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# The Current

Green River Community College

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February 25, 2011



**THE MONEY STRUGGLES CONTINUES**

Tension between faculty union and college over vacant full-time positions, budget think tank list released - increasing class sizes among measures being considered.

**PAGE 8 - 9**

Everyone run and hide - there's a new Frankenstein monster in town.

Page 4

Online education is on the rise. But is it a good thing? The verdict is still out.

Page 11

They make for nice sweaters, but Ivy League schools really aren't worth it.

Page 14

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# Campus



Also inside: "We believe in full-time faculty that are full-time experts in their fields."

Mark Millbauer, page 8



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

Green River hosted its annual Senior Citizens Valentine's Day again on - surprise - Feb. 14. Students danced with attendees and Portage Bay Big Band provided the music. Visit our website for a full slideshow.

All photos by Matthew Montoya

## Sun, spiders and other stories from down under

This is the third of four installments that will be published in *The Current* this quarter. Text by Bruce Haulman, history instructor and a supervisor on the trip. All quotes are from students on the trip. A full account can be found on our website: [www.thecurrentonline.net](http://www.thecurrentonline.net)

This is a day-by-day account of students in the Australia-New Zealand Study Abroad Program. The group left Seattle on Jan. 4 for Melbourne, Australia where we will be for four weeks with one week to travel before leaving for Auckland, New Zealand, where we will be for four weeks with one week to travel. We return home on March 12, in time for spring term.

This is the eleventh year of the Green River Australia-New Zealand Study Abroad Program. Nearly 300 students have participated in the program and have returned with a new appreciation for these two island nations on the other side of the world.

### Feb. 5 to Feb. 19

Students traveled during this time and we left Australia to begin the New Zealand part of the program. 13 students traveled to Cairns to see the Great Barrier Reef and meet cyclone Yasi, 11 were in Sydney when Yasi interrupted their plans to travel on to Cairns, 2 visited the Red Center and Ulluru, and 7 stayed in Melbourne to do day trips around Victoria.

### Saturday Feb. 5



**Ashley Henry** - "Shine-shadow brought in Beth's 21st the right way. Had fun without the drinking and got over 20 comments and gestures regarding our sparkles on our 'tour' around Melbourne."

### Sunday Feb. 6



**Kaitlyn Abrams** - "We went on a trip which was supposed to be canoeing, but, due to damage to canoes from the cyclone, instead ended up going on a waterfall tour. It was absolutely gorgeous. We actually got to swim. My throat is sore because I spent most of the drives on the bus singing at the top of my lungs. Once the song 'My Girl' came on and we all knew every word, the driver took a hint (he was awesome, by the way) and gave us some song games to play."

**Courtney Foxworthy** - "We sang in a hostel, on a tour bus, in the rain forest, in a pizza place, in the streets and in a club. It has been a good day!"

### Thursday Feb. 10

We discovered Auckland by a scavenger hunt that took us to the city by train and all over downtown, ending at the Auckland Museum for a Maori Kapa Haka Performance and welcome to New Zealand.



### Saturday Feb. 12

**Olivia Branham** - "Went to Piha Beach and some of us in our group had to be rescued by the lifeguard crew... it was all filmed and will be on the reality show Piha Rescue, haha! Typical weekend Down Under."



### Monday Feb. 14

We began classes with a formal powhiri (welcome ceremony) at the Te Noho Kotahitanga marae on the Unitec campus, and then in the afternoon got an introduction to all the assignments in history, culture and biology.

**Erin Collins** - "Our culture class is awesome! We play games and after each class they feed us!"

### Tuesday Feb. 15



**Sydney Daquil** - "I love being able to swim every day!"

### Saturday Feb. 19

An action packed day with 15 students bungee jumping from the Auckland Harbor Bridge and then an Auckland Blues vs. Christchurch Crusaders rugby game that evening.



**Cassie Thompson** - "To all of my loved ones, yes I did bungee jump today, from 40 meters into the Pacific Ocean, and I am alive to tell my story. But lets just say I opted out of doing a second jump..."

**Jessie Oliver** - "I didn't realize how much I enjoyed people tackling people..."



# Campus



Editor: Jean-Pierre Garcia  
campus.editor@mail.greenriver.edu

## Teacher Spotlight: Julie Aldcroft

**Full name:** Julie Aldcroft  
**Position:** Sociology instructor  
**Date of birth:** September 3, 1962  
**Year at Green River:**  
I have been here since 2006.



Jean-Pierre Garcia / THE CURRENT

### Why sociology?

It changes people's lives - for the better. There are some students who hate sociology and hate me. I don't know how much I can do about that, but if I can light a fire in students to make them better informed citizens, that's what I'll do. Sometimes I'll act contrary; I'll play devil's advocate just to give them an opportunity to see things from a different perspective. Sometimes it's just about articulating what you already know but haven't had much of a chance to articulate.

From your years of teaching, what's your favorite memory?

Last spring, there was a student who had been

reluctant to speak all quarter. I never really heard from her, she just sat and watched. She turned in fabulous work. She was a 4.0 student, which is really unusual in my classes. I got a handwritten note from her just after spring break. She asked me for advice about a career. She wanted to go to medical school. She started off her email; "You know you changed my life - don't you?" We talked about it and, of course, I didn't know, because she never said anything. She came to the

U.S. when she was 1. She didn't have a historical understanding of the country and her parents still didn't speak English. She had a very different experience in society and I think we created understanding in our classes that really did change her life.

What do you see yourself doing in the future?

I want to retire back home in Liverpool. It's been 25 years! I've been on the move since I was 17 - I've been all over the United States and Europe. I've lived and worked

throughout Europe. Berlin, France, Italy, I've been to Greece. I've been all over.

You lived in Berlin when the Wall fell. What was it like then?

Ah! Amazing. Life-changing. I lived in Berlin for quite some time. Imagine the street outside that ended in a twenty foot wall right across the street. Literally, over a course of a few days, the significance of that wall was gone. It was about to come down. That wall was separated from another wall just like it by 300 meters of no-man's land that was mined and had watchtowers. There was always this scary element in society. It went from being this terrifying threat - it was like a bubble when it was gone, the fear popped. It just was gone.

You can find the complete Julie Aldcroft and other Teacher Spotlights at: [www.thecurrentonline.net/campus](http://www.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 questions, visit our website: [www.thecurrentonline.net](http://www.thecurrentonline.net).

### What do you think about the uprisings in the Arab world?

It was all beautiful until Lara Logan got raped, the CBS journalist I followed for years. I'm concerned that the same thing that happened in Iran 30 years ago - the Muslim extremists will take over and take everyone's rights away - will happen again. I am really upset about what's going on in Libya right now.

- Dan Alden



I think it's good and inspiring that they fight for something they think they deserve. Especially in Libya. I think it's a bad situation there with all of the violence and the leader fighting back and killing people - people who are unarmed.

- Megan Hurley



It's to be expected. Things haven't been the best over there, and the whole religion-based law setting - like how the Catholic Church is always changing its own rules - it's expected that there will be a divide. It's not a stable thing to base your government on.

- Genna McIntyre



"I think that if it keeps going as it is, things will become way too unstable. The military might take over and nuclear war will ensue. Someone will get trigger happy."

- David Weaver



## Knocking them down Green River style

By: Gentry Seipert  
Staff Writer

Kent Bowl is your typical bowling alley - slightly outdated, with plenty of pull tabs and greasy food to slick your gullet. Pitchers of frothy beer are brought to thirsty bowlers as their kids spend their week's allowance on fruitless attempts to win prizes at the arcade.

The noises of the bowling alley are reminiscent of a summer storm; the thunderous roll of the bowling ball against the hardwood leaves you longing for the loud crack of the pins to come around, and the satisfaction of the booming echo reverberates around the complex when it does.

Here, the members of the Green River Bowling League can be found in good spirits every Tues-

day night. The league is host to 10 teams of three bowlers and each team consists of familiar faces from around campus.

"It's pretty much open to anybody who wants to bowl from 5:30 to 7:30 and have a good time," said Gary Jones, manager of the Paper Tree Bookstore and current league coordinator. "They don't have to be students. They don't have to be staff. We just want to make sure we fill ten teams."

Socorro Trapp, assistant director of education support services, and Tien Akutagawa from the IT Division got the ball rolling for a Green River bowling league after a building barbeque almost 10 years ago.

"The campus does not have company Christmas parties per se," Trapp

said, "so we thought it would be a good way to get everyone together and get to know each other."

