



**Shop till you drop**  
 'Black Friday'  
 leads off Christmas  
 shopping season.  
 Pages 6-7

## Now Playing:

### Theatre Extempore presents 'Stage Door'

*Female dominant cast  
 offers satire, sassiness  
 in latest production*



Photo courtesy of Theatre Extempore

Stephanie Sappenfield (left) stars as Terry Randall in "Stage Door." Stephanie Wetherbee (top) and Colleen Abbot (right) play Randall's roommates and fellow actresses in the production.

**Sara Olson**  
 Staff Writer

Gossiping girls, blossoming actresses, and a love triangle made for the stage surround Theatre Extempore's latest production, "Stage Door."

The production opens on Nov. 30, featuring a large cast, primarily consisting of women.

"There's 16 or something girls in the cast, so it's a bunch of just chattering," Stephanie Sappenfield, the actress playing the lead female character, Terry Randall, said.

Gary Taylor, the show's director and GRCC drama instructor, said that the number of female rolls in the show initially interested him in "Stage Door."

"It has one of the largest casts of women in a play that I know of," Taylor said. "Generally, in this course, many more women sign up."

Mark Chamberlin, a Seattle theater professional, is acting as guest director for "Stage Door" and also recommended the play to Taylor.

"It was the favorite choice of the guest director," Taylor said.

Chamberlin currently is starring as Scrooge in A Contemporary Theater's production of "A Christmas Carol."

"Stage Door," shows the lives of starving and striving actresses living in a theatrical boarding house, trying to make it big on the New York theater stage.

Throughout the play, Randall

struggles to discover herself, trying to decide between the screen and the stage, while two men, a producer and a writer, compete for her attention.

This play was written by George Kaufman and Edna Furber and also was made into movie in 1938, starring Katherine Hepburn as Randall.

However, Taylor said that the stage production of "Stage Door" is quite different from the film.

"This one's more idealistic and realistic," Taylor said. "The male characters in the film are a lot sleazier. I don't know why that happened. In the play version, the two that vie for her attention, the producer and the writer, both are pretty good guys. But in the film, the producer is a real sleaze."

Taylor and Sappenfield both said that "Stage Door," set in the late 1930s, offers an interesting look at that period.

"The costumes are cool because

it's in the 1930s," Sappenfield said. "So it's all old school dresses and pin curls, and the guys are all in suits and tuxes. All the guys had to clean up and cut their hair."

Taylor said that the play also is unique because of the size of the cast.

"One interesting and rewarding aspect for me and the students is that it's much more of an ensemble peace, where all of the actors are on the stage most of the time, and that's not the way most plays are," Taylor said.

The cast promises an entertaining experience to those who attend the play.

"It has great characters and issues that are important to everybody about discovering who you are," Taylor said.

The show opens on Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. Following shows will take place on Dec. 1, 7, and 8, all starting at 7:30 p.m. General seating is \$9 and \$7 for students and seniors.

*"It has great characters  
 and issues that are  
 important to everybody about  
 discovering who you are."  
 —Gary Taylor, director*

*Theatre Extempore's "Stage Door" only is the first production for the theater this school year. In the winter, the theater will show "School for Scandal," followed by Agatha Christie's "Mouse Trap" in the spring.*

### Show Times

Nov. 30  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Dec. 1  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Dec. 7  
 7:30 p.m.  
 Dec. 8  
 7:30 p.m.

#### Sports:



**Taking the lead**  
 Jade Collier expected to be key factor in Gator's season.  
 Page 9

#### Back:



**Behind the mic**  
 The Current interviews former student DJ No Name.  
 Page 12

Campus - Pages 2-4  
 Opinion - Page 5  
 Feature - Pages 6-7  
 Sports - Pages 8-9  
 A & E - Pages 10-11

## Paper Tree bookstore offers buyback option to students

*Bookstore provides ways to achieve goals, opportunities to save money*

**Tessa Cossand**  
Staff Writer

The Paper Tree bookstore located in the Lindbloom Student Center, offers opportunities for students to achieve their academic goals and save money.

For 20 years, the Green River bookstore has been competing with Barnes' and Noble and the online sites, such as Amazon and E-campus, to give students affordable class related items.

The Paper Tree also provides services such as movie rentals, ID cards, school supplies, and other commodities.

Students also can purchase supplies online.

Last quarter 1,562 online orders were placed and the service is growing daily. Store Manager, Gary Jones runs the online store and created "Book Buybacks."

"Book Buybacks" creates the opportunity for students to receive cash for dispensing textbooks that no longer are needed.

Green River always is looking for opportunities to help students short on cash who need to purchase school related items.

This is partly why "Book Buybacks" has been a success. The University of Hawaii, University of Illinois, and the University of Michigan have also decided to offer "Book Buybacks" because of its appeal.

Paper Tree gift cards or cash are given in exchange for books that are sold back to the college bookstore during "Book

Buybacks."

The amount of money given in return for books depends upon the price listed in the buyer's guide.

However, some textbooks may not be returnable.

The following situations will restrict students from selling books to the Paper Tree bookstore: an instructor has authorized re-use of the book, the bookstore is overstocked, a publisher has a new edition and the prior edition has no value, the book is in too poor of a condition to be resold, or the book has limited nation wide demand.

The Paper Tree Bookstores' policy for "book buybacks" is the following: "A student will get 60 percent of a book value on a paper tree gift card or receive 50 percent cash.

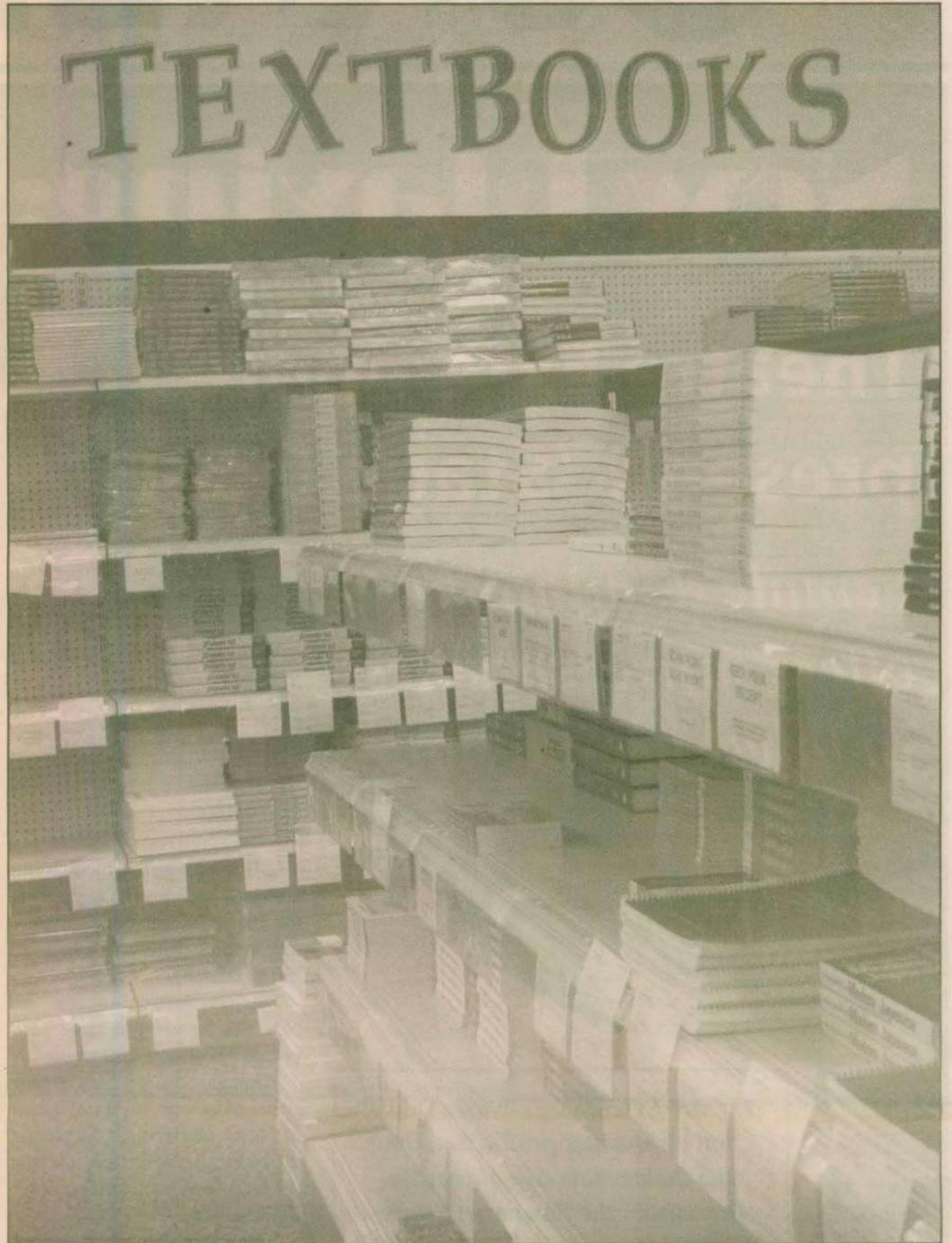
This applies to books purchased from Green River attendants to put on the paper tree bookstore shelves. If the books store does not need the offered books, the wholesaler will determine the buyback value.

Students must choose either a gift card or cash for the total amount received for their books.

If students choose a gift card, the value of the bookstore books and the wholesale books will be combined and put on the gift card."

"Book Buybacks" is scheduled on Dec. 11-14, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

However, on Friday, Dec. 14, the Paper Tree Bookstore will offer this service from only 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Sara Olson/ Staff photo

A wide variety of textbooks are available for students to buy in the Paper Tree bookstore, located in the Lindbloom Student Center. They also can be easily purchased online at [www.greenriver.edu](http://www.greenriver.edu).

## Campus reveal 'secret' behind famous book

*Self-help workshop held to aid positive thinking*

**Bimla Thapa**  
Staff Writer

The Green River Community College counseling services held a workshop on positive thinking on Nov. 9.

