Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is part history and part fantasy. Written in the Victorian Era, when the dividing line between the rich and poor was quite distinct, its purpose was to remind people of the giving spirit of Christmas. Central Washington University students and staff are planning to bring that spirit to the stage this Friday.

"A Christmas Carol" is the story of one man, Ebenezer Scrooge, and his redemption through the intervention of supernatural and human kindness. Scrooge, a miser and loveless man, is taken on a voyage into his past and future to see the joys that he left behind and the follies that persist in living. "It is a story about a man who is visited by ghosts and all that implies," said director George Bellah, associate professor of theatre arts. Auditions took place the first day of classes fall quarter with rehearsals beginning the following Monday. Rehearsals are held Monday through Friday and typically last three to four hours. Some of the actors also work in the production shops. It can be a challenge for many students to juggle school, work, shop-time and rehearsals.

Though "Vietnam 101: The War On Campus" ends a week before "A Christmas Carol" opens, the cast and crew were prohibited from participating in both plays, said Justin Carroll, senior manager for "A Christmas Carol." The only overlap between the two plays occurs in the production shops. There are also issues specific to "A Christmas Carol." The cast consists of 24 members: 14 students, eight children, one guest artist and one community member. Running time for the play is approximately 90 minutes and there is very little off-stage time. Behind the scenes, there is a stage crew of approximately 25 members.

"It really is a small army of people to put on every production," Bellah said. Keith Edie, a lecturer in the theatre department and a guest artist courtesy of the Actor's Equity Association, plays Scrooge. Edie said that this is the first time he has ever played a 66-year-old crotchety man. He describes himself as a "counter-Scrooge," considering his own 33 years of age and easy-going nature.

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Jennifer Weigel  
Staff reporter

With the rising trend of violence in schools, campus security has become an issue which is cropping up at universities across the nation.

Students, however, may be surprised to know that when it comes to campus security at Central Washington University, big brother is not watching.

Security cameras are all around us as we conduct our daily lives in the public sphere, but here at Central this is not the case.

Central Washington University has web cameras at various sites around campus, as well as at the Wenatchee Mammoth Project and the wind turbines between Ellensburg and Vantage, but they have no official security cameras on campus.

In fact the only security cameras that exist on campus are at the new U.S. bank branch in the Student Union and Recreation facility. These cameras have been paid for and installed by the corporation itself.

According to Bill Yarwood, Director of Facilities Planning, this is something that Central is looking into. A security committee has been put together to look at Central’s security situation and to see if security cameras fit into that equation anywhere. The committee consists of representatives from the school including those from Campus police, the IT department and others and operates under the facilities department.

“Right now the committee is looking into hiring an expert to come and help us evaluate where there are security problems and then help us develop a plan to fix them,” Yarwood said. “The committee wasn’t convened specifically to look at adding cameras, we are looking at them but we are also looking at reader boards in the Student Union and at a PA system.”

Security cameras haven’t been on campus before for a couple of reasons. According to Yarwood it’s partially because a need for them hasn’t been identified.

University Police Captain, Kevin Higgins, stated that part of the reason was that the technology changes so fast that they hold off on buying them. If the university were to install security cameras there are two types which could be purchased. The first type would be cameras which just taped what was going on and could be used after a crime had been committed. The second would be cameras which were monitored by personnel.

“The monitored system would be more effective, it would help up to thwart crimes in progress,” Higgins said. While Higgins thinks cameras in certain areas on campus could be a useful tool he stresses that Central is a safe campus without them.

“Students are fairly safe on campus. We have the blue light phones and the walking companions [Courtesy Assistance Team]. That service is used fairly frequently.”

Students seem to agree that Central is a safe campus without cameras. Patricia Dishier, a junior sociology major voiced that opinion.

“I think Central is a safe campus because things are close together, well lit, and they have those blue lights,” Patricia Dishier, junior sociology said.

“Security cameras probably wouldn’t make me feel safer; it would make me feel like big brother was watching,” Yarwood is very interested in the ways that students think security could be improved.

“We want to keep students in the loop, sometimes what we think students want is not what they really want,” said Yarwood. If students are interested in getting involved they can either come to the ASCWU-BOD or get in touch with the facilities department.

“We will definitely keep students in the loop,” Higgins said. Higgins also noted that they have the blue lights, the blue light phones and the reader boards in the Student Union and have those from Campus police, the IT department and others and operates under the facilities department.

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Broadcast TV goes digital by Feb. 2009

by Dan Fisher
Copy editor

Beginning Feb. 17, 2009, analog television broadcasting will have gone the way of the Dodo and a full transition to digital broadcasting will be in effect.

Analog broadcasting has been the technological standard since the birth of television. As computers, cellular phones, and personal music players have advanced through digital programming, television broadcasting standards have lagged behind the trend. This digital television (DTV) transition offers benefits to both producers and consumers.

The easiest way to compare analog to digital broadcasting is to look at the differences between cassette tapes and mp3 audio files. A drawback to analog broadcasting is its inefficient consumption of available airwaves. The capacity of these airwaves is limited, preventing an increasing number of programs from being converted into digital “bits” to be transmitted electronically, much less space is needed for the same amount of information. By freeing up these airwaves, they are able to grant more access to public safety organizations, such as police and fire services, and also provide space to facilitate new and growing wireless services.

Current cable and satellite television customers will, in general, remain unaffected by the transition. The people who will need to take some kind of action before this date are the ones receiving broadcast through an antenna.

For these people, there are three options:

The first is to purchase a “digital-to-analog” signal converter box, which will allow consumers to continue using the same television set they currently own.

The cost is expected to be between $50 and $70. However, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce has developed a program granting up to two $40 coupons to each U.S. household to help facilitate the cost.

The other two options for these consumers is to either subscribe to a cable, satellite or telecommunications service or to purchase a new television set with a digital tuner built in. This cost would not be supplemented by the $40 coupons.

Programming content may also see long-term effects. The relationship between technology and the kinds of shows we are presented with is closer than perceived, and this transition may have unknown impacts. High Definition television service is an optional upgrade available from many digital carriers, and will become even more available after the digital broadcast transition.

“Technology will drive the content,” said Robert Ford, Central Washington University associate professor of broadcast journalism. “Interpersonal relationships were important on the small screen, but that doesn’t really work as well and action and adventure does on today’s large screen.”

What requires consideration is the level of interaction, or lack thereof, that today’s programming requires of its viewers. In short, Americans have become detached from the messages sent through the broadcast media. The High Definition technology available today puts more emphasis on explosions, car chases, and sporting events, while neglecting the more thought provoking, plot-driven programs.

Regardless, there is no amount of speculation will predict how consumers will react. "It’s frustrating for me ... I love my veterans, how can they [the government] give up and take away from us?" Louttit said.

As the current policy becomes more publicized, perhaps veterans’ requests will be heard and their VA Benefits omitted from the equation, aid provided in the form of grants, waivers, and scholarships are removed until the student’s need amount is returned to its determined figure.

