Dean Hall renovation to be done fall of 2008

Symphony Orchestra concert this weekend

Wildcats look to snap Grand Valley State’s streak

UPSET IN OMAHA

Wildcats score 13 points in 73 seconds to shock the Mavericks

by Curtis Crabtree
Assistant 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 10. Sophomore kicker Garritt Reilman 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 Milleth threw a pass intended for wide receiver David Carey up the sideline.

“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 contracts 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
Renovation causes Dean Hall to go green

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 grand 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 Environmenal 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 EBB 509, 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 Hillmann, 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, Hillmann said.

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

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

"It's very happy for the university that we wouldn't have an empty building on campus," Hillmann 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 include safety planning and construction for future students.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design is a LEED certification of at least silver.

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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 reconstruction is a project 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 for the new renovation is a river, which will extend all the way from "O" 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 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 new communication 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 biology department professor at Central from the mid '60s up to his retirement in 1989. Dumas was involved with the development and direction of the biology 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 for 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 decisions, 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.

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**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 collective bargaining agreement and 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 via a new museum to be built in the university.

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 three kinds of personnel actions," Soltz said.

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

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**PROVOST DAVID SOLTZ IN A DEPOSITION**

"SKI & RIDE FOR CHEAP $299 STEVENS COLLEGE PASS"
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 Snoqualamie Pass.

Snoqualamie 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 risk 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 Bolley, 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 "safe to drive on."

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

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

To apply for housing, one must go to 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 Castell, student office assistant, said.

Tire Chain Tips

- Consult your owner's manual to see if chains can be used on your vehicle.
- Do not deflate tires to install tire chains.
- If a cross chain should fail, stop immediately and repair it or remove it.
- Be sure to remove chains when driving on bare roads.
- Avoid hitting curbs with chains on your tires.
- For maximum performance, make sure tire chains are properly sized for the tires.
- Do not tow other vehicles with chains on your tires.
- Do not exceed 30 m.p.h. Accelerate and decelerate slowly to avoid spinning or locking up wheels.
- After putting on chains, drive for a quarter of a mile and then stop and remount.

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

- Disposable camera
- Motor oil
- Cone, 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
- Pencils 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.


November 29, 2007 — News — Observer

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow

Above: Cars drive past just miles from the summit of Snoqualamie 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 months.

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

photos by Chelona Krizan/Observer

"This beautiful room is so comfortable."

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Getting homes, halls ready for winter season

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 microwave
- 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
- Clean out rain gutters to prevent water damage
- Have bottled water and non-perishable food stored in case of winter storms

Residence halls available during break

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

Talk with Housing in Burton Hall to make arrangements.

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

Central falls behind in officer diversity rates

by Marque 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 woman 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 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 there after, 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. “There are only a few officers of diverse background now and 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 and value for 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 sensitivity to the job, that men learn from. It has tempered a lot of the men and took out the good of boy chauvinism.”

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.
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 Robbe 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 community; our oldest 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.

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 faculty and administrative issues should be discussed in the classroom.”

According to Quirk, the main goal of the administrative standpoint was to get faculty salaries up to that of comparable institutions.

“Nothing’s perfect, but it’s progress,” said Bob Hickey, UFC PRESIDENT.

The goal of the agreement is 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.

NCATE accredits Central’s education program

by Karen 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 achieve teaching certificates. The department is required to be state accredited but have 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 reorder.

“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 NCATE accreditation,” Lambert said. “We know that we didn’t have a whole complement 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.

Ways to de-stress during finals week

Retail therapy (holiday shopping)
Trip to spa, massage, manic-pedicure
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

New Ownership

Have news tips?
Feel free to send them to cwuobserver@gmail.com.
We love hearing from our readers.
**Letters to the editor**

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.

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**Kathryn Lake**  
Editor-in-Chief

The last edition of the Observer will be my 10th quarter on The Observer, striving for excellence and focusing on the best health insurance out there. The Observer is stepping into a new role on campus and in the community. 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 the administration. President McIntyre may consider it "lamestreaming," but I consider it unfair, unfettered information delivered to the people who really matter, the little guy's thoughts freely in power, and information that is screened through and approved by some university committees, I believe, inherently biased to further the administrators' objectives. 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 seems to have a comment. So, brave you to it.

