

The Current

Green River Community College



Despite late season win, Gators fail to make playoffs

Multiple losing streaks hamper Gators all year, as team finishes in last place

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May 21, 2012 | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GREENRIVERCURRENT

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Comic-con dance

Most recent Green River dance pays tribute to the nerdier side of dress-up

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Capturing family emotion

The drama dept's latest is a mashup of the weird and wild sides of family issues

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Faculty member admits to embezzlement

English Instructor resigns, admits to taking over \$6,000 in union funds

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Gator Choice card is net positive

New financial aid system works to the benefit of the school and students



Comic-Con Dance

By: Rachel Sant
Senior Writer

Robin from Batman paced the second floor of the Lindbloom Student Center, peering over the gambling tables. Along the stairway, Star Wars' Yoda made his way past the Gator Grill. Pokemon Espeon, Umbreon, and Blue danced on the lower floor as "Party Rock Anthem" echoed through the building.

On May 4, 2012, Green River hosted its first Comic

Con Dance in the Lindbloom Student Center. The dance was loosely themed on Comic Con International, a comic book convention held in multiple cities around the country every year. Since its 1970 origination, Comic Con is now very large. According to BBC news, the San Diego gathering had more than 130,000 people in attendance in 2010. From this, Green River's International

Activities Team, led by Lori Kim, found inspiration.

Lindbloom's main dining hall was decorated with posters of characters from both anime and comic books alike. The main dining area served as the dance floor, lined with chairs for those exhausted from dance. Lights of all colors flickered along the walls of the dark room, beaming from the DJ's stand on stage. A shining green background set the scene for permanent photographic memories.

The dance attracted a variety of characters. Stormtroopers from Star Wars patrolled the dance floor.

Hoops and Yoyo from Hallmark joined them shortly after, along with Wonder Woman from DC's All-Star Comics. Kick-Ass wandered the edge of the room, watching the crowd. All of these characters became part of Green River.

When not on the dance-floor, games and food gave the dance's attendees plenty to do. In the side dining area, a large table provided food for the resting guests, including pizza, sandwiches, fruit kabobs, and cookies. Large tabletop dispensers of juice and coffee supplied drinks. A casino in the upper section of the building gave the guests many games to choose from,

including 21, Blackjack, and 5 Card Stud.

As the dance came to a close, both students and heroes needed to return to their responsibilities. Green Lantern had task to fulfill from the "Guardians of the Universe." Batman returned to his home in order to rest up for his next patrol. Darth Vader had his own business to attend to as well; the Death Star doesn't run itself. And, of course, homework is just an evil that no student can ever hope to escape, even at Green River.



Teacher Spotlight: Richard Ferro

Position: Professor of Anthropology
Time at Green River: Since 1990

Why did you become a teacher?

Probably a better question is why did I become an anthropologist. One of the things that anthropologists often do is teach, when they are not doing research.

I think I actually wanted to be an anthropologist since I was 17-years-old. But I didn't really think I had an opportunity to do so.

I actually grew up working construction. I was in my late twenties when I actually decided to start going to school and trying to be an anthropologist.

What is your favorite memory in teaching?

I think it's a type of memory because it happens over and over again. There are certain times when you get a class that just clicks with what you're talking about.

They become interested with what you are talking about and begin to ask questions and you see those little lightbulbs going on there, and I like that. That's what keeps me going.

What do you see yourself doing in the future?

Well, I am of an age when my future plans have actually started thinking about retirement. And I'm not so sure what I am going to do in retirement but I might want to do some more research that I haven't been able to do since I have been teaching.

I'm still interested in how people adjust to new circumstances.

So you have population movements and people move to new countries, new cultures. Some people seem to adjust easily while other people have more problems. And that's what I'd like to look at.

Can you describe your teaching style?

Since the classes that I teach are pretty large, um, a lot of what I do is lecture.

I can't take a class of 40 students out to the field and try to do cultural anthropology so we talk about cultural anthropology. I think what I like to do is to talk about a certain concept and then tell stories about it, because I think students remember the stories and, by remembering the stories they can remember the content.

What do you like to do when you're not at work?

As a teacher, you're still at work oftentimes when you go home. How many hours I spend here don't reflect how many hours I work. I still have class prep, I still have grading. But also I have a lot of reading to do to keep up in my field.

If I'm not doing anthropology, I like to hike. I love to hike the cascades [or] the Olympics.

What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

Climbing into my sailboat one day and deciding to sail to Alaska for the next four months.

I just kind of did it on a whim.

One of the good things about being a construction worker was that, at that time you could always find jobs. So you could work and make some money and then not work and go play for a while until you run out of money.

I was in South East Alaska. [I] Sailed up to Juneau and Glacier Bay, down to Ketchikan, Petersburg.

Who is your biggest inspiration in life?

I'm kind of partial to Thomas Jefferson. Quite frankly, but you know it's not somebody obviously that I know, it's somebody whose writings have influenced my thinking a lot.

Even though at some point old-fashioned these days, I still believe in the values of the enlightenment. I still believe that the world operates by rational rules; that we can figure some of those rules out, that we can make decisions based upon that.

What has been your worst experience as a teacher?

I'd have to say that the worst type of experience is when you watch somebody who really tries to do this, and fails. I have lots of students who don't try.

When you watch somebody really try that is stuck and not be able to grasp the concepts for whatever reason, that's difficult for me.

So that's not an experience; it's a type of experience which I see once in a while. Most people can get it though.

Do you have any interesting stories from Green River?

It's been interesting to watch the evolution of this college over the past twenty something years.

When I first came here, most of the older faculty had been here from when the college started. Most of them had been high school teachers, had masters degrees when they came over here.

So I've watched the college evolve, become in some ways a lot more professional than it was. For example, in this department more than half of our faculty has Phds.

But, in terms of interesting stories, some of them I'm probably not

at liberty to talk about. They are about other faculty.

You got your socio-cultural PhD and you studied Cubans in the Pacific Northwest, is there a reason why you specifically chose that?

Yes. I had been studying refugee movements in Latin America for some time. I had been looking at some Central American republics, and I had visited Central America Republics in the 1980s when they had a lot of warfare going on.

But, in 1990 I had a son and became a family man and decided that I would start teaching full time... but I still hadn't gotten my doctorate at that time.

It was difficult for me to go down to Central America all the time and so I decided to do a research project that was closer to home.

What other kind of careers can anthropologists do other than teaching?

Only about 50 percent of people that have PhDs in Anthropology go into academics. The other 50 percent work for a lot of different arenas.

A lot of people who are archeologists work for the states. For example, if you build a road you're going to have to have an archaeologist out there in case when you're digging something up you come across perhaps an indian site, the archeologist is going to have to stop the project and look at the site first. Biological anthropologists are working all over the world in areas of forensics and areas of certain kinds of medical practices. But, cultural anthropologists also work in medical practices as well as working in developmental projects around the world.

Man on Street



What class would you recommend taking at Green River?

It would be AMES (American Minorities and Ethnicities in Society). I would tell someone to take the AMES class just because it gives you the history of America and oppression that people had to go through.



Horton Charles

I would recommend taking Archery because it is a great way to get out your weekly aggressions by shooting arrows onto targets. Plus, that feeling of accomplishment when you finally hit the bullseye is amazing!



Anna Muhich

The Automotives. Electrical course. Why? Because I'm having loads of fun in it right now. I've taking half a dozen classes here and it has definitely been my favorite so far.



Terrence Jones

I would recommend taking Philosophy 240, which is introduction to ethics with Ty Barnes. You can figure out what your own views are on life and gain a new level of understanding about yourself



Eric Cahoon

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.

Newly elected Xavier Malone looks ahead

Future president of Green River's student body hopes to raise awareness of events and government

What is your birth date?
Sept 20th 1990

How long have you been involved in Student Government?
I joined in February.

Do you think it will be difficult to balance your time between your marriage, school work, and your commitments as student body president?
Currently I'm still trying to get everything back in equilibrium. It's been thrown a little off balance just with my marriage and all last quarter, and this quarter I'm still stabilizing that all. I'm sure by fall quarter I'll be prepared.

What are some changes you want to implement on campus in the 2012/13 school year?

My overall goal as student body president is to bring everyone a little closer together than they otherwise would

have been. Just do various programs and the works I would be doing would be geared towards that vision.

