

Ciao! Green River students explore Italy...Page 9!

What's shakin' with tuition? Find out more about what's goin' down with prices goin' up! Page 5!

THE CURRENT



FRIDAY | APRIL 29, 2005

| GREEN RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

**GREEN RIVER
STUDENT GOV'T
PRESENTS...**



"ELECTIONS"



**WHO WILL
GET YOUR
VOTE?**



PRESIDENT

_____?



**VICE
PRESIDENT**

_____?



**VOTING IS
MAY 9-12!**



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Who's driving the Pope Mobile now? Find out on page 10!

Current on Campus

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FRIDAY | APRIL 29, 2005

EVENTS CALENDAR

compiled by Nichole Levens

May 3

Workshop: Getting enough sleep
12-1p.m.
LSC: St. Helens Room
Free Admission

Do you think you are getting enough sleep? Learn here if you are or aren't and what it can be doing to your body and even your academic life.

May 5

Picnic Movie: Two movies in one night
7:30p.m.-?
Kennelly Commons or
LSC: Main dining room
Free Admission; food donations welcome

Come down and enjoy National Treasure and Coach Carter. Bring your own blankets and chairs to use.

May 10

Divorce: Exploring your options
10:30a.m.-12:30p.m.
LSC: Rainier Room

If you are experiencing a divorce or know someone that is, this event can help you out. You will learn legal information as well as information about finances and child support.

THUMBS UP & THUMBS DOWN



Thumbs up to our Spring sports teams. You guys rock! GRCC Students should go out and support our fellow Gators!

Thumbs down to negativity. Why can't we just be positive about things?



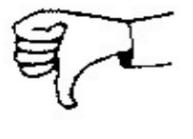
Thumbs up to the summer blockbusters that are starting to come out. The hope of good movies makes us feel alive again.

Thumbs down to the plague that swept through our editors during this issue's production. Sinus and ear infections suck!



Thumbs up to amoxicillin for getting our editors back on their feet!

Thumbs down to the Gas Tax. If they want it so bad, then they can pay for my gas!



SECURITY BLOTTER

compiled by Kirsten Esvelt

On 4/6/05, a red 1997 Ford Escort was broken into on 320th St. The right sectional window was broken and the radio with CD player was missing.

On 4/8/05, a student's car in parking lot J was hit on the left quarter panel and bumper. Damage was a dent to the panel and rear bumper and white paint on the panel. There were no injuries.

On 4/11/05, the vehicle of a GRCC staff member suffered a hit-and-run while in parking lot D. The rear passenger side bumper had a crack and blue paint on it.

On 4/13/05, two security offers found a car in parking lot I containing students with hangovers, at least one of whom was underage. A pool of vomit was by the car. The boys were reluctant to give their ID. They admitted to drinking but no alcohol was found in the vehicle.

On 4/13/05, a student's purse and two library books were stolen from the LSC cafeteria when she left for a couple of minutes. Nothing was found.

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We at The Current encourage robust discussion among all members of the Green River Community College campus. Letters to the editor, editorial and opinion pieces, freelance articles and photographs may be submitted to The Current via snail mail or email to the attention of the editor-in-chief. Contact information must accompany all submissions. We are published fortnightly.

Current on Campus

Student Government Speaks

Student Government candidates voice their opinions for the upcoming elections.

ASGRCC Student Senate

These six students are running for ASGRCC President or Vice-President. Below are the candidacy statements that were included in the election packets they turned in. Elections will be held May 9-12. Voting will be available online and also at various locations on campus throughout the week. Full size candy bars and slap bracelets will give out first-come, first-serve

ASGRCC President

Brian Grover



For the past two years, I have been a student and part of the CLEO program here on campus. I feel I have a good grasp on student activities and am intrigued with doing more for our campus. I plan to facilitate open hearings for ideas and concerns from students and administration to help improve our campus for you. I plan to send out periodic surveys to classes, clubs, and other school activities to get a better idea of what will benefit students on campus. With the information I obtain, I'll strive to provide the students with what they want.

Aaron Key



Stereotypically in the past I have noticed the role of president has been grossly dismissed as a serious responsibility. Classically during an election, a phenomenal amount of B.S. is spewed to the public in order to be elected. Once in office, however, those promises and ploys are forgotten or simply dismissed. Therefore, above all things, I will keep to my word: to understand and portray your needs and wants. I will be a friend and a leader you can trust and depend on, telling you when I can and can not do something.

Amanda Wilson



The President's purpose is to represent the student populous. Students need direct links to their President. An open web forum, where you can write to me and I can reply, accompanied with an open door policy to my office would accomplish this. I want your ideas and concerns. I'll take surveys with outcomes that are possible and will be attained. The foundation of my decisions will be the input I receive from you. Get active - together we will achieve more! My running mate Michael supports my goal, which is to

represent the entire campus and become your voice to administration.

ASGRCC Vice-President

Johnny Gannaw



Over the past year I have been involved in the CLEO Program on Campus as well as a member of the Student Senate. These experiences have allowed me to meet many students and have enabled me to speak on behalf of the students and cater to their ideas and opinions. If elected Vice President, I would like to enhance a connection between students and senators. This will be done through weekly open discussions as well as surveys distributed to day and night students periodically through out the year. Students' opinions will be heard, and I will strive to make them a reality.

Courtney Basler



If elected vice president of GRCC, I will continue the work started to improve/add areas for smokers which will also keep the smoke away from entries and walkways. I will also work to help improve parking conditions, possibly by setting up a designated pick-up/drop off area. These areas will be safer for people who get picked up and if more people are willing to get a ride, there will be better parking. If elected, I will work diligently to make our school a better experience for Green River students.

Michael Johnson



As Vice-President of the student body government for GRCC, I plan to improve the campus for all students. My plans, which support the policy of my running mate Amanda Wilson, include many diverse actions. The first will be to increase the amount of covered smoking areas, along with enforced smoking boundaries. I will work to bring in a cheaper and higher quality alternative to the cafeteria in order to fit the needs of our students. And finally, I will fight for an increase in the budget for our radio programs so they can acquire better equipment to provide better service.

Contact Student Government with any questions or concerns at (253) 833-9111 Ext. 2410.

The Richards Wrap-Up

by Tiffany Richards
Student Gov't Correspondent

Student Government awarded \$1,902.26 to Intercollegiate Athletics to help them purchase a laptop computer at the April 14 meeting. The new computer upgrade is intended to allow the Athletic Department to more efficiently record all sports score statistics both on the scoreboard at games and archive files. The department is currently using a full-sized desktop computer to record scores, which makes transport to different locations within the NWAACC's district difficult and extremely inefficient. Student Government recognized this need and appropriate use of Student Activities funds.

Josh Gerstman of the Green River

Community College Foundation as the members of Student Government to nominate two candidates for the Outstanding Faculty and Staff Awards. Every year, one staff worker and one full-time faculty member are nominated by the college's student body to receive this prestigious award. The winners will be recognized by Puget Sound Energy and the Green River Community College Foundation.

All Green River Community College Foundation Scholarships, in every category, are due by April 29 in the Financial Aid office on the second floor of the LSC.

Running start student Holly Sholes became the newest member of Student Government and the By-Laws Committee.

IS YOUR CLUB OR ORGANIZATION IN NEED OF PUBLICITY?

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

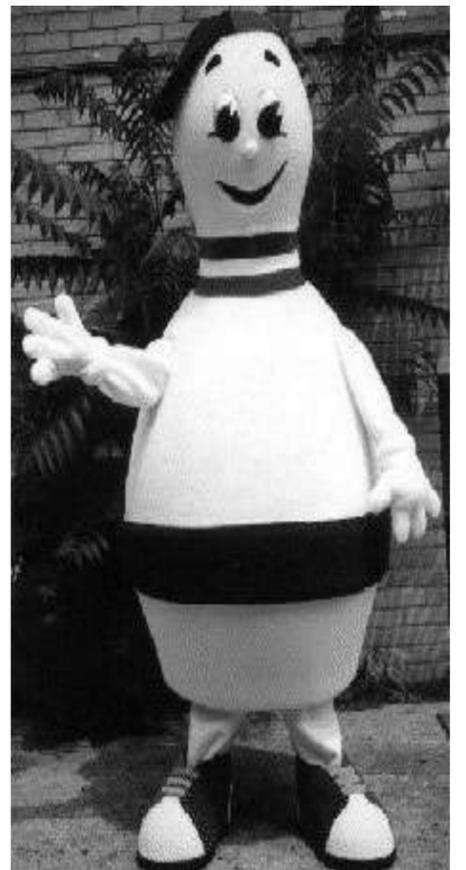
THE CURRENT CAN HELP! WE CAN BE REACHED BY PHONE OR E-MAIL!

CALL EXTENSION 2375, ASK FOR TROUT AND HE'LL GIVE YOU CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE CURRENT!

TROUT VS BARBARA VINCENT-PRICE

an update

With the help of Mildred Van Trump, a drunken assassin and coup-operator, Barbara Vincent-Price captured Trout McCodfish and while in his banana guise was slowly lowered into a giant blender. However, being a shape-shifting mutant can have its advantages. Morphing into a happy-go-lucky French bowling pin, Trout managed to "bowl" his enemies over with laughter, and narrowly escaped his demise. What will happen next? And will Barbara further employ Mildred to execute her dirty work? Find out what's become of Trout, The Current's mascot, on May 13.



Opinions & Editorials

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Stem cells: 21st century holocaust?

by Jason Wells
Staff writer

We are entering the age of a new holocaust. That is the basic argument Sen. Alex Deccio used to defeat a stem-cell research bill on the 11th of April. His argument first delayed, and then ultimately defeated the bill which would have regulated stem-cell research in our state.

The proposed bill would legalize stem-cell research in the state while prohibiting cloning (and enacting steep fines for cloning). Washington currently does not have any such regulatory bills in place for stem-cell research.