Trapp and Akutagawa found interested players from several parts of the campus, including IT, Human Resources, Purchasing, Scheduling, the bookstore and the Gator Grill.

"There were people from all over campus," Trapp said. "It was great - there was some competition, a lot of laughter and getting to know each other."

And, roughly a decade later, the league is still rolling.

Teams of three compete each week in a three-game series. A team can earn a maximum of four points per night - one point is earned for each win and a fourth point is awarded to the team with the high-

est total pin count.

Based on how many points a team earned at the end of the season, teams are seeded into a final championship bracket, and the season champions receive a trophy.

"When I come here, I don't think about work, even though it's a common thread that ties most of us together," said Jones.

"I think about knocking down ten pins and having a great time amongst friends."

If you are interested in joining the Green River Bowling League, you can contact Gary Jones at [gjones@greenriver.edu](mailto:gjones@greenriver.edu). Any student or staff member can participate as a substitute this quarter or a bowler in the future.

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JOURNALISM 100.1  
3-5 ACTIVITY CREDITS

# Campus



Editor: Jean-Pierre Garcia  
campus.editor@mail.greenriver.edu

## Run and hide - there's a new Frankenstein monster in town

By: Gentry Seipert  
Staff Writer

"Please tell me you're joking!" he yells, slamming on the nearby desk. "His pink complexion is like a vial of bloody milk and his fingernails are strawberries. STRAWberries - an outrage in hot coral! Each bowl hemorrhages rosy with tooth rot."

In a dimly lit lecture hall, creative writing instructor Evan Peterson read his manuscript 'The Cutting Room Floor,' a compilation of poems written from the Frankenstein monster's perspective.

The idea to tell the monster's side of the story came to him in December 2007, while driving through Florida. For the trip, he had rented the audio book of Mary Shelley's horror classic 'Fran-

kenstein.'

"Something just clicked. The monster clearly wanted to speak through me," said Peterson.

Wanting to explore something different from other poets, he was fascinated by the natural and supernatural worlds. Peterson recalled the overwhelming sense of inspiration, explaining that he simply had to write the manuscript.

"It's extremely difficult to sustain this level of intensity and focus on such a bizarre single character for a whole book, but the monster just kept talking to me," remarked Peterson.

Peterson's rendition of the monster began to take form through months of research and writing. Devoting himself almost entirely to the project, he

would read and analyze camp movies to hone the monster's perspective.

After days of being locked inside working, friends would visit and find him in far from tip-top conditions. "They would tell me, 'Evan, you smell bad, go take a bath,'" he recalled, smiling.

"On a more abstract level, I invest myself emotionally in the work, and emotion can be a lot more personal than information," Peterson said, discussing his relationship with Frankenstein. "I love him even though he's deeply disturbed. He's like the best-worst boyfriend ever."

He was concerned that readers may not be getting the whole story from cinema and the original novel. In most cinematic characterizations of the

Frankenstein monster, he is portrayed as a bumbling brute, but this conflicts with Shelley's vague description of the origin of the monster's brain - it could, says Peterson, very well come from the corpse of a genius.

"You have to think about how much information is left out in the story of Frankenstein," Peterson explained. "The book is written by Shelley, narrated by the arctic ship captain Robert Walton, told by Victor Frankenstein, who, in turn, speaks to the monster."

So he wanted to recapture and reinvent what was created by Shelley, he explained. Bringing to light the odd, dysfunctional and abusive relationship between the creature and its creator, Peterson wanted to dial up the



Jean-Pierre Garcia / THE CURRENT

Creative writing instructor Evan Peterson read from his manuscript 'The Cutting Room Floor' in the SC on Feb. 17.

creepiness, at times using witty but dark humor.

By the end of Peterson's reading on Feb. 17, his secluded, seven-foot-tall Frankenstein had earned a base of inquisitive readers. Many asked when and where they could find the book.

Currently, the manuscript is being reviewed by a few of Peterson's favorite publishers, but no word on publication yet.

"My goal is to get it in print and available before the world turns upside down in December 2012," he joked. "Happy holidays - here's a gift-wrapped copy of The Cutting Room Floor - see you at Armageddon."

Interested in seeing the full lecture? Watch it on our website, [www.thecurrentonline.net](http://www.thecurrentonline.net).



*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?*

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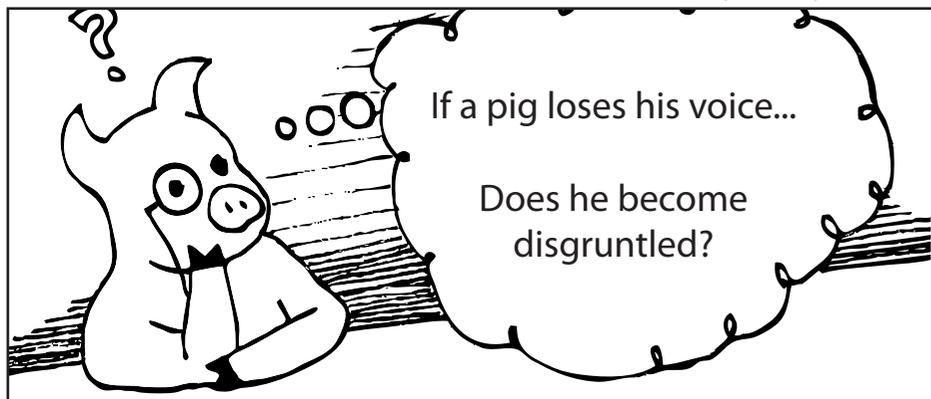
Also inside: "I lost at bowling and had to wear a tutu for all of practice the next day."

Gralin Paul, page 15

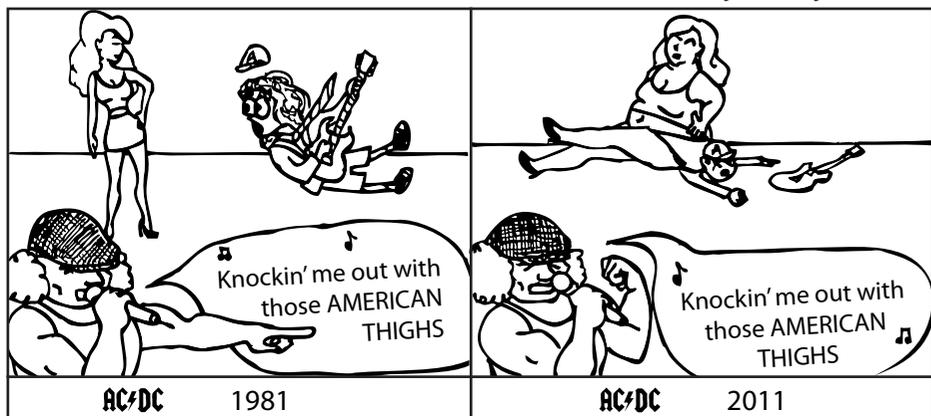


## COMICS

By: Bailey Jo Josie



By: Bailey Jo Josie



## SUDOKU

Easy

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

Very Hard

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

## WORD SEARCH

W	T	E	D	M	Z	K	E	N	N	E	D	Y	L	S	X
E	B	I	N	O	L	I	N	C	O	L	N	M	M	M	C
J	U	S	G	W	I	L	S	O	N	V	D	W	N	A	H
J	C	E	R	H	G	H	O	J	D	N	T	O	E	D	O
E	H	N	A	A	S	Z	B	R	A	L	T	A	T	I	O
F	A	H	N	Y	E	Y	X	L	E	G	M	F	I	S	V
F	N	O	T	E	L	W	E	V	N	A	A	S	Q	O	E
E	A	W	A	S	J	V	E	I	B	T	G	N	F	N	R
R	N	E	F	O	E	S	H	O	F	C	M	A	S	I	C
S	V	R	T	L	O	S	T	R	U	M	A	N	N	X	K
O	R	S	C	O	A	H	A	R	D	I	N	G	M	O	F
N	H	P	R	W	I	A	D	A	M	S	W	I	U	N	C

Adams,  
Buchanan,  
Cleveland,  
Eisenhower, Ford,  
Grant, Harding,  
Hayes, Hoover,  
Jefferson,  
Kennedy, Lincoln,  
Madison, Nixon,  
Obama, Reagan,  
Roosevelt,  
Taft, Truman,  
Washington,  
Wilson

