

## A student's guide to a spring break or vacation in Canada

**Taylor Gillan**  
News Editor

The city of Vancouver is beautiful, mixing the love of nature with a clean city and modern architecture. With a diverse population of two million, there's an endless variety of attractions, culture, nightlife and dining.

The best and fastest way to get to Vancouver is by car. It will be about a three hour drive from the Kent Campus, following I-5 N which becomes I-99 past the Canadian border. It is now required to have a passport to go through customs into Canada.

When picking out a hotel, the best rates are usually listed online. Pay attention to what area the hotel is located. The best places are usually right downtown or on the water. To be in the center of the action, try to stay on Robson St. or Broadway St. Also take note that many hotels do not include parking with the cost of the room. It seems to run about \$8 CA per night at most hotels.

A car is not necessary, but preferable since Vancouver is such a large city. Parking can be expensive, so make sure to have plenty of coins. The cab fares are not nearly as bad as those in the states, but still can be pricey.

With so much to see and do around Vancouver, it's really best to simply wander around and just take in the sights. The citizens of Vancouver are very friendly, and most seem glad to help out the tourist with suggestions on where to go and what to see.

There are many parks around Vancouver, most notably Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, the VanDusen Botanical Gardens, Hastings Park and the Bloedel Conservatory. Queen Elizabeth Park is the highest point in the city at 505 feet above sea level. This 130 acre park displays two stunning sculptures near the conservatory; "The Photo Session" donated in 1984 by sculptor J. Seward Johnson, Jr., and "Knife Edge Two-Piece" by Henry Moore. You can see these sculptures as you drive across the Lion's Gate Bridge. Inside the Queen Elizabeth Park is the Bloedel Conservatory where you can find tropical plants and birds at any time of year. Stanley Park is Vancouver's first park, and is one of the world's largest inner city parks at 1,000 acres. The VanDusen Botanical Gardens are absolutely beautiful in the warmer months, and a must see for the rare plant lovers. Hastings Park will be the second largest park in

Vancouver after the restoration has been completed. The 162 acres of land will be divided and used for a natural sanctuary, Italian gardens, and a skate park.

A smaller park, but no less interesting, is Charleson Park, located in the Fairveiw neighborhood at 999 Charleson

Street. Charleson Parks wraps around the waterfront, allowing a beautiful view of Downtown Vancouver. The park has an off-leash policy from 6 am- 10 pm, making it a great place to spend a relaxed afternoon watching dogs run around playing fetch. There are several trails and man-

made ponds, as well as two playgrounds, one soccer field and five tennis courts.

See pages 8 and 9 for the rest of the story...



The city of Vancouver's skyline. Vancouver is a fantastic place to tour and visit with many sights to see.

TAYLOR GILLAN/THE CURRENT

## GRCC student talks of his experience in Iraq

**Chelsea Oliver**  
Guest Reporter

For Zack Serad, seeing is believing, unless you see it on the television.

Experiencing life firsthand in Iraq is quite different from watching coverage of the war on television. "They do not get the names of soldiers, (or their) units and they seem to bend the truth," says Serad about television news coverage of the war in Iraq.

Serad, 23, and his wife have been happily married for two years. He is currently enrolled at Green River Community College and plans to get an associate of arts degree in spring. He plans on transferring to Western Washington University and majoring in communications. After getting his communications degree he would like to pursue the law enforcement career, perhaps as a police officer.

This young Marine has had such an amazingly successful life, but he has not always been so fortunate. Serad was born

in Seattle and was raised and educated in Port Orchard. When he graduated from high school in 2001, he had no idea what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. All he knew was he wanted to get out of Port Orchard, so he enlisted in the Marines. This commitment shipped him out of his hometown and supported him financially, physically and mentally.

Serad trained at Camp Pendleton in Southern California and completed three tours in Iraq. He is now in inactive duty, but while serving he experienced "the worst times and the best times of his life." There are many things Serad will not forget, like the death or injuries that occurred around him. The most memorable experience for Serad was when his troop paraded down the streets of small Iraqi towns. "Children and adults would come out of their houses crying throwing flowers and praising them for their help and duties to their country," recalls Serad. "In the beginning my troops were surprised, we had to be cautious at first in case of a trap, but after awhile we

became pleased. The stories about treating prisoners of war were wrong. These people wanted help, they needed us."

Serad says he changed a great deal during his service in Iraq. He has not taken things for granted since he has gotten back from Iraq as he did in his earlier years. Serad says, "I have realized that life is too short and we need to live and love life everyday." He now views everyday with a full appreciation of life. Looking back on his younger years, he analyzes the things he used to take for granted. "I no longer take advantage of my family, friends, sleep, food, homework and even showers," he says.

The Marines have given him a different perspective of life as well as a different perspective on the war in Iraq than most civilians.

"The media wants anything that sells. You always see the violence, the buying-in, and the kidnapping, never the positive," says Serad. "They do not show the rebuilding of schools, installing water wells and

sewage facilities or giving them electricity."

With this in mind, Serad believes Americans have no clue of what is really happening in Iraq. He says, it is war and it is sad to lose troops but because of the way the news media distorts events Americans never see the people who are glad the United States are in Iraq.

Two cases that are currently in process and have the media on its tail are the cases of Lieutenant Ehren Watada and Sergeant Kevin Bendorman who have pleaded conscientious war objector status. They believe that the war in Iraq is illegal according to international law, against their morals consciences and therefore they refuse to return to duty.

"Cowards," Serad says of the two. "They took advantage of the military. They took their food and money. Once they received what they wanted they did not fulfill their duties and did not give back to their country," he says. "They get what they deserve."

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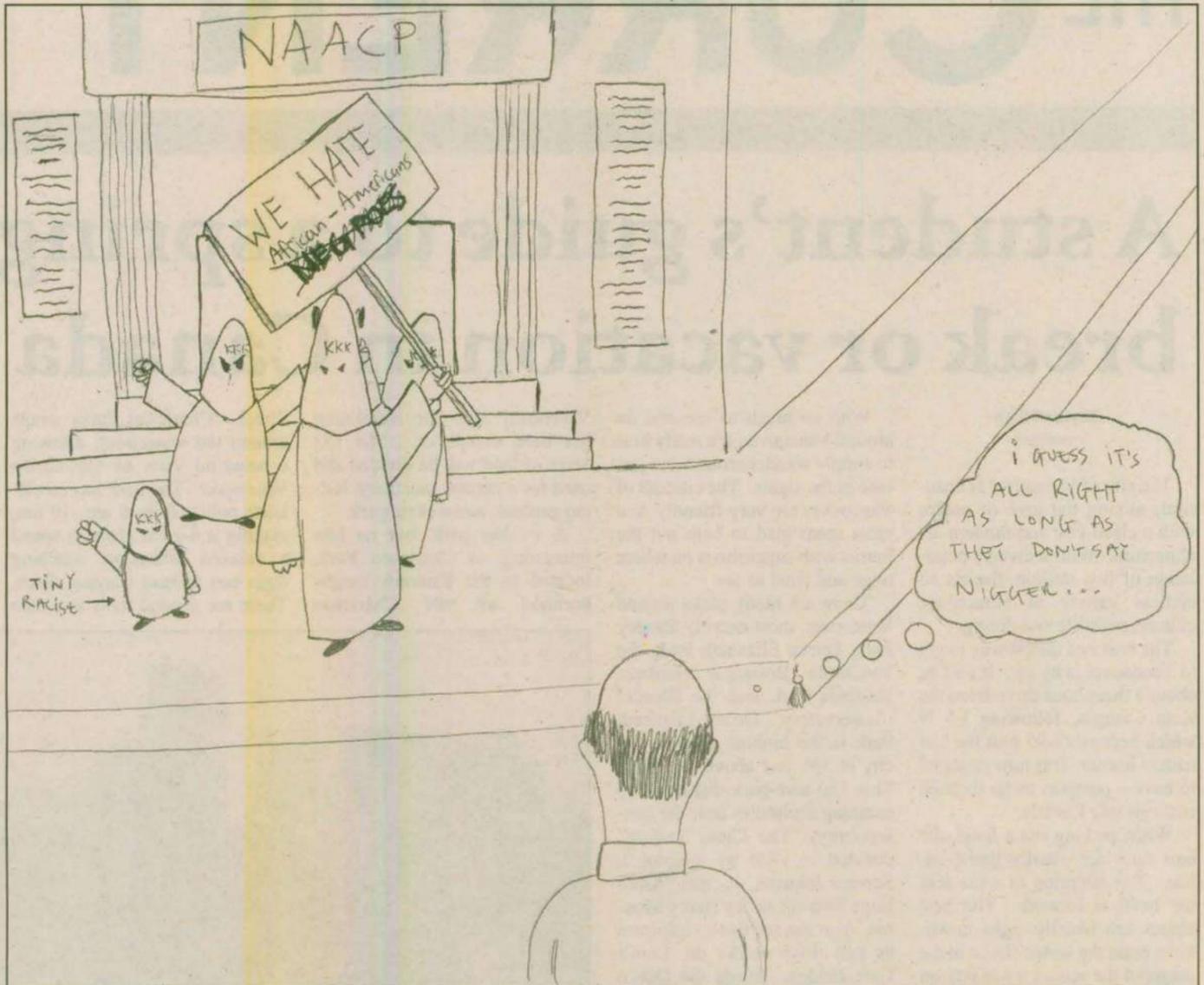
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# Political correctness goes too far

Thomas Chmura  
Guest Reporter

It would seem that as of late, the majority of Americans have been caught up, tangled up and stumbled over this notion of political correctness. In dismay I have stood back and watch this country piss away it's only great right, the freedom of speech. Political correctness has taken hold in and entrenched its ideology in our government, our media, our schools, our workplaces and even in our community.

As some see this simple idea as fair and right this idea of being "PC" is changing the American society from within. According to Agustin Blazquez and Jaums Sutton, political correctness is changing us so much that the citizens of this nation are increasingly censoring themselves and losing their freedoms of speech out of fear of political correctness repression.

So much so that when the holi-

days come around we hold our tongue from saying simple greetings as "Merry Christmas." Now I understand that this Merry Christmas argument has been debated to the ends of the Earth much like abortion but is this not a great example of it? We as Americans being brainwashed with this notion of political correctness, choke on words we want to say and replace them with less offending words. Going so far as to not standing

up and saying the pledge of allegiance for fear it will offend people, offering many different languages to choose from instead of the standard and official English language.

Coming so far with the political correctness ideology creates double standards in schools and workplaces. We can clearly see that diversity has degenerated sadly into a reverse discrimination, where the less qualified are

political correctness hinders that natural competition in the American blood it will hurt our country in the years to come.

Political correctness is even used to turn the meaning of the media around, such as when or when not to use the word dictator. "Castro is not a 'president,' as the U.S media refers to him. Castro has not been democratically elected to anything in Cuba. The correct word to define him is 'tyrant'.

