

# The Current

Green River Community College



## Tennis Team No More

After nearly half a century at the college, the historically most successful program at Green River will not be returning next year.

**SPORTS** page 15

APRIL 29, 2011 | WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.NET

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 10

### CAMPUS page 2

## The World as His Classroom, the Classroom as His World

Elephants, Shirley Temple, a fictional sex scandal. It's all part of the story of this chemistry instructor.

### A&E page 7

## The Notes and the Brain

Have you ever wondered why you have such terrible taste in music? Turns out, there's no need to feel bad about it. Just blame it all on biology.

### NEWS page 10

## Financial Aid Takes a Hit

The two largest aid programs - Pell Grants and the State Need Grant - for Green River students are facing cuts.

### OP-ED page 12

## A Smoke-Free Campus

During the recent student government elections, students were asked whether they would want a smoke-free campus. Our answer: yes, but with some reservations.

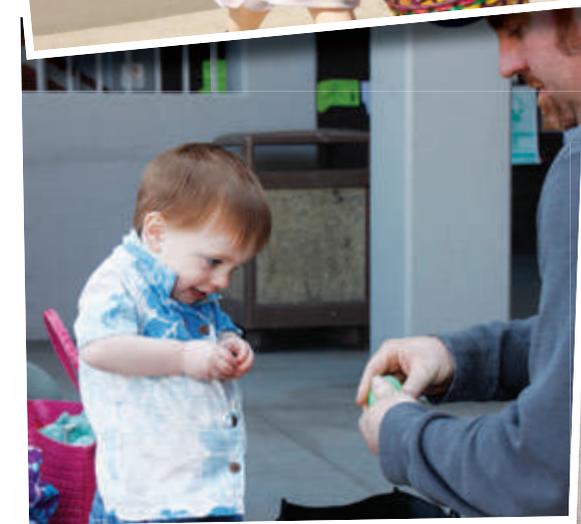
**THE HOPEFULLY-NOT-MILLION-DOLLAR  
QUESTION:**

**HOW MUCH WILL YOU  
BE FORKING OVER FOR  
YOUR EDUCATION?**

**PAGES 8 & 9**



Photos by Mallory Litzinger and Matt Montoya | The Current



## The World as His Classroom, the Classroom as His World

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia  
Campus Editor

Cheek cells, the fiber of his DNA, swirl around in a vial hanging around the neck of a carved African figurine.

In one of three photo albums he keeps in his office, he points himself out in an Instamatic print from 1975, then to a scene of celebration in Ghana where UN Ambassador, an older Shirley Temple, is surrounded by admirers.

On the next page there is a picture of a pair of elephants at a dried up riverbed, their ears perked up because he got a little too close to them.

Old newspaper clippings from India he has from 20 years ago tell the tale of a fictional sex scandal amidst his colleagues at the American Embassy School in New

Delhi and his basketball team's championship games.

The office of Green River chemistry instructor, Ken Marr, is a testament to the life he has led – in some 20 odd years, he has traveled and taught in about 40 countries.

It all started with what was supposed to be a simple, rebellion-fueled, one-time adventure. And two good-looking young ladies.

His childhood was an ordinary one. He spent his first ten years in San Fernando Valley, Calif., before moving to Silicon Valley. He went to high school in what he calls the "lively" years of 1967-1971, and, although he didn't necessarily lead the pack, was often in the thick of trouble in a time of great change. In a time of crew cuts, Marr, the rebel, grew his hair out.

"I was the kind of kid

teachers didn't want to have in class," he said smiling, undoubtedly aware of the irony of it all.

Still, he maintained grades that were surprisingly excellent

*"Don't tie yourself down with debt, property, things. When you anchor yourself down it's hard to be mobile. When you're not tied down, life is an adventure - soak it up."*

Ken Marr, Green River chemistry instructor

and continued to the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) as a pre-med student, a move that met his parents' wishes for him.

During his senior year in UCSB, after a weekend spent in bed pondering what he wanted from life Marr realized

he didn't want to be what his parents expected nor go down the beaten path of marriage, kids and retirement.

He was considering ways he could travel the world and

thought of the Peace Corps when, sure enough, he ran into one of its recruiting tables. He ended up having lunch with the two good looking ladies staffing it. That same evening, he was on the phone to brashly tell his parents what he would be

doing for the next two years of his life.

Looking stern, he impersonates his mother's puzzled tone "But med school is four years..." It was no matter. After he graduated with his Bachelor's in biochemistry, he left his old life behind and moved to Ghana, volunteering as a chemistry teacher.

Once there, Marr marveled at how happy the people were. "I found that the people who have the least tend to give the most," he says.

"In West Africa and Ghana, students would study by streetlights or go 'mining' with kerosene miner's lanterns because they didn't have electricity at home."

A six month old Newsweek was his only connection to the outside world. At one point he became mysteriously ill, and, with no one familiar around,

saw the negative part of his isolation. Yet Marr loved every single thing about it. What had started simply as a way to escape the constraints of an average life had turned into what would be the first part of many in his new adventure—saving the world, one student at a time.

After his term with the Peace Corps ended, Marr returned to UCSB to get a teaching certificate. And then it was time for his next stop: Iran.

Under contract with the American International School in Tehran, he arrived there during the revolution in 1978. As things escalated from peaceful demonstrations to horrible violence and resentment grew, even in the school.

PLEASE SEE 'WORLD AS CLASSROOM' ON PAGE 4

# Teacher Spotlight: John Matthies

**Full name:** John Matthies  
**Position:** Adjunct faculty  
(yet deserving of a full-time  
position), French instructor.  
**Date of birth:** Je ne com-  
prends pas.  
**Year at Green River:** First  
(and foremost).

## Why did you become a teacher?

I began teaching to put  
myself through grad school. I  
quickly realized how much  
I enjoy it. Still, I'd love to  
outsource grading.

## Why French?

Latin's dead, it seems. And  
English is unpredictable. But  
having lived, worked, and  
taught in France, and having  
spent a great deal of time in  
a Swiss hospital (four days  
in a coma!), I can honestly  
say that I love the place, the  
culture, the history, etc., and  
the immense variety of the  
French-speaking world. After  
all, there's no region of the  
world unknown to France  
and/or the language. Over  
half the African continent  
speaks some degree of  
French. India boasts pockets  
of French. France controls a  
slice of Antarctica, if you can  
believe it. And France (think  
Cinco de Mayo) invaded  
Mexico not once, but twice!

## How do you think your stu-



## How do you think your stu-

**dents would describe you?**  
Eccentric wit. Fabulist.  
Raconteur. Multimedia super-  
star.

## From your years of teach- ing, what's your favorite memory?

Hearing from former stu-  
dents that they were inspired  
to change their course of  
study to French (language,

literature, and civilization).  
Or to write letters of recom-  
mendation for these same  
students to study abroad, or  
procure a teaching post in  
France. We're saving lives  
every day here, people.

## What were your childhood dreams?

I first thought I'd like to  
be an orangutan. But my

father told me I'd have to do  
a lot better in school. Then I  
set my sights on "guitar god."  
Now that I've accomplished  
that, I'm not sure what I'll do.

## Who is your biggest inspi- ration?

Marie Antoinette. I love  
cake!

## What do you think about French cuisine?

Fromage (cheese), oui; fro-  
mage de tête (head cheese),  
non.

I'm also a big fan of  
baguettes. The same term  
covers bread, drumsticks and  
chopsticks. Bon appétit!

## Ninjas or pirates?

Pirates. No question. A  
fair number of pirates were  
French! Inspector Clouseau's  
about as near as one gets to a  
French ninja.

## Being a fairly new teacher, how do you like it at Green River?

I love it! I really do. And  
not for the sole reason that I  
am the French department.  
I've genuinely enjoyed my  
classes.

Find the complete John  
Matthies and many other  
Teacher Spotlights at:  
[thecurrentonline.net/  
campus](http://thecurrentonline.net/campus)

# Man on the Street



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

Here is a selection of this issue's answers.  
For more, plus an archive of old ques-  
tions, visit our website:  
[www.thecurrentonline.net](http://www.thecurrentonline.net).

## What is the most interesting place you've traveled to?

The most interesting place  
I've ever traveled to is  
probably Germany. My dad  
was in the service and I was  
about nine years old and  
every weekend we got to  
go to the country side and  
see castles or wine-making,  
just all kinds of stuff.



Bonnie Ryan

Reno, because the weather  
is a lot different there than  
in Washington. It's a lot  
sunnier and more upbeat;  
it's desert-like and there's  
like a million casinos  
everywhere you turn.



Kayla Storey

Japan. I'm from Korea and  
it's very different from any  
other Asian country. I'd say  
it's more dynamic and there  
are so many things there.



Kwan Ho Shin

I'd say the most interesting  
place I've been is Ireland  
because I'm just a European  
mutt. But Ireland is my  
favorite place in Europe, it's  
such beautiful country.



Chad Keene

Definitely Texas. I got  
pulled over by a Texas State  
trooper who couldn't speak  
English and he had to call  
an interpreter.



Chris Pirone



**CURIOUS**  
ABOUT THE NEW BUILDING?  
TAKE THE TOUR. [WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.NET](http://WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.NET)

## World as Classroom

CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE 2

Later that year, Marr went on a trip to Kenya for winter break.

He wouldn't return – by the time he was planning to, the school had closed. And a few months later, the director was taken captive as one of the hostages in the Iran hostage crisis.

Moving to a slightly safer place, he taught at the American International School in London. But in a characteristically audacious move, he decided to break off his contract after just one year to travel the wilds of South America – with a girl.

Six months later on the way back from Ecuador, that same girl left tampons in his backpack, prompting airport security at LAX to perform a full body search for rectally smuggled narcotics.

“Of course I wasn't carrying anything!” he says, still rather exasperated. The only crime he committed, he adds, was coming home.

In 1982, Marr moved on to India – his favorite place in the world. Marr taught at the American Embassy School in

New Delhi, but he didn't confine himself to the classroom. As a player on the basketball team, ‘The Gecko’s,’ made up of American teachers and grad students, he very nearly conquered the world of Indian athletics.

The team made national headlines by beating the despised Delhi Police team and placed second behind the official national team in the ninth prestigious Master Prithvi Nath Sharma memorial tournament.

Not too long after, while spending his vacation hopping around the Thai islands, he coincidentally ran into what was to be the first thing that would slow him down: his future wife.

Two strangers in Bali, Indonesia, they were the only two out of a group of travelers to show up for a 6 a.m. snorkeling session. Being the hopeless romantic he is, Marr put his sea sickness to good use by attempting to attract beautiful fish with his vomit. The attraction was immediate – how could it not have been – and shortly after, she moved back to India with him.

