



The Current



KGRG keeps rockin', p. 7

Community College

Auburn, Washington U.S.A.

Week of May 4 - 7, 1999

Racism lurks on campus

By Cameron Probert
News Editor

In early February, the Anti-Christian World Church of the Creator placed fliers with a white supremacist message in six classrooms in the HSB building at GRCC.

Alex Roberts, chair of the Multicultural Task Force, said they were trying to reach as many people as possible with their message.

Roberts said there isn't much GRCC can do to stop groups from distributing fliers other than citing them for posting violations.

"The dilemma is that this is not an illegal act," Roberts said.

Vik Bahl, an English teacher who has been active in the flier issue, said the First Amendment does not give these groups the right to have access to every venue.

Roberts said it was not a widespread event.

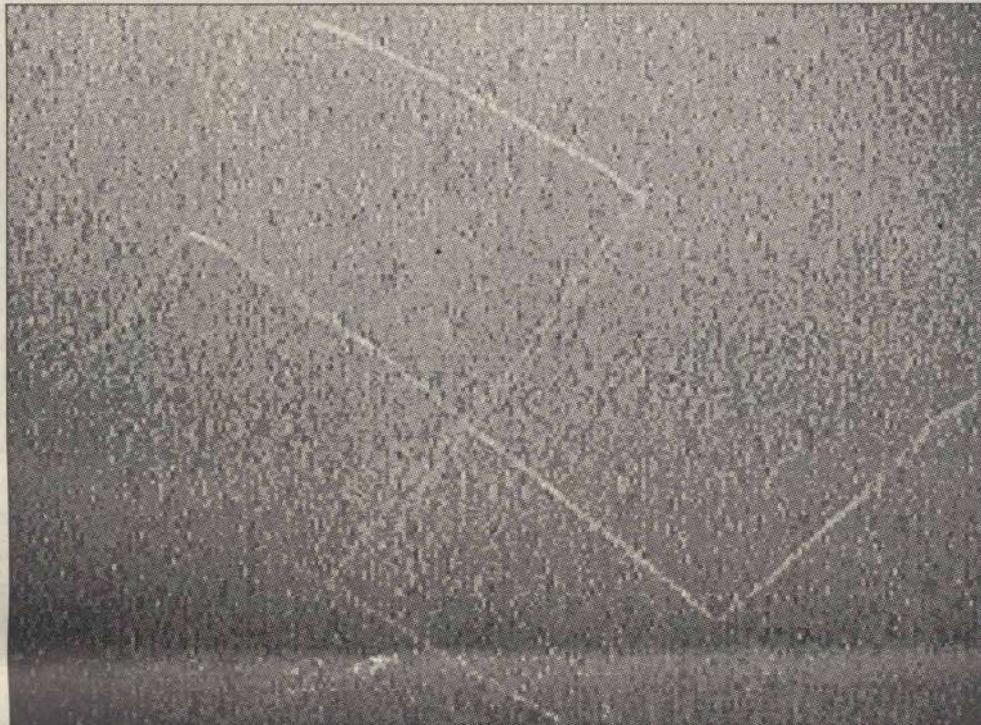


Photo courtesy GRCC facilities

This swastika is one example of hate graffiti found on campus this year.

"We've taken the attitude that one is bad enough," Roberts said.

Bahl said there is a history to be recorded about racist events and the responses of the school.

"The thing with racist

incidents is that they are never isolated events that could be understood as a one-time shot," Bahl said.

Roberts said the best way to deal with such issues is in public forums like the newspaper or a

letter from the president.

"We don't have a forum to get 8,500 students together at one time," Roberts said.

Bahl said he is interested

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Many views on hate mail

By Cindy Hutchings
Staff Reporter

The hate mail discovered in classrooms on the GRCC campus has caused mixed reactions among students.

Socorro Trapp, GRCC Asian Club Union adviser, said she chose to come to America from the Philippines because of opportunities the U.S. offers.

"This is absurd, and totally out of context. I am appalled," Trapp said after reading the hate mail. "They are insulting our intelligence."

"Distribution on campus shouldn't be allowed. It would be good for the college to acknowledge it, and let the community know they don't support this type of movement," Trapp said.

"If there are people that really want to be like this, let them," Azhar Nizar, a 19-year-old student from Pakistan and a member of the Native American Student Association, said. "In my opinion, this is not a pure white nation. You can find people from all nationalities in this country."

Students boycott hike in gas prices

By Christina Jackson
Staff Reporter

Consumers have watched over the past few weeks as gas prices jumped from the lowest in 14 years to prices that make buying gas almost as pleasant as having a root canal.

In an effort to make gas stations and producers hurt just as much as their pocketbooks, consumers sent out e-mails and posted fliers urging everyone to boycott gas stations on April 30.

"My mom gives me twenty

bucks and tells me to go buy food," Sarah Sterner, a GRCC student said. "I spend it on gas and don't eat."

Other students also think gas prices are too high.

Consumers who favor boycotting gas stations have encouraged everyone to be more aware of the issue.

