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"Sí Se Puede!" M.E.Ch.A hosts Hispanic/ Latino Heritage Month Today!

By: Lindsey Williams & Michele Kuhn

Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlán, (M.E.Ch.A) is hosting their annual Latino/ Hispanic heritage month conference today, October 16th, from 4:30 to 9 PM in the LC.

M.E.Ch.A is a diverse awareness club that promotes the higher education, culture and history of the Latin and Hispanic community.

Today's event will include mariachi entertainment from Seattle Azteca Dancing, seven guest speakers including the Consul of Spain in Washington, a taco truck, and a chance to ask M.E.Ch.A members questions about the culture and history of the Latino/Hispanic culture.

M.E.Ch.A is one of the most active clubs on our campus going on their second year. Last year M.E.Ch.A hosted high school outreach programs, a Cinco de Mayo informational presentation, and a Day of Death event to name but a few activities. This year, they plan to try their luck with the previous year's success and do even more.

Green River's M.E.Ch.A is affiliated with the national organization which started back in



Courtesy Photo/ M.E.Ch.A Club
Members of M.E.Ch.A smile for a quick group pose.

1969. One of their missions is to purge America of racism, sexism, homophobia and imperialism in American society. While this movement is supported by Hispanics and Latinos alike, M.E.Ch.A does not discriminate based on nationality.

The club meets every Wednesday at 2 PM in LC-254. Any student, Latino descent or not, is encouraged to participate and join in any M.E.Ch.A sponsored events and/or meetings.

More information can also be found online at nationalM.E.Ch.A.org, or on campus at the Disability Support Services desk in the LC.

While there are only fifteen members at the moment this club is fast and on the rise, thanks in large part to their emphasis on promotions and their activities throughout the school year.

"M.E.Ch.A is awesome, [and] it's a great way to meet new people," said Christian Muñoz, a peer navigator and member of M.E.Ch.A.

One of the most important things about today's event is to "emphasize the vital role of leadership in the past, present and future for individuals willing to make extraordinary changes take place within... their communities," said Jhon Valencia, one of three M.E.Ch.A faculty advisers on campus.

Darla Jara, M.E.Ch.A's Secretary for 09-10, kindly translated the club's motto, "Sí se puede" meaning "Yes We Can."

Jara and Yadira Murillo, another student leader of the club, will both be at the LC today and can answer general questions about Latino/ Hispanic heritage as well as how to join M.E.Ch.A.

Annual Fall Fling Another Smash Hit For Students

By: Jeanette Helms

Summer's over. New students are enrolling, old students returning, and everyone is beginning to wonder how much homework fall quarter will bring. Does this mean the party's over? Never! With every fall quarter comes a new way to rock out – at the Fall Fling.

On Sep. 30th, students came pouring out of their classes to find that the Kennelly Commons had become suddenly overrun with interesting booths, towering inflatables and delicious treats. The \$5 Barbeque made for a perfect lunch, and free cotton candy and popcorn pleased Flingers and passer-bys alike. The Fall Fling is a short yet fantastic opportunity to meet and talk with members of different clubs and classes, play games with friends, or just hang out and listen live music.

Right next to the musician stage was the booth for KGRG-1, Green River's AM station.

According to student Alisha Sjolín, taking the class teaches you how to talk on the radio, make podcasts and even earn money. Between earning cash and cool homework, "it's a super fun class," said Sjolín.

The Gay-Straight Alliance Club had a booth covered with flyers and pamphlets set up to show students what the club is all about: developing connections between members without boundaries based on sexuality. GSA is a very active club around campus. Last year they even hosted a GSA Prom. "We're very out-there," said Advisor Kelly Blackwood.

Another diverse club is Dance Connection, which teaches salsa to country line and ballroom to belly dance. DC accepts members ranging from beginners to pros, from a variety of backgrounds. "Even if you don't speak the same language, you can share and enjoy dance," said Advisor Frances Lindland.

Aside from all the booths, students enter-

tained themselves with the music and the inflatable games. Vicci Martinez was the acoustic performer that provided the tunes this year. Darren Hoover, who spent his two hour break between classes enjoying the festivities, described her music as "mellow and smooth," saying, "her voice and her guitar skills are impressive – she's really talented." To the left of Martinez was a new inflatable game called 'The Wreckingball,' where the players try to knock each other off inflated platforms using a giant, suspended ball. "At first, two of us didn't even stand up," said Gina Helms after trying out the new game. "You look at the platforms and they look stable, but they're not. I had to hold onto the pillar."

Students who missed the Fall Fling and don't want to miss out next time can check out student programs or thecurrentonline.net for future events on campus.



GRCC student, Adrian Brewer, claims victory in the inflatable boxing ring.

Jeanette Helms/ The Current

Did you know?

Every year, around 25 couples tie the knot @ Green River

This year we broke our all time enrollment record!

The main GRCC campus opened its doors back in 1965

Howard Hanson Dam :GRCC prepares for the worst

By: **Sonia Rodriguez**

Auburn, Kent, Tukwila and Renton could be faced with up to 10 feet of water this winter if the Howard Hanson Dam gives out. While commercials advising residents to buy insurance abound, Green River is making plans for various possibilities.

The GRCC campus has been identified as one of the possible facilities to assist as a shelter for 4000 valley residents that may be affected. All together at its high end a flood could displace some 27,000 people from their homes.

Local churches, high schools and stores are also on the list of places that can serve as shelters. For Green River, the main gym is the most likely building to be used.

"It's a bit complicated because there isn't a clear understanding of the size of the impact the flood will cause," Emergency Manager Frederick Creek said.

Green River's biggest threats are losing the sewer system and power. "We have apartments that need to have the necessary elements to live for those few days," said Creek. As a result of this, Creek is planning on inserting 15-20 port potties just to be prepared.

The emergency team has been attending various meetings regarding the flood and weather changes. They are monitoring changes that will trigger their plan into action, this includes the possibility of closing any or all GRCC campuses.

Besides the school shutting down and the sewer and power system being damaged, the Auburn campus doesn't have to worry about being submerged in water.

Our Kent campus, on the other hand, is likely to have waters as high as six feet and they are taking procedures to prepare.

The emergency team at GRCC is very aware of this and is seeing into how it's going to not only shelter those affected but how it will go about providing classes for Kent campus attendees if the facilities become un-functional.

"Well, the school [won't] be in session so it wouldn't affect us if it was used as a shelter" GRCC student Kyle Hutchinson said.

Creek mentioned a three step preparation guideline they have developed, "Our first priority is to protect everyone's life and we will do this by evacuating all from the valley region and shutting down the school."

The second step is regarding property; as weather changes begin the plan is to remove all important property and valuables from campus. Following procedures and plans is the final key to the preparedness guidelines.

"I don't want to be [an] alarmist, but we all have to be very prepared for anything: get insurance, protect your valuable belongings and most importantly, protect your life as well as your loved ones," Creek advised students.

Green River's next action will be determined throughout the timing of weather alerts and government updates.



Courtesy Photo/ Seattle Times

Howard Hanson Dam spillway, depressions in dam are located directly above the runoff area.

Whether Howard Hanson will go out or not will grow more apparent as the rainy season gets worse. At least for the moment, Green

River is prepared to beat Green River with or without a dam failure.

Work study a raging success this year

By: **Lindsey Williams**

Federal work study, a financial aid program for both community colleges and four year universities, is usually highly sought after at Green River, and this year was one for the record books.

While about 500 students were eligible to receive work study funds, the ranks thinned down at each step until only 190 new applicants remained.

According to Linda Nulle, a Program Specialist in financial aid, returning students receive priority, and new students are given jobs on a first come first serve basis.

While in years past, students have simply stood in a line to receive employment, after this year, new students will be entered into a random drawing system instead. "The reason for this change in policy is the sheer number of applicants who showed up this year as early as 3:30 AM," said Nulle.

On September 25, 190 of those eligible were lined up hoping to get one of the coveted positions. Of those 190, 104 were hired. The other 86 students were put on a waitlist and will be hired in the order their authorization to work cards were received.

Antonio Ramirez was one of the first ten people in line. "I got here a little before 4 AM," said Ramirez as he leveled up on his game. He was one of many who brought video games, laptops and other electronics to pass almost three hours in line. As he received employment, Ramirez can now be found grading math papers for one of the instructors on campus.

For those interested in the program next year, getting financial aid submitted early is a key factor in who is eligible. The deadline for priority in the 10-11 school year is April 15 2010.



Courtesy Photos/ Todd Simpson

Over 190 Students lined up along hallways in the LC hoping to receive employment.

Flu and pneumonia shots available on campus

By: **Saya Tatsumi**

Flu season is upon us, and Green River has hosted multiple vaccine days to help students be prepared. At only \$25 for flu and \$45 for pneumonia, there are still plenty of shots to go around for faculty, staff, students and the general public.

As of yet, most recipients have been staff and faculty, "Most likely, believe students are

young enough to recover... Or they don't think they'll be sick," said Julie French, the Health Service Coordinator.

French goes on to warn, "As long as we have contact with someone, there are unlimited possibilities to get sick anywhere we go." French advises students to wash their hands and gargle after going out. Also, staying home when ill and letting your instructors know are important in order to stop the spread of the virus to the entire campus.

Students were skeptical regarding shots, most likely from horrific memories of vaccines when we were younger. Flu shots are generally less painful than say, a hepatitis B vaccine, simply because there is less going in the arm.

Student Chika Kawashima was at the health center, "I will take the shot...its convenient and the price is cheap," said Kawashima.

"I'm interested in it, and [I'm] planning to take it," said Ted Hanrahan, another student at GRCC. Hanrahan hasn't gotten a flu vaccine for a few years, but is playing it safe this year in partially because of swine flu concerns.

For those who haven't gotten down to the health center yet, there's still time. The last day to receive a flu shot on campus is October 27th from 10 AM - 2 PM in the Baker room of the LC. Be prepared by bringing current photo identification and, if possible, an insurance card.

If you aren't able to make it on the 27th, many local pharmacies including Safeway and Walgreens have

For students not able to get this shot on the 27th, many local pharmacies such as Safeway and Walgreens have both flu and pneumonia shots available. Check with your local pharmacy for dates and times.



Saya Tatsumi/The Current



Saya Tatsumi/The Current

A Safeway pharmacist prepares (above) and administers (below) a \$25 flu shot available for latecomers.

Pandemonium and chaos

Swine flu is controlling America but is it really worth all the panic?



Courtesy Photo/thetimes-tribune.com

Commentary by: Jaclyn Shorter

Facemasks and hand sanitizer are a common sight nowadays. What do these items have in common? People are buying them in response to a pandemic that is sweeping the nation, the H1N1 virus, most commonly known as the swine flu.

Swine flu has the nation in upheaval, and the media portrays it like everyone is going to die one by one. Should people truly be so worried about this?

Swine flu was declared a pandemic on June 11, 2009, after an outbreak in Mexico, and has spread in "much the same way that the regular seasonal flu spreads," according to CDC.gov.

It was said to originate from pigs, although the CDC (Center for Disease Control) states that it normally "circulates in pigs...and bird genes and human genes." This means that humans have likely had the virus all along; it just hasn't surfaced until now.

Kim Baker, a pharmacist at the Walgreens in Issaquah says, "Swine flu has been around for years, it's just been in remote places. Because of travel, it's spread world wide. Every year, flu strains are chemically tested to see which ones there are, and the swine flu is just a different strain."

If it's a different strain, why are people freaking out about it so much?

"People are freaking out because of the deaths of people who had no previous health conditions. It has symptoms just like that of a normal flu, and the only way to tell if you have it is to get tested for it," says Baker.

After this information was delivered to the public through mass media, people flocked to stores and snatched up all of the available facemasks and hand sanitizer.

They didn't want to catch the virus, and they thought that everything they touched would be infected with it. If they got sick, they automatically thought it was the swine flu.

However, fewer than 500 people have died from swine flu according to Baker.

Kim Mitchell, a junior at WSU in Pullman, and sister of GRCC student Nikki Mitchell, was at school during the outbreak and knew many friends who suffered through the illness.

"People should be concerned if they live in a highly populated area, but not to the extent that was shown on TV," says Mitchell.

"Some of my friends had the Swine Flu and experienced normal flu symptoms such as sore throat, cough, fever, and diarrhea; they recovered in four to five days, which is about half the time of the normal flu, and they are fine now," she said.

"People are freaking out because it reminds them of the 1918 flu pandemic. It's usually people with a compromised immune system who die," she added.

Having the swine flu does not necessarily mean a person is going to die. People who are normally healthy, appear to bounce right back to health. "Of course, they point directly to the swine flu when it could just be the common cold," explains GRCC student Darleen Jara, when asked about whether the media is blowing things out of proportion.

"It's overrated, and people need to calm down. If people don't have doctors [like in some Mexico cases], then they could die. If you have a doctor and you go, then you will be fine; it hits you hard, but you are okay afterwards," says GRCC student Kristen Harlor.

