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# THE CURRENT

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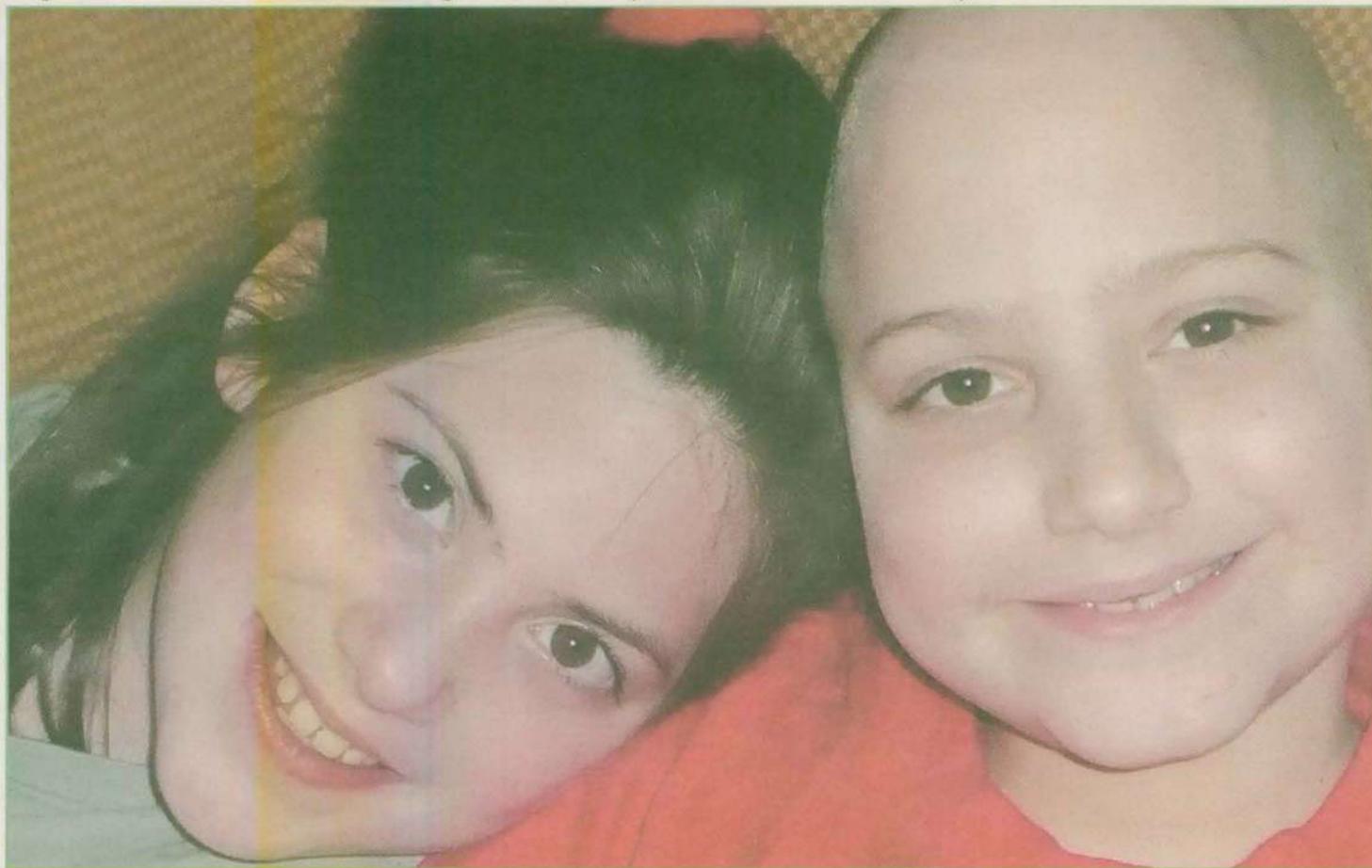
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## Blood drive on campus needs students to participate

Puget Sound Blood Center is coming back, and they need students and faculty to donate blood and marrow



Courtesy Photo/jakeswar.com

With the help of students donating bone marrow it can save a child's life.



Courtesy Photo/dailyuw.com

Graduate student at UW, Dan Gestaut, donating blood at a Puget Sound Blood Center drive last winter.

By: Lindsey Williams

Puget Sound Blood Center (PSBC) is hosting another blood drive at Green River. The last drive only brought in about 40 donors, hopefully this time there are more volunteers.

Students and staff can give blood on a walk in basis; PSBC will be in the Glacier room of the LC from 8AM to 5PM on the 18th of November.

Donating blood takes less than an hour from check-in to check-out, and past donors have said the fear of the pain is quite a bit worse than the actual feeling. Also, they give free juice and cookies after donating so donors get a free lunch while saving lives.

Analee Dunn, a TRiO advisor, donated for the first time at Green River's summer 2009 drive, "it was way easy, and it doesn't hurt... You have to look at the big picture, its probably the easiest thing you've ever done to help people."

This season, PSBC is also asking students to

join the Be The Match Registry (BTMR). This is fairly easy to do; giving a swab from a cheek is all that's required. Be The Match is a national bone marrow registry that thousands of people depend on.

PSBC is teaming up with BTMR because right now, 70% of people die before finding a donor. Minority groups have an even lower rate of donor matches nationally.

Contrary to popular believe, giving bone marrow is not extremely painful, there is localized anesthesia that numbs the entire area (the hip) during the procedure, and no bone is actually removed. Most donors are back to their normal routines in just a few days.

Natalie Colyer, supporter of BTMR, stated that, "For some reason, people seem to think it involves a spinal tap, that's not even close to what happens."

Colyer goes on to say, "Being a match for a donor doesn't necessarily mean that you will give bone marrow... 80-85% of people merely give stem cells, done with a simple procedure more like donating blood than marrow."

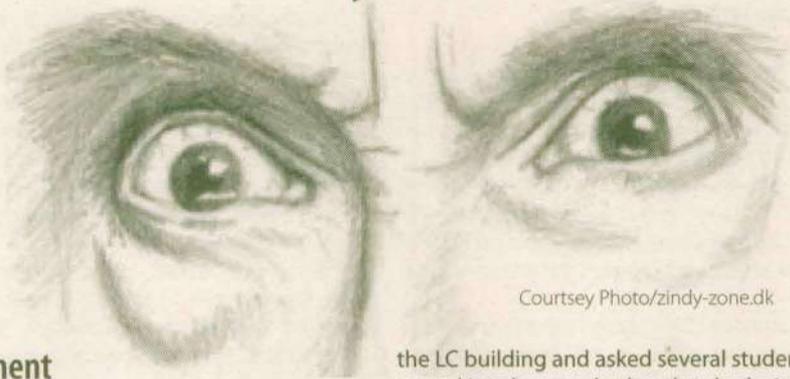
## Did you know?

The average age of students is 22.

GRCC is in the top 20 for international student enrollment nationwide

the T-Man from KUBE 93.3 went to Green River

## Security Blotter



Courtesy Photo/zindy-zone.dk

### Harassment

On 10/8/09 at approximately 1200, victim approached Safety Dispatch to report behavior by another student that was making her feel uncomfortable. Statement from student follows below.

Beginning winter quarter (2008-2009 year) I noticed another student, \*\*\*\*, started following me through campus. For example, I was at the library and he was there; I left HL to go to the Tech Center to find a friend and he followed; we returned to HL to study and he followed me back.

One of my friends approached him and introduced herself in an attempt to get more information and/or get him to back off: his name is \*\*\*\*. He is about 5'2" to 5'3" skinny, always wears green and khaki, white male, black hair short, coke-bottle glasses. Always looks clean (never disheveled).

Now, it's a little different as he is everywhere- if I go to the cafeteria he shows up, if I go to the bookstore he comes in, if I'm at the library or Tech Center he always comes in. He doesn't approach, just walks by time after time starting and trying to make eye contact.

As the behavior has escalated beyond chance encounters, I'm worried that it is more than social awkwardness or something like that, and would like to have it clarified with him what my position is.

### Student Code of Conduct Violation

On 10/1/09, student approached Director of Safety Fred Creek with a flier that had been left on her vehicle. The flier had a list of sexually suggestive "requirements" stating that the author of said list was looking for a "soul mate" and had the name \*\*\*\* with a phone number of \*\*\*-\*\*\*\* listed at the bottom. Creek contacted \*\*\*\*, who indicated that he was not a student of GRCC, however one of his friends was, and identified \*\*\*\* as the probable instigator of the joke.

\*\*\*\* was contacted and scheduled for a meeting with Creek on 10/2/09; during the course of the meeting, \*\*\*\* freely admitted that he had left the flier, with approximately an additional 20 distributed through campus. Creek informed \*\*\*\* that this was in violation with the Student Code of Conduct and would be referring to the case to see if additional sanctions would be pursued.

On 10/21/09 at approximately 1235 S/S Courtney Cysensky was entering the main dining room, LC building, and noted 5 to 6 people looking up at the balcony closest to the KGRG building.

Upon inquiry the group stated that someone was throwing things onto the lower tables, and that someone had spit onto the lower tables as well. Cysensky noted a large puddle of what appeared to be spit on one of the tables in the lunch room.

Cysensky proceeded to the upper level of

the LC building and asked several students seated in the area whether they had witnessed the events; one of the students described four white males as the suspects and indicated they had run into the KGRG offices.

Cysensky was able to intercept the four suspects and returned with them to the AD building, at which time \*\*\*\* admitted that he was the sole perpetrator of the actions.

Director of Campus Safety Fred Creek allowed the other three individuals to leave and spoke with \*\*\*\* who was then placed on suspension from the LC building and informed that there would be a Code of Conduct hearing on Tuesday, 27 October 2009 at 1000.

### Medical Aid

On 10/16/09 at approximately 0735 Safety Dispatch received a phone call reporting that a student was in need of medical attention. S/S Catherine Rose arrived on scene at TC 108 to discover a female student, \*\*\*\*, complaining of pain in the back of her skull and upper neck with dizziness and a feeling of "heaviness."

\*\*\*\* stated that she had been hurrying to find a parking space on campus that morning and had backed into two cement posts at an undetermined speed and although the posts remained upright, the impact was sufficient to cause her injuries.

\*\*\*\* stated that her vehicle, a Ford Focus with WA plate \*\*\*\* was taken by her boyfriend but she had no knowledge of the location of either \*\*\*\* or the vehicle.

\*\*\*\* provided an accident location as parking area P1, east end of Matthews Way close to the library, and the object struck as two yellow concrete pilings. S/S Dan Cronk and Director of Safety were unable to confirm accident location.

Valley Regional Fire Department arrived on scene to provide medical aid and determined that the injuries and symptoms displayed were sufficient to require transportation to a hospital; Auburn Police officer Bernard also arrived on scene to make a report of vehicular accident resulting in injury and possible fleeing from the scene but was also unable to do so based on the information provided by \*\*\*\*.

As Safety was unable to locate the accident scene, the vehicle of \*\*\*\*, who is not a currently registered student, and contact attempts were not successful, a block was placed on \*\*\*\* for registration.

On 10/2/09 at approximately 1005 Director of Campus Safety Fred Creek received a call for medical aid from CCA, unit \*\*\*\*; caller reported that the student in need of aid was completely naked and acting strangely. Upon arrival Creek determined that the victim, \*\*\*\*, was an international student suffering from diabetes and was at the time incoherent. Medical aid was summoned; at 1007 medics arrived to take over medical aid for \*\*\*\*.

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# Why newspapers still matter High pressure and expectations

Commentary by: Mike Gunderson

The internet has created a forum for people of all ages to immediately find any information they need. Whether it is the latest news or historical information, almost anyone with an internet connection can log on and find the information they need.