Less than a year down the line, taking their relationship



Jean-Pierre Garcia | *The Current*

From India to Africa, from South America to the Middle East, the three photo albums Ken Marr keeps in his office contain the memories of the life he led before settling down in Washington.

a small step further, they got married in India. After Marr finished his contract, they took a year off from work and ended up traveling the western U.S. and Canada in a VW camper.

Then they moved to Switzerland, one and a half hours away from her home in Austria, where he taught

chemistry and biology at the American International School Zurich.

In 1992, Marr made his final move – the one to Green River.

Life is different now. After two years at the college, his daughter, Amy, was born. Now, it seems, his life is a lot like what he wanted to avoid at all costs as a young adult.

With their daughter actively involved at her high school and a tight budget, there aren't as many adventures as there used to be. But still, the rebellious streak remains.

“Don't tie yourself down with debt, property, things,” he says. “When you anchor yourself down it's hard to be mobile. When you're not tied

down, life is an adventure – soak it up.”

And, after his daughter's graduation, true to his own word, Marr hopes to take to the road again.

—  
*Asha Johnson and Alexis Cormier contributed reporting.*

## WE WANT YOU

The Current is accepting applications for next year's **Editor-in-Chief** of the newspaper and website.

**\$2,000 scholarship**

**Application Deadline:** May 6, 5 p.m.

**Interviews:** May 10, 1-3 p.m. in Room 228 of the Marv Nelson Science Learning Center.

For more information or to pick up an application, contact **John Knowlton**, The Current adviser, at **253-833-9111 ext. 4201** or at **jknowlton@greenriver.edu**.

Other editorial positions also available, contact [thecurrent@greenriver.edu](mailto:thecurrent@greenriver.edu) for more information.

## Day of Silence

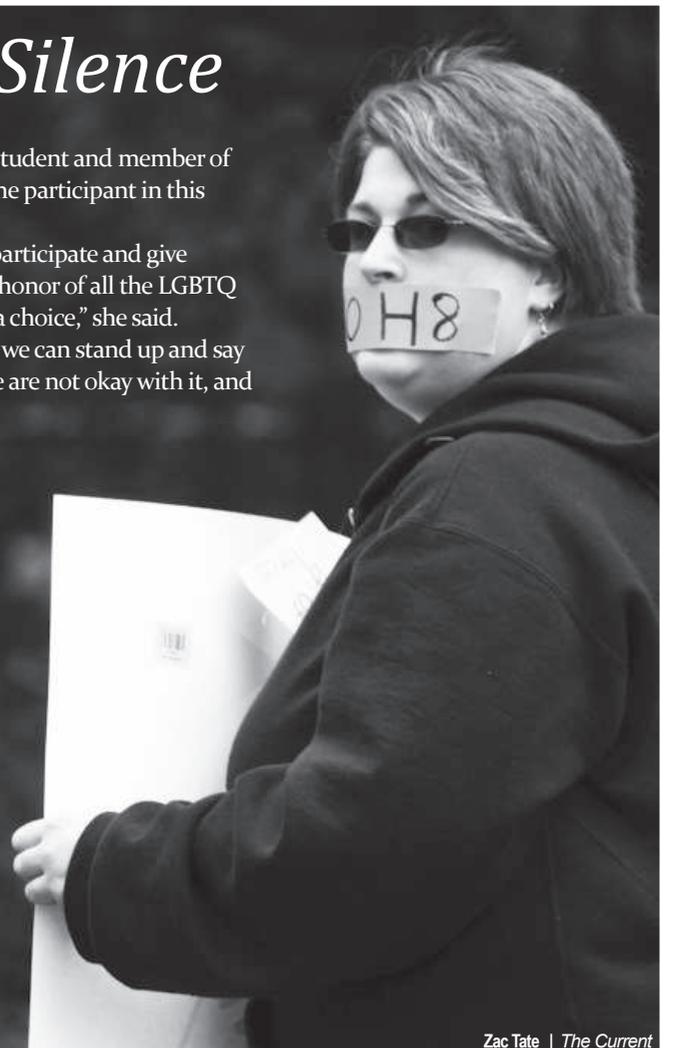
Janelle Britz, Green River student and member of Queer & Allies, was a first-time participant in this year's event.

“It is important for me to participate and give away my voice for one day in honor of all the LGBTQ community who didn't have a choice,” she said.

“This is just one small way we can stand up and say we notice what's going on, we are not okay with it, and we want to help.”

On April 20, a small crowd gathered outside of the Lindbloom Student Center to observe the Day of Silence by walking around campus holding up signs with their mouths covered with tape. The Day of Silence is an event that was started at the University of Virginia in 1996 to protest violence against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Questioning (LGBTQ) community.

By: Jenna Lee Shrewsbury



Zac Tate | *The Current*

## Also on the Inside

"First I thought I'd like to be an orangutan. But my father told me I'd have to do a lot better in school."

John Matthies Page 3

## Stay Current

Stay in touch with the community by following

The Current on Facebook and Twitter:

[www.facebook.com/greenrivercurrent](http://www.facebook.com/greenrivercurrent)

[www.twitter.com/thecurrentnet](http://www.twitter.com/thecurrentnet)

# A&E

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

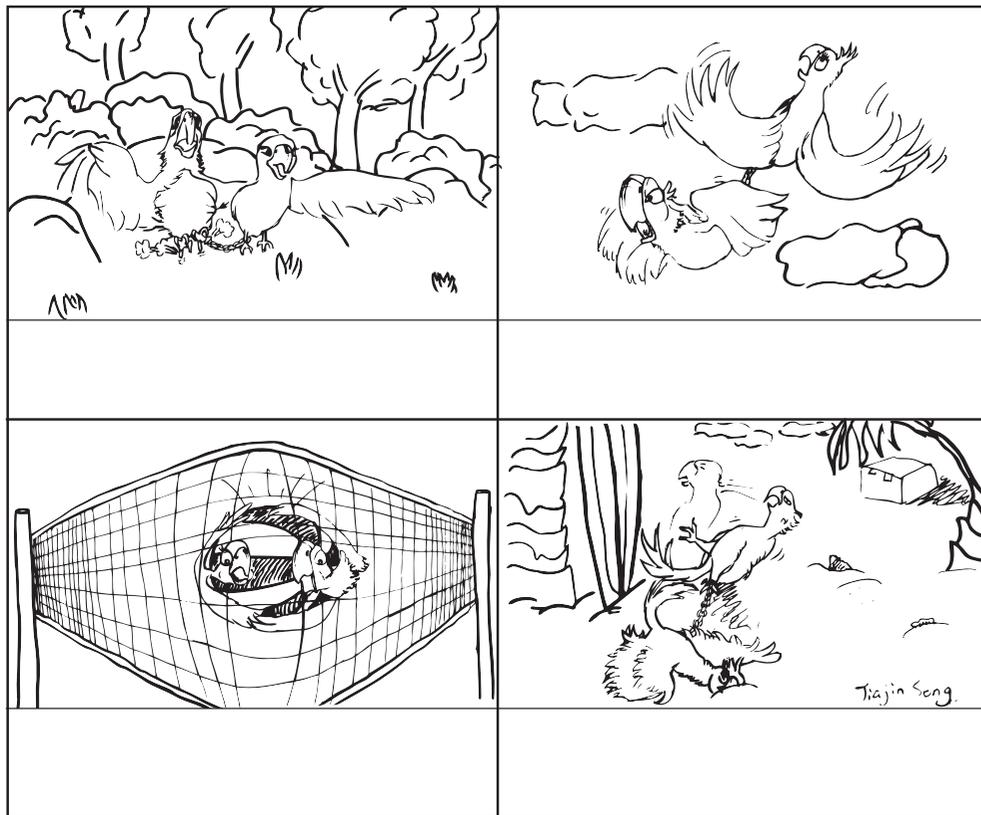
# 5

April 29,  
2011

## CURRENT CAPTIONS

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

Art by: **ANNIE JIAJIN** Based on: **RIO**



## SUDOKU

EASY

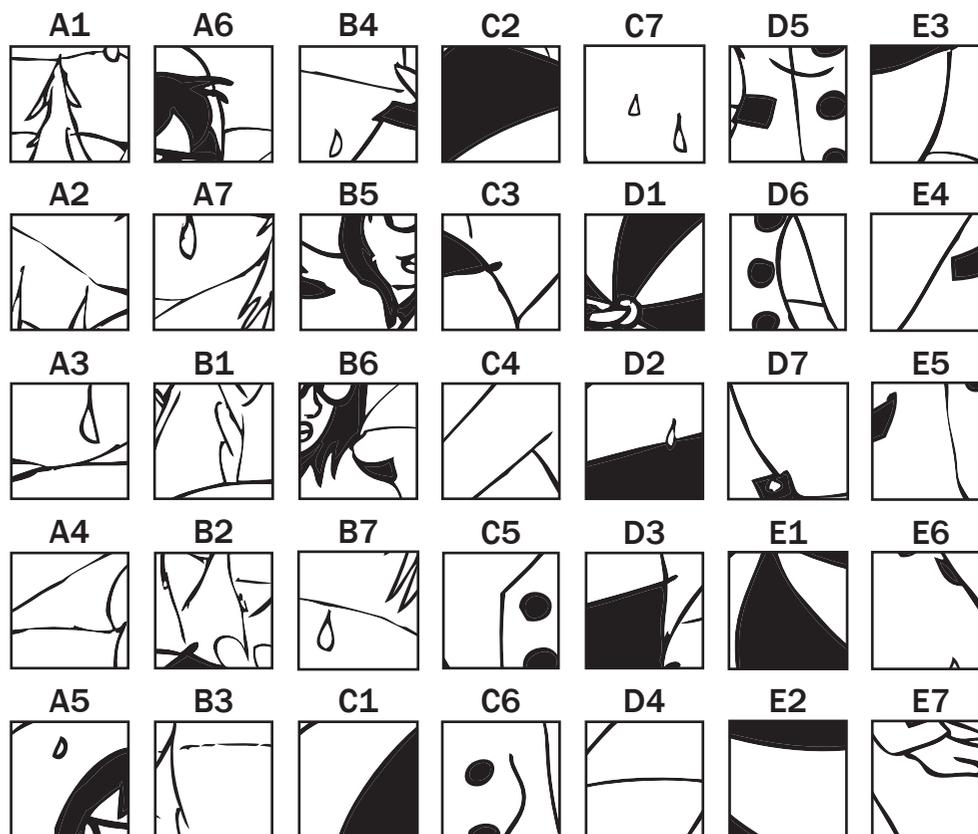
HARD

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

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

## PICTURE THIS

Use the letter-number guide above each square and draw what is shown in the corresponding square in the bottom grid.