The only reason people should be concerned about dying is if they don't have health care, or simply don't have treatment options available where they live.

All that can be done to prevent it is: staying home when you are sick, washing hands frequently, getting vaccinated against it, etc., recommends the CDC.

With good hygiene and some common sense, the flu can be avoided, or if caught, can be gotten over without serious complications.

If interested in getting the vaccine against the swine flu, it will be "available everywhere the regular flu shot is offered, such as pharmacies and doctors offices," says Baker.

"The top priority for the vaccine will be the elderly, health care workers, young children, and people who are already at risk. It's up to the individual if they want to get it or not. The CDC says it will help, but there is no data for it yet," she added.

"I wouldn't get it [the swine flu vaccine] because I think they should study more [about] the swine flu and try to see if this is something we all MUST get," states Jara.

Only time will tell if the vaccine is really worth taking. For now, all we can do is not freak out, stay as healthy as possible and distance ourselves if we become sick.

A state of care for our own people

Even in America, socialism is necessary to clean up the scraps capitalism left behind

Commentary by: Stirling Radliff

In 2008, more than 46 million people led their lives without healthcare coverage in the US, according to the Census Bureau; thus, healthcare has become our primary issue.

A general consumption of time and energy spent in the United States on this issue is in combating anything that is government regulated; anything that insists on the paranoia resulting from America's history, the 60's and onward. What, the corrupt government that has no interest in its people?

What is the rule of the state? What are its intentions for the citizens that elected it?

"It is the duly constituted representative of an organized society of human beings, created by them for their mutual protection and well-being," said Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The state is but the machinery through which such mutual aid and protection are achieved.

Our government is not the master but the creature of the people.

The duty of the state to its citizens is the duty of the servant to its master. The people have created it; the people, by common consent, permit its continual existence.

Roosevelt continued to explain that "one of these duties of the State is that of caring for

those who find themselves the victims of such adverse circumstances as makes them unable to obtain even the necessities for mere existence without the aid of others. That responsibility is recognized by every civilized Nation."

Granted, from the days of Roosevelt, our government has combined capitalism with democracy in a way that is hardly understandable. Our government has grown to be corrupt, unchecked and untrustworthy such that it has become increasingly difficult to trust our elected body.

It thus becomes an issue of whether capitalism and democracy are at all susceptible in accordance with the well-being of the people.

Capitalism, the grand old economic idea, is one insistent on individual gain of profit. In instituting an idea for competition in economy, it allows for "winners" – for what is now one percent of Americans holding the majority of America's profits. That one percent is capitalism's "Winners." Cheers for them!

It also has the inherent ability to tell our representatives – who also want that "winner's spot" – what to do, and that if they do it, they get a share of capital, and a closer position to the top. This desire for "the top" is indeed second nature in every American landscape.

Democracy – the liberal scheme to denote totalitarianism – is a revolutionary tool for which "the people" are the government, thus ruling themselves so it may seem. It should be noted that America is not a full-blood democracy, but rather a republic, much like the Roman Empire.

We, the people, elect representatives on behalf of ourselves with the mighty hope that those elected may have our best interest in

mind and at heart.

Socialism, the scary euphemism that insists on hugging everyone, wants everyone to have equal access to resources, and is of course, government run. That quality seems to be demonized to some extent.

So what is the problem with socialism?

Let us not forget what socialistic programs America already has: Civil Service Retirement Systems; Federal Employee Retirement Systems (FERS); Railroad Retirement Systems.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Programs: Public Housing; Rental Vouchers and Certificates; Section 8 Housing Vouchers; Shelter Plus Care; Single Room Occupancy; Low Income Home Energy Assistance.

Social Security Programs: Social Security (OASDI); Unemployment Insurance; Temporary Disability Insurance; Medicare; Medicaid; Medical Prescription Drug Plan.

Welfare Programs: Supplemental Security Programs; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families; Food Stamp Program; Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); National School Lunch Program; School Breakfast Program;

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). All these among dozens of others...

These programs are helpful, are they not?

They benefit the common good of us American People. They benefit those who need what capitalism doesn't permit them to afford.

Perhaps the important thing to notice is that socialism, even at the most basic, unpolished level,

is necessary to clean up the scraps capitalism left behind – the poor at bottom, destitute and deprived who lack everything that we middle and upper-class Americans take in fashion.

It should be proudly recognized that this is a social-capitalistic republic.

"It will succeed if our people understand it," said Roosevelt.

Is it now conceivable that people will vote for something and not let their politics get in the way?

Is it possible that when the moral weight of the matter is digested, the people will vote and order their servant representatives to pass something on behalf of themselves and their unfortunate, underprivileged, fellow Americans?

Perhaps it is that people are unsure of what the current healthcare reform plan entails.

The intentions of it, at least, can be made clear though.

The new healthcare reform plan insists to "end discrimination against people with pre-existing conditions"; to "limit premium discrimination based on gender and age"; to create a new insurance marketplace for those without healthcare; etc.

For further acquaintance, go to BarackObama.com. All as a public option; this means that nothing happens to health care plans already existing.

So, what do you want for yourself and your fellow Americans?

Whatever the case, in the spirit of democracy, the American spirit, contact your representative, and roar for it, vote for it!

“Our government is not the master but the creature of the people.”

Would you like some secondhand smoke with that?

Some GRCC students get more than what they want when walking through our campus



Archive Photo/The Current

From 1999 - a group of students smoking in a once covered smoking area on campus.

Commentary by: Nicole Palmer

While walking through our campus on the first day of school, students cannot help but notice the beautiful greenery, the woodsy feeling, the wildlife that shares our campus, and the clouds of smoke hovering over all of these things.

It is almost impossible to make it from one class to another on any given day without passing through a cloud of someone else's secondhand smoke.

Smokers crowd the walkways around every busy building, especially the library and the student center, making it impossible for other students to pass without getting a lungful of carcinogens.

Recently more laws have been made to protect non-smokers throughout the country - the newest one, in Washington, being that smokers now must be at least twenty-five feet away from doors when puffing their cigarettes.

However, this law is barely followed at our campus, especially when smokers are walking along corridors with doors everywhere, such as the HSB and SS buildings.

With all of this law-breaking happening on our campus, nothing seems to be done about it. No warnings, penalties, or fines are given. This law is one that is not being taken very seriously.

But, how do the students on campus feel about these issues?

When asked whether or not outside smoking should be banned except for in designated areas, past smoker Travis Spohnholz said, "Yes, it should, because people who choose to smoke can still smoke, but people who choose not to smoke should be able to avoid second hand smoke."

However, an anonymous non-smoker said, "No, because it's not illegal to smoke and I think the twenty-five feet away from buildings is good enough." Can there be a happy middle ground? Can non-smokers walk to class without having to inhale toxins they choose not to have in their body? Where do we start?

First, Green River needs to take the twenty-five feet law more seriously. People

need to be warned, or penalized when they break this law, otherwise they will continue to smoke in front of doorways.

As of now, if security sees a smoker by a doorway, he or she will just be asked to move, if the smoker isn't punished, what will stop the smoker from smoking there again?

Spohnholz thinks that "if people are caught smoking next to doorways, their first offense should be a warning where security takes their student ID number on file, but if a second offense occurs they should be fined, and if a third offense occurs they should be fined even more."

People need to know they won't get away with breaking the rules.

The next thing our campus needs to do is ban outside smoking except for in designated smoking areas. This way, people can still smoke on campus, but non-smokers will have an easier time avoiding the smoke clouds.

As of right now, Green River is undecided on whether to have only designated smoking areas. However, on the campus website under developmental programs, the facilities master plan does include smoking shelters which would be located next to the busiest buildings where the highest student activity occurs.

These shelters will "be of a size that will accommodate a reasonable number of students. They shall provide protection from rain and other elements. Shelters shall be well vented and have appropriate lighting. Seating shall be provided both under cover and not. High visibility into the shelters shall be provided so the shelters are safe and can be passively monitored by security."

Although these shelters are mentioned on the website as a way to solve the harmful effects of secondhand smoke, there is no date given as to when we can expect them.

When walking through our beautiful campus it's nice to enjoy the scenery and greenery. It's nice to take a breath of fresh air and feel the sunshine on your face.

But this is all ruined when you realize your breath of air is not fresh at all because you just walked through someone's cloud of smoke.

"Jon and Kate Plus Eight" becomes "Jon and Kate Plus Hate"

After exploiting his eight kids for five years, Jon gets dropped from his own show
Commentary by: Mallory Lambarena

Jon and Kate Gosselin's eight children have grown up in the public eye with cameras shoved in their faces since the sextuplets were two, and the twins were six.

With five seasons underway, these kids don't know any other lifestyle than the one they're living, which consists of their daily lives on film and millions of Americans tuning in weekly to see the latest drama unfold.

Both of the Gosselins have said that if any of their children ever had a problem with being on camera, they would stop the show at any given time.

However, to these eight kids it is normal and

enough to support his family of ten.
Who wouldn't take advantage of a reality television show to make ends meet?

So, while they were one big, happy family, Jon and Kate had no problem filming their lives and the lives of their kids.

But now that TLC has decided to drop Jon from the show and change it to "Kate Plus Eight" Jon suddenly has a problem with the filming of his children and is ordering it to stop.

He was filming with his kids a week before he demanded the film crews to leave his property, yet has previously said he believes the show benefits their children.

Jon is only having a problem now with the filming, coincidentally at the same time the



Illustration by Justin Runquist

Jon and Kate's marriage picture from their wedding.

they have formed bonds with the cameramen. Besides, without their children, they would have no show.

Sure, people learn to either love Kate for being a hands-on mother to eight kids, or hate her for how she treats Jon as another child, but in reality, the kids are what keep the show going.

Without the kids fighting, Kate getting frustrated and taking it out on Jon, she would not have a show, which in turn, has made her millions from TLC, book tours, interviews, magazines, and endorsements.

The child labor law in Pennsylvania states that no child under 16 is permitted to work in connection with any establishment. All eight of their children are under the age of 16, yet they are putting in long hours each day being filmed and giving interviews for the producers.

From watching five seasons of "Jon and Kate Plus Eight" one would only assume eventually Jon and Kate would end up divorced.

Frustration from being the parents of eight kids led to endless fights, and eventually their marriage dwindled away.

During the time of their divorce and alleged affairs, the show's ratings went up tremendously and they were both doing interviews and on the covers of almost every celebrity and tabloid magazine for a month.

Jon took this time to party and get lots of negative press, while Kate played the sympathy card and acted as the victim. However, they were still taking advantage of the press and conducting interviews and magazine articles, and making huge profits off exploiting their children and their lives.

The real reason why Jon and Kate decided to do this show to begin with is still unclear, but realistically they wouldn't have been able to afford having eight kids on one salary.

Kate had to quit her job as a nurse so she could care for the kids, and Jon didn't make

show is dropping his name from the title.

A representative for TLC has issued a statement saying, "Despite Jon Gosselin's repeated self-destructive and unprofessional actions, he remains under an exclusive contract with TLC. Direct filming of the children has been currently suspended, pending further conversations between both parents."

Why is it now that Jon is no longer part of the show, he is making a big deal about the filming of his children?

Could it be because he is not the one collecting the paychecks?

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Textbooks: the next evolution

Could the legitimacy of our education be at stake?

By: Charles Renwick

Starting effectively winter quarter, Green River Community College is adopting a new and rapidly spreading textbook program. This wildly controversial program attempts to level the cultural playing field for textbook studying habits.

The program, Customs Outreach of Literature in Educational School [COOLIES], gives more choice and diversity to the selection of textbooks for each college course by offering translations of unofficial languages. More than a baker's dozen are currently available. However, these numbers are expected to multiply within the next school year.

Translated versions include (but not limited to): Ebonics, Blue Collar, Pig Latin, Txting, Pirate's Code, and Ubbi Dubbi.

While this program has been mainstream in Canada for some years now, Green River is one of the first American colleges to adopt the new wave of textbooks.

"I just love how easy this is to read," said Green River student Hannah Eccles while holding her new Blonde-Ready chemistry textbook,

"I don't even have to use the headphones to know when to breathe anymore, the textbook does it for me!"

Others are not so excited for the COOLIES program. According to a College Board representative, the program is not official or backed by a respectable association.

"This method makes it virtually impossible for professors to keep updated on their chosen textbook," said Seattle Pacific University English Professor Marla Brandoh.

Even some students are finding the textbooks offensive. Student and head chief of Green River's African American Student Association, Jerry Anderson, explained while holding his new Human A&P in Ebonics textbook, "Man, dis here iz just racist. Sum should really sue deez peeps. Word! [sic]."

Despite some negative responses, the popularity of COOLIES is explosive. Elvish, for example, has such a following that the publisher recently announced two more J.R.R. Tolkien languages: Orcish and Dwarvish.