This workshop was based on "The Secret," a book by Rhonda Byrne, which Oprah made an international phenomenon after she introduced the book in her talk show.

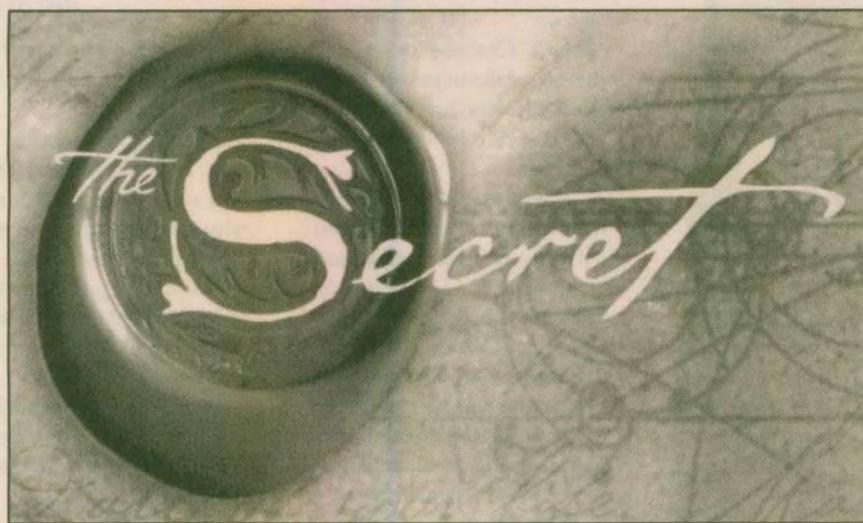
It is a book which goes into detail on the power of people's thoughts and how it affects their day to day events. The speaker for the workshop, Pattie Kehoe, Ph.D., counseling services staff, brought out the main points in the book, emphasizing the importance of thinking positive.

Kehoe explained that "The Secret" in the book is the law of attraction.

She said "the Law of Attraction doesn't care whether one perceives something to be good or bad or whether you want it or not; it is simply responding to one's thoughts."

This workshop informed people that negative thoughts are controllable and taught them various ways of dealing with it.

Another fact Kehoe stated was "not only



[www.erikcooper.com](http://www.erikcooper.com)/Courtesy Photo

"The Secret," a book written by Rhonda Byrne on the power and the importance of positive thinking, also is available in CDs on Amazon.com.

does one become what they think about the most but also attracts what one thinks about the most."

In other words, it creates the negative energy within them into reality, as thoughts are the most powerful tool everyone possesses.

According to the book, "research shows that 60,000 automatic thoughts go through our mind each day. Thus we have to quiet our mind through meditation, focusing solely on body and mind."

It is said that breathing is a very powerful tool which helps quiet one's mind sufficiently to allow them to intentionally ask themselves how we are feeling at the moment. It enables people to free their mind of unnecessary thoughts.

"You don't have to put aside hours to meditate, just five to ten minutes a day and gain incredible control over your thoughts," Kehoe said.

Kehoe also expressed the importance of listening to one's own feelings.

She said that feelings are "one of the greatest attributes to help you create your life. They are in fact an immediate signal for you to know what you're thinking."

In short, being aware of the way one feels is the fastest way for them to know what they are thinking.

The following points mentioned above are just a few of the ways "The Secret" provides people the secrets to help themselves. It contains countless more self-help tips on being positive and the things people can do to maintain or enhance their positivism.

For those who are curious as to what other information the book holds, there are a few copies of "The Secret" in book and video form available in the counseling services, along with a huge assortment of self-help books for students and faculty to borrow.

Aside from this particular workshop, GRCC also offers a variety of workshops which focus largely on building the foundation of positive thinking.

Students can have information access to the types of programs Green River holds by logging onto the events calendar regularly. The calendar can be accessed by clicking on "online services" on the GRCC home page.

Just as the law of attraction implies, "Your life is in your hands."

# Open house held for unknown department

## Trades division hopes to gain more attention

**Tammie Tamara**  
Staff Writer

The Trades Industry Division held an open house on Nov. 14. From 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., the public could come and see students working and also talk with the instructors about the classes.

The Trades Division is divided into five areas, including auto body technology, automotive technology, machining and manufacturing, carpentry, and welding. All five of them are located in one area.

According to Mark Millbauer, auto body technology coordinator/instructor, the auto body technology class is for students that want to pursue a carrier in the field. He said that in this class, students are taught how to do custom painting, bodywork paint, airbag repair, as well as many other skills.

"An auto body worker is the artist of trades," Millbauer said.

He also said that students need to be creative, have a good hand skills, and they also have to love cars. The auto body technology class has been full for the past 6 years.

Ralph Constantino, an auto body technology student said that it's an interesting class.

"The biggest challenge in this class is how to adjust to people's personality. Auto body is a group work," Constantino said.

Automotive technology is another class that students who are interested in cars can take. The requirement for this class is a driver's license and eligibility for English 110.

According to Hoffman, automotive technology is an interesting but challenging field.

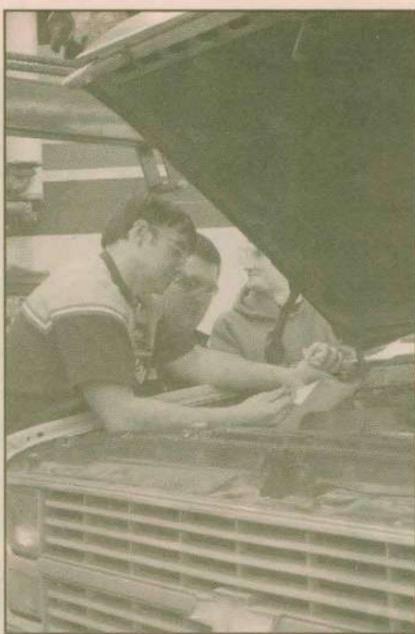
"It's always challenging. We always have to learn new technology. It's always changing," Hoffman said.

For students who are interested in creating things and working with metals, manufacturing-machining is the right choice. In this class, students can learn to shape metals into parts of a machine.

Charles Lenegar, manufacturing-machining instructor, said that this is an important field because of the fact that what the students learn are things that affect their daily life.

Students are making parts for things, such as airplanes, cell phones, and cars.

Justin Ford, a second year student in



Sara Olson/Staff Photos

Instructor Dave Cooper (left) instructs student Chris Stickles, while diagnosing a truck during the open house.

machining-manufacturing technology, said that the trades industry is fun for students who like it.

"We have many choices; there are different trades to get into," Ford said.

Lenegar said that there are many job opportunities in this field, but not enough people to fill them.

According to Thomas Tagliente, manufacturing technology instructor, it's because the perception from society.

"The perception in society is that it's a dark, dirty, and dangerous job," Tagliente said.

He also said that there's not enough information on this area available for students.

Carpentry technology also is an available choice for students who want to pursue a career as a carpenter.

Glen Martin, carpentry technology instructor, said that this field is for an outdoors person. Students have to be comfortable with rain, cold, heat, and sun.

In this class students also will be taught required math for carpentry.

"Carpentry is a hard work but rewarding," Martin said.

This class needs student to be outdoors and creative, as well as artistic. For now, the class has many students, although Martin said that they need more.

Welding is a class designed for students who want to be a structural welder.

Scott Schreiber, welding instructor, said that students have to have good hand and



Student Justin Ford, a second year student, works on a machine in the machine manufacturing department during the trades division open house.

eye coordination, good vision, and they also have to be physically capable to lift heavy objects. Welding is fairly popular, as it is always full.

"Welding is the aspect of art in industry," Schreiber said.

The open house was targeted for students in Green River Community College (GRCC), especially IESL students, as well as the public from surrounding high schools.

Most of the visitors were satisfied with the open house.

Carmen Delgado, an IESL student, said that the open house was interesting.

"I got some useful information," Delgado said.

She also said that she was coming to find information for her or her son.

Many students pass the trades industry area everyday. However, most students aren't aware that GRCC has a Trades division. According to Lenegar, the trades industry was the first subject that was taught at GRCC.

This open house was made so that more people would be aware of trades industry at GRCC. Martin said that he hopes this open house can help them pick up a few more students.

# Students undecided about possible Iran war

## America threatens to go to war with Iran

**Joe Chouery**  
Staff Writer

The United States has updated their plans on attacking Iran. Iran, a country alleged by U.S. officials to harbor and supply terrorists to Lebanon and Iraq, currently is progressing in their nuclear ambitions.

What these ambitions are seems to presently be the question that the world will not overlook. While firmly deigning all allegations of enriching plutonium for the purposes of weapons, Iran has claimed to aim only for nuclear energy.

Unmoved by Iran's claims, Vice President Dick Cheney said that the United States

would "not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon" and they would face "serious consequences" if they continued their nuclear program.

President Bush said that a nuclear Iran would lead to "World War III."

If America uses force, many analysts believe it would be derived from the Air Force and Navy, not the Army or an occupation.

For now, strikes seem to be far off, but when asked "do you think that Iran will make a nuclear bomb?" 10 out of 20 students surveyed at GRCC said "yes."

These 10 said that they believe that Iran will make one or already had one in their possession. Seven were undecided, while only three said they would not obtain a nuclear weapon.

Conflict between America and Iran has increased in recent years. Bush said that

Iran had fed Iraqi insurgencies weapons.

In February of this year, during a press conference Bush said, "My job is to protect our troops, and when we find devices that are in that country that are hurting our troops, we're going to do something about it, pure and simple."

The bulk of the students sampled claimed that the Bush administration was handling the situation okay.

When asked if the same students thought attacking Iran would be a mistake, the answer was yes; three said no, while one was undecided.

One of these student polled, Alex Alm-Plouff said, "I do think that striking Iran would be a mistake, because America already has enough enemies as is, and in doing so will only cause more tension for America."

What America would gain by striking

Iran is widely debated, and one student has a strong opinion on the matter.