How do you plan to get students more aware of and involved in student government?

I want to say is going to be easy but the easiest goal on my agenda is to make students aware of student government through promotions, public relations. People don't know about it because it's not being advertised well. Government to me is essential, and it doesn't work unless everyone is doing their part and people are taking part in it.

What is one thing that you think GRCC's student government can really improve?

I feel like they could improve by reflecting the student body in a better situation. I understand being a student; it's busy and so

forth. But when you take up a role, when you say I want to be a Senator for the student government, you represent the student body.

You need to do that. You need to speak up. Even if you don't feel strongly about that cause, you still have the duty to speak for the many thousands of students who go here.

What is something you'd like to tell students; to further help them know and trust their student body president a little better?

I want them to know about me. I am a perfectionist at heart. So whatever critiques, praise, whatever critics have to say to me, I'm already thinking it.

So I just want people to know they have someone in there who is reflective who understands, you know if I miss up, how I fix it, how I do better to improve and make

this not happen again. And also to understand that this is new to me. I would say I don't have the full experience or resume to be student body president, but I am committed and my heart is in it. This is something I want to do. I feel like I would be reflective of what the students want. You can best believe that I am going to work for the students I represent.

What are some of your ideas for events?

I have a great idea, maybe it's possible...to have a certain open mic day maybe on Wednesdays during the lunch period. I understand there is a nice amount of art going on around campus I would like to see more, honestly.

Also I wanted to set up a bi-weekly or monthly fundraiser where we set up some type of group in student government, strictly for the 522-budget (the budget that student government is in control



of deciding who gets what basically – that gives funds to everything for student life).

What do you think about the current state of advertising for different events and clubs around the campus?

I feel like we need to figure

out how to advertise to people who aren't looking for those actives. It seems like the people who are looking are always going to find it, but we want to catch those people that aren't involved in student life at all or rarely. That's the thing; we need to figure out how to reach them.

Bathrooms without labels

Week of gender-neutral bathrooms will mix up tradition

By: Kally Bieber
Campus Editor

Going number one. Taking care of business. Dropping one. They all mean the same thing: using the bathroom.

We all have to do it, so the bathroom should be a place where one feels at peace and not be expected to be harassed, as many from the LGBT community have.

But that is not okay. "No one should really be getting harassed in bathrooms" said Shaan Wade, an organizer of this event. "You're just there to pee."

To help prevent this harassment, for one week starting June 8, five different bathrooms around the Green River campus will be labeled as "Gender Neutral". This means that gender will not play a role in which bathroom one may use.

For example, those who

associate themselves with one gender, but are socially seen as another, have a place where it does not matter who is considered what.

Both the 'female' and 'male' restrooms will be labeled. Changed restrooms include: The Lindbloom Center (Floor 1), Salish Hall, (Floor 2), The Holman Library (Floor 1), the Technology Center (Floor 2), and The Marv Nelson Science Learning Center (Floor 2).

These rooms will be posted at least a week in advance with a sign explaining this "Gender Neutral" concept.

It's expected that many won't be interested in changing their ways.

"A lot of people are just going to keep to their gender because that's what they know. Wade explained. "They're not even going to pay attention. [But] I at least have a separate group of people who are like 'we're doing this'".

Much of this unwillingness to change is lack of knowledge. Gender Neutral isn't about taking away the 'safe place' that is one gender's bathroom, it is about making a safe place for those who never had one in the beginning.

Gender-neutral bathrooms in colleges are becoming more and more common throughout the U.S. Such as in Seattle at the University of Washington.

Green River is taking this step because of the high population of queer and gender non-conforming people in this area.

The Queer and Allies community is working on making gender-neutral bathrooms mandatory for all buildings built in 2013 and after throughout all 34 community and technical colleges in Washington.

"It just make[s] more sense to me." Wade said.

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Also on the Inside

"No spots are guaranteed for next season and McKay will be looking for a little bit of everything..."

Thomas Peterson **Page 14**

A&E

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May 21,
2012

Capturing emotion of a family breakdown

The pressures of our modern world push the family of August: Osage County into a dark, scandalous world

By: Imana Gunawan
Staff Writer

"This is the way the world ends..."

This line from T.S. Elliot's poem "The Hollow Men" will be the final bang of August: Osage County, a dark comedic play by Green River's drama department, which opens on June 1, 2012.

The plot begins with a father's suicide. In the wake of his death, the rest of his dysfunctional family come together. When scandals happen and secrets are revealed, all hell breaks loose.

"[The play is] really about the breakdown of a family, and the effect of drugs and alcohol on many generations," said Robin Bowles, drama instructor and director of the play. "If what they

say is true—that family is the basis of society—then this play is, in microcosm, the implosion of our society, as represented by this family."

Written by Tracy Letts, August: Osage County is a contemporary piece which features a multifarious set of characters of different ages and personalities, all trying to overcome different obstacles in different ways.

"I don't think there really is an antagonist [in this play], character-wise," said Kanya Iwana, one of the cast members. "I think the antagonist is just basically [occurrences] that you face in life."

Aside from the diverse and challenging characters, Bowles chose August: Osage County for Spring quarter's Rehearsal and Performance

class because of its contrast from William Shakespeare's The Merchant of Venice which was produced last Winter quarter.

"Every year [I would like]

"The truth is, everybody will relate to this family in some way [...] If an audience member relates to this family in every way, [then] they need to move out"

classical, I wanted to do something very modern and this is it."

In addition, Bowles also chose the play because of its well-written script and

Robin Bowles, Drama Teacher,
Director of "The Hollow Men"

to do a contemporary play, a classical play and a third play," Bowles explained. "Since Merchant was so

action-packed scenes, one of which happens during the climax of the play.

"There's one enormous

brawl at the dinner table, we're talking a fight...then in the third act someone gets clobbered in the head with a cast iron skillet," said Bowles. "This play is nothing if not dramatic."

However, Bowles noted that viewer discretion is advised.

"We don't recommend it for people under 13...there is pervasive adult language in this play, and there's simulated drug use and some real sexuality in this play," Bowles explicated. "It's kind of creepy actually."

Upon being asked about audience reaction, Bowles expects a mixed response:

"I think that some people will be scandalized by it; I think that some people will find it a great comedy [and] I think that [others] will

find it very meaningful."

Seeing how the storyline is drenched with substantial issues such as alcoholism, drug use and even incestuous relationships, it is hard to think that the play will be anything but meaningful.

"The truth is, everybody will relate to this family in some way," said Bowles. "If an audience member relates to this family in every way, [then] they need to move out."

Ultimately, when opening night comes one can expect to be knee-deep in talented actors, shouting matches and witty dialogues, along with a sprinkle of faux pas here and there. All this and more, delivered in a bucketful of dark humor.

We're Rolling

PLU's Rolling Admission means there are no application deadlines.

- Free online application at www.plu.edu/transfer.
- Scholarships & financial aid still available for Green River transfer students.
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Contact Emily McCann,
Assistant Director of Admission,
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The Beat Generation

Are films about the Beatniks ruining their legacy?

By: Nathen Geriene
Staff Writer

In post-WWII America, there was a counter-culture that arose among the poets and novelists, led by folks like Jack Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, William S. Burroughs, and also their wild friend, Neal Cassady.

This group of mad writers who inspired one another in their own sector of society are known as the godfathers of the "Beat Generation" and were simply known as the Beats, or Beatniks (a play on words, that joined "Beat" with "Sputnik", implying that they were communists.)

Kerouac's book, "On The Road" became a voice of the youth in the late 50's and early 60's.

A poem called "Howl" by Ginsberg, broke new ground for the poetic movement that was stirring, and Burroughs' controversial book, "Naked Lunch," displayed a new method of novel writing that heavily influenced musicians like

Jim Morrison, Iggy Pop, Ian Curtis, and Kurt Cobain.

For the past 60 years, directors have been making documentaries about the Beats, and on occasion, movies based off their books and lives.

In 2007, a biopic of Neal Cassady was released. The film was based on Cassady's life and how he became entombed by the character he inspired in "On The Road". However, his family cited the movie as being highly inaccurate.

In 2010, James Franco played Allen Ginsberg in the movie, "Howl", which revolved around his experiences during the time he wrote his famous poetry book of the same name.