These new translations have also paved the way for some paperless opportunities. The vow-

els that "Txting" versions exclude make it so books are almost half their original size.

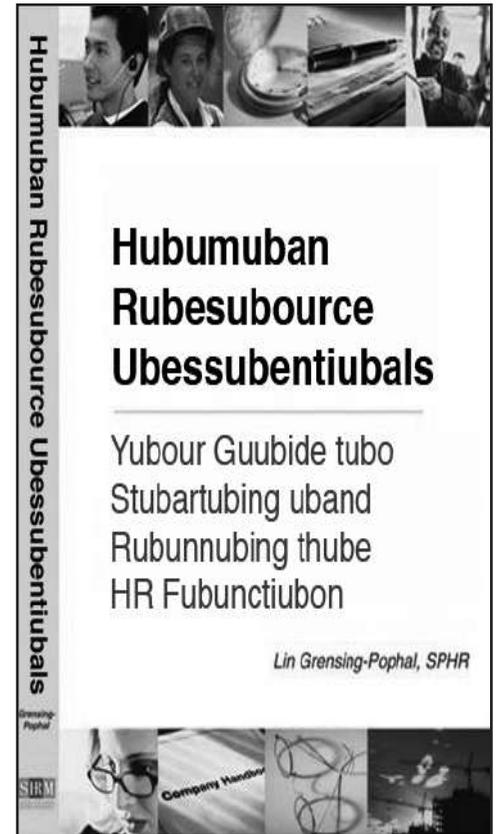
In addition, publishers are now releasing books direct to cell phones. Psychology Professor Dr. Jerry Marshall has been reported to have kicked out 5 students this quarter for texting in class. Each of those students later explained that they were only trying to read their textbooks.

Although the "Txting" translations may be more available, "1337 sp34k" seems to be the most popular on campus. Student Ralph McLour explained, "It's like having school in my native language. I can study so much faster, it's insane!"

Other editions will only be provided by book on tape due to lack of written material for their language (such as Marklar and Pokémon).

The Paper Tree Book Store shared that, because of the wider selection of books, students should expect a much longer wait in the line next quarter.

"Not to worry though," explained Laura Landervan, a long time Paper Tree worker, "we were promised two of the new buildings currently being constructed."



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Charles Renwick/The Current
Human Resource Essentials textbook, the Ubbi Dubbi edition.

The dawning of "Twilight"

Helpful tips to protect you against the creatures of the night

By: Brittney Cargill

For all Green River students and staff members on campus during night hours: a cautious warning. Werewolves are being spotted along the Green River trails, coming dangerously close to buildings and roaming the parking lots.

Rumor has it these werewolves are descendants from the Smulkamish tribe, more commonly known as The Muckleshoot Tribe, which was located where the campus now stands. Some claim these werewolves are also attending students.

As many know, most Indian tribes consist of shapshifters – a human by day; animal by night.

Green River student Chris Hinich confessed, "I can't wait to see if we have a Bella! Edward and Jacob won't know what hit them!"

Speaking of vampires, team Edward isn't far behind. Local Twilight addict, Gracie Mae, exclaimed, "My friends and I are going to find the vampires and stir things up around here!"

Whether the students of Green River are winning over Bella or provoking the vampires on these dogs, the campus staff will have the last say on the werewolves' invasion.

Until then here, are some tips if you come in contact with a werewolf:

Tip 1: Hitting the creature over the head with iron or steel shall return to its human form. Beware! After transformation, they will be naked.

Tip 2: Instead of running when noticed by a werewolf, hide under a rock and do not move until sunrise.

Tip 3: Unless you have a death wish, do not go looking for a werewolf.

If you have a hunch that somebody else is a werewolf, here are some traits to look for:

Clue 1: The index and middle finger are the same length.

Clue 2: Werewolves are very hairy and may grow hair underneath their skin. However, if you

happen to insulted or embarrassed a person because they are unbelievably hairy, The Current is not to be held responsible.

Clue 3: Werewolves are usually Native American, although this doesn't mean every Indian race is a werewolf.

The Current will not be giving out any more information about this subject due to political-correctness and safety reasons.



Brittney Cargill/The Current

Pictured above: the jacket of a missing GRCC student, hanging from a tree. Security believes werewolves are at fault.

Cell phone diseases rage through campus

Doctors have no hope for a cure

By: Jennifer Han

For the last two weeks, an increasing number of students have developed diseases that can be traced back to excessive use of their cell phones, or Cell Phone Disease (CPD). Students have reported things such as elephant ears, shrinking of fingers, and developing animal facial features.

A study from Facebook has found that people on campus who text five hundred times a week suffer from thumb shrinking. Moreover, people who text one thousand times or more a week, their thumbs fall off completely.

Local student Henry Kim recently caught a CPD. Kim exclaimed, "OMG! My thumbs are shrinking! I don't know what's happening! How am I supposed to check my Facebook?"

According to Kim, he used to text about seven hundred times per week. He had his shrunken fingers bandaged, but continued to feed his addiction with the stubs.

Another local student, Eun Sol Jung, caught the same CPD. Jung used to texting nearly one thousand times per week. Jung had even won national texting competitions. One day, however, her fingers also started to shrink and her thumbs became smaller than a mouse's.

When questioned, Jung exclaimed, "I hated that moment! My tiny thumbs pissed me off! How could I put on my makeup? I couldn't go to school without freaking makeup!"

Jung quickly realized the seriousness of CPD, so she reduced how much she texted and didn't return to school until her fingers were normal once again.

Big Fat Ears (BFE) are another serious – although more obscure – CPD arising at Green River, caused by talking on cell phones too frequently.

A few weeks ago, GRCC student Shoko Osanai caught this rare CPD. According to Osanai,

she regularly phoned her friends and then woke up one day with BFE. She got giant ears because she used her cell too much electromagnetic waves triggered the unique transformation.

She was asked recently about her disease and responded, "I was like so surprised! My ears made me look like an elephant! I didn't want to leave my room."

Eventually she decided to go to the hospital. The doctor didn't know what to do. "Holy crap. What the hell is that? Are you human? I'm so sorry but those no way I can care that. Just stop using your phone!" Osanai immediately went into shock and did nothing but call her friends to ask if they had heard about BFE. A few days later, she became a monster. Her ears got larger and eventually she started to develop the features of a hippopotamus.

Osanai's transformation is now complete, and doctors have given up on finding a cure.

People must stop to using cell phone unless people would become an ugly monster. Let these stories be a warning to you all. CPD is real: just visit Osanai at the Point Defiance Zoo and see for yourself...



Courtesy Photo/ bowtielaw.files.wordpress.com
People find it harder to text with smaller thumbs.

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Breaking news (literally)

Broken legs lead to potential change in dress code

By: Barbara Thom

Over the last few weeks since fall quarter began, 17 female students have randomly broken their legs. School officials and security have been scrambling to discover the reason. Many blame the increase in student population and crowded paths, while others insisted the reason is uneven ground.

Upon further investigation, it has been discovered that each student had one thing in common: they are all diehard stiletto wearers.

One of the girls, who declined to be interviewed, said in confidence she would not be caught dead with less than a five inch heel, no matter how much they slowed her down.

Cynthia Vincent, a seasoned stiletto wearer and second year student at Green River was the first of the 17 female students to break her leg on campus.

When asked if she would trade in her stilettos for a sturdier shoe, she replied, "Actually, my walking cast is just the right height for me to continue to wear my five-inch heels. I was pleasantly surprised at how balanced I feel!"

Regular stiletto wearer and shuttle bus rider Dolce Vita, when asked how she navigates the Park 'n' Ride lot, said "Gravel is the worst, but if you walk on your toes it's much easier. I have only fallen three times this quarter!"

Como Corso, the self proclaimed Queen of Stilettos, was the second victim of random leg breaking. When asked how she feels about this unfortunate accident, Corso replied "I am so embarrassed! I always had perfect balance, and

regularly explained to the less-accomplished ladies how to walk in heels all day without even a blister, let alone a stumble or fall." She may actually step away from stilettos for good once her cast is removed.

In a brief interview, donning crutches and a bright pink cast, Badgely Mischka insists, "Accessorizing is a must, and absolutely cannot be done properly without the perfect heels. People just don't get it", she explained. "It's not enough to be smart; you must have a good sense of fashion, too!"

Louis Viutton, an exchange student from France commented, "Women should look like women, and that means heels. The higher the better," he added with a smile, "no matter what the cost."

Much to the dismay of stiletto wearers and admirers alike, school officials are planning to revise the student handbook to include a section on dress code.

The new code, based on safety issues, will require heels to be two inches or less.

The first violation will be a warning, with second and third violations resulting in suspension. Four violations will result in permanent disenrollment from all Green River campuses.

Saorse Ireland, a local nurse and student agrees with the new code, saying, "Not only are stiletto heels dangerous, they pose a long-term threat to proper positioning of the foot, leg and spine, which could be crippling later in life."

She frowned. "Look good now, pay later... Where's the trade-off?"



Courtesy Photo/catwalkfashion.co.uk

High heels are not only causing blisters, but now at GRCC, they are causing pain much more excruciating.

Overexcitement of the first day

The frightening experience of an alumni, retold

By: Nirmal Sharma

"Under my umbrella ella ella eh eh..." was the alarm call on the phone at 4 AM," explained Siya Wilson, 28, and a graduate from Green River Community College. This day was her first day of college, and it was the first time that she woke up so early due to her excitement.

After a long drive, she arrived at her destination... college. It was 6 AM. She had forgotten that her classes started at 8 AM. Her thoughts were, "Where's my class room?" and "Where do I store my books?"

It was still early, and she had already explored the campus and located her classrooms to ease her confusion. Then, as she walked into an empty classroom, she saw a man holding a hammer in his hand.

Instincts kicked in, and she thought he would hit her but when she asked him who he was, the man replied, "I am a construction worker."

Wilson started laughing. She thought that he was a professor repairing the door of the classroom!

Wilson then asked the man why he was there so early. He said, "Generally the maintenance workers are here early in the morning, since it's not overly crowded and we can work better."

Some students have different views about the early morning time at the college, however.

A law student living in the Campus Corner Apartments said that he usually hears loud noises in the morning, and he can never think about coming in early morning.

"He would be surprised to know that those sounds are produced by peacocks," one of the construction workers explained.

Most of the students admit that they are very punctual. However, Wilson reached college early due to her excitement. Wilson said that she will never forget the incident that took place while she was in hurry and will never get too overexcited again. However, she would definitely remain punctual.



Courtesy photo/grccstudentsaf.com

Early in the morning, most students don't dare travel the trails or paths of Green River Community College.

The war on Trees: It's On!

It's more than just pinecones these trees are unleashing

By: Ryan West

Recently, Green River Community College officials have signed for two new buildings and agreed to clear cut a large amount of Trees to make room for a new structure.

Many students want the old buildings back, preferring the old-style buildings rather than the new. In addition, many students are simply annoyed about the disappearing Trees.

"Why did they cut down all those Trees? That's what makes this school what it is!" complained Tedmund Hanrahan, local student.

If only the construction crews knew what they were releasing on the poor students of GRCC by cutting down the Trees.

The College Forest Act of 1964 is a pact between the leaders of our fair school and the leaders of the now-furious Trees that surround the school.

The treaty states that Trees won't ruin windshields and power lines on windy days, so long as the people leave the Trees of Green River alone; no moving, no clear cutting, nothing.

Over the years, people have forgotten this pact. The Trees, on the other hand, have not, and reports have told that legions of Douglas Firs have been advanced on the Holman library.

"They came from the forest, fully armed and ready to fight," explained Saya Tatsumi.

The fighting has already lasted for several days; the back and forth skirmishes between our very own Forestry Program students and the Trees of Green River Community College went on and on, only to end in casualties of slivers and saw dust on both sides.

Negotiations ended as soon as they began, and no one knows when the fighting will end.

Many frantic students are now complaining

of Trees blocking the entrances to the Testing Center.

"If I fail my chemistry class because of this silly war," mumbled second year student James Hurley, "I... I don't know. But this is just ridiculous. It has to end."

"No one saw this coming," added Buzz McKillington. "All I want to know, is when is this going to end, and when do we get our school back?"

The attacks on the library started slowly, but have escalated quickly. Originally it was as simple as students running to the library and being tripped by outstretched roots, or books being knocked out of hands by renegade branches.

However, now the Trees are beginning to steal objects from the lost and found, sending students back and forth between the security office and the library looking for cell phones they'll never find.

"I spent two hours in a panic... For nothing! When will this end?" wined Mass Communications student, Larissa Turner.

The most recent incidents imply that the squirrels have joined in on the fighting.

"We don't yet know that their qualm with the students is," explained Dan Rogers, GRCC staff member, "but we have heard of casualties originating from explosions of trash..."