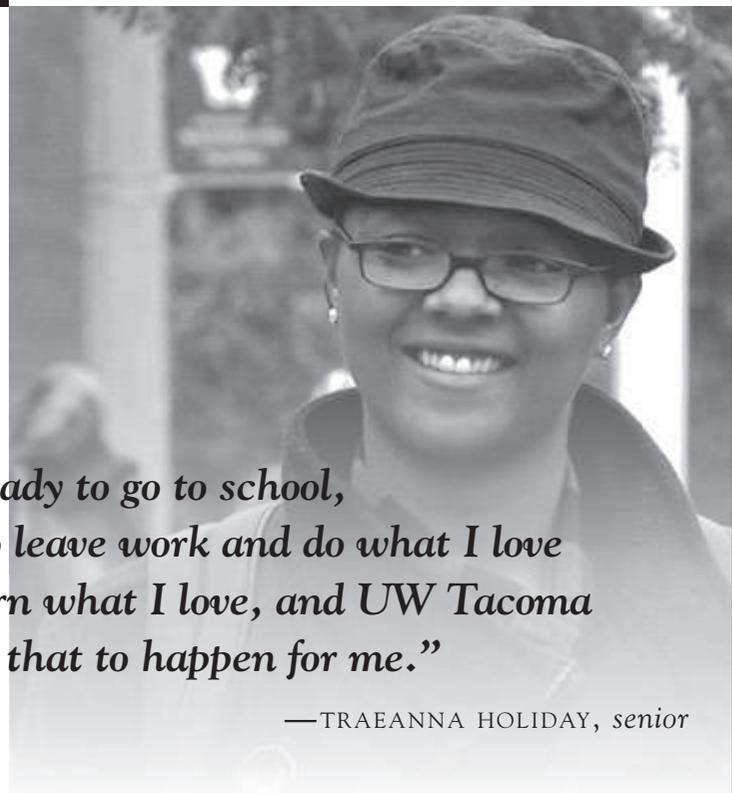


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A							
B							
C							
D							
E							

Art by: **BAILEY JO JOSIE**

# W

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA



"I was ready to go to school, ready to leave work and do what I love and learn what I love, and UW Tacoma allowed that to happen for me."

—TRAEANNA HOLIDAY, senior

## Why UW Tacoma?

Find out at:

[tacoma.uw.edu/why](http://tacoma.uw.edu/why)



# Concert Calendar

APRIL 30	Portugal. The Man @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$16+)
MAY 1	Chris Cornell @ Moore Theatre (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, SOLD OUT)  Papa Roach @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$26+)
2	Fleet Foxes (May 2-3) @ Moore Theatre (Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, SOLD OUT)
4	KT Tunstall @ Tractor Tavern (Doors open at 9 p.m. all ages, SOLD OUT)
5	Coheed and Cambria @ ShowBox SODO (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$27+)  Tim Reynolds & TR3 @ Neumos (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$18+)
7	Big Bad Voodoo Daddy @ Snoqualmie Casino (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$29+)  Mogwai @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$22+)
8	The Psychedelic Furs @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$20+)  James Blunt @ The Moore Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$27+)
9	The Kills @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, SOLD OUT)
10	The Cars @ ShowBox SODO (Doors open at 7 p.m. 21+, \$48+)  Peter Bjorn and John @ Neumos (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$20+)  The Black Angels @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$19+)
11	of Montreal @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$23+)
13	System of a Down @ Key Arena (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$40+)  The Melvins @ The Crocodile (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$25+)

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Action the Way it Should Be Done

By: Kierra Elfalan  
Staff Writer



The heat of the desert is weighing down on Hanna as she runs to escape. The bland landscape is vastly different from the cold white arctic she knows best. She must be quick, never look back. Like a ghost, Hanna's light hair sways with the wind. Her icy blue eyes dart about; like a hawk she searches as her thin white limbs carry her with speed. Her looks are as pure as an angel's, but her ambition has the darkness of a ruthless, fully-realized assassin.

From Director Joe Wright comes 'Hanna,' the story of a young girl (Saoirse Ronan) who has been trained by her ex-CIA-agent-gone-rogue father (Eric Bana) to become a deadly killer. After her intense training, Hanna is sent off into the world by her father to

terminate CIA Agent Marissa Wiegler (Cate Blanchett). While traveling throughout Europe, Hanna meets a girl her same age who becomes her first friend. But Hanna's experiences as a normal girl are short-lived - she is hunted by highly-trained assassins.

The suspenseful plot of 'Hanna' is reminiscent of another great, albeit slightly different, action film. Much like Hit Girl from the movie 'Kick Ass,' Hanna is a trained killer, but unlike the purple-haired heroine, Hanna's appearance is that of a pale little girl with bionic woman strength. Her father, Erik Heller, is much like Nicholas Cage in the role of Big Daddy, is a rebuked law man who trains his daughter to fight for him vicariously.

The combat skills of both Hanna and her father are beyond impressive. The scenes combine the great aspects of many action movies packed with awesome fighting angles and music that sets the scene



Courtesy Photo | hollywood.com

Saoirse Ronan, who also starred in 'The Lovely Bones,' puts on an exceptional performance as dangerous assassin Hanna.

perfectly. These are the kinds of scenes that make ordinary moviegoers take a sudden interest in martial arts classes - the kinds of scenes that make people want to fight each other right there in the theatre as the credits roll. For those who like action movies, every scene will produce chills of a wow-that-was-so-epic nature.

When it comes down to it, 'Hanna' is an exceptional

movie. The plot is creative and interesting and has its own original qualities. With occasional breaks from complete seriousness, this movie will both intrigue and entertain viewers with laughter-filled satisfaction.

Rated: PG-13  
Director: Joe Wright  
Lead Actress: Saoirse Ronan  
Box Office: \$32,843,177

## The Current Picks

### WEBSITE

www.mindhacks.com



By: Josh Davidson

Mindhacks is a "brain blog" and a continuously growing collection of news and insights about the brain and its inner workings.

From psychology to neurology, informative breakdowns of recent and notable studies and brain news such as "Hungry judges less likely to grant parole," a recent post explaining the key points of a study that showed lunch breaks influenced judges to be far more lenient on the defendant. Daily posts give bite-sized bits of new knowledge to chew on throughout the day.

Mindhacks is continually opening minds in more ways than one.

### MOVIE

Numb



By: Kelli Wyatt

Hudson Milbank (Matthew Perry) suffers from depersonalization, and "Numb" is the story of his isolation and struggle to cure himself for the girl he loves.

Milbank is depressed and constantly rendezvousing with terrible psychiatrists. They prescribe him a plentitude of drugs, fall asleep mid-conversation, and even sleep with him; all the while Milbank is struggling to form a somewhat stable relationship with the one woman he wants to be with.

Overall, "Numb" is dark but will leave you feeling hopeful, knowing that love can prevail through such a dehumanizing disorder.

### BOOK

Push (Precious)



By: Jean-Pierre Garcia

Claireece 'Precious' Jones is a teenage girl from Harlem, pregnant with her second child. Precious is hated by an envious mother that beats her with a frying pan, but this doesn't stop her from going to an alternative school to learn how to read. There, she develops deep bonds with her classmates and her teacher as her schooling progresses throughout the years.

Penned by slam poet Sapphire, 'Push' uses an in-your-face style that rubs emotions raw. Precious picks up a pen and tells her story like she talks - beautifully misspelled, terrifying but gripping. In 192 pages, she pushes for a better life.

### MUSIC

Put the 'O' Back in C untry



By: Bailey Jo Josie

By default, Shooter Jennings is country royalty. He's the son of late outlaw country god Waylon Jennings, but on his debut album "Put the 'O' Back In C untry" he proved that he can hold his own, both lyrically and musically.

His songs, like '4th of July,' a road song and a declaration of love and freedom, along with the reefer-madness-gone-awry party jam 'Busted in Baylor County,' are reminiscent of old school, outlaw country and southern rock.

He also brings some soul to his songs like "Southern Comfort" and heartbreaking "Sweet Savannah." An excellent country album that any music lover will appreciate.

# The Notes & The Brain

By: Josh Davidson  
Webmaster

Music is an ever-present force of emotional influence, a universal mover of humanity throughout history, and the unleasher of dance floor moves that are often quite unflattering indeed.

It is made by the chanting of monks in Tibet. It is echoing through the corridors of the International Space Station. In the past it was plucked from the strings of an ancient Roman Lyre.

And, unless you are some sort of hermit, it's probably being enjoyed within 100 feet of where you're reading this article.

Nobody ever asks why people listen to music – all can attest to music's seemingly innate ability to stir the soul, for good or bad, for happy or sad.

Simply listening to music has been proven to increase heart rate, dilate the pupils, and even increase blood flow to the legs. Where the questions arise, then, is when one attempts to understand exactly how these repetitive waves of air can have such a profound cognitive and physiological impact.

The answer: through music's intricate interaction with both conscious and unconscious processes in the brain.

First you have the brain's unconscious search for patterns. Being able to recognize a repeating chain of events is an evolutionary advantage, allowing us to predict events.

Repeatedly listening to a certain genre of music unconsciously creates expectations in the brain – you recognize a pattern and predict the future based upon it. House music, for instance, usually has a kick drum hit at every beat, and blues songs often follow the standard 8-bar blues structure.

Similarly, each individual song builds its own set of rules, patterns, and expectations that come with it.

After you begin to recognize a distinct pattern, the song breaks it. Music – the

good kind, at least – always contains the unexpected; this sudden and surprising change excites the brain in that familiar euphoric feeling we all know from our favorite songs.

A study done by the University of London shows the surprising elements in music actually trigger a release of dopamine, a chemical in the brain released when one feels desire or when one is experiencing pleasure. It is because of such chemicals we can even feel happiness.

In fact, some say, it's surprise alone that can make music interesting at all – it takes teasing, toying, and taunting to keep our brains from getting bored. "Music is a form whose meaning depends upon its violation," says Jonah Lehrer, a journalist who specializes in psychology and neuroscience.

That explains the basic ability of music to unconsciously capture a listener's attention and lead the brain to actively follow the beat. This also explains why some can't do their homework while listening to music. Still, it does

not explain the whole picture of humanity's musical tendencies.

Next to unconscious activities, you also have a conscious interpretation and understanding of a particular piece of music; listeners intentionally evaluate the emotional content such as lyrics and vocal emotions.

This kind of interaction with music often has more of an emotional impact, and goes hand in hand with personal and cultural connections to a particular song.

Take, for instance, Bob Dylan's war protest songs; had they been written in another time, they wouldn't have meant much to anyone.

