

New student center in the works

Students will vote on whether to increase fees in order to fund a new student center.

Cameron Neblett
Staff Reporter

The Associated Students of Green River Community College (ASGRCC) is currently considering a proposal to build a new Student Center and they will be putting approval of their plans on the ballot for students to vote on later this quarter.

While ordinarily this would seem like a simple process for school administration to conduct and the ASGRCC to rubber-stamp, this is an issue that will affect students – in the wallet – for the next 25 years and impacts everyone who returns to campus any time after this quarter.

Because of legal regulations imposed by the state government separating public funding of school improvements for student services and student life, the state will fund construction of several new buildings for classrooms and staff support, but won't pay anything for construction of a student center.

This means that in order to replace the deteriorating, out-of-date Lindbloom Student Center, the school will have to fund the project itself. That means a new fee for all students, which if ap-

proved, will take effect this summer and continue until 2033.

The proposed fee will be \$20 per quarter next year, and an additional \$5 each year until the 2012-2013 school year, where it caps off at \$45 per quarter and stays that way through 2033.

The money put in between now and 2013 is projected to total \$2.8 million, and along with a \$1 million payment from the Paper Tree Bookstore and \$1 million from the 522 budget (that you already pay fees for) will make the down payment for the complete \$15.9 million loan which GRCC will have to take out from the state. The remaining 20 years of payments will contribute to paying off the loan.

The new student center is part of a larger construction plan that will remake the layout of the campus. The new center will be located where the BI, HS, SS, and TI buildings currently stand. The classrooms and other facilities currently housed there will be transferred to other buildings that are already planned for and funded by the state.

The student center will provide a new face to the school as visible from 320th St., and unify the image of the campus. With-

out it, the LSC will have to be renovated and the costs to maintain and upgrade the building are likely to exceed the costs of a new facility.

There are a series of meetings on campus to discuss and help inform students about the plans. The first two have already passed, but on Apr. 30 and May 1 there will be two more meetings in the Olympus Room of the LSC from noon to 1pm.

At the May 1 meeting, the architects in charge of design from Schreiber Starling & Lane Architects will be available to help discuss the plans and answer any technical questions students may have. This is a great opportunity to get involved and help improve the face of Green River for the future.

More information can be found by contacting Chelsea Fletcher, ASGRCC Chief Justice at extension 2410, cfletcher@greenriver.edu, or by visiting Student Programs on the second floor of the LSC. Campus layout plans can be found online at http://www.greenriver.edu/MasterPlan/site_plans.htm.

Students can vote on the proposal for a new student center May 7-May 9.



Ryan Gaudinier/THE CURRENT

A sign in the student center encouraging a 'yes' vote on the new student center.



Illustration courtesy of Chelsea Fletcher

A over the top look at what the new student center would look like. One can see the larger size and improved facilities.



Illustration courtesy of Chelsea Fletcher

A closer look at the proposed front of the building and commons surrounding it.

The aftermath of Virginia Tech; what needs to be done about gun control
page 3

A look at how to prevent domestic abuse
page 6



Uncensored Comedy Night a big hit
page 14

Spring sport teams get off to fast start
page 15-16

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Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

I was both surprised and pleased to see an article about National TRIO Day in March 9th issue of The Current. It is great that the newspaper reporters are covering events so the larger campus community will be informed. However I am concerned that readers may get the wrong impression about the services provided by the TRIO program and the requirements students must meet to be a participant. Only students who are United States citizens or who are eligible to apply for federal financial aid,

AND who have academic need AND who are low-income, first generation to college, or have a disability may apply to Green River's TRIO project. Thus, not every student can be served by TRIO, only students who meet certain eligibility requirements as outlined by the federal government. On top of that, we are held to serving a maximum of 200 students per year.

In addition, there is a definite distinction between being a student from a disadvantaged background and being a "disadvantaged student" (as the article seemed to set forth). TRIO stu-

dents are highly capable students who benefit from the additional services we provide. While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRIO programs are designed specifically to motivate and support students to overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education.

The TRIO Student Support Services project has been at Green River Community College since 1993. We provide intensive academic advising, academic and support workshops for participants, financial aid and schol-

arship application assistance, individual peer tutoring, and visits for our transfer participants to 4-year colleges and universities. Because we are a small program (with three full-time and one part-time staff) and can serve a limited number of participants a year, we can maintain a "family" atmosphere; thus, our "engagement" with individual students is a large positive factor in helping them persist with their studies.

- **Joanne Martin, Director of TRIO Student Support Services**

Dear Editor,

When I saw the illustration attached to the opinion article Political Correctness Goes Too Far in the March 9, 2007 issue, I saw a message of racism and hate. I thought, The Current has gone to far! I took a deep breath and carefully read the article trying to see how the article could possibly justify the use of such an inflammatory drawing.

The author asks if political correctness has gone to far compromising our freedom of speech. The author talks about "holding our tongues" and "choking on words we want to say and replacing them with less offending words." One example he uses that is probably familiar to many of us is replacing the religious greeting Merry Christmas with Happy Holidays. Using this example, I imagined how it would be illustrated and how it would make me feel.

I imagined a picture of religious Christmas symbols and smiling people holding a sign saying Happy Holidays! The onlooker comments, "I guess it all right as long as they don't say Merry Christmas!" This picture makes an obvious connection between the illustration and article. The message I would have gotten is: Christians are politically correct. But some Christians are choking on their words. Christians are giving up their freedom of speech. Christians are practicing their religion with less offense. Politically correct speech doesn't change their underlying mission, which is preaching the Gospel.

I'm a Christian. I know others don't want me pushing my religion down their throats no matter how I say it. But by simply changing my greeting to Happy Holidays, my wish to others becomes inoffensive to most people.

I looked at the printed illustration again. These are not happy smiling people. Hate and danger leap off the page. I see the KKK, which choke me with thoughts of abductions and slavery; lynching and hangings, the long painful fight for Civil Rights and the racism African Americans still face today. But I really want to examine this drawing in the context of the article, so I continue to analyze it. The message I get is: The KKK is politically correct. The KKK is certainly choking on their words. The KKK is giving up their freedom of speech. The KKK is promoting racism but with less offense. Less offense? I don't think so. Politically correct speech does nothing to change their message of hate.

I'm an African American. I know how the KKK feels about African Americans no matter what they call me. So by simply changing my name, is their sentiment any less offensive? No. Their message does not wish me a Happy Holiday. Their message promises me their continued hatred.

Using a politically correct word doesn't always mean the speakers' beliefs or intentions have changed. A polite person might tell me I'm obese rather than call me fatty. A caring sincere person might tell me I'm

obese because they have my interest at heart. A politically correct bully might vehemently call me obese rather than fatty but the underlying viciousness hasn't changed. People are not brain-washed by their word choice. No matter which words we use, we know that the symbolism of the cross has not changed for Christians or the KKK.

I understand that the First Amendment protects The Current from censorship and administrative control. Nonetheless, I believe The Current's editors and advisors have a responsibility to our campus community to consider the readers, their feelings and their attitudes. If the staff at The Current discussed picking between illustrations either promoting racism or repressing religion, they'd find both are problematic. Please explain to me what The Current's advisors and staff considered when evaluating the impact this illustration would have? Did they even talk about it? What was said?

The illustration printed was insulting and demeaning. The illustration viewed alone perpetuates ignorance and racism and has the potential of making my own campus a more dangerous place. The illustration viewed with the article's explanation still leaves too great an opportunity for misinterpretation. I believe the illustration was carelessly chosen. I am deeply concerned about the consequences.

A hate crime, racially offensive language and symbols, were found on a trail sign on our campus during the early part of fall quarter 2006. (See the statement

from the president of GRCC in the Fri., Oct. 13, 2006 issue of The Current.) Reported on our school website, there were 404 African American on campus in the fall, representing 5% of our student population. How can we expect to attract and retain African American students to our campus if they are made to feel unwelcome, unsafe and disenfranchised? Although what happened in the fall is overtly racist, I can tell you as an African American student that regularly more subtle forms of racial discrimination occur on our campus, which hurt just as much.

Racism is alive and well on our campus. Policy is against it, but policy alone won't stop it. Continually, racism is carelessly or blatantly encouraged. Often, racism is ignored or hidden. I really want to see our campus community actively fighting racism. What is required? For starters, racism has to be fought in the open. I would like The Current to help by examining the relationship between racism and press freedom with a reminder that with freedom comes responsibility.

Respectfully submitted,

- **Officers and Members of the Black Student Union,**

Bedelia Hill
Deanina Lugo
Ebony McCray
Abeba Tewolde
Brian Apkan

The Current's response to the letter from the Black Student Union

We agree with much of the content of the letter, but we can't help but feel that some things about the article and comic were misinterpreted, which is our fault as a newspaper, whose job should be to make our opinions and views as clear as possible.

The point of the article, was that political correctness or this idea of political correctness is a joke. Just because people have a nice way of saying things, doesn't make it not hate speech. Or that people shouldn't correct themselves just to be simply less offensive.