Dottie Louttit, veteran affairs coordinator at Central, is dissatisfied with the current policy and its effect on students. "It’s frustrating for me... I love my veterans, how can they [the government] give up and take away from us?" Louttit said.

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Top 10 DVDs in Brooks Library

by Matthew Hartmann
Staff reporter

Brook's library at Central Washington University has a media circulation section that checks out equipment to faculty members. It also has 905 DVD titles that are available for both faculty and students to check out. The following list of the top 10 movies checked out is based on figures since 2002.

1. The Godfather, Part I

Directed by Francis Ford Coppola, starring Marlon Brando and Al Pacino. It is the first part of the saga of the Corleone mafia family as one generation eventually takes over from the other.

2. Fargo

Directed by Joel Coen, starring Frances McDormand, William H. Macy, and Steve Buscemi. The story of a man that hires two men to kidnap his wife and ransom her for $1,000,000 leading to what becomes a string of crimes and murders.

3. Taxi Driver

Directed by Paul Schrader, starring Robert De Niro and Jodie Foster. The plot follows a cab driver named Travis Bickle (De Niro) and his attempts to save a young woman named Iris (Foster) from the prostitution ring that she was forced into.

4. Blade Runner

Directed by Ridley Scott, starring Harrison Ford. Taking place in a dystopian world in the near future, humanity's created artificial humans, known as Replicants that are realized to be a threat to humanity. Replicants are hunted by a force known as Blade Runners. Deckard (Ford) is a retired Blade Runner that's called back for duty for one last mission.

5. The Godfather, Part II

Directed by Francis Ford Coppola, starring Al Pacino. Continuing the saga of the Corleone family, Michael Corleone (Pacino) deals with troubles with other mafia families and attempts to keep his family intact.

6. Goodfellas

Directed by Martin Scorsese, starring Robert De Niro, Ray Liotta and Joe Pesci. The story of Henry Hill (Liotta) and his rise and fall within the ranks of organized crime.

7. Casablanca

Directed by Hal B. Wallis, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman. Taking place in Casablanca, Morocco during World War II. It captures Rick Blaine's (Bogart) struggle in choosing between his passions and the greater good of helping the resistance against the Nazis.

8. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

Directed by Ang Lee, starring Chow Yun-Fat, Michelle Yeoh and Zhang Ziyi. In a mythical China, the story of two warriors unfolds in attempts to protect a magical sword that forces of evil want to take for themselves.

9. Dr. Strangelove, or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb

Directed by Stanley Kubrick, starring Peter Sellers, George C. Scott, A satire of the Cold War situation between the United States and the Soviet Union that makes fun of the often tense situation of the time.

10. The Graduate

Directed by Mike Nichols, starring Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft, and Katharine Ross. The story of Benjamin Braddock (Hoffman) and his encounters with Mrs. Robinson (Bancroft) who seduces him even though being in love with her daughter.

Dining passes inspection

by Jessica May
Staff reporter

It cannot be said that Dining Services at Central Washington University passed recent health inspections with flying colors because what they do right receives no credit.

"While the inspections highlight problem areas, they do not cite areas we do great in," Dan Layman, director of Dining Services, said. "The 'doing great' would be not having any red or blue points (demerits)."

Bars and restaurants receive a visit from a health inspector only once every year. Central, however, is inspected once per quarter because they fall into a different category of food service.

The Department of Health receives approximately 40 to 60 reports of food-borne illness outbreaks per year, involving approximately 400 to 700 illnesses. Some commonly known organisms causing food-borne illness outbreaks include Norovirus, Salmonella and E. coli.

"We take our inspection seriously and try to respond to inquiries or problems as soon as they might be noticed or brought to our attention," Layman said.

Central and Kittitas County did not have any record of food-borne outbreaks for 2006.

With the recent "super-bug" scare, it is more crucial than ever for food handlers to follow proper procedures to prevent the spread of illness.

Central, all of Central's dining staff has Washington State Food Handlers Permits and new-hired all student staff must obtain one within 10 days after hire. Many of the staff are SERVSAFE certified, which is a national certification for food service employees.

A review of the most recent health inspection report for Central shows only one violation, which was corrected during the inspection. The violation was concerning the holding temperatures for the deli meats and potato salad.

The coolers containing the meats and salad were changed to decrease the temperature and lids were added to maintain consistent cooler temperatures.

Any food borne outbreaks should be immediately reported to the Department of Health to ensure quick action against the spread of illness.

Health inspection reports are available for public review through the Kittitas County Department of Health. (509) 962-7690

Court Ruling

Judge Michael Cooper ruled last Friday on the recall petitions that were initiated by Kittitas County Businessman, Desmond Knudson. The three petitions, calling for the recall of County Commissioners Alan Crankovich, Mark McClain and David Bowen, were dismissed.

Crankovich and McClain had seven charges filed against them, with an additional charge leveled against Commissioner Bowen. The seven charges consist of malfeasance of office, malice of office, and violation of oath of office, mostly in regard to the application of ordinance #2207-22, which is the update of Kittitas County Development Code and compliance with the Growth Management Act.

The additional charge against Bowen is malfeasance of office in regard to his filing a lawsuit against the State of Washington, contesting Governor Christine Gregoire's decision on wind farm development. The charges were dismissed for a lack of factual support. The court also determined the charges were legally insufficient, because the acts mentioned were "acts of discretion in the exercise of the authority and duties of the Commissioners," according to the court documents.

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Central was in compliance with all other areas of the regulations set forth by the health department.

Any food borne outbreaks should be immediately reported to the Department of Health to ensure quick action against the spread of illness.

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Vehicle gets physical with Central building

Above: Tape blocks off the crime scene as police officers investigate the crash site. The car careened into the Physical Education Building around 9:30 p.m. last Thursday night, hitting a tree as it came in. There were no reported injuries with the accident.

Opposite: Workers from facilities clear shards of glass found at the crash site. The glass came from the two windows that were shattered in the collision.

Left: Workers from facilities board up the window of the Physical Education building office after clearing the broken glass.

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Work this summer for Holland America Tours/Gray Line of Alaska as a Driver/Guide.

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To sign up for an interview now contact Kevin Malgesini at 206-301-5363 or kmalgesini@hollandamerica.com
Apply online at www.graylineofalaska.com
Trains ride E-burg tracks once again

by Ken Stanton
Staff reporter

It may not be long before Ellensburg hears the sound of a train whistle as passenger service could resume to and from Seattle, Portland and anywhere else home might be.

In the Nov. 6 elections, voters passed the proposition for the re-establishment of a county, rail district to bring commuter service back to Ellensburg and Kittitas County after a 26-year absence.

What thundered into Ellensburg with tremendous applause left with on Oct. 24, 1981, as the final Amtrak Empire passenger service could resume to and from Seattle, Portland and anywhere home might be.

The depot was built in 1910, and the historic building deteriorate into its current condition. Local business owner David Bean and his partners tried selling the building to the city of Ellensburg for a total of $30,000.

The total amounted to double its current value, according to the Eastman Company out of Seattle, a third-party independent appraiser to get a fair appraisal of the depot.

