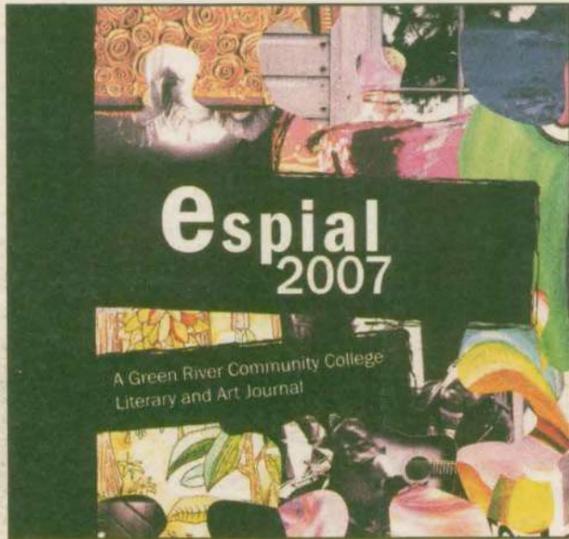




Game becomes worldwide obsession. Pages 6 & 7



2007 "Espial"

Literary magazine combines best of both worlds

'Espial' hopes to increase readership with seventh release this year

Joe Chouery
Staff writer

Every year some of the college's most talented students have their creativity proudly displayed in the art literary journal named "Espial."

The journal, which can be purchased at the student store for \$5, exhibits art that is harmonized with literature. Every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon during spring quarter, a band of students gather in the literary and art journal class known by most as "Espial."

"Espial" takes a blend of short stories and poems submitted by students and then attempts to match the best of these with the best samples of student-submitted art.

They then are placed with each other in efforts to compliment the others mood, color, and shape. Whether the art is vibrant, desolate, modern, or traditional each piece seems to find its creative mate, resulting in a collage of Green River art carefully bound in "Espial."

"We go for the best, and they find each other," Avis Adams, English instructor and one of the "Espial" faculty advisors, said.

Adams and Matt Johnson guide the class but neither runs it. The way that "the best find each other" is by the hard work of the students. The class is split between English and art students. They pour over every submitted piece and then choose what they consider the absolute best in an unprejudiced democracy.

This year the team of students have analyzed over 250 pieces and have had to shave it down to the 30 best art and writing pieces. Most of the decisions that determine how and what the journal will look like are derived from the students of the class.

Jeanna Todd one of the English students who took Adam's creative writing classes last quarter and now is working on "Espial" said, "I like the fact that we are making something."

This sentiment was displayed by many of the students. "I am pretty proud," said Brittne Vanguilder, who had her page layout chosen by the rest of the class for this year's journal.

The college should see the first glimpses of the 2008 "Espial" around June 1. However, the class has a large problem according to a quick survey. The poll, found that less than one in 20 students knew what "Espial" is.

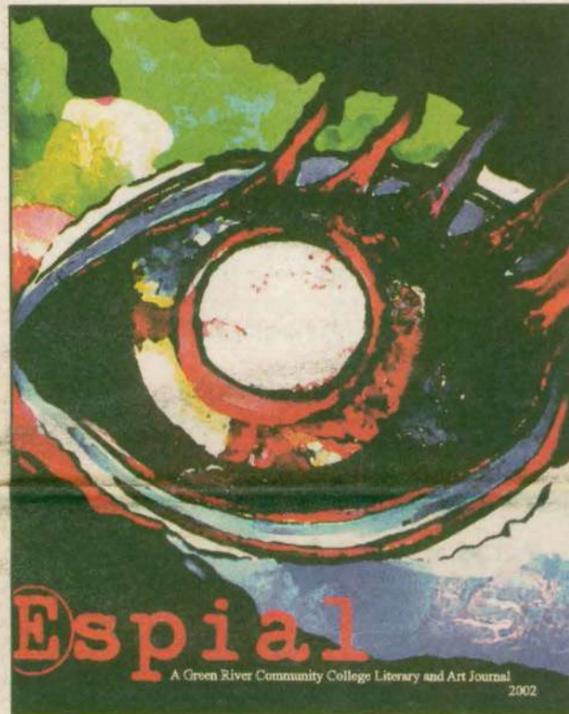
However, as of now, the plans for advertising this year's issue have been put on the back burner.

"We will work on advertising after the book goes to the press," Adams said. This strategy is understandable because meeting "Espial's" deadline is definitely the priority of the advisors.

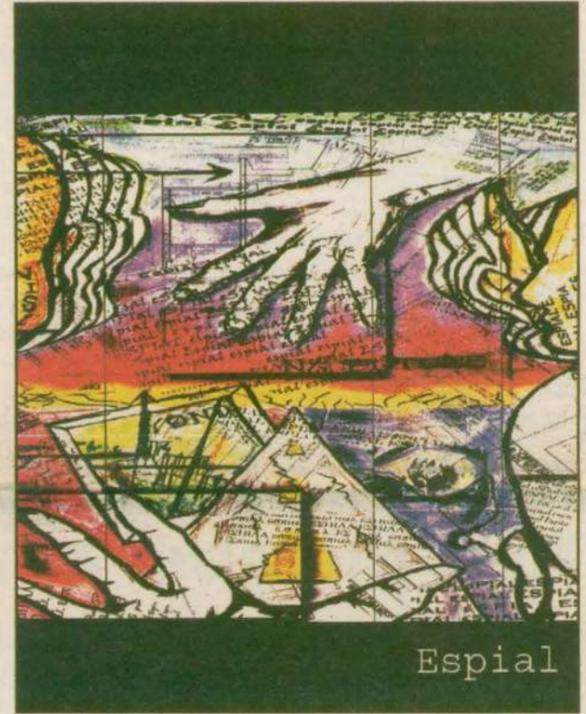
"It is a month and a half of a whirlwind crush," Johnson said.



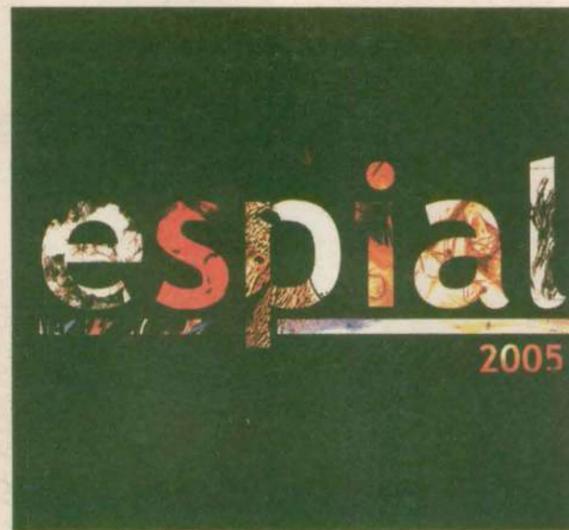
2006 "Espial"



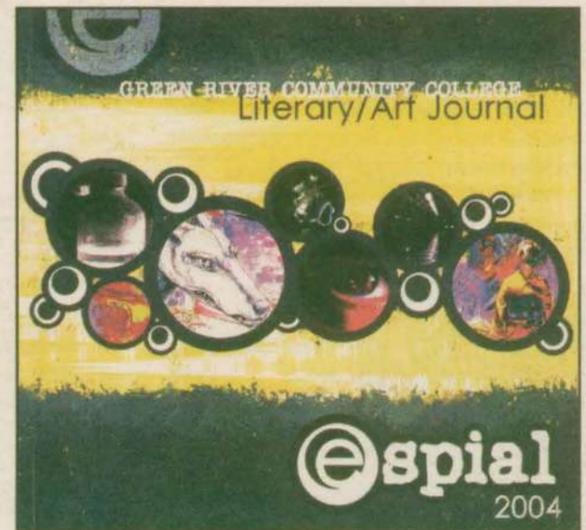
2002 "Espial"



2003 "Espial"



2005 "Espial"



2004 "Espial"

Photos courtesy of Avis Adams

Sports

Gator Recap
Baseball team hits winning streak.
Page 8



Back

And the winner is...
Candidates bid for student votes.
Page 12



Campus - Pages 2-3
News - Page 4
Opinion - Page 5
Feature - Pages 6-7
Sports - Pages 8-9
A & E - Pages 10-11

Face off

Students debate whether Running Start students are ready for college

Running Start students deserve equal respect



Shaelene Willers
Staff Writer

I guess I can understand why most college students may dislike Running Start students because of an age difference. However, there are alternate reasons that I've heard in class discussions that I would like to object to.