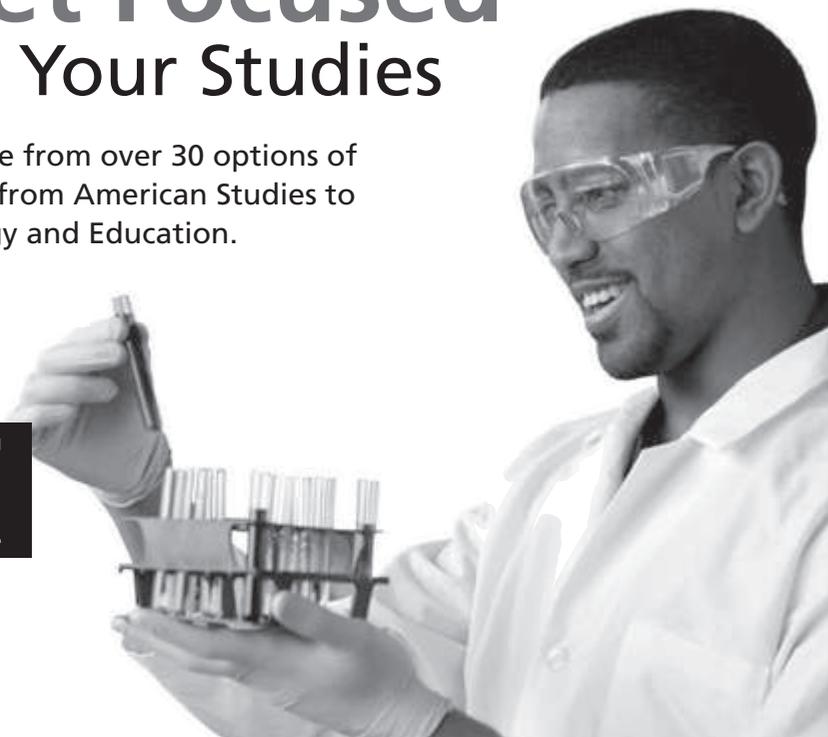
## TRIVIAL TRIVIA

- Who was the shortest president in American history?
  - James Madison
  - George W. Bush
  - Martin van Buren
  - Ulysses S. Grant
- Which former president had a custom bathtub installed when he got stuck in the old one?
  - W. Howard Taft
  - Andrew Johnson
  - Herbert Hoover
  - Millard Fillmore
- Which former president is portrayed on the 50 dollar bill?
  - Ulysses S. Grant
  - William H. Harrison
  - Grover Cleveland
  - Thomas Jefferson
- (Without using Google!) Who was the 15th president of the United States?
  - Rutherford B. Hayes
  - Franklin Pierce
  - James Buchanan
  - Abraham Lincoln
- Who was afraid of electricity and had staff turn lights on and off for him?
  - Calvin Coolidge
  - Woodrow Wilson
  - Benjamin Harrison
  - Lyndon B. Johnson
- Who was the first president to ride in a car?
  - Theodore Roosevelt
  - Woodrow Wilson
  - Franklin D. Roosevelt
  - William McKinley

Answers:  
1.a, 2.a, 3.a, 4.c, 5.c, 6.c

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## An eight-year-old Pokéscholar

Being an eight-year-old gamer in 1998 was kind of like being an anarchist during the 70s - everyone treated you like an awesomely smart friend. Nintendo had recently released a little game called Pokémon on their phenomenally successful Game Boy, and I was catching 'em all before anyone else even knew what a Pikachu was.

It wasn't that I was a trend setter who was an early adapter to a cultural phenomenon - I mean, I was - but I knew everything about something that everyone else was

*"By the time Washington caught on, it was like I was a scholar in a school of neophytes."*

still learning. By the time the rest of Washington caught on to the trend that had already given Japanese children seizures (seriously, it happened), I had played through the game, watched the anime religiously and had a sizable card collection. It was like I was a scholar in a school of neophytes.

But what was better than being a Pokémon aficionado was having one thing in common with everyone else. Before Pokémon, I was playing Game Boy and everyone else was playing baseball and foursquare. And then, all of a sudden, the one thing on everyone's mind was where to catch a Lapras, where to use the Master Ball, and how to get 100 rare candies. Only those fortunate to have the internet in 1998 knew the answer to the latter.

This was probably the one time my nerdy, gaming mind was in sync with everyone else's. I could go into a restaurant with my family and there would

always be another kid with Pokémon cards nearby. He would then become my best friend for 20 minutes as we traded and critiqued

### Game Prose

Alexander Bevier



each other's decks.

Today, things are different in the U.S.. I hear every single Japanese person has a DS and they walk around with it turned on to share Dragon Quest IX data, but that trend never caught on here. Still, there are countless people playing a different kind of four-square on their iPhones and Androids. This version is a game about earning points for checking into restaurants and other places. The person who checks into a certain place the most becomes the mayor and earns a badge. It doesn't sound like much of a game, but over 6 million people are playing it.

In fact, cell phones have become the largest gaming platform on the planet, especially Apple's coveted iPhone. Angry Birds, a silly little game about launching birds at green pigs, somehow boasts 11 million downloads and a commercial at Super Bowl XLV. Not even Pokémon has risen to the ranks of the Beer commercial hall of fame. (Not that Nintendo would ever let their precious Pikachu near alcohol.)

The 1998 Pokémon Masters aren't all playing with Bulbasaur and Squirtle anymore, but they're still gaming. If Angry Birds can get on the Super Bowl and a video games exhibit can make it to the Smithsonian (also happening), maybe soon people will finally agree that game design is an art form.

Who knows, maybe I'll be the game scholar teaching the neophytes again when that happens.

## College hosts rap and beatbox competition

By: Devin Svetijpto  
Staff Writer

As the clock struck 7 p.m., MC Pedro Arelano, vice president of the Latino Student Union, shouted, "Alright! Rappers and beatboxers head backstage!" The spotlights turned on, tension filled the air. The organizers huddled the 20 or so contestants together to go over the rules one last time. And then, finally, the moment had arrived - it was time to rap.

The first performance started and the rest of the contestants gathered backstage, awaiting their chance to shine. Despite the competitive nature of the event, the participants did not seem restless; the atmosphere was more friendly than anything else, and all performers usually returned to a "that was awesome, bro" after they had done their thing.

Ashlee Argott, a Green River student, was the only female in the competition. "It was a shock," she said, explaining she had expected more females to participate. "But being the only female rapper is still cool."

The audience seemed to agree. The moment she took the stage, the crowd added an extra layer of excitement to their cheers, even though the judges suggested she



Matthew Montoya / THE CURRENT

Judges and audience members looked on as Ashlee Argott, the only female contestant, gave her first performance. She made it to the final round.

lacked confidence in their feedback afterward. The jury consisted of the three members of the Seattle hip hop group State of the Artists and Grace Cornier, a volunteer Green River student, who could accurately be described as the Simon Cowell of the four. "I wanted to be truthful to help the performers, and I do not want to just cover up their mistakes," Cornier said.

Still, Argott, along with four other contestants, advanced to the final round when the judges and audience decided on who would make it through.

Next up were the four beatboxers, some of whom also participated in the rapping part. All received positive feedback

from both the jury and the crowd, and two - Shaheer Astar and Peter Artman - were picked to compete in the final round.

Like with most beatbox battles, the winner was decided based on the audience's reaction, and in the end it was Astar who gained the most fans and took home the prize: \$50, a t-shirt and a CD of State of the Artists. He has only been beatboxing for a year, but, he said, there's not much to it once you figure it out. "The key to beatboxing is the alphabet, like b, t, k, that's the basics," said Astar. "Later on you put humming in and you just progress."

Following the final beatboxing round, the five finalists of the rapping com-

petition were brought back to the stage. After all the performances were given, it was time to decide the king - or queen - of the night. First, the audience's approval was measured, and it seemed as if Argott was set to win.

The judges, however, had the final say, and they declared the duo Danitwitz, consisting of Don Percie and Young Boo, both Green River students, the victor, saying that "as an overall package, [they] provided the best performance."

The winners offered some advice. "Don't try to beat everyone else. Stay focused and perfect what you do best." Danitwitz makes its own beats and lyrics, and said they hope to gain national fame.

After the winners for the two categories had been decided, the night ended with a final freestyle battle in which all participants, judges and audience members could participate and a final performance by State of the Artists.

Olga Rachynska, peer navigator and student senator, was the one who came up with the event. "I want to bring people together who have the same hobbies," she said. And, judging by feedback from the audience and the enthusiasm of participants, it seems to have worked.



