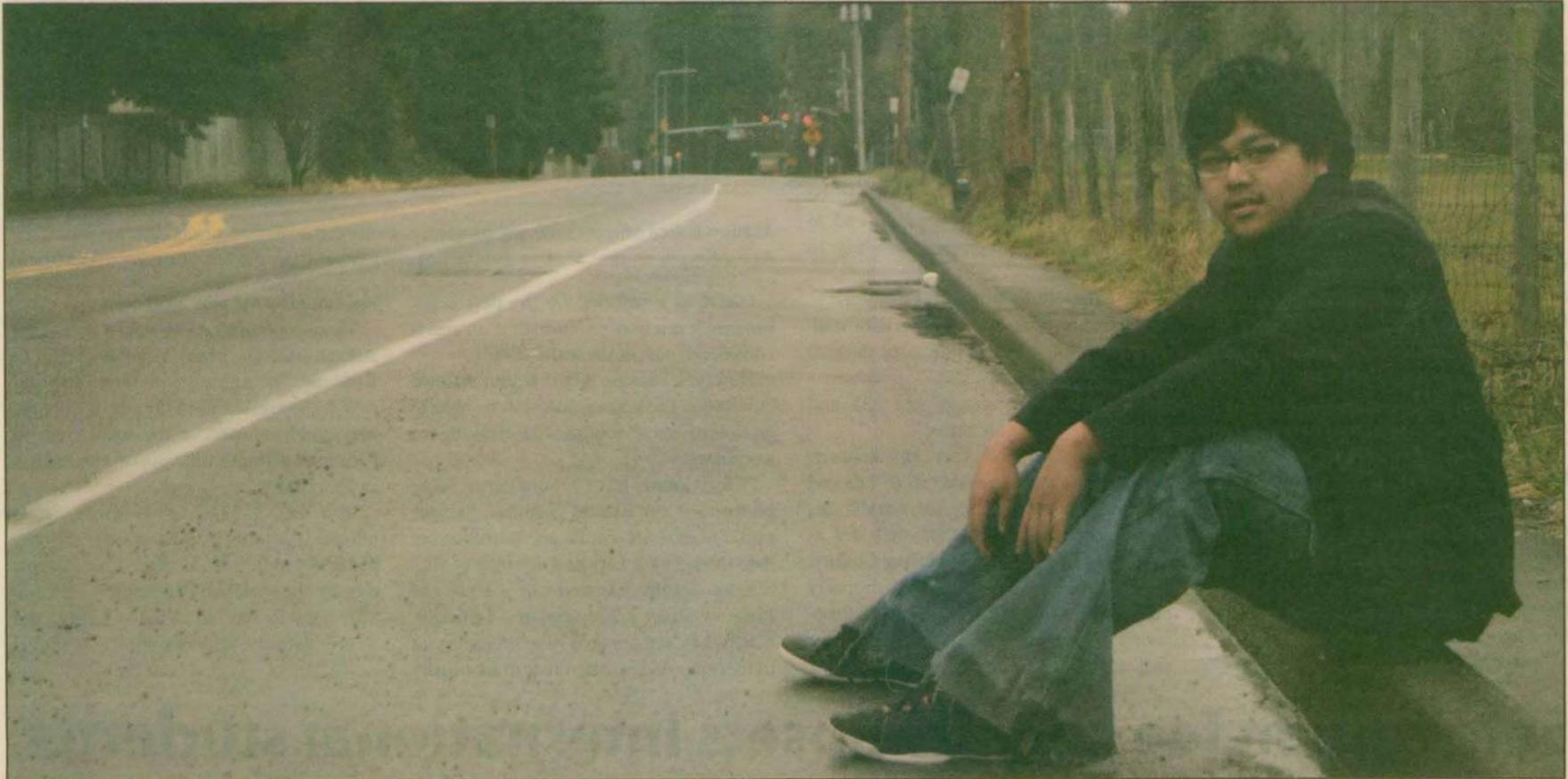




Crime strikes students near campus



Sara Olson/Staff Photo

Student Muki Aditya Pontoh, 18, sits at the spot where he and his girlfriend were attacked just blocks away from campus last October. On Jan. 14, three more students

were robbed at gunpoint near the Circle K on 124th Ave. Two suspects have been arrested and charged for the Jan. 14 incident.

Recent attacks spark concern on campus, ignite change in safety procedures

Tammie Tamara
Staff Writer

Three International students were robbed at gunpoint just blocks from campus around 11 a.m. on Jan. 14. The students, who lived at Gentry Walk Apartments, were walking home from Circle K through an alleyway next to the convenience store. This was the second armed robbery incident to have occurred during that week.

Two suspects have been caught and charged with two armed robberies. According to John Ramsey, director of public information, the Auburn Police Department suspects that the motive of the robberies was drugs.

Ramsey said that the recent incidents are the first of that kind to happen so close to campus.

"We've had robberies and other crimes, but not that often and in no such pattern," Ramsey said.

Many students are forced to walk down the street where the incident happened every day on their way to school, causing

concern around campus.

Another incident happened last October to two Indonesian students, Muki Aditya Pontoh, 18, and Ratna Purnamasari, 17. They were robbed in front of the Child Care Building on 124th Ave. at 10 p.m. Pontoh lost his money and cigarettes, and was beaten by the robbers. Purnamasari's purse was stolen.

"I was screwed. Big time," Pontoh said.

After the incident, the Campus Safety Department started the Campus Safety Ride. Students can call the Campus Safety office and ask for a ride to nearby convenience stores after dark.

Ramsey said that the program so far has been successful.

"There are many students that participate on weekly basis," Ramsey said.

Ramsey hopes that the program can help to reduce the number of students who become a victim of crime around campus.

"The idea is taking people off the street," Ramsey said.

They currently are trying to improve the program to make it better and easier for

the students.

Purnamasari thinks that the new program has helped keep students safer.

"I use it almost every day now," Purnamasari said. "They did a great job with that program."

Ross Jennings, the vice president of international programs, recently announced in the international program newsletter that safety cards and emergency whistles are being distributed to students who walk to campus.

The safety cards consist of emergency and Campus Safety number, along with a list of safety tips.

Fred Creek, director of campus safety, said that if students follow the tips on the card, the probability of such crimes happening will be decreased.

Jennings also acknowledged the fact that Campus Safety is increasing their patrols around campus.

"Campus Safety has increased its visibility on-campus, at Campus Corner Apartment, and on the perimeter of campus," Jennings said.

So far, students think that the Campus Safety has done a great job.

"It isn't their responsibility outside the campus, but they do the safety ride program anyway," Purnamasari said. "I

really appreciate it."

If a student does witness or is a victim of a crime, the best thing to do is call 911, followed by Campus Safety. However, Ramsey said that the jurisdiction of Campus Safety officers is around the college campus and not out in the neighborhood.

"Our safety staffs, which are excellent staffs, are not trained policemen by any means," Ramsey said. "We're just being supportive."

Ramsey also said that students should call the police without waiting.

"The longer you wait, the less effective the police could be in responding," Ramsey said.

He said that in almost all the incidents that have occurred around the neighborhood, the victim waited before they called the police.

The school currently is trying to warn students to be more careful through newsletters and fliers.

The Campus Safety is trying to reach groups of people to explain about the current situation, safety tips, and the safety ride program.

"We will talk about that whenever we're invited to class, International Program orientation, upcoming KGRG concert, anytime," Creek said.

Sports:

Gators hit slide
Basketball teams
struggle to earn victories.
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Love letters

On Jan. 30 and Feb. 1, The Current will be accepting student love letters that will be printed in Issue 7. Look for booths set up around campus.

Green River now within the Auburn City limits

Long-awaited annexation opens more opportunities, improving patrol around campus

Casey Greer
Staff Writer

Green River Community College (GRCC) no longer is part of Unincorporated King County, and now is within Auburn city limits.

"The City of Auburn took over the keys for all of Lea Hill on Jan. 1, as the city's long-anticipated annexation became a reality," John Ramsey, director of public information, said in a Jan. 3 statement on the school's web site.

Lea Hill is the region of King County where GRCC's main campus is located.

This means that residents of Lea Hill and West Hill, also included in the annexation, and students at GRCC will see Auburn Police in the area, rather than the King County Sheriff.

"King County was good at high tailing it up here. That will be no problem with Auburn police either," Ramsey said.