Some of these include complaints that Running Start students are immature or that they dumb down a class.

These examples are nothing more than stereotyping.

I have to admit that being put on the spot in the middle of class and being made to feel like the odd ball out is awkward. As a Running Start student, I have felt labeled by other students and instructors before I even got the chance to show people who I really am.

Running Start is an awesome opportunity offered to high school students to give them a "running start" on their college education.

A student might be forced to pay for their education in college, and for students

in this situation, Running Start could be the key to their success.

Rather than a student dropping out of school to work, they can join the Running Start program and get shorter school days so they can balance school, work, and study time. In addition, they can get a start towards a college degree.

From my perspective, students who have to take care of themselves are definitely not "immature," as some have labeled them.

I know that Running Start students can accomplish just as much as an ordinary college student as long as they have the drive to want to become something and the faith to not give up.

Of course there always will be older college students, who do not act their age. To the same extent, there always will be Running Start students who may not be in an adequately established mindset.

However, it's not fair to forget that Running Start students did have to take the Compass to qualify for the program. So, they must not be completely brainless.

The criticism doesn't necessarily apply to all Running Start students. Everyone is different, and it's cruel to be talked down to when they may be just as goal oriented as an average-aged college student.

I'm sure I speak for most Running Start students when I say that when I walk around campus or am in class, I don't want to be victimized simply for the fact that I am younger.

I would rather be comfortable just being an individual with goals and dreams to go places, who chose to take advantage of her "running start."

Running Start students abuse college privilege



Karie Gill
Staff Writer

They are everywhere. From photography to psychology, there always seems to be a Running Start student. And where there is a Running Start student, there always seems to be a little less.

I'm talking about the maturity level of our campus. Running Start students are high schoolers that can be as young as 16 (I was) on a campus full of 20-somethings. The maturity levels are not going to be the same, and I don't think that is beneficial for everyone.

The whole point of the program is for teenagers to graduate high school with a few college credits. But I've noticed that some of the Running Start students think they are "special" and try to abuse the privilege that comes along with the freedom they have been given.

There have been classes where they come in late because they left their high school a little later than usual. Or they miss a week of college because it's spring break for their high school, so they take a spring break

from Green River too. On top of it all, they think these things are okay to do.

What they don't realize is that Running Start is not an extension of their high school classes - it's college.

To succeed in college, one needs to be dedicated enough to put in the extra effort it is going to take. They need to be able to show up on time and not try to take advantage of the fact that they are younger than everyone else. They are not, and will not, get special treatment.

And then there are the slightly annoying ones who can't seem to contain themselves during class. You know the ones I'm talking about. They snicker when any topic of sex or sexuality is brought up.

This is my biggest pet peeve. It can be an uncomfortable subject to discuss in the first place, so I don't need some overly hormonal teenager highlighting that fact.

If one can't act in a mature manner and be polite enough to keep it to themselves, then maybe they shouldn't be in the class.

The hardships don't always fall on the older student either. I once was a Running Start student, and at times, I felt uncomfortable and overwhelmed by my older and more mature peers.

They always seemed to know more and be more experienced than me in the ways of the world. This made me shy and unwilling to participate in class at times for fear of saying something that would be considered stupid.

The end result of my Running Start experience was graduating with only 10 college credits and the idea that college isn't as great as I first thought.

New member of administration focuses on service

Joe Huang fills role of vice president of IT

Alfred Ocampo
Staff Writer

The college recently added a new member to its administration. Joe Huang became the college's new vice president of information technology on March 17.

Prior to moving to GRCC, Huang worked at Everett Community College as their director of IT.



Joe Huang

Huang originally is from Vancouver, B.C., and graduated from the University of British Columbia, where he received his undergraduate degree in mathematical computing.

After graduation, Huang decided to enter graduate school and work on a degree in computer science.

"I've always had computer science in the back of my mind as a career," Huang said. "I ended up teaching for a while before moving to the industry."

While working in the industry, Huang picked up 13 years of experience in the networking field, working with companies such as Dell and Novell before moving back to education.

Now, Huang has settled into his roll as the vice president of Green River's IT department.

"My main responsibility is to drive direction, not only strategically to support the college's initiatives, but operationally to support the employees to make sure that they can get their job done," Huang said. "Whether it's instruction for students or campus safety, there are so many facets to the business now that we never looked at five years ago."

Huang also puts a great deal of importance in customer service.

"There are important services that this department provides. I'm hoping to ensure that we have high customer service, high availability, and high reliability," Huang said.

From his perspective, the IT department is a customer service organization.

"My customers are all the students and all the employees," Huang said.

As technology advances, Huang believes the role it plays in student learning is extremely important.

"The importance is how we think forward and anticipate the needs of our students technology wise. This is especially important with distance learning and the concept of reaching out and providing other alternative learning," Huang said. "How do we take technology and also make it available for our students who may not be able to come to campus?"

With regard to future plans for the department, Huang would like to focus on the services that the IT department can provide.

High on his list is wireless internet services, campus safety, and ensuring that the IT department always will be able to keep up with what the students need.

According to Huang, the most rewarding part of his job is being able to be a service

provider on campus.

"The one thing I like about my job is the same thing I always tell the staff. The only

constant in technology is change," Huang said. "That means every time you turn around, there's something new."



Senator of the Month

The Senator of the Month for April is Patrick Reeves. He has gone above and beyond and contributed a lot in the last year. Just recently, he was chosen by the senate to be a class officer, specifically, sophomore vice president.

He brings a positive attitude to everything he does and is a walking promotion of senate. He always has a smile on his face and is simply uplifting.

Contributed by Shauna Stadnik, ASGRCC president



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Campus Calendar

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Men's Baseball vs. Lower Columbia 1 p.m.; Auburn	5 Bailadores de Bronce - Celebración Cinco de Mayo 7:30 p.m. Green River	6 GRCC Health and Wellness Fair 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Green River	7 Men's Baseball vs. Pierce 3 p.m. Lea Hill Park	8 Debate Workshop 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Lindbloom Center	9	10 Paintball Party 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Eastside Paintball Monroe
Campus elections: May 5-7						
11 Men's Baseball vs. Centralia 2 p.m. Centralia	12 Debate Tournament 12 p.m - 2 p.m. Open House 9 a.m.- 1p.m.	13 Debate Tournament 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Stress Management 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.	14 Debate Tournament 12 p.m - 2 p.m.	15 Debate Tournament 12 p.m - 2 p.m.	16 Sounds of Hawaii 7:30 p.m.	17 NWAACC Championship Longview, WA
18	19 Phi Theta Kappa Highway Cleanup 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.	20	21 Application/Personal Essay Workshop; 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Coachie Magik 7 p.m.	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day Campus closed	27	28 Transfer 101 Workshop 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.	29	30	31

For more information on events, go to www.greenriver.edu/AboutGRCC and click on the Events Calendar

Services available for stressed students

Counseling, health services available for all students in need of help, information

Autumn Choo
Staff Writer

As the new quarter has started, students have encountered some problems. They usually have problems with classes, especially new students who are struggling with making friends.

Some international students feel uncomfortable living around people that they've never met before and dealing with a language barrier.

"Since the United States is not my home country, so many things are different," Gaeun Shon, 19, said. "I get so much stress from it and even feel sick some times."

