

The Current

Green River Community College



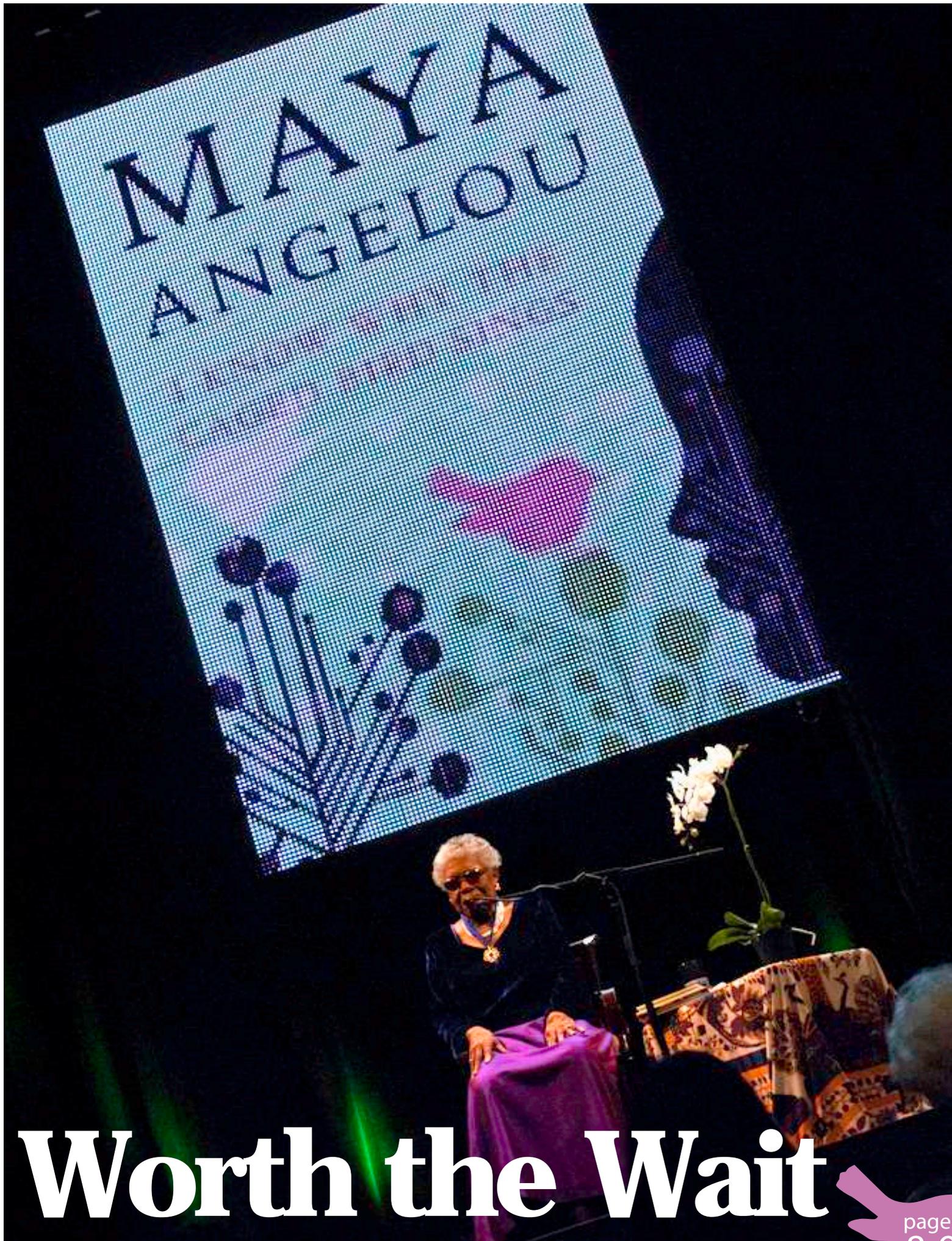
On to the Big Leagues

In only his second season as a pitcher, Green River ace Cody Hebner has been approached by a dozen Major League teams.

SPORTS page 15

APRIL 15, 2011 | WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.NET

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 9



Worth the Wait

pages 8-9

CAMPUS page 2

Disaster Hits Home

The campus community comes together after earthquake strikes Japan. Students raised over \$6,000 in one week to donate to the Red Cross.

CAMPUS page 4

Finding Freedom in Flying

From Vietnam to Auburn, with a brief transfer in Dallas - student body president Thang Nguyen travels onward.

NEWS page 10

Cuts to Budget Deeper Than Expected

Annual or 15 percent, cut to community colleges included in state House and Senate budgets. Tuition to go up more than 10 percent.

OP-ED page 12

Student Gov. Must Do More

Only one candidate per position in student government presidential elections result from lack of promotion. Students now left with no real choice.

Disaster Hits Home

Students and staff came together after the 8.9 earthquake hit Japan and raised more than \$6,000 for relief efforts within a week.

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia
Campus Editor

The most powerful earthquake in a century. A tsunami. Radiation poisoning. A death toll of over 10,000 and rising.

That is the news that had been reaching the 74 Japanese students here on campus since Friday, March 11.

"I thought, 'That's not possible,'" said Masahito Yoshizawa, one of the Japanese students. "I tried to reach my family through Skype. I tried 10 times."

He eventually got through to them, but only for three minutes. And then he felt alone again. Still, he said, "I knew they were OK. I'm acting with patience, I will keep calm."

Japan is often struck by earthquakes, but Friday, March 10 at 2:46 p.m. local time, the Yoshizawa family and millions of others were shook by the biggest earthquake in Japanese history.

A booth by the Association of Chinese Culture (ACC) and a Japanese club set up the same day provided an outlet for Yoshizawa in the Lindbloom Student Center. On a table marked by a red sign that reads 'Need Love,' a donation box

stood between two posters where students could write words of encouragement.

When a passerby expressed skepticism at the thought of writing something down, Shawn Zhang, ACC officer, quickly persuaded them otherwise. "Seriously, man. Japanese students can't contact their family. They don't even know if their parents are alive."

Simultaneously, the other ACC members approached passersby to sign the posters or to donate.

"We are ready to do anything we can to help," said Darren Guo, ACC member.

"It's so very moving. Some students were touched to the point that they rummaged through their bags, emptying their wallets to help," he added.

Some students were surprised that Chinese students were supporting Japan – the two countries have a historically tense relationship – but ACC members explained this had nothing to do with politics.

"Love is out of order. Love is international. You can donate your love to anyone in the world, and Japan needs help," said Zhang.

Yoshizawa stopped by the table to write his own words of encouragement and gave



Remco Zwetsloot | The Current

Yuki Suzuki, middle right, and several other international students hosted a daily booth in the Lindbloom Center.

money as well. "I wanted to do something. Donating is all I can do now."

The clubs hosted the booth for three hours on March 11, finishing with two

my friends back home are doing. I felt so much better after they showed that," Yoshizawa said. "I just want to thank everyone."

The week after the

his grandfather in Sapporo, nearly 500 miles from the epicenter. He was okay, but Suzuki continued to check the news every day. Then he got an invite from Ryohei Sawai, another Japanese student and captain of the Green River Wings, on Facebook to help man the donation booth.

"Right now 6,000 people are missing, possibly dead, and the number is going to increase," Suzuki said. on March 13. "It's just been three days. Please pray for us, we appreciate it."

Suzuki's request was heard. 400 buttons were crafted by Student Life's Hien Nick Doan. The badges were emblazoned with "Pray for Japan, Pray for the World" and were available to students during the first week of spring quarter (March 30-April 1). Doan also found out about the fundraising booth from a Facebook event invitation and was ready to help.

At least 1,200 donations made since the start of the quarter, according to Zhang, but others estimate the number to be higher than that. Nobody was sure how

much money was raised in total. All of it was given to the American Red cross through a Columbia Bank account set up by the Green River Foundation office.

All 400 buttons were gone by March 31, a day before the campaign was officially over.

"We're stopping the event because after that first week, the donations slowed down," Doan said.

Three to five Japanese students that both Zhang and Doan know from the Campus Corner Apartments went home as news kept pouring in about the incident.

"One [of them] was my best friend and I drove him to the airport," Zhang said. Later, the area his friend was in was hit by a 7.7 aftershock, but they're still talking on Facebook and, according to Zhang, the friend is fine.

But he knows not everybody is as fortunate. "Other [students] lost their homes and are living in shelters. One student that was living with my host family is receiving a jacket and medicine from them."

"I thought, 'That's not possible.' I tried to reach my family through Skype. I tried 10 times."

Masahito Yoshizawa, Japanese international student

posters and the collection box nearly filled.

"[People] cared so much about how my family and

disaster, during finals week (March 13—March 18), the Green River Wings baseball club, the Japanese Association (JA) and Student Life joined together with the ACC and were able to collect \$6,023.92. Chartwell's in the cafeteria also raised funds with donation jars by the cash registers and daily a \$5 buffet in the MDA.

Not worrying about finals, what weighed heaviest on Japanese student Yuki Suzuki's mind was the possibility of an even larger aftershock in Tokyo, where his two brothers live.

"My first thought was 'my family.' That was it," he said. Suzuki was able to talk to



Matthew Montoya | The Current

Ryohei Sawai, a Japanese international student, front, organized the donation booth in the LSC through a Facebook event.

Teacher Spotlight: Sabah Jabbouri

Full name: Sabah Jabbouri
Position: Geographic Information System (GIS) instructor.
Date of birth: April 20, 1948
Year at Green River: Fifth year.

Where are you from?
I was born in Bartella, Iraq, Ninevah in the bible.

Why GIS?
My background and BS are in forestry from Mosul University in Iraq. I worked as a teacher's assistant from 1971-75 after I graduated. I joined the Iraqi Teacher Association as well as the Engineering Agriculture Union. I was also appointed as Acting Director of the College of Agriculture and Forestry. I got a scholarship and went to the University of Utah and got a masters in watershed science. I then went to the University of Washington and got a Ph.D in forest watersheds hydrology.

When I came back to the states in 1999 I was looking for a job and most of the watershed jobs used GIS. I had a background in programming - my dissertation was done in fortran language. I learned it, and here we are.

Describe yourself as a teacher:
I am passionate about what



Jean Pierre Garcia | The Current

I do. GIS is different because I taught graduate-level work most of my life until I came to Green River. I taught at five different universities overseas, but none were this level. When you start teaching software and go solely through academic teaching, you don't always accomplish what you need students to learn. I work with students to focus on teamwork.

