

The Current

Green River Community College



A Team on Track, in More Than One Way

In its first season since returning to Green River, the track team achieved some unexpected results.

SPORTS page 15

May 13, 2011 | WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.NET

VOLUME 45, ISSUE 11



A BROKEN LIFE

FIXED WITH A LITTLE MURDER

Pages 8&9

Photo: Matthew Montoya | The Current

CAMPUS page 2

Success Without Sacrifice

The story of an alumnus who went from Green River to Oxford and Juilliard and starred in a BBC show. Next stop: his own book and solo record.

A&E page 10

A Father, a Student, a Rapper, a DJ

In his first quarter at Green River, Fred Diezil performs quite the balancing act. His big dreams require it.

NEWS page 12

Running Start Students May Start Paying Partial Tuition

If Senate has its way, RS students will be paying 10 percent of tuition costs.

OP-ED page 14

An Investment That's Worth It

Tuition is going up, the job market is still looking bleak, and financial aid will likely be cut. But, even if it means student loans, getting a bachelor's is still your best choice.

Achieving Success Without Sacrifice

The story of an alumnus who went from Green River to Oxford and Juilliard and starred in a BBC show. Next: his own book and solo record.

By: Asha Johnson
Assistant Campus Editor

The first thing you notice as you walk through the door is the recording room, just big enough to fit two or three people. Scanning left there's an aged desk, lit by candles despite the sunshine creeping through the windows. The desk is littered with various sheets of paper.

Above the desk and against each wall in the room are bookshelves filled with historical, philosophical, religious and even scientific works.

And, although a thin layer of dust covers the many photos and posters decorating the walls around the bookshelves, the room

is humming, eager to share its purpose.

This is Troubadour Studio and Rehearsal in Auburn, owned by Green River alumnus, Philip Lindholm.

"I've been a lot of places and I've never come close to making anything great unless I'm here," he says, appreciatively glancing at the small space around him.

Out of his many travels throughout Europe and the U.S., including schooling at Central Washington University, Oxford of England, Juilliard of New York and the L'École Normale Supérieure of Paris, this small space is what he keeps coming back to - where he feels most attuned.

Living in Auburn at the time, Lindholm started as a Running Start student in



Jean-Pierre Garcia | The Current

Books and music line the walls of Philip Lindholm's studio apartment in Auburn. This small space is the place where he does what he does best.

1997. It was here at Green River, after taking Dr. John Fox's comparative religion class, that his interest in theology and philosophy was ignited.

Fox opened Lindholm's eyes to a future that was true to who he was.

It all came together when, still a business major at the time, he sat down to

watch a marathon about Jesus Christ on the History Channel.

"I was in my pajamas, eating Doritos for, like, sixteen hours, and I thought...

I'm in the entirely wrong field," he recalls, chuckling

SEE 'SUCCESS'
ON PAGE 4

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Teacher Spotlight: Tonya McCabe

Full name: Tonya McCabe
Position: Business Division faculty and advisor of the Leadership Dream Team
Date of birth: May 22, 1970
Year at Green River: I've been here for 12 years.

How did you become a teacher?

I actually did not set out to become a teacher; I sort of fell into it by accident in the early 1990s when I became a corporate trainer. What I learned though was that teaching was the perfect fit for me because it is a wonderful opportunity for me to help others improve their own lives.

That is what teaching is all about – we are here to help our students meet their goals and prepare to be successful in the workplace. If I can be a part of their journey and be helpful along the way, that is a wonderful honor to have!

How do you make learning fun for students?

I try to share personal stories to provide a connection to the students. I also try to incorporate role plays and different games/activities that incorporate the topic or unit material.

This is easier to do in my non-technology classes. In my technology-based courses I try to incorporate online



Zac Tate | The Current

learning activities that get students beyond the “standard” assignment and instead have them play a game such as “who wants to be a computer genius” or “wheel of terms” that are similar to the game shows but they have an educational perspective.

What's the biggest challenge you've ever encountered?

tered?

Seven years ago, I unexpectedly became a single parent with a newborn, a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old. I had to be a full-time parent, attend graduate school full-time, and work part-time for the next two years.

It was a dark time for me but I am grateful for it now because it helps me empa-

thize with my students who may be experiencing some or all of those same challenges. I try to help them strategize how to overcome those challenges and come out stronger and better on the other side.

What would you probably be doing if not teaching and what do you see yourself doing in the future?

I'd probably be a social worker, specifically a children's advocate. I love children and I think, too often, that children are the ones without a voice. Serving as a children's advocate would allow me to be their voice to ensure they are safe and feel loved and protected.

Right now I'm happy teaching. I'm open to new opportunities in the future should they arise but I'm not seeking them right now.

What is something people don't know about Tonya McCabe?

I like to scuba dive. I have my master's certification in scuba diving and have been doing this for 5 years. I also teach kickboxing.

Find the complete Tonya McCabe and many other Teacher Spotlights at our website: www.thecurrentonline.net/campus

Man on the Street

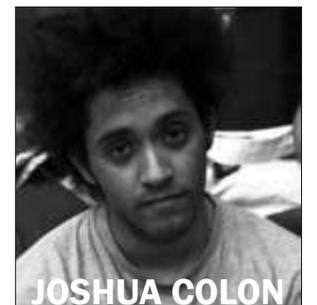


Every other week, *The Current's* editors crawl out of their cave to ask the campus random questions. Suggest a subject at: thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Here is a selection of this issue's answers. For more, plus an archive of old questions, visit our website: www.thecurrentonline.net.

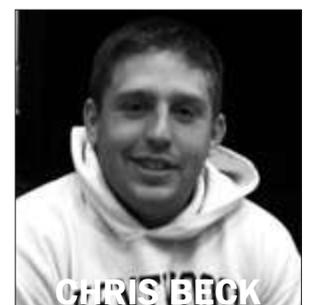
What do you think about the Osama bin Laden situation?

I think he died a long time ago. I don't think it's him. I think the CIA knew where he was for a long time. I think they are using Osama bin Laden to perpetuate other things. Now that's not working and Obama's popularity is very low from when he was elected and then all of a sudden they found Osama bin Laden and killed him, it's going to guarantee his re-election. I'm very skeptical.



JOSHUA COLON

It's a good thing that we finally got him. Cutting the head off of a terrorist organization is a thing. It's a sign that we are doing something good but it isn't going to last. It's the beginning to something else. It's a precursor. What we went through was a prequel and now it's going to be something a little bit more. Probably not as big as 9/11, but soldiers will be going elsewhere.



CHRIS BECK

I'm not happy. Prove it to me. I haven't seen a picture of his dead ass. I haven't seen anything. I just heard some news. The whole community is celebrating, prove it to me. I don't need a picture, just a glimpse, see it move, now he's dead. Then I'd believe it. I pledge allegiance to my country, not mindless obedience.



GARY LITTLE

My personal opinion is that the news media is making it into some pivotal event. It's interesting, but how is it going to change the course of events? How is going to change what we are doing militarily? How is it going to change things on the global scale? That's the long and the short of it. Yes it's interesting, but how does that change our strategy?



MARJORIE MACKENZIE

Through His Own Organization, a Student Tries to Help Create a Country

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia
Campus Editor

It was originally a desperate graduate-turned-vegetable-vendor in Tunisia protesting police brutality by setting himself on fire that sparked social unrest across, among other countries, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Bahrain.

But the thing that connects every recent uprising is a massive series of 132-character Twitter updates. For some in the midst of revolution, those characters are their only access to the outside world. Social media is a tool

that gives voice to those who would otherwise be silenced.

As he watched the news unfold, this became increasingly clear to Green River student Dilmon Abdulkader. So he set aside his history books and logged onto Twitter and Facebook, designed his own website and started an organization.

“I thought, ‘I can do this too’ – I told myself ‘I can help my people out,’” he says.

Abdulkader is a 22-year-old political science major. But above all he is Kurdish. He wants to facilitate a conversation concerning human rights and build a voice for his

people. He named his project appropriately: Kurdish Voice.

It took him a month and a half to create a web page, a Twitter account and a Facebook page for his organization. Since the launch on Feb. 6, he has gathered about 300 fans on Facebook the social networks and has a loyal audience on the website.

He shares articles, polls and videos in hopes of educating and gaining the interest of the public and to ignite a conversation.

The issue at hand is independence. You can't find Kurdistan on most maps – it has never been internation-

ally recognized. The Kurdish people, whose roots are in modern day Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey, are often haunted by discrimination.

They are an ethnic group with their own language, flag, government, borders and constitution. Everything that a state has, Kurdistan has - except for sovereignty. Though some governments have granted them a degree of autonomy in heavily Kurdish regions, conflict - especially in Turkey - is rife.

SEE 'A COUNTRY'
ON PAGE 4

Success

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 2

at his then-epiphany for something that is now so obvious.

It was then that Lindholm chose to leave behind the value of “marketability” that others had defined as success to pursue theology and philosophy.

Alongside religion, he has found comfort in music. He wasn’t tempted to join the band kids in middle school, but he did feel at home while spending his time between classes in one of the many practice rooms at Green River.

“Room, piano, nothing else. You could just go in there, close the door, and nobody would bother you. They just assumed you belonged.”

After completing his Associate in Arts Degree at Green River, Lindholm

transferred to Central, where he earned high honors and his bachelor’s in philosophy. While there, he also created his own degree of “philology and exegesis,” which is the critical analysis of ancient theological text and language.

He then moved on to Oxford for graduate work, where he completed three master’s in Christian studies, Jewish studies and Islamic studies, as well as a doctorate in philosophical theology.

