

THE CURRENT

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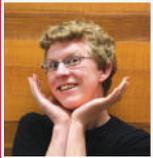
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Green River throws a Lunar New Year

On February 12, students and staff can celebrate this Asian tradition

By: Nicole Swapp

Green River Community College (GRCC) plans on celebrating the Chinese tradition, Lunar New Year on February 12.

Jessica Hendrawidijaja, International Student Ambassador for ASGRCC said, "This is not just a Chinese celebration but most Asian culture celebrate the Chinese New Year".

Hendrawidijaja is very excited to host this first official year for the Lunar New Year at Green River. "We are expecting at least 200 people", she added. "High-line did something like this and they saw a lot of people there, so we hope to do the same".

The overall idea for the Lunar New Year is to help international students feel more at home. Since many students at Green River are Asian international, this event will in-turn help them feel more at ease here on the campus. "This is generally a family traditional holiday and since we don't have our families here, we can celebrate with friends", said Hendrawidijaja.

It has taken Hendrawidijaja a great deal of time to plan for this event and she is very excited it is almost here. There will be a variety of shows and activities for students to take part in.

"We are going to have a professional

kung-fu and dragon performance to get the night kicked off", commented Hendrawidijaja. Not only will there be a professional kung-fu

and dragon performance, but there will also be a cultural fashion show put on by the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) club.

VSA and Hendrawidijaja have also been working together to put on a talent show featuring all students. "Student who are interested in performing can come talk to me", said Hendrawidijaja.

Along with that, the Green River Step-team will also be performing as well as the High-hop dance team. There is also going to be a performance from the Latin Dance Group.

Last, but not least, there will be two student performances. "Yi Hua is going to play a traditional Chinese instrument and Bright is going to do a kung-fu-stick performance", she also added.

At the end of the performance there will be a large group dance for students to partake in. "Basically is will be like a Halloween party, just at the end everyone will dance" said Hendrawidijaja.

The Lunar New Year is from 7p.m. to midnight in the main dining area of the Lindbloom Student Center. Students can purchase a pre-sale ticket for only \$1. Non-student pay only a \$3 charge as well as pay at the door.

For more information visit Student Life Office on the top floor of the Lindbloom Student Center.

Try something new, Espial is looking for you

By Sung Wook Kang

Welcome to the mysterious and profound world of art. While it is considered something not understandable, some people keep trying to get closer to it by doing anything possible. For the aspiring creator, Green River Community College (GRCC) has a way to showcase students best work: Espial the literary art journal.

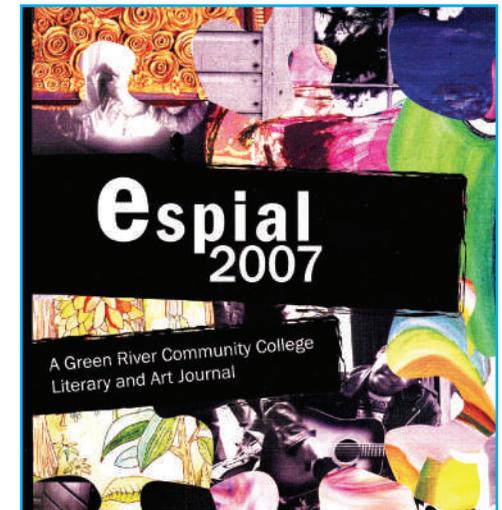
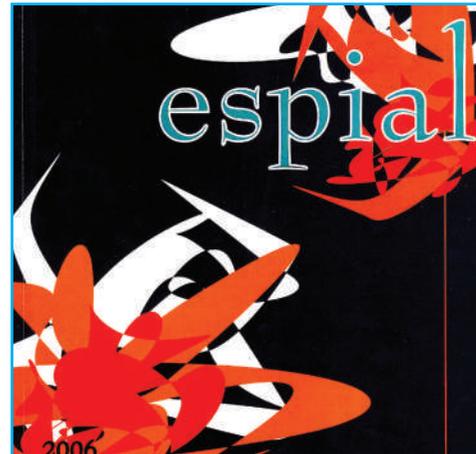
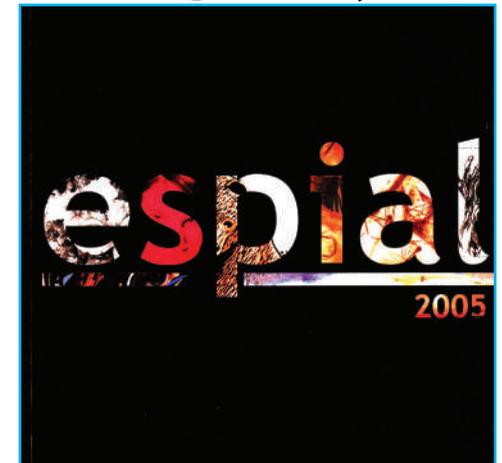
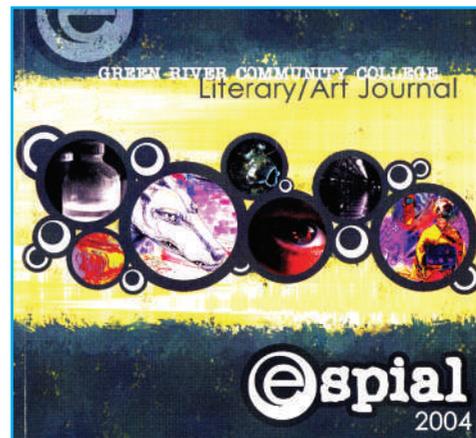
In our lives, people tend to forget many things that they see, feel, think and touch from the environment around them as they get older and accustomed to the life of a modern technology, they also dream of expressing what they feel and think about things that they see, and Espial is one outlet with recognition.

Espial has been published since 2002, which means it has been running strong for eight years. It is published as a kind of small and thin book, but it has wonderful and fantastic works.

The class behind the production of the journal is offered spring quarter and gives another kind of portfolio for those involved.

"Basically, this is a project which is a mirror of a work environment in real jobs because they always work all together," Gary Oliveira, an art instructor in charge of Espial with English instruction Avis Adams, said. He also pointed out that there weren't high qualifications and encouraged anyone to give it a try. Just submit anything you make", he said.

Jeanette Helms, whose works were selected in the last year Espial said, "while I was taking the class, I needed to submit my works to Espial. Actually, I didn't think my works could be accepted because I didn't spend too much time doing my works to submit Espial". Further, when asked how it was, and if she would like to recommend it. "It was a really cool experience. People should



do this because we can get to know each other throughout their writings", she added.

For students who are more interested in participating in Espial, it is not difficult to contact Oliveira, whose office is in SC building, or Adams, whose office is in HS-A building. They are always

pleased to see new students trying to submit their works to Espial, and if students submit their works, they will have one sentence in their mind as Helms said, "Why not try it?"

Gaming in Campus Corner Apartments

By: Luke Goodgion

On Friday January 29, 35 gamers and friends crammed together in the Campus Corner Apartments (CCA) event room to play interactive games online with each other and friends around the globe.

Desmond Collin, a student from Indonesia, has been playing DotA for about five months. "My friends introduced me to DotA, Defense of the Ancients, and I liked it a lot so I kept on playing it," Collin said.

DotA is a custom scenario real time strategy online game with the objective of working together to achieve a goal. "You must use team work," Collin explained. "You and your teammates must think critically and use strategic moves in order to succeed in this game."

The game puts two teams, the Sentinel and the Scourge, against each other. The online players pick a "hero" that has unique characteristics and abilities. Players can destroy computer controlled units or enemy heroes to gain gold

and level up to become stronger and more powerful. The objective of the game is to get with other players on the same team to destroy the other team's base or "Ancient" to win the game.

The virtual world of DotA and other online games is a unique one. Once online, you have a wide variety of things to do and people to meet. Players can interact online and carry out missions to level up and become stronger. "My favorite part about online gaming is being able to team up with friends when playing to win," Collin stated.

There was lots of food and fun at the Gaming Night. Students at the gaming night were eating chips and salsa, drinking soda and water, plugged into their computers, and watching their friends compete online as they watched from the sideline.

The event started at 7 p.m. and went until 10, where many players continued to play into the odd hours of the night. Although it was mostly quiet inside the room, there were harsh battles



Luke Goodgion/The Current
Computers filled with the DotA game at CCA.

and quests being completed in the intricate online world by the players. Players were sitting in front of a computer but were exploring a realm with countless possibilities and fun for all. "I had a lot of fun," Collin said. "I want to have a Gaming Night every week." Gaming Night turned out to be a big hit and with the success that it proved to be, another Gaming Night should be expect-

Student spotlight: Tristan Stribling

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia

Tristan Stribling is here to earn his Business management degree and plans to transfer to a four year college to earn his masters in business administration, minor in computer science and In the long run get a PhD in music.

Stribling listens to any kind of music and finds difficulty in narrowing his music preference down. As long it sounds good, he listens to it. His tastes range from Bach, Beethoven and Brahms to Metallica, Judas priest, the Beatles, the Beach Boys, GOOD jazz with emphasis on good jaz, some rap but he found that most lyrics were distasteful and he ADORES techno.

Stribling enjoys music plain and simple. He intended to teach music eventually. He hasn't taken any teaching courses yet, because he has focused on taking care of his business degree requirements.

He started at Green River 12 years ago as a 16 year old student. He screwed up, by not focusing on class. He spent more time playing around, ending up flunking out and losing his financial aid.

In the mean time he spent a number of years doing his own thing. Unfortunately he got involved in the crime and drug scene.

Stribling is back to straighten out his life and do what he should have done 12-years -ago. He's positive and he says that he thinks now he is on the right path. He wanted to caution others who would struggle with some encouragement.

"No matter how bad things seem to be they can get worse but you can always do better. Never give up on your dreams," Stribling said with conviction.

There was more than one thing that influenced his return, but the core of what brought him back was his faith in god, he is a Christian. Stribling was raised in a Christian home but started to lose his faith because of what happened to him. He explained that there was a longer story than there was tape for. He managed to sum up with his most recent conclusion.

After years of soul searching for "the truth" he realized he always knew what he believed but he was running away from it.

"All those who truly seek for the truth find what they seek. It is only those who refuse to look the truth it are the ones who never find it," Tristan Stribling said with a pensive look in another direction of the cafeteria. He then decided to take his thoughts outside.

The major changes to Green River since he has returned are the amount of international students and how seriously students on campus he has observed are taking their studies. Students on campus are not playing around as much and clubs are more study or career specific instead of simple entertainment. He was recently invited to Phi Theta Kappa and he was considering joining.

"When you have high expectations you always have something to look forward to," Stribling said. He felt it was important to discredit a common quote that said otherwise.

"The quote 'If you have low expectations, your never disappointed' is a recipe for failure no matter how you look at it , he added." This is his second quarter this year making his time spent at Green River a total of four quarters. He plans to spend two more years taking care of the basic requirements for his varied interests.

Sr. citizens Valentine's Day dance on campus Feb. 12

By: Alex Heikke

As Valentines Day draws closer, it is time for the Senior Citizen Valentines Dance to take its stand once again. As an annual event that has been going on for many years, Senior Citizens can bring their special Valentine's Day dates and enjoy an afternoon of dancing and socialization. Refreshments will be served for when the seniors get parched from their consistent dance moves, and they will even be able to have their photos taken to remember the special day that they spent with their valentine.

Why does Green River Community College host this event? "This dance takes place because Green River wants to reach out to the community," claims Susan Evans from the Student Life program, who explained much about what was going to happen with this event. "The seniors love it! And we have many of them returning year after year," Susan explains.

Jamie Cho, the Special Events Coordinator and the one who is in charge of setting up the dance, is enjoying her first year of running the show. "I got a call from a lady who's birthday is on the day of the dance and comes every year," says Jamie. So as exciting as it is for the senior citizens attending the dance, it is just as exciting for those who are helping to set it up.

Generally getting help for the ball isn't too difficult. Jamie gets help from people she knows who are willing to volunteer time to create the scene for the dance, which is taking place in the main dining room of the Lindbloom Center. Student groups have even helped in the past with setting up the Lindbloom Center to make it a Valentines paradise.

The dance starts at two o'clock p.m. on the 12th of February, and goes until four o'clock p.m., so there will be a good two hours of enjoyable moments.



Alex Heikke/The Current
Special Events Coordinator Jamie Cho shows a flyer for the senior citizens dance on February 12

One of the best features about the dance is that it is completely free, not to mention that there is live music. The music is being played by the Portage Bay Big Band, who brings their swinging tunes every year to the Valentines Dance. The band has been around for over twenty-five years, and has over thirty musicians who each add their own personality to the music. The senior citizens will be able to swing dance to the sounds of brass instruments, string instruments, percussion instru-

ments, and more.

The twelfth is just around the corner, so make sure to let senior citizens know about the event and to make their reservations. In the past it has proven to be very successful and a great time for everyone involved, and as of now it seems promising. Many people show up to the dance each year because it usually is quite the fun way to reach out to their valentines and enjoy the holiday. That is the goal again this year.