Unfortunately, they made cartoon comic type sequences during the reading of his poem, which ended up spoiling the film.

With two disappointing Beat biopics, many people are skeptical of the upcoming adaptation of Kerouac's "On The Road".

It will be directed by

Walter Salles, the man who directed "The Motorcycle Diaries" and will star Daniel Radcliffe of Harry Potter fame. The question on most people's minds is, will this new endeavor be able to capture the spirit of the "Beat Generation"?

"On the Road" is a very complicated book that is completely up for interpretation by each individual who chooses to read it.

One must read Kerouac to fully understand Kerouac; just as it is with Ginsberg and Burroughs.

To watch the stories they told in a cinematic format is too light, too unexplained, and too superficial.

Is a film capable of totally ruining the identity of a writer or poet?

Could it take away from their sense of genius, and make them seem like a daft individual who was just shooting in the dark; that they were never that brilliant to begin with?

*Contributions by Bailey Jo Josie

Concert Calendar

May 21	WE ARE SERENADE @ The Crocodile (Doors open at 8 p.m., all ages, \$10+)
23	Narrows @ El Corazón (Doors open at 7 p.m., all ages, \$10+)
24	Dylan Jakobsen @ El Corazón (Doors open at 6:30 p.m., all ages, \$10+)
	Roger Waters presents The Wall @ Key Arena (Doors open at 8 p.m., all ages, \$77+)
	Dita Von Teese Burlesque @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m., 18+, \$35+)
25	Voltaire! @ El Corazón (Doors open at 8 p.m., all ages, \$15+)
26	MxPx @ El Corazón (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$15+)
	Down North @ The Crocodile (Doors open at 8 p.m., all ages, \$8+)
28	TEAM STARKID @ Neptune Theater (Doors open at 7 p.m., all ages, \$62+)
29	An Evening With Hilary Hahn & Hauschka @ Neptune Theater (Doors open at 7 p.m., all ages, \$35+)
30	Michael Monroe (Hanoi Rocks) @ El Corazón (Doors open at 7 p.m., all ages, \$15+)
31	Marvin Hamlisch's American Songbook @ The Seattle Symphony (Doors open at 7 p.m., all ages, \$29+)
	The Rocket Summer @ El Corazón (Doors open at 7 p.m., all ages, \$15+)
	Shear Madness @ Moore Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m., all ages, \$40+)
1	KISW'S BJ SHEA COMEDY RIOT @ The Paramount Theatre (Doors open at 8 p.m., all ages, \$79+)
	Michael Stagliano @ El Corazón (Doors open at 6:30 p.m., all ages, \$12+)
	ZEKE @ El Corazón (Doors open at 8:30 p.m. 21+, \$10+)
2	Tim Barry and Kevin Seconds @ El Corazón (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$10+)

MOVIE REVIEW

The Avengers are (marvel)ous

By: Jeremy Siregar
Assistant Editor



Comic fans rejoice, for Marvel has indeed pulled off a marvelous feat! Six heroes, five movies, delicately packed into the singularity of "The Avengers". It's the epic lunchbox every kid wanted, reinvented into a modern innovation.

When Norse god of mischief, Loki, threatens war on Earth, SHIELD Director Nick Fury calls on super-soldier Captain America, master assassins Hawkeye and Black Widow, demi-god Thor, the unruly Hulk, and billionaire Iron Man - the Avengers - to take on Loki's army of alien warriors, the Chitauri.

Initially, the main concern of the Avengers movie is the number of main characters. Captain America, Thor, the Hulk, and Iron Man all have their own separate movies already; heroes Hawkeye

and Black Widow also share the stage without individual films. To combine five different movies into one is no simple feat, one that Marvel has successfully achieved. All six stories were equally distributed.

The film successfully captures the different characteristics of all the heroes and keeps them balanced so that no hero outshines another. Captain America's innocent naivety of the modern world, Thor's love and faith for Earth, Bruce Banner's (Hulk) split personality, Iron Man's egotism, Black Widow and Hawkeye's shared history; every single personality was portrayed without fault.

One thing the movie lacks flavor in is plot. It is straightforward and has no unexpected twists. However, what the movie is without may not necessarily be a flaw. The numerous main characters are enough to keep the movie interesting. Should a plot twist be placed, it might overwhelm



Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), Captain America (Chris Evans) and Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) make up half of the Avengers in this superb Marvel movie.

the audience.

The Avengers is an intense, action-packed film lightly wrapped with comedy. The action scenes do not fail to disappoint, giving the viewers exactly what they were promised: a war between alien invaders and Earth's mightiest heroes. With Manhattan as their battleground, the Avenger's teamwork proved to be a sight worthy of praise.

Even with all the intense fighting buttered by comedy, expect to be rolling on the floor laughing or slapping a buddy. Due to

excessive laughter, candy or any small sized snacks are ill-advised if choking is to be avoided.

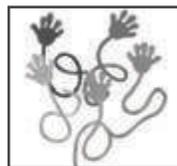
Marvel's The Avengers is definitely a must see film of the year. This is not a movie where the audience is required to think, or a movie that leaves a craving for true love. The Avengers is a movie made to be enjoyed, and it will bring the kid out of any mature adult.

Rated: PG-13
Director: Joss Whedon
Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Samuel L. Jackson

The Current Picks

WEBSITE/APP

AStickyHand.com



By: Kally Bieber

Sometimes we must remember the simple things in life. Things such as: playing with a Barbie doll, Play dough, and the infamous sticky hand.

As we grow up, so do the our childhood toys. As-tickyhand.com is bringing the sticky hand back using technology of today.

The sticky hand follows the movements of one's mouse, grabbing on to the sides of the screen.

Powered by Coca-Cola, this site contains hours of mindless entertainment, and an everlasting sticky hand that never gets stuck to the dog, covered in dirt, or stuck in mom's hair.

MOVIE

Throw Momma From The Train



By: Bailey Jo Josie

Inspired by the Hitchcock classic "Strangers On A Train", "Throw Momma From The Train" stars Danny Devito is a wannabe writer named Owen who hates his overbearing mother. Billy Crystal is a disgraced writer named Larry who hates his wife ("Sleaze! She's a slut!")

In a mix-up that mirrors Hitchcock, Owen "takes care of" Larry's ex-wife and blackmails him so he will kill Owen's momma, a grotesque, irritable woman.

This 80's cult classic takes murder and brings it to a hilarious and absurd level; all I can say is, thank God for Danny Devito.

BOOK

Bad Moon Rising



By: Jeremy Siregar

Like the earth and the sky, a Katagari and an Arcadian do not mix. Fang Kattalakis is a Katagari wolf who falls in love with Aimee Peltier, a human capable of transforming into the form of a bear.

But not just any bear; an Arcadian bear. The two have been cursed by the gods, which results in years of dispute between their two contrasted species.

Also, Fang's former clan wants him dead and demons are lurking at every turn.

Like a sci-fi/fantasy Shakespeare production, "Bad Moon Rising" tells the tale of two lovers and their discovery of a clash between the earth and sky.

MUSIC

The Last Five Years



By: Asha Johnson

"The Last Five Years" is an award-winning musical soundtrack based off of the composer's (Jason Robert Brown) failed marriage.

It's about five years between two lovers told from each perspective, but independently of the other, as the guy (Jamie) starts off singing of the first time they met, working his way up to their departure, and the girl (Kathy) begins singing of her feelings after Jamie leaves her, then backwards to their first meeting.

This music is an artistic rarity that will not only be left stuck in your head for weeks, but make you reflect upon our own relationships.

Where brush hits canvas

Artistic, accomplished and vibrant: Jessica Olsen is awe-inspiring

By: Emma Wilder
Staff Writer

A fresh 20 year old is taking flight into the realm of creation, emotion and artistry. Jessica Olsen is beautifully spirited, voyaging through a world of imagination.

Upon meeting Jessica in the library, she was designing a stunning piece; a sculpture of the human body performing an intricate yoga pose. If she is not working on her artwork, then she is at her job in the library or putting all of her effort into schooling. With many art awards under her belt, Olsen is definitely dedicated to what she loves.

The style of this intellectual girl ranges from watercolor and oil paintings to sculptures and computer design. She feels that she needs to have a taste of her own experiences.

