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# THE CURRENT

January 22, 2010 | Issue 5 | Volume 44 | Green River Community College | thecurrentonline.net

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# Construction on Salish Hall continues

## Walking around the construction causes a major inconvenience for students

By: Mandy Wong

Construction for Salish Hall started in March 2009; the new building will replace the HS, SS, and BI buildings in fall quarter 2011. Once completed, this building will blend into the other recent improvements to create a more modern and functional campus.

However, the long project has affected many students and created a significant problem by cutting off several of the pathways on campus and reducing the number of parking spaces available.

Ten Green River students participated in a random survey, and all those interviewed said the construction cutting off pathways on campus meant that they have to spend extra time walking all the way around to get through to the other side of campus.

One student, a Green River student and campus safety officer, Austin Fields, said, "I usually take longer to cross from North to West on campus since some ways have been blocked. It becomes a trouble while I am monitoring the campus." This is not only a problem for campus safety, but also for students.

Another student, Max Siu, said, "I get out of class at 10:50 A.M. in the SS building and I have run to another class in the SMT building at 11 A.M. I only get 10 minutes to walk all the way around the campus and usually a lot of students are crowded on the narrow pathways in the morning, so I [am] always three to five minutes late to my 11 a.m. class. I am so tired of the inconvenience." This is a problem for the majority of students who have morning classes.

Furthermore, some students complained that the construction staff takes a lot of the parking space; as a result, they have to park their cars at the Pacific Raceways. One such student, Mary-



Mandy Wong/The Current

Construction of the Salish Hall blocking what was a walkway between the courtyard in front of the Lindbloom Center and the area around the Tech. Center

ann Orr, said, "The constructors took a lot of our parking spots, maybe around fifty of them." Orr also mentioned that she has to spend extra time parking at the raceway.

"If I cannot find a place to park on campus, I have to park my car at the raceway and get to school by the shuttle bus. It takes me about 45 minutes a day for the round trip. Many people were late to class for this reason," she said.

This is not only Orr's concern, other students also indicated that this has been a problem for them and has had a major impact on their

schedules.

While students grumble about parking and other construction concerns, Salish Hall continues to grow. While inconvenient for the moment, Salish Hall will eventually shorten the distance between classes for most students.

With more construction plans in the works once Salish Hall is finished, students will be dealing with detours for several years to come.

More information on Salish Hall and several other construction plans for GRCC are available on our website, [thecurrentonline.net](http://thecurrentonline.net).

# Students find new ways to get around campus

By: Erik Chan

The winter solstice has passed and the coming days are getting gradually warmer with each passing week. With the weather getting nicer, students may be getting out their cherished bicycles, scooters or skateboards they had locked away for the winter, bringing them to campus in order to commute between classes. Are there limitations on campus?

"The general rule of thumb is that if your wheels have breaks, they're allowed on campus," says Director of Campus Safety, Frederick Creek. "That means bicycles and some scooters are allowed on campus, the rest should remain in your car, the parking lot or carried." Creek continues, "We (the safety staff) are trying to ensure fewer collisions on campus. I don't doubt skate boarders ability to operate their boards, but it reduces the risk for the 10,300 students attending the college."

There are plenty of no-smoking signs, but why aren't there any signs forbidding skateboarding or roller blading throughout campus like at public malls or grocery chains? "Since the campus is undergoing construction, many signs and maps are being replaced to update the college," says Creek. "The college is more concerned about directory signs, rather than regulatory signs in this time".

He went on to say that, "When the time and money comes, they can get posted for the time being, skateboarders are welcome to travel



Courtesy Photo/Kento Ogai

GRCC student Kento Ogai uses his skateboard to get around campus.

through the parking lots."

When asked if there are guidelines or rules that bikers have to follow while on campus, Creek replied "Bikers are still not off the hook, helmets are required to bike on campus." He continued on the subject saying, "We are lenient and will give a verbal warning. If the issue persists, you can be ticketed depending on the perception the safety staff and rules that have been violated".

There are still disputes about of the rules. Even in the winter, there are still several bikers and skateboarders who travel among the campus despite the cold and wet weather.

"I see the point the safety council is trying to make. But under certain circumstances, skateboarders should be able to ride on campus as

well as bikers." Says Peter Weiler, a student currently attending Green River. "It should be common sense when and where skateboarding can be effectively used on school ground." Weiler says that "I can see bicycles being as much of a disturbance as skateboards without brakes. True there are many students who attend the college, but they're all not on campus at once."

"For the ruling on helmets: you can only go running speed on a bicycle on campus, with or without pedestrian traffic. Helmets don't seem necessary at that speed. I believe the safety council shouldn't baby sit the students," Weiler adds. "There are risks everywhere with wheels on campus or without. It should be a personal responsibility to be safe and not for someone to hold your hand."

# S-STEM scholarships available to GRCC students

By: Eusiuk Kim

Most students saw a long line-up at the doors of the financial aid department on the first week of the quarter, or were among those waiting in-line for their turn. Those majoring in biological sciences (except medicine and other clinical fields), physical sciences: including physics, chemistry, astronomy, and material science, mathematical sciences, computer and information sciences, geosciences, engineering, and technology, areas associated with the preceding fields, don't need to be amongst those wait in-line for an hour or even more just to get a financial aid.

The S-STEM Scholarship is a national scholarship funded by the National Sciences Foundation, which offers \$3125 to 40 Green River students majoring in the biological and physical sciences; however, there are some eligibility requirements. For starters, you have to be

a citizen of the United States, nationals of the United States, aliens admitted as refugees, or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence. Also, one has to be fully enrolled for each quarter in a degree program at the associate level. Since the scholarships are given on a need basis, one has to be in financial need as defined students by the U.S department of education's rules for undergraduate students.

Students interested in the program should visit ([http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student\\_guide/index.html](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide/index.html)) and fill out FAFSA form found at (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>)

S-STEM scholarships are now looking for applicants, but they can be hard to find. The project director, Donnie Hallstone, reported "We've been trying to give it away but it seems there are some difficulties. We could have made some conditions weaker but it would make way too many students applicable, which shouldn't be

happening."

According to the director of the project they were trying to give the scholarships to students, but it seems a little challenging. If they cannot find enough applicants, then scholarships will be carried over and over, in the end, and they will have to ask for extension.

One of the reasons that it's so hard to find applicants for the scholarship is because it's not advertised enough. Jordan Bokov, a student majoring in engineering, has no idea whether they are offering the scholarship for students of this field of science. "A what a scholarship? No, I've never heard of it. I wish I could get it because I really need it, desperately!" Bokev exclaimed. Not only Bokov was affected by these problems, many other students in science fields are not even aware of the scholarship. When they were asked randomly whether they know about the scholarship, only 5 out of 10 students was aware of it.

**Students wanting to apply may contact the project director, Donnie Hallstone ([dhallstone@greenriver.edu](mailto:dhallstone@greenriver.edu)).  
 For more information go to (<http://www.instruction.greenriver.edu/dhallstone>)**

## Getting to know you: Natoshia Lindahl



Mary Dusek/The Current



Mary Dusek/The Current

By: Mary Dusek

"The aviation program here at Green River Community College is ranked within the top ten most popular programs for aviation majors in the entire nation by several different online college resource websites" says Natoshia Lindahl, an aviation student. When asked about her choice of educational field, she simply replies, "I love flying. I don't like to be on the ground".

Lindahl is in the Commercial Ground School and Basic Weather Observation classes. Natoshia states that, the previous classes she has taken include "everything else", like her favorites: Aviation Weather (AVIA 123) and Instrument Pilot Ground School (AVIA 216). "I've always loved weather, and now I can read it and know what is going to happen," she explains. Lindahl mentions Curt Scott as her favorite aviation teacher here at GRCC because "he makes it more fun". In her spare time, she also helps out as a tutor for aviation students here at the college. Overall, Natoshia feels the program is very thorough in preparing her and her fellow peers for a future career in aviation.

Natoshia often visits local airports to fly and observe different planes. "I go to the

Renton Airport to watch them come in and out," Lindahl stated. The Renton Municipal Airport is located along the shore of Lake Washington, one of several airports in the local area which Green River Community College's aviation students can frequent to collect the required hours to receive certain Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approved pilot certifications, a necessary component to a future in aviation. Natoshia proudly states.

"I've got 38.1 hours" which quickly strikes a friendly banter with a fellow aviation friend. Clearly, the accumulated total of hours is a healthy competition between members of this department. Continuing on, the most exhilarating part of flying, she explains, is stalls. In simpler terms, for the non-aviation-savvy, she further explains that stalls are where "[the plane] stops flying and starts dropping"....

**For the complete story visit  
[thecurrentonline.net](http://thecurrentonline.net)**

## Single parent students at GRCC

By: Mary Preston

Being a parent is arguably one of the most difficult jobs a person can have. Being a single parent without anyone else there to help you raise your child is even more difficult. Being a single parent and trying to hold down a job to support yourself and your child while attending school is extreme.

But, according to a study done by the American Association of Community Colleges, roughly 17% of community college students are single parents. The average cost of raising a single child in the U.S. is about \$19,200 per year, and this isn't including the cost of child care which is about \$2,200 per year for one child. That means the average single parent will pay around \$21,400 on just one child each year. The cost of the average academic year at Green River is about \$16,083. The average single parent household earns about \$26,500 per year. With no financial aid, the average single parent attending Green River will be at least \$6,000 in debt just from the cost of school and raising a child.

"Single parents are treated the same as any other student in need of financial aid," says Mary Edington, the Director of the Green River Financial Aid Department. "Congress sets laws about how financial aid can be provided to students. However, single parents are often in the highest eligibility group for financial aid because of their financial situation."

Why is it that we as a nation are so quick to give money to people who don't have jobs and make no attempt to get their own form of income, but seem to have trouble giving money to citizens who not only have jobs but are trying to better themselves and the lives of their children by going to college?

There are four types of scholarships that a Green River student can get: program-based, merit-based, need-based and transfer-based scholarships. The scholarships that single parents in need can apply for are need-based scholarships. There are about 160 scholarships given out each year to Green River students. The scholarships can only be used for tuition, fees, books and other required supplies needed to be a student at Green River.

Although need-based scholarships are a great help to students who can get them, there aren't enough scholarships to help every students in need. We students and administrators at Green River need to help find more ways to financially help single parents who are attending school, not just for the sake of their education, but for the sake of their children's education as well.

Dr. Katharine Hansen said, "Research shows that children of college-educated parents are healthier, perform better academically, and are more likely to attend college themselves than children of those with lower educational attainment."

If our children are the future, we need to help ensure a better future by helping them grow up with an inclination towards education, by helping their parents be able to get an education first.

# GRCC health department has much to offer all students

By: Ashley Templeton

College can be a stressful and exhausting place. Thankfully Green River has a great health department that cares about your success at GRCC. To ensure this they provide programming regarding wellness issues that can have a direct impact on your success.

"The health care department sees a very wide variety of people with a very wide variety of issues," says Julie French, head of the college's health department.

Green River's health services can do a lot to help students have the best possible success at GRCC.

The health department at Green River can be found on campus at the Lindbloom Center in room 277.

The procedures that they can perform include minor first-aid such as taking blood pressure to see if a student is too stressed, handing out band-aids, giving someone a place to rest if they aren't feeling well and don't want to leave school early, and stress management. Fitness and nutrition resources are also available on campus.

If a student or teacher is in need of more medical attention than can be provided on campus, the nurses can help them find what they are looking for. French has a file dedicated to doctors and medical facilities to refer people to based on their individual needs.

There are also professional counselors in Counseling Services that can help you overcome your personal and emotional concerns and develop skills to reaching your full potential.

In addition to personal help, the health service department also hosts a number of wellness workshops throughout the year to cater to students needs. These workshops are meant to help people not only become more successful at school but also in life, by teaching you how to keep yourself emotionally and physically healthy for example.

The health services department are also responsible for community health activities, health fairs, and blood drives.

Even though the health services are important to the school some of the programs provided aren't advertised as much as others. Some students that have problems with alcohol and drugs can attend AA and NA meetings. The meetings are available to attend on campus, all you have to do is go into the health services center and ask any employee where to go and they will be more than happy to show you the way.

"There are usually only a few students in each meeting and we prefer to have at least 4 which is difficult to accomplish because of the lack of advertisement for these meetings." Says French.

Even with limited advertisements it is important to the health care team to let the students who struggle with these issues know that they are there for them and there are places on campus for them to get help.

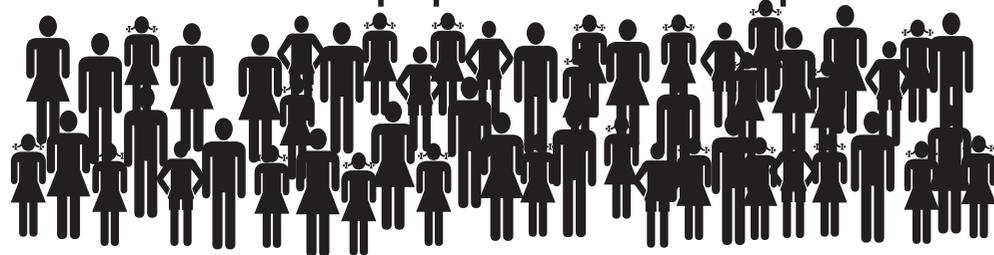
If you need help finding a doctor, are feeling bad or have any other health problems that you want help with, feel free to contact the health department at ext. 2430 or pay them a visit in the LSC room 227.



Health services office located on the top floor of the LSC.