“For me, they’re all inter-related. They’re how we as people approach the world, why we believe we’re here, and what the purpose of it is,” Lindholm says, reflectively.

“They just have different answers.”

Over time, he found himself in search of the kind of diversity that he’d become so accustomed to while at Green River.

He decided to head for New York to study documentary filmmaking,

acting and music, all while supposed to be working on his dissertation through Oxford.

New York was also where he had the opportunity to study under the famous documenter, Alex Maysels, and later become an employee of the BBC.

“The really successful people in any field... are those people who often don’t follow the status quo - those who challenge themselves to change that field, not become a part of it.”

Philip Lindholm, Green River alumnus

Among acting, producing, directing and writing for the BBC, he is best known for playing the lead role in “Who Murdered Warren Taylor,” an interactive murder mystery about the death of a soccer player, in 2005. But it was his time spent with Maysels that he cherished most.

His first encounter with Maysels was welcoming to say the least. After they introduced themselves to each other, he gently took Lindholm’s hand into his own, looked him straight in the eye, and, with a sincere and serious look on his face, said, “Bless you,” in a way

philosophy, religion and writing – they all amount to the same thing in his mind. They’re all art.

“You can do things with a camera that you can’t do with a book, you can do things with a pen that the voice can’t touch... my interest is seeing what I can do with all of those.”

Lindholm is currently in the finishing stages of recording his first solo record, “The Open Road,” and publishing his first book, “Latter-day Dissent.”

“The Open Road,” which he describes as “rock and roll,” is the result of seven countries’ worth of traveling, playing and writing whenever – or wherever – the muse came upon him.

His book, anticipated to be released this year, analyzes the members of “September Six,” a group of Mormons who were all excommunicated within the same year. He attended their 10-year reunion to interview them about their experiences.

Along the many roads he has travelled, Lindholm has realized that where he is now – in his studio – is where he is happiest. He redefined the path for success to suit him and found a place for his many expressive threads.

He spent a lot of time trying to complete the steps that he thought were necessary for his success. But he now knows that the best way to do anything is to stop worrying, and start living.

“What I’ve learned is that the really successful people in any field... are those people who often don’t follow the status quo – those who challenge themselves to change that field, not become a part of it.”

From the modest Green River to the prestigious Oxford, Lindholm has achieved something that most others only dream of: becoming successful without giving up on the things one loves – without sacrifice.

A Country

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 3

“The only thing stopping us are the countries surrounding us. They don’t want to give up the land,” Abdulkader says.

Near the laptop on his desk stands the Kurdish flag, a symbol and a reminder of

same design he fought to have raised in Kentwood High School.

There, his request for a Kurdish flag in the cafeteria was shot down at first because many thought the Kurdish flag was the same as the Iraqi flag. Abdulkader would always respond by firmly stating that he’s Kurdish, not Iraqi. Eventually, after a full year of confusion, mistaken orders and a customized

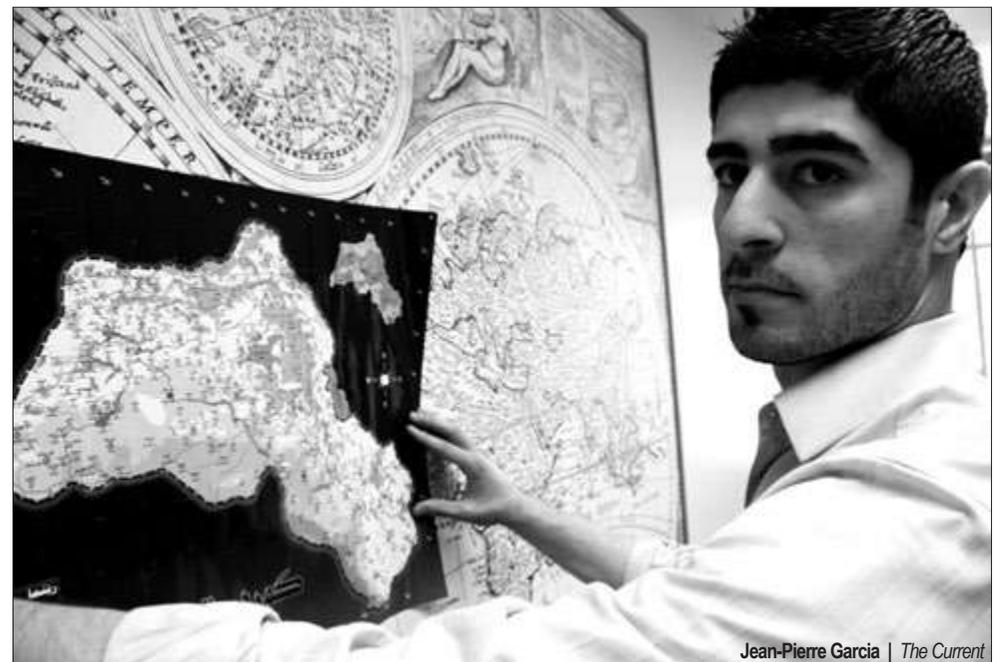
was barely a year old. It was 1989. Saddam Hussein was using chemical weapons to ethnically cleanse the Kurds, leaving thousands dead simply because they weren’t Arab. The genocide was called “Anfar” – the spoils of war. His family barely escaped, and spent seven years in a Syrian refugee camp.

Sometimes he feels lucky his family escaped and got to leave Syria in 1997, but other times he feels guilty. His family found asylum in Tennessee before moving to Kent half a year later.

He wonders what it would have been like, living back home in Kirkuk with his family. He figures he wouldn’t have started college in the fall of 2009 like he did with Green River. He’d just be another Kurd without a voice, stuck in a desperate situation.

Abdulkader understands the difficulties of practically creating an independent Kurdish state with political turmoil and upheaval rampant.

The first attempt at creating an independent Kurdish state in the 1920s was quickly dispensed with – and though there are certainly people advocating for independence – sovereignty is unlikely to be a political reality soon. And



Jean-Pierre Garcia | The Current

Abdulkader with a map of Kurdistan, a region that crosses over into five different countries. In his eyes, it should itself be a country – the country of the Kurdish people.

oil fields in the region just decrease the odds.

But he isn’t overly discouraged or overly bitter. He is trying something positive, first informing his audience and coordinating people to discuss change in an open forum.

Many think that the Kurds are just another minority group without a country.

“This is what frustrates me. The question of the Kurdish independent state isn’t known. People don’t like to talk about it. Even the Kurd-

ish government doesn’t like to talk about it,” Abdulkader says.

For that reason, he is trying to get a conversation started.

“Students are my target audience, they’re the most open minded and educated group. I want them to visit [the site]. Even if they don’t like it or support it, they need to realize that it’s good to be involved in history as its happening.”

Ultimately, he wants his organization to be an established non-profit one

that would host educational events and inform communities. He considered an internship in D.C. lobbying for Kurdish rights, but he doesn’t want to be affiliated with the current regime.

Instead, he says, he aims to start from outside the Kurdish government, establishing a forum of support before finishing his studies and finally tackling the two ruling families within the region.

But for now he just watches closely, studies politics, and posts away.

what he sees as his purpose. “It inspires me to push forward with my work,” Abdulkader says.

To him, the flag is more than simple fabric on a metallic four-inch pole. It is the

search, the flag was up.

“I felt proud that I did something for my country. I’m not sure, but I think that’s the only Kurdish flag in a Washington high school,” Abdulkader says.

“I’m glad I took that step. It was a major achievement for me.”

He remembers how his parents described fleeing Kirkuk, a city in northern Iraq important to Kurds, when he

Find out more about Abdulkader’s organization Kurdish Voice at its website: www.kurdishvoice.org, or at its Facebook page: facebook.com/kurdishvoice

The New Faces of Student Government

Vice President:
Sean Zhang

Election results:
Yes votes: 639
No votes: 159

Where are you from?
Shanghai, China.

How do you stay in touch with friends?

My friends connect with Skype. Some are spread out through the states, mainly California.

I'm jealous of the weather, but they're jealous of me because Washington girls are prettier, despite the Katy Perry song.

I haven't been to California though, so I can't judge. They try to tell me that Katy Perry was right but sometimes they can't persuade themselves.

What would surprise people about you?

The most surprising part is how I look very serious but when I get working I make a lot of jokes. I joke about animals, girls, a lot of things, work. I try to be relaxed.

How was the election?

To be honest, there weren't a lot of candidates, we still felt pressured. Students could have voted no and there were a lot of no votes. People are watching what we are doing. We cannot always make every single student happy. We can only take what the majority thinks and act on it.

We only had one candidate for each position, so students have the impression that not a lot of people are involved with student government.

I'd say it's partially true in

that we haven't got a majority of students to vote yet. That's a fact. It's untrue because those who run for vice president and president are ready for the position.

Why run?

It's fairly simple; I joined student government as a senator when I first got here in fall 2010. I found that as a student we have the responsibility and obligation to do something for the student body. I have a passion for that.

Vasyl and I decided to run together after discussing what we think student government is, what could be improved, and it turned out that we have similar ideas.

One main point we agree on is that student government isn't visible enough and students feel we aren't representing the [ma-

majority] well. This is the biggest problem we are facing now.

