

11-29-2007

Observer

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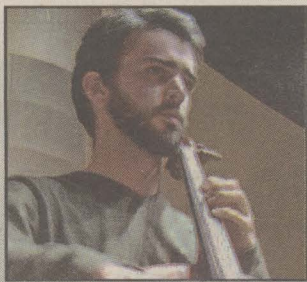
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renovation to be
done fall of
2008**

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look to snap
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State's streak**

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The Central Washington University

OBSERVER

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Take One**

E-mail: cwuobserver@gmail.com
Newsroom: (509) 963-1073

November 29, 2007 - volume 81, number 8

UPSET IN OMAHA

**Wildcats score
13 points in 73
seconds to shock
the Mavericks**

by Curtis Crabtree
Asst. Sports editor

The Central Washington University Wildcats' season will continue for at least another week after an upset victory over the Northwest Region's top-ranked University of Nebraska-Omaha Mavericks last Saturday.

The Wildcats (9-2, 6-2 North Central Conference) rallied from 10 points down in the final three minutes of the game to shock the crowd of more than 6,000 people at Caniglia Field in Omaha, Neb., and handed the Mavericks (10-0, 8-0 NCC) their first loss of the season.

After a 40-yard field goal by Mavericks kicker Greg Zuerlein gave Nebraska-Omaha a 17-7 lead with 3:04 to play, sophomore wide receiver Brandon Stout swung the momentum in the Wildcats' favor.

"We just knew we needed a big play," head coach Beau Baldwin said. "Anytime you are down 10 with three minutes to play, it's not a great situation to be in."

On the ensuing Mavericks kickoff, Stout took the kick four yards deep in the Central end zone, found a seam up the sideline, split two Omaha defenders, juked past the kicker and outraced the rest of the Mavericks for a touchdown to get Central back within three points.

"I knew we didn't have much time left and we needed a big play," Stout said. "I caught it deep in the end zone and my partner in crime, Charles Smith, threw a great block to get me up the sidelines. The rest kind of just fell into place."

An unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on the extra point attempt allowed the Wildcats to kickoff from their own 45-yard line rather than the 30. Sophomore kicker Garrett Rolsma was able to pin the Mavericks on their own 13-yard line.

On second-and-eight from the Nebraska-Omaha 15-yard line, Mavericks quarterback Zach Miller threw a pass intended for wide receiver David Carey up the sideline.

SEE OMAHA PAGE 15

FREEZING OVER

*Ellensburg residents
prepare for winter
driving conditions,
leaving for vacation and
SNOW!*



Maggie Schmidt/Observer



Chelsea Krotzer/Observer

**"Oh, the weather outside is frightful,
But the fire is so delightful,
And since we've no place to go,
Let it snow! Let it snow! Let it snow!"**

See stories regarding winter safety tips on pages 4 and 5

Union members to vote on agreement

**Faculty and
administration
come to a
consensus
regarding
tentative
compensation**

by Chelsea Krotzer
News editor

A tentative agreement was made this Tuesday evening, ending current faculty bargaining compensation. They are now in the ratification process.

Representatives of the United Faculty of Central (UFC) and Central Washington University spent 13 hours deliberating over issues concerning wages and articles 1, 10, and 20 within the collective bargaining agreement.

Both UFC and Central hope that the contract will be ratified by the end of

the year and be effective Jan. 2008.

"We're very happy with the outcome," UFC President Bob Hickey said. "We think that everything is an improvement. Nothing's perfect, but it's progress."

A major highlight of the tentative agreement is a 7 percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all faculty members, including non-tenured track, over the next biennium. This is a wage increase from the original 5.2 percent COLA provided by the state.

If ratified, non-tenured track would have the potential for multi-year con-

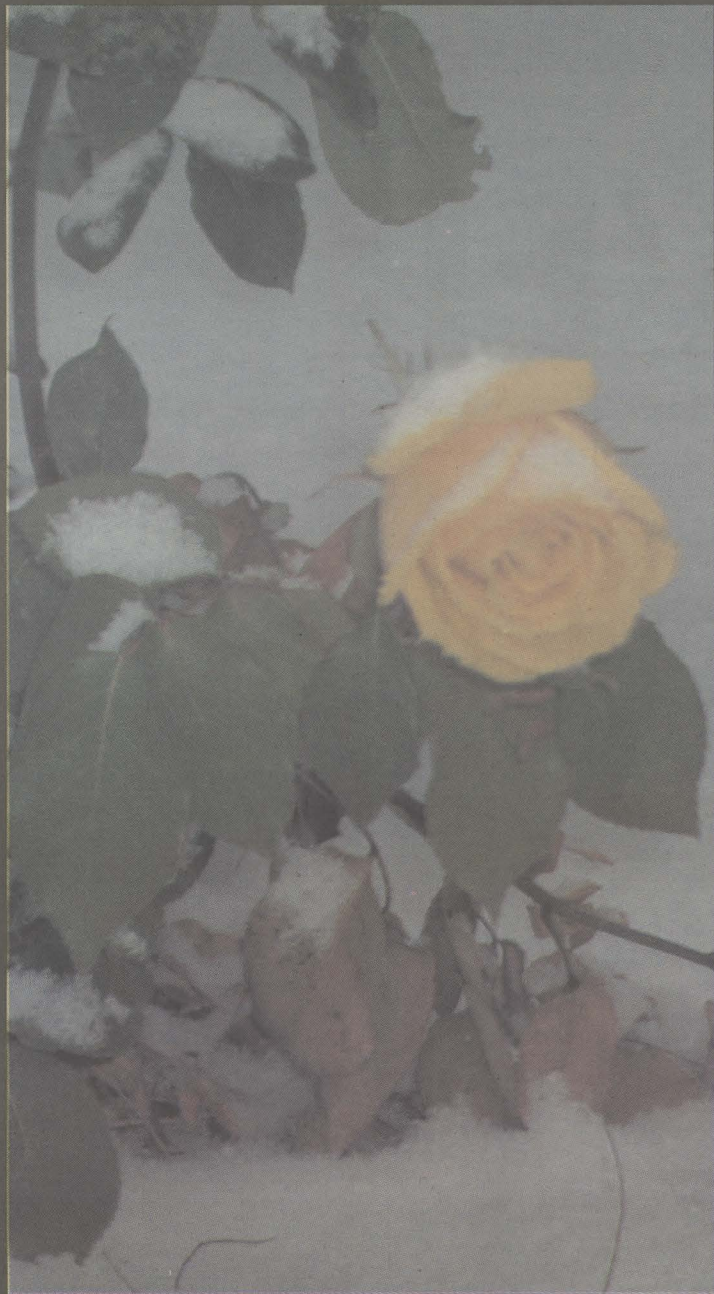
tracts under the collective bargaining agreement. They would also be re-listed in all print and online Central catalogs.

Added protection was granted to non-tenured track faculty as well, providing more specific contract letters. The contract letters would better define the duties of the faculty to avoid misinterpretations.

Tenured track faculty would be able to take advantage of early tenure and promotion if the agreement is ratified.

SEE AGREEMENT PAGE 5

Visual stimulation



courtesy of Chloe Robbins

"The Rose is without an explanation; she blooms, because she blooms"

-Angelus Silesius

Renovation causes Dean Hall to go green



courtesy of BCRA Design

A concept sketch of Dean Hall after the current renovation. The rebuilding process should be completed in Sept. 2008.

by Tim Kukes
Asst. Scene editor

Chain link fences surround Dean Hall and the sounds of power equipment and workers can be heard from within by the passing students. These are the telltale signs of Dean Hall's transformation of an old science building to a more environmentally friendly class space for future students.

Dean Hall is going to be a LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, building. The building will have to comply with the Green Building Rating system, which notes performance in five key areas: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Certification is passed on the rating in each of these areas with an overall rating assigned to the entire building.

There are four levels of certification: certified, silver, gold and platinum.

In 2005, the Washington State Legislature passed ESSB 5509, a bill that required that state building and schools to meet certain standards of high performance. Now, school buildings that use funds from the capital budget require a LEED certification of at least silver.

"There are many studies out right now that [indicate] initial costs may be higher,

but you save money over the long run," said Joanne Hillemann, manager for facilities planning and construction.

Central has asked for funds from the state legislature since 1998, but due to delays and other priorities, such as the new music building, the funds were not received to start planning and construction until January 2007, Hillemann said.

The base bid for the project was approximately \$21 million, which was 13 percent over budget according to Hillemann.

In addition planning costs were \$2.2 million. Hillemann said that the budget was tightened in other places, funds borrowed from the proposed Farwell Hall building project and some state assistance received to make up for the over budget costs.

"[I am] very happy for the university that we wouldn't have an empty building on campus," Hillemann said.

The renovated Dean Hall is scheduled to be finished Sept. 10, 2008, and will house the geography and anthropology departments. In addition, it will also offer space to museum studies and the College of the Sciences dean.

The building has been designed to keep the classes with the most campus traffic on the ground floor, with higher division classes and offices being on the upper floors.



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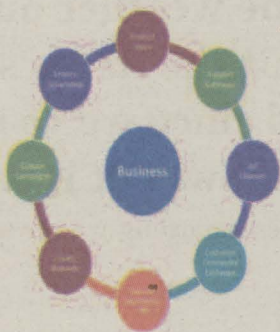
The Observer is a class in which students are constantly learning how to interview, report and produce a newspaper.



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Timber! Central construction project leaves trees shaking in their roots

by Ken Stanton
Staff reporter

To make an omelet, one must first break a few eggs. This, in its simplest form, describes the reconstruction process of Dean Hall at Central Washington University as many things are being torn down in order to make way for something better.

The extensive renovation of Dean Hall for anthropology, museum studies, geography and the College of Sciences is a substantial change for the building.

Among the many plans for Dean Hall's rebuilding is a new museum to be built in the lobby to display the many artifacts gathered by these departments from various projects in which they have been involved.

One of the more unique elements planned is a path, resembling a river, which will extend all the way from "D" Street to the arboretum, winding its way through the lobby and out the other side of the building, where it will twist and wind through the new courtyard.

Hundreds of bushes, trees and other plants will be planted along various rock formations and decorative pathways in and around Dean Hall.

Incorporated within these many plants and pathways will be an outdoor classroom teachers to provide a more hands-on learning experience.

The project has many people excited, but like all construction projects, there are complications. Such complications have caused faculty and students to become angry, wishing better precautions had been taken to save a few of the trees around the building.

Preparation of the grounds surrounding Dean Hall resulted in a couple trees being cut down due to miscommunication between the project managers and the company doing the renovation.

"The contractor was supposed to coordinate tree removals with the university prior to removal," said Joanne

Hillemann, project manager for the reconstruction of Dean Hall. "[It was] a requirement in the contract document... and with the first few trees, that didn't happen."

Normally this would be no big deal, but one of the trees that were cut happened to be a ginkgo biloba, dedicated to Phil Dumas, a biological science professor at Central from the mid '60s up to his retirement in 1989.

Dumas was involved with the development and direction of the biological science department. Along with the ginkgo was a persimmon that was dedicated to Central by the class of 1985.

Approximately 12 other honey locusts and a few other trees were also cut down and added to the pile of trees that were shredded before being hauled away to compost, leaving five more trees bearing a blue "X", which signified they were to be cut down as well.

When members of the biology department heard about the situation, they rushed to put a halt to the trees' removal, expressing anger and a desire to save any more trees from being removed. This has saved at least two of the aforementioned five remaining trees from being cut down, but at least another two may still be removed.

"There are certainly lots of new trees coming in the project," Hillemann said. "It's not that we were just taking trees away and not planning on putting plants back we have a lot of landscaping coming back into the project area."

According to Hillemann, the landscape architect tried to keep as many of the existing trees as possible, but some needed to be removed in order to make way for new utilities as well as a way for large trucks carrying precious artifacts gathered by the various departments that will be put on display in the new museum.

Hillemann said that the project architect had tried to gather information about the trees before making any deci-



photos by Ken Stanton/Observer

Above: The remains of a ginkgo tree dedicated to former professor Phil Dumas, who died in Oct. 1992. Dumas was a biological science professor.

Left: Within the compost pile of trees lies the Phil Dumas memorial ginkgo tree, along with various other dedicated trees, including the class of 1985.

sions, but had troubles making the proper contacts in order to obtain the information.

In the wake of the incidents involving the trees' being cut down, Hillemann, with the assistance of Eric Fraley, also a project manager for Dean Hall's renovation, has tried to ensure that no other trees are removed without proper notification and research to make sure that these are the best options available.

Hillemann expressed regret and sadness on behalf of Central for having to cut down the trees, as well as the mistakes that occurred in communication regarding the ginkgo tree. She said that lessons have been learned and everyone is working together to make sure these mistakes don't happen again.



Academic affairs provided Jennings his \$164,000 severance

Chelsea Krotzer
News editor

A former administrator recently received approximately \$164,000 upon his resignation from Central Washington University. According to Provost Soltz, the money came from Academic Affairs.

In a recent story printed in The Observer, it was unclear where the money came from to pay former Associate Vice President of Faculty Affairs Michael Jennings.

Jennings resigned in Aug. 2007.

Soltz said the money used to pay Jennings could not have been used for anything else.

The amount of money was based on the time Jennings worked at Central, as well as his tenured position in the political science department. The university purchased Jennings tenure rights from him.