However, with the continued advancement of technology and the expanding role of the internet in everyday life, society seems to be forgetting the importance of the newspaper.

The creation of the newspaper, especially the penny press in the 1830s, helped to launch the journalism industry.

Much like today, society's fascination with news helped fuel the industry to become one of the most successful of our time.

Yet, the paper news industry is seeing a loss in profits in large part because advertising, which makes up the bulk of most newspapers' income, has been shifting from print to the new media sources: TV news and the internet. This has led to a decrease in revenue for print media.

Many argue that the newspaper is now obsolete because people want to have current, up-to-the-minute news.

Most articles in today's newspapers are usually from the week prior or days prior depending on how often it is distributed.

Many newspaper outlets have had to resort to creating an online version of their paper to keep up with the times.

Some have even completely stopped producing print versions and strictly gone to online news.

This is very unfortunate for many reasons. With some news agencies across the country stopping production of printed news, many

people are left without the daily newspapers they have enjoyed for so many reasons.

Many that had the time to sit down and enjoy the op-eds, crossword puzzles, and their favorite sections or writers now are left without one of their sources of entertainment or information.

Not only does it leave some people without their news, many journalists and editors have lost their jobs as well, further deepening this country's unemployment crisis.

While these writers and editors may have options for employment, the jobs available for online news outlets are limited, therefore leaving a lot of accomplished and experienced journalists jobless.

On a larger scale, the loss of so many newspaper distributors across the country may lead to a decrease in literacy rates.

Some families surely take the time to sit down and read the news, and those who are now left without newspapers are surely not expanding their vocabulary as well as they should.

Many people who are not as well off and don't have a computer or internet connection have lost their source of news, leaving them in the dark in regards to world news.

For us here at GRCC, the loss of "The Current" would be devastating. Although its production is not in jeopardy, one can only imagine what would happen if we were to lose it.

No one would have an opportunity to learn about the many clubs across campus or to keep up on our beloved sports teams.

We would have an uninformed student body, with less sources of entertainment because of the lack of satire articles. We would lose that uniqueness of having our very own school paper. GRCC would become lame, surely not a reputation any of us would like to carry.

Do Green River's Math and English GPA requirements set the bar too high for students?

Commentary by: Kayla Preiss

As if school isn't stressful enough in pursuit of passing classes with good grades, we also have to obtain "acceptable" GPA's in math classes to advance to the next level.

Green River's rule puts so much more added pressure on us to do well in our core math and English classes than in any others, which in turn, increases stress and discourages us more than it helps.

All that should be required is just passing the core classes, so we can advance and so it doesn't affect how long we will take to graduate.

I understand that there must be a standard to meet, but a 2.5 GPA for math? That's a B average, and for most people that is hard to do.

So, we have this pressure to learn new material in two-and-a-half months, but now we also have to make sure we receive a B grade on everything we turn in.

We know that if we don't, we cannot advance to the next level, which slows down the process of graduating.

I asked a couple Green River students about this and overall they think that the GPA requirement needed to pass math classes should be done away with.

They also said they think that just because we don't receive a B average in our classes, doesn't necessarily mean we don't know the material enough to advance.

I know this from experience, and it is very frustrating. I also think that with this added pressure to get a 2.5 GPA, we tend to lose focus on learning the material, and rather we worry about whether the test handed back will say 80% or better, because if not we are screwed.

There is another side to this story, the side of students and/or teachers who think the requirement is a positive thing.

I asked Tyler Stake, a student here at Green River, and he said, "I think kids need that high standard to look up to for math, because it shows them they need to pay attention and take this class seriously."

This is true, but when most students have two other classes to worry about, it's very hard to focus all your energy on just one class.

It becomes especially hard if you're taking other classes that require a certain GPA to move onto the next level.

This requirement discourages us more than it helps, because I know if I receive lower than an 80% on two or tests, I'm likely to not pass the class, and therefore give up, wasting my money.

There is so much emphasis on the grades we receive and not the quality of our work.

I'm convinced that if this requirement is done away with or the GPA requirement is lowered, students will be more likely to succeed in classes, learn the material and feel confident in graduating on time.

**“There is so much emphasis on the grades we receive and not the quality of our work.”**

# Having trouble deciding which university to attend after GRCC?

Commentary by: Kiri Burrige

Choosing a four-year university can be one difficult decision, especially if you don't do extensive research on what a university has to offer.

Transfer fairs, visiting university reps on campus, stopping by the Transfer Center in the Advising Center, and online guidance are all great ways to get information on admissions criteria, applications, tuition, clubs and organizations, sports, housing, academics, available majors and anything else.

Does a Division I school offer a better education than Division II or Division III schools?

After researching the most popular universities among transfer students, I found that larger universities have more to offer.

The University of Washington, a Division I school, features three campuses: UW Seattle, UW Tacoma and UW Bothell.

It has an impressive academic list, including recognizable medical and business programs, and more than 550 registered student organizations, including a Greek system.

UW is also a Pac 10 school, offering a wide range of sports. The average transfer GPA for UW was 3.1-3.4 in 2008. The estimated cost of attendance for Washington State residents is \$20,445, including tuition.

Washington State University is also a Division I school with Pac 10 athletics, more than 40 residential and non-residential fraternities and sororities, and more than 94 majors. WSU requires at least a 2.5 GPA to transfer, and the

estimated cost of attendance is \$22,296 a year.

These two universities are well known not only in Washington but nationally as well.

Eastern Washington University in Cheney is also a Division I school that features many of the same benefits as UW and WSU but costs at least \$7,000 less. EWU also features over 200 fields of study, a Greek system, and a variety of sports and clubs for students to choose from.

So, why do so many students choose to go to UW and WSU over EWU?

I thought maybe location had something to do with it, but WSU is in Pullman, almost the same distance away as Cheney.

I interviewed three GRCC students, who were completing their AA degrees before transferring to the university of their choice. When asked, all three interviewees said they were transferring to UW Seattle.

I asked them all why they chose UW of all of Washington's universities. Zach Jovanovich wants to go to UW for their "amazing engineering program."

Daniel Dills wants to go to UW because "it has the best economics program in the state and it's nationally ranked." Zach and Daniel are over 21 and not looking to go to school for the student

life, but just to focus on their majors.

Jakob Stereng, a 17-year-old transfer student, wants to join UW football or soccer.

"Heck even if I could be the mascot that would be awesome," he said. He is looking for what most college students want: a good school with options.

Central Washington University is a good example of a school that provides a lot of options.

It offers nine other campuses besides the main campus in Ellensburg. Not all of these provide all the majors offered at the main campus though, so it's definitely a good idea to research which campus offers which degrees.

At GRCC's Kent Campus, CWU offers an elementary education degree. This allows people to go to school and keep their jobs without having to move away from family and friends.

Branches of Central also present more age diversity, which can be a reason why adults are discouraged from continuing their education. Central is also one of the less expensive schools in Washington, at about \$7,000 a year without housing. For transfer students with a direct transfer degree, a minimum of a 2.0 GPA is required for acceptance.

Central is a great school for those pursuing a teaching degree because it allows you to get

**“After researching the most popular universities among transfer students, I found that larger universities have more to offer.”**

a great education from nine different campuses.

Washington also offers a plethora of private universities that fit the needs of religion, and academic standards.

Gonzaga University in Spokane offers a Jesuit order of the Catholic Church and high GPA requirements for admission.

Gonzaga is also the most expensive university in Washington, with an estimated cost of \$44,487 a year, including tuition and room and board. Gonzaga does offer financial aid and student grants though to help cover the high cost.

Pacific Lutheran University is another private university. Located in Tacoma, PLU provides a variety of academics and campus life for all. The minimum GPA requirement for admission is a 2.5, and the estimated cost for tuition is \$28,100 a year without fees or housing.

Whether you choose to go to a private or public university, the best way to make your decision is to research all the schools of your interest, visit transfer fairs, and talk to university representatives. Visit your top schools campuses, and apply early.

## University Reps at the LSC:

- Nov 20, 2009: Ari Institute of Seattle at 9a.m.
- Dec 1, 2009: UW Bothell at 9a.m.
- Dec 2, 2009: Northwest University at 9a.m.
- Dec 2, 2009: UW Evening Degree at 9a.m.
- Dec 3, 2009: Pacific Lutheran University at 9a.m.
- Dec 7, 2009: Ari Institute of Seattle at 9a.m.

# MTV exploits our college lifestyle with its new channel, mtvU

The advent of MTV's new channel represents the end of one of the last remaining snippets of our cultural purity

Commentary by: Stephen Dufendach

mtvU is a Viacom-owned 24-hour television channel that is available on more than 750 college and university campuses across the United States, currently this doesn't include Green River. Their purpose is to provide an alternative to normal music television that focuses on artists, issues, news and events that appeal primarily to college students.

Unlike most channels, mtvU is generally unavailable anywhere besides colleges. Special mtvU-only TV monitors are set up in student centers, dining halls, fitness centers, dorm lounges and common areas, and the channel is broadcast into dorm rooms.

Because college students are traditionally one of the hardest groups to market music television toward, MTV has taken it upon themselves to put an end to one of the few remaining pockets of cultural purity, and provide an alternative to *themselves*, that reigns in those financially inconvenient demographics who don't watch enough MTV, and finally get them to watch as much MTV as everyone else.

So what's wrong with that? It's a free market, right? People are offered products and if they like those products, isn't that a win-win situation? Well, not really.

There are so few things left in our culture that haven't been exploited for profit, that the pure, organic climate of college idealism is one of the only scenarios it's very realistic to imagine that a non-manufactured revolution could really develop in anymore.

If only corporations like MTV just had a little more taste, they would leave a few special parts

of American life untouched, just for the sake of tact. But alas, that's just not in their financial interest.

mtvU's disturbing attempt at an "indie" awards show – ironic considering that a large part of why indie rock even exists in its current form is as a reaction to the regional-culture-destroying commercial climate created by MTV in

are cool because they're not on MTV.

Quite possibly the most arrogant moment in music television history could be mtvU's awarding their "mtvU Poet Laureate" distinction to the great and still-living poet John Ashbery.

For such an artistically damaging force as MTV to flatter themselves into thinking that they're actually honoring someone of his stat-

honor have lost their exclusivity in today's society – says a lot about how unable they are to see themselves for what they really are: lowest common denominator peddlers of mind numbing filler.

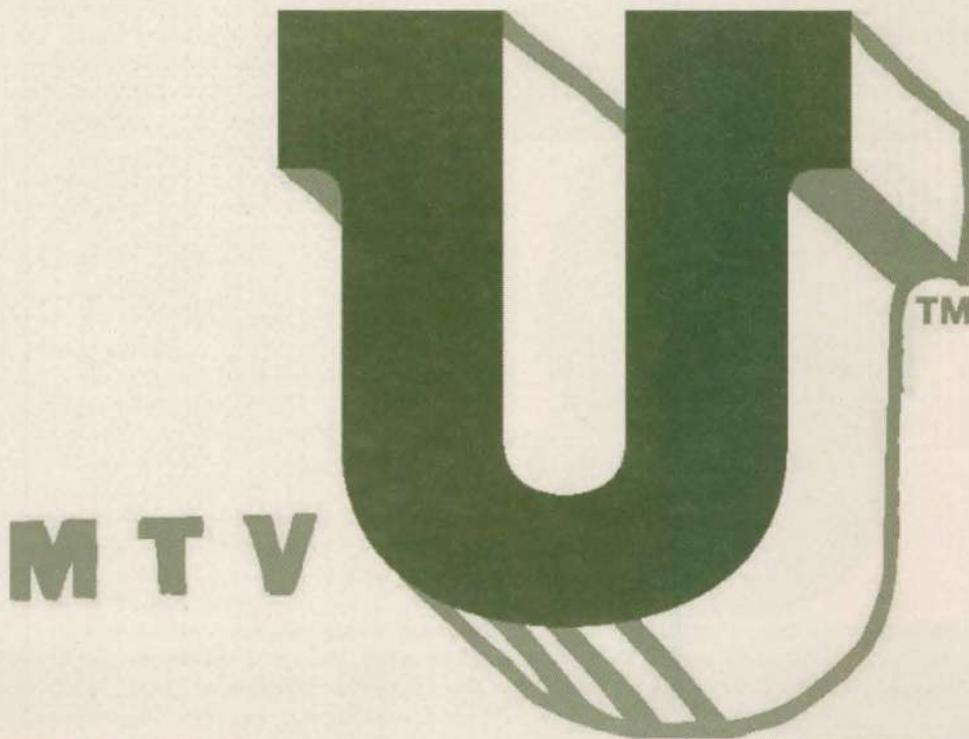
The part that is just genuinely not only troublesome, but nauseating about this new strain of a three-decade-old disease is that with the amount of money and resources MTV has built up over the years, it goes without saying that they can hire enough of the brightest minds in marketing to seamlessly simulate exactly what "indie" and "campus" spirit is at any given moment from now until the end of their reign.