They claim that a loss of sales for even one day can affect gas stations enough to show that many people

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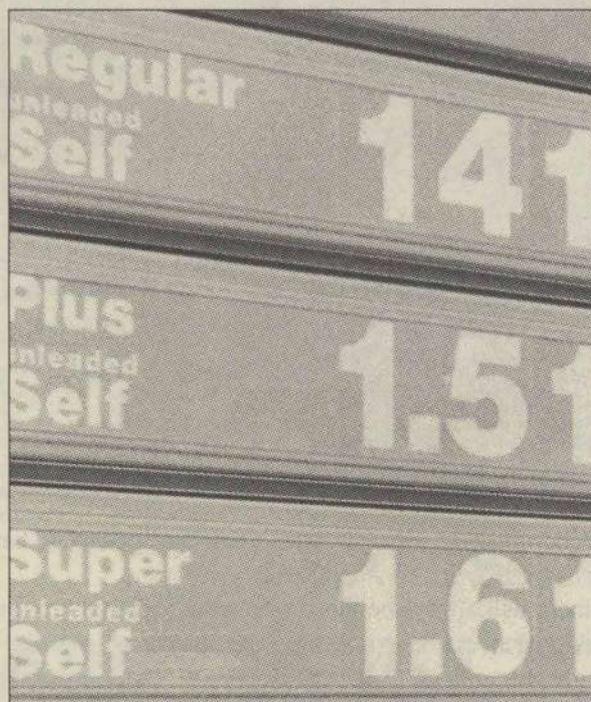


Photo by Margaret Rzymowska

Local gas prices rise significantly recently.

Union outlines contract goals

By Graham Keavney
Staff Reporter

Even though the teachers have their hearts set on improving many aspects of their contract, their focus remains on improving the environment for student learning, union members said.

Lee Semsen, chief negotiator for the Faculty Union, said teachers want to be a bigger part of the scheduling process, among other things.

Semsen also said teachers want an increased voice and

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Student elections held

By Matt Strako
Staff Reporter

Student elections are being held in the Lindbloom Student Center May 4 and 5 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The end of the year has arrived and it is time to decide who will march students into the new millennium.

Bill Fountain, Assembled Senate of Green River Community College (ASGRCC) chief justice, and Aaron Atkission, ASGRCC vice president, have done an excellent job for the past year. Now it is time for them to step down and allow new blood to flow through the campus.

On May 3, a candidates' forum was scheduled on the LSC main stage. This was meant as an opportunity for everyone to find out where GRCC's future

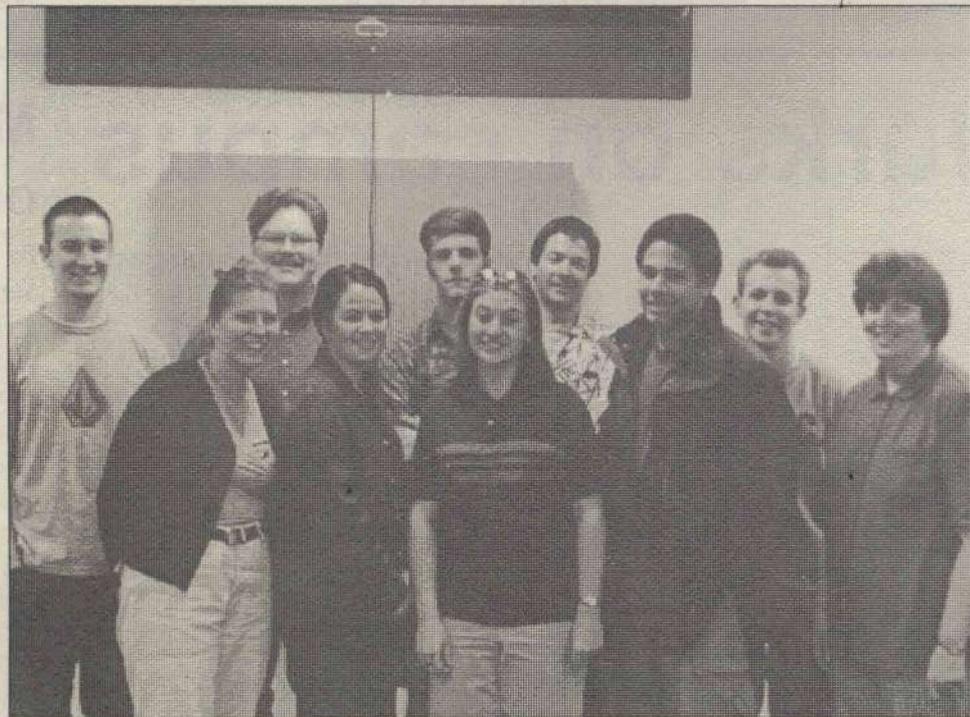


Photo by Margaret Rzymowska/Current

The GRCC senate helped prepare for this year's student elections.

leaders stand on many issues.

In the past, there has been little election participation by students. Last year, only 200 people voted for student government.

"We are always looking to increase that any way we can," Atkission said.