While both cars have four wheels and lights, according to Auburn's website, www.auburnwa.gov, Auburn Police responded nearly three times as quickly to emergency dispatches in Lea Hill, and almost four times as quickly to standard dispatches in the second half of 2006 when compared to the King County Sheriff.

"Auburn's on top of it," Fred Creek,

director of campus security at Green River, said. "They're motivated and dedicated to the cause and helping our students quite well."

The website also claims that the officer to resident ratio in Lea Hill and West Hill areas will increase from 1.02 officers per 1,000 residents, to 1.76 officers per 1,000 residents, a 72 percent increase.

"We've already seen the patrol officers here on campus," Creek said. "One stopped without us even asking and helped us unlock the car of a student."

While security in the area should be improved, it likely won't spell an end to the Safety Ride program, according to Ramsey.

The Safety Ride program is designed to keep students who would otherwise walk safe by giving them a ride after dark to locations on top of Lea Hill.

Among the concerns of Lea Hill and West Hill residents are taxes.

According to the City of Auburn's estimate, the average residents of Lea and West Hill actually will pay less overall taxes as residents of Auburn than they did as residents of Unincorporated King County.

While utility taxes will rise, both property taxes and the tax on city services will drop, saving the average resident nearly \$200 per year, according to the city's estimate.



George Simmons/ Staff Photo

Auburn Police officers now will be seen patrolling the areas around campus. According to studies, their response time is quicker than the King County department.

GRCC is unaffected by the new taxes, because it is a non-profit institution and is considered part of the state.

However, because it falls within Auburn city limits, the school now will be able to go to the City of Auburn when looking for a building permit.

"King County has a reputation of being pretty slow on issuing permits," Ramsey said. "Maybe we could get a little more help through the City of Auburn."

King County has laid out a plan, the King County Annexation Initiative, which has encouraged the inclusion of unincorporated urban areas into nearby

city limits by the year 2012.

There are 10 major Potential Annexation Areas (PAAs) from Federal Way to Kirkland. The Auburn annexation will add over 15,000 residents to the city of Auburn, and could increase, as the small areas of Klump and Totem will vote on annexation in February.

In a Jan. 4 blog, Lewis wrote, "It is official; Auburn is now a city of over 65,000 people. It is the 12th largest city in the state of Washington and the fifth largest city in King County, the fastest growing city in Pierce County."

Late tuition fee penalty upsets International students

Failure to pay on due date adds \$95 fine to students

Bimla Thapa
Staff Writer

On the second day of winter quarter, a handful of international students were displeased to find out they were charged an additional late fee of \$95 on top of their tuition fees, despite being only a day behind the payment.

Prabat Limbu, a seventh quarter student from Singapore, found the late fee to be rather "inconsiderate."

"I personally think that the late fee is of inconvenience for students like me; especially since our money has to be transferred from an overseas bank and such a transaction takes a couple of days to be complete," Limbu said.

"Outrageous" was the word a third quarter student from Hong Kong, Cathrine Khoo, used to describe the late fee.

"I don't think the penalty was in effect the first time I came here. I didn't even know until I saw the additional charge of

about \$100 in my receipt," Khoo said.

In response to the international disappointment, Ross Jennings, vice president of International Programs, said that the late fee charge was implemented quite recently. Previously, the international tuition fee used to be due by the fifth day of the quarter.

So why the sudden change?

"Back then students would take their time in paying their tuition, resulting in a drastic million or two dollars worth of unpaid tuition fees," Jennings said. "The huge amount of unpaid tuition fee didn't just make our staff work harder but also seemed unfair to the domestic students."

Domestic students' tuition fees are due within 24 hours of registration before being dropped out of the registered class. They also are required to pay an additional penalty for every class domestic students choose to drop out of or decide to add once the quarter begins, an issue international students do not have to worry about.

Jennings also pointed out that international students in particular have approximately about a month and a half to actually pay their tuition fee as class registration opens about a good month and a half before the following quarter begins.

"The time in between should be sufficient to both letting their parents know the cost of their tuition fee and completing the bank transaction," Jennings said.

When asked if he personally thought \$95 is a little too much for a late fee, Jennings agreed.

"Yes, I do believe that it is not a small sum, regarding the fact that the money could be used to buy the expensive text books. And I wish no students would have to pay that much amount at any time, but we're looking at the bigger picture here - fairness to everyone - other students and the GRCC staff."

Authorities said that the late fee charge was not out of spite but also a form of encouragement to the students to register for classes early and sticking to it.

"After all it is unfair to other students who are unable to get in the class only to find out that students dropped out after a few days of attending the class," Jennings added.

Given the reasons for the additional late fee, the only advice Jennings can give to students who want to avoid paying that much is to pay on time or a day or two before school began.

"There is no exemption of paying the late fee if a student does not pay on the required day, for we do not want to redeem one and not the others," Jennings said.

"This penalty, however, strictly applies to the second quarter students onwards. So if there is any first quarter students who had to pay the late fee, please come and see me at once," Jennings said.

Should students have any questions enquiring about tuition fees, feel free to contact Ross Jennings via e-mail; rjennings@greenriver.edu, or simply stop by at his office located on STA building; room 72.

GRCC 'Winter Ball' provided event to bring students together

Campus event successful, although lacking in numbers

Peter Chow
Staff Writer

The first ball ever at Green River Community College (GRCC) was held on Jan. 18. Even though this event was considered successful, there weren't as many students as coordinators would have liked.

According to Macro Becerra-Nunez, the student coordinator who was in charge of this ball, the main objective of this event was to bring students closer.

"Since there are not so many activities that students can get involved in, this Winter Ball is a good chance for them to have fun and meet friends," Becerra-Nunez said. "I think this event is very successful because we can get almost 100 people joining it, even though it is the first dance ball ever at GRCC."

However, Becerra-Nunez admitted that some improvements could have been made with the preparation.

"Perhaps we should have more advertisements so that more people would know about it," Becerra-Nunez said. "Hopefully, this kind of activity can get bigger and bigger every year, and more people will take part in them."

There are different reasons that interested people in joining the ball.

Nicole Symer, a new student at GRCC said, "I like to dress up and dance, and I can also meet friends here."

Another student Hung Tran who is from Vietnam said, "I think one of the good things is the DJ plays good music, so I like it."

However, Kaori Sakamoto, a Japanese student, thought that if more people joined the ball, it would be better.

Overall, the ball seemed to lack nothing but the participation of people.

Right: Students danced the night away at GRCC's Winter Ball.



David Gilbert/ Staff Photo

Campus Calender

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 "The Secret" revealed: The Power of positive thinking. 12 p.m., LSC Rainier.	2
3	4	5	6 Women's Varsity Basketball. 6 p.m., Gym. Men's Varsity Basketball. 8 p.m., Gym	7 Lunar New Year celebration. 6 p.m., LSC, \$5.	8 Faculty In-Service Day. Day class cancelled.	9 Women's Varsity Basketball. 3 p.m., Gym. Men's Varsity Basketball. 5 p.m., Gym
10	11	12 Artist and Speakers Presents: Ishmael Beah. 7:30 p.m., LSC	13	14	15 Massage-a-Thon. 9 a.m.-2 p.m., LSC Glacier	16 Women's Varsity Basketball. 3 p.m., Gym. Men's Varsity Basketball. 5 p.m., Gym
17	18 President's Day. Campus closed.	19	20	21	22	23 Snowtubing. 8:30 am, bus circle.
24	25	26 AD/HD: Not just for kids. 12 p.m., LSC Rainier	27	28 NWAACC Championships. Richland, WA Krispy Kreme Fund raiser. 7 a.m., LSC	29	



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

California trip selling out fast, limited spots left

Affordable rate appeals to students, enhancing ticket sale

Caitlin Williams
Staff Writer

This March, rather than freezing in Washington, students can head to Anaheim, Calif. for spring break to thaw for a week while experiencing the attractions that make the Golden State one of our nations favorite destinations.

This trip will cost \$650 for Green River Community College (GRCC) students and \$675 for non-students. Cost will include airfare for both ways, a hotel room for five nights, and a two day Park Hopper Pass for Disney Land and California Adventure.

The deadline to register for the trip is Feb. 1, so interested students shouldn't delay in signing up if they still want a place. Currently there are seven spots left, and these spots are being taken up more rapidly than ever before.

"We are expecting the tickets to sell out easily," Kristen McWain, special events coordinator, and Shayah Fox, international

activities coordinator, the organizers of the California trip, said. The week will have a number of activities and excursions scheduled, but no one is required to follow the schedule.