"I don't want to have

an opinion about a style of art until I've tried it myself," says Olsen. Her freeing experiences with art encompass the love of expressing herself, the love of realism and an enjoyment from the emotional responses of viewers. She has a promising future with passion booming through each pore.

Olsen's ingenuity sparked a rush of imagination at an early age. Broadening her horizons, she devised science projects and entered into art contests, where she won a Juror's Choice Award at 17. This exploration helped Jessica figure out her niche in art paradise.

Behind the creator is a solid foundation of a loving and abetting family; tied in with a strong Christian background. At a comfortable home, Jessica finds exactly what she needs.

"The more people I get to know, I realize how rare it is to have the support in your

family and the more thankful I get for my family," said Olsen. Her parents, Ilene and Thomas, and brother and sister, Jeremy and Julia, support Jessica at their humble abode.

Both of Jessica's parents are pastors, while her brother is on his way to the same destination. Jessica is very involved in her church and volunteers regularly. Her religion reflects through her paintings and drawings, with pictures of Jesus and numerous word references.

In 2009, Jessica entered into art competitions at the North West Fine Arts Festival, where she won two awards: Visual Art, 2-dimensional, Excellent rating and Visual Art, digital photography, Superior rating. This was the beginning of a bright future for her.

Olsen worked her way to Green River through Running Start and is currently in her third year, with the Youells Visual Art Scholarship on her side. She is working to receive two art certificates; Inter-Disciplinary and Studio.

With the help of courses on campus and hard work, her artistic side has been revolutionized.

Olsen is currently enrolled in an Artist Portfolio course, where she has put together a professional portfolio for her future as an artist.

"A lot of that is just woven throughout my art," stated Jessica, while talking about her family, friends and religion. The composition that is created by the hands of Ms. Olsen is talented and heartfelt.

Jessica's artwork is about to be featured in the Auburn Art Walk and in the True Beauty Women's Conference, hosted by Sumner Family Church. The exciting and refreshing opportunity will push her art into the direction it needs to go.

It does not end there; the big picture keeps on becoming bigger. Next, Jessica plans to attend Bellevue College for their personal training program in the fall and winter, to become a personal trainer on the side. She will be leaving Green River with her AA degree and two art certificates. Find out more about her future in art at her website, www.jessicaolsen7.com.

After obtaining her immediate goals, Olsen plans to achieve her Masters in Fine Arts, in order to become an Art Professor, and eventually receive her Pastoral License.

Where big dreams meet perseverance, this star artist makes hers come to life.

Is it by mistake or design?



WHEN THE MUSIC'S OVER

Bailey Jo Josie

There's something mystical about Lana Del Rey that makes me increasingly obsessed with her new album, titled "Born To Die"; maybe it's the controversy that surrounds her, like her fake lips, her nervous and awkward performance on Saturday Night Live, and this odd accusation that she isn't a real artist; only a rich girl who got her daddy to buy her a record contract.

Or maybe it's the fact that as I listen to her album for perhaps the 60th time since I bought it (give or take), I find that she has one of the most interesting singing voices I've heard in recent years and that I can't resist it.

She doesn't have a perfect voice, but she does have beautiful one - seamlessly counteracting between a low end range that gives her a smoky, sexy Nancy Sinatra/Velvet Underground vibe and these unique high notes that falter a bit, as if they bring her a psychological beating.

Which they very well might, judging by her depressing, poignant lyrics.

The opener of the album ("Born To Die") greets us with a gorgeous strings intro, which is followed quickly by a slow churning hip-hop beat, flanked by Del Rey's throaty voice which pulls you into the song, like a siren's song to an unfortunate sailor.

The lyrics lay themselves out delicately, determined and melancholy:

"Feet don't fail me now/
Take me to the finish line /
Oh, my heart it breaks, every step that I take /
But I'm hoping that the gates, they'll tell me that you're mine."

The rest of the song continues this way; she sings of lost love that perhaps should

never have been found to begin with. She begs someone not to make her sad, not to make her cry, yet she still holds onto this mysterious lover - despite admitting to herself and them that the two were "born to die", as in were never meant to be.

She sings the song so dramatically though, that you believe her literally when she drops her voice and heavily breathes, "You and I, we were born to DIE." Her intensity is a little off putting, but it makes me beg for more.

Luckily, the rest of the album lives up to these haunting expectations. From "Off To The Races" to "Diet Mt. Dew", she sings of her insecurities and dependence of love.

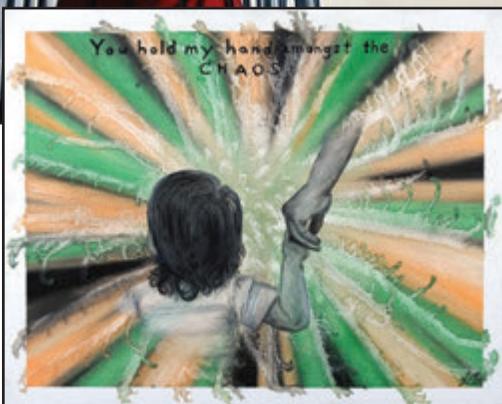
"...these unique high notes that falter a bit, as if they bring a psychological beating."

Again, her lyrics are dramatic (at times, even melodramatic) and she maintains her hip-hop beats infused with orchestral arrangements which makes her self-coined sound "gangster Nancy Sinatra" make complete sense.

This brings me back to the accusation that she isn't an artist. I don't understand this, I really don't.

Miss Del Rey writes her own songs, sings them live no matter what (seriously - she will sing them no matter how odd and low her voice may be sounding live) and she really does have a good voice. It's kind of a thin voice, but it still has character and demands your attention.

What I think makes me appreciate Lana Del Rey though is her ability to humble me when I become judgemental towards music (anyone who is super passionate about something IS going to be a bit of an elitist); she reminds me that not all artists are the same, and that there is talent in the beautifully tragic.



Photos courtesy of Jessica Olsen



SUN RAYS & ROCK 'N' ROLL:

Your personal summer concert guide

Summertime is everyone's favorite season, what with the long days, somewhat warm nights, booty shorts and the golden privilege of sleeping in, especially for college students. But there's another part of summer that makes it one of - if not the best - season: music concerts and festivals.

Wonderfully loud music, the experience of your favorite artists' performances live; these are the ultimate joys of outdoor concerts. However, there are always things that can make a presumably good time within a crowd of strangers turn into a bummer.

For the past two summers, I've worked as an usher for the White River Amphitheatre in Auburn. And believe you me, I've seen good times go bad real fast, and sadly, the main cause is usually ignorance or inconsideration. Nobody's perfect, but I think that when it comes to music (and also paying an upwards of \$50+ per ticket), people should just try and show some respect and watch their manners. We're all here for a good time anyway, right?

That's what I thought my first day on the job was going to be back in 2010: the gig was Summer Jam and it was an absolute eye opener to concerts from a worker's perspective. It was an all day festival which featured Drake, Jason Derulo, The Game, Rick Ross, and some other acts. My job was to help people find their seats and make sure they had their tickets on them the entire time (so they could get back to their seats if they leave them during the 20 minute set changes), along with general customer service.

Little did I know that for the majority of the day, I would get yelled at by obnoxious teenagers, help stop and prevent fights, keep people from smoking in non-smoking areas (a near impossible feat, but hey, it's part of the job to be a wet blanket sometimes) and putting up with the rudest and most

discourteous people for an upwards of 12 hours.

It was a pretty radical night that taught many things, considering I almost got fired for telling off some spoiled bitch.

As the summer progressed, my gigs for the Amphitheatre quickly became better - I moved up to ticket scanner at the front gate and the rest of the night, I was stationed where I made sure people didn't sneak backstage or into the pit area; I even got to hang out near the box seats during Rush's Time Machine Tour show (one of the best shows I've ever seen).