Ashley Templeton/The Current

## Amount of students still growing Climb in student population causes problems



By: Thomas Hanes & Remco Zwetsloot

As many students may have noticed, Green River is, again, trying to deal with the giant amount of students enrolling. This was also an issue for fall quarter, with a record amount of 10,301 students, a 600 student difference with fall quarter of 2008. While the statistics of this quarter are not out yet, the amount of students is expected to break last quarter's record.

Problems caused by this include, as most students have already noticed, classes being too full, a lack of parking spots, longer waiting time for services provided by the school, a bad scholarship-student ratio and major registration problems that delay transferring processes.

Green River student Sarah Spicer noticed that all of her classes are full, causing problems for both teachers and students. "There's not even enough normal desks for everybody in two of my classes."

Teachers that overload their classes don't get paid extra, and therefore end up either doing extra work without getting more money or declining students that as a result have trouble fulfilling the requirements for their degree.

An increase of the size of the student body isn't necessarily a bad thing and it's an under-

standable consequence of the current economic situation. More and more people lose their jobs and, instead of looking for jobs that aren't being offered, try and get a better degree so that they can get a better job. Also, due to lower tuition, parents with a decreasing amount of money are more inclined to send their kids to a community college.

In these economically dire times though, the school simply can't cope with the demands that come with such an increase. Instead of hiring more teachers to cater to the students' needs, there have been lay-offs.

That leaves the school with the option of trying to decrease, or at least stabilize, the amount of students enrolling.

A way in which that might happen is the state regulating who gets priority to attend a school.

For instance, running start students, who already have a school, might find themselves unable to get into a community college as they have an alternative whereas high school graduates don't.

Actual numbers are not known yet, but from what we have seen so far this quarter, it is safe to say that the school is having trouble coping with the high enrollment. For frequent updates, visit our website: [www.thecurrentonline.net](http://www.thecurrentonline.net).

## Electrical Engineering @ North Seattle Community College - information sessions 2010 [www.ewu.edu/sces](http://www.ewu.edu/sces)

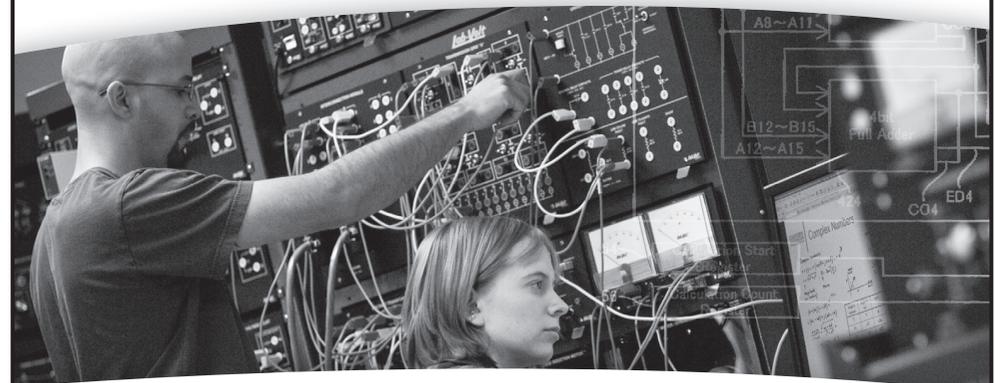
Join faculty and advisors at the up coming information session listed below to learn more about Eastern's new **Electrical Engineering Program** at North Seattle Community College. A high quality academic program, ABET accredited, with low student to faculty ratio. *We look forward to seeing you!*

January 29

Green River Community College

Lindbloom Student Center (LC), 11:30 pm - 1 pm

Contact **Gar Springberry** at 509.359.6254 or [gpringberry@ewu.edu](mailto:gpringberry@ewu.edu) for more information.



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# Howard Hanson Dam update: possibility of flooding decreases

## Chances of the Green River flooding go down dramatically, according to King County Executive News

By: Mary Dusek

The possibility of the Green River flooding isn't anything new. However, the latest advancements with the Howard Hanson Dam, the source of all the trouble, and the changes in flooding statistics are. The statistical chance of flooding has decreased from 33 percent down to 3%, but Green River Valley officials still believe that up to 30,000 residents may need to be evacuated.

Back in late Summer 2009, the King County news officials warned residents in the Green River Valley that the chance of serious flooding this winter was one in three.

King County's Committee of the Whole (COW) announced in Aug. 2009 that the "wide spread flooding [was] expected to result in Valley power outages (electricity and gas), sewer system surcharges, water supply interruptions, potential interruptions of communications [and] major closures of transportation corridors", causing wide-spread panic.

On Dec. 15, 2009, the King County Executive News released a statement that the previous statistic has gone down to one in 33. However, the announcement goes on to say that, "Col. Anthony Wright from the Corps [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers] encouraged King County and affected cities to continue with their planning efforts."

Kathryn Hoppe, a Geology professor at Green River Community College, has been follow-

ing the updates of the flooding through the news. She mentioned that the latest decrease in chance of flooding has come from a miscalculated prediction of rainfall, "relatively warm and dry weather" and the "temporary repairs on the dam."

Hoppe goes on to say that at GRCC, "we are not at risk for flooding, but we are at risk for power outages and things like that." Additionally, she mentioned that students of Green River Community College should be aware of the Emergency and Closure Status quick link from the college's main website homepage. This website displays the current updates of class delays or cancellations in case of emergency situations.

However, students at Green River seem to have mixed feelings about how this potential flooding might affect them. When asked if he were worried about possible flooding, Thomas Robinson – a first year student at GRCC – quickly laughed and said "No" and jokingly continues, "If it floods, I'd just swim!"

Kadi Wilson, on the other hand, stated that she was worried "most likely there will be a lot of damage. In tough times like these, people do not have the money to replace or repair damaged items and homes."

Despite these positive developments, we shouldn't let our guards down. As Dow Constantine, a King County executive, said: "We cannot afford to be unprepared."

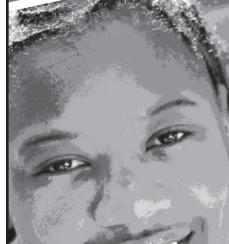


Mary Dusek/The Current

Many cities are taking precaution of flooding from the river

### King County Flood Control's eight point checklist:

1. Make an emergency plan and assemble an emergency kit.
2. Buy flood insurance now; it takes 30 days for a policy to take effect.
3. Purchase an inexpensive AM radio... with batteries in case of power outages.
4. Monitor area news media for information if severe weather is predicted.
5. Find the latest evacuation route information.
6. Take medications and supplies with you.
7. Be ready to relocate animals and livestock out of harm's way.
8. Minimize flood damage [by] storing valuables and electronics higher, keeping hazardous chemicals out of floodwaters, ensuring underground storage tanks are sealed, moving vehicles to high ground, keeping storm drains free of debris and knowing how to protect yourself if flooding leads to sewer overflows.



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## Marijuana could be legal in Wash. soon

### New bill proposed by Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson

By: Remco Zwetsloot

In recent years, and really since the 1920's when it was prohibited, marijuana has been a prime social and legal issue. Recently the pro-legalization movement has gained a lot of support, resulting in a proposed bill to decriminalize marijuana in Washington State.

The bill was proposed by Rep. Dickerson (D-Seattle). It would make the marijuana regulations similar to those of alcohol, with a minimum age of 21 for instance.

Marijuana, if the bill passes, will be grown by Washington farmers and sold in liquor stores with a 15% tax rate. The tax revenue is expected to be \$300 million a year and will mostly be spent on drug and alcohol treatment projects.

Legalization has both fanatic supporters and determined opponents. Supporters include the mayor of Seattle, Mike McGinn, who feels he is representing the will of Seattle's citizens by declaring his support for the bill. "We recognize that, like alcohol, it's something that should be regulated, not treated as a criminal activity."

Another backer of the bill is Seattle city attorney Pete Holmes, who stated that he would dismiss all marijuana possession cases and seems to stick to his word, dismissing two cases on his first day.

A firm opponent of the bill is state attorney general Rob McKenna, who thinks legalizing pot will make it harder to argue against other illegal substances, such as cocaine and heroin. He adds: "I think you'll see an increase in use, and given the potency of marijuana, I don't think that's a good thing."

Due to the fact that the bill seems to outlaw all personal growth of marijuana, not all marijuana activists support it. Vivian McPeak, a

marijuana patient/activist, told Toke of the Town (an online newspaper that focuses on developments in the cannabis world): "It is going to be difficult for many pot scene old timers to let go of the cultural hold so many of us have on our old friend, the herb."

Washington is one of four states (New Hampshire, California and Massachusetts are the others) looking to decriminalize pot. Two dozen other states are considering the same, varying between only allowing medical prescriptions or all out decriminalization.

Because the idea is so new, and marijuana is illegal under federal law, Dickerson doesn't actually expect the bill to pass, despite a big crowd of supporters. "I'm happy to start the conversation," she told Seattle political site PubliCola. "If more states start talking about [legalizing marijuana] it will get the attention of Congress."

The proposal is met with much enthusiasm by students, whose main argument is that pot is not nearly as bad as alcohol or strong liquor, both of which are legal.

"People should check the facts about marijuana and make an objective decision based on that, not archaic presumptions," said Green River student Jon Gustav Eriksson.

"I'm pretty excited about the proposal of this bill. I think it'll do wonders for the economy if the tax money is spent properly," adds Sean Kramer, also a student.

If the bill passes, it will take effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.

For updates, check the website:  
[thecurrentonline.net](http://thecurrentonline.net).

**Check out the editorial on page six...**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In October of 2009, a vendor was allowed to set up a table in the LSC with materials promoting the politics of Lyndon LaRouche. I stopped by and picked up some literature and talked to a representative. I asked the representative how the poster of President Obama depicted as a Nazi had anything to do with their statements. The representative's answer was "read the material." I read it. I didn't like it. I was offended AND I am not the only one!

Outside vendors are allowed to set up booths on our college campus. Students are used to seeing vendors set up tables in the LSC or outside on the Campus Commons. Outside vendors go through a simple process of application – contacting the college Scheduling Office and paying a fee of \$25. Easily, outside vendors gain access to our campus community displaying their jewelry, hats and scarves and literature, etc.

They appear on campus doing various activities including spewing their political views. On our GRCC website, there are a few short paragraphs related to Vendor Space Rental. Here is an excerpt: "We welcome vendors with a variety of items and information from jewelry and clothes to prospective employment opportunities."

Student groups that want to promote their ideas at a table or with a flyer/poster, etc., must go through an approval process. For example, if a GRCC club wants to have an event, they have to go through a four week approval process having everything checked and rechecked by Student Life.

GRCC Clubs and Organizations adhere to a 28 page document detailing the rules and regulations and approval process for events, flyer/poster. It would be VERY difficult for students/GRCC clubs to distribute or display the kinds of posters and flyers that the public is allowed to expose our campus community to.

From GRCC's Policies and Procedures Manual - College Policies & Procedures:

WAC 132J-125-060 Freedom of expression. The right of free speech is fundamental to the democratic process. Students and other members of the college community shall be free to express their views or support causes by orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and essential operations of the college.

In the interest of our campus community, I think that a vendor's materials should be checked for approval by the college before they can be displayed. GRCC Clubs cannot put out political statements but vendors can and this is not fair but the college has a different set of rules for outside vendors than it does for students/clubs.

If there is going to be two different sets of rules then the college needs to at least check the outside vendors, being sensitive that what they allow vendors to bring on campus and how it will have an effect on our campus community. The college should not be so hasty to make the \$25 they make from outside vendors that they don't first consider how a vendor's material can change or influence our community in a negative way.

I don't want to get into an argument about censorship and freedom of speech. These are old, important and never ending debates I really don't want to enter. What I don't understand is why the college works so hard to effectively stifle the voices of GRCC Clubs with its handbooks of rules and regulations and lengthy approval processes, but allows the public such easy access to our campus and the ability say anything they want to say, LOUDLY!

I want to thank GRCC Student Government for listening to student concerns about the Lyndon LaRouche vendor and the outside vendor process at several of their recent meetings. Their (Student Gov.) recommendation was that GRCC should prepare a disclaimer and display it at the vendor's site stating that GRCC does not endorse or oppose the vendor.

Also recommended is that the Scheduling Office provides students access to a calendar of vendors that are scheduled to come onto campus. GRCC Clubs should be able to see the upcoming vendor calendar published 4 weeks prior to a vendor's appearance on campus so that GRCC Clubs can voice their views while the vendors are on campus. Individual students can express their views about a vendor on the same day they are on campus with a fee of \$25.

A GRCC Club must wait 4 weeks to get approval from Student Life to express their views. I would like to see Student Government's recommendations adopted, but I think that Student Government's recommendations are a Band-Aid to the problem.

Why? Outside vendors still have more freedom of speech on campus than GRCC Clubs and Organizations do. I think vendors need to be more completely checked out and go through an approval process that considers what they are bringing onto our campus and how it will affect our community. I do not wish to "disrupt the regular and essential operations of the college," I just want to have the same freedoms of speech as outside vendors do.

Deanna Lugo

Dear Editor,

I was wondering when Mr. Radliff would be writing his article about the sinking ship called the Democratic Party and all the rats that are fleeing it... What is the count now, 12? I have lost count with the most recent being NC representative Sloan (who was indicted for shooting a former law client) in addition to the other 11.

I would think that being a budding "journalist" he would want to cover both sides of the issue since he so gleefully pronounced the death of the Republican Party a few months ago because a RINO (Republican in Name Only) "representative" named, "Arlen Spector" left the party. We conservatives are not surprised when these things happen. RINO's need to leave the party and become what they really are anyway - democrats.

