

# THE CURRENT

*Campus:*  
How will GRCC face major budget cuts in 2009-10?

## Out with the old...In with the new

Demolition of old ST buildings will begin GRCC's ambitious plan to improve and update campus with new three story building



By Justin Runquist

By now, everyone's noticed the fences guarding tree stumps around Green River's ST buildings. The trees were leveled over spring break to make room for what will soon stand in place of these old buildings.

All four ST buildings are scheduled to be demolished by the beginning of May. In their stead, a three story, 80,000 square foot building will become the new and improved campus center for the Business, English, Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences departments, replacing the HS, SS, and BI buildings. That will make the new building thousands of square feet larger than the currently standing ST buildings.

This is the culmination of what has been in the planning for nearly a decade now. In 2001, Green River made a major update to its master plan, coming to the conclusion that the ST buildings, which have stood here since the 1960s, had reached the end of their lifespan.

That was the start of a brainstorming session that would eventually lead the school to land on this project. Official design for the new building then began in 2007.

The plan is to have the replacement building finished and fully operational by the start of fall quarter of 2011. A lot needs to be done before it gets to that point though.

It will have a unique design, separated into two main sections, which will be conjoined by a large glass atrium in its center. Students will be able to pass straight through the atrium to the Tech Center on their way to classes or the Lindbloom Center to take a break from classes.

Overhead, inside the atrium will be a large sky bridge connecting the two sides of the building. One side will be three stories tall, full of lots of new classrooms. The other side will be two stories tall, serving as the new location for professors' offices in those departments. The trees on the site were removed over spring break, when the campus was most vacant, to minimize the risk of endangering anyone's safety, reduce foot traffic jams around the site, and to avoid allowing intrusive noise to distract faculty and students hard at work.

Sam Ball, dean of instruction for capital projects explained that they tried to disturb as little of the natural surrounding environment as possible in planning this project, but that, "on this campus, you simply can't avoid cutting some trees."

He said that essentially, they had a choice between cutting down a little more than 30 trees or perhaps hundreds or more, so they chose the first option.

By reconstructing a building on a site that had already been built upon, this project will save a lot of trees, according to Ball.

"That's a very green approach," he said.

In addition to minimizing the amount of trees that had to be cut, some trees were transplanted to new locations instead of allowing them to be cut.

Members of Green River's Natural Resources Department helped mark the trees that needed to be taken down. After they were cut, they were used to bring in money that would go to Facilities to help lessen demolition costs.



Above and Top left: Early Project Images of what the new HS complex should look like from different views on campus. Demolition of the old ST buildings that stood there since the 1960's will begin in May.

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## Scholarship opportunities given to those who apply

*GRCC Foundation awards 150 scholarships a year to students based on a variety of needs or majors*

**Lindsey Williams**  
Staff Writer

Scholarship season is in full swing this year, and the GRCC Foundation Scholarship deadline is just around the corner at Green River.

GRCC Foundation Scholarships can be awarded based on merit, need, program of study, or a combination of the three and are awarded to 150 Green River students annually.

The deadline for the upcoming fall quarter is April 30.

The GRCC Foundation Scholarship can only be applied to tuition, fees, and required materials, and will be applied before financial aid checks are dispersed. This means, for those receiving financial aid, that checks from grants and loans will be larger.

The average amount of scholarship funds awarded per student is \$1,500.00. This covers a quarter's tuition for most students, leaving money usually spent on tuition for other expenses.

Information on how to apply for GRCC Foundation Scholarships, as well as the many other scholarships available to Green River students, is conveniently located on the school's webpage, and students can also complete their applications for the GRCC Foundation scholarships via the internet.

The first step for applicants is to get their reference letters out as soon as possible, the form can be found on the website, in order to give professors enough time to complete them.

If a professor reference isn't available, a counselor, work supervisor, or high school teacher can also fill them out.

As soon as reference letters are handed out, a one page personal essay should be completed by applicant.

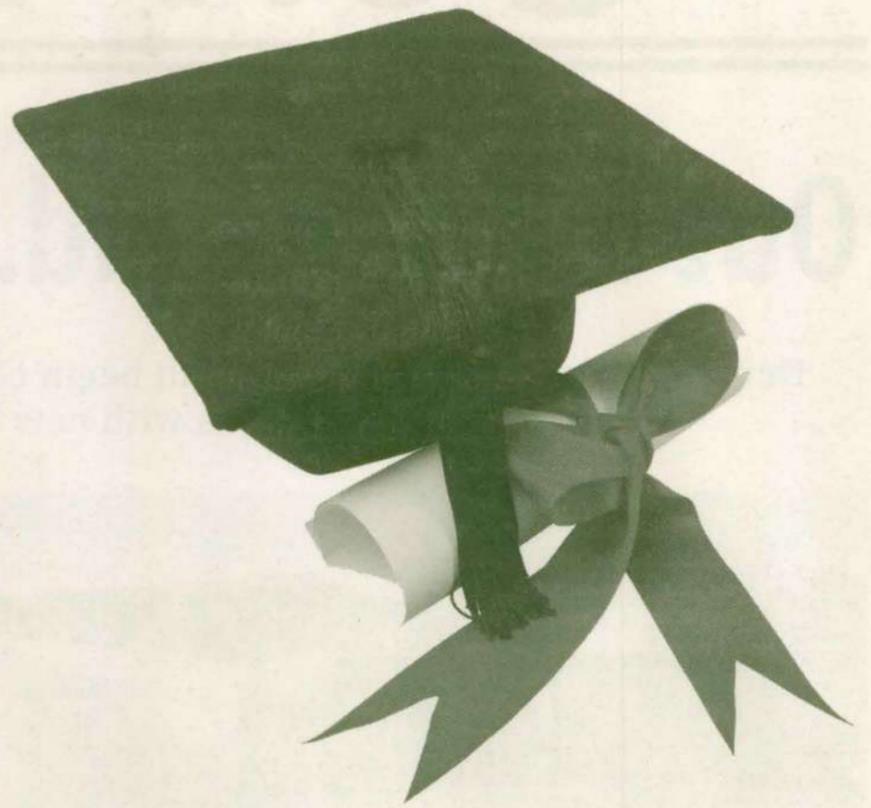
The specific guidelines on what a personal essay should mention are listed on the application form, and this is a student's chance to say why they, rather than someone else, should receive the funds.

Filling out financial status, providing a copy of unofficial transcripts, and some other basic information will complete the scholarship

application, which is then given to the financial aid office. All applicants will receive a letter with their results in the mail in June.

The GRCC Foundation Scholarships are not just for 4.0 students, club presidents, or amazing hardship cases that can bring a person to tears; there are many scholarships designed only for students in a specific program of study, or for those that are nontraditional.

*While many students shy away from scholarship applications from fear of failing, last year there were only about 350 students who applied and over 150 ended up receiving one.*



[www.southfleetmotorinn.com](http://www.southfleetmotorinn.com)/Courtesy Photos

Beth Gatzke, the development specialist at GRCC, said, "I can't guarantee you'll get a scholarship if you apply, but I can guarantee you won't get one if you don't." Her main advice to applicants is to proofread their essays repeatedly and to start the application as early as possible.

While many students shy away from scholarship applications from fear of failing, last year there were only about 350 students who applied and over 150 ended

up receiving one. As far as scholarship competition goes, those are fairly good odds.\*

After completing the GRCC Foundation scholarship application, it's a good idea to check out Green River's website, which has links to other scholarships and funds for education available to students.

While some deadlines have all ready passed, there are still more available just waiting for people to apply for them.

### KGRG-1 Corner

*KGRG-1 Program Director Mark Burkhart provides his first entry for KGRG-1 Corner. The Station recently updated its website, and received a new "streaming contract" allowing more than four-times as many online listeners.*



**Mark Burkhart**  
KGRG-1 P.D.

If you told me when I was a teenager the music coming out of my neighborhood would be the next "classic rock" I'd have paid better attention, while hanging out with my friend at his girlfriends house in 1988.

Her brother, Jerry, was in some band that played music that was slower and heavier than the "California Punk" I was accustomed to.