The comic, who himself is black, read the article, and drew the comic as a way to both poke at political correctness and rac-

ism itself. The message he was trying to get across was just because racists and other members of society were now using politically correct language, it doesn't make the message any less hateful. Basically, no matter what language the KKK used, whether they referred to people as blacks, African-Americans, negroes, or niggers, that it was still hate speech of the worst sort.

The comic did not promote racism, but in fact did just the opposite. The quote you give "So by simply changing my name, is their sentiment any less offensive?" is the entire point. No, it does not make the sentiment any less offensive. The

opinion of the comic is that is doesn't matter what people call him, black, African-American, negro etc., but what is important is the message and views of people.

In your article you state, "Please explain to me what The Current's advisors and staff considered when evaluating the impact this illustration would have? Did they even talk about it? What was said?"

We will answer that question. The editorial staff did indeed discuss the comic, and felt that the comic was appropriate for publication. The editors all agreed that the comic poked fun at political correctness and racism, and therefore was appropri-

ate for publication with the article it was printed next to. The comic had the backing of every single member of the editorial board. We knew there was worries any time you print the word 'nigger' but felt it was justifiable given the anti-racist view of the political cartoon itself.

On May 7, we will be attending a diversity seminar at 2 p.m. to discuss the situation further. If anyone has any questions or comments we will be addressing them there as well.

- **The Current Editorial Board**

The Current endorsements

Jibril Leigh stands as the top candidate in this year's presidential race

The Current endorses Jibril Leigh for student body president.

For the second year in the row, Leigh is the best choice for student body president. While his competitors would both be competent in the role, Leigh stands out from the competition because of his vision, prior experience and easygoing attitude.

Leigh's agenda is encompassing and unmatched by any other candidate. His major goals for next include improving cooperation between clubs, increasing diversity on campus, increasing awareness of opportunities for students here on campus, and lobbying the state legislature in the interest of students everywhere.

He also has a level that is unmatched by either of the other candidates, an impressive feat given the amount of experience both Snezhana Stadnik and Keri Weinbrecht have. Leigh had little experience with student government last year when he ran for president as a political outsider, this year he has a full year of Senate experience under his belt. He also has experience as this year's president of GRCC's math club, in the American De-

sign Drafting Associate and with the Job Corps.

His life experience helps Leigh stand out as well. He was born and raised in Ghana and understands just how important education is to a society. He has already accomplished much in his life, and we believe he will accomplish much more as the leader of our student body.

Leigh has overwhelming passion and a desire for societal change. He truly wants to better the world around him and says the position is not about a title, but about a dedication to see students prosper. And we believe him. While many politicians and leaders seem disingenuous and selfish, one can feel the sincerity and passion when Leigh speaks. He definitely cares about students and GRCC.

Leigh's outgoing personality will help him connect with the students and faculty members. His easygoing attitude will make the student body comfortable going to him with questions, concerns or problems.

Leigh hopes to renew interest in clubs here. He stated to us that getting students involved in clubs is the best way to make

students more involved on campus and look at Green River as more than just a commuter campus where students take three classes and then immediately leave.

He wants to make GRCC a community rather than just a school, similar to larger colleges and universities. We believe this goal is a worthy one, albeit a difficult one to achieve. While all three candidates stated they would work towards a more involved student body, Leigh is the candidate best qualified to actually see this goal through to fruition. His outgoing personality and jovial attitude make him an unmistakable presence on campus and students already know him and tend to listen when he talks.

Leigh also talks about increasingly diversity on campus. Unfortunately, he did not have much of a set plan in order to accomplish this mission. But, neither did the other two candidates, and in their defense it is a difficult goal to achieve.

The largest, most ambitious and ultimately most important goal of Leigh's is to start a committee or group of GRCC students to join the Washington Student Lobby and petition Washington on behalf

of college students. He himself has testified in front of Congress and believes legislators will be apt to listen to actual students' testimonies rather than lobbyists. He hopes to send a message to Olympia about the rising cost of tuition and the need for more state funded grants and scholarships.

While this goal is overreaching and difficult to accomplish, it is refreshing to hear a candidate have such broad goals. Leigh knows this won't be an easy task, but he is fully ready and determined to put in the hard work that is necessary to accomplish his goals.

Leigh is a trustworthy, amicable and hardworking individual who we believe will make an outstanding president. His goals are broader and more progressive than either of the other candidates. He will actively pursue change for the campus and has the greatest amount of experience of any of the candidates. It is for these reasons we endorse Leigh for ASGRCC President.

- The Current Editorial Board

Megan Borjesson is the best choice for vice president

The Current endorses Megan Borjesson for student body vice president.

Borjesson is the best choice for the role of vice president because of her experience, involvement around campus and ability to make a difference.

Borjesson said she is running for vice president to "Make a difference and to challenge myself and students." And we believe she can do just that.

What we are most impressed with is her desire to talk to the average student. She has made it her goal to talk to at least ten people everyday if she is elected to the vice presidency. She said she understands that the vice president position doesn't have the power to accomplish many of the bigger goals, and we agree, but she will strive to make one little positive difference everyday.

Her experience will help in the many roles she will play at GRCC if elected. She is currently student program's out-

door experience coordinator and already has the experience necessary in student government to know how to run the office.

Our only worry about Borjesson is that she is running on a combined platform with Kiri Weinbrecht, a presidential hopeful. This tactic is somewhat shady and allows for the two candidates to essentially combine their funds and promote each other by simple name association. This process takes away from the integrity of voting by making the vote less about issues and more about simple name recognition.

This is the second year in the row that candidates have used as Amanda Brown and Ca\$h Chen ran on a combined ticket last year. They both ended up winning (Chen ran unopposed.) Hopefully, the ASGRCC judiciary will see through these tactics and ban the ability to run on a combined ticket next year.

Even with this one worry, Borjesson is still the more worthy of the two candidates because of her experience and ability to change the campus around her.

Borjesson's opponent Margarita Atansova has no experience and admits to never having been involved in any sort of government of anything else on campus. And while we admire a true outsider's determination to run for this position, she simply does not have the experience or background necessary to be vice president.

Atansova even seemed doubtful in her own abilities admitting, "I don't know if I can improve upon what Ca\$h is doing." And while her honesty is refreshing we need a candidate who is confident, headstrong and is willing to put all of his or her efforts into the position.

Borjesson is just the person for the job. She believes her 'contagious personality' will help her connect to the average

student and get students to actually care about what is going on around campus. She told us, "People think Senate is a joke and they don't do anything, and I want to change that perception."

And she's right, unfortunately there are many students who either don't care what Senate does or believe they simply don't matter, which is not the case. Borjesson is the candidate best equipped to change that perception as she is outgoing, cordial, and willing to get out there among the people.

It is for these reasons, that we endorse Megan Borjesson for ASGRCC Vice President.

- The Current Editorial Board

Gun control needs to be smart and safe

Jeff Price
Opinions Editor

In light of the horrific events at Virginia Tech, gun control has been a hot topic this past week. Nationwide, people are questioning America's gun laws and what we need to do to make our country safer. Should we ban

handguns all together? Should we increase safety and awareness?

Gun control laws are in obvious need of reform. In countries such as France and Canada, about 20% of households own firearms. Yet, the rate of firearm related homicides were very low. Compared to the United State's 29,000 firearm related deaths a

year, France on average has 376 deaths a year. The difference between the US and France? France's gun laws are far stricter than America's. The problem lies in the second amendment itself.

The amendment states that "a well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the People to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." Each state makes its own gun laws. This causes scenarios where California has very strict guns laws, while Texas is very lenient. As a whole, our nation is fairly lenient when it comes to gun control. In most states, you need to at least pass a background check and juveniles can not own handguns.

Proponents of stricter gun control laws say that we need more laws to regulate handguns. Washington D.C. has the strictest gun laws in the nation, yet they have the highest rate of firearm related

deaths at 31.2 deaths per 100,000 people. On the other side of that is Massachusetts which has strict laws but rank 50th in the nation in gun related deaths with 3.1 deaths per 100,000 people. What is the problem then?

One suggestion that gets overlooked is demographics. The socioeconomic divide in Washington is a breeding ground for gangs. Gang violence is predominantly gun related which shows us the high level of fatalities involving firearms. Massachusetts on the other hand, has less of a socioeconomic divide, and gang violence is far less common. This same correlation also helps explain the difference in the gun deaths in the US and France, Germany and Canada.

So what should we do? We've already seen that strict gun laws either work or don't work. It comes down to being smarter with our laws. Simple background checks don't always

work as we saw with Monday's tragedy. Seung-hui Cho legally purchased his weapons. Only 14 states require a license to purchase a handgun. As a whole, it's harder to get your driver's license than it is to purchase a tool made for killing. Seem a little strange?

With access to guns through the black market and gun shows, guns are far too easy to obtain. Since this is the case, we should focus on safety and education. We should require that all purchases of a gun must include a trigger lock. Since safety for our kids is such an important issue in today's society, how about teaching gun safety in school? Show the kids what guns are and what they can do. Education will increase awareness and allow kids to understand what it means to have a gun, and hopefully decrease the amount of gun violence in the future.

EDITORIAL AND LETTERS 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 student publications to students, and therefore assumes no responsibility for the content of the publications. The College acknowledges the dual 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 the student body.