Search for a new president lifts off at Green River

'Presidential profile' in the process of being formed before applications will be received

By: Jace Godfrey

The Green River president, Rich Rutkowski, announced his plans for retirement on September 17, marking the end of his 27-year president commitment to this school.

And thus the search for a new Green River president begun. In attempt to build a "Presidential Profile," a series of criteria by which the candidates will be judged, the designated search committee has designed an online forum where suggestions and questions may be submitted. They have also held 'listening forums,' which were intended to have students and faculty in attendance who could speak their minds, ask their questions, and submit their suggestions for just what kind of person they think should be the next president.

The search began in December, when a meeting was held and the committee was first formed. Due to Winter break, though, their first actual, bona fide meeting took place on January 15th.

The search committee is comprised of thirteen official members and two "ex-officios." The members in attendance at the most recent meeting were Lesley Hogan, Kathi Anderson, Timothy Andersen, and Debbie Kinschield.

They explained that their primary concerns about the new president were that it be a person with a genuine interest in student success, who can properly deal with the current financial situation, and who actually will take to heart and live up to the mission and values of the school. In attempt to hear what the students and faculty have to say in addition to that, they've been

hauling up in the Glacier Room at the Lindbloom Center conducting the aforementioned listening forums.

To follow the advancements of the presidential profile, such as it's upcoming acceptance or declination by the board of trustees, check our website. Applications for the job will be received sometime in mid-February, with the list of finalists being made public near-immediately after their announcement, some time in April. In May the new president will be chosen.

Few students have actually attended the forums, but a few dozen submitting suggestions via the committee's website. At the forum most recent, two student ambassadors, or "Great Gators," were in attendance, showing a definite determination for their voices being heard. The faculty turn out was better, with about 50 teachers in attendance.

The ambassadors, Monimah Khan and Joaquin Olivas, raised many good questions which were noted down by the search committee. These questions included "What do you see for Green River in the future?" and "What is your definition of inclusiveness?", which outline some big concerns of both students and staff.

They were adamant about the forums needing more publicity, so that more students could attend and have their voices heard. Even though it is now too late to attend a listening forum, you can still offer your input online by answering a questionnaire which you can find on the Green River website.

For a link to the presidential search forum and questionnaire, and further updates, please visit our website, www.thecurrentonline.net.



Rich Rutkowski, who announced he will retire June 30.

Courtesy Photo/Green River Community College

Student Success Series - a success on campus again

Quarterly event organised by Counseling Services received with gratitude by students

By: Mandy Wong

Student Success Series are workshops that are held by Counseling Services at Green River quarterly. The theme of the each workshop is different, but they are all focused on inspiring students in self management and academic success.

The 5 workshops that were held this quarter were: Mastering Time and Procrastination, Study Skills of Successful Students, Test Anxiety is in the past, Self -Care for the Busy Student, and Five Secrets to Great Relationships.

David Cornell is one of the counselors at Green River and also one of the presenters of the workshops. The reason for organizing the workshops is dealing with most students' problems, Cornell said. "Counseling Service feels is important to make workshops accessible to students because many students see them with problems.

Also, Cornell mentioned the workshop is suitable for every student "Some students may have problems struggle with individually, this problems probably has impacted on other student as well, so the workshops bring up the problems to everyone and help them solve it."

Cornell enjoys the time with students during the workshops, he said, "I like students ask questions during the presentation. I like to

have an interaction with students so they are engaged in the topic. I like to hear feedbacks."

Two students wanted to share their experience after they had the Study Skills of Successful Students workshop. Kim Schumacher, Green River student, came to the workshop after seeing the reader board in the library.

"The workshop is helpful. I came to this workshop to improve my study skills and because I wanted to do better on tests. I also learned the ways of setting time aside for studying, removing distraction, and studying smarter, not harder."

She adds "I think the most interesting part is 'Take smart notes: Question, Evidence, Conclusion format.' I am coming to another workshop tomorrow, the test anxiety, and would like to join more in next quarter."

Another student, Rose Borden, said, "I attended this workshop to get extra credits for my wellness class. I took some notes and I'm going to write a paper about the workshop."

She adds "asking question to teachers is important because it helps with learning. There are few things I learned from this workshop, different ways of taking notes, and how to study without cracking."

Borden also indicated the interesting part of the workshop, "the interesting part of the workshop is time management because it applies in our lives." She is interested in attending to one

more workshop and wants to learn some social skills, she said.

"I will come on Friday for the Five Secrets to Great Relationships. I think is an interesting topic, may be it helps to do better in class, but the most I want to learn is about social skills."

The information of the workshops is mainly focused on Green River students. It is a high quality workshop with a lot of solutions and tips we can use to solve a lot of re-occurring problems or difficulties when it comes to academic and social issues.

Students should embrace the help Counseling Services is offering them. They welcome you

to be involved in the workshops and are willing to help you out with the problems. Do not miss the opportunity in next quarter!

**For more information visit
thecurrentonline.net**

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DO IT!

Upset in senatorial election Massachusetts

By: Kelli Wyatt & Remco Zwetsloot

The death of Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy, who died in early August last year, left Massachusetts scrambling to find a more permanent replacement than the Governor-appointment Paul Kirk, who was a temporary fix to the vacated seat. After primaries, the two candidates remaining were Scott Brown (R) and Martha Coakley (D).

On January 19, Brown won the election by a small margin: 51.9 percent to 47.1 percent. The nation responded immediately, with every news source talking wildly about the unexpected outcome.

The significance isn't in the fact that Brown won the election: it's in the fact that Democrats have owned this seat in Massachusetts since 1962; the fact that Massachusetts is one of the bluest states in America; and most importantly, the fact that Brown's election jeopardizes, and perhaps has already killed, Obama's Healthcare Bill.

60 Senate seats were filled with Democrats and independents, giving them a supermajority – allowing them to overrule any filibuster (a possibly endless delay of a Senate vote) the Republicans want to stage.

However, the election of Brown gave the Republicans the necessary 41st seat to successfully stage a filibuster, which Brown made clear he would take part in throughout his campaign.

The healthcare bill has been on the floor and both trashed and glorified in conversation for a long time now, and Republicans have been against it 100 percent of the time.

A Senate bill on health care was passed December 24th, but the bill passed by the House of Representatives is far more progressive and both houses refuse each other's bills, making it near impossible for any healthcare bill to pass.

Democrats blame Republicans for voting against it without question or compromise and Republicans claim the bill's issues are too big for them to overcome: "when they're lumped together in 2,000-page bills and 1,000-page bills, typically what we find is a lot of things in the bills that we disagree with", said House Minority Leader (R) John A. Boehner.

Possible solutions for this problem will always find opposition of some sort.

Some Republicans want the White House to completely abandon the current bill and start over, which wouldn't go down well with Democrats.

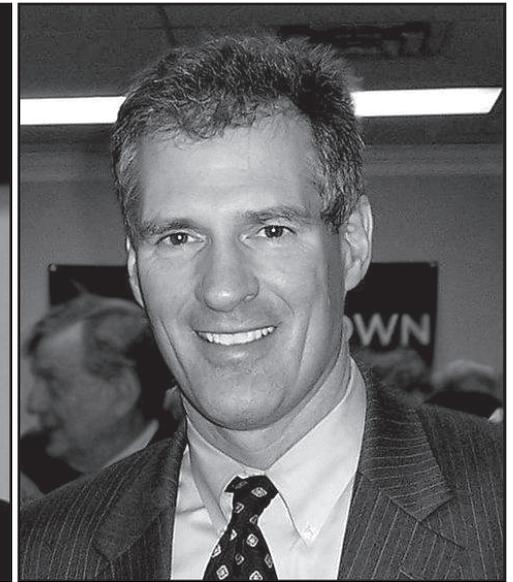
From the side of the Democrats, people are calling for what is called a 'budget reconciliation', which is a risky procedure that could make it possible for Democrats to rush their bill through the Senate with a majority vote. This plan has caused indignation in the Republican camp, who call it 'parliamentary trickery'.

In any case, it will be a while before a health care bill passes, if it does at all. As a result of the filibuster threat, Obama and his administration have shifted their attention to other issues: creating jobs, for example. He vouched, however, not to give up on health care.

For updates on health care, check our website: www.thecurrentonline.net



Courtesy Photo/Wikipedia
Martha Coakley, who was the Democratic candidate



Courtesy Photo/Wikipedia
Scott Brown, Republican candidate and now Senator



Massachusetts and it's electoral districts.

Courtesy Photo/Wikipedia



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Help for Haiti from Chartwells

Students, staff, and Gator Grill raise money for Haiti

By: Seohee Kim

At 4.53 p.m. January 12, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 caused death and destruction in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. More than 200,000 people who lived in Haiti died, one of the most devastating earthquakes around the globe in recent times.

Two hundred years before, another earthquake rocked the capital of Haiti. Port-au-Prince's palace, government buildings like the Treasury, were demolished. The United Nations peacekeeping buildings, hospital, major buildings and houses collapsed again.

Due to the low seismic center, the ground was unable to absorb the shock and the quake that struck 9.4 miles south west from the capital affected three million people and could be felt by up to 10 million, according to the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

Scientists claim "the location of the epicenter is very low and local points of buildings built with poor construction are the main reasons cited for the destruction". The cause of the poor construction was a hurricane that had hit Haiti in 2008, basically taking out their infrastructure. The quickly re-built buildings weren't built with the possibility of an earthquake in mind.

Support for Haiti came from all over the world, with more than half a billion dollars being raised, according to charitynavigator.org. Green River and its students also contributed, being assisted by Chartwells, the owners of the Gator Grill, who had organized a charity event on January 19th.

A grand total of \$1287 were raised, all of which went to directly to the American Red Cross, according to Sandy Gonzales from the Gator Grill. Students and staff were able to do-

nate by attending the lunch, which cost \$10, or by putting money in the tip jars that had been set up next to the cash registers for a while. The amount raised actually exceeded the expectations that was set at one-thousand dollars.

There were many students who helped donate money to Haiti. WingShing Chan and Yadan Hu, said, "The reason why we donated money to Haiti because it reminded us of the big earthquake happened in 2008 in China Sichuan. So we knew what the Haitian people think. Also we saw a lot of people who live in Haiti suffer from the earthquake on the news. Although we can't go to Haiti, we just want to help Haiti however we can".



Seohee Kim/The Current
Jar that was set up at the cash registers in the Cafeteria

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In her article from January 22nd entitled "Single-Parent Students at GRCC," Mary Preston asserted that we need to find more ways to assist single-parent students at Green River Community College.

To begin, I would like to applaud Ms. Preston for drawing attention to the fact that single parents face a unique set of challenges while going to school. This is an important issue the campus community should be aware of. In addition, I would like to use Preston's article as a launching pad to discuss some of the resources at Green River that went unmentioned, and which are available to single parents and to low-income students in general.

Specifically, I would like to talk about four tuition assistance programs single-parents and low-income students at Green River may be eligible to apply for. All four programs are administered by the Workforce Education Office, located on the main campus in SMT 229. Most of them pay 100% of tuition and fees, and some even pay for books and supplies. They include the following.

First, there's the Basic Food Employment & Training Program (BFET). This tuition assistance program is for King County residents who receive Basic Food Assistance. It pays for tuition, fees, and required books and supplies for those who want to earn a Professional Technical degree or certificates; who want to earn a GED or High School diploma; or who want to take Continuing Education classes which enhance employability.

Students who qualify for the BFET program can also access free childcare through a subsidy managed by the Department of Social and Health Services. (Parenthetically, single parents who aren't receiving Basic Food should apply at www.foodhelp.wa.gov.)

Second, there's the WorkFirst Program. Parents, single or otherwise, who are receiving a TANF cash grant from the State are eligible to apply. This program, like BFET, is for students who want to earn a Professional Technical degree, a GED, a High School Diploma, or who are interested in Continuing Education. It pays for tuition, fees, and required books.

Third, there's the Opportunity Grant Program. This program is for Washington State residents who meet a set of low-income guidelines, and who want to earn a Professional Technical degree or certificate in a high demand occupation. It pays for up to one full year of tuition, fees, and books.

Fourth, and final, is the Worker Retraining Program. This program helps pay tuition and fees for those who want to earn a Professional Technical degree or certificate. Students who are collecting Unemployment, who have exhausted their Unemployment, who have received a layoff notice, or who have lost the support of their partner or spouse due to a divorce or separation, are eligible to apply.

Those interested in applying for these programs should visit the Workforce Education Office in person or on the web at www.go2collegefree.com to confirm their eligibility and to sign up for the next available funding workshop.

Moreover, students are also encouraged to visit Women's Programs, located in LC 231. Women's Programs offers a host of educational and support services, and can also refer students to social programs and to resources on campus or in the community. Women's Programs also offers a Life Transitions Class on a rotating basis for divorced or widowed women who have been out of the workforce, and who need access to education and guidance in choosing a career.