"It's a lot of money," Soltz said. "You don't do it casually and you don't do it very often, but it was a reasonable amount."

According to Soltz, tenure is a property right, therefore it legally has financial value.

The university does have some money set aside for recruitment and retention of current faculty and staff. The money is

used to attract a new employee to Central or keep an employee at Central.

"We do keep some money aside for these kinds of personnel actions," Soltz said.

If Jennings were to have resigned from his administrative position, he would have taken his place among the faculty as a tenured professor, according to Stacey Sleigh-Layman, chair of the exempt employee association.

"The jobs [administrators] do, they don't make anyone happy," Sleigh-Layman said. "They're like islands in the sea; who's their constituents that they can just go let their hair down with?"

Jennings resignation was part of the exempt code. Typically, all administrators are held accountable under the exempt code. Faculty members are under the collective bargaining agreement.

According to a statement made by Soltz in a previous Observer article, Jennings' resignation was mutual. Furthermore, it was stated that the resignation had nothing to do with the rumors concerning Jennings' military background.

Rumors derived from his deposition during the William Chandler civil suit against Central.

According to Soltz's deposition in the Chandler suit, he stated that

"...he shouldn't have shot his mouth off about it"

PROVOST DAVID SOLTZ
IN A DEPOSITION

Jennings' representations about being in the military were "one of many factors" that led to his resignation.

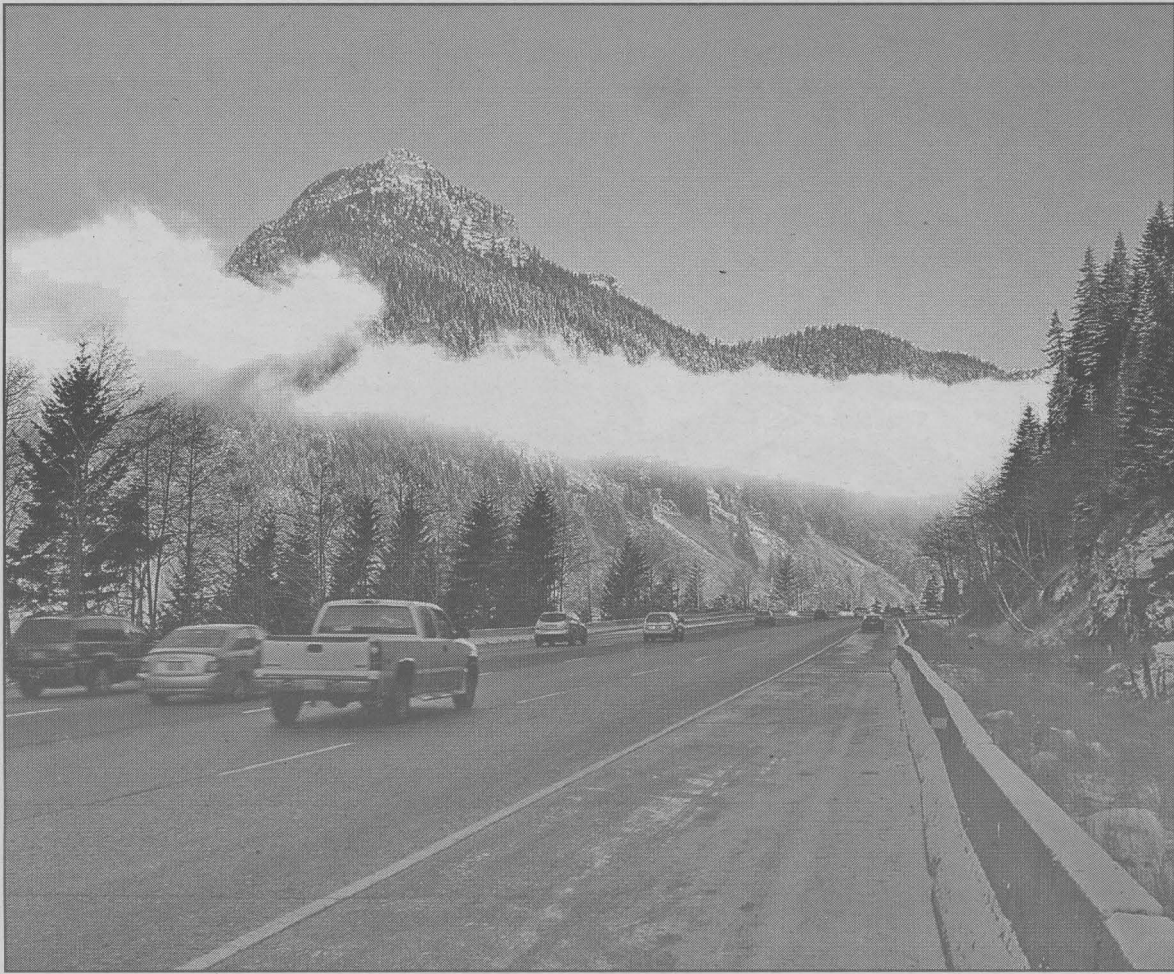
In the deposition, Soltz said that he discussed the military issue with Jennings because he felt it was confusing.

Soltz stated that Jennings "consulted with the appropriate authorities and was told to stay with that statement." The statement was "no," he was not ever involved in the military.

"His claim was that he was in the military, but because of the clandestine or secret whatever aspects of what he did, he could not reveal," Soltz said.

Soltz also said Jennings claimed his military experience was truthful, "but he shouldn't have shot his mouth off about it."

Let it snow,
let it snow, let it snow



photos by Chelsea Krotzer/Observer

Above: Cars drive past just miles from the summit of Snoqualmie Pass. The sides of the road are covered with frozen waterfalls and snowfall. Drivers should frequently check the pass weather conditions prior to crossing during the winter. Motorists can visit the Washington State Department of Transportation website at www.wsdot.wa.gov to get updated information on mountain passes.

Left: Ice covers the roadways off I-90's Snoqualmie pass exit near the Silver Fir lift. Drivers should keep an eye out for black ice on roadways.

Central students take caution driving home

by Matthew Hartmann and Donna Buse
Staff reporters

Snow is starting to fall on the ground. That means winter break is around the corner and some will be going home for the holidays.

For the majority who live on the West side of Washington state, which means having to go through Snoqualmie Pass.

Snoqualmie Pass is known to be quite treacherous during adverse weather conditions. Car accidents are more common during the winter months.

For example, in 1996, for the Cascade region and Eastern Washington, 25 percent of all automobile accidents were related to ice on the road.

"I always bring a flashlight and blanket along just in case the pass gets blocked," Stephanie Sullivan, senior psychology major, said. "Also, I try to drive slower than usual."

The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) recommends drivers to take precautions before traveling. They also recommend driving with headlights on at all times as well as using chains to reduce the risks of skidding.

Drivers should keep more distance than usual between the cars in front and behind themselves and allow more time to reach the desired destination.

"I always check the WSDOT Web site for road conditions before I leave Ellensburg to head home over the pass," Steven Borley, sophomore biology major, said.

The WSDOT also advises drivers to avoid getting too close to snow plows because the driver of the snow plow often can't see vehicles behind their own. It is considered safer to wait for the snow plow to continue on because the cleared road is safer to drive on.

The message "Ice and snow, take it slow" is the message WSDOT is relaying to get across to drivers before anything else this holiday season.

For students that decide to stay on campus there are housing options available in Beck, Carmony Munro, Davies, Hitchcock, Meisner, North, Quigley, and Sparks residence halls.

To apply for housing, one must go to

Emergency items that should be kept in cars in case of an emergency according to whathappensnext.com

- Disposable camera
- Motor oil
- Cones, warning triangles or emergency flares should be kept in the trunk.
- Gas can
- Fire extinguisher
- First aid kit
- Flashlight with spare batteries
- Fuses
- Insurance: insurance card, phone number of agent, 1-800 number of company
- Tire jack
- Jumper cables
- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Portable radio with spare batteries
- Reflective vest
- Sealant for small leaks in tires
- Spare tire
- Tire pressure gauge
- Tool box with screwdrivers, wrenches and a small hammer
- Ice Scraper for windows

the Housing Office in Button Hall and fill out a form. It is \$15 a day and one can't exceed \$300, meaning that students can only stay 20 days.

Students need to make sure that they make proper precautions before they leave their housing on campus for three weeks.

"Make sure that you don't have food lying around that is going to spoil and unplug most of your appliances," Alyssa Caudill, student office assistant, said.

Tire Chain Tips

- Consult your owner's manual to see if chains can be used on your vehicle.
- Do not tow other vehicles with chains on your tires. Chains are not designed for towing.
- Do not deflate tires to install tire chains.
- Be sure to pull off the highway to a safe place before installing, servicing, or removing tire chains.
- If a cross chain should fail, stop immediately to repair it or remove it.
- Follow directions for installing tire chains. Apply as tightly as possible by hand for maximum chain life.
- Be sure to remove chains when driving on bare roads.
- Do not exceed 30 m.p.h. Accelerate and decelerate slowly to avoid spinning or locking up wheels.
- Avoid hitting curbs with chains on your tires.
- After putting on chains, drive for a quarter of a mile and then stop and retighten.
- For maximum performance, make sure tire chains are properly sized for the tires.



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Getting homes, halls ready for winter season



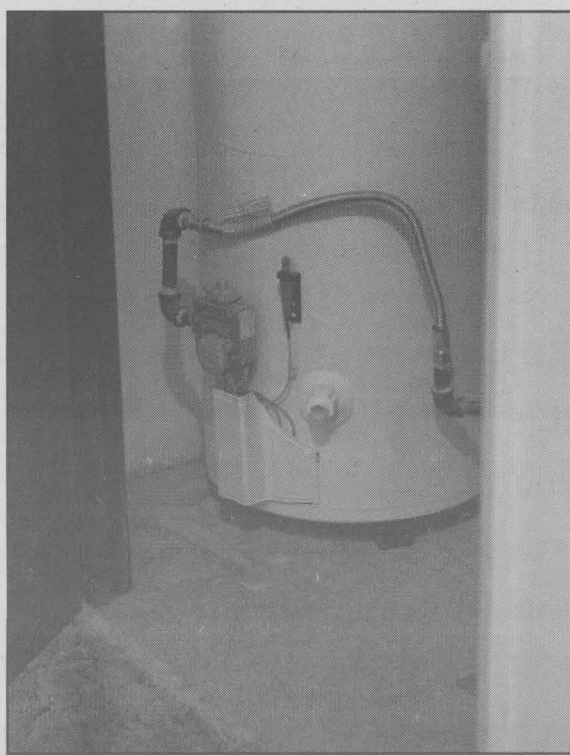
Marqise Allen/Observer

Sparks Hall is one of 10 that will be open during winter break. Students staying on-campus for break are to make arrangements with housing.

Residence Halls available during break

- Anderson
- Alford Montgomery
- Carmody Munro
- North
- Davies
- Hitchcock
- Quigley
- Beck
- Sparks
- Meisner

Talk with Housing in Button Hall to make arrangements.



Maggie Schmid/Observer

When gone for an extended period of time, leave a small stream of water running so pipes don't freeze over

Residence halls winterized

- If you're leaving your car behind, move it to N 19 lot
- Bring everything you need with you
- Prepare room for roommate if there is a vacancy
- Throw out trash and perishable items
- Take your bike home or bring it into your room
- Take fish and plants home
- Set thermostat to #1
- Unplug all electrical appliances except for microfridge
- Close and lock windows
- Turn off lights and lock door

Winterizing Apartments

- Keep heaters running between 50 and 65 degrees, depending on the apartment complex
- Open windows periodically to keep mold from growing due to moisture
- Empty garbage cans
- Clean out refrigerator
- Unplug all unnecessary appliances
- Keep a flashlight, batteries, candles and a box of matches in an easily accessible place in case of a power outage.
- Chimneys should be cleared before making a fire
- Clean out rain gutters to prevent water damage
- Have bottled water and non-perishable food stored in case of winter storms.



Marqise Allen/Observer

Students going home over break are reminded to unplug all electric devices before leaving. Residents should also lock all their windows and doors as well.

Central falls behind in officer diversity rates

by Marqise Allen
Asst. News editor

There are currently no women or persons of color as campus officers at Central Washington University, a far cry from campus police departments in major Washington universities.

Western Washington University employs a Hispanic corporal, sergeant, and officer as well as a female officer. Washington State University has two female officers and Eastern Washington University has a Hispanic and American Indian serve as officers. Even though Eastern and other Washington institutions experience a variety of diversity in their campus police department, they work hard to do so.

"In this day and age, it's very difficult to reach into some groups," said Gary Gasseling, deputy chief at Eastern Washington University. "When I first started, it was only all white males."

At the end of 2006, the University of Washington had the most diverse staff by numbers with a combination of 20 women and people of color. They recently hired three more female officers at the end of October.

The University of Washington and the other institutions all stressed one thing when asked how they diversified their staff.

"We try to get as good a group as we

can and as diverse a group as we can," said Ray Whitmier, assistant chief at the University of Washington. "It can be somewhat challenging right now, we have to spend a lot of time recruiting to create a lot of diversity."

Central had one female officer at the close of 2006, but she was let go at the end of June of this year and Central hasn't had a female or person of color officer until she came and went since 2002.

In 2000 and slightly thereafter, Central had an African American, Asian, Hispanic, and female officers, who have moved on since then. But this is part of the problem; it is difficult to retain officers, explains Keith Champagne, vice president of student affairs, who also consults with and serves on the Central Washington University hiring board for the past 16 years.

