

THE CURRENT

April 16, 2010 | Volume 44 | Issue 9 | Green River Community College | thecurrentonline.net | Free | Additional Copies 25 ¢



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Getting to know you: Bob van Toldedo

By: Ted Hanrahan

Bob van Toledo is a foreign exchange student from Holland studying here at Green River. Bob started at Green River Community College (GRCC) in Fall 09' and is now on his third quarter at the school.

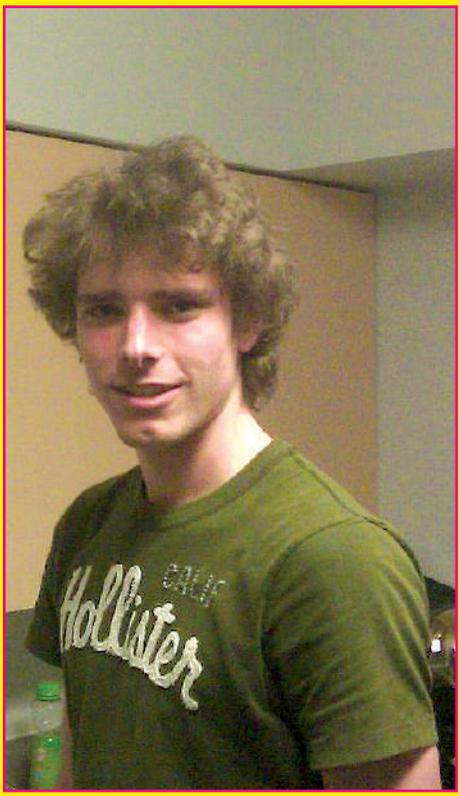
"I studied in New York for a few months a few years ago, and really liked it," explained Toledo, who decided to come to Auburn and GRCC from his home country of Holland last year. "Nothing in Holland was out like I had hoped so I decided to come here to study for awhile," he shared.

After he finishes at Green River, Toledo has big aspiration. Once he has his degree Toledo says "I'd like to go to some other countries." "Maybe I will get a job in another country so I can see some other cultures," continued Toledo about his traveling. "I would like to go see some Asian countries like China and Thailand." He also expressed interests in seeing countries like Brazil and Columbia in South America. "I would also like to go to school and study back in Holland" he concluded.

"I really like it a lot!" exclaimed Toledo about his time here at Green River. Toledo is a business major but enjoys many kinds of classes. "I really like my weight training class," said Bob, who went on to say that the teacher of the class, Mr. Jackson, was one of his favorites. Toledo's first quarter at the school wasn't his favorite but he attributes that to missing orientation in the first week he was here. "After that first quarter I've had a lot of fun and met a lot of great people," he continued.

For fun Toledo is like any American student in college. Outside of school bob likes the same activates as anyone; "I really like going to the cinema" he said. Toledo also likes going to malls like South Center and the Supermall. "I also enjoy visiting Seattle" he continued. "I also like to party some on the weekends" Toledo added with a smirk.

Toledo, one of the many foreign exchange students who study at GRCC, is a popular guy here as well. He also calls CCA, the colleges on campus housing, his home.



Bob van Toledo smiles for the camera at CCA. **Ryan West** The Current

South Asian Cricket Club gears up for a great year

By: Steven Morales

Green River Community College's (GRCC) South Asian Cricket Club will be enjoying their second year around. They have been preparing vigorously for the upcoming T20 Cricket League competition where they will be facing teams from Microsoft, Boeing, the Seattle Explorers and more. This year they are highly motivated and ready to go all out.

The year before was a rough start, with the team going up against players with years of experience and being somewhat of an underdog. This year the team has had time getting prepared before the tournament begins and are determined to win.

The team will have their first match on April 17 against the Microsoft Slashers, and the very next day they will be facing the Seattle Explorers in for the second match. The team's dedication and heart will be put to the test this upcoming season.

The South Asian Cricket Team was founded in 2009 by Ankit Panchal and Barry Banister, coach and advisor. Banister, who is Australian, was a major influence in the start of the GRCC team because cricket is one of the most popular sports in the world.

In India and Australia kids at the age of 5 start learning to play cricket. It's their national sport much like football and baseball in America.

Cricket is similar to the American pastime but has been known to be more difficult by some.



The 2008-2009 South Asian Cricket Club striking a pose after a long, tough practice.

Justin Runquist The Current

Club President, Mominah Khan, encourages and would love to play with American players. The team is mostly South Asian but anyone from anywhere is more than welcome to join. According to the Vice President, Nitish Duggal, cricket is "equal to the joy of baseball. Anyone from any country can join it's not about the name South Asia anyone can join us."

He is thinking of even changing the name South Asian Cricket Club to encourage anyone from anywhere to join.

Anyone interested is highly encouraged to attend meetings or practice to get a feel of the

atmosphere and learn how to play.

The team has a meeting every Tuesday at noon in TC 214.

Practice is in the gym 4-6 p.m. Friday, Saturday from 10-4 p.m.

The teams score card and schedule can be found on Northwest Cricket league (nwcl.org)

Anyone interested can also find the fan page on face book.com under the South Asian Cricket Club.

The club is a great and fun way for students from any country to get together learn about their cultures and play together as a team.

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April fools no joke to campus

By: Ryan West & Lindsey Williams

April Fools is a long-standing American tradition, and Green River administrators were in full swing this year. The communitator, an email sent to faculty and staff, showed a news update claiming that a parking garage was approved, and even our own staff was fooled, sending a reporter to get the scoop the very next day.

Fred Creek, director of campus safety, has hopes that this stunt will continue to keep the parking concerns on everyone's mind, eventually creating a solution to the ever-growing problem. While Pacific Raceways has had record numbers this quarter, parking is still a major headache for students who prefer to sleep in rather than take a 7 a.m. class just to get the

best spot.

While building a parking garage is not actually in the construction plans, it's very likely that in the next few years, it will be. With GRCC having higher enrollment every quarter, some long term solution needs to be found that will allow our campus to stay green and environmentally friendly while having enough room for all 10,000 of us students.

While the parking garage stunt was the most widely believed, several other pranks were played across Green River's campus by both faculty and students alike. For those unlucky enough to be pranked and looking for revenge, there are several websites available. Simply type in "April Fools" in any search engine and surf away.



A shot of Campus Safety's car that patrols around Green River Campus.

Jeremy Boyungs The Current

Foundation scholarship now accepting applicants

By: Mary Dusek

The Foundation Scholarships offered here at Green River Community College are opportunities for almost all students to earn extra funding for their next year of college.

For the 2009-2010 academic year, 163 students were awarded Foundation Scholarship Awards. These awards vary from \$500 to over \$3,000, averaging at about \$1,400. The scholarships are split up into five categories, including merit-based, need-based, program-based, single parent-based, and transfer.

There is only one transfer scholarship, and the student who receives it must be attending a 4-year college in the state of Washington in the fall. However, the 4 other categories are open to students who will be attending the college next year, and those scholarships are to be used on tuition, fees, textbooks and other necessary supplies.

During the first week of April, there are assistance meetings to help students with their applications and the 1-2 page writing supplement include on the forms. These meetings are daily from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. in the Rainier room as well as from 3pm-4pm in the Adams Room

in the Lindbloom Student Center.

After those workshops, any assistance needed must be brought to the Writing Center in the Rutkowski Learning Center(RLC).

The application must also include at least one letter of recommendation, with a maximum of three, from teachers, counselors, or any other academic sources – not spouses or family members. Transcripts from other colleges and/or high schools must be turned in as well. However, unofficial and photocopies are accepted.

A printable form of the application can be found on the GRCC website, or copies can be attained in the Financial Aid Office in the Lindbloom Student Center. The Green River Foundation began in 1975 with the mission to have resources in

place to accomplish GRCC's excellence in education. The Foundation is a nonprofit organization overseen by a Board of Directors, which is made up of 22 individuals from the community and three staff members.

The Foundation Scholarships are ready to be awarded to over 150 students this spring, and all students have to do is apply. But the deadline is getting close! Make sure to turn in the completed scholarship forms to the Financial Aid Office by 4 p.m. on April 30.



Jeremy Boyungs The Current

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Study in Japan for enlightening enrichments

By: Ted Hanrahan & Cindy (Sin) Park

Want to make an unforgettable memory in your life? For those with a desire for experiencing Asian culture, and open new career opportunities, Green River Community College (GRCC) gives students the chance to study abroad in Japan. This fall GRCC students will have an opportunity to be hosted by the Kanagawa Institute of Technology (KAIT) which is located in Atsugi, Japan, known as Japan's 'center of techno' where large companies such as Sony, Nissan, and Cannon are gathered.

The principle of this intense Japanese experience gives students the chance to be international students, focusing on becoming more diverse and achieve higher levels through learning not only the language but also about Japa-

nese culture and controversial social issues.

In addition to this, students are permitted to work 28 hours a week and 8 hours a day during the long school holiday. Many American transfer students can easily get a part-time job as an English teacher at the elementary schools in Kanagawa. Also, the institute has been providing an "inter-support system" which helps the international student in finding such part-time work.

Information on the program can be found by contacting Cindy Card, the GRCC study abroad coordinator, by phone or email:

(253) 833-9111, extension 2160
ccard@greenriver.edu

Or by logging on to the study abroad program's website: greenriver.edu/StudyAbroad/information.shtm

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A letter from the editor-in-chief

Well, Green River, here we are again. Back for our final quarter this year. Excited? Sad? Maybe a little of both. This is my last quarter as Editor-in-Chief and I do admit that while part of me is sad to move on, I am also excited to see where this newspaper is going. It has big plans, you can count on that.

In the big picture I, along with John Knowlton and next year's staff, would like to see our web site updated almost daily with new information and slowing transition into the online world.

If you examine our pictures on page two, you will notice that there is a new face. Mary Dusek is joining us this quarter as the new news editor (puny, I know). Remco is still on staff, but as a managing editor for the print edition. Lindsey is also a managing editor, but for the website.

My hopes this quarter for The Current is to bring up more challenging topics for students and even staff. We are not out to get anyone personally, so please get that idea out of your head. We, as a newspaper, are here to report and challenge what we see. That is what we do, we are journalists. Sometimes we will do great, and sometimes we will fail.

We makes mistakes. It's human nature. We all do it. So, why don't people let us know when we do?