This is a thumbnail sketch of some of the services and programs that are in place to help single parents and low-income students succeed at the college level. Sure, we can always do more, but I believe Green River is doing its best to help diverse students achieve their goals.

By: Andrew Orr

Dear Editor,

I must take exception to this whole-hearted endorsement of the new security regulations imposed by the TSA [Transportation Security Administration].

The article [referring to the article "New precautions at airport security" in the previous paper] references the recent attempted bombing on Christmas Day, and that the tragedy was not averted by the TSA but by the passengers.

With every news story of an attempted attack, the TSA is given more power to inconvenience passengers. After the shoe bombing – that failed because of passenger intervention – all of us had to start taking our shoes off at the airport. After the underwear bombing – that failed because of passenger intervention – what else will we all have to take off?

To quote the article, "All international flights coming from countries on a danger list – including Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, [and] Nigeria ... will have to go through advanced screening". The 9/11 hijackers were screened, as was the shoe bomber, as well as our would-be Christmas bomber. Screening is not the answer.

In many areas of life nowadays, but most noticeably at the airport, we stand at a crossroads. Down one road lies Liberty, the most American of virtues, which Patrick Henry said he would rather die than lose. Down the other road is safety, where government will have unlimited powers over citizens and visitors alike; who will have no legal recourse, all in the name of "preventing terrorism."

Yet, one must ask, who are the terrorists then? According to an article by Nate Silver, featured on fivethirtyeight.com, "the odds of being on a given departure which is the subject of a terrorist incident have been 1 in 10,408,947 over the past decade.

By contrast, the odds of being struck by lightning in a given year are about 1 in 500,000." It is clear that any efforts by the TSA to keep us safe have produced no noticeable increase in safety, but it has undeniably increased the burden on all would-be travelers.

Even if privacy and liberty were not concerns at all, a recent article in *The Register* provides evidence that these much vaunted scanners are incapable of detecting incendiary materials: "And for what? So that a few hundred million taxpayer dollars can be spent slowing our boarding even longer while producing images that some of the more-squeamish members of the public have likened to child porn and which can't detect bomb ingredients?"

Almost undoubtedly, "security" regulations in the immediate future will cause more delays and will be even less respectful of privacy and liberty. For this near-unbearable situation, we will gain no real safety – only the illusion of safety. The TSA is very good at appearing to provide security, but has, time and time again, proven incapable of delivering the genuine article.

Terrorists will get through all our screening, and either people will die as the terrorists achieve their goals, or fellow passengers will prevent the terrorists from acting, as they did over Pennsylvania, as they did against the shoe-bomber, and as they did against the "crotch bomber."

Midas' touch turned anything to gold, but the TSA's touch turns even gold into lead. The same screeners who were called incompetent for "allowing" 9/11 are now working for the TSA instead of private contractors; but now they're working for an equally incompetent bureaucracy that, to me, increasingly brings to mind a line from the Declaration of Independence, "a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object ... a design to reduce them under absolute despotism".

By: E.T. Anderson

EDITORIALS

The Current Editorial Board is made up of the following journalists: Nicole Swapp, Lindsey Williams, Stirling Radliff, Jean-Pierre Garcia, Samantha Shockley, Kelli Wyatt, Remco Zwetsloot, Ted Hanrahan, and Andrew Honea.

Supreme Court vote for corporations

Recently, the United States Supreme Court had a vote to allow corporations – which are deemed "people" under a previous Supreme Court decision – to contribute as much money as they want to political campaigns. It passed 5-4. This ruling overrules previous law which held restrictions against corporate political spending.

Some now fear that the state of our democracy may be turning into a strict plutocracy, which is when a class or group of people exercise their power and influence by virtue of their wealth.

In the plutocracy, because corporations can effectively "buy" politicians, what governmental decisions may be made could be strictly within the corporate mind of diminishing democracy in favor of furthering cor-

porate capital.

What will be displayed on major news stations, or even smaller local news stations, may be decided by a democratically incorrect juxtaposition of corporate money and corrupt politicians. Under the sovereign capital machine of corporate influence, we will be given hollow representation and an utterly destroyed free press. Because of this, it seems evident that this ruling is outright unconstitutional.

Some supporters, though, argue that this is an expression of free press, as no person (which includes corporations) should be prevented from broadcasting time.

The Current is on the whole undecided on this issue; but we all believe it's worth further examination.

A letter from the editor:

By: Nicole Swapp

So, this is a new thing that I am trying. Apparently many newspapers do this type of thing... a letter from the editor herself (or himself depending on where you work). So I thought I would give it a try.

It has been a crazy Winter quarter already. This is just our second issue out and we are already busy as can be. I am excited to announce a new staff member, Ted Hanrahan, to the group. He is doing an amazing job and I hope to see more from him.

If you have been following our newspaper trend here, we have decided to dedicate our time to an editorial every issue. For anyone

who doesn't know, an editorial is a group conscious stance on a subject reflecting how the paper feels about said subject. I am very excited we are working this into our schedules.

We have also been getting quite a few letters to the editor, which is fantastic! It's really exciting to see people reading the newspaper and talking about it through a letter. I encourage everyone to do so, we love to get them!

We are also busy working on our website (thecurrentonline.net); you may have seen some snazzy fliers around campus. Our goal is to one day get it updated daily.

Other than the rearranging of our office that spurts on us at midnight, we have just been very humble down here in the SMT working on providing you the news as best as we can. We also welcome visitors, so stop on by!

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.

Letters to the Editor

We encourage all students and staff to have their voice 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*.

Mass. senatorial election leads to nationwide confusion

Commentary by: Erik Chan

Recently in Massachusetts, a special election was held to replace Senator Edward Kennedy's seat after his death on August 25th 2009. Senator Kennedy held his seat since 1962 during the rise of the Kennedys. (However, Robert Byrd is the current record holder for the longest serving senator at 51 years, and is still in service.)

"In my opinion, I'm glad he's finally out of the Senate," says Ace Louis, a GRCC student. "I don't understand why there is no term limit on congressmen. They infuriate me since the President has a cap on how long they can serve the nation but not Senators or Representatives. The reasoning behind this is that their primary issue in politics is holding down their job, not helping out the American people."

Someone was needed to fill his seat for the remaining three years of his term. The primary nominations between Republican Scott Brown and Democrat Martha Coakley began December 8, 2009, and ended in confusion on January 19, 2010.

Confusion started when America began believing that the election would simply be handed over to a liberal candidate in a liberal dominated state on a 3:1 ratio. However, the end results gave the once democratic seat to Republican Scott Brown. With the change in the super majority of the senate, the nation knows they have lost a long-time advocate of passing the health care bill to a man who is strongly against it.

Dave Norris, another Green River student said, "I believe it was the right choice for Scott to have the seat. I'm not for or against any particular party; but in the case of passing the health



Courtesy Photo/USAToday

Republican Senator Scott Brown celebrates his victory over Democrat Martha Coakley in Massachusetts.

bill, the Democrats have to put forth more effort to make the bill pass since everyone has conflicting ideals to create an agreement.

"In elections, I don't associate the candidates by their political labels, but rather their beliefs and their records of holding up their promises. Coakley seemed like a candidate who took politics for granted and tried to simply buy the

seat," Dave adds. "She paid nearly triple of what Brown paid for in television advertisements. From my research, she didn't have a strong record in keeping her promises."

The election was quite an eye opener for Americans; the immediate dispute now is the survival of the health care bill.

What the healthcare bill proposes is to ex-

pand the Medicaid program and implement extra taxes on Americans. "This bill will make America a better place, they just don't realize it," says TopLine guest Andy Stern of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

"Bullshit!" quickly replies GRCC student Lucas Zorsch. "The socialist bill will only leech more money out of our pockets. If the bill passes, my health insurance will triple in cost and each dollar I make will be taxed more than before. We have to uphold our idea of no taxation without representation"

"This bill will only give the American people the incentive to not be as proactive since the government will hold your hand no matter how low you make," says another GRCC student, Shane Sweeney.

Democrats are still relentless to pass their healthcare bill. "Giving up isn't an option," says House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Commentators on TopLine notes that the Democrats are on their last stretch to pass the bill, and with the current obstacles it seems like they're going to "Hail Mary" the last few yards.

Typically, people vote on political candidates, not the issues themselves like a democracy. On top, we don't face the true harsh reality of taxation.

As Lucas explains to me, "Due to income taxes, sales tax and other taxes, our same dollar is taxed 3 or 4 times before we get to spend it. And when we do spend it, we only have 35cents of the original dollar."

At least if we vote those political candidates in, we are certain that they will be forced to vote on issues unlike the absent American people. All we can hope for is that they are consistent to what they are voting on.

Unemployment, welfare, and a poor America

Commentary by: Kylee Spiry

The unemployment rate of the US has gone up to 9.8%!

Yet again, in today's lacking economy, more and more people are relying on welfare to get by. People are taking advantage of the system's cracks; and how simple it is to attain unemployment. Hard working citizens are getting laid off. With the decrease of approximately 700,000 jobs in the last year alone, what are we all to do?

Today's education system has faults of its own. With numbers of 600,000 students dropping out in 2008, welfare is looking like a vacation. These high numbers are making our future seem dim. Education is the main key to our success as Americans. Without it we cannot, and will not, expand or grow.

The idea of Social Darwinism, "survival of the fittest," is at full speed ahead. It all seems very unfair and unrealistic to keep this kind of support for people who are just looking for a break.

Although, not everyone on welfare is pursuing unemployment and welfare; the qualifications of getting money that people earn by themselves are far too easy. The loop holes and strings that can be twisted out of so easily need to be tightened up! What will happen to our society when no one will work - rather, take what is so easy to receive?

For the sake of having a future, the focus should be put on children, and making sure they know the reality of the country's economy.

Corporations now are hiring people based upon education and the best skills related for the job. This is nothing new. So why is it that people are being allowed to drop out of the key to their future?

With more people lacking education, our jobs will not be done efficiently. Machines cannot replace everything we do. Education systems are now so expensive that it is impossible for people to live up to expectations.

Working citizens who are receiving unemployment only have a certain amount of time they can receive this money. They are getting back what they paid for others. As a country, people can look back to the Great Depression and relate it to what is going on.

Understanding that unemployment is currently circulating our economy, the new rate is far too high, and will stay at this rate for some time before it will be lowered.

There are jobs people can do, legally, to get what they need to survive. A better solution would be to, perhaps, make an increase in homeless shelters or food banks. If the government can afford to give money away to those on unemployment, there money could be better spent and more wisely used on institutions to help those in need.

Filings for extensions are sky-rocketing. Extensions are being overlooked and over-extended. More money is being given to people who have already received their limits. Does this mean the limits will be endless, or policies changed?

The hope for receiving more money is quickly being fulfilled, and people are "milkin' it for all it's



Kelli Wyatt/The Current

The WorkSource building in Auburn at 2707 "I" St. Auburn, WA, 98002, is one option for those seeking a job or career.

worth." Motivations for jobs are being crushed by easy attainment of money.

If unemployment were to go down, less people would refer to using unemployment and welfare, and would find their own means of money. Minimum wage jobs, at full or part time, can give you just as much money that unemployment can, depending on the job.

Americans, being proud, may need to let go of their egos and get to flipping burgers. People are going to have to work with what they're offered if they want a means to survive. "Social Darwinism" appears so true at this time in soci-

ety, and should not be taken lightly. Those who want a job bad enough will do anything to get it.

With less people receiving unemployment, more money can go to other welfare aspects: such as medical payment plans, food stamps, or financial aid with schooling. There are many other ways to receive help than unemployment alone.

With more people applying for jobs, the rates will get higher. Less need to resort to handouts from unemployment. With a little effort, Americans can get this economy booming again.

What Obama's doing to improve American education

Commentary by: Randall Miller

This year, President Barack Obama plans to use 1.35 billion dollars in hopes of changing how we learn and how teachers teach in educational institutions.

His plan in doing this is divided into three steps. The first step is to develop K-12 schooling by improving and reforming the "No Child Left Behind" act of 2001, put into effect during President Bush's administration: by instead of punishing schools for poor performance, to improving and supporting the schools that need it the most; and to reward teachers who are doing a great job teaching.

The second step is to make higher education more accessible. This takes effect when a high school student graduates; that student should be better prepared to attend at least one year of job training or higher education to further equip the work force for the 21st century economy; and will continue to make Pell Grants more affordable; and will initiate new tax credits to make sure any young person who works hard has access to a college educa-

tion if desired.

The third and final step is to prepare children for kindergarten by influencing them to enjoy learning. Obama's administration will dramatically expand Running Start and other programs to ensure that children are prepared for kindergarten.

With these developments in the education system, Students here at GRCC will be able to afford a college education through grants provided by the government.