"The officers [Rittereiser] is hiring have been taken by different departments," Champagne said. "Three or four of the officers of diverse background now work for the Ellensburg Police Department. Other departments pay more, and if you are a person of color with a degree in law and justice, you're that much more marketable."

It's not only difficult to retain officers from different backgrounds, but other officers in general because of the pay they receive.

"The other counties, King County,

Snohomish County and Pierce County, pay pretty well," said Steve Rittereiser, Central Washington University police chief. "One of the biggest factors in law enforcement hiring is how much you're paying, and they're paying \$400 to \$700 more a month than we pay."

The reason behind pay differential is that Central is a state agency and has to follow a state salary scale for police officers in eastern Washington. They are also not the beneficiaries of the county's tax income and are paid directly from the state. In addition to this, Central does not use supplemental income to boost the officers' pay, which the University of Washington and Western do.

Another problem is that the general number of applicants has diminished over the years, explains Campus Police Captain Kevin Higgins.

As difficult as it may be, Central is still trying to recruit a diverse candidate pool, Rittereiser said.

By posting job openings on Web sites, talking to law and justice classes and students in the Bridges program, Central hopes to find and recruit candidates.

Though Central does not have much diversity among officers, Champagne says that a lack of diversity doesn't always mean they are gender or culturally insensitive.

"I think if you have officers who are culturally competent and have an appreciation, understanding, value and

respect from people from diverse backgrounds, you can put together a police department that is going to be in tune and competent to deal with people from diverse backgrounds," Champagne said. "You don't have to have a person of color to deal with the population that the police are protecting and serving."

This is true, but Gasseling stated that diverse groups of people bring something to the staff and the different situations they encounter.

"[Women] have an innate way of how to deal with certain situations," Gasseling said. "They bring some sensibility to the job, that men learn from. It has tempered a lot of the men and took out the good ol' boy clique."

Former female officer

Central employed a female officer, Jen Rogers, from around the latter part of 2006 to June 26th of 2007. She was released before she completed her probationary period for unknown reasons, but was hired on by the Cle Elum police department in mid July. She has recently filed a complaint against the campus police department. Rittereiser and Higgins declined to comment on Rogers' performance as an officer or the circumstances regarding her release.

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Soltz to leave Central campus by Jan. 7

by Chelsea Krotzer
News editor

Central Washington University is in the early stages of seeking a replacement for another administrator.

Provost David Soltz was recently selected as the new president of Bloomsburg State College in Pennsylvania.

Libby Street, executive assistant to the president, commented on President Jerilyn McIntyre's behalf via e-mail.

"She wishes Dave and Robbie the very best in this new adventure at the same time that she recognizes that Bloomsburg's gain is Central's loss," Street said.

McIntyre has begun the search for an internal replacement for Soltz. The search committee already met once during Thanksgiving break.

The hope is for a new provost to be selected by Feb. 1, 2008.

"I had a wonderful experience here at Central and I think it has prepared me well to move forward as

president [at Bloomsburg]," Soltz said.

Soltz will be in Bloomsburg by Jan. 7 to fill his new position.

Soltz will be beginning in January because the current president decided to retire after 14 years as president.

"It's not a bad time [to start]," Soltz said. "You come in the middle of the year when the new term starts, and you also come in before the legislature convenes and does budget work."

Soltz will continue to be in his Central office through the first few days of January.

"[Leaving] always bittersweet," Soltz said. "We like the [Central] campus, we like the community; our youngest son is a student here."

Soltz said he plans to keep his Ellensburg home with the prospects of possibly retiring in Ellensburg. His son, Andrew, will remain at Central.

"It felt like a fit because of the similarities to Central and it ended up being a fit in a lot of ways because of the similarities to Central," Soltz said.

NCATE accredits Central's education program

by Karena Shellman
Senior reporter

The education department is on the right track toward over coming their state given probation. Accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the department sought to become accredited by the state too because it helps Central award teaching certificates. The department is required to be state accredited but have gone the extra mile to be nationally accredited as well.

In 2000, the education department became accredited by NCATE without any room for improvement. Every seven years, officials from NCATE review the program and found two out of six areas of concern this year. Those two were candidate knowledge, skills and dispositions, as well as areas of diversity.

"It's very unusual to end up with no

deficiencies," said Connie Lambert, interim dean for the college of education and professional studies. "People need to understand that we are accredited and we did pass, but there are [certain] conditions on two standards and [NCATE] will have to come back and review us again."

Along with the two concerns, NCATE found 13 areas of improvement. Lambert said the department felt as though NCATE officials had not looked deeper into those improvements and proposed a rejoinder.

"Based on the rejoinder, we ended up over-turning the standards that were not passed and this month, we ended up with two standards and just four areas of improvement," Lambert said.

However, the state also rejected their proposed accreditation because of seven unmet standards. Because the state rejected the accreditation, the

education department began an appeal process, but quickly suspended it. The department then went to the state with a seven-page work plan that outlined deadlines, responsibilities, what had been collected and standards. The state, however, rejected the work plan because they did not have a policy surrounding work plans. Lambert said the department has regained their appeal and are set for a court date in January.

"I'm very happy with the N-CATE accreditation," Lambert said. "We know that we did not have a whole compliment of data and we need to do a better job of getting those results out to students."

The department is currently working on the two missing NCATE standards and will prepare for review within the next two years. They are also focusing on getting accredited by the state, hopefully in April.

Agreement: Central and UFC work together bring faculty wages up to par of sister institutions

continued from cover

"We were able to have candid conversation without being fearful of how it would be interpreted," said Wayne Quirk, associate vice president of the office of graduate research. "We could trust each other."

According to Quirk, the main goal from the administrative standpoint was to get faculty salaries up to that of competing universities. They also wanted to make faculty as a whole happy and be able to pay the wage increase.

"Part of our job as faculty and administrators is to make it so students don't have to have concerns with bureaucratic issues," Quirk said. "Faculty and administrative issues should be something that doesn't affect what happens in the classroom."

According to the UFC bi-laws, there is a seven-day window after the tentative agreement is reached for union members to vote.

"Nothing's perfect, but it's progress."

BOB HICKEY,
UFC PRESIDENT

Three ratification meetings will be held on Thursday, Dec. 6 for presentations by the bargaining team. There, faculty can field questions to the bargaining team. The meetings will be held from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. A venue for the meetings has yet to be decided as of press time.

Votes can be cast during and between the ratification meetings. Union members can also mail their votes to the UFC: PO Box 157, Ellensburg Wash 98926-0157.

Ways to *de-stress* during finals week

- ✧ Retail therapy (holiday shopping)
- ✧ Trip to spa, massage, mani-pedi
- ✧ Hot cocoa with marshmallow
- ✧ Leavenworth tree lighting
- ✧ Recreation Center: workout or play ball
- ✧ Watch Wildcats on NCAA Web site
- ✧ Read fiction books
- ✧ Plan a spring break trip
- ✧ Play video games
- ✧ Bake cookies
- ✧ Ice skate in Yakima
- ✧ Take a nap
- ✧ Go antiquing
- ✧ Make holiday cards
- ✧ Shoot pool downtown or in your dorm
- ✧ Grab a late night snack or drink at Winegars' (open until 1 a.m. during finals week)
- ✧ Read the Observer

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We love hearing from our readers.

Opinion

Observance

Finals and I am out of here

As I sit in the newsroom watching my staff finish the last edition of The Observer for the quarter, I am relieved, proud and a little sad. After finals week, I will no longer be Editor-in-Chief and my 10 quarter on The Observer will be over. It's a strange feeling.



Kathryn Lake
Editor-in-Chief

This has been the most rewarding quarter I have ever had on staff; the stories we've covered and the responses we've received this quarter have been incredible. There has not been a time while I've been on staff that we have had so many letters to the editor. I've been stopped and asked while walking around campus and downtown if I was Editor-in-Chief and then told we are doing a great job reporting.

I want to thank everyone who has supported The Observer this quarter

and years past. In the past we haven't always had the best reputation as being very professional or error-free. I believe The Observer is stepping into a new role on campus and in the community, one that keeps people accountable for their actions and informs the readers of more critical stories. Yes, we will still have mistakes, but we learn from them.

I wish I could take credit for all the great things we've done this quarter, but really, it is my staff. We've worked hard this quarter, striving for excellence and getting little sleep in the process. I'm going to say it again: I'm proud of my staff for reporting the way they have without being afraid to do so. These are the things that will get the students on my staff a job when they graduate and I know there are many who have a wonderful future in journalism.

Next quarter, as I pass off responsibility to younger staff members, I will be focusing on the advertising side of journalism. I can't try to say I will not be in the newsroom the next two quarters because living for deadlines has

been my life for more than three years now — four when I graduate in spring.

But as much as it will be strange not to be in the newsroom working until the wee hours of the morning every week, I am really excited to get some sleep again and focus on classes.

Keep reading The Observer; you never know what stories the staff will be chasing next quarter. Get involved by writing letters to the editor whether you agree with what we are reporting or not, that's one of the ways we learn. You can even sign up to be on staff. From entire layouts disappearing late Tuesday night to news tips coming in right as we send the paper down to the Daily Record so they can print it, this class, this life is always an adventure.

In a separate note, as vice president of Central Washington University chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, I also want to thank all of you who bought t-shirts in our first fundraiser ever. We raised approximately \$450! If you are interested in ordering one e-mail me, we are wearing them today. Thanks again!

The OBSERVER

The editorial views expressed are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the newspaper staff at large, the student body, the faculty or the administration and are certainly not to be considered as official views of Central Washington University.

Letters to the editor

Observer Staff,

I would like to applaud you for your coverage of some difficult subjects in recent issues of The Observer. It's important that the student body stay informed on what is going on here, and it must be difficult to report on controversial issues regarding Central's administration. President McIntyre may consider it just "muckraking", but I consider it raw, unfiltered information delivered to the people who really matter: us, the little guys. Information truly is power, and information that is screened through and approved by some university committee is, I believe, inherently biased to further the administrators' objectives. And as Editor-in-Chief Kathryn Lake pointed out in an editorial, it is difficult to report on both sides of an issue when one side never seems to have a comment. So, bravo to you all.

I would like to make a suggestion for a future Observer article. I'm sure you're all aware of the controversies surrounding the Sept. 17 public disturbance and subsequent tasing of a student that occurred at the University of Florida during

an event featuring Senator John Kerry. And I'm sure you're also aware that a UCLA student was tasered during an altercation last year. I would really like to know, could this episode occur at Central? I tried looking on the Central Web site for the Central police's policies on use of force, but came up empty-handed. In fact, a Central Web site search for the term "Taser" comes up with only one irrelevant result.

I feel that it is important for students to be aware of these policies, and the controversies involving police use of force, which I feel is escalating rapidly at the national scale. I truly hope that we see the First Amendment Festival re-appear this year, and while the political climate at Central seems much more subdued than it does at some other universities, you just never know what could happen. Students should know what behavior is considered "acceptable" versus "unacceptable" here and make their own conclusion where to draw the line.

Thanks so much for your time and consideration, and keep up the good job.

Jason Thompson
SPORTS, ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY

Health insurance is a must for families

I sometimes think I have it bad, but I can't complain about living with Crohn's disease. I have a pretty severe case, but I'm lucky that I have the available treatment and care to help prevent frequent flare-ups. John Doe down the street, however, has a different story. He has Type 1 Diabetes and his health insurance has dropped him because he costs too much. You wouldn't think America would drop an individual because of some un-preventative condition, but believe it or not, it's true.



Karena Shellman
Senior reporter

This past Thanksgiving, my family and I rented the Michael Moore documentary "Sicko." It is a severely depressing movie about U.S. citizens who either cannot afford health insurance or are dropped from their insurance because their conditions are too brutal.

While I was watching these families express their annoyances, I gave thanks. Ironic, yes, but I felt it was the right moment.

Why isn't America doing something to prevent this? Why can countries like Canada, Cuba and France allow their people to have free health insurance?

American doctors are greedy. Each time they deny a patient because they cannot afford to pay their medical bills, they profit because insurance companies do not have to pay their expensive medical bills. It's easier to profit when companies accept individuals who have a healthy history over those who don't. They make more money when they turn away people.

While these American doctors are making millions to lavish themselves, British doctors are helping as many patients as possible and still making around \$500,000 a year. That's more than enough.

I'm lucky to have parents who have the best health insurance out there. The company pays 90 percent of any medical procedure, appointment, visit, medication and surgery. We have it lucky, but my parents also aren't exactly low to middle class either. Yes, we make good money, hence we have good health insurance.

My aunt is more lower class and she cannot afford great health insurance. She has to decide whether or not she wants that root canal. She saves every last penny to put away in savings in case she injures herself at her highly dangerous job. She fears she'll be rejected a medical procedure if she needs one because her insurance won't view it as "life-threatening." Does this NOT make you mad?? It makes me furious at how we as Americans live! Everything is about money. We would rather see someone die just to be able to afford that luxury Mercedes.

Many people aren't the biggest Hillary Clinton fans, and I'll agree that there are some things I disagree with her on. However, she's completely for universal health insurance and vows to make some progression in that direction if she became president. That is something that makes me want to root for her. Many people are lucky and never step foot in a doctor's office. Other people, such as myself, need frequent IV infusions and take 15 pills a day to keep my Crohn's disease under wraps.

