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The Central Washington University

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February 14, 2008 - volume 81, number 14

Provost search narrowed to four

Candidates hold open forums to share philosophies with campus

by Mimi Oh
Staff reporter

Over the course of two days, Central examined the candidates for a new provost, the person who will lead the academics of the university.

Following David Soltz's departure in January 2008, Central found four people who showed why they are qualified for the position through short speeches and an open forum.

The provost is be responsible for looking over the Division of Academic Affairs.

Melody Madlem is the chair of the provost search committee and a professor in public health.

Dr. Liahna Armstrong and Dr. James Bailey discussed their administrative philosophy and fielded questions from their colleagues last week, including those teaching at Central's satellite campuses.

Dr. Wayne Quirk and Dr. Roy Savoian followed the next day.

The primary question considered by the candidates was how, as the provost, they would help to maintain the quality of Central's faculty-student interaction in the face of escalating time demands on faculty.

Another question included whether technology should be mandatory, or voluntarily integrated into courses by faculty.

The ASCWU-BOD asked candidates how they would maintain a link to the students if they were unable to stay in the classroom.

Candidates answered a question about their first priorities as leading

administrators at Central.

Finally, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities Marji Morgan inquired after the favorite artists and writers of the candidates.

Armstrong is an English professor and the former dean of the College of the Arts and Humanities.

According to her administrative record, she made the College of the Arts and Humanities an entity in its own right, after its separation from the College of the Sciences.

"The sheer velocity of human thought [will] not [be] slowed by pragmatic impediments," Armstrong said in her speech, articulating her vision of good administration at Central, which included an emphasis on university-supported interdisciplinary work.

Bailey is professor and chair of accounting and a member of the Graduate Council.

His speech included an earthy anecdote about his childhood problem-solving abilities.

Bailey stressed the importance of standardizing informational requests.

One of his accomplishments that he is proud of is presiding over the Truman State Business School of over 1,000 students.

"I want to improve the advising process," Bailey said. "I've been working with the dean's office to create a BlackBoard course for advisees. They have to pass a test with 100 percent about what students need to graduate and must take it over again if they don't."

Thomas Wellock, a member of the Graduate Council with Bailey, com-



photos by Brianne Jette, Sean Guffey/Observer

Roy Savoian (top left), James Bailey (top right), Wayne Quirk (bottom left), and Liahna Armstrong (bottom right) are the four candidates for the position of provost. The final decision is anticipated to be made by the end of this month.

mented positively about Bailey, saying that he has sound judgment and gets along well with people.

Quirk is the associate vice president for graduate studies, research and continuing education. Quirk has a science research background.

"We need to establish and maintain an atmosphere that lends itself to collegiality," Quirk said, referring to lawsuits, grievances and hostility that he has witnessed, and would like to overcome, as provost.

SEE PROVOST PAGE 6

Cloninger resigns position

by Chelsea Krotzer
News editor

A staff member recently stepped down to a new position a week ago. Last Tuesday afternoon that same staff member resigned from Central completely.

Julie Cloninger, former senior director of development, took on a new position as a developmental officer for the college of education and professional studies just weeks ago.

At the time, Cloninger described her stepping down as a way to be with her family.

"The primary reason is I have four young kids and my position here has really been more than a full time job, and you can only slice the pie in so many ways," Cloninger said in a prior interview.

Cloninger came to Central in September 2004. Before that she worked at Heritage University in Toppenish.

"She said she wanted to be with her kids," said Richard Sippola, the Human Resources director at Heritage. "It was a voluntary resignation."

The day after her resignation, a letter was sent out by Paul Baker, vice president for university relations, explaining complaints that arose involving foundation credit cards. An audit resulted from the complaints.

Julie Cloninger was contacted numerous times after the news of her resignation via telephone she failed to return messages before press time.

More on this story will be in next week's edition of The Observer.

Silent auction raises \$2,600 for new Head Start program

by Nora Duncan
Staff reporter

With Valentine's Day coming up, America is focusing on things from the heart: doing nice things for your neighbor and taking a second to appreciate everyone. The city of Ellensburg played its part by having the third annual Have A Heart For Kids silent auction Feb. 8. The event was held at Gallery One, where live piano music was provided.

"We had a great turn out this year," Liz Whitaker, chair of the Board of Directors for the Early Childhood and Assistance Program (ECAEAP) said. "It always seems really crowded in the Gallery, but that's a good thing. We want people to get involved, and it's always

nice to come together for a good cause."

A cause that is helping out parents such as Susan Barret whose young daughter Delaney attends a Head Start program.

"[Head Start] offers good care and great structure for my daughter," Barret said. "I know it is essential for kids that age to be engaged ... Not just sit on a couch watching TV all day."

Not only is Barret a single parent, she is also a full-time student at Central, majoring in special education. She has already received a degree in art from Western Washington University, and was very excited to contribute her own piece of art for the auction.

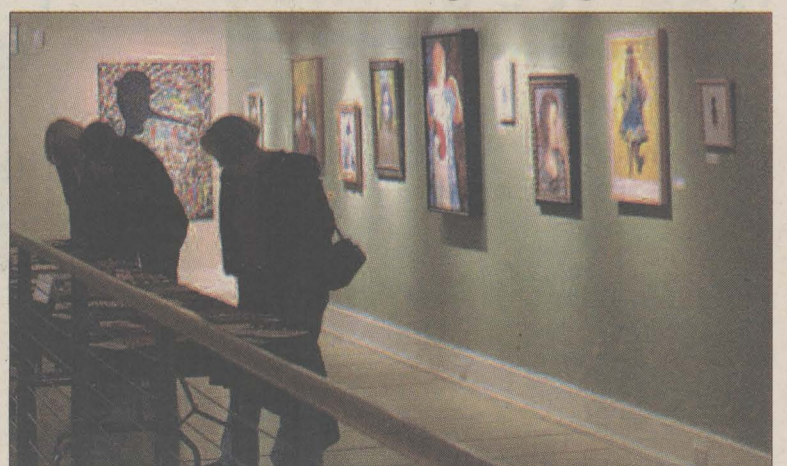
"Head Start has really been great for me," Barret said. "I became a single parent in 2005, and decided to move

Auction results:

Money raised: \$2,600
Items sold: 104 pieces.
Most expensive: \$110 for a large Raggedy Anne Doll.
Least expensive: \$5 for crocheted snowflakes.

back to my hometown of Ellensburg. Without Head Start, I would have to pay for childcare, and it's just so much nicer to know that she's in a good, safe environment without me having to worry about her."

SEE AUCTION PAGE 12



Sean Guffey/Observer

Ellensburg community members cast their bids during last Friday's silent art auction. Proceeds go toward the head start program.

Visual Stimulation



Pete Los/Observer

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Seniors realize the need to prioritize to graduate on time

by Eric Haugland
Copy editor

Planning on a timely graduation goes beyond just keeping an acceptable grade point average and fulfilling department major requirements.

Many students assume that, as long as they meet with their faculty advisor regularly and are maintaining solid grades, graduation is an imminent and easy prospect.

While exiting the college gate and entering the “real world” doesn’t require jumping through rings of fire or fighting dragons, it doesn’t hurt students to remain proactive during their college career.

“It helps if students take responsibility and use tools available to them,” Registrar Tracy Terrell said.

Such tools include the Advising Center in Hertz Hall and Safari, the latter of which is the most accessible to students for retrieving important information such as their CAPS report and unofficial transcript.

Many students forget that Safari is a very important asset to them, and doing simple tasks such as checking the to-do list can save many headaches down the road.

All unmet requirements and holds are clearly visible, helping to guide students in circumventing problems and avoiding issues that usually happen when class substitutions or transfer credits aren’t followed up on.

“I took a hiatus from school to work for my parents,” former student Robert Larsen, who transferred to Washington State University, said. “I returned a quarter later and continued as usual. When I decided later to transfer to [WSU], I realized my latest enrollment lacked my achievements from the previous years at Central.”

While Larsen’s situation is a rather isolated incident, it helps to exemplify that accidents and mistakes are not totally impossible.

“Errors do happen, course substitutions are not complete, paperwork is not received, things can be filed before being entered,” Terrell said. “Read everything; make sure [it is] all in sync. Don’t assume everything is always going okay.”

According to Terrell, errors that do occur are very rare and are usually simple to fix. When a student catches a problem in a timely matter, it is always easier to correct and work around than

Checklist

- Go to Safari and check “to do list”
- Print out degree checkout form and take it to Degree Checkout in Mitchell Hall.
- Complete early registration for final quarter classes.
- Show up to class and complete the school year.
- Come to graduation on June 7.

when it happens right before a deadline.

Checking academic status at regular intervals will provide an easy remedy to a deadline rush before graduation. However, it is a concept to which no one should react with surprise.

“I have said at every orientation [to] pull CAPS right after you register for [your] next quarter and see where you are at,” Scott Carlton, director for academic advising, said.

Carlton stresses the shared responsibility students must have along with the Advising Center and degree checkout.

Academic advising is a useful resource in determining where a student stands outside their major. According to Carlton, a department faculty advisor can keep students on track as far as fulfilling major requirements, but are often unsure or not up-to-date with general education and breadth requirements.

Students with questions outside of their major should feel free to use academic advising for answers. They can also seek the help of degree checkout for graduating and not as last minute advising.

“Use advising to answer questions; do not wait until degree checkout,” Carlton said.



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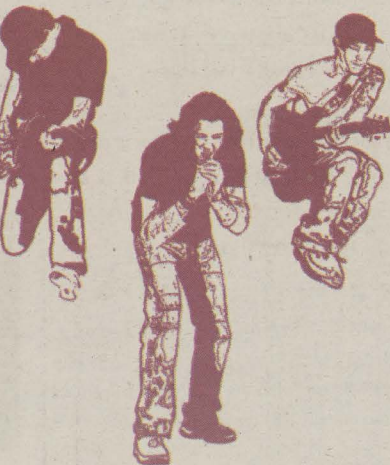
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Construction update...

Crosswalk Closure: There is construction in the pedestrian bridge northeast of Dean Hall that goes over the irrigation canal. The bridge will be closed from Jan. 10, 2008, until March 10, 2008. The area will be fenced off. **Dean Hall:** Renovations are still underway for Dean Hall, with an expected completion in fall 2008.



Obama, McCain win mock caucus at Central

by Kevin Opsahl
Staff reporter

Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain were the winners of Central's first mock presidential caucus last Thursday.

Obama was awarded 16 votes, while McCain earned 15. Both came out with huge leads in their respective parties.

On the Democratic side, rival Sen. Hillary Clinton received seven votes, former Sen. Mike Gravel received two and six votes were undecided.

For the Republicans Rep. Ron Paul was awarded nine votes, Gov. Mike Huckabee received four, Gov. Mitt Romney received three and five votes were undecided.

The event was modeled after the Iowa caucus, which was the first contest held during this election year to nominate presidential candidates.

The Ballroom was divided into two sections: one for the Democratic caucus and the other for the Republican. ASCWU-BOD pamphlets with descriptions of the candidates' views were given to participants.

A movie screen at the front of the Ballroom showed the candidates' campaign videos. After the screening, voters checked their choices on paper ballots.

"I've been looking at Ron Paul, but I can't say with any certainty," Mike Tonge, senior accounting major, said. "The Constitution is so misinterpreted. I'd like to see it taken as it is supposed to be."

Among the videos shown at the Republican caucus was a Huckabee ad featuring actor Chuck Norris, which got laughs from the attendees.

McCain's campaign video featured an interview with him shortly after being released from a POW camp in

Hanoi.

Obama's introduction video was a 10-minute documentary on his life and career, with clips of his famed 2004 keynote speech at the Democratic convention.

Clinton's video focused on her work with "ordinary Americans" as narrated by former President Bill Clinton.

Students felt the Democratic caucus was more complicated than the Republicans' caucus. Voters sat in groups of five or more and discussed their choices, filling out delegate allocation forms that projected the number of delegates awarded to candidates.

When the first rounds of votes were tabulated, the remaining viable candidates were voted on a second time. Between rounds, student supporters got to express their views on the candidates.

"[Clinton] is a compassionate

worker for the American people," said Michael Derneimer, senior philosophy major who worked on the Clinton campaign. "When she and Bill got into the White House, she worked the entire time... Countless nations are [now] looking at us with concern and distrust, and that should be shocking. Hillary is willing to work hand in hand with other nations to rebuild the credibility of America."

The event was sponsored by the ASCWU Office of Legislative Affairs, with Vice President of political affairs Michael Bogatay as the host.

"Our goal for this event was to give students an understanding of who the candidates are and their stance on vital issues," Bogatay said. "We wanted to prepare students for the real caucus to ensure they went in confident in understanding the process and to ensure that the student

voice is heard in Washington's caucus process."

On the Democratic side, the results of the mock caucus proved strikingly similar to that of Iowa.

According to CNN, Sen. Obama won big in the Hawkeye state with 38 percent of the votes, crushing his rival Sen. Clinton, who trailed in third with 29 percent.

Obama and Clinton are currently in a tight race for the nomination.

On the Republican side, however, McCain didn't fare too well: he came in a distant fourth.

Huckabee was the victor that night with 34 percent of the popular vote. With the departure of Romney, McCain is now the presumptive nominee.

Washington state held its own presidential caucus on Feb. 9.

The state primary will be held on Feb. 19.

Washington State Caucus Results

Democratic Primary



Barack Obama
21,629 Votes
35 Total Delegates



Hillary Clinton
9,992 Votes
15 Total Delegates



John McCain
3,468 Votes
Delegates TBA



Mike Huckabee
3,226 Votes
Delegates TBA

Photos from CNN.com

Republican Primary

Winners of Tuesday's Primaries

Washington D.C.