According to Sutton, "we don't call him a tyrant or dictator because even though he has caused the deaths of more than 100,000 Cubans, dictator has a very negative feel to it." Now tell me is this not garbage?

Does this play on words just make you sick? It does for me to the point I am tired of tip-toeing my way through work, school, and my

country because I am to be sorry that I was born a white heterosexual Christian male in one of the most powerful countries the world has ever seen.

All citizens of the United States no matter what religion, race, sex, or sexual preference who truly cherish the liberty we have here must reject the idea of political correctness. Freedom of speech must be preserved in America if we are to continue to be truly free.

*"We as Americans being brainwashed with this notion of political correctness, choke on words we want to say and replace them with less offending words. Going so far as to not standing up and saying the pledge of allegiance for fear it will offend people, offering many different languages to choose from instead of the standard and official English language."*

**EDITORIAL AND LETTERS POLICY**

The Current considers itself a limited public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions.

Green River Community College delegates editorial responsibility for student publications to students, and therefore assumes no responsibility for the content of the publications. The College acknowledges the dual purpose of student publications as instructional tools and as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the academic community.

The views and opinions expressed in The Current do not necessarily reflect those of the College or the student body.

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

admitted due to a race quota dealt out by affirmative action and the incompetent cannot be fired from jobs because of union rights keeping them in.

If anyone will ever agree with me on any point of this paper it is that competition is the soul reason why the United States remains to be the last remaining super power of the world. When a product is created, another person creates and bigger and better product and so on and so on. This is how we maintain superiority, by striving to be the very best we can be. If

# Politicians and global warming a bad mix

Jeff Price  
Opinions Editor

Politicians worldwide have been harping on the effects of global warming and what the people of Earth need to do about it. Just one problem: adding politics to this issue has muddled the whole thing. Global warming is not something that should be used to bolster your political resume.

The majority of believers feel that this is a moral problem that needs to be addressed now for our future generations. Bringing politics into this debate blurs the line between sticking up for your morals and only voting for the politicians that follow global warming agendas. It has turned into ammo for politicians to attack each other with. This politician doesn't care about our world, or this politician only cares about war. People like Al Gore have destroyed the integ-

rity of the argument, turning a noble cause into a fear-mongering fundraiser.

As the debate grows, politicians around the country speechify about the horrors of global warming and ask for huge donations to government programs and organizations. With the tax-

is fixable?

With the political landscape so split on this issue, it is hard for Americans to know where to stand. Conservatives don't worry about it, while liberals have this issue near the top of their lists. Since most Americans believe global warming is an issue,

the most part have no options in their party.

As with all things dealing with monetary donations, the recipient of the money is often obligated to follow the opinions of the donor. In the case of global warming, politicians supporting research with government money leads to results favoring the politicians who sponsored the study. This results in skewed reports that are too often inaccurate and biased, and lose scientific credibility. Too many times politics gets in the way forces taxpayers to pay for programs (most of which haven't been successful) that they don't want. With privately funded organizations and studies, Americans and people all over the world, are able to choose whether they want to support the global warming efforts or not.

Most of the time people are only exposed to the view of global warming politicians want

you to see, whether it's to create fear and raise money, or to support their government funded studies. More positions and angles should be exposed without politicians screaming sacrilege every time someone brings up a point that counters their views. The political world has allowed no room for outside opinions, despite whatever credibility they may have.

With this emphasis on only one point of view, Americans are only exposed to one theory. As research progresses, scientists from every side of the debate should be allowed to express their theories without fear of ridicule and humiliation. With politicians in control of where our country heads into the future, it is only right for all of us to be able to form our own opinions about this issue.

*"Adding politics to this issue has muddled the whole thing. Global warming is not something that should be used to bolster your political resume."*

payers spending \$180 billion a year and no feasible progress yet, why is there so much money being spent on something that scientists aren't 100% positive

they will vote for who promises to do the most for the issue. Yet the problem with this is that conservatives who want to do something about global warming, for

# Testing center needs to stay open longer

Jesse Gaunt  
Guest Reporter

For many of us, getting to school during the day can be a challenge. No, we're not vampires, but students taking night classes. Green River has done an excellent job at providing night classes, which fits our schedules, but one problem still remains, and that is the hours of the Testing Center. Whether you're taking night classes, or simply have a busy day schedule, finding time to go to the Testing Center can be an issue.

Recently, I had two tests I needed to take at the Testing Center. I had to work 40 hours that week as well, afternoons on the weekdays and mornings on the

*"Whether you're taking night classes, or simply have a busy day schedule, finding time to go to the Testing Center can be an issue."*

weekends. I'm also taking a few morning and night classes, so my schedule didn't leave much time to take it. I had to skip a morning class to take the first test. The next test would be a little more tricky, but I left work early and thought I'd have time to take it before class. Unfortunately, the Testing Center was busy with the Compass Test. There are days

scheduled for this, apparently, and I was offered a calendar by someone working there.

My teacher was understanding and extended the test 2 days. Not just for me, but for about half the class that had my problem. On Friday and Saturday, two days I would've been able to take the test, the center closes at

4 PM and 12 PM (noon), respectively. One thing I would like to see happen is the Testing Center extending its hours on Friday or Saturday, or both. I realize that this may be a little tricky, as the campus has the same hours, but it would give students taking night classes an easier time.

Other students I talked to in my night class had similar issues. Most were able to take the test, but either had to rush through it or skip a class or leave work early. Another concern I have is that the test was scheduled on a restricted day. While the people working there were happy to provide me a schedule of when these days were, it wouldn't seem that my teacher was informed. Perhaps it was assumed that he had

a calendar.

I'd like to see more communication between teachers and the Testing Center in addition to more hours. My proposal is that the Testing Center be open until 7 PM on both days (Friday and Saturday), or open until 7 PM on Saturday solely. This would allow us vampires, erm students, easier access. Our scores also would not be influenced by haste.

**THE CURRENT** is looking for a new EDITOR-in-CHIEF for the 2007-2008 school year.

**The position comes with a \$2,000 scholarship.**

Contact (253) 833-9111 Ext. 2375 or e-mail [thecurrent@greenriver.edu](mailto:thecurrent@greenriver.edu) for

**more information**

# The Commencement Achievement (CAP) overview

**Jernissa Johnson**  
Staff Reporter

The Commencement Achievement Program (CAP) was created by Veronica Garayoca, who has been the Diversity Services Director here at GRCC for two years.

This program was created because she felt that peer-to-peer education was one of the best ways of learning. "Sometimes students learn and are more perceptive to information given by their peers opposed to instructors," says Veronica.

This program was designed to provide students with personalized mentoring, connecting with peer-navigators, obtaining academic and tutoring services and receiving overall academic guidance in achieving their graduation goals.

One of the main goals of the CAP program is to reach out to, but is not limited to; cross-cultural education, students with disabilities, older students, and new students for guidance.

The CAP program consists of seven peer navigators with forty-two student participants, seventeen of whom are Washington Achievers. To qualify as a peer navigator, one must go through an interview process before a panel.

There will be questions asked concerning

one's leadership abilities, desire to help others, and how well you can cope with diverse learning styles, just to name a few. A peer navigator also has to have been enrolled at Green River for at least three quarters.

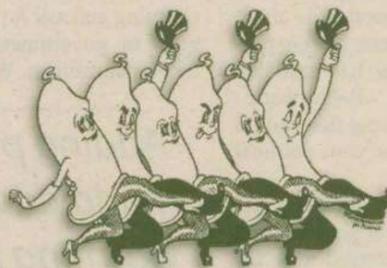
Peer navigators also work closely with enrollment and outreach services, as well as disability services providing tours of the campus around noon, visiting high schools to inform them about the program, and assisting students with disabilities when needed.

The College Success Foundation supports the CAP program and has used the guidelines at other colleges. Some high schools have also been informed about the program.

Some of the services provided include tutoring, advising, career development as well as personal counseling and health services. In order to qualify for this program, you must be prepared to register or transfer a student at GRCC, willing to commit to your academic success, have taken the compass test; follow CAP requirements, and be enthusiastic about your education, as outlined by Terri Thayer, the CAP program coordinator.

Overall, this is a great program to join. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact Veronica Garayoca in the Lindbloom Student Center on the second floor.

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## National TRIO Day held in Lindbloom Student Center

**Matt Cannon**  
Staff Reporter

TRIO held an annual meeting on Friday, Feb. 23 to recognize their National TRIO Day, which was held Saturday the 24.

At this meeting, three or four individuals spoke to the people attending, those of which were not all members of TRIO already. There was food and drinks available to the ones who took the extra time to come and support the program. Also, at the end of the meeting, the individuals holding the open meeting also held a raffle for everyone who came out, giving out numerous different prizes to the people that held lucky raffle tickets with numbers that were called out.

TRIO Student Support Services were successful enough to be awarded a grant in 2005 to help pay for the costs of keeping the program running. With this new money, TRIO is expected to stay very influential to the less-fortunate students that were enrolled in the program, and so far it has been successful at doing this.

TRIO is a program that was organized to help support students at Green River Community College that are disadvantaged in one way or another. More than two-thirds of the students enrolled in TRIO are expected to be coming from low-income families and first generation. The name of this program, "TRIO", doesn't stand for any special slogan, but the program itself helps many less fortunate students in numerous ways.

You don't have to be disadvantaged to be enrolled in the program, however. Anyone can enroll, and the program will do its best to help any individuals that are disadvantaged in any way. Even if you have all the money in the world but feel unprepared for the following quarter, TRIO will accept you with open arms and help in any way possible.

This very successful program at Green River Community College also provides one-on-one tutoring to those who need it, which can be very helpful to students either behind or just getting accommodated to the college atmosphere. Since Green River is only a two-year college, falling behind in classes can become a real hassle at the end of the quarters when every final tests or essays are due, and TRIO helps to keep the citizens enrolled in their program from falling behind.

Even though the program has been running strong since 1993, they stay relatively small, keeping a 200 student limit at all times. This way, the directors and staff of TRIO can help everyone in need without becoming too overwhelmed. Also, the people enrolled will keep a family-style environment, and will be able to get to know the others involved as well.

TRIO is very influential on all of Green River Community College, and most likely will be far into the future.



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A couple of students practice guitar next to the stage in the Lindbloom Student Center.