How would my life be affected if I had no insurance? Or if my insurance decides to drop me because I'm too expensive? Or, through a new job, the chosen insurance company rejects me because of my ridiculous medical past? It's absurd that the richest and most advanced country cannot find a way to make health care universal for everyone.

Whether you're affected by health insurance or not, you should take this issue into consideration. What happens when you get in a horrible car accident and you have no insurance to assist with that \$30,000 bill? Think about that. Because I think about it every day.

Student journalist ready to conquer the major leagues

It was a pitch I will never forget: dead center, straight across the plate. The ball wasn't moving very fast, but in the mind of a child, it was perfect. My eyes were locked on that ball. I shifted my weight to my right leg, stepped forward with my left, and swung from the heart.

With the crack of the bat, the ball soared over the center fielder's head. I followed my instincts to run as familiar faces cheered me on from the bleachers. I crossed home plate with the biggest smile, proud of my first homerun in Little League softball.

It wasn't too long after my brief celebration that I got the chance to experience my first professional baseball game at the Kingdome in Seattle. Fireworks sparked from the ballpark's ceiling, marking a Mariners home run. I sat in awe of the men making millions of dollars to play the game I love.

Jump forward more than a decade and I now have the opportunity to apply for a summer internship that would combine two of my passions into one: writing for Major League Baseball.

Ever since I won an award in kindergarten for my five-sentence



Melanie Lockhart
Sports editor

story, I knew I wanted to write in some form or another.

During my teenage years, I wrote for the junior high and high school yearbooks as well as the high school newspaper. It was there that I first experienced journalism. Now, as a sports writer and editor for the student newspaper at Central Washington University, I have developed an even greater appreciation and love for writing and journalism as a whole.

It wasn't until I joined the university's communication department as a journalism student that I fully realized the broad range of employment choices within my field of study.

Before I became a sports writer for The Observer last year, it never occurred to me that I could pursue a career in both sports and writing. It's not that I was completely clueless about jobs existing in sports journalism. Rather, I didn't realize that I had the skills, qualifications, or the ability to work in a field primarily dominated by men.

As a female sports writer, at first I was intimidated with the stereotypes in society. Some people's initial reactions are that I can't possibly have enough knowledge about sports to write about them effectively. Instead of letting it discourage me, I decided to prove those people wrong, not in search of revenge, but to encourage others and myself that women can excel as sports reporters.

If there is one thing that I have learned above all other things as a sports journalist for The Observer, it's that confidence and assertiveness are key. No matter how many butterflies I

may get in my stomach at the thought of talking to college sports stars or professional athletes, I know that I can tell their story through my writing, and tell it well. Taking the initiative to pursue what I want, and having the confidence to do it well, helps me realize that I can be successful.

My application package for the internship is due in Arizona the day after this issue of the newspaper goes to print. I will be overnight shipping this article along with my résumé and examples of journalistic work. I submit this piece not only in hopes of being considered for an internship that I have no doubt I would love, but also to show that I am confident enough in my abilities to inform thousands of people about why I want this position and that I am highly qualified.

It would truly be an honor and a privilege to work as an intern this summer for MLB.com. Whether it is for my preferred team near home with the Seattle Mariners, or if I get the chance to travel somewhere else in the country to cover another major or minor league baseball team, it would be the experience of a lifetime.

An internship is the final stepping stone needed to complete my degree in print journalism. Working closely with a site reporter to provide stats about a professional baseball team anywhere in the country would benefit my future goals greatly.

Not only would it help me strengthen my skills as a writer for whatever job I may end up with, but it would bring me one step closer to finding a job as a writer for my favorite sport of all time.

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



SCENE

A Grand Jazz Finalé

Jazz Nite and The Jazz Nutcracker cap a soulful Central season

by Bryant Phillips
Scene editor

Jazz and Central Washington University go together like snow and Ellensburg, and jazz fans know that when the snow falls, it means the biggest jazz concerts of the year are just around the corner.

The annual performances of Jazz Nite and "The Jazz Nutcracker" will be held on Nov. 30 and Dec. 9, respectively, in the Music Building Concert Hall. Jazz Nite will feature all six of Central's jazz ensembles in the only concert of its kind all year. Both Jazz Nite and "The Jazz Nutcracker" will feature the highest-level ensemble, Jazz Band I.

"The great thing about jazz band is it brings many different aspects to the performance," Kyle Thompson, junior education major, said. "The saxophones balance the trumpets, the trumpets balance the trombones, and everyone just feeds off each other."

Jazz Nite has become one of the most popular events for the music department over the years due to the variety of jazz performed and the inclusion of all six ensembles. Each ensemble is given 30 minutes to perform before rotating to the next, beginning with Vocal Jazz III and Jazz Band III.

"It's the culmination of a quarter's worth of effort," said David Brown, an adjunct instructor for the music department and director of Jazz Band III. "It's an opportunity for students to ... get over their nervousness playing in front of other people and recognize that live performances are very different than playing in class or in a practice room. It's where the rubber meets the road."

"The Jazz Nutcracker," directed by Chris Bruya, professor of jazz studies, is one of the greatest challenges to jazz students in the year. Created by legendary jazz composers Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn, the arrangement features Tchaikovsky's original score recomposed as a jazz piece, providing audience members with a version of "The Nutcracker" unlike anything else.

"Some of the arrangements are very clear in 'The Jazz Nutcracker,' and some will take a minute before the tune becomes recognizable [to the audience]," Bruya said. "Ellington and Strayhorn took the original tunes, tore them down to their most basic level and rebuilt them. It's very creative."

Bruya and Jazz Band I have a full schedule of concerts. The ensemble will be featured in Jazz Nite and will also tour their production of "The Jazz Nutcracker" beginning on Dec. 3, when they perform in the Seattle Center House as part of Seattle's Winterfest. The band will also tour to Wenatchee and Yakima, ending with their performance on Dec. 9 at Central.

"It's an interesting thing because this year we're playing The Jazz Nutcracker in front of the largest, fullest audience we've ever had, but only five people in the band have played ['The Jazz Nutcracker'] before," Bruya said.

Students in Jazz Band I have had to balance finals with a rigorous practice routine in order to prepare for the concerts.

"We have other music pieces we're practicing for too, like wind ensemble and concert band," Thompson said. "I go home each night, cook dinner, and then when most people sit down and play video games, I go back to the Music Building and practice until 11 p.m."

One aspect that jazz students and faculty agree on is the professionalism of Central's program, which many accredit to a deeply rooted jazz history at Central starting in 1947, when the first jazz band was created. Jazz didn't establish itself at Central until John "Coach" Moawad, professor emeritus of music, came to Central in 1970. Moawad was an inspiration for many faculty, including Bruya, who was a student of Moawad's, and more than just Central faculty have hailed Moawad as one of the key proponents of jazz in both the Northwest and throughout the nation.

"John really put Central on the map over the years," said Vijay Singh, associate professor of vocal jazz. "Some of the best jazz students in the nation come out of this school, and we continue to propagate it that way. There are few schools that offer both music education and jazz education, and we owe a lot of that to John."

The strength of the jazz faculty beginning with Moawad has become a tradition at Central that continues with Bruya and Singh.

"I think the level of musicianship is quite high in the faculty, and that's a big plus for students," Brown said.

Jazz Nite starts at 7 p.m. on Nov. 30 in the concert hall. Tickets are \$5 general admission, \$3 students. "The Jazz Nutcracker" starts at 4 p.m. on Dec. 9 in the concert hall. Tickets are \$14 general admission, \$7 students. Additional jazz concerts are held by the International Association for Jazz at 8 p.m. every Tuesday at Lilly's Cantina.

Guest artist showcases Jesus and rodeo

by Amy Sitzler
Staff reporter

Kjellgren Alkire, an artist from Arizona who combines art and the gospel of Christianity, visited Central Washington University on Nov. 26 to exhibit his work, "The Jesus Rodeo Ministries," in the Sarah Spurgeon Gallery.

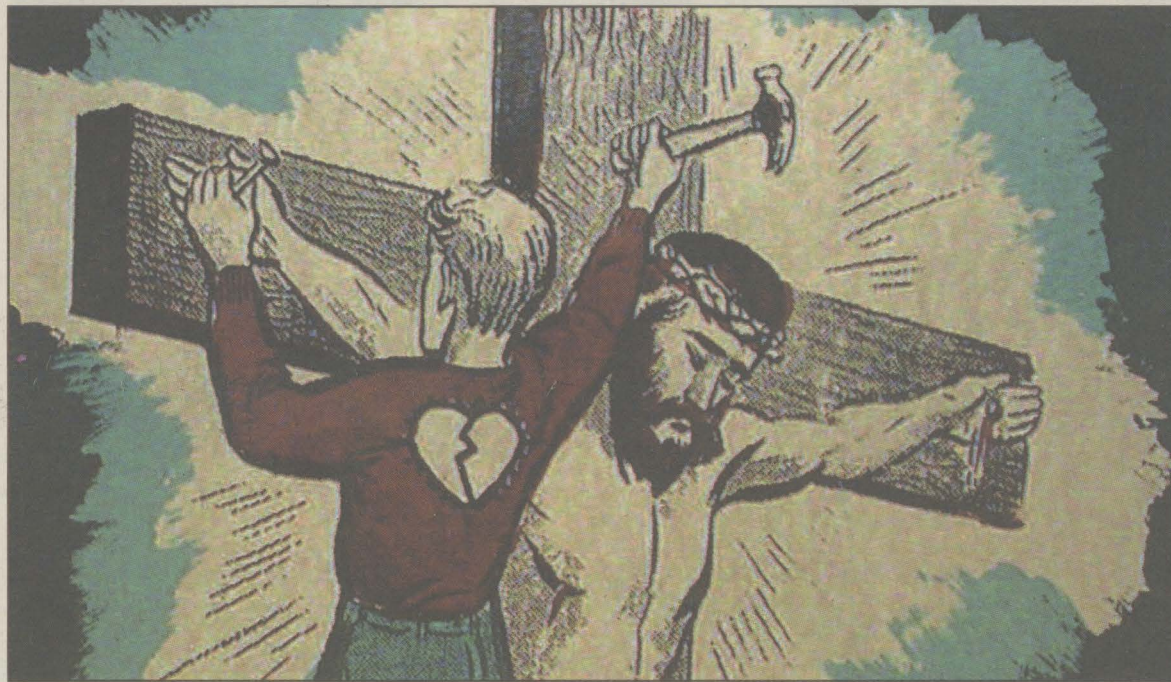
"Jesus is the bull and not the bull-shit," is the statement Alkire tries to convey for the project. He brings a different style to Central with his combination of religion and cowboy culture.

By using print to explore the meaning of Christian belief through his often graphic and interactive artwork, Alkire is able to combine his disciplines as both an artist and a preacher into a fine arts profession.

"I am interested in religion, history and art," Alkire said. "I have always been interested in how the church makes culture with their graphics, posters, flyers, bulletins and even printed fans."

Alkire went to graduate school at Arizona State with Alex Emmons, a professor in the art department at Central. Emmons wanted artists to visit Central and display their work, and thought Alkire would be a good choice, so she invited him.

"It is important for students and faculty to meet new artists and to give the opportunity for colleagues to interact and gain experience," Emmons said.



Courtesy of martists.org

Alkire's print, "Confessions." The piece illustrates a heartbroken child nailing Christ to the cross and is named for the quiet time of prayerful repentance in liturgical Christian worship, according to a statement by Alkire.

"Visiting artists allow students to feed off of them, connect and find out what other people are doing, bring in different people, and learn art in a different way."

Emmons also gives credit to printmaking because it takes an art similar to photography and connects it as an art medium.

"It [print] is halfway between scul-

ture and drawing," Stephanie Hawkins, a Central alumnus, said. "You can use all of your skills that you learned to sculpt on a flat surface while you are drawing."

Alkire wanted to visit Ellensburg because it is notorious for its Labor Day weekend rodeo and he is familiar with the Pacific Northwest area. He also enjoys the hand-printed murals and old

fashion signs displayed throughout Ellensburg.

"[The murals] are incredible and dying, and it is important for people to pay attention to them," Alkire said.

Alkire has displayed his works in other places throughout the United States and has even brought in piñatas, devotional carnival games, and prints to Minneapolis. During summer 2006,

Alkire was in San Antonio with a gallery collective and was in St. Paul, Minn., in 2004 doing a solo show.

Alkire has worked for Lutheran churches in Minnesota and wanted to attend seminary school. However, Alkire felt he was too much of an artist to be a good preacher.

As a result, he felt that art school was the answer. He has participated in rodeo revivals, where he has dressed up like a cowboy preacher.

Alkire said he is not interested in making art that is just for looks, but rather art that engages audiences and that doesn't just hang on a wall. He wants artists to be engaged with people and have interesting discussions about the world and how it works, and this extends to students as well.

He creates work that is more event-based than object-based and uses space and time in a gallery to make an event feel like a rodeo, rather than creating saddles.

Alkire's allusions toward carnival games and religious gatherings help him compile spaces and events together in campuses across the nation.

"I want to make physical objects that viewers can pick up, sometimes even hurt, like piñatas," Alkire said.

He feels that students should make their own lasting quote and mark in the world, especially as artists.

"That's what we should be about," Alkire said.