I would like to make a suggestion for a future Observer article. I am sure you all are aware of the controversy between the city and police over the municipal police force, which I feel is escalating rapidly at the national scale. I think that we see the First Amendment Festival reappear 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 will happen. I really matter what behavior is considered "acceptable" versus "unacceptable" here. I hope you all will take note of where to draw the line. Thanks so much for your time and consideration, and keep up the good job.

Jaxon Thompson  
SPORTS, ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY

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**Karena Sherman**  
Senior reporter

Health insurance is a must for families

I'm lucky to have parents who have the best health insurance out there. The company pays 90 percent of any medical procedure, appointment, treatment and surgery. We have it lucky, but my parents also aren't exactly low-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 Type I Diabetes and her health insurance cannot afford great health insurance. She has had no insurance? Or if my insurance cannot make health care universal for everyone.

I'm lucky that I'm good at math, however, has a different story. He has Type I Diabetes and his health insurance has dropped him because he costs $500k a year. That's more than the $30,000 bill. Think about that.

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**Melanie Lockhart**  
Sports editor

Student journalist ready to conquer the major leagues

With the crack of the bat, the ball soared over the center fielder's head. I followed my instincts to run as a familiar face cheered me on from the bleachers. I crossed home plate with the biggest smile, proud of that first homer 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 story, I knew I wanted to write in some form of sports writing.

During my teenage years, I wrote for the junior high and high school yearbooks as a site reporter to provide stats about a paper. It was there that I first experienced journalism. Now, as a sports writer for MLB.com, I've developed an even greater appreciation for writing and journalistic aim as a whole.

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

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, it was 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 the industry. Many people believe that I can't possibly have enough knowledge about sports to write about them effectively. But I proved them wrong, and I decided to prove others wrong, not in search of revenge, but in search of something that girls can excel as sports reporters. If there is one thing that I have learned in my years as a student journalist for The Observer, it's that confidence and assertiveness are key. No matter how many butterflies may get in my stomach at the thought of taking it to college sports stars or professional athletes, I know that I can tell their story through my writing, and tell it well.

My application package for the internship is due in Arizona the day I graduate. My effort to submit this piece not only in hopes of being considered for an internship that I have no college journalist experience, 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 with MLB.com. Whether 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 journalism. I sincerely thank the Observer and all who submitted a site reporter to provide stats about a professional baseball team anywhere in the country and I will benefit my future goals greatly.

Not only would it help me strengthen my skills as a journalist, it may end up being the stepping stone towards another dream come true.
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 high-energy ensemble Jazz Band I.

"The great thing about jazz band is it brings many different aspects to the performance," said Kyle Thompson, junior education major, saxophone player and music director for Jazz Band I. "The saxophones balance the trumpets, the trombones 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 II 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 reimagined 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 credit 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” Mouawad, professor emeritus of music, came to Central in 1970. Mouawad was an inspiration for many faculty, including Bruya, who was a student of Mouawad, and more than just Central faculty have hauled Mouawad 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 Vija 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 fewer schools that offer both music education and jazz education, and we are one of those that has John.”

The strength of the jazz faculty beginning with Mouawad 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 $3 general admission, $2 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 bull­shit," 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 its 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.

"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 print-making because it takes an art similar to photography and connects it as an art medium.

"[print] is halfway between sculpture and drawing," Stephanie Hawkins, a junior art performance major, said.

"Other 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. He is Brahms's best-known piece to open with, said Caoile, and is written because 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.

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

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 attend seminary school. However, Alkire felt he was too much of an artist to attend seminary school. Therefore, Alkire took a different route and decided to pursue his art career instead.

"It may also be one of Ellensburg's best kept secrets, according to Caoile. "We would like to make an event feel like a rodeo, rather than creating sadles."

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

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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.

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"I want to make physical objects that viewers can pick up, sometimes even hurt, like piñatas," Alkire said. "I try to make things that can make their own lasting quote and mark in the world, especially as art."

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

--Makayla Lee/Observer

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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 abili­ ties to create a barrage of music for the entertainment of the school and Ellens­ burg community this Sunday afternoon.

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"I think it's really crazy," Emily Maidan, 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. Pre­

The concert features three pieces: Johannes Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor; Jennifer Higdon's Con­certo for 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 contempo­

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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. 6, 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 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 resume for their majors or scholarship applications.