It happens a lot when a new quarter starts.

For those students, there are school counseling services and health services. The counseling services are free and paid for when students pay fees when they register for classes at the college. Those fees help pay for counseling services, health services and supplies.

There are two full time counselors, Elizabeth McKinney and Patricia Kehoe at the college.

"Counseling services provide short term mental health and personal counseling," McKinney said. "We also do wellness workshops. A Few times a quarter, we select different topics like stress management, anxiety, test anxiety, or things that are relevant to students."

Since it is short term counseling, students only can meet with school counselors as many as seven times. However, if the

counselors believe that a student's problems are serious and need more counseling services to make the student feel better, they send them to counselors within the community.

They also help students without insurance. If a student doesn't have health insurance, they'll inform the student about places which provide counseling services at a low cost.

Although what counseling services provide is great, some students still feel uncomfortable talking with counselors. They are afraid that what they discuss in the counseling session will be passed along.

McKinney said, "It comes down to confidentiality and privacy. By law, we are not allowed to go and tell anybody about what a student talks about in a counseling session."

McKinney explained that there are some exceptions. If a student is going to kill someone or abuse someone, counselors must report it to prevent incidents.

Julie French, health and wellness staff, said, "A lot of what I provide is preventative care to try to give students information, so that they can learn how to take care of themselves in a better way."

She also added that health services provide information about safe sex, sexually transmitted disease, HIV, and AIDS.

Students without health insurance can get information about insurance in the Health and Wellness Office.

"I have information about health insurance that the school provides for a pretty reasonable price. There is also dental insur-

ance that students can get," French said.

When a new quarter starts, students get busy and have problems with eating and nutrition.

"Since the quarter started, I eat a lot because of stress," Regina Goldstone, 50, said. "I eat a lot of junk food because I got busy and I don't have much time to cook."

Students who worry about eating habits can get some information about nutrition, exercise, and eating habit from health services too.

There also is a fitness center available for students who worry about their health and weight.

Personal Development and Wellness Workshops

Health and wellness fair/National Alcohol Screening Day - May 6; LSC, main dining room; 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Sexual Responsibility - May 12; SC -228; 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Stress Management - May 13; LSC Rainier Room; 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.
Quarterly Blood drive - May 21; LSC Glacier room; 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Must be at least 18 years of age.)

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Weird & Wacky News

Tammie Tamara
Staff Writer

Bulls to be tested for drug-use

Athletes are going to be tested for drug-use during a bullfighting festival in Spain. However, in this case, the athletes are the bulls rather than the fighters. The organizer of the festival will monitor any suspicious behavior.

The most commonly used drugs are tranquilizers and corticosteroids. A fighting bull vet in Madrid said that corticosteroid gives the bull more resistance. It also can disguise a limp or injury to help the bull pass the initial tests.

House-thievery occurs in Russia

A brick house can't be huffed or puffed, but it can be stolen. A man in Russia lost his house by thievery.

A neighbor took down his entire two-story house and sold everything from the bricks to the kitchen sink. The man came home from holiday to find the foundation of his home – the only part left.

A police spokesman said that this is not the first time such a case has happened. In remote areas, this kind of incident is considered normal.

Fashion crime nearly made illegal

Baggy pants probably have become a fashion crime. Little did people know that it almost became an actual crime.

A panel of Louisiana senators just rejected a bill on wearing droopy pants or any clothing that "intentionally exposes undergarments or intentionally exposes any portion of the pubic hair, cleft of the buttocks or genital." Exceptions were made for swim suits and clothing in fashion shows.

State Senator Derrick Shepherd, the one who made the proposal, said that the state should take a stand against droopy pants.

The violators of the law would have faced a \$175 charge and eight days of community service. Shepherd had tried to pass a similar bill back in 2004.

Woman bites pit bull to save her dog

Amy Rice bit a pit bull on the nose after the dog attacked her Labrador retriever, Ella. Rice said that the pit bull jumped over a fence to her yard and bit Ella on the head. When her attempt to pull the dog's jaw failed, Rice bit the dog.

She reported that she broke the skin and could feel the dog's blood in her mouth. The pit bull was quarantined and rabies tests are being completed. Rice is waiting to know whether she needs a rabies shot or not.

Ella suffered a crush in her ear canal, but she survived with a couple stitches and staples.

SR-167 toll begins May 3

HOV lane will be open to solo drivers for price

Karie Gill
Staff Writer

State Route 167's new HOT (High Occupancy Toll) lanes between Renton and Auburn will open May 3 for single occupancy vehicles.

Vehicles wishing to use the new HOT lanes will have to have a "Good To Go" transponder and have to pay a toll. The toll amount will vary depending on the amount of traffic.

Motorcycles still will be allowed to use the HOT lane without having to pay.

The toll system being used is similar to that of Tacoma's Narrows Bridge.

"I hate paying just to go over the Narrows," student Leah Meines said.

The variable toll depends on the amount of traffic. As traffic increases and the demand to use the HOT lane increases, the toll will increase as well. As the congestion lessens and demand lessens, the toll will decrease.

At times the HOT lane may not be open to single occupancy cars, and HOV will be posted instead of a toll amount.

"The only time I use it now is when traffic is super bad," Meines said.

Another addition to SR 167 is the double white line separating the HOT lane from the general lanes.

It is illegal to cross the double white line to enter the HOT lane, so drivers must wait for HOT lane entrances before crossing over.

These entrances are marked with a digital sign that will inform drivers of the current toll, and a dashed line.

The dashed line may be crossed to enter or exit the HOT lane. Once a driver has entered and paid their toll, they will not be charged again even if the amount of the toll changes.

"It would depend on the cost, but I wouldn't just sit in traffic," Kristen Eichelberger said.

Drivers who have the "Good To Go" pass, but are a legal carpool must then buy a special Velcro shield to put over their transponder to keep from being charged.

Shields are not available for external license plate transponders, and all transponders must be unshielded when driving over the Tacoma Narrows Bridge.

Also noticeable are the scanners that stretch over both the HOT lane and general lane.

The transponder is scanned and logged as being in the general lane rather than the HOT lane and is kept from being accidentally charged.

Drivers can be fined for crossing the double white line and for entering the HOT lane as a solo driver without a transponder. A white enforcement light flashes when a transponder is scanned, so the State Patrol will be able to see when a vehicle doesn't have one.

Planning for the HOT lanes began in 2005, and SR 167 was chosen because of the high amounts of congestion during the weekdays and because of the increasing population in South King County means more traffic, and congestion is likely to occur.

"I don't think it is convenient," student Dusty Wannamaker said. "People will just start to go around the traffic."

Washington State's Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is hoping to cut down on the amount of congestion on the 9 mile stretch of highway between Renton and Auburn. On average, the northbound and southbound lanes each see an average of 50,000 drivers daily, with only about 9,000 drivers using the HOV lanes each way.

By turning the HOV lanes into HOT lanes, WSDOT expects to see an increase of about 5,000 drivers each way paying the toll.

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'World of Warcraft' gamers put stock in 'unreal' world

Game encourages withdrawal from society



Commentary by Sara Olson

All over the world, an army is ready to fight all evil with the click of a mouse. Perched behind their computer, this group consists of people of all ages, races, and cultures.

While some might not recognize these warriors out in society, it's likely that there's at least one in every classroom or workplace, ready to engage in discussion over folklore and battle stories.

Yes, there are many – probably more than most would expect.

"World of Warcraft" has swept over not only America, but the world, engulfing the best, brightest, and everyone else of society.

Hours at a time are spent staring down elves and warlocks on the other side of the computer monitor, in hopes of bringing honor to one's own race.

Relationships have blossomed over this computer game, while others have ended.

People have quit their jobs in order to dedicate more time to "World of Warcraft," obviously placing more stock in the mythical world that the game inhabits.

One man even died from dehydration and starvation, refusing to break from the game just for a meal.