JAZZ NUTCRACKER

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Makayla Lee/Observer

Nikolas Caoile, director of orchestras, leads a rehearsal on Monday night in preparation for Sunday's concert.

Orchestra finishes with flair

by Tim Kukes
Asst. Scene editor

Acclaimed pianist and Central Washington University professor John Pickett will be joining forces with Central's Symphony Orchestra and Nikolas Caoile, director of orchestras. Together, these talents will be pooling their abilities to create a barrage of music for the entertainment of the school and Ellensburg community this Sunday afternoon.

John Pickett will play piano for the Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1, which is Brahms's first written orchestral piece. Pickett has performed in the United States, Europe and Asia. In 2000, he performed at the Katowice Academy of Music in Poland and in 2006 he performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City to an audience of more than 2,000 people. His performance in Poland won acclaim from the *Gazeta Wyborcza*, a Polish newspaper, which said he had "perfect sound balance, great intuition and sensibility."

"I think it's really crazy," Emily Maulden, junior violin performance major, said. "He's [Pickett] just an incredible pianist and the musicality he brings is inspiring."

Pickett graduated from Indiana University and the Juilliard School. He started teaching at Central in 1987. Pri-

or to that he was teaching at Davidson College, a small private school in North Carolina. In 2005 he received Central's Distinguished Professor Award.

"When I came here [to Central] for my interview, I was impressed by the amount of music and the high standard of music making," said Pickett.

**"This is the best
collegiate orchestra
in the Northwest."**

NIKOLAS CAOILE,

DIRECTOR OF ORCHESTRAS

The concert features three pieces: Johannes Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Jennifer Higdon's Concerto of Orchestra and Tomas Svoboda's Overture of the Season. Caoile plans on opening with Svoboda's Overture, then moving into the Brahms's piece which features Pickett at the piano and ending with the Higdon piece.

Something of interest to the audience is that the Svoboda and Higdon pieces are both written by contemporary composers. Caoile said he is a

huge proponent of using works done by living composers.

Svoboda's Overture is a very exciting piece to open with, said Caoile, and happens to have been written on his birthday. Caoile calls it "his birthday overture." Higdon's piece contains a very dynamic percussion movement and is very popular among orchestras.

"She [Higdon] is the most performed living composer of today," Caoile said.

Central's Orchestra is made up of 85 players, comprising of strings, brass, winds and a percussion section. The string section alone consists of 40 individuals. Caoile said that Central's Orchestra size is unusual as most schools have smaller orchestra groups. It may also be one of Ellensburg's best kept secrets, according to Caoile.

"What I am always surprised by is here are non-conservatory students who are tackling professional orchestra in a convincing way," Caoile said. "This is the best collegiate orchestra in the Pacific Northwest."

The concert is at 4 p.m. in the concert hall of the Music Building on Dec. 2. Admission is \$5 for general admittance and free for Central students. For more information, call 963-1216.

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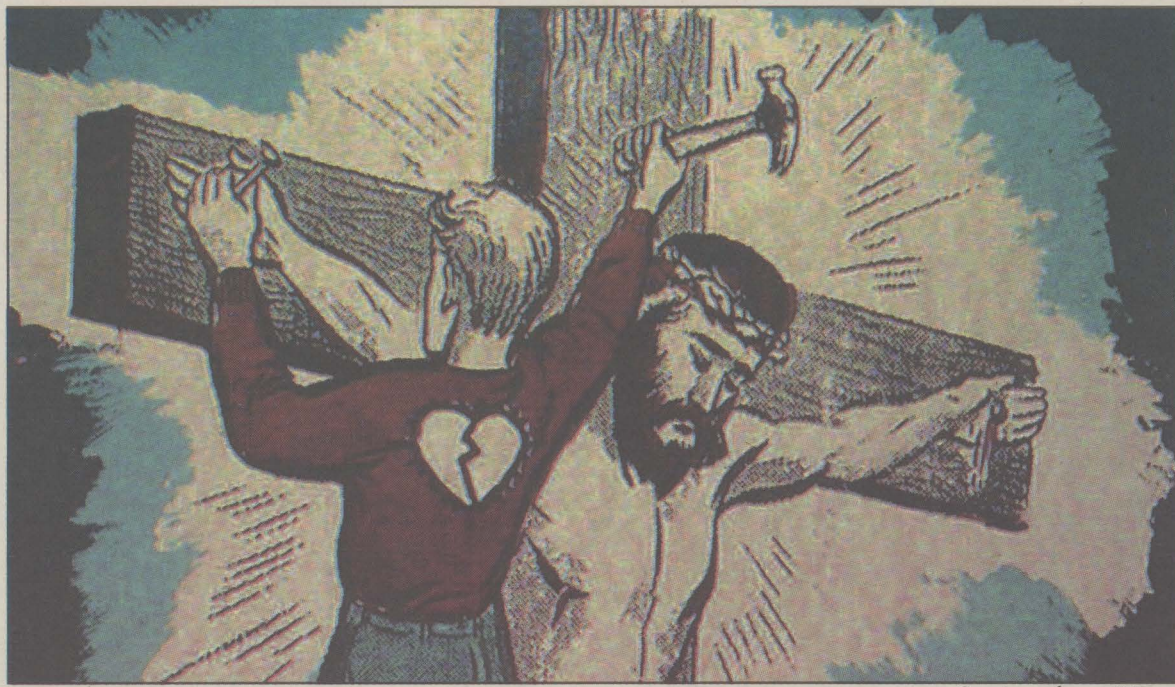
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Alkire said he is not interested in making art that is just for looks, but rather art that engages audiences and that doesn't just hang on a wall. He wants artists to be engaged with people and have interesting discussions about the world and how it works, and this extends to students as well.

He creates work that is more event-based than object-based and uses space and time in a gallery to make an event feel like a rodeo, rather than creating saddles.

Alkire's allusions toward carnival games and religious gatherings help him compile spaces and events together in campuses across the nation.

"I want to make physical objects that viewers can pick up, sometimes even hurt, like piñatas," Alkire said.

He feels that students should make their own lasting quote and mark in the world, especially as artists.

"That's what we should be about," Alkire said.

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Makayla Lee/Observer

Nikolas Caoile, director of orchestras, leads a rehearsal on Monday night in preparation for Sunday's concert.

Orchestra finishes with flair

by Tim Kukes
Asst. Scene editor

Acclaimed pianist and Central Washington University professor John Pickett will be joining forces with Central's Symphony Orchestra and Nikolas Caoile, director of orchestras. Together, these talents will be pooling their abilities to create a barrage of music for the entertainment of the school and Ellensburg community this Sunday afternoon.

John Pickett will play piano for the Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1, which is Brahms's first written orchestral piece. Pickett has performed in the United States, Europe and Asia. In 2000, he performed at the Katowice Academy of Music in Poland and in 2006 he performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City to an audience of more than 2,000 people. His performance in Poland won acclaim from the *Gazeta Wyborcza*, a Polish newspaper, which said he had "perfect sound balance, great intuition and sensibility."

"I think it's really crazy," Emily Maulden, junior violin performance major, said. "He's [Pickett] just an incredible pianist and the musicality he brings is inspiring."

Pickett graduated from Indiana University and the Juilliard School. He started teaching at Central in 1987. Pri-

or to that he was teaching at Davidson College, a small private school in North Carolina. In 2005 he received Central's Distinguished Professor Award.

"When I came here [to Central] for my interview, I was impressed by the amount of music and the high standard of music making," said Pickett.

**"This is the best
collegiate orchestra
in the Northwest."**

**NIKOLAS CAOILE,
DIRECTOR OF ORCHESTRAS**

The concert features three pieces: Johannes Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor, Jennifer Higdon's Concerto of Orchestra and Tomas Svoboda's Overture of the Season. Caoile plans on opening with Svoboda's Overture, then moving into the Brahms piece which features Pickett at the piano and ending with the Higdon piece.

Something of interest to the audience is that the Svoboda and Higdon pieces are both written by contemporary composers. Caoile said he is a

huge proponent of using works done by living composers.

Svoboda's Overture is a very exciting piece to open with, said Caoile, and happens to have been written on his birthday. Caoile calls it "his birthday overture." Higdon's piece contains a very dynamic percussion movement and is very popular among orchestras.

"She [Higdon] is the most performed living composer of today," Caoile said.

Central's Orchestra is made up of 85 players, comprising of strings, brass, winds and a percussion section. The string section alone consists of 40 individuals. Caoile said that Central's Orchestra size is unusual as most schools have smaller orchestra groups. It may also be one of Ellensburg's best kept secrets, according to Caoile.

"What I am always surprised by is here are non-conservatory students who are tackling professional orchestra in a convincing way," Caoile said. "This is the best collegiate orchestra in the Pacific Northwest."

The concert is at 4 p.m. in the concert hall of the Music Building on Dec. 2. Admission is \$5 for general admittance and free for Central students. For more information, call 963-1216.

Operation Elf sets its target on raising cheer

by Joshua Rumley
Staff reporter

He's coming, his bags are packed, his sleigh is polished and primed for his worldwide trip, his red suit is freshly dry cleaned and he has his sights set on bringing holiday cheer to those in Ellensburg.

Operation Elf gives non-traditional students and community members a chance to enjoy a "home-cooked" holiday meal, live music, arts and crafts and even a shuttle ride to the North Pole to visit Santa (the elevator is to be decorated as a festive "shuttle"). New attractions for this year's event include an appearance of Central's own Wellington and campus rides on a fire truck, The General.

Santa and his elves will be making their grand appearance at the Operation

Elf event at Central Washington University. Sponsored by the Center for Student Empowerment, Operation Elf will kick off at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8, in the Student Union Ballroom.

Operation Elf is open to the entire Ellensburg community, but was originally started for the non-traditional students at Central.

"We had a realization of [non-traditional] students that a lot of them are place-bound to Ellensburg during the holiday season," said Mal Stewman, program support supervisor for the Center for Student Empowerment. "We try to be mindful of the community."

Some students might not be aware that as they travel home for the holidays, there are some students who call Ellensburg home, even during breaks.

"I think it's great to have a place where we can go, especially with our

families," Lisa Fields, Operation Elf student programmer, said. "It gives a sense of community for non-traditional students."

The cost for the event is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

"It's a very small price to pay for what you get," Fields said.

In its sixth year, Operation Elf is becoming a holiday tradition for the Empowerment Center as well as the community.

Last year, approximately 70 children and 70 adults attended the event.

Volunteers are still needed and welcomed for the event. Students and community members are welcome to join in on the fun in many different positions; there can't be a Santa without a number of elves.

Students and others can sign up at the Empowerment Center in the Student

"I think it's great to have a place where we can go, especially with our families."

LISA FIELDS, OPERATION ELF STUDENT PROGRAMMER

Union Building room 250.

Volunteers are needed for activity station set-up and activities operation, decorating and gift giving.

"This is a great opportunity for students in need of community service hours," Stewman said. "It also would look great on a résumé for their majors or scholarship application."

Volunteers are needed for changing the ballroom into a winter wonderland and the upstairs elevator into a shuttle to the North Pole, which are just some of the many features at the event geared

toward children and parents alike.

"We decorate the ballroom and the mezzanine to the nines," Lisa Jones, Operation Elf decoration programmer, said. "I'm excited just thinking about it, I want to decorate now, the kids are going to love it."

Volunteers and attendants should register by 5 p.m. Nov. 30th at the Center for Student Empowerment on the 2nd floor of the SURC in room 250.

"I'm taking my own kids to it," Fields said. "I'm just as excited as they are."



Bryant Phillips/Observer

Ashley Horn, junior family studies major, fires a condom "rocket" at the pyramid of plastic cups. The object of the game is to knock down all the cups to avoid pregnancy. If a contestant misses, they become "pregnant." Games include "how many ounces a condom holds," "condom tic-tac-toe" and "condom color matching game."

Carnival highlights the many uses of condoms

by John Redifer
Staff reporter

Whether it was from parents or that awkward junior high sex education class, chances are that every student at Central Washington University has heard of condoms somewhere.

In the theme of preventing unwanted pregnancies, the Condom Carnival took place this Tuesday in the Student Union and Recreation Center.

Sponsored by VOX: Voices for Planned Parenthood, the event took place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and featured a variety of activities associated with the risks that come from unprotected sex.

The Condom Carnival addressed the importance of using protection and promoting safe sex in a hands-on way rather than the contemporary "watch and don't tell" video experience many students are subject to in high school.

"I think that any event preventing unwanted childbirth is definitely a plus for our society," Jordan Reilly Stock, sophomore political science major, said.

The event on Tuesday was put together by volunteers from the VOX group and the Civic Engagement Center

and was hosted by Patricia Doshier and Latisha Yaranon.

The carnival featured a number of games to inform people about the benefits of condoms. One game challenged players to knock down "STD pins" by shooting a paper ball from a stretched condom.

The event also included awareness campaigns explaining the facts about condom usage, as well as ways to prevent contracting HIV/AIDS.

Volunteers at the carnival shared insight with attendees on both the importance of using condoms and how to use them correctly.

"The more comfortable people are around condoms, the more likely they are to use them effectively," Karla Rivers, senior recreation major and VOX volunteer, said.

