HONOR & COURAGE
A glimpse into student veterans' lives

by Ken Stanton
Staff reporter

Veterans Day does not celebrate war, but it remembers the sacrifice. It does not remind Americans of losses, but of what those who have fought have given. This Veterans Day marks 89 years of commemorating men and women who have served in the country’s armed forces.

Central Washington University and the reserve officer training corps (ROTC) have many soldiers who have served or are still serving in Iraq. Many of these men and women play multiple roles as soldier, student, employee, husband or wife, father or mother and citizen all at the same time.

Michael Boitano, economics major, cadet in the Army ROTC and six-year National Guard veteran, served in Iraq from 2004 to 2005. Boitano is the first member of his immediate family to join the armed forces since his great grandfather.

The Central Washington University

Sanford's father served four years in the Air Force. Sanford always looked up to his father for his service, but it was his deep belief in his patriotic duty that made him want to join.

Sanford joined the Army on Aug. 31, 2001. In the aftermath of the tragedy, Sanford had both excitement and reservations, saying things such as “Alright! I’m ready to go!” and “We’re going to war, what did I just do?” Sanford’s greatest moment of irony came when he remembered telling his mother before joining, “It’s not like we’re going to war,” then 10 days later, we were going to war.

“I thought army life would be like basic training for four years, but it’s just a job,” Sanford said. “When you finish your training and you’re with your unit, it’s like any other job; you go to work and you go home.” Sanford said he was more excited and anxious than scared his first time being deployed to Afghanistan, but each deployment got a little easier as he knew what to expect. Being one of the first deployed to Afghanistan, he said he missed things such as good food and good beds, but by the time he went to Iraq, he had great food, great beds and air-conditioned rooms. Sanford said that by his last tour, all he really missed were his wife and family.

“Usually you don’t believe it,” Sanford said. “Usually they say ‘OK we’re going home on this day’ and you’re like OK sure. I’ll believe it when I’m on the airplane. That’s how I reacted, but it’s always a good feeling to know you’re going home.” Sanford said it was good, but odd, being home again. Because of his rotation of three months away and six months home, Sanford said you really have to be able to switch from war mode to regular life mode and back to war mode, and it was that switching that made it hard, saying it wasn’t horrible but it was interesting.

By Maggie Schmidt/Observer

November 8, 2007 - volume 81, number 6

VETERANS DAY HISTORY
On Nov. 11, 1918, Allied and German delegates signed an armistice which ended World War I. One year later, President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation that Nov. 11 should always be a day for remembering the soldiers who fought and died in service of our country. Veterans Day later became a holiday in the United States and received its current name in 1954.

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SEE VETERANS PAGE 4
ROTC claims second in Ranger Challenge

by Courtney Naccarato
Online editor

Being ready by 6 a.m. would be a growling task for most students. Yet for Central Washington University Army ROTC cadets, it became worth it to be up that early to come in second at the 13th Brigade Ranger Challenge against 17 other college programs.

Twenty cadets from Central competed in the Ranger Challenge that took place at Western Oregon University this past weekend. The cadets were split into two teams, Alpha and Bravo, with nine members participating and one alternate per team.

"There was loads of motivation from our side," said Cdt. Major Tom Lorenson, senior political science major and captain of the Alpha Team.

Cadets competed in seven events that form the Ranger Challenge: an army physical fitness test, a rope bridge, an M-16 weapon disassembly-assembly with a shuttle run, a land navigation course, which they had to find a coordinate and with a written practical which they have to find an unknown point from two known points, practice hand grenade assault course and a 10k run.

"It is physically and mentally challenging," Shannon Wilson, senior law and justice major and member of the Alpha Team. "Yet it is a good experience."

Out of the 17 schools in the 13th Brigade, six were present at this challenge. These six were split into two teams per school. Eastern Washington University brought one, therefore forming the 11 teams. There are three challenges throughout the year which split the schools, based on when they start their school year. Central was involved in the last of the three challenges.

Bravo team came in seventh place out of the 11 teams present.

Central’s Alpha team won first place in the rope bridge, hand grenade, 10k run and M-16, which put Alpha and Bravo in first place for this challenge.

"We were a strong team and in great shape," Lorenson said.

The Ranger Challenge is the only interschool competition for cadets to compete head-to-head in soldier tasks, according to Major Paul Sellers.

The cadets started practicing for the events once school starts. Five days a week, they are up at 6 a.m. to practice, which usually includes a five-mile run and going to Reecer Creek to practice land navigation.

"This challenge is a good way to bring the team together," Wilson said. "The individual tasks that you do will be used in the long run."

This was the first year that six schools competed against one another. For the past seven years Central has come in first or second competing against four schools.

Veteran’s Day Events

Ellensburg
- Nov. 10 - Veteran’s Day Parade @ 10:30 a.m. Starts on 7th Street between Ruby and Pine St.
- Nov. 10 - Spaghetti fed at the American Legion. Veterans eat free, $5 for non-veterans
- Nov. 10 - Veteran’s Day Barbecue for vets and family @ 11:30 a.m. located at the Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue station

Yakima
- Nov. 10 - Veteran’s Day Parade @ 11 a.m. Runs along Yakima Ave.

Visual stimulation

"The sky is the daily bread of the eyes." —Ralph Waldo Emerson
Washoe's memory lives in legacy

by Bryant Phillips
Scene editor

She was a mother, a friend, a leader and a beloved member of Central Washington University. Washoe's ability to connect with others reached across the globe and stirred thousands of people's hearts and minds, bridging a gap few thought was possible.

Jane Goodall once said, “It is individual chimps such as Washoe who played such a crucial role in clarifying our special evolutionary relationship with those creatures, which are our closest relatives.”

Washoe, as Goodall pointed out, was the “grand lady of the chimps” and the first to learn American Sign Language (ASL), beginning in 1966 when Beatrix and Allen Gardner raised the infant Washoe in their home as though she were a human child.

Through the research she provided and the lessons she had with humans, Washoe was the first to truly force humans to address what it means to be human. She was the start of humans realizing they weren’t so unique, and that other species could use our languages.

Wendy Shaw, former CHCI researcher, recalls the presence Washoe exhibited.

“There’s nothing that compared with being able to look into her eyes and share that time with her,” Wyatt said.

Watt said her favorite moment with Washoe came on the day when the chimps were moved into the new CHCI building in spring 1993.

“Washoe ran over and greeted Roger and Marlene, thwacked me and gave me a kiss through the glass,” Wyatt said. “It humbled me that she came to me after Roger and Debbie.”

Washoe was joined by other chimps that would eventually become her family, including Moja, Tatu, Dar and Louie.

“The whole time totally got behind the chimps when they first came here,” said Becky Watson, director of public relations and marketing at Central. “[The chimps] are one of those media stories that really let Central shine worldwide... we may be small, but that’s not to say we aren’t great.”

While many remember Washoe for her achievements as the first non-human to acquire a human language, her status as the matriarch of her family meant she was the focal point. She was also the first to pass on a human language to another non-human; she taught Louie most of the signs herself, and she would even touch sign to researchers, like Shaw.

“I still sign with a chimp accent,” Shaw said.

However, it was her ability to connect with individuals and her patient and nurturing character that those who knew her will remember most.