So that brings up the question: how is stem-cell research related to the holocaust? According to

"If supporting research for scientific advancement and the betterment of human existence makes me a Nazi, then I might as well change my name and go into hiding now."

Deccio, a World War II veteran, the bodies of the genocide victims were once embryos, and someone decided to do away with them. That's right, because holocaust victims were once embryos (a stage in human development which every human whom has ever existed went through) then embryonic stem-cell research is the same thing as the mass genocide of an entire race of people. Personally, I don't buy it.

Unfortunately, enough members of the Senate did buy into the argument and voted the bill down 26-23. Senate Majority leader Lisa Brown was one of the votes against the bill, but for a different reason. Brown voted with the majority, which means she can bring the bill back for review at a later date according to Senate policy. At least there is some good news in this whole situation.

Now to put this all in perspective. Stem-cell research is the use of embryonic stem-cells (cells which have not specialized yet) in finding cures for various diseases, such as Alzheimer's. Contrary to popular belief, these stem cells would not come from aborted fetuses, but instead 5 day old in-vitro fertilized embryos. That's right, these embryos never see the inside of a womb, and the only human characteristic they portray is our DNA.

Of course the argument always arises that they are just pre-developed humans, and since they have human DNA they are still alive and have souls. Well, with that argument, every time a condom is used to prevent pregnancy a few million souls are lost.

Still, we are all allowed to believe our own things, no mat-

ter how skewed and unrealistic they may be. However, if people are going to believe that stem-cell research is wrong because it destroys embryos, then they need to become unbiased and

human embryos) should not be excluded.

For some reason though, they are excluded. I guess because they are helping bring life into the world the "life" which they destroy is overlooked. With that same perspective then, why is stem-cell research being protested? After all, the research is an attempt to bring life and health into the world. Stem-cell research has the potential to bring about cures for Alzheimer's, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, and many others. If you have ever seen someone living with those diseases, you will be able to grasp just how debilitating they are.

So once again, why did the cries of holocaust defeat the bill? Because people with hypocritical views are elected into office and allowed to spew garbage, polluting the otherwise logical and productive debate atmosphere of the discussion floor. Unfortunately, this hypocritical garbage isn't going away any time soon, and is putting us behind other progressive states such as California. It has even put us behind Missouri, a red state with a republican governor whom just signed a similar bill enabling stem-cell research.

As a "progressive" state, we sure are moving forward at a

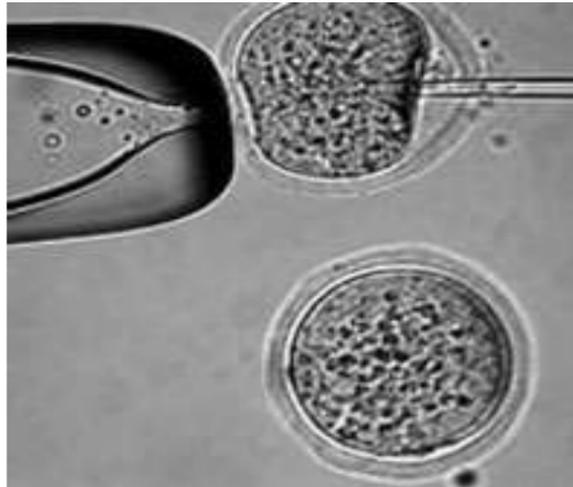


Photo: www.nature.com

Stem cell research has fiercely divided the state senate with a 26-23 vote in favor of Deccio

hate those other practices which destroy embryos daily.

Seattle Reproductive Medicine, the states largest fertility clinic, destroys over 200 embryos a year that aren't going to be used, along with those that die during the cryogenic freezing process. Yet, in their 11 years of operation, they have never had a protester. The argument here may be they are promoting children in those with difficulties, so its ok. Wrong, just plain, flat out wrong. If people are going to argue for the sanctity of human life against stem-cell research, then fertility clinics doing the exact same thing (destroying



Alex Deccio

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Photo: www.theolympian.com

Senator Deccio has compared stem cell research to the Holocaust and implied that stem cell supporters were Nazis.

snails pace. If looked at from the right perspective, we might even appear to be sliding backwards. After all, we have people like Deccio making decisions for the State, a man who indirectly called the 23 supporters of the bill (and subsequently anyone who supports stem-cell research) Nazis.

If supporting research for scientific advancement and the betterment of human existence makes me a Nazi, then I might as well change my name and go into hiding now.

Voices of Green River

Darius Parker, Randy Zweigle and Liane Behrens went out among students on campus and found out their inner thoughts. They were asked, "How common do you think marijuana use is amongst students on campus?"



"I don't think it's too bad."
-- Matt Heikkila



"It's not very bad."
-- Brittany Leckington



"I've seen instructors smoking before. I'm not sure if it was weed."
-- Chris Hansche



"I think that there are students here smoking every hour on the hour."
-- Ebony McCray

The great working class rip off

by Tom Callis
Staff writer

The social security debate has been out of the public mind recently, but still remains an important issue which affects every American's financial security. While the program is being challenged, groups such as the AARP, the Alliance for Retired Americans and the AFL-CIO have come out opposed to any proposed privatization. Recent polls show that most Americans are skeptical about any such plan.

Since its creation in 1936, social security has come under attack from the Right. While the current system is not perfect, privatization is not the answer. According to the AFL-CIO, under Bush's plan, benefits will be cut by 40% whether you invest part of your social security in private accounts or not, as well as threaten disability insurance.

With privatization people would be able to invest part of their social security in the stock market. The market is too unreliable for people to rely on and opens the program up to corruption. The businesses that will be open to investment would be picked by politicians and we know how close they like to stay to the people who run Wall Street.

A person's standard of living should not rely on how the stock market is doing that day. Privatization could create an even less stable retirement for



American workers and stands to undermine the accomplishments that have been made throughout this country's long history of labor activism.

It is no surprise that many of the main advocates of privatization are actually the companies on Wall Street. A total of 48 of such companies from AG Edwards to Wells Fargo are listed on the AFL-CIO website (www.aflcio.org). They all give money to groups such as the Club for Growth, Progress for America, the Heritage Foundation and many other conservative advocacy groups. These groups are hardly working in the interests of the average

working man and woman.

The reason these companies are so interested in this debate is not because they are worried about their own retirement. Rather they stand to make billions in what will probably become the greatest transfer of wealth from the working and middle class into the hands of some of the wealthiest people in the world. They keep their money through fees whether or not you make money with your investment.

According to economist Austan Goolsbee, Wall Street stands to make \$940 billion in the next 75 years if Bush's plan is put into action. No matter what insecurities the rest of America has, at

least the people who run Wall Street will be able to live comfortably in early retirement.

For those who invest poorly in the stock market there would be no safety net or back up program. Bush speaks of the benefits of an "ownership society" which he uses to justify privatization. But what he fails to point out is that in a capitalist society wealth is never spread evenly enough for everyone to own their own healthcare or retirement. That was the reason social security was introduced in the first place.

While the state is responsible for many evils, it does have the ability to provide such things as

healthcare and education to its citizens. Our nation is hardly leading a good example. The U.S. along with South Africa remains the only two developed nations not to provide universal healthcare even though we have the largest economy.

It comes down to priority and where our country decides to put its money. Any problems with healthcare or social security can be fixed by diverting tax dollars from the military budget. That money can be spent on better things such as healthcare, education and of course social security. As eighteenth French philosopher Rousseau pointed out, you can measure the amount of injustice in a society by the divide between the rich and the poor. Right now that gap is the greatest it's been since social security was introduced. Instead of putting the burden on the middle and working class it makes sense to have the wealthiest people in this country pick up the slack in order to close the financial gap. They obviously aren't worried about their retirement and hardly need social security.

If we are to secure the future we must secure the present by providing the necessities to every citizen instead of leaving it up to an unstable market. As the richest nation in the world, with a \$2 trillion lead over rival Japan we should be able to provide for the welfare of our nation's citizens. A humane government is one who uses the taxes it collects to improve the lives of its citizens.

Financially independent students feel the squeeze, on their wallets

By Nesha Norman-Jones
Staff writer

College students these days have a lot of pressure put on their shoulders to make sure that they have the money to pay their tuition each quarter. Paying to go to college is becoming just too hard for students. The costs for people to go to college seem to be soaring, putting stress on students to do whatever is necessary to pay their way into going to college. Students are struggling to get the aid that they need to get into college. It's well known that paying for college is hard, but lately it seems to be getting a lot harder, and really time consuming for a lot of people.

A lot of students are relying on the use of grants and loans to help them pay for their college education. The government is putting less effort into doing

something to make sure that people go to college and succeed. Students were paying somewhat close to the third of the costs to pay to go college and now they're having to pay over half of the costs to go to school.

Many grants and loans are being reduced by about \$100 to \$300 than they were before, so a lot of students are having enough aid to pay for the costs that is needed for them to go to college. Students are having to work a lot to make sure that they can afford to pay their tuition and some students are cutting the number of courses they take a quarter to work extra hours.

A lot of students going here at Green River have at least two jobs and work over 30 hours a week. As a result of the financial pressure to pay school tuition a lot of people don't have a lot of free time to themselves when

they're not working or going to school.

Education is a continual process and students can't grow to improve themselves personally and professionally, by learning new things, if they can't afford to go to school like they believe they should. As many students are told through their school years, education is the key to success. A lot of people won't succeed in life if they don't have the proper aid to help them finish their education.

No matter what the government should do whatever is necessary to make sure that people continue to go to college, and can afford their education; instead of having a lot of people doing absolutely nothing and letting students drop out of school because they can't find enough money to afford it. It's all about what's best for the students.



Students struggle to keep funding up for their tuition and books, even as their money flies away.