"You can go the entire week without seeing us," Fox said.

The trip, which takes place from March 24-29, will have highlights expected not only to be Disney Land and California Adventure, but the famous San Diego Zoo (one of the largest zoos in the world with over 4,000 animals of 800 species), the Chinese American Museum, and a visit to a university.

Anyone is welcome to come on this trip, including Running Start students and friends, even if they aren't enrolled at GRCC. However, if a guest is under 18, they must have a parent with them.

Every year, the spring break location alternates between three usual locations, Hawaii, California and London. Originally,

the plan had been for spring breakers to flock to New York this year, but according to McWain and Fox, the airfare was far too expensive for students, hence it was eliminated.

London also was brushed off due to its accumulating expenses. Still, there haven't been too many complaints about the resolution to spend the week in California.

The GRCC student community also shared a very similar reaction to the idea of spending a week in California.

"I think it's really reasonably priced. I went to California over the summer and tried to do these things separately and it cost me way more than \$650," Alicia Flatt,

second-year student, said.

So this March, Fox and McWain are encouraging students to be a part of something to remember for years to come.

This trip will take its participants to not only two of the country's most popular theme parks, but to one of the most progressive zoos in the world, a museum, and a university. It will be two more years before the opportunity to go to California rolls around again.

To sign up, students can contact Fox or McWain by going to the Student Programs Office, or calling (253)833-9111, ext. 2400.

Next Issue

The series by Angelica Asiesiukiewics, scheduled to start this issue, has been postponed to Issue 7. Starting next issue, Asiesiukiewics, who is studying abroad in Spain, will report the differences between American and Spanish college students.

Correction

In Issue 5 of The Current, in the article titled "Gators display near perfection in preseason," the reporter implied that the former girls' basketball coach, Rochelle Mitchell, was let go by Gator athletics. Mitchell in fact quit from her position at her own will. The Current apologizes for its mistake.

The Current is just a click away

The Current now can be viewed online at www.greenriver.edu/thecurrent

Weird & Wacky News

Jamie Page
Staff Writer

Passengers experience 'snakes on a plane'

Many people have heard of the movie "Snakes on a Plane," but never before has it been heard of as real-life incident. However, on Jan. 17, 1,550 pounds of rat snakes were discovered on a flight from Bangkok to the Noi Bai airport in Hanoi.

The snakes were being transported in more than 60 boxes on the flight.

State media reported that this was in fact not the first time this has happened.

Last month a similar slithery freight was seized from air cargo to Vietnam. It is reported that the poundage of the seized cargo was the same in both instances.

The reptiles were transported to an animal station after landing.

Ticket protested for shady police tactics

In Vancouver, Wash., a state trooper pulled over a motorist for speeding, who after paying his ticket, requested his money back. The driver, Dave Milbrandt, claimed that Washington State Patrol Trooper Bradford A. Moon had been driving his unmarked patrol car with Oregon plates when he pulled him over in Longview, Wash. last month for speeding.

Milbrandt reported that he planned to see a lawyer about the situation, with the suspicion that his ticket was given illegally due to the out-of-state plates.

The embarrassed trooper later said that he had been trying to catch speeders in a more innovative, sneaky way, but neglected to tell his sergeant about his plate tactic before the incident.

Patrol officials report that Moon will not be punished, and unless Milbrandt is able to sway judges to his view of the situation as an illegal injustice, his ticket stands legitimate.

City tries to stop rowdy behavior in bars

In St. Louis, Mo., a controversial and head-turning bill was proposed to ban swearing in bars, as well as profane music or entertainment, table dancing, and drinking contests.

St. Louis residents and officials alike have become fed up with unruly bar behavior, and after hearing numerous complaints about it, City Councilman Richard Veit created the bill.

Many bar owners in the town strongly oppose the bill as they feel that it violates their civil rights, and some say that due to its vague outline it may cause police to interfere in these local sites more than is called for.

A meeting was set for Jan. 14 to discuss the bill, but so far no further reports have been published about the outcome.

Woman locked in bathroom for 20 hours

An 84-year-old woman was locked in a bathroom at the Estonian National Opera on Jan. 13. After the opera ended, she went to use the restroom.

Because that was the only performance held at the venue that day, the staff was quick to turn off lights and lock the bathrooms, neglecting to check to see if anyone was in them first.

The woman was discovered the next day after 20 hours in the bathroom and was taken to the hospital because she had hit her head in the dark while looking for a way out. The venue manager's adviser reported that she was a regular attendee and was very embarrassed about the situation.

The staff member who locked the toilets was suspended - both for the incident and for the fact that locking the restrooms at the venue was against the building's policy.

Texting law hopes to make Washington roads safe

Drivers will suffer penalty for texting in car

Steven Thomas
Staff Writer

A new law came into effect affecting all Washington drivers on Jan. 1.

The law prohibits the reading, composing, and sending of text-messages while driving.

This new law, aimed at teenage drivers, makes texting while driving a secondary offense and punishable for up to \$101.

A secondary offense is an act for which police officers only ticket individuals who commit a second traffic violation while committing the act in question. These acts include running a red light, speeding, not wearing a seat belt, or swerving from lane to lane.

"I think it's a good thing," said Green River student Kate Jorgenson. "People get too involved with texting and don't pay attention to the road."

The new law is part of Governor Christine Gregoire's plan to make driving safer.

On July 1, it will also be illegal to talk on a cell phone without using a hands-free device.

Since the law is new, the police will give warnings in some cases, but have the right

to cite drivers for the maximum \$101.

"I think it's stupid," said student Sammy Fallak. "For some people, it's a good thing, but what about the skilled drivers?"

According to a 1997 study published in the "New England Journal of Medicine," using a cellular device while driving is just as dangerous as driving while intoxicated.

A study from the University of Toronto concluded that those who use cell phones while driving are four to five times more likely to get into an accident than those who don't.

Oregon passed a similar text-messaging law, and with Washington are the first states to prohibit drivers from texting while on the road.

As with other traffic citations, drivers will be able to fight their case in court.

The citing officer will have the right to confiscate the driver's cell phone, but only if the officer is sure that the cell phone was the cause of the driver's distraction.

Individual cases may vary, as the judge may exempt individuals in emergency situations or lower the fine.

According to a 2007 American Automobile Association survey, 46 percent of teens admit to texting while behind the wheel.

The survey also reported that California and 15 other states are considering bills that ban the use of electronic devices while driving.

Sara Olson/Photo illustration



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St. Louis hopes swearing ban cleans up 'rowdy' bars

Proposed law proves to be big joke rather than solution to problem



Commentary by Sean Kramer

When it comes to our freedom of speech in this country, there needs to be a certain amount of limitations to it.

But when St. Louis, Mo. wanted to propose a bill that would ban profanity, profane music, table dancing, and drinking contests from bars it makes me scratch my head and think "what the, err, heck?" Sorry, but that's taking it too far.

C i t y legislation wants to make sure

that the downtown area that has been getting too "rowdy" will be safer and more under control.

Profanity is definitely inappropriate if the places in question were family or public places, such as restaurants like Red Robin, or even McDonalds.

The owners of such establishments have every right to remove persons who are disrupting the peace with profanity.

However, a bar, of all places, is not such a place - a strictly adult environment set up for people to have a few drinks and have fun.

Profanity is the last thing that bar owners worry about that would incite any kind of violence.

Unless the profanity is directed at

another person, in which case, I'm sure owners or employees of such establishments would step in themselves and solve the situation.

I think the last thing that needs to be worried about is music inciting violence or inspiring bad behavior by intoxicated patrons who probably don't even pay attention to the music anyway.

Maybe their thought is that if people listened to calmer music that the moods would be less prone to violence?

Well, gee, if that's the case then sign me up for Will Smith karaoke night. Surely, this is a ridiculous law to be proposing.

Maybe the city has a legitimate claim when they protest bars endorsing drinking contests or anything that would get their patrons any more

liquored up than they usually would be, but that would be intruding upon the civil rights of the owners of such establishments.

As owners of private business, they have whatever

right they want to create such contests or anything that would attract more customers or sell more drinks.

In reality, when we are talking about bars, we are talking about an adult environment. There already is a drinking age, and usually bars enforce their drinking ages at the door. If people have a problem with offensive profanity

or music, then the last place they should go to have a drink or two would be a neighborhood bar, and if they do, they're in the wrong place.