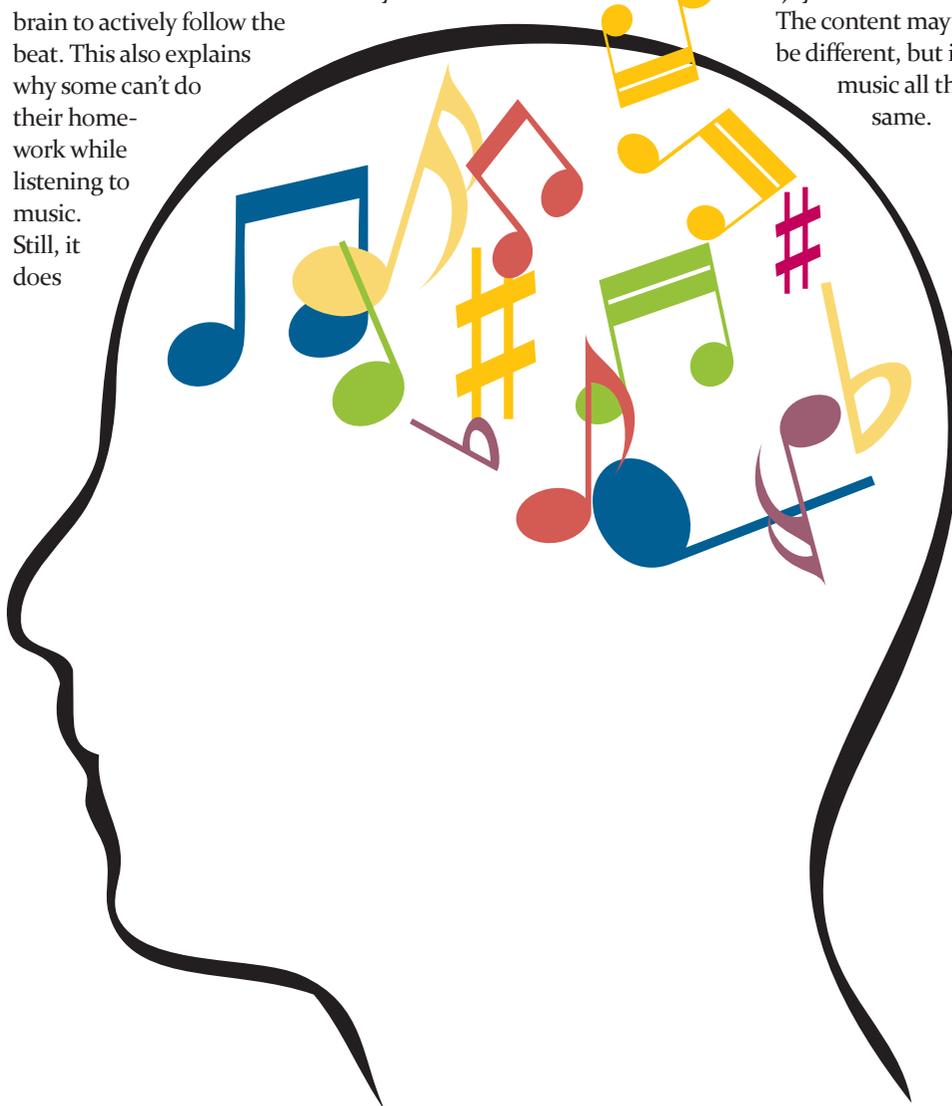


Individuals can also find

enjoyment in music for its ability to trigger memories. All the effects of music cause a song to become cemented into the long-term memory. Your brain is designed to make connections between things and discover relations. A song that was playing in the background when you went through an emotionally charged occurrence can, figuratively speaking, stick to the event and form a mutual relationship – through neurological connections, a trigger of one will trigger the other.

Musical enjoyment has been and continues to be a universal human phenomenon; despite the rare few who would pass it up, just about every human being who has been subject to the enterprise of music has found some aspect enjoyable.

The content may be different, but it's music all the same.



## Deadly Tower Records



**Game Prose**  
Alexander Bevier

As video games have been around for only a little over 40 years, it's surprising how many genres have shown up. It's equally surprising how many people still aren't sure what to call each game. This is mostly due to the new gamers bred from the Wii and Facebook games and a market that is growing exponentially.

Because of this, I've decided to make a handy list comparing game genres to musical genres. This idea came from a column, written by games journalist Gus Mastrapa, comparing classical music to role-playing games. He argues that the intricacy and knowledge required to understand Beethoven's brilliance was similar to that necessary to comprehend the slow, calculating mechanics of games like Final Fantasy Tactics. Because not much is going on in the gaming world right now, I figured I'd expand on this concept.

First we have the third-person shooter – a recent genre made popular by titles like 'Gears of War,' where players control characters from an outside camera angle. Most of these games showcase the intense visuals of characters curb-stomping others from a safe distance. This genre is the rap of games, where little kids can see Compton without being straight outta the city. This is exemplified by the fact that 50 Cent's game, 'Blood on the Sand,' is a third-person shooter.

Next we have the first-person shooter – the games that all the cool kids spend hours playing online. These games are played through the character's eyes, and are comparable to bubbly pop-rock. Everyone's played them at one point and they are in everyone's gaming diet – much like early Madonna, Hanson, or even New Kids on the Block. It's fitting that, while most

FPS games are about gritty shooting, Halo fans are as rabid as Beliebers.

We also have puzzle games like 'Tetris' and 'Snake' that have wiggled their way into our hearts. These games are both wonderful time killers and lifelong obsessions. People could easily live in a world where playing 'Tetris' is all they needed. That's why puzzle games are like country music. Some people just want games to be games, just as the literal feel of country quenches every musical pallet. Nothing is better than a plucky guitar while playing 'Angry Birds.'

Finally, there are the platformers. From the original 'Mario Bros.' to 'Mega Man,' these games are some of the most important in the medium. This is why they're

---

**'Doom' is Elvis, 'Beyond Good and Evil' is Neutral Milk Hotel, and 'Pokémon' is George Gershwin.**

---

Alexander Bevier

similar to folk music – they're simple, familiar, and close to everyone's heart. This genre is also what almost all indie developers begin experimenting with. Game developer Jonathan Blow ('Braid') and Jason Rohrer ('Passage,' a free game that looks at life and death within five minutes – check it out) did similar things with their games that Bob Dylan did with his music.

There are always exceptions to these rules, but try bringing this up at a party. I guarantee comparing games to music will be a better conversation topic than the weather (or, as I like to call it, the 'FarmVille' of conversation topics). Feel free to make direct comparisons too. For example: 'Doom' is Elvis, 'Beyond Good and Evil' is Neutral Milk Hotel, 'Pokémon' is George Gershwin, and 'Sonic the Hedgehog' is William Shatner's entire discography.

# HOW MUCH WILL YOU BE FORKING OVER FOR YOUR EDUCATION?

By: Remco Zwetsloot & Lita Black

Trouble is brewing in tuition town, and, with the proposed budgets of this year, it seems clear students drew the short straw.

"Of course I'm pissed. But I'm going to have to get loans and it's going to cost money no matter what," said Green River student Brian Pizzi.

It's a view many students on campus hold now – our polls show that x% of students expect to be more than \$20,000 in debt by the time they finish their studies. What does an extra few thousand matter then?

To be sure, it's not an attitude of apathy. Pizzi said he'd gladly fight to lower tuition costs. But it won't affect his choice of school. "If it's where I want to go then I'll deal," he said.

Others, such as sophomore Hannah Morgan-Smith, are sticking to their old plans. It was one already pretty fitting to the current situation – there's no need to go to a prestigious university and pay more, she says. "The end result is what matters, the degree." Going to a less prestigious institution could save one nearly \$5,000 per year.

In any case, no matter where or even if they transfer, the fact that students – or their parents – will be paying more for schooling is a given. And through all the responses *The Current* got from polling the student body, one thing shone through: a grudging acceptance of the fact that, regardless of where they go, they are simply go-

ing to have to pay more. It has indeed proven inevitable. Tuition had been steadily on the rise before, but the increases have recently taken a turn for the worse.

The Senate budget has contained a 16 percent tuition increase for the next two years at the state's three largest universities: the University of Washington (UW), Washington State University

will also have to take longer to complete their education, which, in turn, makes it more expensive.

Some of the colleges are worried about enrollment numbers in the coming years. Jeff Phelps, director of finance for university relations at WSU, acknowledged that the chance of a slight enrollment dip due to the tuition increases was very possible. However, he doubts

associate vice president for Media Relations at the university.

Rather, it is simply because the number of state dollars available to fund higher education has gone down. "20 years ago, the state paid 80 percent and the student paid 20 percent," Arkans said. "Now it pays 45 percent. Next year, it will only be paying 35 percent."

Opinions differ on whether the universities can offset the tuition increases with financial aid. Phelps said it was doubtful. Others have a brighter outlook.

Arkans maintains that financial aid is being preserved at a federal level, and that the state is aware that, as tuition costs go up, there will be a greater need for aid programs.

25 percent of UW undergraduates pay no tuition. Low-income families that are Washington residents and qualify for the Pell Grant or State Need Grant programs qualify for and are supported by the Husky Promise, which promises to cover all tuition expenses for the students it covers.

Arkans is more worried that the middle class that will have to bear the brunt of these tuition rises. He estimated that another 25 percent of the student undergrads at UW come from wealthy backgrounds and won't have problems paying the increased tuition. It is the other estimated 50 percent that could now be facing serious challenges.

**"20 years ago, the state paid 80 percent and the student paid 20 percent. Now, it pays 45 percent. Next year, it will only be paying 35 percent."**

- Norman Arkans

(WSU), and Western Washington University (WWU).

This means that, for full-time in-state students, tuition at the UW could be \$11,567 in two years. WSU's could go as high as \$12,281 and WWU's could go up to \$8,784.

Between 2009 and 2011, 850 jobs, 12 degree programs, and 384 undergraduate lecture sessions were eliminated from UW due to budget cuts. This has caused some to worry that students will not only have to pay more but

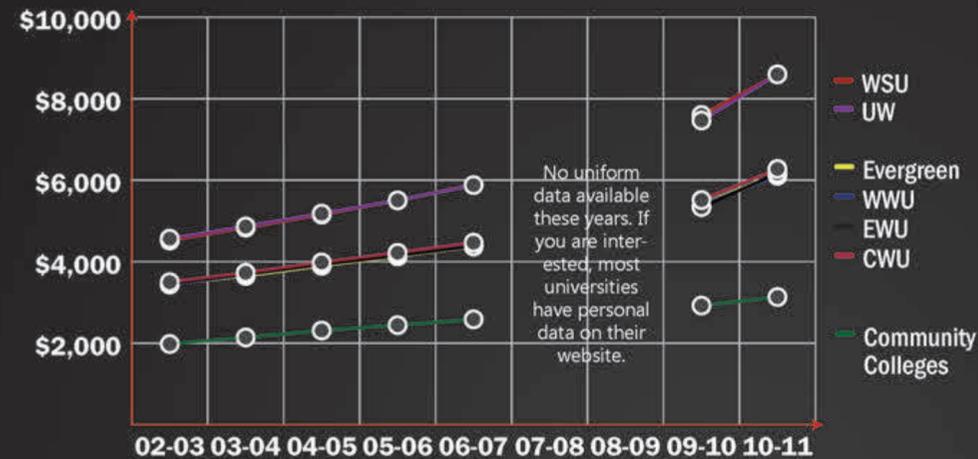
the change will be drastic.