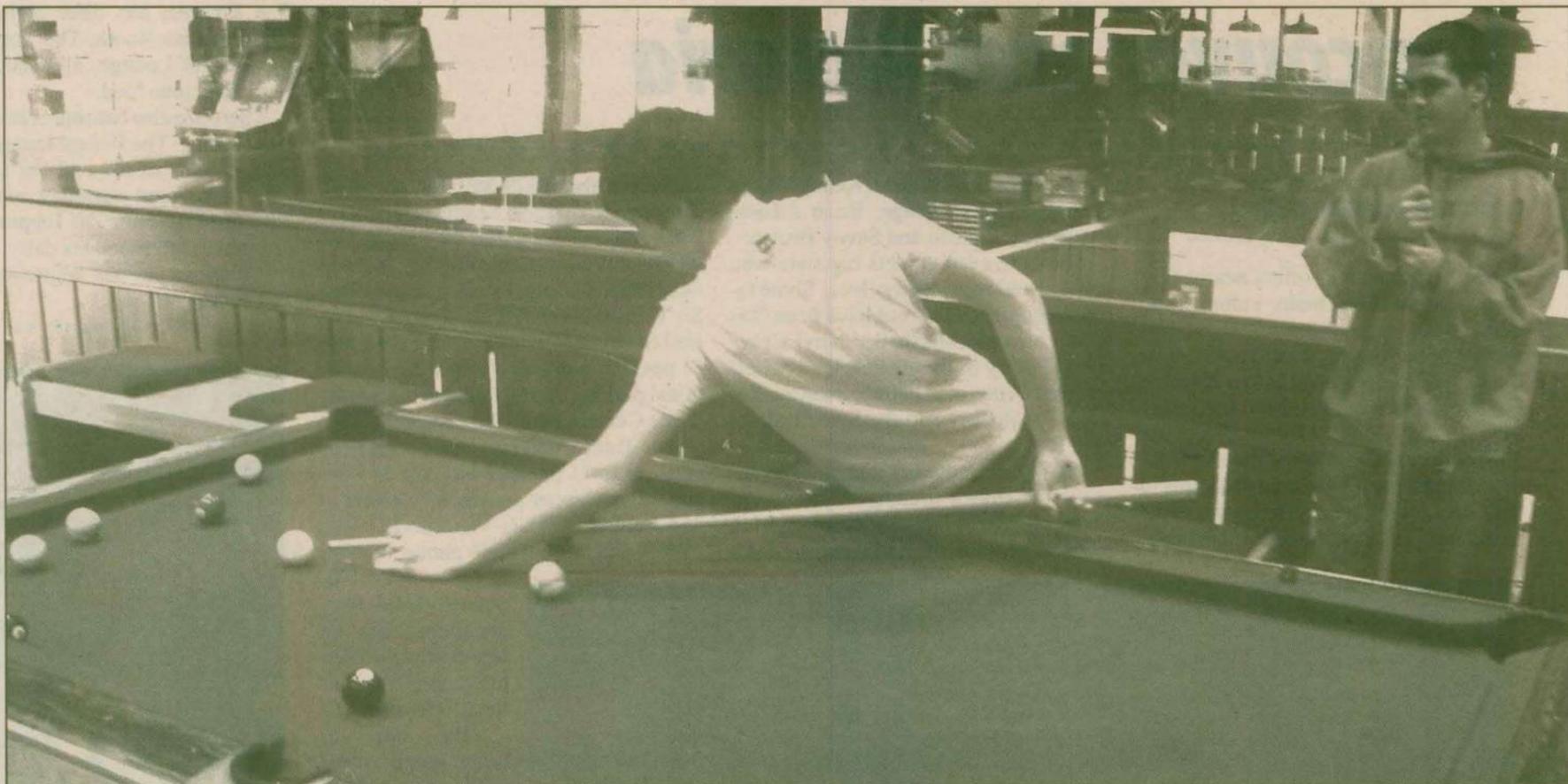
Students hang out in the cafeteria.



The nature and beauty of Green River's campus.



A group of GRCC students enjoy a cup of coffee in the morning.



A student tries a trick shot on the pool table.



A trail leads to a greenhouse.



A couple of students play Magic cards in the student center.

# A student's tour guide to Vancouver and Victoria

Continued from page 1.

Dining in Vancouver offers nearly limitless options from many cultures and many price ranges. An excellent restaurant is the Banana Leaf located near the Park Plaza Hotel and across from the Canada Trust Bank on West Broadway St.

With warm and colorful interior decorations and mouthwatering food, this is definitely a dining experience not to be passed up. The staff are dressed in beau-



A famous spiraling staircase makes for a wonderful tourist attraction.

tiful silk outfits, and are friendly and efficient. Try the lamb shank, so tender it falls off the bone, and the lemongrass martini which comes complete with a fresh stalk of bamboo.

Granville Island, restored from an industrial park, is now a social center with a focus on the arts. This is a great place to come window shopping.

There are many art galleries, handmade clothing stores, novelty toy stores, a store devoted to dragons, a perpetual motion sculpture studio, a luthier shop, performance theatres, a public market and much more. The Granville Public Market, open everyday 9am-7pm is an excellent place to shop for souvenirs or to grab an excellent and surprisingly cheap meal.

The nightlife in Vancouver is bustling. The drinking age in Canada is 19. Be prepared to show two forms of I.D., for most places a driver's license by itself is not sufficient.

The Yale hotel and blues bar has blues nightly, ranging from free to \$18 cover depending on who's playing. Built in the 1880's, the Yale is one of the few structures that survived the June 13 1886 fire. It was originally a place for traders and loggers to stay, complete with a stable where the basement and state of the art recording studio is now. For twenty years now, the Yale has been Western Canada's home to the blues. Artists that have performed there include John Lee Hooker, Buddy Miles, John Hammond,

Jimmy Page, Jim Belushi, Kenny Wayne Shepperd, John Savage, Brian Adams, Buckwheat Zydeco and Savoy Brown.

The Yale even attracts big stars who come in and enjoy themselves. Some famous people to hang out have been Otis Rush, Amanda Marshall, Sheryl Crow, U2, Glen Fry of the Eagles, Paul Schaffer from Letterman, Patrick Swayze, Rebecca DeMornay and the Lynard Skynard Band.

An interesting attraction to Vancouver is the smoke friendly coffee shops. These are places that are not involved in any sort of trade of marijuana, so don't

anywhere from \$79-\$99 for an adult. The ferry terminal in Seattle is located at 2701 Alaskan Way, Pier 69 Seattle, WA 98121 and their phone number is (206) 448-5000. Parking can be found at Bell St. Garage 2323 Elliott Avenue. The Bell St. Garage is open from 6:30 am to 11 pm, and will cost \$10 per day. Additional parking can be found at the Seattle Trade Center 2600 Elliott Avenue.

The Trade Center garage is open from 6:30 am to 11 pm and will cost \$15 per day. The Clipper arrives in Victoria at 254 Belleville Street Victoria, BC V8V 1W9 Canada and their phone number is (250) 382-8100. Schedules for ferry departures can be found at [www.clippervacations.com/ferry\\_schedule](http://www.clippervacations.com/ferry_schedule).

Be sure to bring proper identification. For U.S. citizens without a passport photo I.D. and a birth certificate are required. A Naturalization Certificate, Citizen Certificate or a green card are also accepted.

There are many hotels in Victoria to choose from. Look online to find the best rates and locations, making sure the establishment is within walking distance of the Wharf, where most of the attractions are located. For an elegant and pricier experience, the Fairmont Empress Hotel is the place to stay.

Located on 721 Government Street, The Empress is directly across from the inner Harbor, allowing for a stunning view. Rumored to be very haunted, the Empress offers fine dining and room ser-

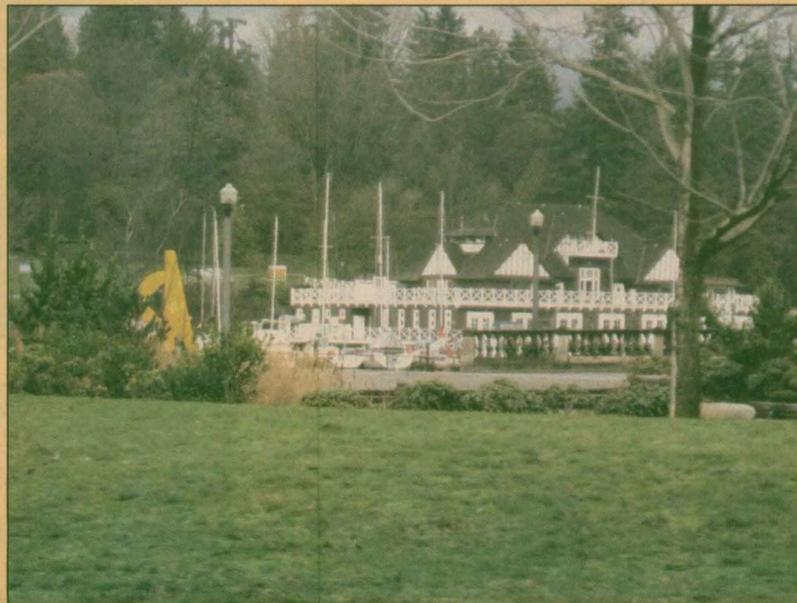


The city of Vancouver's skyline as seen at night.

vice, fabulous shopping, a full library, a spa and an 18 hole golf course. The lower portions of the hotel are open to the public. Informational tours of the grounds are held on Saturday mornings. The Empress has three dining rooms, The Empress Room, The Veranda, and the Bengal Lounge, all serving amazingly delicious food.

There are also ballrooms available for reservation. The Bengal lounge specializes in curry dishes and has a live jazz trio Friday and Saturday nights from 8:30 to 11:30 pm. The Empress, for 95 yrs, serves afternoon tea daily. There are five seatings per day beginning at noon and ending at 5 pm.

For a less costly but no less Victorian



Another view of beautiful Canadian architecture.

era experience, the Dalton Hotel and Suites on 759 Yates Street is an excellent choice. This historic landmark, built in 1867 is Victoria's oldest hotel. From the Dalton it is a 10 min walk to the harbor. The Dalton is very near to Chinatown, Bastion square and the Fort shopping district.

The Pacific Undersea Gardens, right on the wharf, is a vessel half submerged under water, allowing visitors to see the local harbor sea life. The viewing windows are 15 feet below the surface, giv-

ing visitors the opportunity to spot the 5,000 different local species.

On the Upper level is a theatre, hands on tide pool, and a gift shop. September through April the Undersea Gardens are open 10am to 5pm. Adult admission is \$9.50, youth age 12-17 \$7.50, seniors \$8.50, kids age 5-11 \$5.50 and kids under 5 are free.

Across from the Pacific Undersea Gardens is the Royal London Wax Museum at 470 Belleville Street. The Museum opened in 1961 and just celebrated their 45th anniversary. The Royal London Wax museum was the first to showcase Josephine Tussaud wax figures in North America.

When it opened, the museum had

al showing daily. The Museum and gift store are open daily 9 am- 5pm.

Archives are open 9:30 am- 4:30 pm, the IMAX is open 10 am-8 pm. Regular admission to the museum is \$14 and IMAX \$10.50. Admission for both the museum and the IMAX is \$22.50.

In front of the Royal B.C. museum is the Netherlands Centennial Carillon. The Carillon appears to be a tower encasing a spiral staircase, but closer observation reveals that the Carillon is actually an instrument that originated in the 17th century. What looks like stairs are actually 62 bronze bells arranged chromatically.