"It was crazy!" exclaimed local student, Suzanne Orthorthy. "I just walked up to the trash can and kicked it, like I do everyday! But this time it exploded at me!"

When reporters attempted to interview the Trees, they returned with empty hands and covered in sap.

With casualties on both sides, and a campus falling apart, all we can hope for is for a quick end to the fighting.

Teacher Spotlight:

John Fox

By: Tedmund Hanrahan

"What is the nature of the Good?" this seemingly simple question was the catalyst that began the career for one of Green River's favorite instructors. Future philosophy professor John Fox was only weeks out of high school when he and several friends embarked on a weekend camping trip to the Washington coast, a trip that would forever change his life.

It was there, sitting on a secluded beach surrounded only by his young peers, that our beloved professor was first exposed to the teachings of the world's great thinkers, teachings he would one day pass on to students not so different than himself at that young age.

Fox went on to the prestigious Whitman College in Walla Walla where he initially chose a major in literature over one in Philosophy, Fox says he did this because he thought that "it took a lot of nerve to major in philosophy", nerve he didn't think he had. It wasn't until his junior year that he realized that while he did enjoy and even love literature, it would be the works of men like Plato and Nietzsche that rule the remainder of his life and he decided to change his major to suit this passion.

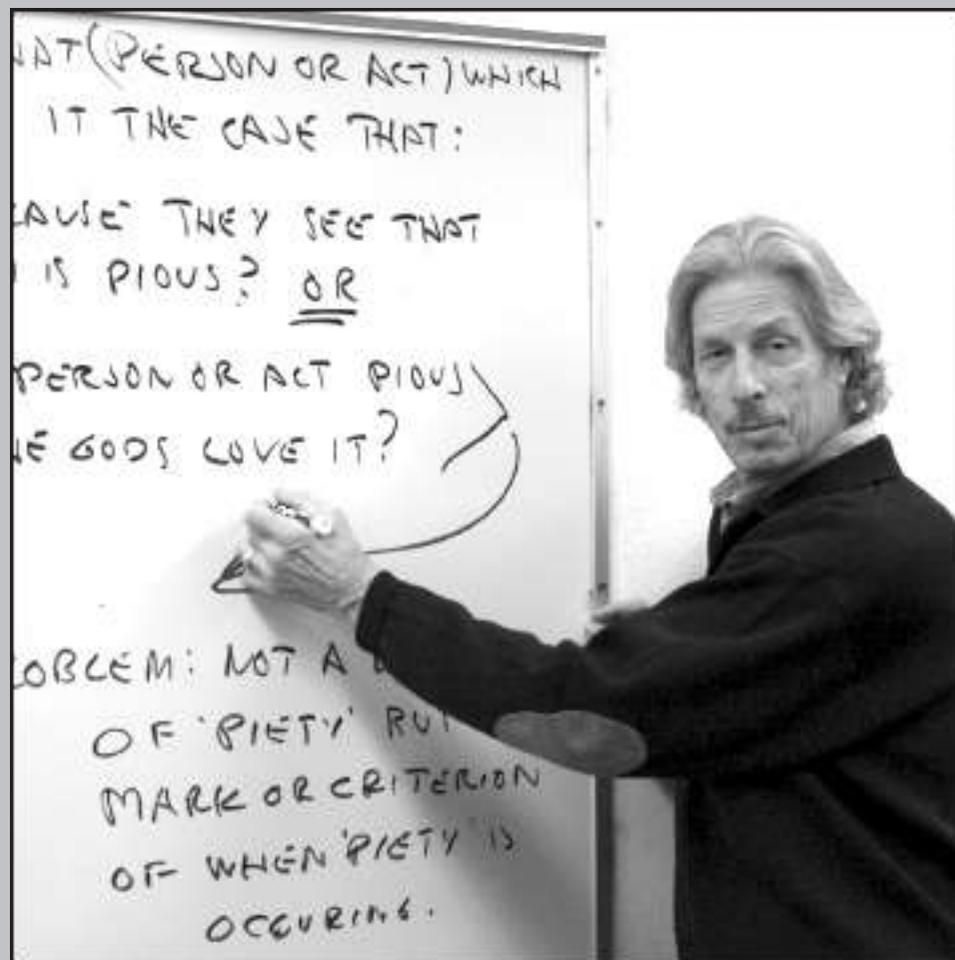
After receiving his BA in philosophy Fox went to grad school saying confidently that "it is only the natural progression" to do so. As a grad student Fox worked as a teacher's assistant and noted fondly that "For the first time in my life I went from constantly trying to get people to listen to me, to not only having them listening to every word I said, but also writing it down". Fox says that "Being a TA made me realize that just as graduate school was the natural progression from my BA, so was teaching the natural progression from grad school."

After graduating from school, Professor Fox went on to teach part time at both South Seattle Community College and Edmunds Community College saying confidently that the "only real application of philosophy was to teach it". Fox eventually left his jobs at the two community colleges and went on to earn a living in a variety of ways including social service work, retail, travel, and most importantly (hoping to create suspense)...driving a cab.

For four years Professor Fox drove a Taxi and sates that "I consider those four years as being the completion of my education". Through driving a cab Fox says he "gained immense knowledge via experience" and went on to talk about how the experience showed him a new side to humanity and lead him to an entirely new understanding of what he thought he already knew.

In the late 1980's John Fox began his continued employment at Highline and Green River Community College. One of Professor Fox's favorite sayings is that "The themes of Philosophy include reality, knowledge, moral possibility, and human destiny" and perhaps his life reflects this paradigm more than he knows.

Perhaps it was destiny for that young man, sitting out under the stars with his friends, to pass on the knowledge and passion that was ignited within him, but then again such a destiny would be debated by any who study this great subject and what better way to do it than with a truly great man.



John Fox makes a funny face while teaching his noon class.

Nicole Swapp/The Current

Making a difference on campus

Host mothers help international students living abroad remember home

By: Kristine Litleskare

With a thousand international students at GRCC, almost three hundred living with host families, host-mothers are of utmost importance. Two of those special people, Heather Koontz and Terri Jensen, work at International Housing.

"We often get the students who have a tough time coming by our office," says Jensen, "and we always think they are the most adorable ones," Koontz adds while smiling as if her heart just melted thinking about it.

They currently have one international student living with each of them, but will open their homes even more out of motherly love if there is such a need.

Koontz has been a host-mother for seven years, Jensen for eight. So far, Jensen has had 34 students from 12 countries: 6 were girls and the rest were boys. They have found that there is more drama with girls; hence, boys are decidedly easier to host.

Having a new student in their homes can feel a bit awkward and uncomfortable, but they promise that trepidation goes away after a couple of days. Then there's the getting to know the student: "Every single one is different and you don't know what they know!" Jensen exclaims with big round eyes.

She hosted a boy from Korea who thought the heater vent in the floor was a shower drain. Not knowing how mistaken he was, he turned the showerhead toward the heater grate while showering, causing water to come rushing from the ceiling downstairs.

Jensen has learned that not everybody knows which way to turn the dishes in the dishwasher

or how to flush a toilet. Koontz believes cultural differences go away quickly, though.

When she hosts a new student, she tries to determine the best way to understand and communicate with them in order to build the relationship. They are both very focused on giving the students space and to not be too controlling as host-mothers.

Having someone in your house all the time would sometimes give Koontz a feeling of constant responsibility. "This is not the students' fault, but simply because I feel that way"; Koontz smiles.

Jensen never used to put her pajamas on until she went to bed, but after some time, she figured she should be comfortable in her own home. They laugh as she explains it.

Jensen's had students who've experienced hard times within their family back home. Those are the moments when she finds it most challenging being a host-mother; seeing her host student unable to go home.

They get attached to their students which make it very emotional when they leave. It's usually too far of a distance to be able to meet up with them again.

The key is Facebook. Jensen will post a picture, and suddenly the students have tagged themselves and commented on the photo. They've even had students who went home to fix their broken relationships because of the family love they've been shown.

"We hope we make an impact in some way" Jensen says sincerely, Heather nods: "That's our goal".

"We hope we make an impact in some way"



Kristine Litleskare/The Current

Host-mothers, Heather Koontz and Terri Jensen, smile pretty for the camera. They have been housing international students that attend Green River Community College.

KGRG rocks the house of Green River

By: Rebekah Quinn

Nestled among the trees of Green River Community College is a group of people who believe in, "No commercials, more music, and on-air DJ's."

They possess alias' like, "Teddy Bear," and "Killing Spree," but underneath the unusual names they are DJ's for Green River Community College's (GRCC) own KGRG radio station located in the Lindbloom Student Center on campus.

The main music genre's of KGRG is, alternative, ska, emo, screamo, goth, grunge, punk, metal, and even Japanese rock. Although the station caters to certain types of audiences, KGRG has a lot to offer people from all walks of life.

Teddy Bear deals with bumpers, supers, and KA's which sounds a little confusing to the average person, but production work sums it up. Teddy Bear put it in these words, "If you ever hear a song and then all of the sudden you hear something like, 'Hey you're listening to KGRG' and then back to the music, that's what I do."

Teddy Bear jokingly admitted, "I don't have a full time job and I ran out of Lego's," so that's how working at the radio station became his hobby.

The live show that he co-hosts with Jez the Lez runs Monday through Wednesday mornings, 6:00 to 9:00 AM. He called it "The people's

show," because they talk about things that actually matter to their audience.

The stations listeners are students from GRCC along with people ranging from ages of fourteen to forty-five.

KGRG developed such a diverse audience by offering lots of talk shows varying from topic to topic and by playing music that a lot of other stations don't offer.

Killing Spree runs the show, "Late night Death," which runs Friday night through Saturday morning, Midnight to 3 in the morning. He runs a music show that focuses on metal music.

Teddy Bear remarked, "Basically it's music you get high to." The duo were happy to report that even people in South America have tuned in to listen to KGRG on www.KGRG.com. When the pair had been asked the difference between KGRG and KGRG1 they responded with, "They play the music that we use to play, they are known as the alternative past so they play music from the 70's up to the late 90's that type of range." Both DJ's smirked, nodded and agreed that it was a, "Kick ass oldies station."

Even though becoming a paid DJ might not be in Teddy Bear or Killing Spree's near future, they are taking the opportunity that GRCC placed in front of them and running with it.

Radio broadcasting has been a stepping stone towards their professional careers in radio.



Jean-Pierre Garcia/The Current
Teddy Bear and Killing Spree hang out in the office of KGRG for a personal one on one interview. Both of these DJ's have worked at KGRG for years. The KGRG office is located on the top floor of LSC.

Pizza from
Paradize

Located in New Season's Shopping Center
just off 124th, past the fire station

Menu boasts:
New York style pizza
Homemade pasta
Calzones
Homemade soup
Buffalo wings
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(253) 929-8783

Show your ID and get:
**cheese or pepperoni
pizza with a
small drink for only**

\$2.00!

How to catch a lady

1



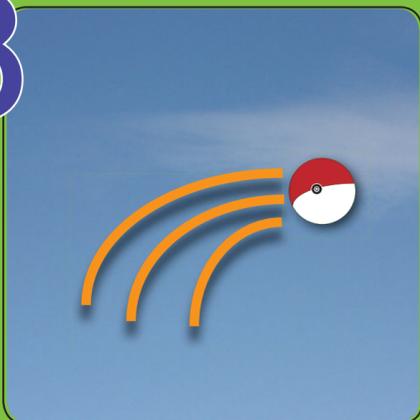
Step 1 is to first scope out your pray. You can do this by hiding behind trees (as shown above) or you can hide behind objects depending on your location.

2



Step 2 is to then jump out from your hiding spot and throw your lady leash at your target. If there are more than one of you trying to claim a target, the leash that hits the girl first wins.

3



Step 3 will be your lady leash flying through the air as it will then fall onto your target.

4



Step 4 will capture your target with rays of light. Soon she will be caught in your lady leash.

5



Step 5 will now have the girl captured inside your lady leash. She may scream for a while but good thing it is sound proof; so you don't hear a peep.

6



Step 6 is a very happy camper! "Hello little lady"

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the Lady Leash Gotta Catch 'em All!

By: Andrew Honea

Poke-mon, Gotta catch em all. This is a phrase that was used out of many elementary school students' mouths on a regular basis in the early 2000's. Who would have thought a craze as complex as this could become a reality? Well it has, in a sense. Former Green River Community College student Walter Gates has created the first fully functional "pokeball". A pokeball is a device used in the popular Japanese cartoon to capture the wild creatures, known as pokemon, which are used to battle.