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# A&E Review & Preview

## Calendar

### Concerts:

- Feb 26 Eric Clapton  
@ Key Arena  
(Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$65+)
- Feb 28 The Concretes  
@ Neumos  
(Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$13+)
- Mar 2 Broken Records  
@ Tractor Tavern  
(Doors open at 9 p.m. 21+, \$10)
- Mar 3 David Gray  
@ McCaw Hall  
(Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$30+)
- Earth  
@ Tractor Tavern  
(Doors open at 9 p.m. 21+, \$12+)
- Mar 4 Steven Page  
@ ShowBox at the Market  
(Doors open at 7 p.m. 21+, \$25+)
- Delhi2Dublin  
@ Neumos  
(Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$15+)
- Mar 5 DeVotchKa  
@ Paramount Theatre  
(Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$26+)
- Lifehouse  
@ ShowBox SODO  
(Doors open at 6:30 p.m. all ages, \$31+)
- Yann Tiersen  
@ Neumos  
(Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$17+)
- The Goo Goo Dolls  
@ Emerald Queen Casino  
(Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$43+)
- Vandetta Red  
@ El Corazón  
(Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$10+)
- Mar 7 The Dirty Heads  
@ El Corazón  
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$17+)
- Norma Jean  
@ Neumos  
(Doors open at 7 p.m., all ages, \$15+)
- Mar 8 Crystal Castles  
@ ShowBox SODO  
(Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$25+)
- Mar 9 Joshua Radin  
@ ShowBox at the Market  
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$18+)
- Mar 11 Civil Twilight  
@ Neumos  
(Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$10+)
- Mar 12 Drive-By Truckers  
@ ShowBox at the Market  
(Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$25+)

### Movies

- Mar 4 The Adjustment Bureau - PG13  
Rango - PG  
Take Me Home Tonight - R  
Beastly - PG13
- Mar 11 Battle: Los Angeles - NR  
Red Riding Hood - NR

## Cute for a date but gnot that great

By: Mallory Litzinger  
Staff Writer



Gnomeo and Juliet, a child's version of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, will have people young and old laughing at the antics of your not-so-average garden gnomes.

The feud is between the Red Gnomes and the Blue Gnomes, similar to the Capulets and Montagues. The biggest vendetta is between Gnomeo (voiced by James McAvoy), a Blue Gnome, and Tybalt (voiced by Jason Statham), a Red Gnome.

The gnomes destroy each other's prized gardens, smash opposing gnomes, and constantly try to surpass each other. In an attempt to outdo the

Blues, Juliet (voiced by Emily Blunt) leaves the safety of her garden to obtain a beautiful flower, which is when she meets Gnomeo - and so the romance begins.

The soundtrack is composed entirely of Elton John songs, particularly 'Crocodile Rock' and 'Your Song,' both done in different renditions. There are also some new songs with John's musical stamp on them. By the time the movie was half-way over, it almost seemed like it was made to promote John and focused less and less on the original story of Romeo and Juliet.

In fact, the ending is not the same as the classic story we all have come to know. In an attempt to be witty, Gnomeo and a statue of Shakespeare



Gnomeo and Juliet engaged in a romantic moment.

discuss the endings of their two stories, and Shakespeare is convinced Gnomeo's tale is sure to end with a tragedy, like he intended. Predictably, this isn't the case.

Don't go into this movie expecting an even somewhat accurate rendition of Romeo and Juliet, but if you're in need of a laugh then this is the movie for

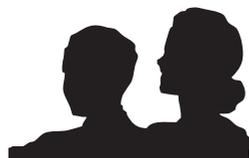
you. You'll snicker at the human-like antics of the garden assortments. The gnomes were adorable, and for people who are fans of garden gnomes (or any garden decoration for that matter) it will be even better.

It is a good laugh and a cute date movie, but not really worth buying on DVD or seeing twice.

## The Current Picks

### Movie:

*Superstar*



Have you ever practiced kissing with a tree just to get caught by nuns?

If not, the 1999 film 'Superstar' is for you. More than just an SNL skit-turned movie, Molly Shannon plays Mary Catherine Gallagher, a Catholic girl who aspires to be a movie star in order to be kissed.

Life is difficult for Mary, but when the school holds a "Let's Fight Venereal Disease!" talent contest, Mary uses her special education friends and the strength inside her to compete in the competition.

A hilarious underdog story, 'Superstar' calls to the insecure girl inside us and says "Your weirdness kicks ass."

By: Lacey Steward

### Book:

*Last Go Round: A Real Western*



Ken Kesey's last novel, 'Last Go Round: A Real Western,' is perfection in the form of a historical telling of the Pendleton Roundup, one of the most famous rodeos in the country.

Co-written by Ken Babbs, the book takes place in 1911, where the title of world champion broncobuster is coveted by three men: a Nez Perce Indian named Jackson Sundown, a black man named George Fletcher and Jonathon E. Lee, a young cowboy.

In the same vein as Mark Twain's 'Huckleberry Finn,' the book deals with racism, friendship and tragic love. Why it hasn't been made into a movie is beyond me.

By: Bailey Jo Josie

### Music:

*The Ugly Organ*



The album 'The Ugly Organ' by post-hardcore band Cursive opens with an unsettling garish performance that sounds somewhat like an odd carnival.

The setting is confusing and unclear until Cursive bursts through the third wall with a kicked up pace of organs piping through behind speedy guitar and vocals. Lead singer Tim Casher rolls into the musical tone of the album, addressing fans of crossover music in the lyrics. Violins pick up as CD sales are discussed in the song 'Art is Hard.'

Casher has an excellent range of whispers and near shouts deftly balanced, particularly in the song 'The Recluse.'

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia

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# TENSION BUILDS UP BETWEEN FACULTY UNION AND COLLEGE

By: Lacey Steward & Remco Zwetsloot

The Green River United Faculty Coalition (UF) filed a grievance against the college earlier this month for violating a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that obligates the college to create and fill two additional full-time tenure track positions each year.

In addition, the UF is concerned that there are currently nine vacant full-time faculty positions, which they say has a negative impact on both faculty and students.

Those nine positions, according to John Ramsey, director of public information, have been vacated due to a variety of reasons including faculty retiring or leaving the college. In some cases, the college has attempted to fill the positions, he said.

Mark Millbauer, UF president, said the union fears more positions will be vacated in the future because of the college's early retirement incentive program, which offers a bonus of up to \$50,000 for full-time faculty to retire. Roughly 20 senior full-timers are eligible, according to him, and if they were to leave they would most likely be replaced with adjuncts.

"We believe in full-time

faculty that are full-time experts in their field," said Millbauer, quickly adding that this doesn't mean adjunct faculty aren't valuable.

"All of a sudden it gets real busy so we add some more classes, then you hire some adjuncts. If someone leaves, you hire an adjunct for a while until you can replace them. We use adjuncts for the ebb and flow - but it shouldn't be the core." According to Millbauer, the college agreed with this assessment when it agreed to fill two full-time slots each year.

nize their concerns and fulfill what they see as the agreement, the UF sent out an e-mail to the entire faculty requesting they attend the Board of Trustees meeting on Feb. 17. When the time came, roughly two dozen instructors showed up at the fountain by the commons, the designated gathering spot.

Together they walked to the administration building, with some latecomers bringing the total amount of faculty to roughly 30. Chairs had been cleared from the board room in anticipation of the large

"[Not filling positions] adversely affects the students by full-time teachers having more work to deal with," he said, adding that, with over-enrollment and overloads in classes, instructors often already do not have enough time to do all their work.

In hopes of getting the administration to recog-

crowd. Still, some attendees had to stand in the hallway or sit on the floor during Millbauer's scheduled report.

In the meeting, Millbauer sat together with Katy Dichter, library faculty, and Hank Galmish, English faculty. The talk, which was moved to the start of the meeting, lasted



Matthew Montoya / THE CURRENT

Mark Millbauer, UF president, leads other union members to the Board of Trustees meeting on Thursday, Feb. 17. Millbauer handed President Eileen Ely a letter of concern signed by more than 130 faculty.

for around 10 minutes.

Millbauer, who gives monthly reports to the board on behalf of the faculty, offered the analogy of a man who got his hand trapped under a boulder rock climbing. After some time, he said, the man

physics. "It is clear in the MOU that the college is to create and fill two full-time tenure track faculty positions each year," said Ramsey. "It is our intention to do that."