Ahna Kesterson said, "American businesses invest quite a lot in the Middle East, and it is true that war stimulates the economy in a temporary way. The only service it would render the American people is a false sense of security."

However, the question still remains what should America and the world do if Iran does indeed strive for nuclear weapons.

The United Nations have put sanctions on the country. Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's response to trade sanctions was with frustration but resolute.

A growing domestic criticism over his continuing actions led to this statement: "Our position toward the United States remains unchanged. The U.S. is conducting a vengeful and hostile policy against the interests of the Iranian people."

## Entertainment lineup for campus series set

Artist, speakers scheduled to perform throughout year

Jenelle Bartelt  
Contributing Writer

The college's Artist & Speakers series wants more students in the seats for this season's shows.

"Most of the people who come are from the community; we don't have many students," said Christopher Small, office manager for the series.

He said that its goal is to "definitely get the numbers up; get people to come."

Small said that attendance at series performances range from 150 to 400 people, with an average of about 275 people.

He also said that although about half of the attendees are Green River Community College (GRCC) students, he'd like to increase that number to about 75 percent this year.

Small said they are trying to do more publicity this year to attract students to the shows.

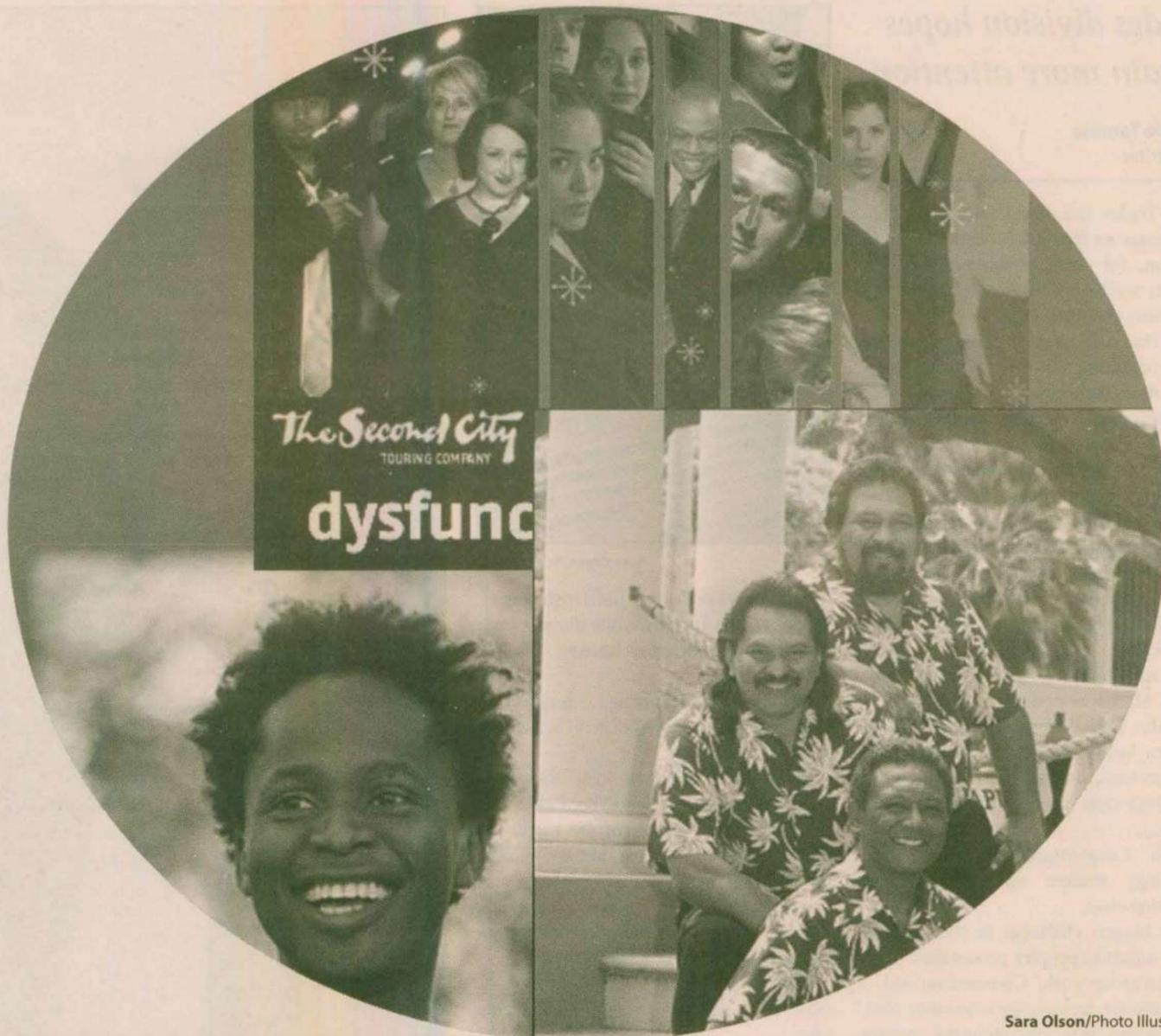
To try and raise awareness, Small is placing red and green flyers around the college for the first show in the lineup, "The Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue."

A group originally from Chicago, The Second City touring group is returning to GRCC.

The night will be filled with improvisation and audience participation all geared toward the holidays.

Following in February, Ishmael Beah will take the stage to tell his story of being a child soldier in Sierra Leone.

After being released, Beah struggled on the road to recovery which eventually led him to being an author and member of



Sara Olson/Photo Illustration

GRCC has scheduled three performances for the 2007-2008 school year. In December, The Second City's Dysfunctional Holiday Revue (top) will be performing, followed by speaker Ishmael Beah (below, left) in February, and the Makaha Sons (below, right) in May.

the United Nations.

The brochure for the Artist & Speakers series describes Beah's speech as "a story of redemption and hope."

To wrap up the season, Sounds of Hawai'i returns for its fourth show, which premieres the Makaha Sons, hula dancers, and plenty of

Hawaiian spirit.

"I would say I had the most fun at Sounds of Hawai'i," Small said. "We decorate the stage with tropical plants that you usually don't see in Washington, and last year there was traditional lei making."

Each performance is scheduled

to begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Lindbloom Student Center's main dining area.

The Dysfunctional Holiday Revue is on Dec. 6; Ishmael Beah on Feb. 12, 2008; and Sound of Hawai'i on May 16, 2008.

Students with a GRCC student ID are admitted free, while public

admission varies according to the show. It's best to sign up early for these events. Student tickets must be picked up in advance from Student Programs.

To find out more, students can call the Students Programs Ticket Office at (253) 833-9111 x2400.

## Phi Theta Kappa looks to the future for success

Club hopes numbers increase this year

Amy Lipko  
Staff Writer

An exceptional grade point average used to be enough to join Alpha Chi Beta, the Green River Community College (GRCC) branch of the national honor society, Phi Theta Kappa.

However, the Alpha Chi Betas are looking for more than just book smarts.

Angelica Gonzalez, a member of Phi Theta Kappa and also president of the Latino student union said, "It's good to have some stable people who are actually going to make a full commitment for the full year."

With graduation, people move on, and the need for stability is apparent in clubs on campus.

"It's good to have some stable people who are actually going to make a full commitment for the full year - to have some people that are really interested in the club and that really want to maintain it," Gonzales said.

Shannon Leenstra, president of Phi Theta Kappa, currently is trying to think outside of the box to encourage membership, as well as ways to take the club to the next level.

Megan Evans, development specialist and advisor to Phi Theta Kappa, said of Leenstra, "She's got a lot of really good ideas."

One idea Leenstra would like to implement with graduates is receiving a Phi Theta Kappa commencement regalia in recognition for humanitarianism.

She is trying to work out a plan to create a system where community service can either lower or do away with the price of that regalia.

"In the chapter I was in before, you earned your regalia through how active you were in the club," Leenstra said. "If you were somebody who showed up to meetings every week, if you participated in the different things that were going on, then you earned that regalia."

Evans, who only has been an advisor for three weeks, said, "I'm there to support, and I think I have enough time in my schedule to help them do what they can do on campus."

Support and awareness was the main

focus at the weekly meeting held Nov. 9 by the Alpha Chi Betas. Currently the Phi Theta Kappa chapter has been functioning with only one officer from last year's elections.

"We just need to get the officers in place and that'll help a lot, because it's basically been me and Shannon doing everything. It's been kind of hard; we just need more support," Evans said.

Leenstra and Evans have been trying to get things going, starting with one hour weekly meetings as well as raising awareness for the club.

"I only knew they were here, because I sought them out," Leenstra said. "I knew that Phi Theta Kappa existed and then last quarter was the first quarter I was really involved, but it was only for a couple of months, and then the beginning of fall quarter we had no advisor. I was the only officer that didn't graduate. We're trying to build the team here."

Elections are approaching for vice president, secretary, and treasurer. However, despite membership being down, the numbers of people competing for officer positions are up.

"There hasn't been any consistency, and we haven't been in a position where

there's been more than one person who has wanted to have a position," Leenstra said of elections in the past. "It may be to the point where we have more than one person, and we'll bring both those people in and say okay, you're both vying for the same position, and we'll decide how to make that choice."

Another position also up for grabs this year is communications and community relations officer.

The club would like a person who will act as a liaison between the club and the community to serve, as well as getting word out around campus that Phi Theta Kappa is in full swing and ready for new and motivated members.

The final vote for officer positions will take place on Nov. 19, "Founder's Day" for Phi Theta Kappa.

Of the future of Phi Theta Kappa, Leenstra said, "Once all of the officers are in place, then I see the whole thing being so smooth and fabulous and coming together."

For complete details on how students can join Phi Theta Kappa's Alpha Chi Beta chapter, students can contact Megan Evans at MEvans@GreenRiver.edu or visit [www.greenriver.edu/studentprograms/ptk](http://www.greenriver.edu/studentprograms/ptk).

## Attacking Iran would be repeat of same mistakes

President Bush's plan threatens to be another great blunder



Commentary by Joe Chouery

You may not want to go to war with Iran, but your opinion does not matter. The message over the last seven years has been crystal clear, "You are either with us or against us."