But as I was learning and growing as an employee, I still noticed the venue "guests" (that's what we are encouraged to call attendees) would be either at a loss for what to expect from a concert, how to prepare for spending a day at an outdoor amphitheatre. I guess it kept me from losing a job as an usher, but still, it would be nice to see people take some initiative and find out AHEAD of time that they can't bring a weapon to a concert and forego the need to verbally abuse me, the humble little usher. Luckily, there are ways in which one may be able to prepare themselves for a day at the White River Amphitheatre (or any venue for that matter) and I can be your guide in this preparations. Some tips for attending a concert and having it be a success and a grand ol' time are:

Written and designed by Bailey Jo Josie

1. Know what you can bring BEFORE you leave home

People sometimes bring ridiculous things to concerts; pillows, beach balls, etc., etc. But there are many items that are NOT allowed into concerts (like deadly weapons), however, the particular items that are allowed vary from place-to-place. The safest bet is checking their website beforehand. You're better off doing this, than getting your bag searched (which security will do) and having to take something back to your car.

2. Be nice to the workers

Security guards, ticket scanners, booth workers, food vendors, ushers: these are the people who help the concerts run smoothly, and they can make or break your good time; it all depends on you. Always be courteous and respectful and who knows? You might just get to sneak into the front row based on your charming demeanor. But guaranteed, if you have a bad attitude, you won't get far.

3. Prepare for the weather

This is such an important part of going anywhere outdoors that it seems crazy that people might need a tip for it - but they do. I've seen people wear the most ridiculous outfits, from old biker ladies in flabby leather halter tops, to teenage boys in painfully tight jeans; people just don't know how to dress for the weather. Either they will wear bikini tops and short shorts for a hot day and then freeze once the sun goes down, or someone will bring blankets and pillows to bundle up with, and then end up just carrying around a huge bag filled with useless items. Bottom line is, wear something appropriate to the weather, bring a backpack with a light sweatshirt and a small blanket (especially if you have grass seats).

4. Keep your ticket with you at all times!

Duh.

The Undercurrent

Now accepting staff nominations

By: Shane Lange
Assistant News Editor

The Staff Training for Technical and Community College organization is now accepting nominations for their annual Exemplary Staff Award.

This award is for staff members who excel at their position and are dedicated to the goals and missions of their institution. They should also be devoted to bettering the institution as a whole.

A nominee must be a permanent employee of the Washington State Community and Technical College system and anyone is eligible to nominate a college staff member within the organization.

Green River is distributed in region E along with six other community and technical colleges. The Exemplary Staff Award will be received by one nominee from each region within the state.

Nominations can be submitted until May 24. The organization's board is then going to select award receipts and notify the winners by June 15.

Green River has had two staff members who have won this award in the last decade.

Welcome new director of facilities

By: Kyuyoung Cho
Staff Writer

Green River's new Director of Facilities Michael LaMontagne will be replacing Tom Weisweaver, starting June 1. LaMontagne has been serving the community for more than 22 years.

Prior to coming to Green River, LaMontagne gained his first experience in Facilities by working as a Facilities Manager at Harvard for 10 years. He raised \$2.6 billion that went towards Alumni Affairs at the school and administrated new policies and procedures to streamline processes that helps enhance efficiencies.

In LaMontagne's most recent job he served as Director of Facilities, Securities, Risk and Fleet Management at Time Warner for a decade. He was in charge of 1,400 employees from California to West Virginia and responsible for over 100 properties.

"Michael brings a wealth of Facilities and Emergency Management experience," said Rick Brumfield of Vice President for Business Affairs in a press release.

2012-2013 ASGRCC election results

By: Shane Lange
Assistant News Editor

The 2012-2013 Associated Students of Green River Community College president and vice president election ended with 1104 votes received.

For ASGRCC president, Xavier Malone won with 698 votes against Ying Xuan Bi. Only one person campaigned for vice president, Yu Sato. Voters were asked whether or not they wanted Yu Sato to fill the position and won with 1046 votes.

This is the first year that students were entered into a drawing by voting. Voters were entered to win a \$300 gift card for the Paper Tree Bookstore. Additionally, \$1,500 was spent on candy to hand out to voters.

Since this promotional tactic managed to draw voters, students should expect to see it repeated next year. The largest voter turnout in student body's history was 1157 votes.

Faculty member admits to embezzlement of staff funds

English professor Phil Jack admits to mistakes and prepares to move forward

By: The Current Staff

Phil Jack, former head of the union representing college faculty and a long-time instructor in Green River's English division, has admitted taking more than \$6,000 of union funds.

An audit of the United Faculty (UF) bank accounts confirmed that Jack had misappropriated \$6,200 over a period of about 18 months, according to a statement issued by the UF. It also said a prorated portion of an overpayment

made to Jack when he was UF president was added to the amount owed.

Jack told union officials he used the funds to pay for, among other things, gambling debts and says he is now getting counseling for gambling addiction.

Mark Millbauer, president of the UF and an instructor in the Trades Division, said elected officers of the UF are bonded, and that the bonding company will reimburse the UF for the entire loss of membership funds taken by Jack.

Several members of the UF board were contacted by *The Current* for further comment, but all declined to be quoted publicly.

Based on written reviews on the Rate My Professor website, Jack is highly regarded by the students of Green River, and has been called one the best professors on campus. Jack has been an instructor at Green River for more than 13 years and has been an active writer for 32 years. He is also a published author.

Jack has worked as a part-

time instructor in two different states over a course of 20 years. 10 years of his part-time teaching was spent at Green River and, in 2008, was hired as a full-time instructor for Green River's English department.

Jack also holds the title of being the only "part-timer" to have been elected to a position such as head of the UF in Washington state.

In an unrelated development, Jack resigned effective the end of this quarter to return to his home state of Colorado.

MAY/JUNE HOLIDAYS

May 21 - Waiters & Waitresses Day
May 22 - Buy A Musical Instrument Day
May 23 - Lucky Penny Day
May 24 - Escargot Day
May 25 - Tap Dance Day
May 26 - International Jazz Day

May 27 - Sun Screen Day
May 28 - Memorial Day
May 29 - End of The Middle Ages Day
May 30 - Water A Flower Day
May 31 - National Macaroon Day
June 1 - Dare Day
June 2 - Flip A Coin Day
June 3 - Repeat Day



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Congratulations

to these Green River students who have been awarded the \$17,000 per year Provost Transfer Scholarship at Pacific Lutheran University!

Sheri Hunt
Ali Ahmad

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PLU

New vice pres. of instruction

Derek Brandes looks forward to a great future with Green River

By: Niclas Bergh
Staff Writer

Derek Brandes, the new vice president of instruction starting on May 1, shares his vision in developing and improving campus life on Green River.

In this position, Brandes will oversee six instructional deans who support the planning, implementing, analyzing, and evaluating efforts within instructional divisions that encompass Green River's three core themes: transfer, professional/technical and basic skills.

"Dr. Deborah Casey, the Vice President of Student Services and I will also work closely together to address issues that impact students," Brandes said. "I want to be aware of students and focus on them in the decision-making and considering how those

decisions affect students."

Additionally he will work with local school districts to deal with the faculty union and their contracts and to make sure the college meets the state's enrollment quota in obtaining adequate funds. he will also play a central role in raising funds and developing the college's budget.

Brandes was a Communication major at Washington State University. He believes that his education will serve him well in his job.

Along with his degrees, Brandes first started building up his experience in student retention at Columbia Basin College in Pasco, and later became Dean of Career and Technical Education and interim dean for health science.

Brandes found a love in community college. He saw many students who didn't think they could graduate,

and wants to help motivate them to success.

"Seeing that people overcome these difficulties and go through with their education, that's the reward," he said. "When I saw that for myself, that's when I got hooked on to community college. This is where I can make a real big difference."

Among all programs at Green River, the one that drew for him is the Running Start program. He was also impressed with how Green River tried to switch to open source textbooks to reduce costs for students.

"I thought these ideas were good, so I started getting all these different pieces saying that Green River was a very innovative campus," Brandes said. "There were also things I was interested in from a professional standpoint, so that's why I decided on Green River."

Minimum grade change

Green River's minimum passing grade is increasing from .1 to 1.0

By: Kyuyoung Cho & Spencer Paulson

Coming into effect summer quarter 2012, Green River will begin mandating a grade of 1.0 or above for passing credits, whereas grades from 0.1 to 0.9 will no longer pass students.

The Washington Direct Transfer Agreement, a statewide transfer credit policy which requires a 1.0 minimum passing grade, was adopted by most in-state four-year universities. In order to follow the agreement, Green River decides to adapt to the same standard by setting 1.0 as the minimum grade requirement.

"We need to be in compliance with the Direct Transfer Agreement," said Denise Bennatts, director of enrollment services.