Dem - Barack Obama - 9 Delegates
Rep - John McCain - 16 Delegates

Maryland

Dem - Barack Obama - 11 Delegates
Rep - John McCain - 13 Delegates

Virginia

Dem - Barack Obama - 50 Delegates
Rep - John McCain - 60 Delegates

Army captain tells his story about fleeing Sudan

by Michael Johnson
Staff reporter

Looking at David Moses, it's hard to believe the Sudanese man is a captain in the United States Army. Small in stature, Moses sat in Karen Spears Zacharias' office wearing no medals, hat or military attire.

Instead, Moses sat in the chair tapping his small dark fingers on the armrest to an imaginary beat playing in his head.

It appears that Moses has no care in the world — at least that's what his smile says. Rather than the male bravado expected from an Army captain, Moses is quiet, soft-spoken and quite comedic.

His accolades are seldom mentioned in conversation, but his appreciation for the United States is.

"Coming from Juba, Sudan, Moses was unable to enjoy the freedoms of most Americans. Sudan was having religious and cultural conflicts among the country's population between the Islamic north and the Christian south.

"One of the presidents during that time wanted to Islam the whole Sudan; they started bribing people to Islam with money," Moses said. "The educated took a stand and said no, giving up their religion was like losing their identity, so they rebelled."

At the age of 12, Moses was forced into the jungle by the sounds of heavy artillery and bullets

whizzing by his ears.

Most of the younger boys survived because they were away tending herds, but Moses ran into the jungle where he was accompanied by a group of nine individuals.

He had no food, clothes or family to accompany him, and for all he knew his family was dead. Moses trekked for months across rivers and desert facing starvation, wild animals and disease as he walked some 1,000 miles to Kenya.

This walk is nearly impossible for an adult, let alone a 12-year-old.

Weather is a major factor in Sudan; daytime temperatures can reach more than 122 degrees Fahrenheit.

Terrain is another problem in southern Sudan; the ground is low and flat with basically no natural drainage, and the soil saturates quickly, resulting in standing water even during the brief periods when it is not raining — not to mention rats and poisonous snakes.

The walk became exhausting for Moses' peers, eight of the guys who began the walk lagged behind. "The others felt it was as if someone trying to chase the wind," Moses said. "I said, maybe if I make it, someday, maybe I'll be able to make a difference."

Moses thought about suicide, but it was the Americans and his strong faith that helped lead him through.

When Moses successfully got to Kenya, he was

put in a refugee camp; from there he was interviewed by U.S. immigration office and lawyers to verify refugee status.

It was the American people in the back of Moses' mind when he decided to come to the United States around the age of 14. He could've gone to Australia or Canada, but it was the American people that stood out.

In the United States, Moses first went to South Dakota, then moved to Utah where he worked at a meat plant.

"It was the hardest job in my life," Moses said. "My job was to move the pig after it was cut in two."

The job, which consisted of a repetitive side-to-side motion, caused an excruciating pain in his back, chest and joints, causing him to see a doctor. "As he was talking to me, he said 'I think you should go to college,'" Moses said.

He wasn't the first to go to college, but he became the first in his family to graduate from college when he received his degree in political science at Weber State.

"Everyone knew who he was," said Dr. Nancy Haanstad, associate professor in political science at Weber State University. "He was Personality of the Year and Man of the Year, so that tells you how highly he was regarded by his colleagues."

Moses is also fluent in Arabic; he had an opportunity to go to Iraq to make 16,000 a

month as a contractor. This would be an easy decision for most, but Moses decided to join the United States Army instead.

"It's not about money, many people were so kind, this country has done great things for me — this is my way of giving back," Moses said.

"David is probably one of the most dynamic leaders in the Army today," said U.S. Army Captain Jonathon Draper. "David Moses is one of the most mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually strong individuals. Don't confuse calm and collects with quiet and laid back."

Moses describes himself as a man with two personalities.

"I'm totally different in war," Moses said with intensity rarely seen while talking.

"His actions throughout his life speak clearly to how aggressive and assertive he is," Draper said. "If I were to choose one man to go to the gates of hell and fight the devil himself, David would be that man."

It's this passion for the United States that caused Moses to lead a platoon of troops, instead of shrinking in fear when bullets came toward him.

"Freedom means something to David," said Zacharias. "He understands the value of everyday freedom."

It is because of freedom that Moses stepped into Central lives day to day wearing jeans and a T-shirt, rather than military attire.

MAJORS FAIR

Major Fair in the Student Union and Recreation building ball room today at 3 p.m.

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CWU Myth Busters

From Elwood Manor to Ted Bundy, the Myth Busters reveal more tales from Central's past

by Joseph Siemandel
Asst. News editor

After gathering more information and speaking with long-standing Central faculty and staff, the Myth Busters have some new tales and myths from Central's past.

Who is Lavon Soule?

Residents of Sue Lombard may have seen the sign on the side of the old hall and possibly wondered what that sign is for and who Lavon Soule is. Well with the help of a 1955 Hyakem – the CWU

yearbook, it has been discovered that Lavonne Soule was a member of the Sue Lombard all-girl's house.

Back before Sue Lombard was a co-ed residence hall, it was an all-girl house. The ladies of the house were a social group that would put on mixers, tea parties and dances.

Soule passed away on Feb. 14, 1956. She only lived in Sue Lombard for one year, but she is commemorated on a plaque.

A blank page with only a passage in the 1956 version of the Hyakem was dedicated to her. It reads, "On February 14, 1956, LaVonne Soule, classmate, dorm sister and friend passed away. It is only fitting that



this page be dedicated in her memory.

"Lollie, as she was affectionately known to all those who know her, was an education major. We all feel in somehow, some way, she accomplished her aim. For what she taught, for what she gave there is no degree. For Lollie gave herself as a friend; she taught us the meaning of perseverance, of loyalty, and above all, of friendship. Her life was short but was filled ... filled with faith ... with hope... with charity.

"It is often said Heaven rewards her favorite with an early death. We know that she must have been a favorite in heaven.

"Lollie is gone, but her spirit lives on in the form of these words ... Perseverance ... Loyalty ... and above all, Friendship." Her cause of death was not mentioned.

THE TUNNEL UNDER CAMPUS

As students enter Randall Hall, they go by a small doorway next to the stairwells. Students who stop at the doorway and open it will find a concrete passage that only stands about 4 feet high. It is dirty and dark. With one set of working lights, it is very hard to navigate. These are the tunnels that run under Randall and Michaelson Halls.

The tunnels, according to many passers by and former students at Central, were something of a party place during the day. Mattress, chairs, radios and magazines were all part of the décor down in the tunnel.

As the tunnel goes between Randall and Michaelson, there is an open area that appears to be a place where Central students hung out in between classes. Graffiti lines the walls. Boards and planks are stored under the building, most likely from when the buildings were being constructed.

According to many former Central students, a few years ago a group of students got in trouble for hanging out down there and engaging in some "college co-ed activities."

In the old Holmes Dining Hall and Hitchcock Hall there are entrances to the under-campus tunnels as well. So in the case of the myth of the tunnels under campus, it is true.

Greek row...

...not at Central

Sorry to disappoint all party animals, but Central never had a Greek system.

Never in the 109-year history of Central has the college had fraternities and sororities.

The Greek honor society is the only national chapter on campus. There was, however, a different type of housing system.

"There were no local chapters of fraternities or sororities," Warren Street, professor of psychology, said. "It did have men's and women's houses and groups."

Street, who has been a faculty member since 1967, remembers the men of Elwood Manor and the things they would do.

Elwood Manor was one of the main and most popular houses on campus for young men to live in. The enrollment for the house, though, was

selective and elite.

"They had traditions similar to frats," Street said. "They helped create social groups and connections."

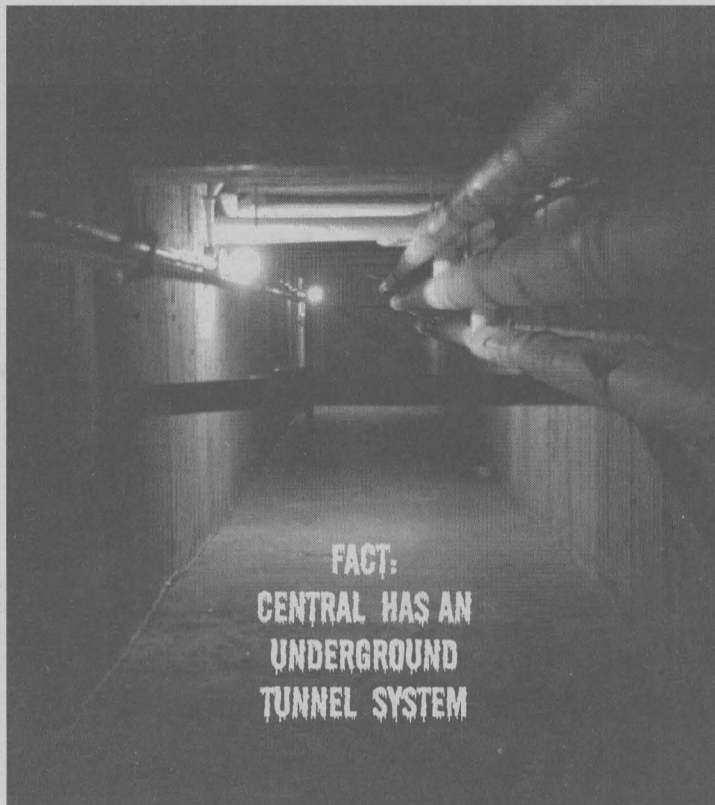
This was popular with all the houses on and off campus.

The freshman ladies of Kamola Hall and Sue Lombard Hall wore skull caps to signify that they were "newbies."

The houses had mixers and dances throughout the year, and were selective when picking members for the house.

Elwood Manor faded out during the mid 1970s with the skepticism toward college social groups and the Vietnam conflict protests.

Elwood Manor members still get together today for reunions. Most recently, Central President Jerilyn McIntyre and her husband joined the group for a reunion.



Amanda Umberger/Observer

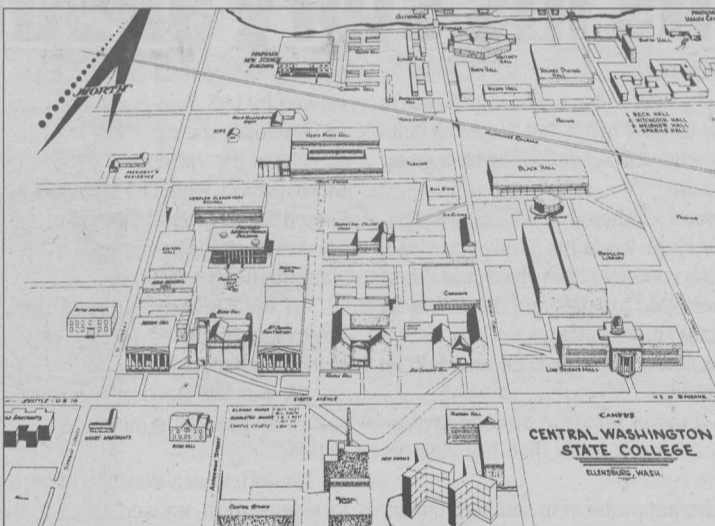


photo from Central Archives

An old campus map from 1967 shows the Milwaukee railroad run straight through the campus just south of Dean Hall.

If you have any myths you have heard of about Central Washington University please feel free to e-mail them to The Observer with the subject line "Myths" at cwuobserver@gmail.com.

TED BUNDY'S VISIT TO CENTRAL

Last week, a Central myth about Ted Bundy was found to be true. He had been to Central. Throughout the week, many e-mails from staff and faculty members have given new information about Ted Bundy.

In April of 1974, Ted Bundy, the now infamous serial killer, was posing to need help with his books as he tried to get them in his Volkswagen Beetle. That is when Susan Rancourt, an 18-year-old freshman biology major, attempted to help and became a victim.

"Across the street from Lind Hall was an Artic Circle," Street said. "It was a little soft-serve place and that where it happened."

Toni Menig, academic advisor at Central, was a student in the early 1970s, and she remembers the feeling on campus after the incident happened.

"It was extremely frightening," Menig said. "I came back in the summers to complete my standard teaching degree and it was during one of those [years] that Bundy took one of our young women."

The Kittitas County authorities searched the area for Rancourt for months, but it was not until a story ran in the Daily Record on May 24, 1974, about a student from Oregon State that was missing, that the authorities started putting the pieces together.

Within a year of the two missing person cases, many questions were answered. Rancourt's skull was discovered on a police search of Taylor Mountain and police also found out that victims were abducted by someone calling himself Ted.

Two Central students remember talking to a guy named Ted earlier that day, posing as a student that was in need of help.

Riding the rail through campus

Ellensburg has always been known as a railroad town. The town itself has always embraced the railroad and hopes to one day have the train run through the town again.

Central, on the other hand, has always looked to the future of transportation, but back before the 1970s, the Burlington Northern and Milwaukee railroads ran directly through campus.

Between Dean Hall and the Science Building ran a line of tracks that split the campus into two sections: the academic buildings to the south of the line and the residence halls to the north.

The railway was convenient for students as they could board the train from campus to go home, but it was a nuisance for others.

Residents would be awake in the middle of the night as the train roared through campus with loads of cargo. Classes would be interrupted by the sounds of the lead whistles and crossing guards that went through the Walnut Mall.

According to campus maps from 1985, the railroad was ripped up and was replaced with the current John Wayne Trail. Both the west and east gates of the John Wayne Trail have information signs about the railroad.