“I would like Washoe to be remembered as a loving and compassionate model of how to be a dear friend,” Deborah Fouts, director of the CHCI said.

Fouts said Washoe’s memory will continue through her, Louie, as well as through Dar and Tatu, the last three chimpanzees to use ASL. Moja passed away in 2002, and was the second oldest of the family.

Noella Wyatt, a CHCI speaker at Wednesday’s memorial talk, worked with the CHCI for 20 years.

“If everyone is very respectful of what happened to her, and that it was at a time when she was very young, and that we could all learn from her experience, that would be a great thing,” Wyatt said.

The memory of Washoe will live on through more than just those who knew her. The non-profit organization “Friends of Washoe” was established in 1981 to support Central’s chimps and the research that surrounds them.

The organization is asking those who wish to honor Washoe’s memory do so in the form of donations.

“Donations will help CHCI and ‘Friends of Washoe’ in their continuing study of inter-species communication and its effects on human beings’ understanding of other species,” Fouts said.

Deborah Fouts said that research will continue with the remaining chimps, and that no chimps will be added to CHCI at this time.

“It would be like adding a family member, you can’t replace a family member,” Lynn Whitacre, office manager at CHCI said.

Fouts said the chimps have been greatly affected by Washoe’s death.

“They are very quiet, they are eating and going on with their lives but they aren’t playing chase or tiddle,” Fouts said.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 12 on the lawn next to the CHCI building. For those who wish to share their memories of Washoe or the impact she has had, a tribute page has been added to the CHCI’s Web site at www.friendsofwashoe.org/washoe/
Veterans: Those who serve share their time overseas and their transitions back to civilian life.

Paul Sellars, major in the National Guard working full time in the ROTC department, has been in the Washington National Guard since January 1998 and spent most of his time in the 199th Special Forces group. Sellars was deployed to Kuwait prior to the invasion, and Afghanistan twice.

Sellars comes from a long line of service men and women. His father was in the Navy during World War II. Sellars's father deployed with him to join, but watching his father grow up, Sellars knew at an early age that he wanted to serve.

"I didn't really want to expect," Sellars said about his first deployment to Iraq. "I was still in high school during Desert Storm in '91, and I was just joining the military when all that stuff was going on in Bosnia so I never really deployed over there. But I was already Special Forces before Sep 11, I knew through all that training and stuff. I was as prepared as I could be before going to war."

During the first two months of being in Baghdad, mothering happened, he said.

They just cruised around looking for trouble and got shot at a couple times then when he realized he didn't really like that. Sellars worked closely with the Iraq people, and felt great pride about seeing how happy the Iraqis were to see my men intact, and dealing with the Iraqi people, and felt great pride that's when he realized he didn't really lose any teammates or anything."

But Sellars worked closely with recruiting officers as she desired to continue fr from cover.

Steve Sanford, senior Army ROTC cadet battalion commander, Major DeAnna Briddenak, central alumni, and Major Michael Boitaon, senior Army ROTC cadet captain pose for a photo in the Army ROTC office.

Staph infection information

by Curtis Crabtree
Asst. Sports editor

A worker on the second floor of Mitchell Hall was sent to the hospital on Monday with what is believed to be a case of antibiotic-resistant staph infection called MRSA.

Staph, or Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, is a type of staph infection that has become resistant to some forms of antibiotics, which makes it even more difficult to treat. The infection has built up an immunity through the over-use of antibiotics to treat viral infections as well.

"It's a precaution we take, whether it's the flu or anything else," Corona said. "According to Rohrbach, we take the issue on Monday. On Tuesday morning, an e-mail was sent to staff members on the second floor in regard to the possible situation."

According to Sandy Colson in the business office, on Monday morning, staff members located on the first floor had not been notified of the situation and were unaware of how the re-communication was the lack of a master list of the staff working on the first floor.

An open invitation was extended for anyone to come in if they were feeling like that took place at 3 p.m. Tuesday in the second floor conference room in Mitchell Hall.

Senior communications studies major and wide receiver on the football team, Chris Rohrbach, contracted MRSA after a game on Sept. 29 in Minotson.

"I got a turf burn during the game against St. Cloud State," Rohrbach said. "After the game, I made sure to clean it out and it wrapped, I constantly got it wrapped and cleaned with antiseptic wipes."

Rohrbach said that the injury started to develop white bumps several days after the game.

"I thought it was an allergic reaction to the tape they were using," Rohrbach said. Rohrbach stayed on antibiotics for two weeks on Thursday of the following week, but wasn't able to get to the Health Center to look at it. He then went to Western Oregon University on Oct. 13. According to Rohrbach, the Health Center gave him antibiotics to treat an infection, even though he didn't know it was MRSA at the time.

"All those after articles came out, I went to see a dermatologist and he cultured it and the results came back positive for MRSA," Rohrbach said.

Rohrbach stayed on antibiotic treatment for two weeks to treat the infection. He still has an open wound covered by a bandage a full five weeks after

HOW IS MRSA SPREAD? COULD THERE BE OUTBREAKS?

MRSA is spread by contact. This contact could range from close contact, such as holding hands, to even using the same hand towel as someone else. Public health officials typically do not advise closing schools or other facilities after an outbreak. Instead, officials recommend infected individuals seek care and protect against spreading the bug to others. Equipment and facilities should also be disinfected to avoid the spread of the disease.

How can we protect ourselves from MSRSA?

As with any infection, people are advised to wash their hands regularly and keep up with basic hygiene.

A list of symptoms that include redness, swelling, a change in sensation, tenderness and boils or blisters — sometimes including fever and chills — is needed to make sure an infection is being treated.

HOW IS THE BUG CHANGING TO A GREATER DANGER?

Most microbe pathogens, like MRSA, rapidly evolve, giving the bug the chance to become resistant to older antibacterial drugs. People who use antibiotics in a regular basis, or abuse their use are more likely to be affected by MRSA.

Staph Scare Hits His Campus
The evolution of English or the regression of thought

by Jessica May
Staff reporter

JLYK, YBS if U don’t learn how 2 rite ESL B4 its 2 B. Translation: Just to let you know, you will be sorry if you do not learn how to write in real life before it is too late.

Language is evolving, there is no doubt about that,” said Jack Baker, assistant to the vice president of student affairs and enrollment management.

“Things like ‘jk’ or ‘lol’ are never OK to use in a professional paper,” Derrick Henninger, junior individual studies major said.

Online instant messaging service marked the beginning of messaging acronyms, for which there are now dictionaries available to translate them.

“Would speak to your friends differently than you would to your boss,” Henninger said.

He believes testing acronyms should never be allowed in a professional setting, but in casual spoken language, the rules are different.

Language has evolved over thousands of years and there is no reason for it to stop now. Common opinions surrounding the issue express a necessity for stricter rules governing what is acceptable writing for a classroom setting.

On Tuesday Nov. 6 a deal awareness workshop was given in the Student Union and Recreation Center Ballroom. The workshop was lead by Vicki Mossley, a deaf faculty member of Seattle Central Community College.

Mossley lead a deaf culture workshop, and also a TechTalk, which was the written verbal communication of the lecture.

The lecture included information on the deaf culture and how the hearing can communicate to the deaf community. One of the main ways is through lip reading.

