



A passing grade

Students search for best way to select instructors

Ratemyprofessor.com allows students to freely rant, rave about teachers

Sara Olson
Staff Writer

The pen is a powerful tool, and over the years has morphed into an even more damaging weapon – the keyboard.

Thousands of students have started taking advantage of their freedom of speech by using the computer to rant or rave over their instructor or professor.

Via Ratemyprofessor.com and “Grade my Professor” on Myspace, anyone can log on and attempt to persuade fellow students across the nation about who they should or shouldn’t take. Any student is able to post on the sites and all posts are unedited, allowing for people to say absolutely whatever they want.

“Couldn’t teach his way out of a wet paper sack. The worst teacher I have ever had the poor fortune of having to endure,” was a post left about a GRCC instructor.

Comments such as that have caused some to debate

whether the internet is the best way to select an instructor.

Ron Riley, criminal justice instructor, said that he sees the value and the possible harm of Ratemyprofessor.com and sites like it.

“I’m not too displeased with it, because so far I’ve been doing well,” Riley said. “Input is good. We do that for marketing and for everything – from groceries to books to movies. Any source of information has value, but some perhaps are more trustworthy than others. Sort of like Wikipedia, not a lot of quality control in rate my professor.”

Student Mick Warren doesn’t see such internet sites as a valuable source of information, because of the circumstances in which the posts are written.

“People either go on

because they’re really angry or really love their teacher. So, you get the extreme of both biases,” Warren said.

Because of the unlimited access to the web sites, some students see the potential risk of trusting the posts.

“I think it’s good, but some times you get crazy people on there, and you don’t really know if what they’re saying is valid or not. But mostly, it’s good because you can get a general idea for what the

“I’m not too displeased with it, because so far I’ve been doing well.”

*—Ron Riley,
criminal justice
instructor*

professor is like,” student Sarah Johnson said.

The process of selecting an instructor can be daunting, considering that they either could make or break a student’s quarter.

However, Riley said that students shouldn’t worry too much about instructors at GRCC, because of the quality control initiated in the hiring process.

“I know that the college itself goes through great

lengths to get quality people for everything,” Riley said. “There’s constantly a rating and grading quality control process. So if someone isn’t well suited for the job, they tend not to be there.”

He also said that the perfect instructor is different for every student.

“The difference between a good and a bad instructor may depend on the student themselves and that particular quarter,” Riley said. “Sometimes you have a rough one, and what would normally be your favorite instructor may be your worst nightmare.”

Johnson said that she gets the most valid information on instructors through word of mouth.

“I talk to my friends,” Johnson said.

Either way, Riley advises not to pass judgment too quickly on instructors.

“Like anything else, if you have a somewhat negative experience, give them another chance,” Riley said. “I think most of the instructors do that with the students as well.”

Feature:

Love letters
Students submit written expressions for Valentine’s Day.
Pages 6, 7

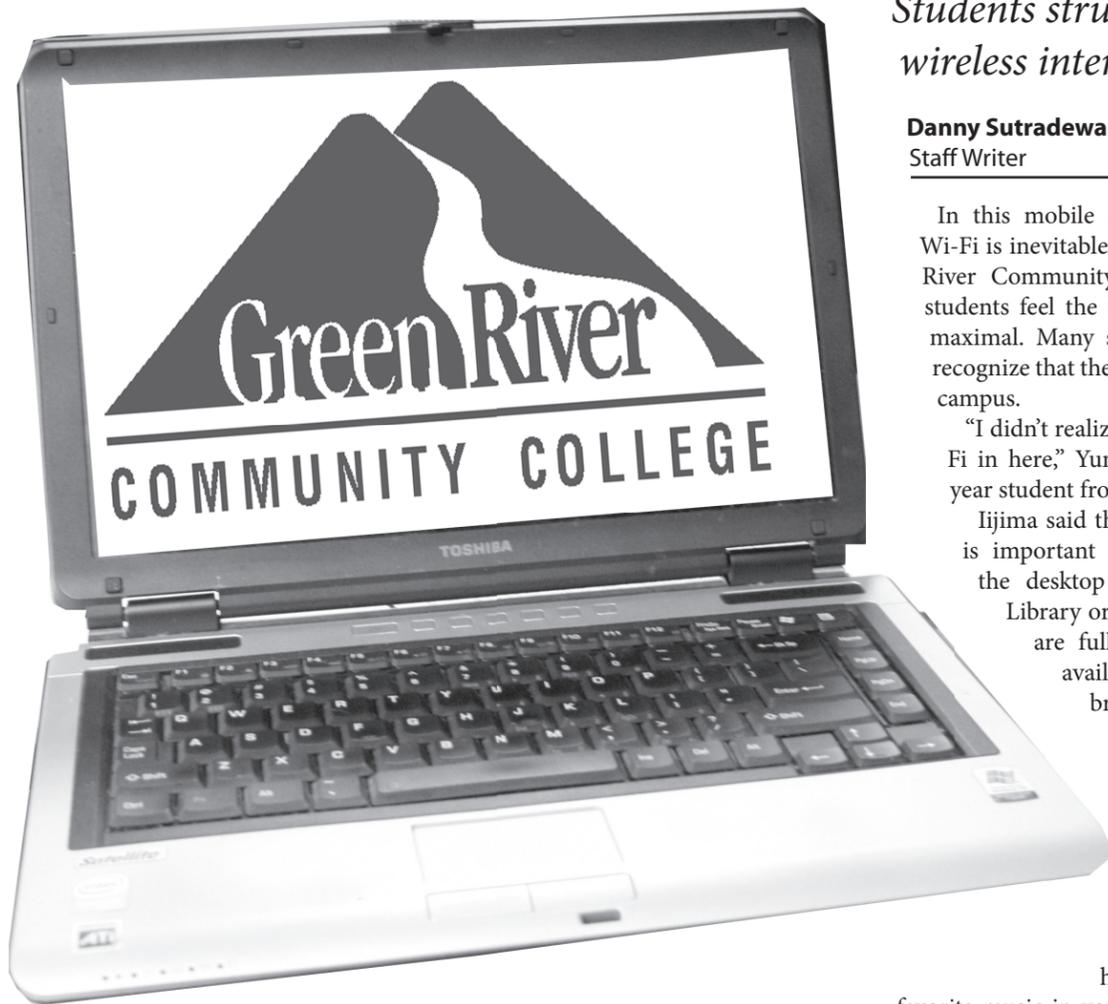
A&E:

Movie review
Students should avoid meeting the Spartans.
Page 10



Campus - Pages 2-3
News - Page 4
Opinion - Page 5
Feature - Pages 6-7
Sports - Pages 8-9
A & E - Pages 10-11

Wi-Fi access available in limited areas on campus



Sara Olson/ Photo Illustration

Wireless internet only is available in the Technology Center, science building and Holman Library on campus. Staff hopes this eventually will expand.

Students struggle to find wireless internet sources

Danny Sutradewa
Staff Writer

In this mobile culture, the use of Wi-Fi is inevitable. However, at Green River Community College (GRCC), students feel the use of Wi-Fi is not maximal. Many students don't even recognize that there is a Wi-Fi area on campus.

"I didn't realize that there is a Wi-Fi in here," Yumiko Iijima, a first-year student from Japan, said.

Iijima said that the use of Wi-Fi is important because sometimes the desktop computers in the Library or Technology Center are full. With Wi-Fi area available, students can bring their own lap top to school.

Iijima also added that it is more convenient if she uses her own lap top.

"You can hear your own

favorite music in your laptop while you are doing your homework," Iijima said.

Chaplin Lau, a first-year student from Hong Kong, also expressed a similar reaction to the use of Wi-Fi on campus.

"I prefer to use Wi-Fi, because sometimes there are some applications in my laptop that are not provided in the library desktop computer," Lau said.

Student George William said, "I have tried it once, but it was not working, because I have to connect to something and that was complicated; so I decided to not use it."