According to the Ellensburg Localizer, the city is where it is today because of John Shoudy, who negotiated a land deal to place depot station at its current location.

The negotiation kept the city from having to be moved to the other side of the Yakima River.

The depot was built in 1910, and was quite lavish for its day with Tiffany tiling, Terrazzo flooring and toilets made from Tennessee marble. The ticketing windows were finished in oak, a ladies' private waiting room, a smoking room and a promenade dining room with modern kitchen and electrical lighting.

"Growing up here during the First World War. I can remember dozens of passenger and freight-trains ripping through town everyday," Mosie Weppler wrote in an article for the Ellensburg paper.

The arrival of passenger service in Ellensburg could bring a much-needed solution to the commuter options available for those who travel between the west side and Ellensburg. Some students at Central Washington University think that this is a good thing.

"I definitely would [take the train] if it was comparable," said Nicholas Bate, sophomore undeclared. Bate described the process of having to take the bus home to Seattle. There is a bus station way over on the edge of town which sucks, because you have to go way over on the edge of town, before you can even catch the bus and then its 50 bucks. I don't drive, so my cab ride to the bus station is seven bucks, and then its 25 bucks each way, so if it was cheaper, I would definitely, definitely catch it.

Jason Swan, freshman undeclared, lives in the Tacoma area, travels home on breaks and would probably use the train service as well, along with Richard Stephen-Mcrae, freshman undeclared, in Bainbridge who said he would use the train.

"I would, definitely. I think it would be great to have a train system," said Heidi Clum, junior elementary education major from Port Townsend.

Clum has commuted in the past between Central and home saying "it's a beautiful drive, but its really long and it costs a lot in gas, so if there was a cheaper way of getting there, that would be fantastic."

The results are in, Ellensburg's city council received four new members out of the seven positions.

Position four number went to Bruce Tabb with 63% of the votes.

Position five went to Stan Bassett with 55% of the votes. Position six went to Pernella Miller with 54% of the votes, and position seven went to George Botcher with 63% of the votes.

Also, the proposition to establish a county rail district passed with 59% (3,462) of the votes, and the proposition to use sales for taxes to toward the criminal justice passed with 63% (420) of the votes.

Without one SRO, the department has had to pull officers off of patrols in order to cover both Ellensburg middle schools and Ellensburg High School. Captain Green said he'll be beneficial for everyone having this SRO on duty.

Hiring these new officers will not be an easy task, as police agencies across the state are having problems finding qualified officers to fill much-needed positions.

"We're not going to lower our standards because of this," Green said.

Green said it is more important to have qualified people from the beginning, as no amount of training can make a bad applicant a good officer.

The EPD is using normal internal sources to find applicants, but they are also taking applications from recent college graduates and lateral officers, who may be looking to switch from other agencies, such as a Sheriff's office or the State Patrol.

Captain Green said that the tax increase was a fair way of paying for the new offices, as visitors who are traveling through on their way to go camping at nearby areas and jet skiing at nearby Vantage use up much of the services that the police have to offer.

By having the sales tax, these people, as they travel through, stop and buy things, helping to pay for the services they use.

But some students here at Central Washington University believe that there are enough police here in Ellensburg, and that more police won't make them feel any safer.

"Ellensburg is a pretty safe place as it is," Adam Aldridge said, junior undeclared. "I don't know the specifics, but it seems (Ellensburg has) a lot they have the city, county, campus and State Patrol.

Cottage and Jones said they both feel pretty safe, but are in favor of supporting the EPD and don't mind paying such a small amount for something as important as the police.

City Council Members:
Tabb vs. Walker 1194 to 708
Bassette vs. Huckabay 1111 to 916
Miller vs. Barry 1129 to 873
Botcher vs. Pentle 1264 to 756
Ellensburg School District:
Haberman vs. Campbell 1956 to 1342
Wahle vs. Schmidt 1778 to 1271
Elliott 2674

Proposition Votes:
Proposition 1 County Rail District Yes 5621 No 4083
Proposition 2 Sales Tax Increase Yes 6384 No 3560

A Fred Meyer checker scans a package of sheets. With the new sales tax rising to three cents for every $10, customer's purchasing their items are now providing funding for the Ellensburg Police Department.

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But some students here at Central Washington University believe that there are enough police here in Ellensburg, and that more police won't make them feel any safer.

"Ellensburg is a pretty safe place as it is," Adam Aldridge said, junior undeclared. "I don't know the specifics, but it seems (Ellensburg has) a lot they have the city, county, campus and State Patrol.

Cottage and Jones said they both feel pretty safe, but are in favor of supporting the EPD and don't mind paying such a small amount for something as important as the police.

A Fred Meyer checker scans a package of sheets. With the new sales tax rising to three cents for every $10, customer's purchasing their items are now providing funding for the Ellensburg Police Department.
Celebirty racism in the nation today

I have begun to wonder if saying race is a remark is the new "going out on the town party line." In the past year there have been at least three celebrities who have gone off on racist tirades and in turn received a large amount of press in return.

The latest example in this string of celebrities’ questionable use of the "n-word" has been Duane "Dog the Bounty Hunter" Chapman. Earlier this month a tape was released where Chapman criticizes his son about having a black girlfriend. He says his problem is not that she is black, but rather his team often refers to black people as the "n-word" and he wants to avoid the bad press. No one has confronted Richards and Don Imus received similar expressions.

Approximately a year ago, Richards, known for his role as Kramer in the ur-like "Seinfeld," called two black audience members the "n-word" during a show.

Earlier this year, Imus was fired by CBS from his radio show after calling the Rutgers women's basketball players "nappy-headed hos." Eight months after that, Imus will be back on the airwaves Dec. 3 on WABC-AM. That, blow over rather quickly.

We have heard rappers say they are using the "n-word" to take the power away from the word. Well they have been saying that for two decades, has anything really changed because they use it 10 times in a song?

Our language is always evolving; much of that evolution is in the way of slang. I am curious if the difference between "gay" and "gayer" really has a different effect.

Richards, Chapman and Mel Gibson quickly stated they are not racist. But you know, you’ll never hear someone say, "Yes, I am a racist." It is easy to say "I was just kidding," or "It is just a joke.

I am all for free speech—I preach that almost weekly on my opinion pages. But when it comes to bigoted speech, I have had the death of dozens with that sort of free expression. I think with that right, there comes responsibility.

I believe as a society we should try to be more mindful of the language we use and the affects words may have on others.

I know racism has been around for ages and unfortunately will continue. My point here is I’m frustrated that celebrities get so much press from using racial slurs and being bigoted. It just doesn’t seem right.

Letters to the editor?
E-mail The Observer at our new e-mail, cwwobserver@gmail.com

Learn to drive and be respectful

For many of us, we take the long trek over the porous roads home on weekends. For others, they have to drive numerous hours to get home where they can finally sink in a car for a long period is even worse when you have to deal with crazed drivers.

Somehow every time I go home, I have to deal with a driver that cannot seem to get there quick enough and I’m left wondering where these people learned to drive. I’m sure many people feel I have no room to talk since I’ve been driving seven years which, compared to some people, is nothing. Yet in that time I have witnessed many crazy drivers.