“Some people feel awkward with someone staring at their mouth. We use the whole picture,” Mossley said in her lecture. “We look at facial expression, eye contact, gesturing, and also a Technote, which was the written verbal communication of the lecture.

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Letters to the editor

As an alumnus and contributor to the college, I would like to voice my displeasure with the manner in which President Nelson and Vice President Mcintyre have addressed this quarter, our staff experiences and challenges. We are hoping for statements from all administrators about journalism while working for The Observer than in any of my journalism classes (sorry Cynthia). It isn't always a class you can teach us how to be best at what we do, but you can tell us what matters most. It is a skill you develop over time, through practice and dedication.

The Observer is a practical application of the principles we learn in our journalism classes. It is showing the truth and the history of Central's administrative abuse in the form of low faculty wages, then yes, we have an agenda.

Firstly, who are you to decide for me or anyone else what constitutes abuse? Report to me specific instances of the abuse of authority you have seen. People, despite popular belief of many readers, are not used to attack Central's administration or policies. We are not intentionally digging for dirt for our own amusement. It is one thing to put up with negative comments, occasional 5th-grade humor sex jokes, but it is quite another for this administration to attack our credibility and integrity.

Our foremost concern is the health of our students, the safety of our staff, the reputation of our institution. We learn to appreciate the praises and the repercussions of the stories we cover. We are not out to attack Central's administration or policies. We feel that the future of our institution depends on how Central's administrative abuse is handled in the form of low faculty wages, then yes, we have an agenda.

Letters policy

The Observer welcomes brief letters (500 words or fewer) from readers of The Observer on current issues. Letters must include the author's full name and Central Washington University address. The Observer reserves the right to publish these letters in any order and unable to respond to every request. The Observer is a practical application of the principles we learn in our journalism classes. It is showing the truth and the history of Central's administrative abuse in the form of low faculty wages, then yes, we have an agenda. Letters to the editor:

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Veterans come in all generations

Holiday is a time to respect those who have served, died

by Joseph Siemandel
Staff reporter

When we think of veterans, most people think of older males in their upper 50s to lower 60s. Those people are not wrong by any means, but they don't realize that even individuals no older than 18 years old can be considered veterans of war. Times have changed, America has changed and the military has changed. It has become a country depending on the younger generation to keep us safe.

This Sunday is Veterans Day: the day to take time out of your day and say thanks to the brave men and women who have given their lives to keep freedom and peace in America.

I myself feel honored on Veterans Day for two reasons. One, my stepfather is a three-time veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was in Iraq in 2003 and 2005, and is currently in Baghdad serving in the Army for his third tour. Second because I also am a veteran of the Persian Gulf War.

I have lived in Ellensburg for most of my life and have been a student at Central Washington University since 2002. Growing up in a small town, you learn about supporting veterans and honoring America. So, in December of 2002, I did what I felt was the right thing and joined the National Guard. I proudly signed my name to support not only Washington state, but America.

“Welcome to Kuwait.”
I remember those words. It was Feb. 22, 2004. I was 19 years old. That’s right. I officially became a veteran at 19. I wasn’t even old enough to legally drink a beer and I was expected to leave home and America. Sixteen months and four countries later, I returned home stronger, wiser and more mature. I remember sitting in a diner in Marysville the day I came home. I was having lunch with my family. I was in uniform and so was so happy to be back.

As I finished my meal, an older man came up to me, took off his hat, said “thank you” and paid for my meal. I looked at his jacket and noticed the Vietnam veteran patch. I couldn’t help but stand up and shake his hand and say “thank you” to him. It was a moment that you only see in movies. A diner crowded with business folks, farmers and retired individuals all stopped, stood up and applauded.

The simple act of a hand shake moved so many people. It was amazing, but little did I know what I was going to happen upon my return home.

I found myself becoming baited for serving in the military. I was called “baby killer,” “murderer” and “merchant of death” among others by just random people.

The names never stopped. We would be walking in a local bar and someone would come up to us and just call us names and throw beer at us. I couldn’t believe my ears and my eyes.

I thought being a veteran was an honor, something only five percent of Americans can say. I even have veteran stickers on my vehicle. I did not realize the impact that these words could have until it hit home.

A close friend who deployed with me was hospitalized because a group of anti-war protesters attacked him. He was wearing a t-shirt that mentioned that he was an Operation Iraqi Freedom veteran.

He spent two months in the hospital with numerous injuries. He is now blind in one eye and cannot breathe correctly. He was medically discharged and can no longer serve in the military because of the injuries he sustained. He even had to do work for the Army. The people who assaulted him took away his dream. Protecting is one thing, Americans have the right to freedom of speech in the First Amendment. However, nearly taking a person’s life is another thing.

People assume that being a soldier means that you killed someone. It’s a preconceived notion that you have killed a live person. I personally only know of one soldier that has killed another person. He says that the pain of the act still haunts him today.

I know that next year, the topic of the Iraq War and veterans’ benefits is going to play a big part during the presidential debate. Many candidates feel the younger generation to keep us America.

This Veterans Day Weekend, please go up to a veteran, or anyone that puts up the uniform of the United States Military. Any member, whether they are 18 or 80, shake their hand, say thank you, ask them questions. Don’t look down, don’t assume, and don’t judge. Remember what your mom always told you: “If you don’t have anything nice to say, then don’t say anything at all.”

Photos courtesy of Joseph Siemandel

As a former soldier of the U.S. Army and National Guard officially retired after 18 years, one could say much. During my first six years in the U.S. Army, I was in the first Gulf War. Assigned to the 101st Airborne for Operation Desert Shield/Dessert Storm, I was unaware then of what history I was being a part of. Anyone who knows the history of the last few wars can’t help but be aware of the 101st Division’s record. I was aware of this only lightly but was soon to be woke up to the real world quite rudely.

Officially at 3:30 a.m. on Jan. 17, 1991, local Saudi time, I was awoken in the subterranean level of the King Faisal International Airport, then just being constructed and serving as the acting base for aviation assets of the Coalition Forces. The clinging of metal against metal, the universal sign of chemical warfare attack, was being sounded as I donned my gas mask in six seconds followed by exhaling through it seconds followed by exhaling through it sounding as I donned my gas mask in six.

Walking on patrol, let alone possibi…

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Thank you for serving.

Student veteran reminisces on simpler things in life after war

Sean Guffey
Photographer

You go to a combat zone not knowing what to expect. You will change as a person, like it or not. You will have things you will not want to talk about, period, even though some inconsiderate and ignorant people will bug you about it. You will find out what being a real human is. You will be proud of what you are doing and of that patch you wear on your uniform.

In 1994 I got out of the 101st when my enlistment expired and I went into the National Guard until I was called back into the active Army for reserves for Afghanistan in 2003. I was assigned to almost the same company as in Desert Storm – B Co. 7th 101st Avn Regt. and sent right back to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

I’m “back in the world” now and enjoying being home and bumpy here and there. But I can go to 7-11 now at least for that Herby’s bar and can be happy that I am not thrown at by my horse, Buddy. Thank a veteran and any soldier defending our country. The responsibility they carry is not equal to their pay and the sacrifice they make is sometimes ultimate. I’m going to 7-11 now, only because others want.
Africa on display for Central’s annual International Education Week

By Kayla Schroader
Staff Reporter

It’s hard to not notice the steadily increasing mixture of culture within the student population, illustrating the world of possibility and diversity provided at Central Washington University.