Some students also have complained that they could not connect to the Wi-Fi in the Library because they were using a Windows Vista version on their computer.

However, Jennifer Dysart, the acting library director, said that the problem was not on the Wi-Fi system, but was with

Microsoft.

Nevertheless, Dysart answered that students still can access the Wi-Fi even when they are using the Windows Vista version.

"If you open the library web site, there are directions to access the Wi-Fi if you are using the Windows Vista version," Dysart said. "You have to do many things to access the wireless. However, the librarian is willing to help you. So, if you have the difficulty to access the wireless connection, just go to the front desk and ask for help."

There are three places on campus where students can access the Wi-Fi: the Library, the technology center and the science building. However, many students urged that there should be more places that people can access Wi-Fi.

Student Sam Sambo said that the Wi-Fi area should be available all over the campus area.

"It should be easy and convenient, so we don't have to come to any specific place to open the internet," Sambo said.

Student Jonathan Williams also added that there should be Wi-Fi offered in front of the student center.

"That's the main area where people usually hang out with their friends. So, if there is a Wi-Fi around that area, it would be really nice, and it will help students a lot," Williams said.

The college is trying to expand the Wi-Fi territory. At one time, there was a Wi-Fi in the Lindbloom Student Center; however, there were several problems that caused the Wi-Fi to be canceled.

"It's the goal of the college to get the Wi-Fi in all over the campus area," Dysart said.

However, instead of using the campus Wi-Fi, some students

prefer to go to café shops or book stores to access the internet.

Williams said, "I usually go to McDonalds or sometimes Starbucks in the Supermall."

He also said that the reason he went to those places is because those places provide a very convenient place to chill.

Sambo prefers to go to Barnes and Noble book store.

"Barnes and Noble provides a lot of new books, and it is a very comfortable place to do your homework."

"It's the goal of the college to get the Wi-Fi in all over the campus area."
—Jennifer Dysart, librarian

Senators of the month



Elin Jike

Elin Jike was voted by her peers as Senator of the Month for December for her contributions to Public Relations Committee when the chair of the committee was out and for taking the lead on organizing events/activities.



Samantha Fletcher

Samantha Fletcher was voted by her peers as Senator of the Month for January for being vocal and for her push to make the safety issue known on campus through her coordination of several safety-related events.

Program promotes cultural awareness on campus

Conversation partners encourages friendship between domestic, international students

Brittney Walker-Higgins
Staff Writer

The campus is providing an opportunity to expand cultural awareness and meet new students from around the world. The conversation partners program is a way for students at Green River Community College (GRCC) to meet and learn about each other's cultural backgrounds.

The program pairs native English speaking students with international students and allows them to get to know each other in a one-on-one social setting.

The goal of the program is to improve

conversational and English speaking skills, while having fun and learning about each other.

Boram Kim is an international student from South Korea and moved to Auburn not knowing anyone. Kim joined the conversation partners program in hopes of learning more about American culture.

"I joined so that I can make new friends, learn new things, and improve my English," Kim said.

Students filled out a short application indicating their various interests, educational goals, and availability.

Martha Koch, head of the program, reads through the applications and pairs up students based on gender and similar interests. Students even can request a partner from a certain country that they would like to learn more about.

The conversation partners program gives students a chance to learn from one another in a non-classroom setting.

Students become familiar with new languages, foods, and are introduced to cultural aspects of young adults from all around the world.

Conversation Partners are required to meet at least one hour each week for an entire quarter. Topics for discussion can include family, friends, food, and anything else that comes to mind.

Meetings are not limited to the Green River campus. Sight seeing trips and lunch dates are strongly encouraged.

"I like to dance and would love to visit a night club," Kim said.

Many international students living in Campus Corner Apartments (CCA) do not have access to cars and are eager to get out of Auburn to explore the greater Seattle area.

Kim is excited to try out new foods and is looking forward to an Italian dinner that her conversation partner's family is planning for her.

There are an endless number of fun activities conversation partners can participate in, all the while gaining cultural knowledge and improving English speaking skills.

The conversation partners program is available every quarter. The next opportunity to join the program will be in the spring.

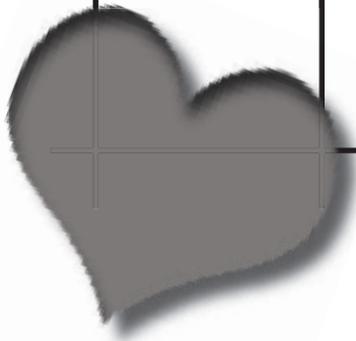
Applications can be picked up in the Student Programs Office located on the second floor of the Lindbloom Student Center. Due to limited space, applications are due no later than the second week of the quarter.

The Conversation Partners Program is just another example of the diversity on campus. The program gives students of all backgrounds the chance to get to know other cultures, which Koch hopes will benefit them in their future careers and life experiences.

Campus Calendar

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 "The Secret" revealed: The Power of positive thinking. 12 p.m., LSC Rainier.	2
3	4	5	6 Women's Varsity Basketball. 6 p.m., Gym. Men's Varsity Basketball. 8 p.m., Gym	7 Lunar New Year celebration. 6 p.m., LSC, \$5.	8 Faculty In-Service Day. Day class cancelled.	9 Women's Varsity Basketball. 3 p.m., Gym. Men's Varsity Basketball. 5 p.m., Gym
10	11	12 Artist and Speakers Presents: Ishmael Beah. 7:30 p.m., LSC	13	14	15 Massage-a-Thon. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., LSC Glacier	16 Women's Varsity Basketball. 3 p.m., Gym. Men's Varsity Basketball. 5 p.m., Gym
17	18 President's Day. Campus closed.	19	20	21	22	23 Snowtubing. 8:30 am, bus circle.
24	25	26 AD/HD: Not just for kids. 12 p.m., LSC Rainier	27	28 NWAACC Championships. Richland, WA Krispy Kreme Fund raiser. 7 a.m., LSC	29	



For more information on events, go to www.greenriver.edu/AboutGRCC and click on the Events Calendar

Special Feature

Student compares nightlife of American, Spanish youths

Asiesiukiewics presents part one of three letters from study abroad quarter in Spain



Angelica Asiesiukiewics

Hola from España! If you don't already know, I am studying abroad in Salamanca, Spain for winter quarter. In order to give readers a picture of what goes on around here, I decided to share my experience.

The life of a college student is crazy. You've got classes, homework, tests, work, and on top of all of that, you have to make room to have some fun.

In the United States, that may mean going to the movies or out to dinner at a great restaurant with some friends. Or it could just mean sitting and watching a chick flick.

But here in Spain, it's all about the night life. I realized early on that teens in Spain love to party. Surprisingly, there is a big difference between Spanish and U.S. night life.

The big difference between the United

States and Spain is the drinking age. The drinking age in Spain is 18, while it is 21 in the America. However, just because you're not 18 in Spain, doesn't mean you won't be exposed to alcohol.

There is no taboo about drinking here. Parents introduce alcohol at the dinner table to their kids at about 14 or 15 years old. In America, that is a big no-no.

Also, when you go to the bar or club, no one asks for your ID. They will sell you a drink no matter how old you are.

However, you won't find any 15-year-olds walking drunk on the street.

Another big difference between American and Spanish drinking is the amount of respect Spanish people have for alcohol.

It's more of a social event rather than a time to see how many you can tip back before you tip over. The drinks at bars in Spain aren't measured.

When a bar tender is pouring your drink, you have to tell him when to stop, and then you pay accordingly.

Despite this, people here do not abuse alcohol to the point of needing to go to the hospital. It is very common here to go out every night and drink, simply to enjoy the taste with your meal.

However, not everything is different in Spain in terms of partying and drinking.

The prices here are similar to those in the United States. You can get a shot of almost anything for just 1€ (which is equivalent to \$1.50). Also, a lot of night clubs play American music, so you definitely can get your groove on to your favourite T. Pain song.

And, many bars have organized tournaments, like beer pong and trivia.