Little did we know, we would have to bow down to President George Bush and his army of lackeys. Everywhere we look, we see our liberties being thrown out like soiled diapers. We can't say a thing about loosing our freedom because if we do, we will find ourselves in a filthy prison in the middle of nowhere, being half drowned by a guy who is doing his part in the preposterous war on terrorism.

"You are either with us or against us." Remember that line in the sand? We all bought it like it was America's escape route from a collapsing tower. Crossover that line, and we will kill you.

That's what we wanted, right? Well now that we have it, it is time to buckle up. We're not exiting this ride until we're at a complete stop.

America will bomb Iran. The lobbied scum and the political halfwits that we call Congress are speedily dwindling away the ability to stop this war before it happens. Congress gave Bush the right to strike Iran when they deemed The Iranian Revolutionary Guard terrorists.

They gave away their authority to the same executive branch that misled the American people into believing that Iraq was proliferating weapons of mass destruction.

The administration will tell us that we are going to bomb Iran for the safety of the free world, and they will use words

like, "nuclre."

Be very cautious of this word. This word sounds very similar to nuclear, but is very different. While nuclear relates to physics, nuclre is a political tool used to scare the American public.

Now the administration alleges that there is evidence that proves Iran is proliferating weapons of mass destruction too? Are we really that naïve?

Bush almost said it himself, "There's an old saying in Tennessee — I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee — that says, fool me once, shame on — shame on you. Fool me — you can't get fooled again."

After America strikes, and the price of oil is permanently fixed somewhere in the clouds, we will realize that this new war will not be for the good of man. It will be for the good of Saudi Arabia, Lockheed Martin, and other war profiteers. These profiteers need another war.

If we do intensive research, we will find a war in Afghanistan that the American public has forgotten. When we prematurely ran out of targets in that war, we decided to obliterate Iraq. In doing so, it allowed profits for the American companies who are continually rebuilding these nations to skyrocket.

These profits were snatched from the blood of the Iraqi innocent, our soldier's lives, and the sweat of the American people.

Our economy will be shot if we pursue this war; nothing except a complete turnaround in our political system will save us from disaster.

Many believe that this issue will disappear with the presidential elections of '08. This is false. The new president will have the authority to go to war with any known terrorism group, regardless of borders or political asylum.

Nothing will change besides who is making the money. So chose wisely and research the candidates. Know who and what you are voting for in this next election. Be prepared and be informed.

Have an opinion, because I might be wrong; our opinions just might matter.

## Myspace allows students to waste lives away

Popular web site serves as possible opportunity for sexual predators



Commentary by Angelica Asiesiukiewicz

Teens spend their years gaining knowledge and creating new friendships. Keeping up with those relationships is hard work. The internet is a fast paced world, perfect for staying in touch with friends, especially on Myspace.com.

However, it also is a pool, swarming with sexual predators, criminals, and who knows who else. When you think about it, it is the most terrifying place on earth, and you're not even there in person.

I did a little experiment and created a profile on Myspace. It only took me five minutes to realize that it was a mistake.

There are two ways that the web site can harm anyone who gets caught up in its excitement: losing focus at school and losing safety.

Creating a profile online gives people the option to post their full names, how old they are, where they live, where they work, and even where they go to school. Anybody can pinpoint a person and that can turn into a tragedy.

There have been cases of sexual predators and other such criminals finding teens and harming them. It's a scary thing. You never really know who you are talking to and what kind of person they are before it's too late.

The most important thing in a teenager's life is education. That is why they go to high school and college in the first place.

However, Myspace.com has a way of reeling in people and locking them into a virtual world that they can't break out of.

People will go online just to check their comments and end up forgetting about their responsibilities as a student. Homework and studying take a back seat to typing and gossiping.

Students end up with plans to hang out and a failing grade on their history project. It's a terrible cycle that teens can't seem to break out of. And frankly, I don't think they want to. Some students care more about their reputations than their grades.

Although Myspace.com can be a virtual prison, it also can be a haven for some students. I observed that during stressful times in their lives, teens use the web site to unleash their disappointments and aggravations. Through blogs and comments, teens are able to let loose their feelings about a certain assignment or troubles at home.

They can let all their friends know what's bothering them. It seems to help them cope with teen drama and student pressure.

So I suppose there are two ways that Myspace.com can influence students. They either can be sucked into a swirling vortex of strangers and gossip, or they can utilize the web site to let loose and unwind from a stressful day.

It's difficult to say which way students will swing. All I have to say is that Myspace.com isn't a place for me. I would rather talk to someone on the phone rather than stare at a computer screen for hours on end.

### Editorial Policy

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

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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.

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The Current office is located in SMT 134 and can be contacted by phone at (253) 833-9111, ext. 2375.

# SHOP TILL YOU DROP

*Shoppers across the country will line up outside their favorite store at the crack of dawn on 'Black Friday' to open up the Christmas shopping season*

**Katie Barr**  
Staff Writer

Many college students don't have much money to spare, or to go shopping with. The day after Thanksgiving is one of the biggest shopping events of the year, and the best day for people who want to save money while shopping.

For many people, the day after Thanksgiving sales is a yearly shopping tradition. The day after Thanksgiving also is known as "Black Friday" and "Blitz Day" in the retail world. "Black Friday" is considered the beginning of the Christmas shopping season.

With so many stores having big sales, some students say it's wise to go shopping with more than one person.

Student Val Poltorak goes with family. "We'll stay up the night before planning out where to go, and then wake up early and get to the best place."

By shopping on "Blitz Day," people save hundreds, and thousands of dollars, depending on how much they spend.

Student Lonnie Willey said that he usually saves about \$300.

Student Mike Fish said that he saves "about a couple hundred dollars, but it probably doesn't even out because I

spend so much anyway."

Poltorak said, "It all depends on what I buy."

Many of the big retail stores offer great money-saving sales. Stores such as, Ann Taylor Loft, Macy's, Nordstrom's, Target, Wilson's Leather, Fred Meyer, Wal-Mart and many other stores all have deals for the big shopping day.

Willey's favorite stores to shop at on sale day are Ann Taylor Loft, Macy's Nordstrom's, Wilson's Leather Outlet, and sometimes Target.

Fish goes shopping "wherever my girlfriend wants to - usually Macy's or Fred Meyer's."

Poltorak and his family go to the stores "where we can get presents for everyone, like Fred Meyer's, Best Buy, Target, and clothing stores like Sear's or JC Penney's."

Some people get up early in the morning to be at the stores before they even open, or as soon as they open.

If you go too late in the day all the good stuff is gone, and it usually turns into an all-day thing with my girlfriend," Fish said.

Willey goes as soon as the stores open "to avoid the craziness."

With such big sales, shoppers can become aggressive or "crazy bargain hunters," as Fish called them.

The atmosphere is crazy and rushed, the stores are packed with shoppers, and the racks grow empty by the hour.

Fish "hates the crazy atmosphere and the super long lines."

Poltorak said that some of the craziness gets to him.

"I'm more of the calmer, peaceful, enjoy the simple things of life kind of guy," Poltorak said.

Even with all the money saved, shoppers still spend thousands of dollars.

Willey said that he usually spends "at least a thousand dollars."

Fish said that he spends "way too much - usually around a thousand dollars or so."

Black Friday usually is in the top five of the busiest retail shopping days of the year in the United States, in both sales and customer traffic.

If students are planning on buying electronics, or other popular sale items, it's advisable to arrive at the store when it opens.



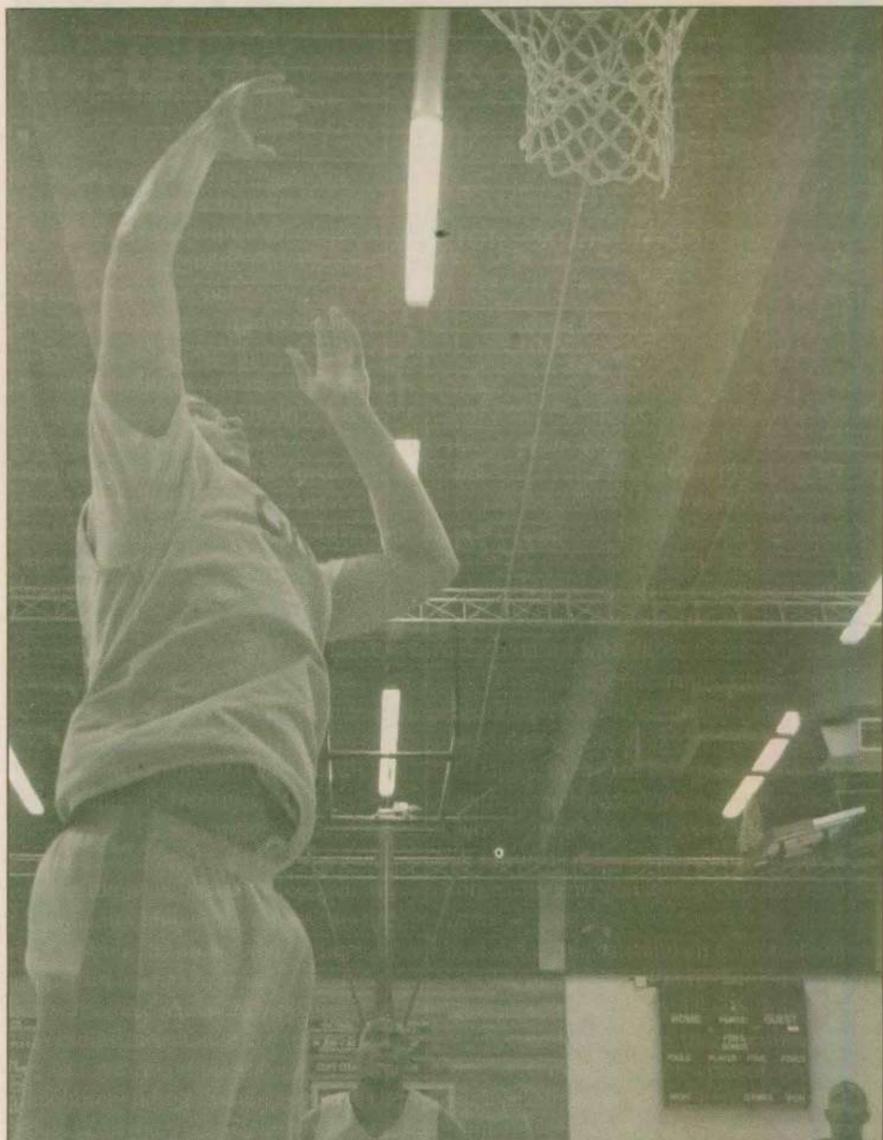
## Stores to visit on 'Black Friday'

- Best Buy
- Wal Mart
- Target
- Comp USA
- Toys 'R' Us
- JC Penney
- Kohl's
- Old Navy
- Office Depot
- Pac Sun

- Ritz Cameras
- Macys
- Sears
- Home Depot
- Staples
- Lane Bryant
- Radio Shack
- Ikea
- Game Stop
- Circuit City
- Buckle

Designed by Sara Olson

## Men's basketball team seeks championship



Sara Olson/Staff Photo

Freshman forward Wren Anthony goes up for a shot during a Gator men's basketball team practice. The team has their first game on Nov. 23.

