

looking in, it’s true. Not all college professors accept late assignments without penalty and not all drivers are content driving 20 miles per hour through town. The pace of life is much slower, which can be a blessing or a curse.

However, despite all of my tiny grievances, I have loved every second of living here. The people are friendly, life is peaceful and the landscape alone warms my heart every day. After years of living amongst the flat farmlands of the Midwest, I’ve gotten to enjoy incredible views of rolling hills and immense mountains this year. I experienced my first rodeo, went on my first “real” hike up the Manastash Ridge and am looking forward to floating the Yakima next month.

Since moving here, I’ve had to adjust my vocabulary, tone down my road rage and learn to buy my liquor in the afternoon. My nasally accent is slowly fading and my body clock has officially shifted back two hours. And although I’ve accepted all these changes and embraced the Washington way of life, I will forever be a Wisconsinite at heart. On Wisconsin!

“Since moving here, I’ve had to adjust my vocabulary, tone down my road rage and learn to buy my liquor in the afternoon.”

Dear Editor,

The following letter was received on April 27:

As I headed to student teaching this morning, I noticed something quite nauseating as I drove down University Avenue: a large banner announcing the National Day of Prayer taking place Thursday, May 6. It amazes me that our country, which functions through a constitution that demands secularism, still wishes to impose this unconstitutional, meaningless activity. It is nothing short of religious indoctrination, which violates the establishment clause of the First Amendment.

Why is there not a national day of Islamic prayer? Or Jewish prayer? One might say, “not everyone in this country is Jewish.” Well, fortunately not everyone in this country is religious at all. In fact, there is a larger population of non-religious Americans (17 percent) than any other minority, and it is quickly growing as priests continue to molest children and logical people begin to accept the falsity of silly Bible fables they were told as a child.

What’s more believable? That the physiology of snakes was mutated to create fully operational vocal chords, or illiterate people from bronze-age Palestine told a lie? The truth of the bible is not what is relevant in this case. President James Madison, nicknamed the “Father of the Constitution,” summarizes in his own words the First Amendment: “Congress should not establish a religion and enforce the legal observation of it by law, nor compel men to worship god in any manner ...”

Our country is so fail-safe that no group, however large, can take over. I applaud President Obama for outlawing a special day of prayer within the White House, but I am annoyed that it is apparently necessary for the rest of the country. I suppose it could be worse ... Thank God I don’t live in Iran.

Mark Seidl  
Senior, Vocal Performance

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 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.



JEREMY’S

JURISDICTION

Tattoos!

BY JEREMY VIMISLIK |  
Opinion Editor

When did the tramp stamp become trampy? The small of a woman’s back is a beautiful part of her anatomy. Who is to say that she is a floozy just because she has a tattoo above her bum? Unless it plunges into her bum, which, thankfully, I’ve never seen - I think she’s in the clear. Is it just because it was so popular? Personally, I think the new tramp stamps are the rose on the hip, zodiac sign on the back of the neck, script on foot or those ridiculous nautical stars - anywhere.

Tattoos are a great form of personal expression and creativity. They can convey desires, fears, memories and ... stupidity.

Before considering getting inked, decide what you want and ask yourself what it means to you. Do not just find something on the wall of the first shop you walk into. You will regret it.

Give a lot of thought to your placement. I’ve always loved my forearms and think a tattoo would look great on them, but have waited for the sake of employment opportunities. I knew a CWU student last year that had full sleeve tattoos. I asked him once if he considered limited employment later in life because of his tattoos, and he gave me a great piece of advice. He said that any job that would care would be a job that he would probably have to cover them with a suit anyway. Another friend of mine with about \$15,000 of tattoos, piercings and brands told me the only ones he regrets are the ones on his back, because he can’t see them easily.

Ever since I was a kid, I always loved tattoos and knew I wanted one. The hard part was deciding what to get and where to get it. Not just where on my body, but what artist and shop to ink me. Before I got my tattoo, I took two years deciding on where and what to get, and another year deciding on which shop to get it and what design to get. In that last year, I narrowed my search down to two very reputable shops. I sat in on tattoos being done and later came in to make an appointment at my favorite shop.

The artist got some pointers from me and called me back a week later with a design. If a tattoo artist can only trace, then he is not an artist and should not be the one to tattoo you. It was a beautiful design but I had to tone it down because he had a huge rock waterfall and about 175 percent of what I had room (and money) for.

I ended up getting a Koi, a variation of the common carp and

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Mon. 3 p.m. -5 p.m.  
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