But violence is not likely to ensue because of it. People get drunk, they get rowdy, and stuff happens.

But if the city of St. Louis thinks that this ridiculous bill will help any of this at all, they are delusional.

"But when St. Louis, Mo. wanted to propose a bill that would ban profanity, profane music, table dancing, and drinking contests from bars it makes me scratch my head and think 'what the, err, heck?'"

"Profanity is the last thing that bar owners worry about that would incite any kind of violence."

Editorial Policy

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

Letters to the editor

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

Editorials

Texting law proves that drivers continue to threaten roads with dangerous habits

The day finally has come when another error of stupidity has been outlawed - texting while driving.

First, the state had to force drivers to buckle up while driving. Now, the state strikes again, attempting to force Washington drivers to keep their eyes on the road rather than on their cell phone.

As cell phones quickly and continuously evolve, so do people's form of communication. Instead of talking on the phone, people are texting. And, instead of speaking in complete sentences, people have adopted a new language, a mere shell of English, abbreviating nearly every phrase and reducing words to only a couple of letters.

As silly as it may sound, texting while driving has become a wide-spread epidemic, resulting in far too many traffic accidents every year - so many, in fact, that it now is illegal.

This new law may attempt to limit the number of drivers willing to risk the safety of themselves as well as others, but stupid drivers always have and always will exist.

They are recognizable by their willingness to search their iPod during their morning commute or watch a movie during rush hour traffic.

Soon, it will be illegal even to make a phone call while driving. These two laws may limit the "I just need to make this one last phone call" or "I can't go 10 minutes without texting my boyfriend" drivers.

However, there still will be commuters endangering Washington roads by not being able to find time to apply makeup outside of the car or read the morning newspaper other than behind the wheel.

Writer's strike is getting old, needs to stop

These days, soap opera and talk show viewers have been forced to be satisfied with reruns. In late November of last year, the Writers Guild of America (WGA) decided to go on a strike, due to the profits distribution dispute between the WGA and Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers.

It's been nearly three months, but the negotiations between the two sides keep meeting a gridlock. Meanwhile, the strike has affected not only the shows' viewers but also hundred of thousands of employees who work in the television and movie industry.

Above all, it also is a threat to the economy of Southern California since entertainment is one of its biggest industries.

And, most recently, the red carpet was shut down and the Golden Globe awards were reduced to a mere press conference.

Perhaps no one feels sorry for the actors and actresses who weren't allowed to put on overly priced evening wear due to the strike, but after three months, the public's patience with the quarrel is running thin. The reruns are getting old, and in all honesty, "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" just isn't funny without the writers.

The Current Staff

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



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KGRG

by Jessa Cosand

KGRG stand out among radio stations, proving that it's here to stay

In the 2003 film, "School of Rock," Jack Black, playing Dewey Finn, said "If you wanna rock, you gotta break the rules. You gotta get mad at the man."

KGRG, Green River's student run radio station has been impacting the public for nearly 20 years by not being afraid to stand out among its mainstream competitors.

John Ramsey one of the first program directors envisioned a station where students could listen to alternative music on their own terms.

Even though KGRG has been run by students with little experience and has had limited funding, it remains one of the leading college radio stations in the country.

KGRG competes with commercial radio stations for listeners from their early teens to mid-20s.

Unlike its competitors, KGRG plays musical genres most radio stations avoid and showcase bands that often have not been signed by major labels.

The station takes pride in playing music that stands out from what is typically played on commercial radio.

The music genres heard on the station vary stated Daniel Todd, program director of KGRG.

"We play music ranging from ska, punk, emo, indie, hardcore, rockabilly and

psychobilly music," Todd said.

According to Natalia McDonald, a DJ at KGRG, the station also stands apart from its competitors because it is willing to take listeners requests rather than play from a set list of music.

New Music Tuesday's are an example of how the radio staff is further educated on new music. From 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., New Music Tuesday's provide a unique opportunity in a discussion format for KGRG staff and Green River students to discuss musical preferences and to be exposed to new ideas.

Each show that the radio presents throughout the week is a testament to KGRG's versatility.

KGRG recently has added genres such as folk, blue grass and irish/punk music to its musical library, and is bringing artists such as Jason Webley, Rough Chukar, and James Hunnicutt to the forefront.

KGRG also plays a significant number of underground tracks and has discovered many bands before they were even known by the majority of radio stations.

The station also has shown over the years that it can produce some of the area's most well known and successful radio disk jockeys.

Several DJs from stations, such as The End, KISW, The Mountain, Funky Monkey, and AM 1090 began their careers at KGRG. Marty Reimer, The Mountain's morning host, and DJ No Name, formally known as Bob Green from the radio station The End, both gained experience while they were enrolled in Journalism 110 at GRCC.

Travis Halverson, known by KGRG listeners as "the Beekeeper," also has used the skills he's gained from KGRG at his current job at The End.

Another radio host Abby Still who formally hosted the "Local Motion Show" at KGRG, now is the music director for Funky Monkey.

KGRG not only offers experience for those who are pursuing a professional career in radio but also provides an avenue into the forefront of music scenes.

"KGRG staff members are introduced to new music before the general public," Chris Leir, who has worked for KGRG for nearly three years, said.

Like rock and roll, KGRG has stood the test of time and has proven that its here to stay.

And, as Dewey Finn said, "In the words of AC/DC: We roll tonight to the guitar bite, and for those about to rock, I salute you."

ROCK
&
ROLL

Gators unable to deliver expected victories

Both teams suffer losses, adding to losing record

Baris Cirak
Staff Writer

Green River Gators couldn't start the season in the way planned as both men's and women's team are 1-4 in the first couple of weeks of the season.

The women's basketball team started the season with a wide squad rotation and a 5-0 record in the preseason. The team now is down to eight players, which increases the chance of problems that could result from an injury or foul trouble during the games.

"The combination of injuries and academic casualties has contributed to the loss of players," Bob Kickner, Gator athletic director, said. "The coaches are straining to create new game plans to accommodate these changes, and players are being asked to step into bigger and different roles."

For the men's team, the situation is different. They still have a deep squad, but they didn't start the season as well as they wanted.

With the only win in the season against Tacoma Community College on Jan. 9, the team currently is sixth in the eight-team NWAACC Western Conference. Statistically, assist-turnover ratio seems to be the weak side of the team in the offense, in addition to the low free throw percentage (62.7 percent).

Sophomore Dave Massington leads the team in both scoring and three pointer percentages, while freshman guard Jordan Paulson leads the Gators in assists and turnovers.

Jade Collier, the 6'9" freshman center out of Garfield High School, extends the size and defensive intensity of the team. Collier averages 1.7 blocks per game. Giovanni Lee, the first year swingman out of Stadium High School is one of the most spectacular players in the league. Thus, he makes most of the audience come to the games.

"Lee is perfect. He is athletic and can play both ends of the courts," said Cem Serbetci, 20, a committed fan of the Gators.

However the promised talent of the team hasn't delivered the victories yet.

"Both the men's and women's basketball teams had a difficult Christmas vacation. Unfortunately, neither team is at full strength at the most important time of the season. We hope to weather the storm and keep ourselves in position to make the playoff race," Kickner said.

On Jan. 16, both teams took on the Centralia. The first game of the doubleheader was the women's.

Three minutes into the game, the score was tied at four. However, this was the last tie in the game. Centralia Lady Blazers got a 1-14 run afterwards and got the score to 5-18, which they didn't let the Gators come close to for the remainder of the game.

The Blazers left with a 79-61 win, improving their record to a 3-0. The Gators allowed 37 turnovers, which is the season high for the team.

Due to the narrow squad, Gators had to play with a small rotation.

In the second game of the night, the swap between Gator Men and Trailblazer Men started with an 11-0 run by the Gators in the first four minutes of the game.