The Carillon is played similarly to the piano, sounding the bells with large clappers like the hammers of a piano. Directly below the bells is the keyboard, or clavier, that manipulates the largest Carillon in Canada.

A gift to Canada for their part in liberating the Netherlands in WWII, and to celebrate Canada's centennial year, construction began May 1967 and completed a year later. The now 35 yr old Carillon was played from 1971-2004 and synchronized with the time. Due to old age, the Carillon has been silent since 2004.

Around the side of the Royal BC Museum is the Helmcken historical site. Standing there are three totem poles and a traditional cedar lodging house. The influence of the Lekwungen, an Aboriginal people that have inhabited Victoria for over 400 yrs, can be found all around the city. Influences of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations, who are part of the Coast Salish

ninety figures, and has expanded to over 300 figures that were crafted in England. The museum is open Monday through Sunday 9:30 am to 5 pm. Adult admission is \$10, students \$7, kids \$5, seniors \$9 and military \$8.

A stunning focal point on the Harbor is the BC Government Parliament buildings, where the BC provincial government assembles. Construction of the buildings began in 1893 and completed in 1915. The buildings were designed by Francis Rattenbury, only 25 yrs old at the time, to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee.

Accenting the night skyline, the buildings are lit by 3,300 lights. Free tours run every half hour May through September beginning at 9 am and going to 5 pm. All tours can be translated to French, German, Mandarin and Cantonese.

Towering in the front lawn of the Parliament building is the Knowledge Totem depicting a loon, fisherman, bone game player and frog representing "lessons of the past and hope for the future" as the plaque at the foot of the totem reads.

Carved by Cicero August and his sons Darrel and Doug August, the Knowledge Totem was erected February 2, 1990 to commemorate the XV commonwealth games hosted by the city of Victoria August 18-24, 1994. Also in the front lawn are a bronze statue of Queen Victoria, and a bronze statue in memory of all who served in the Korean War.

The Royal B.C. Museum, on the corner of Belleville and Douglas is a must see for the history buffs, or anyone curious to learn more about the Pacific Northwest from ice age to present. The Museum is home to an IMAX theatre with several viewing choices and sever-



The view from the Victoria Clipper.

ethnic group, can also be found around the city.

For a mouthwatering slice of pizza at a reasonable price go to The Joint Pizzeria and Deli located at 1219 Wharf Street. Not only is their traditional pizza wonderful, they have recently added the option of gluten free crust and soy cheese. Made to order, the gluten free pizzas are surprisingly good, and well worth the cooking time wait. This is a perfect stop for sufferers of celiacs, the wheat sensitive or for the vegan.

For a dining experience with a romantic ambiance make a stop at Topo's Ristorante on 110-2950 Douglas Street. The stunning split level restaurant boasts the best martini's in town, with good reason.

The bar, on the top and entrance level, looks over the dining area and out onto the harbor. The staff are friendly and knowledgeable, and will recommend a good wine from their selection.

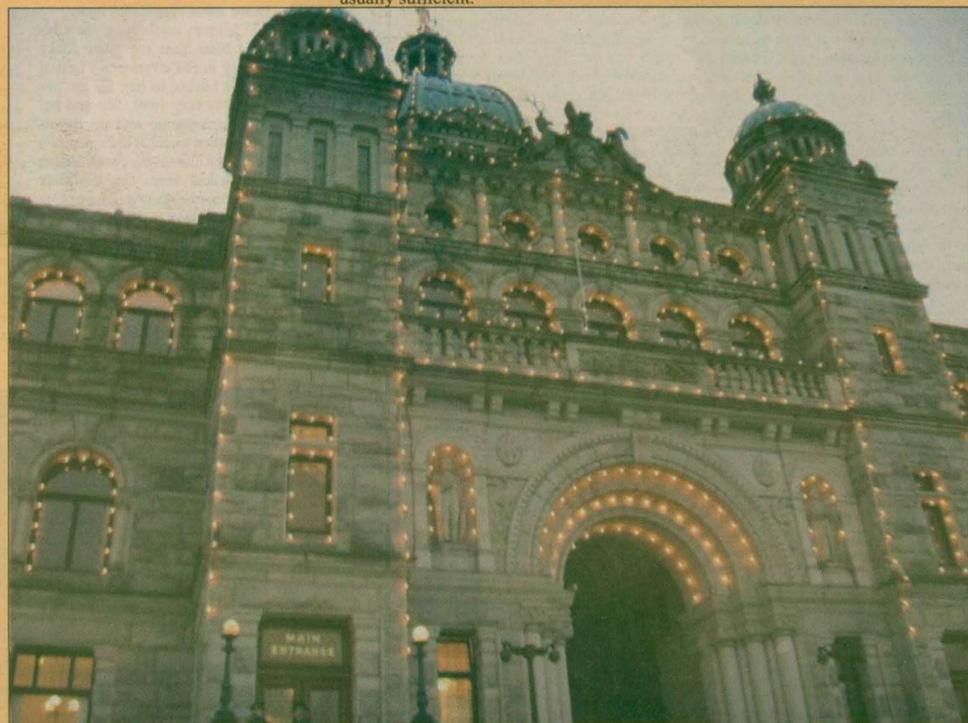
To get into any of the clubs or bars in Victoria be sure to bring a second form of identification other than a passport or driver's license, because two pieces of identification are required. Many places will turn people away without a second piece. A credit card or student I.D. is usually sufficient.

The Sticky Wicket Pub & Restaurant at the Strathcona Hotel, located at 919 Douglas Street, is one of Victoria's nightlife hotspots. There are over 1200 seats, 7 rooms, 5 levels, 2 stages, 2 volleyball courts and a rooftop veranda.

There's something for everyone here, each room with a different theme, including dancing, a sports bar, and a bar decorated with bras from floor to ceiling. The food is excellent, and be sure to ask about the Dine Around Victoria special. This deal is a great way to get a lot of food for a reasonable price. For \$25 the deal includes appetizers, a main dish and dessert, more than enough for two people to share.

The Lucky Bar, located at 517 Yates Street has live music of every genre nearly nightly. Lucky Bar is a hotspot for trendy locals and tourists. Cover charges vary nightly depending on the band performing.

**Story and photos  
courtesy of  
Taylor Gillan**



A famous cathedral makes for beautiful architecture rarely found on the west coast.

# Green River students celebrate international traditions with a two-week Chinese New Year



GRCC students participate in school sponsored Chinese New Year events.

Photo courtesy of Gabriella Lestari

**Kelsey LaRoche**  
Staff Reporter

Family, food and fortune—this sounds like the recipe for an excellent life, but in reality, these are the main ingredients for celebrating Chinese New Year.

The Chinese New Year is a chance to celebrate the past year, prepare for the New Year, and spend time with family. The date it begins depends on the position of the moon, but it lasts for 15 days. This year it began on February 18 and ended March 4.

Each year is given its own animal name. There are 12 animal names, so the names are cycled through every 12 years. This year is the Year of the Pig.

The Chinese New Year preparations begin by cleaning the house. On New Years Day (the second new moon after the winter solstice), all cleaning supplies are put away until the end of the New Year (15 days later). There is a fear that the good fortune will be swept away during the celebrations, according to the website, <http://www.educ.uvic.ca/faculty/mroth/438/CHINA/taboo.html>.

There are about 900 International students studying at Green River Community College (GRCC) and Khoi Pham is one of them. Pham, a 19-year-old Vietnamese student, says his family "Buys all the food before New Years Eve and we don't buy groceries during the holiday." Most businesses are closed, so having to go to the store would be inconvenient.

Gabriella Lestari, an 18-year-old Indonesian student at GRCC, gets new clothes because "you are supposed to wear new clothes for a new year. Even the night before, you get new P.J.'s to wear to bed." These clothes are always red, because red is considered lucky.

Children celebrating the Chinese New Year are given lucky money in red envelopes. Lestari recalls having to beg for the envelopes every year. She and her brother wake up and go downstairs, then kneel at their parent's feet. She clamps her fists together and shakes them, demonstrating the proper begging position.

Lestari says that without doing the hand movements, "No relatives will give me money. If you don't beg, they will keep the envelope for themselves."

For some students, begging is not enough. Abby Chen, a 20-year-old GRCC student from Taiwan, has to sweet talk family

members if she wants to receive lucky money. Her greatest effort is with her grandmother.

One year she told her grandma that "She will look younger and pretty" in the New Year. Chen says that, "I just try my best to get the money."

Once children receive their lucky money, they get to decide what to do with it. Pham and Lestari usually choose to give all their lucky money to their parents, to put in the bank.

Once, Chen chose to spend her lucky money on shoes. It turned out that choice was not so lucky because the shoes were "Really ugly," she recalls.

"I thought the shoes were really cute at the store. Then I wore them once and I felt embarrassed. The shoes looked like ugly, blue boats."

In the Pham household, the environment is loud with the sounds of family laughing, talking and sharing their news. Everyone is wearing red clothing for good luck.

As the women prepare dinner, Pham and his male family members sit back and play cards. The games are familiar — blackjack, thirteen, and other games that involve gambling. As the females discuss family life in the kitchen, the males relax and clear their minds. The dinner is traditional food. A unique smell fills the air, different from any smell in America. As the family gathers around the table, the mothers bring out the meal: grilled pork with eggs.

"I love it; I so miss it," says Khoi, "It's my favorite."

However, not everyone misses the food. Chen says, "We eat pretty much the same food over and over again. Fish and rice cakes." She gets bored with the selection because, "It's a lot of leftovers; I don't like it."

Lestari agrees with Chen about the leftovers. There is a special cake her family eats only during the Chinese New Year and, "We eat that for a long time. I get sick of it."

Celebrating the Chinese New Year provides a way for international students to start the year off right. This month, about 150 International students will be actively celebrating the Chinese New Year. Keep the holiday in mind as those around you spend time with family, receive good fortune and eat until the leftovers make them sick.

## Crossing our cultures with coordinated conversation

*Members of Conversation Partners, an on-campus program introducing GRCC students of different cultures, find they have a lot to talk about*

**Bimla Thapa**  
Staff Reporter

Have you ever walked into the cafeteria and felt singled-out because of the communication gaps between yourself and students of other ethnic backgrounds? I know I have.

I know I am not the only one who has noticed that in the cafeteria one can find groups of Japanese, Vietnamese, Chinese, Indonesian, Russian and other International students often gather amongst themselves. This greatly concerns me. I mean, since we share a common education environment, why not interact?

When I asked several international students why they do not communicate much with other international or domestic students, almost all of them had the same general responses: lack of confidence, lack of topics and lack of common background.

This is where Conversation Partners steps in. Martha Koch, International Student Activities Coordinator describes Conversation Partners as, "an attempt to bridge the gap between domestic and international students, providing opportunities for international students to practice conversational English with native speakers as well as giving domestic students a chance to practice foreign language skills with native speakers." She also added that, "In the course of getting to know each other, students share

information and insights to their own countries and cultures."