Another similarity that is less favoured by the Spaniards is the illegality of having alcohol on the street. However, this was not so about two years ago, when it was legal to have an open bottle of anything on the street.

There actually were organized drinking events, called botellóns. Organizations and companies would set a night where thousands of people would go out into the Plaza Mayor and drink. They created a popular drink called calimocho. People will take a large coca-cola bottle, empty it half way, and fill the rest with wine or other liquor.

The reason these types of events were prohibited is because they were very dangerous. Getting together thousands of drunken people posed a big problem and possibilities for fights and other chaos. Most Spaniards aren't too happy about this, as many Spaniards are saying, "Bring back the botellón!"

All in all, both Spanish and U.S. college students know how to have fun. However, there are many differences in the way people enjoy their alcohol and nightlife.

All I can say is that the nightlife in Spain

can get a little crazy, but I've never seen it get to the point of uncontrollable chaos. It's all just in good fun.

Until next time. ¡Adios!

The Current is just a click away

The Current now can be viewed online at www.greenriver.edu/thecurrent



Washington could be factor in upcoming primary

Student vote influential in elections so far

Joe Chouery
Staff Writer

Green River students could have a chance to make a meaningful vote in the upcoming Washington Primary and Caucuses.

Washington's residents find themselves in a position that could exaggerate their votes and voices in this year's election.

Whether a Republican or a Democrat, the race will be inconclusive going into Feb. 9, and Washington may be the state that decides who will participate in the race for the White House.

However, instructor Vic Aquino disagrees.

"The Republican race will be as good as wrapped up on Super Tuesday," Aquino said.

He also added that the Democrats would be "practically decided."

During many past elections, the final candidates have been decided by or on Super Tuesday, but this election has pushed normality to its fringes.

When some states competed for early caucuses and primaries, traditional campaign strategies were quickly abandoned.

Aquino thinks that Florida and Michigan reduce Washington's importance in the selection of the presidential candidates.

Viable candidates were whittled away by the early primaries, but the amount of plausible candidates to choose from, and the competition being too close to call made the results on Tuesday inconclusive.

Even if all delegates had picked one candidate, it still would not have met the necessary majority to call it a wrapped up primary season.

The situation has guided the political ball game to at least one more inning of play. The next ball fields are Louisiana, Kansas, and Washington. People can be prepared for a bombardment of political ads and aggressive persuading.

Washington State holds many delegates that the candidates desire. The messages to the voters will be in many forms. Security, economy, experience, and change only will be some of the jargon thrown around conversations.

Students wanting to put their two

cents into this preliminary round, must be registered to vote. They also need to understand the rules that their candidate's party have governed and put into place.

One such rule for both parties is forcing a "pick and stick" policy with a particular political party. The voter takes one of two oaths:

- I declare that I consider myself to be a Democrat, and I will not participate in the nomination process of any other political party for the 2008 Presidential election.
- I declare that I am a member of the Republican Party, and I have not participated and will not participate in the 2008 precinct caucus or convention system of any other party.

While both are similar, the Republican oath gives voters an option to vote for a Republican that switches to a third party after loosing the primaries. The same can not be said about the Democratic oath.

Another difference between the parties is that the Republican Party derives 51 percent of its delegates from the primary and 49 percent from its caucus, while Democrats take 100 percent of their results from the caucus.

What this means is that the primary is arguably meaningless if you are a Democrat.

"I don't see the incentive of the Washington Primary," Aquino said.

The Secretary of State Sam Reed urged voters through the Secretary of State's website, www.secstate.wa.gov, to use primaries as a tool to get important Washington state issues to the ears of candidates.

Lori Cooksey, an eagerly waiting Green River student voter said, "I was not aware of that, and it makes me sad, because I considered myself a democrat."

She also claimed she would go to the Democrat caucus even though it will take an effort.

"I hope that the student turnout will be greater than in previous elections. I think we are a generation that likes to sit on our asses," Cooksey said.

Earlier in Iowa and New Hampshire, the number of student turnouts impacted the election in a way America had not previously seen in recent years.

Will that be the case in Washington? Some debate that this year may boil down to the Green River voter demographic—the college students of Washington.

Weird & Wacky News

Tessa Cosand
Staff Writer

Man attempts to steal 93 lbs. of lingerie

Garth Flaherty was charged with a 45-day sentence for stealing 93 pounds of women's undergarments from laundry rooms in Pullman, Wash. He may have to serve 30 days community service. Flaherty pleaded guilty after being charged with first degree theft and burglary. He reportedly stole a total of 1,613 bras, panties, and other lingerie from laundry rooms in Pullman.

92-year-old blind man nails hole-in-one

Legally blind golfer, Leo Fiyalko, 92 made a hole in one on the fifth hole at Cove Cay Country Club in Clearwater, Florida. Fiyaldo said, "I was just trying to put the ball on the green." He surprised his competitors when he made a 110-yard hole-in one. This was his first hole-in-one in the 60 years he has golfed.

Service links couples based on smell

A startup Massachusetts dating service bases compatibility specifically on how one person smells to another. ScientificMatch.com tests every members "major histocompatibility complex" (MHC) genes.

These genes determine how one person will translate the scent of another. Eric Holzle, the creator of the site, bases his matches on how well an individual's genes correlated with that of another. He claimed that those with genes that are similar are less compatible. Holzle charges \$1,995 per client.

Man arrested for mowing while drunk

Richard Gunn, a New Zealand citizen, has been charged for driving a lawn mower while drunk. Gunn, 52, was driving the lawn mower down the streets of Dargaville when police stopped him. He claimed that he was not a threat to the community.

"I thought I was I was safe," he told TV One News. Even bicycles went faster than the lawn mower's 5 mph, he said. "I've watched them go past me."

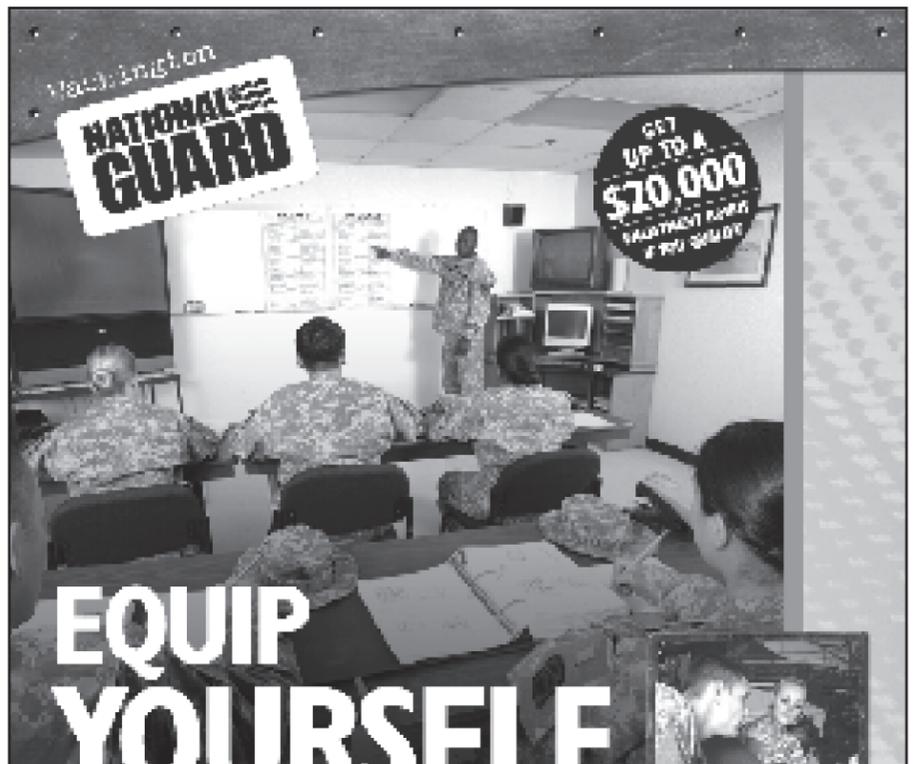
Gunn's alcohol level was nearly two times above the legal limit for drivers. Gunn said he had been using his lawn mower for transportation since his license previously had been revoked.