The International Education Studies Program is an essential part of Central’s growing diversity. The program allows students to experience the world first-hand by studying abroad, encouraging international studies through events such as International Education Week as well as hosting Study Abroad students from other countries.

The program allows students to experience the world firsthand, illustrating the world of possibility and diversity available to everyone. “It’s a chance to step outside of yourself and dive into the unfamiliar,” McCarthy said. “You can discover what you like, what you can learn from and what it says about you as a person.”

McCarthy is currently assisting in the organization of the upcoming International Education Week, celebrated in schools across the country during the week of Nov. 12. Students are able to learn about and experience diversity first-hand.

“International Education Week is a week to celebrate, promote and educate staff, students and the Ellensburg community about things going on around the world,” Weeks said.

The Black Student Union (BSU) is a Central organization committed to promoting and contributing to the knowledge and awareness of Black and African American history and culture.

Similar to the International Education Program, BSU helps encourage the growing amount of African American students at Central as well as the integration of other cultures to acquire higher education at Central while still maintaining a strong connection with their heritage.

Domonique Weeks, junior law and justice and sociology double major, includes the BSU in a long list of diverse groups he participates in, including the Back 2 Basics Central Hip Hop Club and the College Assistant Migrant Program (CAMP) organization.

"International Education Week is a week to celebrate, promote and educate staff, students and the Ellensburg community about things going on around the world," Weeks said.

The Diversity Education Center is also heavily involved in the organization of International Education Week as well as the university’s year-round cultural atmosphere.

Djordje Popovic, Diversity Education Center program coordinator, said one of the best ways to get involved in Central’s expanding African culture is to attend one of the week’s events.

“African culture is extremely complex and heterogeneous,” Popovic said. “[It] is a mosaic of different people, cultures, and histories living all around the world. Our hope is to present a range of different activities, each as a small window into one aspect of Africa and the Diaspora.”

Some of the week’s featured events include the Parade of Nations International Fashion Show, the African Sports and Games Expo, African cuisine tasting and a showing of the film “The Last Supper.”

Several of the week’s featured events include the Parade of Nations International Fashion Show, the African Sports and Games Expo, African cuisine tasting and a showing of the film “The Last Supper.”

There will also be discussions and lectures concerning African issues and cultures throughout the week.

Central’s Parade of Nations International Fashion Show is an attempt to re-envision the world of fashion as an enterprise that bestows dignity onto the people and cultures of the world presently exploited and appropriated by the Western consumption, Popovic said.

The International Fashion Show provides an opportunity for students to present traditional and contemporary clothing from different heritages.

According to Weeks, International Education Week is a time for students from different cultures to show their pride.

“International Education Week is an annual reminder of everything that makes this campus a diverse one,” McCarthy said. “[This year’s event] will allow us to think about Africa in a more complex and thoughtful way...because there is not [merely] one African or one Africa.”

To learn more about the upcoming International Education Week, including times and dates, visit their Web site at www.cwu.edu/~intlprog/IEW2007.html.
Central alumni receives teaching award

Central alumnus Laura Jones receives her award for Teacher of the Year.

Photo courtesy of Laura Jones

Central alumni Laura Jones receives her award for Teacher of the Year. By Amy Sitzler

Staff reporter

With so many teachers deserving recognition for their work in Washington State, singling out just one candidate for the Washington State Teacher of the Year is a difficult process. Central Washington University alumnus Laura Jones received the honor of the 2008 Washington State Teacher of the Year award. Jones is beginning her 12th year as a teacher at Pasco High School.

As the recipient of this award, Jones feels that what makes her stand out, in comparison to the other finalists, is her unique background coming from her experiences in education. She also credits her success to her time as an instructional coach in addition to being a teacher. As an instructional coach, she works with teachers across all disciplines to provide strategies to help improve student achievement.

Austyn Smith, a Pasco High School graduate last spring and DECA co­president, said that when he first heard that Laura Jones was nominated for Washington State Teacher of the Year, he couldn't think of a more deserving candidate.

"Within my own life, she helped me develop into a better leader and made me a more confident individual," Smith said. "Ever since my experience with her in high school, I've tried to be a leader in everything that I do. Whether it is through work or school, it's always something that I strive to do, and I owe it all to Laura Jones."

To get the award, Jones was selected from a pool of participants from the Educational Service District, which chooses one teacher to be the regional teacher of the year. There were eight other teachers in the running, all of who also showed dedication to the profession and their students.

"It was truly an honor for me to be chosen among such a high caliber group of people," Jones said. "I felt so honored because I am in the position to represent the positive aspects of education and share the dedication of myself and my colleagues to making sure students are successful."

Smith wrote a letter of recommendation for Jones when she was nominated and feels happy that he was lucky enough to have Jones as a teacher. Smith recognizes that Jones works hard at all she does and that no matter how busy she is, or how much she has going on in her life, she always finds time to help her students.

"Jones has mentored every accolade that she has won," Smith said. "She is truly the best teacher that I have ever had, and I mean that in all honesty."

Fair highlights student internship opportunities

by Brooke Mortensen

Staff reporter

College is only the beginning of a student's quest for a career. Although a higher education is necessary to acquire a profession, it will only take one so far.

"Most students make the mistake of believing that because they go to college they will be guaranteed a job as soon as they leave," said Randy Williamson, associate director of career services.

"You shouldn't hesitate to come to the fair... the longer you wait, the more competitive it gets." TERESA YOUNGREN, EMPLOYER RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR

Central Washington University's Career Services department assists students with their search for internships and job opportunities, such as daily postings of new openings on the Wildcat Career Network, help with cover letters, applications, resumes, and interviews.

Career Services can also help bring in different companies for face-to-face meetings with students through events, such as the Institution of Engineering and Technology Construction Management Job and Internship Fair being held on Nov. 8 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom.

More than 60 different companies will attend to search for interns as well as new employees.

Other fairs throughout the school year include the Majors Fair and the Education Career Fair in February, as well as the Career Quest Job and Internship Fair and Spring Career Fairs in April.

"This is a huge opportunity for students because the companies that come to the fair are very serious about hiring," said Teresa Youngren, employer recruitment coordinator and organizer of the Construction Management Internship Fair.

According to Youngren, the companies that come to campus during internship fairs are looking to hire students now and in the future.

"Even if you aren't looking for a job right now, you shouldn't hesitate to come to the fair and talk to companies because the longer you wait, the more competitive it gets," said Youngren.

Internships can also be found on campus. These include the Bridges Project in the communication department, internships offered through Central institutional research, Central media relations and Central football as well as internships created through the Civic Engagement Center that are specific to a student's major.

"It's an academic service and learning internship integrated with the class work of a student's major," said Kristina Claghum, senior Elementary Education major and primary Student Educators Providing Service (STEPS) liaison.

Even though internships are not required for many majors, they give students a better chance of landing a job.

"Internships give you hands-on learning in your field of study, so after looking at someone's education, employers look for experience," Williamson said.