Conversation Partners has assisted over 1,000 students. All of them have made new friends and created lasting friendships. The task of Conversation Partners is to introduce two or three students (one domestic and two internationals from different countries). Meetings depend entirely on the day, time and venue the students are comfortable with. They are given a paper with topics, to assist them on breaking the ice and are required to turn in a reflection paper at the end of the quarter on what they talked about and how their experience was.

"Many students are surprised at how similar their lives and desires with their partners are despite the difference in where they came from," Koch pointed out. This indeed turned out to be true for Raj, who used to be a Conversation Partner. He said, "It's amazing how many similarities we share in spite of being so different."

When asked how his experience was, Raj's enthusiastic response was, "Wonderful! You make friends and understand them better. Plus, it makes coming to school so much better, knowing that you have made one more friend. My partner's name is Josh and yes, we do keep in touch."

Everyone can gain a friend through Conversation Partners if willing to commit an hour a week

to meet up with other students. "Sadly many students fail to take Conversation Partners seriously, missing out on the opportunity that is offered to them on their own campus," Koch said. The ironic part is; the communication barrier, like Koch said, is not the language. Both the domestic and International students simply fear they have nothing interesting to share and are afraid to look foolish.

There is nothing foolish in being yourself. Instead of pre-guessing others' impression of you, why not help them understand who you really are? One way you can do that is through Conversation Partners. All you have to do is go to Student Programs and look for Martha Koch. Before you know it you will have a new friend, no questions asked.

Like Raj, wouldn't it make coming to school better, knowing you have new and diverse friends to share your college experience with? I would love to walk through the halls and cafeteria and be able to greet people at every turn. The communication barrier is a problem on an individual level, and we are the only ones who can overcome it. So, take a step towards breaking the barrier down, learning and understanding about the people around us in the process gaining a new friend.



Gabriella Lestari

# Enthusied student defines fine dining

*More than mere cooking and serving, a true restaurant dining experience is an elaborate performance from a crew of "artisans and actors."*

**Amanda Reed**  
Guest Reporter

The sound of shuffling feet swiftly clamoring in and out of the scorching hot kitchen, followed by the aroma of sizzling prime steaks flooding the restaurant while making mouths water throughout. Laughter and the buzzing of customers sharing their days events, clanking plates being stacked in call of duty, clinking silverware singing from the dish pit as they shower for use. The chatter of servers asking "Would you like to start with a martini or perhaps some hot tea tonight?" are the sights, smells and sounds of the world we call, restaurants.

The restaurant business is essentially the work of artisans and actors. From clock on to clock off they're required to perform their role with precision.

What goes into each and every customer's experience is more than an outsider's eye may perceive. With each performance day or night the scenery or ambiance is crucial. The precise volume of the music set not to overwhelm, the dimmed lights adjusted perfectly for dinner while bright and cheery is the theme for the lunch. Each table articulately painted to perfection dressed for kings and queens, becomes the daily ritual often taken for granted by patrons.

For a server, there is more than meets the eye than simply greet-

ing and scribbling down food and drink orders. The menu is memorized and knowing exactly what to say and what not to say is essential.

For example, when taking an order they should not address the customers as "you guys" as both sexes are commonly represented. "Do you need change?" when taking money for payment of the meal implies that their server believed they should decide the tip amount. Bad strategy.

Having knowledge of the proper drink to recommend that corresponds with the entrée of choice helps assure the customer a more pleasant dining experience. A server must understand all menu items and their ingredients to assure safety for customers with al-

lergies and to accurately describe the flavors and expectations of any dish.

Servers must understand "selective selling" which is a trained technique used to enhance the diners pleasure through the promotion of different types of drinks, appetizers, deserts and other side dishes to compliment the meal. This technique takes practice because a server should never come across as pushy or bothersome, which may hurt repeat business.

Flurries of tickets (food orders) print in the kitchen for the cooks to hurry through. Chefs fill the "expo line" with their exquisite artwork as servers and food runners scramble to gather their orders for garnish and one last quality check.

It's the servers and food expeditor's responsibility to make sure all food is cooked to perfection. They wipe stray sauce drips from the rim of the plate and make sure the extra side of dressing travels with the correct order. "We need a runner! We got a caramelized ginger halibut, half order coconut prawns, stuffed salmon and a side order of sweet potato fries to table 14 please!" The food is delivered picture perfect to the delight of the diners. Everybody is happy, for now.

"Their own little business" said a Dukes Chowders Houses Manager, Erin Dahlin. Servers have to handle money, keep customers happy, be sociable, audit the orders and make the experience memorable to assure the customer returns. It can be very stressful having to manage and multitask.

"Restaurant working means fast hours, a crazy kitchen and

people waiting in line," says Sarah Kolbasoqski, a writer on a restaurant critique web site.

"I take pride in my work as a waiter and in managing so many things at once," says Mike McKechnie, 31, a restaurant server. "I have gotten two complaints that I know of in my 13 years of being a waiter. One guy refused to sit in my section. I took that comment to heart and can honestly say that I was offended."

The restaurant business is like a stage play. The show begins as soon as the customer walks through the door. This play has many actors. The stage is set. The actors need to work fast, efficiently, and as the cast, they must get through the nights performance.

Each actor must follow their script and if the performance is great, the customer will reward the cast with smiling faces and a standing applause, i.e. a great tip. Lights out, curtain closed.



A typical scene at a fine dining institution.

<http://www.lucky9studios.com/waiter.jpg>

## Students facing financial fears and setbacks discuss their options

*Between tuition and book costs and the accumulation of student loan interest students are finding it harder and harder to stay out of the red, despite student programs like work study and the rise of minimum wage.*

**Whitney Houser**  
Guest Reporter

When Ashley Wiser's university friends return home from spring break next month, she doesn't expect to hear tales of their financial difficulties.

"Their parents are probably helping them out but they don't act like it when they come home on break," she explains. "College is a blast, it's so much fun," she constantly hears.

But Wiser knows that, although most had plenty of money when they started at their university, the majority will leave in debt.

Wiser, 19, graduate of Kent Lake High School, chose to go to community college first. Plans to jump right into a university changed because the daunting responsibility of paying for school was too much to handle right out of high school.

Although Wiser's parents help her pay for school, their desire for her to pay for half of everything

weighs on her mind. Like most students starting off in school, she hopes that by the end of her college education (she wants to transfer after getting her associates of arts degree) she won't be "too much in debt." But she expects that it is inevitable with the ever-increasing interest on student loans.

Inundated with financial pressure, the average college student today finds himself struggling to balance the desire for a quality education with the rising cost of education. The allure of the university experience fuels their decisions after high school and things like tuition, loans and debt are not a major concern.

To relieve financial pressure Wiser is doing a work study program that pays \$8 an hour. She is excited because her pay will soon be increasing, with minimum wage. However, Wiser says, "It's not enough to even make a dent in my tuition and book costs."

Green River Community Col-

lege tuition has increased 10 percent each year over the last 5 years. In 2000, a 12 credit load was approximately \$650 and currently a similar amount is almost \$800.

The cost of books is an equally stressful factor in student's budgeting. Students enrolled in a 2-year public college, like Green River, spent an average of \$850 a year on books alone, according to statistics at <http://www.collegeboard.com>. This pressure is certainly a common one among students today. Another Green River Community College student shares her experience.

Denise Coville, 21, like many college students, is not only carrying a full credit load but also works 40+ hours a week.

"I always expected I would be in school at this point in my life but I thought I would be independent," says Coville. "I didn't expect to be married." The financial aid she could receive by being married was incentive enough to

elope with her then-boyfriend. Along with her well-paying job and financial aid, Coville also has taken out a student loan to help pay for school. Between studying and working full time she finds there is not much time to do anything else.

According to collegeboard.com the average total tuition and fees at two-year public colleges in 2006-07 are \$2,272, which is about \$90 (4.1 percent) higher than in 2005-06.

Ironically, with the increase in tuition costs, the amount of debt students have has also increased. Experian, a credit-reporting agency, reported in a November 2006 USA Today news article that young people's debt has risen significantly over the last six years. The company's analysis reported that in 2001, the average student owed \$12,393 in student loans and in 2006 students owed about \$14,379. Also the average young person owed about \$4,649 in credit card debt in 2001. In 2006, the average balance was \$5,781.

The decisions you make now affect the future. Twenty-year-old Sarah Perkins, former GRCC enrollee knows about this from personal experience. Perkins is tak-

ing time off now to save money. Being able to pay her own way through school without outside assistance or student loans is important to her. Although she gets criticism from her friends about taking her time, Perkins is thinking about the next 10 years.

As with any career with a low salary, trying to pay off student loan debts while working is a difficult task. Perkins hopes that the sacrifices she's making now will allow her to save enough money to come back to the college part time and then eventually come back to complete her bachelor of arts degree in elementary education.

Wiser, Coville and Perkins are three voices of this generation whose desire for an education must be weighed with the bottom-line reality of financial responsibility. Wiser and Coville both desire to transfer from Green River to a four-year university, where money will surely continue to be a factor in pursuing their goals.

However, much like most students today, they are hungry to learn and they will face the insurmountable obstacles head on, in the pursuit of higher education.

## Local ladies prove that college isn't just for kids these days

*In the midst of flourishing families and already-full work weeks these adult learners dedicated their themselves to earning their degrees and excelling academically.*

Murmured conversations about next week's final exam begin to penetrate your mental To Do list. Your brain immediately shifts gears from tomorrow's Power-Point presentation for a bunch of finance managers from finance to your study group. Shaking your head, you check an already full schedule to see where you can add a meeting with your statistical analysis study group.

This scene plays out for many adult learners who, at the tender age of 40+ years, decided to enroll in some kind of college or university degree program.

According to statistics gathered by Green River's research and planning department; from 2005 to 2006, the number of adults age 40 and above were 19 percent of the total student population, versus 45 percent for adults between the ages of 20 and 39.

Terry Wilcox, 51, graduated with honors from Central Washington University in March 2006. Her husband of 19 years and her son, who graduated from California Polytechnic State University just two years ago, were there to witness her triumph as she ascended the stage in Benaroya Hall to receive her diploma in a June graduation ceremony.

The actual degree, Bachelor of Business Administration, arrived at her home via the postal service

where it is proudly displayed on her office wall encased in a silver frame.

Wilcox, a healthcare systems analyst for the past 20+ years and owner of Wilcox Consulting for six of those years, started her post-secondary scholastic journey in the early 1980's by attending Chaffey College in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

She completed a two-year AA degree in business administration with every intention of transferring those credits to a four-year program at California State University in Fullerton, CA. Wilcox took a couple of classes at Cal State, Fullerton, but had to quit when the rigors of raising a 2-year-old child alone and the demands of her job became overwhelming.