The band name was "Alice in Chains" and you could have seen them for four dollars cash at The Brooklake Hall in Federal way. Alice in Chains are broken up, the Brooklake Hall is now a Church, However one thing has been left unchanged, its mark permanent in history and that my friend is the music.

KGRG1 The Alternative Past! was born in 2006 and is the brother station to

KGRG Today's Rock!

We broadcast on 1330am out of Enumclaw and given our overwhelming 500 watts gives the glorious three blocks of downtown Enumclaw great reception otherwise tune your computer to kgrg1.com and be entertained and educated by the alternative past.

Batcavers will dine on Bauhaus's "She's in Parties" Skaters will thrash out to Suicidal Tendencies "Trip at the Brain" the Stoners will fade away with Zappa's "Yellow Snow" the Punker's will oi.oi to Dead Milkmen's "Stuart" and the essential Washingtonian will relish when Jerry Cantrell penetrating guitar ( its all in the pre amp)and Alice in Chains "XXXXXXXX" demonstrates why "grunge" will never die.

The station's On-Air talent is courtesy of the students enrolled in Digital Lab, which is taught by Charlie Harger, who is a personality in the Puget Sound Radio Market.

Overall, I love the music KGRG-1 plays, I enjoy the students and I am friggin' stoked to be contributing to the history of KGRG-1. Stop by kgrg1.com and give it a listen, you won't be disappointed.

*I am friggin' stoked to be contributing to the history of KGRG-1*

## Ski & Ride More For Less!

Purchase 09/10 season passes online or at Crystal by May 31st for the guaranteed lowest price!

Get unlimited access to Washington's largest ski area!

Quad Passes (ages 18-69) ...	\$544
Triple Passes (ages 11-17) ....	\$433
Double Passes (ages 70+) ....	\$222
Child Pass* (ages 0-10).....	\$0-50

\*Limit 2 free per adult  
Must purchase in groups of 2, 3 & 4  
Visit our website for complete details.

**CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN**  
[www.skicrystal.com](http://www.skicrystal.com)

Photo: Collin Meagher

## GRCC prepares for impact of education cuts in 2009-10 state budget proposal

*GRCC has already implemented hiring freeze, other alternatives and options being looked at*

**Jean-Pierre Garcia**  
Staff Writer

"The budget situation has taken a turn for the worse...the news for community and technical colleges is not good." Green River President, Rich Rutkowski, said in a campus email to the Green River staff.

Both the Senate and now the House of Representatives have released operating budgets with deeper cuts than Governor Gregoire's 4.3 percent budget cutbacks released in December for the 2009-10 year. Stimulus money is already taken into account, but each bill amounts to a daunting change for Green River.

The Senate budget proposal was a net reduction of 7.9 percent for the first year and 6.4 percent for the second year. This amounts to \$2.8 million for 2009-2010 and 2.2 million for the 2010-2011.

The House of Representatives released their budget proposals March 30th proposing a net reduction of 7.7 percent for the first year and 14.6 percent the

second year. The House's proposal equates to about \$2.7 million for 2009-2010 and \$5.1 million for 2010-2011.

The process is not finished yet. There is still a conference committee that will convene in the next two weeks to compromise the congressional budget proposals.

In the mean time a Direct Report group comprised of numerous administrators

on campus will take functional area reviews. These Direct Report members will be assessing every aspect of the current budget throughout April and refer back to the President with a new strategy to address the upcoming budget release. This will be done around the

same time as the conference committee adjourns.

Initially, it was planned to find alternative ways to cut 25 units of \$60,000 based off of Gregoire's proposal to avoid as many layoffs of GRCC personnel as possible. \$60,000 is approximately the cost of a salary and benefits.

At this point of balancing the school's

*At this point of balancing the school's budget, there is a need to find ways of potentially cutting up to 85 units of \$60,000.*

## Safety offering shuttle and soon Gator bucks

*Shuttle users will get Gator bucks to trade at a barbecue*

**Kim Burberry**  
Staff Writer

Taking advantage of the free shuttle service could save students a few bucks next month. Green River Student Programs along with Student Government has partnered with Campus Safety's park and ride program to bring the food outside.

Next month in May Campus Safety will be offering one gator buck per day to students who use the shuttle, which is part of the park and ride program. Students can earn up to six gator bucks.

Students will be able to redeem those gator bucks at a barbecue that Student Programs and Student Government will be putting on outside in front of the student building in May.

The shuttle is a daily transportation option provided by Green River's Campus Safety.

Students who park at Pacific Raceways can hop on the shuttle and be at the campus in 10 minutes or less usually. Pacific Raceways is located across highway 18. It is about 2.3 miles from campus.

The shuttles begin running at 7:30 a.m. and go till 5:00 p.m. It meets students every 10 min or until a shuttle has filled to capacity of 25 students.

Kayla Helmerson a student who uses the shuttle services at Green River has been using it regularly for three years.

Janet who is a student at Green River Community College began using the shuttle this quarter after seeing it offered on purple flyers around campus.

She believes it has been a great help to her after waiting and following other cars in the parking lot on campus for long periods of time.

Janet said, "If someone has problems with finding parking I would tell them to take the shuttle."

Starbucks in Covington provides free coffee to students on Mondays and Wednesday at the Pacific Raceways where students can park their cars and take the shuttle over to main campus.

The campus Gator Grill also provides free hot chocolate as well.

Campus Safety not only provides safe and accessible transportation to main campus from Pacific Raceways but it also is a tool students can use to keep themselves safe

on college.

Students who would like security when they have to be out late at night can call the safety office and ask for an escort to give them a ride from.

It is called "safety ride" and is available from dusk to 4:00 a.m.

Campus Safety also provides assistance if you have been locked out of your car or need a jump-start on your dead car battery.

budget, there is a need to find ways of potentially cutting up to 85 units of \$60,000.

Director of public information, John Ramsey, is one member that is on the Direct Report group. Ramsey thought that it was still premature to cut back on any programs until a clear figure was announced from congress.

According to Ramsey those handling the budget are also trying to have the least amount of impact on instruction or classes. "That's what we are really trying to protect," Ramsey said.

Ramsey hinted about some alternatives that were being considered.

The first one he mentioned was not spending budget money on non-instructional purposes, making do where the campus would have traditionally made purchases. One example he offered was not purchasing updated employee and administrative technologies and computers.

He applied a similar concept to his own department a month ago. In advertising he plans to reduce the number of the 200,000 schedules printed and printing the summer schedule together with the pre-fall schedule.

You might not hear many more GRCC jingles on your favorite radio station as

you did before. Ramsey admitted that he would have to rely on fellow business partners like radio stations to be flexible in finding creative ways to cut corners.

Another major alternative Ramsey said was being considered is leaving vacant positions empty on staff. He gave the facilities department as an example.

Bart Dowd, the facilities support supervisor confirmed this hiring freeze taking place in the beginning of the year. Dowd said that the frozen positions include two custodial positions and a grounds keeping position.

During Spring, the busiest season for the facilities department, Dowd said that his department is adjusting to the challenge by delegating duties with larger areas of responsibilities.

"[We are] doing more with less," Dowd said.

Dowd said that his department is relying on student assistance and is

cutting spending. Maintenance will always be needed but they will refrain from making other purchases.

Both John Ramsey and Bart Dowd demonstrated how it is every department's initiative to adjust where they want to trim.

"Every area of the institution, everything, is still on the table," John Ramsey said.

*Another major alternative Ramsey said was being considered is leaving vacant positions empty on staff.*

## ISEL students still find English to be challenging

*Students find different ways to improve their English*

**Jennifer Han**  
Staff Writer

In spring quarter 2009, many international students enrolled at Green River Community College. Many of them are registered in a special English program, Intensive English as Second Language (IESL).

Normally, there are 14 people on average in each IESL class. Students study speaking, grammar, listening, and reading. However, they still find difficulties in speaking English. What do they do to improve their English skills?

Amy Pham, an 18-year-old IESL student at GRCC, has studied English for about 4 years. Like a lot of international students, she still finds difficulty with English. "I have problem with speaking English everyday," she said. "For example, I can't explain exactly when I go to Wal-Mart to buy some stuff."