According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, from the class of 2005, businesses reported that more than 62 percent of their new employees came to them with internship experience.

Employers do look for those with experience when hiring, but without a first job, it can be difficult to acquire the experience that they are looking for.

"Employers are looking for applicants who are willing and eager as well as those with past experience relevant to the position," Brenda Reagan, human resource consultant, said.

Through the school's Career Services department, any student can get information about internships. Students can also get help setting one up and practice the skills needed during their internship so that they will obtain the experience that employers look for.

For more info, contact Career Services at 963-2404 or 963-1921.

Key Tips for Getting Internships

1. Research

Use the personal and resources of your University. Look for up-to-date and reliable sources of information on internships.

2. Begin early

An early start sets a good example for yourself with possible employers. You will also have more opportunities to make informed choices.

3. Network

Join professional associations related to your career goals. These groups make excellent sources for networking.

4. Follow through

Be persistent and get noticed. Those that keep calling usually get the job.

5. Choose your spots

Though larger companies may have established internships, statistics show that smaller companies are the ones hiring.

6. Write a contract

Define what the position will entail and where it can lead.

7. Perform and assess

When you get an internship, treat it as a job, regardless of the pay.

8. Take something away

Establish connections with employers and co-workers. An internship is more than on-the-job experience.

Courtesy of www.internship.com
Central bleeds crimson for cause

by Joshua Rumley
Staff reporter

In a time of crisis, the Red Cross swoops in like a modern day superhero to lend a helping hand to those in need.

As part of the Out to Lunch Speaker Series, the Red Cross came last Tuesday to Central Washington University and spoke about being prepared for the unexpected.

When a disaster occurs, every aspect of that area is thrown into disarray. The Red Cross takes pride in their quick response to emergencies, but there are times when their services are delayed. In such moments they ask people to be "Red Cross ready."

"We want people to be self sufficient," said Jenny Carkner, executive director of the Kittitas Red Cross Chapter. "In a time of crisis, you are your best protection, which is why we hope that people are prepared."

Carkner said that there are three steps that everyone can take to be "Red Cross ready." One way is to have a kit in place with enough food and supplies for three days.

"What I'm truly afraid of happening is grocery stores running out of food," Carkner said. "People just don't plan or expect things like that to happen."

Another step is to decide on a meeting place. The Red Cross prefers this spot to be somewhere near one's home. Along with a meeting place, a plan of escape is necessary if there is a forced evacuation.

Also know what could happen as a result of the emergency and ways to help out. The Red Cross offers first aid and CPR classes on a bi-weekly schedule. Getting certified is only 23 dollars.

The Red Cross offers many services to the community, including blood drives. This past weekend, Central's Army ROTC sponsored a blood drive that collected 88 units of blood. For each unit of blood, there is potential to help three different people.

"I donated myself into an anemic state," Amanda Keogh, freshman theatre performance major, said. "That's how much I love donating blood."

Blood only has a shelf life of 42 days, so the Red Cross and other blood banks are always looking for donors. Fear of needles and blood are a few reasons people side step donating.

"I've heard people say, I won't donate my blood but I'll sell it," Keogh said. Along with blood donation, the Red Cross is always accepting volunteers to join their agency.

"I was a stay-at-home mom before joining the Red Cross," Carkner said. "After a month of classes, I was on a plane to help people with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. This has become my passion."

Steve Franich/Observer

Alexander Dejneka, senior philosophy major, waits to donate blood.

Steve Franich/Observer

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Steve Franich/Observer

Alexander Dejneka, senior philosophy major, waits to donate blood.
Pautzke hooks fishermen

by Tyler Rogers

Special to the Observer

It might be difficult to associate such colorful names as "Balls O' Fire" and "Soft But Satisfying" with fishing baits, but Ellensburg fishing company Pautzke Salt Bait Co. has built a reputation on these words, focusing on the beautiful fishing opportunities that the Yakima River provides.

Pautzke became well-known in the 1960s throughout North America for their effective trout bait, but now the company has expanded into the realm of salmon and steelhead fishing, with new lines of baits, cure, and scent.

The original Pautzke baits were the "Salt But Satisfying" salmon eggs, which Ernest Pautzke, founder of the company, began cooking in 1932 on his kitchen stove. This secret recipe, "Balls O' Fire," still serves as one of the most popular trout baits on the market today.

As the business expanded, ownership was passed down through the family, which led to experimentation with a variety of baits, such as different flavored and different colored eggs. By the end of the 1960s, increased demand propelled the business into marketing on a worldwide level.

Casey Kelley, the current CEO of the company, continues to build upon Pautzke's legacy. Though he admits he has struggled in his early years, Kelley has greatly improved the business and has been one of the key proponents of expanding the product line.

"Being so young [at age 30], and being the owner has forced me to adapt and learn as I go," Kelley said.

With the recent introduction of new baits and attractants, Pautzke has many fishermen hooked. Jason Bushey, a B.A.M. sporting goods salesman, mentioned that they consistently sell large quantities of Pautzke products, and see the same satisfied customers returning time and time again.

New products consist of flavoring bait cures and luring scents along with a whole line of "Fire Corn" flavored baits. The new cures and scents are designed to entice salmon and steelhead, and include the "Box O' Fire" cures, "Fire Power" cures, "Liquid Gel" and "Get Gel" scents, "Nectar" scents, and the "Kokanee Juice" scents that were introduced earlier this year.

"I have experimented with the different krill cures made by Pautzke, and have been rather successful," said Shane Magnuson, a fishing guide for Alpine Guide Service on the Columbia River. "My favorites are the 'Fire Cure' scents, especially for steelhead."

Another avid fisherman and employee of Hooked On Toys Sporting Goods Store in Wenatchee, Jonathan Stavenjord has fished with and sold many of Pautzke's products over the years.

"I have yet to try the now 'Kokanee Juice' scents, but I am looking forward to doing so next spring and summer [to] catch Kokanee silvers in Lake Chelan," Stavenjord said.

Pautzke features a long list of endorsers that demonstrate how much the company is thriving, such as Cabela's, American Sportman Association, Shimano, G-Loomis, Owner and Mack's Lures.

Pautzke has given anglers the ability to fish with confidence, and enables them to catch more fish on a regular basis. It has become another successful business in Kittitas County, and a testament to the tenacity of local businesses.

"In Rainbows" can be purchased on Radiohead's Web site for the new album at www.inrainbows.com for as much money as you feel it's worth. Sounds risky? Not for a band as world-renowned as Radiohead.

The album was released for download on Oct. 10, and in one week it was estimated to have more than 1.2 million downloads with a profit of at least $10 million, according to the British online newspaper "The Telegraph."

Users averaged $8 per download, while I paid $16 for the album. Call me an avid Radiohead fan.

And best of all for Radiohead is that there's no middle man, no distributor. Radiohead has capitalized on a trend that the Internet began a decade ago where if you have the tenacity and the means to directly distribute goods online, you don't have to pay anyone else to do it.

Of course, this strategy just works for specific companies and, in the case of music, the only bands that could really get away with such a risky endeavor are bands that are already financially secure and widely recognized, such as Radiohead.

However, this is exactly what's happening as other bands, like Oasis and Jamiroquai, have announced their interest in mimicking Radiohead's strategy and releasing their new material online first as a "user-determined" price.