Well, Stirling dear, we shall see how "dead" the Republican party is come November 2, 2010 and then I'll wait with baited breath for your spin on the political blood bath that will befall the Democrats.

See ya in November!

Kerry Hooks

Natural Resources would like to publically thank John Korsmo Construction Inc. for donating the concrete for the new greenhouse! The form boards and the yard of concrete were a huge help for our new project. The greenhouse is located on the south side of the SMT building next to the P6 parking lot and will be used for growing vegetables, instructional use, class projects as well as eco-therapy for our veterans. Thanks again Korsmo!

## 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.

### Club screening is only one option

Recently, representatives of the Lyndon Larouche Movement have been on campus causing quite a stir. This political group has been campaigning against healthcare reform with pamphlets of President Obama in Hitler attire.

This left many Green River clubs questioning the legality of making unexpected promotions. Official clubs at Green River are required to be screened for booths and/or displays by the student government. This limits clubs' abilities to express opinions and affiliations at or outside Green River campus.

As members of the press, we are eager to rush to the aid of those who feel that their freedoms are in any way being suppressed or denied. The Current, being similar to a Green River club, fully realizes the frustrations of this kind; it echoes strongly within each member of our editorial staff and indeed within each of our staff writers.

However, there is an agreement between Green River and its respective clubs by which the Green River Student Government's roles in regulating official clubs are extremely valid.

Green River is financially invested in supporting these clubs by granting each official club a \$500 budget. The school is also attaching the Green River name and has a public image at stake with each affiliated club. Because each official club gets \$500 from Green River Community College, affirmed by the Student Government, clubs are henceforth a portion of what represents Green River as a school.

If a group of students want to become a recognized club at Green River, then there are processes and agreements which have to be met in order to be supported by Green River Community College. All Green River clubs are aware of these requirements and know that they are necessary.

Away from the politics of official Green River clubs, outside vendors, like the LaRouche Movement representatives, are permitted to advertise their beliefs and political affiliations. But because these vendors pay to advertise on campus, they proceed by a different set of rules.

Because vendors aren't paid by Green River to advertise, they don't necessarily represent Green River in any way, and therefore can advertise whatever beliefs or political affiliations they can muster.

If Green River clubs want the freedom to express their views without being interrupted by Student Government regulations and screenings, then they must rally together – on campus, if it is accepted by the school – and compose fundraisers to make their own money, with which they can, without screening, present any affiliation they have. We understand the irony.

If clubs want Green River processes to run in a different way, then they must bring it up with the Student Government.

### Washington for marijuana

Since the 1920's when it was prohibited, the subject of legalizing marijuana has culminated to, since 1996, using it for medical purposes, to what now may be the complete legalization of the substance in the State of Washington. (See page 5.)

Compared to other drugs, such as methamphetamines, heroine and cocaine, the general consensus would suggest that marijuana is less addicting than those, and even less addicting than cigarettes and alcohol. Though the substance can be detrimental to one's health due to over use, the same could be said for all other drugs, and really the overuse of anything that goes into one's body.

Also, given the economic crisis this state is going through, the legalization of marijuana would significantly increase the states revenue, adding what is estimated to be \$300 million.

Because of this, The Current fully supports the new bill to legalize marijuana.

## 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 voices heard. The Current will publish **letters to the editor**, provided they are signed, include the author's name, and submitted in a timely manner. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. Letters should be sent to [thecurrent@greenriver.edu](mailto: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.

# Barack Obama's first year as president summarized

## How President Barack Obama is "restructuring America for the good of the people"

Commentary by: Heather Coit

With the current economic crisis rivaling that of the Great Depression, President Obama's Administration has inherited an America that may be terminally ill.

The diagnosis is fear and ignorance. The fear and ignorance that has a grip on the American people has slowly cut them off from the things that are really important. For twelve months Obama has tried to lead a nation only to be hindered by converts in what has become a cult run by ignorance and "Faux" News.

After years of hyper-patriotism, the public is now too scared to speak out for what they believe in for fear of being called "Anti-American." Now, Obama has decided to take a different way of leading this country. Under the Bush-Cheney Administration fear was the tool used to convince the nation to become hyper-patriotic.

The Washington Examiner notes that Obama has "pledged a new, quieter approach". Even with the news of terror and war, Obama still carries on with a message of hope to try and cure the citizens of immobilizing fear. He recognized that a nation in fear is a nation that reacts without thinking, creating the very mess that the United States has come into after 8 years of reactionary politics.

Intense criticism by the Republican Party follows every move Obama makes. Unfortunately the only comments that are heard in the media tend to be the outrageous, negative ones.

One of Obama's harshest critics, Fox News, slants its reports to appeal to an ignorant public who seem to listen intently. Bush's eight years in office made Fox News what they are today: the only channel left for conservatives.

The former administration is trying to destroy the current administration out of spite. What Obama deserves is a supportive and constructive nation willing to work together to become a stronger America, not a fake, unfair and unbalanced news station that reminds most legitimate news organizations of the Yellow Press of the early 1900's.

To support the president, the Democratic Party will have to step up their game.

No one hears the truth over the brainwashed diatribe of the "FOX Nation," so to get anything done they may need to yell for what they want. The American public seems to only respond to impassioned words from an intelligent speaker like Obama. What is needed now is a strong and aggressive citizenry to rally America. This will remind them that they have the determination to re-create America into a place of dreams once again.

As this is only Obama's first year, it is too early

to determine the effects of his policies and decisions, many of which will not be fully understood until years from now. With all of the plans and bills that the White House has in progress, no one can see what may or may not happen in the future.

What else has Obama inherited from the Bush administration beside a war that costs a billion dollars a month? He has also inherited a country with an unrealistic and unobtainable expectation of this presidency.

The Washington Examiner wrote that Former President Bush was "using terrorism to spread fear among the American public." People expected a dramatic response to every terrorist threat. President Obama has decided to take a much more a different tack. He does not actively respond to the Terrorists. This change confused the American public after eight years of terror level orange.

Marc Ambinder accurately identified that Obama was finally using strategy. This strategy may have been lost on the public. Eventually the American people will realize that Obama can run the White House with a new strategy, but it will take time for the still tense public to accept this.

Time is the only true judge for the Obama administration's decisions. Health Care Reform itself has been reformed again and again, which

is still not passed.

Obama wants to set up the nation on a solid foundation and must be given time to do that.

During Bush's reign, other countries were disgusted by Americans. Now, America is getting more acceptance from around the world, and this was only made true by Obama's eloquent and strong words. When Republicans claim that Obama has done nothing for this country, the Nobel Peace Prize winner should hold up the gift he has given America: the restoration of foreign relations.

The facts are this: Obama has made us more appealing to other nations rather than using Bush's axis of evil language; he has laid the groundwork for a stable and strong future; he has not responded to terrorists' threats with bull-headed arrogant statements, but with a deliberate strategy; he plans to fix the enormous debt and he has plans to change the war. These are, of course, issues created by the Bush Administration.

The reality is that Obama is restructuring America for the good of the people, and it takes more than a year to do it. The message here is to let him lead this country and to finally be able to believe in a president that truly believes in this country and the common man.

## New precautions at airport security

### Is the TSA doing the right thing in upgrading airport security?

Commentary by: Thomas Hanes

With the recent terrorist attacks slipping through our country's defenses, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), is going to work to make security much tighter at airports.

This may sound like it will be good for travelers, but it could make time getting through airport security much longer. Recently, an Algerian man had allegedly tried to set off an explosive that he had hidden in his pants during a Trans-Atlantic flight. Thankfully, the man was stopped by a brave passenger that saw what he was doing. This horrible event has raised a lot of questions about the quality of security at airports and how the TSA needs to improve it.

Right now, airports do not use any other method than metal detection to see if passengers are carrying potentially dangerous objects. This isn't good because many explosives, and even some firearms, are made out of plastics that can slip right through security. Because of that, along with other terrorist attacks that have been targeted toward the United States, the TSA has made such rules as "no liquids over 3 fluid ounces," and that all passengers have to send their shoes through separate x-ray machines. But it seems now that these precautions are not enough.

The TSA is now adding other precautions. For instance: all international flights coming from countries on a danger list - including Afghanistan, Algeria, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Yemen - will have to go through advanced screening, like full-body scans, pat downs and carryon searches; and all inbound flights coming to the United States will be subject to further random screenings.

In my opinion, this is what we should have been doing from the start. It seems apparent

that there are weapons that aren't made out of metals and which can easily be hidden from view.

What you can expect as a United States citizen is, in the future, all passengers will be subject to full-body screenings, which is basically an electronic strip search. This new method of security is raising questions about privacy, but polls show that 78% of people favor the idea of the new scanners.

The new body-scanners will be showing up in airports all across the United States. Then passengers can decide whether they are more comfortable with the body scans or pat-downs. Either one of these options would certainly help to maintain, or even enhance, security at airports.

I haven't been to an airport recently, but I can say that in the past year airport security is definitely slower than it should be. With the new restrictions the TSA is putting on passengers, it can only be imagined that going through airport security will be slower.

Also, these new restrictions could significantly affect foreign students because they will have to go through extra security measures compared to United States citizens; flying home could be more stressful than ever.

One of the things the TSA needs to stop doing is, when picking people for random searches, to stop picking those who do not fit the profile of a terrorist. It's a waste of time to search an 85 year old woman. It would streamline security if they would simply profile people that fit the terrorist stereotype.

These are not the only changes to come. As you read this article, the people in charge of the TSA are coming up with new regulations to help protect us citizens of the United States and to keep air transportation safe while making it as stress-free as possible.

## The maltreatment of mentally-ill patients

### Why the Mental Health Parity Act is detrimental to mental healthcare

Commentary by: Ashley Templeton

Recently there has been news that mental patients are no longer getting treatment and are being discharged regardless of whether they have been diagnosed as fit to live outside their mental institutions. This has been an issue that is usually looked over because it doesn't really affect people unless they have an immediate family member who has been diagnosed as mentally ill.

People don't seem to understand the importance of taking care of the mentally ill and more often family members can't take care of them, often because they don't have the time. This is where mental health facilities step in.

Recently, mental health institutions have been turning away patients or the patients are forced to leave simply because they can no longer afford treatments. The newly restored Mental Health Parity Act is an act that protects businesses with 50 or more people to keep the same health care coverage that they have now. This is bad news for those companies' employees because when they have mentally ill family members that are covered by this insurance they can no longer receive help. This is causing people to pay out of pocket or the patient will have to leave the institute all together.

When people take mental patients out of institutions where they are constantly looked after, and put them in environments where they have more freedoms, this could potentially not only be a danger for the patient but for the public as well.

There has been recent news of a man, Maurice Clemmons, 37, who went around shooting police officers. After the shootings, Clemmons was eventually shot and killed by a police officer. In more recent news it has been said that Clemmons was mentally ill and a threat to the

public, but not enough to have him committed. This information could make one think that if all companies were still covered for mental health insurance maybe one of this man's family members would have had him admitted. If this was the case it could have saved lives and a lot of heartache for friends and family members of the murdered police officers.

Many companies have been telling people that they will still be covered for all types of medical care. This is not entirely true. The Mental Health Parity Act may not always eliminate mental health coverage but with the new limitations it is nothing like it was in the past. Some of these limitations include: limiting the number of visits in a year; or the frequency of treatments; and there have also been changes in how much the co-pay could come out to be, in some cases \$500 or more.

People who work in companies with less than 50 employees are very angry about this new act, and have every right to be! Why is it fair that only the larger companies get to keep their current coverage and the smaller companies have to lose it? Employees who are part of larger companies argue that this act is not a big deal and that it's all part of President Obama's new health care plan. But why would the president want to take away peoples health benefits?

With the state that our economy is in, people are already counting their losses in many aspects, and many have been forced to spend their money more responsibly, certainly when something as expensive and important as mental health care coverage is being taken away from some people who know where they will end up if they have no other option but to keep their family in treatment because they are not fit to be discharged?

For the full story, go to thecurrentonline.net.

## Trips not on a bus

By: Remco Zwetsloot

A search for adventure and... anything interesting, really. But not on buses. Take 1.

I spent this winter break doing a lot of different things, in a lot of different places. Going to Washington DC was one of them. Our company consisted of me and 2 others: Guido Bakkes and Stirling Radliff. We flew to DC on the 26th and after spending a total of two days there ventured onwards to NYC, where we celebrated New Years before heading home on the 2nd.

In our time at the east coast, I met such an abundance of charmingly odd characters that it would almost be sinful not to write about them. We spent our nights at hostels, a great place to reside at if you are interested in peculiar people (or permanently cold showers and plastic mattresses, for that matter).

We arrived at our hostel at nearly midnight local time, and fueled by hunger and curiosity we went looking for food. Whilst usually in any American city it is hard not to stumble into 3 fast food restaurants on every block, in DC it was quite the opposite. Thus, we were forced into Chinatown, a rather cultural place one would expect. And so it was. The main street was filled with such a multi-cultural buzz and a multitude of ethnic restaurants and stores that we had to pause and take a breath at the baffling sight of them: an Asian Subway, McDonalds, Ruby Tuesdays, Urban Outfitters, AMC theatre, just to name a few of the exotic enterprises. The one or two sushi restaurants seemed rather unfortunately placed.

The next day we went all-out original and visited the memorials, the White House, the Capitol and all the other hidden treasures of our beloved capital. It was surprisingly warm and sunny, a good 60 degrees, which only added to our excitement. Fifteen hours later, when we returned to the hotel, not much was left of it.