For example, I’ll be driving in the fast lane going slightly over the speed limit and I’ll come behind someone who is clearly going under. I’ll be patient and wait for the person to move over, but they never do. There will be 10 cars behind, and the person still doesn’t move. After five people have passed on the right-hand side they finally get the clue. Unfortunately, some time later.

Then there are the times that you’ll be going over the speed limit. Someone will cut you off, someone will go 90 and they decide to go around you and cut you off. I’ve never understood this, I could be going well over and somehow this happens every time.

People need to learn how to drive and let the faster cars pass, there might not be so many accidents. For one thing, it is illegal to pass on the right. I don’t understand how people don’t remember this from their driving tests. Plus there are signs that say keep to the right except to pass.

When my parents were in Germany, driving on the Autobahn, they witnessed someone trying to pass on the right side. Let’s say that person was never able to do that again because both the car and person were totaled. I hate to say it but no one would survive in Europe if they drove this way. Europeans seem to know how to drive and they are polite drivers. Even as a multitask driver, they would never imagine trying to pass on the right or driving erratically, which I witnessed when I was in France.

The sad thing is crazy drivers seem to be everywhere. I was in Florida with my fiancé. We were driving down a road which everyone seemed to speed on. We were going 20 over the limit and people still passed us.

I hate seeing people drive this way. There is no excuse for it.

In 2003, there were 42,884 deaths in the United States compared to 50,766 in Europe the same year, according to drivetrainalive.com.

Even with this information, people still seem to think that they are in control of the situation and that it won’t happen to them. Yet people choose to break the law and people often suffer from the consequences.

People need to start being respectful because they are not the only ones on the road.
November 15, 2007 — Scene — Observer

by Amy Sitzler
Staff reporter

Everyone who has endured an Ellensburg winter knows that the town can reach lows well into the teens in the night and not rise much higher during the day.

While it is cold and windy, Ellensburg offers numerous opportunities for students to participate in outdoor winter activities.

Central Washington University and Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals (OPR) is sponsoring Winterfest 2008, a series of films, presentations and events that focus on the outdoors and winter recreation. The Winterfest, also known as the Winter Adventure Series, will be held on Nov. 14, 15 and 19.

"We hope students will gain excitement and energy for winter activities from coming to these events," Ryan Hopkins, coordinator of OPR, said. "Students can also meet possible employers and see the most recent, updated gear."

One of the highlights is the Outdoor Gear Swap, held in the Student Union Ballroom on Nov. 14 - 17. Students can sell and purchase new and used equipment, from backpacks and sleeping bags to skis and snowboards.

Winterfest provides students with the opportunity to attend numerous events that describe how to participate in outdoor sports and how to make the most of the winter season.

There will also be films, such as a selections from the Banff Film Festival. The festival is sponsored by National Geographic and features people around the world performing dangerous and exciting activities such as scaling icebergs and skiing off cliff faces.

"The Banff Film Festival is beneficial and informative on outdoor activities, not only in Washington, but around the world," said Darrell Kangiser, junior nutrition major and student employee at OPR. "Banff is amazing because it features people doing stunts and it shows the commitment people have to do outdoor activities."

There will also be two other films: Warren Miller’s ski film, "Playground," and Match Stick's "Seven Sunny Days."

Door prizes will be provided at each film by Mountain High Sports.

There is great diversity found between the three films which will be played in the next six days, with Banff being one of the more diverse outdoor film presentations throughout the world," Hopkins said.

OPR hopes to get the word out about Winterfest more this year. In addition to OPR’s flyers, press releases, podcasts and Web page announcements, they have made every effort to get the information directly to students.

"This face-to-face marketing has included providing classroom presentations and working with professors on campus," Hopkins said. "Other forms of marketing that we are always improving upon are making radio announcements and working with the residence halls to ensure that on-campus students are receiving updated information."

On Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., students can also talk with representatives from Mission Ridge, the Summit at Snoqualmie, Mountain High Sports, Stevens Pass, Outdoors for All, Blurr Clothing and many other outdoor organizations for possible job opportunities. These companies will be on-hand with displays and information on their programs. They will be located in the Student Union and Recreation Center vendor booths and will have giveaways, mini clinics, music and more. The companies will also be selling equipment at the Gear Swap.

"Outdoor companies will have the task to show what they have to offer and to get students more familiar with outdoor recreation," Kangiser said. "Students can also have the chance to get a job because they will have the opportunity to talk with employers."

Jobs offered at the event will all relate to outdoor activities or companies that specialize in recreation. Companies will include ski resorts, instructional organizations and clothing companies. There will also be a program promoting activities for people with disabilities.

"There are more activities for people to enjoy than many people realize," Kangiser said. "There's more than just skiing and snowboarding; there's also snowshoeing, ice climbing, and cross-country skiing."

While the Cascade Mountains received some snow over the weekend, the overall lack of snow so far has posed problems for people working at Snoqualmie Pass.

"I don't really know what the weather is going to do, but I'm ready for the snow to hit," Caitlin Caffall, senior elementary education major, said. "Some people say we are in for a cold, dry winter, while others say we are in for some great snow conditions. All I know is it better snow soon, and a lot." Central also offers winter classes, such as skiing, cross country skiing and snowshoeing.

These Thursday passes provide transportation and are offered through the end of winter quarter. If students can't schedule in these classes, there are one-day discount lift tickets available at the OPR office. Passes include Mission Ridge, Stevens Pass and the Summit at Snoqualmie, saving students from $8 to $13.
Transgender Day remembers the victims

by Broadd Marselis
Staff reporter

Maxwell Conlait was burned to death by three teenagers, Debra Forte was brutally raped and murdered, and Brandon Teena was burned to death by three teenagers. These are only a few out of hundreds of hate-crimes that are brought to the nation's attention on National Transgender Day of Remembrance on Nov. 20.

"Most of the murders happen because of fear and hatred," said National Washington, senior sociology major and program coordinator for the Diversity Education Center at Central Washington University.

This day of remembrance began after the murder of Rita Hester in her apartment in Brighton, Mass., in 1998. Rita identified herself as transgender, and transgender is a term given to those whose gender identities do not match their gender from birth, such as transsexuals or cross-dressers.

Throughout the nation, people make an effort to stay aware and respect for those like Conlait, Forte, Wilson and Hester. On this day, speakers talk about the lives that were taken because of hate and the issues of transgender, such as transsexuals or cross-dressers.

Candlelight vigils are also held for the victims, as individuals come together to remember them in cities like San Francisco, where the first vigil was held for National Transgender Day of Remembrance in 1999.

A scene from the film "Boys Don't Cry," which deals with transgender issues and society's intolerance.

"This event helps give a voice to those who can no longer speak," Washington said.

Aside from the Diversity Center informing others on the actual day of Remembrance, Central's Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) coordinates campus events year-round dealing with this issue. We have Pride Week, where we hold learning sessions, history on the topic, Ally Day and last year, we had a drag fashion show," said Gabe Ingalls, Ellensburg High School senior and an assistant for GALA.