We encourage all students and staff to have their voices heard. The Current will publish Letters to the Editor provided they are signed and submitted in a timely manner. Letters should be e-mailed to thecurrent@greenriver.edu. We will not publish letters which demean any person because of race, gender, class or sexual orientation. We reserve the right to edit letters for conventions and taste.



Security Watch

Drug Law Violation

March 15

Two students and one non-student admitted to smoking marijuana in their car. They handed over a small bag of the drug to security and allowed them to search their car which led to security finding drug paraphernalia and aerosol guns.

Liquor Law Violation

March 19

A student met with security reeking of alcohol. When asked if he had been drinking he admitted to having one beer the night before. Suspect gave security the right to search his car, where they found three handguns, ammunition and fireworks.

Liquor Law Violation

March 29

A man called security five times but was too intoxicated to be understood. Eventually a security guard observed that he wanted into SMT-131. When asked if he was drinking, the man admitted to having one beer and insisted he was ok to drive. Got into his vehicle and drove away. Security reported the DUI to police.

Personal Property Theft

March 31

A resident of the Campus Corner Apartments reported that someone had picked the lock to his apartment and stolen a Toshiba laptop, a car stereo, DVDs and a playstation. Victim believes thieves to be friends of people he previously had over.

Personal Property Theft

April 4

A black and silver laptop was reported stolen from the second floor on the Lindbloom Student Center. The victim set the laptop in his backpack, went to the restroom, and when he returned the laptop had been taken.

Liquor Law Violation

April 7

A security guard tried to end a loud, drunken party at the Campus Corner Apartments, but one resident refused to cooperate. He was standing outside smoking and drinking a beer in plain sight and poked a security guard in the chest. The police were called, but the suspect disappeared. The suspect later apologized to security.

Upcoming Events

Gator Experience

April 23
Main Campus, Lindbloom Student Center
Learn about campus programs, College Transfer Fair, and Clubs Fair

Keepin' It Green Week

April 23- April 27
12 pm - 1 pm
GRCC's annual environmental awareness campaign All week long in the LSC and/or Kennelley Commons (weather permitting) Contact members of the Student Government for more details at x2410

Quarterly Blood Drive

April 25
10 am - 4 pm
Donate blood to save lives. You must be at least 18 years old (16 & 17 year olds can donate with signed permission slip) and weigh at least 110 pounds. LSC Glacier Rm

Washingotn Wellness Series #1: Trails for Snails and Other Wild Beasts

April 26
12 pm - 1 pm
Come to PE 7 & walk to your health. All fitness levels are welcome. Presenter: Anita Behrbaum

New Student Center Forum

May 1
12 pm - 1 pm
Info about student fees, size & why the current Lindbloom Student Center needs to be replaced. St. Helens Room

GRCC Health & Wellness Fair- Improving Health & Our World

May 2
9 am - 1 pm
Learn more about your health & how you can contribute to better the environment. LSC, Main Dining Room

One World Taiko

May 4
12 pm - 1 pm
Come and listen to traditional Japanese drumming sounds! FREE! in the Kennelley Commons (weather permitting) or Lindbloom Student Center Main Dining Area (if raining)

Volunteer For The Family Fiesta

May 4
4 pm - 8 pm
Les Gove Park in Auburn. All volunteers will receive a t-shirt. Sign up in Student Programs. This event is free!

Student Government Elections

May 7- May 9
Vote for your '07-'08 Student Body President & Vice President!

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Attend an upcoming information session!
April 2, 5:30 pm
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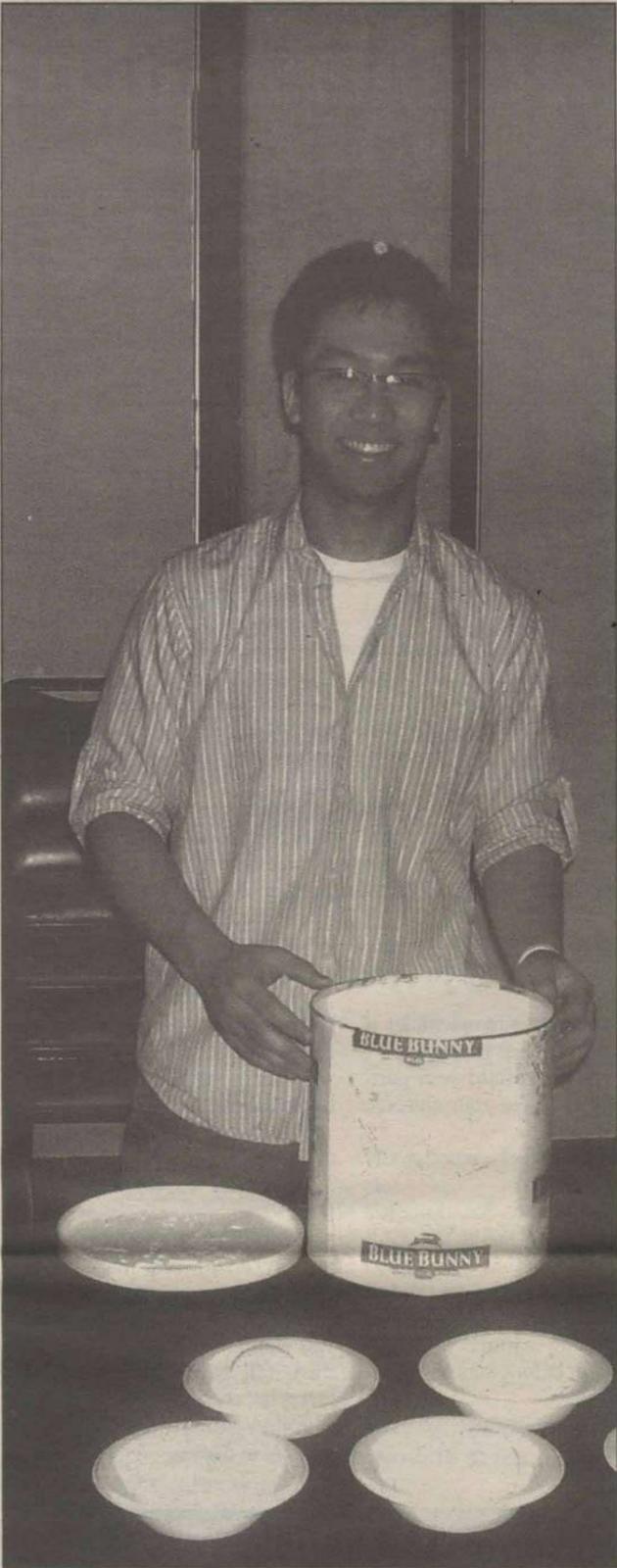
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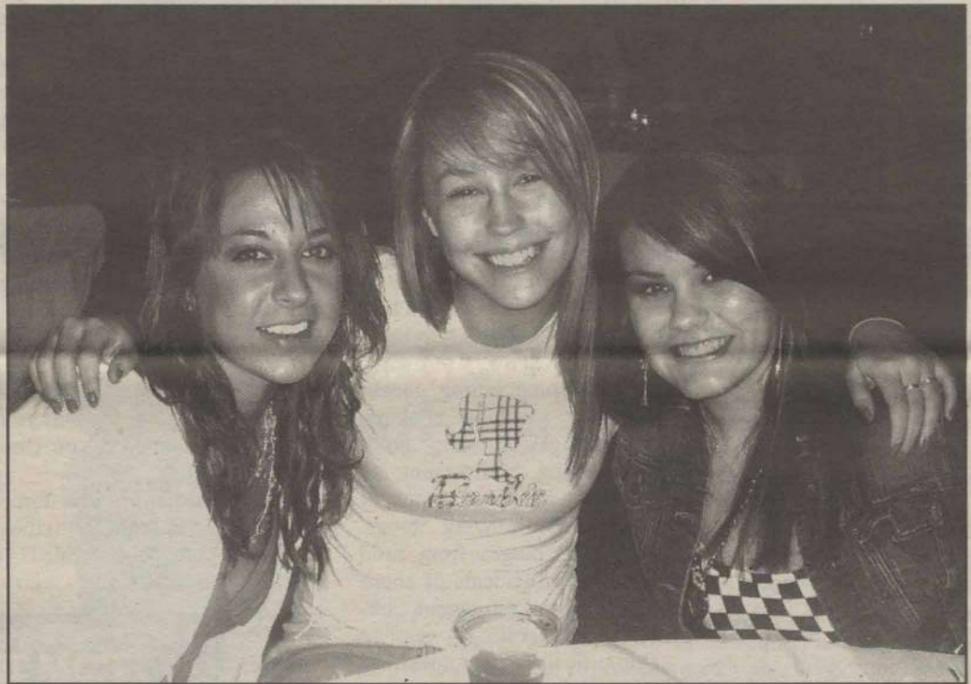


Ice cream was just one of the many cool things about uncensored comedy, a night no one should have missed.