It's not as though other companies can't do that to a certain degree too, but the physically intrusive way that they've planted themselves right into the dorms of the most prominent colleges in the country makes it hard to imagine that in time more students will resist rather than give in to the pressure.

MTV always does too good a job of convincing a certain percentage of young people that their programming is a necessary part of sub-culture.

Can you imagine the iconic moments in 60's campus rebellion happening in a way that was so intertwined with the cheapness of meticulous corporate involvement?

mtvU's insistence on becoming inseparable from grassroots student activism and independent music is going to be a major threat to the ability of young people to utilize the open, non-commercial environment of college campuses to fight the emptiness of the mainstream rather than support it.



Courtesy Illustration/mtvpress.com

the first place – is called the "Woodie Awards".

So far they've featured artists such as Death Cab for Cutie, Motion City Soundtrack, MewithoutYou, and the Subways. You know, bands who

ure – for MTV to think that they even have the artistic credibility to invent their own "Poet Laureate" award, as if it means anything at all except to possibly show how even the most sacred of

## America's democracy of misrepresented peoples

Commentary by: Stirling Radliff

American democracy which we affirm to so patriotically has been diluted to a system barely recognizable as the thing so treasured by its history; and this dilution in our democracy is by way of the powers of the Senate.

There are generally two distinctions to what a democracy may be.

One being a direct democracy, which is literally, rule by "the power of the people." The other being the republican adaptation: representatives elected by the people to make decisions on behalf of those who elected them.

Both of these styles of democratic government enact decisions by majority rule, which themselves are governed by constitutional law.

The question is whether the representative democracy we have is a proper one that acts for the direct benefit of the People, and not for other reasons that may dilute the purposes of our democracy.

Recently, the most crucial and newsworthy topic concerning the United States Government and its People has been healthcare reform.

Seventy-two percent of the people in a CBS poll supported a government-sponsored healthcare plan to compete with private insurance. Seventy-two percent of the people concurrently agreed that it is either "extremely important" or "quite important" that there be a

public option, in any event.

As of the seventh of November, the House of Representatives voted in favor of the public option and other reform issues. Voting concluded 219 Democrats and one Republican for, and 39 Democrats and 176 Republicans against.

Converse to the House of Representatives, the Senate has expressed very clearly that they have no intentions of passing a bill with a public option.

Several occasions like this have occurred in the past: environmental protection acts, for instance.

In contrast to the American style representative democracy, Britain enacts its governance in a much more direct and extreme way than ours.

While the British have roughly 61 million people, altogether they have 1,370 representatives: 646 members in the House of Commons and 724 members in the House of Lords. In America, we have some 304 million people, and 535 representatives: 100 Senators and 435 Representatives.

The British system allows for a more direct democracy, but granted a less efficient one.

And while the British have a similar setup to the one we have: a parliament, like our Congress, consisting of a House of Commons and a House of Lords, whose members are called Members of Parliament (MP's); like our House of Representatives and Senate.

The House of Lords, relative to our Senate, has very little power. For instance, the House of Lords cannot overrule a House of Commons resolution without a general vote by the House of Commons.

Similarly, the House of Lords cannot force the resignation of the Prime Minister (equivalent to our Executive) whereas the House of Commons can, in calling a general election.

This is in addition to the large number of representatives, a more direct approach to enabling the popular opinion of the people of the various constituencies, thus the population as a whole.

That being recognized, I believe that our House of Representatives ought to, by the quick and more direct reference to their constituencies, and the resulting general populace, hold a

**“Our House of Representatives ought to...hold a stronger governing power than the Senate.”**

## The Current 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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# Facebook attacked by students on campus grounds

## Everybody's favorite buddy may no longer be allowed on any Green River campus

By: Sze Nga Wong

A collision took place between two groups of students at Green River Community College last week. The individual who has split the college down the middle is Facebook, who has a book on his face where people leave updates to share their lives.

In order to achieve a consensus, students held a meeting in the cafeteria. The one-third of students who are anti-facebookist are asking Facebook to leave school and never come back, while the two-third facebookists want him to stay.

After the three hours controversy, they still stuck to their own ideas and none of them would give ground.

According to informed sources, the reason of the collision was that a student was kicked out of a class because of Facebook.

A GRCC student, Joanna Hansen said, "My friend told me that a student was found playing with Facebook during his sick leave and then the instructor kicked him out of the class."

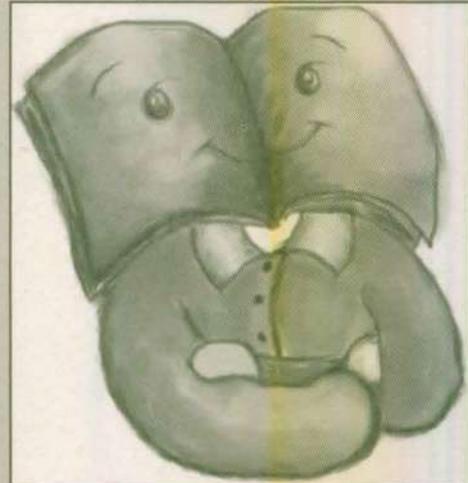
Facebook is not studying nor working at GRCC, but he knows everyone on campus and most people love him.

"Facebook is such a friendly person. I just don't understand how the instructor found out what the student was doing during sick leave," said Hansen. She personally hopes that

Facebook can stay on campus.

Alan Jeffrey, who is a friend of the student, protested, "This was not his fault, He thought Facebook was his friend. How could he betray him?" Jeffrey refused to disclose the name of his friend.

Jeffrey's friend is not the only one. Some other students have had similar experiences.



Sze Nga Wong/The Current

A portrait of everyone's best friend: Facebook! Or so we thought... Some students think differently.

David Tyler recollected, "I told a secret to Facebook one time...The next day, everyone knew it! I don't trust him anymore. He is an ar-

tificial satellite!"

To the accusation of Tyler, Facebook explained, "I feel sorry for him, but I can't help it because people read every message on my face! I can't prevent the messages being read by anyone. Actually, sharing people's lives is my duty."

Although there is hostility between some students and Facebook, more students see Facebook as their best friend.

"To me, he is more than a best friend," said Nina Williams, a friend of Facebook for over two years. "I can't imagine my life without him! I meet with Facebook every day, and he tells me the what's happening with my friends. I even met my boyfriend because of him... Facebook is awesome!"

Facebook walks on the Campus every day. People say hi to him and stop to chat with him. Everyone can leave a message on the face of Facebook, and he loves to share it with others.

Judy Phillips who likes the face of Facebook so much, said, "I leave a note on him always. What a disinterested person... He helps us keep in touch with friends but ask for nothing! Why other people have to against him?" Phillips is a member of facebookism.

However, some students think they do not need Facebook as a channel of communication. Some even think he has affected their friendship and snatched their friends.

"My girlfriend spends more time with Facebook than with me. She doesn't talk to me any-

more... I need to read about her from his face!" complained Jay Brouwer, an anti-facebookist and boyfriend of a facebookist.

"I hate Facebook!!!" cried Maggie Johnson. "My best friend would rather plays that stupid farming game with him than hangout with me... [Facebook] stole my best friend! I know that he wants to divide our friendship so everyone will focus on him."

To the harsh criticism from Johnson, Facebook feels deeply aggrieved. "Hurting people's feeling is such an awful idea... It's never occurred to me!" responded Facebook, his eyes smiling. "I just want to bring joy to everyone."

"He means no harm!" some students who are very protective of Facebook chanted.

The Anti-Facebookism Group is meeting every Thursday wherever they want on campus. They usually walk around while chanting:

"Facebook: Bigmouth!"

"Give me back my friends!"

"Go away, Dumbface!"

Even though there are a lot of voices objected to Facebook, he never thought of leaving. He said, "I will never give up my goal of sharing lives and joys. With everyone."

The Facebookism Group is planning a number of programs to fight the anti-facebookism Group.

Expect that this war won't over for a long time.

# News

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## Have some stud with your espresso

By: Samantha Kootz

Stud Body Espresso, Auburn's first scantily clad male espresso stand, is now open for business.

All the young and buff baristas at Stud Body Espresso are members of the student body at Green River Community College. These men are paying their way through college wearing only small gold Speedos, and a dazzling white smile.

Josh Young, the manager of Stud Body Espresso, says that it was only a matter of time before someone realized that it wasn't just women that could combine America's two great loves: espresso and nudity.

When asked if autumn was the best time to open a business where the baristas are mostly naked, Young assured us that the inside of the stand is heated and "actually very warm."

Women on campus seem to be interested in the idea of the tables being turned and the men being jealous for a while.

"I was against all this nudity in espresso stands but now I get it," explained 18-year-old Janet Weiss. "I can really enjoy the view while I'm waiting for my venti iced triple toffee nut soy latte with light ice and extra whip."

Eddie Mann, 25-year-old science major at GRCC, seems to be most concerned with the increase in competition around campus.

We men have had it good lately," Mann ranted angrily. "All we had to do is wash our hair and wear clean clothes on occasion and the girls were all over us. Now those super hunks are

showing us up!"

Stud Body Espresso will serve only the finest coffee: freshly roasted and flown in from a new exotic area of the world every week. Young hopes the great coffee will bring in males that are a little uncertain about the attractive male baristas.

Brad Majors, also a student at GRCC, refuses to be swayed by Stud Body Espresso's claim to the best coffee in town. He insists that there is no way he would be caught dead ogling at a mostly naked guy.

"It's degrading to all men... Real men do not look like that," Majors added.

Rocky Horror, one of the baristas, insists on wearing his uniform at all times, even to class.

"These girls can smell fear and uncertainty so I want to make sure I'm completely comfortable," Horror explained. "All I want to smell like is tanning lotion and high quality espresso," he states while flexing his arms.

Horror is hoping that by wearing his uniform frequently, he will entice women to visit him at the espresso stand and increase his sales and tips.

A frequent visitor of the stand and a huge fan of Horror's, Columbia Groupie, only has one complaint: they mix the drinks too quickly! "Usually I'm a black coffee type of girl but I try to think of the most ridiculous drink possible."

Groupie insists that coffee is too important to rush and has even been late to class while she waits for the baristas to make the drinks again and again, until they are perfect.