"There is a lot of demand for higher education so enrollment is likely to stay stable," he said. This, he added, puts additional burden on students who need but can't get into academic core classes.

All of this isn't because providing education has gotten more expensive; in inflation-adjusted dollars, it costs UW the same amount of money to educate someone now that it did 1990, according to Norman Arkans,

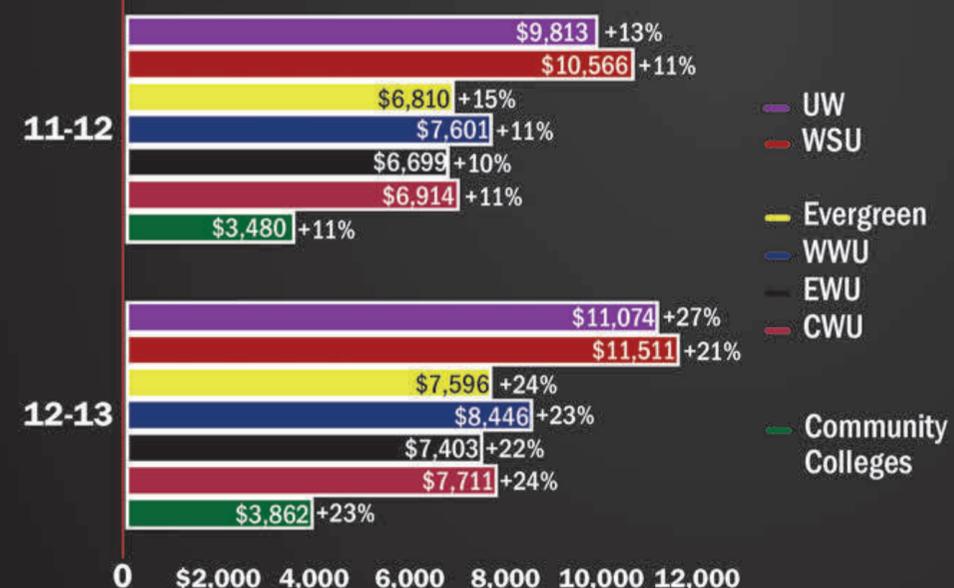
# TUITION RATES AT STATE INSTITUTIONS

A brief history of tuition at state institutions



Source: Higher Education Coordinating Board

Average of current budgets on the table (House, Senate, Gov.), compared to the current level of funding



Source: The Seattle Times

HOW MUCH DEBT DO YOU ANTICIPATE YOU WILL HAVE BY THE TIME YOU ARE DONE STUDYING?

36%

\$0

6%

\$0 - \$20k

15%

\$20k - \$40k

31%

\$40k - \$60k

12%

\$60k+

## BY THE NUMBERS:

12%

The annual tuition hike for community colleges proposed in the Senate's budget. The House proposed 11 percent, the Governor 10.

\$12,281

The annual tuition for a full-time resident student at WSU next year if the Senate budget passes. It would make WSU the most expensive local public university.

80%

The part of higher education that was funded by the state back in the early 1990s, according to Associate Vice President for Media Relations at the UW, Norman Arkans.

35%

The part of higher education that will be funded by the state next year, according to Associate Vice President for Media Relations at the UW, Norman Arkans.

\$9,093,134

The amount of money Green River students borrowed through the financial aid office in the 2009-2010 academic year.

1,811

The amount of students who, combined, borrowed that \$9 million through the financial aid office.

## The Undercurrent

### New Look for College Website

By: Remco Zwetsloot  
Editor-in-Chief



ABOVE: the old. BELOW: the new.



The college website will have a new look by the start of fall quarter.

The redesign is part of a broader change to the website. The College Web Council and Web team have been working for about a year on a shift to a Content Management System (CMS), and they are currently working with the vendor Ingenuix to set up the new technology.

The steps were taken to make it easier for departments to update their information, says Anthony White, web developer for the IT Department.

Those in charge of updating are currently being trained to work with the new CMS.

### Online Services to Go Down During Registration Time

By: Kelli Wyatt  
Managing Editor

All community and technical college data systems in Washington State will be temporarily offline Memorial Day weekend, Friday, May 27 at 5 p.m. until Tuesday, May 31 at noon.

The project, called "Lift and Shift," occurs during registration for summer quarter. Access to all online services will be unavailable and registration will be suspended until the system is back online on May 31.

David Larsen, project manager at Green River, emphasized that "there's not another student who's going to have an advantage from this because everyone will be unable to register or change their schedule."

Over the holiday weekend, state workers will take each of the 34 individual college systems offline, relocate them to a single data center in Olympia, and make sure they all go online without error. They will all go live at the same time.

The current information management system runs on old, outdated technology, according to Larsen. All Washington community and technical colleges currently rely on an HP3000, which HP no longer supports and doesn't manufacture replacement parts for.

"If something were to happen, we'd have to scavenge parts of old servers," said Larsen.

"It's an efficiency and cost-saving measure. The idea is to modernize everything so we can provide better services for the students in the long-run," he said.

#### All services that will be down:

- Class Schedule
- Student Schedule
- Registration Appointment
- Unofficial Transcript
- Financial Aid Portal
- Display My SID
- Student PIN Change
- Waitlist Inquiry
- Student Address / Change Student Address
- Schedule Planner
- Web Credit Card
- Cashier's Office

# Cuts to Hit Students on Financial Aid in Full Force

Demand is at an all-time high, but funding for state and federal financial aid will be or has already been cut.

By: Kelli Wyatt  
Managing Editor

Best case scenario: maintain the same levels of funding as in the previous years.

Worst case scenario: large cuts to the Washington State Need Grant (SNG) and Worker Retraining this year, as well as major reductions to Pell Grants in 2012-2013.

After all budget negotiations are over and done with, the result will most likely lay somewhere in between.

But in any scenario that's currently on the table, it's all but certain that students – mainly those who receive scholarships and grants – at Green River relying on financial aid will be affected.

By far the largest source of aid for students at Green River is the Federal Pell Grant Program, which awards qualified students up to \$5,550 per year.

2,650 students rely on the program to study and got a combined \$9,040,751 in the 2009-2010 academic year, which is an average of \$3,412 per student for the year.

"If it weren't for Pell Grants I would not be in college. Period," said Katie Kralovic, who

has relied on the program since she enrolled in spring quarter last year. And she's not the only one.

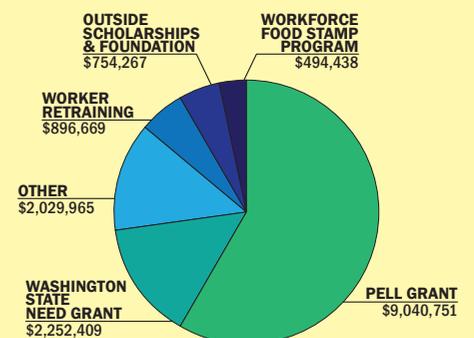
Over the course of just two years, the amount of Pell recipients has nearly doubled and the amount of money granted is nearly three times as high.

As the unemployed have been returning to school en masse since the financial crisis hit, the program has slowly but surely become unsustainable; last year alone, federal spending on Pell Grants went up from \$16 to \$40 billion. If no changes were made, it would go up another \$20 billion next year.

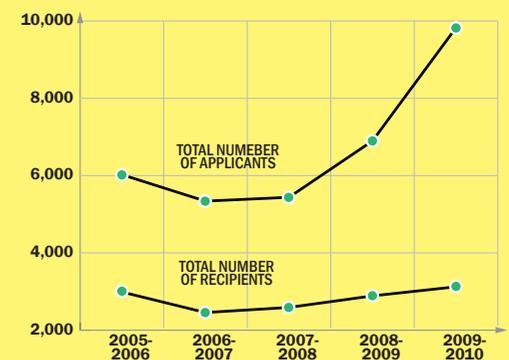
Consequently, Democrats and Republicans in congress recently struck a deal to eliminate the year-round Pell Grants, which allowed students to continue studying in the summer. According to Mary Edington, director of financial aid, students will still be able to get the additional summer grant before July 1, when the additional year-round program will be

PLEASE SEE 'FIN. AID'  
ON PAGE 11

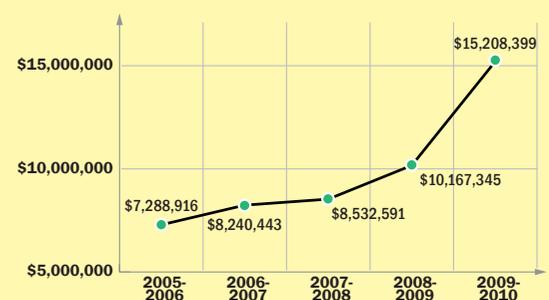
#### Scholarships and grants: Distribution in 2009-2010 academic year



#### Scholarships and grants: Total number of applicants versus number of recipients



#### Scholarships and grants: The amount Green River students received



Source: Green River Financial Aid Office



facebook.com/  
greenrivercurrent

FOLLOW US

twitter.com/  
thecurrentnet



EMBRY-RIDDLE  
Aeronautical University  
WORLDWIDE

Join the leaders in  
AVIATION, TRANSPORTATION,  
LOGISTICS and MORE!

Undergraduate and graduate programs  
Learn in a NEARBY CLASSROOM  
or from YOUR HOME!

Continuously seeking adjunct faculty

worldwide.erau.edu/lead

800.522.6787

# Transfer Trouble up Ahead

By: Selam Gebretsadik  
Staff Writer

For in-state students looking to transfer in the near future, options have recently become more limited.

In a move that they hope will help them weather upcoming cuts, two state universities have opted to increase the number of out-of-state and international students and, consequently, decrease the number of residents they accept.

For several years, the

University of Washington's (UW) target enrollment for the freshman class has been roughly 4,000 residents and 1,500 non-residents.