Ellensburg hopes to bring back the tradition of the railroad to the town and give new transportation to Central students in the future.

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Darwin days evolve on campus for seventh year

Event celebrating Darwin's life, accomplishments has become an annual event on campus

by Sarah Hazel
Staff reporter

It's not a debate, so celebrate! This week, Central's department of biological sciences hosted Darwin Days, which included two presentations devoted to honoring Charles Darwin on the 199th anniversary of his birth.

The Darwin Days International Organization began in 2000 when two self-proclaimed Darwin enthusiasts, Amanda Chesworth and Bob Stephens, co-founded the program. Their intention was to encourage the public to collectively celebrate and honor how Charles Darwin influenced and continues to influence the study of science as a whole.

This is the seventh year that Central has taken part in the international celebration. Many universities around the world join in the annual festivities, including the London School of Economy, Harvard University and the University of Washington.

"[The Darwin Days Organization] wanted to start this idea of one day a year honoring Darwin, and honoring science and the contributions that science has had on society," Paul James, chair of the department of biological sciences, said. "[Biological sciences faculty members] found out about that and said, 'Hey, why don't we do that.'"

Students were involved in the facilitation by selling refreshments and T-shirts at the presentations as well as putting up posters around campus. James was also assisted by faculty members, including Jason Irwin, Jim John-

son, Steve Wagner and Dave Darda, who introduced this year's speaker, Dr. Kenneth Kardong.

Kardong, author and professor of biology at Washington State University, delivered two presentations, "Taking Darwin Seriously: Beyond the Debate," and "Rattlesnake Hunting Behavior: Synchronizing Sensory Systems."

"You actually have a nationally known expert right here in your backyard," James said. "He's written a textbook on how to teach evolution at the college level. He's also written a textbook on comparative anatomy. He studies anatomy of snakes, and he has recently been doing a lot of thinking about evolution and Darwin; he even has a new book called 'The Evolution of God.'"

In "Taking Darwin Seriously: Beyond the Debate," Kardong spoke about Charles Darwin and natural selection. He used examples from past and present American culture, ranging from smallpox to cult suicides, to demonstrate his knowledge regarding Charles Darwin's theories. He informed; he did not debate.

"That [evolution] debate, in some ways, lingers up to the present," Kardong said. "Here's what I think is the problem. We get so preoccupied that we fail to recognize what else a Darwinian view can tell us about ourselves, about our work. What I propose to you is go beyond that."

Wes Watson, freshman secondary education major, had a positive reaction to Kardong's presentation.

"It's an open view of who Charles

Darwin was," Watson said. "[I enjoyed hearing] some of the reasons behind why it took so long for him to publish his 'Origin of Species,' and different looks [at] how we as human beings evolve."

Lectures are not the only activities included in Darwin Days. Internationally, schools have had birthday parties, book discussions and art shows. Central's own diverse list of activities is no exception.

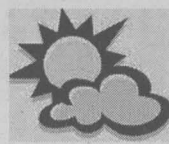
"We've done something different every year," James said. "One year we had three or four lectures back to back in one night; last year we had essentially a Darwin week where there were lectures every day. A couple years ago we actually had the provost of the university and a professor of theater put on a scene from a play called 'Inherit the Wind' which was about the evolution trial in Tennessee back in the '20s."

According to James, next year on the 200th anniversary of Charles Darwin's birthday and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his book, "Origin of the Species," the department of biological sciences is planning an extravagant celebration.

A committee will be formed this spring to plan for next year's Darwin Days. The event for next year, like this year, will not include any debates, and instead will focus on honoring Charles Darwin.

"We did not want to bring Darwin day down to a religious debate," James said. "We wanted to celebrate Darwin and science, and that's why we're doing this."

Ellensburg weather



Today:

High: 47°F Low: 30°F
20% chance of precipitation
Mostly Sunny



Tomorrow:

High: 49°F Low: 30°F
10% chance of precipitation
Cloudy



Saturday:

High: 50°F Low: 28°F
20% chance of precipitation
Partly cloudy



Sunday:

High: 51°F Low: 31°F
20% chance of precipitation
Partly cloudy

Mountain pass report

Today:

Snow level: 3,000 ft
Partly sunny. Temperatures will be in the lower 40's with light winds.

Tomorrow:

Snow level: 5,000 ft
Snow and rain showers. Temperatures will be in the lower '40s, with 10 mph westerly winds.

Weekend:

Snow level: 6,500 ft
Mostly cloudy with chance of rain and snow mix.

These numbers were accurate as of press time.

PROVOST: Final four candidates speak to the campus community

continued from cover

"He's a great colleague who will listen, ask pertinent questions, and provide options for various topics for me to consider without telling me what he thinks I should do, said Interim Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies Connie Lambert."

Savoian is the dean of the College of Business. He oversees the Dean's Council, a group of students who meet with him over brunch to relay their concerns as business students.

"In my opinion, running the school is very much like running a corporate or business organization," senior business major Richard Wang said. "Dr Savoian has a lot of the management experience and he has a lot of strategic manage-

Find out more

For the candidates' statements of philosophy and their curriculum vitae, visit the following Web site: www.cwu.edu/~provost/provos-t-search.

ment experience."

Danielle Howard, the vice president for academic affairs in the ASCWU-BOD and member of the search committee Danielle Howard felt that the search went well. According to Madlem, notes will be given to the president by the middle of February.

The president ultimately decides on the next provost.

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Opinion

Observance

We love our sweethearts
like we love our music

First and foremost, Happy Valentine's Day. Perhaps you have a big date tonight. Then again, you may choose to sit at home and hate the holiday, or take advantage of day-after goodie sales. Maybe, you couldn't care less about all the hearts and candy, and today simply means you're one day closer to the three-day weekend. Regardless of your thoughts about Feb. 14, many people have one thing on their mind today: relationships.

After some contemplating and amusing conversations with friends over the matter, I have come to the conclusion that people have similar taste in music as they do in their romantic interests.

Whether you enjoy the intensity of heavy metal or the sensual aspect of classical styles, your musical taste likely reflects many of the characteristics you prefer in a man or woman.

For instance, let's say you feel right at home in the rodeo town of Ellensburg and country music is your top pick. Don't deny it; the thought of a cowgirl or cowboy in tight jeans has its appeals. I'd guess you are attracted to someone who is sweet-natured, but doesn't mind getting down and dirty every once in a while. You'd probably like someone who enjoys the outdoors and prefers camping the old-fashioned way — maybe even with a little romance by the fire, cooking s'mores and laughing beneath the stars. You'd be happy with someone who you



Melanie Lockhart
Editor-in-Chief

can take home to Ma and Pa, and they'll say "yes'm" and "yessir" out of natural respect for your parents.

Maybe you prefer a little rock and roll. You like a bit of edge in your relationships. A weekend getaway with your sweetheart may be adventurous and spontaneous, perhaps with no prior plans. However, hidden beneath the surface image of your preferred guy or gal is a deeper, more intellectual individual than what first meets the eye. Part of his or her appeal is the challenge you'll face learning to fully understand them.

Of course there is also rap, which comes in many varieties. There is the kind that is ultimately disrespectful to someone or something, expressing anger and hatred. I've found that people interested in that kind of music often like being in control or controlled, though not necessarily in a negative way. There is also the poetic kind

of rap, and its fans may prefer the artistic type of partner. The common ground with rap is the emotion, usually intense. Ironically, if rap is your top choice, you may find yourself attracted to people who have a hard time expressing themselves through words, though they may feel the strongest emotions.

A friend and I recently discussed her preference in men. She talked about how she always falls for the stereotypical frat boy types who joke about how superior they are to other guys, play drinking games most nights of the week and either don't care enough about school, or get by so easily that it seems like they don't have to try very hard. She also leans toward the pop/rock/alternative types of music that take a light spin on rather serious matters. She likes her music upbeat, but sometimes she finds

herself realizing that there is depression or sarcasm hidden in the lyrics.

The list can keep going, of course, and obviously not all of the characteristics are listed. Plus, there is an exception to every rule. But for fun, think about your favorite music, then compare it to your significant other, or what you look for in a man or woman. At the very least, it may make you laugh.

As for me, I've never been able to decide on an absolute favorite genre of music. I honestly enjoy them all. Perhaps that explains why I've fallen for indecisive guys in the past, and they've had characteristics displayed all over the map. It's all in good fun.



Four to life at Central: Education not a prison sentence

As a senior in high school, I cried when I did not get accepted into Washington State University. For me, going to Central wasn't just a second choice: it was the end of the world. So, yes, I cried, but then I got over it. Unfortunately, it seems as though there are still many students who have yet to recognize Central for what it is: an opportunity.

Every day, I hear students gripe about the perceived mediocrity of Central. They push away their school pride and adopt the popular image of Central as the school for all of the college hopefuls no other school would take. Most of the students I talk to seem to view their college



Stephanie Oberlander
Copy editor

education as "serving time." Do your four years — or five or six — and get out. Hell, if that's the case, we might as well be going to class in orange jumpsuits.

The reality is that your education is what you make it. If you are just here to get a degree and get out, you might as well quit while you're ahead; it's not worth the money. On the other hand, if you are in college to become a well-rounded citizen, enhance your understanding of the world, and make a positive difference in your life — and hopefully others — then Central might very well be the perfect place for you.

Although Central might not rank the highest in the state for traditional means of university assessment — research grants, faculty publications or famous alumni — it does offer the unique opportunity for students to make what they want out of their time and money. While some stu-

dents may choose Central as an ideal place to coast through school with as little effort as possible, students who are looking to make something out of their time actually have more opportunities to gain leadership positions, scholarships and work experience at Central than they would at other state universities. If everyone else is alright with being mediocre, then those who want more don't have to fight quite as hard.

There are other factors that should put Central above other top state schools. Smaller class sizes and lower faculty-student ratios give students the chance to speak and work directly with professionals in their field instead of apathetic graduate students or teaching assistants to conduct classes. Living in a small town reduces the cost of living and encourages community involvement. Finally, the opportunity to gain an education without spending the rest of your life paying it off is a luxury not granted to students at more prestigious schools.

I could list more, but the fact is, I'm tired of having to stick up for Central. Its merits should speak for themselves. Since that tearful night three years ago, my outlook on Central has changed. This may be due in part to outgrowing my painful and melodramatic teenage years, but it is also due to my realization that Central has far more to offer than I initially gave it credit for.

When it comes to getting a job and becoming the person you want to be, it's not about where you went to school. It's about what you did while you were there.

Saving lives: Medical staff on their game

One of the few things I have noticed in the last few months of watching various sporting events is that the trainers and medical staffs on hand to assist in case of emergency are doing an amazing job.

There have been a few instances recently of players needing immediate attention following a severe injury where the people available were pivotal in saving the people they were entrusted to protect.

Back in week one of the 2007 NFL season, the Denver Broncos traveled to Buffalo to take on the Bills in front of a packed Ralph Wilson Stadium.

On the opening kickoff of the second half, Bills reserve tight end Kevin Everett sprinted downfield and looked to make a tackle on Broncos' returner Domenik Hixon. Right as he got to Hixon, he lowered his head and impacted Hixon's chest.

The impact dislocated and fractured Everett's cervical spine and left him paralyzed on the stadium turf. Dr. Andrew Cappuccino would later call Everett's injuries "life threatening" and said that he had between a 5- and 10-percent chance of regaining full use of his physical capabilities.

The doctors treating him on his ride to the hospital decided to chill Everett's body to try to stave off the paralysis process. Since his spinal cord wasn't severed, it's quite possible this course of action saved Everett's mobility.

Everett has since regained movement in all his limbs and has been able to walk



Curtis Crabtree
Asst. Sports editor

again. He has been rehabilitating in his hometown of Houston, Texas, and was invited to attend Super Bowl XLII alongside NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Even more recently, in the NHL, Florida Panthers left-winger Richard Zednik was injured in a freak accident in a game against the Buffalo Sabers on Feb. 10.

Zednik was skating behind the net to help teammate and team captain Olli Jokinen get control of the puck. Clark MacArthur, a left-winger for the Sabers, tripped Jokinen and as he was falling to the ice, his leg flung upward and his skate caught Zednik in the neck.

The blow sliced open Zednik's carotid artery and he immediately started bleeding onto the ice. He quickly got to his feet and skated to his bench as trainers started to attend to his injuries as a bloody trail was left behind.

The carotid artery is one of the major blood vessels in the body responsible for pumping blood to the brain and can expel a large quantity of blood very quickly when cut.

Zednik lost more than five units of blood but doctors never considered his life in jeopardy. According to an Associated Press article, that is almost one-third of the volume of blood in his body. In a different time, the result could have been vastly different and the hockey world could be mourning the death of one of its own.

He was moved out of intensive care on Tuesday and is expected to make a full recovery and should be able to return to the ice within six to eight weeks.

All athletes like to think that they can't get injured, but it's nice to know that if the worst does come to pass, the people in charge of watching out for their safety are really doing an excellent job. Well, at least in Buffalo.

The Observer Opinion Forum

Designed to generate discussion and encourage reader interaction with The Observer.

Question: Now that we have seen the first glimpses of spring, what are you most looking forward to with warmer weather on the way?

Please e-mail your answers along with your year and major to
The Observer's e-mail at: cwuobserver@gmail.com

SUB renovations: What's the point?

There is an option open to renovate the old Samuelson Union Building (SUB), which many students who have seen it from the inside still recall being somewhat nice. At the very least it was more relaxed, compared to the new monstrosity on campus: the Student Union and Recreation Center (SURC). The SUB had carpet, big screen TVs, little niches to chat with somebody, Taco Bell and a nifty little fountain to eat lunch by in the main dining room.