The policy was originally agreed upon in 2006, the

school computer system has been unable to handle the change, delaying the change. A web-grading program, called "Instructor-Brief Case," makes the new policy possible.

217 students received a grade between 0.1-0.9 during Fall quarter 2011. These students would not have passed the class with the new policy.

"We never change the history of students' permanent records," said Angie Brenner, Credentials Evaluator at the enrollment services, who clarifies that this policy change will not have an influence on existing students' grades.

While the policy change seems to tighten the grading rules, some faculty members don't find any difference. "In my class, it is usually pretty rare to get the minimum grade," said Kathleen Loucks, a Com-

munication teacher. Loucks believes that faculty might take a generous path in giving students a 1.0 because of their limited option between either a 0.0 or a 1.0.

Even if the faculty had a choice assigning grades lower than 1.0, which Bennatts said that they do not, some students vote on the raise of academic standards.

Green River student Arianna Valentine-Lopez, upon being told about the change, said it was probably a good policy.

"It is good for people who take their classes seriously because it raises the standards," she said.

Some, however, think that this change will not have a huge impact on students' study incentive or decisions in picking classes. One student, Cindy Miu, believed that there isn't a big difference between a 0.7 and 1.0.



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EDITORIAL

Despite protest, Gator Choice card is positive

The Current identifies the Gator Choice card as a benefit to students as long as they pay attention

Editorial Board: Jacob Jagodinski, Asha Johnson, Sean Rockey, Bailey Jo Josie, Kally Bieber, Olivia Mok, Dylan Whitcher, Thomas Sørenes, David Caldwell

Ideas of ingenuity rise and fall. One of these clever schemes just happens to be the "Higher One" financial aid MasterCard, or as Green River students will soon call it, the Gator Choice Card.

Many students attending college use financial aid. As a way to support students needs, the Gator Choice Card acts as a new instant access card that allows students to attain their loans on the go, while at the same time replacing the traditional debit card, making student's financial life more simplistic. Yet however grand this idea might seem, people should be warned about what could happen with it. So what could embracement of the Higher One card into the lives of Green River students possibly mean? The Current feels that this new digital format could have a positive effect.

Strangely, such organizations as The Washington Post and The Denver Post have reported that in many instances students across the nation have had troubles with Higher One.

One of these troubles happens to be its hidden fees. Students have stated that every time they enter

their PIN code to make a purchase, they must then consensually give in to an extra withdrawal payment of 50 cents to Higher One. But supposedly, the fees have become avoidable, as Mary Edington, director of financial aid at Green River points out.

"Don't use it like a debit card... it costs you fees," said Edington, "but by swiping it and then signing for it, there is no fee." Edington went on to say that since the Higher One method has been around long enough, students have not only learned how to avoid fees, but Higher One itself has worked to make them less prominent.

Also, students -- including those who don't use loans -- have reportedly been driven toward this new option as a reassurance for their future, and for the future of Higher One's customer growth. The Washington Post stated that at Portland State University, students are required to accommodate this card even if they do not have it activated.

Since Higher One is not popular amongst many students, major universities

and community colleges across the nation have experienced protests against Higher One. In response to the student's disdain, the schools will commonly purport that this new card not only helps the students financially, but it offers supplementary money.

But as Edington put it, these problems are avoidable, seeing how it is likely that students will adopt the Gator Choice Card.

"Those who are electronic will love it. [Students] will get [their paperwork] done on time, they will be registered, their money is right there and waiting, and they are not standing in these horrendous lines," Edington said on why students will embrace the card. And even those who do not wish to embrace the card will still be able to use the conventional option.

"It's how you get your money in the end that is changing." Many of the issues that students have had with Higher One originate from a lack of knowledge of how to use the card. With plenty of letters and emails on the way, students are already being informed on the system.

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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A person commits the offense of publication theft when he or she willfully or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over more than three copies of The Current that is distributed on campus (with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that edition of the publication). A "publication" includes any periodical that is distributed on a complimentary or compensatory basis. In addition to the imposition of other campus disciplinary penalties, a person who violates this provision is

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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.

Good things are soon approaching

The Chief
Asha Johnson

Hello fellow students. I hope you are doing well, because I'm feeling quite good myself. See, a great majority of the year I'm miserably cold, even when fully covered. My vehicle is notorious for always having the heat on, no matter the temperature outside, because I don't feel comfortable until I'm what others would call "near boiling." But this is the time of the year when I feel most at home. I lose the pitiful goose-bumps on my skin and begin to acquire a toasty golden tone (okay, I may burn first, but it eventually comes).

Besides being able to speak without a shiver in

mencement as "over-rated" or a "waste of time," and as I respect their opinions, I have a hard time seeing it like that. There is something uniquely satisfying about celebrating with your peers, friends and family over your achievements.

This is probably one of the reasons I'm so excited for the upcoming WCCJA luncheon. Last year I went with the staff even though I had not been around during the time they submitted material for awards. Though I didn't need to be familiar with the work they turned in to appreciate everyone's hard work and enjoy sharing the moment of recognition between each of us. To be a part of something successful, even though my part was small at the time, was motivating and inspiring.

The power of groups can be very great, and I'm hoping that same feeling of motivation and pride in our team will be left in the

"Dylan Whitcher has been officially chosen to be next year's Editor-in-Chief."

my voice for the first time this year, I also love the approach of summer because it signifies the end of the school year. This year has been especially difficult for me -- not only as a student, but as a young adult -- and to see it finally come to a close is a relieving feeling.

On top of that, I will be participating in the 2012 June commencement. I still have two classes to finish during summer quarter, but those are the final steps I need to complete before I am finally holding my first college degree. Graduating is one thing, but being able to participate in commencement means a lot to me because I was not able to walk with my graduating class in high school. I know some people who view com-

returning students of our current staff. Much like last year, a majority of the staff is graduating after this quarter and will be leaving The Current in the hands of the younger members of the staff, so they'll need all the motivation and drive they can get. It's certainly not an easy task they face once comes fall.

But I am very confident in them and their leader, which I will take this moment to introduce: Dylan Whitcher has been officially chosen to be next year's Editor-in-Chief. This is his second quarter with The Current, for which he's already produced some great work, but I know that his potential -- along with the rest of the returning staff -- is nowhere near limited.

Buying incomplete games piece-by-piece

Day one downloadable content (DLC) seems economically sound but ultimately betrays the fan-base



Commentary by:
Sean Rocky

For a second imagine that you are about to visit a hot dog stand that you are fond of. The hot dogs are decently inexpensive and are high quality. Better yet, if you wait long enough you'll get a discounted lemonade to go along with it, thus enhancing the experience.

As the years go by, the hot dogs get larger and increase in quality, but so does the price. Perfectly understandable: the economy changes and so does the hot dog stand. Now imagine, all of a sudden the hot dog

vendor stops giving away drinks and starts charging extra for hot dog buns; something that should standardly be packaged with the hot dog. Sounds like not only a rip-off, but almost a betrayal to the vendor's previously loyal customers.

Why is it, then, that game companies are capable of withholding items that should be a part of the original product through the form of "day one" downloadable content (DLC)?

According to Electronic Entertainment Design and Research Inc. (EEDAR), downloadable content is most often bought when gamers are actively buying a game, so from a business perspective it makes sense to sell additions to a game when people are just beginning to buy the game. That

said, to most consumers it just looks like the game developer is intentionally withholding data in order to snatch an extra buck or two while still selling the same initial product.

In the past, game developers would often plan to

DLC helping a game's sales and gain popularity even after initial sales is Mass Effect 2's "Lair of the Shadow Broker" additional storyline arc. Released nearly nine months after the game's original debut date and only costing \$10 extra, it added

so, video game companies have begun a trend where they release DLC to a new game on the exact same day as the game itself releases. Although some developers claim that the additional data either "couldn't fit on the disk" or "couldn't have been formatted in time" many argue that it's just another way to milk money from the game's customer base by withholding parts of the game.

One specific company guilty of using day one DLC is -- ironically enough -- the company who helped publish the previous title mentioned, Electronic Arts. In one of their newest games, Mass Effect 3, there was a downloadable pack titled "From Ashes" that allowed a new character to join your group. The extra mission gained from the

pack spans maybe 30 minutes and the added dialogue from the character added up maybe adds an extra 15 minutes. The pack came out the same day as the game itself and cost \$10; the same price of something nearly three times its length if we're comparing it to "Lair of the Shadow Broker" from the previous installment in the series.