Members of the Central Washington University marching band perform at last Saturday's football game.

Central's marching band keeps school spirit wild

by Kayla Schroeder
Staff reporter

Keeping the fans entertained, pumping up the Wildcat football team and representing a hard-working music department describe only a few of the responsibilities of Central Washington University's marching band.

"Our games would not be the same without the band supporting us on Saturday," said Ian Scott, senior art major and member of the Central football team. "They bring an amazing amount of energy and enthusiasm to our games."

According to Larry Gookin, Central director of bands, Central's marching band has existed for as long as the football team has.

"Music majors make up 95 percent of the 150-member band. Students gather before the start of each school year to prepare music and drills for the upcoming football season. The marching band commits more than five hours a week to practices, often balancing a full load of classes, symphonic band and part-time jobs for what is described as a "hybrid rehearsal schedule.""

Dedication, self-discipline, musicianship and a strong work ethic are the words used by Gookin when describing his students. He and Mark Lane, assistant director of bands, guide the students during practices and performances, but emphasize student leadership.

This teaching style presents band members pursuing music education degrees with hands-on experience for learning how to run a marching band.

Mark Claassen, senior performance and education major, performed at his last game on Saturday during which he acted as drum major and conducted most of the marching band performances. The game marked the end of a six-year stint with the band.

"I realize that difference does not always equal the amount of money you need," Gookin said. "My students realize this is a part of the program. We perform for as many as 20,000 people (and illustrate) how strong our music program is."

This is also an event that is honored for two topics: Ally Day and the Annual Drag Show.

"We have Pride Week, where we hold learning sessions, history on the topic, Ally Day and last year, we had a drag fashion show," said Gabe Ingalls, Ellensburg High School senior and an assistant for GALA.

A scene from the film "Boys Don't Cry," which deals with transgender issues and society's intolerance.

"This event helps give a voice to those who can no longer speak," Washington said.

"Funding is always a real dilemma," Gookin said. "Every year we ask for enough funds to keep us going. It is a collaboration across the whole campus."

The budget has also allowed for the development of the new field in front of the music building, a lot now used by Gookin and his students for marching band rehearsals.

"There is a public relations aspect to the marching band," Gookin said. "My students realize this is a part of the program. We perform for as many as 20,000 people (and illustrate) how strong our music program is."

Sunday, December 9, 2007
4:00 p.m.
Performing Arts Series
Music Building Concert Hall

Music Building Concert Hall

Spice up your holiday season with a family holiday favorite performed by CUW Jazz Band I. At intermission, fill up your bellies with tasty holiday treats and hot apple cider or your own cocoa creation featuring peppermint sticks, whipped cream, and marshmallows.

Ticket information available through ASCWU/BOD Vice President for Equity and Community Service.

Tickets: General $14, Students & Youth $7
www.cwu.edu/president/series 509-963-1301

Hate crimes against transgender individuals continue to happen today, but because transgender, along with women and the disabled, are not taken as seriously as others, the crimes seldom get reported.

"My hope is that students will realize that difference does not equal danger and once we begin to understand that people are being murdered in cold blood simply because of who they are, the question of 'What can I do' will arise," Washington said.
CAROL: Theatre department ushers in the holiday spirit

Continued from cover

In his role, and “A Christmas Carol” in general, he says dealing with the imaginary is a challenge. Not only is Scrooge dealing with ghosts, but also elements of time travel.

“You have to make sure your imagination is completely engaged to what is going on,” Edie said.

Scrooge dealing with ghosts, but also想象 is a challenge. Not only is he dealing with the chains at the same time and then keep the chains quiet when we are doing,” said Crystal Love, senior theatre education major, who plays Mrs. Cratchit.

Leslee Caul, director of marketing and development, said they plan on making the play bi-annual.

In his role, and “A Christmas Carol” technical elements also play a strong role in “A Christmas Carol.” Timing is crucial to the use of props and special effects. An example is the scene where Marley’s ghost, Scrooge’s partner, visits Scrooge. The scene involves the use of chains.

“[It] only happens once in the show, but we have to make sure we drop the chains at the same time and then keep the chains quiet when we are doing,” said Crystal Love, senior theatre performance major, who plays Mrs. Cratchit.

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Leslee Caul, director of marketing and development, said they plan on making the play bi-annual.

“The children, whose ages range from 7 to 14, are their own unique challenge. Kathryn Stahl, junior theatre education major, works with the kids getting them into costume, working on lines and stage movement.

“It’s kind of like I am eight actors in one,” Stahl said.

“A Christmas Carol” Tops the Christmas toast at the Cratchit family dinner table. Below: Scrooge is shown the love between Bob Cratchit and Tiny Tim.

Shows run Nov. 16, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 17-18 and Dec. 1-2 at 2 p.m.

“Saw” doesn’t hack it anymore

While talking with my younger brother regarding which movie to see after our traditional Thanksgiving feast, he suggested we go to “Saw IV.” I then dropped a few f-bombs about how ridiculous it would be to even suggest that to our family, because nothing says Thanksgiving cheer like a brutal rape scene.

With an opening weekend of $31 million, it’s apparent that filmmakers have found a way to milk a certain market for their less-than-artful cinematic adventures. Instead of well-written, tension-filled atmospheric nightmares, we’re given films built solely around the creative annihilation of people.

I’ve seen the first three films and I didn’t find any of them scary. The first film had its moments of tension and mystery; I wasn’t sure how the movie was going to end. After the first film, it was easy to see the formula being used for the endless sequels. With “Saw IV” in production, I highly doubt filmmakers will change things up.

In the “Saw” films, audiences are presented images of extreme graphic violence and that’s about all they’re given. There’s no noteworthy story, no interesting characters and no reason to care about what might happen. What’s really the point of these films?

It would have to be the adrenaline rush of not wanting to see someone get ripped apart like a bag of potato chips. On the other hand, there are those who actually get the rush from seeing the people get torn to bits. I guess these movies are a way for people to secretly dabble in their sick and twisted side.

Horror films of the past, such as “Halloween” and “The Birds,” used tension as the driving force and gore as the culmination point. The new direction of horror is just to use gore as the selling point.

Proof of this was the tag line for the second Saw film: “Oh yes, there will be blood.” If I wanted to see violence that really horrified me, I would turn on the news and see what’s happening in Iraq.

The trend in these types of horror films, where gore greatly outweighs substance, makes me wonder if we are on our way to desensitizing ourselves to the world around us.

After all of my years of watching extremely violent movies I do feel a bit desensitized. I shouldn’t be able to hit a puppy with a hammer and feel ok about it. But I have or anything, it’s just an example.

The best kinds of horror films are the ones that have a message or some type of social commentary. There is no real message to be expressed in the “Saw” films; they exist to showcase murder and mayhem.

Some people might think I’m a wimp who can’t handle gore. I enjoy the hell out of a bottle of Jack Daniels, so “wimp” is not a word that comes to mind when I think of myself. I just don’t believe anything good can come from watching two hours of people being brutally murdered.