It gets better still for Radiohead. As the online sales weren't enough, they'll be releasing a CD and a boxed set this winter. At this point you're probably wondering, like I did - why the heck has no one used this strategy sooner? Well, they've tried, but the magic of the Internet is that you can always find some way to get a service at a cheaper price, or no price at all.

So what does the future hold for a dying music industry? Not much, because only the already successful bands will stand a chance. But it's the idea of "if you can't fight them, join them" that the music industry so desperately needs to embrace, and if people are going to continue to download music online for free, you might as well let them have that option.

A Radiohead revolution

Picture an organ featuring a Celtic choir, a rock-and-roll garage band, a crooning whale and all the gods of rock, and you'll get a distinctively accurate image of how the new album "In Rainbows" by legendary rock band Radiohead sounds.

I'm not here to wax ecstatic over what might be Radiohead's most generally appealing album to date. It's how Radiohead has marketed this album that's starting a musical revolution.

What might finally make use of the Internet as a means of earning profit from distributing music, a notoriously difficult endeavor given means to directly distribute your goods, is bands attacking it directly at its source - if you don't want to pay to download for specific companies and, in the case of music, the only bands that could really get away with such a risky endeavor are bands that are already financially secure and widely recognized, such as Radiohead.

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Brass blares at Trumpet Fest

The Central Washington University Music Department will host Trumpet Fest today in the band and orchestra rehearsal room, recital and concert hall.

More than twenty trumpeters and other students will play selections from classic jazz to modern pieces, showcasing the talent of the trumpet section at Central.

Playing with the students, and performing in a solo concert later in the evening, trumpeter Bobby Burns, Jr., of the 7th disco band Earth, Wind and Fire will take part in Trumpet Fest.

Burns was a classmate of trumpet professor John Harbaugh at Indiana University, and Harbaugh was able to bring him to Central for the event.

"Burns has a really cool story of determination and perseverance," Harbaugh said. "The trumpet teacher [in college] said, 'I won't take you, you're not good enough,' and now [Burns] is at the top of his game." Trumpet Fest is hosted by the Central trumpet club. It is free for students to attend, including the performance by Burns later in the evening.

Choral classic shines

From left to right; Valerie Stucki, Corey Suraci, and Jenny Ohrstrom of Vocal Jazz I, singing "Makin' Whoopie" last Wednesday at the Choral Festival.

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Observer — Scene — November 8, 2007
Central football wins seventh straight

by Pamela Miller and Curtis Crabtree
Staff reporter and A.Call-Sports editor

The Wildcat defense once again took control in claiming a win over the Minnesota State-University-Mankato Mavericks on Saturday afternoon.

The Wildcats survived a late Maver­icks surge at Blakeslee Stadium to win 17-10, holding the Mavericks to a season low 10 points. The win moved the Wild­cats to 1-1 in the North Central Con­ference (NCC) in the NCAA Division II Northwest Region and 8-1 overall. Two nationally ranked teams will be battling it out this weekend at Tomson Stadium.

"It was two strong defenses that con­trolled the tempo of the game, but ulti­mately the Wildcats succeeded."

In the first quarter, senior running back Johnny Lopez finished off a 13-play, 80-yard drive, with an 11-yard touch­down run to put the Wildcats up 7-0.

The Wildcat defense continued to keep its opponent in check in the sec­ond quarter. Mavericks' kicker Jason Tompkins missed a 37-yard field goal midway through the quarter, maintaining the seven-point cushion.

Sophomore kicker Garrett Rolena added a field goal with five minutes to go in the third to put the Wildcats up 17-0. The Mavericks finally put points on the board after two minutes of fourth quarter play. Tompkins made a field goal close to the gap to 17-3.

As the minutes counted down, Min­nesota State's sophomore running back Julian Phipps scored the Mavericks only touchdown with 3:58 left in the game, bringing the score to 17-10.

On the ensuing possession, Reilly connected on a 14-yard pass play on third-and-six to senior wide receiver Chris Rohrbach, forcing Minnesota State to burn its timeouts. A second first down conversion to Rohrbach helped seal the win for the Wildcats.

"It was tough," Rohrbach said. "We didn't play to our potential, but still good enough to get a win.

Rohrbach was voted offensive player of the game. Wood for the defense and freshman linebacker Chase Hessler for special teams.

The Wildcats winning streak has placed them fourth in the NCAA Divi­sion II Northwest Region and 8-1 overall. Two nationally ranked teams will be battling it out this weekend at Tomson Stadium.

"I'm really excited to play this Satur­day," Rohrbach said. "It's an awesome feeling to play for a bigger championship. The rest of the team is really excited, but we're just trying to stay focused to put our­selves in the best position possible."

A win over the University of Nebras­ka-Omaha Mavericks this Saturday will put the Wildcats one step closer to win­ning the North Central Conference. "Omaha is very good," Baldwin said. "They'll be the best team we've played all year.

Central plays host to NCC leader Nebraska-Omaha (9-1, 7-0 NCC) in their final home game this Saturday, Nov. 10, celebrating Senior Day. Kickoff is at 12 p.m. at Tomson Stadium.

by Nichole Bowers
Staff reporter

It's so hard to say goodbye to anoth­er successful cross country season. The Central Washington University Wild­cats finished their season on Saturday Nov. 3 in Boise, Idaho, at the 2007 NCAA Division II West Region Cross Country Championships at Eagle Island State Park.

The men's team finished eighth and the women's team finished ninth, with Park.

"It's so hard to say goodbye to anoth­er successful cross country season," head coach Kevin Adkisson said. "Sam ran an outstanding race, he looked amazing, close to the perfect race."

"Sam ran an outstanding race, he looked amazing, close to the perfect race."

by Pamela Miller and Curtis Crabtree
Staff reporter and A.Call-Sports editor

Sophomore defensive tackle Mitch Reffett, left, flushes Augustana quarterback Tyler Schulte, right, out of the pocket on Oct. 27.

"Sam ran an outstanding race, he looked amazing, close to the perfect race."

HEAD COACH KEVIN ADKISSON

Sophomore Eric Ardissono came in second for Central, 50th overall.

"We were there for Sam and he did what he had to do, I am proud of him," Adkisson said.

As for the Wildcats women, junior Marcie Mullen and senior Sarah Ben­son ran a fairly good race. Mullen fin­ished 19th in the six-kilometer race and Benson, who was the next highest indi­vidual finisher for the Wildcats, placed 13th overall.

"The races went well. Not only were they good but they were the best in a lifetime for many of us," Benson said. "It was just an amazing experi­ence. I set a personal record. It was the best 6k race I have run. It was a nice way to wrap up the year."

Suffolk Beach Bales and sopho­more Stephanie Cooke ran strong and finished neck-and-neck. Bales placed 58th and Cooke 60th for Central. The two gave coach Adkisson a hopeful outlook on the future.

Though the cross country season is all wrapped up, many of the runners will continue on with indoor and out­door track and field.

"It is time for them to get some rest and re-group in order to prepare for the upcoming track season," Adkisson said.