Some believe that the internet will define this generation; however, "WOW" (the term gamers affectionately use) might be the more specific and

accurate definition.

The obsession that has erupted over this computer game is astonishing and disturbing, considering the havoc it often wreaks over one's life.

There is no middle ground for "WOW" players – it's all or nothing; go big or go home.

In order to be a true competitor in "World of Warcraft," several hours a day must be committed to one's campaign to victory, forcing a slow and steady withdrawal from the "real" world.

However, what once might have isolated and stereotyped a player now is widely recognized, due to the millions that play and accept this lifestyle.

New versions of the game continue to be released, and "winning" is not an accomplishment easily grasped, perhaps igniting the obsession.

However, "WOW" is not a sport; it's not a job; it's barely an activity. The battle tactics used in the game can't even be applied to real war.

It does not benefit society, and it doesn't encourage personal growth.

Years from now, people will not say that they are who they are because of "World of Warcraft." At

least, I hope not.

"WOW" most likely will not disappear any time soon, as millions will defend the game's rightful place in their own lives.

However, one day, after the last battle is fought and the last bit of orc blood is drawn, the game will be over.

The only thing left will be the concrete and certain things that exist in the human's world, such as jobs, family, and friends.

And, I fear that as these players who have so thoroughly invested in "WOW" reenter society, they will painfully realize that the relationships they nurtured online, will be only as real as the land of "World of Warcraft."

"I does not benefit society, and it doesn't encourage personal growth. Years from now, people will not say that they are who they are because of 'World of Warcraft.' At least, I hope not."

Editorial 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 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.

Letters to the editor

We encourage all students and staff to have their voices heard. The Current will publish **letters to the editor**, provided they are signed, include the author's name, and submitted in a timely manner. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. Letters should be sent to thecurrent@greenriver.edu. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of length, libel, or propriety. All letters become the property of The Current.

Editorials

New toll on SR-167 not what drivers need

Each day, the prices of gas seem to creep closer and closer to the \$4 mark, and the days of inexpensive transportation become more and more distant.

However, as the amount of cash decreases in the wallets of commuters, the amount of taxes, tolls, and fees seem to increase.

Such is the case for the new toll that is being enforced on SR-167. Despite the staggering gas prices, yet another way to break into Washingtonian's bank account has been formed.

Commuters now will be charged to utilize the HOT lanes and ticketed if they cross the lane at an area not specified for "free" lane changing.

Seattle is known for its traffic headaches. However, the new toll will not serve as an antidote, but rather an aggravator. The only sure effect seems to be an increase in the cost of commuting – something Washingtonians are weary enough of.

Students need to exercise their right to vote

November is nearing, and election packets stuffed full of campaign information soon will bombard people across the country.

However, Green River's campaign season has arrived already, presenting an interesting and unusual election.

The race for president and vice president of the student body is anything but hot, as only one candidate for each position is running, taking the nerves and intensity out of the big day.

However, going along with the slogan that has become popular in recent U.S. elections, at Green River, every vote still counts – to some extent.

In order for the candidates to be elected, five percent of the student body needs to vote for them. This means that at least 500 students need to show up at the poll over May 5, 6, and 7 and cast their vote.

Although, five percent doesn't sound like much, if everyone thought that their vote wasn't necessary and therefore didn't vote, then the election would be void.

Starting on May 5, every student should utilize their Gator right to take part in the biggest election on campus. Whether students believe it or not, the president and vice president play a huge roll in determining a lot of the students' happiness on campus.

And, if that's not enough, students may find a little incentive, also known as candy and Red Bull, at the voting booths.

Fashion 'crime' is waste of state's time

Convicts run free, and sex offenders inhabit family neighborhoods, but a senator from Louisiana is more concerned with baggy pants. Indeed, Derrick Shepherd tried to make baggy pants and other fashion "crimes" illegal.

Fortunately, the state of Louisiana still has other state senators with sense, and the bill was overturned.

If baggy pants are the worst of Louisiana's problems, then the the rest of America should pack up and move there.

The Current Staff

The Current is a public forum for student expression at Green River Community College, since 1965.



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WORLD OF WARCRAFT™

The game producing the 'WOW' factor

'World of Warcraft' obsession contested by some, craved by others

Jennifer Willey
Staff Writer

With a generation being defined by the internet, there's many online games and sites that are sucking in people of all ages.

But the generation being hit the hardest by the stir of online gaming probably is the age group 17-25, and the game doing the most of the hitting is "World of Warcraft" ("WOW").

"WOW" is an online game that has roughly 10 million followers. Through the game, each player can make a somewhat personalized character who enters the world created by the game.

In this world, occupied by several races, including Blood Elves and Orcs, the characters go on quests, earn power, and team up with other players to accomplish the impossible.

The game is known for its magical feel, splattered with spells and mythical creatures.

This world that "WOW" creates has succeeded in grabbing the attention of millions, who are willing to play for hours at a time.

"It's like a black hole," student Jenna Hammond, 17, said. "It just sucks you in, and once you're caught, you can't get out. I know people that have dropped out solely to play this game."

Students Jesse Merryman and Jacob Braur play "WOW" casually at night when there's nothing else to do.

However, some play it a little obsessively.

"It's like crack but better," student Josef Baurny, 19 said.

Student John Sweet, admitted that he can't play for less than 2 hours at a time.

"I've played it for 13 hours straight before," Sweet said.

Without the expansion pack, called "The Burning Crusade," players can conquer 60 levels. However, with the pack, 70 levels are available. A new expansion pack, "The Wrath of the Lich King," is coming out shortly that will allow players to reach level 80.

With the game being known for its obsessive players, a certain stereotype has developed regarding its followers. However, players don't seem to care what the rest of the world thinks of them.

"Most people have the misconception that 'WOW' is a ridiculously nerdy game played by ridiculously nerdy people who don't have lives," Merryman said. "But I am living proof that a somewhat cool and hip person with no life can also melt faces and pawn nubs in Azeroth with the rest of the nerds."

Hammond confessed an unconditional love for "WOW."

"It's really an amazing game, even if it ruins your life," Hammond said.

However, some feel strongly that "WOW" is awful, representing the negative side of society.

"WOW" represents the break down in the communication of the average

American teenager," student Ahna Kesterson, 18, said. "Let's face it, with texting, IM, e-mail and MySpace, our generation has been raised to be detached. 'WOW' is a new communication failure."

Kesterson also said that she has felt suddenly detached from friends who have adopted the hobby of the game.

"For those of us not involved with the game, we quite frequently feel as though our friends have suddenly begun to speak a different language," Kesterson said. "World of Warcraft is like losing your soul."

Student John Hartman also brought attention to the fact that "WOW" isn't free.

"They might as well stick a hot poker up your butt, have it poke through your pocket, and anally subtract \$20 a month from your bank account," Hartman said.

However, no one can deny the massive impact being had with online gaming and the internet. Even if "WOW" is one person's thing, there's plenty of other games to be had.

"Multi-billion dollar industries are making money off of the nerds of America," Hammond says.

And, with 16 million monthly subscriptions to online games, 10 million of that alone going to World of Warcraft, it wouldn't take much to admit that there is something happening to the way this generation views the world and people.

"For those of us not involved with the game, we quite frequently feel as though our friends have suddenly begun to speak a different language."

—Ahna Kesterson, 18

"It's like a black hole. It just sucks you in, and once you're caught, you can't get out."

—Jenna Hammond, 17

"Most people have the misconception that 'WOW' is a ridiculously nerdy game played by ridiculously nerdy people who don't have lives."

—Jesse Merryman, 19

Designed by Sara Olson

Gators generate winning streak, following loss to league rivals



Sara Olson
Staff Writer

It didn't take long for the Gator baseball team to bounce back from a 6-4 loss to the Tacoma Titans on April 26.

Despite the failure to generate offense and capitalize on base runners, Green River came back in the second game of the series, producing where they lacked in the first game.