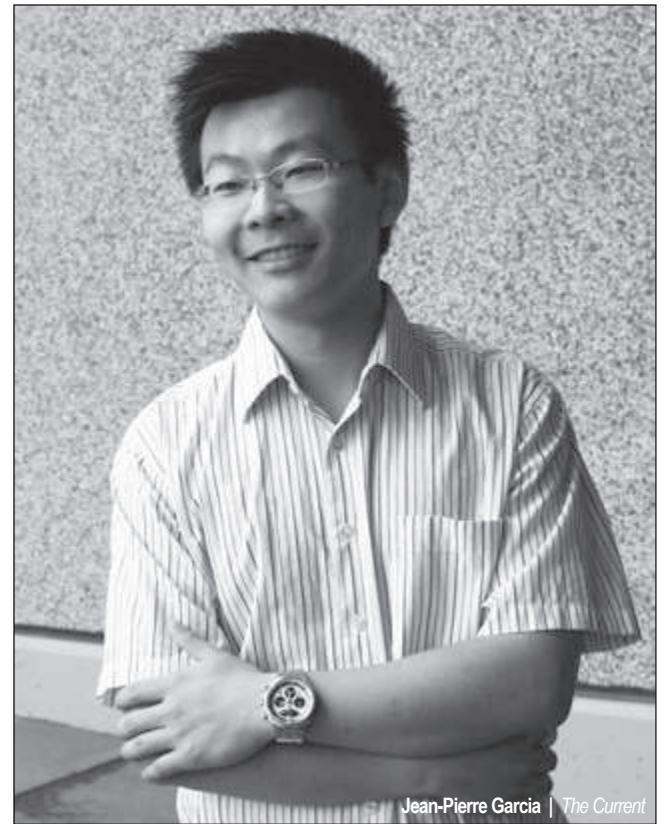
Why are you so concerned about image and visibility?

In my opinion, I think without order things don't work out. You [need] opinions from others. A little effort from everyone is a lot better than a lot of effort from a few people.

I like the participation elements of marketing and student government. I'm trying to participate in numerous groups in GRCC so I can know more people. Knowing people is what matters, not just how hard you work.

Read the full interview at
www.thecurrentonline.net/campus

Pick up our next issue to read all about the new President, Vasyl Sofilkanych



Jean-Pierre Garcia | The Current

Campus in Photos

MAY 3, 4:

The Green River Foundation set up a seven-hole mini golf course in the new building, Salish Hall, as a fundraising event. Many participated, most failed miserably, all were in good spirit.

It also put on a silent auction to raise additional funds.



Jean-Pierre Garcia | The Current

MAY 5:

Around 150 Green River students attended the Cinco de Mayo celebration in the Lindbloom Student Center.

There was a bouncy house, performances by the Latin Rhythms club and DJ Victor from Salsa N Seattle.



Matthew Montoya | The Current

MAY 11:

Students had the chance to visit over a dozen booths set up by mostly Washington universities at the spring quarter Transfer Fair.

The UW and WSU were among those participating at the event, which took place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the LSC MDA.



Zac Tate | The Current

Helping Latinos Into College, One at a Time

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia
Campus Editor

Si se puede means 'yes we can.' Aside from a famous campaign slogan, it is also the attitude of many of the 20 Latino Student Union members.

In that vein, in 2010, Yadira Murillo, former Peer Navigator with the Commencement Achievement Program (CAP) and active member of LSU, decided to change one student's life at a time by creating the Latinos Unidos Scholarship.

It started as an idea to use a club's frequent outreach programs with local high schools and businesses as a vehicle to launch a single student into success.

"I see five to 10 students every week. They come eager to be in college and get

ahead, and then it breaks your heart to see them denied because there is no money to help them," says Jhon Valencia, director of the Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

"[LSU is] a group of students in the Latino

"The best part is knowing that, at the end of the day, there's going to be someone who we impacted with this scholarship."

Pedro Arelleno, president of the Latino Student Union

community who decided to be proactive, to reach out to Latino students who are dropping out of school."

Originally, the scholarship was anticipated to garner only \$700, but donors within the college and from local businesses have already contributed a total of at least \$1,000, and there is hope for more.

Under the general umbrella of Foundation schol-

arships, strong applicants that have a 2.0 GPA and a Latino background will be reviewed by LSU, a Spanish instructor, CAP and Diversity Services.

According to Valencia, the scholarship is still "low profile" since it wasn't announced to the public until this year's Green River Cinco de Mayo celebration, which had more than 150 people in attendance. He has already received three phone calls from community members interested in donating.

This year's LSU Vice President, Pedro Arelleno, was the one who took Murillo's idea and progressed it by setting up the account for donations.

"The best part for me is knowing that, at the end of the day, there's going to be someone who we impacted with this scholarship," Arelleno said.

"We may not be getting to a thousand Latinos out there, but we are getting them one by one."

Alexis Cormier contributed reporting.

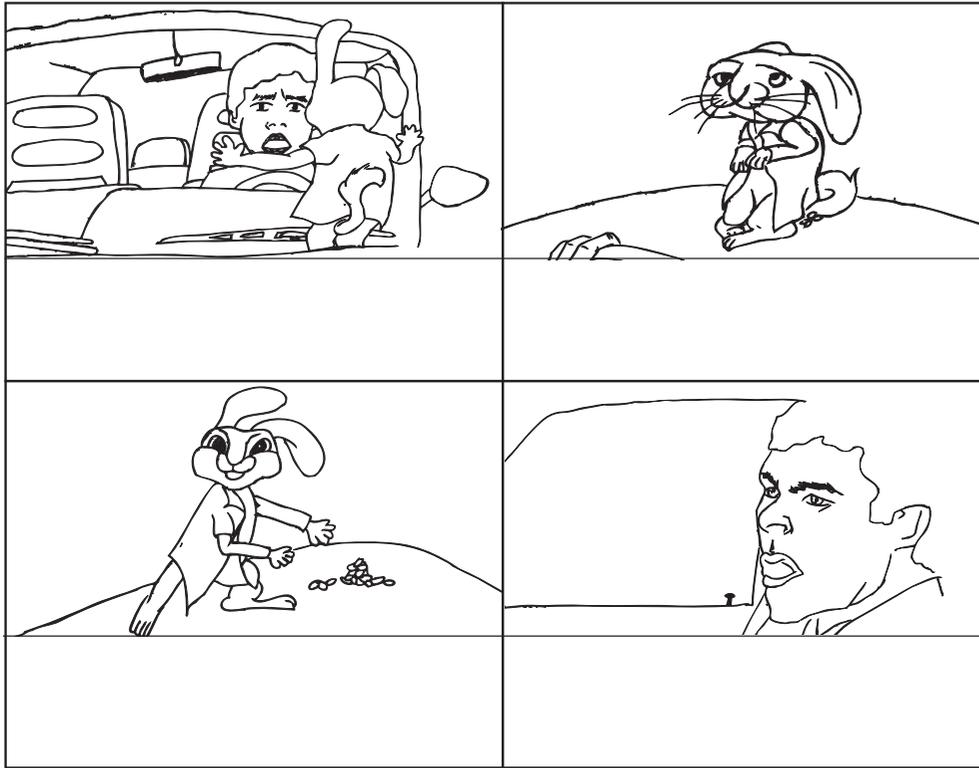
Applications for the scholarship are no longer being accepted, but the LSU plans to bring it back every year.

For more information on the scholarship or how to donate, contact Jhon Valencia at jvalencia@greenriver.edu

CURRENT CAPTIONS

You think you're funny? Prove it. Fill in your own creative, original captions for these frames and e-mail them to us at: thecurrent@greenriver.edu. The funniest ones will be published in our last issue this year. With your name on it!

Art by: **ANNIE JIAJIN** Based on: **HOP**



SUDOKU

EASY

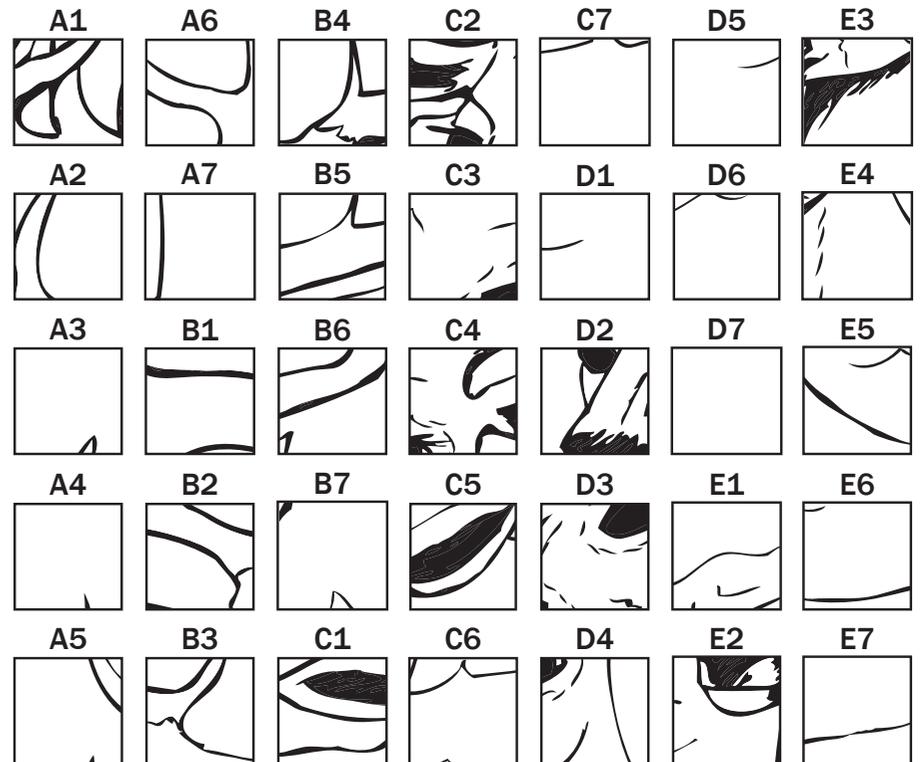
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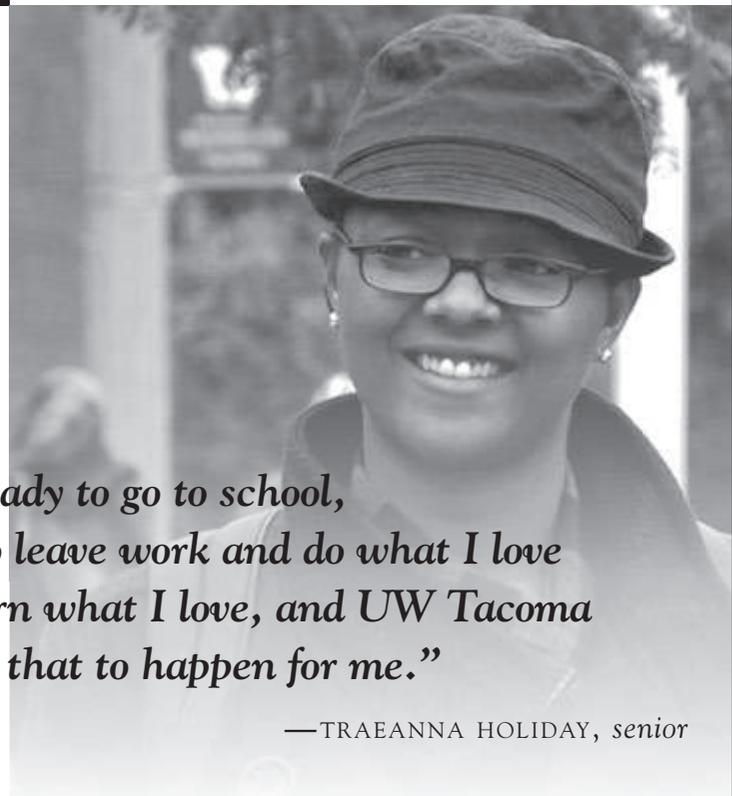