The powers of the senate are to approve and review policies concerning activities of ASGRCC. They also allocate ASGRCC

funds.

They have the power to veto the president's vote as well.

Student government encourages everyone to get involved. The outcome affects everyone.

Facilities fee fights crime on campus

Security director helps boost levels of safety

By Cameron Probert
News Editor

Fred Creek, director of security at GRCC, has changed campus life for the better since his appointment to the security department in 1996.

His approach for making the campus safer has revolved around the facilities fee, which funds the security department and pays for security programs and student parking.

The facilities fee is a quarterly charge on the tuition bill. It amounts to \$2.50 per credit.

Creek said the facilities fee has decreased the amount of time needed to give tickets, and has increased the ability of his personnel to cover more area.

"We've taken the security officers out of the parking lot where they're checking each and every car for a permit and put them on patrol," Creek said.

Creek said the freedom the facilities fee has given the security officers has decreased the amount of car prowlers and break-ins.

"Our presence has been increased quite a bit," Creek said.

"I'm forcing my security officers to be at specific places at different times," he said.

Creek said security staff have caught three car prowlers in the past two years because of this change.

Creek said there is no way to completely end crime on campus, but he has taken long strides in curtailing it.

Many on campus agree. Officers also help students by letting them know when their car lights are on and other services.

Trees make way for progress

By Tami Hursh
Staff Reporter

Last week, construction crews were busy at work cutting down trees on campus between the SMT and IVA buildings. Some students and faculty were confused at the reasoning behind these cuttings.

John Ramsey, director of public information, said the construction crews are making room for another classroom building to accommodate the ever-growing student population.

The new building will include general-purpose classrooms and a dedicated math lab. It will look similar to the International Village A building, and will be called the IVC.

Ramsey said the building will be 4,800 square feet, and will cost approximately \$1.2 million. The project should be completed by January 2000, just in time for winter quarter.

Where there are trees being cut,

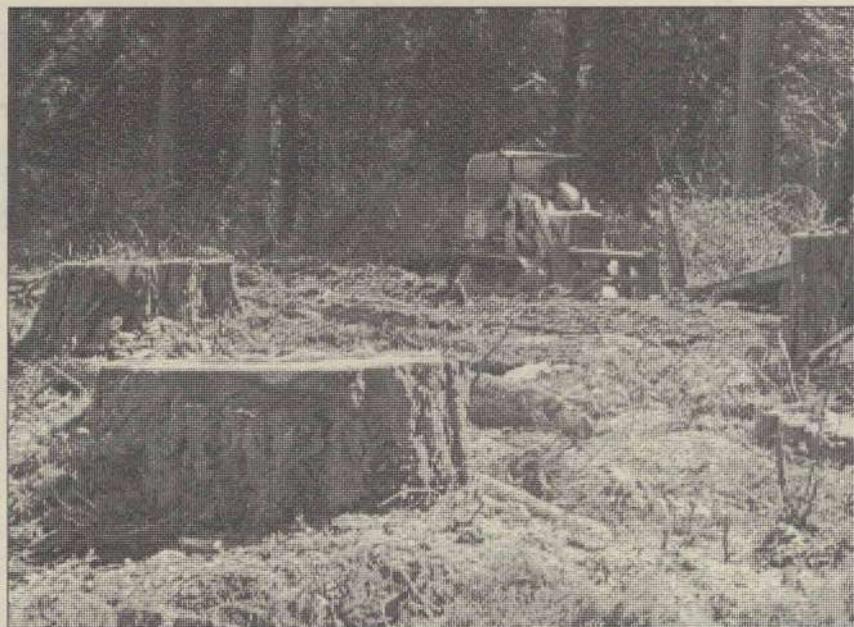


Photo by Margaret Rzymowska/Current

A new building will replace the trees that once stood between IVA and SMT.

there will always be those who wonder what effect it will have on the environment. Tom Weisweaver, director of facilities at GRCC, said anytime something like this happens,

the environment will be affected.

"In order to accommodate the growth at Green River, you have to continue building buildings," Weisweaver said.

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in the views of the students on the campus.

"Is there consensus within a campus? Then is there a way to understand what are the commitments, what are the goals, what are the strategies for achieving those goals at a particular school?" Bahl said.

Roberts said the less attention

given to the fliers, the better.

"There is a double side to this issue," Roberts said. "We don't want to give this particular fringe group too much credibility because it is a very small number of incidences. We think that the more spotlight you put on this group, the better they like it."

'We don't want to give this particular fringe group too much credibility.'

Alex Roberts
Student Programs

Roberts said that some teachers have used the flier as a teaching tool in

their classroom.

"It's a great thing to hold up in front of a room of students and say look at this, if you think

racism is dead, this is a good example that it isn't. We all need to be more vigilant," Roberts said.

Bahl said that the school has set the objective of diversity of faculty, staff and students.

Bahl added that GRCC has an established women's and ethnic studies program that is working to formally educate students about the history of race relations.

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do not want to pay what they are charging.