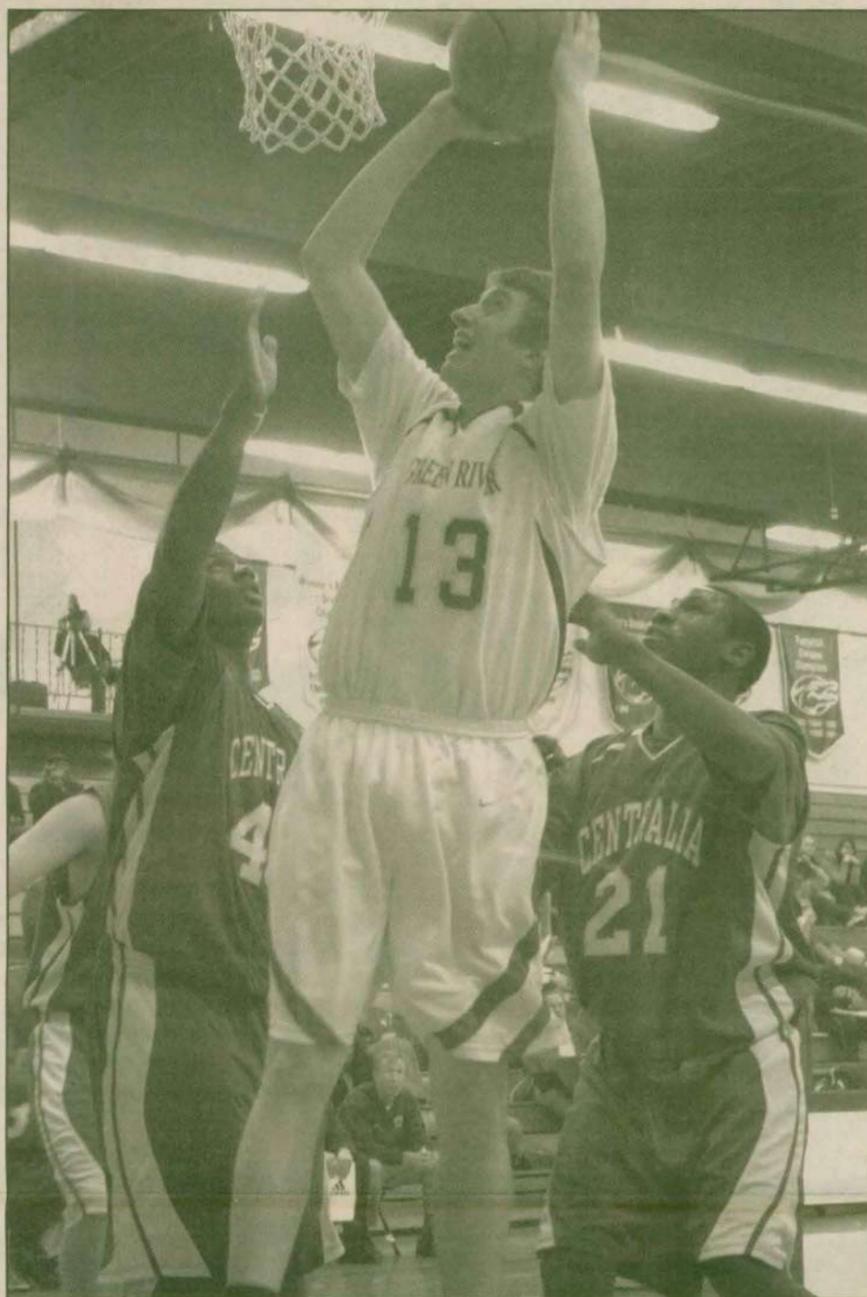
In this time period, Travis Wagner, sophomore guard-forward, starred with nine points that came with a 3 for 3 3-point shooting performance. Gators led 32-24 at half time, with a good shooting performance, and Collier dominating the paint.

But the Trailblazers came back in the first five minutes of the second half and tied the game at 35, earning the lead the minute after, which they kept until the end of the game.

The final score was 69-66, Trailblazers.. The Trailblazers shot with a 68.2 percent on the floor whereas the Gators shot with a 37.9 percent.

"Basically, in the first five minutes of the second quarter, the defensive intensity was not there. We let them shoot high percentage and this let their win," Tim Malroy, Gator head coach, said.

As Kickner said, the Gators will try to weather the storm and come back to the playoff race as soon as possible.



Sara Olson/Staff photo

Freshman Mitchell Landis goes up for a shot during the Gators' loss against Centralia Community College on Jan. 16. The Gators' women's team also lost that night.

For more information on individual and team statistics for the Gators, visit www.cybersports.org.

Gator Profiles: Lester Cuttings



Lester Cuttings

Position: Forward
Height: 6'5"
High School: Birmingham, Calif.

Q: What's your favorite food?
A: Philly Cheesesteak.
Q: What's your favorite movie?
A: "Treal TV, Vol. 1."
Q: Who is your favorite athlete?
A: Joe Johnson.
Q: Who is your favorite celebrity?
A: Will Smith.
Q: If you weren't a basketball player, what would you be?
A: A rapper.
Q: What is one thing you want to improve on this season?
A: I want to improve my hoop game as a whole.
Q: Do you have any message for the Green River community?
A: Keep supporting us and believe!

Gator Results

Men's Basketball

Date	Results	Record
1/12	Grays Harbor, 98 d. Green River, 89	1-3
1/16	Centralia, 69 d. Green River, 66	1-4

Women's Basketball

Date	Results	Record
1/9	Tacoma, 66 d. Green River, 63	1-2
1/12	Grays Harbor, 53 d. Green River, 47	1-3
1/16	Centralia, 79 d. Green River, 61	1-4

Gator Schedules

Date	Opponent/Location	Time*
1/26	Clark/Green River	3 p.m.
1/30	Pierce/Green River	6 p.m.
2/2	Lower Columbia/Lower Columbia	5 p.m.
2/6	Tacoma/Green River	6 p.m.
2/9	Grays Harbor/Green River	3 p.m.
2/11	Centralia/Centralia	6 p.m.
2/13	Highline/Highline	6 p.m.
2/16	South Puget Sound/Green River	3 p.m.

* Time represents start time for women's game. The men's game tips off following the women's game, usually two hours later.

Seattle sports teams lose recognition in area

Seahawks, Sonics, Mariners endure roller coaster style affection from fans



**Commentary
by Casey Greer**

The Seattle Seahawks season is over, and the sports culture in Washington is sputtering.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Washington is growing at a rate faster than the United States. Much of the growth can be attributed to people migrating from other parts of the country.

With people flocking from far and wide to live in the Seattle Metro Area, it seems odd that each of Seattle's major professional sports franchises have all made an attempt to leave within the last two decades.

Like many other sports cities, Seattle's teams have thrived financially during periods of on-field success. The Mariners, who at one time were the laughingstock of Seattle, had a great stretch from the mid-'90s to the early 2000s, drawing fans in droves.

The Seahawks, a once proud upstart franchise in the 1980s, fell on hard times in the 1990s, and now are the hottest ticket

in town, drawing near sell-out crowds week in and week out.

The Seattle Sonics, the most recent Seattle franchise to pull up the stakes on their proverbial circus tent had a four year stretch in the late '90s where they were 651 fans short of selling out every single game, and now are seemingly standing with one foot in the moving truck, turning on the windshield wipers as an ominous cloud sets in over Key Arena.

The problem that plagues Seattle sports is not that of the teams, but the fans. Being a sports fan in Seattle is not a lifestyle, but a fad.

It is not a coincidence that among the most noted aspects of Safeco field is the selection of gourmet food and personal service in the Terrace and Diamond Clubs.

Sporting events have become social events and business meetings with a sports backdrop.

As an example, if you type in "Yankee caskets" on google.com, the first link directs you to a story about an elderly woman who has already bought a New York Yankees casket to spend eternity in.

If you type in "Mariner caskets," you are directed to a

site that sells caskets shaped like boats. As hated as the Yankees are in every city outside of New York, it is undeniable that New York is the Mecca of North American Sports.

Yankee fans are dedicated and have embraced the tradition of their franchise. The most noticeable uprising in Seattle is the army of "lifelong" Red Sox fans who seem to multiply daily since the Red Sox historic World Series victory in 2005.

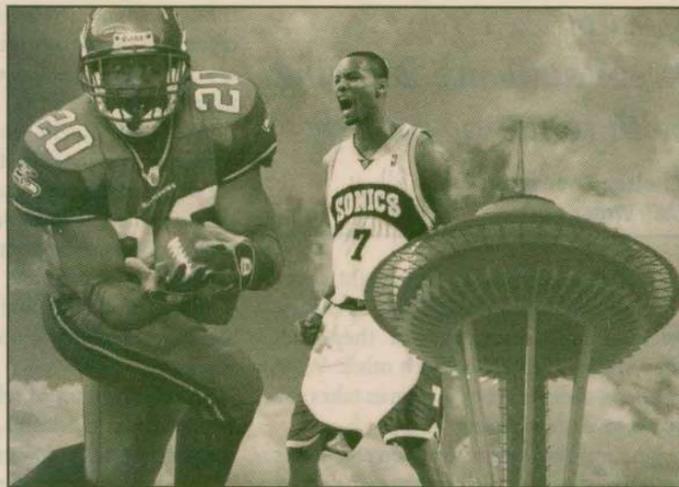
It is hard to put a finger on the fickle fan of Seattle sports. Tradition isn't enough to keep fans around.