*Gators hope new talent is enough to bring home title*

**Sara Olson**  
Staff Writer

"It's NWAACC Championship or nothing else."

These words were said by the Gator men's basketball team co-captain, Avery Scharer. With the team hitting the court in their first competition of the season on Nov. 23, Scharer said that the team is going big or going home this year.

"We're going for the gold. Anything less than that is a disappointment in our eyes," Scharer said.

The Gators enter their season with a large freshman class and only one returning sophomore, Travis Wagner.

Tim Malroy, head coach, said that the new team is one of the biggest teams he's recruited - the tallest player being Jade Collier at 6'9". Despite their size, though, Malroy insists that the team still can keep up with other teams in the league.

"We have more height. We still have the same amount of quickness and athleticism, which is kind of what we are known for as a school," Malroy said.

Scharer also believes that the team will hold their own in their division.

"We're a run-and-gun team. We're like Phoenix," Scharer said. "We can go and do all that's necessary in the fast court, but at the same time, you got to slow it down,

and we can do that too."

Last season, the team missed the playoff race by one game, with an 8-8 league record. However, Malroy believes that this year's team has tremendous potential.

"We're looking for big things this year," Malroy said. "We need to be top four in our division and bring a banner home. That's what we're looking for. I think those are realistic expectations for us - to compete for one of those top four spots in our division."

Malroy said that their division has tough competition, with Highline Community College presenting the biggest challenge.

"Our division is the toughest division overall, and it always has been," Malroy said. "Highline seems to be the most loaded team at this point on paper. Lower Columbia, Tacoma, Pierce, and us are all kind of behind Highline and fighting for those other spots."

Signed freshmen, Collier and Giovanni Lee, are expected to be essential factors on the court this year.

"As incoming freshman, they need to step up and do big things for us, and I think they will," Malroy said.

Malroy also hopes to get five to six players scoring in double figures every game.

The Gators need to place in the top four in their division to make it into the playoff race this season. As of right now, they are ranked fifth, but Malroy believes they can compete to earn a playoff birth.

"I'd say this team is the biggest and probably the deepest we've ever had," Malroy said.

Several Gators were recognized for their achievements in sports this fall. Sophomore, Rebecca Fister was named First Team All-West for volleyball, and Tricia Mowatt and Brianne Gregory were named to the second team.

In soccer, Jaime Lee Slaten, Arlana Byers, and Azure Bartron were named to the All-Northern Region team. Heidi Monuteaux, head coach for the women's soccer team, also was honored with the Northern Region Coach of the Year award.

### Gator Schedules

#### Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
11/28	Shoreline/Green River	6 p.m.
12/1	NW Indian College/Green River	3 p.m.
12/5	Olympic/Green River	6 p.m.
12/8	Skagit Valley/Green River	3 p.m.
12/14	Treasure Valley/Portland	6 p.m.
12/15	Peninsula or Mt. Hood/Portland	2 p.m.
12/28	Puget Sound Christian/Green River	5 p.m.
12/29	Peninsula/Green River	3 p.m.

#### Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
11/29	North Idaho/North Idaho	8 p.m.
11/30	Snow College/North Idaho	5 p.m.
12/1	Salt Lake CC/North Idaho	5 p.m.
12/5	NW Indian College/Green River	8 p.m.
12/8	Seattle/Seattle	7 p.m.
12/14	Lane/Eugene	8 p.m.
12/15	Walla Walla or Peninsula/Eugene	4 p.m.
12/29	Olympic/Green River	5 p.m.

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# Freshman player towers in height and talent

*Jade Collier expected to be key to success this season*

**Will Brown**  
Staff Writer

In high school, Jade Collier was nominated for the McDonalds All-American team for the nation. Now, Collier has chosen to come to Green River Community College (GRCC) to continue his career in the sport of basketball.

Standing at 6'9" and weighing in at 235 lbs., Collier is looking at both team and personal success at GRCC.

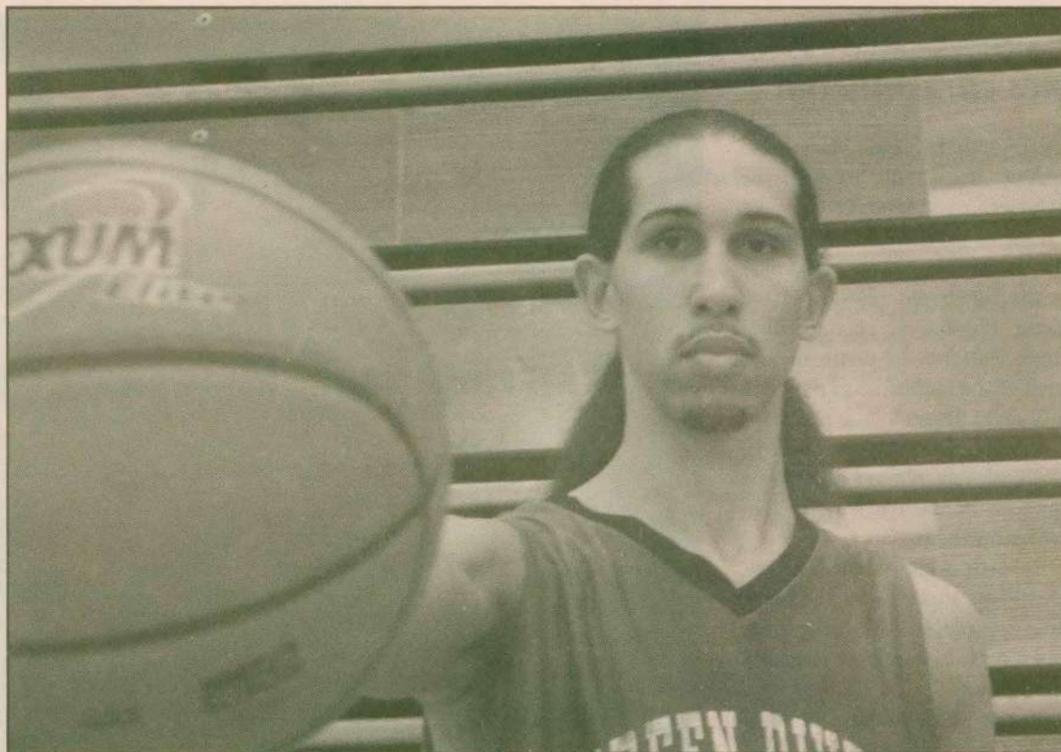
"I expect us to win everything," Collier said about his expectations for this year's team.

While working out since this summer with some of his teammates, Collier said the chemistry and teamwork are "pretty good."

Coming from Garfield High, Collier was on a team that made it to the state tournament. Collier is looked at by the team as an athlete with speed, especially for his size.

"Fast speed," and "smooth," are words teammate Shawn Henderson used to describe the way Collier plays.

Gator Travis Wagner also said that Collier is "able to run the



Sara Olson/Staff Photo

Freshman basketball player, Jade Collier, turned down Division One schools to play for Green River Community College this year. Collier is considered fast for his size, standing at 6'9".

floor well."

Collier is known as being a good teammate on the court, being seen with confidence from his teammates. Collier is considered an athlete that is a star in the making.

"He's going to be our rebounding presence in the middle," Tim Malroy, Gator head coach, said. "At the community

college level, he is the fastest big guy."

The GRCC men's basketball team has an athlete that is being looked at as good athlete and friend, and is thought by the players and coaching staff to be a key to a winning season.

"He's going to be a key for making our offense," Malroy said.

Collier is known for his defensive presence and fast break speed, and also is being highlighted for his offensive skills which lead to an overall skilled game.

Collier already is being said by coaches and teammates to have talent combined with unselfish team work.

Collier's size, speed, and team

play should bring fans to the court to see exciting games. Collier was an athlete recruited out of high school and offered scholarships by schools, such as San Jose State and Portland State. Other Division One programs sent Collier letters, but he instead has chosen to stay in Washington to build on his game.

Collier chose GRCC because according to him, it's a "fast paced team," which fits into his style of play. Collier is planning on transferring to a Division One school after GRCC, but doesn't know which one yet.

"I'll just take the best that I can get," Collier said.

Malroy believes that Collier will be able to make that next step.

"He can go to the D1 level," Malroy said.

The 2007-2008 Gators is a team with talent and leadership, displayed by potential stars such as Collier.

Teammates and fans are excited to see Collier play this season.

Co-captains in Henderson, Wagner, David Nessington and Avery Scharer are leaders who are looking forward to the play of Collier.

With the coaches, captains, and overall team, Collier expects the team to dominate this season.

"We're going to win," Collier said.