Marijuana available in vending machines

In Los Angeles, Calif., 24-hour medical marijuana vending machines can be found at an Herbal Nutrition Center. Customers, however, must present a permit for marijuana use in order to make the purchase.

Help Wanted

Auburn disabled man seeks regular assistance with cleaning, laundry, other chores, and some cooking. Assistance needed once a week or every other week, 3-4 hours each time. Hours flexible and pay negotiable: minimum \$12/hour. Steady work for the right person. Call Ron at 206-841-6185 or email ronovad@msn.com



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Valentine's Day is not just a tool for strategic marketing

Opportunistic companies don't take meaning out of Valentine's Day



Commentary by Stefanni Becker

Shades of red and pink flood stores the day after Christmas; fancy candy, heart shaped cards, candles, and flowers of all kinds surround the unsuspecting customer.

Valentine's Day is a very commercial holiday, but it also is a great holiday.

Valentine's Day doesn't need marketing to make it a widely celebrated holiday. The people who celebrate it and recognize it make it special.

The people who really care about the holiday put a lot of emphasis on Valentine's Day. Because of this, there's a lot of pressure on guys to take the "big leap" and propose to their girlfriend.

There also is a lot of pressure for couples to say, "I love you" for the first time. That's the kind of thing that makes the holiday special; the feelings and acts of care that go with it.

To some people, this holiday is absolutely bogus; to other people, Valentine's Day is sickening. Those people are over-reacting and certainly are very dramatic if you ask me.

There's nothing wrong with letting your special someone know that you care about them. Grow up, people.

Like the great Robin Williams stated in the movie "License to Wed," "They're young; they're allowed to be enthusiastic about their lives!"

If you are absolutely disgusted when you see a happy couple holding

hands, you need to get a boyfriend or girlfriend.

They are just showing their affection to one another and being happy. I don't know why people make it into such a huge controversy in the first place.

Ladies – Aren't you just beaming with joy when your boyfriend, fiancé, or husband brings home fresh flowers for you, makes you dinner, or rubs your feet? Shouldn't he be doing it more often?

Gentlemen – Isn't it great when your girlfriend, fiancé, or wife brings you breakfast in bed, gives you a massage, or plans a romantic evening for you? Shouldn't she do it more often?

It's the people who make the holiday special by celebrating it. People who care about each other that they want to do something nice for the special

someone in their lives. There's no way advertising can make any holiday meaningless.

Strategic marketing just means that the people behind the companies and stores selling the

products are very opportunistic and very smart. Companies want to make money. That's it. It isn't a big deal.

Can you really blame companies for trying to make a profit? The reason why most businesses start is to make profit.

Companies distribute the appropriate materials at the most opportunistic times to make the biggest profit. If you don't like it, then don't buy it.

The holiday itself shouldn't be disregarded because of all the candy hearts and flowers being sold.

Valentine's Day is another opportunity to show your special someone that you care about them. One of the most important aspects in a romantic relationship is making sure the person you're with knows how you feel.

As over-commercialized as Valentine's Day is, it's a special holiday because people care about it. Valentine's Day is special because that day helps people care about each other more.

"Valentine's Day doesn't need marketing to make it a widely celebrated holiday. The people who celebrate it and recognize it make it special."

Editorial Policy

The Current considers itself 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.

Letters to the editor

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

Editorials

Web site's appeal to students undeniable

Students just can't help themselves. Just a click away, is the freedom to release all the rage behind that bad grade. Or, they can be mere observers and gain information on the quirks of their instructors-to-be.

That's why ratemyprofessor.com is all the craze these days.

Sure, some students use the site as a research tool so that they can know what to expect from their instructors in the upcoming quarter. However, the big attraction of the web site is that it serves as the teacher tabloid for nearly all colleges across the country.

However, just as people buy into the front cover of the latest tabloid, students often take the unedited posts on "Rate My Professor" far too seriously.

There really are three problems with the web site and sites like it. First of all, it only represents a small percentage of students in the college.

Secondly, some students rate their professors just for kicks, disregarding the avid reader on the other side. There is a big possibility that some students give random ratings to professors when they may never have taken the class.

Finally, the web site has a high potential of being subjective and biased. In fact, that's why it's so popular. There always will be students who use the site as a medium to blame their teacher for the bad grades that they earned.

Regardless, the site still remains to be entertaining and sometimes helpful. After all, most would agree that an opinion is better than no opinion at all.

New iPod feature bad deal for consumers

Wouldn't it be great if society could spend their weekends sitting on a couch, able to attain their hearts desire by mere operation of an iPod? Well, evidently, people think so, as Apple has added yet another feature to their ever growing iPod products.

People now can rent, download, and watch movies without ever leaving the comfort of their recliner. Using iTunes, people can rent films for about the same price of any movie rental store and watch it as many times as they want for a 24-hour period.

There was a time when going to a movie theater was a major event. This later was downgraded to going to a movie rental store. Now, people don't have to go anywhere.

However, there is another advantage to Apple's new service. People now can watch a movie on their iPod at any time of the day, whether they're at work, driving, or at school. People can go to the gym, hop on the treadmill, and turn on the latest blockbuster release.

Technology is advancing, and Apple will not be left behind. However, their latest campaign to take out Hollywood Videos and Blockbusters across the country may be a bit far-fetched.

It may be easy, and it may be new for now. But, in the end, people will catch on to the fact that they're spending the same amount of money for less time with a film. And, no matter how cool and novel it may seem, special effects just aren't the same on a tiny little screen.

The Current Staff

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



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Sealed with a kiss

"I will write you a song, that's how you'll know that my love is still strong." Students followed the Plain White T's lead and proclaimed their affection to friends, spouses, and lovers in honor of Valentine's Day.



To my Bubba,
Hawaiian oceans were
Never so blue,
Floridian sunsets were
Never so sweet,
A love like ours
Was never so true,
I'll love you forever
Despite the smell
Of your feet.
Love, Your Babydoll

Jun,
Love you!
Jacqueline

Dear Shayah,
I love you.
From Kaori

Kyle,
My valentine you make me laugh
when I am sad. You turn my world
upside down and spin it around.
When I am around you, I smile so
hard my cheeks hurt. I love the way
your eyes change color right before
me. This last year has been the
happiest of my life. Thank you.
Love, Your high school sweetheart

To Livia,
Two years in the making
and I can't wait for the
next moment.
Love, Bernardo

Tara,
You are my world, my angel. I love
everything about you, from your
sadistic humor, to your adorable
laugh "wink wink".
Travis

To Mari Hosoi,
I need to take a time-out
in my day to say, I love
you.
Happy Valentine's Day,
Alan Elbakidze

To my husband Maizen,
You are my everything.
You are the best thing of my life.
I love you more than life.
I will love you forever.
I love you,
Hanan

I love Eric from Vietnam.
I miss and love Berk from
Turkey.
From, Anastasia

Mina Daisuki Nihonjin,
Monchi, Nozomi, Hiromi,
Chihiro, Yudai, Kanae, Kaori,
Masa, Mune, Takuya, NaNa,
Ryonghwa, Fumitaka, Suguru,
Hiromichi, Asuka,
Anatawa Tomodachi,
Nicole Symer

Dearest Konner,
For all the time I've known you,
it's never been so hard.
You smile so big and bright,
always catching me off guard.
Now that we've reached February,
it's no longer Christmas time.
I have just one question for you,
Will you be my Valentine?
Angelito Daquiz Jr.