The Sonics are the oldest franchise that current in Seattle, and they along with their WNBA affiliate, the Storm, are the only two champions in the city.

In fact, the Sonics alone have made the playoffs more times than the Mariners and Seahawks combined. The Sonics have seen Hall of Famers and perennial All-stars all suit up in green and yellow.

Also, the Sonics rivalry with the Portland Trailblazers is not only the closest, but probably the most significant professional sports rivalry in Seattle.

Fortunately, the Storm was sold to a group of businesswomen from Seattle in early January, and will remain in Seattle. However, the Sonics are in limbo with no promising news in recent



Sara Olson/Photo Illustration

The Seattle teams, including the Seahawks, Sonics, and Mariners, have struggled to capture the consistent attention of fans.

memory.

In 1989, the Seattle Mariners were struggling to break out of a cycle of mediocrity. On April 10, 1989, a tall, lanky, 19-year-old kid ran out into centerfield for the first time in the Kingdome. He wore his hat backward; he smiled, and seemed at the time, completely unaware of the politics that surrounded his team, which would later try to bolt for Florida.

That kid's name was George Kenneth Griffey Jr. That kid would go on to captivate Seattle for a decade, change the entire landscape of Seattle sports, and while he barely played there, Safeco Field will always be "The house that Griffey built," very

much in the way that Yankee Stadium is "The house that Ruth built."

A generation later Kevin Durant walked onto the Key Arena floor for the first time on Nov. 1, 2007, taller and lankier than Griffey, but a 19-year-old kid still seemingly untainted by the celebrity lifestyle.

It is easy to sympathize with the callous Seattle sports fan, who certainly has acquired some abandonment issues, but that fan shouldn't shut the door on the Sonics right now. Let Kevin Durant be "The Kid" all over again, and hopefully one day there will be an arena in Washington for which he laid the proverbial foundation.

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Friday | April 28, 2006
THE CURRENT

The Green River Community College Student Newspaper Since 1963

Instructor
Paycheck
How much do they
really make?
see inside | B-3

Planning for
June ceremony
now under way
Over 2,000 expected
attendance

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

New movie is dressed to impress with charming laughs

Cast of '27 Dresses' keeps audience laughing with romantic comedy

Chelsea Thompson
Staff Writer

Sisters can fight a lot. They fight about sharing clothing, makeup, shoes, chores, friends, and family. But in the end, they still end up loving each other. What happens, though, when a woman takes the secret love of her sister?

Jane and Tess, two of the main characters of *27 Dresses*, lose their mother when they are young. Jane, the older sister, takes the mom role, becoming like a mother to Tess. That works well when they are kids, but that doesn't work so well now that they are adults.

Jane (Katherine Heigl) learns early in life that she loves being a bridesmaid when attending as a young girl the wedding of her cousin. Jane has been a bridesmaid 27 times, overflowing her closet with 27 bridesmaid dresses.

She always does everything for the bride, such as holding her dress as she pees; never thinking of herself, although she secretly wishes that she could be in their place.

Jane's younger sister, Tess (Malin Akerman), returns home after a long trip. When Tess plans to have a drink with Jane, she meets Jane's boss, George (Edward Burns) who is the man Jane is secretly in love with.

Tess immediately sets her sights on George who instantly responds to this blond beauty.

Jane is furious, but only confides this to her friend Casey (Judy Greer), keeping true to taking care of everyone but herself.

On one hectic night, Kevin (the boyishly handsome James Marsden), catches Jane

trying to attend two weddings on the same night and decides to investigate her for a specific column for the wedding section of the newspaper he writes for.

Jane and Kevin form a bickering relationship as Jane resists his contempt for the weddings she loves so much. However, Kevin wants to expose Jane's true motives for her obsessive bridesmaid activities.

When Jane is asked to help plan the wedding of George and Tess that also is being covered for a story by Kevin, the sparks fly.

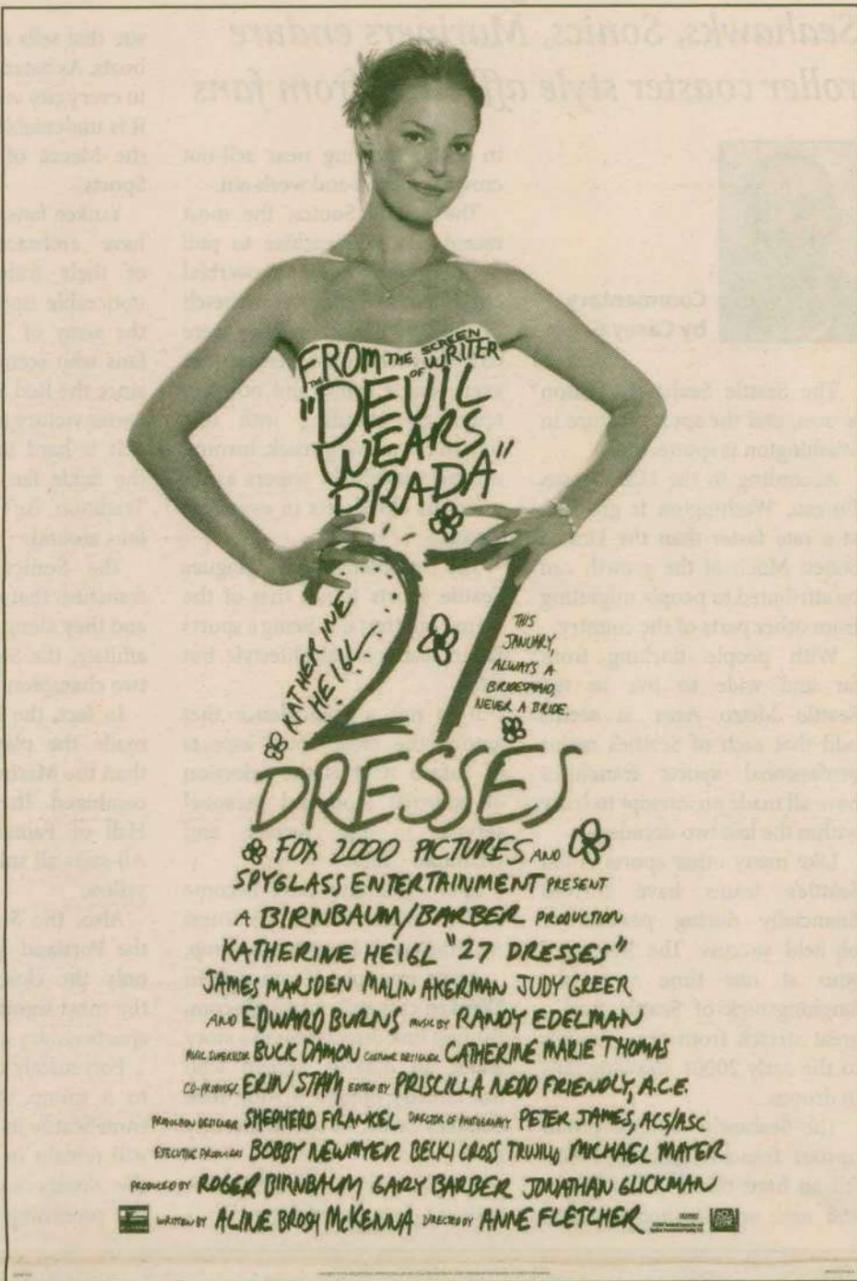
Friendship, betrayal, relationships, family, self-sacrifice, selfishness, and dealing with not getting what you want are all portrayed in this light-hearted comedy drama. The relationships are true to life, leaving us all to ask ourselves, what do we really want and what are we willing to do to get it.

Heigl creates a believable romantic, giving us a look inside her feelings as she discovers what it is she truly wants. Marsden and Judy Greer also were good too, creating funny sarcastic characters, challenging Jane to see herself more clearly. Burns shows us subtly the naïveté of a man caught up in a woman's beauty.