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# THE CURRENT

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# New 'Super Mario Galaxy' is out of this world

Latest addition to Wii games adds up to other Nintendo games currently out

Randy Wohlhueter  
Staff Writer

Nintendo continues to show off their video game magic once again with the release of the highly anticipated "Super Mario Galaxy."

With more than 1.5 million copies pre-ordered between the United States and Japan, it is easy to see how anxious players have been to get their hands on it.

"Super Mario Galaxy" has been receiving nothing but positive marks on its report card from many of the major video game review web sites, giving gamers another added level of assurance that their money will be well spent.

What sets "Super Mario Galaxy" apart from its previous Mario titles is the fact that each level is its own planet in a galaxy. Mario must travel throughout the vast array of available Galaxies to collect stars.

Stars are awarded for completing selected tasks and defeating bosses.

Collecting stars is the main focus for the games entirety. Mario must collect a total of 120 stars from 40 different galaxies to complete the game; each galaxy has anywhere from 1 to 6 stars that can be collected before that galaxy is completed.

Having "Super Mario Galaxy" on the Wii allows for beautiful controls with the use of the Wii-remote and the attachable nunchuck.

Players connect a nunchuck to the Wii-remote and use the joystick from the nunchuck to control Mario's directions and aim at the screen and shake the

wii-remote to spin Mario and collect items all around the galaxies.

One of the greatest beauties of the game that players will enjoy is the integrated physics of the game. Players are able to jump from platform to platform and each of the platform's gravity will pull them down.

While running around in certain levels, players need to be cautious of the black holes that are below them.

If Mario falls off of a galaxy, he will be sucked into the black hole and players will lose a life and have to restart from their last checkpoint.

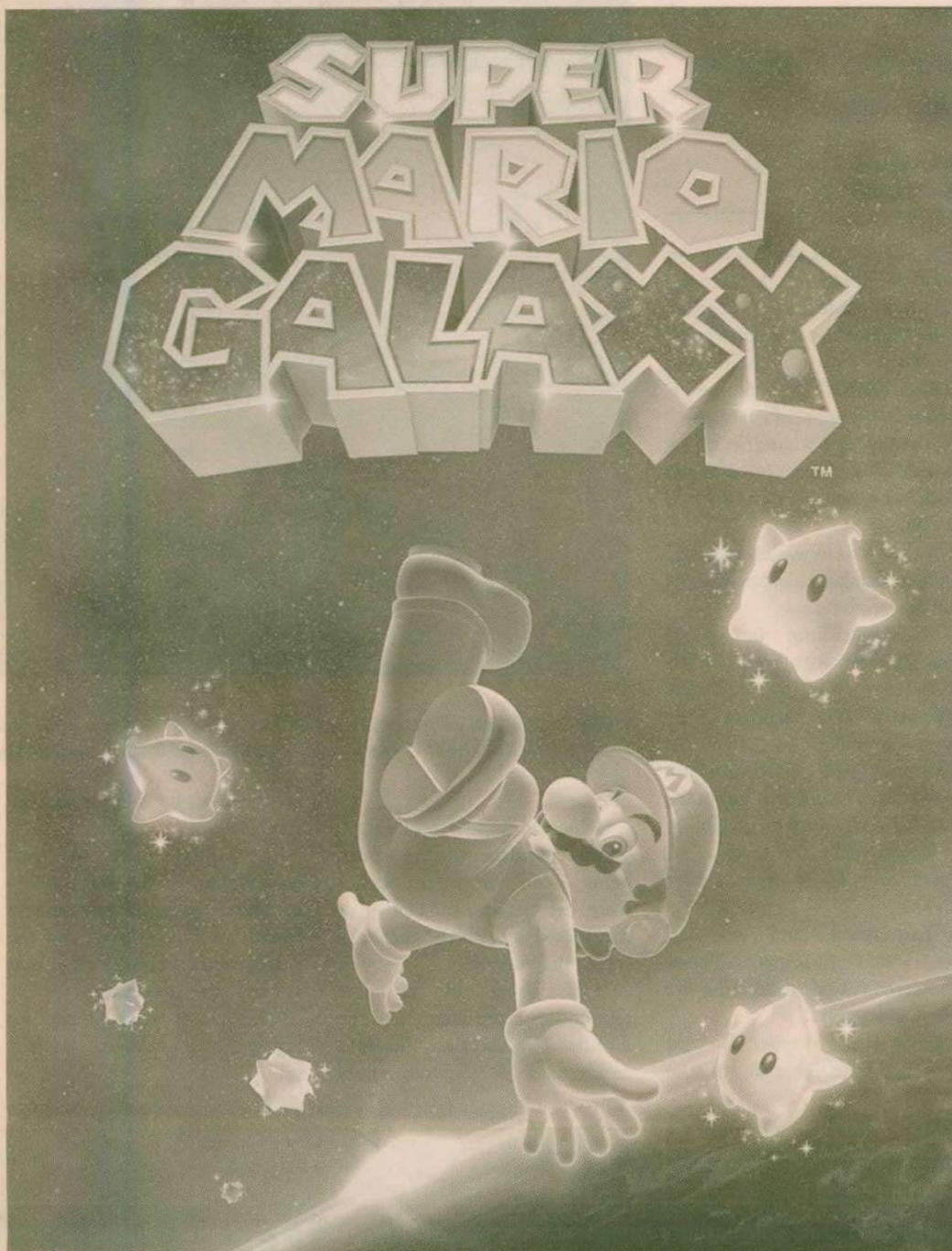
"Super Mario Galaxy" features a vast array of power-ups that help to give players the greatest chance of completing the task at hand. If a player collects a Super Mushroom, Mario then doubles his maximum health count from 3 to 6.

Some of the rare power-ups found on select galaxies are the Bee Mushrooms and Boo Mushrooms.

The Bee Mushroom transforms Mario into a Bee and allows for a limited amount of flight time; while the Boo Mushroom transforms Mario into a ghost and allows for players to sneak around objects and avoid injury.

"Super Mario Galaxy" is by far the greatest video game that the Nintendo Wii has added to their arsenal of top-notch games.

The game is rated E, which means it is approved to be played by everyone, so there is no need to worry about exposing younger and older persons to inappropriate and violent game play.



www.images.nintendolife.com/Courtesy photo

Nintendo brings video gamers the latest game for Wii, "Super Mario Galaxy." This new game tops all other Wii games currently out, adding to Nintendo's impressive resume.

So for those players that are Nintendo Wii owners and have yet to pick up their copy of

"Super Mario Galaxy," now is a better time than ever. Players will have countless hours of new and

exciting challenges to hold their entertainment as they attempt to save the Mushroom Kingdom.

## Thanksgiving proves to be unfamiliar to some

Some international students experience American holiday for first time

Jamie Page  
Staff Writer

Thanksgiving is a time that holds many memories; stretching back to childhood when mashed potato sculpting was a dinner past time, and the concept of stuffing a turkey was likened to the creation of a favorite stuffed animal.

However, for many newly arrived international students, Thanksgiving is a completely new concept.

"It's pretty different, because I don't have it in my country," Bernardo Nogales, 23, of Bolivia, said.

Some holidays like Halloween have similar counterparts that

are celebrated around the world. Religion-based holidays such as Christmas are recognized universally. These holidays are therefore familiar and hold memories for students from most countries, but Thanksgiving is different.

"It's a traditional American holiday," said Aude Jouanguy, 19, of Bolivia.

She was right. Thanksgiving is a long-established American holiday dating back to 1621 and has taken a customary and traditional place in American culture. So while it may seem commonplace to many students at Green River Community College (GRCC), some have yet to identify its importance in

American history.

"I don't actually know what it is about," said Jennifer Ryu, 21, of Korea.

This was the case with many other students as well.

Many students likened it to the mealtime traditions of Christmas, which they found to be the closest equivalent to Thanksgiving in their home country.

"It's pretty much like Christmas to us," said Alberto Sanchez, 22 of Bolivia.

Some students found the appeal of Thanksgiving in other aspects of the holiday.

"I'm expecting Thanksgiving Day because there are lots of sales," said Boshee Lee, 35, of Korea.

Pamela Nogales, 21, of Bolivia,

said that she is excited for the holiday "because there are two days off."

Although some students new to the holiday traditions in the

*"It's a traditional family holiday. Thanksgiving's about bringing people together."*

—Aude Jouanguy, 19, of Bolivia

United States question its importance, others have quickly realized its deeper qualities.

"It's a traditional family holiday. Thanksgiving's about bringing people together," Jouanguy said.

However, because of its familial implications, some students find the opportunity to partake in the cultural experience of celebrating Thanksgiving bittersweet, because they don't have their families with them to experience it with.

After celebrating it for the first time in Canada last year Ryu found herself in a similar situation.

"No reason to, because my family is not here," Ryu said.

Other students related their first experience celebrating Thanksgiving as enjoyable.

"It was fun, because it was my first time, and it was interesting to see how Americans cooked," Nogales said.

Jouanguy recalled her first Thanksgiving.