The Secretary of Education estimates that 200,000 new teachers will enter the school system annually; that could mean a lot of things, such as no more full classes and possibly no more substitute teachers.

But it also could mean more wages, expenses and benefits that the school would have to pay out of their funds for their time in class to teach.

On top of the affordable grants, student enrollment could increase after the next generation of high school students who graduate and decide to go to a community college rather than a 4-year university.

This could affect the international students enrolled here at Green River (which makes up 10% of all the students enrolled during the winter quarter); and could help students getting the grants and loans they need to continue their educational experience here at Green River.

With the development of the "race to the top" program, teachers and schools will be awarded funds through a merit and rating system and will result in awards for outstanding performance.

Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, says that "schools, colleges and departments of education are doing a mediocre job of preparing teachers for the realities of the 21st century classroom."

States say that this might draw out the recession through 2012 or a year after until the stimulus expires.

Is school reform the best idea right now? With the economic recession and states not getting the funds they need to maintain themselves, this plan to lend out funds to public schools could prove either useful or a total flop; and given the debt that the United States is already in it would only add on to the \$11.4 trillion.

When the recession crisis began back in March of 2009, the new reformation proposals of a new American education system, that meets the challenges of the 21st century, was met with loud criticism, particularly from teachers' unions.

Educators who oppose charter schools because they divert tax dollars away from traditional public schools, and the merit-based systems for teachers, have been an anathema to teachers' unions which are powerful tools in the Democratic Party.

Obama argued that the overhaul of the nation's education system is an economic imperative that can't wait.

With all of the education reforms going on this year, there might be some big changes in how schools, such as Green River, are ran and operated in preparation for the next generation of students, employees and employers alike. These changes could very well transform how we learn in the classroom and in the educational facility of today's America for the beginning of the 21st century economy and work force.

Attendance and grades

Is it really fair to lower grades because of poor attendance?

Commentary by: Kelsie Doughty

We all have different learning methods. Some students learn course material better by reading textbooks on their own while others feel that attending class lectures is vital to the success of an exam.

Here is the question: is it fair to dock the grades of students who feel as if they are learning more by not attending lectures - who don't always attend classes?

In most cases, college professor's intentions are not to torture students who think they don't need to show up to class. However, threatening students with low grades due to poor attendance isn't exactly what most would say is "fair," especially when different people have different study habits.

All threatening does is put unnecessary pressure on students. It's discouraging how many students' grades have been jeopardized and lowered because of poor attendance. A large number of those students are capable of doing better than average in their classes, but choose to take a lower grade rather than show up for a 60 minute lecture.

Many would argue that allowing students free rein would result in lower grades, thanks to the students who take advantage of the situation. What should be kept in mind is that it's students who are suffering the most by not showing up.

Colleges all around the country offer courses with no lectures involved; they simply have step-by-step instructions informing students on the chapters they are required to learn.

Online Courses are just one obvious example of how students can work more efficiently on their own, proving that lectures are not completely necessary. On the contrary: regular class attendance requires discipline and time management skills, skills that are beneficial no matter what career path they choose. Class attendance facilitates learning in a variety of ways! And lectures supplement reading assignments.

A professor's elaboration on topics can pro-

vide current information that may not be found in the textbook. Listening to questions that students ask in class can answer questions that may not be fully explained in textbooks. Many professors use class discussions to increase critical thinking, and also encourage students to make connections between concepts and real life.

The more students go over information, the more likely they are to retain it - therefore proving that attending classes regularly gives students more than just attendance points.

Not all teachers teach straight out of the book; they lecture their own material and the textbook is used for clarification of concepts - in this case, good notes usually help.

Tuition is expensive, and since students pay for college, the decision to show up is ultimately something that should be decided by the student. However, shouldn't we take into consideration the favor we are being given by having teachers that require us to actually show up?

Ultimately, for teachers, students, best interests are in mind. Typically, teachers who base a percentage of grades on attendance share the same common thought: the question of attending class is not one that should be asked. Just go!

Regardless of opinions, expectations are almost always clearly explained in the syllabus for each class. Attendance objectives should be brought up more frequently. Students are more likely to comply with policies when they understand the objective of the policies.

Communicating attendance expectations creates adult-to-adult respect between students and teachers. The pros and cons are endless, and the decision is ultimately in each student's hands. The responsibilities are the students to handle, but consequences should be kept in mind.

No, it's not fair to dock a good student down for learning better on his own; but it is also not fair to waste the time of our teachers by not showing up. What's the point of them teaching if there isn't anyone there to teach?

No 'illusions' with the Democrats

How the Democratic party is dealing with healthcare

Commentary by: Heather Coit

Balanced on the edge of a scalpel, healthcare reform has fallen to the party of "no."

The death of Senator Ted Kennedy spurred a surprise election in Massachusetts leading to the election of Republican Senator Scott Brown.

Brown has claimed that he will not support healthcare reform, which means that the Democrats will no longer have a super-majority. To the public it translates as this: the Democrats no longer have the upper hand.

The Democratic Party needed a kick in the pants this last year before this seat was lost. What they wanted was the grit without the grime; and now thanks to the party of "no" they have evolved and grown a backbone.

Finally, they realized compromise will not be enough this time. They will win nothing when their friendly hugs get them stabbed in the back by fanatical politicians.

Democrats are anything but couch potatoes; but what appears to be tentativeness is merely a way for the Democrats to make the right decision and a better way of governing than an orange level alert every week.

Like an abused animal, the Democrats flinch at every movement the Republicans made. Now with the power of a voice in the executive branch, and the strength in their hearts, this will be the time to strike back and bite the hand that beat them down for eight years!

America must take care of its people first and foremost. That is what a government is for. If a country has the resources to fund a war then it definitely has the resources to keep its citizens in good health.

President Obama said, "I suffer no illusions that this will be an easy process. It will be hard. But I also know that nearly a century after Teddy Roosevelt first called for reform, the cost of our healthcare has weighed down our economy and the conscience of our nation long enough.

So let there be no doubt: healthcare reform cannot wait, it must not wait, and it will not wait another year."

There is a long history of economic depression in America; and the Progressive Party called attention to these problems a century ago!

Why can America decide to go to war in a matter of weeks, but take a century to decide on a useful healthcare system?

Is it so easy to make such a violent decision? Like so many American families today, Obama is reevaluating these shortcomings and planning to move forward on a decision for this generation.

Healthcare has already been improved under the Obama administration. The president has already signed off on the Children's Health Insurance Reauthorization Act. That document gave 11 million children healthcare insurance; of that 11 million, 4 million had been uninsured.

In the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, healthcare has been made more affordable to those who lost their jobs. This Recovery Act supports research for better diagnosis and technology, general wellness and prevention, and training for the next generation of doctors and nurses.

For America to continue moving forward it needs the strength of the people, and those people need to be healthy and prepared to guide America into the future.

In the "Frontier Thesis" by Frederick Jackson Turner, he says that moving west changed the European settlers into rugged Americans. That is what made Americans unique to the world. America is always trying to move forward, forever pushing to new frontiers.

To move forward and confront the future, change has to happen and it starts in the minds and the spirit of every citizen of the United States.

Teacher Spotlight: Will Scott

By: Sean Kramer

From the age of six Will Scott knew what he wanted to do, and it wasn't teaching.

He was going to be a lawyer, and concentrate his interests in rhetoric and argumentation into a form of verbal jousting in court rooms to sway the opinions of jury's and judges.

Instead, he finds himself inside classrooms at Green River Community College, not trying to sway opinions to match his own, but trying to challenge students to form their own opinions.

"Why do I think the things that I think?" Scott wants to know from his students, "Because somebody told me I should is not a good reason."

Going on his 10th year teaching Communications at Green River, Scott's goal is to foster a creative environment for his students to think critically about themselves and the way they go about their lives. Scott's emphatic and sometimes quirky approach to teaching is perfect for this and his desire to challenge his students.

"The more relaxed the classroom is and the more loose the environment is, the more likely you are to have those 'aha' moments."

It was also an 'Aha' moment for Scott that eventually brought him into the classroom and to Green River.

"I wasn't a great student for the majority of my undergraduate," Scott laments. "Unfortunately the damage had already been done to my GPA."

That damage to his GPA kept him out of the law school of his choice, but also gave him his first opportunity to teach when he went back to Cal State-LA for his Masters.

All it took was one class, and there was that 'Aha' moment.

"That very first day of class, that was it. That was the right thing. That's what I was meant to do, that's what I wanted to do."

He doesn't know why. He just knows that it just felt right.

"I literally walked out of the first class that I taught and into my division chair's office and asked him what I needed to do to become a teacher."

But why did he eventually choose to settle at the Community College level?

"I like being in the classroom, and I like researching. But I like researching what I want, when I want, and how do I want," he explained. "Teaching at a Community College, that's your primary focus, is teaching."

Considering his desire for the atmosphere and environment provided by the Pacific Northwest, Green River was a perfect fit. The small campus feel, friendly people everywhere and of course buildings surrounded by trees, he couldn't ask for more. "As soon as I walked on campus I knew this is where I wanted to be."

The rest is history. After nearly ten years, Scott has helped to introduce a plethora of new

Communications courses that study subjects such as Intercultural, Media criticism, Gender and film genres.

So what does the future hold for Will Scott?

"Unless there's a major systematic change or my wife finds an opportunity somewhere else, I plan to retire here." Retirement, he says, will be about ten years away if things go according to plan. However, he cites that the great thing about life is that you never know how your plans will pan out in change.

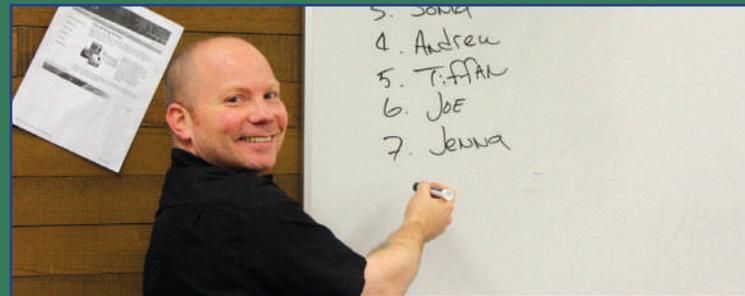
At the moment he also has a second job as a chef, and would like to someday move to Scotland and open a bed and breakfast with his wife. But, that's just one dream.

In the mean time, he'll stick to trying to make a difference in his student's lives.

"If I can have a conversation in class that makes you rethink the way you do things once you leave school, and it helps you and it benefits you, and helps you live a better and more satisfying life because of that one thing, that's why we do this."

There's nothing more satisfying than when it comes back around, and he gets feedback from the students that he touches, saving every note or e-mail that he receives from them.

"That's why we teach, is for those moments."



Nicole Swapp/The Current

Will Scott teaching his 1:15p.m. class, excited to hear his student's speeches.

Latin American Film class helps students understand Hispanic culture

By: Mandy Wong & Samantha Shockley

Latin America in Film is a class at Green River that can change the way people view the Hispanic culture. According to greenriver.edu the course aims to explore the relationship between film and the cultural interpretation and understanding of Latin America. Amongst the themes discussed in the class are those of gender, religion, dictatorship, revolution, slavery and the situation of the indigenous peoples of Latin America.

Marisela Fleites-Lear, the instructor, created the class about six year ago. "People usually get information from the Internet, but I use historical

and current movies to motivate students," Fleites-Lear explains.

Although it's a class about Latin America, no knowledge of the Spanish language is necessary.

Fleites-Lear passionately talks about the class, "I created this class because the literature class was the only class about Latin America," she explains, "I wanted to enrich the curriculum to educate people through historical films and issues about Latin America."

While viewing the films are an important factor, Fleites-Lear also indicates that writing essays which analyze the movie help students under-

stand and comprehend the material and issues at a deeper level.

A student from the Latin America Film class, Kevin Irvine, said that this helps him understand more about other parts of the world and specifically, "it gives the opportunity to learn about many issues in the Latin American culture and history."

Some of the movies students are required to watch are about historical events, dealing with famous figures like Columbus, while others are about contemporary issues. Fictional movies about Latin America or from Latin America are also watched during the course.

Ashley Ness, a movie lover taking the class, expresses that, "learning the history and culture as much as possible from the right sources is a great feature in this class. Watching those movies helped me to understand the past and recent issues."

Interaction with students is a favorite of Marisela Fleites-Lear, "I like the class discussion the most."

Her inspirational story is that one of her students was inspired by her class and majored in Latin America Studies, "that student has finished a master degree in Latin America Studies," she explains.

"The teacher is a quality professor," Ness said. When she teaches she references maps which helps students understand the relevance of the event. "It [helps] dig deeper into the subject. She opens up the door."

Learning from history and about other cultures helps open up student perspectives about the world. Studying Latin America in Film not only allows students read about a culture but also watch videos and delve into the actuality of the subject visually.