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Art by: **BAILEY JO JOSIE**

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UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA



"I was ready to go to school, ready to leave work and do what I love and learn what I love, and UW Tacoma allowed that to happen for me."

—TRAEANNA HOLIDAY, senior

Why UW Tacoma?

Find out at:

tacoma.uw.edu/why



Concert Calendar

MAY	
14	Ghostland Observatory @ ShowBox SODO (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$22+)
15	Rammstein @ Tacoma Dome (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$40+)
	Al Stewart @ The Triple Door (Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$35+)
16	Jesus Culture Band @ ShowBox SODO (Doors open at 5:30 p.m. all ages, \$25+)
	The Low Anthem @ The Triple Door (Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$17+)
19	Hayes Carll @ The Crocodile (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$12+)
20	Jimmy Eat World @ ShowBox SODO (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$25+)
21	Joan Jett @ Emerald Queen Casino (Doors open at 8:30 p.m. 21+, \$32+)
22	The Twilight Singers @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$20+)
23	Naughty By Nature @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. 21+, \$22+)
26	Lykke Li @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, SOLD OUT)
	Tech N9ne (May 26-27) @ ShowBox SODO (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$28+)
27	Above & Beyond @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. 18+, \$31+)
	Blue Oyster Cult @ Emerald Queen Casino (Doors open at 8:30 p.m. 21+, \$27+)
29	Biffy Clyro @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, FREE)
JUNE	
1	Adele @ Paramount Theatre (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$27+)
3	A Perfect Circle @ ShoWare Center (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$38+)
4	U2 @ Qwest Field (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$33+)

MOVIE REVIEW

'The Most Spectacular Show on Earth'

By: Mallery Litzinger
Assistant A&E Editor



Taking place during the Great Depression, 'Water for Elephants' whisks you into an era where circuses were all the rage. All the dying rage, that is. With folks struggling just to feed their families and the country in financial turmoil, people need a brief escape, and the circuses were the perfect portal for that. But the circuses were all but an endangered breed.

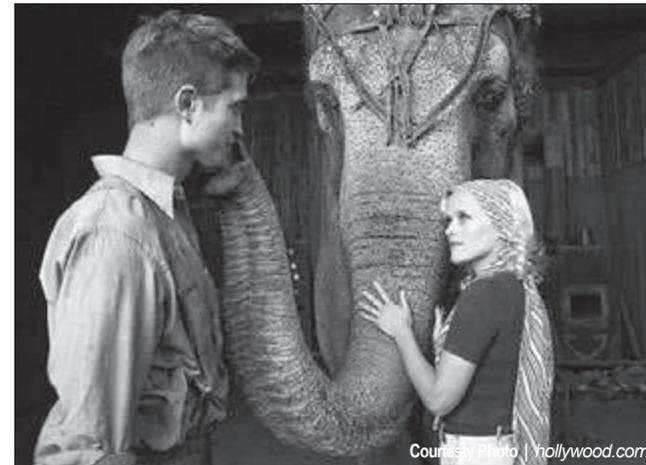
Breaking the Twilight mold he's so well-known for, Robert Pattinson portrays Jacob Jankowski, who unfolds throughout the film to reveal his simple morals and compelling, curious nature.

With nothing to his name after a tragic car wreck leaves both his parents dead, Jankowski leaves Cornell and his dreams of veterinary science behind on the day of his final exam and hits the road. Or, in his case, the tracks.

He soon finds himself engulfed in the world of the Banzini Brothers, the "Most Spectacular Show on Earth" – a traveling circus much like the more renowned Ringling Brothers. He swiftly lands a job as the show's personal Ivy League veterinarian, something even the competition doesn't have.

From day one he has his eyes on the prize, the ethereal Marlena (Reese Witherspoon). Marlena is the show's star performer and the trophy wife of the money-starved ringleader August (Christoph Waltz), who takes the prize for most complex character in the film. He goes through emotional acrobatics that make the viewer want to choke him one moment and feel compassion for him in the next.

The soundtrack is a fitting compilation of Depression-era songs and an original score by James Newton Howard, whose most notable work is for Peter Jackson's 'King Kong' and 'The Dark Knight.' It gently blends into the



Jacob (Robert Pattinson) and Marlena (Reese Witherspoon), a surprising yet fitting duo, grow closer through the elephant Rosie.

background, only peeking out to emphasize romantic scenes and passionate tension.

Leaving viewers gripped in an anecdotal choke-hold the entire time, the movie was more than I expected. Hardcore book junkies might hesitate before seeing it, though, as the film skips over some important parts of the book, most notably the scene that sets up Jankowski's character as a rebellious old man. It was slightly disappointing, but what the filmmakers did

include was amusing and correct.

Based on the New York Times best-seller by Sara Gruen, and a personal favorite of mine, 'Water For Elephants' is, in the words of the author herself, "the most spectacular show on earth," and it's definitely worth seeing.

Rated: PG-13
Director: Francis Lawrence
Lead Actor: Robert Pattinson
Box Office: \$42,083,220

The Current Picks

WEBSITE

www.fancorps.com



By: Bailey Jo Josie

Designed as an online street-team-meets-social-network, Fancorps.com is a place where music fans work to promote various bands and artists like Wolfmother, Lady Gaga, and even record labels like Lost Highway Records.

Once you sign up, the possibilities are limitless. By accepting and completing 'orders,' which range from putting a link on your Facebook or Twitter page to reviewing albums online, you earn points and move up in the ranks. Eventually you can earn free concert tickets and signed merchandise. The more you do to promote the artist, the more you get in return.

MOVIE

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World



By: Jean-Pierre Garcia

'Scott Pilgrim vs. the World' is flippant and full of attitude. The story and dialogue are quick and to the point, with Michael Cera as the protagonist Scott Pilgrim.

The soundtrack is something you'd hear in a garage somewhere - a good garage. It's absolutely terrible, and that's what makes it cool.

Cera is arrogant in the beginning, but quickly learns about self-respect while battling his new girlfriend's seven evil exes in a rather 'Street Fighter' fashion.

This movie is genuine in the world it mocks. 'Scott Pilgrim vs. The World' is poignant and biting, but definitely not overreaching.

BOOK

Don't Know Much About History



By: Remco Zwetsloot

Kenneth C. Davis, the author of the Don't Know Much About series, is probably the most fun, original and engaging history teacher you'll ever have. And if you're a smart shopper he won't cost you more than \$5.

Davis writes about a number of subjects in history, and, while this particular book focuses on America, it doesn't really matter which one you read - all are equally engaging. He writes with the wit of a humorist, the knowledge of a professor and the enthusiasm of a child, zooming in on those often hilarious parts of the past forgotten by the general public. It will only take you one page to fall in love.

MUSIC

The Essential Dolly Parton



By: Lacey Steward

While some may think of Dolly Parton as a white trash, big-breasted woman from the South, I see a gentle, humble soul with songs sweet as honey.

Her 2005 compilation album 'The Essential Dolly Parton' perfectly displays her vulnerable soul and voice, now hidden behind Dolly's plastic smile and pounds of makeup. But don't let her looks fool you: Dolly's lyricism and musical creativity are easily objects of envy, especially with her hit songs 'Jolene' and 'I Will Always Love You,' which prove that this "Backwoods Barbie" has a soul that runs much deeper than her appearance.



August 2006

By: Eric Bell

There I was, flat on my back in intensive care at Harborview Medical Center with a 35-pound weight screwed to my skull keeping the pressure off of my two shattered vertebrae and severed spinal cord. Now what?