Cami,
I remember the early years, the zoo, the fisherman's
dock, my knee in bird poo.
I remember traveling holding hands, festivals in
Munich, luau on white sand.
I remember May 9 also the fourth, the Braxton
Hicks and how are life changed course.
I remember the autobahns that we flew, in a race
with nature down A-62.
I remember returning from Iraq the taste of your
tears, just because I was back.
Thanks for being my wife and my best friend too.
Happy 10th Valentine Day from me to you.
Love, Joe

Dear Kayleigh,
You are the best thing that has
ever happened to me! I love falling
asleep with you in my arms and
your love in my heart. You are the
only one I want to wake up next
to for the rest of my life. I love you
sweetheart! Be my valentine!
Your loving ninja, Thomas

I love you so much, Moe.
You are my everything -
My man, My Lion King.
I will be with you forever.
Love, Ghofran

To: Ryan, Robyn,
Trevor, Max,
It was nice meeting
you, and I love you to
death. Love always,
Jessica Pflughoft

To Ryan, Jessie, Mikey,
Trev, and Mackenzie,
Do you believe in love
at first sight, or should
I walk by again? Haha.
Happy V-Day! Be mine!
Love you all! Love, Robyn

To Thomas,
I love how corny you are on
Valentine's Day! I can't wait to
give you a box of chocolates that
have something "manly" written
on them. I love you so very much!
Happy Valentine's Day honey!
Kayleigh

Dear Robyn and Jess
and Mackenzie-
I love you! You
complete me, like ice
cream on pie! Mmm...
ice cream...
Love, Ryan

From Elizabeth Diachenko, to David
More
More than every beam of sunlight,
More than every smile you have ever smiled,
I love you
Because your smile is my sunlight,
My bright morning star clearing all
The darkness, leaving only peace,
More than every hope in every child's heart,
More than all the days of all the
Years gone by I love you,
Some people may use these three
Words to describe a feeling of a little
Hope, but I promise you, you're deep inside my heart
More than every beam of sunlight
More than every smile.
I love you

To my friends Val, Melissa, Matt,
Sara, Katie, Alex, and more,
You guys rock! Thanks for always
being there to make me laugh!
Lots of love and happy Valentine's
Day mush, Jamie

Kyle Nikki,
You are the cheese to my
nachos! I love you!
Happy Valentines Day!
Kaitah

Kaitah Pierce,
You are the beef to my
stew. Love you.
Happy Valentine's Day!

Gators see spark of hope with midseason victory

Basketball teams earn wins against division rivals

Baris Cirak
Staff Writer

The Gators started to show their potential in the midseason. Both the men's and women's team earned wins, while they met with the Pierce College Raiders for the second time this year.

The women's team still have the narrow squad due to academic and personal reasons but with a 3-6 record, they still have a chance to qualify for the playoffs.

The men's team is trying to make a run at the playoffs late in the season as they did last year. However, last year they failed in the last game of the season against Highline Community College.

"We are one or two games behind the last playoff spot with 7 games left to play. We are in a good shape. We have to make sure we win our games at home and get a couple of wins on the road," Tim Malroy, head coach, said after the Pierce College game at home.

The women's clash against the Raiders tipped off with both teams struggling to earn wins this season. The Raiders were 0-8, and the Gators were 2-6 coming into the game.

While accomplishing good things in the defensive end, the Gators also scored more points than they have all season against the Raiders with 72.

In the men's game, the Raiders were 4-4, and the Gators were 2-6 before the game. The Gators had lost their very first game of the season against the Raiders on the road, but this time the scenario was different.

The Gators had Jade Collier back and the Raiders were playing one short of their ball handlers, who was out with a broken hand. This was what led Malroy to have a full court pressure defense on the Raiders throughout the game.

Jade Collier had a big effect on the game with 10 points, nine rebounds and seven blocks.

"I think we did a good job understanding

where our advantages were, for example inside with Jade," Malroy said.

Malroy stressed Collier's presence in the low post. He also said they did a good job defensively too, when they went man to man.

"We have to look at the team and decide what the guys want, which makes us do well," Malroy said. "Full court pressure is nice, but we have to make sure we don't get tired quick so we put it on and put it off."

The Gators will fight as usual until the end of the season and hope their opponents lose, hopefully securing the team a good playoff spot.

"We are in a good shape. We have to make sure we win our games at home and get a couple of wins on the road."

—Tim Malroy,
head coach



Sara Olson/Staff photo

Gator guard Dave Massington (11) attempts to overcome Raider Ryan Stanley's defense in the game on Jan. 30. The Gators went on to win by a score of 86-75.

Valley Cup tournament hopes to ignite school spirit

Cross-town rivals to face off to earn coveted trophy

Sean Kramer
Staff Writer

Gator fans will have an opportunity to support Green River hoops when the Gators take on Highline Community College for the Valley Cup trophy on Feb. 13 in Des Moines.

Green River will give fans an opportunity to enjoy the Valley Cup Spirit Event, which is open to all students and offers a fun way to show support for Gator basketball.

Students who sign up will get to enjoy pre-game festivities such as face painting, sign making, and T-Shirt decorating.

"I hope students will come out and support the teams," Shauna Stadnik, ASGRCC president said. "The last few years the focus was on just getting the student government to come. This year, we would like to get at least 50 students to sign up."

This is the third year that Highline and Green River have held the Valley Cup

event, and so far Highline has hosted them all.

Attendance by Gator fans last year was good, as about 25 fans came out, but this year's attendance so far already looks to be better.

Students will board buses for Highline at 5 p.m. with snacks provided on the bus. Upon arrival at Highline, students will enjoy icebreakers with Highline students to get to know everybody before the women's game tips off at 6 p.m.

At half time of both games, the student body governments of both schools will entertain fans with a friendly basketball game for bragging rights.

The night will be capped off with the men's game at 8 p.m. with the winner taking home the Valley Cup trophy.

On the court, the Gator men are looking to reclaim the Valley Cup after losing at Highline the last game of the season last year. However the Gators defended their home court against the Thunderbirds earlier this year.

The final day to sign up for the event is Feb. 11 and is \$2 for students and \$5 for non-students.

Gator Schedules

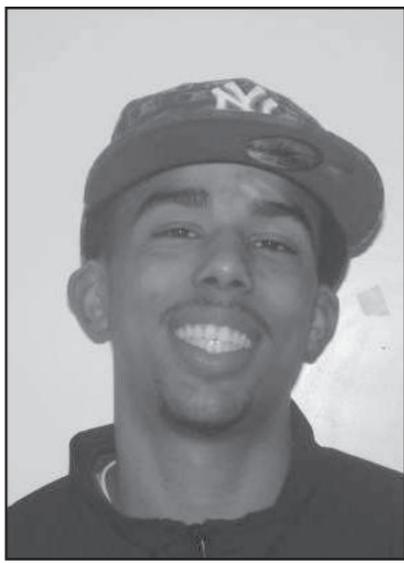
Date	Opponent/Location	Time*
2/9	Grays Harbor/Green River	3 p.m.
2/11	Centralia/Centralia	6 p.m.
2/13	Highline/Highline	6 p.m.
2/16	South Puget Sound/Green River	3 p.m.
2/23	Clark/Clark	1 p.m.

NWAACC Championship Tournament - Feb. 28-March 2

*Time represents start time for women's game. The men's game tips off following the women's game, usually two hours later.

For team and individual statistics, visit www.cybersports.org.

Gator Profile: Jordan Paulson



Jordan Paulson

Position: Guard
Height: 5'10"
High School: Bellarmine Prep

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: "He Got Game."

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?

A: Gary Payton.

Q: Who is your favorite celebrity?

A: Britney Spears.

Q: If you weren't a basketball player, what would you be?

A: An NBA basketball coach.

Q: What is one thing you want to improve on this season?

A: Team success.

Q: Do you have any message for the Green River community?

A: Keep support up and thank you.

Holmgren schedules end to his Seattle legacy

Seahawks coach announces last season, leaving big shoes for team to fill



**Commentary
by Casey Greer**

Mike Holmgren announced his retirement at the beginning of January - well, kind of.

Holmgren announced that he will return to the Seattle Seahawks for the 2008 season, but that 2008 will be his last.