The next day, my 2 companions were quite spent and to spare out feet we decided to take the circulator to Georgetown. As always on a bus, there was usual the spread of typical beings, but two really stood out. A stop after us, a woman got on and deposited herself quite gracefully, only dropping 2 bags, on a seat near us. Seemingly friendless and with quite a story to tell, she turned to the homeless person next to her and went off. And I mean, went off. She talked for about 5 minutes straight, with no response from the hobo who. Grinning at her extravagance he went back to reading his newspaper after 10 seconds of pretending to listen. Her subjects ranged from stealing a bread basket from a restaurant, to her sister's broken marriage, to her shoe-fetish and much more. Her ramblings ended when it was time for her to get off, and as you can imagine, I was immeasurably disappointed.

Another brilliant figure took some of my misery away, though. After getting on, despite there being plenty of free seats, he positioned himself awkwardly at the back door, his behind tilted slightly to the right. Out of nowhere, after of just standing there for a while, he started singing in what one might classify as an utterly terrible voice. It got even better though. Ten seconds into his song, his dance routine kicked off. For a man with sizable curves, he 'shook his bootie' with remarkable elegance. Unfortunately, he too got off far too soon, and this time there was no replacement to fix my broken heart.

Plenty of happenings occurred after that, but unfortunately nothing matched the sheer greatness of aforementioned ones. Well actually, plenty did. But I ran out of space, and as the unwise person she is, my editor won't let me have a full page for this column. So this will have to suffice for now, to your dismay of course.

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

## Mailmen on campus, helping behind the scenes

By: Mandy Wong and Samantha Shockley

Questions may arise as to how all the mail gets around campus. Many people don't even know that GRCC has campus mailmen, let alone where they are located.

Having mailmen in our school is the key to maintaining the flow of mail and packages on campus. They sort hundreds of mail every day, they deliver mail from office to office, and they also deliver copy papers and class schedule catalogs to every building.

There are 5 mailmen now working for Green River Community College, 2 fulltime, 2 part time, and 1 for work study. Erik Levin, one of the full time mail carriers, has already been working at Green River for 14 years.

Levin works 8 hours a day, from 8a.m. to 5p.m. His duties are mainly sorting mail in the morning, visiting every major building to make deliveries in the afternoon and work with the surplus items. "The amount of letters and packages varies every day, but Monday is the heaviest mail day," he explains. The carriers also have to pick up mail all over campus, deliver on campus mail, and mail out letters off campus.

The mailmen always receive packages from USPS, UPS, FedEx, Fed Ex- Ground, Office Depot and other vendors, but, the most unforgettable package that Levin has ever received, was the school's new flight simulator five years ago.

"That was a big package, we used a team of people to unload it and get it through the Technology Center building." Since the doors weren't big enough for the package, Levin explains, they had to unpack the package, release the hitches from the doors, and take it slowly into the building. "A couple faculties from the building were helping us with that."

Levin says that "being able to go office to office and receiving overseas mails and unique items from the world are the interesting parts in my job. Sometimes, I feel challenged while the semi-trunk shows up, carrying heavy items, and dealing with odd shape packages or mails and packages without names or clarification." Facing unknown letters and packages, Levin will use the computer to contact the purchasing office on campus by giving information about the items and he usually will find out the answers.

The campus mailmen aren't given recognition for all the extra work they do on campus. Without them, you wouldn't be reading this paper right now! They receive everything, and deliver everything, making others lives much easier.

Next time you have to dodge a cart or avoid a person with a hand truck, remember they might be delivering this newspaper.



Mandy Wong/The Current  
The mailroom below the SS building.



Three of GRCC's mailmen.

Mandy Wong/The Current

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Seo Hee Kim/The Current  
Amanda Schaefer poses for the camera in the writing center in the RLC.

## Teacher Spotlight: Amanda Schaefer

By: Lindsey Williams

Q: Where did you go to school? What is your current degree?

A: I completed my undergraduate work at the University of California, Irvine and my master's degree at the University of Notre Dame.

Q: What made you decide to become a teacher? Did you have other plans, or was it always something you saw yourself doing?

A: I had decided to major in English by my sophomore year in high school, and I knew I wanted to teach at some level by the time I entered college. My initial plan was to teach high school English, but in my second year of graduate school I was asked to teach an introductory composition course to first-year college students. I enjoyed it so much, I never looked back.

Q: I know you're up for tenure, what are your plans for the future?

A: I plan to teach at Green River for a long, long time!

Q: What did you do before coming to Green River? Can you give a quick rundown of your path?

A: After I graduated from UC Irvine, I took a few years off school to work as a technical writer, creating manuals for software specific to the California state elections. I returned to school in 1992 and spent four years studying and teaching at Notre Dame. My husband's job eventually brought us to Seattle, and I taught at various schools in the area, including the Art Institute of Seattle, Green River Community College, and Seattle Central Community College. In 2003, I accepted a full-time position as Asst. Dean of Academic Education at Green River. For the next four years, I primarily worked with the deans and academic division chairs to hire, evaluate, and support adjunct faculty. Although I enjoyed being an administrator, I missed the direct interaction with students. In the spring of 2007, I left my administrative position to return to teaching and was hired in a tenure-track position in fall 2008.

Q: What's your favorite author/book? Why?

A: My favorite authors are Virginia Woolf and James Joyce. Their mastery of language gives incredible depth to their writing.

Q: What is your favorite part of teaching at Green River? Be it in the classroom or the Writing Center, what's the motivator to come to campus every day?

A: I am passionate about the subjects I teach, so I feel incredibly lucky to have a job that allows me to engage daily in conversations about literature and the writing process, both with students and with fellow faculty. I also can't imagine working with a kinder, more talented group of colleagues.

Q: If there was only one thing you could say to the student body, what would it be?

A: That's a tough question! I would say never to underestimate your potential. I see so many students who are capable of far more than they realize. If you devote the necessary time and energy to your education, you will no doubt exceed your expectations.

## KGRG's Kick Back crew 'kicks back' with The Current

By: Amanda Lockhart

KGRG's the Kick Back is a two hour segment on GRCC's radio broadcasting channel 89.9 FM that is hosted by Adam, Xander, and Pebbles. These three people are extremely dedicated to the station and love being a part of the whole thing. The Kick Back plays from 10pm to midnight every Sunday night making it the last show of the week.

The Kick Back first originated with a more than vigorous Xander as he was being trained by Adam to do broadcasting on the radio. While Xander was training with Adam he liked to play his favorites songs for people to hear. Adam liked the music being played so he asked for approval and got it!

Getting the approval, however, is not a simple matter. Adam and Xander had to come up with a playlist to show to the director as well as a clear and precise mission statement. Once these two things were accomplished, they were ready to begin their quest to start the Kick Back.

When walking into the radio broadcasting room, the first thing you notice is the huge collection of music related posters and stickers that saturate basically any flat surface. There are artists ranging from The All American Rejects to Notorious displayed amongst these decorations, most art is from previous KGRG events and concerts.

There are also massive amounts of CD's and cassettes throughout the whole place, as well as student laptops for any music they want to



Amanda Lockhart/The Current

Adam and Xander keeping the atmosphere fun while preparing for the latest show.

share from their computers. They have everything they need to accomplish a great show every time!

Lots of people go in and out of the room throughout the day, however at night it's a mellow and chill setting that keeps the Kick Back's DJ's in a laid back mood for the show. It's as if the three of them are a tight knit family, and the energy each person brings to the station helps to keep the show going.

When asked what type of music is played on the Kick Back, Xander said, "awesome music" with a grin from ear to ear, and then added, "Mostly chill Indian music and chill folk, and then sometimes some old school alternative punk, and underground rap." It's the type of music you can just kick back and relax to.

"We have Kick Back listening parties where about ten or so people come over to eat good food and relax. The Kick Back's crew has yet to disappoint us," exclaimed the Kick Back's number-one fan Meghan Kent.

The three DJ's have their own room and

headset stations where they can talk freely during the productions which take place about fifteen times a show.

When the Kick Back began its program on January 10th at 10pm Pebbles could be seen smiling with excitement through a big window connecting her room to the main room. They all have a lot of hard work invested into the Kick Back, but each student definitely enjoys every minute of it.

Adam has been with KGRG since the beginning of Winter quarter in 2009, and Xander and Pebbles have both been there since Fall quarter 2009. The Kick Back, however, has only been around for eleven weeks and is still kickin'.

They have been doing everything imaginable to make the Kick Back enjoyable for everyone. They always encourage listeners to call in and request a song they want to hear. There is also always the chance the next caller will be put on the air to talk with the DJ's live.

For more articles on KGRG's programs and DJs, check out [thecurrentonline.net](http://thecurrentonline.net)!

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# Natural Resources & Forestry Club show off their new greenhouse

By: Amanda Lockhart

For the first time in almost four years our campus' Forestry Club and Natural Resources department is hosting an outdoor field day where they plan to show off their newest edition to the school, their greenhouse. Their goal is to have all the construction done within the next three weeks so they can have it up and working for their outdoor seminar.

One of our Natural Resources teachers, Dick Hopkins, says "we are hoping to utilize it and show it off February 13th for a small forest land owner school." The greenhouse is being built right behind the SMT building. Their goal is to have all the construction done within the next three weeks so they can have it up and working for their outdoor seminar.

"We wanted a greenhouse we could utilize for education and demonstration purposes," says Dick Hopkins. Hopkins says the greenhouse is going to be used "to grow tree seedlings, not tomatoes." These seedlings are going to be planted in the Green River Forest as well as some shrubs they plan to grow. The natural resources department already has a worm farm that they will be using to "provide nutrient rich soil for the seedlings," says Hopkins. They feed the worms with food waste that comes straight from our Gator Grill Kitchen in the student center here on campus. Once the food waste is fed to the worms they turn it into the soil needed to grow the seedlings.

Construction of the greenhouse has been done entirely by the students involved in the Forestry and Natural Resources programs. Dick Hopkins named John Dreyer and Drew Paglucci as the heads of the construction crew. Many of the students have a construction background which is proving to be beneficial to the project.

The program was lucky to come across the proper equipment necessary for building this greenhouse. Dick Hopkins mentioned that purchasing a new

greenhouse would have cost somewhere around twenty thousand dollars. Instead they came across a guy named Ove Pearson who is a retired nursery owner. After last year's snow "two thirds of one of his greenhouses collapsed" said Hopkins. Hopkins stated that he and his students "volunteered to clean up the whole mess if [they] could salvage what was usable." This of course was agreed upon and they were able to salvage enough to build the 28 X 30ft greenhouse.

Additional materials, such as concrete and concrete forms, were donated by the Korsmo Construction Company that is currently building our newest building on campus. The Natural Resources department also had to purchase some lumber and plastic materials for the structure of the greenhouse. In the long run they saved a lot of money because they were able to recycle old materials.

Since the greenhouse is considered a temporary structure, no permits were necessary for the building of it. There are no plans to tear it down in the future; they are going to maintain the greenhouse for as long as possible. Dick Hopkins says, "It could easily hold up for twenty years." Student Sean Morgan said "of course" when he was asked if he was enjoying the work he was putting into the greenhouse. With the motivation and dedication these students and teachers have for their program they will have no issues keeping the greenhouse in proper working conditions for the next twenty years.

Special credit for the greenhouse goes out to Betty Burton who was the lead on acquiring the greenhouse and also was involved in planning the whole thing. Dick Hopkins is one of the main teachers on the project as well as students John Dreyer and Drew Paglucci who are the heads of construction.

# Spend a day in the life with KGRG

By: Bailey Josie

Kurt Cobain once wrote that he would have liked to "buy a really powerful ham radio system connected to a satellite dish in order to listen to any college rock station in da country."

He could have considered listening to Green River's own 89.9 KGRG. It is a nice thought considering Nirvana played a gig in the Lindbloom Student Center only 20 years ago. If you have spent any time in the KGRG offices of the Lindbloom building you would certainly know of it since there is a framed poster that chronicles the date, place and even price to see the band play (student discounts!).

You will most likely be greeted by the program director of KGRG1 (the college's online radio station, different from the live FM station), Mark Burkhardt, also known by his DJ name The Amazing Modest Mark "The Dopeman" Logic from Tacoma. Modest Mark is a man who knows his music and knows that college radio is not for mainstream music: "You're not going to get any top 40 [on KGRG1 or 89.9 FM]." According to Mark, KGRG1 and 89.9 FM are where the underground, indie and alternative music is played. Nothing mainstream and he made it very clear that the college shows are one of the few who will put Husker Du and Slater Kinney on air.

When asked about how the online station differs from the live FM station, Modest Mark explained that it is utilized to teach students who enroll in the broadcast journalism class how radio can still thrive in the digital age of social media. He also says that the students are shown how to make, download and distribute their own pod casts.