Sean Guffey
Staff
photographer

It was old, yes, but so what? The doors weren't wide enough for ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards and it needed to be retrofitted for seismic activity, so the SUB "required" replacing.

Later on, several votes were pushed through student elections to approve the construction of a new Student Union until it finally passed. Proposals were put forward by design firms and the rest is history.

The only true benefit of the SURC is the Recreation Center with the indoor track. The Recreation Center could've been built by itself, saving students extraneous charges on already increasing tuition costs that many have trouble paying for as is. Not to mention the preservation of green space on campus, which many campuses are known for, on top of their academic record.

Now we're stuck with a hybrid of an airport and shopping mall that already has cracked floors, indicating a poorly prepared, rushed foundation

and an empty building occupying space on campus which is becoming increasingly less available. Now we may just keep the SUB and renovate it for student use? If the "planning gurus" were going to keep the SUB and renovate it for future student use originally, then why was a new SURC built in the first place, aside from somebody just wanting to spend lots of money?

If any renovation is to be done to the SUB, there had better be doors wide enough for ADA standards and seismic retrofitting done before anything is started. Otherwise, this truly exposes the misdirection of the future of the school. Let's not forget the out-of-court settlements by the present administration with wrongly fired former faculty, or the older and outdated infrastructure, slow computers and software for computers campuswide, or the underpaid campus employees who recently confronted upper admin about their situation.

No doubt the main reason for the new SURC is to attract more students to Central. But if we attract more students, don't we need adequate parking as well? In land use planning, you plan a subdivision taking into account all factors involved. Future plans are not taking everything into account for Central presently. Recently I removed the CWU decal from my truck as a sign of how I feel this college is being operated.

Oh yeah, have you heard the education department has been having issues with its accreditation? Central was known for making educators but now we have faced problems with that accreditation, the school's bread and butter essentially. But wait, build a new building and we'll solve that problem as well!

The Artist's Eye...



Illustration by Mikaela Sanders

News tips? Letters to the editor?

E-mail The Observer at our new e-mail, cwuobserver@gmail.com

Letters to the editor

Observer Staff,

The recent article by Melanie Lockhart regarding the problems with mentally ill individuals with violent tendencies does highlight a problem with the system, but it's not as easy as solving them through new laws. The problem also stems from the the current health system and its shortcomings in providing these people with the help they require and with a judicial system that is too overwhelmed to work with the health professionals in making sure these problems don't repeat themselves.

Ask any mental health facility and they will tell you that their two biggest problems are lack of resources and lack of staff. The mental health industry is overloaded and unable to handle the large wave of people that need their help. There are not enough beds to keep patients committed for lengthy periods of time. The facilities are already brimming with patients. Legally, they may not be able to take any more long-term patients.

Likewise, people with serious mental disorders coupled with violent behavior are rarely employed, with many on state-assisted medical. Some of these people are turned away from mental hospitals because the state will not approve their treatment. States have a hard time understanding that putting a patient on medication and shoving them out the door after four days is a bad idea. Who's to say the medication is the correct one, when many of the medications to treat certain forms of behavioral disorders take two to three weeks to see results, and some may require adjustments over a few months to make sure the patient is taking the right dose?

Law enforcement has the equally hard task of distinguishing between a person with a mental disorder and

a person high on crystal meth. Individuals could get better treatment for their problems if they were placed in the proper facility upon their arrest. There needs to be some way of notifying law enforcement of people's mental health before they've committed a crime, like a fingerprint database (which should also be put in place to protect patients should they end up in the hospital or if they become victims themselves).

The judicial system adds to the problem when busy judges and lawyers overlook consulting with mental health professionals on a patient's progress in treatment. Getting recommendations from mental health professionals as to how much attention a patient may need can be a very important key to avoiding future crimes. Plus, with a judgement in place to order mentally ill individuals into involuntary commitment, the state will have no choice but to pay for it if the patients cannot afford the treatment on their own.

Now in their defense, the courts are overrun with violent crimes linked to drugs and domestic disputes. It's very easy for people displaying violent behavior to be shuffled through the system because of the next 20 cases of assault and battery that have yet to be heard that day. And with the amount of paperwork that needs to be processed in these cases, it's very easy for papers to be lost or clerical errors to occur. Do some people slip through the cracks? Of course they will, and no amount of law-making will change that. You have a system that's stretched to its limits and I, for one, am surprised it's not worse.

The key to getting these people the help they need and stopping the endless waves of deaths that occur when a mentally ill individual slips between the cracks is communication. We need to get the organiza-

tions and professionals to work together and to stop throwing their hands in the air as if to say "it's not my problem."

Carol Emory
2004 ALUMNA

Dear CWU Students,

You may have noticed the bed strangely placed in the middle of the SURC this week. You may have even signed it. But do you know why it was there? And do you know the "signing" history of those who signed before you?

This week, Feb. 11-15, your Wildcat Wellness Center is sponsoring Sexual Responsibility Week. The goal of Sexual Responsibility Week is to educate CWU students on the importance of being sexually responsible and the consequences of unhealthy sexual behaviors.

Think of all the people who signed the bed. Now for some of those people it might have been their first time signing a bed, but others may have signed many beds before! Signing represented "getting into bed" without knowing about your partner's past first. It is important to talk with your partner and be sure that you really know them before making any choices. All sexual decisions you make have effects or consequences. If you are considering or are already involved in a sexual relationship, it is essential that you have an understanding of sexual health and know about your local resources.

Tips for Healthy Sexuality:

Abstinence: Abstinence is the only 100 percent effective way to avoid undesirable consequences, such as unwanted pregnancies or STIs. A person may choose to be abstinent for many reasons, and whatever reason they have is a good reason.

Communication: Deciding about sex takes thought, time and communication. It is up to the individuals to decide when they want to have sex, and you must respect each other's feelings. Before telling your partner how you feel, be sure yourself. Take the time to sort out your feelings beforehand. Don't wait until you're "in the mood" to bring this conversation up. If you are feeling uncomfortable, it is OK to let them know that! It might help you both relax, and once you start talking it will get easier. Keep a sense of humor; it is a serious subject, but laughing together may make the talk less awkward.

Protection: Use condoms, and use them correctly! They are all available in the Wellness Center for free. Other types of birth control are available in the health center. Call and make an appointment, even if it is just to talk and ask about your options.

Alcohol & Other Drugs: Being under the influence of a substance impairs your ability to make decisions, including decisions about safe sex. If you choose to drink, it is a good idea to avoid engaging in sexual activities while doing so. Also be aware of what is in your drink and always keep an eye on it.

Getting Tested: The term Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) is often used in place of the term Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD). This is because some people may be infected for a long time before exhibiting symptoms of a disease, so STD may inaccurately describe someone's condition.

Today, STIs are among the most common forms of illness. If left untreated, they can cause many serious health problems. If you have any worries about whether or not you have an STI, get tested! Testing is offered in the student Health Center on campus. You might be nervous

about telling someone about your problem, but don't let embarrassment hold you back when your health is at stake. Doctors must be confidential, and anyone else you may see at or on your way to your appointment doesn't need to know why you are there!

Local Resources: If you have questions, get them answered! Visit the Wellness Center, located in SURC room 139, to get some free condoms and information on relationships and sexual health. The Wellness staff is also available to answer any questions you may have in a safe and confidential environment.

The Health Center offers many services including birth control, pregnancy testing and counseling, STI screening and treatment, female exams and others. Call to make an appointment or ask about their services. Their number is 509-963-1881, and they are located in the brick building in the SURC parking lot, in between Starbucks and the Bassettis.

Tyler McClain
SOPHOMORE, WILDCAT WELLNESS CENTER,
HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAMMER

Letters policy

The Observer welcomes brief letters (300 words or fewer) from readers of The Observer on current issues. Letters must include the author's full name and Central Washington University affiliation: year and major for students, department for faculty and staff or degree and year graduated for alumni. The Observer will not publish letters that respond to previous letters, unless they offer meaningful additions to the topic. All letters become property of The Observer and may be edited for length, style, spelling, grammar, taste and potentially libelous elements. Letters may be e-mailed to cwuobserver@gmail.com.

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Courtesy of the Diversity Education Center/Photo Illustration by Brienne Jette

Cornel West is speaking out

by Kayla Schroader
Staff reporter

Appearing in the "Matrix" trilogies and establishing the philosophies behind the films, publishing dozens of books and producing lounge hip-hop CDs are only a few of the ways Cornel West, professor of religion and African studies at Princeton University, is leaving his mark on society.

Visiting Central on Wednesday, Feb. 20, for the Symposium Without Boundaries, West is recognized as "one of the most outspoken individuals in the United States," said Djordje Popovic, program coordinator for Central's Diversity Education Center and Symposium Group member.

The event is being co-sponsored by the Center for the Dream, which is funded by a grant from Spheres of Distinction, said Bobby Cumming, professor of English and co-director of the Center of the Dream. The Center's purpose is to propose an African Studies program at Central, build a living learning community from a diverse population and serve as an outreach center. All three purposes are served by West's visit.

"The thing about Cornel is he is just not a prolific writer, he's a social activist who relates to everybody," Cummings said. "Not just the 'intellectuals' but the masses, particularly young people."

According to Popovic, West's goals are no longer about analyzing the world, but about changing it and engaging in important issues in a broader way than ever before. He aims not only to reach a group of hundreds in an hour, but also to reach hundreds of thousands over

time.

"West is the most prominent black intellectual from a new generation of black leaders," Popovic said.

As part of the Symposium Group, Popovic takes great pride in aligning with 25 to 30 different academic departments, community centers and other various groups. Together, the group collaborates to educate and engage the community on the most critical and transformative issues of our time as well as change the nature of the public dialogue. In doing so, the Symposium Group sponsors the annual Symposium Without Boundaries and welcomes West for his 7 p.m. appearance in the McConnell auditorium for "Race Still Matters," a response to his 15-year-old book "Race Matters." He will discuss race, justice and democracy and whether racial relations have actually changed using examples like our current presidential elections and democratic structure.

A reception and book signing will be held following the symposium at 9 p.m. at Gallery One, where students and community members are encouraged to enjoy refreshments and a poetry slam.

Diversity Center event coordinator, senior music major and Black Student Union historian Geneva Taylor is a huge supporter of West and what he stands for.

"[Cornel West] is the new leader of the African American Society," Taylor said. "He's making history. It's geniuses like him that make the world go round."

For a free event ticket, please visit the Student Union Box Office or call 509-963-1301

Popovic: promoting diversity to Central students

by Allie Mathis
Staff reporter

Djordje Popovic, Diversity Center program coordinator, plays a vital role in the encouragement of diversity at Central Washington University. Through programs and events, Popovic works to allow students to share experiences with each other and others that broaden their perspective and cultural knowledge.

Popovic, who was born in Duisburg, Germany, and raised in Belgrade, went to Central as a college student, and graduated with a degree in philosophy as a student in the William Douglas Honor college. While attending Central he found his passion for fighting against inequality and led protests with large numbers of other students.

Popovic has worked at the Diversity Center since the 2003/2004 school year and says that while working there he has found his calling in life. His current project, the Symposium Group, is one of his favorites he has been a part of since working as program coordinator.

"It's a novel idea, a way to connect all the departments and centers on campus," Popovic said. "They all take part in high-profile, co-curricular



Courtesy of Djordje Popovic

Djordje Popovic, last summer, while he was visiting home in Mljet, Croatia, the first time in 15 years.

events, and everyone contributes. It creates a sense of comradery among colleagues on all parts of our campus."

Popovic works closely with other staff members in the CWU Diversity Center as well to that ensure students of all ethnicities experience a variety of cultures and exposures.

"The Symposium Group was conceived and formulated primarily

because of Djordje," said Marian Lien, interim director for the Diversity Center. "He has an uncanny ability to bridge the two divides of academia and curriculars on campus."

Dedicated to his work, Popovic is always up to the task of helping students come up with new events and ideas for the Diversity center. His work also inspires them to make a difference.

"Djordje taught me that, regardless of what it takes, educating students is the key to success," said Dominique Meeks, another program coordinator for the Diversity Center. "He has opened the minds of myself and other students on this campus and encouraged us not to accept the negative values and norms of society."

Popovic also has a great passion for film. He has taken part in film fes-

tivals and appreciates that it has the power to reach millions.

"We can express things through film that we can no longer express through literature and music," Popovic said. "Film has the ability to encompass all these forms."

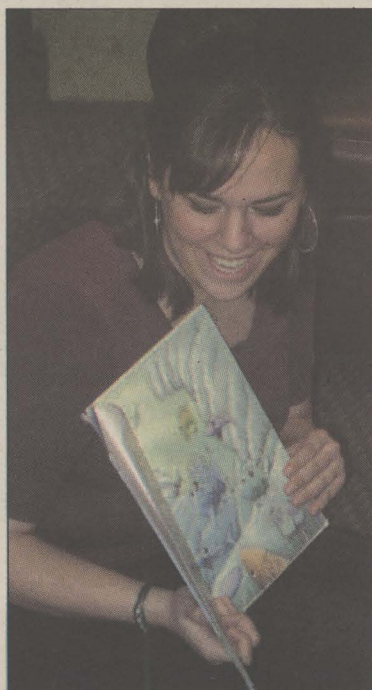
At the Diversity Center, respect for others' opinions and beliefs is encouraged. Popovic has become a favorite among people who have worked with him because he not only teaches this principle, but embodies it.

"Students really love him," Lien said. "He puts 110 percent into these programs, and takes diversity programming to another level."

Since Popovic has been a part of the Diversity Center, over 40,000 people have taken part in its events, and it has successfully reached a large number of people. It has also collaborated with every department, which has created a sense of connection for the students and staff at Central.