To solve this problem, Pham studies English harder. Pham also tries to communicate with English speakers. She said, "My main problem is pronunciation." Pham finds the most challenge in the speaking part of her course.

Eun Yeoung Seo, 21-year-old IESL student from South Korea, is a new student at GRCC this year. Even though she has studied English for about 5 years, she still finds difficulty speaking English. Seo has many communication problems with foreigners. She tries to improve her English by trying to speak English everyday with her roommates and other international students.

Moreover, Seo likes to e-mail her friends in English. She said, "It's very helpful to improve my English skill. However, I think pronunciation and lack of confidence is the biggest problem for me."

Rita Ely, an IESL teacher, said that she is proud of the international students because learning second language is hard and challenging. "International students are motivated in learning other language and they are eager to learn English," she said.

Ely said that many of the students' problem is that they have to deal with tenses when learning English while many of their languages don't have tenses.

Ely recommends students to study tenses and grammar closely. Every student has to practice harder with their pronunciation as well as their listening skill. Ely said that the best way to improve student's English skill is by speaking English out loud every day. For instance, when you are walking out you could practice reading English novels, magazines or newspapers. Through this practice, students can learn how to make a sentence together.

Moreover, there is another international program called "Talk Time" for GRCC students where they can have conversations and improve their English while making new friends.

This program is free and provides practice in conversation and listening skill during Tuesday and Thursday lunch. Students can contact Martha Koch, international program activities manager, at mkoch@greenriver.edu to get better information about the program.

## Recession takes toll on Green River students

How students and their families cope with an unhealthy economy

**Eline Hutter**  
Staff Writer

On April 1, President Obama spent his first full day in Europe, and this was no April fool's joke.

Big plans to deal with the financial crisis are in the making, but it will probably take a long time for noticeable progress to be made. In the mean time, we need to handle it the best we can. Not only world leaders worry about the economic recession. It also affects students at Green River.

The amount of tuition fees that students pay to attend college is big, not even including the books they have to buy.

How do they get the money they need in times when it's hard to get a job?

19-year-old Criminal Justice major, Cheresa Ulrey confirms that getting a job is not easy these days. She started at the college last fall, while working for 40 hours a week. That's how she could afford to pay for her tuition fees and books.

However, in the first week of winter quarter she lost her job. She looked for over two months before she finally found a new one.

In the mean time, she had to borrow books from others, because she couldn't pay for all the books she needed.

Ulrey's financial situation made her unable to take classes at Green River this spring. Now she's saving up money to come back in summer, because she definitely wants to get her degree. She hopes to get Financial Aid soon.

"Financial Aid would really help me. I hope it works out," she said.

Running start student Ashley Dillinger is graduating from high school early, intending to help her mother out soon.

Dillinger's mother lost her job when companies started cutting back on arts. Supporting arts is not the highest priority in times of economic recession.

For some students, the economic situation is not that problematic though.

Running start student Hannah Bradford, 18, seems to be blessed. She's been teaching in a children's gym for a while now. Her parents pay for the costs to go to college.

As an owner of a fast-food chain, Bradford's father actually benefits from the economic situation. People are spending less money than they usually did before. As a result, they consume more inexpensive fast foods nowadays.

"The recession actually works out the opposite for us," concludes Bradford.

19-year-old Vadim Manchik, majoring in Business, has been looking for a job for about a month now.

"Before, I could apply for a job and get an interview anytime," says Manchik. "Now the situation is a lot more competitive."

Luckily enough, his parents saved up some money for him to start at the University of Washington next fall.

For both Manchik and Bradford, getting Financial Aid is really helpful. And although it doesn't cover all the costs, every little bit helps.

*Not only world leaders worry about the economic recession. It also affects students at Green River.*

*The amount of tuition fees that students pay to attend college is big, not even including the books they have to buy.*

## Depressions around dam present risk to Valley

Thousands of residents and businesses go without flood insurance



Above: an aerial view of the Howard Hanson Dam. [www.auburnwa.gov/CourtesyPhoto](http://www.auburnwa.gov/CourtesyPhoto)

**Kelli Wyatt**  
Staff Writer

Thousands of residents living in South King County take their "floodless" region for granted. Nearly 50 years ago the Green River Valley and Duwamish River systems – including Auburn, Kent, Tukwila, Renton, parts of Seattle and other cities – were flooded annually.

The Howard Hanson Dam was built in 1961. Since the last big flood in 1959, many large corporations, including Starbucks and Boeing, have set-up-shop nearby. Two major railways cross the expanse of the valley daily and State Route 167 stretches from one end to the other.

And so, it might be asked what the problem is. Expansion is good, correct?

Well, yes, but not in the sense that a large portion of the region's economy and resources are at risk if major flooding were to occur.

The dam itself is reported to be in fine condition, but the two depressions surrounding the dam found in January and February are cause for concern to residents and businesses.

Due to these depressions, the dam is only allowed to withhold a whopping one-third of its full capacity.

"If they fill the dam all the way up there's a danger there," said Sarah Miller, emergency preparedness manager for the City of Auburn, "and they don't know how much danger, so they're not going to do it. Filling it most of the way up is what caused the depressions in the first place."

The foundation of the dam is a 10,000-year-old landslide mass. The depressions were found on the right abutment, and engineers have recently performed excavations on the area to gather information about the developing problem.

The smaller of the two depressions is reportedly a product of weathering against an engineered filter blanket used to support the abutment.

The larger depression is the result of materials settling into a tunnel roughly 30 feet below the abutment, according to Mark Ohlstrom, chief of engineering and construction for the Seattle District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The necessary repairs are still not yet known for sure, however. Nor are they expected to be started – let alone finished – before the next flood season, which starts in mid-October.

The costs of potential repairs are currently ambiguous as well.

"If they need to build a whole new dam or something, it's going to be really expensive," said Miller. "If they just need to put a wall of concrete in it somewhere, it's go-

ing to be a lot less. So they just don't know yet."

Various informational meetings have been held to educate local residents about the issue – including one at our own Green River Community College.

The meeting saw roughly 280 residents from the impacted communities on March 31, and those residents were advised to get flood insurance before the next flood season kicks up.

"We always recommend that people get flood insurance, regardless of whether they live in the flood plane or not," Miller commented.

"It's just really cheap if you don't live in the flood plane," she added. "But there's a 30-day waiting period for it, and it's just a good idea to have when you live in a valley with a river in it, with two rivers in it."

The cost of flood insurance varies depending upon the size of your property, whether you rent or own, the amount of coverage you want and ultimately whether you live in an area prone to flooding.

However, it is a low estimated \$380 per year for maximum coverage on an owned home located outside of the flood plane.

Flood insurance is advised, even for residents seemingly clear from the at-risk regions, but especially for residents and businesses impacted by the depressions.

"You know, the one thing that is important to note probably is that it's not just the flood we're worried about," Miller continued, "because if the flood happens, we lose transportation routes, north, south. Because it puts Auburn Way, West Valley Highway, and 167 all underwater."

In addition to potential loss of transportation, many critical facilities – including power substations, telephone system switches and sewer systems – would be in danger during a major flood.

Not only this, but any goods which would normally be shipped on any major roadways or railways in the Valley would instead have to be shipped east over the mountains then south and back over the mountains, just to arrive at their destination. An unnecessary and expensive procedure, if major flooding can be avoided.

Of major importance, according to Miller, is to get flood insurance and stay tuned for further information.

The flood season doesn't actually start up until mid-October, but that shouldn't give residents the peace-of-mind that leads to procrastination.

Any resident or business owner living in the are that could be potentially impacted should get flood insurance.

Keep an eye out for informational meetings on the dam when late summer and early fall roll around.

# News

[www.thecurrentonline.net](http://www.thecurrentonline.net)

**When news breaks, be the first to know**

## The entitlement of "Un-Americanism"

The problem with "Un-Americanism" is the concept itself



Commentary by  
Stirling Radliff

Americans use language with too much ease, and often without any definition to show reference to the words they use.