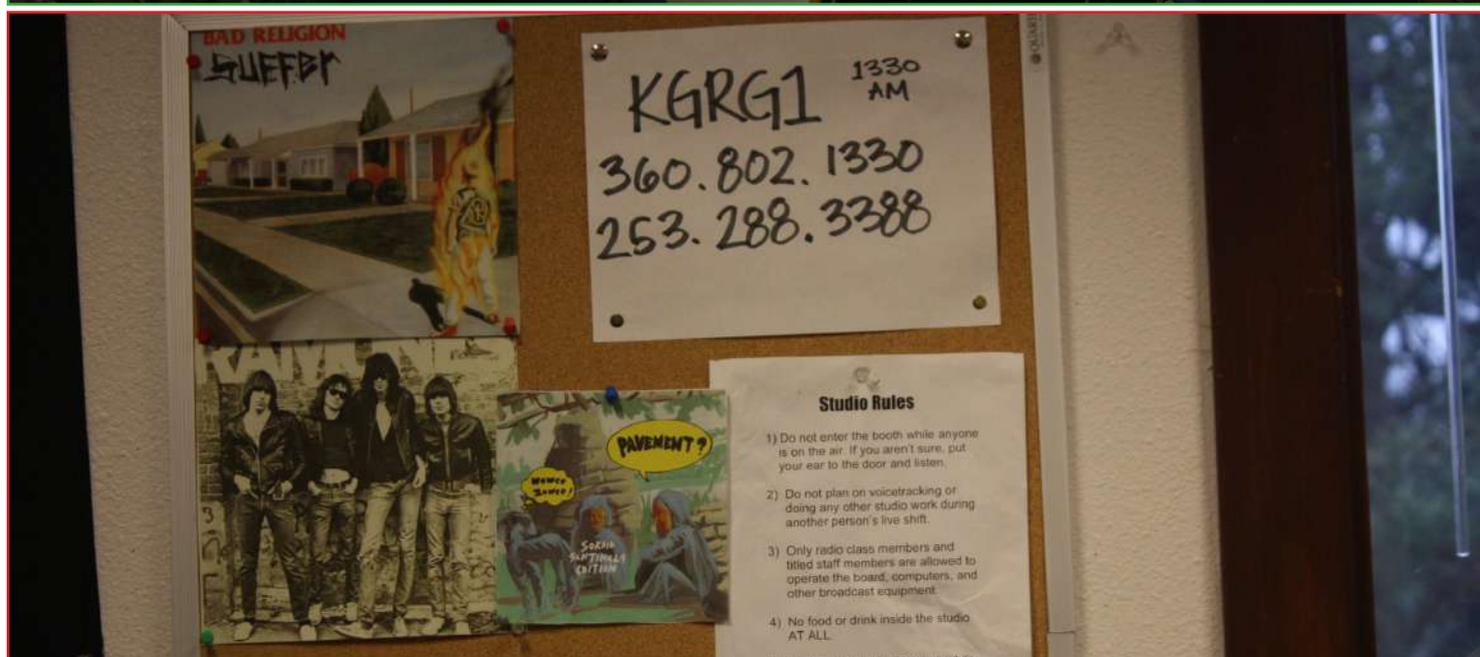
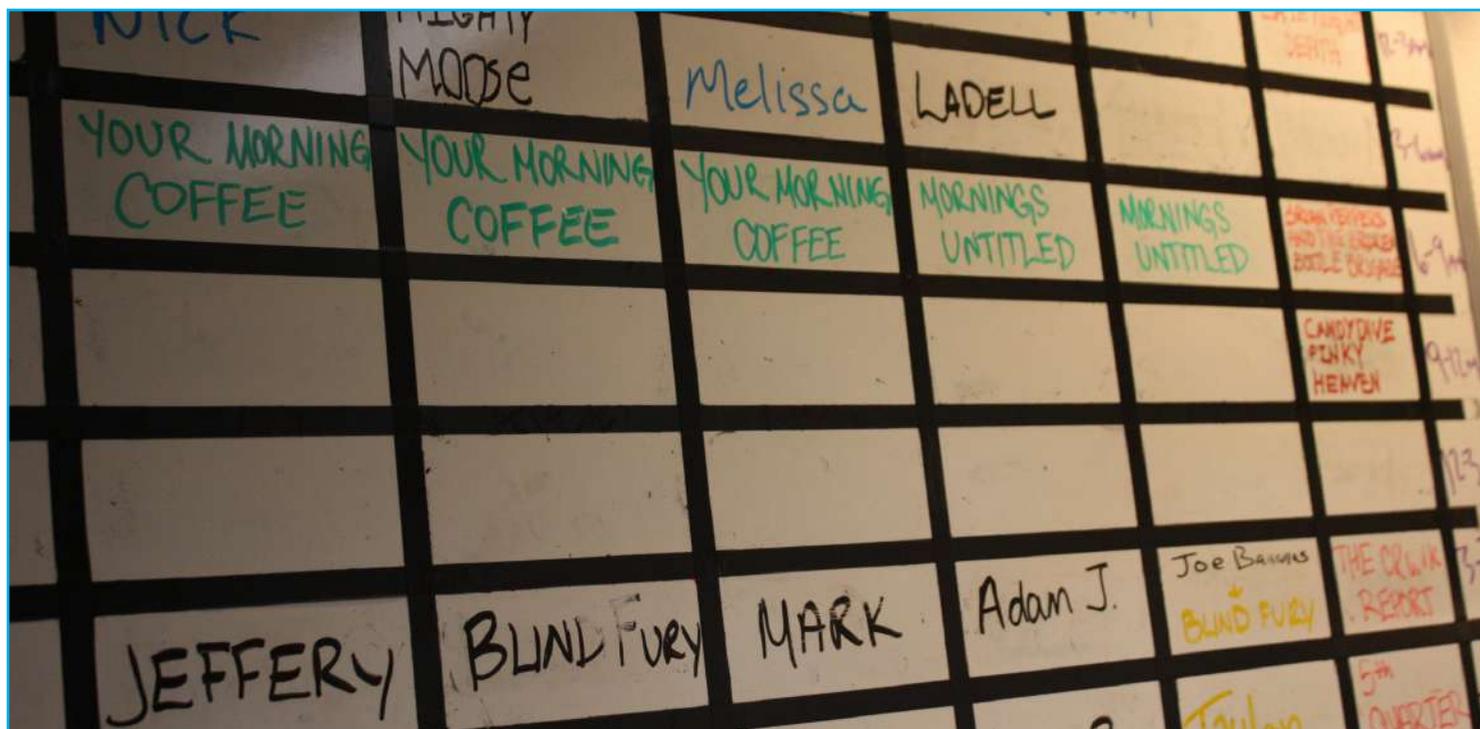
Some students who have enrolled in the KGRG program are known and beloved by all who listen to the radio shows, though all may be only a handful since they always joke that there is a vast number of about 4 listeners, like Nick Westcott, co-host of Brian and the Broken Bottle Gang.

His radio resume goes even further; he is a part of the morning show on 100.7 the WOLF screening calls and is even partaking in a fun round of bull poker in a week or two. When the conversation turned to other rodeo events and all of the dismemberments they can cause, he was asked if he would rather lose his leg or his thumb, he replied with: "I gotta go with my thumbs, my legs are too beautiful and nice."

There is also Adam Fix aka "Nobody Man." He is the co-host of Movies Entitled and Bad Movie Morning, where he and Luke "Mighty Moose" Barker discuss terrible movies they have seen lately; and of course Twilight: New Moon was instantly discussed and rebuked by all. But it is all in good fun for Fix who cites the Bad Movie Morning show as "[my] own personal creation, my baby."

Next we meet Noah Hensley, who's on air nickname is "Timekeeper." He is assistant program director who, when asked what his other occupation is with the station, said, "Resident workaholic." Hensley works three different shifts, most predominately on Sunday nights where he hosts Mornings Untitled, which features only music of the world, as in from other countries like Iraq and India. His co-hosts go by the names Mel and Handy Andy.

So what is a day in the life of KGRG? In only so many words, it is a day of crazy nicknames, great underground music, and a need to let the listeners know that it's all about having a good time ... as long as things don't cut into watching the Simpsons online.



Hanging out with KGRG is more than just a fun time, but a great opportunity

## Student Spotlight: David Macey

By: Luke Goodgion

At the beginning of his senior year GRCC student, David Macey, found out he was going to be a father. Realizing the responsibility and commitment he was embracing, he turned his focus to his child. On July 20th 2007, Amanda Macey was born and changed David's life forever.

"I stopped doing all the juvenile stuff like partying and based all my decisions on things that would benefit the both of us," he explained. The new father took the next three quarters off of school and dedicated his time to his little girl.

In the spring of 2008, Macey enrolled at GRCC and got back on the baseball team. Head coach, Matt Acker, knew of Macey's talent before he came back. "We scouted him in high school but had signed with BCC before having Amanda," Acker explains. "But we talked and he came onto the team at the beginning of the season."

He worked hard during practice, which paid off in competition. His freshman season, he went on to set a school record with 90.67 innings and posted a spectacular 2.01 ERA. He pitched that summer for the Kitsap Blue Jackets, a West Coast Collegiate League team, and was noticed by scouts there. Standing at only 5'8", he is smaller than the majority of pitchers that throw as hard as he does. "He has a strong arm," Acker stated. "He may be a little undersized but he has the velocity of doing well in a Division 1 college and potentially getting drafted to the MLB."

Macey gives all of his credit of success to his daughter. "She has completely changed my life." He expresses. "Every time I feel down, challenged, or want to give up, I think of Amanda and she gives me the extra motivation that I need."

Macey and the rest of the Green River Gators start the season off at the end of February. David is ready to take on whatever is in store for him this upcoming season. "I'm going to pitch my heart out for Amanda this year." He said.

The driven sophomore has talked to many professional and other colleges about plans for next year. "All I know is that whatever I choose to do will be in the best interest of Amanda," David explained. The talented father has an exciting year ahead of him and no matter where life takes him, Amanda will be his number one focus.



Courtesy Photo/ David Macey



Courtesy Photo/ David Macey



Courtesy Photo/ David Macey

2009-2010 Green River Community College baseball team

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# 'Angry Jurors' challenge Theatre Extemporé to stand trial and testify to classic themes

Dramatic masterpiece to hit Green River Community College's stage tests players emotional range and explores areas of reasonable doubt



Courtesy Photo/Gary Taylor

Last quarter's 'Noises Off' cast don robes as a preview for the March production of 'Twelve Angry Jurors'.

By: Heather Coit

This winter Theatre Extemporé will be presenting the gripping drama 'Twelve Angry Jurors' based off of the former 1954 teleplay 'Twelve Angry Men'.

This emotionally driven play earned recognition and was adapted into a movie in 1957 starring Henry Fonda and became an award-winning classic.

What made this story worthy of three Oscar nominations, thirteen awards won, six other nominations and an induction to the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress?

The play left the audience deeply examining their impact on the world, investigating their morals and connecting deeply with characters.

The theatre department hopes to keep that stunning tradition of outstanding performance to complement the original story.

The audience sees a boy accused of murder with his fate lying in the hands of 12 jurors. The plot is an intellectual war of eloquent, influential characters.

Examining the heart of men, Twelve Angry Jurors depicts a mix of open minds and dark ambitions. The jurors embody the idyllic traits of an honest man who is willing to find the truth, while showing that some of the jurors are simply chauvinistic and obstinate.

A strategic move made by one sharp juror may tip the balance either way. With a person's life is in hand, what choice can be made?

For one cast, Judy Taylor will be directing and Rob Baltazor will be directing the other. Each cast is a talented group of actors who have already begun rehearsing.

Lately both casts have worked on synchronizing stage movement with lines, blocking the play. Baltazor spoke about the initial difficulty of blocking for television in comparison to what the actors have been practicing.

He then went on to comment about the opportunity for the company to try something new.

"It's [Twelve Angry Jurors] unusual from what we normally do at Theatre Extemporé because it's a straight drama instead of a comedy, a contemporary, or Shakespeare or anything like that. It's going to be a unique challenge for everybody," Baltazor remarked.

He then went on to reveal that he is applying the 1957 adaption with Henry Fonda as "a reference point" for this production.

Instructor Gary Taylor is striving for a production which will strongly underline the themes of the play: issues of prejudice, and the struggle to find justice for diverse groups in our culture.

"The actors will not be fighting with swords, but with raw emotions and intense situations of the darker side of the justice system," Director Baltazor said.

Working with intense issues of life and death, facts and beliefs, guilty and reasonable doubt, this play will be one of enormous strength. The play is scheduled for March 5, 6, 12, and 13.

# 'Diet punk' band Autonomadic stops in Seattle for a show this Monday with less calories

Local garage talent mixes expressive lyrics with a variety of styles between tracks to reach a growing fanbase and A-list of achievements

By: Mary Preston

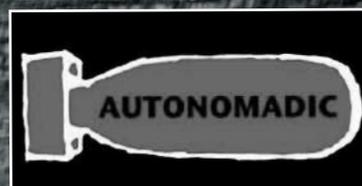
Coming to Seattle for their latest show this Monday the 25th is one of the more successful garage bands out of the Green River area since 2002: Autonomadic.

With Todd Weaver on bass, Robert Baker on drums and Justin Ludwig on main guitar, Autonomadic have managed to come out with 6 cds and have performed at over 168 shows. They have also been played over 147 college/alt radio stations, gone on tours spanning over 7 states/provinces, and were even featured on one movie soundtrack, Collin O'Kelly's Punk Girl.

With their classically gritty Seattle sound blending with their strangely smooth guitar chords it is no wonder the band became such a success. When asked about their sound, drummer Robert Baker said "We're like diet punk; just one calorie only punk enough."

Autonomadic manages to play across the emotional spectrum. In their latest album released in September of 2009, Gift of the Sun managed to have a plethora of different styles on the same album. The anger from "Discordia" the poppy influence of "Blood and Guts" and the bittersweet sound of "Postcards" (track 20 on the album) all show off the band's ability to have a dynamic sound with a diverse track list coexisting on the same album.

The depth of the lyrics has also drawn in a growing fan base. Since one of the main reasons for creating music is a form of expression, it is impressive that Autonomadic can be edgy but still manage to keep focus on what the music should be about. The song "Brave New World" (song eleven on the Gift of the Sun al-



bum) is about war and makes a statement about the use of torture.

For more information on Autonomadic and upcoming shows, tours, or cds you can go to [www.autonomadic.com](http://www.autonomadic.com).