Editor's note: All events and people depicted on this page are fictional. The opinions, descriptions, and stories are not meant to offend, but rather, to entertain. In addition, all opinions are those of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect those of The Current and its staff. If you are still offended, because you are a fragile person, then send your complaints to: ALDKHFGIAE@greenriver.edu

## Thanksgiving cancelled "due to" the recession

In your Thanksgiving dinner prayers, make sure to give thanks to Paris Hilton and Martha Stewart!

By: Alison Melton

Because of the declining economy of this year, Thanksgiving is now cancelled. This drastic decision was finalized by Californian Senator Paris Hilton.

"Why should we have that holiday anyway?" she wined. "All that turkey and stuffing and potatoes only make you 'bloated and loaded'. All that unwanted extra fat and carbs? SO unnecessary!"

So that's it. No mashed potatoes with gravy, no flavored stuffing, no peas, no hot buttered rolls... And no turkey. All of these which make up the popular tradition, are no more.

Did I forget the beloved can-molded cranberry sauce? The use of cranberries of any kinds, especially in sauce, has been banned. The Cranberry Coalition, in addition to the March of the Craisins Organization, released a complaint to Congress, stating that this was disgusting display of 'cruelty to cranberries.'

Both groups wreaked havoc in the city - tipping over fruit stands, throwing three-by-fours into windows, and writing nasty letters to the Oceanspray Company - until they finally got the results they wanted.

Cranberries will continue to be illegal until further notice.

However, we do have other ideas for what to serve as a substitute on this popular holiday, thanks to our very own Martha Stewart. These alternatives were specifically thought of to benefit those suffering from the declining economy as of late, especially all you college students.

There is what she suggests:

"Take a few cans of meaty Spam and let the pieces fry for about an hour. While you're wait-

ing, boil some ramen noodles in a pan - this will be your starch for the night. Keep some canned corn handy and stick it in the microwave.

"Gravy? Don't worry, I wouldn't forget! Instead of that fatty liquid that keeps everyone begging for more, we'll make it healthier by mixing a carton of gravy-flavored yogurt, along with some chicken broth and the remaining spam grease.

"For drinks, it's fruit punch combined with 7-Up for that not-really-identical Martinelli's cider taste. Then comes the best part: serving it to your dissatisfied family! After you finish all that dinner, it's time for dessert! Serve some chips ahoj cookies (no baking!) and pumpkin-flavored ice cream (to substitute that favorite freshly homemade pumpkin pie). And the best part? No leftovers! Doesn't it sound just scrumptious?"

Thanks for trying, Martha.

Although this is sad news for us, it's incredible news for turkeys. Take a big sigh of relief, fellas! This time not only one of you will be pardoned by the president, but each and every one of you! Doesn't it make you feel important?

Auditions for pardoning will be the following Tuesday before the week of the Thanksgiving holiday. (Not applicable in Forks, WA; with the "you-know-who's" living there, it doesn't matter anyway.)

Even popular musicians have been doing their part for Thanksgiving. Miley was seen this last weekend at a benefit concert in Montana (get it? Montana?) singing her latest and greatest hit, "Give Turkeys a Chance." A hoard of the big birds were seen gathered at the event, holding hands, tear-eyed, and raising their lit cell phones to the beat of the noise. It was an extremely moving night for all.

The Jonas Brothers also showed their com-



Kelli Wyatt/The Current

No turkey... No gravy... Thanks, Paris. Thanks, Martha. That's just great. Just... Dandy...

passion by having a donation for the Poultry of America Association. Those who donated could braid Joe's hair, play a game of double-dutch with Nick, or make candles with Kevin.

"We just want to do our part; save the whales, feed the Communists... That sort of thing," explained the youngest bro, Nick, after the concert.

"Anything that could make us look cooler than we already are, we are so there," added the

enthusiastic Kevin.

"Holy crap, my hair!" screamed Joe.

All in all, a number of citizens have been contributing of the kindness of their hearts. And while the outcome may not have been the best, it's the thought that counts. And all in all, even if our beloved holiday is cancelled, there are still many other things to be thankful for, right...?

Right??

## Hippies sighted on campus

A very unexpected entrance brings back the 60's

By: Jeanette Helms

On Friday, October 30th, a band of hippies was discovered living in the trees on and just outside the GRCC campus. Kirby Hoover was walking one of the GRCC trails when he noticed bright, rainbow colors hanging on a nearby tree.

"When I looked closer, I realized it was a hippy," explained Hoover. "He was hugging the tree. Needless to say, I was shocked. That's when I noticed the others hiding up in the branches."

Many people have noticed lately that a lot of odd trinkets - supposedly lost in the passage of time - are coming back. Leg warmers are being sold in malls. 'Bumpits' are giving women 'big hair' without drowning them in hairspray. The Beatles are on Rock Band. But hippies?

A few reporters have established communication with the hippies, and Mossy Maple agreed to talk about their existence.

"The times were harshing our vibes, man," he explained. "The world just wasn't ready for us. So we decided it'd be groovy to like... go back to nature until our time to come back had like...

come."

When asked why they decided to live in the trees on campus, he said, "My soul partner Honey Combes and I were living in her parents' basement by the school, so she, like, knew the forest here was totally far-out."

Another hippy, Smokey Cloud, proclaimed his hesitation to leave the trees. "If we leave now, the man will try to bring us down, man."

But the hippies' time is coming. Even now, the Super Mall is full of stores sporting rainbow accessories, peace-signs, and groovy glasses. "We just gotta wait 'til the world gives peace a chance," said Harmony EnLove. "And someone's gotta be there for the trees, too." EnLove explained the terror she felt when she was forced from her first secret tree-home by the construction happening on the campus.

"They took my home and murdered the trees," she continued, wiping a tear from her eye. "It's tree genocide!"

The construction workers had no comment.

The fate of the hippies rests largely in the hands of the students at GRCC. While some have welcomed the hippies into GRCC society, some



Courtesy Photo/mtholyoke.edu

These groovy hippies just like to have a good time. aren't so amused.

"They're just crazy hippies," said student Jennifer Smith. "I can't believe they even got into the newspaper when there are real problems facing us, like the popularity of Lady Leashes among male students. With hippies in the news, pretty soon we'll be reading about whether or not marijuana should be legalized."

Regardless of the controversy, some hippies are ready to return to the world now. "I think now would be a groovy time to come out of hiding," said Ziggy Zags. "Especially because the Spirit Halloween store is gonna have some

groovy hippy-clothes on sale since Halloween has passed. I'm running out of hemp to make clothes with."

Lennon Johnson, a GRCC forest resident for thirty years, discussed his experience living in hiding, including the many uses they'd found for hemp. "You can make rope with it," he stated.

For now, the hippies are going to remain living in peace in the forest outside GRCC. Maple hopes that any more students who discover them won't judge or ridicule them. "Your mind is like a parachute; it doesn't work unless it's open."

# Do teachers really make enough?

The article written below is from the President of the United Faculty of Green River Community College, Phil Ray Jack. Jack is also an English teacher here on campus. This article is his opinion of teachers and what teachers do.

Courtesy Photo: iStockphoto.com/112141414

**By: Phil Ray Jack**

I have to admit that none of the faculty at Green River became teachers because we thought it would make us rich. We became teachers because we have a passion for learning and for our areas of expertise, but most of all, we became teachers because we want to make a positive difference in the lives of our students.

Of course, most of us did believe that we would be able to earn enough to support ourselves and our families. We believe that our jobs are a noble calling that is important to our society, and we expected to receive fair compensation and at least a little respect. Unfortunately, the State of Washington has fallen short in both of these areas. As of 2007, our salaries ranked just below the national average, and we were at the bottom when compared with the Global Challenge States.

During last year's budget crisis, faculty Cost of Living Adjustments and Increments were the first things to be cut. Two-thirds of the faculty teaching at Green River are adjuncts contracted on a quarterly basis who earn approximately 65% of what a full-time instructor makes for each course. If the highest paid adjunct teaches the maximum number of classes they can, without becoming full-time faculty, their annual salary would be about \$31,000.

As for respect, too often it seems that we are seen more as a problem that needs to be addressed than as highly-trained and educated professionals. Too many people see us simply as "dispensers of information" rather than educators, and too few understand exactly what we do.

In education, we often rely on numbers to describe and assess education. For example, according to the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), more than 460,000 students were enrolled in our system last year. Of those students, 147,721 were either "enrolled in courses funded by grants and contracts with external organizations," Running Start and Contract International students, or "students enrolled in courses funded entirely through fees charged to the students. Of the total number of students, 36% were "students of color," 56% were female, and 4.6% were disabled.

As a community college instructor, last year I had more than 180 students enrolled in the nine 5-credit composition courses taught as part of my regular load. These courses ranged from pre-college level (designed for students who

aren't quite ready for college composition courses) to research-paper courses. On occasion, I may get to teach a Creative Writing or literature course. The difference is that where the state sees numbers, we see individuals. Our funding is controlled by individuals who have not been in a classroom for years, and have probably never had to look a student in the eye.

Before we become instructors, most of us have completed more than twenty years of education (K-12, four to five years to earn a bachelor's degree, and three or more years to earn a master's degree), while others have taken alternative routes to become experts in our fields. We are "lifetime learners," and we are constantly updating and upgrading our skills by attending conferences, taking courses, and conducting research. We also conduct and participate in workshops here on campus.

To become tenured faculty, we undergo a three-year process that includes mentoring, observations, and student evaluations. While going through that process, we are on probation, and if we don't meet the standards set by our colleagues and the college, we won't become tenured. Adjuncts go through a similar process to be able to enter a seniority-hire system we call "The Employment File." Even after we receive tenure or are accepted into the file, we go through reviews to assure that we are staying current in our fields and, are that we are still effective teachers.

Besides being experts in our fields, we have to be experts in pedagogy, the art of teaching. In fact, most of our personal discussions are focused on what is happening in our classrooms and how we can reach our students most effectively.

Even though we may be teaching different sections of the same class, we have to be flexible enough to address the different needs of our students. With the rapid advances constantly taking place, we also have to become experts in technology and deal with the frustrations of working in a system that doesn't have the resources necessary to keep up with the trends. We have to be effective in intercultural communications as well as understanding diverse learning styles.

As if that weren't enough, we also serve on multiple committees created to address important campus issues. These committees range from our tenure and tenure review committees to planning committees that discuss how our resources can be used most effectively. Some committees address issues in instruction while others are involved in campus governance.

Another important responsibility we have is that of advising. We not only have to stay current on what classes will count toward the multiple degree and certificate programs offered here, but also how they will transfer to multiple institutions across the country.

## Tenured faculty pay breakdown:

By: Nicole Swapp

According to [ofm.wa.gov](http://ofm.wa.gov) Green River Community College employed 1,234 employees from 2008-2009. Green River has one of the lowest tenured faculty salaries compared to local community colleges. Below is a broken-down list of tenured faculty pay. The totals below include moonlight appointment, division chair pay, and special purpose-coordinator pay. Base salaries for tenured faculty are given upon state requirements, education level (degree(s) obtained), and years worked.