"Un-American" is a term that wrongfully rummages into many political arguments, considering the American ideals on freedom and everything that goes with it.

The first time the term "Un-American" was used in a professional setting was in 1934 in the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA). The HCUA disbanded in 1975.

This committee focused on combating the acts of the Nazis, the KKK, and later, the Communists, in a very McCarthy-like way. In 1959, President Harry S. Truman denounced the HCUA as being "[T]he most Un-American thing in America today".

I agree with Truman that there is no such thing as an "Un-American" act, or rather, considering what a true driving force in America is, an "Un-American" belief.

The term "Un-American", and the implications and use of it directed toward any individual, group, or thing, is something which could easily follow under the same ridiculous meaning of "Un-American:" acting out of intolerance and bigotry.

As GRCC student Chris Rodriguez put it, "Un-Americanism" is being used too liberally." I agree, but, I think that the term shouldn't be used at all.

Whether people like Bill Maher or Glenn Beck use the word, it implicates a certain characteristic, some quality or qualities, which they see in others that are contrary to their own beliefs.

When anyone uses the word, it implies that someone or some group has a quality or qualities that are far out of the norm which they attribute to their own being American.

When people like Rush Limbaugh use it, they're more than often aiming to somehow instill in their audiences the disavowment of an American individual, or sect of political individuals for their beliefs which contradict their own convictions.

Their own fundamental politic is what wails out a great punching of "un's" and "anti-isms."

As Green River student Tyler Stubenvoll puts it, "The Un-Americanism of today is a term that plays on racial fears, government needs and whatever will sell papers."

Now, what constitutes Americanness?

Take what is considered "Un-American:" a strong deviation from American cultural and political norms.

But what is an American norm?

In this bold country, this grand nation of freedoms, no matter how limited they may be, we have a natural congregation of oppositional forces, in most cases, because of the freedoms we allow.

In secular America, we have atheists, theists, pantheists, and polytheists. Out of these various groups of people, in a more defined list: we have Buddhists, Taoists, Hindus/Sikhs, Shinto, Islamic peoples, Christians/Catholics, Jews, Scientologists, Mormons, and the dozens of other religions which lie and hold influence on American soil.

All of these religions have very strong beliefs which, more than often, discredit and debunk the various others.

In this country we have Republicans, Democrats, Greens, Libertarians, Communists, Socialists, Nazis, Independents and more, all with exceedingly strong oppositional views.

In this country we have Gays, Straights, Bisexuals, Anti-Gays, Anti-Straights, asexual peoples, etc., all of whom have powerful beliefs of their own.

Sexual orientation, political identification, religious affiliation: just here, there is no generalized belief, no general American norm.

Though there may be similarities among any of the groups, the basic desires of each of these various institutions and categories of people are innumerable different.

Even within each religion or political party, the desires and aims may vary among its given members.

Wherever this "Un-Americanism" lies, wherever this deviation from a "true" American person is, I don't think that I can find it.

The great masses of people all typically want different things, and act accordingly.

The Americanness of any individual lies in his or her own "Americanesque" freedom, no matter how diminished that freedom may be.

In their freedom, they have the ability to hold contrary beliefs to any person or any standard set of beliefs in formal institutions, etc., and the ability to act or speak against the opposition - while abiding by the law, of course.

Because of our freedoms of speech and action under the law, it is our basic right to act in whatever way represents our beliefs, whether "Un-American" or not. The implications of which should or can be only positive, for we are acting as we are supposed to act.

## Editorials

### Green River must find alternate solutions to layoffs

Although we acknowledge that the state's budget crisis under our crippled economy is not simple by any means, we think that the school must find another solution to its woes instead of resorting to laying off up to a possible 85 employees.

At a time when our nation aims to re-establish its role as a leader in innovation, strength, and growth toward a better future, consenting to this pressure by allowing such an impediment on our education will only further set us behind in the global competition between the U.S. and the world's fastest rising powers.

If Green River and other schools truly aim to protect the students, they must find alternate solutions. Students, employees, and the future of this nation depend on it.

## Letters to the editor

Email letters to [thecurrent@greenriver.edu](mailto:thecurrent@greenriver.edu)

### Progress in Iraq

I have to say, I was quite surprised and pleased to see the article written last quarter by Frank Curzi about what is going on in Iraq.

I have been to the Middle East twice and have personally participated in humanitarian projects, like fixing dilapidated orphanages and hospitals.

Frank is right when he says that the U.S. has done a lot for the Iraqis. I was there in both Gulf Wars and I remember the first time, seeing how the people lived. I knew we would be back to deal with Hussein again. He was not a good man.

Thanks, Frank, for bringing this to the attention of a generation that only hears about the death and bad things that happen over there.

And, if anyone wants to help Iraqi children and the troops, Operation Support Our Troops recieved an email from Sergeant First Class Kenneth Rogers in Mosul, Iraq asking for gently used children's clothing.

He and others are taking the clothes to the Iraqi orphans.

Here is an excerpt from his email:

"War is bad and the insurgents are very bad people in that they keep killing the least protected people and that's the citizens of the cities.

What we are trying to do as a team is get some clothes together from home and get them sent to us so we can deliver them to the many kids that have been orphaned from the past six years of conflict."

Please, if you have clothing, or know of someone who does, send him a box. The Post Office has flat rate boxes that cost about \$9.00 to ship.

SFC Rogers, Kenneth  
NOC TT  
LSA Diamondback  
APO AE 09334

Kerry Hooks  
Student

## The Current Staff

The Current is a public forum for student expression at Green River Community College, since 1965.



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We encourage all students and staff to have their voices heard. The Current will publish **letters to the editor**, provided they are signed, include the author's name, and submitted in a timely manner. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. Letters should be sent to [thecurrent@greenriver.edu](mailto:thecurrent@greenriver.edu). The editor reserves the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of length, libel, or propriety. All letters become the property of The Current.

# Spring Attraction: Love, Lust and Chemistry

*Spring brings warmer weather and romance to the Green River Community College campus, for both biological and emotional reasons*

**Nick Gutierrez**  
Staff Writer

The sun is coming out, flowers are blooming and everyone is starting to feel the "heat"-the heat of attraction. Take a look around on campus and you'll notice the growing number of budding new romances and long lasting relationships filled with vigor once more. Glowing young faces caught in the moment of this thing we call attraction.

But what is it that brings us together like moths to the flame; always cautious of being burned but never willing to pull away?

At first you might think the answer is the generic "she's hot" or "he's handsome," a kind of arbitrary physical beauty summed up in less than two syllables. Or perhaps it's something more unique and specific such as "the hair," says Janet Senn, a Running Start student in a long-term relationship. "I'm attracted to a certain kind of hair," she continued.

What that meant exactly, I didn't know so I tried my luck with Ahnna Kesterson, a single GRCC student who is still checking out the free market. "How they hold their shoulders," explained Kesterson, "how confident they are".

Ok, that makes a bit more sense...Perhaps a male view would help. Matt Lewis, a 17-year-old Running Start student, explained what he found attractive about his girlfriend was, "Madison is physically fit and she has a nice personality."

Lending his lone wolf view, Harley Tyler, another Running Start Student says, "I don't really think about it. I just do what my instincts tell me to."

For the most part, the criterion each of the above has for attraction ranges from the obviously different to the confident and beautiful. Not much of a stretch from the commonly and constantly used phrase "she/he is hot" is it?

Digging a bit deeper I asked them what they thought about a recent Discovery Channel special, The Science of Sex Appeal. For those who haven't stayed up late watching the Discovery Channel, scientists on the show experimented with what each gender finds attractive and discovered the various signals that play into who we go after.

These subtleties are as simple as how we sway our hips near a potential mate or the unique pheromones,

a chemical that triggers a natural response in others, emitted through our sweat glands. When objected to these, our sub-conscious can naturally tell how healthy they are or whether your immune systems will make the healthiest children.

Interestingly enough, there are also "barriers" in place preventing just anyone from hooking-up. They found that during certain times of a month, particularly before and after a woman's period, her face becomes more rounded and her voice will become higher pitched, an apparent turn-on for most men. Likewise, a man's scent becomes far more alluring to a woman at this time, which is otherwise repugnant at any other time to avoid an accidental pregnancy.