Autonomadic is strongly recommended for listeners who appreciate bands like Nirvana, Rancid or Social Distortion.

Courtesy Photos/Autodynamic

Top left: Bassist Todd Weaver (left), lead guitar Justin Ludwig and Drummer Robert baker make up the local garage band success: Autonomadic.

Bottom Right: Autonomadic's latest album Gift of the Sun highlights anger and bittersweetness

Top right Autonomadic has played across stages

## E-book is the next big battleground for tech formats

### Barnes & Noble release Nook to counter Amazon's bestselling Kindle

By: Guido Bakkes

E-books have become more popular over the years, but will they be able to replace paper books?

Many people are still skeptical about e-books, and therefore not ready to make the leap just yet. However, in the last few years, e-books have made significant progress.

New features include bigger screens and better readability. The technology keeps progressing and therefore the quality of e-books and the e-book readers themselves keep improving.

The Amazon e-book reader is called the 'Kindle' and currently is the best selling e-book reader. The Kindle 2 is the best selling e-book reader, followed by the Kindle DX. Third place goes to the Sony PRS 700.

However, bookstore Barnes & Noble is entering the competition with their own e-book reader called the 'Nook'.

The only downside is that e-books bought on Amazon aren't compatible with the Barnes & Noble e-book reader, and the other way around.

Both use different e-book formats, but the it eventually will settle down to one general format. This format war is just like digital music settled down to mainly MP3 files.

Some people are still a bit skeptical about the whole "e-book" thing, but the positive aspects and how it could impact schools are something to consider for future quarters.

Students will be able to get their textbooks in e-book version, so they won't have strain under the weight of their packs any more!

Another positive aspect is in the price tag. e-books cost less because because it skips the physical publishing process.

Every New York Times Bestseller book is available for \$9.99 or less. The normal price would range somewhere between 20 to 40 dollars.

Some other advantages are the option to make non-permanent highlights and annotations in the e-books, the e-books can be bought online and are immediately available for use after purchase.

There are also some disadvantages to e-books and the readers.

For example, e-book readers require electricity and since there is no electricity in remote areas, there is no possibility to recharge the e-book reader's battery at that moment.

They are also more fragile than paperback books and more likely to get stolen, or even hacked.

E-books have gotten more attention because big companies like Amazon and Barnes & Noble started marketing the e-books and the readers with free and prepaid e-books as incentives.

If the technology continues to progress, and the prices of e-book readers drop, the e-book market will grow and then it wouldn't be long before people start using e-books in their everyday lives.

## 'Daybreakers' bring a thrilling new light to the vampire

### Film review reveals depth of student interest on fanged dominance

By: Randall Miller

Daybreakers is a hit, Twilight fans beware, this movie brings vampires back to their roots (not to the Count Dracula roots) but back to a time where vampires did not brood and glitter in the daylight but when they reigned supreme through immortality and fear.

It is the year 2019 when a plague sweeps the world turning people into vampires. A group of vampire hematologists, desperately try to find a stable blood substitute with the current demand outdraining the overall supply when their efforts literally backfire.

A run-in with local human resistance has the chief of the team change his search for a substitute to a cure. Daybreakers will shock, frighten, and keep you on your seat yearning to see what happens next.

The film ranked fourth in the box office with \$15.1 million the weekend Jan 8. This echoed student interest in the production.

After conducting a survey only twenty percent of students saw the movie, whereas 75 percent have not seen it but also found it interesting and would like to see it. Only five percent did not find the movie interesting.

David Stratton, a student here at GRCC commented about the social angle in the movie.

"It was an interesting take on vampires and how they were the dominant species in the movie," Stratton said.

Specific elements of the movie that stand out are the story itself and superb acting with the talents of Ethan Hawke and Willem Dafoe.

The special effects were fairly decent due to how the vampires "ashed" (erupting in flames when the sunlight hits their skin).

Overall this movie was a big hit in the movie industry and a nice break in the "Twilight" era in the moviemaking and cinema industry.

Daybreakers is rated R due to bloody violence, language and brief nudity. This film earned eight out of ten blood droplets from the reviewer.



### Wicked Checklist



Actors:

Ethan Hawke, Sam Neil, Willem Dafoe

Prime Characters:

Edward Dalton, Charles Bromley, Lionel Cormac

Genre: Action, Horror, SciFi, Thriller

Role of vampire: Dominant species

Student viewers: 20 %

Student interest: 75%

Box office: Ranked: (January 8th)

Setting: 2019 earth

Rated: R

Special Effects: Fairly decent



Overall



## Pandora-monium strikes Green River in 'Avatar' buzz

### Pristine execution and a positive message instigate fan-tastic reaction

By Jace Godfrey

The recent box-office smash-hit film, Avatar, has created quite the stir in the tween and post-pubescent communities, with the initial buzz of the film growing to a craze and, in some cases, a full-blown obsession.

It has made the transformation from a two-beer tipsy into a body-shot bonanza's absinthe-fueled extreme intoxication.

The film, directed by James Cameron and starring Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana, co-starring Sigourney Weaver, tells the story of a team of space miners.

They hunt for a near-priceless mineral called "Unobtainium" (deriving its name from the simple play-on-words which finds its roots in the field of engineering and usually refers to any rare, sought-after organic material).

The whole movie follows their interaction with the Pandoran inhabitants—or the "Na'vi"—through the intermediary of genetically-engineered and remotely-controllable Na'vi-like bodies called Avatars.

The plot thickens as the employer' plans to devastate both the ecosystem and the inhabitants in attempt to obtain the unobtainium which results in a mutiny from the miners.

Avatar has been in preproduction since the early 1990's and later the the film's production was delayed until 2006.

Cameron was waiting for "technology to catch up," and Avatar was not completed until 2009.

As a result, the cinematography and animation contained within Avatar are forces to be reckoned with.

Employing a new style of "virtual camera" developed by Cameron himself over roughly fourteen months.

The film incorporates, practically seamlessly, live-action into animation, with stunning results. The flora and fauna of the Pandoran planet come to life on the screen, reminiscent of Fern Gully but more frighteningly realistic.

The film maintains a strong ecological soundness throughout the film, as well as an anti-invasion stand, encouraging an eco-friendly attitude and drawing the viewer in on a technicolor joyride of sight and sound.

A positive message and pristine execution, as well as wonderfully elaborate and elaborately wonderful scenery, has triggered a frenzy among fans—which is practically synonymous with "audiences," based on several interviews.

Following the film's release, many Green River moviegoers confessed in interviews that, after having seen the movie, they were met with feelings of intense desire to live on, or in a place similar to, Pandora, occasionally making reference to its Buddhisquesque floral-and-faunal interconnectedness, and its extravagant animal- and plant-life. "I've started considering relocating to South America after college," said one Danielle Orvella, a Green River student.

But the buzz is not only Green River-specific, or specific in any way, shape, or form, for that matter.

The social networking site Facebook has been bombarded with hype. Some statuses, which are to Facebook what "tweets" are to Twitter, describe "mind-numbing," "fricking awesome," and in many cases make much use of the word "good." Many simply say "Avatar!" or some similar exclamation usually implementing a seemingly excessive, but to fellow fans understood and to some even well-warranted, number of exclamation points.

It's impossible to say when the buzz will die down, asking Eywa is strongly-encouraged.

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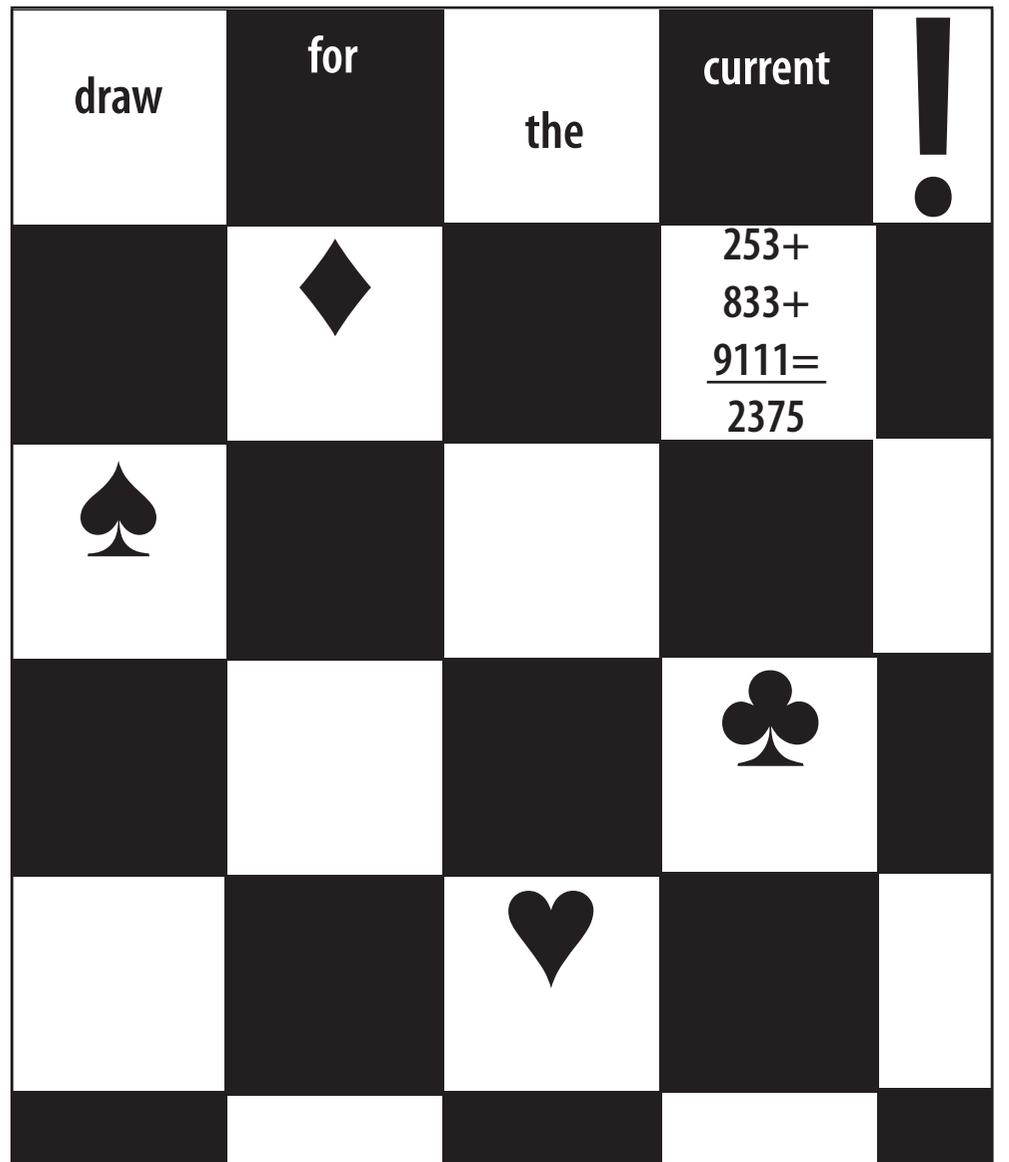
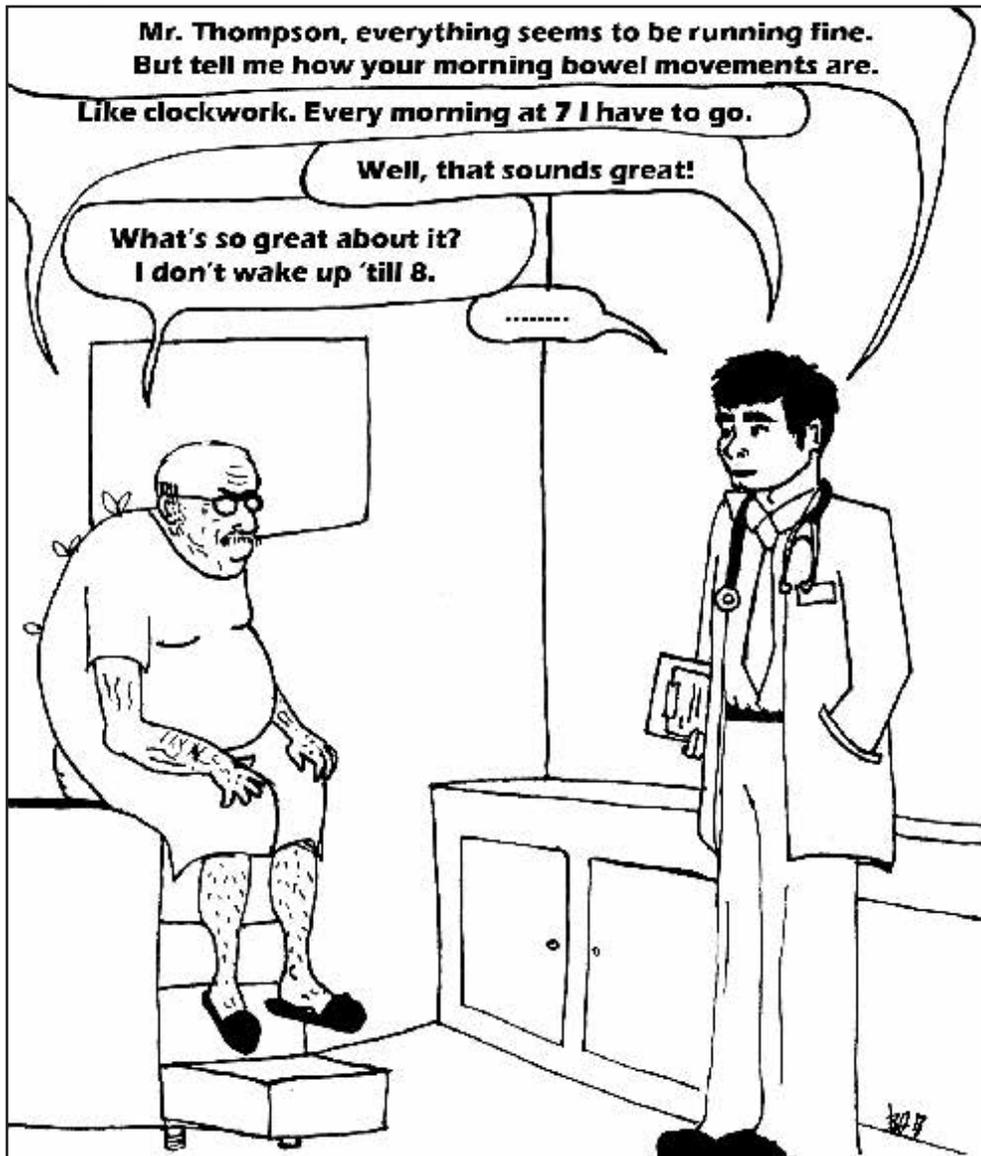
DeVry University graduates from June 2003 - June 2008 in the active job market. Active job market includes those employed prior to graduation. Fortune 500 ranking, 2008. ©2010 DeVry Educational Development Corp. All rights reserved..