But, due to a persistent budget shortage at the university – potentially facing up to \$200 million in cuts over the next two years, in addition to the more than \$100 million already cut – the UW decided in March to lower the target for residents by 150 and increase the target for non-residents by 300.

Because of this, many qualified transfer students

were denied admission this year; out of 10,275 applicants, only about 5,700 in-state students were accepted at the UW's Seattle campus – a substantially lower number than last year.

"I understand that there is a perception that we are walking away from our commitment to the citizens of Washington," said Phyllis M. Wise, UW interim president.

"But it is not an accurate perception. If the state's revenues were not in such dire straits, we would not have taken these steps to increase revenue from nonresidents."

Western Washington University is employing a similar strategy; it plans to increase the number of non-resident students from 7.5 percent to 9 percent of the student body, according to Paul Cocke, director of communications at the university.

"While a much smaller percentage increase than planned by UW, we believe

this increase will have a positive impact on the overall academic experience at Western while also providing some additional revenue," he said.

Not all public universities are seeing themselves forced to take the same steps.

Washington State University has said it plans to increase enrollment of in-state freshman by 13 percent, and Eastern Washington University has said it has not making any changes.

Central Washington University is experiencing record enrollment numbers. It has enrolled 9,980 students this year even though their budget covers only 9,700 and plans to continue accommodating extra students in the future.

But for in-state students who dream of attending the UW – and, to a lesser extent, Western – it may be time to face an unfortunate truth: even a 4.0 GPA and a plate full of community service are no longer enough to be accepted.

# The Echo: A Dual Failure?



TECH TRENDS  
KHOE NGUYEN

The April 14 debut of the Kyocera Echo has consumers embracing a brand new type of technology: the first ever dual-screen smartphone.

Or, more accurately, that's what was supposed to happen. In reality, it couldn't be any farther from the truth.

Since its release, the Echo has not gained any mainstream presence, especially compared to other smartphones out there today.

Consider the iPhone 4, which sold a record 1.5 million units in one day, or the Motorola Droid, which went over the counter 300,000 times in its first week on the market. The Echo has yet to even come close to those numbers, and it's losing appeal by the day, according to Boston Globe technology reporter Hiawatha Bray.

"It's hard to imagine the Echo catching on. This bulky, power-hungry device is twice the phone most of us need, and half the tablet we want," Bray said.

As for the Echo, its manufacturing company, Kyocera, seems to make marketing its last priority. Even though the corporation has been around since 1959, it has yet to build any sort of credibility.

With no fanfare and no advertising, the Echo has largely been a silent release, much like all of its other products.

Kyocera is not totally at fault. Echo's carrier, Sprint, put no effort into advertising the new dual-screen technology either, with no major commercial spots and just a single advertisement (which could only be found on Kyocera's website).

And the product itself isn't all that impressive either. The idea of a dual-screen phone isn't that bad, and some were truly excited for it. But the anticipation proved greater than the actual product.

"The reason this device

is so disappointing is that everyone can see what could be done with it, only to find out that it's not capable of doing any of it," said technology blogger Enrico Poole.

The Echo does have some qualities that should make it much more popular than it is now: while the phone has the standard Android smartphone hardware, it has the ability to run seven basic apps simultaneously using the dual-screen set up, a feature which Kyocera calls "Simul-Task Applications."

Some users, however, think the Simul-Task apps are selling short.

"It's blatantly obvious that the Echo is only capable of the normal multitasking abilities of Android, save for customized software that allows certain applications to take use of both screens,"

*"It's hard to imagine the Echo catching on. This bulky, power-hungry device is twice the phone most of us need and half the tablet we want."*

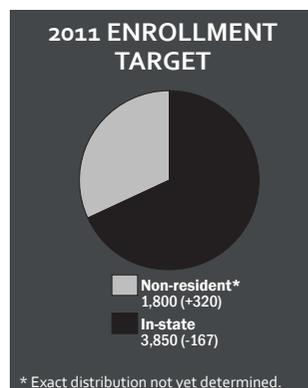
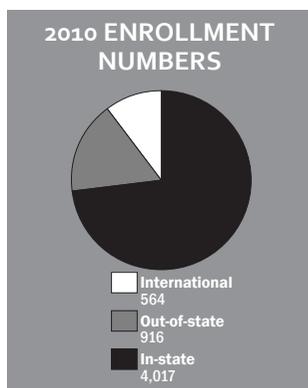
Hiawatha Bray, Boston Globe technology reporter

said Poole.

Besides running apps simultaneously, the Echo can go into tablet mode by forming a 4.7 inch screen. Running apps or surfing the website on the large screen is better and easier to maneuver, and seeing Angry Birds flying from one screen to another screen is quite entertaining as well.

It will probably take a big company like Samsung or Apple to truly make the still-young technology popular – a dual-screen smartphone certainly doesn't seem like an unmarketable product.

For now, only time will tell whether Kyocera's Echo will slowly gain the consumer's respect (or even interest) or count as yet another failure for the little-known company. Probably the latter.



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

GYT  
GET YOURSELF  
TESTED  
GYTNOW.ORG

Planned Parenthood  
of the Great Northwest  
WE'RE HERE.™

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

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

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

©2011 Planned Parenthood® of the Great Northwest.

## Fin. Aid

CONTINUED FROM  
PAGE 10

officially terminated.

Under the compromise, the maximum award would remain the same as this year's – not technically a cut, but, with tuition costs rapidly increasing, still a decrease in relative funding.

This, too, will be the case with the Washington State Need Grant (SNG).

The SNG is the second largest aid program – not counting loans – Green River students tap into; 1,327 of them got \$2,252,409 last year. Next year, both of those numbers are likely to go down.

The SNG is designed to cover the entire cost of tuition, so any cut to the program would mean a decrease in the amount of recipients, not how much students receive.

No changes will be made to either the loan or the employment programs currently available through the financial aid office, both of which have seen increases in demand similar to those of the scholarships and grants.

## Staff

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

## EDITORIAL

# A Smoke-Free Campus

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

A poll held during the recent student government elections signaled the consideration of making the college's campus completely smoke-free. We support this initiative.

Countless studies have shown that smoke is damaging - in fact, "There is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. Any exposure to tobacco smoke - even an occasional cigarette or exposure to secondhand smoke - is harmful," according to the U.S. Surgeon General.

The current rule - no smoking within 25 feet of building entrances - is aimed at keeping smoke away from the inside of buildings. But in practice, it is clearly unenforceable. Consequently, a lot of students, especially those with asthma, have to deal with smoke inside buildings as well. This needs to stop.

But the ban should be imposed in a way that as "smoker-friendly" as possible.

People often make the argument that smoking itself is damaging to those who do it, and that it should therefore be discouraged by colleges. But it is hypocritical to argue this and at the same time do nothing about the unhealthy food in the cafeteria - both cigarette and fat foods damage the health of the consumer. It is not the job of a college to regulate the private behavior of its students, no matter how harmful it is to them personally - not until it affects others without their consent.

Nor should we forbid smoking simply because it is considered a nuisance. Loud music is arguably just as irritating, yet there's not a reasonable person attempting to impose a campus-wide decibel limit, nor should there be; when we start banning things just because people - even if it is a majority - consider them annoying, we venture onto a slippery

slope. Those who want smoking prohibited because it gets on their nerves are supporting the right cause for the wrong reasons.

The ban should therefore be designed in a way that improves the health of the public without putting smokers through unnecessary trouble, like making those who have classes in the SMT walk all the way to the other side of campus just to light up. This can be done by putting several covered "smoker spots" in low-traffic areas, such as the parking lots, around campus.

Due to the difficulty of enforcing the current rules and the health risks to those unwillingly inhaling secondhand smoke, we feel banning smoking from campus completely is the best practical method out there to further the well-being of the campus in general. But the ban must be designed in a way that doesn't needlessly stigmatize smokers.

# Caved in to Coffee

The inevitable has finally happened - during our final night of production for the previous issue, at approximately 3:54 a.m., I took my first sip of coffee of the year.

And it will also be my last one.

Dear God, that stuff is disgusting. I, to the great amusement of the other staff that were crazy enough to be there at that time on a weeknight, simply couldn't stop the facial spasms I previously thought were only used on TV for comical purposes. I envy - and, admittedly, detest - anyone whose taste buds have somehow adapted to such an assault of the senses.

I have thus far managed to stay away from any energy drinks (knock on wood), though, so I, as the arbiter of the bet with myself, shall just award me for being such a great, good looking sport by not considering this a violation of the no-drinking-caffeine-except-that-which-is-in-tea agreement.

Anyway, I suppose I'll stop ranting now and actually talk about what happened in the thrilling ever-on-going fairly tale world of The Current over the past few weeks.

Shortly after receiving our recent Society of Professional Journalists awards we were notified by the organizer of the other competition we entered - hosted by the Washington Community College Journalism Association - that we placed into the top 3 in the General Excellence category. Soon we'll hear what other categories we placed for, and we'll have to sit tight until the May 21 luncheon to actually find out what we win, but it's already pretty exciting.

At the same time, though, it's a reminder for me and everyone else on staff that the year is actually coming to a close. When it actually does, I think it will be a shock for all of us - it's going to be difficult to wrap our heads around the idea that this crazy family we became this year is drastically changing.

**The Editor**  
Remco Zwetsloot

# That's what he said she said

**Josh Davidson:**

"Most people are fools, most authority is malignant, God does not exist, and everything is wrong."  
- Ted Nelson

**Matthew Montoya:**

"If I have seen further it is only by standing on the shoulders of giants."  
- Isaac Newton

**Bailey Jo Josie:**

"I'm not for sale... The Beatles were for sale; I give it away."  
- Anton Newcombe

**Remco Zwetsloot:**

"Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground."  
- Theodore Roosevelt

**Alyssa Ryan:**

"For goodness sakes, I have flip-flops on. It's alright. Jesus wore sandals."  
- Ashley Smith

**Lacey Steward:**

"I don't mind living in a man's world, as long as I can be a woman in it"  
- Marilyn Monroe

**Kelli Wyatt:**

"Don't get your knickers in a knot. Nothing is solved and it only makes you walk funny."  
- Kathryn Carpenter

**Jean-Pierre Garcia:**

"Like Lincoln, I would like to believe the ballot is stronger than the bullet. Then again, he said that before he got shot."  
- Sarah Vowell

**Editorial Policy**

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

**Theft Policy**

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

**Letters to the Editor**

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

Note: The quotations featured here in no way represent The Current or the student body's opinion, but rather that of the individual editors.

# Sacrificing Our Future



Commentary by:  
**Brian Hunnicutt**

The economic recession has limited the government funding available for state institutions, putting colleges and universities in a tight spot financially. Even solutions like tuition hikes and budget cuts aren't enough to get universities the funding they need, and more and more schools see themselves forced to resort to drastic measures.