Akerman does a good job of being the flirt, the kind that every other woman hates. Jane and Tess's widowed father Hal (Brian Kerwin) is supportive and loving to his girls, helping guide them as they deal with their anger and frustration with each other.

The scenery shots of Rhode Island and New York City are beautiful. The characters are funny and likable in that there is someone who you can relate to or know. The music is effective at setting the mood for the scenes. The snippets from the many weddings showed the various funny and creative ways people decide to share their nuptials.

"There was nothing not to like about this film. This is a must see for anyone looking for a good date movie. Expect to be smiling when walking out of the theater."



www.thecinemasource.com/Courtesy photo

"*27 Dresses*," starring Katherine Heigl, came out this January and is getting rave reviews from viewers. The movie also stars James Marsden and Judy Greer.

There was nothing not to like about this film. This is a must see for anyone looking for a good date movie. Expect to be smiling when walking out of the theater.

This picture gets a rating of 7 hearts out

of 10 on my Date Movie Scale. The film may be a little early for Valentines Day, but still worth taking a special someone to go see it.

Kate Nash releases new album to United States

British artist succeeds in bringing America innovative music

Colleen Morgan
Staff Writer

Kate Nash, a new British artist is here to stay. She has been seen on MTV multiple times, and she only is getting started.

Nash's album was first released in Britain. During its first week, it went straight to No. 1. It is called "Made of Bricks" and now is available here in the United States.

Nash has a Myspace page where a few of her songs are posted for those who want to get a taste of her style.

Nash's sound really can't be compared to anything mainstream at the moment. She is truly original and because of that, is slightly refreshing. She sings about situations that everyone can relate to, ranging from being pissed off at a guy, to looking like a fool.

As if that isn't good enough, she sings with a sense of humor, and she actually is funny. Some of the situations she describes that wouldn't ordinarily be funny are hilarious, showing that she definitely is not afraid to speak her mind.

Speaking of original, when she mentions

normal, everyday things that we would hear on the radio regularly, she likes being creative and giving them funky names like "Pumpkin Soup."

She writes her own songs and similar to other artists, she writes about her own personal life but tweaks it and makes it relatable to everyone.

Most of the songs are upbeat and good for singing along with in the car, and also dancing to.

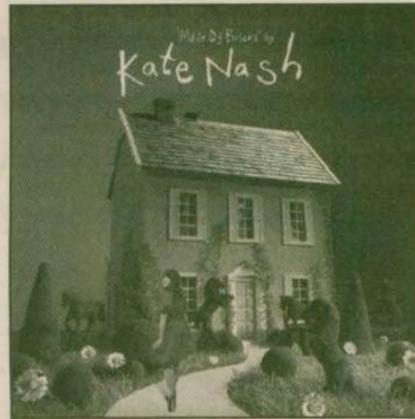
"Making Bricks" is a well rounded album when it comes to types of songs and music.

She ranges from acoustic, to a vintage synthesizer, but it's apparent that she also really likes the piano, because it is in a majority of her songs.

Nash is definitely not from here, that's for sure. Her accent makes it very apparent she's from Britain. It makes it fun to sing along with her, because a British accent has to be used. It just doesn't sound the same with an American accent.

On her Myspace, Nash's music is described as being alternative and indie. She has an excellent voice range and uses her voice as a way to sing, but also as another instrument.

Sometimes, she isn't even singing at all. She talks rhythmically without putting pitch into it but yet it still fits in with the



www.forepac.com/Courtesy photo

Kate Nash's latest album, "Making Bricks," is being called one of the best new albums of 2008.

music perfectly.

Don't get the wrong impression, she doesn't rap. It's more like she uses the different tones of her voice to add to the song without actually singing.

Nash really is quite a talented artist, and her fame is just beginning. With this kind of success now, who knows what will happen next?

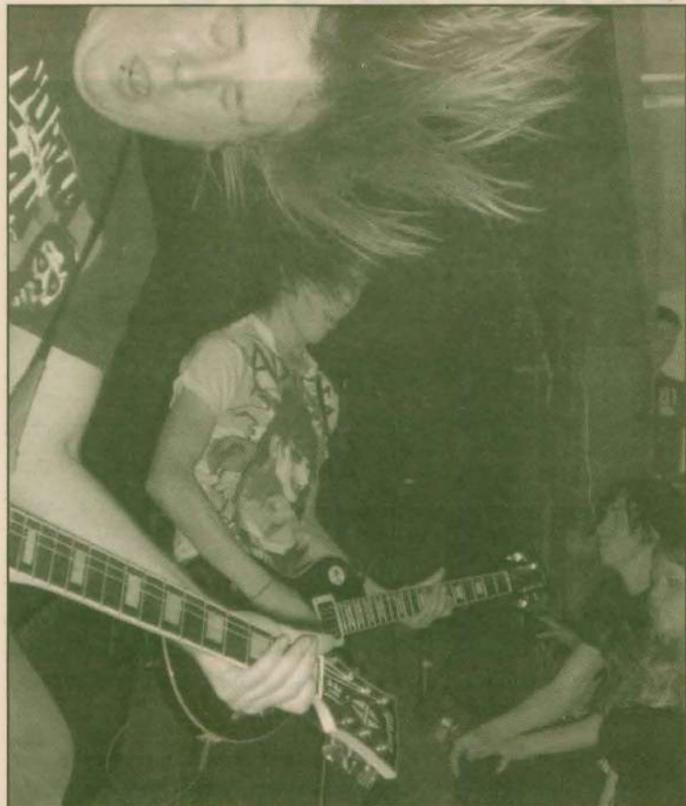
She is well on her way to becoming a class of her own combining all sorts of different types of music into one upbeat, funny, and amusing genre.

Upcoming album releases

Feb. 5:

- Lenny Kravitz - It Is Time For A Love Revolution
- Santana - Multi-Dimensional Warrior [2 CDs]
- Sheryl Crow - Detours
- Jack Johnson - Sleeping Through The Static
- Foxy Brown - Brooklyn Don's Diva
- AZ - Undeniable
- k.d. lang - Watershed
- Shelby Lynne - Just A Little Lovin'
- They Might Be Giants - Here Come The 123s [Amazon.com exclusive]
- Hot Chip - Made In The Dark
- Sheek Louch - Silverback Gorilla
- Lizz Wright - Orchard
- Taylor Dayne - Satisfied
- Dolly Parton - Backwoods Barbie
- Bob Mould - District Line
- Soundtrack - My Blueberry Nights
- Nada Surf - Lucky

Numerous venues offer concerts for all ages



Katie Barr/Staff photo

Members of the band "Theme for Murder" rock out at the local venue, Club Adrian. The club is located in the basement of a church.

Clubs around area serve musicians, bands of all kinds

Katie Barr
Staff Writer

The local music scene provides entertainment for the music lover of every genre of music.

At the Nectar Lounge, located in Seattle, there is a variety of different musicians performing every week. The different musicians play a variety of genres such as, reggae, hip hop, indie, and funk-soul.

Such musicians include, Dr. G and The Funky Recovery, Frankie Starr, and Lazybones.

The Nectar Lounge has live music about 6 days a week, however, most of the shows are 21 and over.

For the kandi kids, or techno lovers, Club Motor is the place to be. Club Motor features artists such as, Freaky Flow, Giani, Zacharia, Osiris Indriya, Ryle,

Chronus, Scott Keith and Sir Kutz. Club Motor is an upbeat, fun venue.

One of the biggest and most well-known venues of the Seattle area is The Showbox. The Showbox was founded in 1939 and is a historical venue for rock music.

The Paramount Theater is unlike most other venues. It is a not-for-profit performing arts organization. Another thing that makes this venue different than others is that they aren't constricted to one type of genre of the arts.

Some artists that are scheduled to perform there are Angels and Airwaves, the Bishop Blanchet High School drama department, Disney's High School Musical on tour, George Lopez, James Blunt, Marilyn Manson, and Jeff Dunham.

One of Seattle's premiere rock clubs is Studio 7. Some of the featured artists are Society Says, The Cauze, Three Dead Whores, Zeroyear, Millionth Crazy Scheme, and Saving Arcadia.

Studio 7 also provides band rehearsal rooms at a monthly cost. Studio 7 showcases local up and coming bands.

Club Impact is a venue striving to improve youth's lives, and involvement in the community.