Why did you start working with the undergraduate level?

I was looking for a job, but I couldn't get one because I was overqualified. So any job to feed my family of five children was fine. The oldest got married a couple of years

ago, she's pregnant now and I hope to be a grandpa soon. My youngest is 17 and is a Running Start student here at Green River.

What are your plans for the future?

Mostly, what I want is to get everybody to be able to use GIS. It is for everyone, not just the specialists. I want it to be available in their own disciplines, not just mine. In journalism, use it there. Criminal justice is the same thing. We are working hard to integrate through workshops, seminars, visiting classes and more. We want the students to do the work, having tables with information in the student center, classrooms and

high schools as well. We're trying to start a GIS mission, like the evangelists.

You were in Iraq during the first Gulf War, what was that like?

I lost everything there. That's why I had to leave with my family. We left with nothing. There were seven of us. There was no taxi to take us to Jordan, so I rented a 40 passenger bus with a broken window to get into Jordan.

From there I was under contract with the minister for higher education in Algeria. I taught at the University of Schleff for three years.

Do you miss it?

I haven't been home. I miss it. Every single part is a part of me. I wish I could go back right now. I want to retire there. Even after the wars, I miss everything about it. My village, my people, the University of Mosul. I have so many good memories. I'm sure things have changed. The people are not the same, I understand that. But the memories are still good.

Find the complete Sabah Jabbouri and many other Teacher Spotlights at:
thecurrentonline.net/campus

Man on the Street



Every other week, *The Current's* editors crawl out of their cave to ask the campus random questions. Suggest a subject at: thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Here is a selection of this issue's answers. For more, plus an archive of old questions, visit our website: www.thecurrentonline.net.

How have the events in Japan affected you?

It's horrible, because I've experienced a really bad earthquake in China, and after that disaster everyone in China helped each other out and donated money to the families and communities that suffered.

I donated money to the Red Cross for the Japanese victims as well.



Lynx Lei

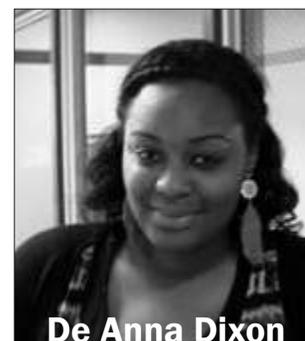
I think it's really sad to see those people suffer in Japan.

I have friends that were there, they're Indonesians doing study abroad. They're safe, which is good to hear, but it's still really sad.



Victor Edward

I think it's a tragedy, it's really sad, I couldn't imagine it. I have friends who have lost some family members and it's hard to be around them because you can't do anything and you want to do everything to make them feel better.



De Anna Dixon

I have a friend from Japan who was there during the earthquake, but he was in a safe place. I think it's good people are sending money to Japan, this will help them live and make their homes and communities better. We will pray for the Japanese and eventually they will do well and they will live.

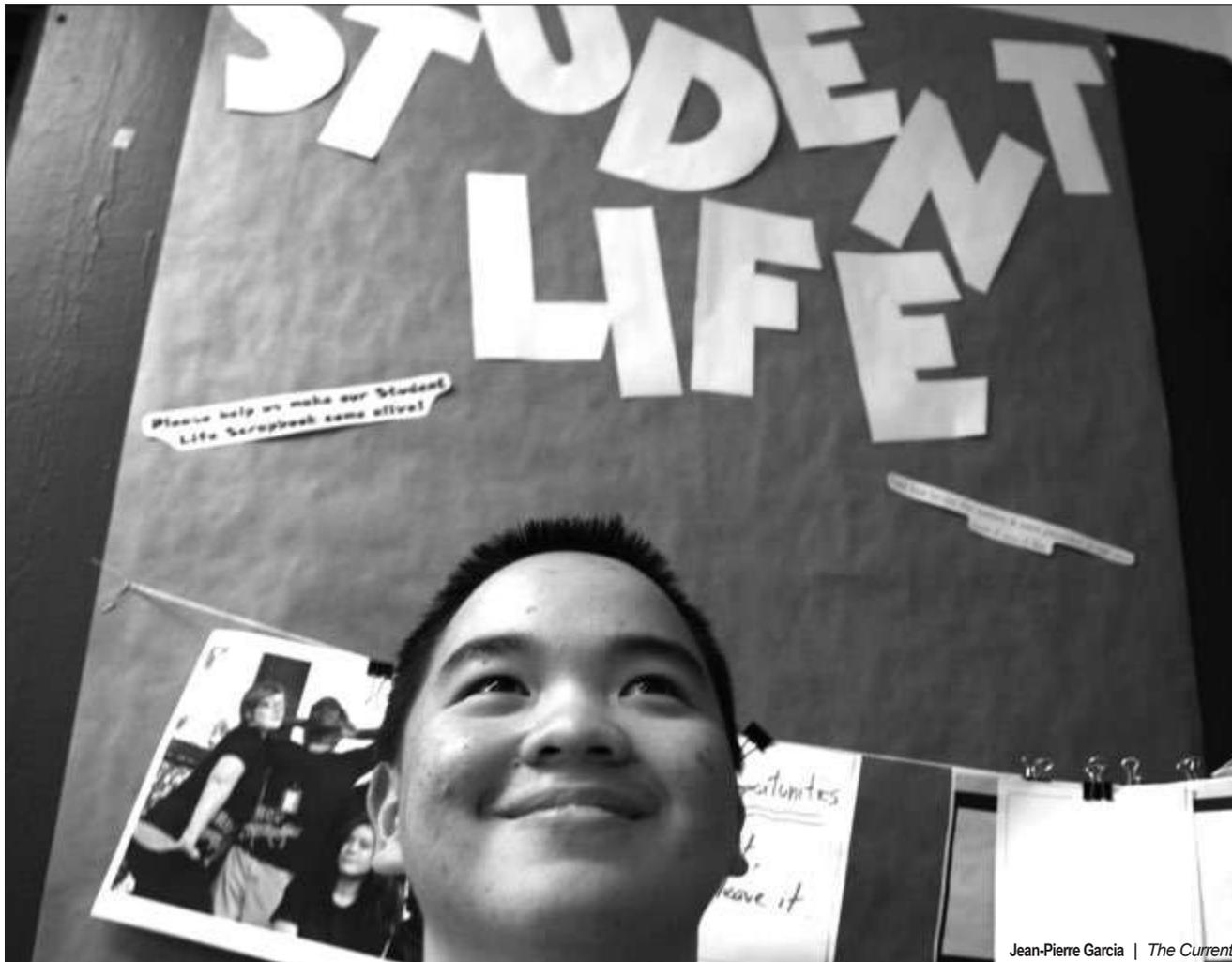


Yuanda Mao



CURIOUS
ABOUT THE NEW BUILDING?
TAKE THE TOUR. WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.NET

Finding Freedom in Flying



Nguyen, 18, has been part of Student Life one way or another almost since his arrival at Green River nearly two years ago. Before becoming President of student government he was Vice-President for two quarters and an active member of the Community Leadership, Education & Outreach program last year.

By: Sequoia Sledge & Jean-Pierre Garcia
Staff Writer & Campus Editor

Nothing will hold him back. He was constrained and grounded when he wanted to fly. He finally flew away from an abusive father when he was 15. Now, three years later, Thang 'Andy' Nguyen is the president of student government at Green River.

It all started in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. The young Nguyen lived in a relatively secluded Catholic suburb, but, just minutes away the streets would overflow with scooters and buses.

He didn't have many friends, but he was self-reliant and played alone. The real problem was his father – an anti-terror police officer that was quick to command and quicker to anger. He would often bring home his work, and with him the habits.

He would accuse his wife of cheating and sometimes beat her. Nguyen himself wasn't spared. "He and I disagreed and it escalated to the point

where he beat me really hard," Nguyen recalls. "It took me a week to recover. We didn't talk for two weeks after that and I developed a fear when I talk about him."

To get away, he rode his motorbike around the city with his best friend. To avoid being reliant on his parents and gaining independence,

"In business, if you don't wake up you will fall behind. You never know what tomorrow brings, so it's important to put on your best and live with no regrets."

Thang 'Andy' Nguyen, student body president

something that's very important to him, Nguyen would collect credit cards and open as many bank accounts as possible. The friends would buy things for cheap on eBay and resell them for a small

profit.

They enjoyed making a profit and purchasing things for cheap, but as Nguyen grew older his interests slowly changed – from eBay to flying. Or, more specifically, flying cheaply.

Nguyen is what's commonly referred to as a "mileage runner" – he looks for overbooked flights, then volunteers to get bumped. He will pay less for his replacement flight, and eventually

accumulate a high enough status with the airline and a large enough number of frequent flyer miles to almost permanently fly first class.

Many try turning him away, saying he wasn't sup-

posed to be in the front cabin. He simply hands them his ticket and says, smugly, "Actually, I am."

And instead of "wasting money" on a hotel, Nguyen often elects to sleep at the airport.

That's all part of the experience – getting to see the world while at the same time making a (relative) profit.

He considered joining the Air Force back in Vietnam because of his love for flying. But when he was 15 he was presented with the chance to go to Dallas, Texas, as an exchange student. And he took it.

In Dallas, he skipped from ninth to eleventh grade, and liked the fact that people would ride to the steeple on their horses. But, due to the heat and the great distances, he was cooped up in his host family's house for far too long and far too often.

"I have to go outside. I have to see things. I have to find out what's going on," Nguyen says.

A simple Google search for a program that would let him get his high school requirements early led him to Green River. He started his high school completion program at 16, and got involved in the community almost right away. He interned for the Community Leadership, Education & Outreach (CLEO) program and was a member of six clubs in his first year at the college.

After encouragement from fellow CLEO members, Nguyen, now 18, ran for Vice President of student government.

Part of what inspired him was his experience flying;

he would always get frustrated when an airline was disconnected from its flight attendants and stewardesses. He wanted to be the bridge between the powerful and the powerless on campus.

And so he became vice president of student government. And after Joaquin Olivas, the previous president, left after winter quarter to complete an internship requirement for his occupational therapy degree, it was Nguyen who took his spot.

As vice president, he would mostly work within student government itself. But as president, it's his job to work outside of that circle.

Though only president for one quarter, he still hopes to advocate on behalf of the students. "The administration makes decisions that affect students," he says. "They need to know the student slant, and that's where I come in."