School is supposed to be a place for students to come to learn and educate themselves, but the dilemma is that people can't come to school if they don't have enough money to take out of

their pockets. No student should be allowed to be neglected or ignored. Students should be valued and appreciated.

Running Smart

What do traditional college students think of their high school-aged peers?

by Emily Abel
Staff writer

Last issue expanded on the views of the running start students on campus and how they feel they fit in. The majority of them feel that they fit in pretty well, more so than they did at their high schools. But what is the average college student's opinion?

It seems reasonable that people who are technically supposed to still be in high school would act more immature than the average college student. Of course some are well beyond their years as far as maturity, but how disruptive are the immature ones?

Erika Smith, 21, has been here for three quarters and says "the majority of the time I have no idea, but some are obviously running start."

She says that sometimes "they forget they are here for college learning," and that some are "immature and act like they are in high school."

Henry Poon, 20, has been at Green River for three years and feels that running start students "are a little bit ahead of themselves, like jumping in before they know what they are doing." He feels, however, that they get along with most people just fine.

Martin Wick, 19, has been here for three quarters and says that although "some of them are immature and annoying," because they "treat it like it's still high school," "they are students like everyone else."

Running Smart is a regular column written by Emily Abel about issues concerning running start students. Send ideas to thecurrent@greenriver.edu

Registration for summer classes begins May 9



Photos: Denise Coville

Above: Students enter the LSC under a sign advertising the fair. Right: A man pauses next to the giant stuffed duck at the Aflac table. Below: A student seeks information about UWT programs.



Transfer and job fair held Tuesday, April 19 in the LSC hosted representatives from dozens of schools and businesses, both local and from as far as Hawaii. The fair lasted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Does your car need a wash?

Automotive technology department's annual car wash to support American Cancer Society is coming up soon

by Denise Coville
News editor

Green River's automotive technology department will be hosting its annual car wash May 21 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All money the department brings in from the car wash will be donated to the American Cancer Society.

The department has been holding the car wash for several years, and last year's car wash made \$600 for the cause.

"It was really successful," said instructor Karl Hoffman. "It was a nice, sunny day."

Students in the department will be washing cars while instructors Karl Hoffman and Dan Sorensen provide complimentary valet service to staff and faculty members who send them emails that day saying they'd like to have their car washed.

Students may follow the signs to the car wash, which will be near the main entrance.

They time the event so that it coincides with other local cancer events.

For more information, contact the automotive department at ext. 4100.



Photo: Denise Coville

The message "Wish my girl was this dirty" can be found on the dirty window of the natural resources van



photo: Denise Coville

Get your car washed at the auto department's annual car wash, and you'll be donating to a good cause

Two-thirds of worldwide deaths are due to diseases associated with **diet.**

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Find out how you can help. With a career less ordinary.

You can make a difference in people's lives with a different kind of career. Start with a Bastyr Nutrition degree. For the best natural health education in the world, please visit college8.bastyr.edu.

BASTYR UNIVERSITY

New club encourages human rights activism

by Kristin Ladines
Staff writer

Attention students, a new club is coming to our campus. The Amnesty International club is about ready to take flight, and is greatly anticipated.

Zahir Osman, founder and president of the Amnesty International Club (AIC), says that "I was suprised that GRCC didn't have an active Amnesty Group on campus, and was eager to start on of my own." Osman also states that "we live in a very sheltered part of the world, and we tend to take our freedom for granted."

For students who wonder how they can make a difference in our world, AIC is a great way to get involved. For those of you who would like to get involved but do not have alot of time in your busy schedule, AIC has all types of activities that require very little time.

Amnesty International works to improve human rights through the actions of ordinary people around the world.

"Sometimes our solidarity keeps hope alive, and hope is a precious weapon for prisoners battling to survive," says Osman. "Relatives trying



amnesty international
WORKING TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE

to obtain justice or human rights defenders bravely continuing their work despite danger and isolation. We as students can make a difference, but many of us are unaware that in these times of war, the pen can be mightier than the sword."

What does Amnesty International represent? Amnesty International is a worldwide campaigning movement that works to promote all the human rights enshrined in the

Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international standards.

You may be wondering why your help is important. Here is a letter sent by Elma Novais from Brazil thanking members of Amnesty International's Urgent Action network for their letters of support.

"I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. It has been a hard struggle since I denounced the murderers of my

son. We have suffered a lot of violence and threats. But thanks to the support of each of you, I will carry on, so that justice may be done, so other children will not be killed and so that such crimes will not go unpunished."

As you can see even letters of encouragement can make a difference in someones

AIC campaigns

- free all prisoners of conscience
- ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners
- abolish the death penalty, torture and other cruel treatment of prisoners
- end political killings and "disappearances"; and oppose human rights abuses by opposition groups.
- Amnesty International Topics
- International Trade in Arms and Military Training
- Business and Human Rights
- Children
- Conflict Diamonds
- The Death Penalty
- Education
- The Environment
- International Criminal Court
- Legal Issues
- LGBT (lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender) Human Rights
- Prisoners of Conscience
- Racial Profiling
- Refugees
- Religion & Human Rights
- Torture
- U.S. Policy and Legislation
- The "War on Terror"
- Women

For more information, go to <http://takeaction.amnestyuse.org>

Answers for Transfers

Is an associate's degree necessary when transferring to a university?

by Tiffany Richards
Staff writer

Many Green River students attend this college with the intention of continuing their education at a four-year institution by transferring 90 of their core credits earned through the many options offered in the associates degree program.

As a member of the Inter-College Relations Commission, students who complete a designated direct transfer associate's degree at the community college level will have finished all or most of their general requirements for various acclaimed four-year institutions in the state and country.

While many students currently pursuing their associate's degrees in various areas of study know this, one question remains - is the associate's degree absolutely necessary for those who want to continue their higher education?

An agreement made between the University of Washington in Seattle and Washington community colleges gives top priority to students who have obtained 90 transferable credits that were taken in preparation for their professional academic major. According to Susan Inman, the lead admissions counselor at the University of Washington in Seattle, pursuing an associate's degree as it is often the best preparation for degrees at UW.

The advisors from both Seattle Pacific University and Pacific Lutheran University, two private institutions in western Washington, strongly recommended that students who wanted to attend these schools earn their associate's degree because the transfer process would be much smoother with one. Both institutions, however, held that students can transfer without previously earning the associate's degree.

The response was quite differ-

ent from the University of Idaho and Colorado State University.

Both Admissions Representative Debbie Turner (Colorado State University) and Assistant Director of New Student Services Melissa Garrett (University of Idaho) held that the Green River students don't necessarily need to earn an associate's degree before transferring to either school as long as they meet specified additional requirements.



Photo: servus.ca

The most relaxed institution was Northwest University, a private college based in Kirkland.

Transcript Analyst Matt Rivera of Northwest explained that the student's choice of major, how much time it will take them to complete a standard bachelor's degree, and their individual financial

situation determines whether an Associates degree is necessary.

So is an associate's degree necessary for all students who wish to transfer to a four-year university? Based on the research above, there is clearly no one-size-fits-all answer. Each institution has their own individual requirements for incoming transfer students.

The best thing a transfer student can do is to figure out what school he or she wants to attend after Green River and find out if an associate's degree is necessary.

If any transfer student is having trouble making this important decision, contact the Educational Planning Center on the first floor of the LSC in room 126 and make an advising appointment. It's best to plan ahead when it comes to pursuing any higher education degree.

Answers for transfers is a regular column written by Tiffany Richards about the issues concerning transfer students. Please send ideas to thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Today is last day to buy caps, gowns and hoods for graduation

by Kristin Ladines
Staff writer

Spring is here, and graduation isn't far behind.

This year's graduation will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16 in the gymnasium.

Here are some helpful hints from Jessica Gilmore and Julia Nation. Nation and Gilmore are both in charge of credentials and evaluating for graduation.

*The first and the most important thing to remember is to apply for the degree or certificate that you want!!

*For all transfer students, (if needed) remember to apply for financial aid. Also remember to attend the orientation ceremony

to the school in which you would like to attend.

*Apply to have your name in the graduation brochure.

*Caps, gowns and hoods must be purchased by today. Working with a new vendor has resulted in a tight schedule, and ordering after today could result in reduced selection.

Please contact Sue Fairly at extension 2074 to rent or purchase.

A letter will be sent home containing photo information and all the details of what will take place at the commencement ceremony.

For all the soo- to-be graduating students of spring 2005 we

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Students trash bad environmental habits

Environmental science students host activities to increase environmental awareness on Earth Day

by Denise Coville
News editor

Several of Green River's environmental science students spent Friday, April 22 collecting garbage.

In celebration of Earth Day, these students rounded up the campus' trash until noon and piled it outside the LSC to give students a visual of how much they waste every day.

"There was a lot of garbage," said Mike Fedotov, one of the environmental science students who spent the day helping. "There was a ton of cigarettes everywhere. We couldn't even pick them all up. In 15 minutes, we filled a whole coffee can with cigarettes."

Fedotov is skeptical of how much the demonstration will affect students' waste habits, but he hopes it will increase awareness.

"I don't think anybody cares," he said. "But I hope they'll start using cigarette trays. It's not very hard."

Other demonstrations were also conducted around campus. Booths were set up in the LSC and in the library where students could take quizzes that would tell them how harmful their lifestyles were to the environ-



Photo: Anthony Graziano

ment.

Quiz participants were entered into a drawing to win a pair of tickets to an upcoming Seattle Mariners baseball game.

The quizzes asked questions about how much students drive, and about their eating habits. The results were given in the number of planets we would need if everybody had the same habits as them.

Emily Smith, a Green River student, doesn't think the quiz was very accurate.

"It's biased," she said. "It doesn't take everything into consideration. I'm a vegetarian and I use

100 percent biodegradable products, but I got a bad score because I drive a lot."

If everybody had habits similar to Smith's, the quiz predicts we will need six planets in order to sustain life.