It has come to my attention, more than once I might add, that there have been some mistakes in The Current. Anywhere from typos to people being miss understood in quotes. I cannot begin to even stress how we need to now about these things. We are all human, which means we do make mistakes. But, we cannot learn from them if no one brings them to our attention. And no, I'm not talking about telling so and so and then they will tell so and so and then it turns into a game of telephone; I'm talking about telling us, The Current, directly.

It seems like such an easy task, to let someone know that they messed up; but I know it has it's difficulties. It's really hard having your work judged by many people and can sometimes be a little uncomfortable. But, isn't that what writing is all about? Not pleasing other people, but taking constructive criticism and make it better? One of my favorite teachers here on campus once told me that it is THE hardest thing when someone criticises your work after you spent hours on it; but in the end it really does help you as a writer.

So, I do beg you Green River, please let us know if we mess up. We do appreciate letters, phone calls, or even emails. We will never grow and expand if no one lets us know how we can change.

- Nicole Swapp

A letter from the OpEd Editor

Ah! it's the beginning of another quarter. And hurray for overly anticipated - that is to say, boring - introductions; we should all be used to them by now. Teachers never give us candy anymore. Oh, heil, Krispy Kreme! Not course syllabuses. You teachers out there need to step up your game.

Anyway, off the start, I think, for anyone who reads the OpEd section, there should be some explanation as to its intentions.

First, there is the "Letters to the Editor" section. This bit of the OpEd section is, as of late, non-existent. For those students, or staff, who feel like raising attention to something - say, a missed point that could've/should've been in an article - there is the option to send The Current an email (guidlines are in the Editorial Policy box). Whatever's sent will show up in the paper.

Second, there is the brand new "Rant & Rave" section. There, any student or staff member can email any random concern that pissed them off, like construction, or over-priced food, or over-priced textbooks - these are general examples (more information below).

Third, there is the Editorial section. To be clear, in this part of the Opinion/Editorial section of the newspaper, the opinion therein only represents those on the Editorial Board (a list at the bottom of page 5 in the black box).

And lastly, there are the actual articles. On this page you will find Tyler Kion, the next two pages there are commentaries by three of our new - beat? we're not sure yet - reporters: Josh Davidson, and Jordan Cowart. To be more precise in what their role is, they are commentators more so than actual reporters (see Josh's article on page six for more on that).

Tyler Kion, a slight excentric with musical taste, is our new OpEd columnist. As entitled on the page over, Tyler will be expecting nothing; no dissapointments there. He'll be throwing his "Temper Tantrums" - as will initially wanted to call it - ranting, as it were, for every paper on whatever bogging, frustrating political or casual thing that passes through his head.

- Stirling Radliff

GRCC in search of a new president, what's the big deal?

By: Tyler Kion

Green River Community College is at a huge loss since long-time President Rich Rutkowski is retiring after almost three decades of serving to Green River.

According to Mae Cubing, Green River's student body president, "This is a huge deal... [there] has been a lot of stability for the school as far as leadership and progress. Pretty much no one at [Green River] today has been through replacing the college president, because it hasn't happened in thirty-something years."

The Board of Trustees has appointed a presidential search committee and according to the presidential application web page they have "selected Gold Hill Associates to assist with the search for the college's fifth President."

The presidential profile is a written commitment or set of standards that GRCC expects from the new applicants for this position. "The process is long - we were barely able to fit it into one school year, so we'd have a new President by the end of this year. A committee of 15 members made of representatives from all populations on campus was formed to be involved in this process. Two of the committee members are students: Helen Lee, an international student, and myself," said Cubing.

The qualifications for being the president of Green River Community College are: A master's degree from an accredited institution is required, an earned doctorate is preferred; Senior-level administrative experience is required, experience at a comprehensive community college is preferred.

However, the standards that have been held are still high in regards to what the committee expects of the new president. There is a long list of values that meet exactly what should be asked for in a new College President. The successful candidate ought to, and will, bring:

An understanding of and a commitment to the mission of the comprehensive community college;

The ability to inspire all members of an institution to achieve its mission and values through instructional excellence, innovative programs and responsive services;

Decisive leadership experience based on collaborative relationships which empowers others;

Experience leading a diverse organization where differences are valued;

A strong entrepreneurial approach and demonstrated management experience in long-term strategic planning, resource development, and capital projects;

An understanding of international programs and their contributions and challenges;

An understanding of the synergy between a college and its non-profit foundation;

A leadership role in fostering partnerships with external constituencies;

Knowledge of and commitment to the collective bargaining process;

Evidence of effective leadership in establishing a positive institutional presence and image in the community;

Advocacy skills at the community, state, and national levels;

Excellent communication, public speaking and interpersonal skills;

Knowledge of and support for the implementation of technology in all areas of a college;

Experience working with a Board of Trustees.

"Right now, we have 50 applicants for the position," said Cubing. "We meet next Wednesday, April 14 to discuss all of them, and whittle them down. Then, with a couple candidates left, we will hold Candidate Forum events for students and faculty to meet and question them before one is chosen."

This is an exhausting process, but it is completely necessary to find a dedicated and lasting President like Rich Rutkowski.

Correction: In the March 5 issue of The Current in the Campus Life section, page 3, an article was printed titled "GRCC's new Multi-Cultural Business Student Association." It has come to our attention that there are mistakes in the article. The first mistake is in paragraph three. The club meets every other Friday at noon in SC-322 not RLC-133. In paragraph five, the name of Pat Carter, who is the co-adviser of the club, is spelled incorrectly. In paragraph nine, there is also a spelling error for bowling competition. Lastly, the president of the club was never mentioned in the article. His name is Frank (Shihao) Niu. He is the founder and president of MBSA. Also not mentioned is Brenda Bindschatel, an accounting teacher at GRCC and the club's adviser.

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. 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.

Theft policy: A person commits the offense of publication theft when he or she willfully or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over more than three copies of The Current that is distributed on campus [with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that edition of the publication]. A "publication" includes any periodical that is distributed on a complimentary or compensatory basis. In addition to the imposition of other campus disciplinary penalties, a person who violates this provision is responsible for compensating the publication for all reasonable costs incurred, including, where appropriate, the refund of advertising fees.

RANT & RAVE

• A section in "The Current" for any student to voice thier opinions. •

For more information contact Stirling Radliff at OpEd.Editor@mail.greenriver.edu or by phone (253) 833-9111 ext. 2375

Lack of recycling efforts at CCA leaves Green, dirty

By: Jordan Cowart

Green River seems to have a lot of recycling bins. They even have little doors on them, and they say "Recycling," maybe to make it more interesting to the ordinary recycler, but probably not.

How nice! My journey begins at the Campus Corner Apartments (CCA), where I live. A couple weeks ago I went to take out the trash. Being a high coordinated fantastic recycler, I separated my garbage; put some in a trash bags and the rest in a box.

When at the dumpster area, I realized that there was no recycling can. Paying for utilities, electric, water, and sewage, it's surprising that none of it was going towards recycling. I decided to take this and go talk to the CCA staff about it.

There, I met with Tiff Hayes, The Assistant Director of Community Development. According to Hayes, the reason that CCA doesn't have recycling is because there is no money. After hearing that, it made me wonder why the campus would have recycling bins and the apartments, right across the street, wouldn't. On top of that, recycling would save the country money from having to dig for more material. Statistics show that even recycling cans alone can save the country close to 1 billion dollars a year. Besides, starting from scratch to reproduce a product takes a lot of time and a lot of our natural resources.

When Hayes started working at CCA, her duties were to create a "Resident Council." The CCA Resident Council helps make changes possible and helps with certain issues by getting CCA

residents to give feedback about problems and concerns. A student in the Resident Council, back in the winter of 2009, Lorena Legisi, mentioned that recycling at CCA should be something to work towards.

Even though the topic was brought up to Resident Council members, it's now 2010 and they still don't have recycling. In order to get this show on the road the council had to get money. Where, you might ask? From IP (International Programs) and the Student Senate.

Once the CCA Resident Council had the money they were able to make it official. On Wednesday April, 21, at 6 p.m. there will be a recycling

party for residents and students.

For residents that decide to participate in recycling at CCA there will be issued recycle bins to take home. Once a week residents will put their recycle bin outside their door where campus staff will stop by to pick it up. So, yes! You won't even have to walk outside to throw it away.

Recycling is important! Recycling at CCA was obviously not Green River's first priority. It took all this time, after pulling teeth to finally make it happen. Let's hope that when Green River decides to make another facility they remember to put recycling bins inside.



A student who is forced to throw his bottle away in a garbage can due to lack of recycle cans at CCA.

Arie Chamberlain The Current

NOT FUNNY

Parking vultures are out to get every parking spot, be advised

By: Tyler Kion

A quarter of a tank of gas is more than enough to get me to Green River Community College (GRCC) from my house. But today that is all I had in my tank. Yes, it got me there, but I needed much more than that to find a parking spot. After an hour and a half of looking for a spot last Tuesday, I actually ran out of gas. I left this nightmare only for a moment to re-fuel for this aggravating event at the Circle K and even to possibly gain clarity and indifference from this abhorrent, dreadful situation, to come back to another grueling 20 minutes of searching for a spot.

Unfortunately, I fit into the large category of solo drivers looking for the few and limited spaces. The parking lot is very chaotic during the first few weeks of school and this is spring quarter meaning Green River has more students attending than at any other time of the year. But further, it is exasperated by the lack of awareness and courtesy from the other novice drivers. This is absolute anarchy! It is more than chaos; it is mammalian, barbaric, and outrageous, preposterous, primitive, and tempestuous! I guess you could call it a "mind-fuck."

I am a GRCC student, and I am a parking lot mind-fuck survivor. This is how to survive the parking mind-fuck:

Timing; you shall either be extremely early or else you must be there ten minutes prior to your class. Why? Early gives you priority, prepares you for the "mind-fuck," and allows you more opportunity to get a feel or a lay of the land. Does this guarantee a spot? No way. The other option is to be there exactly ten minutes before your class, no earlier, no later. There is a shift-over in parking spaces from the ten minutes to the hour let-out in classes, that if you "vulture" (Vulture: the term given to drivers who essentially park/perch in the aisle and demand the first available space in sight) you have a better chance at getting one.

Patience; this is a given right? Monks could not be prepared for the volumes of patience required to remain optimistic about a parking spot or to remain positive throughout their day. The almost-anonymity of the people protected by the shell of their cars allows people to elbow their way through this dog-eat-dog situation, enough to still take things personal. I would recommend good music, but I wouldn't want your favorite Zero 7 album to be emotionally connected with this traumatic experience.