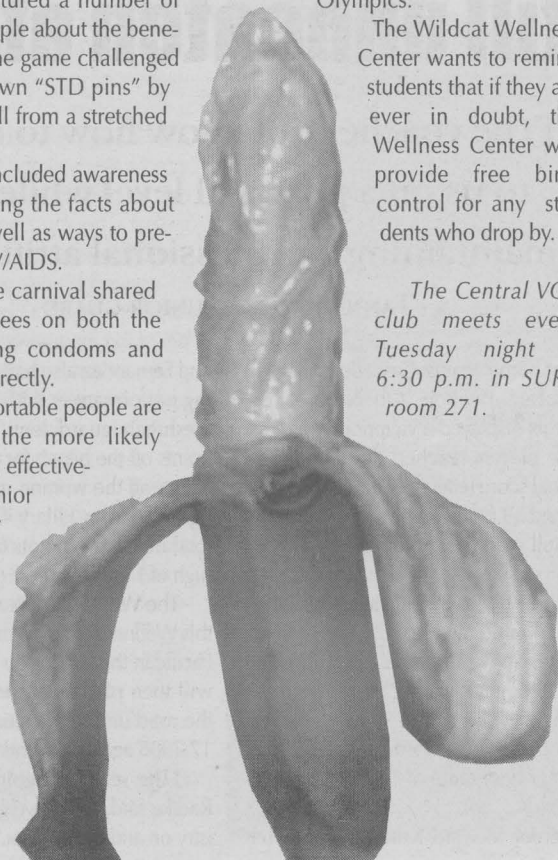
Though Tuesday was the last day of the condom carnival, more birth control related events are on the way.

One event, a "Condom

Olympics," is in the works to coincide with the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympics.

The Wildcat Wellness Center wants to remind students that if they are ever in doubt, the Wellness Center will provide free birth control for any students who drop by.

The Central VOX club meets every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. in SURC room 271.



Black Friday reigns supreme

For some individuals, the Friday following Thanksgiving provides a time for holiday transitions and enjoying a relaxing vacation with loved ones while allowing full bellies to settle.



Kayla Schroader
Staff reporter

For others, it is known as "Black Friday."

One of the busiest shopping days of the year, Black Friday received its name in the 1970s due to the heavy traffic and congestion as well as the notion that retailers are no longer in the red but have turned a profit after this monumental day of sales.

A newer term, "Cyber Monday," has also been introduced this year. This day falls on the Monday after Black Friday, this day is established for the online Christmas shoppers who would rather avoid the commotion and long checkout lines.

Since before I can remember, on the day after Thanksgiving, I've woken up at 4:30 a.m. My mother, sister, aunts and I then gather assorted coupons and shopping lists written the previous night before piling into the van and heading to the stores advertised to have the best deals. My family and I then wait with hundreds of bold shoppers in endless lines until the entrance opens.

As the sun rises, mobs of anxious women and brave men yell and push for carts and door busters; free prizes awarded to the first shoppers. It's an

exhausting escapade lasting well into the late afternoon, conquering several department stores and ending with dozens of full shopping bags and empty wallets.

This year, my festivities lasted 12 hours. I returned home exhausted after 4 p.m. with hundreds of dollars in Christmas gifts and only half of my list completed. I find the money I saved to be minimal, compared to the chaos experienced during those early morning hours. Nonetheless it's not simply the low prices that dragged me out of bed that morning but rather the tradition itself.

While I dreaded the arrival of black Friday in my youth, I live for it now. According to my mother, it is the only day I manage to leap out of bed pumped and ready to go before dawn. Black Friday signifies the kick-off of the Christmas season and my gifts are purchased and wrapped before there's even a tree to place them under.

It's crucial to be well-prepared for such a day by having a gameplan, including target items and meeting places. A good night's sleep and a triple shot of coffee can help set the mood for the entire day.

Most importantly, attempt the holiday spirit and be mindful of others rather than knocking down small children and stealing parking spots, a common occurrence on Black Friday.

If you prefer to spend Thanksgiving weekend in the relaxing atmosphere of your home, lock your doors and steer clear of the crazies. Black Friday is not for the average shopper.

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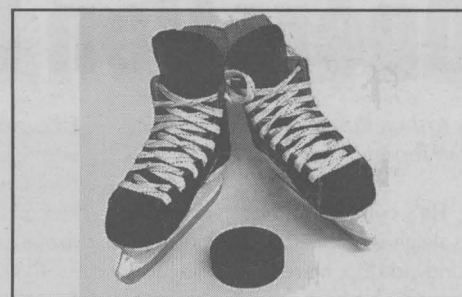
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SPORTS



Eastern transfer adds strong Division I talent (Page 13)



Ex-students assist Hockey Club on the ice (Page 14)

WILDCAT BASKETBALL

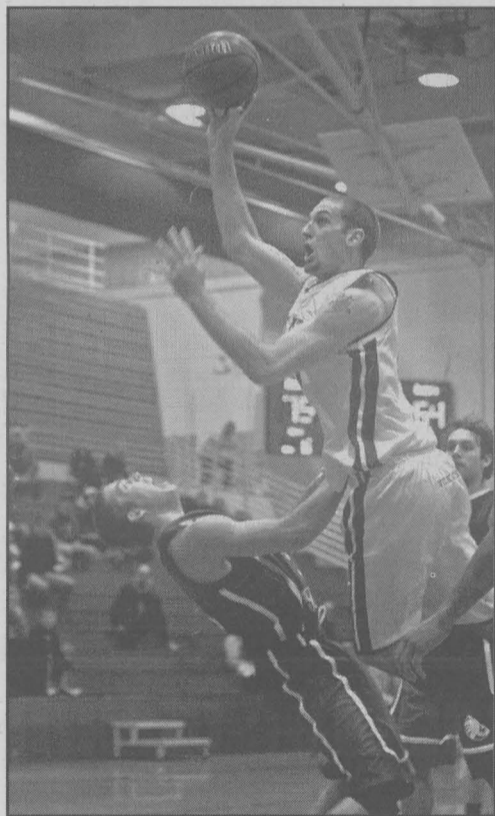
Men's hoops team gets off to fast start at home

by Melanie Lockhart
Sports editor

The Wildcats are off to a strong start with the basketball preseason, taking a 2-1 record into this weekend's home tournament.

"We have been really on recently," Central Washington University men's basketball head coach Greg Sparling said. "But we're still trying to improve each day."

Last Saturday, junior guard Matt Penoncello led the Wildcats to a 95-80 victory over visiting Montana Tech, scoring a career-high 30 points. The Orediggers are Central's only non-Division II competition of the season.



Maggie Schmidt/Observer

Eastern transfer Matt Penoncello drives the lane as part of a 89-81 win over Chico State.

Also putting double figures on Central's scoreboard were senior guard Tyler Monk (14), senior forward Bryce Daub (10) and junior forward Brandon Foote (10).

The Wildcats dominated the Orediggers defensively, forcing 22 turnovers while only making seven of their own.

Central hosted the Tarp-it Wildcat Classic Tournament Nov. 16-17 to open the season. The Wildcats' first opponent was Notre Dame de Namur University on Nov. 16.

The Argonauts had a strong start against their host, leading by as much as 14 points late in the first half. The Wildcats scored seven of the final nine points before intermission to bring Notre Dame's lead down to nine, 38-29.

Central regained control in the second half, taking the lead with 11:24 left in the game. The Wildcats and Argonauts battled, trading the lead over the next three possessions before Notre Dame surged ahead once again.

The Wildcats trailed by as much as seven going into the final stretch. The lead narrowed down to two with 25 seconds remaining. After a missed Argonaut free throw, Central's Daub scored with three seconds left to tie the game at 75-75, forcing overtime.

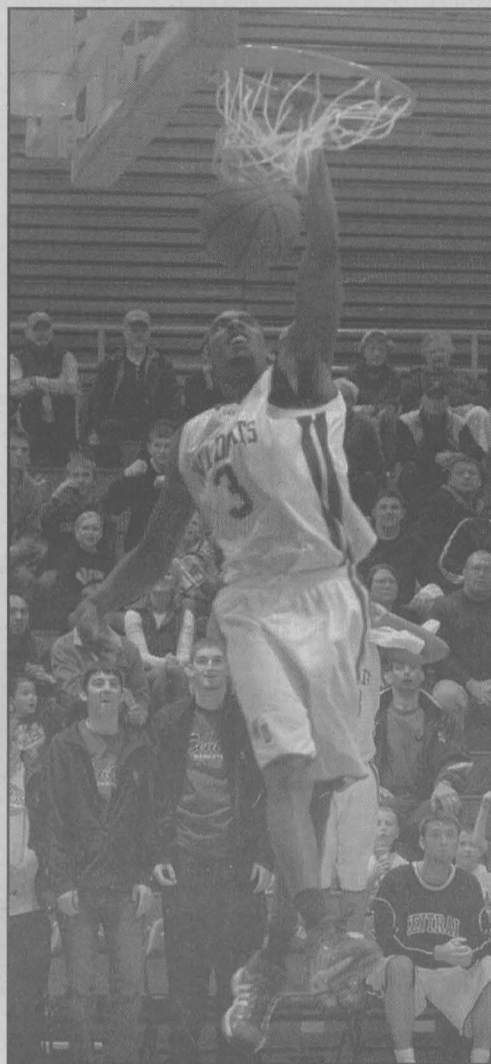
The teams stayed even in the extra minutes, but a free throw by Argonaut junior forward Dan Bergeron with two seconds left finalized the score at 85-84 for Central's only loss so far on the season.

Junior forward Jake Beitinger was unable to join the Wildcats in the extra minutes due to fouling out with 3:42 left in regulation. He still led the team with 25 points. Others reaching double figures were Foote (20), Penoncello (15), and Daub (13).

"The biggest thing — you can ask any coach in America — is to keep improving on defense," Sparling said. "Usually offense is a little ahead of a team's defense."

Two teams of Wildcats faced off in the final game of the tournament as Central defeated Chico State 89-81. Central trailed 14-3 to start, but stormed back with a 12-0 scoring run. At the 6:14 mark in the first half, the host team took the lead for good.

Beitinger led Central with 25 points. Joining him in double figures were junior guard Giovonne Woods (18), Foote (17), and junior guard Colton Monti (13).



Maggie Schmidt/Observer

Junior guard Giovonne Woods slams one down enroute to 18 points against Chico State.

The Wildcats have six contests before next quarter, including a home tournament this weekend at Nicholson Pavilion.

"Before finals week, we have another quality tournament at home," Sparling said. "We'd love to see people come out."

Tip-off against Ohio Valley University is Friday Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. The Wildcats face Brigham Young-Hawaii at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Women's basketball still unbeaten at 3-0

by Nichole Bowers
Staff reporter

The women's basketball team have already posted the second highest point total in school history in their 3-0 pre-season start.

Central Washington University faced a minor scare in the preseason tune-up exhibition game against NCAA Division I Eastern Washington University on Nov. 7. The Wildcats forced 27 turnovers against the Eagles and fell short in a 61-56 loss. The game didn't count in the regular season wins or losses for either team.

Since then, the Wildcats won their season opener with an overall score of 75-57 over the North Alabama Lions. Senior guard Hanna Hull led the team with 16 points, helping with the victory at the Sodexo Tipoff Classic held at

Seattle Pacific University. Junior guard Brooke Fernandez contributed 10 points, four rebounds, five assists and three steals.

The women continued to build from the opener the following day at the tourney by winning their next game 96-60 against Regis University Rangers. Four Central Washington University players scored in double figures. This then placed the Wildcats at a 2-0 for the season, posting their largest win against a Division II opponent since a 35-point win against Chaminade last year.

"The coaches are really good people," junior guard Tanna Radtke said. "They all know how to connect to us on a personal level while still maintaining a professional attitude. They are extremely motivating and complimentary."

Following their return home, the Wildcats women's performance continued to improve by making school his-

"[The coaches] all know how to connect to us on a personal level while still maintaining a professional attitude."

TANNA RADTKE, JUNIOR GUARD

tory at home against Cascade College in Nicholson Pavilion. On Nov. 25 the wildcats displayed a victorious win. Five of the players reached double figures; the final score reflected 109 for the Wildcats and 59 for their opponent Cascade.

Hull sparked off the night by making her first six field goals attempts and scored 15 points in the first 6:15. Central had a double digit lead by less than six minutes into the game. Hull finished with 19 points claiming the top scorer of the night while

Sophomore forward Shaina Afoa had a career-best game of 18 points and 15 rebounds.

Senior forward Kristina Klapperich

and Fernandez also had career-best scoring performances with 16 points each. Freshman guard Jenn Jacobs had 10 points off the bench for the Wildcats finishing off the women scores in double-figures. Junior Hilary Tanneberg had a total of just five points but had a season high of 11 rebounds.

The Women Wildcats face off again this Wednesday at 7 p.m. against Hawaii Pacific in the Nicholson Pavilion. Central will then play seven straight games on the road until they return home on Jan. 17 2008 against Northwest Nazarene.

"The season is going great so far," Radtke said. "We have great team chemistry on and off the floor."



Central alumnus reflects on MLB

by Joseph Siemandel
Staff reporter

In 1992, Kevin Costner made people remember the glory days of baseball with the movie "Field of Dreams." Before million-dollar contracts and steroid scandals, there was just the ball and bat with nine guys on the field.

The days when players such as Hank Aaron, Roberto Clemente and Ernie Banks roamed the field.

These are the guys that Bill North remembers.

"I got to play with some real icons, guys like Hank, Roberto, Joe Torre and Pete Rose," North said. "Baseball between 1957 and 1979, those were the glory days."