In his future lie a university in a culturally unique area, where he hopes to study business, and, more importantly, an authentic Philly cheesesteak, for which he has booked a 1-day round trip to Philadelphia.

"Everyone is moving. In business, if you don't wake up you will fall behind," Nguyen says.

"You never know what tomorrow brings so it's important to put on your best and live with no regrets."



Nguyen in his new seat at a student government meeting. He joined student government to be the bridge between the powerless and the powerful - or, in his analogy, the flight attendants and the airlines - on campus.

Also on the Inside

"I know that they can't hit me. And if they do, then I'll tip my cap and say, 'you beat me, good job.'"

Cody Hebner Page 15

Stay Current

Stay in touch with the community by following

The Current on Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/greenercurrent

www.twitter.com/thecurrentnet

A&E

A&E Editor: Bailey Jo Josie
ae.editor@mail.greenriver.edu

5
 April 15,
 2011

SUDOKU

EASY

	7			8				
	2		1			4		
3	9		5		4	7		
9		6						7
2		8		7		5		9
5						8		3
		9	4		6		7	5
		2			3		8	
				5			9	

MEDIUM

			9			4		
1	2		6		6		4	
				3		2	8	
	5	4	8	9				
		1				4		
				7	1	8	9	
	7	6		1				
	4		3		6		7	1
			2			6		

HARD

6						9		
2			7					5
8	5			2			4	7
4	3	6	9					
	8						1	
					4	6	8	9
3	2			7			5	8
7				5				6
		5						4

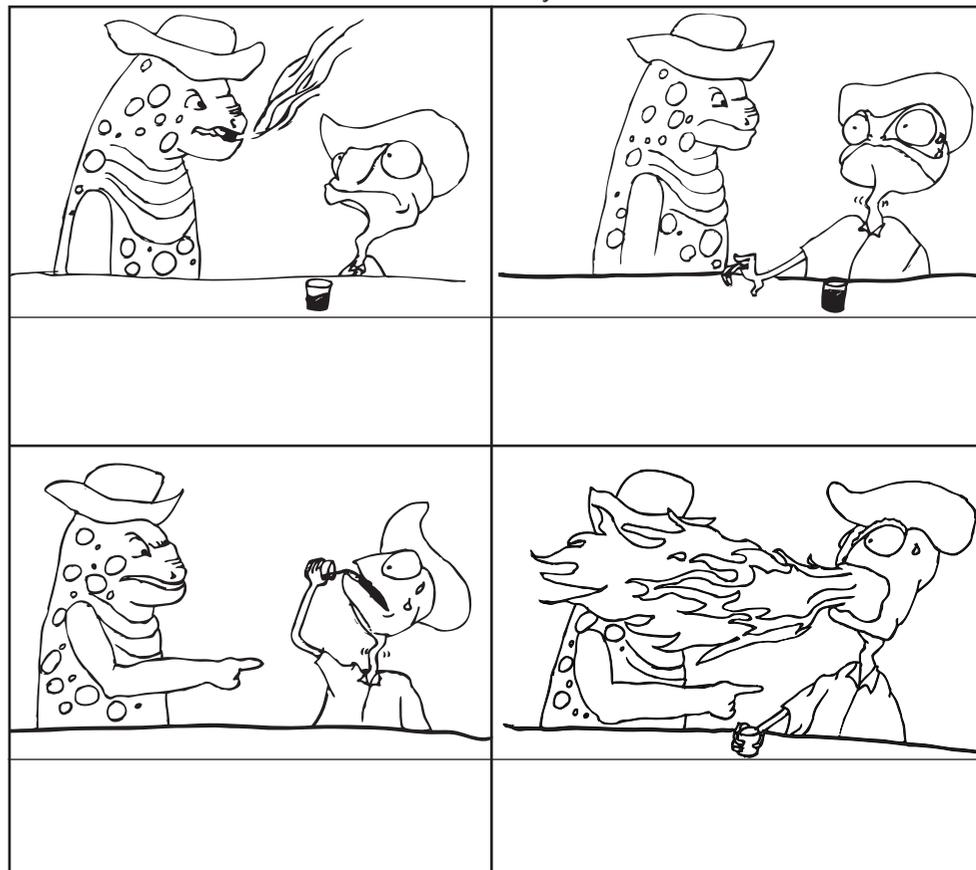
VERY HARD

			9		3	4	1	
			6		2			3
				8	1			6
4							5	6
	3							7
7		8						1
8	1			5	6			
6				4		2		
		4	7	8		6		

CURRENTCAPTIONS

You think you're funny? Prove it. Fill in your own creative, original captions for these frames and e-mail them to us at: thecurrent@greener.edu. The funniest ones will be published in our last issue this year. With your name on it!

Art by: ANNIE JIAJIN Based on: RANGO



Texas Hold 'em tournaments every Wednesday at 7 p.m. with free food prizes, free interactive trivia games, free WiFi, free delivery to campus & CCA with \$10+ purchase? Only \$2.00 for a slice of pizza and fountain drink when you show your Green River ID?

How could you go wrong?



Located at The Season's shopping center on Lea Hill.
 253-929-8783

Concert Calendar

APRIL 16	Bryan Adams @ Paramount Theatre (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$35+)
	Ani DiFranco @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. 21+, SOLD OUT)
	Fences @ Neumos (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$12+)
	Rusko @ ShowBox SODO (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$26+)
	Unwritten Law @ Studio Seven (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$13+)
17	Paul Simon @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. 21+, SOLD OUT)
18	All Time Low @ ShowBox SODO (Doors open at 5:30 p.m. all ages, \$22+)
	Hugo @ Neumos (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$10+)
20	Robert Plant and the Band of Joy @ Paramount Theatre (Doors open at 8 p.m. all, \$22+)
	Amon Amarth @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. all, \$23+)
22	Tokyo Police Club @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$15+)
23	Natural Vibrations @ ShowBox SODO (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$20+)
	The Cave Singers @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$16+)
26	Starf*cker @ The Crocodile (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$13+)
27	The Boxer Rebellion @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$15+)
29	The Head And The Heart @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$15+)
	Jamaica @ Neumos (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$12+)
30	Portugal. The Man @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$16+)

MOVIE REVIEW

It's on a Train and It Runs Like a Train

By: Reece Bredl
Staff Writer



Think of the movie 'Groundhog Day.' Now replace Bill Murray with Jake Gyllenhaal, one day with eight minutes, the small Philadelphia town of Punxsutawney with a bustling Chicago train rigged to explode and a hilariously witty comedy with a standard suspense/action thriller with a sci-fi premise.

Now you're starting to get a basic idea of what 'Source Code' is like.

This is a rather simple analysis though, and it doesn't really capture what 'Source Code' is about. The plot delves into some areas that few movies have gone before, but, unfortunately, it doesn't delve very deeply.

The movie begins with Colter Stevens (Jake Gyllenhaal) waking up to find himself on a metro train en route to

Chicago, with no knowledge of how he got there. Sitting across from him is Christina Warren (Michelle Monaghan) who is convinced that our protagonist is someone else.

It's revealed that Stevens is on a mission to discover the identity of a terrorist and prevent a major disaster, but with one really big catch: he only has eight minutes, and they repeat over and over again. Stevens' role in the story appears to be clear from that point onward, but there's more than one plot twist awaiting him along the way.

Those who go into theaters looking for character development won't find much in this movie. The only character you get to know in any way is Stevens - he has a strained relationship with his family - and it feels rather forced. Because of this, there's never a real reason for the audience to desire his success.

This movie relies heavily on plot, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. But the downside



Courtesy Photo | jakegyllenhaal.us

Gyllenhaal's performance as the movies' lead isn't one of his most notable, but he does a good enough job with the dialogue he's given.

is that, if everything's riding on the plot, it needs to be very thorough, engaging and well-delivered, and this movie isn't.

An alternative would be to throw in some heavy Michael Bay-esque action, which wasn't done in 'Source Code.' The timing, the delivery and the reactions are just not quite as shocking as one would hope for. The thriller is lacking in thrill.

Ultimately, 'Source Code' is just OK. It's not delivering less than your money's worth, but it could have provided so much more. The plot runs like a train: taking you from one stop to the other - and nowhere else.

Rated: PG-13
Director: Duncan Jones
Lead Actor: Jake Gyllenhaal
Box Office: \$28,218,871

The Current Picks

WEBSITE

www.virtualtourist.com



By: Lacey Steward

Virtual Tourist gives you a completely honest review of anywhere you want to go around the world.

With advice from the creators of the site as well as fellow travelers, you will be able to find information on the great wonders of the world, like the Taj Mahal in India, and you will also find places you have never heard before, like the prostitution exhibit in the Amsterdam Historical Museum in the Netherlands. The writers on Virtual Tourist also show you which places to avoid, such as most "fancy" hotels in Indonesia.

Your mind will be both opened and grossed out, and anyone can appreciate that.

MOVIE

2001: A Space Odyssey



By: Josh Davidson

Stanley Kubrick's perfectionist tendencies crafted this movie into an awe-inspiring masterpiece centered on his attempt to unconsciously encourage the viewer into a state of mind expansion.

The plot follows humanity's evolution from ape, to human, to a state beyond physical form - all symbolically and literally guided by the monolith in the movie: a mysterious object placed on earth and the moon which is discovered and investigated by the movie's protagonist. He not only uncovers its origins, but discovers a new plane of conscious experience, which viewers experience as well.

BOOK

The Animal Dialogues



By: Bailey Jo Josie

Written by naturalist Craig Childs, 'The Animal Dialogues: Uncommon Encounters in The Wild' is an exhilarating book featuring the author's own encounters with wild animals in North America, both in his line of work and personally.

His encounters vary from cougars to house cats and from sharks to camels (yes, there were once camels in America - Childs elaborates on finding the fossils of one). Overall the book is a wonderful read, filled with scientific facts and landscapes of breathtaking descriptions detailing not only the beauty of the animals, but also the danger they hold.

MUSIC

Advice From The Happy Hippopotamus



By: Kelli Wyatt

'Advice from the Happy Hippopotamus' is one among many of Cloud Cult's ingenious albums. Raw songs about past burdens, hope for the future, and the sheer passion of Craig Minowa's voice will draw in any music lover, and the instrumental interludes are icing on the cake.

Minowa's storytelling is some of the most enthralling you will ever find, and listening to the album on shuffle will only cheapen the experience.

'Normal Rockwell,' with the combination of repetitive lyrics showcasing the longing for the perfect family and the supporting music, is one of the best songs on the album.