Etiquette; either follow your laws and rules of driving consistently to try and remain civil, or throw it all out to try and survive, because that's what it comes down to is being on time to class. But please, for God's sake, be consistent.

According to John Ramsey, the Public Information Director for Green River Community College, there are about 9,457 credit students attending this quarter. This is a huge problem since there are only 2,500 parking spaces available on campus. This is worse than the Titanic! The situation is not supposed to be this chaotic since there are 4-5,000 plus spaces made available at the Pacific Raceway and highly convenient shuttles to take us back and forth, but only 858 students actually do this.

No expectations; no disappointments.

EDITORIALS

The Current Editorial Board is made up of the following journalists: Nicole Swapp, Remco Zwetsloot, Stirling Radliff, Jean-Pierre Garcia, and Ted Hanrahan.

Gator Grill might be pricy, so why do you still eat there?

Chartwell's provides food to students and faculty through the Gator Grill and caters to main events on campus.

Convenience is especially helpful when students might have difficulty with off-campus transportation. Gas and bus fares add up. Many however feel driven to look elsewhere, or complain about what's available with little care for the intended social atmosphere the lunchroom in the Lindbloom Student Center (LSC) is intended for.

Through all levels of public school the social baggage associated with who you dine with has been the norm. Chatting while getting a bite to eat makes sense in an area where common interests are found.

However, the major difference between socializing in say a high school setting, where everyone takes a lunch at the same time, is the varied times that students have classes, and time to get a bite to eat.

It is uncertain whether you'll eat with someone at one time without planning ahead. For many (like an editorial staff), scheduling conflicts get in the way of continuing discussion in-between classes. This informality and inconsistency among students make it a hard thing for The Gator Grill to attempt to anticipate busy times, which results in soggy or overly dry fries from the line when you enter at an off peak time.

Why though do students continue to enter

the same line instead of getting fresh produce for a quick snack?

There are alternatives, but do students want what they're used to? Students are familiar with cheaply produced, fast foods. While everyone would like to claim a healthy diet, it is difficult to enjoy or break from the traditionally less nutritious student diet. It's not like the bowl of fruit can be missed, the kitchen is small and a bit older due to the aged building it's housed in. Size and the age of the kitchen also limit the Gator Grill in what can be produced.

The time involved in material, clean up and service, availability/time is different due to location are also things that aren't as readily made public knowledge compared to the disapproval. Even if the scene isn't too social it's nice to be present when you do need it.

If there is something broken-how would Chartwell's know from current sales as students continue to line up each day purchasing even what is commonly disliked anyway? The Gator Grill is not just convenient it responds to purchases made. New soups and recipes are wheeled out and what sells stays and what doesn't is scrapped.

Chartwell's strives to be cost competitive in the market, while connecting with students. However through market price analysis it's hard to compare. Fast food giants are not in the same market as community college. Business is good for Chartwell's at Green River because

vendor competition is small. There aren't a lot of companies interested in community college eateries. Chartwell's is also contracted with Shoreline, Highline, and Big Bend Community Colleges.

If Conference services had managed to reel in a common fast food vendor, the menu would be limited to the server's specialty. Chartwell's allows a variety other than specialized menus. If contracted, a pizza vendor would only provide a pizza menu.

Another decent thing is the contract currently provides 5% sales, what students pay to the hands of conference services, which in turn help out students. Such terms are not as certain with another contract. Conference services enforce the Chartwell's contract and negotiates with Chartwell's on the school's behalf.

This is helpful for Conference services because they are self supported; no 522 funds, no general funds just self supported. 5% sales go to conference services. Students support conference services to support students.

The complaints are murmured but there is little rally to action, and little action can be done as far as feedback is concerned. The Gator Grill has evaluations but they aren't well known, really they are an independent contractor. The connection between our servers and our needs is Conference Services, if there is such discontent aside where do those voices go? They die in the halls if the people that need to hear about lack of quality.

Now is the time to let your voice be heard. Stand by what you disagree with. It doesn't help if everyone stands around assuming that everyone knows what's going on so what's the point of saying anything, administration needs to know. Speak up.

Green River students need to discover more than one political side

By: Josh Davidson

In the info-soaked media landscape of today, we humans are in a constant search for a simple set of political stances on hot topics. A popular solution is to ease over to the television and fixate onto one of the many self-proclaimed political experts spouting and sputtering completely rational rhetoric to a row of cameras. Sadly, they're probably wrong.

A quick sampling of the Green River stu-

dent body yielded a few of these shows. When asked what sort of political pundits she enjoys watching, Evann Hannon replied, "SNL Weekend Update, and Colbert sometimes. Jon Stewart rarely." Brett Mitchell, added, "Colbert Report. Occasional clips of the Daily Show."

I also watch the pundits, as do many Americans. The Glenn Beck show alone gathered 2,544,000 viewers on August 24, 2009. That's about 2% of the total voters in the 2008 elections, all of them following a single TV icon's

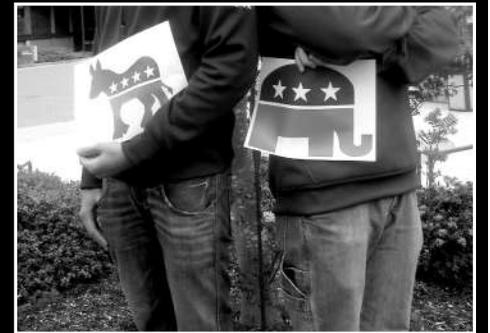
impassioned calls to action.

Many people choose to watch pundits they agree with. This self-imposed tunnel vision seems to be an ingrained and unconscious working of the human mind. An experiment done in the late 1960's by Timothy Brock and Joe Balloun illustrates this. Participants would listen to a recording of a speech talking about the link between smoking and cancer.

There was an annoying amount of static over the recording. A button was included, that when pressed removed the static and made the recording easier to understand. The results, predictable: Smokers kept the static more-so than non smokers. This experiment was applied to other beliefs and practices with the same effect.

I myself cringe when hearing an opposing viewpoint to my own, as do some other students. When asked if the pundits they watched aligned with their political views, some students agreed.

The grand fallacy inherent in this pundit/viewer system of information gathering is that the pundits are not immune to self-made neurological blinders. In the mid 1980s, Berkley psychologist Philip Tetlock studied the predictions of 284 people making their living, "commenting or offering advice on political and economic trends." Over 18 years he gathered 82,361 predictions on world issues. Tetlock usually gave only three possible answers, and on average, the "experts" were correct only 33



Arie Chamberlain The Current



Two students, Saquib Ahmed and Branden Sitzsimmons, battle it out over their political views.

Arie Chamberlain The Current

percent of the time. They did worse than random chance.

Some experts made good predictions. Those experts studied the most recent and relevant sources, not fixating on a single party's predictions or ideologies. Tetlock made the comparison of foxes and hedgehogs, the fox sly and careful, the hedgehog, quick to bury its head and bare its spikes when in danger.

A comment by student Mahmoud Hammad sums this up: "I don't consider myself a 'middle-of-the-road' kinda guy. I have certain political beliefs which I value strongly. And while one party may campaign for that belief, they also campaign off ideas I strongly oppose. I vote for whichever party fulfills my needs and values, as an American." If you find this article rings true, don't believe it right away, I'm just a pundit.

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News

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New health care law to take effect in 2014; GRCC will be affected

By: Eugene Turpay

The Healthcare Reform bill has been passed and signed into law by President Barack Obama.

Although the bill has been passed into law, it won't take effect immediately; "The most important thing Americans need to understand is that health care reform legislation is not a magic wand -- it doesn't change everything overnight," said Gary Lauer, chairman and CEO of eHealth, Inc. With an estimated cost of about \$940 billion over ten years, the plan's more significant and serious provisions won't take effect until 2014.

The bill expands coverage to 32 million Americans who are currently uninsured. The uninsured will be able to purchase insurance through the state with subsidies available for individuals and families with an income that's between 100-400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

In 2014, everyone will be required to purchase insurance or face a \$95 annual fine until 2016, when the fine will grow to \$695 or 2.5% of their annual income. With very few exceptions, such as having an income below the FPL, health care will cost at least some money.

As the bill will affect virtually everyone in 2011, the Federal government will be monitoring insurance company revenues. They will also be mandating insurance companies to refund premiums to its customers if the company does not spend 80% of premium dollars on clinical services and wellness activities. Insurance com-

panies will not be allowed to turn anyone away from benefits, especially those with pre-existing conditions. There are other provisions aimed at insurance companies, and it is clear the Obama administration aims to limit insurance companies' opportunities to abuse their powers and make Medicare more efficient.

Julie French from Health Services expects that "students will be much more concerned about their health, and there will be a greater awareness of health problems." When asked what students should do, she replied, "Students can take little steps to ensure better health by eating better and exercising." The Healthcare plan will generate a greater focus on health issues for students.

College students, who are predominantly young, tend to be indifferent to health issues, whether it's their own health or health care.

A study by the Centers for Disease Control in 2008 found that 18-24 year olds were the least likely to carry health insurance. A provision of the bill, which allows for students to remain on their parents' insurance plan until they're 26, will hopefully change that statistic.

Already running on the Health Services' website is a link for students' health insurance plans. Such resources mark an increasing effort to assist students with healthcare options, questions and needs.

The coming years will bring about an expansion of workforce in the medical field. With such prospect in mind, the number of students willing to pursue a medical profession is on the rise.



Arie Chamberlain/The Current

A sign for one of the many town hall meetings that are being held all across the nation to explain and answer questions about health care reform.

Health care presents students in consideration of vocational options a promising profession. When Paul Shemchuk, a student at GRCC, was

asked why he chose medical field, he responded assertively, "It's simple; I want a highly-guaranteed job."

Pell Grant funds at Green River to increase \$14 million

By: Evan Hicks

Students now have the opportunity to pay back their college loans easier and more efficiently. National banks have had control over student loans since 1972, when Pell grants were first created. Last Thursday, congress passed a bill that will allow colleges to receive their grant and loan money through the government.

Financial aid is given to students according to their living status, with their parents or on their own. The grant money is then accumulated according to the students Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) and what their personal budget is.