Bill North started his journey to the major leagues at age 7 with the 1957 World Series. He was mesmerized by the game, the sounds, the idea of baseball.

"It was the Yankees and the Braves, my two favorite teams, I knew that I wanted to play baseball after that World Series," North said.

North began playing little league at age eight and then on into high school. He came to Central Washington State College in 1966 as a two-sport athlete, playing basketball and baseball. He was pretty good at both, according to the late Central basketball coach Dean Nicholson.

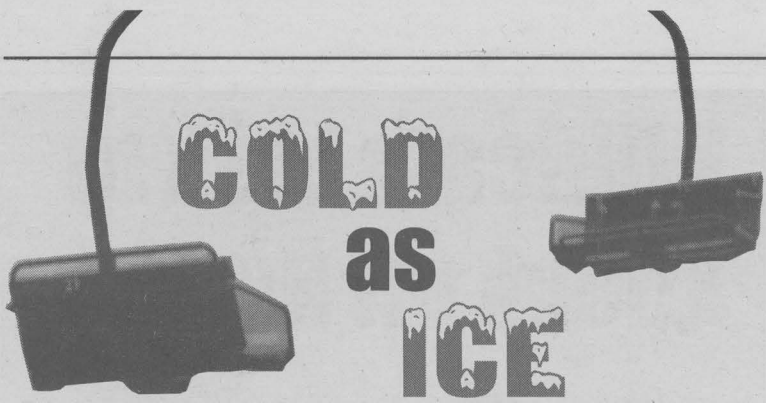
"When I told coach that I wasn't going to play ball my junior year, we sat in his office and he told me that he was disappointed because I was a great player, but he also knew I was great at baseball," North said about coach Nicholson. "Dean was a good man; he was instrumental to my career and said that I had great character. Coming from him, that meant a lot."

In 1967, North helped lead the Wildcats to a third place finish in the country. In 1968, he led the country in triples. His following grew, as pro scouts began to show up and watch him play.

North was an All-American center fielder in 1968 and knew he would possibly be a top-five pick in the Major League draft.

"I, at the time, was dating a white gal and was the president of the Black Student Union," North said. "I guess that didn't fly well with the Major league scouts."

In the late 1960's, interracial couples were not looked upon well, and North felt the wrath of the times as he dropped to the 12th round of the Major League draft. He was eventually selected by the Chicago Cubs at pick 278.



Many snow sports opportunities available within Kittitas Valley

stories by Dan Gamman
Special to the Observer

Like it or not it's here to stay. Kittitas County is being transformed into a winter wonderland. From now until spring, a shimmering layer of snow and ice will dominate the landscape and influence the lives of Central Washington University students.

For those who don't like the snow, you are in for a long winter, but for those who do, it's finally here and it couldn't have come any sooner.

Central couldn't be a better place for those who enjoy the winter months. A short trip west on I-90 will take you to The Summit at Snoqualmie. Hopefully opening very soon, this ski resort has a variety of trails for skiers, snowboarders, and snowshoers. Experienced skier and second year Central student Brandon Gilbert recommends "Serpentine" for an exciting ride down the mountain.

"The run is challenging enough to be fun while still able to be done by inexperienced skiers," Gilbert said.

A good ride for a less experienced skier or snowboarder The Summit at Snoqualmie staff member Jason Hodge says "EZ Street" is a great way to enjoy the mountain while honing your skills.

If you are willing to drive further than Snoqualmie, a great destination for winter sport enthusiasts is Stevens Pass. With a higher elevation and 12 more runs than The Summit, Stevens Pass is often regarded as a better place to ski.

Stevens has grown from its humble beginnings to one of the Northwest's premier resorts, offering 10 lifts, more than 1,125 acres of skiable terrain, 37 primary runs and at the heart, an intimate base village surrounded by three day lodges.

If motorized sports are more your forte, Kittitas County has a plethora of trails and snow-covered roads begging to be shredded. A favorite spot of Ellensburg resident and snowmobile enthusiast Greg Smith is just out of Ellensburg at Manastash Ridge. Only 12 miles out of town, the area is a hotbed for snowmobile brethren.

"I make it a point to get out there a few times every winter," Smith said. "It is the best spot in the area."

The meandering stream is an incredible background. Making your own trail on the back of a roaring engine is like nothing else. Weaving in and out of trees at speeds of 40 miles per hour gives a thrill as only a snowmobile can. If that doesn't sound like an exciting way to spend your day, there's always something more to do this time of year.

With all the advances in technology for winter sports, one remains a constant classic: sledding. Throwing yourself down a mountain of snow on a sled is always going to be a popular way to spend an afternoon.

With so many activities to do outside, why would you want to spend the winter in your house? Get out and embrace the Central Winter Wonderland.

Snow shoes a path for the fastest growing winter sport in the world

Snowshoeing has been around for thousands of years, and obviously, has become more sophisticated over time.

It has evolved from early wood-frames to aluminum-frame models. Today, it's considered a winter sport.

Modern-day snowshoeing is made up of casual snowshoers who hike trails for pleasure, enthusiasts who trek through the backcountry and competitors who race.

Snowshoeing is the fastest growing winter sport in the world according to theyeti.com, and is poised to become a monster of a market. Many involved in skiing and snowboarding utilize snowshoes to participate in some great backcountry hikes to find the holy grail of snow sport enthusiasts: deep, unscathed powder.

Snowshoeing is a great alternative for many sports, especially for those who like running.

How can you tell where to snowshoe? A little adage preached by one of the pioneering members of the snowshoe community, Dave Cressman, says, "If it's covered in snow...go for it! But, be careful. Don't take unnecessary risks and most importantly, have fun." Dave is a nine year veteran on the snowshoe scene who is responsible for starting clinics all across North America.

Prime areas for snowshoeing are at nordic centers, which are usually placed in or near a ski resort. The Summit at Snoqualmie and Stevens Pass have numerous trails to explore. Both have equipment available to rent for under \$35.

Other types of snowshoeing destinations include bed and breakfast inns,

mountain lodges, state parks, national parks, snow-covered golf courses, ski slopes, and much more. Basically, any place that looks like fun probably will be.

Making your own path is a large part of snowshoeing, but be careful. Backcountry snowshoeing is particularly dangerous considering avalanches can occur. It would be wise to seek educational courses on avalanche safety; purchasing an avalanche beacon is suggested. The staff of Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals is always willing to share their local knowledge to any aspiring snowshoer.

Although many people like the individuality and peacefulness of snowshoeing, it's a good idea to snowshoe with a friend or partner. And, bring a global positioning system (GPS) device and a compass to help better navigate remote and wooded areas. Being stuck on a frozen mountain without help is inherently dangerous. If something should happen it's better to have a friend along. Central students and novice snowshoers Nick and Adam Meyers wouldn't think of going into the mountains alone. "Too many bad things can happen. All it takes is a slip or a wrong turn to ruin your day."

There are also snowshoe events around the nation that are organized by such associations and companies like Winter Trails, REI, EMS, The United States Snowshoe Association, a variety of snowshoe manufacturers and more. Every snow-laden state should have snowshoe events every year. In Washington, events happen at nearly all ski locations. Be sure to check your favorite mountain for a chance to expand your winter sports agenda.

An Eagle lands on court

by Christien Neuson
Staff reporter

Jake Beitinger is one of two players on the Central Washington University men's basketball team to transfer from the Eastern Washington University Eagles team.

Beitinger is a six-foot eight-inch forward who hails from Port Orchard.

"I will have to say that having my best friend, Matt Penoncello, as my teammate once again was an integral part in helping my decision to play here," Beitinger said. "Central seemed to have the opposite aspects of Eastern and that's what I was looking for."

Penoncello also transferred to Central this summer.

During his preparatory years at South Kitsap High School in Port Orchard, Beitinger scored more than 1,500 points and was recognized as a firstteam All-State selection by the Associated Press. He is the first player to come out of South Kitsap to play for a Division I school since the 1950's.

Beitinger's game continued to

improve at Eastern.

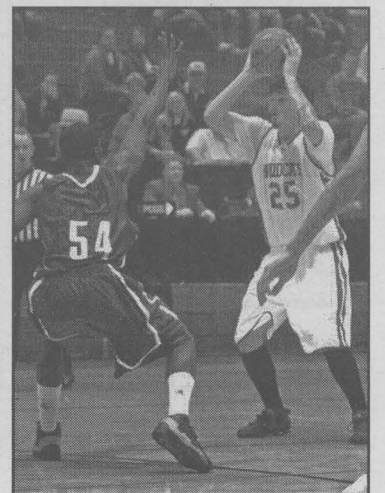
"The transition from Eastern to Central has been a smooth one for me," Beitinger said. "The system is more concise and this team has the right personnel to fit that system."

Aside from his ability to score, Jake really developed a feel for the game on the defensive end. In just two years at Eastern, he blocked 44 shots and ranks seventh on the Eagles career list for blocks. In his sophomore year, he racked up 33 blocked shots which marked the fifth best for a single campaign in the school's history.

"This summer I was a real gym rat," Beitinger said. "I spent countless hours on the court trying to improve the technique of my jump shot and establishing better footwork in the post."

Since Jake is so tall, at the forward position he has the ability to cause matchup problems for the opposing team. He can shoot the ball well from the outside as well as post up on the inside on smaller guards and forwards.

"I think Jake has the potential to be a leading player in the GNAC," head



Maggie Schmidt/Observer

Junior forward Jake Beitinger (25) leads the Wildcats with 57 points and 20 rebounds so far this season.

coach Greg Sparling said. "It's always nice to have guys that played at the Division I level to come and play for us. He is a great addition for us because we lost a lot of size on the frontline due to graduation last year."

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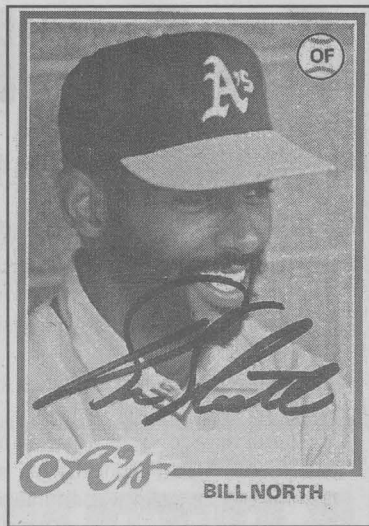
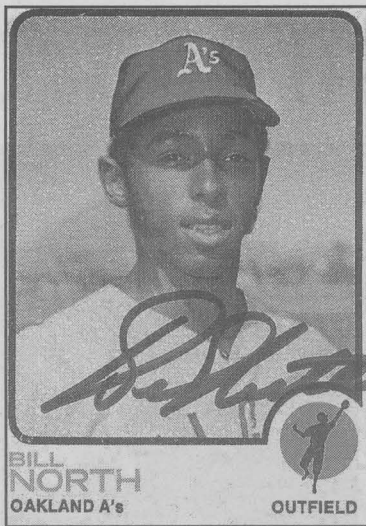
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Three baseball cards from the 1970s show Central alum Bill North's journey through the major leagues. North played for the Wildcats in 1966-68, attracting professional scouts. North's major league career ended in 1981.

NORTH: Central alum played against (and fought with) some of the best major leaguers of the 20th Century

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"I knew the Yankee scout by name, but I didn't think about the Cubs until draft day," North said.

So, in 1971, North made his Major League debut with the Chicago Cubs, a team that, at the time, had future Hall of Fame shortstop Ernie Banks.

"I remember practice started at 10 and I was there at 8 in the morning," North said. "I just stood out in center field and said to myself, this is where you are supposed to be."

North played for the Cubs until 1972, when the Oakland Athletics traded for him. He became a fixture at the top of Oakland's starting lineup as the A's leadoff man and top base stealer for the next four seasons.

In 1973, North was leading the league in steals until a late injury sidelined him for the remainder of the season.

"I was beat by one steal in '73, I was so upset. I was also the leader in walks, but lost that on the last day of the season," North said.

Oakland went on to win the 1973 World Series with North on the bench. In 1974, North came back at full strength and once again was starting in center for the A's and hitting leadoff. He shared the outfield with another rising star, right fielder Reggie Jackson.

"The media made Reggie out to be larger the life," North said.

North led the league in '74 in total fielding chances, a category that is measured by how many times you get to the ball for an out. North, with his speed, was able to cover all of center and right center while Jackson got all the media attention. One day, North's frustration got to him and he and Jackson got into a fist fight. North landed a punch that knocked out Jackson. A's catcher Ray Fosse was also injured in the fray and

"[The punch] was called the second best fight of 1974 after Frasier and Foreman."

BILL NORTH, CENTRAL ALUMNUS

missed the remainder of the season.

"It was just a misunderstanding, it all got cleared up and I got my point across," North said. "It was called the second best fight of 1974 after Frasier and Foreman."

North admits that not every player got along every day but they always respected each other. When the team was winning, they all got along, and winning is what the 1974 A's did as they won the World Series for a third consecutive year. North today still proudly wears that 1974 championship ring to remind him of that season.

In 1977, North was traded to the Los Angeles Dodgers; he became the starting center fielder and would end up helping the Dodgers to the World Series in 1978 against his childhood favorite team, the New York Yankees.

"I remember going out to center field at Yankee Stadium as an Athletic, but it was nothing like it was at the World Series," North said. "It was a spectacle, so unreal."