In general, said Fedotov, student results were pretty bad.

Although also skeptical about how much the demonstrations will change student behavior, Smith thought it was a positive step.

"It's a good start," she said. "I think the people who took the quiz were influenced."



Above: students gathered trash in outside the LSC to show how much we waste each day. Left: This poster provided a more environmentally friendly way to dispose of gum.

Left photo: Liane Behrens

Ceiling panels delay tech center opening

Supplier "fell through," opening pushed to May

by Nicole Levins
Staff writer

Many here at Green River have been wondering why there has been a delay on the opening of the new tech center. The main reason seems to be quite simple.

"We had a problem with our supplier in getting the correct ceiling panels," said Sam Ball, director of this project.

Although the reason doesn't seem that problematic, it's very complex. The panels needed are wood finished and will accumulate less dust in the long run. Those kinds of panels are needed when they are going to be around computer equipment.

The correct panels were ordered and supposedly shipped when "the supplier fell through,"

comments Ball.

Because the supplier fell through on the order, it's been difficult finding a new supplier that makes the special panels.

"These panels are only made as they are ordered and cannot just be bought down at a place like Home Depot," Ball confirmed.

Finding a new supplier for the panels was the main hang up in this project. Without them, the building is not up to code. The electrical work cannot be finished and neither can the fire safety sprinklers. This makes the building too dangerous to open.

The panels have been received and the building is now being finished up. The new tech center is expected to open in May.



Photo: greenriver.edu

Green River students explore, experience Italy *Studying abroad gives students opportunities to widen horizons*

By Emily Abel
Staff writer

Special programs are all a big part of college. What could be more special than studying abroad in some foreign country? Every quarter students from across the state spend time in other countries for the Study Abroad program. This quarter, the students partaking in this program are in Florence, Italy. There, they regularly attend class as well as go on excursions.

Students in the Study Abroad program this quarter are required to take certain classes. Each student must take Italian Language and Culture, and then have the choice of four other classes to take. The students may choose between Introduction to the Art History, Fundamentals of Drawing, World Civilization, and 20th Century U.S. and Italian Comparative History.

One of the excursions that the Study Abroad students have

taken is to Siena. Siena is the home of the exciting festival and race, the Palio. It is supposedly one of Italy's most enchanting cities. When our students went to Siena, it was, unfortunately, raining. They did, however, find it beautiful. They started their outing with a visit to the Dominican church called San Domenici. Then they made their way to the cathedral called il Duomo. The students were supposed to tour the cathedral, but unfortunately, due to the Pope's funeral they were unable to do so.

Instead, they went to the Duomo Museum. There, they climbed an unfinished basilica wall. Both the wall and the cathedral are on the tallest hill in Siena. When they got to the top of the wall

they were able to see a huge area of Tuscan wine country.

The students then went to the Piazza Campagna to eat. Awkwardly enough, the menu was only in Italian. This made them nervous, but their faculty leader coaxed them into picking something, assuring them it would be delicious.

Recently, Cindy Card has been looking for people to go to London in the fall. There students can get to know London on a tour to see historical sights such as Big Ben,



Picture: <http://www.isp.msu.edu/CERS/resources/countries/italy.html>
A map of Italy. The students are staying in Florence.

the Houses of Parliament, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, and the West End. For more information call 253.288.3419 extension 2160.

Picture: <http://www.einmannorchester.ch/gin/europe/2002-2/index-italia.html>
The city of Siena, where the students spent a day.



New exhibit focuses on violence against Asian American women

By Nicole Frieszell
Staff writer

"Women just don't have a voice," says May Ching, the exhibit planner for "Women and Violence", about Asian American women. Giving these women a voice is one of the main ambitions of the new "Women and Violence" exhibit at the Wing Luke Asian Museum.

The exhibit, which opened on April 22, audaciously addresses the reality of domestic violence, discrimination and sexual stereotypes of women, especially those of Asian Pacific Island descent.

"Women and Violence" is part of the museum's New Dialogue Initiative which initiates "talking more about issues effecting Asian Americans that aren't talked about very often," conveys Ching, "Underground subjects that most people are not educated in." New Dialogue allows the

guests to participate and encourages discussion on the subjects.

Empty jars through out the "Women and Violence" exhibit pose questions pertaining to domestic violence and abuse in each guest's life. Guests may participate by adding a rock to a jar for each question to which they answer 'yes.'

On window shades slide shows are projected of newspaper articles about abused women, facts on violence, and images from movies and other various media which portray women as sexual objects.

Posters tell historical and root causes of abuse, including shocking stories, such as the 200,000 Japanese women that were abducted during World War II and were used as "comfort women" or sex slaves for the military men.

Costumes of Asian sexual stereotypes are displayed down the center of the exhibit. These costumes include the Sexy China Doll/Geisha Girl, the Madame Butterfly or "plus size Geisha," the Hula Girl and the Mail-

Order-Bride.

The Mail-Order-Bride costume, a white dress with "fragile" and various postal stamps printed on it, was a Halloween costume sold at Wal-Mart in 2003. Next to the Mail-Order-Bride costume, a Mail-Order-Bride business is quoted as advertising the Asian woman as being feminine, sexy and willing to let the man be masculine.

"We have audio/visual playing in the background to contrast, where women speak up," says Ching, "women who have felt empowered to voice pain, issues that society does not talk about."

According to Ching, Asian Pacific Islander women are more susceptible to domestic violence because of traditions and stereotypes. Domestic violence leaves these women isolated. There is a language barrier that makes it hard for them to seek help. Many stay with their partner because of the need of financial support or the fear being "disgraced."

Ching relates that the goals of the "Women and Violence" exhibit are to "educate, (create) awareness, let people know about the networks out there. To voice Asian American women and issues, not keep them hidden, or underground."

The exhibit runs until Sept 4 and is located at The Wing Luke Asian Museum in Seattle's International District, at 407 7th Ave S. Along with the exhibit,

the museum will be holding a cell phone drive to collect old cell phones. These phones will be refurbished and sold. The proceeds will go to help anti-domes-

tic violence organizations. Call 206-623-5124, or visit www.wingluke.org for more information.



Picture: <http://www.wingluke.org/special.html#women>
One of the pieces in the exhibit.

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New pope will stick to traditional Catholic doctrine *Follower, advocate of conservative ways of late Pope John Paul II*

By Jeremy Hulburt
Staff writer

On the afternoon of Tuesday, April 19, white smoke poured from a chimney at The Vatican and bells rang throughout Rome, showing to the world that a new pope was elected in the first papal conclave of the new millennium. This latest election was one of the fastest papal selections in more than 100 years.

The new pope was elected after four or five ballots over two days.

The former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger of Germany, who just turned 78, was elected to replace the late Pope John Paul II.

Wearing traditional papal robes, Joseph Ratzinger of Germany appeared Tuesday on a Vatican balcony as the 265th pope, Benedict XVI, as tens of thousands gathered in St. Peter's Square to cheer him. Rome's officials predicted half a million people would cram into St. Peter's

Square and the streets nearby.

He was born April 16, 1927 in Marktl am Inn, Germany. He was ordained a priest on June 29, 1951. Proclaimed Cardinal by Paul VI in the consistory of June 27, 1977, he assumed the titles of the suburbicarian Church of Velletri-Segni (April 5, 1993) and of the suburbicarian Church of Ostia (November 30, 2002). He was also a chief advisor to Pope John Paul II.

The pope had his first meeting with the Cardinals and he said, "This is not about being honored but rather about a service that needs to be carried out with simplicity and dedication."

Pope Benedict XVI has taken positions similar to his predecessor, and has been a huge defender of existing Catholic doctrine.

Also, he has appointed most of the top officials who served under John Paul II.

He has made it clear that he intends to maintain tradition,

and not give in to modern pressures to change fundamental Church teachings.

While this strict view of the Catholic doctrine is refreshing to many Catholics, some are worried about the effect Benedict's



Photo: seattletimes.com

The new Pope Benedict XVI, 78, was selected April 19 in one of the fastest papal selections in history

decisions will have on the Church.

In recent years, talk of letting married men into the priesthood, allowing gays to marry in the Church and giving women a stronger role in the Church have surfaced. With Benedict as Pope, though, these hopes are likely to not even be approached.

Benedict is already 78, only six years younger than Pope John Paul II when he

passed away. It is rumored his old age was one of the factors leading to his election, as his



Photo:berkeleysquarejazz.com

The late Pope John Paul II passed away at age 84 after a 26-year reign.

reign will not be as long as John Paul's and might be considered better for the church.

Green River provides for students with learning disorders

By Nesha Norman-Jones
Staff writer

Many students struggle with learning disabilities, which affect how people function. Students with these disabilities have to try extra hard to learn at the same level of other students. They interfere with a person's ability to easily store, process, or produce

information that's taught to them. As being neurological disorders, learning disabilities make it hard to quickly understand things. People with learning disabilities take things in slow.

Some learning disabilities cause students to constantly reread things until they understand material well enough to process it, and sometimes, people will

have to ask a lot of questions in order to understand something that is simple to other students. Sometimes learning disabilities cause students to work hard to take decent notes that will allow them to study.

Some specific disabilities that are commonly dealt with among students involve a lot of reading and arithmetic. For reading, people have a lot of trouble with identifying the themes and main ideas that are found in the material that they read, word recognition, reading comprehension, and their rate of speed when reading. When students with these disabilities read material they have trouble understanding what they're reading, among all of the big words, and how much material that they have to read.

The more these students have to read the harder it is for them to remember everything. The amount of different topics and ideas all throughout the piece of reading make it harder to understand. People plagued with learning disabilities sometimes have difficulty trying to connect the topics and ideas in a piece of reading to understand what the messages and lessons actually are.

When it comes to arithmetic, people not only have trouble with remembering specific terms, but they may have trouble with anything that involves technology. Usually people with learning disabilities have trouble with either one or the other.