The Artist and Her Babies

Matthew Montoya | The Current

By: Mallory Litzinger
Assistant A&E Editor

"You can see Hinduism, Buddhism, Christian stuff, Pagan stuff. There's a lot of influences from culture, religion, travels - all of that becomes part of it," says art instructor Cindy Small.

She's lounging comfortably on a couch which complements her influences, with a Navajo rug at her feet. She's referring to the newest art exhibit in the Helen S. Smith Gallery. Her exhibit, to be exact.

Despite the fact the element of religion is dominant, Small isn't a particularly religious person. Instead, she is very spiritual, and hopes the paintings will provide some guidance on defining her own faith.

She has, therefore, intentionally left the paintings open-ended, without a definite meaning. "It's both a search and a discovery - nothing is defined."

At the exhibit, which is titled Wonder Wall, one finds the artwork scattered upon the walls is heavily influenced by some of her favorite artists, including Frida Kahlo, a Mexican artist from the early 1900s, and Mark Ryden, the man who came up with the concept of "Pop Surrealism," according to his website. Upon entering the gallery

your eyes are immediately drawn to the most dominant painting in the room: a striking piece titled 'Obligations to the Ancestors.'

The oil painting was inspired by a photograph of her niece as a flower girl, but "it's so far removed from that now

keetna, Alaska, where she was a part of an artist residency.

Artist residencies differ from each other - some last a year, others just two weeks; some are with a group, some are solitary. They are supposed to give artists a chance to work without distract-

really supportive of my art," Small says, with a slight look of concern on her face. "They were very disturbed and they were worried about me, they couldn't even look at the faces. They looked at them like mutants, like freaks."

But she views her paintings as something else. And she's sure her paintings are anything but demonic. "They're like my babies," she says, smiling.

The product of her stay in rural Alaska might have disturbed some of her friends, but Small says she'll continue doing artist residencies. Probably not alone in an isolated cabin next time, though. She already has her eyes set on Budapest or Hungary, where they have real artist communities.

The need to go on these trips and to residencies is vital, according to Small, not only for her artwork but also for her career as an instructor.

"I'll always be a student," she explains. "I can't be a teacher if I'm not a student."

"[My friends] were very disturbed and worried about me, they couldn't even look at the faces. They looked at them like mutants, like freaks. [But] they are a search, and also kind of a discovery."

Cindy Small, art instructor.

you wouldn't have that idea. It started there and I thought it was going to be a lot more specific to the photograph, but it just totally went off on a tangent," says Small with a smile.

This doesn't just apply to for 'Obligations,' either, she added - some of the paintings were "super duper challenges" because they were so different from the original idea.

She went off on a bit of a tangent herself; just last year she took a break from teaching to explore and work on her craft, which led her to Tal-

tions, and also gives graduate students the chance to teach workshops or have open studios that other undergrads can come and observe. Small went to a petit rural cabin in Alaska for three weeks.

Though she was there for only a short time, "it seemed like forever. Three weeks going on five years," she recalls with a grin. Alaska is where she completed the faces seen staring down from the wall - some smiling, some screaming.

"I have a couple of really good friends who are always

Classic Remakes, Comin' at Ya



Game Prose
Alexander Bevier

During the jolly weeks of spring break, Nintendo released their newest handheld gaming console. Stylistically, it looks like their previous console - the DS - except it has an analog joystick on the left side. Internally, however, the top screen is stereoscopic. That's fancy tech jargon for glasses-free 3D.

I played the 3DS (that's what it's called) at E3 last year in June, and the experience was staggering. The sharp visuals, the 3D game play, and the augmented reality features (more on that in another issue) were nothing short of amazing. I've spent the last few months trying to convince myself this machine wasn't powered by unicorn blood.

But any new gaming console is only as good as its games. The 3DS launched with some 16 games; 13 of which were sequels to long-standing franchises. These 13 are currently the biggest sellers for the console, with a 3D remake of 'Super Street Fighter IV' - a series I've lost countless hours to - being a personal favorite (and it recently sold 1 million copies).

The second challenge for a new gaming console is also about the games. What comes out post-launch is almost more important than the gaming library for early-adopters. Nintendo's lineup for the rest of this year includes a sequel to the (mostly) forgotten NES classic 'Kid Icarus,' and a remake of one of the greatest games ever, 'The Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time.' There's also a 3D remake of the most eloquently designed game ever - 'Cave Story' - on the way, and a remake of 'Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater,' a Cold War thriller that may be the only game in the medium to maturely express the turbulent era.

Now, remakes aren't entirely unknown to new gaming consoles. The Nintendo DS was released alongside a multiplayer version of their classic 'Super Mario 64.' In many cases, the revised gem was familiar, yet different enough to introduce players to the new, unique features of the phenomenally successful handheld console. And, fortunately for me, some of the new remakes - 'Metal Gear Solid 3,' 'Cave Story' and 'Ocarina of Time' - happen to be some of my favorite video games.

I'm not sure if these games are supposed to help players learn the intricacies of glasses-free 3D. The deep (get it?) visuals add new flair to the game, but it doesn't change the way people interact with the hardware the same way the DS made players learn

"I've spent the last few months trying to convince myself this machine wasn't powered by unicorn blood."

Alexander Bevier

how to use a touchscreen years before the iPhone was released.

These remakes do, however, put some of the best games the medium has to offer on one console. As someone who is moving away for college soon and doesn't want to take four gaming consoles along, I can appreciate this. Knowing there are games I already love on the machine softens the \$250 blow a 3DS costs.

Gaming isn't the only thing getting the 3D remix. 'Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace' is gonna be comin' at ya (get it?) in theaters with its two sequels following after. It's not nearly as exciting as the remakes coming to the 3DS, but there's still a chance George Lucas will put Ewoks in 'Revenge of the Sith.' Ewoks are pretty much the Metal Gear Solid 3 of the Star Wars universe.

Gallery Schedule:

March 30-April 28:

Cindy Small
Painting

May 5-26:

Annual Student Exhibition
Mixed media

June 21 - August 4:

Suze Woolf
Painting

A Brave and Startling Truth

A poem by Maya Angelou, dedicated to Green River students, staff and faculty.

MAYA ANGELOU

By: Bailey Jo Josie



"I thought my voice had killed the man. And so I refused to speak. I thought if I spoke, my voice might just go out and kill people."

Dr. Maya Angelou



"Good things come to those who wait." It's as common a phrase as "when pigs fly." Yet, some disregard its meaning and importance altogether - with the exception of the congregation that settled into the gym at Green River on March 10.

Their patience had first been tested back in November, when the promise of witnessing Dr. Maya Angelou was postponed until February due to health problems, and then once more from February to this last March when she finally graced Green River Community College with her presence - but she's well worth the wait.

To put it humbly, Dr. Angelou is one of the most prominent poets and writers of the last half century: she was one of the first African-American women whose memoir became public domain, she has received over 30 honorary degrees, she spoke at President Clinton's 1993 inauguration, and she recently received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Obama (the reason for the event's second postponement).

As she is escorted onto the stage, the medal hangs around her neck, securely placed against the purple colors of her simple clothes as if it were a part of her. She sits in a chair whose only intention appears to be to provide a foundation for wisdom and brutal, poetic honesty. It's her chair and she will use its powers.

The moment the crowd simmers down from their uproarious applause at her presence, Dr. Angelou dives headfirst into a folk song from the 1950s: "The woman I love is fat and chocolate to the bone, and every time she shakes some skinny woman loses her home."

Despite her frail appearance, there is no escaping her humor (aside from the amusing folk song, she mispronounces "Google" as "goo-goo"). Between half singing and half reciting her poetry, she looks out to the crowd

and begins to tell of her son: "I have a bunch of children who call me auntie... but I only gave birth to one." She is giving the crowd exactly what they want: to hear of her life as told from her first book *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

Published in 1969, it is a profoundly essential novel. It is a story of the difficult journey of identity and the harsh love of family, complete with an undertow of racial discrimination. The memoir tells of the first seventeen years of her life, from the moment she got off a train in Stamps, Nebraska, with her brother Bailey at the age of three, to being raised by her grandmother and her Uncle Willy, to the sexual abuse she endured at the age of eight, to the birth of her son at 17.

Green River's One Book program - where a group of people read the same book together - chose Dr. Angelou's book for this year's program. In collaboration with the Artist & Speakers Series, the One Book program worked to bring Dr. Angelou to Green River, and many in the crowd were beyond thrilled.

Basic education teacher Anne Dolan cited, "it was

really powerful for me to hear her talk about Uncle Willie differently than how she talks about Uncle Willie in the book. I imagine that, when she wrote the book and later after he died, she must have been older then. Her perspective of his gift to her changed and to hear from that perspective was pretty powerful."

Throughout the rest of the evening, she tells of her beloved brother ("my family came closest to building a genius when they made my brother"), her love for Shakespeare and Edgar Allen Poe ("I loved Poe so much I called him EAP") and finally to one of the most preeminent features of her novel: when she was raped.

She recalls telling her brother that the man would kill her brother if she told anyone who he was: "I said, 'I can't. He will kill you.' My brother said, 'I won't let him.' So I told him, of course."

She continues on that after the man was released from jail, he was beaten to death within a few days: "I thought my voice had killed the man. And so I refused to speak. I thought if I spoke, my voice might just go out and kill people." She didn't speak again for five years.

Fortunately, Dr. Angelou's voice couldn't be silenced forever. Aside from narrating passages of her book, she also offered important words of wisdom to the hungry crowd. She advocated for the librarian by instructing each person in the room to go to the library and ask the librarian to "liberate somebody from their ignorance" and, nearly weeping, pleads with the audience to look at themselves and know that they are something, each and everyone one of them. She knows the importance of identity and self-loving and she wants everyone else in the room to know it too: "We are more alike than we are unlike," she concludes.

We, the people, on a small and lonely planet
Traveling through casual space
Past aloof stars, across the way of indifferent
suns
To a destination where all signs tell us
It is possible and imperative that we learn
A brave and startling truth.