GRCC Automotive's Jim Hiibel does not agree with consumers that boycott.

He said he believes a boycott will be futile. "People are punishing themselves," Hiibel said. "There are reasons for the shortage of gas."

Gas prices normally go up around this time of year because people drive more during the occasionally sunny, summer days.

This increases both the demand for, and the price of gas.

Add to the usual price increase the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) agreement to decrease their production levels starting April 1, 1999.

OPEC wanted to cut the supply of their oil to make the demand for it higher, subsequently raising gas prices.

A third factor in increased gas prices is four California refineries that are operating at hindered levels due to maintenance, fire and explosions.

The refineries that process oil into gasoline also affect the supply of gas. If oil is not refined, it cannot be used to drive a car.

UNION, from p. 1

more influence on how the instructional part of the college is run.

John Avery, co-chief for the Faculty Union said they want to try improving all aspects of current work relationships, including salary, hours and schedule structure.

They want to be more accessible to students, which means more full-time instructors and fewer part-time instructors. Currently, there are approximately 115 full-time and 350 part-time teachers. This severely limits office space, office hours and opportunities for student-teacher meetings.

By adding a telephone to each room for emergencies, the union wants to provide added security in classrooms. Threats directed toward teachers and students have caused the need for extra security.

Sensen said the new contract, which includes many other issues, will affect everyone.

Bullock's youth involved CIA mystery

By Charles Fleming
Staff Reporter

Eric Bullock, a science teacher at GRCC, said he never knew about the secret lives that his parents led.

"I was born in Taiwan," Bullock said. "Both of my parents worked for the CIA in Hong Kong. I didn't find out that my parents worked for the CIA until I was 17."



Bullock

Sometimes, without warning or explanation, his dad would be missing for days at a time.

Bullock said despite his parent's relationship with the CIA, his beliefs are different.

"I have philosophical

beliefs against spying on nations because it causes distrust," Bullock said.

He said he did not resent his parents for choosing to work for the CIA.

Bullock spent roughly one-third of his life in Asia, one-third in Europe and one-third in America. "I never knew what it was like for a kid growing up in America."

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Executive vice president to retire

By Cameron Probert
News Editor

Executive Vice President Mike McIntyre has helped shape GRCC through the last 30 years.

McIntyre plans on retiring at the end of this school year.

McIntyre helped create such programs as Lead and Learn, in which students are trained during the summer and then run the student programs throughout the year.

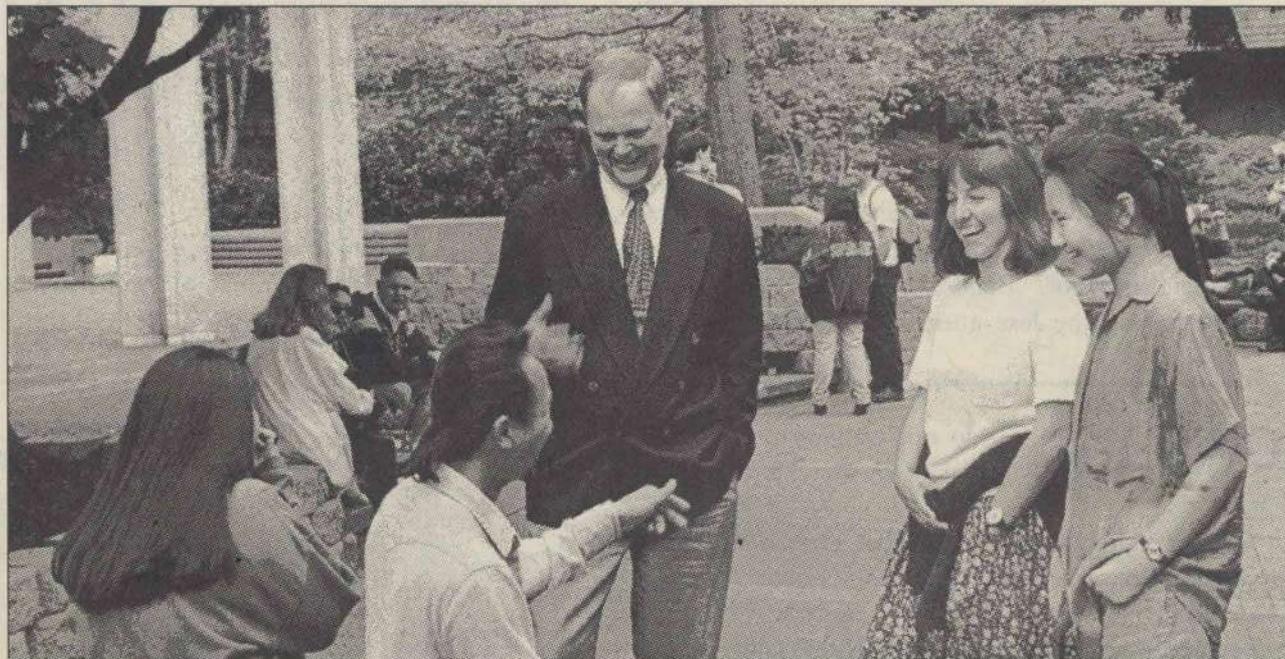
He helped form International Programs at GRCC.