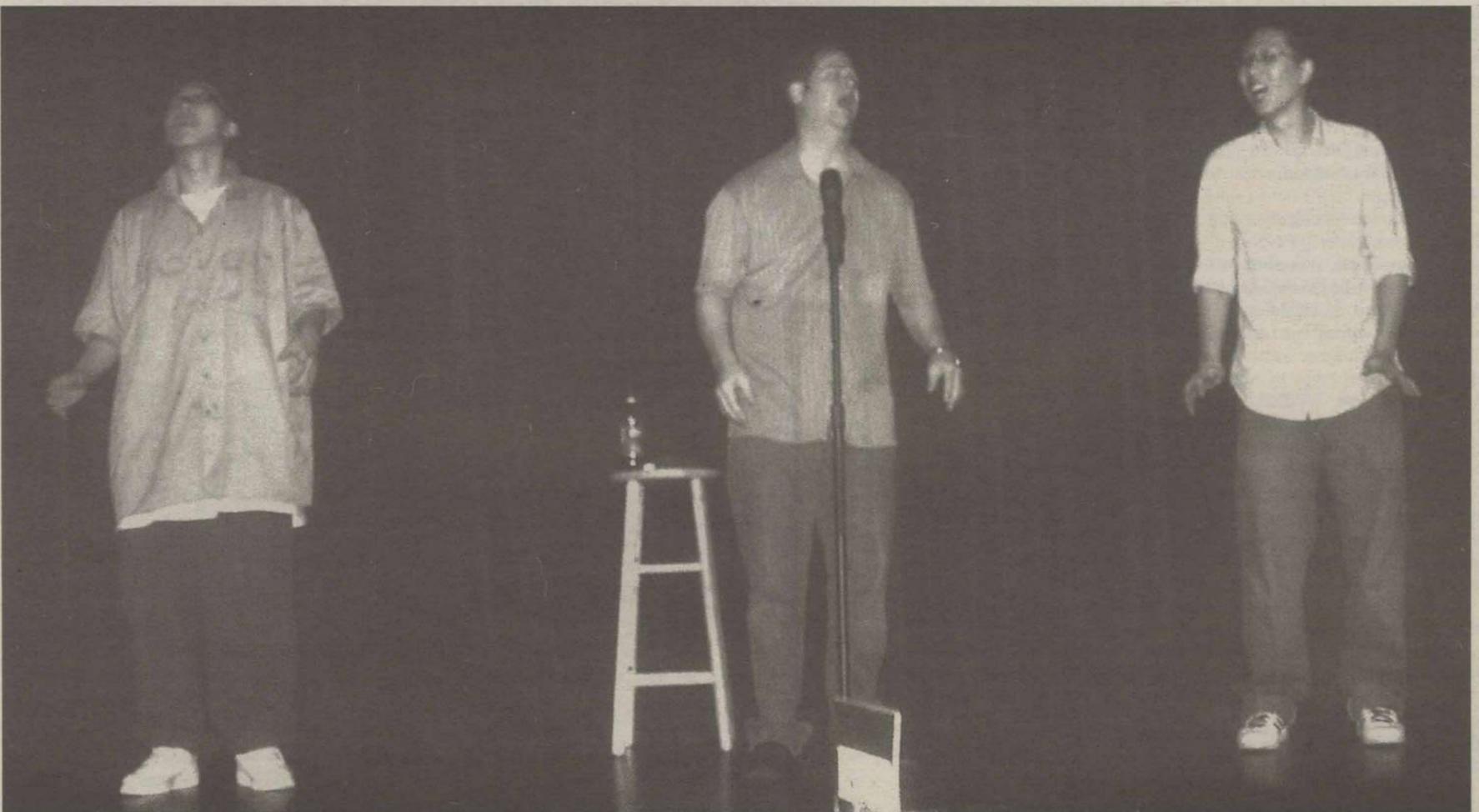


A group of students (including vice president hopeful Megan Borjesson) enjoy comedy night.

All photos taken by Jeff Price and Amber Hanson



More students just having fun at GRCC.



Comedian Buzz Sutherland teaching Student Body President Ca\$h Chen and CCA Resident Advisor Khoi Pham how to dance.

Recent, local tragedies renew awareness of the warning signs of domestic abuse and violence

Taylor Gillan
News Editor

University of Washington researcher Rebecca Griego, 26, was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend, Jonathan Rowan Monday April 2. Rowan then killed himself with a shot to the head. Officers responded to the shootings at 9:30 that morning, and found both bodies in an office in Gould Hall, the UW's architecture building, on the fourth floor.

According to Ray Wittmeir, the University Assistant Police Chief, there were six shots fired, and officers who responded found a handgun in the office. No one saw the murder/suicide first hand, and no one else was harmed.

The Architecture building was closed for the remainder of the day. Classes were held elsewhere.

Rebecca Griego had filed for a temporary restraining order against her ex-boyfriend on March 6, requiring him to stay 500 feet from Griego and her work, home and dog. Griego had reported to the court that Rowan had threatened her and her sister, threatened her dog, and on Jan. 5 had drunkenly tackled and punched Griego while the two had been living together.

After Rowan's drunken attack on Griego, she wrote, which was posted on cnn.com, "I forgave him because he was drunk but now I see that was wrong and he has threatened to hurt me again."

In February Rowan had called Griego and threatened suicide. He called Griego and threatened her life at least twice at her place of work.

Plans for a memorial service are being made, and information about the service will be posted on www.caup.washington.edu. The school of architecture is creating an endowed scholarship in memory of Griego. Donations can be sent to Development Office, College of Architecture and Urban Planning Box 355726 University of Washington, Seattle WA 98195.

In a similar incident, Clara Riddles, a bartender at CNN Center's Omni Hotel, was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend, Arthur Mann on April 3. Riddles, 22, was seen by witnesses at around 1:30 pm being dragged by her hair through the hotel lobby by Mann. Mann then shot Riddles three times in her shoulder, torso and head. Riddles died after arriving to Grady Memorial Hospital.

After shooting Riddles, Mann was shot in the face by hotel security officer. He went through surgery and was reported in stable condition.

Riddles' friend, Nicki Gaut, said Riddles had told her Mann was abusing her for the year prior.

Funeral services for Riddles were held April 14th. Over 200 family and friends were in attendance.

Mann, 39, has served a total of eight years for an armed robbery and 3rd degree murder conviction

in Florida November 11, 1991. He is also a registered sex offender, convicted of having sex with a 17 yr. old girl. The charges occurred when reports of domestic violence were filed against Mann, allegedly punching the 17 yr. old girl in the face when she wouldn't allow Mann to take their child to the park.

Gaut said that Riddles was unaware of these charges.

Both of these unfortunate murders were instances of domestic abuse. Domestic abuse affects the health of 32 million Americans, approximately 10% of the population as stated by the Center For Disease Control.

According to www.nlm.nih.gov, domestic abuse is the most common cause of injury to women ages 15 to 44. The American Psychiatric Association reports 5.3 million victimizations of women 18 years and older in the U.S. each year. 22% of women will be physically assaulted by a partner or a date in their lifetime; 15.4% of gay men, 11.4% of lesbian women and 7.7% of heterosexual men will suffer the same in their lifetime.

Domestic abuse is illegal in all states and includes, but is not limited to, according to www.helpguide.org; pushing, throwing, tripping, slapping, hitting, punching, kicking, grabbing, choking, shaking, pinching, biting, holding, restraining, confinement, assault with a weapon, burning or freezing, and throwing things. The severity ranges from mild to homicide. Incidents of abuse may be few and infrequent, constant and long term.

Domestic abuse is not restricted to physical violence alone. Types of domestic abuse include sexual abuse, emotional abuse, psychological abuse, financial and economic abuse, spiritual abuse and stalking.

Domestic abuse knows no color or race, age or gender, sexual orientation, economic status, culture or region of the world. It can happen to anyone.

Aside from the physical marks, victims of domestic abuse often suffer from depression, anxiety, panic attacks, substance abuse, post traumatic stress disorder, suicide attempts, psychotic episodes, low self esteem, lack of trust in others, feelings of abandonment, sensitivity to rejection, chronic health problems, sleeping problems, inability to work, poor relationships and substance abuse.

Children witness to abuse may suffer from developmental problems, school difficulties, aggressive behavior and low self esteem. They are also more likely than other children to commit sexual assault and to become abusers themselves.

Often, a relationship does not start out as abusive. The abuser will often be friendly or apologetic at the same time or alternating with the abuse. It can be easy to fall into an abusive relationship, so its important to know the warning signs for yourself and for others.

It is important to remember that the victim does not cause and is not responsible for the abuse. The only person responsible is the abuser.

The American Psychiatric Association lists these early warning signs of abuse:

- Quick 'whirlwind romance'
- Partner wanting to be with you all the time; tracking what you are doing and who you are with
- Jealousy at any perceived attention to or from others
- Attempts to isolate you in the guise of loving behavior (You don't need to go to work or school; we only need each other)
- Criticizing family or friends for not caring about you
- Hypersensitivity to perceived slights
- Quick to blame others for the abuse
- Pressures you into doing things you aren't comfortable with (if you really love me, you'll do this)

The American Psychiatric Association also lists these questions you should ask yourself. If you answer yes to one or more of these questions, it's possible you are suffering from abuse.

- Are you ever afraid of your partner?
- Has your partner ever actually hurt or threatened to hurt you physically or someone you care about?
- Does your partner ever force you to engage in sexual activities that make you uncomfortable?
- Do you constantly worry

about your partner's moods and change your behavior to deal with them?