Although the similar device was created with the same basic function, Gates' intention for the ball was definitely not to capture any type of wild animal. It is used to capture a much more complex creature-the woman. When Gates was asked why he would make such a device with such a sexist intention, he replied, "One man can only bare so much heartbreak before he aspires to get some type of "revenge". Do you know what it's like to get rejected to your junior prom 18 times? I do. It isn't a good feeling" Many members of the media are outraged by the possibility of a device of this caliber being legalized. Not surprisingly, most of these people are women. However, a major percentage of the male population seem to have a different opinion on the subject. Reginald Zimmerman, a pharmacist from Chicago, Illi. was asked if bitterness was a good reason for this creation and answered, "Of course it is. The constant rejection and heartache a woman provides is only bearable to a certain point."

Zimmerman was then asked if there were any other benefits of the invention, "this creation provides a source of trust in your woman, and trust is the most important factor in a relationship. Honestly, how could you not trust your woman if she's stuck in a little ball doing who knows what. At least then you can be assured that she isn't off sleeping with your handsome, successful brother."

Kevin Kent, another male from Loganville, GA area was asked about his opinion on the device and said, "Some women deserve this type of fate: 'They're wenches!' Kent was then asked what his definition of a woman who doesn't deserve this fate is and said, "A King, and since women can't be kings they all deserve to be kept in balls."

Ike Espinoza, a legendary rapper/actor, was also asked for his opinion and even though he didn't clarify if he approved of the direct intention of the device, he showed approval of an alternate use for the balls. "Finally, a purpose that isn't com-

pletely stupid. All poke-mon ever say is their freakin names, and I have no idea what those pricks are talking about. Next thing I know, I'm getting toxic mist spat in my eyes."

Dustin Funpants, cousin of news editor Justin Boringquist, said his only reaction when asked his opinion only replied, "That's better than cheese around the crust. Jackpot!" Even big celebrities such as Kanye North have been commenting on the groundbreaking creation by saying, "Completely Brilliant! Thanks to this creation, I'll never have to keep my boo in check with my backhand again."

Obviously, all opinions on the creation can't be positive, and that's where the female perspective comes in. Deborah Kuntlif, a female activist from Phoenix Ariz., stressed very negative impressions against the ball by saying, "Me and my other female comrades are outraged that this is even being considered as legal. It is preposterous, unacceptable, and despicable. My sisters and I won't rest until every memory of this unacceptable device is erased from every sexist pigs mind."

Celebrities have also been speaking up on the women's side of the argument. Katie Holmes recently spoke up on the issue. "I can't think of anything worse. It's bad enough being stuck in that cage he calls a bedroom. Now I have to settle for a freakin ball with 3 korean women I've never even met. It's times like these i wish i would have worked harder with James Van Der Beek. Oh how i miss the creek."

Politician Hilary Clinton also offered comment on the ball, with husband Bill at side.. "Obviously, this is a controversial topic that all people, male and fe-

male should be made aware of. But i feel that it is safe to say that the big issue is health-care,. Since the days my husband was in office."

As Clinton went speechless Bill shouted, "Hilary RETURN!", as a bright light shot across the room.

He later commented on the incident saying, " I love my dear wife to death. Really i do. But she needs to learn how to keep her mouth shut. My boy Walter was nice enough to give me a prototype of one of these little suckers and I love it."

Pending legalization of the device, an official name is yet to be voted on. The final two names to be voted on are the "BS Ball" or the very popular "Lady Leash."

Trips on a bus

By: Remco Zwetsloot

Armed with some cash, a notebook, snacks and what turned out to be a completely useless map I set out on my first 'bus adventure', hoping it would be an exciting experience. The idea was to get on a random bus, get out at a random stop and get on a random bus again and to see where I would end up. I got on the 564 at Auburn station, which later turned out to be an express bus.

So, my idea of getting out at a random stop in the middle of nowhere, in a charming little town, not even big enough to be on the map, where I would be greeted by some elderly folk who would be so kind to give me a little tour and tell me about their lives, went out the window pretty fast. Very realistic, I know.

As it turns out, my first stop was in Sumner, where I got out, to be greeted not by nice old people but by the smell of new asphalt and completely deserted streets. It turns out there's not a lot Sumner has to offer for a person below the mental age of 65. So, after walking around for a bit and admiring the grain they used to decorate their lantern poles with, I decided it was time to move on.

The 409 to Puyallup was at the station and luckily the smelly hobo that got in after me sat 6 seats away so the urge to vomit wasn't too overwhelming.

When I arrived in Puyallup it seemed as if God was trying to rub it in my face that I had missed the fair, as the first thing I saw when I got off the bus was the ferris wheel and remaining advertisement of all the fun I could have had. To eat my sadness away I bought ice cream, of which the taste could only be described with language that I'm sure is not even close to appropriate. So, to go along with my depression, nausea.

After throwing away that \$4, my search for something exciting continued. Sadly, it seemed I had yet again gone to the wrong town; I've always done everything in my life by bike or public transport (like a real Dutch person), and with 2 licenseless parents, I can barely distinguish a VW mini from a Ferrari and I just happened to end up in the car capital of Washington, counting a total of 19 car shops and repair places. Meanwhile, like every town, Puyallup has its positive side too: the second hand and antique stores were a tad less tasteless than the ones we have in Amsterdam, and a tire with golden rims cost a mere \$2,300.

So, to summarize: being used to living in a big city, small-town America is quite a shock, and I'm sure (contrary to what this text suggests, I'm afraid) it has its upsides too. But, perhaps, for the next column I'll just happen to get on a random bus to Seattle.

Green River Step team stomps it out After two years, this team is still going strong

By: Samantha Kootz

The Step team at Green River is stepping it up for its second year on campus. Captains, De Naja' Handy and Justin Malepe think this year's team will be better than ever!

Step is a very creative form of dance. Instead of dancing to songs comprised of musical instruments the music is made from stomping, clapping, and other rhythms the body can compose. The team will stand out with their "fun but serious" atmosphere, and their unique style of dance.

Malepe said he is looking forward to the step team becoming more like family. Co-Captain Handy agrees that the step team has a true family environment, "We usually eat together just because we love being around each other so much."

Both captains have been Stepping for the school since the team started in December of 2008.

"Stepping is a different form of dancing and anyone can do it!" commented Handy.

Handy started stepping in junior high but didn't continue with it through high school. She's taking full advantage of being able to express herself through dance now that she is in college.

Malepe says he felt drawn to stepping as a sophomore in high school and has had fun with it ever since.

Both Malepe and Handy have been captains since February of 2009. Having been with the

team from the start, both captains seem very proud and excited to start their second year.

Handy and Malepe expect there to be 26 steppers this year, down from the 32 that joined last year. However, the captains are just as excited and looking forward to teaching new techniques. Both are hoping the new steppers will come prepared to dance!

Including Co-Captain Malepe, only two men are on the team. Step, like cheerleading and ballet, was originally preformed by men. "The girls are taking over!" Malepe admits laughing.

The step team is eager to get new green and gold uniform shirts to tie them closer to Green River Community College. Handy is also hoping to get special military style stepping boots for the team. What people don't consider is how hard Stepping is on the dancers' feet, "the boots have extra layers of sole to help protect them," Handy explains.

Enthusiastically, Handy talks about the prospect of entering competitions this year. This is not something they were able to do last year, but something she is excited to get the school to agree to. They have performed, however, at the YMCA in Auburn and at school functions. The step team will have their first performance at GRCC's Halloween party on October 30th.

This year Handy hopes the steppers will be able to unite the Steppers different cultures and incorporate that into their dancing to create a mosaic of styles. "Having such a diverse team helps me have a better perspective of the world around me", expresses Handy.



Members of the Green River Step team practice hard to nail down some new moves.

Samantha Kootz/The Current

Samantha Kootz/The Current



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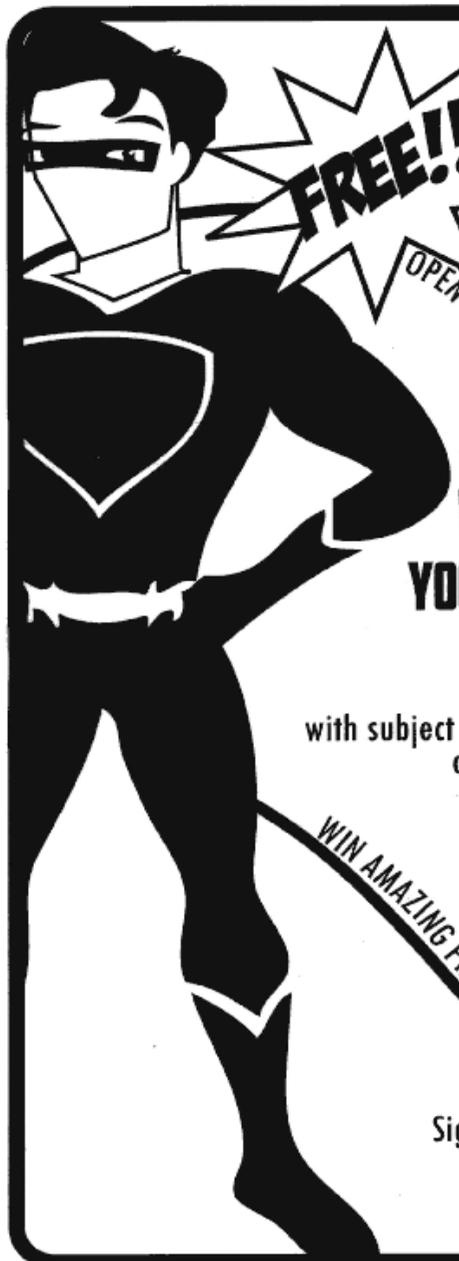
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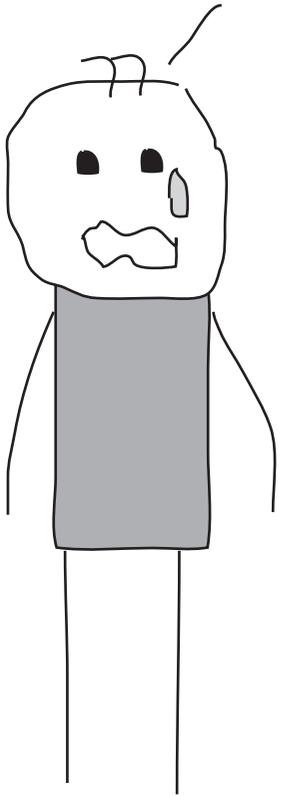
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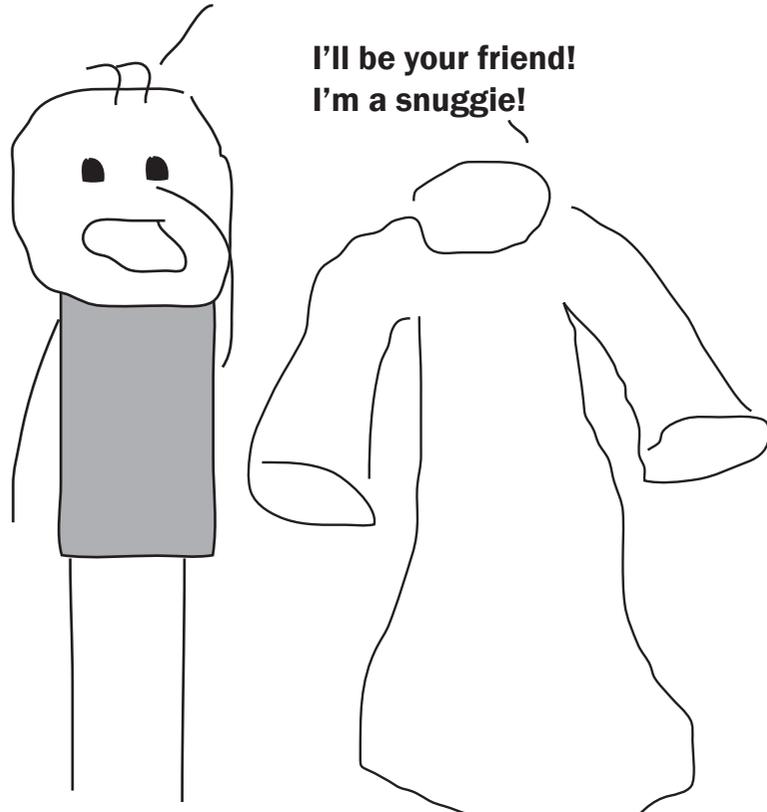
By: Nicole Swapp & Andrew Honea

I wish I had a friend.