The Yankees defeated the Dodgers and North became a free agent after that season. In 1979, he signed with the San Francisco Giants. This was the season when North hit his only career grand slam.

"It was the day before Mother's Day; we were up in Montreal against the Expos and Steve Rogers pitched me a slider down and in and I put it over the wall," North said.

In 1982, North walked away from baseball after arguments with manager Frank Robinson, and the Giants headquarters. He was asked to come back

by three different teams, but made the decision not to.

North finished his career with 390 steals, which is still good enough for 70th on the all-time steals list. He is ahead of hall of fame first baseman Rod Carew; long time Twin and Angel and future Hall of Fame second basemen Barry Larkin of the Reds.

"I played with some great players and they worked just as hard as me," North said.

Since leaving baseball, North has been working in financial services in Seattle. He came back to Central in 1993, to finish up and graduate.

"I promised my mother that I would finish school," North said.

Bill North had his time in the hot summer sun and is glad he did. He admits that what he misses the most from his baseball years is the camaraderie and the competition. He still has dreams about those days when he was the man out on the field.

"We were giants then, it was so dominating," North said. "Everyone played at such a high level and we all got praised for it."

If North could give any young athletes advice, it is to get their education first and just be prepared for the long road ahead.

"It's a tough road; you need to always be the last one to leave and be the hardest worker," North said. "Don't think in this day of ESPN and Fox Sports Networks that the scouts don't see you play at little Central Washington University. If you can play and you are good they will find you," North said.

Wildcats look to knock off No. 1

The Central Washington University Wildcats make their first trip into the Division II National Quarterfinals this Saturday as they play the Grand Valley State University Lakers at Lubbers Stadium in Allendale, Mich.



Curtis Crabtree
Asst. Sports Editor

The Lakers (11-0, 9-0 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference) are the two-time defending Division II National Champions and have won a Division II record 39 consecutive games dating back to the 2004 season.

Grand Valley State earned their trip to the National Quarterfinals with a 21-14 victory over the University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux last Saturday.

"[The Lakers] are good and well balanced," head coach Beau Baldwin said. "They know how to win. They have good team speed all over the field and it's going to be a challenge for us."

North Dakota played the majority of the game without their preseason All-American running back Ryan Chappell, who has been laboring with a sprained ankle the past several weeks.

The Sioux were largely ineffective running the ball without Chappell in their lineup as Grand Valley built a 21-0 lead midway through the third quarter.

North Dakota mounted a comeback as they drew within seven at the end of the third quarter, but managed to get no closer as the Lakers won their 39th straight game.

The Fighting Sioux are one of only two teams to defeat Central this season as they beat the Wildcats 35-28 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, N.D. on Sept. 15.

Chappell was the driving force behind the Sioux's victory as he carried the ball 28 times for 306 yards and touchdown runs of 37 and 33 yards.

The significance of this is that Grand Valley State could only manage a seven point victory over North Dakota even though the Sioux were without their star running back.

After watching the North Dakota vs. Grand Valley State game from this last weekend, I believe the Wildcats match up very well against the Lakers.

The Wildcats passing game is one of the best in the country. Quarterback Mike Reilly was a contender for the Harlon Hill Trophy this year, (Division II's version of the Heisman Trophy) and wide receiver Johnny Spevak surpassed the 1,000 yard mark for receiving yards and caught 13 touchdowns on the year.

The Lakers defense is big and loves to hit. Linebacker Anthony Adams has great range from sideline to sideline and defensive back Brandon Carr is one of the top defensive players in the country.

That being said, I believe the strength of the Lakers defense is their run defense and not their pass coverage. With the coverages the Lakers employ, Reilly should be able to find openings for his receivers to make plays.

If running back Johnny Lopez can run the ball effectively enough to pull the Lakers linebackers up, Reilly should have a field day throwing to his receivers.

On the other side of the ball, the Wildcats have struggled defending the run all season long. The strength of the defense lies with our secondary in Jon Rogers, Brandon Kennedy, Jerome Williams and Chris Hemphill.

"They're very beatable," said sophomore defensive wide receiver Brandon Stout. "If we can stick together and believe, then they won't be able to stop us."

While Grand Valley State can run the ball effectively with their running backs Blake Smolen and James Berezik, neither back has game-changing speed. They need to have holes opened for them to make plays.

Despite having a Harlon Hill Trophy finalist in quarterback Brad Iciek, I think the key to the game for the Wildcats is forcing Iciek to throw downfield.

If the Wildcats can force the Lakers to be one-dimensional, they will have a great chance to pull the upset and advance to the National Semifinals.

The game will be broadcast only on www.ncaasports.com/dii in the Ellensburg area. Kickoff time is 10 a.m. on Saturday.

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Mattawa, Washington

Hockey Club set to drop puck

by Nick Scotti
Staff reporter

As Central Washington University students struggle from class to class, skating and sliding on the icy sidewalks of the Ellensburg campus this winter, it's hard to imagine that there is a group of Central students and alumni that feel most comfortable on the ice.

The Central Washington University Hockey Club recently began practice and look forward to another action-packed year of competition.

This year, students Aaron Gilbertsen and Jesse Taylor will run the club. Along with a group of returning players from last year, they are looking for more players that share their passion for the sport.

The club so far is made up of a number of players with many different skill

levels, from playing in high school up to semi pro-level experience. The team will be coached by Central alumnus Tyson Read, who will also be playing defense. Some other returning players includes forward Andy Jackson, also a Central alumnus, forward Erik Lindstrom, and defenseman Andy Soltz.

"We had a good turn out at our first practice," Gilbertsen said. "Everyone skated very well and we have two full lines so far."

As of now, the club does not have a set schedule of games, but is looking to participate against league teams in Yakima and Moses Lake.

"We plan on playing Western and Whitman at least once," Gilbertsen said. "We want to get the team together and see how well we skate together, and then maybe we can think about scheduling more games against other

"We want to get the team together and see how well we skate together."

AARON GILBERTSON,
HOCKEY CLUB CAPTAIN

schools."

The club is open to all students and staff that are interested. Experience or not, the team is always looking for supporters. After the winter break the team will hold practices Thursdays in Moses Lake. Anyone interested is encouraged to visit the Central club sports Web site, or the Club Sports office in the SUB.



photo courtesy of Patrick Doty/UNO Gateway

Sophomore Brandon Stout returns a kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter. The score sparked a Central rally from 10 points down to defeat Nebraska-Omaha on Nov. 24

OMAHA: Central victory sends team to National Quarterfinals

continued from cover

Sophomore defensive back Jerome Williams covered Carey the whole way and picked off Miller's pass, giving the Wildcats possession deep in Nebraska-Omaha territory.

"I'm shocked [that they threw a pass]," Williams said. "But when you're playing, you aren't really thinking about that, you're just playing."

Coach Baldwin isn't so quick to judge the play calling.

"I think part of it was trying to catch us off-guard," Baldwin said. "It's easy to look back now and say it was a bad call, but if they had hit that play, it would have been a different story."

Three plays later, junior quarterback Mike Reilly connected with sophomore wide receiver Johnny Spevak for an 18-yard touchdown to give the Wildcats their first lead of the day, 20-17, at the 1:36 mark in the fourth quarter.

However, a missed extra point by Rolsma left the door open for the Mavericks to tie the game with a field goal.

A 33-yard kick return out to the Nebraska-Omaha 40-yard line gave the Mavericks good field position for their final drive with only 1:28 to play.

Miller connected with Casey for seven yards to the Nebraska-Omaha 47-yard line, then connected with Casey again for 14 yards to get into field goal range on the Central 39-yard line.

A seven-yard scramble by Miller got the Mavericks even closer with 57 seconds remaining.

Then senior linebacker Bret Stray made another big play for the defense, sacking Miller for a four-yard loss to force the Mavericks into a third-and-seven situation.

On third down, Miller was pressured by the Wildcat pass rush and had an errant throw intercepted by Williams

again with only 40 seconds remaining.

Two kneel downs later and the Wildcats were moving on to the National Quarterfinals.

"It was crazy," Williams said. "I just couldn't believe how our team came back considering how many points we were down. Our team has a saying, that you just got to believe and I think we just kept believing in each other."

The Wildcats other score of the game came on a 24-yard touchdown pass from Reilly to senior wide receiver Chris Rohrbach in the second quarter. Reilly finished 19-of-28 passing for 224 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.


Central had lost to Nebraska-Omaha just two weeks earlier as the Mavericks came into Tomlinson Stadium in Ellensburg and beat the Wildcats 59-21 on Senior Day. The Mavericks, who had rushed for 361 yards against the Wildcats in their first meeting, were held to only 211 yards rushing.

On Wednesday, junior tight end Jared Bronson was named to the first team All-Northwest Region team. Reilly, Spevak, senior center Sam Himmelman, sophomore linebacker Buddy Wood and senior defensive back Chris Hemphill were second-team selections.

The Wildcats travel to Allendale, Mich. to play the Grand Valley State University Lakers, who are the two-time defending Division II National Champions on Saturday. The Lakers are coming off a 21-14 win over the University of North Dakota and are currently enjoying a 39-game winning streak, the longest in Division II football history.

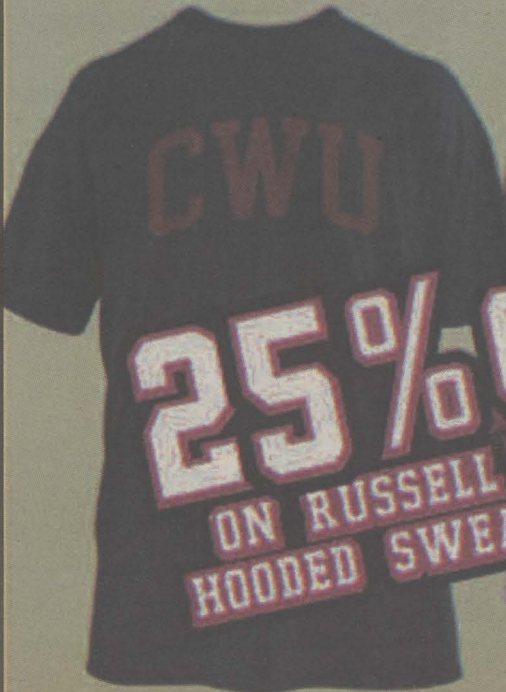
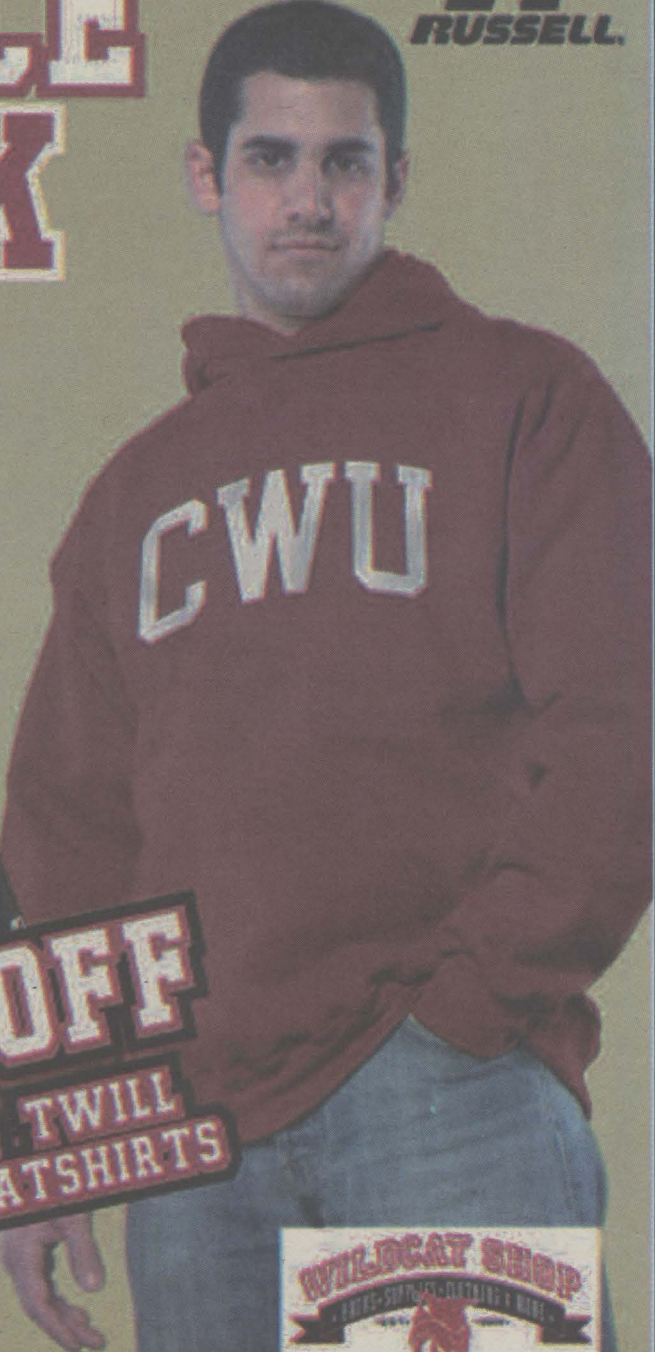
Kickoff is scheduled for 10 a.m. PST and a noon kickoff local time in Michigan.

The winner advances to the National Semifinals to face the winner of the Chadron State University vs. Northwest Missouri State University game Dec. 8.




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