- Does your partner constantly accuse you of having affairs?
- Have you stopped seeing your family or friends to avoid your partner's jealousy or anger?
- Does your partner control your finances?
- Does he/she threaten to commit suicide if you leave them?
- Does your partner claim their temper is out of control due to alcohol, drugs, or because of childhood abuse?

Additional questions to ask yourself found on www.helpguide.org:

- Do you avoid certain topics out of fear of angering your partner?
- Do you feel you can't do anything right for your partner?
- Do you ever think you deserve to be physically hurt or mistreated?
- Do you sometimes wonder if you are the one that is crazy?
- Do you feel afraid your partner will try to take your children away?
- Do you feel emotionally numb or helpless?
- Do you think that domestic violence feels normal to you?
- Has your partner ever forced you to have sex when you didn't want to?
- Has your partner ever destroyed your belongings or household objects?
- Does your partner verbally abuse you?

•Does your partner humiliate or criticize you in front of others?

- Does your partner often ignore you or put down your opinions or contributions?
- Do they blame you for their violent behavior?
- Does your partner objectify and disrespect those of your gender?
- Does your partner see you as property or a sex object, rather than as a person?

Signs of abuse can show at work or school. Things to watch out for in classmates or co-workers as listed on www.helpguide.org

- Bruises and other signs of impact on the skin, with the excuse of "accidents."
 - Depression, crying.
 - Frequent and sudden absences.
 - Frequent lateness.
 - Frequent, harassing phone calls to the person while they are at work.
 - Fear of the partner, references to the partner's anger.
 - Decreased productivity and attentiveness.
 - Isolation from friends and family.
 - Insufficient resources to live (money, credit cards, car).
- If you or someone you know is suffering from domestic abuse you should talk to someone you trust, tell a physician nurse or therapist, or call the police if there is a physical threat or if you fear you are in danger.

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IN THEATRES APRIL 27

Compulsive cellphone communication becomes a hassle for unwilling audiences

Tess Pinkney
Staff Reporter

According to CBS more than half of all Americans own a cell phone, and even more will own one in the near future. In this growing era of cell phone users, many have forgotten basic etiquette in their daily use.

From the landline days, people have been taught that it is impolite to interrupt someone on the telephone, yet now cell phone users are interrupting everyday life. A few points on where, when, how and how not to use one's cell phone are now more vital than ever for users.

When on a bus, it is rude to

chat about your entire day's life to a captive audience. Most people do not have any interest in how your cat Fluffy is doing. This even goes for carpools with friends, as most people would rather talk to you than of listen to you chatter to someone else.

The public restroom is filled with bacteria, and by answering the phone one is asking for a disease. The captive audience in the next stall has nowhere to go. Furthermore the person on the other end will wonder why they keep hearing flushing toilets.

At a restaurant it is assumed that you are with someone you enjoy being with. Answering the phone at the table is a clear sign

to your tablemate that they simply are not important. If the call is urgent enough that you absolutely must answer, excuse yourself politely and either move outside or to an isolated part of the building.

Grocery and retail clerks have no choice but to serve you, but when making a purchase please have the courtesy to either hang up, or not answer the phone at all.

Going to church is a time for most people to get away from the material world, and tune into the spiritual. A cell phone ringing in the middle of the congregation will earn more than a few glares. At church the only person that

ever needs answering is one's god, and it's doubtful that a spiritual entity would call you on the phone.

Here at Green River there are plenty of areas to make discreet phone calls, classrooms are not the place. It may seem obvious, but it does happen, especially if the instructor is not in the room. There are plenty of breaks throughout the day, waiting a few minutes won't kill anyone.

The cell phone is not only a portable phone it is also a portable answering machine. However listening to someone's "Hello? Hello? Hey, you're breaking up; I can't hear you, hello? Hello? Just kidding! Leave a message after

the beep!" every time just to leave a message is a horrid experience. Be professional, your voicemail is accessed by more than just your friends, and it's doubtful an employer would find such a prank amusing.

Finally, just try and use discretion when deciding whether or not to answer the phone. If you are talking to someone in person, only you can give the person calling you the right to interrupt your conversation.

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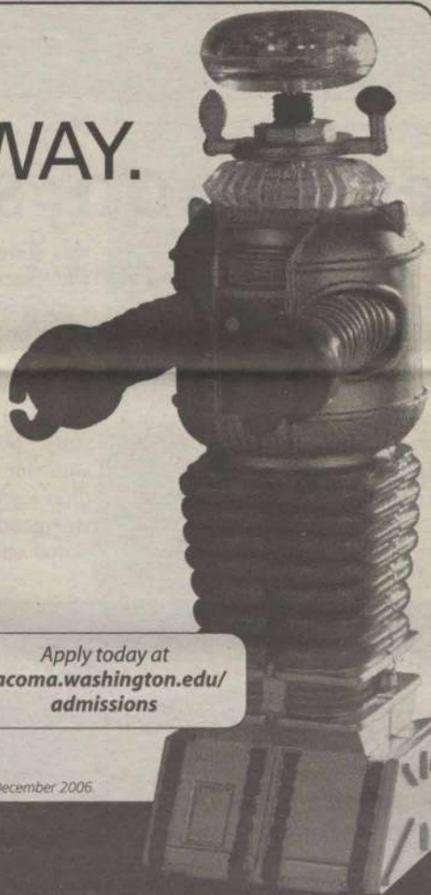
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CLEO seeks new members interested in fun, friendship and adventure

Janae Fueston
Staff Reporter

Are you tired of your routine lives? Going to school, taking the same classes, and doing the same activities? Well now's your chance to get out and experience great opportunities that come once in a lifetime. If you are the type who gets involved and enjoys planning fun activities and being a leader, you can become a member of C.L.E.O. and help plan these fun activities.

C.L.E.O. stands for Community Leadership Education Outreach. It consists of student leaders who gather on campus at Green River. It allows students to get involved and meet new people. If you want to be a part of the program and plan events there are many benefits to it. Not only would you be having fun, C.L.E.O. gives you experience for job situations and for everyday life.

Each position comes with a lot of responsibility and has many different aspects that relate to business management. As well as getting experience for the future, students become paid employees. Positions are held each year and require a commitment for all three quarters.

"It's a great way to get involved with the students and community and at the same time have fun," said Megan Borjesson, outdoor program coordinator here at GRCC. Her job basically consists of devising fun activities. Once she figures them out she organizes the projects, making sure everything follows through and, most importantly, everyone has fun.

The Outdoor Program has activities for everyone. Students get to explore the opportunities the Pacific Northwest has to offer through the wide variety of activities. Activities that are provided to the community, as well as Green River students, include skiing and snow boarding trips, whale watching, whitewater rafting, hiking, camping, cycling the San Juan Islands, and much more.

On June 2nd and 3rd, the program will be going whitewater rafting and camping at the Wenatchee River. The cost is \$50 for students and \$60 for non-students. On June 16th, they'll be going on a sea-kayaking and whale watching day trip, which will cost \$35 for students and \$50 for non-students. On May 19th, Borjesson will be going to the opening game for the Seattle Storm. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$20 for non-students. The charter bus for the game will meet at the bus circle at 5:30.

Have you ever found yourself complaining about your schedule or that you never do anything fun? Well now you know of the many opportunities to get involved and have fun. Maybe you can become the next outdoor program coordinator like Megan Borjesson. Whatever choice it is, there is an option for everyone.



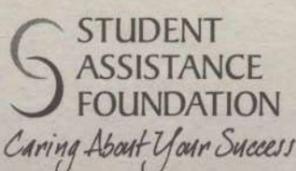
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Angry squirrels ruin parking; students upset

Cameron Neblett
Staff Reporter

Two of the greatest complaints students make about lie on campus are the prevalence of squirrels, and the low availability of parking. To the shock of many, the two have been found to be intimately related, and the school administration is beginning to take action.

The Current was able to contact a translator who agreed to help us communicate with the squirrels. With the help of the translator, we were able to get in touch with a squirrel who referred to himself only as "Mr.X" and claimed to be leading the rebellion against students.

"We've been terrorized by students for too long. They constantly wander around and disturb our foraging, and their big plodding feet are dangerous and hard to avoid. The students need to leave the campus," claimed Mr.X.

Campus security expert John the Security Guy disputes Mr.X's claims. "Students are perfectly

safe and benign to the squirrels. Any students who terrorize squirrels will be punished and the squirrels are aware of this. Their claims of hazardous behavior are completely outrageous."

When pressed further about the issues of squirrels conspiring against parking, John the Security Guy became mum. "Look, we've heard the allegations that squirrels are undermining parking and we're looking into it. I have nothing further to say about it."

Mr.X was not so quiet about the situation. "Oh yeah, we're behind it. We've got to hit the students where it hurts- in the parking." Mr.X referred me to his compatriot, a mild mannered squirrel with a gleam in his eye, Chip N. Nutlover, who he claimed was behind the whole scheme.

"Well, I got a driver's license, so I go out each morning and drive a bunch of cars into all the good parking spots," claimed Nutlover. "We have a huge parking lot out in the forest here and we ignore those signs about no motor vehicles. Sometimes you

have to break the rules to make a change for the better.