And when we come to it
To the day of peacemaking
When we release our fingers
From fists of hostility
And allow the pure air to cool our palms

When we come to it
When the curtain falls on the minstrel show of
hate
And face sooted with scorn are scrubbed clean
When battlefields and coliseum
No longer rake our unique and particular sons
and daughters
Up with bruised and bloody grass
To lie in identical plots in foreign soil

When the rapacious storming of the churches
The screaming racket in the temples have
ceased
When the pennants are waving gaily
When the banners of the world tremble
Stoutly in the good, clean breeze

When we come to it
When we let the rifles fall from our shoulders
And children dress their dolls in flags of truce

When land mines of death have been removed
And the aged can walk into evenings of peace
When religious ritual is not perfumed
By the incense of burning flesh
And childhood dreams are not kicked awake
By nightmares of abuse

When we come to it
Then we will confess that not the Pyramids
With their stones set in mysterious perfection
Nor the Gardens of Babylon
Hanging as eternal beauty
In our collective memory
Not the Grand Canyon
Kindled into delicious color
By Western sunsets
Nor the Danube, flowing its blue soul into Europe
Not the sacred peak of Mount Fuji
Stretching to the Rising Sun
Neither Father Amazon nor Mother Mississippi
who, without favor,
Nurtures all creatures in the depths and on the
shores
These are not the only wonders of the world

When we come to it
We, this people, on this minuscule and kithless
globe
Who reach daily for the bomb, the blade and
the dagger
Yet who petition in the dark for tokens of peace
We, this people, on this mote of matter

In whose mouths abide cankerous words
Which challenge our very existence
Yet out of those same mouths
Come songs of such exquisite sweetness
That the heart falters in its labor
And the body is quieted into awe

We, this people, on this small and drifting planet
Whose hands can strike with such abandon
That, in a twinkling, life is sapped from the living
Yet those same hands can touch with such healing, irresistible tenderness,
That the haughty neck is happy to bow
And the proud back is glad to bend
Out of such chaos, of such contradiction
We learn that we are neither devils nor divines

When we come to it
We, this people, on this wayward, floating body
Created on this earth, of this earth
Have the power to fashion for this earth
A climate where every man and every woman
Can live freely without sanctimonious piety
Without crippling fear

When we come to it
We must confess that we are the possible
We are the miraculous, the true wonder of this
world
That is when, and only when
We come to it.



"She's a really important writer as an African American woman, and she deals with issues deep and important using beautiful language. I love her writing. Like every good writer, they affect who you are and how you learn from everything you read - it all impacts you."

Marisela Fleites-Lear, Spanish instructor

"When I first read the book I didn't fully understand it in high school. I didn't appreciate her as a person. I didn't like English at all before I read her book. It was not worth it unless I had a paper, but to see someone pour their heart and soul into how they grew up I thought it was cool."

Joy Jones, Green River student

"I'm expecting an inspirational speech because she's an inspirational person. She's part of the soul of our nation and has inspired people for decades. She's not a political writer but she speaks to people's hearts. I'm not here as a political scientist, I'm here as a citizen."

Lloyd Jansen, political science instructor

The Undercurrent

Solar Projects Nearing Completion

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia
Campus Editor

In an effort to make Green River greener, the campus will see the installation of two solar panel projects outside the new Salish Hall Building coming July.

Funded by \$27,000 in grants from Puget Sound Energy (PSE), the college will build a solar leaf, a construction with six solar panels that is shaped like a tree. It will feed into Green River's power grid, providing enough energy to power a 12,000 square foot house. It was designed by Facilities Project Documentation Manager, Terry Stanford, and Pedro Anton II, a drafting student.

PSE will also be funding the installation of meters for electrical, gas and water conservation. Stanford said that a vigilant look at campus resources could save the college 11% to 15% on energy bills, which could amount up to \$150,000 per year.

An iSpot - little more high-tech than the ones currently on campus (the campus maps) - was designed by the Inventors Club and funded through \$5,600 worth of Perkins grants. It is self-sustaining and will thus not feed into the Green River power grid. Sporting LED puck lights, car speakers and a USB port, the iSpot will play college radio station, KGRG, and clubs can promote themselves by playing looped audio tracks via USB ports. There will also be power outlets and seating.

Student Wins National Award

By: Kelli Wyatt
Managing Editor

Jared Schiff, a Green River engineering student from Enumclaw, was named a member of the 2011 All-USA Academic Team in New Orleans on April 11. Schiff is only the second Green River student to ever be named to the top national academic team.

Last month, Schiff was also named Washington's New Century Scholar, the state's top scholar position, by Governor Gregoire during an All-Washington Academic Team celebration.

Combined, these awards give Schiff \$4,500 worth of scholarships. He is graduating this spring with a 3.98 GPA and will transfer to Eastern Washington University.

Bill Would Allow Student on College Boards of Trustees

By: Lita Black
Staff Writer

A bill currently in the state legislature would permit community and technical colleges to add a student to their Board of Trustees. The student trustee would be selected by the governor from a short list of students presented by the student body of the respective colleges.

The bill states, "For over ten years, students at Washington's four-year institutions of higher education have served as voting members on the board of trustees... providing greater depth in board deliberations and a well-educated conduct for students to voice ideas and concern." In addition, the bill notes that student positions on governing boards are a valuable tool for developing leadership.

However, the legislature is still considering this bill. If it passes, there will be a student added to the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges, and each of the community college's Boards of Trustees will vote on whether it wants its own student position.

BUDGET

Budget picture darkens, college bracing for even deeper cuts

A 15 percent cut, nearly \$4 million, to Green River is all but certain.

By: Remco Zwetsloot
Editor-in-Chief

The two budget bills for the 2011-2013 fiscal year currently in the legislature both contain annual cuts of roughly 15 percent to the Community and Technical College (CTC) system.

The recently passed budgets include significant tuition hikes for the next two years to offset cuts to colleges, but they differ slightly on the exact percentage. The House proposed an annual 11 percent increase, 1 percent lower than the 12 proposed by the Senate.

These tuition increases would bring down the net cut to colleges to anywhere from 4 to 8 percent, depending on which budget provisions

become law. A 4 percent cut represents roughly \$1 million in funding for Green River.

A 10 percent cut was proposed in Governor Gregoire's budget, which dates from December of last year. After a disappointing revenue forecast late March, which was \$700 million lower than expected, it was clear that number was going to turn out higher.

The budgets proposed by both the House and the Senate hover around a 15 percent cut per year for the next biennium.

How and if students will be impacted will differ per college - different circumstances, such as a high number of international students, make it easier for some colleges, including Green River, to absorb the cuts without stringent measures.

Others are not that lucky. Shoreline Community College, for instance, had to turn down 300 students this

quarter and its administration predicted it would have to keep doing so in the near future. It is also laying off 11 faculty members and several administrators this year.

At Green River, no similar measures are currently being discussed, according to an administration spokesperson.

The college recently announced the closing of its Enumclaw campus during summer quarter, and it will stop mailing a quarterly schedule to area residents and distributing college catalogs to students. These measures are expected to save the college approximately \$150,000.

The college has been careful not to preliminarily

rule out any options, though, repeatedly saying nothing, including layoffs and limiting enrollment - although it is not currently being talked about - is off the table.

There are several significant differences between the two budgets now on the table. The Senate version includes additional funding for the Worker Retraining program, of which Green River would get \$1.1 million, and a 3 percent cut to all state employee salaries. The House budget contains neither of those.

These and other differences, such as the tuition increase, are expected to be resolved around April 24, the end of the legislative session.

	Cut %:	Cut \$:	Tuition:
2008-2009:	4.3%	\$1,158,000	N/A
2009-2010:	6.8%	\$1,897,682	+7%
2010-2011:	4.29%	\$1,038,222	+7%
2011-2012*:	12%	\$3,000,000	+11.5%
2012-2013*:	17%	\$4,250,000	+11.5%
Total:	44.39%	\$11,343,804	+37%

*Estimate based on House/Senate proposals

Polls Show Campus Is Largely Unaware of Upcoming Student Government Elections

By: Lacey Steward
News Editor

Though student government elections will be held this month, polls show the student body is largely unaware of both the elections and student government itself.

Votes for Associated Students of Green River Community College (ASGRCC) President and Vice President will be collected in two weeks, from April 26 to 28, but 76 percent of students polled said they didn't have any knowledge of the elections.

Dani Chang, director of student life, said this was not a cause for concern. "The public relations committee advertised running for office and voting in many different ways," she added, citing fliers



Name: Vasyl Sofilkanych
Age: 27
Major: Criminal Justice
From:

Ukraine (U.S. resident)
Running for: President
Why ASGRCC? I am very open to fresh ideas and I see many opportunities for this school like adopting eBooks to save students money. I will be working on smoking policies that would benefit both smokers and non-smokers. I have ideas that might improve parking on campus.

and screensavers as examples. "We reach many students and have a large number of voters."

Running for ASGRCC President is Vasyl Sofilkanych. The President's tasks



Name: Shawn Zhang
Age: 19
Major: Business
From: China

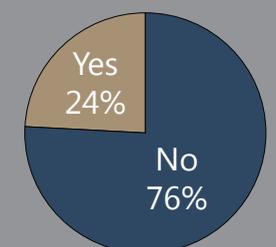
Running for: Vice-President
Why ASGRCC? I am focusing on cultural exchange, multi-cultural communication to make every student more international and competitive so that we will all have better opportunities in society. Student government is the best place for us to make a change!

include appointing committees and boards, to sign or veto legislation passed by the student senate, and ap-

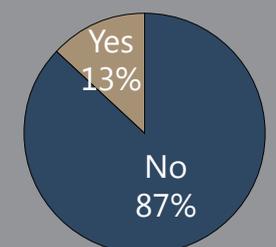
PLEASE SEE PAGE 11

100 students were polled, the margin of error is roughly 10 percent.

Did you know about the upcoming student government elections?



Had you known, would you have wanted to be involved?



New Diversity Degree Requirement Set to Go into Effect This Fall

By: Selam Gebretsadik
Staff Writer

New students attending Green River to get an Associate in Arts (AA) degree will be required to take one of the designated diversity-related courses in order to graduate, starting fall quarter 2011.

The Instructional Diversity Committee (IDC), which consists of faculty representatives from all instructional departments, proposed the new requirement in 2008.

After much deliberation on the actual definition of diversity as a subject, the proposal went to the full faculty for a vote in April of 2009. It passed by more than a two-thirds majority, the minimum amount of votes required to make it college policy.

The requirement will not add any new courses or credits to the AA degree. Instead,

the credits earned from a diversity course can be applied to other degree requirements, such as the social science and humanities categories. The course Women in U.S. History, for instance, will count as both diversity and social science credits.

The requirement will not

is not unique - it already exists in half of the 24 Washington community colleges - to Green River, according to Vik Bahl, English instructor and former co-chair of the IDC.