\$36,000-50,000

4 tenured faculty

\$51,000-55,000

26 tenured faculty

\$56,000-60,000

42 tenured faculty

\$61,000-65,000

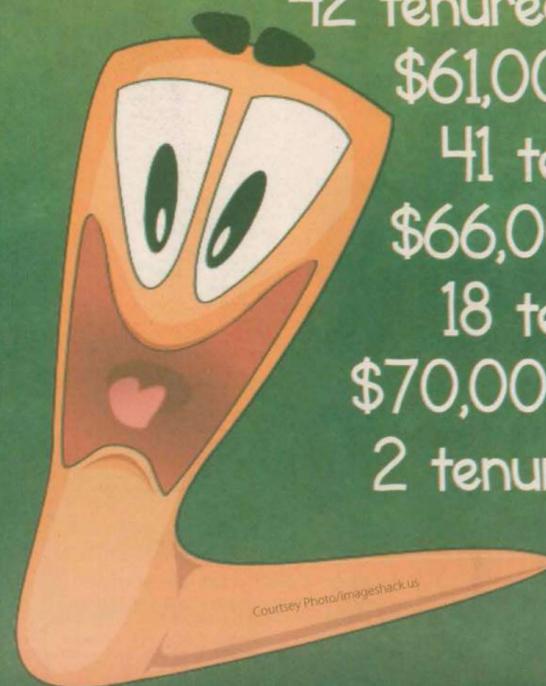
41 tenured faculty

\$66,000-69,000

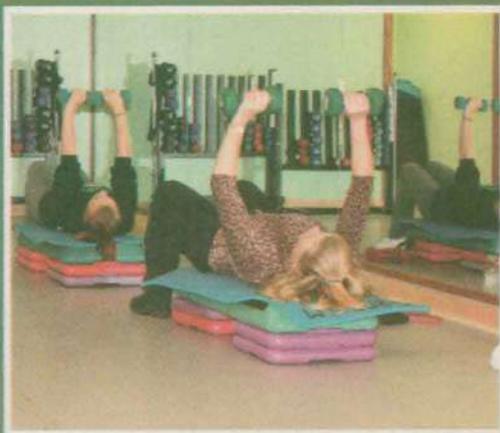
18 tenured faculty

\$70,000 or more

2 tenured faculty



Courtesy Photo: iStockphoto.com/112141414



Barb Hansen demonstrates a workout with students during her Thursday class.

Samantha Shockley/The Current

## Teacher Spotlight: *Barb Hansen*

By: Samantha Shockley

Anyone walking into the class would instantly hear music like Lady Gaga's Paparazzi, and Black Eyed Peas I Gotta Feeling. Walking around the corner the vision of students participating in some physical activity instructed by Barb Hansen, who excitedly she works out with them, demonstrating, helping, and gung-ho about exercise the entire time.

For only teaching at Green River Community College 10 years, Barb Hansen is positively influencing students and staff alike. Her joyous and healthy spirit allows students to relax and have fun while becoming more physically fit.

While Hansen majored in Psychology and had many other jobs differing from her major, she feels like her degree "has come in a full circle in trying to help people." Before she became a teacher she was a retail manager at Nordstrom's, in hotel corporation sales, and a catering director for the Hilton Hotels. "I didn't start teaching fitness until I was in my 30's."

The reason she became a fitness instructor was because she wanted to spend time with her kids at home. "I wanted to be a stay at home mom because I had two small children."

When she finally came to GRCC, 10 years ago, she made an impact and started helping the PE Wellness Program offering free noon classes like yoga, core training, body toning, and cardio fusion Monday through Thursday. "All my classes are for beginners, but it's appropriate for all levels," Hansen explains.

It's hard to believe that the energetic and lively Hansen suffered from severe back problems and had to undergo invasive surgery only 3 years ago. She underwent a double spinal fusion which means that her spine was fused together with two steel rods and screws. "I was in the hospital for one week and spent three months recuperating."

As soon as she could she started yoga, "Yoga saved me," Hansen expresses truthfully. "I honestly didn't think I'd be able to teach Physical Fitness again."

Yoga helped Hansen go from bed rest, to using a walker to a cane in only a few months. And from there she was back to teaching. "I had my surgery in June and was back teaching Fall Quarter."

Through everything that Hansen has done at GRCC, from starting classes like core training and body toning to offering free noon classes to students and faculty alike, her "ultimate goal is to teach a class that offers students the opportunity to learn how to be fit."

Teaching fitness has been a truly great experience for Hansen, she loves her helping people learn more about how to become fit in a positive way. "I couldn't be happier, I have the opportunity to work with students in an uplifting environment every day."

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## Bringing back the 20's, one voice at a time

By: Jaclyn Shorter

Pages turning, notes swaying, voices rising. This is the sound of Green River Community College's Jazz Voices choir, formerly known as Rendezvous.

Jazz has a unique sound that originated in the 1920s, when it was played everywhere from street corners to clubs. The students of Jazz Voices add life to a music style once popular and.

The Jazz Choir was founded in 1994 by Ron Bayer. He started the choir after a history of jazz music had already established itself at the school. Students came up with the name on a fall retreat; the word is French for meeting place, "We thought it would be cool to use the name as a 'meeting place for jazz,'" Bayer explains.

Several years before Rendezvous, retired, GRCC staff member Pat Thompson ran a group called Music Company. The group had a successful time at GRCC, putting on 25 years worth of performances and musical training.

"[Music Company had] a more industrial focus producing a Vegas-type show, and even offered a two-year certificate in the music business," commented Bayer. However, according to Bayer, it eventually stopped meeting because it had changed directors many times.

While reminiscing about the past, Bayer describes his experience with the Jazz Choir. "The group Rendezvous evolved a bit over the years and eventually became more of a chamber choir that still sang jazz. But also delved into more traditional choral idioms like classical motets and madrigals and more popular styles like spirituals and gospel."

The current director, Kelly Eisenhour, took over during Fall Quarter of the 2008-2009 school year. Eisenhour previously toured as a guest soloist with Gladys Knight, participated in numerous jazz music festivals, and recorded jazz albums, according to her website [kelly-eisenhour.com](http://kelly-eisenhour.com).

"I was excited when Kelly came, because we've never had a professional before. It was

pretty much amazing," states Ally Manning, a member of the Jazz Choir.

Having a unique musical background, Eisenhour was excited to both teach and sing. She held auditions for the Jazz Choir back in September, and was looking for people who had "good musicianship, good rhythm, sight reading skills, good voices, and who like jazz music."

Sixteen current students are in the Jazz Choir, with 4 members on each vocal part: sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. The choir also hires professional rhythm players from Seattle to play piano, bass, and drums for the background accompaniment.

Ruth Soto, a current member of the jazz choir, tells of her participation in the choir. "I used to listen to jazz growing up," she commented. She'd always wanted to try out in high school but never did so. "I took a shot this time, I didn't think that I would make it," explains Soto, a look of contemplation on her face.

While the typical choir class may consist of warming up and singing songs in a large group, jazz choir is much more intimate.

"You don't focus just on your part, but on yourself and sounding good with the group," elaborates Soto.

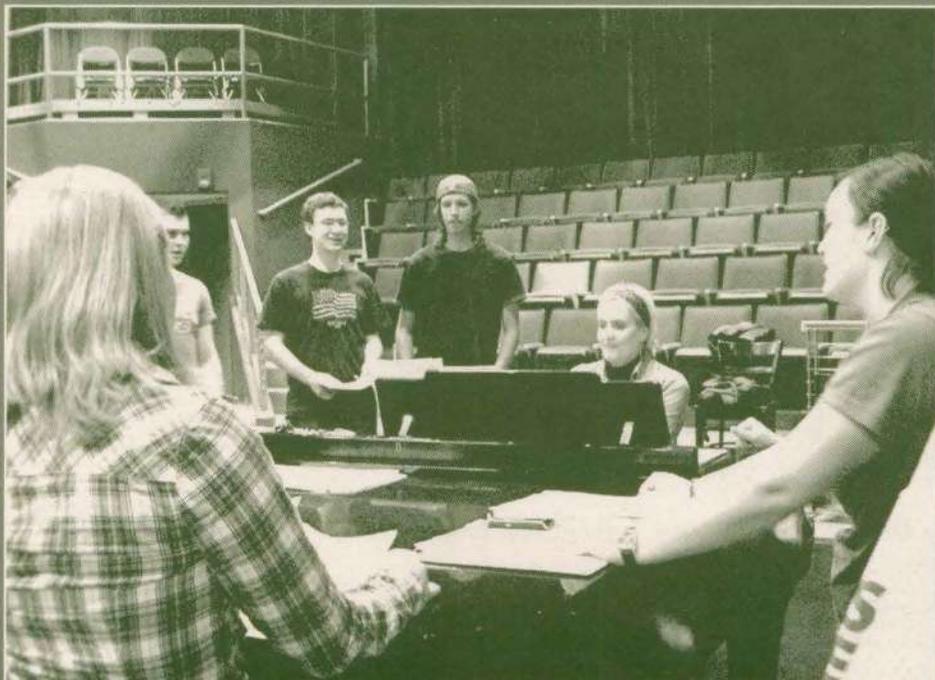
Jazz music is different from normal choral music because it involves a lot of "swagger and emphasis on the notes, you don't just sing to sing," Soto adds.

"It's hard work," says Halle Manning, a member of the jazz choir. "We all love music and we all have a passion for jazz."

According to Eisenhour, "The genre has unique qualities to it. The rhythm is very distinct including syncopation (singing on the off-beats) and improvisation (making up things as you sing)."

"People should check out Jazz Choir because it's a different music and sound. They don't know what they are missing out on," states Soto. "The music is crisp, beautiful, and more precise."

**"We all love music and we all have a passion for jazz"**



Jaclyn Shorter/The Current

Eisenhour plays piano while surrounded by alto and bass singers during rehearsals.

## Motivation behind school for single parents The real reason single parents strive for a higher education

By: Mallory Lambarena

Along with all the memorable milestones in a child's upbringing, comes the stress and responsibilities that go hand-in-hand with being a parent. Green River Community College is a welcoming environment to students in high school and to a diverse range of ages.

Among the diversity found at GRCC are single parents. Every parent wants what's best for their children, which can sometimes result in going back to school.

Zak Nash, a 20-year-old receiver for the football team comprised of Green River students, is one of the many single-parents at Green River. He is not only going back to school for himself, but rather, to better himself for his son.

Nash's face lights up with pride as he proudly explained how his son is the main reason behind him going to school. "He gives me more than just self motivation. If I didn't go to school before, it only affected me. But now it's an opportunity to positively affect the person I love and care about the most."

Being an adult college student brings forth financial burdens, long hours of academic dedication, and time away from children. Going back to school with the help from a partner or spouse can make for a good support system; but without an immediate shoulder to lean on the struggles along the way are unimaginable.

Being a single parent is one of the most chaotic and challenging jobs in the world. All the responsibilities rest on their drive for success.

Somehow, a balance must be found between daily activities, work, caring for a child, and now, classes and homework.

Thinking for a minute, Nash thoughtfully remarked on the hardest part of being a father and going to school is "actually going to school daily." Everyday he must find a ride and babysitter, go to classes and football, and of course finish the homework that is always assigned. "The whole school experience is difficult, but definitely worth while."

Being a parent means sleepless nights, endless laundry, constant child care, all the while trying to maintain sanity. Throw attending classes and doing homework on top of that seems near impossible.

It's common knowledge that a college degree will most likely lead to a better salary than a high school diploma, Nash agrees saying that "it gives me a million more opportunities to better Kingston's [his son] life by helping me get to a spot where I am financially stable. Without college, the window of opportunity is a lot smaller".

Whether single parents are going back to school while their children are young, old, or somewhere in between, it is still a difficult task to balance school and be a parent.

"To be honest, sometimes I can't juggle all three. Sometimes I have to prioritize," Nash describes truthfully. "My son is always first, then school, and then football. You just have to do it".

Many parents wonder how to find balance, but when there's a will, there's a way.



Zac sits with his son, Kingston, on his lap.

Courtesy Photo/ Zac Nash

## Trips on a bus

By: Remco Zwetsloot

A search for adventure and... anything interesting, really. Take 3.

This time the trip, for the first and last time, had an actual destination: the guitar store in Tukwila. Amount of companions: 2.