When asked about his goals, Nutlover was less radical than Mr.X. "I know some of us want the students gone completely, but I'm a little more realistic. We need the students to put food in the garbage cans for us. They don't have

to go completely, just get them to go away periodically. They're just constantly around."

Campus officials have denied rumors of planned hourly campus shutdowns and claim to be seeking other compromises. Time may be running out for students though, according to Nutlover: "I

have a buddy who just got a job at an auto wholesaler. I'm going to be getting a lot more cars soon, and I'll be taking up even more parking spots soon."

If you have any questions please read the title of page. This is satire, no it's not true.



Photo courtesy of Sugar Bush Squirrel

The only known picture of the rebellious and secretive squirrel known only as Mr.X. He is the mastermind behind all the squirrel rebellion here on campus.

Student eats cafeteria food; survives

Cameron Neblett
Staff Reporter

Today a student went to the Gator Grille and ordered a breakfast of pancakes and eggs. After paying for the meal, the student went to a table in the dining area of the Lindbloom Student Center and began to eat. The student read from a textbook as assigned for one of his classes, and finished

the meal. Looking at the clock, the student got up and headed off to class. As he stepped outside the building, he realized the life-threatening trauma he had been oblivious too, and almost missed completely.

"It was shocking. I just stood there outside the doorway for probably a full minute until somebody asked me if I was okay. It was almost like I stepped out of a

horror film."

The student, who preferred to remain anonymous, had just experienced the bane of all human-kind- and survived. "I had just eaten cafeteria food. And it was actually kind of good." When pressed about the reason for his slip, the student provided a mundane answer. "I was in a rush that morning, so I hurried to campus and didn't get anything to eat. I

was hungry and I walked into what seemed like a convenience store restaurant. It didn't even dawn on me that it was a cafeteria. I just wanted some food."

Students around campus have expressed shock and awe at the story. "So you mean to tell me that someone ate cafeteria food and didn't get sick? They even said it was good? You must be joking!" stated one student. "I don't even

have to drive down the hill to get fast food anymore? I can actually eat here? I just can't believe it!" stated another student.

As the story has spread around campus recently, students have begun to line up around the Gator Grille to see for themselves. For students interested in finding out more, the Gator Grille can be found on the first floor of the Lindbloom Student Center.

horoscopes

- Aries** - Your unordinarily pleasant day will be ruined after you are attacked by wild herpes.
- Taurus** - You will find out how much of a bitch karma is after you laugh at that trapped puppy.
- Gemini** - As you solve life's problems with alcohol, you will soon learn that vodka does not finish your math homework.
- Cancer** - Your steady philosophy on life will prove wrong as you are assaulted by the state chapter of the Jehovah's Witnesses.
- Leo** - An extraterrestrial bunch of misfits will awkwardly punish you for disregarding all of Al Gore's messages.
- Virgo** - Today you will be forced to admit to your mother that yes, you are gay.
- Libra** - You're going to get your ass kicked by a white Rastafarian after you tell him Bob Marley is a false idol.
- Scorpio** - A group of over-the-top lesbians will be grossly offended when you tell them their crew cuts offset their eyebrows.
- Sagittarius** - An awkward turn of phrase will turn you into the second most hated human being on the planet, right above Don Imus.
- Capricorn** - Your mission to legalize gay marriage for transgendered Canadian whales will earn you the top seat of GLAAD.
- Aquarius** - Your abuse of ferrets will only lead to trouble with German nihilists.
- Pisces** - You will be dragged into the underground battle between Aunt Jemima and Mrs. Buttersworth and will be tasked with destroying the sugary goodness of you opponent with the destructive powers of Splenda.

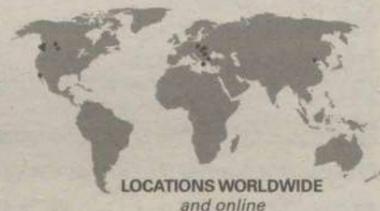
Compiled by Jeff Price

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Acclaimed directors Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino return with an over-the-top and unique double feature show

Grindhouse recreates the entertaining exploitation film era with "Death Proof" and "Planet Terror"



Stuntman Mike, Kurt Russell, lures another victim, played by Rose McGowen, into his signature muscle car in "Death Proof".

Julian Martin
Entertainment Editor

For a movie whose length nearly surpasses the longest of the Lord of the Rings films, I would sit through the 191 minute epic in all its ridiculous glory simply to hear Nicolas Cage as Fu Manchu once more shout to the heavens "THIS IS MY MECCA!"

The above mentioned memorable scene does not even appear in either of the feature films themselves, but rather as a part of one of several fake trailers presented before the second film of the double feature even begins. This is testament to how acclaimed directors Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino attempted to

recreate the unique experience of the 70's films from which the movie's name is derived.

After the initial "normal" previews, trailers advertising fake movies are shown in between each of the actual films. The trailers were created by a number of other famous directors, each adding their own distinctive spin to Rodriguez and Tarantino's attempt to spoof nearly every genre of the Grindhouse exploitation film era. They range from the bizarre and disturbingly enjoyable "Werewolf Women of the SS", made by heavy metal musician and recent director Rob Zombie to the hilarious take on Britsploitation by the director of "Shaun of the Dead" with "Don't".

Rodriguez is up first with the zombie film "Planet Terror." The over-the-top action movie takes place in a small town recently beset by a poisonous gas of apocalyptic proportions. Terror focuses on the small number of people who remain uninfected, lead by the mysterious El Wray, played by Freddy Rodriguez, and their attempt to escape the plague. Comic relief unexpectedly abounds with Rose McGowen's character, Cherry Darling, a former go-go dancer who somehow fights the zombie hordes with her custom made machine gun leg. The film simultaneously identifies itself and pokes fun at its own ridiculousness. Grotesque scenes, combined with an eclectic and interesting cast of characters is exactly what makes "Planet Terror"

the fun film that it is.

The second movie is an abrupt radical change. "Death Proof", a film easily recognizable as one of Tarantino's for his famous trademarked nonlinear storyline, (though not as dispersed as say Pulp Fiction or Kill Bill), close-up shots, and a focus on dialogue, with stylized sequences of violence mixed in between. Kurt Russell plays a deranged stuntman, aptly named Stuntman Mike, who terrorizes young women with his "death proof" car. The film follows Mike's violent encounters with two groups of women.

While normally a fan of Tarantino's work, I was somewhat disappointed with the extremely slow pace of the film, and the character monologue's that feel sub par in comparison to those of

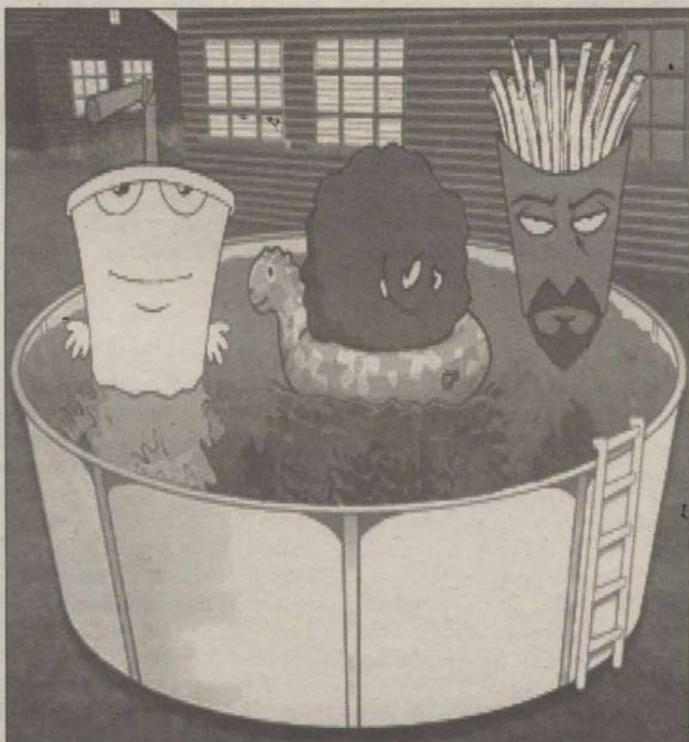
the director's other films. "Death Proof" redeemed itself however with a car chase that easily rivals those in any high-budget action film (ironic considering the films' intended spoof of the mediocre, though memorable, B-movies of the past).

Both directors attempt wholeheartedly to have each part of the show, fake trailers included, recreate the rundown feel of the Grindhouse theater, complete with "missing reel" segments and problematic projections. Tarantino and Rodriguez brilliantly convey what I can only assume made the Grindhouse experience so enjoyable; scenes amazingly entertaining in their simplistic absurdity.



Ex-go go dancer Cherry Darling, played by Rose McGowen, seems to embody the feel of "Planet Terror" by simultaneously destroying

Aqua Teen Hunger Force proves to be number one in the theaters



The aqua teens spend time in their neighbor Carl's Pool.

Ryan Gaudinier
Editor-in-Chief

I was shocked and excited when I heard that the cartoon adventures of Meatwad, Master Shake and Frylock would be making the transition from the television to the movie theater. Aqua Teen Hunger Force (ATHF) is one of the best and most unique shows currently on television and it's brand of unique and random humor is unmatched by any other program on television.