This venue is a drug-free, alcohol-free, and smoke-free environment.

Volunteer positions are available for those who want to experience and learn about media productions such as sound, lights, video, concert productions and promotions.

Some of the featured artists scheduled to perform are, The Devil Wears Prada, The Hollowed, From Aphony, The Tuxedos and Kamikazi Sex Pilots. This venue always is all-ages and is a very fun place to be.

Club Adrian is located in the basement of a church in Tacoma.

Don't let the church exterior fool you, they showcase metal and rock bands such as, They Came with Guns, The Usual, and The King's Endeavor.

Writers' strike leads to cancellation of Golden Globes

Winners announced in press conference

Brittney Walker-Higgins
Staff Writer

While there were no red carpets, or fabulous gowns, viewers still tuned in for the 2008 Golden Globes. The Writer's Guild of America's ongoing strike caused the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, who sponsors the Globes, to cancel the formal ceremony which was supposed to be held Jan. 13.

Instead, winners were announced at a news conference held by NBC News. Hosting the conference at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California, were Billy Bush of Access Hollywood and Mary Hart of Entertainment

Tonight. The excitement, paparazzi, and Hollywood stars were nowhere to be found.

Last year, 20 million people tuned into the Golden Globe Awards to get a glimpse of their favorite stars. Many look forward to seeing who is wearing what and who arrived with whom. Stars chose to boycott the award ceremony in support of the strike.

Jackie Steele, a student at Green River Community College (GRCC), was disappointed that she wasn't going to get to see her favorite actress, Kiera Knightly, who was nominated for best performance by an actress in a motion picture - Drama.

"I feel bad for the actors, because they don't get any recognition. Its like congratulations, they're announcing your name, but you

don't get to dress up and make a speech. I also really do not like this strike because two of my favorite shows, Heroes and House, ended early," Steele said.

While the strike has led to the cancellation of the 65th annual Golden Globes Ceremony, the awards were still given to the actors, actresses, and directors of Tinsel Town.

The first award of the night, best supporting actress in a motion picture, went to Cate Blanchett for her role in "I'm not there."

The romantic tale "Atonement," starring Kiera Knightly and James McAvoy, generated a lot of award buzz, including seven Golden Globe nominations. "Atonement" won the bragging rights to best motion picture - drama for the year 2008.

McAvoy and Knightly were

up for best performance by an actor/actress for their roles in the film, but both came away empty handed.

Best performance by an actor in a motion picture - drama went to Daniel Day Lewis; Lewis took the Globe for his performance in "There Will Be Blood."

Nominees for the best animated feature film included "The Simpsons Movie" and "Bee Movie," where Jerry Seinfeld stars as a talking bee.

The winner, however, was Pixar's "Ratatouille," which followed the life of a rat in Paris, France, who loves to cook fine French cuisine.

After losing out on seven previous Golden Globe Nominations, Johnny Depp finally picked up his first Globe

for his role in "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street."

The actor, who not many knew could sing, now holds the title for best performance by an actor in a musical or comedy for 2008. "Sweeney Todd" was Depp's first role in a musical.

"Sweeney Todd," directed by Tim Burton, also won the Golden Globe for best motion picture - musical or comedy.

The stars and starlets of Hollywood took the night off, and the infamous Globe after-parties were canceled, but award season has begun.

Next month's Academy Awards will certainly be scaled-down due to the writer's strike. Arguably the most prestigious of the awards, many hope that the regular Oscar ceremony will take place.



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The path of most resistance

Student Angelica Gonzales overcame homelessness, hopelessness to pursue a life aimed at success

Amy Lipko
Staff Writer

To look at Angelica Gonzalez is to look at any typical Green River Community College (GRCC) student. She pulls a black backpack along behind her. She wears jeans and a GRCC sweatshirt. Her long brown hair is pulled back in a messy bun.

But in talking to Gonzalez, one comes to see a different world that has been transcended – a world of homelessness, fear, and doubt.

Gonzalez is a survivor, and through her own story, she wants to show others suffering in her community how to see beyond their circumstances, too.

Born to a mother who suffered from a mental illness, Gonzalez grew up homeless most of her life.

"It was really weird, but that's because my mom was schizophrenic so she was always running. I think CPS [Child Protective Services] got called on her. So she ran," Gonzalez said.

Mother and daughter learned to fend for themselves. Days were spent searching for shelter and food, as Gonzalez and her mother turned into another number in the millions of homeless families.

"You'll go to a shelter – no room – and lots of them will kick you out the next day, and you're not guaranteed to have a space. You can't wait around," Gonzalez said.

This transient life left little contemplation of an education. Gonzalez would attend school through programs offered by shelters, but it wasn't always a priority.

Finally finding a shelter that had a school program that measured children's abilities to determine their grade level, Gonzalez was able to gain a status that would put her in the same grade as others her age.

However, the unstable years of schooling still take their toll.

"I have such a struggle nowadays. It affects me really bad actually – those gaps

in your education. If they build upon each other it gets kind of hard," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez, 21, found a way to work hard and has continued to do so. After finding her way back to Washington with the help of a friend, she found her way to her father.

Soon after their reunion Gonzalez was able to experience something she'd never been able to before – buy new clothes.

"When my dad said, 'Go ahead and pick out two outfits at Wal-Mart,' I was like, 'Whoa. My dad is rich. He has so much money!' I really thought he was one of the richest people ever," Gonzales said. "That moment was so wonderful, I felt so spoiled. I got to wear new shoes, things like that I'd never had. I could go in a store and pick new shoes."

While there were improvements to her situations, conflict between family members caused a stressful time.

"It was wonderful because I never had to starve again; I had a roof over my head," Gonzales said. "But, the emotional things that were going on there were really intense. I cried every single night until I was 18."

That's when family tensions reached a breaking point, and she moved out on her own. After moving to Everett, Gonzalez met a man and became pregnant, something that changed her life forever.

"When I became pregnant, I became really depressed. I started really thinking about how I hated my life so much, and I have nothing to give this kid. I don't want her to grow up in this world that I hate so much," Gonzalez said.

While the path to improving that world was a difficult one, Gonzalez admitted it was one heck of a motivator.

"While I was pregnant, there was a little bit of homeless stuff going on there. That's what really got me going. I told myself, 'I gotta go back to high school.'"



Student Angelica Gonzalez suffered from homelessness as a child. However, she now is a sophomore at GRCC and is vice president of Phi Theta Kappa.

Enrolling in Auburn's alternative high school, West Auburn High, Gonzalez received her high school diploma. Through the support of faculty member, Colleen Rayburn, Gonzalez was able to see a future that included college.

Gonzalez now is a sophomore at Green River and is planning on transferring to UW to major in business.

"I want to be a CEO," Gonzales said.

Recently Gonzalez was interviewed by Mary Swift of The Seattle Post-Intelligencer for her hard work, which earned her one of Green River's foundation scholarships worth \$2500. Swift was impressed with what she saw from Gonzalez.

"I think what most impressed me was how self-possessed, articulate, and centered she sounded, particularly for someone so young," Swift, a GRCC alumnus, said.

Gonzalez now is determined to leave her mark on this world, something that wasn't lost to Swift.

"She's obviously done some serious self examination and has a clear vision of where it is she wants to go in life and how and why she wants her life to impact the world around her," Swift said.

Gonzalez is starting with Green River. She founded the Native American Club (even though she's not Native American), serves as vice-president for the Latino Stu-

dent Union, and recently won the election for vice-president of Phi Theta Kappa, the national two-year college honor society.

"I can't change the world, but I really want to help with a lot of things that people don't pay attention to and don't notice," Gonzales said.

Swift sees Gonzalez as a beacon for others.

"A story like Angelica's takes away any excuses," Swift said. "If she can do it, so can any of us."

Taking her dreams one step further, Gonzalez is one of two GRCC students recently nominated for the Jack Kent Cooke (JKC) scholarship, a national scholarship program. If won, the scholarship will pay up to \$30,000 a year for two years for an upper level college.

"I really hope I win that," Gonzalez said. "It's really encouraging. It tells me that I'm doing something right – that I'm on the right track."

Gonzalez has started a program called Community Impact Project. The program is designed to get computers to kids who normally wouldn't have access to one.

Gonzalez has turned the demons of her past into dreams of a bright future and her message is loud and clear:

Gonzales said, "If you want change you have to go out there and make it. Nothing is impossible."



Photos by Sara Olson