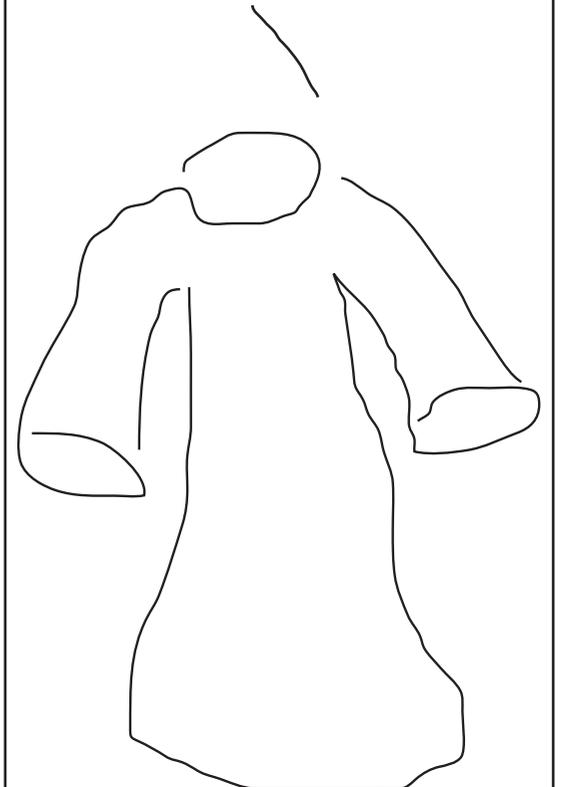


What's a snuggie?

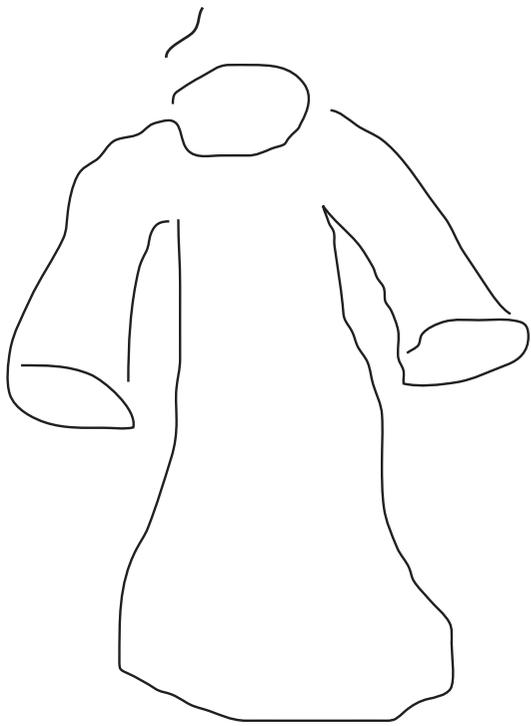
I'll be your friend!
I'm a snuggie!



Whaat? A snuggie is your best friend!
I do everything with you.

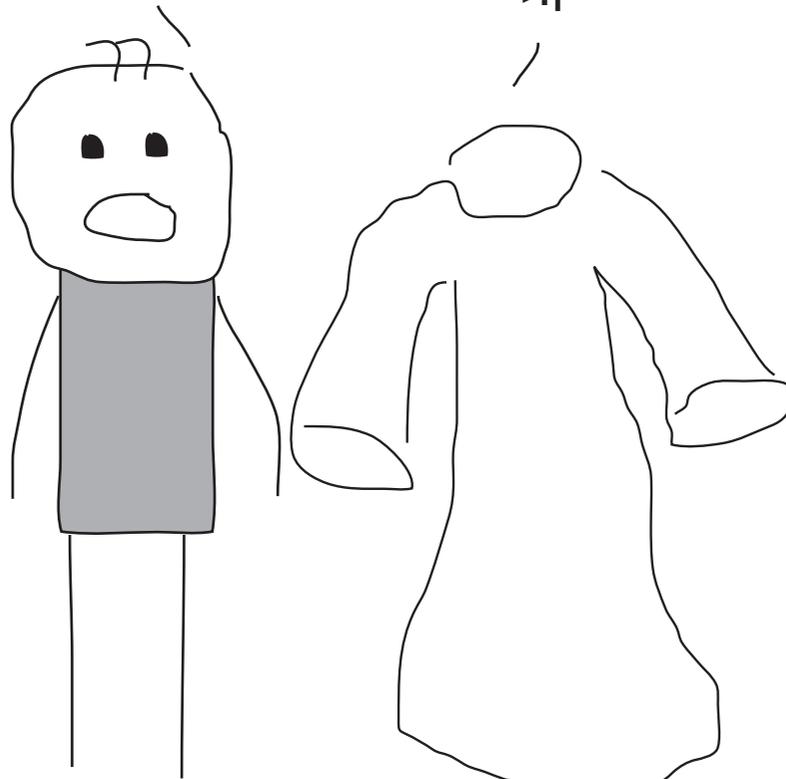


You can wear me outside. Or lay
on the couch with your hands free.
Really, I'm pretty awesome.

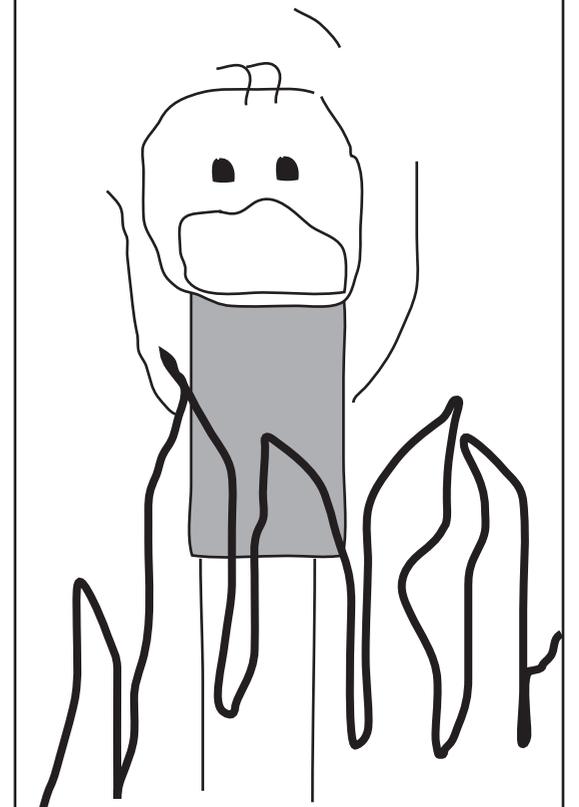


So, basically your like
a backwards robe? HA!

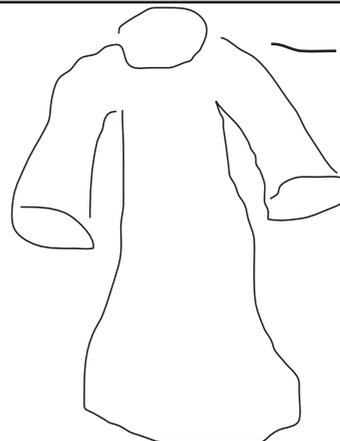
>:|



WTF? FIRE!!!!



I am not a backwards robe...



Grave news: Team Zombie

Brains, get some or keep them

Zombies have been a long standing part of human culture as they take prominent roles in movies like the classic 'Night of the Living Dead', or more recently *Zombieland* Michael Jackson's *Thriller*, other notable icons.

As Halloween approaches, the following events will provide tips on how to survive or to show Zombie pride.

UW Zombie Tag:

Monday-Friday October 12-26

A campus wide event, humans wear orange arm-bands zombies wear headbands.

Balled up socks and dart guns allow for a quick escape but for how long?

Thrill the World:

Saturday October 24

An attempt to break world records for a worldwide simultaneous performance of Michael Jackson's 'Thriller'. Seattlite Zombies will gather at Occidental Park at Pioneer Square to perform at 5:30.

Dead Things Should Stay Dead:

Thursday October 15

A zombie friendly event hosted by Gothic Pride Seattle and Cafe Metroplitain, where zombies meet over a cup of joe...brains.

Zombie Walk 2009:

Saturday October 10th

The Seattle horde of zombies shuffled downtown in search of brains as they made their way to Seattle Center.

Night Zero:

A photocomic book or fumettie shot on location at several iconic settings throughout downtown Seattle featuring a zombie apocalypse. Beginning last year Night Zero continues to produce online fumettis.

Zombieland:

October 2nd (release)

Starring Woody Harrelson, Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, and Abigail Breslin show down with the undead in this comedic horror.

Mama Stortini's home at Kent Station

By: Kiri Burridge

After a failed attempt in the dining pool of Kent Station, Zephyr Grill (a sister company of the Icon Grill in Seattle) shut its doors only to be reopened by a different style of restaurant.

Mama Stortini's call themselves a "culinary union of rustic French and Italian cooking styles, and a place where you can dress up or come in your jeans."

Their menu features a variety of zesty appetizers ranging from smoked Mozzarella & Tomato Bruschetta, to Grilled Lemon-Thyme Chicken Skewers.

They also have an array of salads, pastas, pizza, and good old-fashioned hamburgers.

"The Housemade minestrone soup is one of the best I've ever had!" Josh exclaimed, a frequent visitor of Mama Stortini's.

Josh also said the service is excellent, and the food is exceptional. Mama Stortini's opened their doors in June and have had a huge success so far.

The Kent Station location not only got a new name, but got a facelift as well. The backroom which used to be used for private parties and banquets is now replaced with a bar that's not only practical but sporty.

Two casual diners compared their experience with the new restaurant to Zephyr, and both agreed that they thought Mama Stortini's was well priced, had good service, and great food.



Kent Station's newest restaurant Mama Stortini's sits right next to The Ram.

Courtesy Photo/soggydoggy.net

Video Music Awards turn to Very Morose Achievement

Backlash from Kanye West's outburst reaches Green River campus

By: Alison Melton

Kids, teens, and adults alike each anticipated the popular and extravagant Video Music Awards (VMA) ceremony this year on September thirteenth.

Hosted by MTV, the famous event sent many musicians home with an award (or a few) for well-created music videos.

One of the winning musicians was Taylor Swift, a young beauty whose love for country voice and curly blonde hair helped her gain new heights in 2009.

Since her debut in 2006, the musician had been hoping she could be one of the many to take a trophy home that night. What she and her supporters did not expect was the outcome to turn it the way it did.

The awards were divided into a number of categories, including Best New Artist, Best Pop Video of the Year, Best Rock Video of the Year, Best Choreography, and Video of the Year.

When 19-year old Swift took the title for Best Female Video, she walked up onstage, shocked and ecstatic.

After she had said only a few words, Kanye West, a well-known rapper, jumped on the platform, and took the microphone from the young female singer.

He then voiced his opinion proclaiming that while Swift had been good, he believed that Beyoncé should've won the award instead. After a few more choice words, he then stormed

off stage, leaving the large crowd cheering for a tearful Taylor Swift.

Beyoncé, feeling sorry for Taylor, later invited her onstage to join her as she accepted her own award for Video of the Year. In this way, while it wasn't the outcome anyone hoped for, the ending eventually turned out well for the two female vocalists.

The video of the ceremony has become increasingly popular on YouTube, with the number being over one million views. Already many viewers have expressed their anger of Kanye's outburst.

Students offered their reactions to the event that rocked the arts and entertainment world,

"I'm not fond of either of them, but it was incredibly rude and stupid of Kanye to do," Kelsey Parr said. Parr is a freshman.

"Taylor's hot; Kanye's not," Jordan Whitley, a First-year student, said.

"It's amazing that Taylor could win something as big as [Best Female Video Award] at her age, and for Kanye to ruin it for her makes him a bitter, heartless bitch," Wade Smith said

Others posted their thoughts with Myspace bulletins, Facebook status, and even wear t-shirts with the now popular quote "I'ma let you finish" on them.

A large number of celebrities and other notables have voiced their opinion of the outburst as well.

President Barack Obama, spoke about the ordeal in an off the record interview, calling West "a jackass" for interrupting the young artist in her

big moment.

Stars like Pink and Katy Perry have come to young Swift's defense.

"Kanye West is the biggest piece of shit. Quote me," Pink tweeted during the show.

"Fuck you Kanye; it's like you stepped on a kitten" Perry also tweeted during the show.

Reports have shown that Kanye West has apologized repeatedly to Swift, even though he still stands by his opinion that Beyoncé should've received the award.

Swift is said to be doing well despite that disappointing surprise and the publicity of the whole ordeal.

The t-shirts, the continued coverage, social networking site applications...now it's your turn! How would you complete Kanye West's quote? When would you use it? Submit original answers to thecurrent@greenriver.edu and see if your quote makes it into our live poll on: thecurrentonline.net. Winners will be voted on by our readers and contribute to the discussion online. Visual interpretation is also encouraged! JPEG format please.



Jean-Pierre Garcia/The Current



Underground icon pens grooviest novel yet

Take it easy with a trip to Gordita Beach at the End of a Dream with Pynchon's latest work

By: Stephen Dufendach

If there are still literary events in the 21st century that reach the immortal levels of the past, the publication of a new Thomas Pynchon novel this last summer is about as close as we're going to get.

The fact that many readers quite possibly have never heard the name before — Pynchon is a notorious recluse who has spent his entire life avoiding publicity as much as possible, and usually writes extremely dense, lengthy and challenging works — could lead one to suspect that the author of this review has an eccentric personal fixation with a minor artist.