"Have you ever heard of Murderball?" The sweet-voiced, redheaded nurse asked me through a slight grin.

I was injured Memorial Day Weekend of 2007 while diving into Lake Chelan. A mound of sand under the water broke my fall and my C6 and C7 vertebrae, severing my spinal cord and

leaving me paralyzed from the chest down and without the use of my fingers.

Fast forward through three years of rehabilitation and adjustments to my new life on wheels and there I was, strapped into a mass of metal and rubber, about to embark on an experience that would change my life forever.

Murderball, also known by the more marketable name of quad rugby, is a fast-paced, full-contact sport that is played by quadriplegics and others with various disabilities, the only requirement being significant impairment to at least three limbs.

It is a highly competitive, sometimes violent sport that is played in specialized reinforced wheelchairs that are built to take a serious beating - which they most definitely do.

Four players from each team pass a volleyball back and forth on a basketball court and score by crossing an 8-meter goal line at the opponent's end of the court. The defensive team tries to pre-

vent the scoring at all costs; by ramming and hooking and, if they hit them right, even toppling opposing players.

But I'm getting ahead of myself. After 13 hours of surgery to stabilize my crushed spine, I spent four weeks in intensive care and eight more in inpatient trauma rehab. Three months after I rolled into the hospital on a stretcher, I rolled back out in a 600-pound power wheelchair.

The next two years were filled with rigorous physical therapy as I tried to regain enough strength in my arms to perform basic tasks needed for independence.

At 22 years old, adjusting to my new life proved to be extremely difficult at times.

I never imagined that

even the simplest tasks could be so challenging. The first time I put on my own pants was an exhausting cross between a wrestling match and a balancing act. Sometimes it was

such a struggle that I debated the importance of wearing pants at all.

Once I decided pants were a necessity, I found out how hard it is to turn a doorknob when you

can't move your fingers, or reach that ice tray in the back of the freezer. And I had never before noticed how many steps there are in the world.

More than a year after my hospital stay, I was finally able to trade in my power wheel-

chair for a much more manageable - and stylish - manual one. This gave me the freedom and self-confidence to resume some of my favorite activities, like sam-

pling the beer at the local watering hole.

I got involved with quad rugby after a chance encounter with Jeremy Hannaford (who stole my handicap parking space at that very watering hole). He also suffered from a significant spinal cord injury and happened to be one of the captains of the Seattle Slam, Washington's only sanctioned quad rugby team.

It was the first time anyone had mentioned the sport to me since my second day in the hospital. He invited me to come watch a practice. There, after a bit of

pleading and heckling, I was persuaded into a rugby chair by the members of the team.

The first time I played, I was overwhelmed by a rollercoaster of emotions. As my hands were taped up and I was buckled and strapped into a wheelchair that closely resembled a war chariot, it started with anxiety and intimidation.

But these feelings quickly gave way to pure elation as I was met with an ear shattering metal-on-metal crash as soon as I hit the court. Game on.

The adrenaline rush it gave me was something I hadn't

experienced since well before my injury. It was more than worth the multiple blisters on each hand. I was hooked instantly, and, two years later, remain so.

I'm not the only one.

There are over 500 players on the 44 sanctioned teams in the U.S. The sport was created in Canada in the 1970's by a group of quadriplegics as an alternative to wheelchair basketball. It was largely underground until it was added to the Paralympic Games as a full medal sport in 2000. Now, there are teams in 24 countries worldwide.

The challenges that come with the physical limitations are much more obvious than the mental obstacles. When compared to the general population, people with spinal cord injuries are twice as likely to suffer from emotional disorders, according to a study done by the Monash University of Psychology.

That can be attributed in large part to the feeling of loneliness that comes with having a handicap many don't know how to deal with.

During the three months I spent in the hospital, there were other people rehabilitating spinal cord injuries that I could talk with

and relate to. But when I returned home to Maple Valley, I was no longer in the company of people who knew what I was going through.

Although there are about 1.3 million Americans living with paralysis due to a significant spinal cord injury, there aren't many avenues to bring us together.

That's what makes this sport - and all wheelchair sports - so amazing. They are so much more than just sports, and the teams are so much more than just teams.

Many doctors and physical therapists are reluctant to recommend the sport due to its violent nature, but the benefits greatly outweigh the risks. And, with most of us already having broken necks anyway, even the physical risks seem pretty minimal.

With ages on the Seattle Slam ranging from 21 to 52 and the length of time since injury anywhere from two to 30 years, we are like an informal support group. We can share stories and information that the able-bodied population wouldn't understand. To be on a team with 12 other guys who live your life daily is truly invaluable.

Having played football throughout junior high and high school, it was the crushing hits and fast-paced action that appealed to me at first. However, entering my second year involved with the team, it is off the court where I have benefited the most, and I am not alone in that regard either.

In a study of people with spinal cord injuries done by the academic journal Spinal Cord, over half of the subjects surveyed showed clinical levels of depression, anxiety and stress. Those trends were closely related to the subject's physical activity and social interaction. As the levels of physical activity went up, the secondary effects such as depression, anxiety, pain and fatigue were greatly reduced.

Chris McCarty, who has been playing Murderball for two years now, is a perfect example of this. When he was 26, a small swimming hole he dove into on a hike in the Grand Canyon turned out to be four rather than the presumed 12 feet deep. He broke his neck and was paralyzed from the chest down.

But that wasn't even the worst thing, he says. "You would think being paralyzed would be the worst part, but it isn't. The worst part is that, for the next 11 years, I checked out of my own life."

He stopped going out, hanging out with friends, working - he stopped caring. "I checked out for so long that all my friends grew up and had families. They sent me baby pictures, and I couldn't even bring myself to look at them. Not being able to walk is nothing compared to not having any desire to live your life."

What got him out of the rut was Murderball. "It reminded me of the person I

was, of the person I am, and that the two have a lot more in common with each other than I ever thought possible the decade before," he recalls. For him, the sport led to what he calls his "rebirth."

Due to the rigorous three-hour practices twice a week, I am in much better physical condition now than I was at any point in my recovery. This has

drastically improved my daily life - I am now able to do things I never dreamt I'd be able to, like get from the library to the SMT building and back with no assistance - even in the midst of all the construction. It has also given me the endurance to handle a full schedule of classes and be confident that I can get where I need to go on a daily basis without worry of exhaustion.

The aggressive nature of the sport also provides a constructive outlet for releasing pent up anger or frustration. It's also a much-appreciated opportunity to shed the stereotype that we are fragile or breakable just because we are in a wheelchair.

The peace of mind that comes with knowing I'm not alone and seeing my teammates and opponents living fulfilling lives in the midst of tragedy or misfortune has been nothing short of inspiring. Compared to the first few weeks after my injury, my life now is more than I ever imagined it could be - all thanks to a lot of hard work, and a little bit of murder.

A BROKEN LIFE FIXED WITH A LITTLE MURDER



July 2009



May 2007



May 2007



January 2011

"The peace of mind that comes with knowing I'm not alone and seeing my teammates and opponents living fulfilling lives in the midst of tragedy or misfortune has been nothing short of inspiring."

A Father, a Student, a Rapper, a DJ

By: Bailey Jo Josie
A&E Editor

He has big dreams, and is willing to go a long way to achieve them.

Fred Diezil, a first-quarter student at Green River, eventually wants to end up there with what he calls "the greats," and for his music to last forever.

"I know it's a long shot, but I want to be up there with The Beatles or a Nirvana, or even a whiter Rob Zombie," he says.

"I want my music to be that powerful. I know that it is already - that it's capable of being it. The only thing that's left is exposure."

As far as music goes, he seems to be on his way. Diezil, 27, has opened for the Ying Yang Twins and Twista, and his two mixtapes have together been downloaded over a million times.

"I know it's a long shot, but I want to be up there with The Beatles or a Nirvana, or even a whiter Rob Zombie. I want my music to be that powerful."

Fred Diezil, father, student, rapper, DJ.

He was recently awarded a meeting with the record label of his choosing after he beat thousands of other contestants to win the Open Bar contest, a competition put on by rapper MIMS and producer Erik Mendelson.

But he didn't have a meeting. To retain autonomy over his work and to be able to finish his education, Diezil turned down the conversation with a label in favor of doing more local shows and spending more time with his three-year-old-son. He has a built-in studio at his home to make

the latter easier, too.

Instead, he adopts a more unconventional method of marketing himself - free everything.

He shares all of his songs and mixtapes at no cost, often through an organization called Coast2Coast, a website that offers hip hop, rap and other urban music fans the chance to download up and coming artists for free.

It also helps beginning artists start off their careers and gives them the opportunity to collaborate and work together, which they often do on mixtapes.

Diezil himself has been in such a collaboration, the "Real Life Click." It's named after the self-invented type of music he writes and produces: "real-life music."

He describes it as songs that are both pleasant enough to play in the backyard at a barbeque and yet meaningful enough to pick someone who is hav-

ing a bad day up. "For me, music is medicinal. It is the key to releasing emotions in a healthy way."

It is also important to him that his music will last - in 70 years, when he no longer has the rights to his music and is likely to be long forgotten by most, it must withstand the test of time.

The exposure part of his plan is where Green River comes into play. Even after having gotten an

Associates in Business and a certificate in Entrepreneurship at Pierce College, he's attending college to learn more. As with all the other things he chooses to fit into his tight schedule, this is for a reason.

"Nothing gets anywhere without the media, it doesn't matter what it is," he says.

Diezil has a weekly show on KGRG, the campus radio station, and is going for a certificate in Broadcasting, something he hopes could land him an internship with a larger radio stations and an additional entrance into the music industry.