Wilcox said that part of her felt relieved by her decision to leave Cal State, Fullerton, but at the same time, she was disappointed because graduating from a four-year institution was a personal accomplishment that she had high hopes of achieving.

Taking on the challenge of returning to college at an age when most of her scholastic peers are the same age as her grown children, Wilcox labored under the misconception that her previous AA degree would transfer to CWU. She soon discovered that

it did not.

Disappointed a second time by administrative roadblocks, she enrolled at Green River to earn a transferable AA degree. Wilcox was pleased when the college accepted most of the credits from her Chaffey degree, but there were moments of disbelief. "My swim class credit did not transfer because there is no pool at Green River," she said, "however my golf class credits were accepted." She shook her head. "Isn't swimming exercise?"

This added yet another class to a growing list of courses that appeared to push her undergraduate degree just that much further from her grasp. Wilcox says that it wasn't so much about the money, but the time it was taking to get the extra AA degree.

Even now, six years later, the frustration still shows on her face. "Bottom line is; it needs to be more seamless [when] moving from community college to a four-year institution," she says "especially if you're changing geographical areas."

Debbi Gollnick, 49, graduated with honors from University of Phoenix in September 2006. Although she and her family could not attend her university's June graduation ceremony, there is no lack of pride in her educational accomplishment.

This is Gollnick's second undergraduate degree. She called it a refresher course before starting a Master of Arts degree in organizational management. Her first degree was in business administration, though it did not start out that way.

Gollnick was a high school senior for two months when she successfully completed a GED exam. This allowed her to enroll, at age 17, in a pre-med program at Washington State University. Her plan was a career in nursing, but a trip to spend some quality time with her Air Force family in New Mexico became permanent. After just a year and half at WSU, she transferred to University of Albuquerque.

She changed her degree to business administration with a major in accounting because Albuquerque did not have a nursing program. A year and half later, she graduated with honors and embarked on a career in accounting.

Gollnick says she has worked as an accountant in some way, shape or form for 27 years with a couple of years off to have children. For the past 10 years, she has applied her skills as a senior business and planning analyst with The Boeing Company, but is considering the management fast-track as her next career move.

Both women consider their completed degree as a personal goal first and a professional or career necessity second. "I want to be buried with my degree," Wilcox says with a smile. And Gollnick says, "I do it for myself, and set an example for my children. If I can do this at my age working 55 hours a week, you can too".

Since graduating, Wilcox and Gollnick have looked at MBA programs, but have not yet made any decisions on whether to start the next academic leg in their individual journeys.



An adult learner studies at the college.

Photo courtesy of <http://www.greenriver.edu>

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## Shumacher's latest both unique and unfortunately unfulfilling

*Funny man Jim Carrey's distinctly dark role makes for one of the few highlights of The Number 23*



Jim Carrey plays Walter Sparrow, an unassuming individual who slowly spirals into a life of paranoia in *The Number 23*.

**Howard Hardee**  
Staff Reporter

Don't expect Jim Carrey to be his typical slapstick self in the thriller "*The Number 23*." He shows glimmers of his traditional comedic side, but for the most part Carrey is dead serious as his character Walter Sparrow, an Average Joe dog catcher. For his birthday, which is on the 23rd of February (surprise), Sparrow receives a tattered self-published novel titled *The Number 23* from his wife Agatha, played by Virginia Madsen. As Sparrow progresses through the story he begins to draw eerie comparisons between himself and book's main character, detective Fingerling (also played by Carrey).

As Fingerling becomes obsessed with the 23 Enigma (a Discordian belief that all events and incidents somehow directly relate to the number 23), Sparrow follows suit and becomes a paranoid wreck in the span of about twenty minutes. He begins to desperately seek out the novel's author, Topsy Kretts, to find out why the book mirrors events in his own life, and why the number 23 haunts him.

Witnesses to Sparrow's breakdown are his overly understanding wife and son Robin, played by Logan Lerman. Despite his sudden and often violent fits of

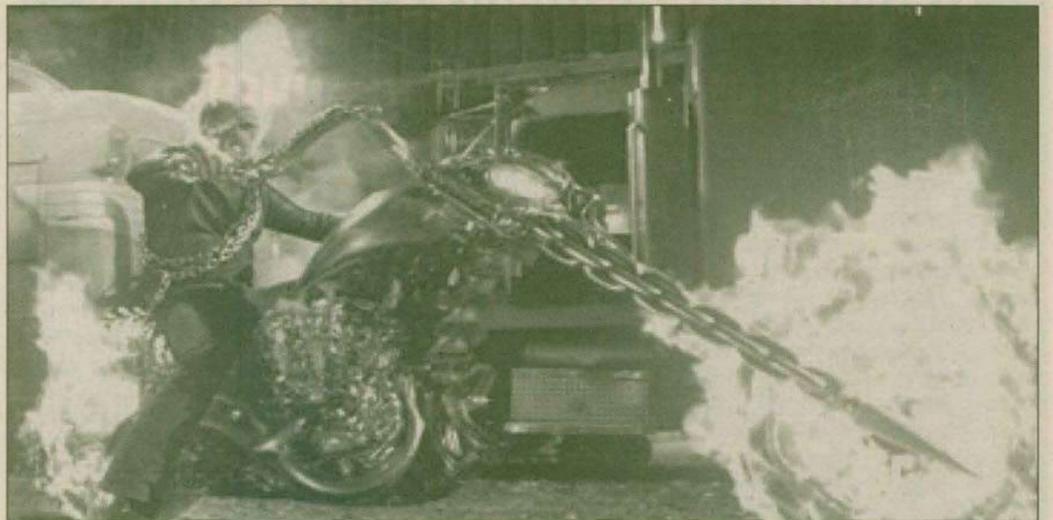
*"A genuinely unique concept is ruined by a poor script and a stereotypically Hollywood-styled ending that will make movie-goers eyes roll with the credits..."*

paranoia and anger, his wife stays by his side as if he was some kind of angel. Had his obsession with the book and the number 23 led to the eventual departure of his family, the movie would have seemed more human and ultimately more believable.

A creative cinematography style during the scenes involving Fingerling makes for the most interesting parts of the movie. A sinister version of Carrey, complete with trench coat and slicked-back hair, is depicted through a dream-like, surreal haze. The effect is captivating visually, but the movie's appeal stops there.

A genuinely unique concept is ruined by a poor script and a stereotypically Hollywood-styled ending that will make movie-goers eyes roll with the credits. But don't point fingers at Carrey, he more than adequately fulfills his role as a man increasingly overwhelmed with obsession and paranoia. Perhaps the movie's director, Joel Shumacher, is the one to blame for the cheesy ending or the jumble of events that, in some cases, have no connection. On a positive note, the sequel *Number 24* is unlikely.

## Ghost Rider gears up on action only to forget any trace of plot



Ghost Rider, played by Nicholas Cage, rides on his newly transformed Hellcycle, making for one of the film's only strong points.

**Chris Bloomquist**  
Staff Reporter

*Ghost Rider* is an action movie based on the Marvel comic series of the same name. The plot in the movie is a little muddled and at times makes very little sense at all. Basically, Johnny Blaze, a motorcycle stunt rider sells his soul to Mephistopheles to save his father, who is dying of cancer. This deal causes Blaze to become a flaming skeleton with a magical motorcycle who must work as a bounty hunter for Mephistopheles. The plot comes to a climax when Blaze's girlfriend is captured by demons.

The movie was directed and co-written by Mark Steven Johnson who has also directed the Marvel films *Daredevil* and *Elektra*, both which were based on comics. Blaze's girlfriend, Roxanne Simpson, played by Eva Mendes,

does an acceptable job as a news reporter. Blaze is also played fairly well by Nicolas Cage. One scene in which this could be observed was when Blaze acted as if he had no idea what was going on (to which the audience could unquestionably relate, with such a nonsensical plot).

The action sequences in the movie are definitely the strong points of the film. The fire effects around Blaze looked good and the motorcycle he rode looked and sounded awesome. I'm tempted to say that the motorcycle was the star of the movie; nothing like the throaty roar of a flaming motorcycle from hell to get the adrenaline pumping.

Impressive special-effects sequences, however, were unable to hide the glaring inconsistencies and absurd actions found in the film. One of the many mistakes I noticed was that there while there

was a burn mark in the asphalt from Johnny Blaze's motorcycle, when a fireman walked over it, it was bouncy, like rubber. Another time, Johnny Blaze spilled coffee all over himself, but in the next scene, it was gone. There were also several attempts at humor, and while many of which were funny, a couple of them fell flat.

I think that this movie can be enjoyable as long as you remember that the plot of a movie about a flaming biker fighting demons is definitely not going to be the best story ever. There was no objectionable content, other than violence, but there was no blood or gore. It was a bit scary at times, but so fake that it didn't really matter. *Ghost Rider* has been number one at the box office for two weeks and has made a total of \$80 million. If you go into this movie with low expectations then you should enjoy it.

## Zodiac loses interest and bores audiences

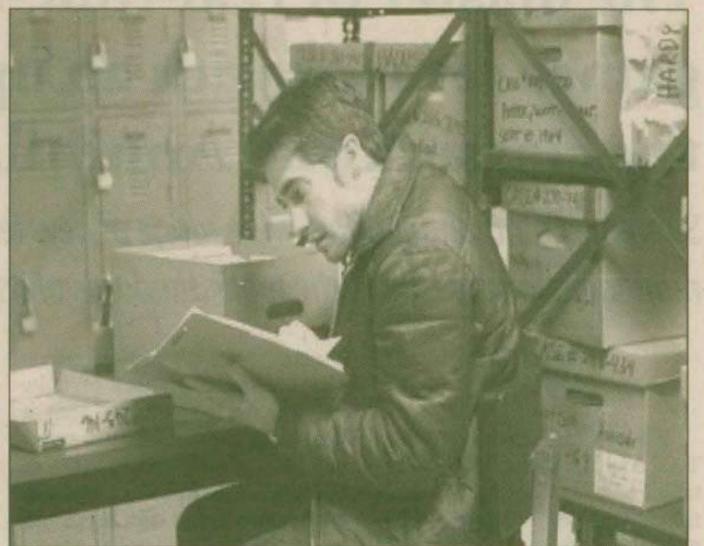
**Adam Cannon**  
Staff Reporter

In the film "*The Zodiac*", a serial killer residing in the Bay Area of California killed at least three individuals, leaving almost no hints to who he was or why he would kill them.

A cartoon artist named Robert Graysmith, played by Jake Gyllenhaal, takes up a curiosity for the case, and tries to find the man calling himself the Zodiac who viciously murdered an unknown number of citizens. Graysmith searches through every file that could help him find the murderer, until he makes a connection with the evidence and a man that had been passed off as innocent by the lead investigator of the case.