Teachers can't lower their standards of teaching just for students that have learning disabili-

ties. Students with learning disabilities have the right to succeed and get a good education just like any other student. With the right documentation, students with learning disabilities at Green River have access to whatever is necessary for them. The Disability Support Services (DSS) that the school provides for students, based on how they learn and what is easy for them, can help out these students.

So with the proper help those who a disability should do well in school and shouldn't have any excuses about their disability when they have a problem throughout their educational process here at Green River Community College. Students should be able to keep up with everything in their classes and comprehend material easily as much as possible.

The college is committed to making sure that there is an equal opportunity of learning for all students. DSS helps make material for students' classes somewhat easier and helps to comprehend items as much as possible like the other students in their classes. This helps by putting less stress on students than they already have about doing well in their classes.

To get help from DSS, students have to provide a documentation of their disability to show that they meet the requirements asked for to have the need for certain accommodations. This lets the school have specific and clear direct evidence that identifies what learning disability a student has. They also need to know what level that student functions

at normally. With this knowledge, the DSS can know what accommodations can be used to help students with learning disabilities.

DSS has many different ways for students with learning disabilities to deal with doing things and to compensate with learning different ways to make life a lot easier for those with disabilities. For those who have trouble reading things, DSS can give them an audio/visual aid to help them out. Students can get books on tape to help them read, or they can get their own reader, where the reader will read the material from the book so it's easier for the students to understand, and record the information for the student to listen to.

Another audio/visual aid that students can use is Kurzweil, a computer software program that reads the material aloud. The students can listen to what's been read, as they read the text on the screen. This program highlights the sentence that's being read and every word throughout the text as it goes along. In addition, students can use a tape recorder in their classes and get accommodations for taking tests. When taking tests students can get time and a half for their tests, and depending on how they function they can have a separate place to take their test.

To see if you're eligible for the services DSS can provide, students should go to the Disability Support Services Office on the first floor in the Lindbloom Student Center (LSC), in Room 126.

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Japanese baseball movie takes a base...with ZOMBIES

By Tyler Foster
Staff writer

There's just something about sports movies. It's possible that movies about one of our many recreational pastimes result in even more insipid, forcefully upbeat and painfully cliché-ridden garbage than the romantic comedy or children's film genres combined. And yet, the genre also manages to spit out some of the most ridiculous, out-of-this-world nonsense put on film, be it good (*Shaolin Soccer*) or bad (*Rollerball*). *Battlefield Baseball* may contain very little baseball, but it makes up for it with the zombies, ghosts, giant mallets, samurai swords, kung fu, robots, and musical numbers, fueled by the usual insanity of Asian cinema and delivered with the energy of a super tornado pitch to the head.

The sort-of plot, based on a Japanese comic book by Gatarô Man, follows the baseball team at Seido High School. Their coach (named "Kocho") is obsessed with his team making it to the Koshien Tournament -- they have the best batters, the best pitchers, the best base-stealers. But when it turns out their first game is against Gedo High School (aka "Zombie High School"), it looks like the end.

Because Gedo has a reputation -- cheating, maiming, and killing their opponents without the slightest penalty. Luckily, their new exchange student, Jubeh (Tak Sakaguchi) might just be the answer to all their problems...

Of course he's the answer. That much of the plot is just like any sports film, down to the tragic memory that caused him to swear off baseball forever. And of course he comes to his senses, and plays for the Seido team. But along with that familiarity comes characters like Bancho, who dies three times during the movie, each time returning as an entirely different actor. Or Four-Eyes (his name, not his nickname), whose mother carries around a big mallet and threatens to squish him if he is ever caught playing baseball again. Or the entire crowd of people who show up to clap and cheer whenever the movie reaches a sentimental sweet spot.

Tak Sakaguchi is good in the

main role. He may not have much spark, that unique thing that makes him special to watch, but he is good at handling the



hundreds of random things the movie requires, including singing, crying, kung fu and even some actual baseball. Director Yudai Yamaguchi stages the insanity with a good comic timing, utilizing an obviously low budget to the greatest

extent. The movie is distinctly goofy, and scenes of somewhat graphic violence are defused by the comedic tone of the movie (sometimes the low budget is responsible for this as well). Fans of Sam Raimi or George Romero will find homages and references scattered throughout, down to the gray-blue zombie skin of the Gedo team.

Admittedly, *Battlefield Baseball* takes a little while to get going, and there's a level of repetitiveness. A lot of the movie, the characters are always yelling. It's a little hard to not expect a baseball game to actually happen somewhere, leading to a lot of waiting for something that isn't going to happen. Despite only being 87 minutes long, the film feels like it could be shortened by at least five minutes, as the middle drags on the most. And a lot of people are going to find the film's tone just too out-there and silly. Certainly *Battlefield Baseball* is not a good place for the uninitiated to start watching

Asian cinema.

Battlefield Baseball is not quite a masterpiece and it isn't for everyone. Those prepared and looking for truly ridiculous comedy, however, are in for a treat. There's nothing in *Battlefield Baseball* that feels uninspired, like every other sports film trying to deliver the same old message of teamwork and achievement against all odds (*Battlefield Baseball's* closing message is, quite randomly, about the dangers of drinking). What could have easily been some sort of psychotic disaster is made more than watchable by a talented cast and a good director. And they love the game: the movie is dedicated to everyone who loves the game of baseball. Not that most of us watch it for the exploding outfielders.

Starring Tak Sakaguchi, Atsushi Ito, Shinji Tanikado, Kenji Matsuda, and Hideo Sakaki
Directed by Yudai Yamaguchi
Subversive Cinema (Japan: 2002, US: 2005 [DVD]), 87 Minutes
This film has not been rated by the MPAA.
On DVD May 17th, 2005

New comedy brings primetime laughs to the workplace

By Brian Vines
A&E editor

Importing shows from across the Atlantic and Americanizing them with brand new casts and/or contestants for domestic viewers is becoming something of a trend in the television entertainment industry. Sometimes it pays off (*American Idol*); sometimes it doesn't (*Coupling*). Aiming for the former, NBC has delivered yet another contribution to the craze with their newest program, *The Office*. So how does it



stack up? Let's just say that if you've been bored to tears with every post-*Seinfeld* NBC sitcom (and are unfamiliar with the BBC version of the show), then *The Office* may be your cup of coffee.

But to call *The Office* a full-fledged situation comedy would be a tad misleading. While its episodes follow distinct plots with an ongoing, cast-driven storyline behind them, the show is stylized more like a mock documentary (or mockumentary, rather) than anything. There is no laugh track, so if you're accustomed to the 'insert-your-own-laughter-here' atmosphere that sitcoms like *Arrested Development* and *Malcolm in the Middle* provide, you should feel right at home with *The Office's* studio

ambience.

Unlike its British sibling, the American show's cast shapes itself into noticeable personality stereotypes. This isn't necessarily a bad thing since this version's characters still display a functional chemistry between each other; they just don't lavish viewers with as much empathetic appeal as their British counterparts. The result is a cast that relies more on predictable tension than evolving love/hate relationships.

Michael Scott, played by Steve Carell (*The Daily Show*, *Bruce Almighty*), is the thickheaded and obnoxious regional manager at a paper company sales office. As the show's focal character, the rest of the cast pretty much hinges on tolerating his bizarre and unconventional antics. Why? Because he signs

their paychecks.

In the pilot episode's opening scene he, "the master," attempts to demonstrate how to make a deal with a client via phone and concludes the call by stating, "Thank you very much sir; you are a gentleman and a scholar," only to find out that it was a woman he was speaking to all along. It's Michael's recurring foot-in-mouth situations that force audience members to wonder just how he

got the position as regional manager in the first place -- it's his constant failure to recognize his err that'll keep them wondering.

Most of the show's humor stems from Michael's ongoing quest to be, above all things, the office's enlightening entertainer. His "jokes" are often distasteful (impersonating Hitler using a stapler as a mustache), to ignorant (making a barrage of 'old age' jokes at an employee's birthday party), to downright mean (coaxing the receptionist into believing that she's been fired). While the antics themselves aren't particularly funny, it's the subsequent reactions from other characters (and the awkwardness that ensues) that really give *The Office* an abundance of hilarity.

Other starring roles include Dwight (Rainn Wilson), the assistant to the regional manager, Jim (John Krasinski), the sales representative, and Pam (Jenna Fischer), the receptionist. Dwight is the power-craving 'outcast' of the bunch. His workplace nemesis, Jim, pretty much fills the cast's 'likeable generic guy' slot. Jim secretly admires the 'innocent' Pam, who has been engaged to her fiancé for three years and running.

Like the British series (whether it's coincidental or not), the first season of NBC's *The Office* consists of only six episodes. The American pilot bears a lot of resemblance to the British one in that it serves to introduce the lead characters to viewers while carrying over many of the same jokes in the process. The rest of the episodes are distinctly written for American audiences. So far, "Diversity Day," which pushes the boundaries of ethnic-stereotype humor and "Health Care," which emphasizes the interaction between the show's auxiliary roles, have shown to be the most entertaining installments so far.

Now that the brief opening season has come to an end, hopefully NBC will be kind enough to incorporate a second into its fall lineup (they should at least have one show that excels above mediocrity). The American version of *The Office* may harbor its fair share of rough edges but with a little refining, it could very well prove to be among the best comedies on television. B+

New alternative album turns up the heat

by Nicole Frieszell
Staff writer

Hot Hot Heat's newest album, *Elevator*, is a thrilling ride full of catchy tunes and witty lyrics.

Although the album starts off a bit weak with songs such as "Running out of Time" and "Goodnight, Goodnight", it gets stronger with each song and ends on, possibly, the album's best track, *Elevator*. (Perhaps this is one reason why the band lists the song backwards on the back of the album.)