Try and argue against that.
**WINTERFEST:** Gear swap and films highlight outdoor recreation

continued from page 8

It can also be challenging for stu­dents to balance classes and a job at Snoqualmie Pass.

“They (Snoqualmie) do a great job of working with you on your schedule,” Calal said. "The benefits of working at the mountain far outweigh the fact that you may have to work a little bit harder to get everything done.”

With the different events that Winterfest is putting on and such a variety of winter recreational activi­ties, students can study hard and play hard at the same time by mak­ing the most of what is typically a cold and dark winter in Ellensburg.

“I think it’s great that we live in a place and go to a school that is so encouraging when it comes to out­door activities,” Calal said. “I love that we show the Warren Miller film and have the gear swap in the SURC. OPR does a great job of getting the student population stoked for the season.”

A skier takes flight in a scene featured in the Banff Film Festival.

by Bryant Phillips
Scene editor

Ellensburg residents will get an annual treat this Friday when they dress up in their finest attire, socialize amid­st the sounds of jazz and compete with work contributed by Central Wash­ington University students, alumni, fac­ulty members and Ellensburg residents.

The auction is sponsored by the Student Art Council (SAC) of Central, and many of the club members are con­tributing their own work. There will be two auctions held, with a silent auction from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and a live auction beginning at 7 p.m.

“It’s a great opportunity to support the [art] students at Central,” said Don­na Stack, associate professor of sculp­ture and faculty advisor to SAC. “One of the benefits is it not only showcases stu­dent work, but also community and alumni, and gives community members a chance to see what our goals have been up to.”

Joe Churchman, senior studio art major and president of SAC, will con­tribute some of his work and said that the auction is an excellent resume builder for art students who need real­world exposure.

“It’s a chance for everyone who attends the auction and see what’s going on in the minds of those who donate, and to see the work that’s produced,” Churchman said. “It’s also an opportunity for com­munity members, if they like what they see, to get in contact with artists and pursue more of their work.”

Churchman said that students who contribute their work are asked to donate at least 50 percent of the pro­ceeds received from the auction to SAC.

Funding for SAC goes toward an annual juried art exhibition held in the spring, where a juror is chosen by art students to critique their work.

Additional funding also goes toward paying for workshops and field trips for club members.

“SAC helps educate undergrads on what it means to be a living, breathing artist,” Genne Laasko, grad student major and president of SAC, said. “It’s also an opportunity for com­munity members, if they like what they see, to get in contact with artists and pursue more of their work.”

Churchman has just one piece of advice for those who attend: “Have fun and give generously.”

Pale Pacific returns to Central

by Frank Stanley
Copy Desk chief

To most people across the world, there are only two true guarantees in life: death and taxes. For Central Washington University students, however, a performance from local rock group The Pale Pacific can also be included.

At 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16, in the Stu­dent Union Ballroom, the Bellingham quartet brings their indie-rock grooves and power-pop sound to Ellensburg for the third time in the past four years.

Friday’s show would be the first time in nearly four months that the band has performed, as the band has been spending more time in the studio with various other projects, including a live recording, side project bands and marriages.

These past couple of weeks have been the first in a while that they’ve practiced for a show.

“This past year, we’ve spent so much time together as a band and haven’t really spent time just hanging out as friends,” drummer Greg Swinehart said. “We did that over the summer, and it felt great.”

Swinehart, along with lead singer and frontman Gabe Archer, each tied this year in the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery as part of an exhibition titled “Beneath the Canopy of Heaven.”

The variety of artists contributing to the auction will be matched by the vari­ety of artwork styles, which include anything from pottery to jewelry.

Another of the key factors in the auction is the auctioneers, Mark Burren, who has auctioned at Central in years past and is known for his ability to attract buyers.

While participants in the auction can look forward to some of the finest artwork from Central students, ultimate­ly this is an opportunity to help support student artists and SAC.

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Churchman has just one piece of advice for those who attend: “Have fun and give generously.”
Volleyball concludes with weekend sweep

by Joseph Siemandel
Staff reporter

Last weekend, the Central Washington University women's volleyball team finished up the season the right way: by sweeping the last homestand of the season.


Against the Saints, freshman outside hitter Kady Try had a match-high 19 kills to help lead the Wildcats to a victory over the upset-minded Saints, who have only four wins on the season.

Junior middle blocker Rachael Schurman pitched in with 12 kills and junior setter Maggie Olson had another great game with 51 assists.

"We just keep growing as a team," Olson said. "We are all just best friends and it helps our team chemistry."

Saturday, the Wildcats had to work for every point against the Western Oregon Wolves. All five matches went back and forth as the Wildcats pulled out the win in the final game.

Schurman lead the Wildcats with 15 kills and six blocks, while Try added 10 kills of her own along with 12 digs. Sophomore libero Desile Scheidt had 18 digs.

Senior libero Erika Stevens, playing in her last collegiate game, had 21 digs. She finishes her collegiate career with 1,070 total, putting her fourth on Central's all-time list for digs.

Central, who loses two seniors, Stevens and middle blocker Bree Brandt, finish the season 13-14 after starting 1-8. Even with losing two key contributors, the Wildcats seem to be optimistic about the future of the team.

"We just have to continue to get better as a team and continue with the momentum we gained at the end of this year," Try said.

Brandt and Stevens were also named to the Academic All-Conference volleyball team for the third consecutive season. Four other players were named to the team for the first time.

The Academic All-Conference team is for players who earn a minimum 3.20 grade point average, along with being a letter winner for the current year and in at least their second season of competition at their current university.

On Monday, Schurman was named to the All-Great Northwest Athletic Conference first team. She ranked among the top five in four statistical categories. Stevens and sophomore middle blocker Erin Norris were named to the Conference Honorable Mention team. Norris lead the Conference in aces and broke the Central record earlier this season.

"We will sit down and play over the season," head coach Mario Andaya said. "Individually, we need to get stronger and gain experience in the spring and also mature in the off-season."

"We just have to continue to get better as a team and continue with the momentum we gained at the end of this year."

KADY TRY, FRESHMAN OUTSIDE HITTER

Junior middle blocker Rachael Schurman goes up for a spike against Western Oregon last Saturday.

Above: Junior middle blocker Rachael Schurman goes up for a spike against Western Oregon last Saturday. Left: Senior libero Erika Stevens digs out a shot against the Wolves. The game concluded the 2007 season.
Athletic department budget still in the red

By Casey Dornan
Senior reporter

Central Washington University's athletic department looked ahead to the future with revenue opportunities and lost all focus of controlling expenses, according to President Jerilyn McIntyre.

"Our department wants to be part of the 20 percent that operates in the black," McIntyre said. "There are lots of sources for funds and almost everything is variable. One year there might not be a large budget and the next can be the largest the athletic department has had."

Corona said that team travel is the biggest hit in the pocketbook, something that skyrocketed out of control when Central decided to join the soon-defunct North Central Conference (NCC). Travel costs for our team are absolutely brutal," Bishop said.