A percentage of the grant is calculated until a dollar amount is reached, which is called need based eligibility. Students may also choose to take

“We will most likely double our Pell grant amount because the population

work study or receive student loans.

Regardless, students may find that there are limits when it comes to how much money they can get from school grants. These restrictions are based on program requirements and the fact that there are not enough grants to go around.

With Pell grants, there is no limit to the amount that is given out because they are provided through the government. Mary Edington, Financial Aid Director at Green River, said that "we will most likely double our Pell grant amount because the population was higher this year." Edington predicts that last year's \$4 million will rise to a little over \$18 million.

The amount of family aid depends on the EFC. For instance, a family that makes \$60,000-\$70,000 a year is still eligible to receive financial aid. If the family has more than one child

attending college then that could affect their financial aid status substantially. If a family has two students enrolled in school then the EFC would be split in half, granting the students a higher percentage as being deemed eligible for financial aid.

Edington also stated, "Financial aid is contingent on completing course work and maintaining classes." Green River Community College can serve about 4,000 students with financial aid and about 9,500 have applied, approximately 3,000 more students than last year.

Students with financial aid get their grades checked at the end of each quarter in order to

ensure only deserving students get financial help from the college. Edington says "what we look for is attempted credits, completed credits, quarterly grade-point, and after mid-point." If students do not meet these standards they may be put on probation, or worse, termination status.

If a student is put on termination status it is because they did not complete the attempted credits, their quarterly GPA was 1.5 or lower, or because their mid-point cumulative was 2.0 or lower.

In this case, GRCC stops funding the students, but not before they give the student the opportunity to appeal. Students must make their appeal before the tenth business day of that quarter, or they will have to pay their own tuition. If the school still has not received tuition by the tenth business day, Green River reserves the right to remove that student from their classes. The reason is because it is a federal requirement paid by tax payers' dollars.

The fall quarter due date for financial aid was on April 15. However, applications for winter quarter 2011 are open until October 15.

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Student programs set \$330,000 boost in new 522 budget

By: Nicole Swapp

During the Finance Committee's final 522 budget meeting, a whopping \$1.4 million was distributed between clubs, organizations and events on campus for the academic year of 2010-2011.

The 522 budget is at a record high of \$1.4 million for next year. It is designed to provide all student clubs, activities, and departments money for things that can benefit students. The Finance Committee is in charge of dividing up the money given to Student Programs to all of these groups. Frank (Shihao) Niu, Finance Committee senator and committee chair, plays a big role in deciding where the money goes.

Before the budget is handed over to the finance committee, there is a student programs budget team made up of, Dani Chang, director of student life, Bob Kickner, athletic director; Mary Edington, director of financial aid; one staff member-at-large, this year Christine McMullin from TRIO; four students, one each from athletics, performing arts, recreation and programming; the ASGRCC Vice President; and of course the chair who is the ASGRCC President.

This team first and foremost balances out the 522 budget, then gives it to the finance committee as their recommendation for next year. Then it is in the finance committee's hand until the end.

"We have meetings first to decide where we want the money to go," he explained. This is the busiest time of the year for the Finance Committee. They have many meetings to discuss what and where they want the 522 budget money to

		2009/2010 Current Budget	2010/2011 Requested Budget	2010/2011 SPBT Recommended Budget	2010/2011 LBC Requested Budget
1					
2					
3	Employment Control-S.P.Work Grants				
4	1427 Athletics	5,256.00	5,256.00	5,256.00	5,256.00
5	1427 Baseball	1,350.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
6	1427 Basketball-Men's	1,350.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
7	1427 Basketball-Women's	1,350.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
8	1427 Men's Golf	450.00	900.00	900.00	900.00
9	1427 Women's Golf	450.00	900.00	900.00	900.00
10	1427 Women's Soccer	1,350.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
11	1427 Fastpitch	1,350.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
12	1427 Tennis-Men's	450.00	900.00	900.00	900.00
13	1427 Tennis-Women's	450.00	900.00	900.00	900.00

An excerpt from this year's 522 budget in which can be viewed online at thecurrentonline.net under Campus Life.

go. During the meetings, Niu, along with Chris Kruijs, Aera Shin, Anteil Brim, and Chris Lee, who are all members of the Finance Committee (Lee is Ex-Officio), take into consideration what programs and clubs requested, how much they got and spent last year, among other things.

"We make our decisions based on how the money can best benefit Green River students," said Niu. Once the preliminary decisions are made the Finance Committee holds two meetings with the full Senate to further discuss their decisions and to hold a vote on final approval for the budget.

The first meeting lasted one hour and 11 minutes, starting at 6:15 p.m. on February 25 in the Rainier Room and ending at 7:26.

An excel document containing information about the requested and spent funds of the previous year, what was requested this year, and what the Financial Committee recommended

was projected onto a screen and debated on line by line.

Lines (programs requesting money) on the sheet included a variety of Student Program events, the fitness center, welcome day, the forestry club, and the Lindbloom Student Center (LSC) remodel.

Each of these departments initially requested an amount from the Finance Committee, which then looked at the information and made their own recommendation.

Since the 522 budget gets its money from student fees, the record enrollment numbers GRCC had this year amounted to an increase of \$300,000, from \$1.1 million to \$1.4 million. This extra money is put into a separate area called the supplemental line. The purpose of this line is for departments to make a onetime request for an item they would not normally need in their regular budget. Almost \$200,000 was given out

this year through the supplemental line. One major request was from KGRG, GRCC's radio station, for the purchase of an HD tower totaling \$47,000.

The final budget meeting was held at 3:05 p.m. on March 2 and lasted for a grand total of two hours 46 minutes. Many requests were approved, some, however, received less and some even received more than they requested.

Departments that received less include S.P. Telephone (Student Programs telephones that are free for student use located in the library and student center). Initially asking for \$3,672, they were only granted \$3,172 in the final meeting. The decision was based on previous budgets, and the Finance Committee noticed that they were not spending the full amount given to them.

"We look at previous budgets [07-08, 08-09, 09-10] to decide if we are going to cut some [for the upcoming year]," commented Niu.

Other cuts include ASGRCC Executive (trips, conferences etc.) from \$5,500 to \$5,000, SOTA (Students Occupational Therapy Assistant) from their initial request of \$2,400 to \$1,500, and the CAP (Commencement Achievement Program) went from \$32,120 to \$25,000. That may seem like a big decrease, but most of them were picked up in the supplemental line.

One of the programs that got more money was Skills USA, who went from \$1,000 to \$1,690 so that the club could buy new uniforms with current logos for competitions.

On April 15 the Finance Committee presented will present 522 budget to the Board of Trustees for the final approval.

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Stay informed with campus safety on Twitter

By: Mary Dusek

Green River Community College's (GRCC) Campus Safety department has joined the over 6 million member of Twitter, the popular website used to "discover what's happening right now" according to their slogan. Campus Safety's username is conveniently called "GRCCSafety" and is easily found from the main Twitter page.

John Ramsey, director of public information, explained that "the original thought was to update followers as quickly as possible." Since they began posting back in March, they have 'tweeted' - the slang term for posts uploaded onto twitter - mainly about campus parking situations in the mornings. Ramsey mentioned that the purpose of Safety joining with Twitter was "not so much for parking lot information", but instead they would like to eventually use the website to inform students of "non-life threatening, quick bullets about campus safety issues." He continued, "we just haven't had anything else to send tweets about yet."

So far the twitter page has only 32 followers. Ramsey commented, "We realize that we're not going to have 1,000 followings just yet," but that he would like to see that change as students become more aware of the resource.

Students should not mix up the safety tweets with the e2Campus alerts. The e2Campus safety text message and email alert system is meant to quickly inform students of major emergencies as well as campus closures. "We don't want to confuse the two," Ramsey said.

Fred Creek, director of campus safety, said about the tweets, "we are looking for a better way to communicate with our constituents without having to resort to using our e2Campus Safety Alerts." Creek says that the twitter account will also be used to let students know about car thefts, accidents, parking, and other safety issues around the GRCC campus.

Some examples of tweets posted are "two rows still open in P15" (posted on April 2), and

other more detailed ones like "Remember, the only person who can always be looking out for your safety is you. Good awareness and good choices are your best defense." (posted on March 18).

John Ramsey understands that the parking updates may not be as helpful for those who cannot reach Twitter from a mobile device. However, for those who can access these parking tips, it is very practical to become a follower to avoid the stress that trying to find a parking spot in the morning before class brings.

<http://twitter.com/grccsafety>



Arie Chamberlain The Current

Branden Fitzsimmons, a student, checking the Safety Twitter on his phone

Student government - What they do and how they work

An overview of how your student government works and how they can assist you

By: Remco Zwetsloot

Not a lot of people on campus know much about student government, while they are definitely important to and serve the whole student body. They preside over the 522 budget, which is \$1.4 million, a budget paid for and used by students. In addition to that, they are the people students can go to when they have concerns about things that are happening on campus, have a suggestion that could benefit students, or feel like there is something that simply needs to be talked about.

For example, when there was an organization called LaRouche in the Lindbloom Student Center (LSC) that set up a booth comparing Obama to Hitler, a number of students went to student government with their concerns, after which they held meetings about the issue.

It is important that students know they can always voice their opinion, no matter how futile it may seem, to student government, because they are the ones that are being represented; "every student should feel free to walk in here," said Mae Cubing, president of student government, sitting at her desk in the student life office.

There are different types of positions in Student Government.

The President, currently Mae Cubing, updates the Board of Trustees in monthly meetings on what and how students are doing and events that are taking place. She is also in charge of the students that help decide the tenured faculty, as well as, influencing and contributing to the decisions the Student Government makes (she is, however, not allowed to vote).

Vice President, Mika Aoyama, is the presiding officer of the senate, which means she chairs the meetings, and will only be allowed to cast a vote if the Senate is equally divided.

The president and the vice president must maintain a GPA of 3.0 during their term (an academic year) and enroll in 12 credits per quarter.

Together with the chief justice (chairman of the judicial board committee), Cassius Butcher, they form the Executive Committee of ASGRCC (Associated Students of Green River Community College).

The Senate consists of four committees - by-laws, financial, public relations, and the judicial board committee - that all have a chairperson and three Senators that serve as voting members. Ex-officios, class officers appointed by the Executive Committee, can also be assigned to committees, but they are not voting members.