The University of Washington (UW) recently did just that – they are now admitting more international and out-of-state students and less in-state students in order to decrease their budget shortfall. By doing this, it is sacrificing long-term economic gains for short-

term fixes.

Admittedly, the increased revenue – universities get to keep a portion of non-resident tuition – can help cash-strapped institutions continue to provide a quality education. However, the eventual cost to the local business community and students themselves are far greater than the benefits.

Non-resident students are likely to take their education and return home, leaving Washington itself without skilled workers. And the local students who have not been accepted to in-state colleges will need to move to acquire the education they want, and some who would have otherwise stayed will not return.

It is imperative that Washington universities and colleges continue to provide local students with access to higher learning. This will ensure the business community has access to the qualified individuals it needs

for increasingly more high-tech jobs.

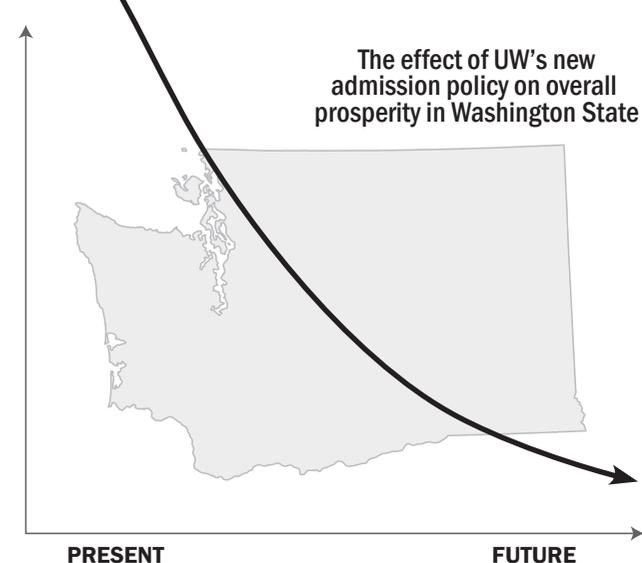
According to a report by the Higher Education Task Force, two-thirds of new Washington jobs will require some postsecondary education by 2020. The report recommends that by 2018, “28,000 students need to be graduating with a bachelor’s degree.” This would be an increase of 27 percent from 2010, when 22,000 students graduated with a bachelor’s degree. And it won’t happen if universities and colleges reduce the amount of resident students.

Individuals with a college education are far more likely to have higher salaries than those with just a high school diploma. A national survey by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2007 shows people who have a bachelor’s degree earn, on average, nearly twice as much (\$57,181 versus \$31,286) as those with only a high school diploma. By decreasing the number of

people in Washington with a bachelor’s degree – which is essentially what enrollment policies like that of the UW will do – we are hurting residents and lowering future state tax income.

Local communities also benefit directly from a better-educated population through lower unemployment rates. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2009 population survey, individuals who have a bachelor’s degree or higher have nearly six percentage points lower unemployment levels than those with only a high school diploma. Lower unemployment means more spending, more tax income, and, by extension, more funding for higher education.

Of course, the dilemma many colleges are facing – either to increase revenues or decrease services – isn’t easy to resolve. The extra funds from non-resident students are important to many universities and colleges, and



without them they wouldn't be able to serve as many students.

But the future of Washington communities is based on how many students who actually stay in the state receive a college education; the more college-educated people in Washington, the greater the overall economic prosperity

and the better our future. And policies like that of the UW will reduce the amount of graduates that remain in the state.

The UW's approach is a short-sighted one that will, in the long run, hurt businesses and the people. And it is one other universities and colleges should not consider.

# Not Lawful, and Most Certainly Not Right



Commentary by:  
**Brant DeLarme**

Last fall I was convinced I would be a teacher. I took an introduction to teaching class, volunteered at a local school, and looked for colleges in the area with teaching programs.

Early this year, that dream died.

In Wisconsin, a showdown between pro-union protesters and the Republican government exposed a current of anti-public employee sentiment that really shook me.

I heard from politicians and news commentators that teachers were “part-time” workers with “lavish benefits” who survive as parasites on the back of the American taxpayer. I never believed this,

but apparently enough people did for the state to repeal the teachers’ right to collective bargaining.

There is a lot of debate over whether or not teachers are overpaid and underworked, and there isn't nearly enough space to resolve it here. But what is clear is that, in the current financial situation, states cannot afford to pay for public employee benefits.

Approximately 3.8 percent of state expenditures are employee pensions, and that number is expected to increase. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, 18 states have proposed asking employees to contribute more to their pensions than in the past year.

This is where the argument against collective bargaining comes in. Policymakers like Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker claim that the unions have too much power. They say that the only way to make the necessary changes is to take away union rights. “What we

did are permanent, long-term solutions,” said Gov. Walker in a recent congressional hearing.

But this is blatantly untrue. In Wisconsin, the teachers’ unions offered all of the concessions that Walker

requested. Some say the unions only made the concessions to save their own skin.

However, there is plenty of evidence to the contrary. Last December, before the Wisconsin union protests,

**“In Wisconsin, a showdown between pro-union protesters and the Republican government exposed a current of anti-public employee sentiment that really shook me.”**

**Brant DeLarme**

requested. If the existence of collective bargaining did not keep the changes from being made but rather facilitated them, then what is the argument against collective bargaining?

Walker has said that the problem is long-term and that, in order to avoid future problems, collective bargain-

ing must be abolished. Some say the unions only made the concessions to save their own skin. However, there is plenty of evidence to the contrary. Last December, before the Wisconsin union protests,

teachers’ unions in our own state agreed to a 3 percent pay reduction and a 25 percent increase in worker healthcare contribution. This happened without the threat of losing their bargaining rights.

If collective bargaining rights are not preventing states from solving their budget problems, then what

is the complaint against the unions? I’m not the only one asking that question. “Am I missing something? Isn’t collective bargaining essentially sitting in a room and discussing something, collectively? Is there now a price tag on conversation? How much does the average conversation cost?” inquired one Wisconsin teacher in a letter to Gov. Walker.

There is no real argument against collective bargaining rights from a budgetary standpoint - the fight over unions is entirely political and not about the budget at all. “The attack on collective bargaining rights is a choice, not a budget issue,” said Ohio Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D).

Not only that, but the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees that all people have the right to join and form trade unions, and the defined purpose of trade unions is to bargain collectively. Taking away collective

bargaining rights is a violation of human rights as defined by the United Nations.

People say “drastic times call for drastic measures,” but there is no reason we shouldn't stop to think and check the facts before accepting them.

We should always be wary when talking about revoking people’s rights, whether we are talking about the Japanese during World War II or Wisconsin teachers today. In the case of collective bargaining, the facts do not support removing those rights, and international law prohibits it.

I considered teaching because I wanted to do something meaningful, even though it may not be a smart career choice considering the modest starting salary and a massive debt from college. But the recent events in Wisconsin and other states have made teaching unattractive. I can't speak for others, but this is one potential teacher who is looking for a different career.

**Stay Current**Stay in touch with the community by following  
The Current on Facebook and Twitter:[www.facebook.com/greenrivercurrent](http://www.facebook.com/greenrivercurrent)[www.twitter.com/thecurrentnet](http://www.twitter.com/thecurrentnet)**Also on the Inside***"If it weren't for Pell Grants I would not be in college. Period."*

Katie Kralovic Page 10

# WE WANT YOU

The Current is accepting applications for next year's  
**Editor-in-Chief** of the newspaper and website.

## \$2,000 scholarship

**Application Deadline:** May 6, 5 p.m.**Interviews:** May 10, 1-3 p.m. in Room 228 of the Marv  
Nelson Science Learning Center.For more information or to pick up an application, contact  
**John Knowlton**, The Current adviser, at **253-833-9111 ext.**  
**4201** or at [jknowlton@greenriver.edu](mailto:jknowlton@greenriver.edu).Other editorial positions also available, contact  
[thecurrent@greenriver.edu](mailto:thecurrent@greenriver.edu) for more information.

# The Freshman Four

## #1: Brandon Lorain, Golf

Following the departure of several coaches last year, all but one of them employed this quarter are freshman. Four in total, we will put the spotlight on each of these new Gators - the Freshman Four: Brandon Lorain (Golf), Tanner Swanson (Baseball), Brian Embery (Fastpitch), and Kermit Escame (Tennis).



biggest fan.

**Be honest - did you start playing golf just so you could race around in the carts?**

I much prefer walking. The pace is more relaxed and you can go anywhere you want.

**What other sports do you enjoy?**

I really like most sports except: NBA Basketball (not a game anymore), MMA (really, really don't understand big men wrestling around in tight shorts) - I guess you could lump boxing in with that. The Summer Olympics, and all that extreme sports stuff. I would really like to try Curling.

**Does Tiger still have it?**

No, he had to give it to Elin.

**Your longest drive ever?**

From Portland to New York City with my mom. Really, the longest ten days ever. Oh... 341 yards (approximately).

**Best all-time sports moment?**

Playing in the NAIA National Championships, during the week of my birthday, two weeks prior to graduation. Who wouldn't want a

six day, all-expenses-paid golf trip? Next might be watching Michael Jordan complain about the cost of a \$23 hat after we comped his whole group on the golf course (\$600) and he lost \$15,000 in bets during the round.

**The thing you tell your players before tournaments?**

Out here today, I am your



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

## How could you go wrong?

Located at The  
Season's shopping  
center on Lea Hill.

253-929-8783

# Game, Set, Match

## The tennis program, the college's historically most successful, falls to budget cuts

By: Zach Ghiem  
Staff Writer

After nearly half a century at the college and 38 league championships, the Green River tennis program, as of next season, will be no more.

This was determined after the student government finance committee decided not to grant the full request for athletic facilities, a decision that necessitated the cutting of a sport.

The ultimate choice then fell to the Athletic Advisory Council, a group of faculty and staff supportive of athletics and Athletic Director Bob Kickner.