"*The Zodiac*" lasts two hours and 40 minutes, and is based on a serial killer that leaves most of the audience just waiting for the movie to conclude. The film was based on a true story, and nobody was ever arrested for the murders the Zodiac claimed to have been a part of.

During the beginning of the film, there are two murder scenes almost back-to-back, which made me think there was going to be more suspense and horror throughout. This, however, was not the case. It turned out to become more about finding the murderer than showing how the serial



Robert Graysmith, played by Jake Gyllenhaal, attempts to both find the Zodiac, and put the audience to sleep.

killer went about slaughtering his innocent victims.

Graysmith becomes so involved in the serial killer case that he throws away his whole life to try to catch the murderer. It seems that his whole purpose to living was to find the man that named himself *The Zodiac*. When he finally comes face-to-face with the man suspected to be guilty, neither of them say anything to each other, and Graysmith wasn't ever able to get anyone behind bars for the crimes that were committed. Because of this, even though

Graysmith brought the case much closer to being solved, in the end he wasn't successful at what he was trying to do.

The film did not wow me, and seemed like it would never end. The way the puzzles were used in the movie, however, had me trying to decode it myself, and there were a few scenes that had me on the edge of my seat. But because the story line took so long to fully develop, I simply lost interest in the movie and found myself checking my watch to see how much longer it would last.

## "Arsenic and Old Lace" filled with outstanding preformances, interesting costumes, and multiple murders

**Bimla Thapa**  
Staff Reporter

What does one get when you mix old ladies, dashing gentlemen and arsenic? A fun, sweet and hilarious play, "Arsenic and Old Lace".

The play, directed by Gary Taylor and Robert Baltazor, is about two old ladies, Abby and Martha Brewster (played by Chatherine Nielsen and Alicia Gaynor) who have not skeletons hidden in their closet, but rather in their cellar. It is about how their nephew, Mortimer Brewster (Adrian Centoni) who found out about their aunts' fetish for killing and how alarmingly calm they were about it, referring to the victims fondly as "their gentlemen".

The Brewster sisters had a preference on whom they killed, selecting those who had no family members and led a dreary life, offering these "gentlemen" their homemade elderberry wine poisoned with drops of arsenic. Also in the eccentric family was Teddy Brewster (Ellery Dixon), Mortimer's 'crazy' brother who thought he was President Roosevelt, and to whom his aunts "assigned" to bury the "unfortunate victims of yellow fever".

As if dealing with his aunt's shocking secrets, his brother and a clingy fiancée Elaine Harper (Jessica Bradbury) wasn't enough, Mortimer has to face his elder brother, Jonathan Brewster, (Nick Zielinski) who has a fear-

some temper and keen dislike for his family members.

Jonathan Brewster comes back home after years of leaving his family abruptly with Dr. Einstein (Amanda DeBell) a plastic surgeon. Jonathan had his own shares of skeletons, all cluttered in different countries. He brings a body home with him and plans to bury it in the old lady's closet.

What follows next is a hilarious confrontation among the Brewsters as the aunts display their disapproval for having a "total foreigner among their gentlemen" indicating that their promise for a decent burial has been disturbed. Mortimer has to distract Officer O'Hara (Darren Adams) from his family's secrets while trying to stay alive from both Jonathan's attempt to kill him and listening to Officer O'Hara's deadly boring plots for plays.

It all results in Teddy being accepted at a mental institute, Abby and Martha following him and Jonathan being caught by the police for multiple murders.

This play was pretty well written and directed. It faced no technical interruption and the lighting was just right, not too bright nor too dim. The set-up of the inside of a house was also creditable; old-fashioned, cozy and very inviting, indicating how simple props like a comfortable couch, a coffee table and old rugs makes a big difference if one knew how to make the most out of it.

The costumes the actors wore, especially the oldies frocks the Brewster sisters had on merged well with the theme of the play, highlighting the year the play took place. The hairstyle of both the male and female actors worked as well. Sleek, neat and rather amusing, they complimented the role of the characters.

But the best feature of the play was definitely the accent of the actors which I personally thought was what brought the characters to life and added more details and humor to their lines. For me, Catherine Nielson and Amanda DeBell had the most attractive accent, making it delightful listening to them.

However, I must give the most credit to Adrian Centoni, for his role as Mortimer Brewster, the single sane member of the Brewster family, for his outstanding performance. From the outdated sleek hairstyle, fake moustache all the way to his entertaining expressions, he nailed every bit of it. Centoni molded into his character and brought out the best from it. In fact, about 15 people from the audience were his personal supporters, including the pastor from the church he attends, and one could tell that they were impressed with the way he carried out his act.

Everyone: the director, technical director, costumer, house and stage manager, sound technician as well as the acting crew did a great job with this wonderful play.

## Apple unleashes iPhone



Photo courtesy of Apple

**Chris Bloomquist**  
Staff Reporter

Apple recently unveiled its latest product, the iPhone. This product is an iPod cell phone combination with breakthrough internet capabilities. The iPhone is 115 mm tall 11 mm thick and 61 mm wide. It features a touch sensitive widescreen screen that is 3.5 inches diagonal across. It clocks in at about 4.8 ounces on the scale. It also has either 4GB or 8 GB of room for media storage. The battery lasts for 16 hours of audio, or 5 hours of talking, watching videos or browsing the internet.

The audio features are similar to the original iPod, only with touch controls. You can scroll through artists, songs, albums and playlists. The video playback is also controlled with the touch sensitive screen. The process of using the actual phone portion of the device is made simple with the iPhone's the ability to call friends with the press of one button. It also has the ability to create conference calls.

For text messaging, the iPhone has a full QWERTY keyboard with spell-check. Additionally, it contains a 2-megapixel camera that can easily be transferred to and from a PC or Mac. Amazingly there is more the iPhone can do; it can browse the internet using the special Safari web browser. Furthermore, it has email which also allows you to send pictures.

Apple has partnered with Google Maps, allowing the iPhone to give not only maps, but also directions, satellite images, and traffic information. It also provides real-time weather, stock reports, and more. Another interesting feature is the iPhone's ability to rotate the picture in the display based on how you are holding it. Also, the brightness of the screen adjusts itself to the level of light in the area it is in. The iPhone not only has Bluetooth support, but two different types of internet connectivity as well; both Wi-Fi and Cingular's EDGE network. All technical information can be found on Apple's web site, [www.Apple.com](http://www.Apple.com).

There is not yet a date for the release of the iPhone, but Apple CEO Steve Jobs hinted during his 2007 Keynote speech that it may be available sometime in June 2007, and would be released outside of the United States at a later date. The iPhone will only be available at Apple stores and from Cingular wireless.

The 4 GB phone will retail for \$499, while the 8 GB model will run for \$599, although it is still not clear what sort of subscriptions or monthly fees will be necessary for phone service, or internet access. While it appears to be an extravagant charge for the device, the large number of features may make the iPhone well worth the price.

## The master of real-time-strategy games returns with an update to the classic Total Annihilation

*Supreme Commander offers wide range of new features, while still managing to stay true to the high standards of its predecessor*

**Jesse Gaunt**  
Guest Reporter

When Chris Taylor released Total Annihilation in 1997, he established a standard by which all future real-time strategy (RTS) games would be judged. His work, although 11 years old, still maintains a large community of players, many of which have made improvements to the game along the way. Now Chris Taylor has done it again, releasing what has been known as the spiritual successor to Total Annihilation, in his new game Supreme Commander.

Supreme Commander echoes Total Annihilation in almost every respect. There's Metal and Energy, Commanders, Robots, 3D Models, just about everything you can remember from TA and more. Your commander has had a few upgrades. Remember the

D-Gun? Now it's tactical nukes. The maximum number of units that can be created has seen a huge upgrade too. In the original TA, it was a measly 200. In Supreme Commander, modern hardware is being harnessed, and battles are expected to be as massive as possible.

To aid in this process, the game has two features. The first is a level of a zoom that's very flexible. You can go to the micro-management level, and watch the units fight individually, or you can zoom to an almost satellite-level and see your units represented by lines on the map, in the same fashion a general would. The second is a macro feature that lets you setup aspects of your bases to run with minimal supervision. This includes smart production, rally points, and automated attacking.

Supreme Commander also features 4 races, all with well-

developed story lines, which sets it apart from the two generic races in Total Annihilation. In addition to Chris Taylor, the producer of TA, comes Jeremy Soule, who has composed the music for Total Annihilation, Guild Wars, Morrowind, and Oblivion.

The game requires a fairly decent computer to run. I'm using an AMD 3200+ (2.0ghz) with 1.5 gigabytes of RAM and an ATI Radeon x300/x550 graphics card, and I've had to turn everything to low to make the game playable. Some of my friends, who were initially excited about the release, decided to wait for upgrades after they played the demo.

By combining the macro management aspects of Civilization, the real-time strategy of Total Annihilation, and 21st century graphics, Chris Taylor has set the standards for RTS development once again.



Photo Courtesy of Gamespot.com

A variety of new robots can be found in Chris Taylor's latest real-time strategy, Supreme Commander.

# Baseball and fastpitch begins with high hopes

As spring training begins Gator baseball is in full swing

**Boomer Bentley**  
Staff Reporter

## Baseball

Gator baseball kicked off their hopeful season with a win versus Olympic CC 3-0 at Green River on Thursday. The baseball team has high hopes for a successful season this year as a handful of core players from last year make a return to the field for the 2007 season.

The team is littered with top prospects from around the greater Seattle area, including shortstop Jordan Shadle who last spring was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds of the MLB. Outfielder Joash Brodin, infielder Brian Marquez, catcher Colin Crouthamel, 1B Kyle Mowatt, pitcher Joel Nelson, and outfielder Shea Baumgartner, all return and who were all awarded with All-League last year, making for a more experienced team that the coach, Matt Acker, feels has a great chance to win the NWAACC. "Our ability to throw strikes on a consistent basis, and our ability to believe that we can achieve our lofty goals" Acker says will be the keys to doing well this season.

With a solid defensive core holding down the infielder, and the stronger bats coming from the outfield, the season will prove to be exciting as players continue to prove themselves to any prospect who shows up for the game.

The pitching staff will be much more effective this season with a more solid defense behind them.

Look for many wins to come from Jacob Pettit, James Douglas, Joel Nelson, and Jeff Brooks; as more experienced position players will be there to assist them. "The hope is the pitchers will keep the ball the down and we can get a lot of ground balls. We should have enough offense to compete with anyone." Says Acker, who is looking forward to seeing how the season will play out.

It is inevitable that many games will come down to the final inning where the game will be on the shoulders of closing pitcher for the Gators, Joe Hagen. "We look for Joe to bring back his late game mentality to help us fin-

ish out the end of our ballgames," Acker said about the Closer.

A couple newcomers to the Gators that will be looked at for a major impact right away are infielders Tyler Owens and Ryan Voelkel, along with catcher Joe Schuster. Acker mentions the unity of the team being a factor for success when games are on the line, and the fact that the majority of the team is back will bring experience to the field that was lacked last season.