The Senate meets for an hour twice a week, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, in the

Rainier room (in the LSC) at noon. Generally, on Wednesdays the committees get together and discuss things pertaining to their particular committee. On Thursdays the Senate meets as a whole and votes on proposed laws or amendments and discussing other things put on their agenda.

The By-Law Committee:

The By-Laws Committee focuses on interpret-

the start of the year. It also makes sure clubs that represent Green River and get funding meet the requirements for that funding. In Spring quarter its biggest task is making sure that the paperwork for the spring elections is correct and to help out the candidates running for office.

Additionally, they deal with any judicial decisions student government has to make, such as prohibiting people from advertising in the LSC without permission or not.



The Student Senate in the Rainier Room (LSC) on April 8, discussing whether and how to make attending 3 Student Life events per quarter mandatory for Senators and Ex-officios.

ing, and possibly amending or scratching, the rules Student Government works by. In the By Laws and the ASGRCC Constitution, the two rulebooks, the jurisdiction of the Student Government, the guidelines on electing and appointing members, among other things, are laid out. Because there are two separate rulebooks they sometimes contradict each other, which is one of the big things the By-Law committee focuses on.

The Financial Committee:

The financial committee is in charge of the 522 budget. The money comes from student fees, revenue from activities organized by Student Programs, interest income, and contributions. The budget for the next year is \$1.4 million, and is spent on "enhancing the general educational experience and maximizing the success of every student by providing a meaningful variety of healthful, educational, cultural, recreational and social programs, activities, and services."

Things funded from the 522 budget include all the Green River sports teams, the Hawaii and Whistler trips student life has organized this year and all the clubs officially recognized by Green River.

The committee is also responsible for the development of the budget for the next year. Read more about the budget and the committee on page 8.

The Judicial Board:

The judicial board is responsible for clubs getting ratified, which takes up a lot of time at



Kerry Kralovic The Current

Mika Aoyama (left) with her gavel she uses to chair Senate meetings, and Mae Cubing (right), Vice President and President of Student Government.



Kerry Kralovic The Current

The PR committee. Left to right: Mary Becerra-Nunez (chairwoman), Nicolle Palacios, Missing:



Kerry Kralovic The Current

The By-Laws committee. Left to right: Nitish Duggal, Arius Derr, Matt Roark (chairman), Kristen Hannen, Anton Lindqvist, Ace Lewis.



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The Judicial Board. Hallie Pram and Stefan Martin. Missing: Cassius Butcher (Chief Justice)



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The Finance committee. Left to right: Chris Hoon, Chris Kruiis, Antei Brim, Frank Niu (chairman). Missing: Aera Shin.

Senate meeting times:
Wednesdays & Thursdays
12 to 12:50 p.m.
All meetings are held in the Rainier room (LSC) and are open to public

KEEP GREEN RIVER GREEN

GRCC contributes to Earth Day with 'Green Week'

By: Nicole Swapp

Out of all the holidays and events America has to offer, Earth Day is certainly included in the most important ones. Many people celebrate Earth Day in different ways, by planting trees or volunteering at a local park to help plant flowers for example. This year, Green River Community College (GRCC) spends a whole week to this holiday.

"Earth Day is an important day to remind Green River to care for our planet and to be respectful with throwing away trash and recycling," commented Paul Deleeuw, President of the Environmental Club at GRCC.

Deleeuw, along with Mae Cubing, President of ASGRCC, and Mika Aoyama, Vice President of ASGRCC, have a whole week of planned events for students and staff to participate in.

Deleeuw is very passionate about being involved in green week and wants other to be too. "Green River is doing green week because

it is a fun week of events that help protect the environment, and global warming is a very serious issue that must be acknowledged by students at GRCC," he added.

As many students already know, Green River is already considered a "Green" school. From the hundreds of trees that are planted here to the general concern this school has for the environment; it's no wonder that GRCC cares about Earth Day.

Deleeuw also explained that "in the past year we have recycled thousands of papers and cardboard. We have also switched to solar energy through Puget Sound Energy to be more efficient with how we use our computers and other things that cost a lot of energy."

Starting on Monday the 19th, there will be a number of events organised by ASGRCC and the Environmental Club. The Environmental Club will have booths out along with Power-Point presentations playing in the main dining area (MDA) of the Lindbloom Student Center

(LSC). "We will be showing interesting facts about global warming and then giving [students] tips and examples on how to help the environment at school and home," mentioned Deleeuw.

As an outcome of this event, the Environmental Club would like to see more students pitching in and keeping the Earth green. "We also want to see more recycling bins on campus and more solar panels that invest in clean energy," added Deleeuw.

He also stressed how important it is for students to care about the Earth and keep it clean. It is amazing at how much dirt and filth there is and just the littlest steps can really make a difference.

"Another way students can really get involved is joining the environmental club that has just started; meeting time is Monday at noon the Science Building (SC) room 238. Also by logging on to 'repoweramerica.org' and 'greenpeace.org' to become a member of

strong organizations that help protect animals from global warming and support a clean energy future," said Deleeuw.

Deleeuw doesn't want to just rest after Green Week. He would like many more events on campus that help support the environment. "I would like future events involving educational movie screenings at the Campus Corner Apartments (CCA) where we will bake food, a tree planting event, and a benefit concert on campus that helps support solutions to global warming and makes a fun musical experience," he said.

For more information about the Environmental Club or how to help get involved, students can contact Deleeuw at paul_recycle@comcast.net or by giving him a call at (206) 529-7009. "I hope you are already inspired to help solve global warming, one small step at a time. I look forward to seeing you at green week!" he added.

Monday



10:30 a.m.: Slideshow in the main dining area of the Lindbloom Student Center.
11 a.m.: Super secret surprise at the Technology Center.
Noon: More secret surprises in the Kennelly Commons.
1:00-1:30 p.m.: Movie talk at the Campus Corner Apartments.

Tuesday



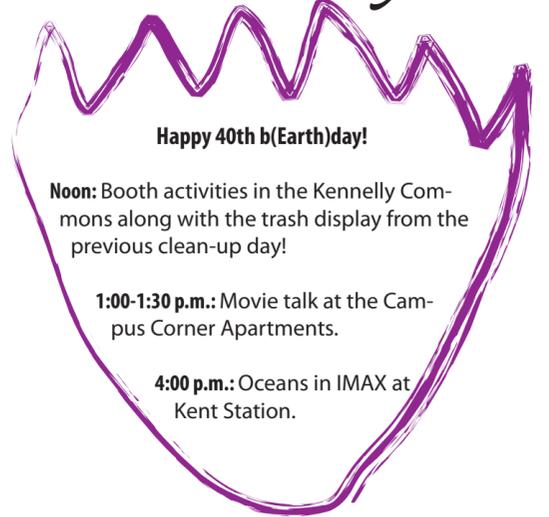
In service day,
no day classes

Wednesday



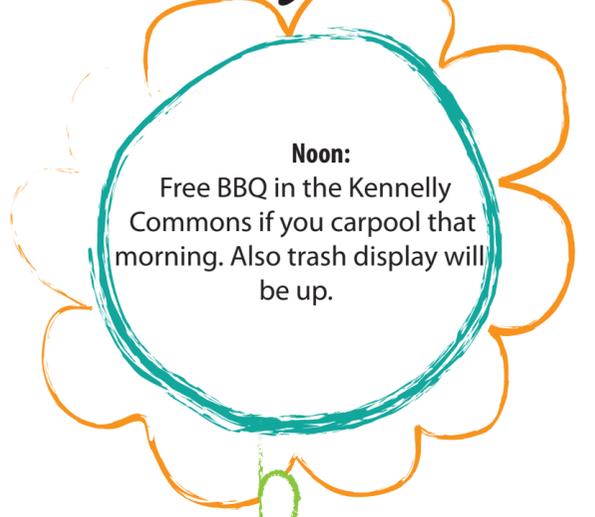
10:30 a.m.: Slideshow in the main dining area of the Lindbloom Student Center.
1:00-1:30 p.m.: Movie talk at the Campus Corner Apartments.
2:00 p.m.: Campus wide clean-up party.

Thursday

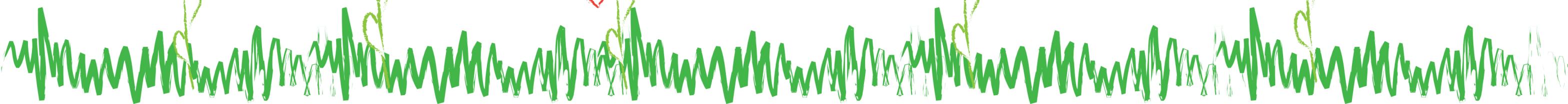


Happy 40th b(Earth)day!
Noon: Booth activities in the Kennelly Commons along with the trash display from the previous clean-up day!
1:00-1:30 p.m.: Movie talk at the Campus Corner Apartments.
4:00 p.m.: Oceans in IMAX at Kent Station.

Friday



Noon: Free BBQ in the Kennelly Commons if you carpool that morning. Also trash display will be up.



Teacher Spotlight: *Anita Behrbaum*

By: Bailey Jose & Samantha Shockley

Fitness is a part of life that helps keep society healthy, physically and mentally. As the years have progressed, Green River Community College has been a part of pushing the student and staff community towards a healthy lifestyle.

The people who have been great contributors to the wellness at GRCC are the Physical Fitness instructors. While, at 1:00pm, the Fitness Center and Weight Room are open, many people opt for a more instructional workout. That's where the teachers come into play...

The Fitness Center is whirring with treadmills and ellipticals in static motion as Anita Behrbaum, a Green River Physical Education teacher, oversees and undoubtedly feels right at home.

Behrbaum has been teaching at GRCC for the last 21 years and her classes include: Aerobic Walking, Volleyball, Badminton, Weight Training, Exercise and Nutrition, Total Physical Fitness, and a class that is only taught twice a year called Group Dynamic Course.

While she was active in her younger years, Behrbaum started to become more involved in hard physical activities during her freshman year of college where she participated in track and field. Although

it might not have crossed student minds, Behrbaum didn't go directly into Physical Education.

While attending Seattle Pacific University, Anita Behrbaum, received her B.A. in English. She says that she has a technical degree, "not for creative writing, I wish, but yes, for technical writing." She then went on to Pacific Lutheran University where she mastered in Physical Education.

In her weight training class, Behrbaum is a prime role model; anything she has her students do, she can do, demonstrating her strength as a teacher, and as a Physical Fitness Instructor. She is more than happy to join in on dip contests and pull ups when someone challenges.