The album runs 37:52 minutes, with 13 songs, a nearly empty thirteenth track, and a pointless, 17 second intro. The songs are all fast-paced, peppy and repetitive, with choruses that you could sing along with on your second listen.

Still the band's prodigious sound, with their highly stylized vocals and strong backbeats, creates rhythmic songs that are captivating and memorable rather than annoying.

Elevator has produced mixed reactions among long time fans. Many are disappointed by the more polished radio-friendly



sound on this album. In this case, *Elevator* does not compare to their older material, but taken apart from this bias, *Elevator* contains some gratifying new material with a tighter sound.

Some of the album's best tracks include "Island of an Honest Man", "Middle of Nowhere" and the album's title song, "Elevator."

"Ladies and Gentleman" contains a great chorus yet, if you listen closely you will hear that the melody sounds quite similar to that of a Smash Mouth song. With its piano accompaniment and its rotating rhythm, "You Owe Me an IOU" hints at a 70s pop rock influence. Of the entire album's songs, "Shame on You" boasts some of the most well crafted lyrics.

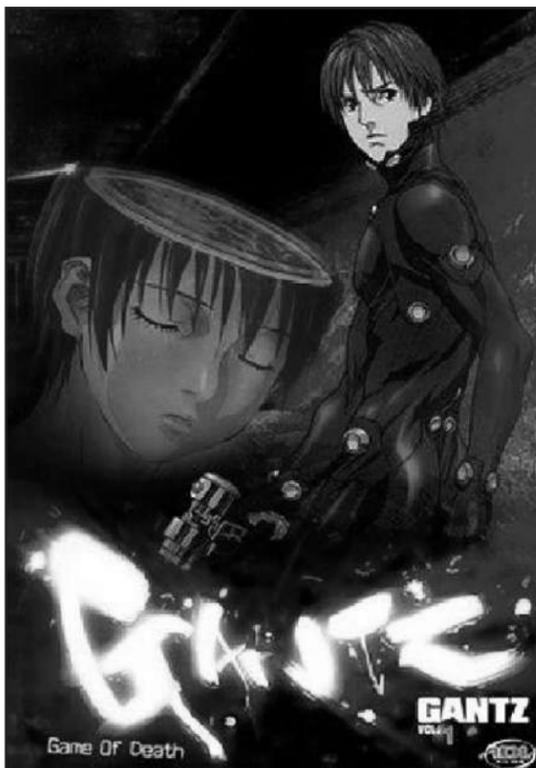
Elevator marks the third album for the Canadian foursome. Although it lacks striking songs such as "Bandages" and "No, Not Now," this album seems to contain less filler songs than Hot Hot Heat's previous records. With its driving rhythms and clever wit, Hot Hot Heat's *Elevator* is hot, hot, hot.

Anime fans will go gonzo for *Gantz*

by Eric Perkins
Staff writer

What happens when we die? Well, according to ADV film's new release, *Gantz*, some of us are whisked away to a room full of complete strangers and a giant, black ball tells you to go out and do things for it. This simple premise is the story behind one of the coolest anime series I have ever seen. This reporter has even gotten several people in the LSC addicted to it as well!

I would like to first start with the bad parts: First, there are only two episodes per disc. Second, *Gantz* isn't for everyone, it contains explicit, graphic violence, lots of full nudity, extreme sexual content, and (in the English dub at least) lots of fun, four-letter words. But even these downsides are balanced out. Each disc cost me only \$12 at Suncoast and the



colorful language serves to make the dialogue seem more believable..

In volume one, we are introduced to the cast... most of whom aren't important because they die in the second episode, which is REALLY unlucky for them considering that they were dead to begin with. Yes, you read that right. Most of the cast dies within the first hour of the series... not even Zeta Gundam can claim that kind of body count in such a short time! There are only six important characters. And yes, they're the ones that live.

In volume two, so many questions are answered, that I'm going to have a hard time writing about it without spoiling too much. *Gantz's*

name is finally mentioned, and it gives everyone their scores, goD (it's the dog. Gantz... can't spell) zero points, Kurono, zero points, Kato cha, zero points, Miss Melons, zero points and Nishi, three points. It's also in this volume where Kei Kurono, one of the main characters, stops being such a jerk after looking back on his life and realizes that he USED to be fearless. We also get to see what the suits that Gantz gives them do when Kei beats the living daylights out of the alien they need to kill.

Gantz is awesome. It seems just about splatter until you look deeper; take notice of the believable characters and dialogue. It's something I suggest everyone at least check out, not just anime fans--everyone. Watch it with some friends so you can laugh together, say ewww together, and say "Dude that freaking RULED!" together.

New and upcoming movie release highlights

By Tyler Foster
Staff writer

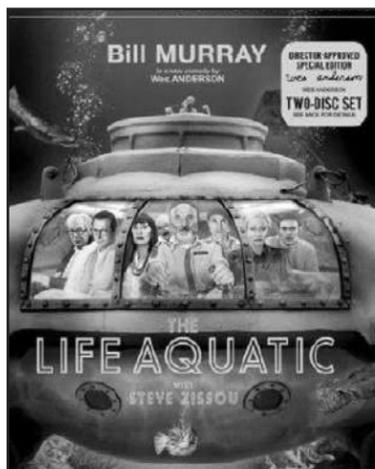
Now Playing:
Kung Fu Hustle

Stephen Chow's kung-fu gangster flick isn't perfect, but it is a lot of fun. Starring Chow as a wannabe criminal who unwittingly starts a war between a slum and the notorious Axe Gang, he's caught in the middle when three of the slum's residents turn out to be kung-fu masters. Packed with plenty of action, a lot of hilarious slapstick comedy and even some strong dramatic moments, *Kung Fu Hustle* is a must-see for fans of Hong Kong cinema.

Coming to Theaters:
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Don't panic -- here's to hoping director Garth Jennings and Touchstone have delivered a smart, well-done adaptation of late British author Douglas Adams's wonderful novels about a man and his

alien friend who escape Earth moments before it is destroyed. Starring Martin Freeman of BBC's *The Office* as Arthur Dent and Mos Def (*The Italian Job*) as his alien friend Ford Prefect, along with Zoey Deschanel and Sam Rockwell, *Hitchhiker's Guide* looks to be a lot of fun.



Coming to DVD:
The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou

Wes Anderson's unusual dramedy isn't for everyone, but fans of *The Royal Tenenbaums* and *Rushmore* should find more of the same as Bill Murray's *Zissou* hilariously defeats pirates, steals equipment and meets his long-lost son while trying to get revenge on a jaguar shark that ate his best friend. Those more interested in action and thrills,

however, should try *Assault on Precinct 13*, a fine remake of the John Carpenter film about police and criminals inside a police station forced to fight together against corrupt cops.

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Local band delivers solid Studio 7 performance

by Nate Miller
Staff writer

If you look at the history of Washington State you'll notice that beyond the Space Needle and Mt. Rainer there is another landmark that can't be touched or shown to you. As a matter of fact, it can only be experienced through sound. Rock transformed its humble beginnings in Seattle with Quincy Jones, Ray Charles, Hendrix, Heart, Paul Revere and the Raiders, The Presidents, and then progressed with Nirvana and Pearl Jam. However our artsy nook in America still has a revered soul in many genres of music and one of those is a new sound from the local band Fading From You.

On Thursday, April 14, the band out of Fife and Federal Way Washington played a homecoming show at Studio 7 where they first showed their talent and then sold it to an excited crowd. Talking to their current sponsor, Big Time Records, I discovered that they have quickly increased their fan-base which was recorded by ticket sales at the shows they have played. I was also surprised at their veteran-like stage presence and even though a late Thursday night show can be pretty empty, the onlookers available were transfixed on the band.

As the headliners, Fading From You stepped out on stage knowing that this wasn't like the shows they had played at the Premier and Hell's kitchen, "We had more time and more energy since we hadn't played a show in a couple weeks," said



Clockwise from top: Tyler (lead singer), Brandon (rhythm guitar), TJ (bassist), Micah (drumer), Jon (lead guitar / vocals)

Photos from www.fadingfromyou.com.



Tyler Smith, the band's lead singer.

Their extravagant sound is a combination of modern stylish classic rock, scream, and modern punk sound with a smooth, catchy

melody. The drums deliver the definition of hard punk with a collision of double bass and hairspray symbol torture. The bass is comparable to that of Roger Waters. Both guitarist use creative riffs and breakdowns to lead the band's sound into a new area of Seattle music.

The performance is a rollercoaster with a penetrating beginning, "Scarlet," a grand illusion of controlled hypnotic rhythms with powerhouse vocals, and then continues with "What If," a balls-to-the-wall, gorilla style beat with a insane guitar solo by Auburn Riverside graduate, Jon Werfleman. This montage for the mind climaxes with their signature song, "Playing Victim," which explodes with a behind-the-back guitar solo by an insane Werfleman.

The band has been playing for six months. "It's harder for us to get started since we're older than most of the bands out there, all of us are nineteen except for Brandon," said bassist T.J. Roberts. I don't think that's going to matter if their nonconformist style and devotion continue.

"We don't have a CD release date yet but we're definitely on our way to a great recording" said rhythm guitarist Brandon Ereath. The band is on both My Space, Purevolume, and at FadingFromYou.com. If you're interested in a classic music sound mixed with a hard punk feeling, then Fading From You is a perfect source for you to uncover and a prime example of Seattle's musical melting pot.



Concert Calendar

May 3, Tuesday @ El Corazon (formerly Graceland)

Infinite Productions and KGRG Dead Air present: From Ashes Rise, Paint It Black, and Coliseum. \$8 adv. @ TicketsWest. Doors @ 6, Show @ 7.

May 7, Saturday @ El Corazon

Infinite Productions and KGRG Dead Air present: Agnostic Front, Martyr AD, Death Before Dishonor, and All Shall Perish. \$12 adv. @ TicketsWest, \$14 Day of Show. Doors @ 7, Show @ 8.