In my opinion, if you're going to release over-priced or under-done DLC, at least have the decency to release it a few months after the initial game's release. It might get additional people to buy the core title after the release date, and it won't look like you're just cutting out a small piece of it to sell as an add-on.

Or, you know, you could just put it in the game for free. That's cool too.

At least have the decency to release [over-priced DLC] a few months after the initial game's release.

add content to a game a few months after the game has already been released in the form of DLC; not only to reward loyal players, but to possibly lure in people who have been "on the fence" about purchasing the title.

One great example of

volumes of additional information to the storyline and nearly four hours of extra gameplay. The DLC managed to sell nearly 2 million copies; rivaling the number that Mass Effect 2 as a whole garnered.

In the past two years or

Homophobia among faculty

All faculty should attend "Safety Zone" classes to prevent prejudice



Commentary by:
Noah Goucher

To prevent incidents of prejudice, diversity programs such as Safety Zone should be made mandatory for all Green River faculty.

Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) community have been under fire for years. The problem continues to exist even now in 2012. Homophobia is still an issue that many people have to face across the country, even here at Green River.

Every student is different, and no two people have had the same experiences growing up. This is no different in the LGBTQ community. However, it is generally believed that no matter

how intolerant the students were at one's high school, colleges are more accepting. And that seems to be the case here; at least with the students. At Green River, prejudice seems to come from a different source: the faculty.

Fortunately, there is diversity training at the school, including one specifically designed for diversity in sexual orientation, called Safe Zone.

According to the school's website, "Safe Zone is designed to identify, train and support advocates of the LGBTQ community on Green River Community College's campuses."

While this is a noble goal, Safe Zone does have a setback: it's designed for allies, or people who are already supportive of the LGBTQ community. Safe Zone is not mandatory and is unlikely to attract people who are prejudiced or biased against certain groups.

Prejudice can come in

many forms, ranging from passive-aggressive remarks or outright attacks. While the homophobia has never reached levels of physical violence, it has reached other harmful levels.

Mild examples of homophobia that have been reported on campus include heteronormative teaching (teaching that heterosexuality is the normal, and homosexuality or bisexuality is abnormal). Teachers also have a history of ignoring or failing to acknowledge LGBTQ communities in certain areas.

"There have been many times that I have felt excluded from conversations... because the conversation was centered around issues non-queer white people face," says CLEO Diversity Services Student Coordinator Shaan Wade, who is also president of Q&A (Queer and Allies). "While this is understandable... when I attempted to share my point of view, it was dismissed

and I was insulted."

Worse still, teachers have explicitly stated that homosexuality is wrong. This is highly biased and is the sort of thing that really shouldn't be happening at a secular college.

There have even been examples of housing faculty outing tenants ("outing" is informing other people of another person's sexual orientation without their permission.) Outing can be incredibly devastating, and the fact that it was allowed to continue past one case is unbelievable.

Now, all these examples are pretty serious and must be dealt with. So how does the school handle it? It doesn't.

More must be done to protect the students of Green River from bias and hate. By making Safety Zone mandatory for all teachers (or at least teachers who are reported to act prejudiced), such incidents can be prevented.

"Alternative" music

The alternative music genre is meaningless



Commentary by:
Eli Stredicke

Whoever's been in charge of assigning genre names for rock 'n' roll for the last 10 years needs to be fired.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, rock music has been popular since the 50s and throughout its glorious history, there have been many subgenres introduced into rock 'n' roll, including art rock, experimental, emo, metal, punk, progressive, hard and soft.

Also among these is alternative rock. But what defines this genre?

Alternative used to be what was not popular, odd stylings that were distinctly not mainstream. It was used in the 1980's to describe experimental rock music.

When Nirvana popularized the style labeled grun-

ge, it too was lumped under the alternative umbrella. After that, alternative began to swallow up nearly every subgenre stemming from rock 'n' roll.

But this genre has been grossly misused. Under the alternative genre in iTunes, the bands Coldplay, Foster the People, Kings of Leon and Paramore are listed.

Coldplay has sold 55 million records and in 2005 their album "X&Y" was the best selling album.

Foster the People's song "Pumped up Kicks" has been played on nearly every pop and rock station throughout the year. These bands are not alternative, they are the standard.

RC Cola is the alternative to Coke-a-Cola. Coldplay is the Coke-a-Cola of the Music world.

These bands are not the only ones that don't fit the bill. It has become an obsolete term, and it is time for a replacement.

It really doesn't matter what the word is, but "alternative" needs to be laid to rest.

WOMEN'S FASTPITCH

Cut short, Fast Pitch begins rebuilding

Final winning streak for women's fastpitch isn't enough to make up for multitude of crippling defeats

By: Thomas Petersen
Staff Writer

The Green River Lady Gators' disappointing 2011-2012 campaign has come to a screeching halt.

Despite winning three of their final six games, an eight game losing streak in mid April turned out to be too much for Green River to overcome, who finished with a 5-19 record, last place in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC).

Bringing the season to a close, the Gators won two out of four games against NWAACC West Region Highline and second place Pierce, a definite high point of the season.

Kihani Palmer, Jen Sweet and Cassy Duschel made

the biggest impact on the team, each having a batting average over .400 by the end of the season.

All three finished in the top 15 for batting average in the entire NWAACC.

Bob Kickner, Green River's Athletic Director, recognized the potential that this Gators team had, and at times was displayed throughout the season.

"Well our top four players: Kihani, Cassy, Jen and Sharidan, they were solid every game," Kickner said. "... that was outstanding."

Kickner also complimented first year head Danielle McKay, who is believed to bring a lot of excitement as the program continues to rebuild. "I'm thrilled with what I think she's gonna provide," he said.

By season's end, Green River looked like a team deserving of respect, a team ready to win. "They've come back a long way," said McKay. "Dug themselves in a hole and they started digging out."

Although the fastpitch season is over, McKay is already looking toward next Spring. With sophomores leaving, it's never too early to begin plans for a new lineup.

Due to the team's struggling record, no spots are guaranteed for next season and McKay will be looking for a little bit of everything as recruiting begins later this summer, "a couple more pitchers, a couple more outfielders, and a catcher. Pretty much everything." She said. As

part of McKay's plan for next season, the team won't have much of a break from the action.

Players will get a summer workout plan to prep them for fall conditioning.

And McKay says the plan will be anything but easy, "If they don't do their summer workout there gonna be hurtin'," she said.

With one year under McKay's belt, there will be no room for excuses, as she plans to lead the Lady Gators out of the NWAACC West Region cellar and into the playoffs for the 2013 season.

Head coach Danielle McKay, prepares her third baseman Cassy Duschel as she is headed towards the plate, ready to bat.



Jeremy Siregar | The Current

Standings

West Region

Pierce
Lower Columbia
Tacoma
Clark
Green River
Centralia
Grays Harbor

MEN'S BASEBALL

W	L	Pct.	GB	Streak
22	2	0.917	-	9W
18	6	0.750	4	3W
17	7	0.708	5	5L
9	15	0.375	13	3L
8	16	0.333	15	4L
8	16	0.333	15	2W
2	22	0.083	20	2L

West Region

Pierce
Highline
Grays Harbor
Centralia
Green River

WOMEN'S FASTPITCH

W	L	Pct.	GB	Streak
17	7	0.708	-	3W
17	7	0.708	-	1W
11	13	0.458	6	2L
10	14	0.417	7	1L
5	19	0.208	12	1W

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

GOLF

Golf Gators 'aiming high'

Men and women have an equal shot at winning the upcoming championship

By: Febby Mulia
Staff Writer

The Gator golfers hit it off at the "Home of the Huskies", Washington National Golf Club, preparing for the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Championship coming up.

Green River head coach, Mike Smith, 27, one of the youngest NWAACC coaches, sat in his office feeling optimistic about the upcoming championships.

"This is, I believe, the first year that men and women BOTH have a chance of getting first, second or third" Smith said, without a hint of doubt in his tone.

As this year's season comes to an end, the team continues to impress and has been very consistent.