"A lot of teams have to put him on the defensive line and tracking the ball," Baldwin said. "He can do a lot of things. He can be a good player and a good teammate."

"Sometimes you don't know what those guys in the NFL are thinking, but I would be surprised if he didn't get a shot."

Beau Baldwin, Head Football Coach

However, according to McIntyre, that is not going to happen at Central.

"The athletic department has to pay it back," McIntyre said. "The real issue is within the athletic department's budget."

Rich Corona, vice president for business and financial affairs is helping the athletic department piece together the financial puzzle.

"The athletic department has a complex and complicated budget," Corona said. "High budget costs are butchering men's and women's basketball, allowing only seven scholarships per team."

"We have to get out eight scholarships to bring the talent to Central and win championships," women's basketball head coach Jeff Whitney said. "Eight scholarships would be ideal."

"If Whitney does make up for lack of scholarships, and finances is putting on fundraisers such as basketball camps."

"The athletic department has to pay it back," Corona said. "Increased budget in the athletic department will become the whirlwind of finger-pointing and blaming is alive and well inside Central."

Numerous people inside or closely related to Central athletics state that a championship will not be seen in the near future.

"We finish above where we started, that's a good sign," Bishop said. "We ended up pretty good shape," Corona said. "It is unrealistic to know when all the problems will be fixed," Corona said. "It could be as soon as a few months or much longer."

Central's football team had an operating cost of $192,685 in 2003, the last available account on NCAA's Office of Post Secondary Education report published on Aug. 24, 2007, by the university.

"Our department wants to be part of the 20 percent that operates in the black," McIntyre said. "Jack Bishop, McIntyre completely disagrees."

"The coaching staff here cares about every player where a school like Washington only seems to care about winning and their star players," Hemphill said. "Coach Baldwin is more the definition of a coach. He emphasizes what a coach should. Coach B would try to be everyone's father. He would get into your business off the field and check on your grades and stuff like that."

"I would be surprised if he doesn't get an opportunity," head coach Beau Baldwin said. "Sometimes you don't know what those guys in the NFL are thinking, but I would be surprised if he didn't get a shot."

Hemphill is listed as one of 19 probes for the Regional playoffs, would be the largest the athletic department has had.

"The whirlwind of finger-pointing and blaming is alive and well inside Central," Bishop said.

"People understand inflation," said. "Eight scholarships would be ideal."

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"A lot of teams have to put him on the defensive line and tracking the ball," Baldwin said. "He can do a lot of things. He can be a good player and a good teammate."

"Sometimes you don't see it from a taller, rangier guy, but [Hemphill] does a great job of turning his hips and tracking the ball," Baldwin said.

But before the NFL can come calling, Hemphill and the rest of the Wildcats have business left to finish in the Division II playoffs. He's started every game at safety for the Wildcats and leads the North Central Conference (NCC) in interceptions, with five.

"The playoff system is new to me," Hemphill said. "It's been a great deal for us and I think we fit in athletic spending."

Central Washington University's athletic department is helping the athletic department piece together the financial puzzle.

"The athletic department has a complex and complicated budget," Corona said. "High budget costs are butchering men's and women's basketball, allowing only seven scholarships per team."

"We have to get out eight scholarships to bring the talent to Central and win championships," women's basketball head coach Jeff Whitney said. "Eight scholarships would be ideal."

"If Whitney does make up for lack of scholarships, and finances is putting on fundraisers such as basketball camps."

"The athletic department has to pay it back," Corona said. "Increased budget in the athletic department will become the whirlwind of finger-pointing and blaming is alive and well inside Central," Bishop said.

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The most recent rule change at home came in 2003 at the Indianapolis Colts started 14-0 before losing to the San Francisco 49ers in week 16. In the offseason, the Patriots went out for wide receiver Deion Branch, the Giants this year, and after watching the Eagles remains the largest shutout in NFL history. As far as the Seahawks are concerned, head coach Mike Holmgren finally decided to stop force-feeding an anemic rushing game and put the team's success on the shoulders of Pro Bowler Shaun Alexander and Superbowl MVP, Holmgren called 11 pass plays in week seven against the St. Louis Rams and has not seen the field since. Backing up Shaun Alexander is the dynamic running back Morris two plays later, and Brady will be too much for the Steelers in week 14. The scary thing about this team is they say it's not a priority. The Patriots went into the hostile environment and got strong support for the Pro Bowl at home, but has some control problems. The scary thing about this team is they want to prevent injury before the playoffs. The Patriots have had few tests against both top contenders in the NFC and AFC. Their first true test of the season was when they went up against the Dallas Cowboys in Irving, Texas. The Patriots trotted into the hostile environment and showed they were the superior team by beating the Cowboys 48-27. The scary thing about this team is they keep on getting better and better as a complete team to a team that had one of the most dominant seasons in the NFL for a full season. Much of Brady's success has come as Much of Brady's success has come as he has become Brady's favorite target on the field. as losers of six straight after a promising 4-0 start to the 2007 campaign. After a loss to the Steelers in week three, the Patriots would look ahead to 2008 for what could be a dominating season for a team that had its first 2007 NFL draft and then signed Donte Stallworth all day long and still only four interceptions. These stats come for a run away candidate for the league's most valuable player. Karen is a free agent that has played for the Hiroshima Carp in Japan. He is 33 years old and Seattle actually has the best chance of landing him based on the available second baseman Yuniesky Betancourt, the Mariners have a great start to the season. With these two new receivers on Brady's staff, the offense would surely improve. But the Patriots had one more trick up their sleeves as they went out and got a Pro Bowl wide receiver Randy Moss from the Oakland Raiders. The Patriots also traded quarterback Matt Cassel from Oakland for their fourth round pick in the draft. seasun's approach to the next couple months. Whenever the Mariners do this off-season will be a key factor in whether or not they are able to get wide receiver Deion Branch back from injury. He sprained his foot in week seven against the St. Louis Rams and has not seen the field since. Backing up Shaun Alexander is the dynamic running back Morris two play later, and Brady will be too much for the Steelers in week 14. The scary thing about this team is they say it's not a priority. The Patriots went into the hostile environment and got strong support for the Pro Bowl at home, but has some control problems. The scary thing about this team is they want to prevent injury before the playoffs.
2007 Apple Cup: pillow fight of the century

On Saturday, Nov. 24, the University of Washington Huskies and the Washington State Cougars face off in Washington's biggest and most celebrated game of the year: the Apple Cup. This year's game marks the 100th time the two biggest schools in the state have faced each other and there isn't a football fan in Washington who doesn't have a favorite Apple Cup memory. This year, the stakes for each team could not be higher. On one side, you have the Huskies, who boast a 3-7 record overall, 1-6 in the Pac-10, and with a win the Apple Cup has turned into the Toilet Bowl game of the Pac-10. With a win against the rival Cougars, they may be able to climb out of last place in the conference, beating Stanford for that "coveted" ninth place.

On the other side of the ball, a win for the Cougs gives them a chance to face off in the Apple Cup actually mattered? When that over the last couple of years, the football fan in Washington who doesn't look like they are coming back soon. Ever since the scandals don't look like they are coming back soon. Ever since the scandals.