Many of the non-distance runners have started their fall conditioning, meeting twice a week. In January, after the break, the full load of intense workouts and highly struc­tured everyday practices will begin for the Wildcat runners.
Central basketball set to tip with preseason tournneys

by Melanie Lockhart
Sports editor

As fall sports wrap up for athletes, the men’s and women’s basketball teams prepare to tip-off against their opponents in what is expected to be a tough race for the Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) title.

Central Washington University’s women’s team is projected to finish seventh in the GNAC preseason coaches’ poll, ahead of Saint Martin’s University, Western Oregon University and University of Alaska. "If you look at where we’re projected to finish, I feel this team is much better than that," women’s head coach Jeff Whitney said. "Once she learns the system, she is only going to get better.”

The Wildcat men, who were projected to take first place in the GNAC in last year’s preseason poll, come off a third place finish last season. Now they are expected to tip for fourth, along with archrival Western Washington University. Both schools sit behind University of Alaska-Anchorage, Seattle Pacific University and Seattle University in the poll.

“Whatever matters is where you end up in the end,” head coach Greg Sparling said. “The conference is solid from top to bottom with strong contenders. I think whoever comes out strong in the last half will end up on top.”

Central’s men’s team began with a 118-94 victory over the Another Level Blue Angels at last Saturday’s home exhibition game. The Wildcats have five straight home games on the schedule within the next three weeks, beginning with a tournament on Nov. 16-17 at Nicholson Pavilion. The tourney is the first of two hosted by Central between now and the end of the quarter. The Wildcats hit the road over winter break, including a tournament in Las Vegas, Nev., and one in Monmouth, Ore. Official GNAC play begins Jan. 3 at Seattle Pacific.

“We want to work on defending our home court,” Sparling said. “Then we’ll travel and hopefully pick up some wins on the road.”

With the loss of last year’s seniors — including top two scorers Lance Den Boer and Bryan Freshwater, who now both play professionally in Germany — the Wildcats will have to adjust.

“We lost a lot, but the new guys are gelling well together,” Sparling said. “We have to take it one game at a time.”

The women faced Eastern Washington University in a preseason exhibition last night in Cheney. Wash., and practiced now for the Sodokee Tip-Off Classic hosted by Seattle Pacific University on Nov. 16-17. The Wildcats have a pair of home games against Cascade College and Pacific University on Nov. 25 and Nov. 28, respectively. Central then travels until mid-January, with GNAC play beginning on Jan. 5 at Western.

Central’s women’s team graduated five seniors last year, but gained eight new players. Coach Whitney said a lot of learning is going on, but he is impressed with the new additions to the women’s team, and hopes that their contributions will aid the Wildcats in shooting to the top of the standings.

“We have a few outstanding transfer students,” Whitney said. “We may not have three freshmen. Though they will be redshirting for the upcoming season, I expect them to be huge contributors in the future.”

Transfers include junior wing Brooke Fernandez, who Whitney says is "a phenomenal shooter and a savvy player," and junior wing Tanna Radtke, who Whitney deems as "one of the best defenders on the team." Another transfer is junior wing Sara Berger.

"Her ability to score is something we’ve needed," Whitney said. "Once she learns the system, she is only going to get better.”

Sophomore forward LeeAna Busch, a "phenomenal shooter and a savvy player," and junior wing Tanna Radtke, who Whitney deems as "one of the best defenders on the team," are another transfer student returning for Central.

Senior guard Ashley Fenimore and sophomore post Shaina Afoa are "one of the best point guards in the conference," and Asaah is a very aggressive rebounder whose skills are getting better each day.

For now, both teams practice daily to gear up for the season with the men at home and the women on the road.

“Hopefully we see everybody out there at the season opener next weekend,” Sparling said.

“Editor’s note: As of press time, the women’s exhibition game had not been completed. For match details, visit www.wildcatsports.com

Wildcats face former teammates in weekend exhibition at home

by Christien Neuman
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University men’s basketball team played their annual exhibition game at home last Saturday against Another Level. The Blue Angels are a travelling team comprised of former collegiate players.

By halftime, Central had a five-point lead and led by as much as 10 for the final 15:58, beating the Blue Angels 118-94.

Matt Penoncello, a junior guard transfer student from Eastern Washington University had a tremendous Central debut leading all scorers as he poured in 28 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists. Another Eastern transfer, junior forward Jake Beitinger, went 12-22 in field goal attempts, scoring 25 points and grabbing 11 rebounds.

“With all the new additions to our team, we seem to have a really good team chemistry,” Sparling said. "I think Beitinger will be a premier guy for us. He's a big guy who can score both inside and out."
Last week, head coach Mario Andaya said that this week's competition was going to test his team. He wasn't lying, as Central Washington University women's volleyball split two close games on its road trip this weekend.

Last Thursday Nov. 1, Central defeated the regionally ranked Northwest Nazarene Crusaders in four matches, 28-30, 31-29, 30-28 and 30-18. Then, on Saturday Nov. 3, the Wildcats lost to the Seattle Pacific University Falcons in three sets, 30-22, 30-24 and 35-33.

Thursday, the Wildcats put up "we prepared well the week before, and it felt good to beat Northwest Nazarene." FRESHMAN OUTSIDE HITTER KADY TRY

Junior outside hitter Kayla Roef and senior middle blocker Bree Brandt both had 10 kills apiece against the Falcons. Freshman outside hitter Kady Try had 18 kills and 15 digs. Her big kill in the second game helped the Wildcats get a one-point lead and ultimately win the match. "We prepared well the week before, and it felt good to beat Northwest Nazarene," Try said.

Junior setter Maggie Olson arguably had a career game for the Wildcats. Olson set up her hitters all night, amassing 65 assists against Northwest Nazarene.

"I just knew that the hitters were doing well and I felt that I was having a good game," Olson said. "I just don't keep track of my stats during the game."

Senior libor Erika Stevens led the Wildcats with 26 digs, giving her 467 on the season and breaking the school record set by Brenda Moore in 1990.

Last Saturday, Central just couldn't get their offense going. As a team, the Wildcats had a .146 scoring percentage and had only two aces on the game. Schurman led the Wildcats with 14 kills and Stevens added 23 digs to give her over one thousand in her collegiate career.

Central is now 11-14 on the season and 10-6 in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference. The Wildcats will have their first losing season in six years.

The Wildcats will play against the Saint Martin's University Saints tonight at 7 p.m. at Nicholson Pavilion. Then on Saturday Nov. 10, Central finishes up the season at home against the Western Oregon University Wolves.