The administration also sent an official response to

of the nine think tank sessions [see page 9], faculty have been involved at IC, they have been involved in the President's cabinet," he said. "I think we've been clear all along that we're waiting to see what's going to happen with the budget. That hasn't surprised anybody - this goes for the rest of the college too."

Ramsey believes the UF's grievance was "hasty," and explained that the unknown percentage of budget cuts has led administration to be cautious about hiring new faculty. "It is premature when you don't know what you're going to have cut on the backside. ... Let's let the situation play out a little bit more."

Over the next two years, the college is facing a reduction in funding that will be anywhere from 10 percent to 18 percent, or perhaps even higher, said Ramsey.

"The legislative session is about one-third of the way through - there is a long way to go to determine what the actual cut to the college will be."

In waiting, he noted, the college is not any different from all the others in the state. "Everybody's playing a 'wait and see' game with the legislative budgets before major decisions are made, just to be fiscally prudent."

"We're not pinning one side against the other - we're in this together," Ramsey said. On this, said Millbauer, the union and the administration agree.

## THE UNITED FACULTY COALITION WANTS NINE CURRENTLY VACANT FULL-TIME POSITIONS FILLED, COLLEGE SAYS WAIT FOR MORE CERTAINTY ON BUDGET CUTS.

realized he would not be rescued and cut off his hand to save himself.

"When faced with significant challenges, we must cut off the extremities to save the core. He did not cut off his heart, lungs and soul. He cut off his hand to save the core," said Millbauer. This, according to him, is what the college must do in a situation such as this - in financially tough times, you cut the non-essentials to save the core: faculty and students.

The UF also presented President Eileen Ely with a letter of concern, which pleaded for closer collaboration between faculty and administration on budget issues. The letter was signed by more than 130 faculty members.

Neither Ely nor members of the board had comments or asked questions afterward.

However, a day after the Board of Trustees meeting, the college advertised two new full-time positions, one in the welding department and one in

the UF the following Tuesday, Feb. 22, but declined to share it saying it wanted to give the union time to go over it. Millbauer said the UF will have an official position on the response soon, adding that, while it sees the creation of the two positions as positive, several members feel that the administration is not honoring the intent of the agreement by leaving so many positions open.

Millbauer emphasized neither the grievance nor the appeal at the board meeting were meant to be provocative gestures. "Each side will have to make some concessions, give a little, take a little, but everyone's happy," he said. "It's much better that way when you're involved in the decision-making process. You may have to concede, but you know why, and you're a part of it."

Ramsey, however, says the administration has made an effort to include the faculty in the process. "There was faculty at each



Jean-Pierre Garcia / THE CURRENT

Millbauer spoke to the Board of Trustees and President Eileen Ely, left, on Feb. 17. Neither the board nor the president had comments after his 10-minute talk.

# INCREASING CLASS SIZES, CLOSING OF ENUMCLAW CAMPUS DURING SUMMER AMONG MEASURES CONSIDERED

By: Remco Zwetsloot

To deal with current and future cuts to the Green River budget, the college organized nine think tank sessions throughout November and December. Each session lasted around two hours and was attended by 10 college employees who were picked by members of the President's Cabinet.

Participants at the sessions were all asked the same questions: "What departmental budget savings can you make?"

"What are some ideas for cross-campus spending reductions?" "What are some efficiencies that should be examined?" "If we have to make cuts to programs and services, how do we do this?" How to use college reserves was also discussed.

A total of 520 ideas were compiled, though a big part of those were relatively similar to others offered up and were combined into one suggestion after review. All the suggestions relating to one specific area, facili-

ties management, for example, were assigned to administration members who work with that topic.

Then, each suggestion was placed into one of the four possible categories by: 'already in process,' 'not feasible at this time,' 'will examine further' and 'comment.' Following that, the feasible ideas were prioritized into top five lists by the administration members.

When that was completed the college published the list of suggestions in an Excel document with

their respective categories.

The college is now working on assigning a dollar value to each of the items and writing explanations for the priority picks, something it hopes to have done by the March 8 President's Cabinet meeting.

The administration originally wanted to host similar think tank sessions for students as well, but due to the large amount of suggestions given by employees it is unsure whether this will happen.

In addition to the think tanks, two campus-wide surveys were issued, one before the release of the think tank results and one after, to gather additional feedback. The first survey generated 46 responses, the second one generated 21. Both were anonymous.

The think tank sessions and surveys were conducted in order to get input from college employees on budgetary measures.

Under the Governor Christine Gregoire's pro-

positional budget proposal for the next biennium, the technical and community college would see a 10 percent reduction in funding. Administration officials have said they would not be surprised if the cut ends up being bigger, though.

It is unlikely there will be much certainty in terms of the size of the cut until the state's March revenue forecast, and the college does not expect a budget to be passed by the legislature earlier than mid-April.

**Here is a list of all think tank suggestions classified as top priority per category. A total of 520 ideas or comments were submitted during the nine think tank sessions hosted by the college. From the list, administration officials selected 52 suggestions to classify as top priority. The President's Cabinet is in the process of assigning a dollar value to every item and writing a paragraph describing them, something it hopes to have done by March 8. A full list of all budget suggestions can be found on our website, [www.thecurrentonline.net](http://www.thecurrentonline.net)**

**Here is an excerpt of the additional, anonymous suggestions submitted by college employees after the original release of the budget think tank item list. All the suggestions can be found on our website, [www.thecurrentonline.net](http://www.thecurrentonline.net)**

## College Resources

- Makes sense to keep reserves in place

## Cut Services/Programs

- Cross institutional duplication

## Department Savings

- Can we move classroom testing back to classroom? Reduce need for part-time hourly staff
- Close office(s) to public for limited periods to maximize work and minimize overtime
- Merging student services programs to efficiently use support & leadership staff
- Off-campus contracting/hosting web services centralization

## Efficiencies

- Business practices & communication
- Are we able to share administration/support services across institutions?

- Increase class capacity
- Can we "share" lower-enrolled programs with other colleges?
- Do we understand the role of building secretaries? Evolve them from faculty to student support
- Duplicate functions (ZWC & Advising Center)
- Financial Aid processes may need to be reviewed for effectiveness
- Direct deposit for all team members

## Enhancing Revenue

- Are we aggressively reviewing program opportunities?
- Increase Conference Services
- Rent Enumclaw & Kent for retail or other business renters
- Coffee cart at Kent
- Continuing Education as a revenue source (travel programs, high value-added pro-

- grams)
- Increase short-term self-support medical field courses
- "Culture" of resource generation
- Can we use Salish as a funding raising opportunity?
- Naming rights (Corporate sponsorship and naming rights)
- Enhance alumni donation efforts
- Grants (increase grant-making activities)
- Consulting services by GRCC team members to community organization/business
- Marketing online degrees
- Sell ads in publications
- Guaranteed parking for a fee
- Increase International Programs (IP) enrollment
- Increase short-term IP programs

## Reinvent GRCC

- Much greater collaboration between institutions

## Spending Reductions

- Remove "spend it or lose it" department budget policy at year end
- Decrease number of printers
- Reduce printing
- Are there too many vice presidents at GRCC?
- Are there too many levels of administrators?
- Continue to take advantage of reorganization opportunities
- Close Enumclaw campus during summer
- Reduce staffing
- Summers are slow & may have opportunity for reductions
- Voluntary reduction in salary and/or appointment
- Review services for duplication between

