



## Staff profile: Kyle Nelson

Many people on campus who know Kyle Nelson think of him as the custodian and grounds guy who also works in the gym doing the laundry for the athletic teams, helping to set up for basketball or volleyball games, or moving furniture into new offices. Fortunately, there is a lot more to him than meets the eye.

Nelson, who is the interim director of custodial and grounds, is marking his 28<sup>th</sup> year with the college. That stint includes nine years as an assistant baseball coach and four as the head coach. What many do not know is that he was a star baseball pitcher for the local Babe Ruth team that competed in the Babe Ruth World Series, eventually finishing fifth in the nation.

He is a 1973 graduate of Centralia High School who pitched Green River Community College to a championship in 1975, posting a personal 12-0 record. Nelson received full-ride scholarship offers from the likes of Stanford, UCLA, Gonzaga, Boise State,

and others before accepting an offer from the University of Puget Sound.

His baseball career ended with an arm injury and he returned to Centralia where he worked as a landscaper, opened the Batting Cage, (a business to help train baseball pitchers and hitters) and worked as an assistant, then full-time baseball coach at Centralia College. He did return to UPS to complete his undergraduate degree in education in 1982.

Nelson, in addition to coaching, served as the athletic equipment custodian before becoming a full-time employee with Centralia College

in 1986. He continued running his private businesses. "I would work from 5:30 in the morning until 10 at night, something I did for 20 years. There was always something going on," he said. "It probably sounds crazy but I did get a lot out of it."

Now he is looking for new challenges at the college. "I really enjoy working here. Anyone who stays 28 years with the same organization would have to enjoy the organization and especially the people," said Nelson. "I've worked along side some really great people over the years; they help make this a great place."

Nelson cites his roots in Centralia as the reason he stays. He was asked to coach at UPS, and did so for a year, but turned that and other offers down to stay at home.

"I was born and raised here, my family is here, my business (which he sold in 2005) is here, and my association with the college has allowed me to work with the athletic teams, stay connected with

young people and to contribute to the community. These are things I enjoy; this work keeps me young," he said.

Working in the grounds arena gives Nelson the opportunity to continue with his landscaping interest. He will be able to draw on his years of landscaping experience as he coordinates the work that needs to be done on campus.

Nelson enjoys the challenge of keeping the campus looking its best, but he confessed to a weakness for spending time with his wife in sunny destinations when the landscape demands in Centralia are at their winter minimums!



The **Board of Trustees** will meet on Thursday, February 8, in the Hanson boardrooms.

Please note a special starting time for this meeting of 2 p.m. Faculty, staff, students, and the public are invited to attend.



### The Muse

"Everyone is entitled to be stupid from time to time, I suppose, but lately it seems far too many are abusing the privilege."

—Anonymous—



## Birthday Party Dates

DICK ALLEN	1/29
JENNIFER DRESSLER (GHEC)	2/1
DARLENE BARTLETT	2/1
DAN TAYLOR	2/2
DARLENE RAHN	2/3
BRENDA NOVARRA	2/8
GENE SHRIVER	2/8

Note: If this list looks like the list we published last week it is because this is the list we published last week. We knew you'd understand.

As for that rubbish about romance being fallow in late April, remember that Ronald Reagan was born on Feb. 6.

So there!

## Sports schedule

### Men's basketball

Date	Opponent	Time
1/31	GRAYS HARBOR	8 p.m.
2/3	@ Tacoma	3 p.m.
2/7	BYE	

### Women's basketball

1/31	GRAYS HARBOR	6p.m.
2/3	@ Tacoma	1 p.m.
2/7	BYE	

## Lyceum

Programs for the remainder of the winter quarter are pretty well set, with an excellent variety of topics to consider. The Lyceum presentations are at 1 p.m. Wednesdays in Corbet Theatre.

2/7—**Valley View Health Centers.** Steven Clark talks about the success of these cost-conscious community health outreach facilities.

2/14—**He Said/She Said; He Meant/She Meant.** Doris Wood and Chris Bailey. You will have to attend to get the picture. All we ever got from that pair by way of explanation was doubletalk!

2/21—**US and Korea: Still at War.** Outspoken peace activist Larry Kershner presents another view of the situation.

2/28—**Lewis County in the World Economy.** The Chamber's Todd Christensen explains the connections.

# Brothers Four folk concert was a "Saturday smash" at Corbet Theatre

Those fortunate enough to have attended the Brothers Four concert last Saturday in Corbet Theatre know what a quality event it was. The enthusiastic, sell-out crowd was clearly into the spirit of this great performance of American folk music. During intermission and especially after the performance, many of those who lingered described the evening as "the best concert yet in the 'new' Corbet Theatre."

Even if you grab an old LP (a term for an archaic medium for playing music, known a few years ago as a "record") of this group's music, dust off the record player, and turn up the volume, you cannot recreate the excitement—neatly wrapped in nostalgia—of this live performance. There is no doubt The Brothers Four are quality entertainers.

The college did an outstanding service bringing in this group and the frosting on the cake, as if it were needed, was the W.F. West Westingers, the talented high school singers who performed solo and with the Brothers Four. Now the young singers can tell everyone that they performed in concert with world-class entertainers, and did themselves proud. We can only hope that this type of partnership will continue.

The Brothers Four carry their energy around the world, often performing in huge arenas to crowds numbering in the tens of thousands. It was, as expected, a singular treat to enjoy their infectious and sensitive folk performance in the elegant but intimate Corbet environment.

The songs were familiar to the point of being personal to much of Saturday's audience; scores of us joined in on the

choruses of those songs that meant so much to us in an earlier time. The blend of voices and harmony, the incredible acoustic virtuosity of the four, and the inroads of memory combined to cloak the auditorium in magic.

There truly was a magical energy to the performance and it was great listening to songs that had a tremendous impact on America and served as a catalyst of

change. Music is not given enough credit for its impact on individuals and society; the Brothers Four, true pioneers in folk music, remind us that it does.

Thanks, again, to the college for bringing in the Brothers Four. We should recognize the hard work that event coordinator

Candy Layman put into making the evening so perfect, to the students and



*Candy Layman with Brothers Four founder Bob Flick after Saturday's hit sellout at Corbet Theatre. Flick has kept the million-selling group together for generations of music fans to enjoy.*

members of Phi Theta Kappa for being our ushers and hard workers, to Jody Peterson and Ruby Nagelkerke for their supervision of a thousand and one essentials during the evening (and long before), to student worker Janet Cites for many hours of behind the scenes work, and to Tony Petzold for once again outfitting a flawless setting for all of us to enjoy.

Most of all, perhaps, our deepest appreciation goes to Arlie and Sharon Lyons, Bill and Jan Leth, and Judy McCoy who materially helped make the event happen. Sharon is sister to The Brothers Four's Mike McCoy. Judy, who died in 2006, is his mother.

The Brothers Four will certainly be a tough act to follow, and everyone—including the world's top folk foursome—agreed we should do this again. Soon!