Mandy Wong/The Current

Marisela Fleites-Lear works diligently in her office, taking time to smile at the camera

Trips not on a bus

By: Remco Zwetsloot

A search for adventure and... anything interesting, really. But not on buses. Most of the time. Take 2.

This time, I will take you on such an exciting endeavor that you might just fall off your chair or lose control of your legs while reading, so be warned.

Before I tell you all about my magical destination and the thrilling time I had there, I feel obliged to tell you about the journey there. Luckily, as I'm no longer forced to ride the, gently put, uncomfortable buses, I got someone to drive me. Unfortunately though - this person was a woman.

Now, if you're completely insane and unaware of the truth value all stereotypes hold - excluding the ones that might affect me, of course - this might not seem too terrible. But believe me, it was. Trembling with fear the whole drive there it was a delight to set foot on solid ground again after 30 minutes (because we obviously got lost with a female behind the wheel) of pure terror.

It turned out that was only the beginning. The adrenaline really started pumping when we reached our destination: the Social Security office. Within moments of arrival we were bombarded with bird feces, and inside the building it wasn't much better.

At 2.50, I took my number and we sat down in one of the most depressing offices I have seen, which brought us hope for a calm wait. But to no avail - as soon as we sat down, chaos broke out on the other side of the room. A man got a little overexcited, it seemed, and started running around the rows of seats screaming for no apparent reason. As a result, all the babies in the building started crying. This continued for about 20 minutes, until things finally calmed down.

At that point it was finally time to appreciate the small things in life - as I always do, being the utterly positive and not at all cynical person that I am - such as the random backgrounds of the TV screen. I have no idea who thought a tropical island and an animated bird would fit well and contribute to messages such as "if you have a cough, stay home!" and "call us for an appointment", but that person sure was a genius and if I ever happen to run into him/her I'll be sure to get an autograph.

And even in such a clinically depressing environment, there is humor to find. On sheet with interpreter information on it, the bottom read: "deaf: we provide sign language on request to conduct your social security business, please call us first". Now that's downright humorous, and I want to applaud the good people that made that list for brightening up the place a little bit.

And finally, after almost an hour of waiting even though there were only 2 people in front of me, it was my turn to be helped. Not so much being helped as just sitting in an office for 15 minutes listening to an Asian woman, who's face was even more depressing than the office she worked in, murmuring to herself in her language while she entered my information into the computer, but still.

I must say, out of all the trips I've taken, this was definitely the most exciting one.

If you have any suggestions for a town, place or event for me to bless with my presence, e-mail thecurrent@greenriver.edu

By:
Stirling
Radliff

As I have heard the story, St. Valentine was a Roman, Christian priest, who was arrested and imprisoned for marrying Christian couples in the time when the persecution of Christians was in full flame. It was his martyrdom in that time which gave him Sainthood.

His holiday, however, Valentine's Day, isn't celebrated in remembrance of his martyrdom, nor really of his intentions to convert Rome to Christianity. It's about celebrating the most primal and satisfying urges humans have: to love, and to be loved. Or, at least that's what we moderns have made it to be.

In light of the intrepidity and frenzy that often characterizes love; the holiday isn't just about celebrating the feeling between one another...

"I have a longing for life, and I go on living in spite of logie. Though I may not believe in the order of the universe, yet I love the sticky little leaves as they open in spring, I love the blue sky, I love some people, whom one loves you know sometimes without knowing any," Ivan cried to his brother Aloysha, in Dostoevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov."

Love is a universal feeling and expression among humans, and some might say that of nature as well. It is a primeval expression of existence, beyond reason and any abstractness, territory-topped into our social natures; it is a metaphysical phenomena.

As Ivan artfully exclaimed in his loves – to love something is to celebrate life! "To love is to live!" as they say.

There is an old-fashioned romantic sentiment that was more habitually popular a few generations ago: sitting under a

tree with a boyfriend or girlfriend, eating chocolate, reading Valentine cards and taking advantage of the rose-colored scenery... "Simplistic love" or however a movie may portray it.

Now, however, the holiday is significantly less clichéd. Where there may have been chocolate and roses, there is more so hugs, kisses, cuddling and romantic conversations – for those lucky enough to have the company of a romantic other.

It is with that romantic other that we can most pleasantly celebrate love and the love of life. Shakespeare wrote in his most fervent romantic work, "Romeo and Juliet": "My bounty is as boundless as the sea, my love as deep; the more I give to thee, the more I have, for both are infinite." That is true as it is in the best of relationships; and as it is with life, as well.

Forlornly, in a preeminently capitalized and commercialized world, Valentine's Day has been deduced to only chocolate, roses and cards without much love or celebration. Valentine's Day's commercialization has made the whole idea an abstract one since its clichéd version has been so rapidly exploited; the appreciation for love itself, in its most romantic and illustrious forms, has diminished.

The meaning of the holiday, though, hasn't changed; it can't. Only the expressions which represent the holiday have gone somewhat asunder. If there ever was a noble revolt, it would be against the exploitation of love for profit.

In whatever way businesses take advantage of this holiday, and for whatever meaning this holiday has to anyone – the invariably glorious and noble person loves, regardless of the day or person; regardless of good or bad or evil sentiments.

If it is nothing else, the holiday exists to exemplify that.

By: Ted Hanrahn

St. Valentine's Day, more commonly known as simply Valentine's Day, is celebrated every year in February 14, and is known for flowers, heart shaped boxes of candies and expensive jewelry.

Valentine's Day originated as a Catholic holiday celebrating St. Valentine, the patron saint of lovers. Traditionally the day has been designated for lovers to spend with one another; however, modern Valentine's Day has become something far more commercialized and materialistic than its humble roots.

From its origin's in early Christianity Valentine's Day has evolved into a corporate holiday, an excuse for Hallmark to sell cards, Godiva to pawn off their chocolate at inflated prices, and jewelry companies to inform the public on what love truly means. Although it was once celebrated as a holiday of love modern Valentine's Day is more a celebration of capitalism and greed than it is of love.

Although I can appreciate the merits and sentiments of Valentine's Day,

I love you

I love you not

Students debate over Valentine's Day, is it for love or just a waste of time?

I cannot accept this total loss of the 'true spirit' of the day. Replacing those meaningful and romantic gestures has been the need to buy expensive things for loved ones, in an attempt to prove ones love with diamond jewelry and hundred dollar dinners at restaurants like Ruth's Chris.

Perhaps the most grotesque perversion of St. Valentine's Day has to be the widespread exchange of Hallmark gift cards. The Hallmark holiday has infected our culture with the need to accompany any event or holiday with a generic mass produced greeting card with a 'cute' unoriginal antidote printed on it. These cards perhaps reach their apex on Valentine's Day, the second most popular day for their exchange, when would be romantics buy these mass produced pieces of single served sentiment and sign their names with x's and o's and take credit for any emotion or laugh they inspire.

This predetermined romance continues with the widespread purchase of flowers, chocolate, and teddy bears. These supposedly romantic gifts sold in red heart shaped packaging are without a doubt the most obtrusions celebration of society's lack of creativity ever conceived. Instead of spontaneity and true romance, men have resorted to a one day a year attempt at spoiling their lovers with these trinkets and leaving behind any concept of true creative romantic expression of love.

Valentine's Day has become American men's one chance to tell their valentines what they mean to them, their one chance to express their true sentiments to the ones they care for. One day a year they use mass produced gimmicks and clichés to express feeling that should be expressed on a daily basis.

Rather than participate in this annual charade, I challenge the men and woman who read this to take February 14, this year as a way to begin a new leaf in their relationships, and rather than participate in the deep rooted commercialism of the day, take the day to truly show one another how you feel.

Take the time to simply tell the person you care about how you feel, show some effort and learn to cook something new for the day, bring that person on a date that requires little to no money and see if you can't break away from these preconformed ideas of what a romantic time on Valentine's day really is.

Who knows you might find that in your creativity you have more fun than you could have possibly imagined.

Auburn celebrates their 12 annual teddy bear run for children

By: Amanda Lockhart

On February 7 the Alky Angels were back for their 12 annual Teddy Bear Run for Auburn Regional Medical Center. Alongside them there will be other motorcycle groups, such as the Cossacks, who will be putting on a miraculous show for everyone. Each each the South King County Chapter of the Alky Angels organizes an 8 mile parade of motorcycles to help gather together enough Teddy Bears to brighten the faces of the children who go in and out of Auburn Regional Medical Centers Emergency Room.

"I'm the leader of the pack," exclaimed Laura Garvin, Heart Care Center Employee for Auburn Regional Medical Center, and representative of the Alky Angels this year. Garvin is more than exuberant about the parade. She has graced Auburn with her presence all 12 years that it has been going on, and this year she gets to ride her bike in the very front.

The motorcycle run will begin on Harvey Rd. here in Auburn at 12:30 pm and will continue riding until 8th along the Green River. They will eventually end up back on Auburn Way North where they will end their charitable adventure behind Gold's Gym in the back parking lot at the Alano Club. Here is where the fun begins...

A group of motorcycles called the Cossacks are reaching out to help the children in need of a smile by donating their incredible skills on a bike. These bad boys will be giving the crowd an amazing show in the Alano parking lot that consists of intricate moves such as group pattern riding, and even pyramids on their moving bikes. They are going to dazzle the lives of anyone who comes to show their support for the cause.

Every member of the group rides a white and maroon Vintage Harley because they perform all over for different charitable events, and they want to look well put together. Lucky for Auburn Regional Medical these boys live nearby, so they enjoy helping out a lot, and they do it at no cost.

The Cossacks may be the life of the show, but they certainly will not be the only bikers around. Garvin says there are usually 200 or more motorcycles in the parade and hopefully that number will only continue to increase! There are a lot of employees of Auburn Regional Medical Center that ride their bikes in the parade and anyone who owns their own bike is also welcome to



Courtesy Photo/Laura Garvin

A large amount of stuffed animals that were collected.

come join. The Alky Angels who are behind the organization of the entire event will be in the front of the parade. Their motto is "to ride clean and sober," said Garvin with a serious tone, then she added, "It doesn't matter what you ride, you just can't drink and drive." The Alky Angels are unique in their own, and appreciate and care for those who need help.

The way a child feels when they go to the Emergency room is never excited or even calm; instead they are scared, hurt, overwhelmed, and distraught because they have no idea how to handle what is going on. As adults we find it easier to deal with because we have learned how, but for children it's a potential nightmare. Being able to give a child a stuffed animal in an

Emergency room means that they will be able to smile, and be excited in a moment where it seems almost impossible for this to happen. Children enjoy the simple things in life, so why not help them to experience an Emergency room visit with the pleasure of cuddling up with something warm and fluffy? GRCC Student

sometimes people in the community as well as bigger business's in the area. "We are supported by a lot of the community, and there are a lot of groups that support us year after year," said Garvin warm-heartedly. Every year the Alky Angels manage to bring in around twelve hundred stuffed animals, but as amazing as



A view from above of the event.

Courtesy Photo/Laura Garvin



Courtesy Photo/Laura Garvin

Some member of the Alky Angles perform tricks on their bikes.

Marlisa Burton has expressed her interest in the event by saying "Kids love stuffed animals! It makes them happy to know that people they don't know care about them!" Garvin herself has been given the opportunity to give a child a stuffed animal and her experience showed her that "just to watch them hug the stuffed animal, it lets you know it's a good thing."

Every year donations come from employees of the hospital, the bikers who show up, and

those numbers are, it's only enough for about 5 months of gifting children at Auburn Regional Medical Centers ER. To help or for more information contact:

Laura Garvin
Call: 253 833 7711 ext: 1213
Email: lauragcs@netzero.net

Black and white photography shown in Auburn Chamber of Commerce spark imagination

Floral modesty is overshadowed by glass figments that contrast human life artifacts with natural, uncommon illustration

By: Mary Dusek

Ann Quinn and Victoria Bjorklund – two local photographers – exhibited their latest black and white collections in Auburn City Hall.

Though the makeshift art gallery was scattered amongst the miscellaneous flyers on the walls in the main corridor of the building, the arrangements stood out beautifully from the bland office atmosphere.

Quinn's exhibit, *Light in Bloom*, was comprised of vibrant white flowers contrasted by a stark black background, which the City of Auburn Arts Commission explains, are "treated as individuals rather than a representation of the species".

On the other hand, Bjorklund enlightened viewers to the creative techniques of photography within her exhibit, *Glass Figments*, which was described as "series juxtaposes urban window displays and its reflections creating an interesting narrative."

It was obvious throughout the double-artist feature that the simplicity of Quinn's photographs were undermined by the extravagant and complex works done by Bjorklund.

The concepts behind both collections were unique in separate areas of photography; however the pieces which were most eye-catching and interesting were those from glass figments. Bjorklund's visual contrast of human life artifacts with the faint shadows of reflections creates an uncommonly seen illustration, causing her half of the art gallery to naturally be more intriguing than those pieces done by Quinn.