Holmgren is a legendary coach of two cities. He has done an excellent job following in the footsteps of the coaching lineage from which he came.

Holmgren began his professional coaching career as an offensive coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers, under Hall of Fame coach Bill Walsh. During Holmgren's time in San Francisco, Walsh was in the midst of popularizing the West Coast Offense, and also populating the NFL with head coaches.

Walsh was the head of a fraternity of coaches, who have since branched off into several series of successful head coaches.

In 1992, the Green Bay Packers gave Holmgren his first opportunity as a head coach. He

went on to win a Super Bowl, mold Brett Favre into a Hall of Fame quarterback, and turn several players into Pro Bowlers.

Most of Holmgren's greatest contributors were drafted outside of the first round of the draft.

In 1997, Paul Allen bought the Seahawks from Ken Behring. Behring had threatened to move the team, and Seattle native, and billionaire, Allen bought the team to keep it in Seattle.

The team was mired in mediocrity, and on the verge of firing its third coach in less than a decade.

Allen hired Holmgren following the 1998 season, after his contract ended with the Green Bay Packers. Holmgren was the hottest coaching prospect that offseason, and Seattle was not considered a likely destination, but both the offer of general manager duties, and an eight-year contract wooed the coach, legendary in Green Bay, to the Northwest.

Holmgren quickly gained favor with Seahawks fans, making the playoffs in 1999, his first season as head coach. This was the first time the Seahawks had made the playoffs in over a decade.

Though the Seahawks backed into the playoffs in 1999, relying

on a Kansas City Chiefs' loss to win their then division, the AFC West, a calm confidence permeated through Seahawks football. Holmgren had the vision and pedigree of a champion.

Perhaps Holmgren's most important personnel move as a General Manager, a role he relinquished in 2002, was to trade Galloway to the Dallas Cowboys in 2000 for two first round picks. Holmgren used those picks to draft Shaun Alexander and Koren Robinson.

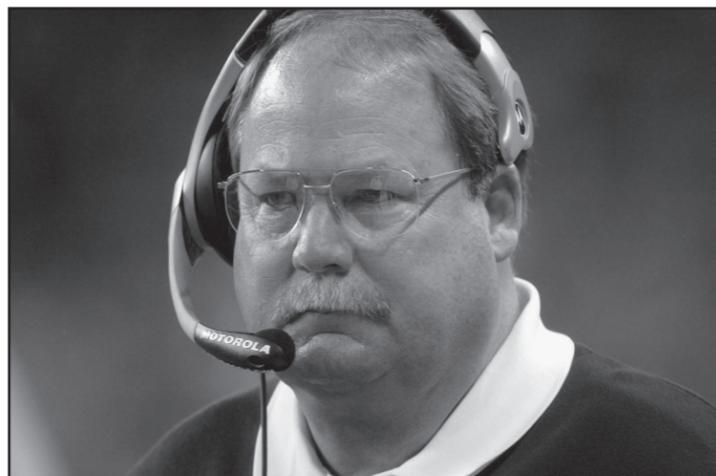
Holmgren also brought Brett Favre's understudy to Seattle, Matt Hasselbeck, a sixth round pick, who has become a Pro Bowl quarterback.

Holmgren and Hasselbeck, during their time in Seattle, have shown a near father-son type of relationship.

Holmgren showed a similar level of compassion for the aforementioned Koren Robinson. Robinson battled on and off the field issues. Holmgren continually gave Robinson opportunities to repair his life and image.

Unfortunately, it wasn't until after the Seahawks released him, that Robinson would be able to resume a normal life and career in the NFL.

The Seahawks 2005 drive to the Super Bowl surpassed the accomplishments of former Seahawks coach and current ring of honor member Chuck Knox,



www.seahawkblue.com/Courtesy photo

Mike Holmgren, the head coach of the Seattle Seahawks, recently announced that he will be retiring after the 2008 season.

cementing Holmgren's legendary status. Holmgren became one of five coaches to take two different teams to a Super Bowl.

Holmgren has done a great job finding contributors outside of the first round since coming to Seattle also. Darrell Jackson, Sean Locklear, D.J. Hackett, and Rob Sims have all seen considerable playing time as Seahawks.

The free agents signed and trades made by the Seahawks for offensive players rarely have made major headlines the day they happened, but Bobby Engram, Joe Jurevicius, Derrick Mayes, and Sean Dawkins have all played major roles as Seahawks, despite coming to Seattle for a very low price tag.

The Seahawks have made the

playoffs in each of the past five seasons. Previous to the 2003 season, they only had made the playoffs five times in the franchise's 27-year history to that point, and one of those was the 1999 season under Holmgren.

It is possible that this isn't an end to Holmgren's career in football. Holmgren has shown an interest in being a general manager, and his ability to evaluate talent would make him very attractive for many teams' front offices.

Mike Holmgren is one of the greatest coaches the NFL has ever seen. Seattle has been lucky to spend nearly a decade with him, and he has made a permanent mark on the Seahawks and the city of Seattle.

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Friday | April 28, 2006
THE CURRENT

Instructor Paycheck
How much do they really make?
see inside | 8-9

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Planning for June ceremony now under way
Over 2,000 expected at commencement

Legislator tours, speaks on campus
Uptegrove to support new construction at Green River

Students should avoid meeting the Spartans

Parody film proves to be sure waste of money, time with far too few laughs

Caitlin Williams
Staff Writer

In less than two days, "Meet the Spartans" managed to reap an impressive \$18.7 million, debut as the No. 1 film since "The Simpsons Movie," and beat out long awaited blockbusters such as "Rambo" and "Cloverfield."

The above numbers are a complete surprise. Seeing them, one would expect a clever and funny parody comparable to the early Scary Movies. Rather than two simple hours of carefree, dumb but funny humor, the poor and unsuspecting viewer is catapulted painfully against the screen, entirely unable to become involved in the story.

No time or attention is given to the characters, plot, or anything really. The set was a disgraceful mockery of the amazing and groundbreaking cinematography of the action movie "300," on which "Meet the Spartans" is based.

This provides enough reason to assume that more than one disgruntled viewer spent time debating in their mind whether or not to sneak over to "Alvin and the Chipmunks."

"Meet the Spartans" stars a thick, unbelievable and comedically deficient Sean Macquire as King Leonidas, and a yet again over-sexified Carmen Electra as Leonidas' wife, Queen

Margo.