As always, my journey involved a lot of people-watching, which is one of my hobbies (yes, I'm a creeper - sup ladies!?) and especially fun to do on the bus. After being in the 164 to Kent for a mere two minutes I laid eyes upon a weird fellow who I soon recognized as the nipple-scooper from my last trip. Immediately intrigued, I started eavesdropping on his attempts to seduce this somewhat, mildly, perhaps attractive young lady. He didn't disappoint: a total of 6 awkward silences were counted before the girl permanently turned her attention to her iPod. Other than the nipple-scooper, there was the brush-my-hair-even-though-it's-0.1-inch-long-guy and a number of other comical figures who sadly didn't provide enough laughter to be featured in here.

So, after creeping it up on the 164 and the 150 for a good 45 minutes, I got out at the guitar store. Upon arrival, my excitement grew even further as I spotted the Barnes & Noble with a Starbucks inside it. The coffee-obsessed book nerd's (that would be me) Valhalla. But first stop, the music store.

Although listening to four people simultaneously testing out guitars, on awfully loud speakers, while looking at instruments you can't play is bearable for a little while, I soon retreated into the 'acoustic room' where a friend of mine was eyeing a used guitar. The purchase was made and the three of us made our way to heaven (B&N).

I had to leave most of my book collection at home in Amsterdam before moving here, and I've already gone through my measly stock, so the need for fresh pages was dire. Restraining myself, being a poor college student and all, I only bought 6 books, which is severely below my average.

For some reason we decided to look for a non-fast food place for dinner, and to our surprise, we found one fairly quickly: Zoopa. It was... disgusting. I literally had to eat raisins for dinner, as apparently despite their best efforts they hadn't been able to mess those up. Next time we'll just have a greasy hamburger, at least that doesn't taste awful, it just clogs up your arteries.

Determined to experience at least one exciting thing, we decided to go for a stroll after 'dinner'. When we saw the theater had IMAX, our determination was put to the test. We failed the test, and decided to go to the movies instead. So there we were in the Westfield mall and bought tickets for 'Where the wild things are'. It was the first time I had seen an IMAX movie and it was an awesome experience. A sound that loud and a screen that big might have actually made Paranormal Activity somewhat scary to watch.

After the movie we headed home, without any issues and just one weirdo on the bus this time. The day was fun and the loot had made it worthwhile (1 guitar, 6 books, a movie and a pair of jeans), but it hadn't exactly been adventurous. Perhaps next time...

## Help a family by giving from the Heart

By: Tedmund Hanrahan

Green River, like many other community colleges throughout the country, have always been a place where parents of families can go to continue their education, further themselves, and give their children new opportunities for the future.

However, this sometimes leaves these families budgets stretched rather thin as the holiday season draws near. Fortunately the student life department at Green River has come to their aid with the Giving from the Heart program.

Giving from the Heart has been matching students with families that are in need, with sponsors who are willing to help provide them with gifts for their children since 1992. Sponsors can be as simple as students who want to donate a little cash to help out a single child, to school organizations that can provide multiple families with gifts for their children.

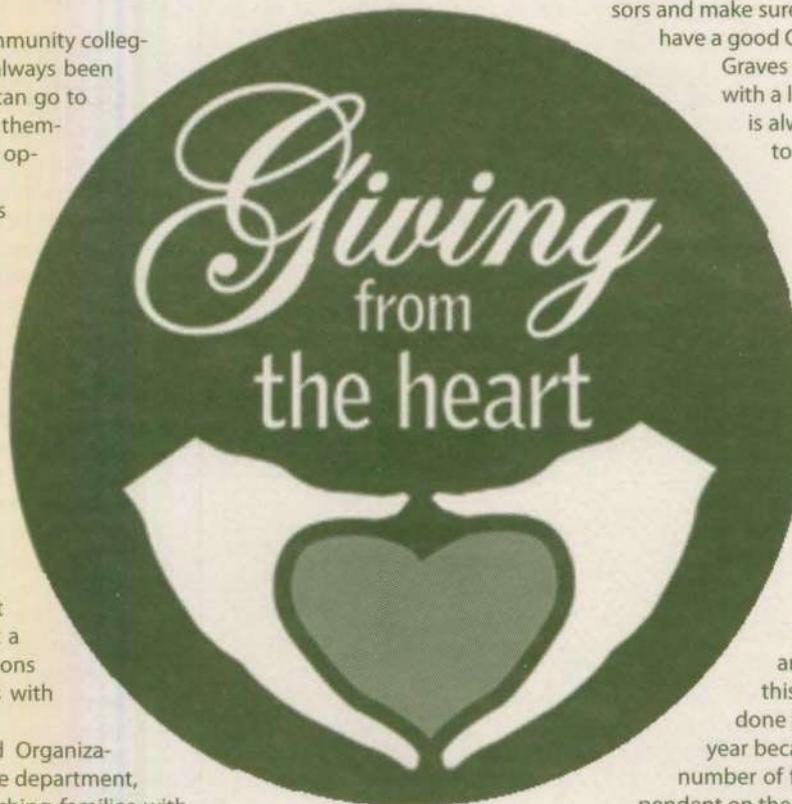
Natasha Graves, the Clubs and Organizations Coordinator in the student life department, helps to run the program by matching families with sponsors. "Basically financial aid sends me a list of families with the children's names, their age, and things like their favorite color and

things they really enjoy doing. Then I match them with sponsors and make sure they have everything on time to have a good Christmas".

Graves currently has around 20 sponsors with a lot more children under them, but is always looking for more. "My goal is to either get the same number of sponsors as last year, around 40, or more" says Graves.

Students that wish to become sponsors themselves should contact Natasha by stopping by the student life office, calling the school and entering the extension number 2400 or by emailing Natasha at NGraves@greenriver.edu, November 16th is the deadline.

"I think that especially in today's economy, with as many families that have been going without, this year is a really key year to be helping families that are in need" added Graves. "And this year people that may have not done it before should try extra hard this year because things are so hard". Since the number of families that can be helped is dependent on the number of people willing to help, the opportunity is there for GRCC students to make this Christmas the best one it can be for families in need.



## Gators' got talent

By: Barbara Thom

As part of the promotional campaign for the upcoming talent show "Gator Got Talent", Jamie Choe of Student Programs asked students about their talents and did live, impromptu video auditions right on the spot.

When asked why she wanted to sponsor a talent show, Choe, promoter, coordinator and audition judge for this event said, "I'm really into dance and music myself and I really like seeing others perform."

First on the stage for auditions was Michael Batin, a self-taught singer, musician, and composer. He has also sung in concert and church choirs. Batin chose to open with an acappella that charmed onlookers. Undecided about the piece he will perform during the show, Batin joked casually, "I will probably just surprise everybody." He may even do an original from his own collection.

In an eye-catching freestyle, De Naja Handy showed her talent in a hip hop dance routine. With no apparent nervousness about her routine, Handy smiled and noted, "I've been dancing now for awhile in front of people." Although she enjoys ballet and jazz as well, hip hop is the area she is most comfortable with.

Several other Green River students showed up for auditions. Some impressive rapping and a heartfelt rendition of Michael Jackson's "Ben" were among the contenders.

Behind the scenes is "just" Sal. Sal, an employee of GRCC's scheduling has been organizing the sound and lighting for stage events on campus for years. Working with knowledge and diligence to be sure that all the performers have the necessary equipment and technical support to make their performances the best they can be.

The "Gator Got Talent" show will premiere next Friday from 7:30. to 9:30PM at the Lindbloom Center's main dining room.

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## Holiday shopping gives back to community on a Magical Night

### Supermall allows local organizations a chance to raise funds in a cheery atmosphere

By: Sonia Rodriguez

On a crisp fall night in the company of family and friends, a trip to the mall can end with prize giveaways, exclusive savings and a chance to give back through non-profit fundraisers.

Each year the Supermall in Auburn hosts "Magical Night of Giving"; their official send-off for the holiday season. Not only is it a fun-filled event to attend but it's also an opportunity for non-profit or volunteer organizations to receive exposure and raise money.

"Magical Night of Giving" will be this Sunday, the 15th at 6:30 pm.

A half hour prior to the event, all doors close and remaining shoppers will be asked to leave as preparations are made, from sales signs to mar-downs.

The doors reopen allowing entrance to everyone who shows the official "Magical Night" ticket. The entrance ticket will automatically enter the holder in a chance to win many prizes and contests. This includes an all expense paid get away to Hawaii for two, Supermall shopping sprees, local getaways and gift cards to various stores in the mall.

A regular hit during the "Magical Night" are local radio stations. Participating this year are Warm 106.9, Movin 92.5 and Smooth Jazz 98.9

bringing their own prizes and contests as well.

An "Event Guide" at the mall entrance will list specials. This one night only holiday extravaganza is a chance to get a jump start on holiday shopping while enjoying extra entertainment. "Santa's grand Parade" and Kids activity zones spread holiday cheer with arts, crafts and special appearances.

Rene Bochnovich, Supermall Marketing Director, explained that the main point was to give back to the community.

Bochnovich coordinates this event in hopes of allowing non-profit organizations to raise unlimited funds and give back to faithful mall supporters.

Last year's event had 12 thousand attendees along with some \$65,000 raised for 25 local non-profit organizations such as soccer teams, church groups and school programs.

"We are hoping for this year to be bigger and better," Bochnovich said.

She mentioned that any organization can participate in this event after going through a qualification process that includes forms listing numerous details about the organizations.

Tickets are available from the mall Guest Services, through any participating non-profit organization or can be purchased at the door.



Courtesy Photo/Supermall Staff

Last year's "Magical Night of Giving" featured prizes, musicians and carolers at the Supermall



Courtesy Photo/Supermall Staff



Courtesy Photo/Supermall Staff

## Bodies are back in Seattle and inspire healthy living

### The Bodies Exhibit hit fifth and pike and take students by surprise

By Jessica Decker

Bodies: The Exhibition, now in Seattle on 5th avenue sensitively displays whole bodied humans and individual organs that help uncover beauty of the human body by explaining how the body works from the inside out.

The bodies are preserved by a polymer solution that helps keep even the smallest of veins, muscles, and tissues intact.

Many people express uneasiness about going to the exhibit because the bodies are real, but the Exhibition is structured in a way so that the bodies are displayed respectfully.

Unlike the last time Bodies hit Seattle, this year the selection of the exhibits is smaller, and there are more male bodies than female bodies.

In the Exhibit, there are different displays, some that the public is probably unaware of. Sarah Johnson, an 18-year-old Green River student was taken by surprise with the diverse selection of anatomical sights within the exhibit.

"My favorite was definitely the embryos and fetuses, I didn't think I would like because usually viewing babies at the different stages of development makes me a little queasy, but it was so interesting".

Elizabeth Sugihara, age 17, found the Exhibition to be incredibly detailed and educational. Her favorite display was the comparison between healthy lungs and smoker lungs.

"It really brought home the fact that people shouldn't smoke," Sugihara remarked.

Sugihara is not the first to have walked away with a firmer resolve against unhealthy living habits. As the Exhibition has moved across the nation, viewers have left thousands of comments exclaiming that they would get in better shape and that they would never smoke again.

After reading startling statistics, like smoking a pack of cigarettes cuts life short by an average of 3 hours and 40 minutes, people have dropped their pack of cigarettes into a box next to the display and have committed to not smoke.

The Exhibition also displays the advantages of staying physically fit. There are a few organs that are taken from an obese body, and viewers are able to compare a healthy organ to an unhealthy organ.

Viewers can also learn about the advantages of aerobic exercise, and how it affects the heart.

Overall, the presentation of Bodies: The Exhibition, and the knowledge provided from the displays are priceless.

The displays are very clear and detailed. The studio is well organized and well-lit. It would have been nice if more bodies were available, but what was there made up that difference.