In her defense, Quinn's assemblage was beautifully done which clearly aimed for simplicity as a part of her vision. Yet within this particular gallery, her modesty led to the loss of spotlight on her work.

Quinn currently lives in Poulsbo, Washington where she has set up her own photography studio to create and develop with her partner, John Wimberley. Her photographs have won juried art exhibitions in Port Townsend, Poulsbo, Bainbridge Island and Gig Harbor.

About her photographing style, she said, "[the] common themes are the patterns and forms that, through casts of light, reveal an essential aspect of nature". Her latest collection, she explained, "uses natural light to create compelling portraits of classic white flowers."

Bjorklund is a book illustrator and photographer in Tacoma, Washington. She recently was the featured artist on the cover of the 86 version *Lens Work* issue, a nationwide, fine arts magazine, that was released in January of 2010.

On her choices in photographic style, she elaborated, "I am fascinated by the idea of capturing places that can immediately cause the figments of our imagination to run free and escape to a space where the real and the unreal are found side by side."

About the display that was previously in Auburn City Hall, she explains, "these photographs are printed on transparency film enhancing the reflectivity along with bringing wonderful luminosity to the prints".

All of the photographs on display were available for purchase, and the prices ranged from \$125 to \$800. Pieces from Bjorklund's *Glass Figments* were much higher priced, as the most expensive piece from Quinn was \$200. These pieces can still be purchased from either the artist's personal gallery or website.

The Quinn-Bjorklund gallery ran from Jan. 4 through Jan. 29, and according to one City Hall associate, it received very few visitors.



Mary Dusek/The Current



Mary Dusek/The Current



Mary Dusek/The Current



Mary Dusek/The Current



Mary Dusek/The Current



Mary Dusek/The Current



Mary Dusek/The Current

Displayed in Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce is a series of artists to brighten city offices building. Floral photos were created by Poulsbo resident Ann Quinn and the glass figments were created by illustrator Victoria Bjorklund.

Barbershop Quartet lend their voices to help lovestruck admirers sing out affections

Finding a local, inexpensive, and universal Valentine's Day gift can start today for those who want to sing their hearts away

By: Kylee Spiry

Valentines Day is just around the corner with a special treat, for those who still have some last minute brain storming sessions or are looking to be surprised.

The local Barbershop Quartet is here to help deliver a message of love.

The group consists of four men, who wear matching blue suits.

Their mission: knock on your sweethearts door and sing their hearts away. They perform two select songs from a premade list of affectionate warbles.

Before their performance, they tell the admirer who the message is from.

The message, if the person puts in a request, can be anonymous.

The buyer does not have to be present at the time of delivery, although arrangements can be made with the buyer there.

Originating last November, the Barbershop Quartet was created by Rosie Joe Benton, an administrative assistant for Auburn Chamber of Commerce.

This year the barbershop is starting today February 5, 10:00am to 10:30am.

The price for the special delivery is 35 dollars, rose included, and reservations are available for everyone in town.

For men or women looking for a new way to win that certain someone's heart, this is a great and easy way to show your appreciation, and get that valentine gift off your mind.

The singers will also be available every Friday, after today until Valentines Day has arrived.

Barbershop Quartet Singers are not only limited in Auburn, there is a web site that displays a finder for all locations.

This universal gift can be used for mom's, girlfriends, boyfriends, close friends, anyone you want to express love towards

This is a surprisingly new affordable gift for boys, girls, men and women of all ages. The group asks that you have a time and place ready at the time of reservation. If the receiver is not present at the time, the group is not responsible and no refunds will be available.

Please cancel if plans change, or the fee will continue to be charged. Work places, schools, and home addresses are the expectable places for meeting. The entire point is to "Experience the joy of sending an unforgettable Singing Valentine".



Kylee Spiry/The Current

A few students are already warming to the idea of singing their affection for that special someone.

A band without an 'ulterior motive', Blame it on the Girl powers through the Sound

Conflicting tempo, anger, and gripping vocals harmonize with lyrics in an edgy way that's beautifully chaotic and shows off strength



Courtesy Photos/Blame it on the Girl

By: Mary Preston

Although there are many bands that play music, there seem to be fewer and fewer bands these days who play for the music.

Some play for fame, money, and popularity; unlike what makes local Seattle band "Blame It On The Girl" so interesting.

"Blame It On The Girl consists of 4 members: vocalist Linzi, Ryan the lead guitarist, Ben the drummer and Chris the bassist.

"I guess what makes us different from other bands is that we don't have an ulterior motive" says lead singer Linzi Wilt.

"We just love making music. We love the feeling of being able to share a strong love of music together. We love being able to act like fools on stage and get away with it. We don't care if we ever make any money or get signed, we love music and want to share our passion with others," Wilt said.

Blame It On The Girl doesn't have one particular band or sound that influences them, they all have several influences that come together to make a completely new sound.

"Our inspirations come from everywhere" says Wilt "We have so many different influences that come into our music which makes us not sound like anyone else."

Blame It On The Girl has an aggressive, fast-paced sound which creates an interesting contrast against the vocals of the band's female lead singer.

There are very few bands that have female lead singers who can manage to sing with the passion and energy that the lead singer of Blame It On The Girl has.

Most bands with female lead singers usually resort to a more soft rock sound that never quite reaches the anger that gives some rock music its edgy appeal.

The vocals of lead singer Linzi Wilt is a clear example that rock isn't just for the boys anymore. Wilt manages to have a loud, angry, female rock sound without sounding screechy or pitchy in the process. The tempos set by the drummer, bassist, and lead guitarist were so different and conflicting (much like the lyrics themselves) that when they all came together for the chorus, it sounded beautifully chaotic.

Blame It On The Girl released their cd in April of last year with several songs including "Wait and See", "Small Man", "Gray", "Dark and Ageless" and "Tower."

Although each song maintained the same strong vocals of the lead singer and slightly psychedelic sound of the drums, bass and lead guitars the tempos and sounds of the songs varied greatly from song to song, giving a fast, more angry song like "Wait and See" and a slower, but more colorful song like "Small Man" to the listener on the same album.



Seattle Band, Blame it on the Girl features the talents of (Top, left-right) Linzi Wilt as lead vocal, Ryan Scott the lead guitarist, Ben Grieshaber on Drums and Human Chris on Bass, relax on a park bench. (Below Left) 2008 demo artwork featuring the band name and lead singer Linzi Wilt. (Below right) limited edition artwork from their demo.

Impact vest adds realism to first person-shooter games

Home-grown gadgets released in Vegas might be too much to handle for GRCC

By: Guido Bakkes

Video games are becoming more realistic in visual and graphic style, but improving immersive technology enhances the gaming experience and latest projects are continuing to test the edge of the field.

Redmond based company TN Games released its 3rd Space First Person Shooter Gaming Vest.

The device lets gamers feel the impacts of gunshots, punches, grenades and everything else imaginable.

A physician originally created the vest intended for medical use, but it has since been adapted by and for the gaming industry.

The vest is not going to leave gamers crying on the floor gasping for breath, but the air-compressors are capable of making it feel like the player is being poked.

This may seem like it is not vicious enough, but the impact is so well timed, that it makes gamers feel like they are actually in the game.

The vest has 4 air-compressors on each side and this enables the player to know what direction the shooter is.

The quality of the vest is extremely good and well worth the price of \$169.99. 3rd space's

gaming vest is fitted with a sturdy mesh, well made zippers and extra pockets for comfort and function.

Overall, its basic design suggests that it could be used in legitimate combat situations.

The 3rd Space Vest feels as if it could be used in legitimate combat situations.

The vest is also easy to set up, and is already supported by top games such as Call Of Duty, World Of Warcraft and Bioshock.

At this moment the vest is only available for PC use, but a console version is right around the corner. The product was revealed to be soon available for consoles at the recent Consumer Electronic Show (CES) in Las Vegas this year.

Of course, the gaming vest is just one of the many new inventions in the gaming industry, and the question is, how crazy will it get when it comes to immersive gameplay?

whatever happened to just sitting on the couch and playing a game without having to jump around or feeling like you got shot? Are those days numbered?

Hardcore gamers will most likely stick to the "old-fashioned" gaming experience, while casual gamers and kids will enjoy experimenting with impact vests and motion sensing controls.

Sony and Microsoft compete for new project release

Move over Wii, the consoles battle for next generation of motion controllers

By: Heather Coit

For gamers everywhere 2010 will be a pivotal year in the way games are played.

This year both Sony and Microsoft are competing to release the next generation of motion controllers nine years since Nintendo Wii's initial concepts began and four years since it became the first successful release of a controller that worked in 3-dimensions.

Sony initially planned to release its yet to-be-named motion controllers in the spring, but had to push the date forward which will almost coincide with Microsoft's project Natal.

Playstation development teams have brought a dream into reality with their new controllers. The way their controllers work, is by using two wands, one for each hand, and using them as you would hold any real item.

During Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) Sony demonstrated how the user could physically use the sword and draw an arrow on a bowstring. They connected to the system wirelessly creating a free environment for the gamer

to attack the villains as enthusiastically as they please.

Microsoft's Xbox development teams have taken an entirely different angle for project Natal. This controller is a hands free motion sensing controller that recognizes every person individually.

The system can identify your voice in a room full of other people and sense the difference between the wall and you. Every action is noticed by its camera which senses and recognizes every color. Inside it, they have programmed a character named Milo. He is an AI that can interact with you through the camera. Overall it both systems are quite an innovative step forward in the gaming world.

Much of the public has never heard of either new controller, but many have opinions on the matter. Some found it to be cool others compared it to Sony's Eyetoy. The Eyetoy was a relatively weak attempt at a motion control system for Playstation. This will be a new technology that will have its troubles but will creating a new road for technology in the future.

Unexpected turn for Bullock 'Blinds' Oscar watchers

Strong performance may earn statue nods for the sports-drama

By: Kelsie Doughty

Excitement is rising as the movie industry prepares for the Academy Awards.

This year ten films will be nominated for the Best Picture Oscar, the first time that more than five films have competed in the top category since 1943.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences honor the entire scale from acting to costume design, 24 competitive awards total.

After getting the Oscar buzz, hopes are high

for Sandra Bullock's feel good movie "The Blind Side". Bullock has Oscar nomination potential after her performance as a southern warm-hearted republican.

Bullock made great strides this year and was already named Best Actress by the Screen Actors Guild and the Hollywood Foreign Press Assn. for her work in this sports drama.

The film is based on the remarkable true story of Baltimore Ravens tackle Michael Oher who onenight is literally picked up off the street and taken in by a warm-hearted sassy spit fire mom.

It's a crowd pleaser and strong performances stand out the most, which could mean "best picture" material.

Student's all around campus voted yes for the blind side, which could also hint at an Oscar nod as the nominations are made. The Blind Side is definitely one to watch as nominees are announced today.