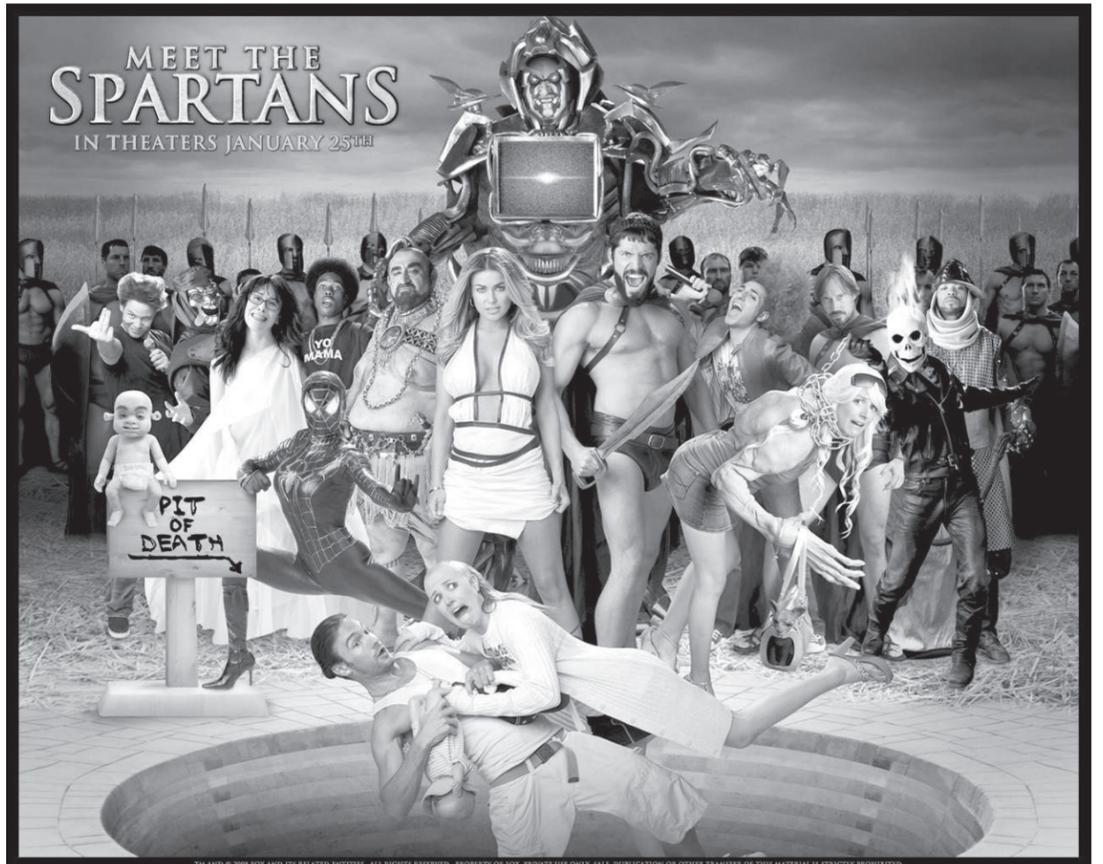
Along with them comes a myriad of under qualified "wannabe" actors (whose past jobs include several roles as frat boy No. 3 in raunchy college comedies that went straight to video) who can hardly remember not to look at the camera and therefore continuously remind the viewer that they are sitting through an agonizing waste of eight bucks.

Despite the film's oversimplified plot, it is difficult to follow because it constantly is interrupted by tedious, not funny spoofs on the best scenes from better movies. Indeed after 15 minutes, one may find their attention wandering to more interesting and pleasant things, for instance, photosynthesis or mold.

Admittedly there were several brief moments of genuine amusement that made the corners of every mouth in the audience twitch, but they all were too quickly overshadowed by a witless gay joke, or farting penguin.

One of the first questions that comes to mind while thinking back on "Meet the Spartans" is what could directors Jason Friedberg and Adam Seltzer have possibly been thinking when they made this movie - the unofficial theme of it being the red herring?

The movie made absolutely



New film, "Meet the Spartans," starring Carmen Electra, parodies numerous blockbuster hits of 2007, including "300," and "Shrek 3." The movie also pokes fun at celebrities such as Britney Spears.

no sense. There were too many pointless pauses in the story where Leonidas and his army of 12 or 13 warriors would pause to "Stomp the Yard" or drink a vanilla frappuccino at a road side coffee cart.

It poked quick, witless and cruel fun at celebrities such as Britney Spears and Paris Hilton, and TV shows like "America's Next Top Model," "Deal or No Deal," "Ugly Betty" and "American Idol."

It also included several quick but disproportionately gruesome images - all of these entirely devoid of amusement.

On a different note, it seems that the film succeeded in its endeavors. In a movie theater full mostly of boys ages 8 to 18, it got more laughs than it seems it deserves.

"Meet the Spartans" excels at the concept of dumb "humor" and could very possibly be one of

the dumbest movies in cinematic history.

In short, a recommendation for "Meet the Spartans" will not be found here. Simply walking to one's seat can be likened to walking the Green Mile on death row. It is a wonder people were able to stay for the duration of the film. I was unable to.

Quite simply, the best advice is to save yourself the trouble, and just don't meet the Spartans.

Crossword Puzzle

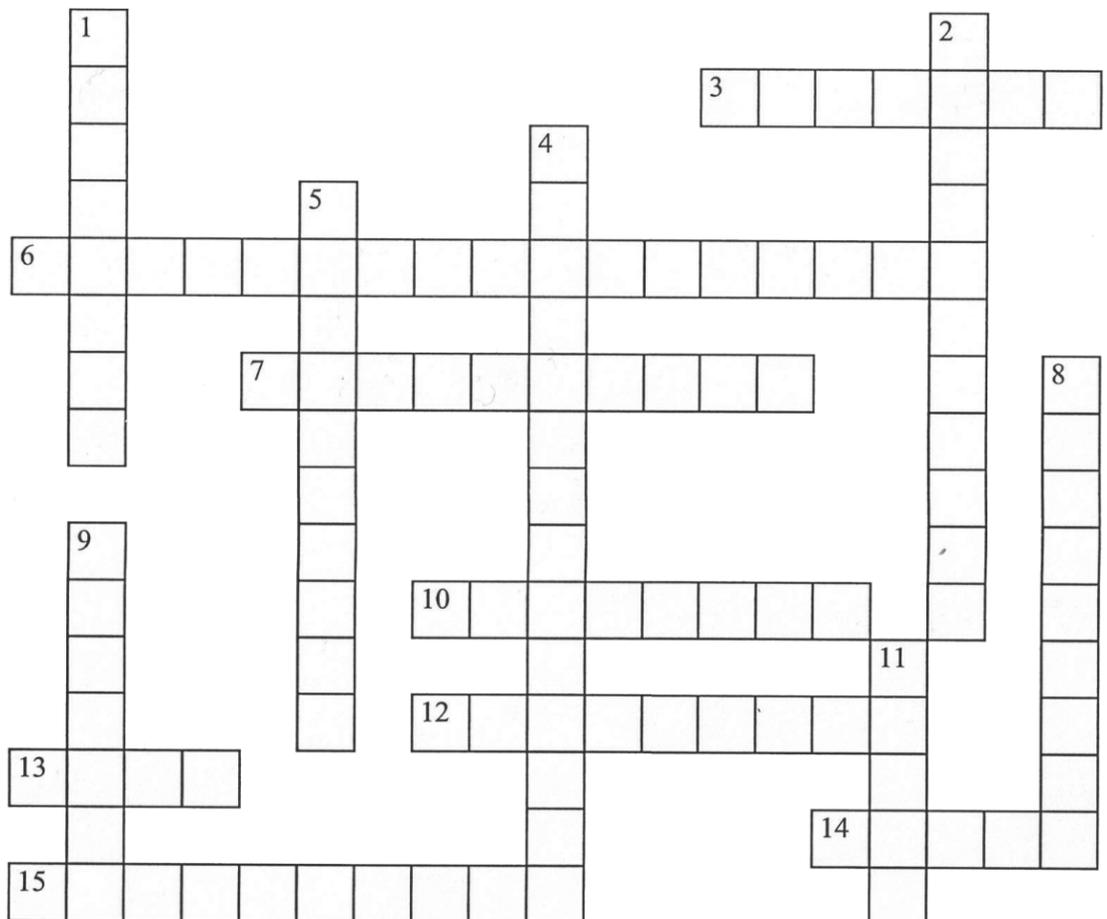
Love Spell

Across

- 3 Popular greeting card industry looked to on Valentine's Day
- 6 1989 contemporary romantic comedy, starring Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal
- 7 State that produces 60 percent of American roses
- 10 World wonder built as gift of love to emperor's wife
- 12 2001 song by Martina McBride
- 13 Country where Valentine's Day originated
- 14 Cherub-like symbol of Valentine's Day
- 15 "How do I love the? ___ ___ the ways. -Elizabeth Barret Browning

Down

- 1 Demographic that receives the most Valentine's Day Cards
- 2 NECCO creation sold on Valentine's Day
- 4 Famous Shakespearean lovers
- 5 Classic romance movie from 1942 during WWII, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman
- 8 The upcoming movie to be released on Valentine's Day, starring Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson
- 9 The floral symbol of romance given often on Valentine's Day
- 11 The Roman goddess of love



Apple brings movie rental service to iPods

Films now can be rented, viewed on iPods

Colleen Morgan
Staff Writer

Everyone now can download and rent movies from the iTunes store and play them on computers, iPods, or iPhones. Rentals from Apple TV also are available.