On the contrary, using "official" benchmarks, Pynchon was awarded, among other things, the 1974 Pulitzer Prize in fiction for his nihilistic epic *Gravity's Rainbow* — though he was disqualified at the last minute over charges of obscenity, and the award was given to no one that year (in a similar spirit to the #1 spot on the charts being left blank when it was so rudely occupied by the Sex Pistols.)

Three and a half decades later, Pynchon has actually become even more blatantly representative of counterculture than he was before, this time releasing a gaudy little beach novel about idealists facing the collapse of the 60's, entitled *Inherent Vice*.

At 369 pages (his shortest and most accessible full novel yet,) the story is centered around an increasingly complex and cheesy mystery, involving a plot to kidnap a billionaire land developer, which mostly serves as a vehicle to introduce a myriad of surfers, seekers, stoners, con artists, and anyone else causing trouble

around Gordita Beach in 1969.

So who, you may ask, cares about the plight of some hippies reaching the end of their heyday, when there's so much new happening in the world? The answer is that with Pynchon, it's never about his choice of interests so much as the things he does with them, the way he can overflow and re-engineer your mental image of what the universe is.

Even the death of a dream can be fresh and sensual. And for a story that's admittedly stranded in its own time and place, it does a world-class job of bringing every last arc of wave, word of regional lingo, clink of foggy tavern glass and bizarre fluke of California weather to life.

The protagonist is a struggling freelance detective known as Doc Sportello, who seems to drift through his days without much of a care for the world outside of his psychedelic exile in his solitary little spot by the beach. Pynchon's protagonists all seem to have that sort of casually alone and distant quality about them; they invent their own missions in life but seem to miss out on a lot as they struggle with their own unrequited lust for self-knowledge.

It would be too lazy, and inaccurate, to try reducing this to the work of an 80-something year old hipster who is nostalgic for his care-free younger days in a counterculture vacuum in sunny California.

That's no doubt a part of it, but the big question about this book is whether or not, for the first time in Pynchon's career, he wrote something that didn't even really try to be serious or intelligent. It becomes apparent within the first couple chapters that this book is a big joke, but is it an intentionally absurd and

mindless joke, or something more?

My personal bias is that he's merely trying to say, in a brand new way, what he's been saying all along — that yours, the reader's, biggest problem is that you just need to take it easy, because sloth is a sin against the fleeting grandeur of your life.

Here he's given the entire literary establishment something that feels so weird to analyze that the critics are forced to just give in to the sheer superficiality of it. But then Pynchon has always been oddly superficial, with seemingly cardboard-like characters, that still interact in the most believable and profound of ways.

This is most definitely the first notable literary work to come with a corresponding video trailer (mysteriously narrated by the recluse himself) and surf rock soundtrack. (It's all posted on the amazon.com product info page.)

Inherent Vice is, first and foremost, a beach novel. Everything about its presentation is hokey, neon and chill. It's not meant to be put on a pedestal or combed for solemn enigmas.

To contrast this work of old age with Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* would only make Hemingway look whiny and incapable of letting go, while showing Pynchon to be an infinitely more self-accepting and playful sort of old guy.

Incidentally, there is a whole chapter of *Gravity's Rainbow* devoted to making Hemingway eat shit literally.

If you're not familiar with Pynchon, but are drawn to edgy postwar authors — like Palahniuk or Vonnegut, for example — you might eventually place this in the same wavelength — satires of apathetic modern America at its

finest. — Pynchon never passes up a chance to mercilessly mock his own kind, whether recalling their use of Ouija boards to ask where to score drugs, or their creative lies to themselves that their dead friends just took secret vacations to catch better surf.

There are long stretches of the book where every page has something so funny you almost want to stop reading and just think about how funny it is.

Part of the mystique and intrigue that surrounds all of Pynchon's releases is the fact that he's spent his entire professional life in hiding from the media.

There are only about four photos of him that have ever found their way into circulation, he's never done an interview, and almost everything about him and his life is absolutely blank to the public.

He will go down in history the way artists used to, before the mass production of exhaustive visual and written profiles of celebrities reached a point of excess that has the potential to totally de-romanticize the relationship between artist and fan. Honestly — would you really want to know what Johnny Depp is like in real life?

The book was published by Penguin in July of 2009. It contains a synopsis on the inside flaps that doesn't admit it's written by Pynchon.

This could just be an overworked writer's dessert, after a lifetime of writing vast historical monuments so complex that each has their own markets for page-by-page guides to secret puns and obscure references. It's clear he wrote this one for fun, for himself, for his generation, and quite possibly for a quick buck.

News

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What's the next BIG hit?

By: Randall Miller

M. Night Shyamalan and his adaptation of the smashing animated series: 'Avatar the Last Airbender' debuts July 2, 2010, dubbed *The Last Airbender*, perhaps in part to avoid confusion from Michael Cameron's "Avatar" which begin showing in December.

This movie is said to have heavy hitter Dev Patel from *Slumdog Millionaire*. and introduces Noah Ringer. Patel stars as a light-hearted, arrowheaded nomad named Aang who is thrust into a war torn world with four nations based on the elements of Water, Earth, Air and Fire.

Within each nation is a technique called bending, or a manipulation of the forces that are iconic to each country.

Aang is the last of his kind and must combine this responsibility with his role as the Avatar, the legendary link between all nations. As a bridge the Avatar must balance learning each art of bending with diplomacy and avoid capture.

Teasers first hit theatres with the release of *GI JOE* and has already started to cause a stir.



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Honea's House

By: Andrew Honea

As Major League Baseball's post season gets ready to take full swing, Mariner fans will once again be left out of the excitement, but that doesn't seem to put a damper on any long-time Seattle fans view on the season. The mariners finished the season with a winning record, a feat that some probably thought couldn't be accomplished by a team who lost one of their true offensive forces, Raul Ibanez, to the Philadelphia Phillies.

But the true story of the year for the Mariners this year wasn't the fact that they did more than most expected. It was the return of the kid, Ken Griffey Jr. I can only imagine the cheers that filled the stadium as that boyish smile was flashed throughout the stadium for the first time since 1999. There were few other occurrences in 2007 when Griffey returned to Safeco as a member of the Cincinnati Reds, but Griffey back in Seattle uniform is a whole different scenario.

I was lucky enough to attend my first ever Mariner game since Griffey made his return. Never in my life have I heard such an ovation for a guy who went hitless in four at-bats. As a native of Atlanta Georgia, I was obviously pulling for Griffey to sign with the Braves for the 2009 season. That was until I realized what an asset he is to the city of Seattle. I'm not just talking about on the field. Griffey seems to motivate just about every Mariners fan I have ever met in a way that most figures will never be able to. The news of Griffey's signing with Seattle, although a surprise to me, didn't seem to shock many Mariners fans. As I looked into detail more and more of what Griffey did with Seattle in his earlier years, it became clearer to me of why Griffey resigned with the M's. But as miraculous as this signing was, one question comes to mind when I think about the historic career of the ageing future hall of famer. Will he return to Major League Baseball for another year?

Obviously Griffey didn't have the bat or the glove he had at a younger age, when he returned to Seattle and he's not getting any younger. If Griffey does happen to return, his role is only getting smaller. Seattle has lots of young talent and as sad as it is to admit, keeping Griffey on the roster as a regular for much longer may seem somewhat foolish. On a positive note, Griffey did hit his 400th career homerun as a Mariner in 2009, which would be a positive note to end on. As the Mariners get increasingly better, Griffey could also want to return to Seattle for one last possible playoff run, which brings us back to the role he'll actually play. Even if he is on the roster, how effective would his playing be?

Griffey doesn't deserve to be disrespected by any baseball fan, player, coach, or any other person for that matter, but even legends must know when to call it quits. Even he should be able to admit he is no longer the player he used to be, but during the 2009 season he blessed many young players with guidance they can't get from any other player. Whether 2009 proves to be Griffey's final season, he will never be forgotten in Seattle. He will be a legend until the day he dies, and long after.

UW hopes to continue QB tradition with Nick Montana

By: Mike Gunderson

The University of Washington may have missed out on signing Jake Heaps, one of the top quarterback prospects in the state of Washington. However, they didn't miss out on signing a big name quarterback for their 2010 recruiting class. Nick Montana, son of Hall of Fame and former NFL quarterback Joe Montana, will be wearing purple and gold after he graduates high school.

The Huskies were able to impress Montana enough during his visit to the UW campus that they were able to get a commitment shortly afterward. Montana, the 11th ranked quarterback prospect in the nation by rivals.com, was also heavily recruited by Alabama, Georgia, LSU, Notre Dame, Ohio State, and Stanford. While being the son of a Hall of Fame NFL quarterback may garner national attention by itself, Nick Montana has done more than enough to create a name for himself, leading Oaks Christian High School (Westlake Village, CA) to a 14-0 record as a junior, while passing for nearly 2,500 yards with 33 touchdowns and only 7 interceptions.

In an article done by the Seattle Times, the 6'1", 185 lb. Montana said that the decision by Heaps to sign with BYU had no impact on his decision to sign with the Huskies, and that his visit to the UW campus "made everything a lot easier. It cleared everything up." The article also listed the fact that new Husky head coach and former USC offensive coordinator Steve Sarkisian having coached Carson Palmer, Matt Leinart, and Mark Sanchez, two of them being Heisman trophy winners and all high first round NFL draft picks, as an important factor in Montana's decision as well.

The University of Washington has a long history of being a quarterback factory. Mark Brunell, Chris Chandler, Billy Joe Hobert and Warren Moon all went on to have successful careers in the NFL, while guys such as Damon and Brock Huard, Marques Tuiasosopo and Cody Pickett set many Pac-10 and Washington records while there. With a new coaching staff turning current Washington quarterback Jake Locker into a dark horse Heisman contender, the decision by Montana to play for the UW definitely looks promising.

Many argue that Locker is the best quarterback and athlete in the Pac-10 over the likes of Jeremiah Masoli of Oregon, Matt Barkley of USC, and Jahvid Best of California, and a lot of that can be credited to Sarkisian and his staff. With a developing Montana possibly taking over for Locker as a redshirt freshman, Coach Sarkisian continuing to recruit very well and the young talented skill position players that will be juniors and seniors when Montana arrives, the enthusiasm around Husky nation is as strong as ever. Husky fans are ready to turn the page and start a new chapter of Husky dominance in the Pac-10, all while hoping that the UW can climb back into the national picture and compete for national championships sooner rather than later.



Courtesy Photo/komoneews.com
Montana is hailed the prize recruit of Sarkisian's 2010 recruiting class.

Seattle Seahawks hit hard by injuries during 2009 campaign Hawks feel Deja vu as injuries in '09 resemble those that derailed 2008

By: Cleveland Woods

NFL analyst predicts that the Seahawks could go 12-4 or 9-7 the word called injuries that keep occurring year after year.

Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck injured again along with linebacker Lofa Tatupu is injured but has returned in last week's game. Marcus Trufant, along with linebacker Leroy Hill were injured as well.

A major part of Seattle's defense he's injured as well Walter Jones, due to back injury Josh Wilson and last but not least Sean Locklear Seahawks lineman is also injured.

Last year it all started with the receivers Nate Burleson, Deon Branch, Bobby Engram, and Logan Payne injured Matt Hasselbeck, Walter Jones, Defensive end Patrick Kerney, Seahawks Cornerback Kelly Jennings, and last but not least Seahawks Offensive Linemen Mike Wale, and Chris Spencer.

This season was supposed to be Seattle's turn around season, but the way these injury rates look it might not happen. Thinking about it, the injuries Seattle has now really isn't anything compared to last season.

Seattle has had only had four regular games this season, but the injuries it is really causing the Seahawks' defense to stumble. That may be the problem with Seattle's injury because as many football fans know - defense wins the games.

There is optimism that this season may be better than the 4-12 season that fans witnessed last year. On the positive side Seattle does have Lofa returning sooner than later along with Walter Jones, Marcus Trufant, Sean Locklear, Leroy Hill, Josh Wilson, and Hasselbeck.

Last season there were many players out for good; mostly put on the injury reserve (IR) list.

This year, there is not an IR list coming from Seattle - many are hoping that will be somewhat of a relief. Having these injuries could hurt the Seahawks early season; but as long as they keep playing how they did on (Sundays game against the Chicago Bears) then they might be able to have an early start off.

However, it's not too late for Seattle to turn this over by reviewing mistakes made in previous games. By watching films and working with

the kicker - the Seahawks could make it this season.

Seattle is currently third again their rivals in the NFC West currently making them 2-3-0. This season could very well turn out to be the turnaround season Seattle needs - hopefully making them 9-7 or even 8-8 (a good .500%).

As for the injured players, they are expected to return mid-season.



Courtesy Photo/nydailynews.com
Matt Hasselbeck down in the NY Giants/Seattle Seahawks game.