Next to writing and recordings songs, Diezil works as a freelance DJ three to five nights a week.

Due to his busy schedule he can only take one

in-person and a couple of online classes every quarter. But he is fine with that. He doesn't see himself as a regular, nine-to-five guy, and prefers some of the chaos his current life brings along with it.

With big dreams come big commitments, and often very little sleep. But for him, it's all worth it.

"It's easier, getting out of bed, when it's something that you want to do. And this is what I love to do.

"That's my motivation - to leave my mark on music, like the rest of the greats did."

Reece Bredl
contributed reporting.

Fool Me Twice, Shame on Me



Game Prose
Alexander Bevier

Almost one year ago, every PlayStation 3 stopped working.

It started with the multi-player games, leading people to believe that there was a problem with Sony's servers. Shortly after, reports came in that single player games requiring no Internet connection weren't working either. Some 40 million PlayStation 3 systems simply broke. It was like a biblical plague.

It turns out this PlayStation blackout - humorously dubbed the ApocalyPS3 - was caused by a bug in the game's calendar, which believed 2010 to be a leap year. Thankfully, the world kept turning once Sony fixed the bug several days later.

Then, earlier this month, Sony had additional problems, this time on a traumatically larger scale. PlayStation's security servers were hacked, and over 77 million accounts potentially fell victim to the still-unknown perpetrator.

The information he or she has access to includes names, home and email addresses, and - most importantly - the credit card information for some 12 million unlucky PlayStation Network subscribers.

Not only that, but Sony's security was breached again later that week. This time, the subscribers to Sony Online Entertainment's games ('DC Universe Online,' 'EverQuest,' 'Free Realms' and others) were affected. Roughly 27 million accounts were hacked this time - the largest electronic security breach ever.

These events call all future Sony products into question. Will the PlayStation 4 be a consistently reliable machine? Is it worth buying downloadable games from Sony? Is it worth paying \$15 a month for something that doesn't work? Pitted against Xbox Live's stable infrastructure, it's obvious where the greener pastures are.

Other gaming companies have had their share of massive failures. Every Xbox 360 released in its first year has a guaranteed failure rate due to cheap internal hardware, but Microsoft gave forgiving users an extended warranty to repair their faulty device. Sony has offered some free content as an olive branch to players unable to play games right now, but is a free \$15 game going to make up for 12 million credit cards lost?

Sony has already announced their next handheld console - the NGP (Next Generation Portable). On top of this, E3 - the largest trade show in the industry - is on its way. Nintendo will be announcing the successor of the Wii, and Microsoft will undoubtedly have something fascinating to show as well.

It's hard to believe that

"Sony has a long, hard road ahead of it when it comes to reclaiming its once stable reputation."

Alexander Bevier

Sony CEO Kaz Hirai will be able to announce something large enough to get his company out of the fog of history's largest security breach. The company needs to come out and say how they will retain consumers, and how they will prevent this in the future. Otherwise, there will be significantly more love for Xbox in the future.

Sony has a long, hard road ahead of it when it comes to reclaiming its once stable reputation. It'll be hard for gamers to forgive these mistakes and trust the company with both their credit cards and their free time.

Still, I love what Sony has done for me. I use the PlayStation 2 more than any other console. However, these past unfortunate events are worse than the Black Eyed Peas' Super Bowl Halftime Show. Come on, Sony. Get back that Boom Boom Pow.

Stay Current

Stay in touch with the community by following The Current on Facebook and Twitter:
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Also on the Inside

"There was a crowd full of people and I threw my shirt up at the crowd."

Taylor Hughes Page 15

NEWS

News Editor: Lacey Steward
news.editor@mail.greenriver.edu

11

May 13,
2011

College to Put Parking Spots up for Rent, Considering Introducing Weekend Classes

By: Kelli Wyatt
Managing Editor

To gather student input on budget measures the college is currently considering, Director of Public Information John Ramsey sent out a mass-email to all students asking for feedback on a few concrete ideas.

1,400 students responded to the seven questions. Based on the responses, the administration is looking to make several changes, of which three main ones are explained more in-depth to the right. Based on the survey, there might also be a reduction in services over summer quarter.

Except for a plan to rent out parking spots, which is due to be released any time now, most changes won't be made for another year or so.

For the complete results of the survey, visit our website at: www.thecurrentonline.net/news

Would you purchase a guaranteed parking spot in P-5 on the main campus for \$100/quarter?

YES 260
NO 1140

While the majority of students answered "no," the college is very likely to go forward with the idea of renting out parking spots for money.

As it stands now, the administration would open up the 360 spots in the P-5 lot, located beyond the SMT at the southwest tip of campus, for rent at \$100 per quarter.

The exact details of the plan and when it will be implemented are yet to be determined, but it could be as early as fall quarter 2011.

If fully utilized, it's estimated the plan could bring in as much as \$75,000 per year.

Would you take weekend classes that would meet Friday night and/or Saturday or Sunday?

YES 607
NO 793

Though the feedback is seen as very positive by the administration, a measure of this scale will take quite a while to implement.

Important policy discussions like this are often not held over summer, and because there are a lot of questions still unanswered - what kind of classes is there demand for? Are there faculty who would teach over the weekend? - it is unlikely anything will happen until mid-2012.

Some programs, such as Welding and Auto Tech, are already taught over the weekend. Other universities, most notably the City Universities, have also embraced the policy.

Would you pay a fee to use the Fitness Center during times that the center is currently not now open such as evening and/or weekends hours?

YES 446
NO 954

The obvious question here is how high such a fee would be and how much the demand would fluctuate based on that decision.

For the college to go through with opening up the Fitness Center (FC), it would have to profit enough to pay for the additional costs (mainly paying someone to supervise). Faculty who are involved with the FC would also have to be consulted.

The college will take a closer look at this in the coming year. It is unlikely there will be any movement in the coming months.

The Undercurrent

Engineering Students Ride Paper Bikes to Victory

By: Remco Zwetsloot
Editor-in-Chief

Three Green River teams competed in the annual Intercollegiate Human Powered Paper Vehicle competition hosted by Eastern Washington University.

In the contest, which was held on April 30, two of the teams, both made up of four Green River American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) club members, broke records in the performance competition.

The winners, who dubbed their bike "The Green Machine," finished the course in 1 minute and 17 seconds. The second team, Team Laminated Paper Vehicle Incorporated, came in 15 seconds after.

A third team, consisting of students with Green River's American Design Drafting Association club, also participated, but unfortunately couldn't finish due to a broken bike.

Guidelines for the competition require 90 percent of the vehicle to be made of paper. The remaining 10 percent, they say, "is limited only by the imagination of the designers."

The performance part of the race involves three team members racing their vehicle 600 meters on an indoor track.

There were 12 other participating teams, four of whom managed to finish the course. Most constructed bike-like structures, but others attempted the race in paper skates or row-driven constructions. Such attempts usually didn't end up successfully.



Watch a video of the full race, courtesy of engineering instructor Jae Suk, on our website: www.thecurrentonline.net

Cut to College Still Uncertain Due to Legislative Gridlock

By: Remco Zwetsloot
Editor-in-Chief

As the state House and Senate spar over the differences in their respective budgets, colleges remain in the dark on the scope of the reductions they will have to take.

The legislature went into a 30-day special session on Tuesday, April 26. In terms of education, the Senate budget contained higher tuition hikes to offset the larger cuts it proposed, and there are several other significant differences between the two proposals as well.

If the legislature cannot agree on a budget before the expiration of the fiscal year, funding for the colleges will be continued at the current rate until the issue is resolved.

Correction

The Current is committed to delivering fair and accurate coverage, but no news organization is flawless. If you see a mistake in one of our articles, please notify us at thecurrent@greenriver.edu so that we can correct it. Thank you.

'Transfer Trouble Up Ahead'

Neither the University of Washington nor Western Washington University have changed their policies in terms of the number of nonresident versus resident transfer students they accept. A story in the April 29 edition of The Current incorrectly reported they did.

like 2 txt?

ul luv this!

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Your iPhone, Now With a Free Stalker



TECH TRENDS
KHOE NGUYEN

Michael Jackson's famous lines "I always feel like somebody's watching me and I have no privacy" is truer today than when it was written. Apple products - the iPhone 3G, 3GS, iPhone 4, and other wireless-enabled iOS devices are equipped with tracking software, which allows the California-based company the ability to follow the users.

The tech website Ars Technica recently reported that Apple's tracking software is unencrypted and vulnerable to hacking, allowing anybody to see where an iOS user's has been since they purchased the product.

Other smartphones - like the Google Android or Windows Phone 7 - use location software as well, but the iOS 4's unencrypted data lets anyone access the information with relative ease. In fact, nearly anyone with access to a laptop and a person's iPhone can see every place the user has been since the iPhone 4 was released last June.

"It's part of the Core Location cache on the phone," iPhone hacker and forensics expert Jonathan Zdziarski told Ars Technica. "So, it's not a covert, evil, Big Brother secret invisible file, but Apple has been administratively lazy in their programming, which is the root cause of most data leaks on the iPhone."

This privacy-invading notion has certain people alarmed. Senator Al Franken sent Steve Jobs a two-page letter with six key questions about why Apple is tracking its consumers.

"There are numerous ways in which this information could be abused by criminals and bad actors," Franken wrote. "Furthermore, there is no indication that this file is any different for under-age iPhone or iPad users, meaning that the millions of

children and teenagers who use these devices also risk having their location collected and compromised."