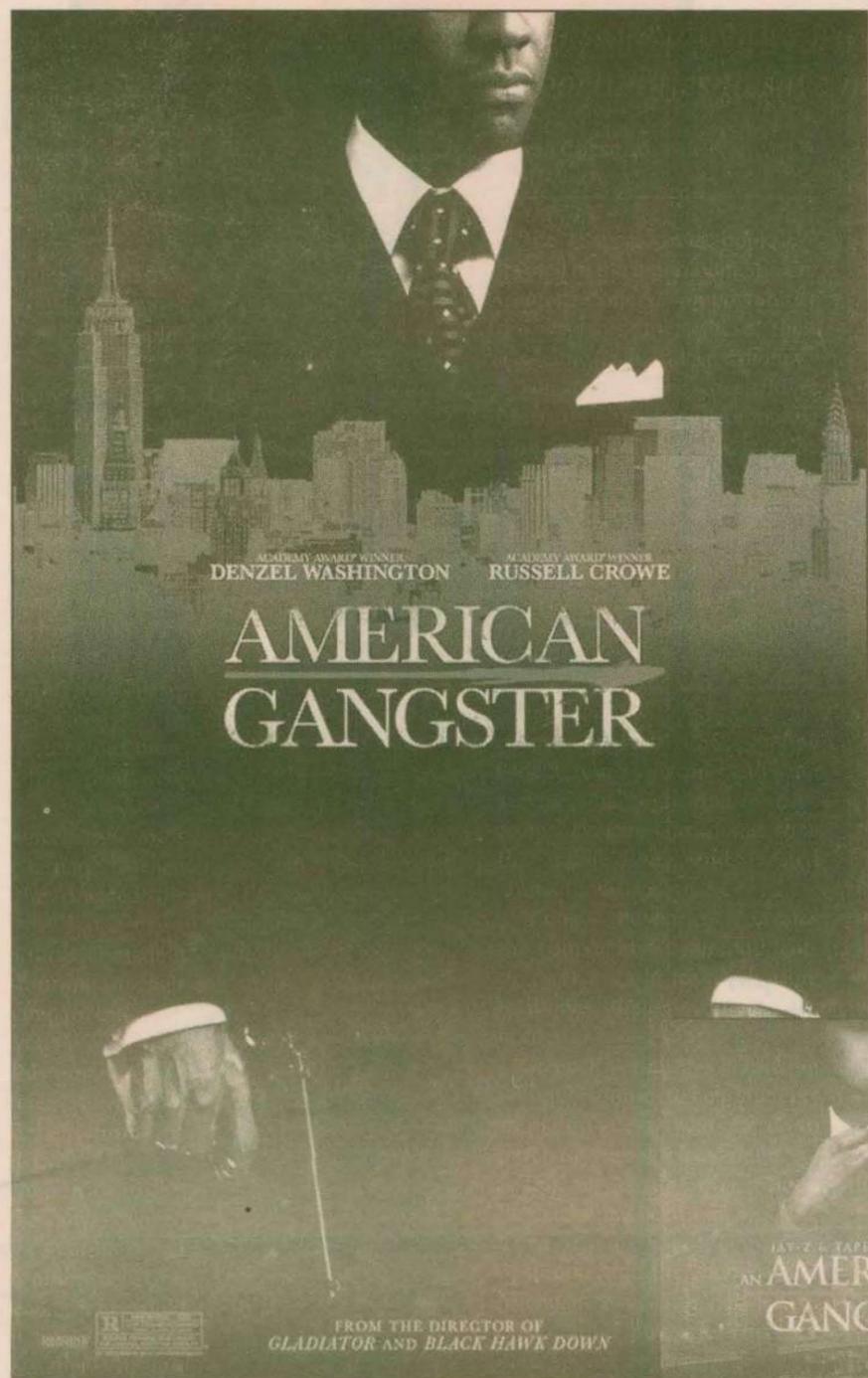
"I had dinner with an American family. They made a lot of food, and there was drinking, playing games, watching TV. We were having a good time," Jouanguy said.

After creating the first happy memories of the holiday, numerous international students are making the cultural jump and are forming their own traditions for Thanksgiving, making plans to celebrate it this year, and for a multitude of reasons.

"I am going to have a party with my Korean friends," Lee said.

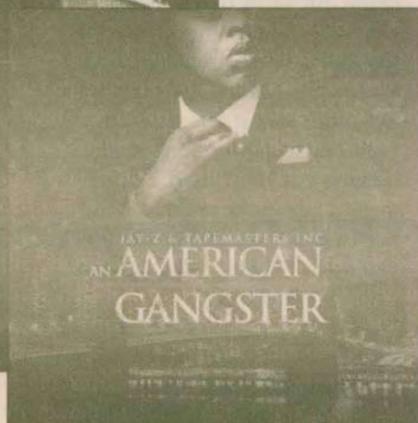
Nogales said that she will celebrate Thanksgiving "because it gives you time to share with your family."

# Jay-Z's musical version of movie fails to impress



[www.firstshowing.net](http://www.firstshowing.net)/Courtesy photo

Jay-Z's latest album (right) is the artists' musical depiction of "American Gangster," the movie (above).



[www.mixtapetorrent.com](http://www.mixtapetorrent.com)/Courtesy photo

*Rappers' latest album never should have been released*

Alex Hoggard  
Staff Writer

"American Gangster" – is it a story line to a movie or the music that brings the movie alive?

Whatever the case may be, Jay-Z tried to outdo himself with this black super hero/Shaft theme that let the villain steal the show at the end.

His attempt on trying to create the musical version of the newly released movie "American Gangster" might just make Denzel Washington glad they didn't choose it as their sound track for the movie. In each song, either the beat or the featured artist steals the spot light away from Jay-Z.

Jay-Z does a poor job trying to turn this CD into his own super hero crime epic, starring only himself as the star.

"American Gangster" is just another reason Jay-Z should have stayed retired.

Jay-Z came out of retirement with "Kingdom Come." This CD really didn't make the statement that Jay-Z needed to make – that he was back in the rap game.

"Kingdom Come" had a lot of hype that was lost fast when the CD actually came to ear. Jay-Z was supposed to put more than just a CD out; he was supposed to take his No.1 spot back and move the newcomers to the back of the line.

Jay-Z didn't do either. The single off "Kingdom Come" was one wearily remembered.

Jay-Z released his 10th album, "American Gangster," on Nov. 6, 2007. After he had watched the film, Jay-Z was inspired to do

his own spin that depicts the life of a street hustler.

Jay-Z stated that this is not a copy but a coalition to the film. He believes that this was one of the greatest movies he saw that portrayed such a high intense powerful black man "Frank Lucas," played by actor Denzel Washington.

"American Gangster" does not have a happy-go-lucky feeling to it like some of Jay-Z's earlier work, such as "Big Pimpin'" or "Girls, Girls, Girls."

This CD, if it did anything for Jay-Z, it showed that he was relaxed and didn't care about impressing anyone.

With the lyrics about the streets to lingo he used to talk about when he was a kingpin in the dope world, using words like "China white, Black Rain and 9 ½ weeks." This showed that even if his songs were flops, they still had real meaning behind them.

This CD consisted of 15 tracks and less than half were up to par. The song "Party Life" definitely was not Jay-Z's best.

The background music stuck out more to the listener than the lyrics that were produced by Jay-Z.

The way Jay-Z pronounced the words in "Party Life" made it a hard listener, especially by the way he dragged the pronunciation.

The featured artists on this CD made it seem like Jay-Z was performing on their songs. Jay-Z slipped trying to catch his verses up to Nas and Lil Wayne.

The only songs that did something for the true music fans were "Fallen" and "Pray" which both had help from the voices of Beyonce and Bilal.

"American Gangster" had a lot to live up to if you have seen the movie. Not to knock Jay-Z further down than he is, but this CD could have been more successful if the lyrics went to the beat, or if he would have stepped his game up.

The lyrical content was there, he just didn't deliver it with the rest of the package. Jay-Z should have stayed retired if he was just returning to the rap game to play.

## 'Ain't No Satisfaction' from latest Boyz II Men album

*Remade Motown hits waste '90s group's, time, talent*

Sara Olson  
Staff Writer

The harmonic sounds of Boyz II Men soulfully serenaded the '90s, earning the title of one of the most recognizable R&B groups in the world.

Now the boyz are back with their latest album, "Motown: A Journey Through Hitsville USA," released on Nov. 13.

The group was formed in 1988 and released its debut album, "Cooleyhighharmony" in 1991, setting a strong precedent for the caliber of music they would be releasing throughout the '90s.

With hits such as "Motownphilly" and "Yesterday," the group could do no wrong and received their first Grammy for the album.

Boyz II Men's second album "II" followed suit, providing more sappy love songs, such as "On Bended Knee" that listeners couldn't help but love.

The group continued to release albums throughout the '90s and into the new millennium, collaborating with fellow artists, including Mariah Carey and Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds.

Although their later albums could not come close to "Cooleyhighharmony" and "II," the talent never waned.

For this reason, their latest release "Motown: A Journey Through Hitsville USA" deserves at the least a chance, especially from loyal listeners who grew up with the group.

The new album features 13 songs that will send listeners down memory lane, tapping their feet and snapping their fingers to the famous Motown hits.

With remakes, including "Just My Imagination," "The Track of My Tears," "War," and "Ain't Nothing Like the Real Thing," the album contains songs that the majority of America will be able to recognize.

The group put its classic R&B spin on each song, adding smooth harmonies to every track, as they have become known to do.

However, the soulful twist on the songs is nothing new,

considering each track has been remade numerous times before. And, unfortunately, not even Boyz II Men can make these classic hits better.

Through the years, the group has proved that they can sing even "Happy Birthday" and sound good, but some classics just don't need to be remade.

In all honesty, these famous songs don't need Boyz II Men to make listeners fall in love with them all over again.

The one saving grace of the CD, however, is the final track – a newly recorded version of "End of the Road," produced by and featuring Brian McKnight.

The classic Boyz II Men hit, that was made famous by being played at the end of every high school dance in the '90s, reminds listeners again why they adored Boyz II Men.

With that final track, listeners almost will forget the first 12 songs of the CD, as they recollect their first awkward slow dance in the eighth grade.

Overall, only the diehard fans will appreciate this album, as they continue on their quest to own every Boyz II Men album

ever released.

With the newest release, Boyz II Men proves that maybe they

belong back in the '90s, where the group stole our hearts in the first place.

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# Behind the mic

The Current reporter, Sara Olson, sat down for an interview with former GRCC student, DJ No Name

DJ No Name, also known as Bob Green, is one of the voices of 107.7 The End radio station. No Name pursued his radio dreams by working for KGRG while attending GRCC.

**What's the story behind the alias, "DJ No Name?"**

I wish there was a good story. I was Bob Green when I was here at KGRG, and then when I started at The End part time, The End was far too cool, quote, unquote, to have a DJ named Bob. That was far too vanilla.

So, my other thought was MC Titanic, and they couldn't have an MC. The first time I was on the air, I was Buckwheat, but someone made fun of that. I didn't think I would do anything other than overnight, so DJ No Name was just our compromise.