"Every year, you take on some program," McIntyre said.

"Green River has become a more comprehensive school over the last 30 years," McIntyre said.

McIntyre said he would tell his successor that the school is in the business of helping and serving the needs of people.

McIntyre said there were proj-



Mike McIntyre, well-known for his accessibility, chats with students from around the world. Photo courtesy Office of Public Information

ects such as an auditorium, a high-tech center and the branch campus that GRCC had in Japan that had not succeeded as well as he would have liked.

The problem revolved around the Japanese recession, he said.

McIntyre said he has mixed emotions about retiring.

"I have a lot invested here at Green River. On the other hand, you plan all of your life for retirement, and time just creeps up on you," McIntyre said.

Physics teacher earns key award

By Charles Fleming
Staff Reporter

Two years ago, the American Association of Physics Teachers started to award physics educators with the Introductory Undergraduate Award.

Physics professor Marv Nelson is the third recipient of this award and the first instructor from a community college.

"The Introductory Undergraduate Award is



Marv Nelson

given in recognition of individuals, who have made significant contributions to undergraduate physics teaching, by an American Association of Physics Teachers' member for whom teaching is the primary responsibility," according to

Thomas L. O'Kuma, of the American Association of Physics Teachers Award Committee.

Nelson is currently involved in the American Teaching Association and the Nomination Committee and was a Washington State Section Representative for six years.

In addition, Nelson has been involved in two major national projects in the past.

Nunavut alters border claims

By Berta Lopez
Staff Reporter

On April 1, 1999, the Nunavut Territory in Canada was born. "Nunavut" means Our Land in the Inuit language. The Inuit people populate most of Nunavut. There has not been a country such as Canada in which its aboriginal people have made such a change in a land claim. While everyone is focused on the war of Kosovo, the Canadian government and the Inuit people are showing there can be and is peace in the world today.

The population of Nunavut is approximately 22,000 and the population of Canada is approximately 30 million.

Nunavut encompasses 1.9 million square kilometers, one-fifth the size of Canada. The northernmost community in Nunavut is Grise Fiord, with a population of 130 people. The temperature in the winter is minus 35 degrees Celsius, with total darkness during the month of December. In the summer, the temperature is 10 degrees Celsius, with 24 hours of daylight in June.

The cost of two litres of milk is \$7 and the cost of a loaf of bread is \$3. There are two colleges in this northern territory, Kugluktuk College and Nunavut Arctic College.

Negotiations started in 1993 for the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.

Meet The Current Staff

The Current is an independent student newspaper of Green River Community College. The staff are solely responsible for its contents. Letters to the editor and other contributions can be submitted to: Editors, The Current, ST-A Building, Green River Community College, Auburn WA 98092. The editors reserve the right to alter for clarity or shorten due to length restrictions.

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Adviser: R. Gilbert

Teachers have every right to march

By Current Editorial Board

Wealthy teachers. Add the phrase to that ever-growing list of oxymorons. Teachers have, in one way or another, influenced the lives of all citizens. So it comes as no surprise that recent walkouts of area teachers have initiated a debate waging not only within the walls of the capital building, but also among the general public. As the editorial board, we found ourselves engaged in such a debate last week, and after nearly 15 minutes of arguing, we were unable to assert either a dollar figure that would more appropriately recognize the efforts of teachers or a

decision regarding whether or not the walkouts were the most effective way to verbalize complaints. However, our efforts did lead us to conclude that teachers play an integral role in raising educated citizens, and by not making the teaching profession attractive to young, intelligent college graduates, the state is, in effect, 'shooting itself in the foot.'

Obviously, money isn't the object luring teachers to the classrooms. And, as a member of our staff reiterated, many admit they couldn't be paid enough to face the challenge of standing before overcrowded rooms of wild youngsters more

concerned with recess time than the day's math lesson. Why, then, are we belittling the efforts of teachers with petty arguments about the number of hours worked or the amount of vacation time?

Let's face it, smart people know money is fairly important when it comes to paying bills, buying food, or, in general, living a relatively stress-free life. Can we then blame these smart people for avoiding paths that make day-to-day life more of a struggle?

If the children really are the future and education is as key, as had been said, then it is time to

ensure the brightness of the future by unlocking the educational bank vault. It seems our present state representatives played hooky from business class on the day it was taught that happy employees increase productivity, or test scores as the case may be. By refusing the requests of teachers, the state is making a clear statement about the value of the teaching profession, and consequently the importance of education and the future of this country. It is sad this battle has come to the point of walkouts, but if strikes are the only way for the state to learn this lesson, then to the teachers we say: March on!

U.S.-made cars outclass foreign

By Charles Fleming
Staff Reporter

One thing I cannot stand is being passed by pseudo-powerful, foreign cars made primarily out of recycled plastic pop bottles. I believe there is still some pride in an American-made automobile. By American cars, I mean cars manufactured in America by an American car company, unlike cars such as Honda that are manufactured in America by a foreign manufacturer. American cars have some particular qualities that give them a unique advantage over other cars.