## Softball

The lady Gator softball team did not qualify for the NWAACC

tournament last season, but coach Gary Jones feels confident about his team's chances, "Everyone has a shot and we should be strong enough to make the play-offs," says Jones about his team chances this season.

This years captains are catcher Lisa Thomas and pitcher/3rd base Kelsey Perkins. The team last year was unable to pull out a single victory, and finished in last place in the western region. The team brings back only one returnee in Lisa Thomas. Also pitcher Valerie Plummer looks to improve the Gators record with wins of her own.

The coach sees South Puget

Sound CC and Pierce CC as some of the toughest competition in the Western region, but every game is going to count as only the top few teams make the playoffs.

"As a coaching staff, we are very excited about coaching this team and look forward to beginning this season"

Look for the gators to do big things this season when the season kicks off on March 17 with a preseason tournament in Richland, and the regular season starting Saturday March 31. The next home game will be here at GRCC april 1 as the Gators take on Grays harbor



The Gator baseball team huddles around near the end of last year.

Archives

## Returning Gators (tennis)



**Chris Dew**

Height - 5'8

#4 in NWAACC championship (singles)



**Adam Blackner**

Height - 5'8

#1 NWAACC champion (singles)



**Michael Parretta**

Height - 5'10

Two time all league selection (HS)

# Tennis Looking to Repeat Success

**Howard Hardee**  
Staff Reporter

The already prolific GRCC tennis program made a welcome addition over the winter, hiring Mark Klysner as head coach of both the men's and women's squads.

Klysner brings plenty of experience and tennis knowledge to the table. Klysner played Division 1 tennis at the University of South Carolina during the late 90's. With the first match still more than a month away, Klysner is already confident his men's team will fair well against conference rivals.

"I'm familiar with some players on the other teams," he said. "And I can't really see any reason why we shouldn't win the conference."

Klysner is confident for good reason, as one of the four return-

ing players is reigning NWAACC champion Adam Blackner, who looks forward to attending Portland State University in the fall. Blackner figures to lead his teammates by example during the upcoming season, which begins April 6 against Pacific Lutheran.

"There will be a little pressure on Adam to repeat (the singles

and tournament."

In regards to the men's team's other players (twelve in all), Klysner remains undecided. He is currently debating between making cuts--a decision every coach dreads--and splitting the team up into varsity and junior varsity halves. Only time will reveal the fate of the tennis team hopefuls.

*"I'm expecting a lot from my men's team. We're hoping for an invitation to the national tournament."*

*- Coach Mark Klysner*

championship) this year," Klysner said. "I'm expecting a lot from my men's team. We're hoping for an invitation to the nation-

In stark contrast to the men's team, the Lady Gators are an inexperienced bunch looking to learn from their newly appointed

coach. Klysner appears perfectly capable of handling such a situation, and it doesn't hurt that he works as the pro tennis assistant at Bally's Total Fitness gym in Federal Way. Even more troublesome, however, is the fact the women's team is only five strong.

"I don't have very high expectations for them, they're fairly new to the sport," Klysner said. "This season should be a learning experience."

In light of recent complaints about the condition of Green River's tennis courts, which can be described as poor at best, all practices for both teams will be held at Klysner's workplace, the Bally Total Fitness gym. The gym features well-maintained indoor courts where practices will begin on Monday.

# Olympians Legendary Race

John Huber  
Guest Reporter

In a remote corner of Washington, a legendary snowboard competition annually attracts athletes from around the world, including past and present Olympic medalists. No money is awarded. They compete alongside local riders for the coveted prize: a trophy of golden duct tape.

Mount Baker Ski Area, one of the seminal locations where snowboarding was thrust from obscurity into the mainstream, this February hosted its 22nd annual Legendary Banked Slalom snowboard race in the shadow of Mount Shuksan in eastern Whatcom County. Competing alongside professional riders and local amateurs were the likes of Olympic Gold Medal winners Seth Wescott, Hannah Teter and Kelly Clark.

Founded by snowboard pioneer Tom Sims and local shop owner Bob Barci, the Legendary Banked Slalom has often been imitated but never duplicated. In 1985, Sims and Barci approached Mount Baker's manager, Duncan Howat, for permission to hold a snowboard race on the high banked walls of Mount Baker's natural half pipe. Howat agreed and a tradition was born. Sims went on to win the race that first year, etching his name in the pages of snowboarding history and leading the way for some of snowboarding's heaviest hitters.

Shaun Palmer, Craig Kelly, Rob Morrow and Ross Rebagliati have all won the coveted duct tape. Terje Haakonsen boycotted the winter Olympics in 1998, instead competing in the banked slalom, where he won the third of his six golden trophies.

Over the years, the race's legendary status in the snowboard world has grown. The peak came in the early 1990's, when the Professional Snowboard Tour of America (PSTA) included the

race. Television coverage, corporate sponsors and huge prize purses were out of character for the tiny family run ski area, and organizers ran into difficulties. The contest that best represented the soul of the sport had lost contact with that soul. "I should have known better than to let a [major corporation] get involved as a sponsor because, well, they screwed us," said organizer Gwyn Howat about the growth of the race. In the following years the event was scaled back, and Howat now accepts only snowboarding-related companies as event sponsors.

Although it was no longer a Pro Tour stop, the contest and its handmade duct tape trophies still held a high level of prestige in the snowboard world despite the lack of professional prize money. Popularity of the contest continued to grow, and in the late 1990's race organizers instituted a lottery system to choose the approximately 300 entrants from the thousands of applicants. Though the majority of the racers are from the state of Washington, riders come from all over the country and this year a handful came from Europe, Chile and Ja-

pan.

Imagine a snowboard contest where at the starting gate, riders mingle about and munch on crackers, smoked salmon or fondue. Instead of getting psyched up with the help of coaches or trainers, racers congregate around a bonfire, sipping hot drinks and catching up with friends. This is the Legendary Banked Slalom.

Imagine getting lined up in the start shack where former race winner and now official starter Amy Howat greets you by name even though she hasn't seen you since last year's race. She counts down, "Rider ready in 3...2...1, and go!" Your board drops away as you push out of the start shack, and you pick up speed as you whip

into a tight left-hand turn. The G-forces pull as you cut across the steep entry to Mount Baker's natural halfpipe. Surviving the first eight turns is no picnic, as your board quickly accelerates to 30-plus miles per hour. Suddenly, you are heading straight for the turn known as "The Tree." Here, the course becomes flatter, but don't be fooled, it is still incredibly technical, with near-vertical banked turns and ruts that change with the passing of each rider.

From year to year, the final section of the course has been configured in different ways due to snow conditions or other factors. This year course designers added a new twist, literally. A corkscrew feature was added just

before the finish line, near the spot known as Toilet Bowl. Here, riders negotiate a long, swooping left-hand turn over a snow bridge and around the corkscrew. A gate marked the apex of the corkscrew where racers drop under the bridge.

Filmmaker Jai Suh was making a documentary about the Legendary Banked Slalom. He could not pass up the opportunity to set up his cameras at the corkscrew. "I don't think anything like this has been done in snowboarding," Suh said from his vantage point atop a ladder looking down the barrel of the corkscrew. "Watching the pros hit this section is incredible."



Photo courtesy of John Huber

## Basketball ends season with what was supposed to be

Kyle Riger  
Sports Editor

The Gator Basketball team ended on a high note winning 5 out of the last 6 games of the season, going from a disappointing 3-7 to a respectable 8-8 in the division to end the season. I talked to head Coach Tim Malroy about what sparked the late season rally and what's next for Green River basketball.

I asked about the last few games of the season on how they found that spark Malroy told me "I tried to boil things down to belief. I felt like our guys were paying too much attention to what other people were saying or thinking about our team. We talked about how the only people that matter as to who believed we could win our next game was US, not anyone else" and it worked the Gators with solid wins against Pierce, Tacoma

"It started with the Pierce game. They were in first place coming in, and we just committed to executing a game plan that we believed could beat them. It

turned out better than I could hope, and we beat them pretty easily." The gators went on a 2 game run following that easily topping Pierce then Tacoma.

Then came the real challenges though on Feb. 14 when the Gators would face 2 tough overtime matches in the span of just one week and came out victorious on both occasions. Coach Malroy stated that he approached each situation differently, as the play of the teams was different with each game.

Talking about the 84-81 double overtime win over Grays Harbor Malroy said, "The grays harbor game was a tough game on the road, and the guys were playing so hard that I felt that I needed to remain somewhat calm due to the fact that Grays harbor hit several desperation 3 pointers at the end of the game and overtime to keep the game alive. I didn't want the guys to see how disappointed I was that we couldn't catch a break, I just wanted them to keep playing hard." and they did in the end explaining why Malroy says "That was our best game of the

year."

"The south Puget sound game we were sluggish and not playing as well as we knew we should have been, so I felt I needed to be more emotional and 'rah-rah' to pull out the effort we needed to win. Most of the time I don't get too excited about overtime because the players are going to feed off of your energy, and they need to not get too high emotionally or they will burn out in overtime." Said Malroy speaking about the Gators last win of the season in a still thrilling 78-75 win.

When Recapping the season I asked Malroy what star guard Marc Williams allowed them to do on the court, "The other 4 guys won't have a tendency to stand around and watch Marc, and the other team is so geared up to stop him that if he's not the focal point early they tend to relax. After a bit we run some sets that gets Marc working either in the open court, or with a high screen and roll. He knows that this is the time for him to make things happen for himself and his teammates. "And it works for Williams and the Ga-

tors as they finished with the best record they've had in the last three years.

"When he goes hard off the dribble, he's basically un-guardable one-on-one. After that we just look at mis-matches and play off of what is working in that particular game. Marc also a way to get a good shot when everything has broken down on the offensive end and the shot clock is winding down. He has bailed us out of more than a few stalled possessions this year. In short, his impact is great, a large Doppler effect if you will." As the leading scorer for the gators Williams scored just short of 23 points a game and shot a very solid 48% from the field. Of course this wasn't the only reason for success for the team as there were a total of 4 players who averaged over 10 points per game.

Finally I asked coach Malroy to sum up the season and what was next for the Gator basketball program.

"The season started out much like the last 2. Slow start, with some good games, but overall

not living up to potential. Once we turned it around it turned into most enjoyable and rewarding season I have ever had as a coach at any level. The group that went on the run at the end was what a team is supposed to be; close, supportive of one another, scrappy, loose, and confident that if they play to their capabilities they can beat anyone. All of the negative turned into positives during the last 3 weeks."

The off-season seems to be a very busy one for the program and Malroy backed that up, "Next for us is the most important month and a half of the year. Recruiting for next year, we will be on the road and watching the state tournaments for the next 2 weeks, then getting kids on campus and doing home visits for the next month or so. Our returnees get a couple weeks off, and then we start off-season workouts and individual improvement plans. Lots to do."