Not everyone on campus supports the new requirement. First year student Makena Cayce said she thinks

and not already be aware of the people in the rest of the world."

She added, "By continuing to bring this subject up, you're emphasizing a problem we don't have - we're all already very aware of diversity here."

The current Co-Chair of the IDC, English instructor Michael Moreno, says an educational approach to addressing diversity provides students with a better understanding of widely underrepresented groups.

"The lack of knowledge, information, xenophobia and ignorance - not just in stupidity but in ignoring other communities and their traditions, their experiences, their history - shows that the only way you can combat or address the problem is through education," said Moreno.

"That is the only way you can enlighten and empower people."

"The lack of knowledge, information, xenophobia and ignorance shows that the only way you can combat the problem is through education."

Michael Moreno, co-chair of the Instructional Diversity Committee.

apply to any degrees besides the AA or to students who enrolled before the fall of 2011. There are currently 29 classes that will count as diversity credits.

This diversity requirement

the requirement is pointless, because, she said you cannot go through college without learning about diversity anyway.

"I don't think there's a way to take all these classes

The Tablet Through Time



TECH TRENDS
KHOE NGUYEN

Are you lying down on a couch somewhere, wanting to surf the web but too lazy to walk over to your desktop? Is your laptop too bulky or getting too hot on your lap? Have no fear, tablets are here. And they're finally usable, too.

The search for the right tablet started with the invention of Microsoft's Tablet PC in 2001. First introduced by Bill Gates in 2001, the prototype was defined as "a pen-enabled computer conforming to hardware specifications devised by Microsoft," and let consumers use email, listen to music and play games, as well as write directly on the desktop and play crossword as if it were on paper.

24 different types of tablets have been created since the Tablet PC, including Samsung's Galaxy Tab, the Mac ModBook and the Toshiba Tablet. But none of these even came close to the popularity the first iPad reached in April of 2010.

The original iPad offered all the freedom of a laptop in a smaller, sleeker, and lighter package, and gained so much media attention that 300,000 iPads were sold on the first day of its availability. After 80 days, 3 million of the tablets were sold.

Within 1 year, Apple had sold 15 million iPads - more than all other tablets combined.

According to the Associated Press, the hysteria was especially strong in Europe. "At the Apple Store in Frankfurt, Germany, hundreds lined up - including a few who arrived as early as 3 a.m. Some said they'd arrived so early not because they wanted to own it first - but simply to get an iPad at all."

A slew of tablets were released after the original iPad, but none ever came close in terms of popularity. HP's 2010 tablet, Slate 500 - aimed more for the corporate

consumer - "wasn't really an Apple iPad competitor at all," according to PC Magazine. The Advent Vega, a tablet created by British electronics company Dixons Retail, for instance, was sold for half-off the original price only one week after its initial release in November 2010.

The most popular tablet is currently - drum roll - the iPad 2, though it is getting some competition from the Motorola Xoom. There are a few significant differences between the two.

With the iTunes program pre-installed on the iPad 2, users can easily store and share files and purchase as many movies, music and apps as they want. The easy-to-use nature of the tablet wins out over Xoom's operating system, Honeycomb, which many will admit takes

"The Advent Vega was sold for half-off the original price - one week after its initial release."

Khoe Nguyen

time to get used to due to its mysterious and unsigned apps and icons. Once you get used to it, though, you barely even notice anymore.

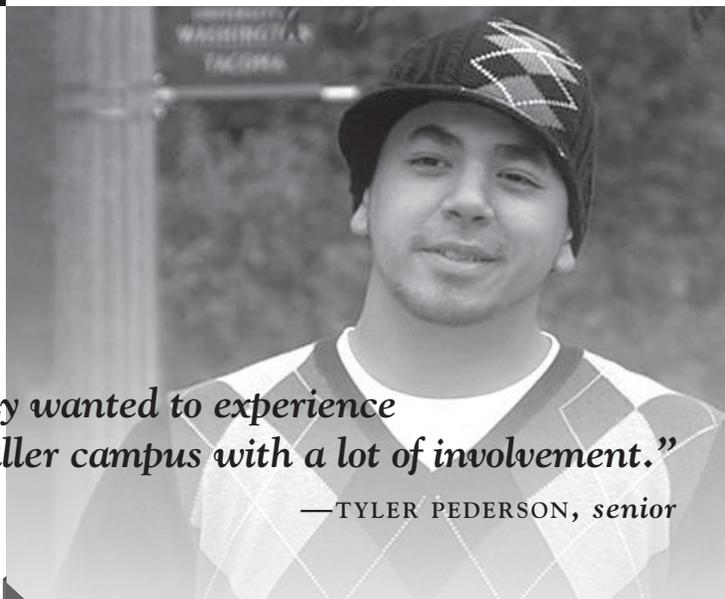
Not to say that the iPad 2 is perfect: Its use of the Internet Operating System (iOS) may trade in functionality for "stupid-proof," as IntoMobile suggested. The tablet also cannot read files that are directly downloaded from the iPad 2 browser because of compatibility issues.

Unlike the iPad 2, music or video files that are directly downloaded from the Xoom browser can be viewed or opened at any time. And, once one understands Honeycomb, it's a lot faster than the iPad.

These two tablets are undoubtedly minor parts of a bigger technological revolution, and in two years they will be considered dated. But, for now, they suffice as a decent product for the lazy.

W

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA



"I really wanted to experience a smaller campus with a lot of involvement."

— TYLER PEDERSON, senior

Open House > PHILIP HALL
APRIL 21
3:30 - 6 P.M.

Why UW Tacoma?

Find out at:

tacoma.uw.edu/why



Elections

CONTINUED FROM
PREVIOUS PAGE

pointing students for faculty, administrative, and trustee committees.

Zhen (Shawn) Zhang is the candidate for ASGRCC Vice President, and, if elected, will, among other tasks, mostly be working with the Senate, chairing their twice-weekly meetings.

"It's important for students to vote because it's their choice as to who they want to represent their voices, their idea, their concerns, and their money for the 2011-2012 school year," said Chang.

Despite the fact they're unopposed, the candidates aren't sure of their positions yet; students who vote get a choice of yes or no, and the candidates need a majority of yes votes to be elected.

From April 26 to 28, students will be able to vote online or at the voting booths that will be set up by Student Life in the library, at the commons and in the LSC, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sofilkanych and Zhang will give speeches on April 25 to promote the elections.

Staff

**Remco Zwetsloot**
Editor-in-Chief**Kelli Wyatt**
Managing Editor
Advertising Manager**Jean-Pierre Garcia**
Campus Editor**Bailey Jo Josie**
A&E Editor**Lacey Steward**
News Editor**Alyssa Ryan**
Op-Ed Editor**Matthew Montoya**
Photography Editor**Josh Davidson**
Webmaster**Assistant Editor:** Mallory Litzinger (A&E)**Senior Writer:** Alexander Bevier
Staff writers: Eric Bell, Lita Black, Celeste Bolden, Reece Bredl, Elena Coleman, Alexis Cormier, Brant DeLarme, Kierra Elfalan, Selam Gebretsadik, Zach Giehm, Brian Hunnicutt, Asha Johnson, Khoe Nguyen, Sequoia Sledge

EDITORIAL

Student Government Should Do More to Ensure Representation

Editorial Board: Remco Zwetsloot, Kelli Wyatt, Jean-Pierre Garcia, Bailey Jo Josie, Lacey Steward, Alyssa Ryan, Matthew Montoya, Josh Davidson

Student government is an important part of a college, but that of Green River leaves some things to be desired.

Every student government has its positive sides. It is an educational experience to its members, who often end up getting involved in things they've never before experienced, broadening horizons and frequently changing someone's life.

It also improves its members' in-class education. Countless studies have shown that those who are actively involved in their campus community see significant gains in their GPA – one showed students who were a member of an organization like student government and student athletes had an average GPA of 3.37, whereas that of those who weren't was 2.69.

But the main function of student government, which at Green River is called the Associated Students of Green River Community College (ASGRCC), is to represent the student body and advocate on its behalf.

That, however, is hard to do when so few students seem interested in getting involved. Lack of involvement from certain demographics and a lot of representation from one in particular – international students make up roughly 10 percent of the student body but hold all executive positions and around half the Senate seats in AS-GRCC – has led to a student government unrepresentative of its student body.

This is especially concerning in a time of budget cuts, when some costs are being shifted from the college general fund to the student budget, which totals \$1.4 million, and programs funded through the student budget already have been – and might have to in the future as well – taking cuts as a result of this.

The lack of involvement isn't entirely the fault of AS-GRCC, but it must do more to try and improve the current situation. The sad reality is that an overwhelming majority of students at Green River – and most other community colleges – simply don't want to be involved, a problem we as the student newspaper also occasionally run into as well.

But, though some students just won't care about who the student body president is, exactly how much money is spent on athletics and special events and all the other things it does, not everyone who is uninvolved is so out of apathy – our polling [see page 10] shows that at least some of the students who didn't know about what student government does (or that we even had a student government) would possibly get involved if they knew more.

They don't, however. Over 75 percent of students didn't even know about the upcoming student government elections.

Although ASGRCC has promoted them in the standard ways – fliers and screensavers – it obviously

hasn't worked very well, and as a result there's only one candidate for the president and vice-president positions. A special event is still being hosted a day before the election, which will run from April 26 to 28, but without two candidates per position to choose from it hardly makes a difference anymore.

It is ultimately up to the students to get involved, but if they choose not to it should be because they decided they didn't want to, not because of a lack of information.

It is too late to change anything this year, but we hope that, in the future, AS-GRCC will work on increasing awareness of its existence among students and do a better job of promoting things like presidential elections – before the date to register for them has passed – by going beyond hanging up flyers and having an advertisement on screensavers.

The Green River Foundation, for example, raises money for scholarships by hosting events like minigolf sessions and "grub crawls." Original ideas like that will attract more attention and more people from different demographics.

If that is done – and it's done on time – perhaps next year's student body will actually be presented with a real choice, and when students know what student government does and what they can gain from joining and being involved, they might actually care about it as well.

Editorial Policy

The Current is a limited public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. Green River Community College delegates editorial responsibility for the content of the publications. The college acknowledges the dual free purpose of student publications as instructional tools and as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the academic community. The views and opinions expressed in The Current do not necessarily reflect those of the college or student body.