By Kelli Wyatt



Tiger Ho's... They're Grrreat!

By Bailey Josie



# Airports all over the country take new anti-terrorism steps

## Passengers are now expected to take off all pieces of clothing to prevent attacks and smuggling

By: Kylee Spiry

Recent problems with airline security have now caused a set of new measurements to be implemented. Courtesy of PantyBombers Inc., Americans can now fly worry-free.

The first test of the newest anti-terrorist in-flight security was started today in a full flight of 250 passengers. Each individual was stripped naked and deprived of all personal bags and

belongings. Any objections of the new system resulted in the loss of passport without the possibility of renewal.

Airline security argues that this is the most sufficient way to ensure safety among all passengers. Some people refused to participate in the test session and claimed that they "would not be subjected to that level of public embarrassment." Such foolish behavior was quickly condemned by the other participants though.

"What an utterly selfish act. You're basically supporting terrorism by refusing to partake in these amazingly simple safety regulations. Be a little patriotic and take those pants off, jeeze..."

The cost of flights has gone up drastically, to cover expenses of all the new anti-terrorist equipment. Including on-board heat, seat separators and plastic seat covers for any accidental seepage. Additionally, government officials stated that they are considering new ways for passengers to 'enjoy' their flights.

Each passenger will be receiving a Care Package. They will include unisex pasties (for those chilly flights), lotion and deodorant (with all of those naked people, there is bound to be body odor emanating from one of them), and a greeting card from the captain stating: "Thank you for your participation in the newest anti-terrorist technology, and have a wonderful flight!"

These Care Packages are, of course, provided by the extra money airlines are receiving from selling all of the passengers' excess clothing gathered before the flight.

"You will not get your clothes back," explained

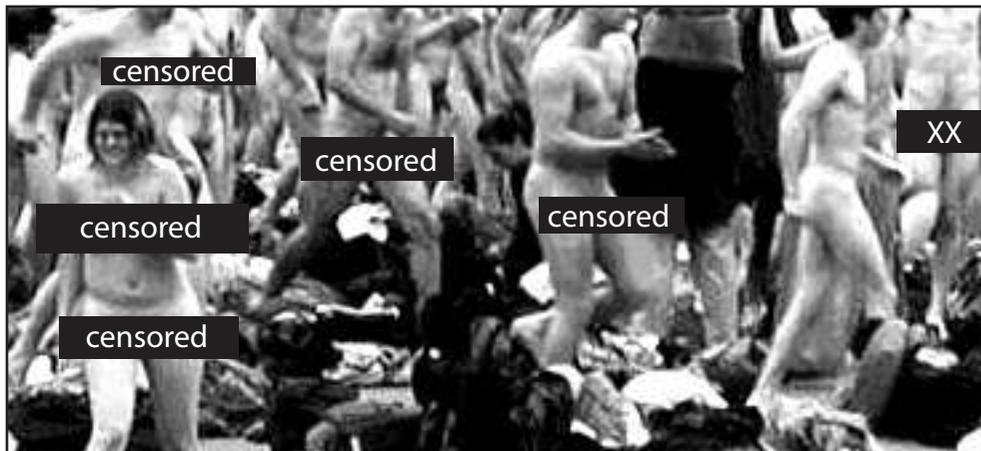
Jayson Tote, a member security at SeaTac Airport, "and there are no exceptions." Just like with bottles of water or deodorant, they argue, it is common knowledge not to bring them to the airport in the first place.

The hassle of findings each person's bags to put clothing away is simply too much of a delay, and looking the other way because a person is wearing something as little as a G-string is of course out of question.

Government officials, overall, seem pleased with the system and hope that this will make radical changes in today's society. Efforts to keep the system running as smoothly, comfortably and efficiently as possible are being put forth by all stewardesses. The system is also making its way through the airline schools, and is becoming a large part of curriculum.

The new system is said to be the first of many alterations to the transportation system, and citizens are being informed to expect change.

Keep an eye on our website, [www.thecurrentonline.net](http://www.thecurrentonline.net), for more updates on anti-terrorism regulations.



Courtesy Photo/patrishka.wordpress.com

Chaos at the airport leaves thousands of naked people running around

## Lady Gaga to join World Poker Tour

### Her infamous "pokerface" reportedly unreadable

By: Jace Godfrey

Last week Lady GaGa made the announcement that she had been added to both the World Poker Tour's "WPT Ladies" roster and also its male roster on the technicality of her having been born with a slight excess and potentially-reproductive pelvic protuberance. The New York pop-star, who is known for hits such as "LoveGame, and not ironically in the slightest, "Pokerface," had this to say:

"I want to hold them, like they do in Texas Plays," and, in reference to last year's winner, Bertrand Gropellier, "I'll get him hot."

She then added, "You can't read my pokerface."

Indeed, you cannot. The illegibility of her pokerface stems from her implementation of her almost-creepily pasty complexion, or the shock value provided by her everyday attire, but primarily from its complete and utter bizarreness: a stern gaze, eyes locked forward, with the occasional outwardly-oriented tongue thrust—the other players appear to be immediately unnerved and mildly confused—Lady GaGa, poker's Medusa.

In addition to her frightening face contortions and choices in apparel, the Lady claims to have to "love nobody." She shows no love, she simply comes, sees, and conquers, with the power and force of an H2 Hummer driven by the early North America-bound conquistadors and fueled by hate and Bowiera glam-pop influence—a hybrid.

"I won't tell you that I love you," she commented, "kiss you or hug you. 'Cause I'm

bluffing with my muffin—I'm not lying. I'm just stunning with my love-glue-gunning."

Her addition to these rosters has caused quite the stir within the Texas Hold'em community, and fans of the television program, which consists mainly of men in their late 40's to early 80's in attendance at "the lodge" for card games and who consider themselves also to be "beer aficionados."

58-year-old Walter Palky, a member of West Virginia's Coalition of Old Westerners, Cardplayers & Overweight Women, or COW-COW, and potential season nine player, said, on the subject of her induction, "I can't read her... can't read her," at a pause in the Clint Eastwood movie on the city center's projector and between glugs of malt liquor from an ornate flask with the words "Hold'em or Leave'em" etched in its side, "No, I can't read her pokerface, and also, as she's made very clear, she's got to love nobody."

Many protests have broken out over Steven Lipscomb's—WPT's commissioner—decision to allow the Lady's participation on the show, being that her pokerface is so out-of-the-ordinary and psychologically-illegible.

When asked what prompted this decision, Lipscomb simply replied, "Mum mum mah, po-po-po-pokerface, po-po-pokerface," and collapsed on the marble floor. Upon exiting, one cameraman slipped upon his spittle, Lipscomb twitching about at his feet.

As the motto says, "May all your cards be live, and all your pots be monsters," and may Lady GaGa be some sort of live monster.

## Reality TV and its effects investigated

### Staggering results baffle both scientists and TV watchers

By: Kelli Wyatt

Reality TV show are on the rise. It's no longer just Survivor, Big Brother, or American Idol. No, there are millions of reality TV shows today, plaguing the minds of the innocent.

While more and more shows are being released each year, there are some sort of consequences to be expected. Recently, a study provided by scientists found a major problem within people who watch reality TV as a supplement for their real life.

"When I get home from school and work," explained 25-year-old Lucille Morgan, a Green River student who was recently diagnosed with Deficient Use of Most of the Brain, or, in short, DUMB, "I don't have the will to do anything but sit down and watch what these fascinating people are doing with their lives. Can I get in on that somehow? My life is boring."

DUMB is a syndrome recently discovered and coined by the leader of a study team that has been researching the effects of reality TV, Nathan Markelson. "It seems that it isn't enough for people to sit around and watch TV any longer," Nathanson explained. "It's come down to individuals – even those who work all day – sitting around and letting their brains ooze out of their ears."

The study consisted of 50 people of varying ages watching 8 hours of reality TV a day.

"The results were befuddling," commented Laura Star, another scientist who worked with the study team. "We found that, within the first few minutes of being subjected to various shows, including The Bachelor, From G's to Gents, and Daisy of Love, the individuals became incredibly enraged."

"After about an hour, the subjects stopped shouting at the TV and started to give in," Star continued. "It was kind of sad. I felt like I was torturing them..."

The study was performed for nearly a week, and roughly half of the study group developed DUMB syndrome, and just sat in front of the TV. The other half refused to watch the shows, their

anger and violence rising exponentially.

The latter were diagnosed with another increasingly common disorder: Sudden Typical Outbursts of Painful Indecency Disorder, or, in short, STOOPIID. With STOOPIID, individuals find themselves unreasonably yelling at both inanimate and animate objects, ranging from TVs, doorknobs, bookstands and teacups, to neighbors and even real people.

"It's similar to tourette's," mentioned Nathanson. "The only difference is that, with STOOPIID, there's a source for the individual's rage."

According to the researchers, the subjects' anger was worst when shown the new hit reality TV show for VH1, Jersey Shore.

"I was in a group survey," explained Rachael Kiel, who was diagnosed with DUMB during the study, "and the moment we were shown Jersey Shore, this one guy, like, freaked out. He literally flew at the TV. I swear, there was, like, seriously no floor contact until after he hit the TV. But whatever. I think the show's great."

In addition to the newly-discovered STOOPIID, reports of violence in Auburn and its surrounding cities has increased heavily, according to Auburn area police. Within the past few weeks – since the release of Jersey Shore – there have been nearly ten counts of spousal abuse, 30 counts of child abuse, and five suicides.

Of the five reported suicides, only one left a note. The mother of the 19-year-old Green River student allowed The Current to see the letter, in which ended, "I didn't think life could get any worse. It started with stupid people going on stupid dates with stupid people they didn't know... And now this. Thanks, Jersey Shore. Goodbye world."

MTV is reportedly planning to air a new reality show that relates to the current hype. The leaked plans describe six people living in a house, where they will be followed by cameras all day, watching TV all day, only occasionally taking a break from that to throw vases at each others heads. Stay tuned for more information on that.

# 2010 Olympic Hockey update

## Teams from all over plan to take gold this year

By: Guido Bakkes

The Olympic Winter Games are just around the corner, and as Vancouver is preparing for these games, the rosters for the hockey teams are being created.

There will be 12 teams competing for the gold medal in Vancouver next month. These twelve teams are divided into three groups. Norway, Canada, Switzerland and the USA are placed in group A. Group B has Russia, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Latvia, and the final group, group C has Germany, Sweden, Finland and Belarus.

Obvious gold medal candidates are Russia and Canada, but we shouldn't forget that Sweden took gold at the 2006 Winter Olympic Games in Turin by beating Finland. Sweden has a must-win mentality because they want to repeat, but mostly because this is probably the last time some players (Forsberg, Sundin) will play in the Olympic Games.