Another part of her weight training class consists of nutrition and scientific reactions to the body during and after physical conditioning and aerobics.

She says that the "college experience in P.E. is different than you think."

While High School P.E. classes have been known to let students slip through the class and pass with minimal effort, in Behrbaum's classes students have to not only show proficiency in the fitness sense, but also in the written sense as well.

In most Green River P.E. classes that students can receive 2 or more credits, there are quizzes given to allow the student to show that not only can they lift weights, and use exercise machinery, they can also understand what muscles are



Anite Behrbaum enjoying her workout in the fitness center on campus.

Bailey Jo Josie The Current

being used and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Being physically fit is important in any environment because of the effect it has on a persons' body and health. The physical fitness

teachers, among them Anita Behrbaum, are helping improve GRCC's health and physical wellness by providing the means and lessons anyone needs to stay fit.

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Another side of cancer

Relay for life literally brings new life to cancer victims

By: Kristina Gwinn

When people think of cancer, most think of hospitals, tests, chemotherapy and the struggle to survive. But there is another side to cancer, the fight to find a cure. Relay for Life is a volunteer run organization that hosts fundraisers for cancer research, education, advocacy and services.

This particular Relay for Life event is a race - but it's not a race against another team, it's a race against a disease and a celebration of cancer survivors. Relay for Life is an overnight event used to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

People gather at schools, parks, and fairgrounds to walk and run against cancer. Each person is on a team and through the 24-hour event, each team is encouraged to have at least one person on the track at all times. This life altering event was started locally in Tacoma by a Dr. Gordy Klatt and is still celebrated and joined by many to raise money for cancer research.

Mominah Khan, a Green River Student, and many others involved with Colleges Against Cancer, a nationwide collaboration of college students, faculty, and staff dedicated to eliminating cancer, are excited to join this relay against cancer on May 14th and 15th.

Green River's chapter of Colleges Against Cancer was started by Chris Bradley, who has survived brain cancer and is a student here on campus.

In conjunction with Relay for Life, Colleges Against Cancer is hosting a fundraiser at Auburn Memorial Stadium across from Auburn High School. They hope to raise approximately \$3,000 that will go to the research of all types of cancer. But they aren't the only ones raising

money for the relay; over 70 other teams are working towards their own goal as well.

Having survived cancer herself, Kahn is no stranger to the disease. Her brother is also currently battling colon cancer.

"Relay for Life is about all types of cancer," Kahn explains, "Not just the ones with a high death toll."

Regardless of whether or not you know someone who has cancer, is a survivor or a victim, it is important to show support.

While Relay for Life is very important in the fight against cancer, many other opportunities are out there just waiting to be accessed. "Every little bit helps," says Kahn, "even if you only donate a few dollars, it still makes a difference."

'Luminaria' are white paper bags that you can decorate in memory of cancer victims and survivors. They are available in the Zgolinski Welcome Center for a suggested donation of \$10.00. Ribbons will also be available for purchase in the Lindbloom Center in the coming weeks. Any donations can be taken to the Health Services office.

Cancer has wedged its way into the lives of many and left its mark on the world of today. Relay for Life wants to end the reign of sorrow and start fresh, making the world a happier, healthier place.

The theme for the Auburn relay this year is "More birthdays than you imagined." The idea behind it is that through the money they raise, they will help people have more birthdays and fewer days worrying about the next one.

Students and staff can sign up as a relay participant or make donations to Julie French in the Health Services office, Lindbloom Center, Room 227. To make a difference in someone's life, help in the fight against cancer.

The Relay will be held at Auburn Memorial Stadium across from Auburn High School, 800 4th Street NE, May 14 and 15

For more information visit <http://www.relayforlife.org/relay/> or www.cancer.org/
Or contact Mominah Khan at mkhan@greenriver.edu



Health and Counseling Services

Health services:

LC 227
(253) 833-9111 ext. 2430

8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Counseling services:

LC 231
(253) 833-9111 ext. 2460

8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday
and Tuesday
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday through Friday



The Counseling Services office is located at LC 231 and hosts three counselors.

Arie Chamberlain The Current

By: Brittany Bernard

College life is often filled with daunting tasks and to-do lists that never seem to have an end. With only so much time in a day, students can feel overwhelmed, having so many responsibilities to juggle. Don't fret; there are those who can offer help! With just a hop, skip, and a jump away, the Counseling and Health Services are located upstairs in the Lindbloom Student Center, waiting to hear the pitter patter of visitors.

"I have a back room for students who don't feel well, have a headache, need a band-aid or maybe just need a nap," says Health and Services Coordinator, Julie French. "I'm not a doctor or a nurse, and this isn't a clinic, [but] my focus is on total body health promotion."

French offers her time to connect with students who need someone to talk to about their issues, anything from money issues to relationship issues.

"They give you some methods that may help for your certain situation and provide multiple resources." Green River Student, Chris Bradley, explains.

Located right next door, the Counseling Center is very similar in its services and welcomes students with open arms. They provide a diverse staff, each able to connect differently with students.

Devon Klein, one of three counselors, believes that the biggest issues the students

and the center face are lack of awareness and misunderstood stigmas: "I think that a lot of students think that you have to have a severe problem to come talk to me, or that it makes you crazy but that's not the case," says Klein. "[Students] can come talk to me about anything. For any type of problem; no problem is too small or too silly."

Both the Counseling Center and the Health Services are free for students; all of the fees were paid for by the tuition prices. Because

time can be an issue for students, there is a self help website that can be accessed through the Green River website, under college resources. With this website students are able to privately assess certain problems, read about methods of help or research facilities that may be

able to help them further.

"I think it gets us out there and makes us known," says Klein about promoting their services over the internet.

On campus, flyers of upcoming workshops can be seen posted on building walls, bulletin boards and handed out in classes by teachers. Details of the workshops can be found in the new brochures and in the overviews given at the beginning of every quarter.

For those with an immediate need for the services, walk-ins at the Counselors office are Mondays through Fridays, with the exception of Wednesdays. Although both centers leave it up to the student to come and take a seat, the services and the tools to promote total well-being are available to all.

"No problem too small or too silly."
-Devon Klein

Editor's note: All events and people depicted on this page - unless given consent - are fictional. Locations might be real but are representative of author's point. The opinions, descriptions, and stories are not meant to offend, but rather, to entertain and occasionally exaggerate controversial issues. In addition, all opinions are those of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect those of The Current and its staff. If you are still offended, we encourage you to send a letter to the editor at thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary definition of satire:

1 : a literary work holding up human vices and follies to ridicule or scorn

2 : trenchant wit, irony, or sarcasm used to expose and discredit vice or folly

Marijuana legalized: class attendance rises to all-time "high"

New classes added to course catalogue and parking problems and . . . ya know what I mean?

By: Josh Robbins

In a landslide victory, Proposition I-1068 has passed, and in the state of Washington it is now legal to possess, cultivate, transport and use marijuana.

The measure passed last Tuesday after a petition with over 10,000 sloppily-scrawled signatures were submitted to Governor Christine Gregoire's office. This sent the quarter and students into an uncontrolled flurry of pro-activeness.

Since the proposition's conception, five new philosophy clubs have formed here at Green River Community College, a new horticulture class has been added and new film classes have been added (including This Will Blow Your Mind, Art 210; 3-D Movies and How Awesome They Are, Art 420; and A Skeptical Analysis of "Half-Baked," Art 215). In addition to this, classes have seen a rare reappearance of students who came for the first week of classes and were then never seen or heard from again.

One fine arts teacher, who wished to remain anonymous, was quoted saying, "I'm pretty sure half of these kids already dropped the class. I'm not totally sure what they're doing here or if they expect to get any credit. Most of them just sleep through the class anyway."

People you may have noticed returning to your classes include that guy who wore sunglasses inside, that girl who always sits behind you with her friend giggling slightly too loud and several other students who became lost trying to find their way out of the building.



A teacher attempting to teach a classroom full of students who are either high as a kite or on the lookout for snacks.

Kelli Wyatt The Current

As usual, parking has gotten increasingly lame with the influx of new and old students. A rapid incline of students found sleeping in their car was brought to the attention of administration, who reportedly told the source to "chill out." Students looking for parking spots in the morning should be wary of people who left their cars with their lights on, and students who

are unable to start their cars and leave.

After a staff meeting on Wednesday, many faculty members have been pushing for the school's name Green River Community College, to be changed to Green River Community College in attempts to promote higher education. Many teachers disagreed and thought it might undermine the legitimacy of the college. The is-

sue was resolved, however, when one professor claimed he had five on it, another seconded it and a third said he could get the swisher.

I sat down with a student who was a proponent for the petition. I had to convince him and we agreed that he would get a cheeseburger if he answered some questions.

Has school life been very different recently? "It's just like... You know that feeling you get when things are going really really great, and everybody seems like they're smiling?" Uhm, do you mean happy? "Yeah! Everyone has just been really happy, and I think we're all starting to figure out what it means to really be you." What it means to really be me? "Naw man, you know what I'm tryin' to say. Everyone is just... In the cafeteria... Doing what they do. The food is delicious, and everything is starting to come together."

I paused for a moment to allow him to finish taking another rip.

When I asked him what his first reaction was to hearing that marijuana was now legal, he stared into space for a moment and then looked at me with an expression of shock. "They legalized marijuana in Washington State? Why didn't I hear about this!?"

In unrelated news, the Gator Grill has seen record profits this quarter. They have made a statement explaining their plan to expand their content with new items such as peanut butter and jelly Big Macs, Cream Cheese and pop tart sandwiches, and a HUGE pizza.

Students have trouble making ends meet after one too many visits to the cafeteria

By: Jessi Cheney & Remco Zwetsloot

After reviewing newly published research it has become clear that there is a direct link between a high amount of Gator Grill visits and students being unable to afford tuition.

According to the numbers, that have yet to be released to the public, students who often go to the Gator Grill have trouble meeting their payment deadlines, and often end up in the Financial Aid circuit as a result.

Jackson Hobbs, a student who participated in the Student Tuition Easy Payment Plan (STEPP) program due to only being able to work two jobs to pay for college, said that, despite the outrageous prices for ridiculously small portions of food that didn't even taste good, he saw himself forced to go there every day.

"It is just the only way I can get through the day. There are no other ways to get food on campus, and a person just has to eat."