"My goal for the Diversity Center is to just maintain the kind of diversity education that is relevant to students today, both in terms of their cultural and civic education," Popovic said.

For more information on Djordje Popovic and his work, contact the Diversity Education Center in the SURC.



Photos by Tyler Rogers/Observer

Left: Benjamin Sackett, 3, gets his face painted by Sergio de Santiago, elementary education major. Above: Kristina Claghorn, senior elementary education major, reads a story to children in the SURC Pit.

Literacy program makes reading fun

by Ila Dickenson
Staff reporter

This February, Central's Civic Engagement Center is helping local elementary students "sled into a good book."

Sled into a Good Book is a literacy program created by Michelle Smith, junior elementary education and early childhood education double major. Smith is the literacy program coordinator in the Civic

Engagement Center.

The goal of the program is to promote and expand literacy in Ellensburg, Smith said.

On Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. this month, Ellensburg children are invited to the Student Union Pit to enjoy activities and story time. Parents and kids will even be able to listen to readers like President Jerilyn McIntyre, Central basketball players or even local teachers.

Joining in on the fun is easy.

"Just show up," Smith said.

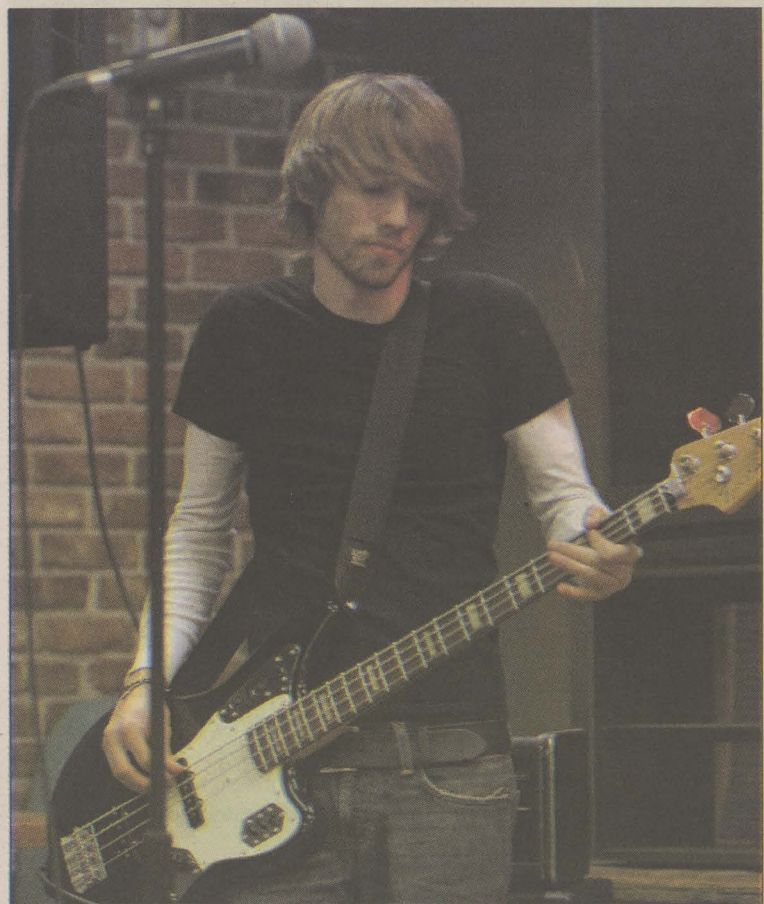
The free program is aimed at elementary kids and younger, but everyone is welcome.

This past week, students enjoyed a reading of "The Rainbow Fish" by Marcus Pfister and got to make fish stick puppets as well as sing fish songs and connect-the-dots around a fish. Wellington Wildcat also made a guest appearance and helped get future readers enthusiastic about books.

Volunteer Brittney Wittekind,

elementary education and special education double major, says that the program is great because the students can have a good time and enjoy books. Wittekind volunteered for the community service hours and because the kids enjoy it.

If you want to get involved with the program, go to <http://www.takeactioncwu.com>, search for the program and sign up online. Central students can help read or lead activities.



Amanda Umberger/Observer

"Mon Marie" played Grant's Pizza Place to a small audience of Central students last Sunday night. The band of four students: John Smithson (lead singer), Dan Walker (Bass Player), Chris Thielen (Drums) and Jason Davis (Keyboards).

Annual Majors Fair offers guidance

by Tiffany Stark
Staff reporter

In an effort to assist all students in finding a major or minor, Career Services held their annual Majors Fair yesterday in the Student Union Recreation Center (SURC).

Approximately 75 faculty members from 40 of Central's academic departments were present to discuss available majors and minors. Department advisors and career counselors were also on hand to answer any questions students had.

"We want students to be thinking about their future and what they are here for," Jaqualyn Johnson, director of Career Services, said.

A number of majors are available for students to choose from. Having the guidance of department advisors is one option to help decide a career path.

The earlier a student chooses a major, the more likely he or she is able to graduate in four years.

"I never attended a Majors Fair and looking back, I wish I had," Meghan

"We want students to be thinking about their future ..."

JAQUALYN JOHNSON,
DIRECTOR OF
CAREER SERVICES

Michaud, senior public health major, said. "For the first two years I was unsure of what I wanted to do and could have benefited from the event."

The Majors Fair provides students with the opportunity to see 40 different majors at once and discuss what each has to offer.

It is a time to explore options of which students might have been unaware. All students with undeclared majors or minors were encouraged to attend the annual event.

"The best thing about this event is that it's an opportunity for Academic Affairs and Student Affairs to collaborate in support of the students," Johnson said.

Those who attended the Majors Fair and brought their connection cards were able to enter drawings for Burton gear and other give-aways from Outdoor Pursuits and Rentals.

Career Services offers numerous services to assist students in preparing for the future. If students would like to know more they can visit Career Services in Barge Hall or on the Internet at <http://www.cwu.edu/~career/>.

February

14 Valentine's Day

Betty Evans One Act Festival, 7 p.m. in the Milo Smith Tower Theatre. \$7 general, \$4 students.

Spirit of the West Round-up Meet and Greet, 7 p.m. at the Quality Inn.

15 Spirit of the West Dance, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Fairgrounds.

16 Spirit of the West Dance, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the fairgrounds.

"Red Wine and Chocolate: Three Days in the Rattlesnake Hills." 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Yakima. www.rattlesnakehills.com.

17 Spirit of the West Wrap-up Dinner Show, 4:30 p.m. at the Fairgrounds.

Sunday Cinema Series, "Maltese Falcon," 7 p.m. in the SURC Theatre. \$3.

"Red Wine and Chocolate: 3 Days in the Rattlesnake Hills." 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Yakima. www.rattlesnakehills.com.

18 President's Day, no class.

"Red Wine and Chocolate: 3 Days in the Rattlesnake Hills." 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Yakima. www.rattlesnakehills.com.

19 Poker tournament at 6:30 p.m. in the SURC Ballroom.

"Recycling Revolution," 12-2 p.m. in the SURC Pit.

20 The Symposium Without Boundaries: Cornel West presents "Race Still Matters" at 7 p.m. in McConnell Auditorium



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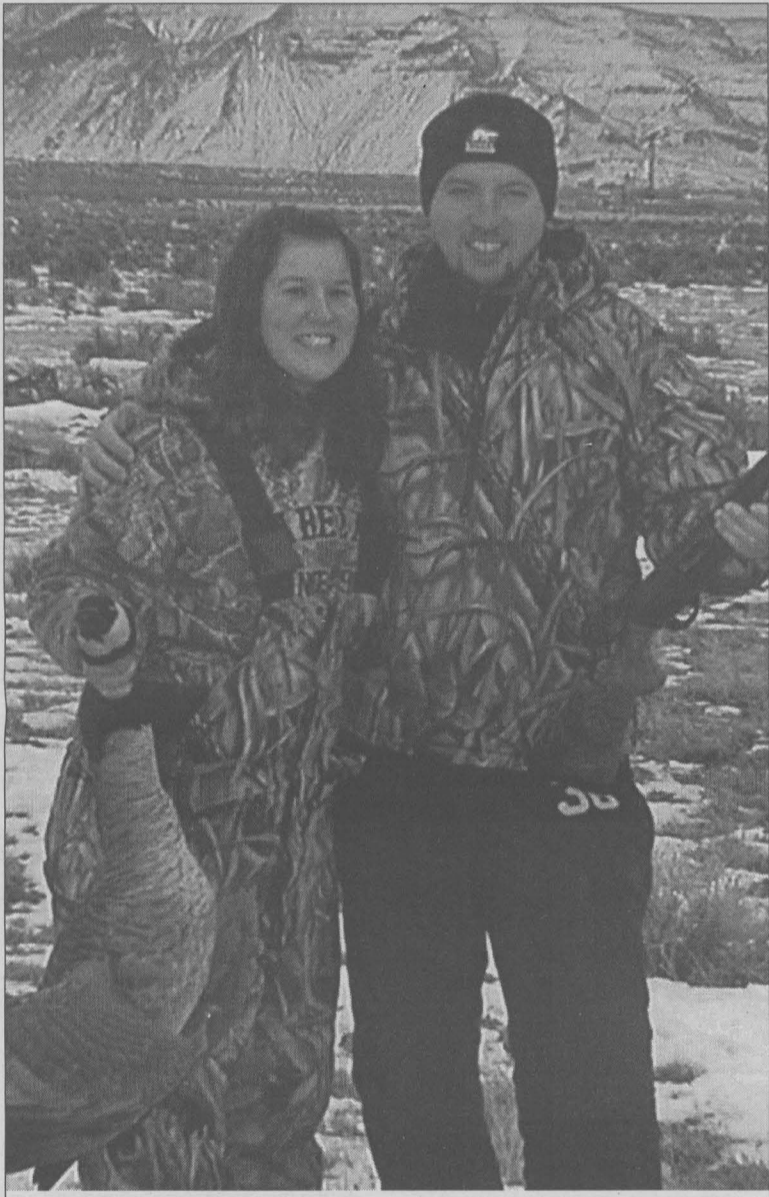


Office: 509-925-8736 | Cell: 509-929-1777



Photos courtesy of Michael Petterson

Hunters scout a leased field holding more than 5,000 mallards near the Potholes Reservoirs, in the Moses Lake area of Eastern Washington prior to hunting the next day.



Courtesy of Michael Petterson

Students Whitney Saxlund, health and fitness major, and Nick Hehemann, grad student, after their morning hunt for Canada geese in Othello, Wash. This is the first goose out of eight geese of the day.

Hunters find bag limits and migration numbers up

by Michael Petterson
Special to the Observer

Wind, rain, snow and the freezing cold is enough to keep most sane people indoors. However, there are a few folks who see these conditions as an encouraging sign: ideal conditions for waterfowl.

Sunday, Jan. 27, marked the close of the 2007/2008 waterfowl hunting season in Washington, a sad day for some. There were many who fought icy roads in an effort to get to their desired hunting grounds for the last two days of the season.

"There is no way to describe the feeling," waterfowl enthusiast Hugh Carney of Moxee said. "The sounds, the sights and the friends, it really gives you an appreciation of life. This sport is not only my church, it is also my oasis."

This season brought freezing temperatures and winter storms, but this kept birds moving all season long. The migration of waterfowl from their nesting grounds in Canada to wintering grounds in Mexico was strong and above average. This year's mallard hatch was 16 percent above normal and goose hatch was at 26 percent above, according to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife or (WDFW) in its 2007 survey.

"I got to shoot a few birds in the

"There is no way to describe the feeling.

The sounds, the sights and the friends, it really gives you an appreciation of life."

DR. HUGH CARNEY

opening months of the season but [this was] by far the best goose hunting year in four or five seasons," said Brian Flores, freshman performing arts major and waterfowler.

Success for some hunters was either average or great for the last weekend, according to reports in the field. Hunters who journeyed out into the snow on Saturday and Sunday had to dress in layers as temperatures reached negative 4 degrees.

Fish and Wildlife reports state that the average harvest was approximately three birds per hunter. In addition, no boating accidents were reported, which is a plus for all

hunters and rescue teams. Safety is a major factor in boating under cold winter conditions and proper survival gear, including life vests, isn't only recommended, but required.

A fine of \$12 is handed out to each person caught without a life vest in their boat.

"I came close to going in the water two years ago and will never be in a boat without one," said Nick Hehemann, grad student and waterfowl enthusiast.

The next waterfowl season opens in 254 days, but for those who still long for excursions into the great outdoors, crows are open to hunting year-round in legal shooting areas and coyotes are open year-round in certain Game Management Units.

Spring turkey season begins April 15 and runs through May 31. Students can buy a hunting license at either Bi-mart or Fred Meyer for \$32.85 and additional tags for \$15.35.

Lakes and rivers open for fishing on April 1 and combo licenses such as hunting and fishing can save shoppers \$10.

For those who plan to hunt and fish in 2008 to 2009, take advantage of purchasing licenses online at www.wdfw.wa.gov and save time and energy that could be spent bagging that spring gobbler or that Yakima River rainbow trout.

Artist Credit

In the February 7 issue of the Observer, the Heart Tattoo illustration on the Scene cover was done by Mikayla Sanders.

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McDonald's

McDonald's of Yakima County and Ellensburg
1304 Canyon Rd.

Bringing the 'realness' back to theaters

It's a two-hour story of betrayal, scandal, war and never-ending love. It begins in 1935 England with vicious typing on a typewriter by the troubled little girl who starts it all: Briony Tallis, played by Saoirse Ronan, working on completing yet another story to add to her collection.