To make things worse, men are so testosterone driven that they'll never quit going after whatever girl that'll give them attention.

These "mating habits" essentially make women rather picky about their mates and men more or less dogs. Out of this, comes what most hope is the most compatible couple and then leading to a bounty of babies.

"I don't really notice anything," says Senn when asked about what she thought about the science. "Chris is manly, more than past boyfriends and he's interesting to me. That's as far as I go."

Lewis, who already had a bit of background on the subject, having seen the show says, "Honestly, she gets me. That's what I like about her. Everything else [the science] might have led to us going out. I don't know."

So that's what students on campus had to say. Even with all the knowledge in the world, what brings us together is more than just how our bodies respond or what end we hope to achieve. I believe Kesterson puts it best.

"It's instinct," she says, "it's a part of who we are. What we are born to do. We're born to love."

Maybe that's as simple as it gets. Everyone is looking for someone unique to them; someone who gets them, who can protect them or someone to love because that's what we're meant to do. Sure, the science that underlines attraction is still influencing us, but nothing can change an individual and their preferences. So it just goes to show The Beatles had it right, "All You Need Is Love" and attraction is the gateway to it.

Matt Lewis and his girlfriend Madison Warnstadt of two months embrace and hold hands at Black Diamond Elementary School. Both are 17-year-old Running Start students at Green River Community College.



All Photos by Nick Gutierrez

## Gator baseball off to sizzling start to 2009 campaign

*Gators battling adversity with injuries and weather but still coming out with wins*

**Brad Colyer**  
Staff writer

The Green River baseball team has gotten off to a fast start in this 2009 season, compiling a 16-6 overall record, and moving to an impressive 7-1 in the west division of the NWAACC after taking both games of a weekend double header against division rival Centralia at nearby Auburn Mountainview High School.

The Gators swept both games by a combined score of 15-6, and were led by winning freshmen pitchers Jake Shadle and Chad Priamos.

Sophomore Washington State University transfer Zach Miller closed out one of the wins for his NWAACC-leading seventh save of the year.

The team's hot start may come as a surprise to some because of the team's youth (the team has eighteen freshmen to go with only seven sophomores), but not to coach Matt Acker.

"I've been impressed. We had high expectations for them this season. We're young and we've had to work out some kinks early, get through some injuries, but the team has responded well to the adversity."

The team has had more than its share of adversity, including dropping three games at a tournament in the Tri-Cities when just about the whole team had the flu. They've also had to deal with the loss of three of the team's more experienced players, Brendan

Manning (broken hand), Shane Colbert (back injury), and Matt West (knee injury) have all missed time this year. "We lost experience when those guys went down," Acker said.

Stepping up into the leadership role vacated by the returning All-League Colbert has been Miller, who has caught Acker's eye with his leadership abilities.

"He's a phenomenal leader, a real special leader. He really calms the kids down, helps guys get out of ruts. It's a hard thing to be born with, but there's no question he's a natural leader."

The loss of Colbert on the field and in the lineup opened up a spot for freshmen and Bonney Lake High School graduate Jesse Mayfield to step up and fill in.

Mayfield started the year at the bottom of the order, but his play as of late hitting second in the order has caught Acker's eye.

"The two-hole is a role position in the lineup... you have to do what's asked of you, whether it's trying to move a guy over or making a sacrifice. He's got a

good on-base percentage. He's starting to understand the position."

Mayfield isn't the only player who has stepped up for the team.

The Gators have gotten off to their quick start by getting contributions from everyone on the team.

"The whole group has contributed," said Acker. "It's been a different person

each week. Cody Brooks is hitting .395 and leading the team in RBIs, (Aaron) Johnson's been hitting for power, (Kyle) Baskett's stealing bases. They're doing great."

With the Gators on a roll and nothing

but rainouts slowing them down ("That's Washington weather for you... if you don't like it, you're in the wrong place," Acker joked. "It's not an excuse."), the Gators are looking forward to proving that the games aren't won or lost based on how experienced a team is, but who plays better between the foul lines. Acker believes his team can do just that.

"They've been playing great. I figured we had a good enough team to compete for the title, and so far they've hit all of the coaches' checkmarks."

*"I've been impressed. We had high expectations for them this season. We're young and we've had to work out some kinks early, get through some injuries, but the team has responded well to the adversity."*

- Coach Matt Acker

### Gator Scoreboard West League play results

**April 11th**  
vs. Centralia W 7-5  
vs. Centralia W 6-1

**April 5th**  
vs. Tacoma W 11-4  
vs. Tacoma W 8-2

**April 4th**  
@ Tacoma W 4-0

**March 29th**  
vs. Pierce W 4-3  
vs. Pierce W 10-3

**March 28th**  
@ Pierce L 4-3

## Local high school sports winter wrap up

### Auburn Trojans Wrestling

**Jake Swartz state champion in 189 weight class.**

Graham Davis 4th place in 104 weight class.

Dylan Rutledge 3rd place in 171 weight class.

Chris Young 5th place in 215 weight class

### Tahoma HS Bears

#### Wrestling

**John Buban state champion in 145 weight class**

**Nick Bayer state champion in 171 weight class**

**Konner Knudtsen state champion in 215 weight class**

By Cody Huard  
Staff Writer

From Auburn to Kent, high school athletes from our area dominated in state competitions in winter sports this past month. Kentwood's girls' basketball team brought home gold by sweeping over anyone in their way while Kentlake's Kayla Shira took home first place finishes in four different gymnastics events. Auburn and Tahoma High School had their way at the Tacoma Dome this year when Tahoma finished with three different wrestling state champions and Auburn placed four of their wrestlers within the top five winning spots.

Don't expect any of our schools to let up at all this upcoming spring quarter, Kentwood's track and baseball teams rank amongst the best in state and Kentlake's fast-pitch team aim to continue their domination of the SPSL.

### Kent-Meridian Royals

#### Gymnastics

Nora Keith - 3rd place on Vault

#### Wrestling

Jesus Valdez 103 weight class - 5th place

### Auburn Riverside Ravens

#### Girl's Basketball

4th place in State

#### Gymnastics

Rebecca Turnbow

2nd place on bars

5th place on Beam

### Kentridge Chargers

#### Boy's basketball

3rd in State

### Kentwood Conks Girls basketball

#### State Champions

Jamie Larsen (Gymnastics)

5th place on bars

#### Wrestling

**Ruben Navejas 103 weight class state champion**

Cody Quinn 140 weight class 2nd place

Nathan Herrick 3rd place in 285 weight class

### Kentlake Falcons Gymnastics

**Kayla Shira - State Champion all around competition.**

**KL team gymnastics - 2nd place**



The Lady Conquerers made an impressive run in the 4A State Tournament. They beat Snohomish in the Finals to come home with the Championship.



The Chargers celebrate a 3rd place finish in the State. They fell to Federal Way in the State Semi-Finals but beat Foss in the consolation game



Auburn High School's Jake Swartz won the State title in the 189 Weight class. The dominant Senior is headed to Boise State.

## Fans in Oklahoma City won't get full NBA experience

Only fans in Seattle can share the history, rivalries and fun that came with 41 years of the Sonics

Commentary by Andrew Honea  
Staff Writer

With the NBA playoffs quickly approaching, more people in the city of Seattle are being made more aware of the fact that it has been nearly a year since there professional basketball franchise was forced to pack up and move to Oklahoma.

It still baffles me how a team can be faced with such troubles on the offensive and defensive sides of the ball and still maintain the fan base that Seattle had.

I lived around a city in Atlanta where our home team, the Braves, baseball franchise won 14 consecutive division titles and didn't seem to have half the support that the Seattle Supersonics have maintained, even after they moved to Oklahoma City.

What could have possibly come from the Sonics (more recently known as the Thunder) relocating to Oklahoma City?

The Thunder have posted close to the exact same record the Sonics posted during the 2007-08 campaign in Seattle, but one main difference came from the tremendous fan base I have already spoken about. The Sonics have a fan base that has developed over the last 41 years.