Sophomore Ryan Voelkel delivered a home run, adding on to the Gators' total of 13 hits. Pitcher James Douglass was attributed with the 7-3 win over the Titans.

The Gators added to their win column the following day in their two-game series against Grays Harbor.

With plenty of offense from both sides, including a home run from Gator Brady Van Hoof, Green River managed to win the first game by a score of 14-12. In the second game, pitcher, Jacob Pettit delivered a 3-2 win.

As of April 27, the Gators are playing .500 ball, with a league record of 8-8.

Sara Olson/Staff Photo

Freshman outfielder, Kyle Baskett, receives congratulations from his teammate, Joe Shuster, as he scores the Gators final run in their 6-4 loss to the Tacoma Titans on April 26.

Gator Profiles: Tim Reavis, and Kaylee Powell



Name: Tim Reavis
Position: Outfield
Height: 5'11"

Q: Who is your favorite musical artist?

A: Tenacious D.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: Billy Madison.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?

A: Edgar Martinez.

Q: If you weren't a college athlete, what would you be?

A: An astronaut.

Q: What is one thing you want to improve on this season?

A: Base running.

Q: What do you do to get pumped for a game?

A: We bump chests.

Q: What is your favorite part of playing for the gators?

A: My teammates.

Q: Do you have any advice for younger baseball players?

A: Play with your head up.



Name: Kaylee Powell
Position: Catcher
Height: 5'9"

Q: Who is your favorite musical artist?

A: Everyone. I listen to a little bit of everything and could not pick just one.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: The Notebook.

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?

A: Payton Manning. I am a huge Colts fan.

Q: If you weren't a college athlete, what would you be?

A: Either the president or a princess.

Q: What do you do to get pumped for a game?

A: I always wear matching ribbons in my hair and put on my lip gloss.

Q: Do you have any advice for younger baseball players?

A: Always have heart for the game and believe in yourself.

Softball team fights back, despite early struggles

Team refuses to quit, focuses on playoffs

Sean Kramer
Staff Writer

Gator fast pitch has gotten off to a slow start in 2008, despite high expectations for a new coach and a new roster.

Replacing all but one player, new Head Coach Scott Dillinger still expected a competitive team that hopefully could end up in the NWAACC playoffs.

However, the problem wasn't necessarily wins and losses, but the team being able to play at all. After scheduling a plethora of March preseason games, which included a Clark County tournament and the NWAACC Crossover in Yakima, the Gators only were able to play two games in March because of roster issues and not having enough players.

Among the problems were players who were yet to be eligible for spring quarter. Injury also took its toll on the team, leading to one forfeit and most of the game cancellations, including three double headers and the



George Simons/Staff Photo

Pitcher Kaylee Powell pitches to a player from the Pierce College Raiders during their two-game series on April 24.

NWAACC Crossover, which the players spent resting and getting ready for league play.

Freshman pitcher Natasha Novak and transfer catcher Kaylee Powell are among some important players who came in to give the Gators roster a lift in the spring.

"We have definitely had some hiccups this year, but we're definitely in a position to make a good run," Bob Kickner, athletic director, said.

Kickner is encouraged that for the most part, the Gators are healthy and should be ready to play every game from here on

Softball schedule

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
5/3	Centralia/Green River	1 p.m.
5/6	Pierce/Tacoma	2 p.m.
5/9	Grays Harbor/Green River	2 p.m.

Baseball schedule

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
5/3	Lower Columbia/Longview	1 p.m.
5/4	Lower Columbia/Green River	1 p.m.
5/7	Pierce/Green River	3 p.m.
5/10	Pierce/S. Tacoma	1 p.m.

out.

On the diamond, the Gators thus far have had their most successful season in three years and began their league schedule at 4-4, which included a sweep of Grays Harbor at Lea Hill Park, the first sweep for the Gators since 2005.

The team so far is getting good production from freshmen, such as Shawn Bateman and Annie

Rosenburg, both hitting over .400, as well as pitcher Allison Stewart, who has started most of the Gator's early games, leading the team in strikeouts.

The top four teams in the NWAACC West make the playoffs, so despite early troubles, the Gators still are in a good position to make a run at the playoffs should they play well down the stretch.

Questions arise regarding Shultz effort to keep Sonics

Drama continues over home of team



Column by
Casey Greer

The last few months have been a roller coaster of fortune for Sonics fans.

March saw Steve Ballmer, CEO of Microsoft, come forward with an investment group prepared to buy the team and fund half of the renovation to Key Arena. This good news was met with the state legislature continuing to stumble without even leaving the proverbial starting gate in terms of retaining the team.

It widely is viewed that the legislature rejected Ballmer's proposal. In reality, the proposal didn't even receive any official time in the legislative session.

However, April ushered in possibly the widest range of news since the team was sold in 2006.

Nobody in Seattle who is particularly familiar with the Sonics possible move to Oklahoma has ever really believed Clayton Bennett's promise for a "good faith effort."

Even the most aggressive idealist in the world can't believe

it now.

E-mails between Bennett, Professional Basketball Club, LLC (PBC) co-chair Aubrey McLendon, and David Stern leave absolutely no doubt that the PBC planned to move the team from the time they inked the dotted line.

While the confirmation of doom doesn't always spell good news, the revelation of these e-mails is the best news Sonics fans have heard in months.

The e-mails were revealed as part of a subpoena filed by Seattle's attorneys.

The emails have done two key things. They've hurt the credibility of PBC in the collective public mind, and presumably the judge in the city's lawsuit against PBC's mind, despite not changing the opinion of the unwavering David Stern.

Also, they've brought Howard Schultz out of whatever cave he's been dwelling in.

Stern's support of the Sonics' potential move to Oklahoma City comes as no surprise. Stern and his gang of lemmings, the NBA owners, have broken the NBA business model.

The same gang of lemmings voted to approve a move of the team from Seattle to Oklahoma City at a 28-2 margin. The two owners who voted against the move were Mark Cuban, the owner of the Dallas Mavericks,

and Paul Allen, the Portland Trailblazers and Seattle Seahawks owner.

If Seattle lost the Sonics, it would be the largest metropolitan area, in terms of both population and per capita income not represented by an NBA franchise.

It doesn't take an MBA to understand the potential financial disaster facilitated by the NBA and its owners.

Schultz, the former Sonics owner, has filed a lawsuit to reacquire the team from Bennett. Schultz's lawsuit claims that Bennett broke the terms of the team's sale by not actually giving a "good faith effort."

Between the publicly revealed e-mails and the lawsuits from Seattle and Schultz, this process is becoming increasingly frustrating for Bennett.

Bennett has accused the city of Seattle and the rest of the parties involved of trying to bleed the resources of his ownership group.

While little sympathy is felt for Bennett's cause locally, he's probably right. It seems like that

is the only valid explanation for the legislature's ignorance and lack of urgency in keeping the team.

The longer the lawsuit between PBC and the city of Seattle lingers, it only can be viewed as good news.

It seems more and more likely that Seattle will win its lawsuit and get two more years to draw

"Stern's support of the Sonics' potential move to Oklahoma City comes as no surprise. Stern and his gang of lemmings, the NBA owners, have broken the NBA business model."

from PBC's proverbial veins, but Schultz's lawsuit is likely a pipe dream.

Perhaps though, even a Schultz victory could be chalked up as a loss for the city of Seattle.

Schultz has been successful in ducking a lot of criticism as the Sonics situation with Seattle has become increasingly urgent.

Initially examining Schultz's sale of the team, it is hard not to view him as the primary villain.

Schultz claimed \$60 million in losses over his five year tenure of ownership; he claimed to have sold the team to a bidder who wasn't the highest; he claimed to have sold the team to the ownership group which he felt gave the team the best chance of remaining in Seattle; and while his promise

for a championship within those five years of ownership was perhaps far fetched, it also was undelivered.