Theft Policy

A person commits the offense of publication theft when he or she willfully or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over more than three copies of The Current that is distributed on campus (with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that edition of the publication). A "publication" includes any periodical that is distributed on a complimentary or compensatory basis. In addition to the imposition of other campus disciplinary penalties, a person who violates this provision is responsible for compensating the

publication for all reasonable costs incurred, including, where appropriate, the refund of advertising fees.

Letters to the Editor

The Current encourages all its readers to be involved and will publish letters. Anonymous letters are not accepted and the editor reserves the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of length, libel, or propriety. All letters become property of The Current. Send letters to thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Oh the Excitement!

Hello again my friends, my lovelies, my darlings! The sun is shining, the flowers blooming, the birds are out, classes have started again – gosh jolly, gee whiz, what a time.

Okay, never mind. As much as there is to actually be excited about – which I'll talk about later – you'll have to take it in, as per usual, with a nice dose of cynicism.

So, aside from all the standard, cheesy, really-quite-annoying (birds are nice and all, but if I want to be woken up at 5 a.m. and am so inclined to decorate my window with feces, I could quite easily do it myself) (and I'm allergic to flowers) spring stuff, what absolutely exhilarating stuff is going on in the tiny concrete box that is the newsroom of The Current?

**The Editor**
Remco Zwetsloot

Redesign

First of all, as some of you may have noticed, we've redesigned the paper a little bit during spring break. The obvious reason for this being that we don't have enough work to do and grow quite bored with measly 6-hour shifts, but also because we ran some tests on several people and discovered the previous layout wasn't as efficient as we'd like it to be.

So, for the next and last four issues we will be producing with this year's staff, you'll see a lot more short-form stories, bigger photos and photo essays, sidebars (those gray boxes), pullout quotes and decks (the little summaries below the headlines). We've also changed up our fonts to make our headlines stand out more and to still allow us to tell the full story even as we have bigger photos and less space for regular text.

All these changes were made because design is an important element of a newspaper, as it serves to entice people to actually read the content. Without attractive design, it's likely even the most gripping story will be read less or not at all. And we're not done working on this. So if you have any suggestions or remarks (I don't like compliments, keep those far away!) you'd like to make, let us know at thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Awards

We've also won our first awards of the year. This past Saturday, April 9, seven of us ventured a four-hour drive to Richland to attend the Society of Professional Journalists' (SPJ) Mark of Excellence awards, where we won first place in sports writing for our story The Fatal Slump (on the volleyball team) and second place for our collected editorials.

The awards we won are for region 10 – SPJ is a national organization that has split up the country into 12 regions – which consists of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Category winners (our sports story) go on to the national competition, which will be hosted some time in August. All our submissions were from fall quarter only.

After our eighth issue we also entered the annual Washington Community College Journalism Association awards, which will be held on May 21 at Edmonds Community College. If nothing else we'll score some good food there, certainly better than the usual late-night/early-morning snacks college journalists live off of.

I'll stop writing now, and rest assured, I'll have a lot less to say – or, more accurately, I won't allow myself to say as much – in the coming issues. Again, please send your feedback on the new design to thecurrent@greenriver.edu. Enjoy the quarter, I know I will (after I dropped my math class last week).

Only When Taught the Right Way



Commentary by:
Alyssa Ryan

Technology is dandy. We can Skype on our phones, browse the internet in Timbuktu, and thanks to the T-Pain app for the iPhone, we can all be pop stars.

It has also created another avenue for education - online education - which is attracting a vast amount of students. However, in order for online education to reach its full potential, professors must keep the learning methods of their

students in mind.

Past online classes have been taught almost completely through written coursework. The professor's lecture, assignments and exams are all typed, leaving the student to learn only by reading the material. While this caters to visual learners, those who learn by looking at material, it hinders auditory learners, those who learn by listening.

According to Education Statistics Quarterly, 44 percent of a study-related group of students entered community college with 12th grade reading proficiency scores of Level One, meaning they had basic comprehension skills, yet they could not make inferences past an author's

main point. To succeed in online classes, students must be able to make inferences, analyze and synthesize written information. According to this study, most community college students do not possess these abilities.

To make online classes more suitable for auditory learners and students with lower comprehension, Green River faculty should take advantage of audio technology, such as webcams or lecture recordings, to better connect with students. The compliance of video or audio files would be highly beneficial to both the auditory learner as well as the visual learner.

Thankfully, Washington State recently purchased Teg-

rity, a screen capture program which integrates recorded lectures with anything on the computer screen. With this program, online students can listen to a lecture instead of simply reading it. Teachers at Green River should adopt this program as well.

Online classes can be a means to a quality education, yet the material taught must be geared more toward auditory learners. Solutions like video integration technology such as Tegrity should be widely implemented. Without aids like Tegrity, online classes are only geared toward students who learn visually, and therefore exclude students who are auditory learners.

Caution: Danger Upon Entering



Commentary by:
Elena Coleman

Traditional college classes can be described as rewarding, however stressful, hectic and busy. The same can be said for online classes, and although both forms of education are reputable, the effectiveness of each structure is defined directly by the student.

Online learning has plenty of good attributes, such as flexibility and a lax time requirement. This proves convenient for students with jobs or other activities, since they can plan their own schedules with little difficulty.

However convenient online classes may be, they still don't give students the full experience of a college class. Because students can't talk to the instructor face-to-face, the material is more difficult to learn and it becomes easier to forget lessons and assignments. This is especially true

for any students who may already have trouble focusing as it is.

Many students need interaction either with an instructor or peers in order to be successful in a class. Some people need to be coached along the way or work as a group so they can feel like they're part of something, while other students work better alone or on their own time. Since online classes don't offer in-person communication, it becomes difficult for certain students to focus.

One Green River student who took an online course, Ethan Houser, had a poor experience with it. "I didn't like how there wasn't a teacher there to explain things to me, I felt I like was on my own."

He ended up dropping the class. And there are many more students like Houser out there.

Although online schooling isn't right for everyone, it isn't necessarily a thing bad either. But students should keep their limits and learning style in mind before signing up for online classes, as they have the potential to hurt your GPA and your education.

Flexibility For All



Commentary by:
Brian Hunnicutt

Community college students - and, very surprisingly, many others - often think "I wish I had more time." Many students today are coming back to school for the first time since high school. A lot have full- or part-time jobs, and some have families that limit the amount of time they can spend on campus.

A solution for a student experiencing a time crunch is taking an online or flex course. Online classes offer a certain amount of flexibility that a traditional class can't offer. Assignments can be handed in anytime from 7 a.m. to midnight, depending on your instructor, instead of exactly at 2:30 in the afternoon. Online classes simply require a computer and an internet connection; students don't have to be on campus for anything.

Consider, for instance, Green River full-time student named Trish (she requested her last name not be used discussing such a personal situation); she has a job and her family that she looks after during the week. She is basically, as she put it, "couch surfing between three

houses" while she goes to school. With her schedule and responsibilities, she would not be able to attend school full-time without taking online classes.

Online courses can also be beneficial for someone who was not able to enroll in a traditional class due to overcrowding or time constraint. This benefits students by allowing them an education on their own time and becomes especially useful when one wants to graduate within a certain time frame.

Students are not the only ones who can appreciate the flexibility of an online component of a class. English instructor Evan Peterson uses the internet to teach his students in a way that is familiar, he said, with the visual and auditory means many younger students learn by.

Bringing up videos, lyrics to songs and poems on screen, he is tapping into the way this generation has been learning. He can switch up his teaching material, which helps students learn and think more creatively.

Going to college is a lesson in time management, and students are under immense pressure to accomplish their studies in a timely fashion and live their lives at the same time. College students, in need of more flexibility for work, family or even a little "me time," should give online courses a chance.

Online Education

It's undeniably a dominant presence in colleges, but is that a good thing? Our writers weigh in.

Online Education Is a Robotic Surrogate



Commentary by:
Brant DeLarme

My fourth grade teacher was a futuristic thinker. She filled our brains with visions of a Jetson's family future where students were not taught by a physical person, but by a talking screen.

At the time, it seemed like one of her far-fetched fictions. Yet today it is reality. Every quarter more and more of my classes move at least partially online with Angel

Learning, and every time I turn on the radio I hear more commercials for online universities.

But do online classes really give the student the same experience as a real classroom? Or are they a soulless robot surrogate?

As I take more and more online classes, I am beginning to feel that something is missing. There is no chance to hear your classmates' questions during class and no opportunity for those questions spark an interesting debate. Over the internet, it is impossible to track down the professor after class to ask a question or thank them for an interesting lesson. The lack of

human interaction can make online classes an empty and forgettable experience.

According to a study by Dr. Michael Herbert of Bemidji State University, the dropout rate for online classes is up to 20 percent higher than it is for regular ones. The survey also found that interaction between students and professors was the most important variable determining whether or not students completed the course.

Online classes have other frustrations as well, regardless of how one feels about learning. Any questions or clarification of the content requires a drawn out email correspondence. There is very

little chance for constructive criticism as you submit work and receive grades, which generally come without explanation. Possibly the most frustrating experience is the impossibility of real-time conversation, or any conversation for that matter, in the discussion forum. A post usually goes unanswered for days or indefinitely.

Although online classes can be very convenient for many people, they offer a different experience from conventional classes - one with many downsides and frustrations. Online education may be robotically efficient, but one certainly doesn't get the full educational experience.

BASEBALL

No Facilities, Small Team, High Hopes

By: Eric Bell
Staff Writer

The pitcher peers over his glove as his spikes dig into the mound of earth below him. The catcher squatting just over 60 feet in front of him flicks his fingers toward the ground in a rhythmic sequence ordering the next round out of the pitcher's cannon of a right arm. The pitcher winds and fires a pitch toward home plate and, no sooner than the pop of the mitt, he finds himself engulfed by a mass of bodies, teammates piled on top of him in a sea of celebration.

That's the image depicted on a poster in the office of first-year baseball coach Tanner Swanson. And it's the image that is fueling the Green River baseball team.

It is what Swanson calls a

dog pile game. "Any time a team wins a championship or a big game, they always have the classic dog pile on the mound," he says.

Not too long ago the Gators seemed well on their way toward their Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) championship goals. The team won 10 of its first 12 games during the pre-season and it ended 11-3, the college's best non-league record in nearly three decades.

Since league games have started, though, the results have taken a turn for the worse. Of the eight matches the Gators have played so far, six were lost. Last weekend, on April 9 and 10, the team lost all four of its matches against last year's NWAACC champion Lower Columbia. Their spirits, however, remain high.