Brooke Mortenson
Staff reporter

In Ian McEwan's best-selling 2002 novel "Atonement," little Briony's vivid imagination causes her to see things the way she wants, which is far from the way they truly are. After reading a note, walking in on a hot love scene and witnessing a crime, the 13-year-old embellishes so much that she causes Robbie Turner, the housekeeper's son and true love of her older sister Cecilia, played by Keira Knightley, to be sent to prison.

The scenes jump between past and present events, which lost me at times, following Cecilia's accused

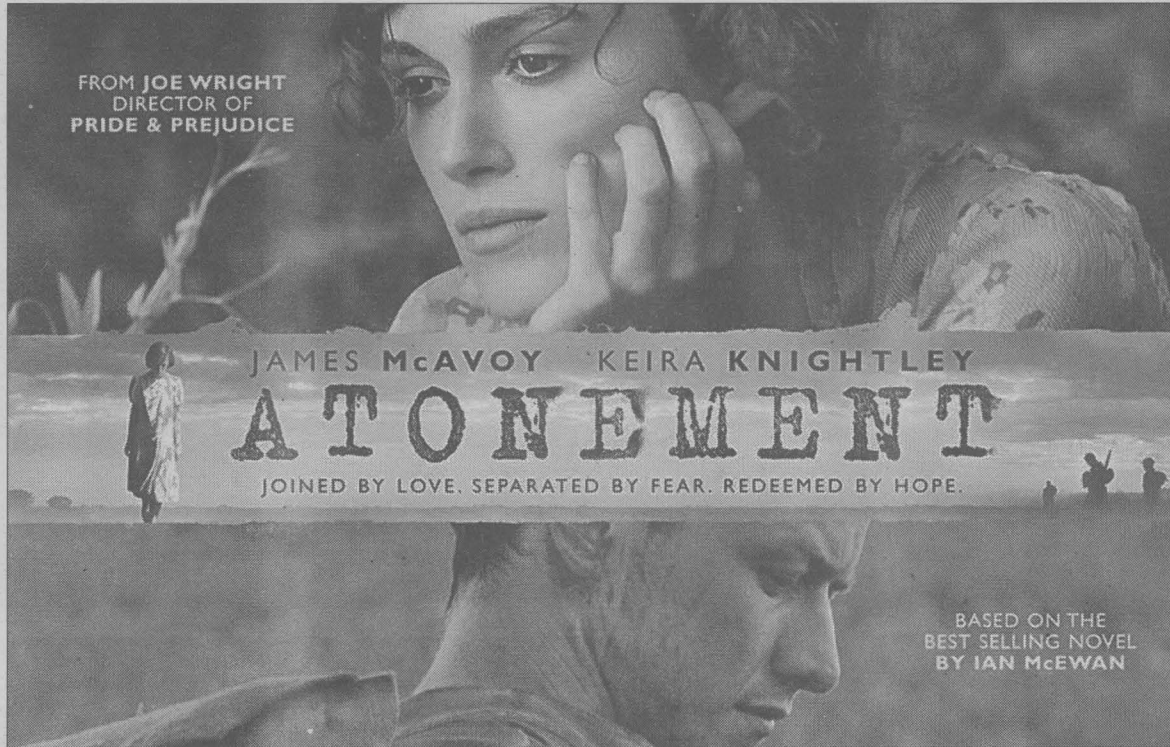


Photo from downloads.themorninglight.com

lover, played by James McAvoy, through the war in northern France. As Robbie fights to stay alive and make it back to Cecilia, Briony grows

up and realizes the mistakes she made as a little girl and begins to feel the load of guilt weighing upon her.

"Atonement" is far from the

romantic date movie it was commercialized as. With scenes of rape, slaughtered school children, horses being shot in the head and wounded

soldiers struggling to live, it went further into reality than most mainstream movies such as "Step Up" and "Fool's Gold," but kept a meaningful plot unlike the horror films like "Saw."

There were very powerful scenes in which the ever-lasting bond between the two lovers was shown simply through tears in their eyes as they caught glimpse of one another; no words were needed.

It was refreshing to see real love, not puppy love, on the big screen.

The emotions of betrayal were portrayed between the two sisters with great accuracy as Briony spoke her "truth" against Robbie, leaving Cecilia completely cold toward her once precious and innocent little sister.

This movie was real in the sense that it didn't sugar-coat anything: people die, people betray one another, families are far from perfect and love is far from easy.

"Atonement" is an awe-inspiring film that brings its watchers back to reality.

This is the type of movie I have been waiting to see in theaters.

Love needs no holiday

By Donna Buse
Staff reporter

It's Valentine's Day. Love is in the air. Booths are lined up in the Student Union Recreation Center (SURC) selling cupcakes and roses for students to buy for their special someone or for themselves. Red, pink and white hearts fill store windows.

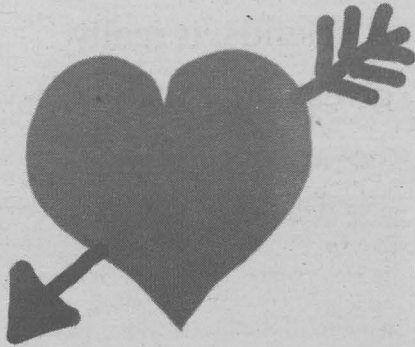
There are various legends about who Valentine was.

"There's no apparent single figure we can point to," Roxanne Easley, history professor, said. "There's at least three."

In one legend, Valentine is a priest. The Roman emperor Claudius II didn't want single men in the Roman army to marry. Claudius felt that single men made better soldiers. But Valentine still married them in secret.

In another legend, a bishop named Valentine was jailed because he was Christian. He fell in love with the jailer's daughter and would send her notes saying "from your Valentine." Other stories suggest that Valentine was killed for helping Christians escape from Roman prisons, where they were often beaten to death.

Some believe Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate Valentine's death, which probably occurred around 270 C.E. Others believe the Christian Church decided to celebrate Valentine's Day in February to Christianize



the pagan festival Lupercalia.

"The idea behind that is there was a love lottery," Easley said. "The women would put their names in a pot. The men would choose the names. That would be their partner for the festival."

The Middle Ages was the era of courtly love.

"It was also the invention of romantic love," Easley said. "Not just sex but courtliness and symbols of love. Then in the Victorian era it was oppressed. It became a polite way to show affection. Most recently it's just become commercial."

In 1850, Esther Howland, an American printer and artist, became one of the first people to publish and sell Valentines in the United States.

"It seems romantic love has become the focus," Easley said. "So people who don't have a romantic

lover are left out."

Some students at Central Washington University feel Valentine's Day is just another day.

"It's one of those holidays just for fun," Brian Hall, sophomore flight technology major, said. "You don't get a day off school or anything. So I don't take it too seriously."

Others feel the same way.

"[It's] just a normal day," Hui-Ching Tsia senior business major said. "Every day is exactly the same 24 hours."

But there is something to do at Central even for those people who do not have a special someone on Valentine's Day. It is Random Acts of Kindness Week.

As part of Random Acts of Kindness Week, on Valentine's Day the Civic Engagement Center will be providing opportunities for students to make cards for people, bring a snack to a friend or pass out goodie bags to people in the SURC from 10 - 3 p.m. Students interested in participating can sign up at Civic Engagement Center or on their website - www.takeaction-cwu.com.

"There's a lot of people who are single or think Valentine's Day is too commercial," Alyssa Mottern, Community Progress Liaison at the Civic Engagement Center said. "We're aiming toward those people and others to give them a reason to celebrate Valentine's Day."



Sean Guffey/Observer

Patrons browse and bid at the Kittitas County Head Start fundraiser.

Auction: Program gets a boost from locals with talent, "heart"

continued from cover

The money raised by this event will go toward an ongoing fund to get a Head Start building located in Ellensburg.

The program provides a federally funded preschool for low-income families, giving extra attention and time for children who need it.

"Most importantly I think we're getting these kids ready for kindergarten," said Andy Januszkiewicz, child development manager for the head start program. "We are helping these kids with one of the biggest problems they'll have going into kindergarten: managing their behavior."

However, the Head Start program offers another great service for the kids coming from low-income homes: medical work. All the children entering the program receive free eye exams and dental appointments, courtesy of local doctors.

"I can remember one instance where I had a new girl, who was just not totally with us," Januszkiewicz said. "She never paid attention to me when I was reading, and always seemed distracted. She had an eye checkup and received glasses. The next day she was completely involved with the reading, she focused and became one of our better readers."

Currently, most of the children have

to be bussed to Kittitas, even though they are residents of Ellensburg. Some kids spend a substantial amount of time on the bus, just to turn around and get back on again.

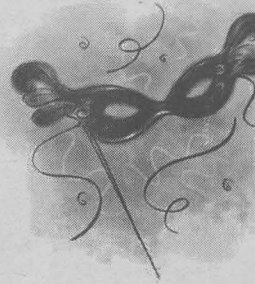
"It's really not a great situation for some of the kids; they end up on that bus for quite a while if they're one of the first ones to be picked up, and it doesn't need to be that way," Whitaker said. "If we had our own building it would be more convenient for the children, the parents, as well as the volunteers."

After the last of the refreshments were gone and the volunteers had called it a night, the event had sold approximately \$2,600 in art. The heart-themed pieces came from local artists, Whitaker's children, Central students and head start students.

"There is an older woman who arranges funerals who makes us a beautiful pair of Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy dolls every year," Whitaker said.

According to Whitaker, they have had constant support from the community, be it by submitting art, buying the work, or volunteering for the program. Whitaker is hopeful for the future of Head Start.

"It always amazes me how many people really do come together and contribute for this cause," Whitaker said. "I put together this event every year; so many people get involved and help us out, it's fantastic."



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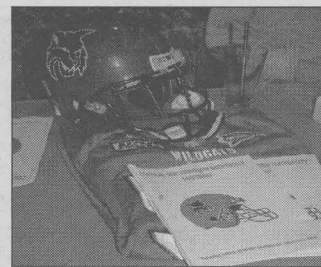
Oak Rail

SPORTS



The Sports guy downplays
love in sports

PAGE 15



Signing day brings school
record recruits

PAGE 15

Wildcat redemption



Amanda Umberger/Observer

Junior forward Hilary Tanneberg defends against Seattle guard Laina Sobczak on Feb. 7. The Wildcats won the contest 52-45. It was only their second win in their previous nine games and first home victory since Nov. 28.

Basket with 11 seconds to play lifts CWU over Billings for second-straight win

by Brianna Freeman
Staff reporter

The Central women's basketball team finished a four-game homestand this weekend with the goal of turning the remainder of their season around and finishing on a high note.

The Wildcats were in it to win it when they hosted number nine-ranked Seattle University at Nicholson Pavilion last Thursday night. The team was coming off a four-game losing streak and was not going to let this one get away.

Central jumped out to a quick 9-0 lead before Seattle scored a three-pointer to get on the board. Central remained in control for the rest of the half, building a lead of 13-points on three different occasions and sending Seattle into half-time with a score of 29-20.

Central was 50 percent from the field, with junior guard Ashley Fenimore leading the way, going 3-of-3 from the floor.

The best news from the first half was the appearance of senior guard Elyse Maras in the lineup. Maras was injured last week in the game against Alaska-Anchorage and was feared to have fractured vertebrae in her back.

After Maras crashed into the bleachers last week, her injury left her unable to stand for the rest of the contest. Fractured vertebrae may have ended her season prematurely for the second consecutive season.

"She has a semi-fracture of one of

her ribs but it only affects her if she gets hit with an elbow," head coach Jeff Whitney said. "It's great to know that we can count on her to be in the lineup."

Central came out in the second half and continued dominating as they had in the first half. However, the Wildcats began to get into trouble after building a 13-point lead with over 12 minutes to play in the game. Seattle began a 13-2 run to bring the Redhawks to within two with a score of 44-42. The Wildcats were able to regain momentum to end the game with an 8-3 scoring drive and a score of 52-45.

"We came out with a lot of focus," senior wing Hanna Hull said. "That's our motto for the second half of the season. Stay focused and have fun."

After a huge sigh of relief and a handshake for a job well done, the coaches and players headed to the locker room to celebrate the win.

"We prepared and had one of the best weeks of practice of the season," Whitney said after the game. "We are a capable team and I'm not sure where we have been, but it looks like we are getting back to how we know we can play."

Two Wildcats scored in the double digits. Fenimore led Central with 17 points and went 3-of-4 from three-point range. Senior forward Kristina Klapperich added 11 points to the board and was 4-of-6 from the field.

SEE WOMEN PAGE 14

Central men sweep on weekend road trip to Saint Martin's and Western Oregon

by Marc Boese
Staff reporter

Coming off of a 30-point win against Montana State-Billings with the regular season winding down, the Central Washington Wildcats went back to work on the road last weekend.

They played two Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) games: Thursday night at Saint Martin's and Saturday night at Western Oregon.

Starting off the road trip, the Wildcats fought hard against 9-9 overall (4-5 GNAC) Saint Martin's. Central had already beaten the Saints once this year at home.

For the first 5:45 of the game, Central was able to handle the pressure of a road game and kept the hometown crowd silent as they took a 16-0 lead.

Central kept rolling with a large lead until the Saints used a 22-5 run toward the end of the half to take the momentum and the lead away from the Wildcats.

Central wasted no time, though, getting the lead back as junior forward Jake Beitinger scored four straight, putting them up 33-32.

With Beitinger's 12 first-half points and the

team's 11 offensive rebounds, Central finished the half up 40-37 on the Saints.

The second half began with a jumper from CWU junior forward Matt Penoncello, beginning his second-half 19-point performance.

SMU came out tight against Central for the first 10 minutes of the second half before the Wildcats took total control.