Title IX opens many doors at Green River

Title IX has succeeded in increasing women's participation in GRCC athletics

By: Mary Preston

On June 23rd, Congresswoman Patsy T. Mink wrote a law known as Title IX that explained that no one could be excluded from any school program based on gender. Since it was written, Title IX has led to a high increase in female athletes in colleges like Green River.

"Title IX certainly opened the athletic playing field to give women more opportunity to play competitive sports," says Green River athletic director Bob Kickner "All students should take the chance to get more involved in extracurricular activities. Being a part of a team and pushing yourself physically helps you to find out more about yourself. Sports are educational, artistic, and original. Every practice, every game, every play is a new piece of work that is different from every

other one."

Since women's sports first came to Green River in 1976, the male/female ratio for Green River athletes has skyrocketed to 51 percent of the athletic population being male and 49 percent of the athletic population being female. That's 1 percent away from being even. But it wasn't always this way.

"I was there in the beginning when women's sports were first allowed," says Dennis Olson, head coach of the Green River women's basketball team "The women's basketball team had half of the gym to use for an hour and a half, which they had to share with the men's JV basketball team. They didn't want the women's sports programs to "interfere" with the men's sports programs. I really had to fight to get semi-equality for the female players. But now, everything seems to be pretty even. There are no major inequalities

that I can see."

Whether it is noticed or not, Title IX continues to provide more athletic opportunities for all students. In the last four years alone, the male/female student athlete ratio for Green River jumped from being 61 percent male and 39 percent female in the 2005-06 school year to being 51 percent male and 49 percent female in the 2008-09 school year.

"What you endure is who you are.... Life doesn't have to be unfair," said Patsy T. Mink regarding Title IX and women's rights. Because Patsy T. Mink didn't endure the gender inequality that was happening in the U.S. at the time, women all over the U.S., women in Green River, now have the freedom to participate in what can be considered by some to be one of the most amazing experiences of an academic career.



Courtesy Photo/greenriver.edu

Keeping up on the intl. soccer scene

Cristiano Ronaldo, the Bundesliga, and Americans making their names known with the best. Why the 'World's game' is important

By: Kayla Preiss

The 2008 for Real Madrid was very successful; as they decided to make some big blockbuster changes to their roster due to the fact they received so much money from their previous season. They signed names such as Kaka, and arguably the best soccer player in the world right now, Cristiano Ronaldo.

From his move, Manchester United has actually been better off, because players are not relying on him to do most of the work on the pitch, and other players are getting in the spotlight.

From his move to Real Madrid, Cristiano Ronaldo has been setting a name for himself. He is one of the top scorers on the team, and is succeeding tremendously in the Spanish La Liga. He is also playing along side afore mentioned players such as Kaka, and Rial Hector whom also on the top of the charts for setting records. Real Madrid so far in the 2009 season has been doing very well with a record of 5-1-0, and at the age of 24 Cristiano Ronaldo is making it hard for someone to follow in his footsteps when he retires.

There are also many other Leagues in Europe, of which people don't know

much about, such as the Bundesliga which is in Germany, and started in 1962. The Bundesliga is a famous league in Europe that has won many cups in European tournaments as well as set many records.

There is also the Superliga which is in Portugal, and Primera Liga which is also in Spain.

These are very good leagues with good teams within them.

Some familiar names from the United States have gone to play European soccer because of the premier competition there compared to the United States. It is also where they could earn the most money. Names such as Tim Howard who is the goal-keeper plays for a team in the EPL called Everton, Clint Dempsey who used to play for New England Revolution of Major League Soccer in the United States, who now plays midfielder for Fulham in the English Premier league, and Jozy Altidor who played for the Metrostars in the MLS who now plays for Hull City in the EPL. These are just some of the names that have made the move from U.S to European soccer because like stated above more widely known, and also it is taken more seriously than it is here in the United States.



Scoreboard update

Volleyball

Overall record:

5-12

2-4 in league play

Last three results:

Oct 2 vs. Clark - Loss in four sets
Oct 7 at Pierce - Loss in three sets
Oct 9 vs. Centralia - Win in three sets

Upcoming matches:

Spokane Crossover in Spokane, WA
Oct 16 vs. Edmonds
Oct 16 vs. Big Bend
Oct 17 vs. Bellevue
Oct 17 - Trophy Round
Oct 21 vs. Highline

Women's Soccer

Overall Record:

2-6

Last three results:

Oct 3 vs. Walla Walla - L / 0-8
Oct 7 vs. Highline - W / 2-0
Oct 10 - L / 2-3

Upcoming matches:

Oct 17 at Bellevue
Oct 21 vs Tacoma
Oct 24 vs Olympic

Leading scorers: Carli McCrabb - 3 Goals
Erica Kobe - 2 goals

X-Country

2009 PLU Cross Country Invitational
10/10/2009

Men 8k Run Times

Mouhcine Aitounejjar

28:36.88

Brendan Brewer

29:10.25

Jacob Fullen

29:21.46

Garrett Kline

31:11.33

Spencer Scott

38:46.82

Women 8k Run Times

Robyn Campbell

28:31.76

Kelly Svennugsen

34:38.71

Mari Elin Stefford

34:38.71

Football kicks off at Green River...sort of

While not directly affiliated with Green River Community College, the Northwest Community College Football league gives football players a second chance at their dreams. With one catch: They have to become students at Green River Community College.

By: Sean Kramer

Building 'Green River' Football



Photos taken by Jean-Pierre Garcia and Justin Runquist

When Chris Wilson was playing Junior College football in California, he impressed Jeff Tedford of the California Golden Bears enough that he was offered a scholarship. Before Wilson could take advantage of that opportunity, his ego got him kicked off of his team, and Cal dropped their offer. But, now, he's been presented with a second chance. "This is my last shot if I want to make it to the next level. I can't be that way," Wilson said.

When Chris Traynor was finished with high school, the feedback from recruiters about his ability, and his height, wasn't favorable. He was invited to walk on at Central Washington, but didn't want to take the risk. After contemplating taking out student loans to play Junior College football in California, Traynor eventually decided to Bellevue Community College and leave football behind. He regretted it. Until he found out about Northwest Community College football league.

Michael Strong was a standout running-back at Bellevue High School. He played in a pair of state title games. Afterwards, he was Pullman bound to play for Bill Doba and the Cougars. After having to drop out because of grades, he's now here at Green River, looking for another opportunity at the next level.

Phillip Baker is a standout defensive lineman from Kentlake High school, who spent last season at a Junior College in Texas. But, couldn't resist the chance to come back home to play his football. "Once I heard about this team up here, I decided, what the heck?" Baker is garnering interest from D-I recruiters, but according to him, "nothing is ever promised." For him, this is an option to stay home.

These kids were given the opportunity to pursue these chances here in Washington, because of the Northwest Community College football league.

The re-birth of 'Community College' Football

Six months ago, all of this was just a dream.

The man who turned this dream into a reality was Kory Hill.

"I saw a lot of high school football players that wanted to keep playing but didn't have any options in this state to have an opportunity to play unless they were Division I or Division II recruits," said Hill. "But that's only two percent of high school players."

With experience in youth football and as the president of the Auburn Riverside Gridiron club, the official booster club of the school's football team, Hill set out to talk to Community College athletic directors and with the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges, which is the governing body of community college athletics in the state, to see how he could go about to give these young players an opportunity to keep playing.

"Basically what I got is that it's just too expensive to have football," explained Hill. "From there I determined they weren't going to start football just because I wanted them to."

So, Hill did something about it.

With ideas formulated from his discussions with Community College athletic directors, and the NWAACC, Hill started up his own league, which would differentiate itself from Semi-Pro football with one major detail.

Players in his league would be required to have completed High school, and would have to attend a college that correlates with the team they play for.

"We're not actually affiliated with these colleges. We're an independant company," Hill explained. He went on to elaborate that having a requirement the kids take classes creates the student athlete environment his league is going to strive for.

One of those schools chosen, was Green River Community College.

The different paths that these players took are all different. What these players hope to accomplish individually, their goals, and their aspirations, could differ as well. But collectively, this collection of over 50 football players congregated at Brannan Park, on a chilly, nothing out of the ordinary Tuesday night for one reason: To continue playing football.

They came in whatever they had. Whatever equipment they had from their High school or Semi-Pro leagues, and whatever jerseys they could scrounge up, even if it meant resorting to a replica Jerome Bettis Steelers jerseys.

They had to do so, because their official league equipment and jerseys weren't to be delivered until before their first game the following Saturday.

But even this scene was proof enough that the idea of a football league with student athletes that Kory Hill had envisioned was getting closer to fruition.

The players were chosen by a tryout. Charged \$40 to tryout. If they made it onto the roster they had to pay a \$260 player fee, which was to help supply equipment. Of course, that fee does not include tuition, in which the players are required by the league to take at least five credits.

The man chosen by Hill to build the Green River program was Todd Stroschein. A former Washington State Cougar offensive lineman, with coaching experience at White River high school, Stroschein brings a plethora of knowledge and resources to the position. Having played under Dennis Erickson, and alongside current Cougar head man Paul Wulff, Stroschein also brings connections and relationships that he's already taken advantage of. His staff has been able to get their feet wet visiting both Wulff at Washington State and Rob Akey at the University of Idaho, learning coaching tricks of the trade.

Three months earlier, when Todd Stroschein was granted the Green River coaching job, he inherited no players, had no assistant coaches, and had no practice fields.

For coach Stroschein and the staff he put together, the challenges and adversity seemed to be popping up around every corner. Securing permanent or even temporary fields that could be used for practices on a consistent basis has been the biggest problem. Getting the word around about the league, the team, and the kids on the team, to High schools and the major colleges around the state has been another. Getting the word around to the media, has been yet another.

"We're not getting paid here," said Carl Sundquist, the team's offensive coordinator. "We're here for the students. We're excited to help the kids and get a program started here."

"To start this league, was really hard, because nobody believes in you. It's kind of a 'Yeah, right' attitude," said Stroschein. "But once we got this going, they started to see, and we changed and are going to change their attitudes."

Of course, another challenge in proving the league's importance in the state of Washington is how Community College football would benefit the major programs here in the state.

"It affects our major colleges because these kids that go out of state are seen by colleges in those areas," said Tim Gilmore, who was brought on board as defensive coordinator. "So now our big colleges get to see them."

"It's absolutely our goal to push these kids to the next level. They know exactly what it takes with grades and those things to move on to the next level," Gilmore added.

"My biggest fear is getting a kid that these major colleges want and they don't get the grades," said Stroschein. "I preach to them, you're not going anywhere without good grades."

"I can't even put it into words," Stroschein said, a couple days after his Green River team defeated Yakima 28-18 in the opening weekend of the Northwest Community College Football league. "To tell you the truth, I didn't even realize until four in the morning (after the game), that wow, we've come a long way. We started with absolutely nothing."

Green River was featured in Lacey, Washington as the first game of the double header, which was also the first game in league history. Green River struck first with a 45 yard touchdown pass from Caleb Tuani to LeRon Yarbrough. After battling back and forth, and falling behind 18-14 in the 4th quarter, Green River fought back scoring the last two touchdowns to pull out the victory.

For Kory Hill, the day was more than just football for him, but a realization of a dream.

"I thought the day went awesome...The competition was good, it was everything we had hoped for," said Hill. "I had a lot of parents pulling me aside and thanking me."

"Just as equal were these parents thanking me for getting these kids back into school. It was real positive, they were real fired up about this."

Attendance goals were met, as the two games pulled in a little over 1,000 fans.

"Just seeing our players in uniform, and how hard everyone had to work just to get it done, it's a sense of pride. You look and say we actually pulled it off," Stroschein said.

One week later, they were back in action at Bonney Lake High school, taking on Tacoma, and it was even more of a reality then.

Dealing with the adversity of having to move their practice field from Auburn-Riverside to Muckleshoot high school, Stroschein wasn't sure how his team would respond.

"We'll find out today," he said before the game. "We didn't get any unity or cohesion out of it. Our guys feel jumbled."

Stroschein would have his answer from his players soon enough.

"When we get out on that field we better focus! We came to win! Let's go!" players screamed at each other. "They should not score tonight!" exclaimed another.

But nothing captured the energy on the Green River sideline when the helmets were thrown into the air and chants of "G's up!" were heard.

On more than one occasion, the officials had to go to the Green River sideline to ask for players to be settled down/

Green River ran all over Tacoma, Michael Strong contributing well over 100 yards on the ground himself, and dominated the trenches on both sides of the ball as Green River rolled to a 21-0 victory.

"I'm pleased that the game plan went according to plan. We coulda ran 'Pop' (Michael Strong) all day," Stroschein said. "We could've blown these guys out, but what good would've that done?"

Upcoming schedule:

Sunday Oct. 18

vs. Yakima Valley

5 PM

at Auburn High School

Tickets 5\$ for students

At the gate or at

Brownpapertickets.com