Volunteers are needed for changing the bathroom 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 bathroom 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 attendees should register by 5 p.m. Nov. 30th at the Center for Student Empowerment on the 2nd floor of the SURC in room 258.

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

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, choices 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 Voice 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 issue of using protection and promoting safe sex in a hands-on way rather than the contemporary "watch and pretend" video experiences many students are subject to in high school.

"I think that any event preventing unwanted pregnancies and teaching about condoms 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 Dochier and Latisha Yanam.

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 contraception and 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," said Karla Rivers, senior recreation major and Vox volunteer.

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 Condom VOR club meets every Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m. in SURC room 271.

Black Friday reigns supreme

by Kayla Schroeder
Staff reporter

For some individuals, the Friday following Thanksgiving provides time for holiday transitions and enjoying a relaxing vacation with loved ones.

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LISA FIELDS, OPERATION ELF STUDENT PROGRAMMER
**Women's basketball still unbeaten at 3-0**

*by Nicole Rowser*  
*Staff reporter*

The women’s basketball team have already posted the season start. The Wildcats forced 27 turnovers at the Sodexho Tipoff Classic held at and fell short in a 61-56 loss.

Tne Wildcats forced 27 turnovers at the Sodexho Tipoff Classic held at and fell short in a 61-56 loss. The women continued to build momentum and complimentary.

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

Women's basketball still unbeaten at 3-0

"[The coaches] all know how to connect to us on a personal level while still maintaining a professional attitude."  
*Tanna Radtke, junior guard*

The Wildcats are off to a strong start with the baseline pressure, 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 93-80 victory over visiting Montana Tech, scoring a career-high 30 points. The Orediggers are Central's only non-Division II competition of the season.

Freshman guard Jenn Jacobs had 10 points, four rebounds, five assists and three steals. His following grew, as professional scouts began to show up and watch him play.

Terry felt the wrath of the times as he was disappointed because I was a great player, but he also knew I was great at baseball.

He was eventually selected by the Minnesota Twins at 28th overall. "It was the Yankees and the Braves, possibly be a top-five pick in the Major League draft," North said. "Baseball between 1957 and 1979, those were the glory days." North started his journey to the major leagues at age 7 with the 1957 World Series. He was mesmerized by the game, the sound, 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 be late Central basketball coach Dean Nicholson.

"When I told coach that I wasn’t going to play baseball 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 1966 and knew he would possibly be a top-five pick in the Major League draft. "I, at the time, was dating a white girl 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. **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 named 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." North started his journey to the major leagues at age 7 with the 1957 World Series. He was mesmerized by the game, the sound, the idea of baseball.

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Many snow sports opportunities available within Kittitas Valley

Stories by Dan Camman
Special to the Observer

Like it or not, it’s here to stay. Kittitas County is being transformed into a winter wonderland surrounded by pristine mountain and snowating 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 could 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 snowshoeing. 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.

Snowshoeing is a path for the fastest growing winter sport in the world.

Snowshoeing has been around for thousands of years, and obviously, has been considered a winter sport. Modern-day snowshoeing is made up of casual snowshoers who hike trails for pleasure, enthusiasts who trek through wooded areas. Being stuck on a frozen lake or falling through the backcountry is an incredible experience.

Modern-day snowshoeing is made up of casual snowshoers who hike trails for pleasure, enthusiasts who trek through backcountry hikes to find the holy grail of snow sport enthusiasts: deep, uncharted powder.

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

“How can you tell where to snowshoe? A little advice probed by one of the pioneering members of the snowshoe community, Dave Creasman, says, “it’s covered in snow, go for it. But, he careful. Don’t underestimate risks and most importantly, have fun.” Dave is a nine-year veteran of snowshoeing. He is a snowshoe icon who is responsible for starting clinics all across North America.

Prime areas for snowshoeing are at 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 trail on the back of a roaring engine is like nothing else. Waving 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, it 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.

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

Sophomore defensive back Jerome Williams covered Cary 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 Stoy 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.
WINTER QUARTER BUYBACK

CASH FOR BOOKS

Nov 28-Dec 7

Wed-Fri, Nov 28-30
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, Dec 1
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mon-Thur, Dec 3-6
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Friday, Dec 7
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Your future is Central.