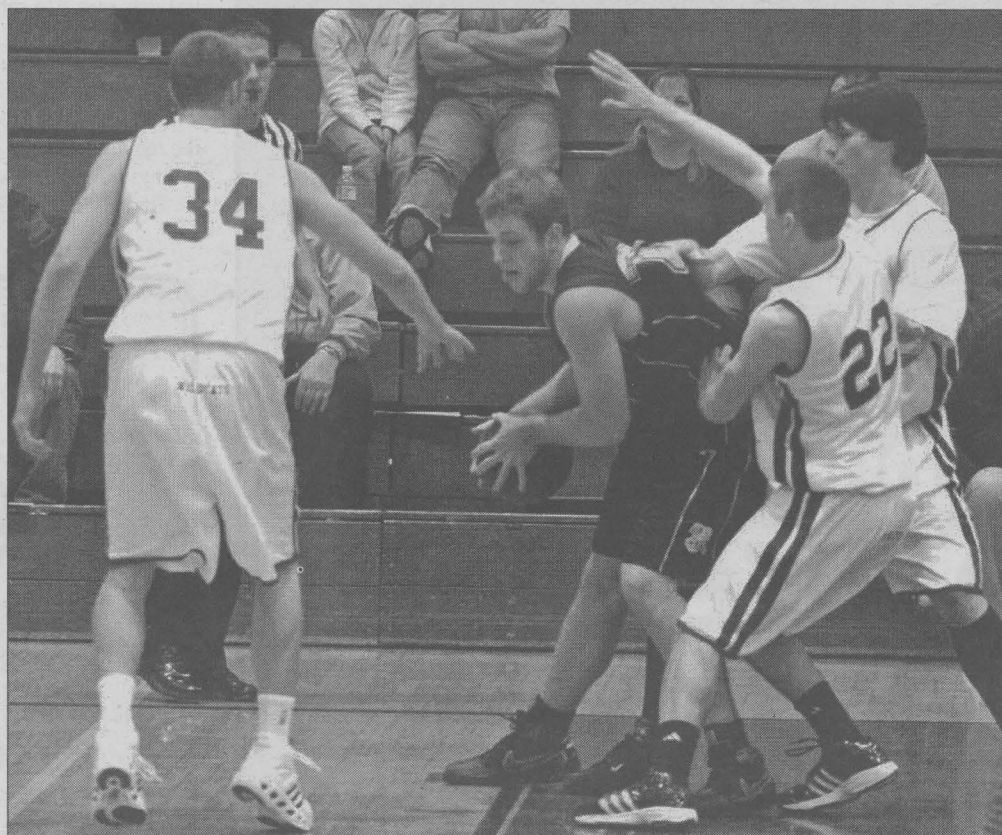
"At about the 11-minute mark, our transition really got going," head coach Greg Sparling said. "I think this team is a very good team of runs. We go on some big runs."

After a turnover by the Saints' leading scorer, guard Jake Linton, and a dunk by Wildcat junior guard Giovonne Woods, Central took a 12-point lead and never looked back.

The Wildcats kept knocking down their shots and hit their last 17 free-throws to give them a 24-point lead, their largest of the night.

Penoncello's game-high 26 points, Jackson's 22 and help from the team's 44 total rebounds gave the Wildcats their 100-76 win over the Saints, their second 100-point performance of the season.

SEE MEN PAGE 16



Amanda Umberger/Observer

Senior forward Bryce Daub (34), junior guard Johnny Spevak (22), and Jake Beitinger, far right, swarm the ball handler for Montana State-Billings on Feb. 2. The Wildcats won the game 94-64.

THE WEEKLY SPORTS FACE-OFF:

The Title IX debate: the truth of equal funding

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance."

This is how what is now known as Title IX was written in the Education Amendments of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

While it in no way says anything about affecting high school or college athletics, it is definitely more widely known for its effects on athletics than anything else.

Title IX was originally written to ensure that athletes, both male and female, get an equal opportunity to play organized sports at academic institutions.

While it was extremely effective in garnering interest in females to play sports they may not have become involved in otherwise, it has outlasted its usefulness in our society.

Just like people who speak out against affirmative action are called racists, if you speak out against Title IX you become labeled as a sexist.

I love that women have the opportunity to participate in sports. I love sports and I know a lot of women that enjoy watching and playing sports.

The only problem I still see with this is that it has severely cut down on some athletic program's ability to sponsor certain sports.

While sports such as football, basketball, baseball, softball and volleyball aren't getting cut from school budgets anytime soon, sports such as wrestling, lacrosse, golf, hockey and others have been cut from schools athletic programs.

Wrestling may be the single biggest casualty of Title IX.

Wrestling is, for the most part, a male-only sport.



Curtis Crabtree
Asst. Sports editor

While schools like Iowa and Oklahoma State have been able to maintain their wrestling programs, Washington, Washington State and even Central have lost their ability to fund the sport over the years.

Cale Sanderson set an NCAA record at Iowa State going 159-0 in his collegiate career, never losing a match, and won four consecutive National Championships.

This record is considered one of the greatest in sports history, and to think that it may not have been possible if Iowa

State or other institutions had been forced to drop the sport.

Division I schools such as Washington have found themselves unable to continue to sponsor wrestling without offering additional female sports such as field hockey.

While Title IX did in fact serve a very useful purpose back in the 1970's when segregation between races and sexes was still an issue, we have come a very long way in the last 30-plus years.

Just like I don't believe that affirmative action still serves a purpose, I don't believe Title IX has one either.

We've all seen what Candace Parker can do on a basketball court. Chances are she is going to be the Michael Jordan of the WNBA once she gets there.

Annika Sorenstam, Cheryl Miller, Diana Turasi and others are all names we know very well nowadays. There is no reason for me to believe that if Title IX no longer existed, female athletes in the future would not be entitled to the same opportunities they have now.

It will be a cold day in hell when people stop arguing about Title IX.

As part of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Title IX was created to ban sex discrimination in schools. Implementing Title IX opened doors, proving that geniuses are found among both genders; men and women can be lawyers, doctors, politicians — the list goes on.

Though it also governs academics, it is athletics that has created the most controversy regarding Title IX. The argument against it lacks intelligence. Equality or no: the smart answer is simple.

Title IX protects both genders, yet people tend

to focus more on whether or not women should have equal athletic opportunities. That comes naturally, though. After all, historically, women have faced far more discrimination than men. "Women can't play sports," is essentially the attitude that women have fought hard against.

Obviously both men and women can play sports; both can be aggressive and entertaining during competition. Take the Williams sisters for instance. Venus and Serena are both well known for their power on the tennis court. They have taken their sport, and women's athletics in general, to new heights. However, the fact that they are even noticed to begin with can be partially credited back to Billie Jean King, who is famous for her Battle of the Sexes win over Bobby Riggs in 1973.

Coincidentally, the King era surrounded the time when Title IX was implemented. Many would say the two go hand-in-hand as she fought hard for gender equality within tennis.

Since then, Title IX has protected both genders from discrimination. It has offered opportunities



Melanie Lockhart
Editor-in-Chief

for men and women, and requires that schools be in compliance, which is where those who argue against Title IX fight their case.

Schools must comply in areas of participation, financial aid and additional areas (such as equipment, facilities and practice times). This doesn't mean that for every sport offered to men, one must be offered for women. It's based on interest and athlete ratio, rather than exact numbers.

The same goes for scholarships. For instance, if 30 percent of athletes are female, then 30 percent of the school's money will go to females. It's not an equal 50/50 if numbers are lower on one end.

It also doesn't mean that men's sports MUST be cut to accommodate women's, though sadly that does happen sometimes by the choice of athletic departments. Title IX is meant to provide balanced opportunity. This can mean adding women's sports, making teams co-ed or, yes, sometimes dropping sports with lower interest.

As for the additional areas, Title IX ensures that a school doesn't put a bunch of effort and money into improving facilities or equipment for one gender while leaving the other with hand-me-downs.

For example, both basketball teams share a gym, and the baseball and softball teams bat on identical fields. The teams use the same new scoreboards. Both genders benefit equally. Equal opportunity: it's such a simple concept.

Yet people still argue against this. If schools started dropping football, men's basketball and got down to zero sports for men simply to allow more opportunity for women's sports, people would be outraged. Title IX prevents that from happening, but the concept remains. It's not just one-sided.

VS.

BASEBALL STARTS SLOW FOR CWU

The Central Washington Wildcat baseball season has officially begun, though not the way the players had in mind.

On the opening games this past weekend against Cal State Stanislaus, the Wildcats are already 0-4 after being swept in back-to-back doubleheaders.

The road trip continues this weekend with two twinbills against Dixie State University.

WOMEN: Wildcats get back-to-back wins for the first time since Jan. 5

continued from page 13

Seattle's bench was a saving grace, scoring 28 of the teams 45 points, while Central's bench only added 11 points to the total.

The win is Central's first home win since Nov. 28 and brings the Wildcats to 11-7 overall and 3-7 in Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) play. The loss brings the Redhawks to 13-6 overall and 4-6 in GNAC action.

Central hoped to continue its good luck when they welcomed Montana State University-Billings into town Saturday afternoon.

Billings jumped out first but Maras quickly answered back with a three-

"Our conference is too strong; we aren't going to win [games] by 20."

JEFF WHITNEY,
HEAD COACH

pointer and the Wildcats stayed in the lead for the rest of the half.

Central was able to narrow the gap to three by halftime with a score of 32-29.

The second half began with a quick jumper by Billings to bring the score within one. The Yellowjackets were able to take the lead by two with just over 17 minutes to play, but Central was quick to retaliate and retake the lead.

The Wildcats continued their scoring run and built an eight-point lead with less than 13 minutes to play. For the remainder of the game Central and Billings traded the lead eight times.

The score was tied at 71 apiece

with just 49 seconds remaining, when Hull brought the ball down with an offensive rebound and was able to get the ball out to Klapperich, who scored a layup with just 11 seconds to play to take the lead by two.

Klapperich then went down the court and succeeded in blocking a Billings layup with 2.7 seconds left to win the game with a score of 73-71.

"Our conference is too strong; we aren't going to win [games] by 20," Whitney said. "We have to make sure we maintain our mental focus and make sure that once we get a lead to keep building on it."

Four Wildcats scored in the double digits. Redshirt freshman wing Jenn

Jacobs led Central with 17 points.

Hull was a close second with 16 points, Fenimore added 11 points to the board, and Maras finished out the group with a 10-point showing.

Four Yellowjackets were also able to score in the double digits. Junior guard Alira Carpenter was able to score a show-stopping 22 points, only six of which came in the first half.

"Her step-back jump shots and her ability to get to the rim are a deadly combination," Whitney said. "Everyone has tried every type of defense on her and it doesn't work."

Sophomore forward Dani Henderson was able to score 16 points, junior forward Jen Smith had 14 points and junior forward Kayla Ryan brought in 11 points for Billings.

This win brings Central to 12-7 overall and 4-7 in the GNAC. The Yellowjackets fall to 8-12 overall and 5-6 in GNAC play.

Central travels to Seattle Pacific and Northwest Nazarene next week in hopes of keeping their winning ways alive.

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The Sports Guy's Big Mouth:

Athlete and celebrity relations are like oil and water

Relationships don't belong in sports — or, a better way to put it is, when the key point a sport revolves around a player's significant other, everyone loses.

I hate to be the bad guy here, but the only love in sports is the love of the game, not the people outside of it.

A sports star dating a celebrity is a can of worms of Yoko Ono and John Lennon-sized proportions. As soon as the lovely lady (or strapping gent) is given camera time or a pre-game interview, it's all over.

I'm sure that most of you are thinking of Dallas quarterback Tony Romo and his current arm candy, Jessica Simpson, but no — it goes far beyond that.

Although there are some relationships out there that aren't as bad for the team, they are all nearly detrimental to the player.

With that, and the sake of this whole



Frank Stanley
Sports guy

Hallmark holiday we're celebrating today, here are some examples of love better off lost in the sporting world:

Tony Romo and Jessica Simpson: I know I already used this example, but this is a perfect example of a worst-case scenario.

What simply became a shrug-off moment in week 17's drubbing to the Washington Redskins this year turned into a complete disaster for the Dallas Cowboys, and I'm convinced that our favorite dumb blonde had something to do with it.

Sure, the loss didn't matter, and Simpson was just being a good girlfriend; she had her man's jersey and did what she thought was best. They locked the number one seed and had an extra week off, but it's not really a week off.

It's preparation: earning that confidence you need to come off of a really bad loss and pick up the pieces in time to make your way to the Super Bowl.

It's like getting your final studies in on the night before the big test and your best friend comes along to talk about the double-kegger two blocks away and you just have to go.

Next thing you know, you wake up

30 minutes late completely hung over and you can't remember a thing about the exam. It was game over before it even started.

In the case of our poor Romo, swap "big test" with "divisional match-up against New York," "best friend" with "Jessica Simpson" and "double-kegger" with "a week in Mexico," and the rest is history.

It doesn't matter how much Tony or his teammates said she had nothing to do with it: they knew the truth, and post-game, all Romo could think was, "Why did I trade the Lombardi trophy for a margarita?"

Tony Parker and Eva Longoria: So this isn't necessarily a bad relationship since the San Antonio Spurs are still NBA champions. It did, however, certainly make things regrettably more entertaining for us fans at home.

Let's face it: the Spurs are the most boring team to watch in any basketball game. No one wants to see a team win simply by shutting down their opponents' scoring — we want triple-digit games! We want fast breaks and awesome shots!

When we saw San Antonio contain

Cleveland and hold LeBron James to next-to-nothing stats for another trophy, every sports writer across the country let out a collective yawn — if they weren't already asleep.

Then the station cameramen heard our cries of boredom, and the "Desperate Housewives" star got her moment.