Saturday will also be the last collegiate game for seniors middle blocker Bree Brandt and libor Erika Stevens. "We have been through a lot with Bree and Erika and to see them going out on the top of their game is nice to see," Andaya said.
Seahawks fans, through, and it’s their running game that is becoming all too familiar to them ever since re-entering the league in 1999. The defense was shutting down the Browns fourth-ranked offense, forcing a three-and-out and an interception on their first drive. On a fourth-and-three play from the Cleveland 40-yard line, Hasselbeck connected with running back Maurice Morris botched the hold and fumbled the ball. Cleveland cornerback Leigh Bodden recovered on the turnover. The Browns capitalized with a nine-play, 57-yard drive that ended with running back Jamal Lewis driving into the endzone, the first of four rushing touchdowns on the day. The Seahawks' ground attack continued to be stifled, as it has been all season long. Running back Shaun Alexander continues to dance too much in the backfield and isn't being given many options by his offensive line as he was only able to manage 32 yards on 14 carries, good for a whopping 2.3 yards per carry. Out of the 27 running backs in the NFL with at least 100 carries this season, Alexander ranks 25th in yards per attempt, ahead of only Cedric Benson of the Chicago Bears and Warrick Dunn of the Atlanta Falcons. Despite the slowed running game, the passing game continued to get the job done in the first half. Hasselbeck led the Seahawks on another touchdown drive on their ensuing possession. A 12-play, 78-yard drive ended with a six-yard touchdown pass from Hasselbeck to recently activated wide receiver DJ Hackett. Hackett had not played since week one against Tampa Bay, where he suffered a high ankle sprain that kept him out for seven weeks. After a stop by the Seattle defense, the Browns to punt, Seahawks punt returner Nate Burleson once again worked his special team's magic. Burleson caught the punt on his own six-yard line and danced around six Browns defenders juked past punter Dave Zastudil and went 94 yards to the end zone to tie the score and return touchdown in as many weeks.

By Ryan Larsen
Staff reporter

The Central Washington University women's rugby team has been on a roll, winning three of its past four matches. The first of these matches that were played in the past two weeks was held Oct. 27 at home against the Washington State University Cougars. The Wildcats played in a tight contest against the Cougars, winning 15-0. The match wasn’t a scoring frenzy but more of a defensive battle. Each of the team members did what they had to defensively in order to hold the Cougars to live points and come away with a 10-point win. "We’re doing a lot better than last year and are working together as a team better," said team vice president, sophomore flanker Christina Zier.

The second match in the past two weeks, held Nov. 3rd, was a much different game than the Washington State match. The Wildcats took to the pitch that afternoon looking for their fourth win of the season as they faced the Whitman College Fighting Missionaries. The Wildcats unleashed their offensive fury against Whitman and continued to pile up points during the match. In the end, they completely dominated the Missionaries, not letting them score as they shut out their opponent 75-0. In the victory over Whitman, the leading scorer for Central was sophomore flanker Charity Zier, as she recorded three tries during the match. Captain and junior eight-man Rachael Ratigan scored one try and club president and junior inside center Chelsea Nyanja had a productive day as well against Whitman, as she scored one try and went five for ten on extra point conversions. "Everyone played really well as a team during the match," Zier said.

The team moved to 4-1 on the year and is tied for first in its division as it won its game and only division game this season. "We have a really good shot at going to the playoffs this year and going to California," Nyanja said.

Central has one more test this fall as it hosts a tournament on Nov. 17 at home against the University of Washington, and Buell Bay, a non-collegiate rugby club from Olympia. "I think that if we play well together as team and make plays we can beat the other teams," Zier said. "We are excited to be hosting the tournament at home."
This weekend, the biggest college football game in the nation won't be found in Husky Stadium, Tiger Stadium in Death Valley or the Los Angeles Coliseum. Teams we're used to seeing on ESPN, such as the Buckeyes, the Wolverines and the Longhorns, won't be playing in this one.

In highlight reels dominated by the big Division I teams, all eyes should be right here, in Tomlinson Stadium, where our own Central Washington University Wildcats will go claws to horns against the Mavericks of the University of Nebraska - Omaha.

While the big names in college ball take a break against the lesser teams before making the Bowl stretch, the Division II season is already coming to an end with the playoffs beginning in a matter of weeks.

In fact, the weekend should shift the whole focus of football to Division II. The only Division I game of "importance" that will receive any attention is the Longhorns, won't be playing in this field. Though nowhere near the capacity of Division I counterparts, Central can constantly fill Tomlinson with 4,000 screaming fans for every home game.

However, the stadium is expected to play host to an estimated 8,000 strong, prompting some new seats around the field. Hopefully the game will be so loud, Kirk Herbstreit and Lee Corso will get down from their game booth in California and announce a real football game.

Let's look at the teams. Central brings a balanced offensive attack to the field with quarterback Mike Reilly, running back Johnny Lopez and a wide receiver tandem of Chris Rohrbach and Johnny Spevak. Nebraska brings a smash mouth rushing team with running back Brian McNeill and scrambling quarterback Zach Miller.

The general strategy for both teams is to stick to what they do best. Central needs to put the ball in the air and pressure Nebraska's bigger, but slower, cornerbacks. Nebraska should look to continue pounding the rock up the middle with McNeill or get Miller out of the pocket for big plays.

On the defensive side, Nebraska plays a stingy takeaway-team oriented around turnovers and a bend-but-not-break style centered around star safety Randy Kush, who can draw comparisons to NFL safety Troy Polamalu of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Their biggest weakness comes in potentially giving up the big play if receivers can get a break from their slow secondary. Central's 3-4 defense strategy is simple: pressure, pressure, pressure. The Wildcat linebackers in particular need to continue to be aggressive in their pass rush.

If Central can keep McNeill in pursuit and hold Miller in the pocket, then Central fans can begin the "upset" chant early. I would certainly be cheering in our favor, but it's definitely too tough to call the game. The Mavericks love to start slow and gain momentum, so Central needs to hit hard and hit often. I can't recall personally seeing a game in any sport that has so much on the line, and I wasn't at the 1995 American League Division Series with Seattle against New York.

So, for now, all I can say is be there and cheer on your Wildcats in a game of epic proportions.

Or, stay at home and watch a pointless Division II game. Your choice.

D2football.com Poll
1. Grand Valley State 9-0
2. Nebraska-Omaha 9-0
3. Chadron State 10-0
4. West Texas A&M 10-0
5. Northwest Missouri State 8-1
6. North Dakota State 8-1
7. Valdosta State 8-1
8. North Alabama 8-1
9. Delta State 8-1
10. Carson-Newman 9-1
11. Shepherd 9-1
12. Central Washington 8-1
13. Central Washington 8-1
14. Tufts 9-0
15. Central Washington 8-1
16. Abilene Christian 8-2
17. Tuskegee 9-1
18. West Chester 8-2
19. Newberry 8-2
20. Midwestern State 8-2
21. Ashland 7-1
22. Indiana of Pennsylvania 8-1
23. Winona State 9-1
24. Mesa State 9-1
25. Virginia Union 9-1

Dropped Out: South Dakota, Pittsburg State

AFCA Division II Poll
1. Grand Valley State 9-0
2. Chadron State 10-0
3. Nebraska-Omaha 9-0
4. West Texas A&M 10-0
5. Northwest Missouri State 8-1
6. Valdosta State 8-1
7. North Dakota State 8-1
8. North Alabama 8-1
9. Delta State 8-1
10. North Alabama 8-1
11. Carson-Newman 9-1
12. Central Washington 8-1
13. Valley 9-1
14. Tufts 9-0
15. Shepherd 9-1
16. Central Washington 8-1
17. Abilene Christian 8-2
18. Indiana of Pennsylvania 8-1
19. Midwestern State 8-2
20. Newberry 8-2
21. Mesa State 9-1
22. Winona State 9-1
23. Winona State 9-1
24. Virginia Union 9-1
25. Hillsdale 8-2

Dropped Out: Pittsburg State

*NCC Teams in bold