Not since the Nick Scotti era at the University of Washington, I would hope so. Because I am laying it on pretty thick. The fact of the matter is that over the last couple of years, the Apple Cup has turned into the Toilet Bowl game of the Pac-10. It was a game that literally determined who played in the Rose Bowl? Where the game was nationally televised because it was considered one of the great rivalry games in the nation! Obviously, those days are gone and don't look like they are coming back any time soon. Ever since the scandals o' plenty of Slick Ricky Neuheisel at UW and Mike Price leaving WSU for the shortest coaching stint ever at Alabama after an "alleged" bender with a special lady friend, things have been dire for both schools' celebrated football teams.

The Huskies showed a lot of promise at the beginning of the season, beating Boise State and hanging around in games against Ohio State and USC. They tried going score-for-score against what may very well be the best team in the nation, Oregon, only to be out-classed late and beaten handily. Then there was Arizona. They blew an 18-point lead at home, in the fourth quarter. Talk in Husky nation quickly went from "this team is so close to being really, really good," to "OK, this team is pretty bad." In last week's loss to Oregon State, the Huskies may have lost more than the game, Jake Locker, or as he is known to Husky fans "the savior," was carted off on a stretcher with a neck injury. Even though Locker was seen walking the sidelines in the fourth quarter of that game, it is unknown if his season is over. Locker would be a huge loss for their three remaining games.

Then there's the Cougs. Cougar fans to Husky fans "the savior," was carted off on a stretcher with a neck injury. Then there's the Cougs. Cougar fans are always optimistic and excited for their beloved team to do something special every year. Sorry, guys. This team is not very good. They may have come close to victories over nationally ranked Arizona State and Cal, but it is clear that both of those teams were overrated, and WSU lacks the ability to put games away. Two of their four wins were against University of Idaho and San Diego State. Not really statement games. The win over UCLA was impressive, but in the Pac-10, it takes more than one big win to make a name for yourself.

Look, someone has to win. I'm not really sure who will be the favorite, so there isn't really a chance of a major upset. I guess I am just bitter and miss the old days. The great snow games in Pullman, or the last minute heroics at Husky Stadium. It was always a game to look forward to. I guess my only hope is that these teams step it up next weekend, and give everyone in the state something to be proud of in Washington football. The 100th Apple Cup is Saturday, Nov. 24, at 4 p.m. at Husky Stadium in Seattle.

**APPLE CUP: THE LAST FIVE YEARS**

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FOOTBALL: Central faces Ashland University at Tomlinson Stadium in first round of Division II playoffs

Continued from cover

Central continued to struggle during its next possession as senior running back Johnny Lopez fumbled at the Wildcat 44-yard line. Mavericks junior linebacker Jeff Souder returned the ball for 44 yards as Reilly forced him out of bounds just inside the 5-yard line.

Junior quarterback Zach Miller scored for Nebraska-Omaha, finalizing the first half score at 24-0.

“They definitely did a good job pressuring us and got us out of our running game,” Baldwin said. “It’s tough to stay balanced when trying to come back.”

The Wildcats couldn’t get the ball moving on the opening possession of the second half. The Mavericks took advantage, racking up 96 yards on their next possession and pushed their lead to 31-0 after Miller connected for a 35-yard pass to junior wide receiver David Casey. The connection was one of only three successful pass completions by the Mavericks, out of six attempted during the game.

“I didn’t think we’d reach the half that well,” Mavericks head coach Pat Behrens said. “I’m proud of our defense and our team effort.”

Reilly completed five passes on the Wildcat’s next drive, including a 4-yard connection with Spevak for Central’s first touchdown of the game. The Wildcat looked like they might try to rally back early in the third quarter.

Senior linebacker Brett Stray picked up a Nebraska-Omaha fumble on the Mavericks’ next possession, leading to a one-yard touchdown run by Reilly to bring the score up 33-0.

However, Mavericks junior wide receiver Keith Elio answered with an 80-yard kickoff return, scoring for the Mavericks with 22 seconds left in the third quarter and taking a 33-14 lead.

“I wish we would’ve started better,” Reilly said. “But there’s no way I’m going to make an excuse. I give (Nebraska-Omaha) a lot of credit.”

The Mavericks scored once more in the fourth quarter after a connection between Reilly and Spevak at the 50-yard mark, but Central was overwhelmed by two huge scoring runs by the Mavericks. Worth completed a 60-yard run for a touchdown with 10:20 on the clock, and McNeil answered Central’s final drive with 24 seconds remaining.

With the final drive of the game, Reilly became the third player in Central’s history to complete more than 8,000 career passing yards. He completed 29 of 46 passes for 292 yards and two touchdowns for the Wildcats on Saturday. Last Friday, Reilly was also announced as one of 24 nationwide candidates for the 2007 Harlon Hill Trophy, which is awarded by the National Player of the Year.

Senior wide receiver Chris Reynolds had six catches for 78 yards in his final regular season game, while Spevak caught eight passes for 93 yards and two touchdowns.

Lopez gained only 44 yards on 15 carries, but became the 10th player in Central history with 1,000 more rushing yards in a single season.

Despite the loss, the Wildcats still head into the NCAA Division II Football Championship playoffs as the number two seed from the Northwest Region and receive a first-round bye, along with Nebraska-Omaha.

“Having a bye week, it’s going to be pretty critical for us,” Behrens said. “We’ve had some guys get banged up on Saturday and it’ll give us a chance to get better before the ball.”

While the top two seeds from each region receive first-round byes, seeds three through six from all four NCAA regions will compete in the first round games this Saturday. The other Northwest Region first round game is between third-seed North Dakota State University (9-1) and sixth-seed Winona State University (10-1).

Nebraska-Omaha will host the Central Washington-Ashland winner during the second round on Saturday, Nov. 24.

“We will play (Nebraska-Omaha) again in a couple weeks, we’ve got to be pretty aggressive,” Reilly said. “They’re 10-0 for a reason.”

NCAA Division II

N.W. Regional Poll

1. Nebraska-Omaha 10-0
2. Grand Valley State 10-0
3. North Dakota 9-1
4. Central Washington 8-2
5. Ashland 6-1
6. Winona State 10-1
7. Saginaw Valley State 7-3
8. Hillsdale 6-3
9. South Dakota 6-5
10. Michigan Tech 6-5
11. Ferris State 6-3
12. Wayne State 5-4

D2football.com Poll

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

AFCA Division II Poll

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

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Tickets available at the CWU Athletic Department on the corner of Nicholson and Valley (Tel. 888-101), or by calling 509-963-1914, at the CWU Wildcat Shop (bookstore), located in the SLC, or at the Ellensburg Chamber of Commerce. Visa and Mastercard are accepted at these locations.

NCC teams in bold

Johnny Lopez (2). Reilly went 29-for-46 with 292 yards and two interceptions in a 59-21 loss to the Mavericks. Central hosts Ashland this Saturday.

Maggie Schmidt/Observer