Thankfully, Aqua Teen Hunger Force Colon Movie Film for Theaters does not disappoint. The movie features all the same elements that make the show so incredible. The creators did a great job in transition the television show creating a storyline and feel that stays true to the show's.

The extended length of the movie gives the writers of the show ample time to explain some of the unexplained mysteries surrounding ATHF such as the aqua teen's past and how they came into existence. Frylock's character is looked into especially.

But the story is secondary. More important are the random elements of humor which included an unstoppable workout machine terrorizing the city while playing repetitive dance music and cameos from Neil Peart, Chris Kattan and others.

The movie features all the great characters of the show including Carl, Ignignokt, Err, Emory, Oglethorpe, MC Pee Pants, and the Cybernetic Ghost of Christmas Past.

The music is excellent and only helps to add to the insanity. Most memorable is the opening scene which features a metal band made of food items instructing the audience on good manners at the movies. The song instructs the audience to shut up, do not explain the plot, and to take any crying babies outside and run them over with a truck.

The soundtrack also features a great 'nude' song by Master Shake and a funny techno song which is amusing simply due to its repetitiveness played by the Insane-O-Flex (the immortal workout machine mentioned

earlier) called "I Like You Booty (But I'm Not Gay)."

The animation is similar to the show's. The animators luckily did not use the extra budget to create too many 3d effects or change how the characters looked.

This movie was made for fans of the show and it will not disappoint anyone who can sing along with Schooly D's theme song. But it is not a movie that will turn non-fans around. If one, doesn't like the show, they won't like the movie. If one is unfamiliar with the show, they will probably be confused and bewildered by the random sense of humor in the movie.

While the movie is great, it will never get the audience it's promoters got by placing light-bright displays of the character Err flipping passerbys off. The city of Boston somehow mistook the LCDs for bombs and mass panic ensued.

But, this movie deserves to blow up in theaters causing an explosion the size of Boston.

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Friday
05/04
El Corazon
Reverend Horton Heat
Murder By Death
Redneck Girlfriend
\$20 adv. (Ticketswest)
\$25 door
All ages bar, with ID
6 p.m.
21+ show at 10 p.m.

Friday
04/27
Hell's Kitchen
Jet City Fix
Chinatown
The Jury
\$8 door
All ages bar, with ID
6 p.m.

Friday
05/04
Hell's Kitchen
River City Rebels
Teenage Harlets
Durango 95
The Freakouts
\$7 door
All ages bar, with ID
6 p.m.

**Local band discusses their influences,
a new album, and Winnie-the-Pooh**

*If Bears Were Bees blends an acoustic sound with an unusual
instrument selection to make for a soothing sound*



Timothy Justin Grant, Natalie Murphy, Jeffrey Mead, and Matthew Bainton comprise If Bears Were Bees.

Paige McDaniel
Staff Reporter

"When you discard arrogance, complexity, and few other things that get in the way, sooner or later you will discover the simple, childlike, and mysterious secret known as the 'Uncarved Block': Life is Fun." Taken from the acclaimed *The Tao of Pooh*, these words provide a basis for Enumclaw's If Bears Were Bees.

An acoustic band started by Timothy Grant, If Bears Were Bees comes from the story of Winnie-The-Pooh.

"Winnie the Pooh is REALLY good," claims Grant as he describes the title of the indie rock band.

Grant began If Bears Were Bees when he was still involved with a more rock oriented band, The Dramatics. A side of him loved to rock out and jump around on stage, but a part of him also craved to make more acoustic music. Thus, the idea of If Bears Were Bees became Grant's new focus.

As a second-year GRCC student, Grant was leaning more towards philosophy as a study. But after attending Evergreen for two days, he decided against it and decided that he should just play music. "It's the only thing I care about."

If Bears Were Bees focuses mainly on the personal side of

one's life: the discovery of love, mistakes, simplicity, and a basis for the meaning of life (in their own terms). Though most of Grant's inspiration comes from his girlfriend, he also likes to derive inspiration from artists such as Modest Mouse and Regina

clarinet, and the piano. They refuse to use keyboards as it's just not pretty according to Grant.

When asked about the future of the band, Grant simply answered "I don't care what the future holds for my music, I will write music forever." Though school is im-

"If Bears Were Bees focuses mainly on the personal side of one's life: the discovery of love, mistakes, simplicity, and a basis for the meaning of life (in their own terms)"

Spector. He even gets inspiration from television shows.

"In Claire's Not Real, it's based off of Six Feet Under. By the time you're dead, it feels exactly as it does in the past. Everything happens at once."

Though many of his lyrics reflect bad times and hard learning experiences, Grant always enjoys a good laugh when he is on the road with the band.

"We always play the awkward game before a show. You say the most awkward things about your friends and try to make everyone as uncomfortable as possible. I guess it's our special tradition."

The band has always had a knack for trying different sounds to differentiate themselves from other bands. With the use of an acoustic guitar, a bass, and drums, the band also ties in a trumpet,

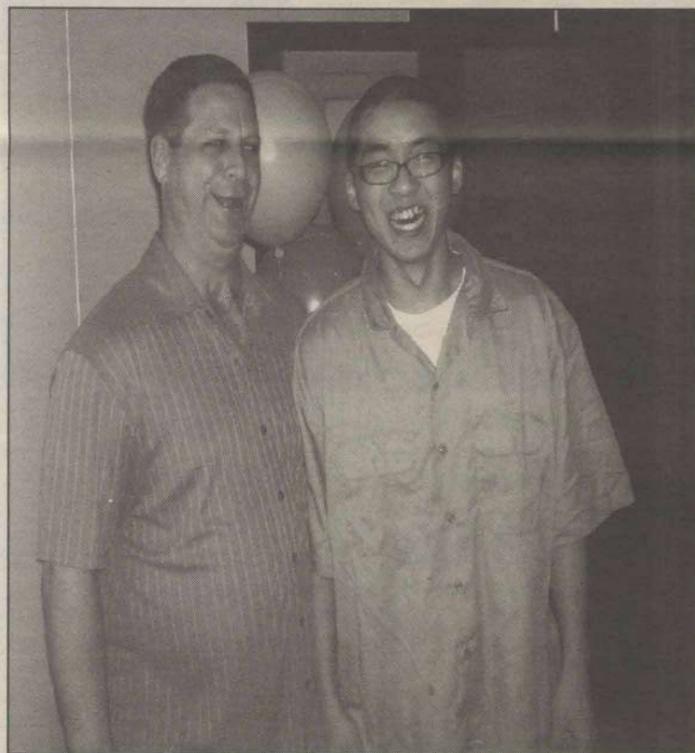
portant to Grant, his band always takes priority.

If Bears Were Bees have released two CD's ("Songs about Songs" and "I'm Not A Poet, I'm A Liar") and have just finished recording their third one "Take Care of Me" which will be out in a couple weeks. The band is psyched about producing more music and having KGRG help to promote the band.

They also have an upcoming show at a middle school in Olympia.

"It's going to be awesome, and hopefully we'll play with a bunch of middle school punk bands. Ha, just kidding."

The band mostly likes to play at small venues, even people's houses as it offers a different perspective than a crowded amphitheater.



Comedian Buzz Sutherland stops to take a picture with ASGRCC Vice-President Ca\$h Chen.

**Green River students enjoy
a hilarious evening with the
Annual Uncensored Comedy**

Jeff Price
Opinions Editor

Julian Martin
Entertainment Editor

On April 13, Green River Community College and Student Programs hosted its Annual Uncensored Comedy Night starring Jessica Kirson and Buzz Sutherland.

Kirson was up first. After introducing herself and cracking a few jokes, she commented relentlessly on the audience members. After getting the audience involved, she compared white

people singing "Happy Birthday" to the way black people sing the song. Several times throughout the performance, she would attempt to engage the audience members and develop new jokes, through both making fun of the people she talked to, and by simply making conversation with those around her.

The highlight of the show was her ability to mimic voices and contort her face to embellish her characters. Overall, her performance was rewarding and successful in its comedic quest. Ending her show on a high note, she provided the audience with

some advice; "Don't do drugs. Eat cake."

Following her was Sutherland. He started off a little slow, discussing some drunken adventures in college, and how they could relate to Green River. Moving on from that, he imitated a range of voices, including Tom Hanks, and the cast of King of the Hill, in which the comedian was able to get the audience's full attention by proceeding to sing an in-character rendition of "Amazing Grace." In the middle of his act he is interrupted by sudden music. He comments on the technical problem as a hint at what's

to come. Ten minutes later, we find out exactly what was in store for the audience with another unexpected musical outburst; "Shut Up" by the Black Eyed Peas starts to play and Sutherland starts singing along to the song, turning his hand into a puppet.

Afterwards, he discussed the virtues of three-foot Pixie Stix. Near the end of his act, he announces he is going to teach the audience how to dance. He then brought to the stage Green River students, Ca\$h Chen and Khoi Pham. The students showed off some fancy dance moves, and Chen freestyled to the delight of

both Sutherland and the audience. To top it off, the audience was given insight into the sex lives of ducks. He also translated the duck sex into Spanish for our Hispanic classmates. Sutherland was outlandishly funny and delightful.