His usual menu consists of a ham & cheese croissant and a salad along with a drink, which costs over \$10 and barely fills the stomach of a grown man.

"I considered switching to items from the grill because they are a little cheaper, but gave up after I tried some of them," he added, explaining that the tasteless, greasy fries and the pesky little meat slices that are supposed to pass for hamburgers get rid of his appetite in a way not particularly desirable when it comes to food.

A few staff members advised students to bring their lunches with them from home so



The cafeteria, full of students trying to scrape together enough loose change to pay for the 'food'

Kelli Wyatt The Current

they wouldn't have to spend as much in the cafeteria.

"If you just bring a sandwich with you, you won't end up paying over \$10 a day for a lunch that most likely includes a soggy pizza bathing in grease with toppings that taste like they had to be thrown out in the previous century," offered Russell Fisher, a Financial Aid official, to one of the students applying for help.

Instead of following this obviously irrational advice, though, some students have taken the

commonly treaded, safe, and smart path - they put the fiscal responsibility they used to carry in the hands of others by petitioning Student Government and the Board of Trustees to limit the amount Chartwells, the company that owns the Gator Grill, can charge for the measly excuses for food they sell.

"I dream of the day that I don't have to pay \$3.49 for like half an ounce of chicken anymore," said one of the petitioners, Patricia Saxon, who couldn't afford to buy her books this quarter.

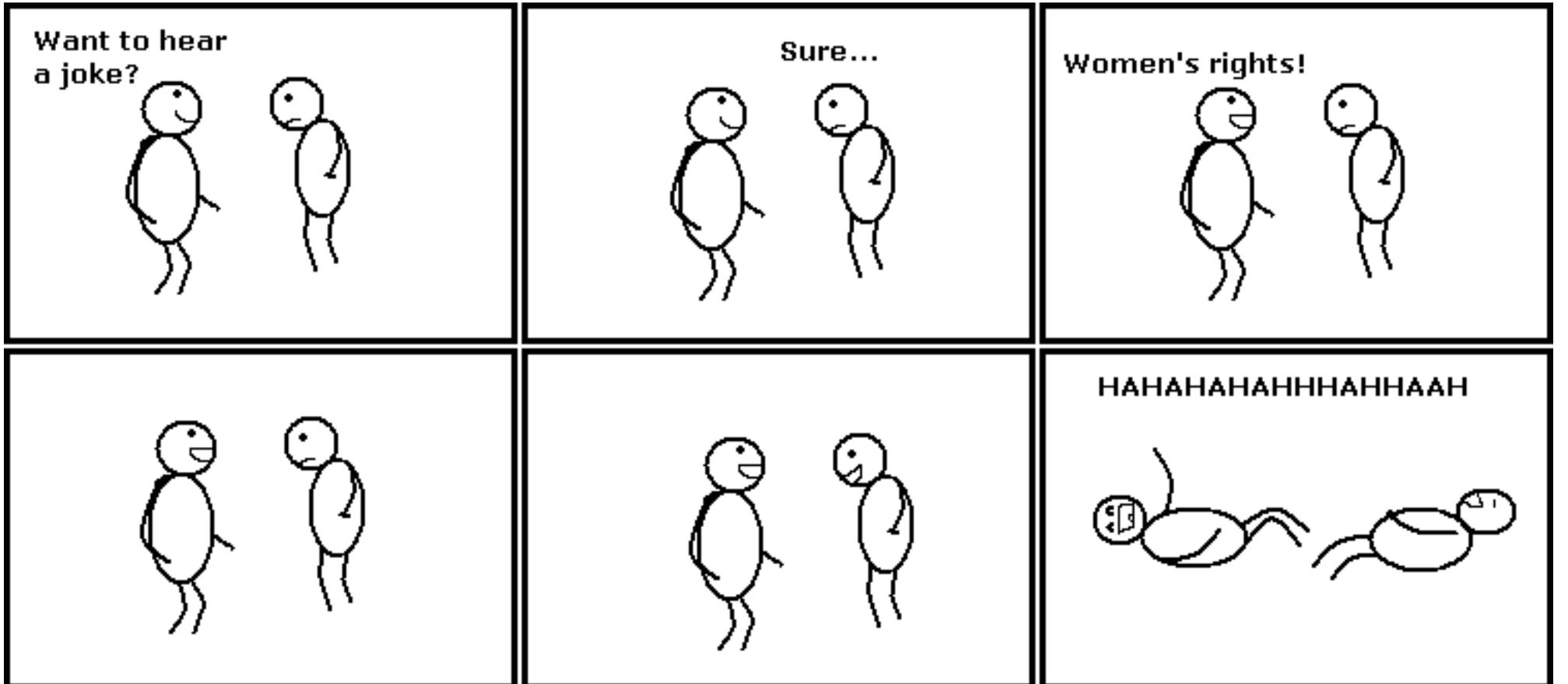


Kelli Wyatt The Current

By: Bailey Jo Josie



By: Remco Zwetsloot



Level: Challenging

		1	9	7				
	3				8	7		
						5		9
			2		7			
	5				9	3		
6							9	5
8						1	3	
2	6	3		1			4	
		9		8	2			

Level: Easy

6				3	9		1	7
		8	2	1			6	4
5	1							
	8	6						
2			7	8			3	1
		3	6	2		9	8	
		2	4		5		9	
3		9		6			5	
7				9		2		6

Sudoku

FOR ANSWERS VISIT
THECURRENTONLINE.NET

'Half Broken Horses' continues fearless, matter-of fact style

By: Bailey Josie

Jeanette Walls came under the radar in the world of literature a few years ago with her fearless memoir *The Glass Castle*. The memoir told of her wayfaring childhood with her three siblings and irrepressible parents, Rex and Rose Mary.

Book Review

In the book, she mentions briefly of her mother's mother, Lily Casey Smith, who was a frontier schoolteacher and an all-around tough old broad. She continued to mention how her mother always reminded her that Jeanette herself was just like Lily. Perhaps these similarities are what have inspired Walls' new book, *Half Broke Horses*.

Cited as a true-life novel, it tells the story of Lily Casey Smith in the most matter-of-fact first person narration since perhaps "The Catcher in the Rye"; which ultimately makes her story compelling and near impossible to put down.

We are first introduced to a young Lily as she

saves her younger siblings from a flash flood, hoisting them into a tree where they sat for almost two days. She is ten years old and it is not the first time she has faced peril. Lily has been breaking broncos since the tender age of six.

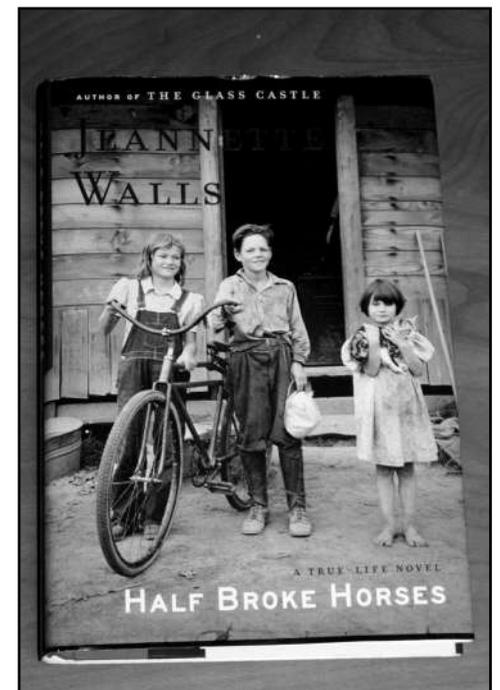
She grew up on a small ranch in Texas where her father trained carriage horses and taught his children to read, write and other educational protocol. The book continues as she travels five hundred miles on horseback to become a teacher, chronicles how she moves to Chicago to get a head start on her life and explains how she ends up marrying a man who already has a wife and kids (Lily of course not knowing), then divorcing said man and moving back West where she cites as her real home.

The remainder of the book sets the reader up (more notably those who have read *The Glass Castle*) for the things that are soon to come, one example is the birth of Lily's daughter, Rose Mary. Lily's midwife, Granny Combs considers herself a seer and looks into Rose Mary's future:

"She will have a long life and it will be eventful," Granny Combs said. "Will she be happy?" I asked. Granny Combs chewed her tobacco and studied the cards. "I see a wanderer."

Oh, how simply thrilling it is to be in on the joke, since anyone who has read Walls' earlier book know that Rose Mary's family travels across the country and in the whole of the first book, they only permanently lived in two places and those only lasted a year or so.

The book delves into how Rose Mary met her soon-to-be husband (and Lily's soon-to-be son-in-law). This scene is the most compelling part of the whole book. Rex Walls is one of the more complex characters readers have come across in recent years and how Walls manages to be completely objective to how she felt about her father while making her grandmother's opinion of him be completely subjective. Lily Casey Smith sees his faults and disapproves of some of his behavior but still accepts him as family; this is a righteous reminder that these fantastic characters are indeed real people and that things do not always work out evenly in the end. It's not like the movies where people have an issue with one another and work it out and everything's okay, and ultimately, that's why it is an excellent read; it is fearless and a real tell-all that anyone can enjoy.



Remco Zwetsloot The Current

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Q&A with student band Shattered Glass

By: Mary Preston

Student band Shattered Glass has found a way to balance school, and their musical education through combined creative exploration.

The band is comprised of three members: David Weaver (Bass guitar and vocals) Mark Robles (lead guitar and vocals) and Paul Deleew (drums). The opportunity to talk with a few members of the band shed light on a talented trio on campus.

Q: What brought Shattered Glass together?

SG: David wanted to learn more on the bass guitar so Mark went over to teach him and Paul came by later to play the drums and it just sort of happened. It was spontaneous.

Q: What genre of music do you guys play?

SG: Hard rock/metal/ punk. Our goal is to be one of those crossover bands where we can sound heavy or upbeat. We play a lot of songs in drop d and drop c, which is where most of the hard rock sound on guitars comes from. Mark and David scream together in a few of our songs.

Q: Where do you see the band headed?

SG: In the near future, writing songs, recording songs and doing a show with other bands. Spreading our music through Seattle. It depends on how much we practice and how devoted we are. If we're devoted, we have the potential to become a very popular band. Go on Warp Tour, headline for famous bands.

Q: What songs have you written so far?