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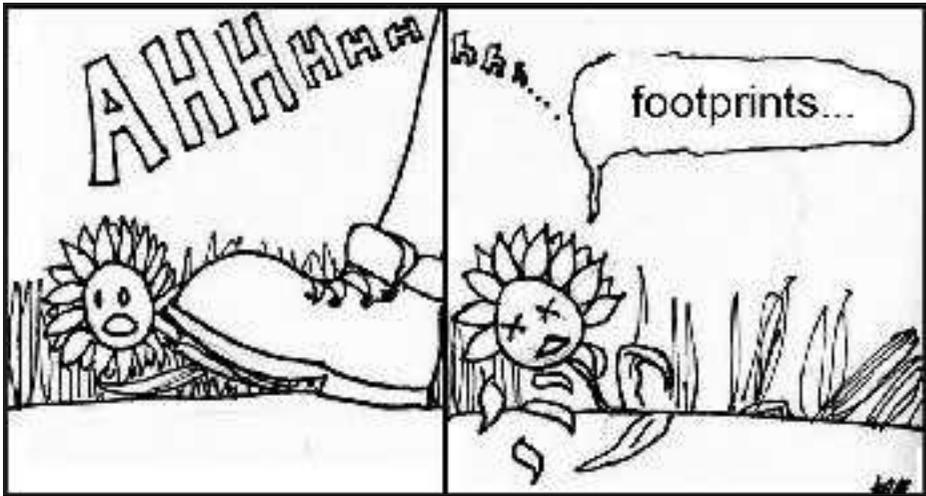
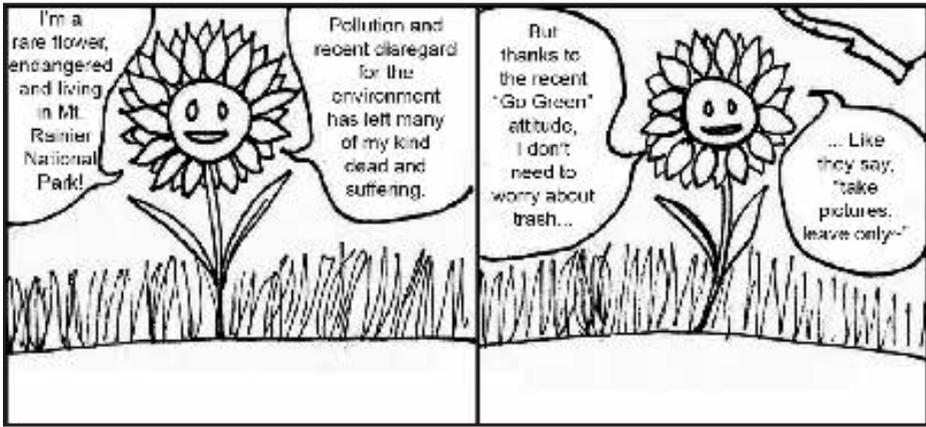
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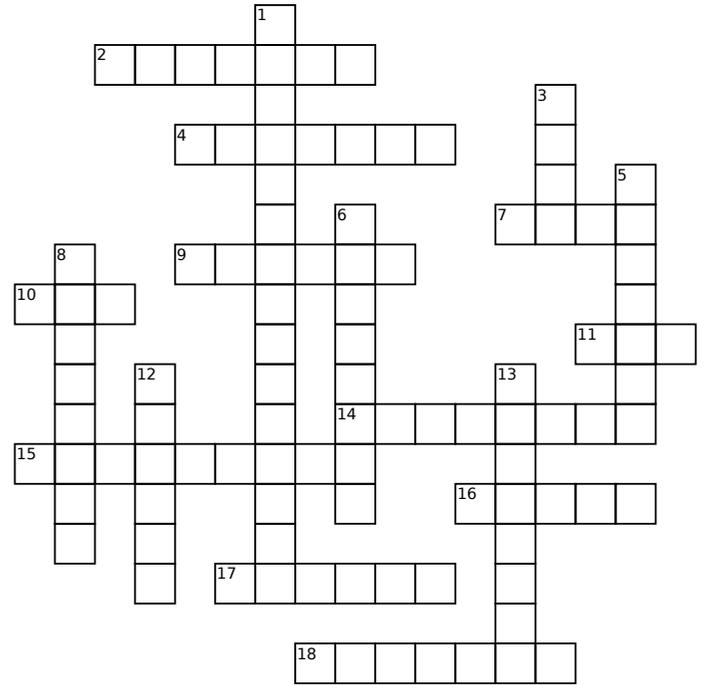
By: Bailey Josie



Difficulty: Medium

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Whether its a few minutes between classes, or an excuse to procrastinate on studying, we've got you covered!



- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Across | Down |
| 2 all you need is love | 1 Sir Mix-A-Lot likes em big |
| 4 love sank with it | 3 hugs and kisses |
| 7 every one has a thorn | 5 will be dancing in the LSC the 12th |
| 9 German kisses | 6 beauty is in the eye of |
| 10 make love, not | 8 makes millions on |
| 11 its not me... | Valentine's Day |
| 14 a girl's best friend | 12 language of love |
| 15 a saint who gave cards | 13 Lady Gaga likes to play |
| 16 and the Jets | |
| 17 students' megaphone | |
| 18 and always | |

Difficulty: Easy

8		3				2		
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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: A;LDdK42%HH*KDJf3%^dfkh@greenriver.edu

Fairy epidemic engrosses and corrupts the innocence of Americans

By: Remco Zwetsloot

The amount of homosexuals that seem to have infested the whole nation – including our precious Green River Community College campus – is growing exponentially, and no one is putting a stop to this malicious pandemic.

Over the past 2000 years, social institutions, among them religions – who deserve a fantastically special shout-out – have managed to keep our streets free from the filth by forcing queers to stay in the closet and oppress their feelings.

Recently though, it seems it has become morally acceptable to act like a raging homosexual. Guys of all ages (even college students!), have started displaying symptoms of this horrific disease. All across the nation, persons of the male gender have been spotted cleaning their rooms, drinking alcoholic beverages that are not beer and listening to music that is not rap or metal. It is simply outrageous. Bunch of hiney miners...

Reginald Radliff is one of the many anal fisherman here on the campus and he decided it would be in the interest of fair media coverage to impose his absurd beliefs on the sane students. Being the open-minded newspaper we are, we reluctantly sent in a reporter to conduct an interview.

"I simply do not enjoy being in a dirty room where it smells bad, it just abso-fruitley buggers me. What's so terrible about that? I mean, it's just how I work best..." After mister (or should we say madam?) Radliff mentioned he didn't particularly enjoy watching football or hanging out at bars either, our reporter saw himself forced to leave the room and is currently in the hospital recovering on a diet of Budweiser's and Big Macs.

Fortunately, we eventually managed to find a reasonable student who was able to get away from his TV dinner for a few minutes to tell the



Remco Zwetsloot/The Current

Reginald Radliff, a flamboyant fudge-packer, is imposing his gross beliefs on the entire nation - starting with Green River Community College. Watch out...

obviously right side of the story.

Dennis Edgerson is a member of the natural resources club, a real man, chopping wood and all. "Yeah. Right. Women. Most definitely, with their vaginas and everything. That is great."

He paused to look for his porn stash so that he could show us his collection of Lesbian delights. "Lesbians? That's not gay... that's hot. People like Obama. They're gay, with their long sentences and all. What has this country come to?"

Unfortunately, we had to terminate our high-

ly educating conversation here as half-time for the local college basketball game was over, but at least we were re-assured there are still normal and real men alive.

The next time you are bothered by the good smell of a queen, your gaydar is going off due to the lack of swearwords uttered by a purple par-

rot, you feel personally insulted by the decent personal hygiene of a rectophilic or there are two guys having even a remotely intellectual conversation in your presence, do not panic and slowly walk away. This pandemic might be more infectious than AIDS.

Rising number of students get lost in parking lots

Have you had trouble finding your way back to your car? You're not alone.

By: Heather Coit

Late last week, Search and Rescue teams found Running Start student, Ella Fitzpatrick, disheveled and wandering in the parking lot of Green River Community College after being lost for nearly three days. The Auburn Police Department and their K-9 units reported that Fitzpatrick was "located in P5, thirsty, hungry and distraught" after missing three days of classes. Authorities as well as faculty are concerned with how she became lost in the first place.

Upon further research, very similar situations have occurred no less than seventeen times in the last few years. In every case, the victim was found alive and in relatively healthy condition.

"We got reports of pixies, aliens, Bigfoot [. . .] chasing them through the forest. All kinds of stories!" reported Detective Smith of the Auburn PD. Smith goes on to say that, even though the victims were all found in similar predicaments, none of the "missing" students had a similar story. He also described in detail accounts from previous investigations of those who have gone missing while innocently looking for their cars or attempting to locate their classes.

One subject claimed that he had possibly been in Black Diamond at one point of his "outing" after being lost for 24 hours; yet another missing person ended up being chased back to her car by something that appeared to be over seven feet tall and "really hairy."

The most recent victim, Fitzpatrick, has made a full recovery and has resumed attending her

classes.

She stated that she was "surprised and relieved" about her rescue since she had thought she was going to be "lost forever."

Fitzpatrick recounted that she had parked her car in a distant area of P5. "I walked to my car to leave after my classes, and I just kept walking on the trails, through the trees, until I saw the entrance to an alcove where I thought my car was parked. It really started to look like a maze and I got really turned around." After her adventure, Fitzpatrick quipped, "I am just glad I can go back to my classes."

Is this proof that the campus parking lots need to be remodeled, or at the very least, do construction workers need to put up directional signs in neon at remote these remote locations? One Running Start student claims to have wandered through the forest for hours before finding his way to the Lindbloom Center, while John Carly, another student, skeptically declared that he "walked every path on campus" and has never been lost.

After some thought he did mention, however, that he cannot "really remember my first day except for waking up near my car. That was a bit odd. Some old lady offered me an apple, and I ate it. I woke up a few hours later somewhere I didn't recognize, and eventually found my way back to my car."

While the mystery of the GRCC campus may never be solved, mis-adventure awaits those who wander the campus alone or without a trail of breadcrumbs back to their vehicle.

PARIS HILTON WENT SHOE SHOPPING!1!1!!

OMG did you see her with her dog Tinkerbell? It was the cutest thing EVA!!1

By: Ashley Templeton

The world stopped and stared over the weekend as Paris Hilton and companion Tinkerbell went shoe shopping. The starlets moved from store to store trying on shoes, shutting down the infamous Rodeo Drive, Beverly Hills, as an enormous crowd of paparazzi tried to catch the perfect picture of the heiress and her dog.

It could be assumed that the starlet only wears stiletto pumps, but on this day she was trying on all types of shoes, including tennis shoes. Reportedly, a gasp surged through the crowd of paparazzi when Paris struggled to tie her shoes and called her security guard do it for her, as she gave him strict directions on how to do so.

Paris prefers the "bunny ear" strategy for tying her shoes because, critics say, she is an avid animal activist.

A young mother, who keeps up with all the new celebrity gossip, stated, "After hearing that Paris prefers the bunny ear technique, I made a decision. An important one." She grinned, "I've decided that, when it comes to teaching my daughter to tie her shoes, she will be learning the correct way. The Paris Hilton way!"

After she ventured to each store and tried on an outstanding five pairs of shoes, the public immediately rushed into the store and decided to use an entire paycheck to buy the exact same

shoes that Paris had just purchased. Stores were selling out. Fast.

"I have totally saved two paychecks before, dedicated to spend on a pair of shoes I saw Paris wearing at a club once," admitted GRCC student AshLeigh Vincent.

And don't forget about Paris' dog, Tinkerbell. She also got pampered and was treated to a pair of new shoes this weekend. Going the most high-end doggie boutique, Paris spent nearly twenty minutes matching outfits with shoes for her Chihuahua. An employee from one of the stores said that Paris spent \$57.84 on two new shoes her pooch.

Although she couldn't tie her own shoes, Paris was very adamant on being 100% attentive to her dog and placed each shoe on each paw herself. Guess it's a good thing dog shoes don't usually tend to have laces.

"After seeing Paris' dog wearing shoes that resembled her own, I decided to go out and buy the same exact shoes for my dog. And myself!" squealed Brooke Dion, another GRCC student.

There's no question about it, Paris' shopping spree with her dog was the most talked about thing this weekend, headlining for four magazines and talked about on five shows, not even including the radio stations. In one article in a magazine, Paris and her dog are shown the day after shopping spree, both wearing their new, identical shoes.

Seahawks are ready for a whole new year Coach Pete Carroll brings new life to a struggling team

By: Alex Heikke

The Seahawks let go of their head coach Jim Mora, who stood in the position for only one season, another man was offered the position and took it right off the bat. Coach Pete Carroll, the previous head coach of the University of Southern California Trojans football team, committed to the Seattle Seahawks as the new head coach on January 9, after agreeing to a five year contract.

From running for the job to running with the team, Carroll became the man for the job. There are a lot of questions and concerns running through the heads of the fans of the Seahawks, and all they can really do now is to wait and see how it plays out.

Some fans are excited to see Pete Carroll coaching the Seahawks. "I'm proud to have the previous head coach of USC take the coaching position for the Seahawks. He shows great promise," says Shane Sweeney, a current student at Green River. Pete's capabilities, when looking at his history with USC, show major potential.

His coaching career with USC started when he was named the head coach in 2000, and went on for nine years with the Trojans. He had led the Trojans to win four of five Rose Bowl appearances, and won two orange bowls as well. In the end of the 2009 season the Trojans had defeated Boston College in the Emerald Bowl. USC had run as 1st in the Pac-10 division for seven years straight. Overall Pete left USC with a to-

tal of 97 wins and 19 losses. For Carroll himself, he did not fall below the number four ranking coach in the Coach's Poll until 2009.

While the situation in college football makes Carroll seem excellent for Seattle, it isn't easy to compare college ball to the National Football League. Brent Davis, another student from GRCC claims, "I am iffy about the new coach. I have never been a fan of USC, and his career with the New England Patriots played out as kind of weak."

Pete Carroll has had a rough past in the NFL. While he started out as possibly a decent coach for the Patriots, being first in the AFC East division in 1997 for a winning season of 10-6, it had dropped a year later to fourth in the division, then in 1999 to fifth.

Compared to other coaches of the Patriots, this was a little questionable. He spent three years with the Patriots, and was with the New York Jets in 1994 where he led the team to being fifth in the AFC East division.

So the question is: will Carroll be enough to help Seattle return to the winning tradition? Everyone can debate over the subject, but no one can prove anything besides the man himself.

Pete claims that he knows what he did wrong when coaching the Patriots, and feels like he can help the Seahawks. He said it will take time to get to know each of the players and their potential, but eventually they will get there. So it is time for Pete to show what he can do for Seattle football.

Seattle is still at loss over the Supersonics

By: Luke Goodgion

Before the 08-09 season, the beloved Seattle Supersonics left the Northwest and headed to Oklahoma City after Oklahoma businessmen bought the team. Shawn Kemp, Gary Payton, Ray Allen, Rashard Lewis, and Kevin Durant bring back memories of a missing link in Seattle. A 45-million dollar settlement was made with Seattle for the remaining two-year lease left at Key Arena.