There is an option to get an audio tour for \$5 more. It allows viewers to go through the Exhibit, punch in the 3-digit code next to each display, and learn more about what is being shown and how it relates to other organs.

As an added bonus, if students bring their college I.D.s, the admission is marked down from \$19 to \$15.

Admission for kids 4-12 is \$14, seniors (60+) are \$15, and adults are \$19. It is open from 10am-7pm daily, except for Friday and Saturday nights as it closes at 10pm.

Going to Bodies is incredibly beneficial for any student taking an anatomy class, as it better helps illustrate where each component is.

It is also helpful to those going into any medical field, or for those that are just plain interested in learning more about the body.

Those going will not be disappointed; it is a 5 star event.



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## Paranormal Activity scares and bores world audiences Bumps in the night turns heads away and shaken in disappointment

By: Nicole Palmer

Audiences around the world have been lining up to view the "scariest movie" of this year Paranormal Activity.

During the weekend of October 25th, Paranormal Activity pulled in a 21.2 million dollars, topping Saw VI. Are movie-goers getting their money's worth, and is Paranormal Activity really the scariest movie of this year?

Paranormal Activity is filmed in a documentary style, comparable to Blair Witch Project. This style leaves audiences with the impression that they are viewing home-made footage, adding a sense of realism and mystery. The events are portrayed as a discovery.

During Paranormal Activity, a couple uses their own camera to capture odd happenings during the middle of the night.

As with any "home movie" style of shooting, expect shaky shots, swift movements, and fast panning that make people with any kind of motion sickness want to puke.

This style of filming makes it feel raw, like its actually happening before your eyes, but made many spectators turn away to keep their heads from spinning.

Main Character Katie has been followed by a "shadow" throughout her entire life. Recently, boyfriend Micah, and Katie have been hearing noises in the middle of the night.

To figure things out, Micah decides to investigate. He buys a camera of his own and set it up in the middle of the night so they can watch the abnormal occurrences the next day.

The incidents gradually get worse and scarier throughout the movie. What starts out as a moving door slowly graduates into footsteps and physical harm.

One of the scariest scenes in the film is when the couple goes to bed, and viewers are relieved that the camera is placed on a tripod. As soon as they crawl into bed the theater goes quiet with anticipation. Finally, the audience gets what they paid for: doors that open by themselves, loud noises, and moving sheets.

However, as for the scariest movie of the year, spectators have mixed opinions.

"[Paranormal Activity] is one of the most frightening movies I've ever seen in my life!" 20-year-old student Michelle Range exclaimed.

On the other hand, nineteen year old Ashley Rhamy had braver thoughts.

"The only scary part of the whole movie was the spider in the bathroom, because I hate spiders," Rhamy said.

Paranormal Activity was definitely the most popular movie to see this Halloween. Movie previews that showed audience reactions captured the attention of many thrill-seekers throughout the country.

This movie caused many watchers to jump, and even scream out loud during the screening. However, it also caused disappointment when people thought they were going to see the scariest movie of their life.

Altogether, Paranormal Activity was a scary movie, but definitely not scarier than other haunted movies. For the same kind of thrill check-out "The Exorcism of Emily Rose".

## Staying dry and keeping cool with latest GRCC fashion

By: Kaitlin Stoufer

As the rainy Washington weather begins we are all faced with smaller scale of a Hamlet-like dilemma. To be soaked everyday or not to be soaked, that is the question.

Though some native Washingtonians, like Cassidy Neal, 18, say using an umbrella is unacceptable because they see it as a clear sign that the user is not a true Washington native, others have realized it's just crazy not to use one as the rain pours down.

As Neal states, "It's a clear sign that you're not from Washington when you're walking around with an umbrella... who cares how cute it is?!"

As you walk through the GRCC campus it can almost feel like a fashion show, students put on their trendiest clothing and flaunt it with runway model confidence. Umbrellas are no exception this season; instead of letting plain boring umbrellas bring down their style, students are finding creative and unique ones to show individuality.

While small fold out umbrellas in bright color are always present, there are also the wildly trendy umbrellas on campus. The bubble umbrellas, which are large domed umbrellas usually made of clear plastic, are gaining popularity as are character umbrellas, which range from having animals on the handle to having eyes on top or a tail off the back.

Some students are making fashion statements with creative umbrellas, such as a Pokémon one complete with ears on top or a fun one made of clear plastic and a pink trim. Other students appear to be getting in touch with their inner child by carrying kid sized umbrellas in fun prints like Dora the Explorer.



## No rest for the wicked: a Borderlands review Respawning bandits and cartoon-realistic shading make a fun game

By: Randall Miller

Based in a post apocalyptic century on a planet called Pandora, four brave explorers search for something that holds riches and fame, they search for what the local inhabitants of the planet call "The Vault."

Tales have been told of this Vault containing everything for a king, these four individuals must band together and brave the horrors and the insanity of the wildlife and bandits, also they must beat others to the vault so they can claim its contents.

In the wrong hands The Vault's treasures could lead to unknown terror and destruction.

The names of these four individuals are Mordecai as "The Hunter", Lilith as "The Siren", Roland as "The Soldier" and Brick as himself. These four adventurers have unique abilities and skills that they bring to the party for their search for the mythical Vault.

Gearbox studios combined First Person

Shooter (FPS) with Role Playing Game (RPG) genres creating the role playing shooter (RPS) in their October 20th release, Borderlands.

The game was exclusively reserved for the Playstation 3, Xbox 360, and PC.

An amazing combination of cell shading and bright noticeable colors are used despite early concepts. Pre-production showed cell shading combined with duller black, grey and dark brown colors.

The gameplay itself bolsters 160 quests. 30 quests are storyline driven with remaining side quests. An added bonus is that there are 87 bazillion (yes, bazillion is now a word) combinations for equipment customization.

The developers of the game focused around the saying "Ain't no rest for the wicked" which they quite literally mean and commonly use, all the enemies respawn and are sometimes bigger and badder than the batch that the player just wiped out.

### Wicked checklist

#### Characters

Lilith, Mordecai, Roland, Brick

#### Versions:

PS3, Xbox 360, PC

#### Setting

Pandora

#### Objective

Get to the Vault, fight the Baddies and

#### Visuals (Greatest feature)

Bright Colors and great cell shading

#### Rated

M for mature

#### Storyline

Leads into an expansive experience

#### Genre

Role Playing Shooter (FPS/RPG)

#### Additional Features

Multiplayer co-op, Up to 4 players, Xbox Live and system

OVERALL: 8 bullets out of 10

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## Winter olympics in Vancouver just right around the corner

By: Ryan West

Button up those coats the Feb 12, 2010 Vancouver Olympics are right around the corner.

Winter sports galore, everything from alpine skiing to snowboarding, with the first volley of tickets already bought up people seem to be desperate, turning to any available source to purchase their tickets. Leading to lots of copycat websites selling tickets to anyone that will purchase them with nothing more than a promise that they will work at the front gate.

With everything from hockey, to skiing, to ice skating; the Canadian government promise both indoor and outdoor faculties. VANOC promises one of the most extensive Paralympics programs to date.

The Beijing Olympics set a bar of excellence, a bar that the Canadian government is determined to surpass. The mayor of Vancouver thinks this will be more than just a two week party; these games will be a defining mark on the history of the city. When they're finished, Vancouver will surely be a better place.

The Vancouver Olympic committee made some of the most aggressive bids in Olympic history. They promised over 400 housing units a year for four years. The city government also promised to cut homelessness as much as possible going as far as passing legislative to help struggling elderly on welfare.

The official release of tickets starts in Canada; there are some regulations, you must have a current Canadian mailing address, and have the ability to have them delivered by private courier.

Everyone outside of Canada has a couple of options to purchase tickets: online or by phone, the vanoc only accepts visa cards for payment. The ticket windows will open the day before each event begins. There have been announcements for giveaway but there is very little information.

Roadtrips.com is currently having an injunction filed against them in the us Supreme Court by the Vancouver Olympic committee (VANOC); There trying to ban roundtrips from buying and selling Olympic tickets.

As seen in the Beijing Olympics these companies charge over aggressive rates for their tickets pulling in the desperate. Some of these sites offer no refund policy. VANOC has the ability to make any tickets invalid it's only a matter of time before this dispute leaves thousands frustrated and ticket less.

There is hope there are two authorized sellers of Olympic tickets for all those living outside of Canada at this time tickets.com and jets set sports are selling tickets. The reselling of tickets is illegal everywhere except Vancouver BC.

## Green River Reapers to face their biggest challenge yet

Editors note: Since the last issue of The Current the Northwest Community College football league recently decided to expand their league schedule from four games to six. The Reapers are now 5-0.

By: Sean Kramer

Being put to the test is nothing new for Todd Strotschein and his staff. Coach Strotschein assembled his staff from scratch, built their roster from scratch, and week by week struggled to just find fields to practice on.

What hasn't been a test for them, has been on game days, where the Green River Reapers(5-0) have dominated league play, winning their last contest over Tacoma by 28 points. Their lowest margin of victory, was ten points in the opening week against Yakima Valley. With a victory over South Puget Sound on November 14th, the Reapers will finish a perfect 6-0 in league play.

But, on November 21st, the Reapers will face their biggest test yet.

As the grand finale of the inaugural season of the Northwest Community College football league, Strotschein and league Commissioner Kory Hill are attempting to set up an exhibition with the Canadian NAIA power, the Simon-Fraser Clan, based in Vancouver.

The match-up, Strotschein explains, would be beneficial for all parties involved, including the entire NWCCFL which is trying to establish itself among the High school and major University circles in the state



## Gator Scoreboard update

### Volleyball

Overall record(as of Oct. 26th):

7-24

4-7 in league play

**Dorian Harris Tournament results from Mount Hood**

Oct 30 vs Blue Mountain - Loss in three sets

Oct 30 vs Chemeketa - Loss in three sets

Oct 31 vs Bellevue - Loss in two sets

Oct 31 vs Lower Columbia - Loss in five sets

Nov 4 vs Pierce - Loss in three sets

Nov 6 at Centralia - Win

**Ashley Parries has been honored as an All-Academic performer in NWAACC**

### Women's Soccer

Overall Record:

3-10-1

Last three results:

Oct 28 at Highline / W / 3-2

Nov 4 vs Bellevue / L / 2-4

Nov 7 at Tacoma /

Upcoming matches:

Nov 11 NWAACC Championships begin

Leading scorers: Carli McCrabb - 10 Goals

Erica Kobe - 3 goals

**Carli McCrabb ends her Green River career second all-time in goals scored with 17.**

**Erica Kobe was honored as an All-NWAACC Academic performer**

## Basketball

Check out coverage from the November 10th "Midnight Madness" from the GRCC gymnasium at [thecurrentonline.net](http://thecurrentonline.net)

of Washington.

For Simon-Fraser, the benefit will be in playing an American opponent in preparation of their move to NCAA Division II, and the North Central Conference, which also features the Central Washington Wildcats. As well as be able to scout the many prospects that the Reapers boast, and hope to be able to move on to the next level.

The excitement of the potential match-up was amplified for the Reaper players when Simon-Fraser brought their coaching staff, led by Head coach Doug Johnson, down to Franklin Pierce High school to watch Green River's November 8th victory over Tacoma.

"They'd talk to me and say, 'hey, how'd you get that guy? We were trying to get him,'" Strotschein said of the Simon-Fraser coaching staff inquiring about the Reaper's talent. "I told them, this is one of the few times they'll be able to walk across the field and offer a kid a scholarship."

If the Reapers are able to come out and be competitive, it could be a statement for the league.

"It would be like an exclamation point for the quality of talent we have," said Strotschein. "It would define us as being a good league, and really keeping the talent in this state. That's the key, to come out and be really competitive."