American cars provide income and jobs for our economy. When people buy American cars, United States car manufacturers produce more cars. When American car manufacturers produce more cars, they also produce more revenue and jobs for the domestic economy. The government taxes the profits made by the manufacturer to subsidize improvements in our society. The increase of jobs benefits people that would otherwise be unemployed. Buying an American car creates a win-win situation for everyone in our economy. American cars are absolutely the best value for a comparative shopper. Foreign cars are all subject to taxes called tariffs. These are special taxes that the government charges on imported goods. For example, the Lexus is taxed at close to 100 percent by the federal government. This means a car leaving the plant for \$40,000 sells for \$80,000! I know a person who bought a \$90,000 Mercedes Benz. He said the car only cost about \$20,000 to manufacture.

Bombing of Serbia hypocritical

By Cameron Probert
News Editor

The U.S. government and news media have told the American public about the extreme depravity of Sloboden Milosevic, and how he has ruthlessly slaughtered hundreds of Albanians in concentration camp conditions. While this is true, the public should find itself in a moral dilemma because of the inconsistency of the government's reaction.

Recently, the cover of Newsweek had a picture of Milosevic with the caption: The Face of Evil. While this may be true, what is so different between the Serbian massacre of Albanians and the slaughter of the Tsutsis by the Hutus in Rwanda? Even when the rivers of Rwanda were red with blood, the U.S. did not waste any missiles to end the killing. The tanks that ran over students in Tiananmen Square did not look any different than the

tanks that are now rampaging over Kosovo. Yet the U.S. is moving toward support of the entrance of China into the World Trade Organization. These are only a small part of the human rights atrocities that occur every year in places like Burma, Tibet, Malaysia and many of the African nations.

Unlike Desert Storm, NATO's attack on Serbia does not benefit U.S. interests. The only financial interest that Serbia has is some coal mines in the northern section of Kosovo. Militarily, the war was and is a civil war, and has not expanded into any other region. In recent history, invasion has not sent the military into action. The Democratic Republic of Congo is under siege by both Rwandan and Ugandan forces. So the only reason that the U.S. could be involved in Kosovo has to do with the color of their skin.

Kosovo: NATO's crucial dilemma

By Tony Tsay
Staff Reporter

As NATO turns 50 this week, the main issue is the war in Kosovo.

The main issue that surrounds the war is whether the horrors that are happening in Kosovo give the international community the right to intervene in any civil war.

"I believe that a real sense of moral purpose is also motivating NATO ... our job is to go in there and reverse it and defeat it," British Prime Minister Tony Blair said in an interview last week.

Kosovo is in foggier territory than Bosnia. It was self-governing until 1989, when

Milosevic, using a historic battle that happened in Kosovo more than 600 years ago as a rallying cry, stoked the Serb nationalism enough to snatch Kosovo into Serbia. Guilt over the hesitance over Bosnia is also one of the reasons why the NATO response has been so quick. America and the rest of NATO did not act on Bosnia until the atrocities became too unbearable. There is also a strategic value in Kosovo. Kosovo lies in the Balkans between Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Albania.

U.N. troops are in Macedonia to keep fighting from spilling over into Greece and its enemy, Turkey.

KORN and Zombie terrorize Tacoma

By Melina Elder
Staff Reporter

Korn, Rob Zombie, and Video Drone invaded the Tacoma Dome on Friday, April 9, with their "Rock is Dead" tour. Thirty thousand people crammed into the Tacoma Dome to see the long awaited concert.

The show began at 7:30 p.m. with the opening act Video Drone, a band signed to Korn's label, Elementree Records. As the crowd anxiously awaited the show, yelling and screaming could be heard while women flashed the crowd.

The crowd chanted as the dome became dark, signaling the beginning of the show. Video Drone emerged from the darkness delivering an explosive rock and rap set headed by vocalist Ty Elam.

The crowd was especially exited when Elem announced his song about marijuana, creating an entangling and smoky mosh pit.

Once Video Drone exited the stage, there was a delay in waiting for Rob Zombie. Again the dome became dark, and in anticipation the crowd chanted "Zombie."

Rob Zombie began their set with "Call of the Zombie" immediately going into "Superbeast," the first two tracks on Zombie's latest CD, "Hellbilly Deluxe."

The band's members — Rob Zombie (vocals), Riggs (guitar), Blasko (bass guitar) and Tempesta (drums)— performed an invigorating show. They played their songs "Living Dead Girl," "Meet the Creeper," "Demonoid Phenomenon," and even went back to play old White Zombie

songs. Rob Zombie not only played an explosive show, they had an explosive set, literally.

Zombie's stage had female dancers, robots, monsters, whips, televisions, screens and pyrotechnics. The entire dome heated with Zombie's stage explosions and fire, which were almost ceiling high. Riggs even had a guitar filled with fake blood that he spit on the crowd. The show also included a confetti drop toward the end.