Short roughly \$9,000, Kickner said the council, faced with the unfortunate realities, considered which sport could be eliminated with the least

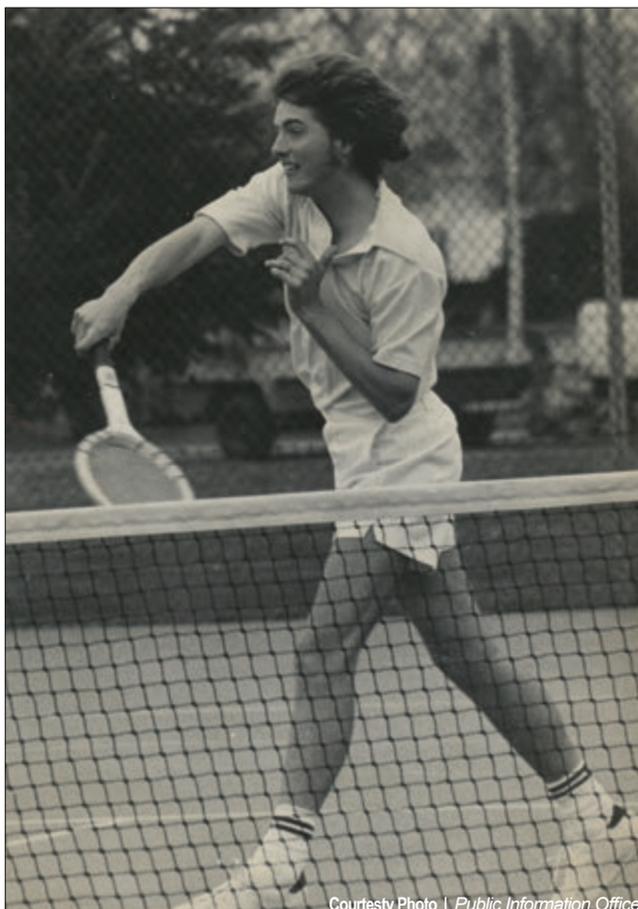
Combined, the teams have 11 players – seven on the men's team, four on the women's – which makes it the second smallest program at Green River – only golf, which has nine players, has less. Of the 11 tennis players, two would have likely returned next year.

The total annual funding for the program, including coach salaries and facilities, is roughly \$22,000, more than the shortfall.

The money that was saved will be spent on the track team – \$3,000 – and facilities for the other sports.

The elimination marks another stage in the fall of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) tennis league.

From its peak of 15 teams, less than half a dozen will remain, and Shoreline is considering cutting its program as well.



Courtesy Photo | Public Information Office

Player Steve Johnson in 1968, three years after Green River's creation. The tennis team has by far been the most successful program at the college, but will not return next year due to lack of money for facilities.

*“When we compared our teams, tennis floated to the top as the least impact we could have on students.”*

**Bob Kickner**, athletic director, on the choice of tennis as the program that had to be cut.

amount of impact on the students. “When we compared our teams, tennis floated to the top,” he said.

This would leave the men's league with a mere three competitors; most other sports have around or over 20.

“I think it is horribly sad that Green River and Shoreline are both cutting their tennis programs after this season,” said sophomore player Patricia VanderHoeven, adding that playing for Green River has been “one of the biggest blessings” of her life.

She's not the only one that's disappointed. For the team's first-year coach, Kermit Escame, this season was his first after nearly a decade-long break from coaching.

He joined Green River late this year and didn't have the opportunity to recruit any players, leaving both the historically competitive teams at or near the bottom of the league.

Escame is now working on trying to get the current players new places to play. Two of the players on the women's team are going to Division II schools, and some of the men have also found places to transfer to. “Hopefully they will all find their future tennis homes,” he said.

**MEN**



CHAMPIONSHIPS

1978, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009.

**Total: 22**

SECOND PLACE

1975, 1976, 1982, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 2004, 2008.

**WOMEN**



CHAMPIONSHIPS

1980, 1981, 1982, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2004.

**Total: 16**

SECOND PLACE

1983, 1984, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2009, 2010.

MEN	
LEAGUE	
1. Treasure Valley	6 - 1
2. Spokane	4 - 1
3. Shoreline	3 - 2
4. Green River	2 - 4
5. Skagit Valley	0 - 7

TEAM	
Brandon Oyama (SO)	
Cody Leimback (FR)	
John An (FR)	
Michael Lawson (SO)	
Ben Davidson (FR)	
Alex Barrientos (FR)	
Adrian Gonzalez (FR)	

WOMEN	
LEAGUE	
1. Bellevue	7 - 0
2. Spokane	6 - 1
3. Skagit Valley	4 - 4
4. Treasure Valley	4 - 5
5. Shoreline	1 - 7
6. Green River	0 - 8

TEAM	
Patricia VanderHoeven (SO)	
Julia McDonough (SO)	
Gabriella Surjadinata (FR)	
Kelsey Anderson (FR)	

## Calendar

<b>MEN'S BASEBALL</b>	Apr 30 May 1 May 14 May 15	Pierce - Green River, 1 & 4 p.m. Green River - Pierce, 1 & 4 p.m. Grays Harbor - Green River, 1 & 4 p.m. Green River - Grays Harbor, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m.
<b>MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK</b>	Apr 30 May 7	Saint Martin's Invitational, Lacey Ken Shannon Invite (UW), Seattle
<b>MEN'S GOLF</b>	May 1, 2 May 8, 9	Cardinal Classic, Mt Vernon Avalon Golf Course NWAACC #4, North Bend, OR Bandon Dunes
<b>MEN'S TENNIS</b>	Apr 29 May 6	Skagit Valley - Green River, 9 a.m. Green River - Spokane, 1 p.m.
<b>WOMEN'S FASTPITCH</b>	Apr 29 Apr 30 May 3 May 6 May 7 May 10	Green River - Grays Harbor, 1 p.m. Highline - Green River, noon Green River - Pierce, 1 p.m. Green River - S. Puget Sound, 1 p.m. Centralia - Green River, noon Green River - Grays Harbor, 1 p.m.
<b>WOMEN'S TENNIS</b>	Apr 29 May 6 May 7	Skagit Valley - Green River, 9 a.m. Green River - Shoreline, 3:30 p.m. Green River - Bellevue, 1 p.m.

Go to [www.greenriver.edu/athletics](http://www.greenriver.edu/athletics) for home game locations.

## Scoreboard

<b>MEN'S BASEBALL</b>	Apr 16 Apr 17 Apr 23 Apr 27	Clark 2 - 13 Green River Clark 1 - 8 Green River Green River 10 - 13 Clark Green River 4 - 3 Clark Green River 8 - 7 Tacoma Green River 3 - 9 Tacoma Tacoma 9 - 0 Green River Tacoma 6 - 4 Green River
<b>WOMEN'S FASTPITCH</b>	Apr 12 Apr 19 Apr 20 Apr 22	Green River 7 - 3 Highline Green River 8 - 9 Highline (pending) Pierce 8 - 0 Green River Pierce 14 - 0 Green River Green River 7 - 4 S. Puget Sound Green River 1 - 8 S. Puget Sound S. Puget Sound 4 - 8 Green River S. Puget Sound 4 - 2 Green River
<b>MEN'S TENNIS</b>	Apr 9 Apr 16 Apr 22 Apr 23	Green River 1 - 8 Treasure Valley Shoreline 5 - 4 Green River Spokane 8 - 1 Green River Treasure Valley 9 - 0 Green River
<b>WOMEN'S TENNIS</b>	Apr 15 Apr 16 Apr 22 Apr 23	Bellevue 9 - 0 Green River Shoreline 4 - 2 Green River Spokane 6 - 3 Green River Treasure Valley 4 - 3 Green River

Find full league standings, stats and more at [www.nwaacc.org](http://www.nwaacc.org)

# A DAY AT THE

# Fair



By: Bailey Jo Josie  
*A&E Editor*

We were heading into the Puyallup area as the thought dawned on me that we had made a terrible, irreversible mistake: Sunday – the last day – is the worst day to attend the Puyallup Spring Fair.

Originally it seemed reasonable enough. We (several of the editors and I) had no plans that day, we were getting in for free – sometimes it really does pay to be a journalist – and we hoped to experience the wonders of the first Puyallup Fair Northwest Junior Rodeo, where young riders would show off their skills, grit and – in the case of the five-and-under group known as the Buckaroos – adorableness while also breathing in every detail of the local fair. The heart-attack-in-a-bite food, the ridiculously oversized stuffed animals, the rides – we couldn't wait!

Unfortunately, though, the decision to attend on the final day led to an claustrophobic and unbelievably slow experience – especially when it came to acquiring the Holy Grail of all fair foods, elephant ears – but we had time and

persistence, and we'd be damned if we weren't going to enjoy ourselves.

Being an alumnus of the Northwest Junior Rodeo Association, I could hardly wait to introduce my colleagues to their first rodeo and explain to them the intricate techniques that go into each event and sneak in brief stories about my experiences as a cowgirl.

We arrived an hour after the rodeo had begun – just about as punctual as college students are supposed to be – and couldn't find the arena. Eventually our group, which had – to no avail – separated to scavenge the fairgrounds for a sign of, well, anything, reunited and made the trek toward the far end of the fairgrounds into no man's land.

The walk felt like it took forever; we walked past the Future Farmers of America (FFA) barns and the Slingshot ride and eventually came to a chain link fence and a lone security woman reading a romance novel. She pointed us in the direction of some far-off barns that none of us had even noticed before.

But, once we finally got there, we found the rodeo was already over.

Disappointed, we retreated to the more

populated part of the fair so we could drown our sorrows in some family-oriented fun.

We made our way toward the small covered arena where the Fiesta Mexicana was going down. Dressed in traditional riding clothes with wonderfully shiny horses, Hispanic men of all ages showcased their horses' hard training in the ways of the Mexican Horse Dance.

With a full mariachi band providing the background music, the horses' gaits and canterers came alive before our very eyes. With the riders providing the contrast of static concentration, the horses' legs pranced and skipped in a beautiful melody that could easily trump the moves of a professional dancer simply with the sheer power of persuasion.

I had seen the same show only two years prior and was then very disappointed, but what I witnessed on this particular Sunday was made of 100 percent magic.

Shortly thereafter, we grabbed some fatty fair food and hunkered down to witness the Swifty Swine Pig Races, where young wiener pigs, to the backdrop of an uproarious crowd, raced for the grand prize of a plate stacked with Oreos. Each had their own racing colors

and the most pun-tastic names imaginable, such as 'Lindsey Lo-HAM' and 'Justin Bie-BOAR.' Sadly, and a little surprisingly, there wasn't a 'Pigasus' or 'Hamlet' to be found.

We were also fortunate enough to see Swifty the Swimming Swine as he paddled serenely across a small tub of water. At first he didn't want to brave the (assumably) cold water, but after a few minutes of encouragement by the audience and taking a small bathroom break right on the podium, he finally jumped in and the crowd literally went (hog) wild.

Naturally, no fair visit would be complete without riding the rides and we hopped straight to it; we bought our tickets (which are now in card form – crazy!) and headed toward the roller coaster, the Ferris wheel and then the gliders.

We enjoyed every second of every ride – which, sometimes, seemed like literally just seconds – but the fact that we're a collection of poor college journalists prevented us from going all-out.

It didn't matter. Money can't buy everything, and it certainly didn't buy us our good time. (Our free entry did.)