Both comedians have professional experience. Kirson was on "Last Comic Standing" and has appeared on Last Call with Carson Daly and Comedy Central's Premium Blend. Sutherland has been voted the Comedian of the Year by America's Colleges and Universities a record 16 times.

Gator Baseball continues solid season

Greg Washington
Staff Reporter

The GRCC Gators baseball team traveled to Centralia last Tuesday to face the Trailblazers of Centralia College in a must win divisional showdown. The Gators got out to a slow start in the top of the 1st. Joash Brodin, who will attend the College of Charleston next year started off the inning with a line single to right; the Gators followed with a two out single by sophomore catcher Collin Crouthamel who drove Brodin in to make it a 1-0 game at the end of the first.

The Gator bats were hot all night, but the pitching and defense were solid all game which allowed the offense to tack on runs the remainder of the game. Upstart freshman pitcher Christian School was the man of the night showing dominate control of his fastball and valiantly keeping opposing hitters off balance by accurately locating his off speed pitches.

Kyle Mowatt led off the top of the second with a deep fly ball of the left field wall for a double and then advanced to third on a pass ball the very next pitch. Doug LaPalm stepped to the plate and reached with a base on balls and then was followed by Blake Willard who lined a double down the left field line to clear the bases for the Gators.

With a 3 to nothing lead over the Trailblazers the Gators never

looked back. The Gators offense tacked on another 2 runs in the 3rd making it 5-0 by taking advantage of a poor pitching performance by Centralia's Jeremy Probert.

The Gators cruised through the 4th and the 5th innings by staying behind their pitcher and playing immaculate defense. School continued to show a lot of poise and patience dealing with the opposing lineup, working pitches in and out

of the strike zone and also rolled an abundance of groundballs resulting in easy plays for the defense. The Gators bats remained hot all throughout the 5th and 6th innings by getting back to the basics. The Gators played small ball and manufactured 6 of the 12 runs allowed by the Trailblazers in the last two innings. The highlight of these innings turned out to be a two run bomb that was unleashed by right

fielder Dan Regan in the 5th.

Other than that the Gators played solid fundamental baseball which led to a 12-1 shellacking over the Trailblazers, and also keeps them 1 game back of the west divisional leader in the NWACC Lower Columbia College. This game may prove to be very pivotal as the Gator ball club enters the post season as they make their bid to become NWACC champions.

Following the Game in Centralia the gators pulled a 3-2 win against Pierce College on April 14 and then a tough 3-2 loss to Tacoma the following day. Overall the Gators remain at a respectable 19-10 this season with about a third of the season left. The Gators next game is a home game on April 21 as the Gators take on Lower Columbia for the first time this season.



Greg Washington/THE CURRENT

The baseball team is off to a hot start with a 7-3 record, second in their league with only Lower Columbia having a better record.

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Tennis teams a threat in the NWAACC

Kelly Brons
Staff Reporter

The women's tennis team didn't start off on the high note that they were hoping for, but still have high hopes for the season ahead.

The women matched up against Bellevue on Saturday April 7. They fought hard but in the end lost the battle. The women's team consists of just six women; only two of those are returning players; sophomore Liz Wortley and sophomore Della Rizzo. Wortley placed second in the number three doubles at the 2006 NWAACC Championship tournament.

The other four women are

freshman who bring spunk and hope to the team. Corina Fabre is a Thomas Jefferson High School graduate and was a three time all SPSL first team selection. Tori Skinner, Catherine Schukar and Tiffany Stamper round out the other three freshmen that make up the women's team.

The men's team has even higher hopes for the season, expecting an invitation to the national tournament. The team will be lead this year by sophomores Chris Dew and Adam Blackner, along with freshman Michael Parretta. Blackner was number one last year in the NWAACC champion singles. Right behind Blackner is Dew. Dew was number four last

year in the NWAACC champion singles. He is hoping to place even higher in the championships this year.

Parretta is a graduate of Curtis High School where he was a two time all league selection. He was a member of the 2004 state championship team and was the 2005 team captain. Coach Mark Klysner has high hopes for these incoming freshmen.

Of the remaining five members, only one of them is a returning player. Sophomore Milad Arefi is a Canadian High School graduate and was a member of the 2006 Green River NWAACC Championship team. Brook Fitzsimmons, Konner Ayris, Josh

Pinyerd and Travis Johnson are four of the freshman in the team. They are all ready and anxious to show their stuff.

The new coach for the men and the women, Mark Klysner, is very excited to coach this great group of student athletes. He graduated from the University of South Carolina where he played at the NCAA Division 1 program until 1999. Klysner was also a member of the Canadian National Tennis program. For the past six seasons, coach Klysner has worked as a club professional and is currently the assistant pro at Bally Total Fitness in Federal Way. Klysner has perhaps the highest goals for the team, as he expects to get an

invite to the national tournament.

The women have upcoming matches on Friday, April 13 in Spokane and Saturday, April 14 in Shoreline. The Friday match is at 1 p.m. and the Saturday match is at 9 a.m.

The men will be traveling with the girls to shoreline on Saturday, but will be competing in a tournament on Sunday. The tournament is in Moscow, Id. as they take on the Division-1 programs of the University of Idaho and Washington State University; the teams are confident they will fair well overall.



Team photos courtesy of NWAACC.

Fastpitch remain optimistic for 2007

Janae Fueston
Staff Reporter

The lady Gators are hoping to have a more promising season this year compared to last year where they went without winning a game all season. Though last season was rough the Gators seem to be facing some challenging teams this year as well.

The Gators started their pre-season game on March 17-18. They faced tough teams and came out of the tournament 0-4. "We've struggled in the early part but our games are more competitive this year," said head coach Gary Jones. Though Jones feels this season may be tough he never loses hope on the home team. Looking to improve as a team and put a win on the board.

The Gators only have one returner who will give the Gators an upper hand. Lisa Thomas is known to be a tough competitor. Thomas plays one of the main positions whether it's catching a fastball or throwing girls out at second base, her catching skills

are expected to help the team out this year. Last season Thomas had a broken bone in her hand but that didn't stop her. She continued to play several games after that happened, leading the Gators as one of the captains along with Kelsey Perkins.

The other captain Kelsey Perkins is coming into GRCC as a strong player in high school. Coming from Puyallup High school she was also the team captain in 2006. Not only was she captain but three years she has received the all-league honors in high school and was also selected first team her sophomore year. Another key factor she brings to the team is her pitching ability and her third base skills.

Along with the other players on the team the lady Gators are hoping to get a win for this season. The Gators also have top competitors from high schools coming in as freshman to help the team with the season, each player taking on an important role pushing to reach their ultimate goal. Though the team is rather young

in a way they are all freshman with one sophomore so most of the players will be making some adjustments to how they play.

Though a win would be nice the head coach Gary Jones doesn't think that it is the main priority. "We hope to help each player improve their game, win some games and remain injury free throughout the season," said Jones.

After opening the season the lady Gators didn't start off the way they expected to or where hoping to. With a disappointing lose to Grays Harbor they were hoping to bounce back from the lose but in return they came up short with two more loses to Pierce and Highline. The Gators face off with South Puget Sound at South Puget Sound on Friday, April 13. This will most likely be the hardest team Green River has faced yet.

The gators have a tough road ahead but still remain optimistic. Their next home game will be against Highline on Tuesday, April 24.

Gator Golf swing hard

Will Brown
Staff Reporter

first.

Golf season has arrived, with both teams optimistic for the upcoming season. Both male and female teams have potential for success. Coached by married couple Jim and Jennifer von Doehren the teams are off to a hot start.

Tyler Dost is the leader on the male team returning in his sophomore season after tying for fourth in last season's league tourney. Paige Gifford leads the women's team as a returning all-league player after finishing third in the all-league tournament last season.

"Paige is a leader on the team and plays a consistent game and can hit the ball deep and has a very good short game" says Jennifer von Doehren about her team's leader.

The male team roster also includes sophomore Stephen Basshan and Freshmen Chaz Burns, Darren Axt, Mark Houser, Curtis DeHaas, Chris Altom, and Joe Anderson.

The Gator men started out this spring with a match against Grays Harbor where they came away with a 2-1 lead leaving the series as sophomore Tyler Dost shot a 72 resulting in a tie for

The female team also features Joni Gibson, Courtney Campbell, Billie Toyra, three freshman joining the team.

The season for the females is very exciting as last season they didn't even have enough players to compete. Things have entirely turned around as the talent is blossoming and the future of women's golf at Green River looks bright.

This season the all league NWAACC tournament will actually be held in Auburn, home of the Gators. Home course advantage will only give the golf teams an extra push come play-off team.

"The mental part is more important than the physical part," Jim von Doehrin stated about the mental part of the game, which he believes will lead to more victories in the future.

The Gator men will next travel to Pasco, WA on April 29-30 for the Columbia Basin International where they look to improve on the sixth place finish they came away with at the Bigfoot Classic in Spokane, WA April 15-16.

Green River women meanwhile will look to follow up their fifth place finish at the Bigfoot Classic at the same time