Zombie's show concluded with an encore set where the band played their hit off their latest album, "Dragula." The curtains closed and there was only one act left. A half-hour wait proceeded.

The curtains began to open as the beginning of "Blind" started to play, breaking the darkness of

the stage and the dome. The stage lights came on and KORN went head-on into their set. The crowd went insane. The entire floor of the Tacoma Dome became a giant and packed mosh pit with crazed KORN fans.

People were pushed up against the front of the stage with no room to move, while others surfed the crowd. The seating area of the dome was jumping, dancing, shaking and yelling. It was pure insanity.

KORN — Jonathan Davis (vocals and bagpipes), Brian "Head" Welch (guitar), James "Munky" Shaffer (guitar), Reginald "Fieldy" Arvizu (bass guitar) and David Silveria (drums)— played an amazing set which included songs from their three albums.

Student artwork wanted by editors

By Seth McMahill
A & E Editor

We know GRCC has some talented students in the art department and want them to be able to show their hard work. So we figured it's about time to start something on the more interactive side.

This is what we're going to do. We'll dedicate half a page of the A & E section to students who want to see their artwork in print. Bring in anything you have and we'll do our best to see it gets printed.

All types of art are acceptable. We also want to see some crazy comic-book style stuff. Readers, and at least one of the editors, often like a steady dose of comics.

It's certain that someone out there can draw like a mad person. Now let's show everyone else.

It will be a good chance to see the work of fellow artists and realize how good you actually are.

Now get started!

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Native American Club celebrates

Sarah Dillon
Staff reporter

During the week of April 26-29, the Native American Club focused on cultural events to bring about a better understanding of native culture to GRCC.

Students and faculty were invited to attend. The event was aimed at giving people a chance to view a side of the Native American culture not many have seen.

On Tuesday, April 27, Mike Starr and The White River drum group performed onstage in the LSC cafeteria. The White River drum group is well known in the Native American community and has performed at many other powwows over the years. The GRCC campus gained much from the performance. The drummers and dancers expressed pride in their culture. When they step into their costumes or pick up a drum, they are honoring their way of life.

The cafeteria staff prepared Navajo tacos and fry bread to mark the festivities.

On Wednesday, April 28, the movie *Smoke Signals* was shown in the Glacier Room in the LSC at noon.

On Thursday, April 29, Hillaire Echohawk and her husband



Photo by Cindy Hutchings/Current

Native American Club participants recently enjoy their sacred heritage.

exhibited art they have collected over the years. The display was set in the LSC.

Mark Coleman sold Indian art. The art contains a painting within a painting. A vendor was set up for

Echohawk, who was standing in for the Seattle Indian Health Board, to hand out information and answer health questions.

Also, the Native American Club display window in the LSC build-

ing contained representations of cultures of sacred importance.

The Native American Club worked hard to put this event together. At the beginning of spring quarter, Roland Vieira became its new adviser.

KGRG rocks to 25 years of music

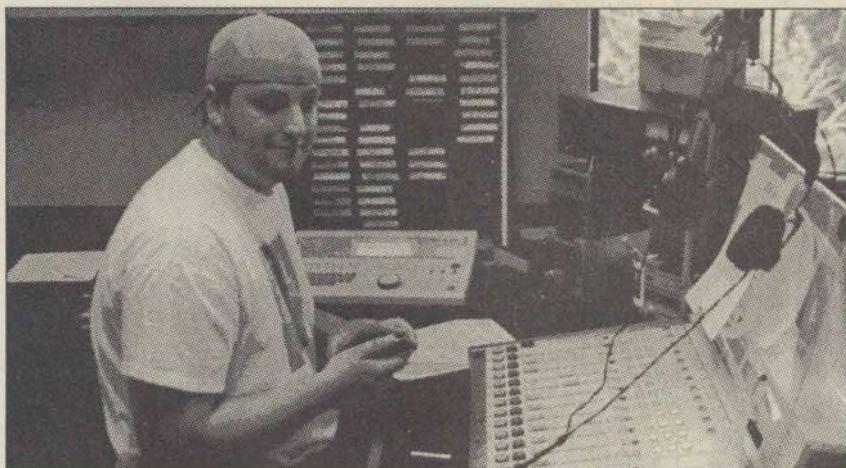


Photo by Ryan Dacey/Current

Michael Brawli operates the controls in the KGRG campus radio studio.

By Kara Banville
Staff Reporter

KGRG has been GRCC's radio station for the past 25 years.

Besides celebrating their 25-year anniversary, KGRG will also be celebrating their 10-year anniversary in

their current format. Their current format is "Today's Rock," known to the commercial world as alternative.

KGRG is completely run by students with the assistance of a few faculty members.

"Everything is a hands-on expe-

rience. You're not stuck in a classroom; you're actually out there doing it," Isaac Blankenship said.

Blankenship said he has been involved with the radio program since fall quarter and enjoys it immensely.

GRCC students can easily become part of the campus radio station. There are several classes available to suit different needs. Radio labs are popular among students who are interested in media and broadcasting. It's an intense class. Students are on the air doing news, weather or some other type of filler.