In reality, Schultz sold the team for a \$90 million net profit, sold the team for more than \$80 million more than it was valued at the end of the 2006-07 season, according to Forbes, and sold the team to an ownership group from a city looking for an NBA team.

The general attitude around the Schultz lawsuit is that it is "too little too late."

The reality is that Howard Schultz is a shrewd businessman.

If he can essentially buy the team back for the same price he sold it for, he'd be able to sell it again for a lot more after the Sonics drafted rookie phenom Kevin Durant.

In 2002, the Cleveland Cavaliers were estimated by Forbes to be worth about \$258 million. The following year, the Cavs drafted LeBron James. Two years later, the team was sold to Dan Gilbert for \$375 million.

It stands to reason that Schultz is likely making a last ditch effort to benefit his asset column, rather than the city where he founded Starbucks, his multi-billion dollar coffee empire.

While Schultz efforts may be "too little too late," his conveniently timed presence begs the question, "for whom?"

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Legislator tours, speaks on campus
Upthegrove to support new construction at Green River

Soulstorm shakes fans' faith in video game series

Third expansion of game falls short of expectations

Tyler Walton
Staff Writer

The third and long-awaited expansion to "Dawn of War," game of the year in 2004, finally reached gaming stores in the United States on March 4, but did not meet the bright-eyed expectations of its fans.

"Warhammer 40,000: Dawn of War" is a real-time strategy (RTS) game based on the tabletop game "Warhammer 40,000" by Games Workshop.

The setting can be aptly described by the game's tagline: "In the grim darkness of the future, there is only war."

Placed in the 41st millennium, the game revolves around constant war among many races, new races from the tabletop game being added into each expansion.

"Soulstorm," the latest of these expansions, added two new races. The Dark Eldar, a twisted race of aliens that delight in the pain and torture of their foes, and the Sisters of Battle, a pious and very religious sect of humanity's Imperium that bring death to heretics, mutants, and aliens alike in the most fiery of ways, with much more emphasis on flame as a weapon than the other races, including flamethrower tanks and turrets.

Each expansion up to this one has included an escalation in the size of the conflict.

The first "Dawn of War" took place almost entirely within a couple of cities and had a rigid campaign that went through a set order of missions.

The first expansion, "Dawn of War: Winter Assault," allowed players to choose from one of two sides of the battle, which spanned the whole planet, though the campaign still was rather straightforward, with only one opportunity to change the course of it in the middle.

The second expansion, "Dark Crusade," brought an entirely new angle, allowing the player to conquer a planet with the race of their choice in the order of their choosing,

with different plot elements being added in different battles, but in a much looser order.

They also were given the opportunity to customize their commander that stayed with them throughout the campaign, adding a personal feel.

With this progression, many fans expected brilliance in the layout of the third expansion, "Soulstorm."

What they were met with, however, was almost exactly the same as in the previous expansion; the same system of campaign, just with four planets instead of one.

In fact, it is so thoroughly cut-and-paste in places that names of commanders from the last game accidentally were used where the names of the new commanders from "Soulstorm" should have been; a glitch that has yet to be fixed.

Names in the campaign were not the only things that were copied into the new expansion. Previously, each of the seven races (now nine) were given a unique way of building structures; in "Soulstorm," the exact building process was used for Sisters of Battle as were previously used for Imperial Guard, a disappointing redundancy.

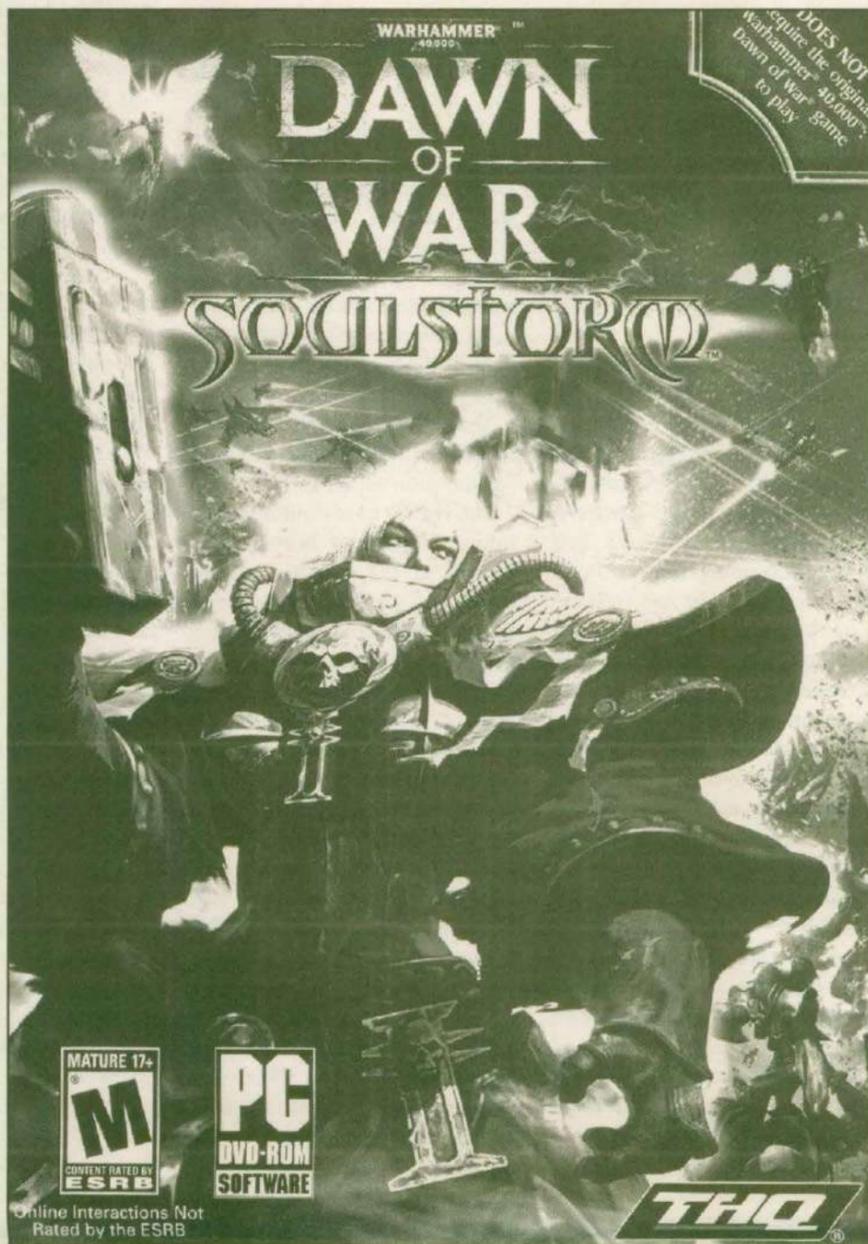
Fans may wonder where the blame lies in the simple lack of "new" in the game. Previously, in both the original "Dawn of War" and all the prior expansions, Relic Entertainment was the sole developer of the series.

However, in "Soulstorm," a new company, Iron Lore Entertainment, partook in the developing process.

This company is, next to Relic, very small, and coincidentally actually went out of business on Feb. 19, barely two weeks before the release of "Soulstorm," and many fans in the online community suspect that it is because of the poor job they did with the game.

The excitement over "Soulstorm" also was overshadowed by a teasing announcement of the future release of "Dawn of War 2" on April 3, with the release of a handful of dazzling screenshots and a tentative goal for a release period, spring of 2009.

While "Soulstorm" may not have



THQ/Courtesy Photo

The third installment of the "Dawn of War" series, "Warhammer 40,000" is repetitive of the second game, disappointing fans who anticipated its release.

contributed much of anything new, it still rides on the strong game-play of the previous releases in the series.

The addition of aircraft make for a new shift in strategy, if minor, and having new armies to play with always makes things

more fun.