Many avid fans were extremely saddened with the departure of their hometown hoops. Nic Jones, a former season ticket holder, was broken by the loss of his favorite NBA team. "I loved the atmosphere of Key Arena," Jones explained. "I went to every home game that I could and loved it." Games were full of fun and excitement. "Squatch was doing flips and dunking it off of trampolines!" Kayla Anderson said about the Sonics halftime show.

The Oklahoma City Thunder is the new name and new direction of the team as well. The last season that the Sonics were in Seattle they posted a 20-62 record, the worst record in the league. Struggling the first season with a 23-59 record, they have made drastic changes for the good their second season in. Standing at a winning record of 24-20, the Thunder have a lot more to show than what they did while they were in Seattle. "I don't care what they are doing in Oklahoma and I don't want to know," Jones said. "They are pretty much dead to me."

Kevin Durant, Thunder star forward, has put up amazing numbers in Oklahoma City. Aver-



aging 29.3 points per game this year towers over his 20.3 average he had his Rookie year in Seattle. In Oklahoma, the fan base is stronger than the franchise has ever seen before. Jim Goodgion, a student in Missouri, was ecstatic about the arrival of a basketball team in the Midwest. "I love watching basketball," Jim explained. "We have no NBA teams in the Midwest and now we finally have a team that we can grasp on to and love." Goodgion is a native of Washington, but moved to Missouri for college. "It was sad to hear that the Sonics are gone, but it's not like anyone ever went to see them," Goodgion stated.

Within the first week of being announced of an NBA team coming to Oklahoma City, the city had a bracket style contest to decide the name of their new team. With the "Thunder" being decided, 16,000 season tickets were sold making the new team feel welcome in their home. "We will see how long their fan support lasts because we all like new toys when we first get them," Jones expressed. The Sonics are a missing part of the Seattle sports world; a professional basketball team is the only sport we don't have a professional team for.

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Get Connected    

Athlete spotlight: Jake Wilcox

By: Amanda Lockhart

Jake Wilcox is currently our Basketball team's shining star, and he has proved this with the numbers he's been bringing to GRCC since the beginning of the year. Wilcox has been playing basketball his entire life, and continues to play strong as our point guard, bringing in averages on the offense of 12 pts a game, 7 assists, as well as equally impressive numbers on the defensive end.

"I've been messing around my entire life," Wilcox said when asked when his love for basketball began. He started playing basketball for a couple reasons, "The guys I saw on television, the pro athletes, made me want to play," and then he added that it was what all his friends were doing.

Wilcox has been playing his entire life, but it wasn't until the 5th grade when he joined his first organized team that he got a real taste for what Basketball is like. He then went on to play for the AAU Kent Hornets in the 8th grade where he played for years. As a sophomore, Wilcox scored his best game of 35 points against one of the best teams in the

Tacoma area.

When not playing on an organized team, Wilcox played for Kentwood High, keeping himself busy all year round with basketball. He was incredibly successful at Kentwood, which is why GRCC was recruiting him before he graduated high school. Wilcox really enjoys our coaching staff and also finds GRCC close to home, so it was an easy decision for him to come here.

This year, on January 6th, Wilcox scored 33 pts against Tacoma for his best performance with GRCC. Wilcox said, "That was probably my highlight," when remembering his best game so far.

"Hopefully I can play two more years of basketball for a university," said Wilcox with a smile on his face. He would like to play for a division two team, but

he's stated that he will go with, "whoever wants me." His dreams for basketball are not to play for the NBA; instead he is leaning towards sports management. He always knew he would end up in sports since he enjoys it so much, but this point guard has decided he wants to lead teams to victory in his future.

"The guys I saw on television, the pro athletes made me want to play - Jake Wilcox."



Amanda Lockhart/The Current
Jake Wilcox takes a jump shot during a game.

Honea's House

By: Andrew Honea

So as the 2010 NFL Season nears its end, The Pro Bowl has been completed. This year, two things were a little different in the NFL Postseason. First off, the Pro Bowl took place in Miami, Florida this year instead of Hawaii. Second off, it took place before the Super Bowl. In my opinion, this is one of the dumbest things the NFL could have possibly done. The best players in the NFL are voted into the Pro Bowl each year so that fans can see all of the leagues top performers come together in one big game. Well this year, that opportunity was ripped away from fans, when the members of the Colts and Saints were unable to compete in the festivities of the Pro Bowl because they couldn't resist injury before the Super Bowl. What a load of crap!

Possibly the greatest NFL QB of our time, Peyton Manning wows the fans all year long, so why shouldn't he be given a chance to wow us one more time during a team full of the greatest players in the NFL. Instead, professional sports have found a way to upset people yet again. Since Manning will be in the Super Bowl, and Tom Brady and Phillip Rivers couldn't compete in the big game, the Staring Quarterback named was Matt Schaub, of the Houston Texans. Don't get me wrong, Schaub is a very talented QB. He measures up with lots of guys. But should the starter, and team leader, of an All-Star Game be a member of a team who hasn't made the playoffs since the team was formed.

Many people probably disagree with me, but this game should have the best players in the game, and when you eliminate members of the two teams playing for a championship, that takes out a crucial part of the successful players in the NFL. When I watch this game, I want to see the guys that can lead their teams to a championship. Situations like that are when player's true colors appear. A team has 17 weeks in the league to gain chemistry and really come together, but when you match up the Leagues best offense and defense, and give them a week to practice together, it makes things much more interesting.

Overall, their isn't much more I can say on this subject. Continuing to rant won't turn back time and it won't change the location or time of this game. But I have one final thing to say to the NFL. Next year, please don't deprive the fans of a game including all of the leagues best. Sure some of the best is great, but when you have to add the "next best" because your starters are afraid to get hurt, it takes away a lot. Please Fix it!

Athlete spotlight: Katie Tillman

By: Ashley Templeton

Katie Tillman, a 19 year old sophomore at GRCC, is this year's captain for the Green River girl's basketball team. Although a humble and charming young woman, she is a force of nature on the court.

Tillman started playing basketball at age 8 and has been playing ever since. "My family is very sports inclined, and all my cousins have played ball which is what got me started" Katie says. She has been playing basketball almost every year since she started, "I'm a very competitive person," says Katie, which has kept her motivated to keep playing.

Tillman played in leagues in her younger years and got into more competitive playing in high school. She played all 4 years at Puyallup High School, following in her older sisters footsteps. "It was easier being on a team I was already comfortable with because of my

sister", says Tillman. Her most memorable moments about playing is when the team can make really good plays in a short amount of time.

Although Tillman has a lot of passion for the game she doesn't plan to further her basketball career. After graduating from Green River in June with her associates degree, she plans to transfer to Cornish art Institute. Tillman says, "Basketball is just more of a hobby, something I'm good at and enjoy to do, but I have no plans to go pro."

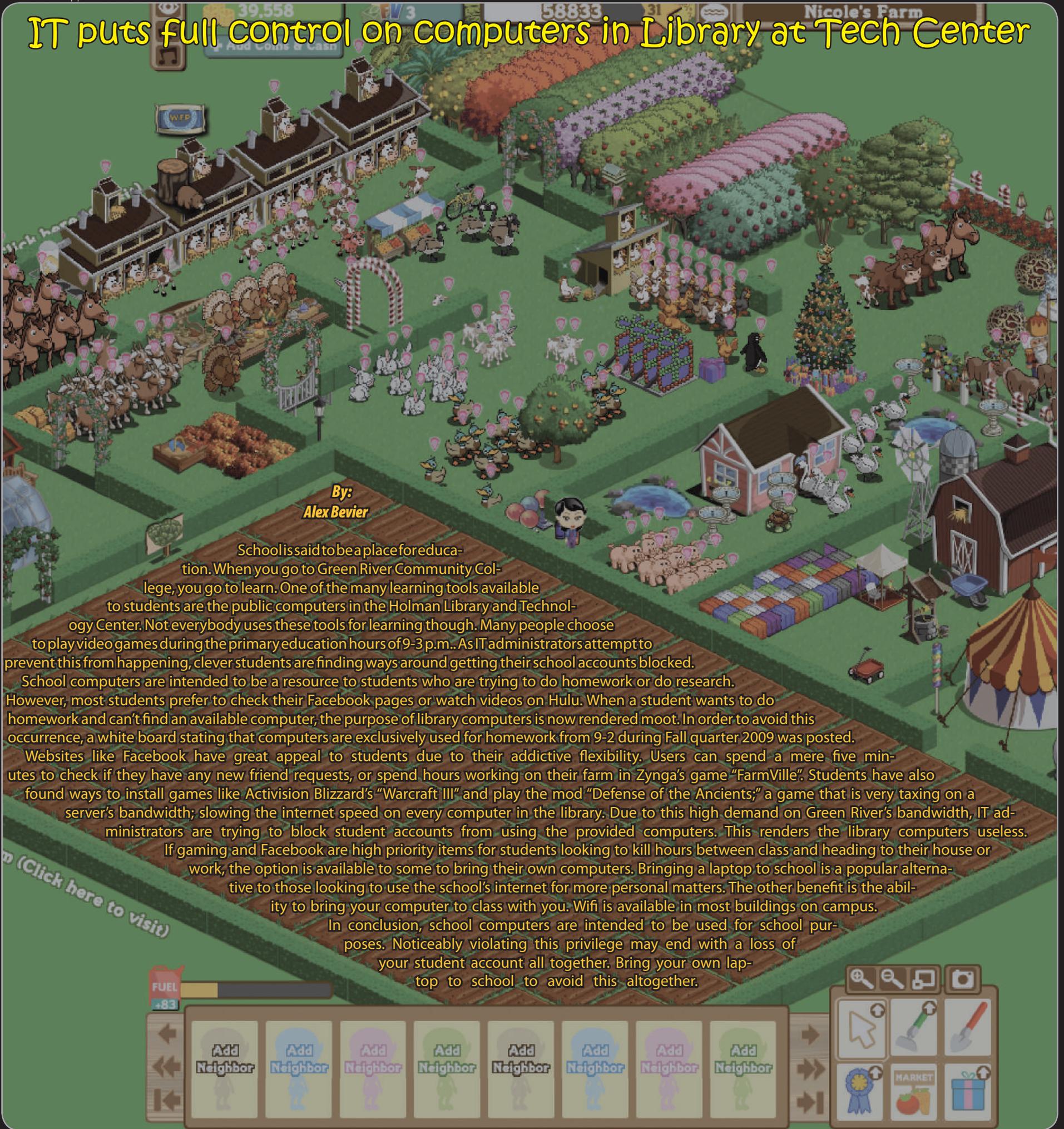
Although struggling in the first half of the season a new coach with a new attitude gives the girls high hope for a turnaround for the second half of the season. Tillman is a great captain and a great competitor so if you like basketball and haven't been to a game yet get on board, you can find the team schedule at greenriver.edu and while you're there look for Katie #20 on the court.

"My family is very sports inclined, and all my cousins have played ball which is what got me started -Katie Tillman"



Ashley Templeton/The Current
Katie Tillman smiles for the camera after practice.

IT puts full control on computers in Library at Tech Center



By:
Alex Bevier

School is said to be a place for education. When you go to Green River Community College, you go to learn. One of the many learning tools available to students are the public computers in the Holman Library and Technology Center. Not everybody uses these tools for learning though. Many people choose to play video games during the primary education hours of 9-3 p.m.. As IT administrators attempt to prevent this from happening, clever students are finding ways around getting their school accounts blocked.

School computers are intended to be a resource to students who are trying to do homework or do research. However, most students prefer to check their Facebook pages or watch videos on Hulu. When a student wants to do homework and can't find an available computer, the purpose of library computers is now rendered moot. In order to avoid this occurrence, a white board stating that computers are exclusively used for homework from 9-2 during Fall quarter 2009 was posted.

Websites like Facebook have great appeal to students due to their addictive flexibility. Users can spend a mere five minutes to check if they have any new friend requests, or spend hours working on their farm in Zynga's game "FarmVille". Students have also found ways to install games like Activision Blizzard's "Warcraft III" and play the mod "Defense of the Ancients," a game that is very taxing on a server's bandwidth; slowing the internet speed on every computer in the library. Due to this high demand on Green River's bandwidth, IT administrators are trying to block student accounts from using the provided computers. This renders the library computers useless.

If gaming and Facebook are high priority items for students looking to kill hours between class and heading to their house or work, the option is available to some to bring their own computers. Bringing a laptop to school is a popular alternative to those looking to use the school's internet for more personal matters. The other benefit is the ability to bring your computer to class with you. Wifi is available in most buildings on campus.

In conclusion, school computers are intended to be used for school purposes. Noticeably violating this privilege may end with a loss of your student account all together. Bring your own laptop to school to avoid this altogether.