May 8, Sunday @ El Corazon

Infinite Productions and KGRG present: Tiger Army, Street Dogs, and 12 Step Rebels. \$12 adv. @ TicketsWest, \$14 Day of Show. All Ages/Bar with ID. Doors @ 7, Show @ 8.

May 9, Monday @ El Corazon

Infinite Productions and KGRG present: Tiger Army, Street Dogs, and 12 Step Rebels. \$12 adv. @ TicketsWest, \$14 Day of Show. All Ages/Bar with ID. Doors @ 7, Show @ 8.

May 17, Tuesday @ El Corazon

Infinite Productions and KGRG present: Millencolin, Boys Night Out, A Thorn For Every Heart, and Roses Are Red. \$14 adv. @ TicketsWest, \$16 Day of Show. All Ages/Bar with ID. Doors @ 6, Show @ 7.

Music Release Calendar

Upcoming CD release highlights

Week of May 3

With Teeth - Nine Inch Nails

Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith original soundtrack

Week of May 10

Stand Up - Dave Mathews Band

Live at the Fillmore - Lucinda Williams



Make Believe - Weezer

Frances the Mute - The Mars Volta

Singer displays talent at LSC

by Jill Thiele
Staff writer

On Monday, April 18, singer/songwriter JJ Heller performed a free concert at the Lindbloom Student Center. It was a great way to spend the noon lunch hour. From the moment JJ sings her first note, it is clear that this is an artist with exceptional talent.

Heller's sound has been compared to Natalie Merchant and Alanis Morissette. It is easy to hear why, this acoustically driven singer has the ability to tell a story with her songs; stories that most people can relate to.

JJ and her husband Dave write most of their songs together, although Dave explained that he could only take credit for about two words in each song. Dave plays guitar and is back up singer in many of the ballads. In between songs, JJ would explain the motivation for writing the song they were performing. Breaking up with a boyfriend, missing your family, being true to yourself and discovering the beauty within yourself were some of her lyrical themes.

Students who were listening really seemed to enjoy Heller's refreshing and inspirational sound. A few comments from students Amanda and Marie Wilson were "You really want to sit and listen: and "I loved it; it was very entertaining!"

Heller's Debut album, *Songs That I Know* and her follow up EP, *Collection of Thoughts*, have been well received all audiences. For more information on JJ Heller, or to sample some of her music go to www.JJHeller.com.



Sports spoofs

by Andy Gardner
Sports editor

Magic master injured in battle

Last week, during an intense game of Magic, Grand Master Garnadan of the Galaxy mishandled a power card, slicing his hand open.

In a battle against almighty Vortexicalis of Wizardry (VW), Garnadan made a sudden, last minute correction, fumbled the card and subsequently broke the skin of his right palm. Garnadan received a paper cut.

"I thought I was going to pass out from the blood loss," Garnadan explained, but I knew I had to finish what I started, so I made a tourniquet out of my killer do-rag and marched on.

As he bled, the game continued.

Garnadan eventually trickled blood in the table and was rushed to the campus emergency room for a band aid.

Metrosexual breaks a nail

In an attempt to prove his masculinity, Benjamin Dover got down and dirty with fellow students in closet case foosball tournament recently, ultimately leading to a hair-line fracture of his left thumbnail. The fracture stigmatized Dover who avoided social contact until the break healed.

Dover declined commentary.

Beerbonger wins by a throatful

In a recent beer bong kegger and some dude's house somewhere, a White Trash Olympian downed the competition by a tight swallow. The Olympian, who has since forgotten his own name, thanked God for helping him through his recovery at the local hospital following the event.

* "Sports spoofs" is a lampoon. These events are fictitious and their relation to any real world events is unintentional

Picture of the month



Andy Gardner|Photographer

Freeze Frame (above): Rachel Mathews of the Green River fastpitch team suspended just after release

Green River athletics garage sale

May 5th & 6th from 9am to 1pm

Bring this coupon and receive

St. Helens Room (LSC)

\$5 off
vintage
Gator Gear

*Limit one per customer

Green River golf teams host invitational



by Jonny Angell
staff writer

The Green River men and women's golf teams are now in the swing of things as they hosted their home event this past weekend. The Green River Invitational was held at Riverbend Golf Course in Kent on Sunday, April 17th, and it concluded on Monday April 18th at Meridian Valley Country Club, also in Kent.

When asked about how the teams were going to do head coach of the men's team, Jim Von Doehren said, "It is a good opportunity for the team to play well as it is our home event. We are looking for good things to happen."

The head coach of the women's team, Jim's wife, Jennifer Von

Doehren, when asked a similar question of what she expected from her team in the tournament responded, "We need to reduce the number of putts and our goal is a team score of 295 or lower."

"The men's team will try to

Below: Randi Skovmand gets into the swing of things



Andy Gardner | Photographer

score under 300 strokes," she concluded.

These are not just expectations they are also goals set for the team.

It all looked promising as this was their home event, giving the Gators home field advantage.

After the first day it was the Gator men with a good showing, while the women were near the top.

Douglas, Grays Harbor, Skagit Valley, Olympic, and UPS, all formidable opponents were on the roster for the Green River hosted event.

"We are looking to play well and handle the conditions, both guys and girls," Jim Von Doehren stated when interviewed during the invitational.

He continued by point out that, "Skagit is the favorite here, if we can play up to there level then I will be very pleased."

The most important thing at hand is the women's team having a good chance of winning the tournament. Freshmen's Kari Wik and Randi Skovmand believed "We will do fine."

"Hopefully win," Skovmand added.



Andy Gardner | Photographer

Above: Nick Cook clubs one off the tee.

Another important objective for the teams is hosting the event. "We want to host a good event and get more community involvement," said Jennifer Von

Doehren.

Athletic Director Bob Kicker was on hand to support the green and gold and he gave insight on the teams. "We are a very classy program, good group, and having the Von Doehren's as the head coaches elevate us to another level."

Both coaches like the teams that they have.

Jim Von Doehren applauded his team, "Good guys and personalities get along well."

Jennifer Von Doehren spoke of her teams' unity. "They are a close knit group of girls." With that they have an ultimate goal in mind. "Win the league championship," pointed out Jennifer Von Doehren.

After day two and the tournament now over the Gators were victorious on the girls side and the men's placed 4th.



Sonics facing a rigorous post season



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by Darius Parker
staff writer

There are only two games left in the season and the Sonics have clinched both a division title and a playoff spot; but with all of their success they're still considered to be underdogs in the western conference.

One of their biggest concerns is the lack of a strong inside presence on both sides of the court. While Jerome James and Danny Fortson have both made significant contributions to the Sonics' success this season, neither are the ideal "big man" that you need to be successful in the west.

It's not that they (James & Fortson) are not good players; it's just that there are several big men in the west who could cause a lot of problems for the Sonics.

Even with Shaquille O'Neal gone there is still: Houston's Yao Ming (who can be explosive when he wants to be), San Antonio's Tim Duncan (who likely would have been an M.V.P. candidate had it not been for his injury in the middle of the season), and Dallas's Dirk Nowitzki who is having the best season of

his career.

All three have very different styles, but the edge that all three of them have over the Sonics' front court is their ability to score with their back to the basket.

What makes Dallas especially dangerous to the Sonics' is that Nowitzki can shoot as well as any guard in the league, so the Sonics forwards will have to ensure that he does not get an open look from outside or inside.

The teams' confidence and chemistry is also in question. They've been bombarded with injuries over the past few weeks and have had to bring a lot of players off of the bench who normally wouldn't be in the rotation (Flip Murray, Mateen Cleaves).

Even though Rashard Lewis has already returned and Vladimir Radmanovic is expected back for the first round of the playoffs the team might not have enough time to get back into the comfortable rhythm won them so many games with.

They are probably not as confident as they were at the beginning of the season either. They've lost six of their last eight games (the two games that they did win were against teams who won't be in the playoffs).

Their lack of defense has also been exposed by both Denver and Sacramento who dominated the paint. Even though their last two games are almost meaningless to the Sonics in terms of playoff position it is important that they finish the season well to

go into the post season with confidence.

One factor that may play into the Sonics' favor (and one that could also backfire) is that they will likely face the Sacramento Kings in the first round. Seattle will more than likely end up with the 3 seed, and Sacramento should be able to hold on to their lead to keep the 6th spot.

The Sonics' record against Sacramento this season is 3-1 (Sacramento dominated the last meeting in which Rashard Lewis did not play). Seattle will also have home court advantage in the first round.

The biggest "relief" for the Sonics is that they will not have to worry about a dominant "big man" in Sacramento now that Chris Webber has been traded to the 76ers.

Although Seattle seems to be the favorite in this match up, the playoffs is an entirely different season and Sacramento is still a dangerous team. Mike Bibby is one of the best point guards in the league and Peja Stojakovic is still considered to be one of the greatest pure shooters in the history of the N.B.A.

Sacramento may also have a bit of a mental edge due to the fact that they have a lot of playoff experience. For many Sonics players this will be their first chance to put in significant minutes in the playoffs. This lack of experience could come back to haunt Seattle in the event of a close game.

A lack of "mojo-vation"



The Current archives

by Nate Miller
staff writer

The Mariners suffered quite a wake up call on April 19th, after losing to the Los Angeles Angels. The Mariners were leading their division with a three way tie at 6-6 and needed that win to not only prove they could compete against a strong team but also to stay alive early in the season.

It doesn't seem to be a lack of good players like last year; throughout this season it has seemed the presence of our new players has either strengthened veteran players confidence or at least given them the nudge to make up for the 2004 disaster of a season.

With Ichiro having the second highest number of runs and Sexson having the third most runs batted in Ichiro leading at stolen bases, and along with the power of Beltre, the surprising talent of Jeremy Reed, and the speed of Olivo this team should be able to beat a team that until April 19th was second to the Mariners.