The graphics are strong, and those who enjoyed previous installments definitely will enjoy it as a continuation of the game, even if it doesn't bring many new changes.

'Skinny Bitch' urges readers to go vegan

Book unveils ugly truth about 'American' food

Brittney Walker Higgins
Staff Writer

New York Time #1 best seller, "Skinny Bitch" takes a stab at converting readers to a vegan life-style.

Smart-mouthed authors, Rory Freedman and Kim Barnouin say that in order to be skinny, people need to start by being healthy. Cut out the processed foods, cigarettes, and beer.

"You cannot keep eating the same shit and expect to get skinny," they wrote in their book.

The authors are trying to appeal to older teens and young women who have been unsuccessful at previous weight loss attempts. Reader's who are not accustomed to four letter expletives be forewarned, as if the title isn't enough.

Student, Xavier King said, "The girls in it talk just like it were me

and my best friend."

The 224 pages are packed with sassiness and the cold hard facts about what Americans are putting into their bodies.

According to the authors, sugar is the devil, soda pop is liquid Satan, and dairy is in no way shape or form good for you.

"Breast milk can grow an 8-pound newborn into a 24-pound toddler. Sounds pretty fattening, huh? It is." Freedman wrote.

The authors urge readers to get their calcium through fortified grains, vegetables, beans, and nuts.

The first three quarters of "Skinny Bitch" mostly is scare tactics about how the meat and dairy industries work, what additives are in the food people are consuming, and the horrors of factory farming.

The chapter titled "The Dead, Rotting, Decomposing Flesh Diet" reprimands Americans for the fact that they consume entirely too much meat.

The authors say that by going vegan, you are sparing the lives of

at least 90 animals per year. They also say that it is a complete myth that you need a massive amount of protein.

"I haven't eaten a hamburger since I read the chapter on how they slaughter the animals," student Sydney Clark said.

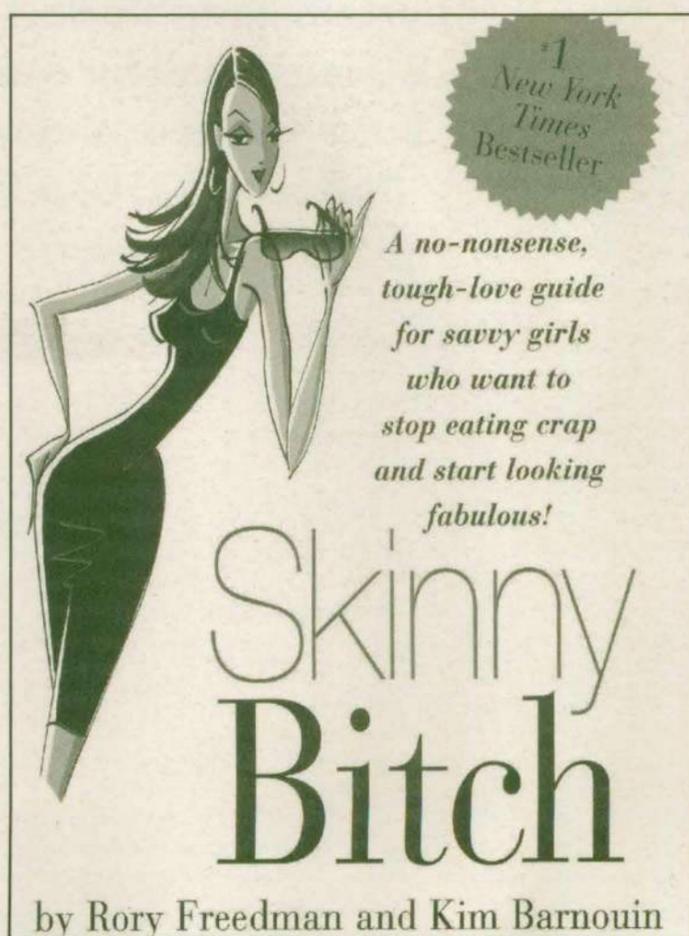
The section on factory farming definitely is a shocking one. It rightfully exposes the exploitation and cruelty towards animals.

The final chapter of the book, titled "Let's Eat," is filled with a variety of vegan friendly foods. The authors provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner food lists, along with acceptable "junk food."

The book's message is heard loud and clear. The author's knowledge and strong conversational quality makes for a great attempt at getting young women to stop eating crap and start looking fabulous.

The authors of "Skinny Bitch" pull no punches in presenting the vegan lifestyle.

Running Press Book Publisher/
Courtesy Photo



Mariah Carey finds perfect equation with 'E=MC2'

Diva delivers hits with new album

Alex Hoggard
Staff Writer

"E = MC2" just might be the best formula ever created.

Mariah Carey hit the real high note with her newly released album "E =MC2." Carey made a smart move opening the album with the unstoppable T-Pain, hitting the track and adding that extra hit-maker sprinkle to the song "Migrate."

Carey hasn't made any wrong decisions when it comes to the outcome of this album.

The brilliantly mixed and matched flavor of each song blends so nicely and makes it an easy listen.

There's something for everybody on this CD from pop, reggae, the love ballads to an edgier club banger featuring Young Jeezy.

This is a great look for Carey and an honor for Jeezy because "Side Effects" is a hit that's soon to be played on ring tones and Myspaces.

Fans thought that Carey took the cake with the love ballad "We Belong Together," a single off "The

Emancipation of Mimi," Carey's 2005 CD; that people thought was as good as she could deliver. However, they were wrong.

Carey must only have taken a slice, because she has delivered an even more grown up songs like "For the Record," "Stay in Love," and "Last Kiss" that truly take the cake and introduces her music to a more adult fan base.

"E=MC2" is just another reason why Carey is an artist that can truly stand the test of time.

Carey co-wrote and produced 14 tracks on the album, including the fun and flirty song that's

crushing the radio scene "Touch my Body." This track lets fans see another side of this R&B diva.

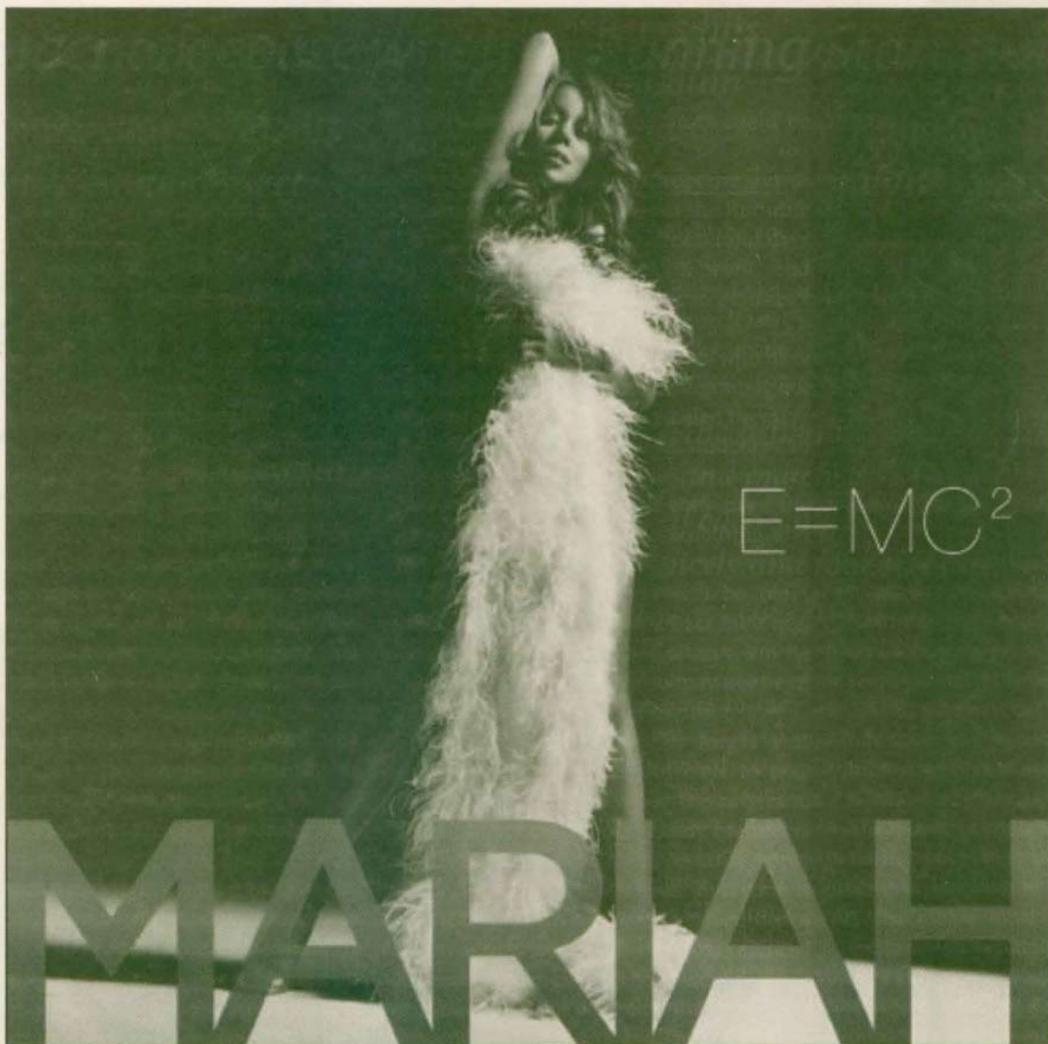
Carey also had top names working side by side with her to make this a successful slam dunk, including Jermaine Dupri, Scott Storch, T.I and Kanye West.