programs

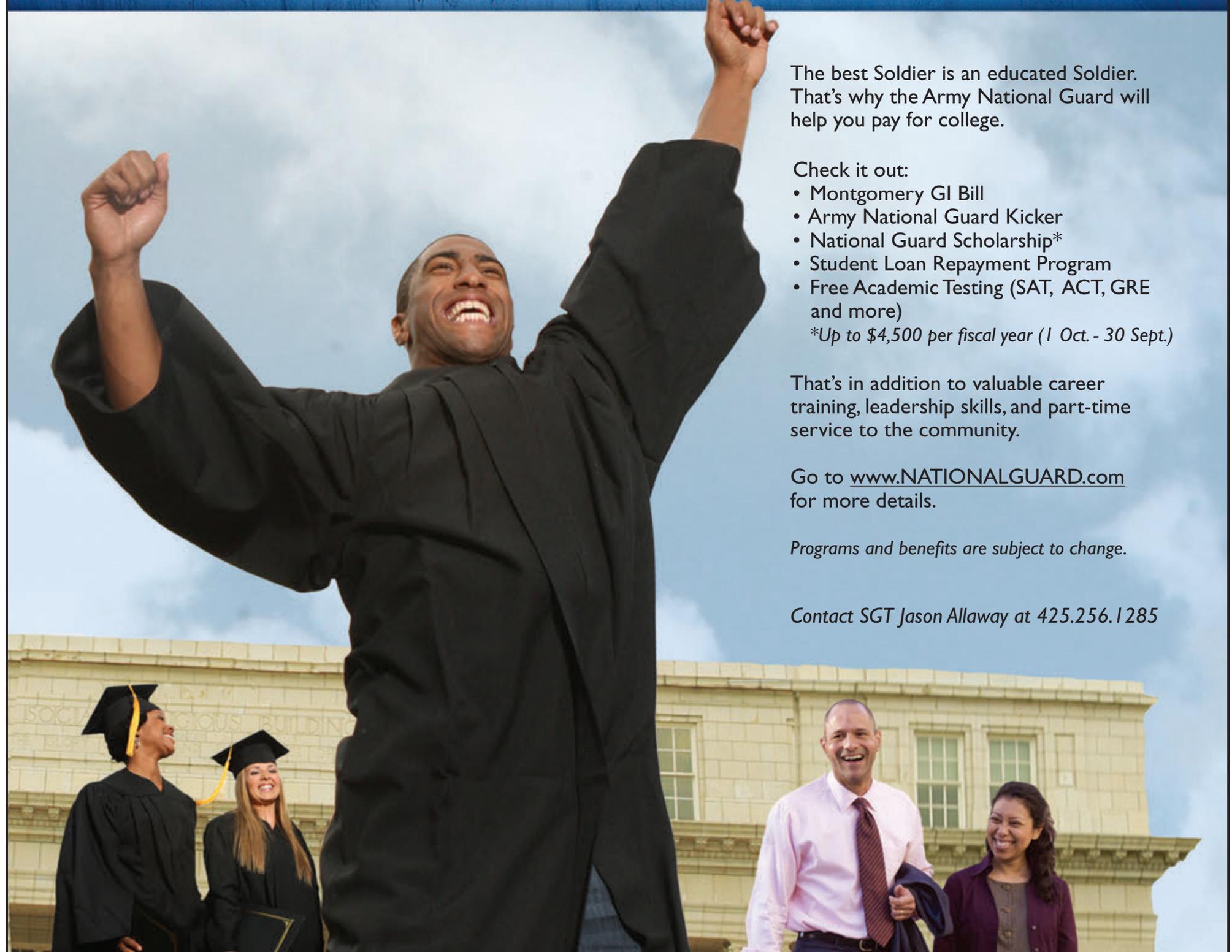
- Is it more efficient/cost-effective to pay overtime vs. hiring new part-time hourly?
- Warranties on IT equipment may not provide a great return on investment
- Can we move more transactions/processes online?
- Meter all classroom printers
- Can we drop a printed schedule entirely?
- Can we use "off-brand" print/toner cartridges?
- Create visibility on mail costs at department level
- Reduce heat set point. Review efficiency of individual HVAC plants
- Energy management, materials management

- Charge students a \$100 late fee who enroll into classes after the start of the quarter
- Give students only one warning for parking tickets. Then charge. I've heard they get many warnings.
- Current division of labor is inefficient. Possible to merge departments to deal with multiple tasks.
- Rent out vacant CCA housing to tourists during summer. Raise administrative fees. Rent out gym, cut athletics.
- Too many layers of management.



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# News

Also inside: "Something just clicked. The monster clearly wanted to speak through me."

Evan Peterson, page 4



## Changes to be made to GET program

## Online education is on the rise, whether it works or not

By: Zach Murray  
Staff Writer

State legislators are currently considering changes to the state's Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET), which allows parents to effectually lock in their child's tuition long before they actually attend.

The GET program lets people purchase points at the current market rate for tuition, with the bar usually set by the University of Washington or one of the state's other top public institutions. 100 points are worth one year of resident undergraduate education, regardless what the cost of tuition is at the time you cash in.

Now, however, with Washington having to trim back its education budget, tuition rates - and by extension the cost of the GET program - will go up sub-

stantially for the state.

Two years ago, the program had a 17 percent surplus, in large part due to profitable investments made with GET funds, which are run like a pension fund, and high enrollment. 121,905 accounts for points have been opened since the establishment of the program in 1998.

Though legislators were aware the state would have to foot the bill for the tuition difference between the time of purchasing and the time of cashing in points, they did not count on the rapid growth in tuition rates that is currently happening.

The program has gotten through similar uncertain times before, according to Betty Lochner, director of GET. In 2003, when tuition was going up rapidly and the stock market wasn't doing well, legislators

feared the program would have to be bailed out by the state, she said. But it bounced back.

Legislators have said the program is unsustainable in its current form, but, said Lochner, it would be unwise to close the program. According to her, the program needs to keep getting new investments in order to prevent the state from having to bail it out.

If the program does get changed, some of the measures will most likely make it less beneficial to enrollees.

Whether or not and how GET will be overhauled won't make a big difference for current users, though. "No proposed program changes would affect GET units that are currently held or those that are purchased during this enrollment year," said Lochner.

By: Celeste Monroe  
Staff Writer

When you consider the current developments in education and the distance learning field, it is hard not to conclude that after a few years of steady growth, online education has now taken a permanent place in college culture.

At a Techonomy conference in 2010, Bill Gates, whose foundation has donated millions of dollars to online education initiatives, predicted that "five years from now, on the web, for free, you'll be able to find the best lectures in the world."

"It will be better than any single university," he added.

And while this may be a little far-fetched, there has been a serious expansion of online education in recent years.

More recently, in part due to the financial boost institutions get from them, universities have started substantially expanding their online curricula. Earlier this month, the UW launched its Online Initiative, which it says will double its online course enrollment to 24,000 in three years. Several state systems throughout the country, such as the University of California, have already created more distance learning opportunities or are seriously considering doing so.

At Green River it is already possible to get your

AA degree online, without ever having to set foot on campus.

In Washington, the legislature is considering establishing a non-profit, exclusively online university, WGU-Washington, which would be part of the Western Governor University. The university was established in 1997 by 19 governors of western states, but only Indiana has set up a partner institution - WGU-Indiana - so far. It offers students the opportunity to get undergraduate and graduate degrees online, with tuition currently standing at roughly \$2,890 per six-month term.

Continued on page 12.

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## Online education is on the rise, whether it works or not

Continued from page 11

If the WGU-Washington proposal were to go through, it would not be a public university, but, according to the Higher Education Coordinating Board, its students might be eligible for financial aid in the future. The Board is a backer of the plan.

Around 900 Washington students are currently enrolled in WGU, but, according to WGU President Robert Mendenhall, WGU-Washington could serve 10,000 students within five years.

According to a recent Pearson Foundation survey, 61 percent of community college students have already participated in online college courses, and 75 percent of those surveyed said they had used online learning tools or platforms even if their course was taught in person.

But the verdict on whether online learning is as or even close to as effective as in-person teaching is still out.

Several community college students currently taking online courses through the Washington Online program, which all Washington online education sites are a part of, had different experiences.

"I really like in-class courses as I love to interact and see the people I am learning with," said Joann Wynne, a Green River student. "I find that I do get incredible grades in online classes, though."

Lance Thompson, however, did not feel the same way. "Of course the pro to online instruction is that the schedule is set by me. In the end, though, this means procrastination might sneak up and hurt my grade," he said.

And Nicholas Ivarson said that, at times, students aren't familiar enough with technology

Lyn Vu, an international student, is working on her online economy class in the Holman Library. According to a recent Pearson Foundation survey, 61 percent of community college students have participated in online community college courses.



Matthew Montoya / THE CURRENT

to really participate well in distance-learning classes.

"I have great frustration with many online students' lack of comfort or skill using a computer or the internet," he said. "In so many ways are people insufficient at using [these tools] to find or create information in a constructive manner."

Many others involved

*While opinions regarding online education continue to differ, the UW is doubling its online enrollment in three years, Washington might be creating an exclusive online university and public school systems across the country are making online classes mandatory.*

in the process have taken note of this problem as well. Several public school systems, such as those in Chicago and Idaho, are instituting mandatory online class instruction for high school to better prepare students.

Bruce Haulman, an instructor at Green River who frequently teaches both regular and online classes, said that, while on-campus classes give students more face-to-face time to "develop questions and answers more fully," he actually communicates more with

his online students thanks to Facebook, Skype and other online platforms.