"We have the talent and the adhesiveness of a top caliber team, and I expect to be in the NWAACC Championship come May 26," says Luke Goodgion, a sophomore

"We have the talent and adhesiveness of a top caliber team, and I expect to be in the NWAACC Championship."

Luke Goodgion, pitcher

pitcher on the team. The losses to Lower Columbia don't mean much, according to him – in three of the four games, Green River only lost by one run.

Swanson feels the same. But other factors played a role as well, according to him. The Gators have a comparatively small team, especially

in terms of pitchers, which at times affects the outcome of games – especially when they are this close.

And, he says, the lack of facilities – the team is the only

one in its division that doesn't have a field to practice on – is starting to take its toll on the players too. They haven't practiced outside in a month, and instead spend more than two hours per day inside a warehouse with batting cages in Kent.

"We as coaches try to filter these challenges away from

our players, but they know the reality," says Swanson. "When it's a nice day and we're stuck inside and the others teams are out practicing – they know that's not how it's supposed to be."

"At times it feels like baby-sitting" – instead of working on improving, for instance, their defensive strategies, Swanson and his staff can only let the players in and hand them some bats.

Nevertheless, he says, "I think we can get right back in the hunt this weekend. The postseason is still within our grasp – by no means are we out of this."

With 16 games left and their match-up against the division's top team behind them, Green River certainly still has the opportunity to fight its way back up. To qualify for the postseason, the team will have to climb from

the seventh and last to at least third place. The teams ranked second and third will play a three-game playoff, the winner of which will advance.

Regardless of the team's results, the season has been a largely positive one for some of the team's players. Cody Hebner, the team's ace pitcher, will all but certainly be drafted by a Major League team, and several others, including Goodgion, are being scouted as well.

But that alone won't satisfy the team. "In the fall I would have said 'we want to make the NWAACC tournament,' but I don't know if I could've told you that honestly," says Swanson. "But during our first weekend I felt something had changed." And now they want more.

After 36 years without a championship, they want that coveted dog pile.

Someone you know
is negative...
in a really
positive way.



Planned Parenthood
of the Great Northwest

WE'RE HERE.™

STD & HIV testing • Emergency contraception • Cancer screenings
Well woman exams • Family planning • Breast health care

800.230.PLAN (7526) | www.ppgnw.org

Ask if you qualify for reduced fee services. We'll bill most major insurance companies. Monthly budgeted payment plans available.

©2011 Planned Parenthood® of the Great Northwest.



Get Focused on Learning

It's on – UW Bothell students routinely take regional and national titles at academic competitions. Learning never looked this good!



Join us for Transfer Fair!

April 22, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
North Creek Events Center

Get Focused
on Your Future

425.352.5000 | www.uwb.edu



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | BOTHELL



On to the Big Leagues

A dozen MLB teams, including the New York Yankees, have expressed interest in drafting Green River's ace pitcher Cody Hebner.



Zac Tate | The Current

"When I step on the mound, I look into the batter's eyes and I know that they can't hit me," says Hebner.

By: Remco Zwetsloot
Editor-in-Chief

"Colorado Rockies, Florida Marlins, Seattle Mariners, New York Yankees, Pittsburgh Pirates, Atlanta Braves, Minnesota Twins, Kansas City Royals, San Francisco Giants, Los Angeles Dodgers, Anaheim Angels... oh, and the Cleveland Indians."

He sums up the list in an almost careless manner, but beneath the surface it is clear Cody Hebner, ace pitcher and star of Green River's baseball team, is more than excited to have been scouted and approached by a dozen Major League teams.

"Playing professionally has been my dream since as long as I can remember," he says.

It all started when he was 4 years old, playing T-ball in the Auburn Little League. "Back then I would just play," Hebner, now a sophomore, recalls. "But when I got to middle school and high school I actually thought I had a chance to get drafted and play professionally as an infielder."

Hebner attended Auburn Mountainview, where he played as a shortstop for four years. He occasionally pitched during his senior year, but didn't fully make the switch until he came to Green River, making this only his second season as a pitcher. And, with the final game still a month away, he has already exceeded the amount of shutouts he threw last year. According to

Head Baseball Coach Tanner Swanson, more than 30 professional scouts were present on April 10 to see Hebner throw his fastest recorded pitch yet - 97 mph.

Before every game, he chugs a can of Red Bull, smashes it in his hands and spikes it against the fence as hard as he can. Then he yells at the top of his lungs.

"I'm probably one of the weirdest people you'll ever meet," says Hebner, letting out a little chuckle. But, while he remains a little erratic during a game - "I think when you get too uptight, that's when mistakes are made" - a certain seriousness still manages to sneak its way in.

"When I step on the mound, I look into the batter's eyes and I know that they can't hit me," he says. "And if they do, then I'll tip my cap and say 'you beat me, good

"I failed there. I should have shut them out."

"I can't even count the times I failed," he added. "But you have to forget about it - I know the worst thing that can happen on a day is that I do poorly at baseball. People have it a lot worse than I do."

Despite several scholarships offers out of high school, Hebner, whose father was an infield coach at the college, chose Green River "out of loyalty," he said, and because he knew the previous coach, Matt Acker.

Acker left at the end of Hebner's first season. At first, with a completely new coaching staff coming in this year, Hebner wasn't sure what the season would be like. But when he met the new pitching coach and the rest of the staff, he says, "I knew I was going to get better."

These positive feelings

"Whoever takes me first, I'll go - I just want to play baseball professionally. I just love the game."

Cody Hebner, ace pitcher and MLB prospect

job,' but nine times out of 10 I won't be beaten."

And though he smilingly acknowledges this might sound a little arrogant, it doesn't seem too far from the mark; Hebner, 20, is leading the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges, consisting of 28 teams from Washington and Oregon, both in terms of wins pitched and strikeouts (60 in total, 19 more than the number two, Luke Goodgion, who is also from Green River).

Pitching hasn't always gone as smoothly for him, though. "Baseball is definitely a failure sport," he says, explaining that while someone might play great one day, they could do terrible the next. "You have to learn how to deal with failure."

This is something he has had to do as well. Last year, when the team made playoffs, Hebner "got dominated" by Tacoma C.C., he recalls, even though he beat them twice in regular league games.

are reciprocal. Swanson, who joined Green River the past summer, says coaching someone with the caliber Hebner has been a "wonderful opportunity for myself."

"Too often [baseball] turns into a job for a lot of guys, and they're in it for the wrong reasons," says Swanson. "Cody plays the game because he loves it and he enjoys it."

In case he doesn't get drafted in June, Hebner has already been talking to several Division I universities - including the University of Washington - and will go there, pick a major and continue playing and studying. Swanson, however, says it's not a matter of whether he will get drafted anymore - the question now is simply where he decides to go.

Hebner has no preference for any one of the dozen teams. "Whoever takes me first, I'll go - I just want to play baseball professionally," he says.

"I just love the game."

Calendar

MEN'S BASEBALL

Apr 16 Clark - Green River 1 or 4:00 p.m.
Apr 17 Green River - Clark 1 or 4:00 p.m.
Apr 23 Green River - Tacoma 10:00 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.
Apr 27 Green River - Tacoma 1 or 4:00 p.m.

WOMEN'S FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

Apr 19 Pierce - Green River 4:00 p.m.
Apr 20 Green River - So. Puget Sound 1:30 p.m. bottom of first
Apr 22 So. Puget Sound - Green River 3:00 p.m.
Apr 26 Green River - Centralia 1:00 p.m.
Apr 29 Green River - Grays Harbor 1:00 p.m.

CROSS COUNTRY

Apr 22-23 Oregon Relays Eugene, OR

MEN'S GOLF

Apr 24-25 Bigfoot Invitational Spokane, WA

MEN'S TENNIS

Apr 16 Shoreline 10:00 a.m.
Apr 22 Spokane 9:00 a.m.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Apr 15 Green River - Bellevue 1:00 p.m.
Apr 16 Green River - Shoreline 10:00 a.m.
Apr 22 Green River - Spokane 9:00 a.m.
Apr 23 Green River - Treasure Valley 9:00 a.m.
Apr 29 Green River - Skagit valley 9:00 a.m.

Scoreboard

MEN'S BASEBALL

Mar 27 Green River 3 - 1 Walla Walla
Apr 2 Green River 6 - 2 Centralia
Centralia 7 - 1 Green River
Apr 3 Centralia 8 - 2 Green River
Green River 10 - 0 Centralia
Apr 9 Lower Columbia 2 - 1 Green River
Lower Columbia 2 - 1 Green River
Apr 10 Lower Columbia 8 - 1 Green River
Lower Columbia 1 - 0 Green River

WOMEN'S FASTPITCH SOFTBALL

Apr 2 Green River 5 - 3 Pierce
Pierce 4 - 0 Green River
Apr 6 Green River 11 - 1 Highline
Green River 11 - 1 Highline
Apr 8 Centralia 4 - 3 Green River
Centralia 8 - 7 Green River
Apr 9 Green River 19 - 0 Grays Harbor
Green River 4 - Grays Harbor 3

MEN'S GOLF

Mar 26-27 5th place, 5 - 4
Alex Liljestrom - 154
Jeremy Johnson - 158
Apr 10-11 6th place, 4 - 5
Jeremy Johnson - 149
Dallas Dorton - 149

MEN'S TENNIS

Apr 1 Green River 8 - 1 Skagit Valley
Apr 8 Green River 6 - 3 Shoreline
Apr 9 Treasure Valley 8 - 1 Green River

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Apr 1 Skagit Valley 5 - Green River 1
Apr 8 Spokane 6 - 3 Green River
Apr 9 Treasure Valley 6 - 3 Green River



**THIS MOMENT IS WORTH
THE PRICE OF TUITION**

WASHINGTON
NATIONAL GUARD 

NATIONALGUARD.com • 1-800-GO-GUARD



The best Soldier is an educated Soldier.
That's why the Army National Guard will help you pay for college.

Check it out:

- Montgomery GI Bill
- Army National Guard Kicker
- National Guard Scholarship*
- Student Loan Repayment Program
- Free Academic Testing (SAT, ACT, GRE and more)

**Up to \$4,500 per fiscal year (1 Oct. - 30 Sept.)*

That's in addition to valuable career training, leadership skills, and part-time service to the community.

Go to www.NATIONALGUARD.com for more details.

Programs and benefits are subject to change.

Contact SGT Jason Allaway at 425.256.1285