"E=MC2" is a fun, funky listen that ends on a serious note. Carey shows that even on top she can still be humble and forgive those who have done wrong to her.

Carey ends this album with an uplifting note, "I Wish You Well," letting go of the past and sincerely wanting solidarity.

If this is the formula for success, then Carey should share

"The brilliantly mixed and matched flavor of each song blends so nicely and makes it an easy listen."



www.amny.com/Courtesy Photo

Mariah Carey recently released her latest album, "E=MC2," adding to her impressive resume of chart-topping hits. The new CD also includes songs featuring T-Pain and Young Jeezy.

her secrets with other artists. Einstein or not, Carey's latest CD "E=MC2" is one album that is

going to be a hot summer listen. From clubs to late nights, "E=MC2" is a diverse listen that's

soon to have everybody mixing up formulas.

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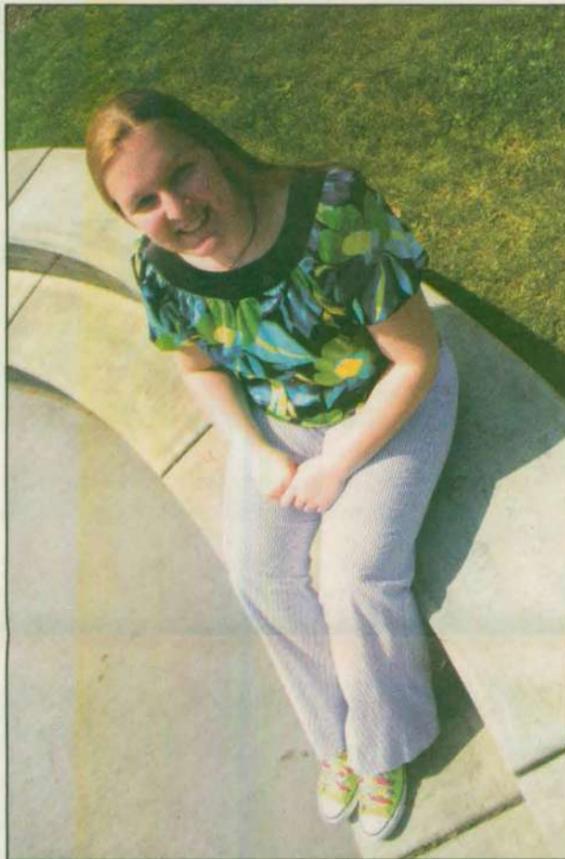
The elections only have one candidate per position this year, but they still need your vote. In order to be elected, five percent of the student body (about 500 students) have to vote for the candidates.

My name is Samantha Fletcher, and I have been attending GRCC for two years now. My major here at GRCC is Criminal Justice, and I plan to transfer to Washington State University after next year to continue my criminal justice education. I have been on the ASGRCC Student Government here for two years now, serving on both the By-Laws committee and the Finance committee.

After two years representing students as an ASGRCC Senator here at GRCC, I have come to realize that the dynamic we use to represent the students hasn't changed much since my first year as a senator. And, to be completely honest, the dynamic didn't work my first year, and it isn't working this year.

I want to bring change and new ideas to the representation of students. I am the candidate that will make the dynamic new, innovative, and involve all students in the process of

President: Sam Fletcher



Sara Olson/Staff photos

decision making. I feel that in order to represent the students we must know the

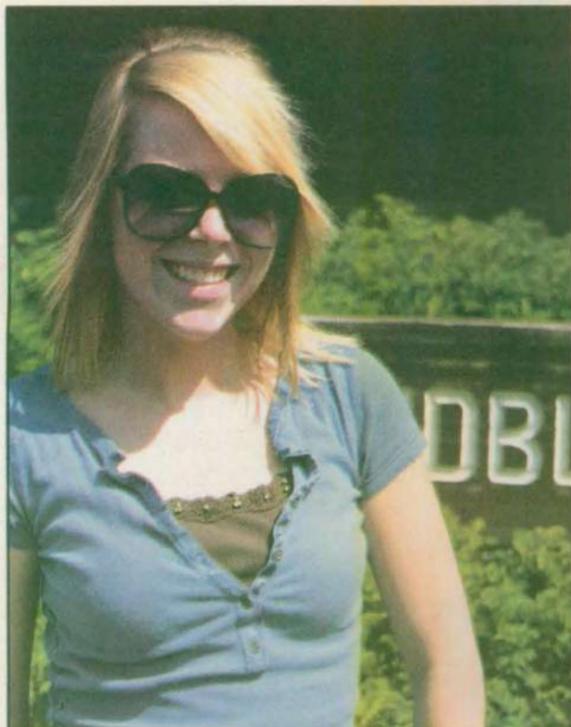
students, that is why, if you vote me for your ASGRCC President, I will strive to

make a positive change on this campus, with all student input being heard and considered.

My Qualifications for the position of ASGRCC President:

- Two years on the ASGRCC Student Government (By-Laws and Finance committees)
- 2007-2008 Criminal Justice Club President
- 2007-2008 Wrestling Club Secretary
- 2007-2008 Star Student in the Criminal Justice Division
- 2 years as a Tenure Committee student representative
- 1 year on GRCC Signage Committee
- 1 year on GRCC Tech Fee Committee
- 1 year on GRCC Multicultural Equity Council
- Co-founder of the GRCC Campus Safety Focus Group (Student Led)
- In-Depth knowledge for the position

Vice President: Allison Newton-Moore



I'm Allison, and I'm really excited to be running for Green River's Vice President for the 08-09 school year. During my three quarters here, I've really come to love Green River as a little community. As vice president, I really want to get students more aware of activities happening on campus, so people have an opportunity to become more involved. More activities should be open to a larger range of students.

Involvement in

leadership positions is something I've been doing since junior high school. I've been class secretary, DECA representative, a dance team officer, assistant coach, and 4-h club president.

I think I'm pretty well qualified for a leadership role at Green River. I hope to make students enthusiastic about attending Green River so that everyone has an equal opportunity to enjoy their time as a student, no matter how or short it may be.

The elections take place May 5-7. Booths will be located in the library, tech center, SMT building, and Lindbloom Center. Students also can vote online at www.greenriver.edu.