One of the main appeals cited by proponents of online courses is flexibility. Jim Kastama (D), the state legislator who sponsored the WGU-Washington online university bill, said "There are people who are 30 and above who can't drop everything and go back to

college."

"They have a hunger, a thirst for higher education. And they need it because of the retraining requirements we need in our workforce right now," he added.

Especially in rural areas, online programs have given students access to classes they previously could not have taken due to the small scale of their local institutions. Online programs in Idaho, for example, have made it possible for students to complete post-secondary credits while

still attending high school - much like the Running Start program in Washington - something that would not have been feasible if they had to attend classes in person.

Likewise, there are several arguments against the teaching method. In a 2007 study, Bellevue Community College said retention of class material was 6.6 percent lower in its online classes compared to face-to-face instruction in the 2006-07 academic year. Three years before then, the gap was nearly 12 percent.

"Online education may work for students who are organized self-starters, but too many students find themselves procrastinating," said Phil Jack, English instructor at Green River, adding that the distance that exists in online classes negatively impacts student success.

"Online education is a tool, but it's not the answer to the challenges we face, and it shouldn't become the goal," he said.

But, whether for good or for bad, it seems that, with a rapidly rising demand for college education and increasing investments in online programs by states and universities attempting to deal with budget shortfalls, online education is here to stay.

## The Undercurrent

### Salish Hall to open in fall quarter

The Salish Hall construction project is on schedule and is to be "substantially complete" in March, according to Sam Ball, dean of capital projects.

Following completion of the exterior, office and classroom furniture and computers will be installed. Then faculty will be moved from their current offices in the HS, SS and BI buildings into their new locations. Following that, classrooms will be readied for usage.

"Some classes may move over to Salish Hall during summer quarter," said Ball. But "by fall quarter, it will be fully operational," he added.

Planning and design for Salish Hall began back in 2006, and construction began in the summer of 2009. The project has cost a total of \$26 million and was funded through the state's Capital Budget.

The building was named after the Native American Salish tribes. The college has arranged for Muckle-shoot elders to bless the building on April 30.

By: Kelli Wyatt

### Programs awarded U Rock award

Student Services awarded the Childcare Center and Facilities Department with the 'U Rock' award for handling a mishap at the Childcare Center. On Feb. 11, Center Director Sandy Cameron and Facilities Manager Lue Larson accepted the awards on behalf of their departments.

Literally a painted rock, U-Rock awards are given to staff by Student Services as a way to recognize exceptional service to students.

The center's main sewer line had plugged and backed up the entire system. The center was forced to close down immediately.

Cameron contacted Highline Community College's Childcare Center and was able to temporarily share space until the plumbing was fixed, which, it turned out, wasn't until four and a half days later.

Although the situation was cleaned up as quickly as possible, the center had to wait for an O.K. from a health inspector before it could reopen.

"It was a real team effort from GRCC facilities, the Childcare Center and Highline staff," said Cameron.

By: Hayley Bridges

### Kauffman joins Board of Trustees

Claudia Kauffman, former state senator for the 47th District, joined the Board of Trustees this month, replacing Lawton Case, who had been a member since 2000. Her first meeting was Thursday, Feb. 17.

Kauffman, after three years as a lawmaker, recently lost her re-election bid to Joe Fain. She has attended Oglala Lakota College and the University of Idaho.

Case, a retired sergeant at the Enumclaw Police Department, served as the Board of Trustees' chair in 2003-04 and 2008-09. College Board of Trustees members in Washington are limited to serving two terms of five years. He attended Green River Community College for a degree in law enforcement and transferred to Evergreen State College. He is currently the executive director at the Enumclaw Food Bank.

By: Kelli Wyatt



Kauffman at her first meeting.

# OpEd

Also Inside: "Have you ever practiced kissing with a tree just to get caught by nuns?"

Lacey Steward, page 7



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## Ways to improve and simplify the registration process

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

Though the registration process at Green River is well-designed and thought out, there are steps the college can take to make it clearer and more convenient.

Especially for new and international students the sometimes confusing steps are hard to take without an advisor. With enrollment reaching new heights every quarter, there is not always time to make an appointment if you want to get into all of your desired classes.

Students, especially those who haven't familiarized themselves with the system yet, are often confused by the term "arranged" that is used for online classes. We do not see a reason why it could not be changed to simply "online" or "distance learning," but if there is, there should at least be an explanation clearly visible on the page to make sure students know what they're signing up for.

Another thing students often struggle with is tuition payment. Although it is clearly mentioned that tuition is due within four days of registration, we are all aware that not all students are quite as good at remembering things like this. If they do not pay their classes should be dropped to make room for

others who need the same classes, as the college is doing now, but sending students a reminder a day before tuition is due would help those who have not yet discovered the wonders of dayplanners and phone calendars but are still worthy of attending.

As a small matter of convenience, the schedule viewer should be made more accessible, as is done in the Schedule Planner system on the website - rather than a dense-looking block of text there should be a table that displays all the hours.

Overall the current system works well, but these changes would go a long way in terms of better serving students who aren't as tech-savvy or familiar with English or college in general.

**Assistant Editor:** Julia McDonough (Sports)

**Senior Writer:** Alexander Bevier

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## The Editor

By: Remco Zwetsloot

I am quite confident my hairline is receding. I really am. Early Saturday morning I was, as I usually do, admiring one of God's most beautiful creations, and I could have sworn my gold locks were retreating en masse.

To be fair, I had not completely woken up yet, and it could just be wishful thinking; I have this odd admiration for people who, sometimes literally, work themselves to death - primarily Alexander Hamilton and William Clifford (for those who don't know him, and I imagine nobody does, he was a 19th century British mathematician and philosopher who learned nine languages, including Sanskrit and Russian, just because he thought they might come in handy some day. He died from tuberculosis in part because he would not stop writing and debating after he was diagnosed.). And if we're allowing fictional characters, Josh Lyman from *The West Wing*, whose hairline did indeed recede in the last season of the show when he was running a presidential campaign.

Anyhow, if the newspaper is indeed the cause of my supposed early balding, this would be an odd issue for it to start with. It was probably the easiest one - and I use the word easy in strictly relative terms here - we have had so far this year. There is less content than usual with two full-page ads, and with me having beaten the complacency out of my worker ants last week we actually got most of the stuff in a mere one day after the deadline (which is really quite an accomplishment). The day off for President's Day and two of my three instructors pushing back test dates and deadlines contributed as well, and, believe it or not, I did not go to bed later than 4:30 a.m. once. Who said miracles don't exist?

And for my devoted followers, an update on my quest of coffeelessness; I'm still going strong.

## That's what he said she said

**Kelli Wyatt:**

"The future is something which everyone reaches at the rate of 60 minutes an hour, whatever he does, whoever he is."  
- C.S. Lewis

**Bailey Jo Josie:**

"I've noticed that when people are joking they're usually dead serious, and when they're serious, they're usually pretty funny."  
- Jim Morrison

**Remco Zwetsloot:**

Ending a sentence with a preposition is something up with which I will not put.  
- Winston Churchill

**Jean-Pierre Garcia:**

All things must; man is the only creature that wills.  
- Friedrich Schiller

**Lacey Steward:**

I love to see a young girl go out and grab the world by the lapels. Life's a bitch. You've got to go out and kick ass.  
- Maya Angelou

**Alyssa Ryan:**

Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn.  
- Harriet Beecher Stowe

**Josh Davidson:**

Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else.  
- Margaret Mead

**Kerry Kralovic:**

"Where should one use perfume?" a young woman asked. "Wherever one wants to be kissed," I said.  
- Coco Chanel

### 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.

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The Current encourages all its readers to be involved and will publish letters. We don't accept anonymous letters 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. Letters should be sent 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.

## OpEd

Editor: Alyssa Ryan  
 oped.editor@mail.greenriver.edu



# What's in a name? Not much, it turns out.

By: Alyssa Ryan  
 OpEd Editor

Yale University is a finicky creature. It demands to be wined and dined properly, carefully, and strategically. First the foreplay: letters of recommendation, interviews, and a solid application essay to captivate its attention and draw it in. Then the down and dirty: high SAT scores, a flawless GPA coupled with numerous extracurricular activities and awards of merit to impress it into acceptance - it's a first-class hookup.

High school and transfer students shed blood sweat and tears building up enough swagger for prestigious four-year institutions. They fantasize about acceptance letters, internships, and six-figure salaries, while their parents worry about the all-too-possible rejection. It's a grueling process for sure.