Students Britney Thurber and Madeleine Ottosson placed first during the last two tournaments at Wine

Valley and Apple Tree.

On the men's side, students Broc Johnson and David Kang continue to put up outstanding scores.

With all these great key players, other players need to keep their pace to lift up the team's overall score.

"Some other people, Danielle Benson, Kevin McCrossin, and maybe Christian Barnes need to have a good weekend for us to have a good team score." Athletic Director Bob Kickner said.

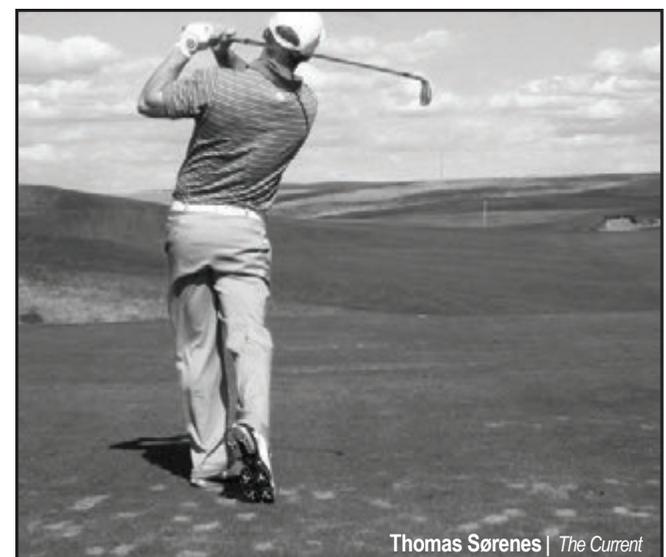
Smith remains unworried despite the high expectations.

"We're getting so good that being in the top 3 is starting to not be good enough, but that's a good thing. We're aiming high."

Continued Smith:

"I'm hoping [the competition's teams] don't play as well as usual, just so we can fly ahead of them because they have a very good team."

Despite the competition,



Thomas Sørenes | The Current

Steve Ireland tees off as he and the Gators prep for the championship.

both Smith and Kickner believe they have the talent to compete with anybody.

"[Broc] always plays well, even on a bad day that kid could probably shoot better than I can. Britney Thurber plays great. Madeleine from Sweden, she's an amazing golfer. She played with a messed up foot last week for two straight days, and she came in second place.

She didn't shoot well but she beat every girl there besides one player." Smith uttered with amazement.

"The program is very strong this year, the teams have been finishing in second or third, and for both teams to have a chance to do very well makes for a very exciting weekend." Kickner said, filled with anticipation.

MEN'S BASEBALL

A now-established team prepares its freshmen

Multiple losses to Pierce College Raiders end a seven-game winning streak; team finishes fifth in division overall

By: Megan Krzyzanowski
Staff Writer

The Gators finished out the season last weekend with two doubleheaders against the Pierce Raiders, who swept Green River in all four games; a disappointing ending following the Gator's previous seven-game winning streak.

Green River finished the season with a record of 8-16 in the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) West Region, placing fifth.

Going into this season with the third coaching transition in the last three years, expectations were set for Green River to gain stability and rebuild a successful program. According to Bob Kickner, Green River's athletic director, head coach Mike Embery stepped up to the plate as the new head coach of the

Gators and did just that.

"It was a successful year in that the players got better, the program has been re-established now with coach Embery as the head coach, and I think we can build back up to becoming a very competitive team very quickly," said Kickner. "A lot of great infrastructure has been put into place now for Green River baseball to rebound."

This season was full of adversity for the Gators.

With a new head coach, less than ideal weather conditions, and numerous injuries, the team had its fair share of struggles.

Both catchers suffered arm injuries early on, which forced outfielder Drew Fosnes to step out of his comfort zone and fill the position. Starting pitcher Taylor Hetrick also suffered a shoulder injury which kept him off the mound for

a couple of weeks.

According to pitcher Roderick Fields, these challenges seemed never-ending: "We had to fight a lot of adversity on the field with different teams and different coaches," he said.

"It was hard because we weren't the same team we were last year, it just wasn't us. The way we played wasn't the only factor, having only one coach who had to do everything was hard too. Most other schools

have a hitting coach, pitching coach, etc., but we only had one guy."

However, Kickner believes this adversity has only proven to make Green River a stronger, better team with its increasing ability to place sophomores into positions at four-year institutions as proof.

Taylor Hetrick will be attending and playing for Oklahoma State, Quinn Hawkworth and Kyle Rogers will be playing for Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina in the fall. These are just the first of many decisions that will be announced.

"This is another successful sign of the program when the players advance beyond Green River," Kickner said. "I think this season has been a good step forward for the baseball program and we're looking forward to next season."

Over all, this season's challenges and triumphs have been numerous for this young group of athletes, but the focus is now shifting to the current freshmen who will be stepping up into leadership roles as soon-to-be sophomores.

"We need to re-establish a belief in ourselves so we can improve," said Kickner. "We missed the playoffs this year and we can rationalize it and figure out why that happened, but we need to make a plan and move forward."

With their heads held high and another season in the books, the Gators look forward to the 2012-2013 season with excitement and anticipation.

"It was a solid year. Our record was disappointing, but we will learn from this, we have a great group of freshmen, and we move forward to next year."



Freshman Quin Hartman and Sophomore Quin Hawkworth trot off the field after a disappointing inning for the Gators.

Thomas Sorenes | The Current



Personalized support meets affordability, flexibility, and seamless transfer at state-endorsed online university.

Ken Kinloch's associate's degree and university certificate only got him so far in his career in the technology field. When it was clear he needed his bachelor's degree in Information Security, Ken looked to the state's only nonprofit, competency-based, accredited online university.

At WGU Washington, Ken advances through his program by demonstrating competency in degree subject matter rather than logging hours in a classroom. He balances school and a full-

time job thanks to the one-on-one support of his faculty mentor, Mariah (pictured above). And as a graduate of a Washington community college, Ken transferred his credits seamlessly into his WGU Washington program.

"As a nonprofit, the cost was right," Ken says of the flat-rate tuition, less than \$6,000 a year for most programs. "Well within my budget. And the program also includes industry certifications. I can apply the skills I'm learning on the job."

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Sheri Hunt
Ali Ahmad

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Competition and Karate in full force

Green River's Karate team brings home an astounding 14 trophies at Shorin-ryu Open to start off the month

By: Dylan Whitcher
Sports Editor

The 39th Annual Shorin-ryu Open was held on May 5, at Mill Creek Middle School in Kent, WA. Green River won an astounding 14 trophies at the event.

Jessica Gray placed first overall in Kata (form of martial arts) and first in Kumite (sparring) for the female intermediate division.

Ian Mugo placed first in Kumite, while Carlton Maxwell finished third, both at the beginner level. Nhan Huynh placed in two different events, second in Kata and fourth in Kumite, also at the beginner level.

Charles Nguyen placed in three different events which include: second place in Kata, third in weapons and third in Kumite; all events were in the competitive Black Belt Division.

The Green River Karate team is led by Sensei James Penor, who has been teaching Karate at Green River

for nearly 20 years, starting in 1994.

Penor has accumulated over 100 trophies during his Martial Arts career and has trained with the very best that the sport has to offer. He is a fifth degree black belt and started his own organization, Unified Shito-Ryu Academy, located in Kent and Bellevue.

With the team's 14 trophies earned at the Shorin-ryu Open, excitement is high for this young group of skilled martial artists, which is believed to stem from a tournament that Penor holds at the end of each quarter at Green River.

"I believe their [students] comes from knowing that I hold a quarterly tournament for each quarter of my Karate class as an incentive to work hard." Penor mentions

The quarterly tournament features both individual and team competitions, which according to Penor brings the "team" concept into an individual

type sport.

At the end of the event Penor awards three trophies for the team and individual medals.

This year's individual quarterly competition will be held on June 5, with the team sparring competition on June 7, both at the Green River gym from 9-10 a.m.



(Names left to right) Top photo: Tony Arashiro, Charles Nguyen, John Gaugh. Bottom left photo: Jacob Legus, Tralayna Haslett, Garth Ward. Bottom right photo: Daniel Robbins, Amber Aupiu, Sazurice Williams. All pose for their trophies earned at the tournament.



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