KGRG's target audience is 16 to 25. Most listeners are local high school students and college students. The broadcast reaches most of the outlying areas,

including anything from Enumclaw to Seattle. Just before reaching Seattle, the station starts to fade slightly due to the fact that KGRG transmits 250 watts.

KGRG has 12 specialty shows that appeal to different audiences. There's Upward Alternative, which is a Christian rock show; Local Motion, which hosts local bands in the area; and Chris and Craig, a tri-weekly morning talk show.

Ear to the Street is a hip-hop show hosted by D.J. Crush. Jah Feva and Transcendence are two more hip-hop shows KGRG broadcasts.

Ben and Magneto is an afternoon talk show, Hedonistic Nihilism and Menaced are hard-core music.

GRCC tennis eyes Spokane, state

By Gavin Anderson
Sports Editor

GRCC tennis coach Steve Sauers is looking for his team to get back on track in '99.

Both the men's (8-4) and women's (12-0) teams are vying for this year's state championship to be held May 20-23 in Spokane.

GRCC fell short to Skagit Valley last year in the state finals. It was the first time in six seasons that Sauers' teams did not win their respective state title.

"Both teams are close-knit," Sauers said. "They're exciting to watch."

The men's team has a strong international membership. The No. 2 on the team, Hisashi Sadoyama of Japan, has posted a 7-3 record this season. The No. 4, Christer Sandvolm of Sweden, is 9-3. Ahmad Al-Qatami of Kuwait

rounds out the team's international players in the eighth spot.

Other players include No. 1 Will Snyder (7-5). The No. 3 is 1998 No. 4 state champion Dan Cruz (9-3). The No. 5 is Matt Richter (7-2). The No. 6 is Kris Kattula (5-3). The No. 7 is Darren Muller (4-2).

The women's team boasts an undefeated record this year at 12-0.

"This women's team is the consummate community college team," Sauers said. "We have four players from Kent-area schools, one from Auburn Riverside, one from Thomas Jefferson and one from Sumner."

Bridget Wagner (10-2) leads the team as the No. 1. Mary Lee Savol (11-1) is the No. 2. The most impressive statistic on Savol is that she has only



Dan Cruz volleys against Western Washington University recently.

Photo by Ryan Dacey/Current

lost two sets all season. Savol and Wagner are also doubles partners with an 11-0 record.

Sophomore Angie Nguyen (10-2) is third on

the squad and defending No. 4 state champion Manny Stefanescu (9-0) remains at that spot.

Other members include doubles partners, No. 5

Tracy Kirkland (8-1) and No. 6 Kelli Patrick (8-3). They hold a 6-1 doubles record.

Molly Cameron (3-0) is the No. 7 on the team.

Batters forced to adjust

By Gavin Anderson
Sports Editor

Pitchers are having a much easier time getting outs now that the GRCC Gator baseball team has decided to use wooden bats during the '99 season.

In fact, the entire Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) has converted from aluminum bats to wooden bats for the season.

The pitchers are not complaining. "With the wooden bats, pitchers can learn to use the plate more effectively," Green River pitcher Kerry Millikin said. "I think that because all the Little League players, high school players and college players use aluminum bats that inhibits pitchers at those levels from developing a good fastball."

GRCC Student Programs was able to allocate \$2,000 to the baseball team this year for the purchase of the new bats.

Pitchers are not the only people who have noticed the change in hitting performance. Even the umpires have taken note.

"I've seen a definite change in the style of hitting," umpire Scott Williams said. "Batters are not hitting the ball as well as they were able to with the aluminum bats."

There are many reasons why NWAACC and GRCC decided to move to the wood bats. One reason can be the continuing pressure from a higher level.

Major League Baseball and the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues (NAPBL) would like to see all schools in college ranks to use wooden bats.

The NAPBL only allows the use of wooden bats in pro games.

"We'd like to see uniformity between college ball and pro ball," NAPBL President Mike Cook said.

Will it be a change for the best? That is yet to be seen.

The pitchers are hoping the batter will be swinging the "stick" instead of aluminum for a long time to come.

'With the wooden bats, pitchers can learn to use the plate more effectively.'

Kerry Millikin

Gator golfers in full swing

By David Kancianich
Staff Reporter

The GRCC golf team started this season with high hopes of returning to the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) tournament as defending champions.

This year's team has one of the top players in the NWAACC, Nick Schaan.

"For every tournament we go into now, we are the defending champions," Schaan said. "If we play decent, at the least, we can beat anyone. If we play our best, nobody can take us."

Already making headlines for the golf team this year, Schaan has topped this year with a 69 on April 12 at the Tacoma City Championship.

But it isn't just Schaan who is making the headlines.

At the Spokane Invitational, the men's golf team took six out of the top 10 finishers.

Schaan has helped spark up this year's team.

"When we do that good, nobody can beat us ... we're going to make it to the NWAACC championships and we're looking to make it consecutive championship years for the golf team," Schaan said.