But is it really necessary? Do students need to agonize over getting in to big name universities or can small, local four-year schools provide means to the same quality education and, more importantly, the same six-figure salary?

A long-term study of



Bailey Jo Josie / THE CURRENT

6,335 college graduates published by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that graduating from a college where entering students have higher SAT scores - a marker of elite colleges - didn't increase a student's chance of a higher post-graduation income. Researchers found that students who applied to several elite schools but didn't attend them, either because of rejection or by their own choice, are likely to earn more than students who actually attended elite schools.

In a summary of the findings, the bureau says that "evidently, students' motivation, ambition and desire to learn have a much stronger effect on their subsequent success than average academic

ability of their classmates." And similar studies come to the same conclusion.

Ivy League and other prestigious colleges heavily emphasize research and graduate work over undergraduate development, and class sizes at these institutions tend to be much larger in comparison to smaller, local schools.

Consequently, undergraduate students tend to get the short end of the stick when it comes to personal attention and individual development, which has severe negative implications for the quality of education received.

While it's true that an Ivy League degree on one's résumé can make an applicant stand out, the

competitive atmosphere at the college might drag down someone's GPA. The prestigious environment might be intellectually stimulating, but with so many intelligent students around it is quite a bit harder for students to stand out and get exceptional grades. And while the name Yale on one's CV could potentially impress an employer, a 3.0 GPA will not.

Still, students who do attend Ivy League schools end up paying far more than those who attend a local university, even if they end up with the same kind of jobs and equal salaries. If a Washington student were to attend Yale or Harvard, they would be spending over \$35,000 on tuition and fees alone. At the UW or WSU, by

comparison, this is about \$9,000. Though the level of education at the former might be marginally higher, it is definitely not four times as good, and one cannot help but wonder if it even matters if you'll end up working the same job for the same salary anyway.

Ivy League schools are simply names. Though they make for nice bumper stickers and college sweaters, they do not guarantee a much better education or a higher salary than those at relatively affordable, local universi-

ties.

Instead of buying into the name-brand obsession and going to a school simply for its reputation with false hope it will get them a better job, students should assess what kind of learning environment best fits them and know only personal motivation and hard work will get them where they want to be.

Besides, if you save big on tuition by skipping the Ivy League, you might actually be able to afford a nice suit for your first job interview.

## Tough and rough decisions at Green River

I understand faculty are upset that there is some contract that says they can hire two new faculty a year, but when the school staff is taking a pay cut of 3 percent, as ordered by Governor Gregoire,

### Letter

should faculty really be the ones protesting? After all, did they take a pay cut? No. I think the contract made it so that they had no pay cut - they were unaffected.

Students are being asked to print more of their PowerPoints,

lectures and syllabi to save printing costs of faculty - should students also protest? Faculty is underpaid, and we need more on campus, but also understand millions of dollars have to be cut from Green River's budget. Adding new faculty in these kinds of times seems a bit wasteful and ridiculous.

[Referring to the United Faculty attending the Board of Trustees meeting. More on page 9]

- Mominah Khan,  
 Green River Student

## Re: Saved by the curve

Promoting the idea that grading should be based on a curve is wrong. You are correct in that it does promote laziness. The idea that there are "bad teachers and bad textbooks" is preposterous.

### Letter

Teachers and textbooks are vetted by credentialed people, people who have already accomplished what we here at Green

River are just starting to do. They have earned Master's and Doctorate Degrees in the fields they are teaching in.

Grading on a curve simply promotes a race toward the middle - mediocrity. In this hyper-competitive world, now is not the time to be just "good enough."

- Dan Schmidt,  
 Green River Student

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# Sports

Also inside: "Online education is a tool, but it's not the answer to the challenges we face."

Phil Jack, page 12



## Playoffs out of reach for men's basketball team

By: Remco Zwetsloot  
Editor-in-Chief

The men's basketball team was definitively knocked out of the playoff race after recent losses to Highline and Clark made it impossible for them to reach fourth place.

The Gators started off the season really well, said the team's coach, Tim Malroy, winning four out of their first five pre-season games and beating the previous year's Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges champions, Clackamas 94 to 88.

That win was especially gratifying for the team's returners, according to Malroy, who he said got revenge for last year, when the Gators were knocked

out of the playoff stage by Clackamas in the quarter finals.

"As a team, that was probably our moment of the season," he said.

Once the league kicked off, though, the team went into a win-lose pattern, with the result alternating almost game for game - during the whole season, the amount of league games won and lost has not differed more than one once.

"My hopes and goals are pretty much the same every season - that is, to play well enough to reach the top four," Malroy said. And although the Gators have not always been able to do that, "we have always been in that conversation," he added.

This was the case in the current season as well.

Not until a Feb. 16 loss to one of its rivals for fourth place, Clark, was the team officially out of the race, although it had become unlikely the men would make it after they lost to the other close competitor, Highline, a week before that.

Until those two games, though, the Gators had their fate in their own hands. And the season could have easily ended differently - of a total of 15 league games played so far, five had the winner and the loser within five points of each other. Two of those close games were losses - one against Clark and one against Highline.

Such close competition is rare, said Malroy, who attributes some of these close results to his team's tenacity. "That's the one



Matthew Montoya / THE CURRENT

Power forward Devin Willis is stopped by Highline defenders. In a game that likely decided which of the two teams would make the playoffs, Highline came out on top in an extremely close game - the Gators lost 55 to 58.

thing I'm most proud of about this group - how tough they are. They never give up. It doesn't matter if we're 10 points down with only 10 seconds left to go, they will still play for those 10."

The team practices two hours per day, except on game days and Sundays, but the players often train on their own time as well, said Malroy.

One of those players is

Gralin Paul, who puts in "at least four hours a day," he said. Paul joined the team last year after having made the 1520 mile journey from Fairbanks, Alaska, to Auburn. He could have gone to the University of Alaska, he said, but decided to play at Green River after he attended a recruitment meeting and liked what he saw.

It turned out to be a good decision, he said. He smilingly recalled his favorite memory with the team, "When I lost at bowling and had to wear a tutu for all of practice the next day." Now in his sophomore year, Paul is consid-

ering transferring to either Western or Central, where he intends to continue playing basketball and major in business.

Although the Gators are disappointed they did not make the playoffs this season, Malroy achieved somewhat of a personal victory this season. Since the team's Jan. 29 away victory at Lower Columbia, he can say that he has "been able to win against any team in the league on their own floor," he said.

On Feb. 26, in the last game of the year, the team has a chance to beat the Red Devils again and end the season on a good note.

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

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### The League

- |                       |              |                |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Tacoma             | 15 - 0       | 22 - 2         |
| 2. Pierce             | 12 - 3       | 18 - 6         |
| 3. Highline           | 10 - 5       | 17 - 7         |
| 4. Clark              | 9 - 6        | 15 - 9         |
| <b>5. Green River</b> | <b>7 - 8</b> | <b>12 - 11</b> |
| 6. Lower Columbia     | 7 - 8        | 14 - 9         |
| 7. Centralia          | 5 - 11       | 8 - 16         |
| 8. Grays Harbor       | 1 - 13       | 1 - 19         |
| 9. S. Puget Sound     | 1 - 13       | 3 - 19         |

### The Team

- |                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| #13 Dakin Wanquist  | G  |
| #20 Devin Willis    | PF |
| #22 Jare Sager      | PG |
| #23 Banard Banks    | G  |
| #24 B.J. Jones      | G  |
| #30 Gralin Paul     | G  |
| #32 Jeremy McClain  | C  |
| #33 Justin Lanier   | F  |
| #40 Anthony Brescia | F  |
| #42 Jamaal Thomas   | PF |
| #44 Derek Eilertson | F  |
| #50 Kwame Bates     | F  |

## Calendar

### Women's basketball

Feb 26 Green River - Lower Columbia, 3 p.m.

### Men's basketball

Feb 26 Green River - Lower Columbia, 5 p.m.

March 5 - 8 NWAACC Championships for both men and women will be held in Kennewick.

## Scoreboard

### Women's basketball

Feb 16 Clark 64 - 61 Green River  
Feb 23 Pierce 64 - 61 Green River

### Men's basketball

Feb 12 South Puget Sound 64 - 71 Green River  
Feb 16 Clark 80 - 58 Green River  
Feb 23 Pierce 77 - 66 Green River

You can find full league results, team figures, standings and more at [www.nwaacc.org/basketball](http://www.nwaacc.org/basketball)

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