A diverse group of supporters that have seen many memorable moments. These moments start in 1979, when the Sonics beat the Washington Bullets to obtain its first and only NBA championship, and become one of two major Seattle teams to win a championship.

These fans were able to watch Shawn Kemp and Gary Payton ("The Glove") during the 1990's while Seattle

maintained its role as a western conference powerhouse.

The fans were even able to see Rookie phenom Kevin Durant selected in the draft as a second over-all pick and later receive the Rookie of the Year award, the first in team history.

The forced movement of the Sonics has caused anger and a variety of emotions in the hearts of thousands of fans that have stayed faithful to the Sonics for the past several years.

What does Oklahoma City possibly have to offer that would make a group of individuals want to force a team with years of history across the country to a city that can't possibly respect the memories?

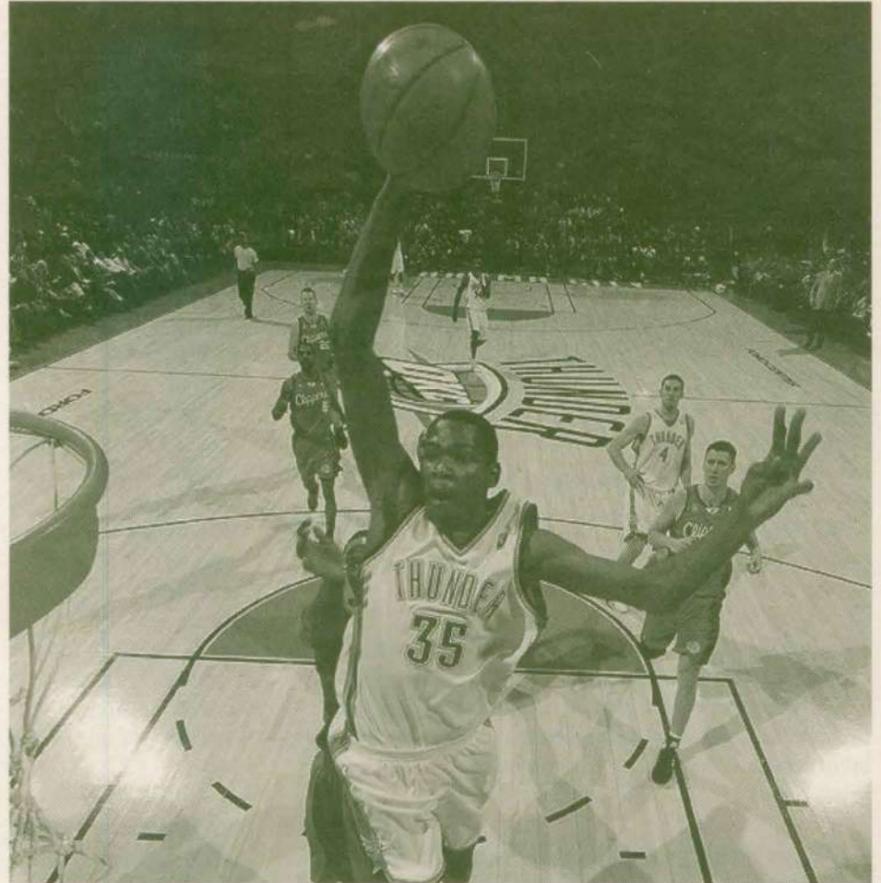
They are able to watch Kevin Durant establish himself as a dangerous force in the NBA but they can't relate to his Rookie of the Year campaign.

These fans can attend the Ford Arena to watch the Thunder to do battle with the Portland Trailblazers, and be completely oblivious to any information involving the "I-5 Rivalry".

They can even try to remember the success Gary Payton had as a Sonic without shedding a single tear because they simply don't know what Seattle did to his career.

Payton has shown his support to the Sonics by requesting his jersey is not retired with the Thunder and is currently working on relocating the a franchise back to Seattle, where he plans on obtaining a position with the franchise so it doesn't relocate again.

It has been made evident that although Oklahoma City now has a basketball



www.nba.com/courtesy photo

franchise that comes from a team with years of memories, they simply don't share the memories with Seattle.

Emily Parsons, a second year running start student put it best by saying, "The Sonics shared memories with Seattle that simply can't be replaced by moving, and

you better believe when Seattle has this team back in its grasp, it won't be willing to let go again".

In my opinion, there is one piece of advice that all true Sonic fans should always take into account...Starbucks is the enemy, so brew your own coffee at home.


  
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## Persepolis: history, politics, comedy come alive

*A comic strip and a novel wrapped into one, on a young girl's perspective on the Islamic Revolution*

**Kate Jorgenson**  
Staff Writer

A picture is worth a thousand words. This graphic novel impacts the historical references of the Islamic Revolution from the perspective of a ten-year-old girl from Iran.

"Persepolis" is a heart-wrenching memoir of Marjane Satrapi's childhood. Growing up in a terrible time period in Iran; during the time of the Islamic Revolution, she experienced many hardships.

Yet she had to keep on pushing through and let herself experience every bit of emotion: happy or sad, laughter or grief. Satrapi lived life without a second to spare.

Although this genre of books isn't a favorite of mine, the history of the Islamic Revolution was interesting to read about throughout the course of the comic strip.

The images of black and white portrayed with the vivid commentary of the little girl gave the ups and downs towards the display of what went on during this time period.

Marji is experiencing firsthand what herself, family, friends, school, village, country, and the world views are towards this devastating historical happening and the toll it is taking on her surroundings.

*"It seemed as though I was looking on through the shadows of Satrapi and how she managed to experience these events moment by moment in the seconds of survival during the terrible times."*

An English professor here at Green River, Avis Adams introduced me to this book.

Adams shockingly informed me that this book is considered a form of children's literature because the protagonist is a child and also how the book is written in a graphic format.

Outrageously on page 74 it states, "They insulted me. They said that women like me should be pushed up against a wall and f---ed. And then thrown in the garbage."

This vulgar word choice, in my opinion, should not be allowed to be viewed by children; although it is an interesting book for young adult readers.

When I was first introduced to this book, it didn't spark any passion in my mind to read it. The cover was plain looking, red and black designs.

The comic style is what made this novel pop out.

Towards the climax of the story, it really got the juices flowing and the storyline expressed enlightenment and intrigued me to keep going.

It seemed as though I was looking on through the shadows of Satrapi and how she managed to experience these events moment by moment in the seconds of survival during the terrible times.

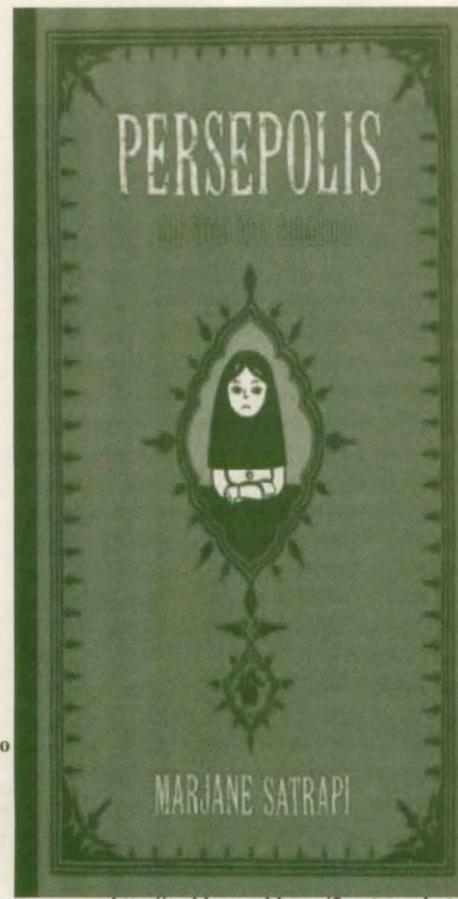
"Persepolis" was difficult to put down. It kept me wanting more and more details about every second that went by



<http://www.payvand.com/Courtesyphoto>

(Above)

An illustrated picture of the talented Marjane Satrapi, the author of "Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood."