Who would have thought that a player's girlfriend sitting and cheering in the stands would have garnered more ratings?

Dario Franchitti and Ashley Judd: Oh look, Ashley Judd is in the NASCAR pit! What's she doing there? Wait, who's in that car she's standing next to? Now they're kissing? Dario Franchitti? Who is that?

It's Ashley Judd's husband and former CART series and IndyCar racer-turned-NASCAR driver, that's who. Unfortunately for him, the most marketable sport in America can't help his image as a successful racer.

The bigger names dominate far too much and Franchitti is still getting his bearings on the art of the left turn, so who do the cameras turn to?

Yup, the hot wife. Not even the commentators can shy away from her.

There's no doubt that there are many more examples: Major League Baseball can thank me later for not bringing up Alyssa Milano. But despite all of the problems, there are exceptions to the rule, all of which follow a well-defined pattern.

Take Los Angeles first baseman Nomar Garciaparra and his wife, soccer star Mia Hamm.

We can't blame her for the injuries and Nomar is slowly returning to his all-star numbers of old. Both live happily with twin girls and there's no problems for the two.

Better yet, take married tennis greats Andre Agassi and Steffi Graf. Not only are they happy with two kids and living the great life after being retired from professional tennis, but we don't see them disputing in the tabloids.

See the difference? Both members are or were professional athletes. In short, they get it. Let that be a lesson to you all out there.

That, or I'll have to wait on the day when Simpson can catch an 80-yard bomb from Romo or Longoria can stuff Parker from a drive in the paint.

Ah, that will be the day.

New coaching staff signs record 19 seniors

by Curtis Crabtree
Asst. Sports editor

Last Wednesday night, the Central Washington football team announced its recruiting class for the 2008 season at a signing day party held at the Roadhouse Grill.

Head coach Blaine Bennett, offensive coordinator John Picha, defensive coordinator Joe Lorig and linebacker and special teams coach Stacy Collins were among the attendees.

The coaching staff announced a school-record 19 National Letter of Intent (LOI) signees.

The newly formed coaching staff only had a few weeks to recruit before National Signing Day last Wednesday.

While the new coaches were being courted and signed, Picha was out recruiting, giving coach Bennett and his

newcomers a solid base to work from once they got situated.

The group included seven "white chip" prospects, a designation for the top 100 football players in Washington given out by the Seattle Times.

Lakes High School in Lakewood, Wash., was the only school to yield three recruits and two of Central's "white chip" prospects.

Tupou Manaea, a 6-foot-1-inch, 270-pound defensive lineman was an honorable mention class 3A all-state selection as a defensive lineman.

Dominick Davis, a 5-foot-8-inch running back, was a first team all-Western Cascade conference selection in each of his final two seasons.

Bethel High School in Spanaway, Wash., contributed two of Central's recruiting class and another "white chip" prospect.

Oliver Henry, a 6-foot-6-inch quarterback, passed for 2,879 yards and 25 touchdowns in 2007 and was named to the first team all-South Puget Sound League (SPSL).

Ryan Robertson, a 6-foot-3-inch quarterback from Eastlake High School in Sammamish, Wash., was an Associated Press (AP) class 4A first-team all-state selection last season. He was the KingCo 4A offensive player of the year and threw for 2,864 yards and 28 touchdowns in his final season for the Wolves.

"I just got a really good feeling from the players I talked to and the coaching staff," Robertson said. "It just fit me."

Bennett also liked what he saw in Robertson.

"He's got a heck of an arm," Bennett said. "He's strong, he's athletic and I think he'll be a good addition."

Griffin Squires, a 6-foot-3-inch athlete

from W.F. West High School in Chehalis, Wash., was named the Offensive Most Valuable Player of the Evergreen Conference as a quarterback in 2007. Squires signed his LOI as an athlete and his position at Central is yet to be determined.

Joey Tivnan, a 6-foot-2-inch, 255-pound offensive lineman from Centralia High School in Centralia, Wash. is the sixth "white chip" prospect to join the Wildcats. He was an AP class 2A first-team all-state selection and earned all-Evergreen Conference honors as well.

Matt Tuttle, a 6-foot-1-inch linebacker from Shelton High School in Shelton, Wash., earned second team all-Western Cascade Conference honors as both a linebacker and tight end in 2007.

Fife High School was the only other school to send multiple players to Central with

Tumwater, Cascade, Skyview, Kentridge, Heritage, Todd Beamer, Gig Harbor and Kittitas contributing one player each.

Kittitas High School's Mike Reno is the only player to come from east of the Cascades.

The rest of the class is strong as well despite not having the "white chip" distinction.

Chris Finlayson, a 6-foot-6-inch 220-pound defensive end from Fife, is a recruit that Bennett is particularly fond of.

"He was the first one who committed to us and our first home visit," Bennett said. "I think he's a special player. I hate to say that one kid is any better than another but he was definitely a good get for us."

The Wildcats are losing 16 seniors to graduation, but with the recruiting class Bennett and staff put together, Central should remain a playoff contender.

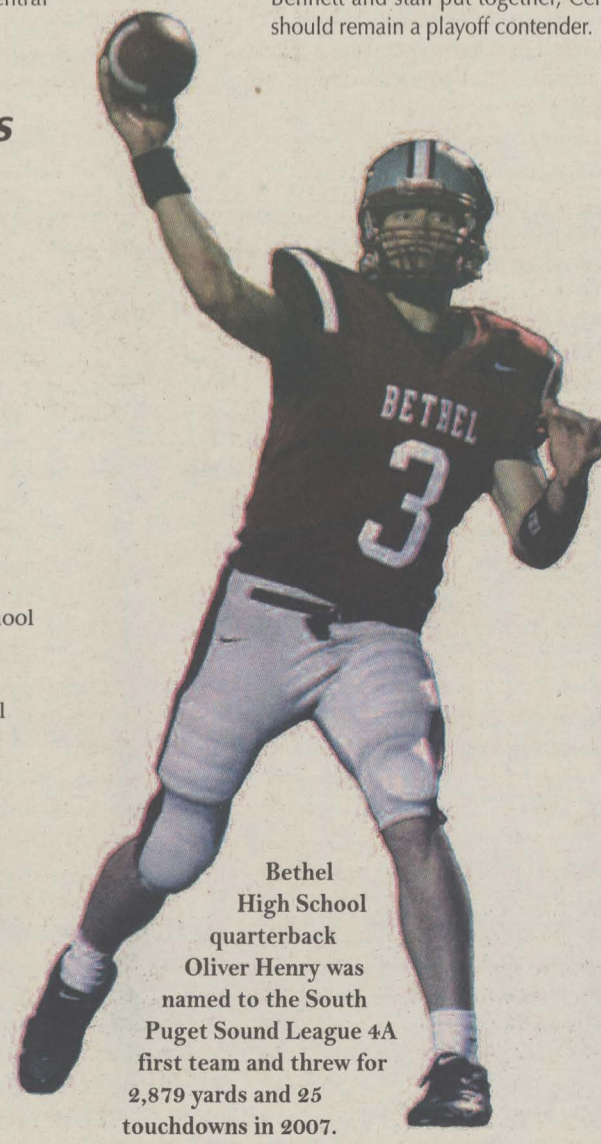


Eastlake High School quarterback Ryan Robertson was named the KingCo 4A Conference player of the year and threw for 2,864 yards and 28 touchdowns in 2007.

photo courtesy of Douglas Robertson

2008 CWU Recruiting Class

Radio Battle, DB
6-2, 190, Spanaway, Wash./Bethel High School
Ryan Bean, TE
6-2, 211, Tumwater, Wash./Tumwater High School
Lorne Bridgford, RB
6-0, 185, Everett, Wash./Cascade High School
Jacob Burke, DB
5-11, 178, Vancouver, Wash./Skyview High School
Tyler Cardin, RB
5-9, 170, Milton, Wash./Fife High School
Caleb Curry, DE
6-3, 235, Auburn, Wash./Kentridge High School
Dominick Davis, RB
5-8, 170, Lakewood, Wash./Lakes High School
Devin Dyer, DL
6-1, 275, Vancouver, Wash./Heritage High School
Chris Finlayson, DE
6-6, 220, Milton, Wash./Fife High School
Lamardray Fuller, RB
5-9, 199, Federal Way, Wash./Todd Beamer High School
Oliver Henry, QB
6-6, 210, Spanaway, Wash./Bethel High School
Tyler Hopkins, OL
6-3, 299, Gig Harbor, Wash./Gig Harbor High School
Tupou Manaea, DL
6-1, 270, Lakewood, Wash./Lakes High School
Mike Reno, LB
6-3, 200, Ellensburg, Wash./Kittitas High School
Ryan Robertson, QB
6-3, 186, Sammamish, Wash./Eastlake High School
Griffin Squires, ATH
6-3, 220, Chehalis, Wash./W.F. West High School
Tony Thomas, WR
5-8, 154, Lakewood, Wash./Lakes High School
Joey Tivnan, OL
6-2, 255, Centralia, Wash./Centralia High School
Matt Tuttle, LB
6-1, 243, Shelton, Wash./Shelton High School



Bethel High School quarterback Oliver Henry was named to the South Puget Sound League 4A first team and threw for 2,879 yards and 25 touchdowns in 2007.

photo courtesy of Dianna Main



Amanda Umberger/Observer

Senior guard Nate Jackson drives the lane against Seattle University on Jan. 31. The Wildcats have won three straight since the loss to the Redhawks.

MEN: Central climbs to second in the GNAC with weekend road sweep

continued from page 13

"I thought we absolutely dominated them on the boards," Sparling said. "We had 22 offensive [rebounds] off the glass, which was key. We made our free-throws that night. I think it was a combination of everything that night. I thought the guys really executed the game plan well."

Central then traveled to Western Oregon Saturday night for their second game of the road trip.

Coming into the game, Western Oregon was riding a two-game winning streak with an 11-8 record overall (4-5 GNAC).

The Wildcats trailed 8-2 after just over three minutes into the contest. The next few minutes were different, however, as they went on an 8-2 run of their own to tie the game up at 10-all.

The Wildcats then made an 18-5 run, led by Woods. Woods led the game with a career-high 21.

"I was feeling it a little bit during the game," Woods said. "I feel that I matched up against my defenders well."

Trailing by 13, the Wolves were able to crawl back into the game. With help from the team's leading scorer, forward Travis Kuhns, and guard Brad Krichewsky, they narrowed the gap to three as the first-half came to an end.

Feeling pressure from the Wolves, the Wildcats came out of the locker room ready to extend their lead. With Spevak's seven points and junior guard Colton Mon-

ti's eight, Central took their biggest lead of the night: 76-60 with 8:02 left to play.

Slowly, the Wolves started to close the gap again. Woods tried to hold the lead for Central with his 14 second-half points with 1:39 left to play, but the game was not over just yet.

Western Oregon put together a small run and brought the deficit back down to two with just five seconds left. An intentional foul by the Wolves put Monti to the line, and he put the game away giving the Wildcats their third straight win at a final score of 88-84.

"I knew I wanted to make [the free-throws] and I was confident I was going to make them," Monti said. "I didn't doubt myself once. If I were to doubt myself, I probably would have missed one or both of them."

Central's 14 steals and 12

turnovers, compared to Western Oregon's 25, was also a huge part of the Wildcats' victory.

The Wildcats are back at home this week for their next two games as they try to extend their winning streak.

Tip-off is at 7 p.m. tonight against Alaska and they play again at 7 p.m. on Saturday night, Feb. 16, against conference-leading and fourth-ranked nationally, Alaska Anchorage.

"The bottom line is we just got to play hard and execute the game plan," Sparling said. "We'll have to tweak a few things here and there, but we just got to [keep doing] what has got us here."

GNAC at a Glance

Men's Basketball

Thursday, Feb. 7

CWU.....100
SMU.....76
Matt Penoncello (CWU): 26
Jake Linton (SMU): 24

SU.....83
NNU.....72
Kendall Gielow (NNU): 22
Ryan Coldren (SU): 16

MSUB.....34
SPU.....90
Rob Will (SPU): 24
Kirk Blaine (MSUB): 10

WWU.....71
WOU.....83
Travis Kuhns (WOU): 22
Ira Graham (WWU): 21

Saturday, Feb. 9

CWU.....88
WOU.....84
Giovonne Woods (CWU): 21
Adonal Arrington (WOU): 19

SU.....66
SPU.....69
Rob Will (SPU): 17
SU: Two tied with 15

MSUB.....77
NNU.....90
Justin Parnell (NNU): 26
Kyle Palmer (MSUB): 20

WWU.....83
SMU.....85
Jake Linton (SMU): 21
Steve Alford (WWU): 19

Women's Basketball

Thursday, Feb. 7

CWU.....45
SU.....52
Ashley Fenimore (CWU): 17
Laina Sobczak (SU): 14

SPU.....78
UAA.....77
Kelsey Hill (SPU): 28
Maria Nilsson (UAA): 19

NNU.....73
UAF.....68
Kari Reabold (UAF): 22
Nichole Schutte (NNU): 19

MSUB.....59
WWU.....68
Alira Carpenter (MSUB): 23
Claire Pallansch (WWU): 19

Saturday, Feb. 9

CWU.....73
MSUB.....71
Alira Carpenter (MSUB): 22
Jenn Jacobs (CWU): 17

SPU.....84
UAF.....55
Jackie Hollands (SPU): 19
Cristina Bruketta (UAF): 12

NNU.....55
UAA.....68
Rebecca Kielpinski (UAA): 19
Nichole Schutte (NNU): 13

SU.....52
WWU.....58
Laina Sobczak (SU): 13
Claire Pallansch (WWU): 13

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