These location-tracking services originally came into question shortly after the iPhone 4 was released, but this was before the lack of protection was noticed.

In July 2010, Apple sent a letter to the House committee claiming the data was used to "provide location-based services on Apple products, Apple and our partners and licensees may collect, use, and share precise location data, including the real-time geographic location of your Apple computer or device." This may justify the purpose of location-tracking, but does it justify the lack of security?

"This incident raises questions about whether

"It's not a covert, evil, Big Brother secret invisible file, but Apple has been administratively lazy."

Jonathan Zdziarski, iPhone hacker and forensics expert

Apple is serious about user privacy," Ars contributor Tommy B. Lee said. "If this was an accident, Apple needs to fix the problem and put in place procedures to make sure it doesn't happen again. If the data is being collected deliberately, perhaps in preparation for a future product, Apple should have clearly notified users and given them an opportunity to opt out."

Location settings can be turned off on the iPhone by going to Settings - General - Location Services, but this turns off many positive iPhone capabilities like the GPS. An alternative would be to just not buy an iPhone, or you could sing aloud to Michael Jackson's "Somebody's Watching Me."

The latter, however, will probably just make you easier to find.

Running Start Students May Start Paying Partial Tuition

By: Kelli Wyatt
Managing Editor

For many years Running Start students were able to earn high school and college credits simultaneously, and all they had to pay for was textbooks. This changed last year when the legislature started requiring Running Start students to pay fees.

Then, on May 4 of this year, the Senate passed a bill allowing higher education institutions to charge all Running Start students a maximum of 10 percent of the resident tuition, which comes down to \$8.70 per credit, as a way to counter the budget cuts they are facing.

Currently, the average Running Start student just pays for books and college fees, which include tech, facilities and other fees regular students are required to pay. For a full-time student taking 15 credits, the total they spend on fees is \$137.50.

John Ramsey, director of public information, recently spoke with state representatives from

the district on behalf of the college, urging them not to pass the bill.

"It's just another way to cut the colleges and do it on the backs of students, this time Running Start students. It's just not the right policy," he said.

According to Ramsey, most, if not all, colleges in the state share this sentiment.

Under the bill, Running

Start tuition will go to pay across the state. Enrollment at Green River already dropped roughly 15 percent this year, likely due to the new fees and smaller junior classes in the local high schools.

The intent of the bill is to counter the budget cuts all state institutions are facing, but, under the current proposal, any money collected from Running Start tuition will go to pay

"It's just another way to cut the colleges and do it on the backs of students, this time Running Start students. It's just not the right policy."

John Ramsey, director of public information

Start students will still be able to qualify for waivers to these fees and the cost of tuition. For spring quarter 2011, about 10 percent of the 1,065 Running Start students at Green River qualify for and receive waivers.

If the bill becomes law, there would likely be lower enrollment through the Running Start program at colleges

for a new, direct cut to the budget, Ramsey said, meaning neither the colleges nor the students would benefit from the money invested.

If passed by the House and signed by the Governor, the changes could go into effect as early as fall quarter 2011.

Lita Black contributed reporting.

THE TIMELINE

1990-1991:
A pilot version of the Running Start (RS) program is introduced at five community colleges in Washington.

1992-1993:
The program is made official and statewide. In its first year it attracts 3,350 students, equivalent to 1,494 full-time loads (FTE's).

1994:
In addition to all 34 technical and community colleges, students can also enroll at WSU, Central and Eastern.

2009:
The legislature permits colleges to charge RS students mandatory fees.

2010:
1,051 of Green River's 7,242 FTE's - 14.5 percent - are RS students. In total, there are 18,799 RS students in the state.

2011:
The legislature debates whether to charge RS students partial tuition.

Students Vote: Butt Out

Would you support a non-smoking policy on campus where smoking is only permitted in the outer perimeter parking lots?

Yes: 559

No: 237

By: Remco Zwetsloot

Students voted to ban smoking from campus in a poll conducted during the recent student government elections.

The result is not binding, meaning a smoking ban won't go into effect immediately, if at all. Rather, students were surveyed to gauge opinion on a measure the college has been talking about for a few years.

Under the current plan smoking would be banned from the main area of the campus but still be allowed in the parking lots.

There is no clear procedure in place for a process such as this one, but the first step towards implementation of the plan would have to be taken by student government next year, according to John

Ramsey, director of public information and chair of the safety committee.

"Clearly the majority of the ones who voted did so in favor of having a smoke-free campus," he said, emphasizing the ban is not something the college would do without public support.

To make sure of that, there will likely be open meetings and individual conversations with students and employees.

"We're kind of making it up as we go," said Ramsey.



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EDITORIAL

A Culture of Conspiracy

What the bin Laden situation tells us about ourselves and why that's not exactly great news

Editorial Board: Remco Zwetsloot, Kelli Wyatt, Jean-Pierre Garcia, Bailey Jo Josie, Lacey Steward, Alyssa Ryan, Matthew Montoya, Josh Davidson

When the news first broke, everyone went wild. It didn't take more than a few minutes for a crowd to gather in front of the White House, and soon enough there were people waving flags and singing all across the country. Osama bin Laden, the villain of our age, had been killed, and for most this meant an occasion to celebrate.

For others, it meant an occasion to see ghosts. And their ranks grew as more details were released; how come he was buried at sea? That doesn't make any sense - it must mean there is no body at all. Why did it happen now? It's because he's been dead for 10 years and Obama released it now because his poll numbers were low.

What is revealing about these theories is not the fact that they show there is doubt

- after a search that lasted more than a decade ends so abruptly and unannounced, that's only natural - but that they show a deep distrust and misunderstanding of the workings of our government. And, notably, that such skepticism is becoming more and more normal.

It's expected that the same people who thought 9/11 was "an inside job" would come up with conspiracies. Radio host Alex Jones, for example, suggested the government had bin Laden's body frozen for years.

But they are now joined by a surprising number of people who aren't so obviously deranged.

When *The Current* staff members went around campus the day after the killing to talk to students about what they thought, they were met

with a surprising amount of cynicism. (See page 4 for a sampling of the responses.)

And, while some of the doubts have been cleared up, the conspiracies remain. Though the Obama administration has provided good reasons for not releasing photos of the body - namely that it could incite violence - and for the burial at sea - Islam tradition requires a body to be buried within 24 hours and a grave site on land would turn into a shrine for his followers - there are still people denying the obvious.

This selective denial of facts is a testament to the increasing partisanship that is affecting our country and, with it, our campus. Rather than give in to the current culture of conspiracy, students must get informed and get involved.

Coming to a Close

It might not be as sad as the final episode of *Friends* - if I had a heart I most definitely wouldn't be able to, as we say in the Netherlands, keep it dry during such a tearjerker - but it is nevertheless a very odd notion that this is the last issue I am Editor-in-Chief for.

I will leave all the sentimental stuff for my official goodbye letter in the next issue, but it suffices to say this has by far been the best year of my life. It hasn't really dawned on me yet that everything will be completely different in no more than just a few weeks. After eight months of endless writing, annoyance at people missing deadlines and subsequent all-nighters to do their work for them - call me unrealistic, but I truly believe the job is as attractive as it sounds - I quite frankly cannot imagine my life without all of it. All I know is that it will probably be - at least comparatively - pretty mundane.

Anyhow, I'll talk about what I actually should be talking about here: this issue. After getting 10 hours of sleep in four days last time we started this issue a little earlier, and luckily it did the trick - I got a whopping 12 this time.

The actual content isn't bad either. I'm very happy with how the double truck - newspaper lingo for the middle two pages - came out, both in terms of design and the story. It's a type of story we hadn't done before, so it was interesting putting it together, but I want to compliment Eric on the good job he did.

I'm also happy to announce that we've found a new Editor-in-Chief in Asha Johnson. She will be taking over after this issue hits the stands, albeit with a little bit of help from the current Current - I've always wanted to say that - staff. We'll be working together on the final issue of the year, which comes out June 3, so that she may attempt to come close to, though obviously not exceed, my superhuman prowess.



The Editor
Remco Zwetsloot

That's what he said she said

Josh Davidson:

"The nice thing about standards is that there are so many of them to choose from."
- Andrew S. Tanenbaum

Jean-Pierre Garcia:

"Be wary of strong drink. It can make you shoot at tax collectors... and miss."
- Robert A. Heinlein

Kelli Wyatt:

"You two are dumber than a bag of hammers."
- George Clooney

Lacey Steward:

"All things in moderation, including moderation."
- Mark Twain

Bailey Jo Josie:

"Those who danced were thought to be quite insane by those that did not hear the music."
- Angela Monet

Remco Zwetsloot:

"Sex is a bad thing because it rumples the clothes."
- Jackie Kennedy

Matthew Montoya:

"People with clenched fists cannot shake hands."
- Indira Gandhi

Alyssa Ryan:

"The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn."
- Gloria Steinem

Editorial Policy

The Current is a limited public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions. Green River Community College delegates editorial responsibility for the content of the publications. The college acknowledges the dual free purpose of student publications as instructional tools and as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the academic community. The views and opinions expressed in *The Current* do not necessarily reflect those of the college or student body.

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Letters to the Editor

The Current encourages all its readers to be involved and will publish letters. Anonymous letters are not accepted and the editor reserves the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of length, libel, or propriety. All letters become property of *The Current*. Send letters to thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Note: The quotations featured here in no way represent *The Current* or the student body's opinion, but rather that of the individual editors.

A College Degree - Still the Best Investment



Commentary by:
Brant DeLarme

A recent study by The Current found that 43 percent of students at Green River Community College (GRCC) expect to be \$40,000 or more in debt by the time they earn their degree. As a result, especially considering the tuition increases that are coming, the actual value of a college education has come under increased scrutiny from students and economists.