<http://suddenworld.com/Courtesyphoto>

in Satrapi's life. Each image brought fear and excitement to my eyes. There was a brave voice in Satrapi's memoir; the best advice that was given was spoken by Satrapi's grandmother on page 150, "In life you'll meet a lot of jerks. If they hurt you tell yourself that it's because they're stupid. That will help keep you from reacting to their cruelty. Because there is nothing worse than bitterness and vengeance...always keep your dignity and be true to yourself." This advice was bittersweet and taken to my heart.

The 2008-2009 One Book—One

Community book is "Persepolis." According to the Green River library website this means that, "A One Book program encourages a community to read one book together at the same time."

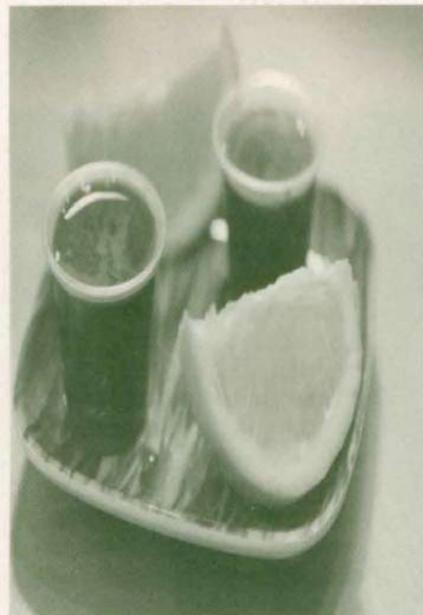
Therefore, the Green River campus has joined together with Auburn Mountainview High School and the Auburn branch of the King County Library System to read and share the triumphs and tribulations of "Persepolis" by Satrapi.

## Detox Diets: Cleanse your body, feel and look refreshed

*Commit yourself to a two to three day strict diet to eliminate the toxins in your body; a great jump start to a new healthy lifestyle*

**Michelle Bednarski**  
Staff Writer

Detox Diets. Do they really work? No one can truly admit that they are satisfied with the way he/she looks. But why do we go to the extreme of dieting? Can Detox really be the best solution for jump-starting weight loss?



<http://wheatgrass-shot/Courtesyphoto>

Wheat grass is an excellent source of vitamin k and iron. One ounce of wheat grass is equal to one whole pound of vegetables.

First of all, what is a Detox diet? Well, everything we smell, eat, and breathe have toxins that build in our bodies. From pollution to processed food, these toxins are responsible for our health such as gaining weight, energy loss, and so on. So by restricting to an extreme diet, the detox will eliminate these toxins from your body. If Detox diets get rid of toxins from the body, then why do nutritionists say these types of diets can be harmful for us?

The problem is that a healthy detox diet should only take up to two to three days; enough for your body to eliminate some toxins and to get your body ready for a diet you would be starting. The best detox diet would be to eliminate your body from alcohol, meats, and also some dairy. But be prepared, the weight you will lose will mostly be water weight, which means that if you only do a detox without a diet afterwards, the weight you lost would more likely come back.

If you are wondering if there is only one detox diet out there, think again. There are a full variety of Detox diets out there for you to choose from.

You can choose to do a juice fasting diet that restricts you to only drinking freshly made juices. There are also raw food diets where all you eat are uncooked foods such as nuts, fruits, and raw vegetables.

If you do not have a lot of time on your

hands to be on a strict detox diet, you can take a daily shot of wheat grass, where one ounce of wheat grass has the same value as a pound of vegetables.

But do not think it will be easy, "it takes a lot of commitment to go on such restriction," admits Sarah Lahae. She told me that she had to stay in bed and conserve her energy because she barely had any.

Many people whom have tried detox diets say that the diets do work. They beat out bloating and cellulite. Skin

becomes healthier and glowing, as well as a major improvement towards being more energetic. They even admit to having a more positive outlook on how they live. "I feel light and refreshed. I don't feel big like I used to," says Kelsey Robinson.

Make sure to speak to your doctor before starting a detox diet if you have any health risks or complications.

If you chose to try detox to start a healthy life, you can bring positivity towards how you feel and the way you look!

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# How much does it really cost to say "I do?"

*Weddings...there is so much to consider; here's how to have a beautiful, stressless day*

**Michelle Praast**  
Staff Writer

Wedding bells, flying doves, and a beautiful flowing gown are all a part of every woman's dream.

What females don't take the time to think of is how much a happy ending really costs. If a husband and wife plan to have a family and a home, then they should consider saving years in advance for their wedding because it gets pretty expensive.

The average cost of a wedding comes to be about \$20,000 and that does not include the cost for the honeymoon and the rings.

There are so many things to consider while saving money for one's wedding. Those things are the gown, of course, the tuxes, the cake, the wedding hall, a place for a reception, a wedding officiant, a photographer, wedding invitations, food, a d j, shoes, makeup, the up-do, and so many other things.

The bride's ring alone will be come to be about \$1000.

The total cost in the end, someone would have spent enough money to buy

a new car or spend a luxurious vacation in Tahiti with a loved one.

The cost of a wedding cake, on average, would be around \$500. Depending on how many people attend your wedding, it would take a long time to finish that cake off. Not including the figurines standing at the top.

A d.j for your wedding is almost \$500 as well.

That means that a couple would have to pay over a grand to get a face full of cake, while listening to some music. Ouch!

The most important part of the wedding is the dress. That will be around \$1000, which is not that bad considering it will sit in your closet forever waiting to be handed down to your daughter.

Shoes to go with the dress, on average, will be about \$80. It helps if a woman is taller than the groom because then she will not have to worry about buying a nice set of expensive shoes.

The cost per plate for the wedding dinner is almost \$50 per plate! That gets pretty expensive if they have a large family and tons of mouths to feed.

*A couple would have to pay over a grand to get a face full of cake, while listening to some music. Ouch!*

The honeymoon is just another hole in the pocket for a husband and wife to be. This is mostly the groom's responsibility so they should save a couple thousand dollars, if not more, for the first night together as a married couple.

All of these costs add up in the end and that is why it is important to start saving long before the marriage takes place.

A much simpler wedding makes so much more sense if someone is trying to save money for a future home and family. You do not need all of the regular necessities to have a nice and romantic walk down the aisle.

We also forget about all the time we have to put into making this special day perfect, creating stress with all the time crunches with dates and such.

Saving money and reducing stress is never a bad thing, especially on the one of the most important days of your life.

So don't go too overboard with your wedding and realize that there are way more things that you will have to pay and save for as a newly married couple. It's completely possible to have both a memorable and lovely day, and not spend an arm and a leg!



<http://ineedweddinghelp.com>/Courtesy Photo  
Cutting the cake as a newly married couple is a tradition that will run you about \$500.

## I love college, what a concept

*Roth's new hit single is a mix of hip-hop and alternative sure to please*

**Michelle Kuhn**  
Staff Writer

I love college, what a concept. Sure college has its ups and downs: ups being that one receives a valid education, more leniency than previous education facilities, and just more freedom. The downs being possibly the stress of an extra work load among others.

But singer Asher Roth seems to only see one side: the parties. Which could possibly differ from most people's college experiences, especially here at GRCC, but even still can we blame him for having a little fun?

Roth's smash hit "I LOVE COLLEGE", focusing on his love of partying and beer, has been topping the charts since its release. Perhaps the songs success is due to its catchy lyrics, bluntness, upbeat rhythm, or probably just a combination of all three.

Whatever the case, the people have spoken, we love this song!

When asked whether or not she liked this song, first quarter student Leanna Ferraro states, "I happen to love this song; it gets me pumped up."

Caitlin Scully, a second quarter student planning on getting her Associates in Arts, had a somewhat similar opinion, "It's a fun party song, I just feel the lyrics have more to do with partying than school, but it shows the fun you can have along with your educational experience, but it's not a song I would live by (chuckles)."

This I believe is what many people think when they hear this song, cool, but not something to live by.