Most people who already have iTunes downloaded on their computer already know about this event, as Apple has advertised it at the bottom of their music library page.

An e-mail also has been sent to users notifying them of the news and directions of how the rental process works.

Every major Hollywood studio is on board with iTunes and are making their movies accessible to rent. These studios include Paramount, Warner Brothers, 20th Century Fox, Lions Gate Films, Miramax Films, New Line Cinema, Sony, Touchstone Pictures, Universal, Walt Disney, and Metro Goldwyn Mayer.

Prices range from \$2.99 to \$3.99 for standard definition, depending on whether

or not the movies are new releases.

However, for \$1 more, HD movie rentals are available from Apple TV.

After renting a movie, the consumer has 30 days to begin watching their download. After the movie has been started, a 24-hour deadline is given. The renter has a day to finish the movie or watch it multiple times. After the day is up, the movie deletes itself from the computer so it doesn't take up space on the hard drive.

"You can rent a movie for a couple of bucks but you only get it for 24 hours.

It's a waste of money."

—Ben Abbot, student

Select DVDs also come with a bonus. The DVD can be put onto an iPod or iPhone through a computer. As soon as the disc is put into the computer, the iTunes version is downloaded and put onto the consumer's

iTunes library, ready to be synched to whichever apple software they want. These special DVDs are labeled "iTunes digital Copy" on them.

"The whole idea seems pretty stupid to me," student Ben Abbot said. "You can rent a movie for a couple of bucks but you only get it for 24 hours. It's a waste of money. You could buy the movie instead for \$10, and then you can have it for as long as you want and do whatever you want with it."

Recent customers also have found a

major problem with the program.

Apparently, the rentals only work with the iPhone, iPod touch, iPod classic, and the third-generation iPod nano.

Earlier iPods sold before Sept., 2007 aren't incompatible with rented videos. It is unknown as to why this is true. Some speculate that it might be because Apple is trying to get people to buy the most updated version of their product.

Others think that it may be because not all PCs have a secure real time clock. This is a risk because people could go and change the time code, temporarily enabling them to have the rental for longer than 24 hours after viewing it.

The iTunes store is trying to provide their customers with an easier and more convenient way to view interesting movies for prospective buyers. However, only time will tell if the product will catch on, building on Apple's already dominant resume.

Sara Olson/Photo Illustration

People now can rent movies through their iTunes.



New Louis XIV album weird, but addicting

New release, "Slick dogs and ponies" proves to be as unusual as its name

Sara Olson
Staff Writer

Rock band Louis XIV recently released their latest album that will have parents across the country shaking their heads and saying statements that begin with "In my day."

"Slick Dogs and Ponies," released on Jan. 29, brings 13 songs, each complete with explicit lyrics and beats so futuristic that anyone born before 1960 will wholeheartedly debate that the tunes are in fact screeching, screaming, and banging rather

than music.

Each song brings a different brand of weird, with the band switching between chanting and singing. However, Louis XIV's main mode of music is what would be most accurately described as rhythmic speaking.

The band sounds like a combination of Queen, Jack White, and something almost unearthly, but oddly pleasing.

There's no doubt that Louis XIV is completely unlike anything to hit the music scene before.

And, although the tinny, garbage can sound might rub

some the wrong way, for others, it will rub them just right.

Louis XIV markets itself to a demographic that not only will love "Slick Dogs and Ponies," but to a group that will whisper words of "brilliance" after listening to the album.

Sure, the lyrics won't make sense to most, but to those faithful alternative rockers, they will resonate and be considered poetry.

The songs range in topic from sex and drugs to well, sex and drugs. However, fans will applaud the artistry of it all.

The album's first single "Air Traffic Controller," in all honesty is a moderate blend of the band's eccentricities and musicianship,

and almost is sing-along-able. However, the band's song, "Guilt by Association," goes over the edge of normal, opening with what sounds like a swarm of angry bees.

Yet the strangeness of the album almost is addicting, as listeners will replay the album over and over again, trying to decide whether they like it.

"Slick Dogs and Ponies" isn't Louis XIV's first album to confound listeners, however. In 2003, the band released its self titled album, and in 2005, the band released "The Best Little Secrets are Kept."

These albums weren't too far from the band's recent release

and caused controversy with their sexually charged lyrics. In fact, they were banned from playing a show in Alabama after the release of "The Best Little Secrets are Kept," due to the racy lyrical content.

However, this didn't stop Louis XIV, and the band has continued down its path to reshaping the rock scene.

Although, the band won't be serenading Alabama, they still are rocking venues across the United States, and most recently The Showbox in Seattle.

And with the diversity present Downtown, Louis XIV will have no trouble causing chaos among fans and concern among parents.



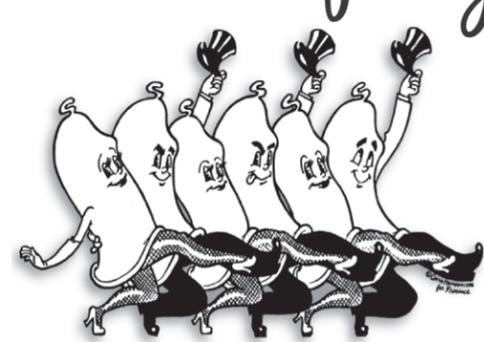
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Bad date blunders

Students weigh in on the do's and don'ts of dating

by Amy Lipko

First dates used to consist of going to the sock hop and sharing an ice cream soda. Good manners were displayed by the gentlemen pulling out a lady's chair or holding the door for her, and ladies were expected to keep their ankles crossed and their opinions to themselves. But in today's world, things have changed, and the lines of good etiquette have been blurred beyond recognition. In the season of dating, students wanted to share what they consider absolute do's and don'ts of a good date.

Ladies

As antiquated as it may seem, men still want a classy broad. As hot as we all thought Britney was at one time, let's face it, she doesn't exactly exhibit lady-like qualities. Think Jessica Alba when prepping for the all important first date.

1. No bodily gasses, please. Most guys interviewed shared this as their No. 1 – no farting or burping. It's never hot - ever.
2. Do not talk about an Ex. This is just disturbing, and it takes away from the guy you're with. Give him a chance and leave your Ex in the past.
3. Eat more than just a salad. Fellas like a girl with a healthy appetite. He asked you out for a reason. He thinks you're cute just the way you are. Don't try to be an herbivore to be cute. Dig into those onion rings with pride.
4. Don't show too much skin, but still show a little effort. Sure you work out; sure you're sporting a nice tan, but the whole world doesn't need to know the color of your skivvies. It's okay to keep 'em guessing.
5. Know how to have an intelligent conversation. Yes, crazy pop stars are everywhere, but there's more going on in the world. Keep up to date with current affairs, and when he asks you about Obama, he's not talking about an entrée.

Gentlemen

Girls all still swoon for the old fashioned ideals. Pulling out a chair or holding a door will go a long way, but it won't cover up for the following list. Heed the list, and remember deep down girls all like to be cherished, even if it's only for one night.

1. Spit is a major no-no. It might be considered quite a feat among your friends to be able to hock a loogie two feet, but on a date, it's not cool.
2. Don't watch the TV at the restaurant. You asked her out for a reason – shouldn't you try and chat with her instead of being absorbed in the boob tube? She might actually have something interesting to say.
3. Have good table manners. Remember all that Mom taught you? Now would be a good time to use it. Don't talk with your mouth full, napkin on your lap, don't make spit balls with your straw wrapper, etc. etc.
4. Dress appropriately. You know she went to a little extra effort for you; show her the same consideration. Sweats are never an acceptable garment outside the house – no matter how much they cost or whose name brand is on them.
5. If you ask her out, you pay. Yes, it's old-school, but come on, are you really surprised? The rules haven't changed for 100 years. If you want to go Dutch, bring it up when you ask her out. Otherwise – it's all you, baby.

*Photo Illustration
by Sara Olson*