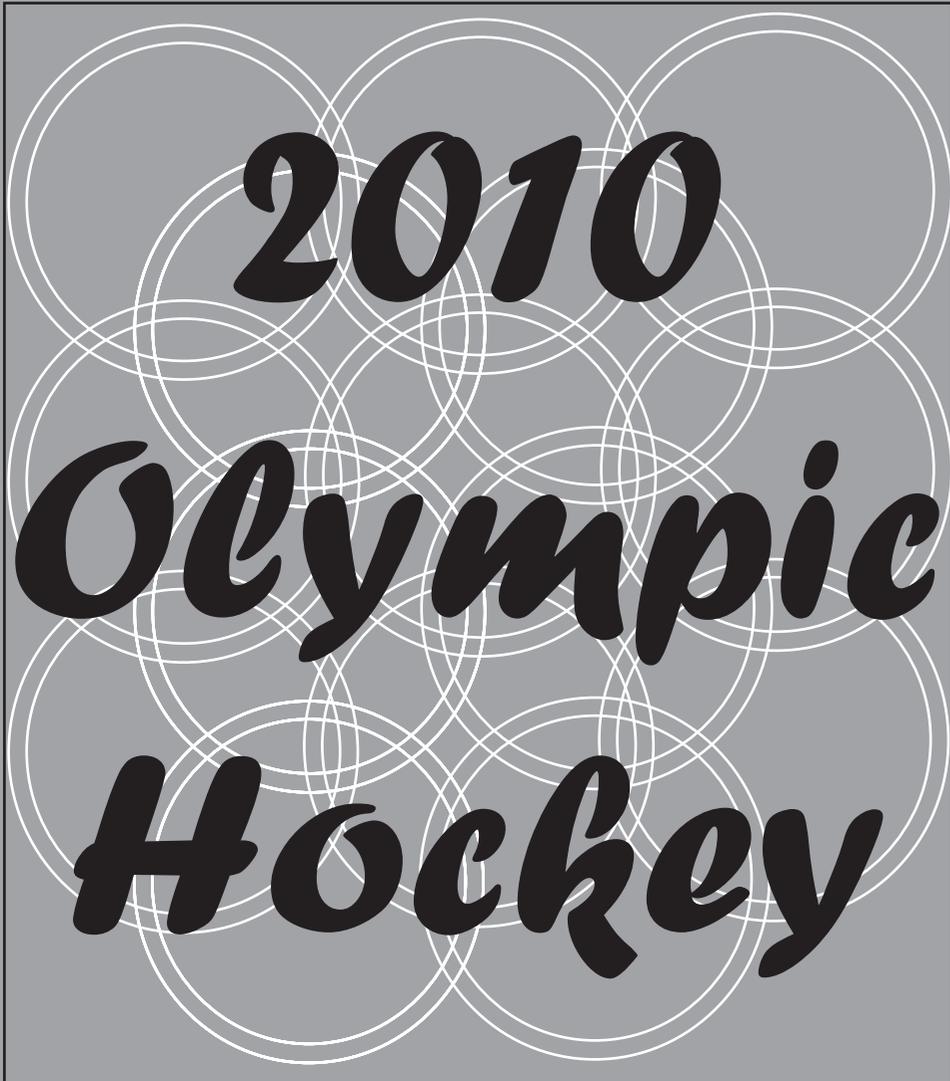
The Swedish roster looks very promising. Players like Naslund, Forsberg and the Sedin twins are a dangerous offensive mix, and with Lundqvist as their goaltender it is obvious that Sweden will not be settling for anything less than gold and will do anything to defend their title.

At the 2006 Olympic Winter Games, Canada disappointed heavily. This year, the Games are held in Vancouver, so the desire for gold is enormous. The roster will feature Olympic veterans as well as tremendous young players. Crosby was left off the Olympic roster in 2006, but will now return as a center alongside Heat-

ley and Iginla in the first line. Brodeur is going to be the starter goalie for Canada. However, due to Brodeur's injury it is unclear how long he will be able to play. In the occasion that Brodeur wouldn't be able to play anymore, there is still Luongo, which is indeed a very good backup plan.

Team USA general manager Brian Burke said the USA team will feature more up-and-coming players than ever before. It appears to be a good move by Brian Burke, because now it will seem less like just another all-star game although it might result in less strength. According to [nbcsports.msnbc.com](http://nbcsports.msnbc.com), the average age of the team is now 26.5. As stated before, there are nearly no Olympic veterans on this roster, so the chances of USA taking gold are very low. Despite the loss of big names in this team, it should still be very interesting to see how these young players will perform under pressure and against dangerous opponents. It is good to see young players get the chance to star in the Olympic Games and prove that they can, in fact, be a serious contender.

The Russian roster features many extremely talented players, thus increasing their possibility of winning that gold medal. Players like Ovechkin, Malkin and Fedorov will be a threat to any competing team. Their starter goalie will be Nabokov, and he is one of the 5 best goalies in the world. Despite their talent, the Russians are known to play as individuals rather than a team. If they fix this problem this time around, they will most likely be the favorites of these games.



Nicole Swapp/The Current

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## GRCC basketball has only one goal in mind- winning

By: Kelsie Doughty

Brok Pendleton discusses his personal aspect on the gators basketball team success this winter. Just recently returning from a two year mission trip from France Brok returns to pick up the game he left behind.

The team had quite the success last weekend when they ended Tacoma community colleges 52 game winning streak. Bringing the team that much closer at a chance at playing in the NWAACC ( Northwest athletic association of community college's.) "The NWAACC tournament is a goal the team shares", says Brok. Although green river hasn't played in the tournament since 03, a great coaching staff and roster of talented players has Green River's hopes looking higher.

The NWAACC tournament is the end of the year play off where the top 4 teams in each region play a single elimination tournament. The teams bond clarifies the success rate quite a bit. "As a team we get along really well everyone is working towards the same goal and that help's unify us", said Brok. All around the team seems to be doing pretty well, we can only hope it gets better and support the team while they continue out the season.

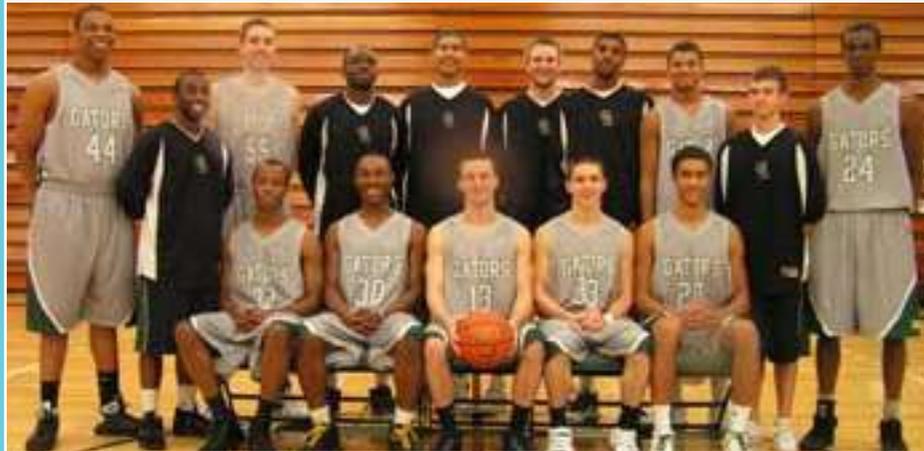
Leaving students anxious and hopeful after last weekend's success, student's are awaiting to see what happens next. Former basketball

player Jake Quinn who is out for the season due to knee surgery says, "At the rate there going I don't have a doubt about the team making it to the tournament, this is epic and there isn't anything else I would rather be doing then playing."

Tim Malroy who seems just as ecstatic as the team said, " I came into the season with not a lot of expectations I try to see what we have and build goals from there, as far as reaching our goals go we are definitely on the right track Taking the steps towards reaching the goals we set for each other at the beginning of the season". The coach also mentioned that he and the

team would be more then appreciative about any support they could get from the student body, It doesn't take a lot to show a little support either, He is quite hopeful that the team gets a chance to compete in the NWAACC this season, " I don't see any reason why it wouldn't happen at this point " says coach.

All together the team is doing beyond great. They have had their fair share of struggles as the season has progressed but they continue to fight harder and harder every game, so get out there and show some support for your green river gator basketball team!



Courtesy Photo/greenriver.edu

## GRCCmen's hoops stay hot, despite key holes in roster

By: Kylee Spiry

Green River basketball team, coached by Mr. Tim Malroy, has started its season with a bang and only looks to improve further as the Gators season progresses. The team's record is 5-6, overall, and 2-1 in league play, which started earlier this month. It is a bit early to make sufficient judgments on how the teams season will pan out as a whole, but hopes are high for an incredible season.

This year the school has inherited a large number of new players, and when asked about the team's progress coach Malroy said that they were, "adjusting quite well, and making positive attributes towards building a better more successful team."

The Team has run into a few bumps recently, including an early injury of Ryan McIntosh, a freshman guard from Rogers High School.

Another loss is freshman Jamaal Thomas. When asked about the freshman, Coach Malroy

commented by saying, "Jamaal and I have decided that he will spend this year working on his academics and he will return and play for Green River next year." Malroy also said, "Jamaal has a desire to transfer and play at a university and we are trying to help him achieve that goal."

Some New Team members include Chris Plooy, who is the teams lead scorer, and is becoming very comfortable with the college level ball. As far as defense goes, Jeremy McClain and Gralin Paul are making there marks. Malroy states, "they are key to the defense on the floor."

Donald Gilliam and Damari Lewis are also incoming freshman, working there way to the top with every minute played. Coach Malroy also commented on Green River's young team by saying, "Our freshmen have a large responsibility to help our team be successful. They are all expected to contribute positively to the team in some way."

The Gator will continue to fight throughout February, in hopes to gain a spot in the NWAACC

Championship Game, in March.

For more updates, please stay up to date with thecurrentonline.net

### Gator Men's Hoops scoreboard

Grays Harbor @ GRCC: W 69-52

GRCC @ Tacoma: W 82-71

Centralia @ GRCC: L 72-74 OT

GRCC @ S. Puget Sound: L 71-78

GRCC @ Clark: W 60-57

For up-to-date scores, check out thecurrentonline.net

## UW and WSU push for a better 2010 football year

By: Alex Heikke

The 2010 NCAA football Schedules have been released and it is time to take a good look at what the two major Washington schools, the University of Washington and Washington State University have in store for them. Each team will be losing their senior players of 2009 to the world outside of schooling as they move on after graduation, and at the same time gaining some new players. Debate over the teams in the next season is bound to be interesting.

Coming out of a 5-7 losing season in 2009, the University of Washington is looking for a chance to grasp more wins in 2010. While it was an improvement from the year before where they went 0-12, they still ended up with a los-

ing record. Beyond the normal Pac-10 teams, UW has been assigned to play BYU, Syracuse, and Nebraska. BYU and Nebraska recently have had many opportunities to be successful in the BCS, where as Syracuse hasn't been so lucky. For a team who is looking to improve in 2010 for a winning season, they may have some obstacles that they will have to get around, but they continue to train and hope for the best. Not to mention that they can expect to see their team leader and Quarterback Jake Locker back on the field for his senior year.

WSU is a team that is also looking for improvement, coming off of a 1-11 season in 2009. Besides the other Pac-10 teams that they are destined to face, WSU has to compete against Oklahoma State, Montana State, and Southern

Methodist. The cougars had won their only game in 2009 against Southern Methodist, while the other two teams are fresh to the recent WSU football team. Washington State has not competed in a bowl game since 2003, but does not intend to stay in such a deep puddle for the 2010 season, so time will tell what they have planned for improvements.

Each of the teams has a questionable 2010 season ahead of them. They both are going to work hard to better themselves, but possibly find some struggles along the way. The two Washington teams want to prove that they can improve further and take a toll on each of their opponents, but in the end it all comes down to how they will play on the field. We will all see what is to come for Washington teams in 2010.

## Honea's House

By: Andrew Honea

With the NFL playoffs in full swing, there is only one question. Who will play in the big game? The most anticipated game of the year. The Super Bowl. The early favorites, the Colts and Saints, which dominated the regular season, are still contenders with impressive playoff games completed. First off, Indianapolis put up an impressive win against the Baltimore Ravens, and up and coming Quarterback Joe Flacco. Not only did Peyton Manning control a dominating offense, but the impressive defense was also able to shut down the Ravens offense, and for a second straight year crush any hope of Flacco leading his team to a championship ring.

The New Orleans Saints, who impressed many in the regular season with a franchise record 13 wins, also dominated their first playoff performance against the Arizona Cardinals. Arizona came into the game as the defending NFC champions with a former Super Bowl winner in QB Kurt Warner. Coming into possibly his last year before retirement, Warner probably hoped to leave the League in style but unfortunately, the fierce New Orleans Defense held him and his offense to just 14 points. In all honesty, I think this win by the Saints is a complete fluke. They are obviously a team full of lots of talent, but they played like a 10 win team, who caught a lot of lucky breaks.

Another main contender, and the most impressive in my opinion, is the Minnesota Viking. The Vikings most recently defeated the Dallas Cowboys, led by Tony Romo. Romo has a history of choking in the post-season and his luck proved to have the same fate this year against Brett Favre and the dominating Minnesota Offense. The Vikings were led by Favre's four TD passes. Three went to Sidney Rice, tying him with Jerry Rice for most scoring receptions in a single game. Unfortunately, Adrian Peterson and the rest of the Vikings rush offense weren't able to get anything going in the big win, but luckily that proved to have no outcome on the games final result.

Normally at this point I would talk about the final contender, the Chargers. The only problem is the Chargers were defeated by Rookie QB Mark Sanchez and the New York Jets. Sanchez has already set the record for rookie QB playoff wins, and with his win against San Diego solidified a spot in the Super Bowl for Peyton Manning and the Colts. As bold of a statement as this is, there is no way a rookie quarterback can take his team on the road to a place like Indianapolis and expect to come out victorious. Thank you Mark Sanchez. You had a good run, but this season, it's over.

The final question, after thinking about all of the contenders in the game, is who will win it all? Well if you ask me, it's simple. It will be the fighting men in purple, the Minnesota Vikings. Maybe with one more ring on his hand, Favre will finally stop "shocking the world", and coming out of retirement. And it could solidify Adrian Peterson as the most dominant running back in the game. Overall, Minnesota winning the super bowl benefits everyone.

Lastly, for anyone thinks that Drew Brees can lead the Saints to the super bowl and win a ring...you are a fool. It's that simple.

# *Featured artist: Matt Johnson*

*Recently, I am finding myself compelled to draw cell-towers. To me they represent individuals; collectively, they are everyone I know and everyone I have yet to meet. The drawings are the remnant of the traditional portrait; fleshy, visual likenesses which have been boiled down to their essence. The towers are the connection to my world, one that is the result of my reliance on the cell-phone as a communicator. This has led to a depersonalization of my relationships through my phone's convenience. It's a convenience I'm addicted to, and has created distances that I regret.*

*M.J.*

*Complete artwork*