I find that I cannot turn on the radio without hearing this song at least once in the first 15 minutes of having the radio on. This is probably because though the song is considered hip-hop, it still finds its way on to other radio stations such as 107.7 The End, a popular alternative station.

Due to the success of this song alone,



<http://asherroth.com>/Courtesy Photo  
Asher Roth's "I LOVE COLLEGE" has become a nation-wide favorite.

Asher Roth should have no trouble selling his debut album titled "Asleep in the Bread Aisle" release date April 20, aka 420; an understandable release date for the man who rhymes not only about beer and women, but also about smoking weed. The album should be expected to have many more upbeat hip-hop songs.

Though he has been making music for several years now, Roth is just starting to emerge as a main street "rapper".

His comical style of rap has gotten the attention of many well respected hip-hop artists including former Outkast front man Andre 3000, stating, "Let me know if there's an album you guys need me on."

Roth is currently touring the US, so if you like what you've heard, be sure to check him out.

Chances are if you dig "I LOVE COLLEGE" you will also enjoy the rest of his unique style of music!

## Cookies bring students together

*Giraffes, monkeys, elephants, oh my! Cheer up your friends with a cookie*

**Commentary by**  
Ryan Young

Oreos, chocolate chip, snicker doodles, Samoa and especially Animal Crackers, those are the good things in life. Since they were invented long ago, cookies have been bringing people of all ages happiness.

As a matter of fact, if there was one thing that could bring everyone together, something to maybe even catalyze world peace, I think that thing would be cookies.

It's a fact that everyone likes cookies. Even if you say you don't like cookies, you probably haven't been given a proper one. Try one of my mom's delicious, gooey Snicker Doodles and you will become a believer. Trust me.

If there was one cookie that could bring the world together with a common liking it would be Animal Crackers. It can be said that one of the most popular, well known cookies is that of the animal type.

Who hasn't heard little Shirley Temple's song of passion for the cookies? "Animal crackers in my soup, monkeys and rabbits loop the loop." Of course Shirley, I believe that's a sentiment we can all share.

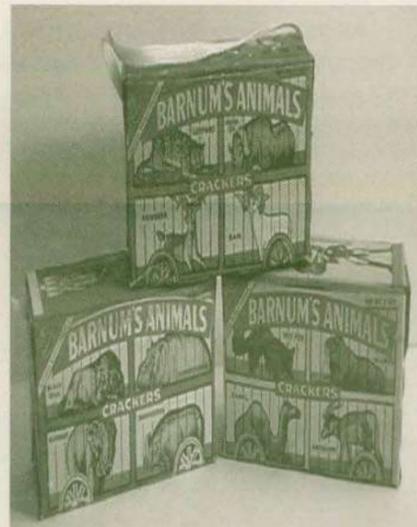
I took these thoughts and developed some questions to ask some students of Green River, to see what they thought about cookies, especially Animal Crackers, to really get an idea if this is really a common liking that can be used to bring people together.

I started off with the question of "What is your favorite cookie?" Despite a variety of responses, I thought everyone could come up with an answer because everyone loves cookies!

I would have been very surprised if I got an answer of "Cookies!? What the hell are those?" Or "Cookies, naw I'm not a fan."

When asking a group of kids what their favorite cookies were, student Jesse Zakabi described his favorite kind of cookie as, "the ones with caramel and chocolate," he couldn't recall the name.

Then his buddy, Taylor Horner, came up



<http://www.wangdangle.org>/Courtesy Photo

with the name, "Samoa." Then there was resounding excitement, "Oh I love those cookies!" throughout the group.

When asked about their opinion of the lion, monkey and elephant shaped snacks, much to my surprise, not everyone likes Animal Crackers!

Playing around with his long board Evan Orcutt revealed that he was not a fan of Animal Crackers.

So I thought he must not know of the frosted kind, but he already knew of them! His taste buds just weren't interested in the edible, animal shaped concoctions.

When asked if there was any way to improve upon the already amazing cookies, Nate Menalia and Taylor Horner seemed to agree that they could be made "more delicious." Jessie Zakabi had a great plan of action on how to accomplish this, by dipping them in chocolate. How could I not have seen it before!?

I'm ready to implement my plan to change the world through this advice: Share your cookies.

If you see someone having a bad day, or you just want to make a new friend, give 'em a cookie. It's a great way to start a conversation, meet new people, and make new friends. Remember though, not everyone is a fan of Animal Crackers, so maybe try a variety.

Truth be told, cookies make the world a better place.

# Meet your Candidates

Get to know your candidates running for ASGRCC president and vice president for the 2009-10 school year

Biographies by Candidates gathered for *The Current* by

Jacqui Rogers - Staff Writer



## Bert McArthur

As your ASGRCC president, I will work my hardest to make sure that our voice as students is conveyed to the GRCC administration, and in return ensure that GRCC administrative policy is communicated back to us.

Here's a little about me: I am beginning my second year at Green River, and I am working toward a Natural Resources A.A.S. degree.

I'm also an active member of the GRCC Forestry Club. I've owned and operated a general contracting business, worked as a medical receptionist, and been employed as an office manager, among other things.

When I graduate from Green River, I'd like to start a forestry consulting business geared toward sustainable land management practices.

In layman's terms, it means that I'd like to use the skills that I am learning at Green River to assist property owners in maintaining a healthy and productive land, with an eye towards conserving and protecting our natural resources (water, timber, wildlife, etc.) for use by current and future generations. In the meantime, I'd like to give back to GRCC by serving its students.

Should I be elected as your ASGRCC president, my goal is to always listen to your concerns, complaints, and suggestions.

The option of every student at Green River is valuable, and deserves to be heard and acknowledged by both our student government and school administration.

Give yourself a loud, clear voice. Vote for Bert.



## Mae Cubing

Fellow Gators!

My name is Mae Cubing. I'm 22. I should be outta here already, right? Well, I didn't go to college directly after graduation. I moved to Seattle, worked, moved back, played and generally took a break for academics. I knew I wasn't in a place to succeed at 18. Squeak through, maybe, but not truly succeed on both personal and academic levels. I didn't want to waste money or time but continuing a heartless education, without drive or commitment. But after two years, my desire for school - for a place that feeds my mind, fuels my intelligence and inspires my creativity - was undeniable. I knew I was actually ready, that I wanted it, and I committed to it.

Though not terribly involved in campus life the first year, I became a tutor for the Writing Center, where I met last year's Sergeant-at-Arms, who suggested I join Student Government. This year, I served on the Judicial Board as an ASGRCC Senator. I had no idea what an incredible experience it would be. The people I met, the training and knowledge we gained... they introduced me to aspects of student life and leadership I didn't see on my own. I discovered to be involved is to lead, inspire and grow. I learned to learn from the students that surround me.

I value the power of a student's voice, and strive for the company and variety of others'. Many changes are coming for our school, from various directions and authorities - and the student voice should remain central. To better our education, we need to learn to use it, and they need to learn to hear it. The office of President is a channel for essential communication in all directions. That's what I've committed to, and that's why I'm running.



## Mika Aoyama

"Green River Community College is the best college for international students." I heard that from one of my friends when I was picking which college to study at in the United States. Actually I had never expected there were so many international students in the college. However, no matter where I go on campus, they talk in their native languages. I want to take them out and have good relationships with domestic students. There are two reasons I want to run for vice-president which has a great environment to exchange different cultures and languages.

As an international student, I want to make a community so that we can know students from other cultures and countries. For example, I have been living in Campus Corner Apartments for three quarters and we have about three hundred students from over ten different countries. I believe that we need to have places that we can share and learn something new from them. International students and domestic students can actually learn about different cultures and gather ideas on campus. It might help to solve today's global problems through sharing ideas. That is why I want to take a chance to have a community that consists of students from different countries.

By using this community, I want to focus on recycling on campus. Personally, I am interested in the issue, global warming and how to face that issue. If we are successful in recycling around the campus, our big community of GRCC, would be a wonderful community college that students would want to attend.

All in all, if I became a vice-president in GRCC, I will work so hard for students that they feel comfortable to attend the college. I hope all students know the importance of learning not only from lecture classes, but from experiences by sharing ideas with each other.