"That would be something that adds a lot of integrity to our league and what we're doing," said Kory Hill. "Just the exposure, getting somebody outside of our league to play us, and somebody who is going to be

affiliated with the NCAA, that gives us instant credibility."

The challenge for Hill, however, was how to integrate the entire league in what would be the NWCCFL's banner event to end the season. The solution was, the second place team, to be determined between Tacoma and South Puget Sound, would be integrated with the Reapers as they take on Simon-Fraser.

There is also the concern, that for reasons outside of Strotschein and Hill's control, that Simon-Fraser could pull out of the game. In which case, Hill is already looking at "plan B" which involves merging the four teams in the league into two, and having a showcase game which he would hope to hold at one of the major college stadiums in the Pacific Northwest, looking at Idaho, Washington and Washington State's facilities.

The game against Simon-Fraser will be held at Seattle Center's Seattle Memorial Stadium if everything goes according to plan.

**What:**

**Green River Reapers vs. Simon-Fraser Clan**

**When:**

**November 21st**

**Where:**

**Seattle Memorial Stadium**

## Honea's House

By: Andrew Honea

### Can we please get parity in the NBA?

It's time for another exciting season for the National Basketball Association and I only ask for one thing. PLEASE SURPRISE ME! So far, sports have been pretty predictable over the past year. Baseball season ends, and the Yankees hold the title. The Super bowl winner is the Steelers. Who saw that one coming? College Football is still going strong but yet again, the Florida Gators seem to be heavy favorite to win the National Championship Game. Give me a break.

For once, could the sports gods just throw me a freaking bone. I'm not asking for a championship for my hometown AtlantaHawks(although it would be nice). I'm sick of the favorites like the Cavs and the Lakers. Those teams no longer exist. It is simply Lebron and Kobe. I don't want to see the Celtics in the finals. No disrespect intended to any of these teams. They are obviously deserving, but it isn't fun anymore. It's gotten to the point where the excitement stops after the late season battles for playoff spots. I want just one playoff series with teams no one every expected to have the least bit of potential. Is that so hard to ask for.

For me, it will always come back to the Atlanta Hawks. Sure, they've made the playoffs the past 2 years, but before that were in a playoff drought for what seemed to be a million years. Everyone knows they have talent with guys like Josh Smith, Mike Bibby, and Joe Johnson, but no one sees them winning a title. Atlanta is like an 8 seed on a year to year basis, and how often do you see the 8 seed take a title or even a conference? Close to never! I can't be alone when I say I'd like to see the underdog prevail. Sure, we've seen "upsets", but these days, an upset is the 94 win team beating the 100 win team in the World Series. Can you really call that an upset?

There are lots of worthy teams in the NBA, that aren't given the credit that they deserve. I could continuously complain about this issue for pages but I'll take the easy way out and just talk about one of the more deserving teams. A team that everyone is well aware of and has lots of talent. A team that has what it takes and I feel can take a title. Who am I talking about? The Denver Nuggets.

The Nuggets have a roster that makes them more than capable of bringing a title to the Mile High City. One reason comes in a guy that has lots of experience in the NBA finals. Chauncey Billups. Billups has tons of experience by playing for the Detroit Pistons, which makes him a great post season leader. Next, Carmelo Anthony, a man who entered the league the same year as Lebron James, but wasn't able to make the same impact James did in the NBA. Despite that fact, Anthony is more than ready to lead Denver to the finals. Kenyon Martin, just another guy on the long list of Nuggets capable of taking a title, along with a deep bench which includes Jr Smith.

I won't keep you anymore. Go ahead and laugh if you don't believe. Let Kobe and Lebron tear themselves apart carrying their teams on the shoulders but dont forget...

**Denver = The Future**

# BAN IT!

By: Nicole Palmer

Long before any of us were alive, drugs have been become illegal and legal. Drugs that have been legalized have been deemed safe by the government while the ones that have been illegalized have been considered unsafe for the public. The users of the illegal drugs do not believe that their drug of choice is bad for them and think that the drug should be legal. The drug that is most popular for the debate on legalizing or illegalizing is marijuana.

Marijuana may not seem like a dangerous drug, however as of now it is illegal, and should stay that way. Not only is it dire to the health of its users, but may also create a need for a stronger drug to create more of a high. Nothing good can come by legalizing marijuana. If it is legalized America will just become an unhealthier nation, spending more of its time and money on useless drugs that slowly kill.

In 1937 Congress passed the "1937 Marijuana Tax Act" making marijuana highly taxed and illegal obtain. Ever since it has been a battle between drug users and the government over whether marijuana should become legalized.

Marijuana became very popular in the 1960's. Before that time it was feared because as an unknown drug that only immigrants used. Today marijuana is the second most popular recreational drug used world wide, it is also the most used illegal drug in the US.

Many people believe that since marijuana is an organic plant that it does no harm to your body, but sadly, they are misinformed. According to the Surgeon General, "Acute intoxication with marijuana interferes with many aspects of mental functioning and has serious, acute effects on perception and skilled performance, such as driving and other complex tasks involving judgment or fine motor skills. Among the known or suspected chronic effects of marijuana are: short-term memory impairment and slowness of learning, impaired lung function similar to that found in cigarette smokers. Indications are that more serious effects, such as cancer and other lung disease, follow extended use, decreased sperm count and sperm motility, interference with ovulation and pre-natal development, impaired immune response, possible adverse effects on heart function, and by-products of marijuana remaining in body fat for several weeks, with unknown consequences. The storage of these by-products increases the possibilities for chronic, as well as residual, effects on performance, even after the acute reaction to the drug has worn off." Marijuana has the same effect on the body as cigarettes, only more powerful. Marijuana actually contains more carcinogens than tobacco smoke. According to U.S news, "The smoking of three to four cannabis cigarettes a day is associated with the same degree of damage to bronchial mucus membranes as twenty or more tobacco cigarettes a day."

There has also been some recent argument over whether marijuana should be legal for medicinal use. Marijuana has been used in the past for patients suffering from such illnesses as AIDS or cancer. Supposedly, marijuana is used to treat the pain and nausea that come along with the diseases. However, since marijuana already causes an impaired immune system response, it is not smart for people with auto immune diseases, or on chemo-therapy, to damage their immune systems even more.

The Food and Drug Administration has found no sound scientific evidence to support the use of medicinal marijuana that is smoked. There is however, a pharmaceutical product

called Marinol which is a pill form of marijuana available through prescription. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), "There are no FDA-approved medications that are smoked. For one thing, smoking is generally a poor way to deliver medicine. It is difficult to administer safe, regulated dosages of medicines in smoked form. Secondly, the harmful chemicals and carcinogens that are byproducts of smoking create entirely new health problems."

According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, marijuana is a gateway drug that is thought to lead to the use of and dependence on a harder drug such as cocaine or heroin.

According to the DEA, "Long-term studies of students who use drugs show that very few young people use other illegal drugs without first trying marijuana. While not all people who use marijuana go on to use other drugs, using marijuana sometimes lowers inhibitions about drug use and exposes users to a culture that encourages use of other drugs. The risk of using cocaine has been estimated to be more than 104 times greater for those who have tried marijuana than for those who have never tried it."

America is becoming a nation dependent on drugs. People can not get through their days any longer without caffeine, nicotine, alcohol and anti-depressants. We are all becoming zombies; our brains are no longer able to function on their own without some kind of chemical stimulus. Obviously these drugs are not enough for our society, now, the nation is fighting over legalizing yet another drug, marijuana. Why is it that people keep fighting for their right to ingest substances that cause cancer, heart disease, and many other illnesses for the joy of getting high? Isn't there something better to fight for?

Try living life on your own, handle your problems head on, enjoy the world for what it is - because marijuana is not going to become legal anytime soon- and that is a good thing.

# LEGALIZE!

By: Charles Renwick

Cannabis has been illegal in the United States for almost 100 years and for almost 100 years the law has gone virtually unchallenged. However, in more recent years there have been talks of political action to change this law to something more beneficial for the United States and its citizens. While trying to be fair, I would like to share a few facts and some of my thoughts to open this topic for discussion. In an attempt to break this issue down I am going to focus around four main points, but there are far more complex angles this argument can lead to. And remember, just because the law seems like ancient history does not make the law self-justified.

Our History: First, we should review the brief history of marijuana in the US. Perfectly paralleling the timeline of the Great Depression, individual Southern states were the first to ban the herb. In the early 1930s, cheap Mexican labor was no longer welcome to work on farms so law makers got to work. Their thought processes were somewhere along the lines of: ban marijuana - Mexicans leave - more available jobs.

Not long after these racist laws were put to work the federal government decided it was appropriate to step in. Despite what the Tenth Amendment says about regulation of state government, federal powers were still able to create and fund the Federal Bureau of Narcotics (FBN), which mainly campaigned against the use of marijuana.

The campaign proved successful after releasing powerful public advertisements of "Marihuana" (the common Mexican slang) as a highly addictive, powerful, murderous, insane and deadly "narcotic" with no medical use. Seven years later, these beliefs became popular enough for the federal government to issue the ban across the nation through loop -

holes of licensing.

Thirty-three years later, the Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act was born. The act declared reasoning behind the fight against the herb because of its alleged high potential of addictiveness, and lack of medical use and accepted safety.

Today, 39 years later, numerous scientific advancements have been made and published on the drug, yet there has been very little political progress. Pity statewide decriminalizing laws have been voted upon, and mostly denied; and people have attended various rallies and yearly traditions, like the Seattle Hempfest, but none have made any notable impact.

Our Health: Weed does contain irritants, so it does not leave the body completely unharmed. However, when compared to tobacco, marijuana has no lethal compound and because of its proven non-addictive traits marijuana smokers inhale much less smoke over time.

In 2006, a published study showed that even heavy smokers had absolutely no increased risk of lung cancer; but these harms from smoking can be completely eliminated with a vaporizer or by ingesting the drug instead.

University of Washington researcher Sunil Aggarwal spent 38 years documenting 33 controlled trials when he was finally able to publish a monumental article in the Journal of Opioid Management that proves and validates marijuana as a "safe, effective medicine for specific medical conditions." When Aggarwal addressed the federal government's safety concern he stated that withdraw symptoms were almost completely absent in all his published trails.

Now, with the myth of the solely harmful nature of marijuana, it should come as a slight shock that medical marijuana is no delusion.

Weed has been found to reduce--and in some rare cases, prevent--some very serious illnesses. The drug helps reduce the chance of lung and breast cancer growth and is known to even kill brain cancer cells. The active ingredient in marijuana, THC, is also proven to prevent the acceleration of an Alzheimer's disease.

Our Money: Keeping the prohibition going is one of our country's largest expenses. Instead, the judicial branch could redirect their time, effort and money from prosecuting marijuana users to much more relevant and important issues. Every year, taxpayers spend almost \$10.7 billion to criminalize these actions. In 2008 alone there were 847,863 total arrests relating to marijuana.

CNN Money recently released an article projecting state revenue increase if marijuana were legalized and taxed similar to alcohol.

In the article, CNN Money claims that the state of California would gain \$105.4 million in annual revenue and Washington State, placing eighth highest on the list, would gain \$22 million yearly.

lion yearly.

Our Social Studies: One main argument for its prohibition is that use of marijuana among youth will increase if it is legalized. There is no point to this argument. Marijuana usage, regardless of age, would rise dramatically across the nation because the drug would be much more obtainable.

So somewhere here my argument rests, somewhere between the lies and truth of politics. Somewhere between expenses and savings one campaign can develop. Somewhere between these lines, you should find yours.

# MARIJUANA: SHOULD IT BE LEGALIZED?