It all goes back to the question of our bullpen, which right now is considerably among the most manic in baseball. One week Franklin will go eight innings and only give up one run and the next he'll give up three in the first inning, with veteran starters Pinero, Meche, Moyer, and Sele its not hard to see were the inconsistency is coming from.

It also lies with our closers. although Guardado has three saves, he still hasn't proven he can protect a lead. Take for instance game three against the

Rangers late in the eight the mariners were finally able to get a decent flow together to bring in five runs only so Guardado could give up two consecutive two run homers and lose the game.

So what does this mean for the

Mariners, well very little this early in the season as long as they can keep their composure and play each game as if its their first. However, if they want to make a run at the post season there is going to have to be a lot of changes with the bullpen and the fielding. Our offense has the potential to be one of the best within three years but that won't matter unless the Mariners can prove something this year.

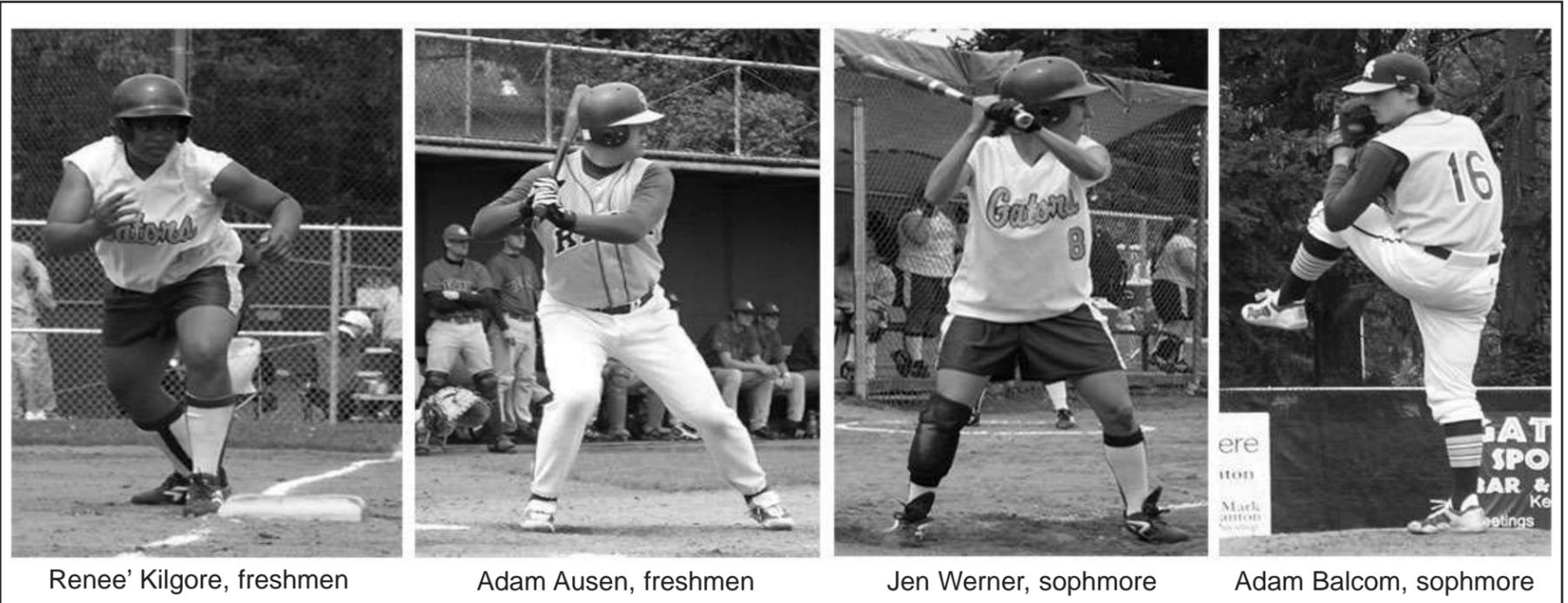


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The Gators of spring



Renee' Kilgore, freshmen

Adam Ausen, freshmen

Jen Werner, sophomore

Adam Balcom, sophomore

Swap Shots (above): These gallant Gators each struck an oblivious pose during their home turf battles last Saturday.

Andy Gardner|Photographer

A fastpitch frenzy

Gator softball fights to defend their No. 2 ranking

by Eric Hanninen
staff writer

As spring sports culminate, the Gator fast pitch team looks to work towards their first title in the past 15 years.

After opening up league play at 8-4 it doesn't look out of reach.

Head Coach Gary Jones has improved each season since taking the helm in 2003. During his tenure he has posted a 36-43 record (discounting this season) but after a promising 4th place finish last year they hope to move up to the next level during this campaign.

They took a big hit losing two-time All-NWAACC first team Carmen Norton and two-time second team shortstop Melissa Rutherford.

However, they returned two All-NWAACC second team sophomores Lauren Morales and Rachel Mathews. Playing at catcher and pitcher respectively Morales and Mathews are among the core of five returning sophomores. The other three are Erica Kuchciak, Jennifer Werner, and Tiffany Jones.

Also, welcome the new incoming freshmen Katie Gronowick, Katie Andal, Renee Kilgore, Brianna Boyer, Tanna Sangder and Tabi King.

The Gators sit at an overall 9-7 record after three tough losses in the preseason tournament in Pasco. They have rebounded and are looking for support in their push to get to the top.

Their next home game is on Saturday April 23rd at 1:00 pm as they look to complete clean sweep of Edmonds. Home games are played right here on campus at Lea Hill Park.

These games are action packed and can get intense. Out of the 16 games they've played this season 10 of them have been decided by two runs or less. The ladies have broken even at 5-5 during this nail biting season.

With increased fan support, maybe the Gators will get over the hump and pull out a few more victories. This reporter recommends settling your butt on the bleachers and spending a couple hours outside enjoying the sunny weather and a grunt for our Gator girl ball club.

The feminine side of Green River baseball

by Kirsten Esvelt
staff writer

Our Green River baseball team is a great example of dedication, hard work, talent, and passion for the game. The team, which plays roughly 45-50 games a season, is a group of guys who have respect for each other as teammates and as people.

According to Matt Koziol, a second baseman redshirting for the Gators, it's an automatic support group. "It's like an instant group of friends when you start college," he said. The older players give advice to the younger.

As far as the game goes, one of our team's definite strengths is their hitting ability. They also have good depth - if one player gets injured, another capable player is there to take his place.

Coach Matt Acker, currently in his fourth season at Green River, thinks the team has good chemistry. "They enjoy being around each other, on and off the field," he said. The team seems to really gel, and knows when to have fun and when to be serious. They get along great and are comfortable enough with each other to yell at a team-

mate in the wrong.

Coach Acker, who graduated from Central and coached at St. Martins in Olympia for two seasons, is straightforward, strict, and shares his team's drive for the game. He holds high standards for the team and is a good mentor to them.

Adam Cochran, a pitcher redshirting this season for the Gators, says, "We players can go to him with any problem, baseball or other. He's really there for us." Koziol appreciates all of the time the coaches put in. "They give everyone a fair shot and care about us guys as people," he said.

The Gators are part of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC). Last season, 53 baseball players in Washington were drafted and of those 53, 23 were from NWAACC. Two of our boys were drafted last year, one by the Colorado Rockies in the twelfth round and one by the Cincinnati Reds in the twenty-third round. This season there are five players being scouted.

Matt Fields, first baseman for the Gators, was picked last year by the Devil Rays of

Tampa Bay, but chose to come play at Green River first.

The bonus most people don't realize about community colleges is that you can be drafted as a freshman. To play at a university, you have to be in your junior year of college.

Green River's star pitcher this season is returner Adam Balcom, who has currently thrown 57 innings and given up only two runs. He's signed onto Western Kentucky for next year.

Dave Risk, former Green River Gator, now plays in the major leagues. This is what Coach Acker helps his boys do: achieve their full potential and move on to bigger schools.

As this article is being written, the Gators have a thirteen to eight ratio of wins to losses. They play games every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, playing double-headers (two games) on Saturdays. If you're a baseball fan, or even if you're not, take the time to come check out a game and root for our team. They deserve it!

An editor's day at the field



by Andy Gardner
sports editor

When I arrived at the ballpark the game had already started. I stopped at the softball field first. The opposing team obnoxiously bellowed cries of team spirit. I took some pictures.

On last minute I was called to cover two Green River home games, women's fastpitch and men's baseball. I thought it best to bring my camera and capture our gallant Gators in action.

The Gator fastpitch team looked good and performed well on the field. On their third straight tournament day in an eight game week the girls had stamina, I gave them that without question.

I poked my lens through the fence,

played the peeping paparazzi for a bit, and moved on to the baseball field.

Adam Balcom commanded the field battle in the early half of the game. However, this didn't stop his opponent, Lower Columbia College from snagging pitches. In turn, the occasional infield err lead to the Devils [Lower Columbia] taking added bases.

The Devils were strong and well-trained, a nemesis to the entire league.

I took some pictures and migrated back to the fastpitch game.

The Gator girls seemed to be muscling the Titans for the moment. Pitcher Rachel

Mathews strong armed the ball repressing the Titan batting order as best she could. In the offense, Mathews teammates pedaled the bases off their bats.

I took some more pictures returned to the baseball game to see that the Gator guys were still putting up a fight.

Bob Kickner was selling Green River baseball jerseys by the batting cages, his stare split between the two fields. I walked over and chatted with him briefly.

After a snapping a few more shots I decided to retire back to the beloved Current trailer and return to my duties as sports editor.

The Gators ultimately suffered a blow that Saturday. Fastpitch suffered an upsetting loss to the Titans (11,7 12,10) and the Devils had their parade rained on, calling a tied postponement.

www.greenriver.edu/athletics



Andy Gardner|Photographer
Above: Bob Kickner putting in a little retail work selling Gator gear.