A typical student usually racks up as much as \$30,000 in debt while completing a four-year degree, according to US News. With high unemployment, there is intense competition for the few jobs available and no

guarantee that students will be able to pay off their crippling college debt.

Not only that, but a recent report featured in The Economist found that a college education does not necessarily improve learning. After four years of college, 36 percent of students did not show significant improvement in "critical thinking, analytic reasoning, and other 'higher level' skills," according to the Collegiate Learning Assessment.

All of this amounts to a pretty bleak picture for today's college students.

But college degrees still offer some great benefits. College graduates are about half as likely to be unemployed, both during and before the recession. When unemployment hit 9.7 percent in 2009, only 4.6 percent of college graduates were unemployed, and in 2007 before

the recession hit, only 2.2 percent of college graduates were unemployed.

Not only are college grads more likely to have a job, they also earn significantly more than those without a degree. A 2007 report from the College Board found

who co-authored the report, put the number closer to \$300,000. In any case, it's still a lucrative investment.

Furthermore, according to the New York Times, a college education pays for itself within 11 years of work. That means that

the College Board found that those with bachelor's degrees are less likely to be obese or smoke, and more likely to exercise and own health insurance. Graduates are also more likely to vote and volunteer.

Granted, these actions aren't necessarily direct consequences of getting a bachelor's degree. "Correlation is not the same as causation," Baum acknowledged in the report. But, she continued, there has been a lot of careful research which indicates that there is a sizeable cause-and-effect relationship between a college education and healthy habits.

Of course, college is not for everyone, and not every good career requires a college degree. With costs as high as they are, students should look carefully at their prospective career before gunning it for a four-year degree.

Vocational schools, technical colleges and other certification programs don't require you to get a real degree but are still stepping stones to good careers. There will always be a need for electricians and chefs. If your career does not require a degree, a four-year school is - more often than not - a waste of money.

A degree is thus not for everyone, but even in a recession, - or perhaps especially in one - it remains one of the best investments out there. College graduates are more likely to be employed; they usually earn more, and are often healthier and more involved in their community than non-graduates.

For the students currently in dire financial straits, struggling to make ends meet, debating whether that college loan will be worth it - hang in there. In the end, it will be.

"For the students currently in dire financial straits, struggling to make ends meet, debating whether that college loan will be worth it - hang in there. In the end, it will be."

Brant DeLarme

that, on average, college graduates earn approximately \$20,000 more than those with only a high school diploma. Economists estimate that this adds up to an increase of \$1 million earned over the course of a lifetime.

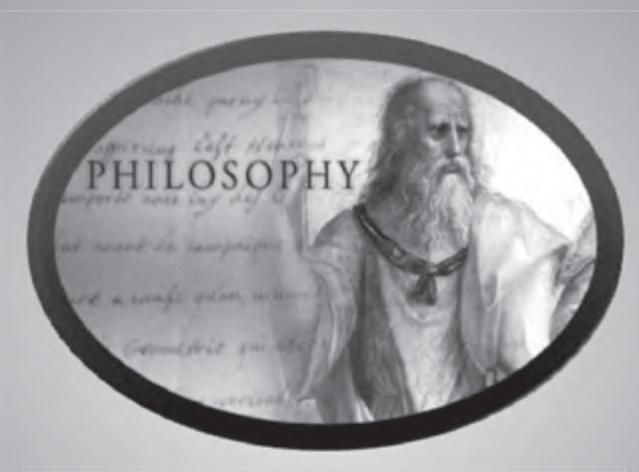
Others, like Sandy Baum,

the average wage increase would cover the average cost of tuition and books for a four-year degree at a state school, assuming a 6.8 percent interest rate.

College graduates also do better than non-grads statistically in several of other ways. The 2007 report from

The Green River Community College Philosophy Club

VERITAS
PRESENTS



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Also on the Inside

"Clearly the majority of the ones who voted did so in favor of having a smoke-free campus."

John Ramsey Page 12

SPORTS

Editor-in-Chief: Remco Zwetsloot
thecurrent.editor@mail.greenriver.edu

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May 13, 2011

A Team on Track, in More Than One Way

By: Kelli Wyatt
Managing Editor

It was only this January that the plan to form a track team for Green River was announced. At the time it was mostly embraced as a tool for recruiting better cross country athletes.

While that has proven to work – Tori Ammons, head coach of both the cross country and the track teams, has already been able to bring in some new runners for next year – there has been success in a different area as well.

A surprising number of the team's 44 athletes have been running and scoring well, which has resulted in Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges

(NWAACC) Athlete of the Week awards for Josh Melu, triple jumper, and Taylor Hughes, runner.

For Hughes, that was the highlight of his season. He hasn't lost a single 800-meter race this season, he says, but the best thing by far was the victory lap he got to run after his award at the Oregon Relays meet.

"There was a crowd full of people and I threw my shirt up at the crowd," he recalled, laughing.

He is currently talking to the University of Washington about transferring there. If successful, Hughes, 20 years old and graduating shortly, would be the first successful transfer since the team's return.

Ammons still sees room for some improvements that could be made to the team. With a little more preparation time she hopes to recruit more athletes by next year.

This year it was not possible for the team to compete in the overall category since it didn't have enough play-



Courtesy Photo | Kent-Meridian Track

Freshman Taylor Hughes is one of the team's most successful athletes this year, earning him an Athlete of the Week award in late April.

ers to officially place at the meet. This will be the case at the NWAACC Championships on May 22 and 23 as well.

And, now that the tennis

program has been cut, there may be money to introduce things like shot put and javelin throwing, although it would likely cost more than what is available.

Students interested in joining the track team can contact head coach Tori Ammons at tammons@auburn.wednet.edu

Full league statistics, meet results and more can be found at www.nwaacc.org

The Freshman Four

#2: Tanner Swanson, Baseball

Following the departure of several coaches last year, all but one of them employed this quarter are freshmen. Four in total, we will put the spotlight on each of these new Gators - the Freshman Four: Brandon Lorain (Golf), Tanner Swanson (Baseball), Brian Embery (Fastpitch) and Kermit Escame (Tennis).



Each guy has his own unique routine, but they all use it to focus on the present instead of the result, which, in baseball, is often failure.

Our ace Cody Hebner takes a Red Bull out onto the field with him while he's warming up. It's part of his routine so he does it before every start.

What other sports do you enjoy?

Basketball, football, rock-climbing, golf. Pretty much anything competitive.

The best sports moment ever?

Hopefully it hasn't happened yet. I have dreams of coaching in the College World Series someday. That would be something...

You only have one day to live - what do you do?

I would probably go to a Major League Baseball game with my wife Laura... I'm glad she loves baseball. I love walking into a professional stadium and taking in the environment. To me it is pure beauty. That would be a great day!

If we were to give you a pet hamster, what would you name it?

Wes - After our South African exchange student Wesley Hoskins who was with us throughout the preseason but had to return home and will be a part of our team in 2012. His hair looked like he had a permanent hamster living on his head.

Who is your favorite player and why?

I really enjoy watching Dustin Pedroia of the Boston Red Sox. He plays the game hard and gets the absolute most out of his ability. Sometimes that is hard to find at the professional level.

What's the weirdest

ritual you have or have witnessed?

None of them are really that weird to me. We actually practice our routines leading up to and at bat to help quiet the mind and reduce thoughts of self doubt or failure. Our guys do the exact same actions in between pitches in every single at bat.

Calendar

May 14 May 15 May 26 - 30	MEN'S BASEBALL Grays Harbor - Green River, 1 & 4 p.m. Green River - Grays Harbor, 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. NWAACC Championship, Lower Columbia
May 22- 23	MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TRACK NWAACC Championship, Spokane
May 22- 23	MEN'S GOLF NWAACC Championships, Canyon Lakes & Horn Rapids
May 13- 15	MEN'S TENNIS NWAACC Championships, Spokane
May 19- 22	WOMEN'S FASTPITCH NWAACC Championship, Portland, OR
May 13- 15	WOMEN'S TENNIS NWAACC Championships, Spokane

Go to www.greenriver.edu/athletics for home game locations.

Scoreboard

Apr 30	MEN'S BASEBALL Pierce 9 - 2 Green River
May 1	Pierce 4 - 3 Green River Green River 5 - 4 Pierce Green River 7 - 0 Pierce
May 1-2	MEN'S GOLF Top individual result: Alex Liljestrom - 156 Dallas Dalton - 164
May 8-9	Top individual result: Dallas Dorton - 157 Quinn Hildebrandt - 158
Apr 29	WOMEN'S FASTPITCH Green River 12 - 1 Grays Harbor
Apr 30	Green River 10 - 2 Grays Harbor
May 3	Highline 2 - 7 Green River Highline (forfeit) - Green River
May 7	Green River 0 - 8 Pierce Green River 0 - 10 Pierce
May 9	Centralia - Green River (rainout) Centralia - Green River (rainout)
May 10	Green River 7 - 6 Centralia Green River 3 - 2 Centralia Green River 14 - 0 Grays Harbor Green River 24 - 4 Grays Harbor
Apr 29 May 6	MEN'S TENNIS Skagit Valley 3 - 6 Green River Spokane 8 - 1 Green River
Apr 29 May 6 May 7	WOMEN'S TENNIS Skagit Valley 5 - 1 Green River Shoreline 6 - 3 Green River Bellevue 4 - 0 Green River

Find full league standings, stats and more at www.nwaacc.org

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