If I had had any idea that I'd still be on the air, I would have selected more carefully.

**Why did you**

**become a radio DJ?**

I was just young, dumb, and lost. I was going to community college in Spokane, and I had a speech teacher who said, "You should ponder radio; it seems that you might have a knack for it."

That place didn't have a college radio station, so she kind of recommended KGRG from Spokane. It was one of those ideas that when I heard it, it just sounded right. I just went, "Okay, I'll do that."

**You considered other careers, but what made this one in particular stick?**

I don't know what else I could do. I can't build anything. I can't sell anything. But, I can try to tell funny jokes and try to make people smile on the radio. I can do that. It just worked. I was lucky.

**What is your favorite part of being a radio DJ?**

Honestly, it's the artist

interviews. It's having the chance to talk to people who are really smart and really passionate about what they do.

**Who would be your dream interview?**

David Letterman, because A) He doesn't do many interviews; and B) Creatively, in terms of putting a show together and being kind of weird, he's my hero. Also, he's kind of two different guys.

On air, he's one guy, and he's very good at that. But when he's not doing his TV show, he's very awkward and shy about it, almost embarrassed about it, and I get that. I found being on the radio very weird, and going to places where people know you very weird.

**What was your favorite part about attending Green River?**

KGRG. All my other classes - I just could have cared less about Philosophy 120 and Astronomy. I just didn't take it seriously. Once I got on the air, it didn't matter, because you don't need a degree to get a job on the radio. You just need a good tape that proves you can do it. Nothing else mattered once I found that.

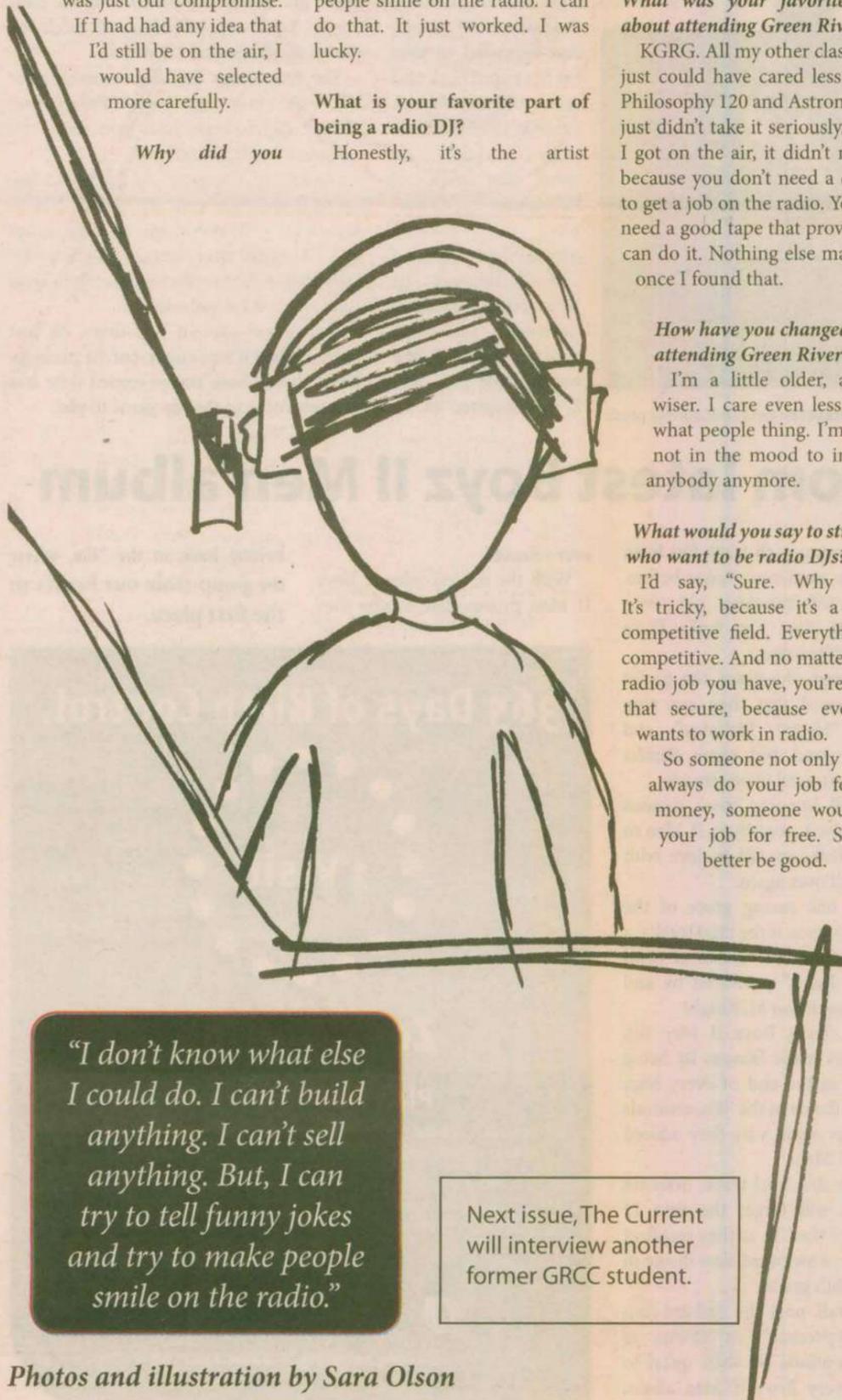
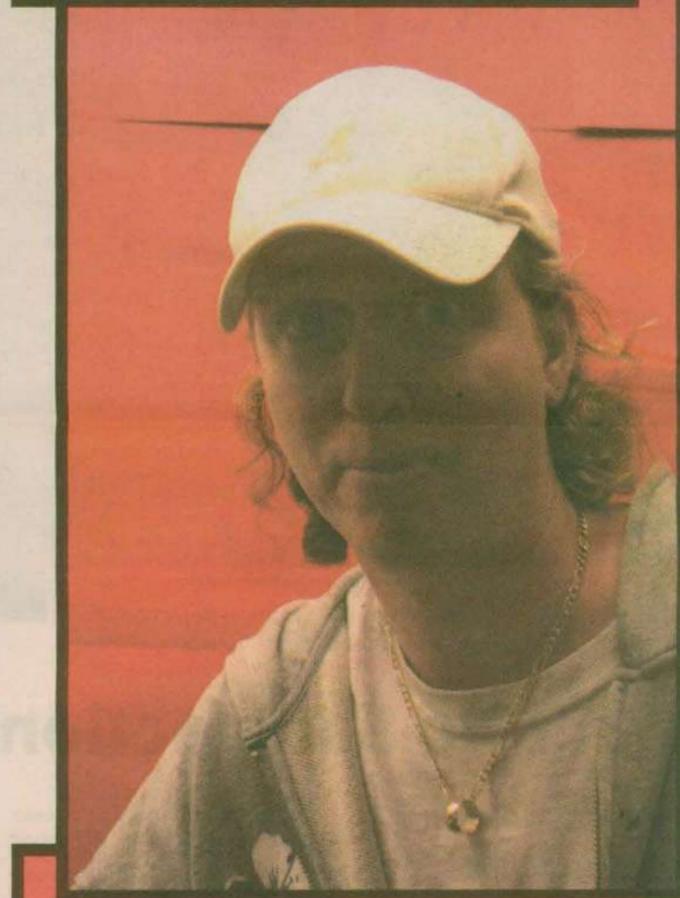
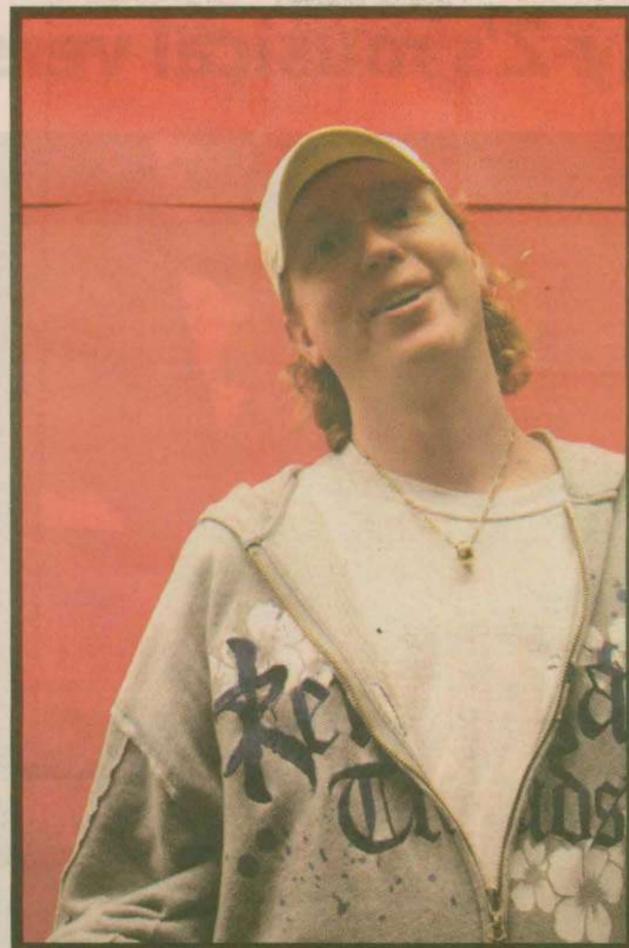
**How have you changed since attending Green River?**

I'm a little older, a little wiser. I care even less about what people think. I'm really not in the mood to impress anybody anymore.

**What would you say to students who want to be radio DJs?**

I'd say, "Sure. Why not?" It's tricky, because it's a super competitive field. Everything is competitive. And no matter what radio job you have, you're never that secure, because everyone wants to work in radio.

So someone not only would always do your job for less money, someone would do your job for free. So you better be good.



"I don't know what else I could do. I can't build anything. I can't sell anything. But, I can try to tell funny jokes and try to make people smile on the radio."

Next issue, The Current will interview another former GRCC student.

Photos and illustration by Sara Olson