SG: "Disease" and "Day by Day" (which are both heavy-metal songs) "Silhouette of Leaves" (which has a very unique, almost Hawaiian sound) "Hightop of Clowns", "Breathe", "Chain", "Music Keeps My Heart Alive" and "Dear Beloved, This is How I Paint My Roses Red". We're also planning on doing a cover song of "The Downfall of Us" by a Day to Remember.

Q: Do you have a way for other students to hear your music?

SG: We began recording our music about

two weeks ago, so we should have a way to spread our sound soon.

Q: What are your lyrics about?

SG: Experiences from the past and expressing anger through creativity. When we get the inspiration to write, we just write. Once we get a chorus, we build around it. We give it a title last, after the rest of the song is written.

Q: What makes you guys different from most other bands?

SG: Our sound. We don't want to sound like a strictly metal band. We want to have a crossover of punk and metal. Also, we put solos in our punk songs. Most other bands don't do that. And our goals. How we want people to see us. We're not playing to get famous, we just want to play for the experience and mostly to have fun. Our music is a team effort. We don't have a "leader" in the band. We all pull together to contribute to how our band presents itself.



Two new artists featured in Helen S. Smith gallery

What if the raven stole the sun? Myths and moth wings take flight in new display

By: Mariah Craven

This month, walking into the dimly lit Helen S. Smith Gallery, an immediate change in atmosphere feels like a quiet world of delicate and complex beauty.

This transformation is all thanks to the work of featured artists, Zack Kolden and Victor Rivet.

Between Rivet's breathtaking ceramic pieces, and Kolden's large captivating photographs of various moths, watch out for students busy picking their jaws up from the floor.

A selection of Victor Rivet's ceramics is displayed in a fascinating array of different fashions that are particularly eye-catching.

Looking at many of the pieces, it is plain to see what influenced Rivet. One example is the "Shaman, Hawk, and Trickster Totem" in which Rivet uses clay, cedar branches, and hair to bring three elaborate ceramic faces to life. These faces hang vertically on a piece of raw wood, much like a Native American totem pole.

Rivet explains in a statement about the series, that one influence to his work was mythic discussions with English professor Hank Galmish. He also bases his work on the question "What if...?"

"My exhibit is the result of stories and inspiration that surround us emotionally every day, just as the elements and temperatures surround us physically," Rivet states.

In "The Raven Steals the Sun", a sculpture of a raven's head with a yellow "sun" nested within its beak, represents an ancient Native American myth. The myth tells a story about a raven who once stole the sun and hung it in the sky.

The beauty of each of his works comes from careful detail and colors he uses to excite the visual senses. Many pieces have a colorful oil-like metallic effect.

Christopher Hernandez, a former ceramics student appreciates Rivet's hard work.

"That's why I'm so blown away by his work; you have to be really careful and quick when working with clay because it's very fragile when



Busts, figurines, tiles, and photos are part of the exhibit currently on display in the Helen S. Smith gallery.

Kerry Kralovic The Current

it comes out of the kiln. This work is amazing, so detail oriented."

In Rivet's "What if tiles series," there are five parts. The first three include four dazzling tiles each, while the last two parts have two tiles. The tiles are a combination of glass, clay and computer fragments used to color the glass, emitting different outcomes at different temperatures. While each tile is unique, many include a small figurine submerged either completely or partially in a pool of sparkling glass.

With these pieces are a number of diverse ceramics including, teapots with animal-like bodies, seven elaborate masks, and three busts, various vessels, tiles, and varying sized sculptures.

On the back and right walls of the gallery, it is hard to miss the enormous, yet elegant moths flying around. These 20x24 inch prints are the works of Zachary Kolden, who has been a lab assistant in the photography lab at GRCC for many years.

These five brilliant displays depict the flight patterns of various moths using different sources of light. A common theory when it comes to moths is that they use natural light as a way to

navigate in the night, but modern use of artificial light is believed to cause confusion. This association is present in Kolden's pieces.

"I use the moth and a light source to expose or capture the link between moth and light," Kolden elaborates.

"My work is exploring this relationship of the moth and its attraction to light through the process of creating photographs without the use of a camera," he continues.

In the appropriately entitled photograph, "Deathhead Hawk Moth," Kolden uses four prints arranged with each one placed gradually lower than the last to demonstrate the flying moth's descent.

In order to detail the moth's flight pattern, vibrant gold and greens of the Deathhead Hawk Moth's wings trails behind it as a blur.

This blur suggest its previous location through out the panels. Kolden did a splendid job of creating an exhibit that carefully took a common occurrence in nature and translating it into a series of majestic and visually stunning displays of grandeur.

The rising popularity of IMAX and 3D movies investigated

By: Neil Solano

In the past, strong acting and plot had a more significant impact on how the film fares in the box office. Lately, that's not the case.

Movies in theaters are selling twice as much thanks to 3D technology applied to film. This is becoming staggeringly evident with the smash-hit *Avatar* with its worldwide gross profit of \$1,858,866,889.

Every weekend GRCC students take a break from school and use their time to relax. They go to the theater not planning to watch the regular print of a movie; they just want the best 3D experience available.

This trend has captured many movie fans both in and outside of Green River. The AMC Theater located in Kent Station witnessed this powerful trend when they first got the 3D screen up and running. They broke all of their records for guest attendance with lines going from one end of the theater to the other.

Why is it that we, as a community, prefer the 3D experience over the regular prints?

Darleen Jara, Green River student and employee at AMC Theaters, explained why she thought they were more popular.

"Having the picture of a movie come out at

you makes you feel as if your really there," Jara said, "I can see by the people who show up at the theater that 3D impacts them more than regular print."

Apart from the digital 3D adventure and regular print there is another alternative format that is seen more and more in theaters that capture moviegoers everywhere.

IMAX continues to immerse audiences across the country.

"I wouldn't care if [the movie] was in 3D or not, if it's in IMAX I'll watch it" said GRCC student Diana G. Karr.

IMAX and 3D are the two trends very popular among students, but what happens when you mix the two?

IMAX 3D is a sure way to capture the student's attention during those weekend breaks and breeds more recurring fans. AMC Theaters recently raised the price for the IMAX 3D ticket and yet movie watchers still go and pack the auditorium not caring about price.

One thing is for sure, students are continually asking for more and more 3D. With many big hit movies such as *Iron Man 2* and *Robin Hood* to come out next month you can bet the 3D versions to sell out in the first week of their respective release.

Weekend of	Title	Highest Per-Screen Average
9-Apr	Date Night	\$9,144
2-Apr	Clash of the Titans	\$10,784
26-Mar	How to Train Your Dragon	\$16,212
19-Mar	Alice in Wonderland	\$8,032
12-Mar	Alice in Wonderland	\$16,822
5-Mar	Alice in Wonderland	\$16,822

Date Night was the first non-3D/IMAX movie to top the Box Office list in the past six week reign of the alternative tech format film. (imdb.com)

Weekend of	Title	Highest Total Gross	Box Office Rank
9-Apr	Alice in Wonderland	\$319,323,000	6
2-Apr	Alice in Wonderland	\$309,733,753	5
26-Mar	Alice in Wonderland	\$293,534,935	2
19-Mar	Avatar	\$736,907,957	8
12-Mar	Avatar	\$730,270,443	7
5-Mar	Avatar	\$730,270,443	7

Alice in Wonderland and *Avatar* are the highest total grossing films in the past six weeks. Both have the option of 3D/IMAX formats. (imdb.com)

Game Prose

By: Alexander Bevier

Pokémon seems to have become cool again. With the release of Pokémon Heart Gold and Soul Silver last month, anybody old enough to remember the franchise a decade ago is eagerly raising their pocket monsters once again. About a month before a Pokémon game is released, Pokefever tends to strike and weeks are spent preparing my team.

I found myself at Sakuracon over the first weekend of this month; Seattle's largest anime convention was filled to the brim with people wearing extravagant costumes of their favorite Japanese cartoon character. The convention, as a whole, is only worth attending if you want to come in costume. If attendees aren't wearing costumes inspired by characters from the land of the rising sun, they will stick out like a sore thumb. That is, unless you brought along a Pokewalker.

The Pokewalker is one part pedometer and one part virtual pet. It comes packaged with every copy of Pokémon Heart Gold and Soul Silver. Players can import a Pokémon from their DS copy of Pokémon, and gather experience points as they walk. Aside from experience, players also are able to catch other Pokémon and get extra items. Walking around with the Pokewalker serves as a nerd signal to the world that you are playing Pokémon.

Anime conventions served as a hub for Pokémon fandom. Amidst all the costumes that weren't recognizable by someone who hasn't watched anime in years, there was a strong Pokémon community at Sakuracon. Whenever the eyes of two people with Pokewalkers met, they knew exactly what to do. They would clip the small, pokeball shaped toy, point it at the other Pokewalker, and connect the two together using infrared sensors. The two Pokémon in each Pokewalker would meet each other and both players would receive an item as a gift.

This occurrence was the highlight of my Sakuracon weekend. My eyes would light up with boyish excitement when I saw someone else with a Pokewalker. It let me relive the glory days of seeing kids in a Pokémon t-shirt and asking immediately if they had their cards with them (they always did). It was always exciting to see what Pokémon another person decided to walk around the convention floors with.

Now that Sakuracon is several weeks over, my Pokewalker now sits beside my computer monitor. The initial hype of Pokémon Heart Gold and Soul Silver has been dulled down as students focus once again on academia. Almost no one is carrying a Pokewalker around Green River's campus. The boyish excitement of seeing someone who plays the same game I do has diminished.

This isn't a bad thing, however, a weekend is all that's needed to act the same way I may have a decade ago. Ultimately, school is more important than playing Pokémon. It was nice to be around a Pokémon community, though. Everybody carrying a

Pokewalker had something in common with each other. It's probably why people like sports. There's a consensual agreement that people in sports apparel are able to discuss their favorite sports team, and whatever may be going on in the world of sports.

March madness is ending around the same time Pokefever is being cured. There's probably a connection.

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Fastpitch team to regain momentum?

Lady Gators looking to get back to the form of the start of the season



Sarah King played for the Gator's fastpitch team last year.

The Current Archives

By: Curtis Rogers

After qualifying for the NWAACC tournament, the first time since 2005, the Lady Gators Fast Pitch Team has entered the 2010 season with heightened expectations of returning to the Promised Land at the season's end.

With a 3-0 start, it looked as if the Lady Gators were bloodthirsty as they dominated the opposition by giving up a total of only seven runs in the first three games. However, despite their hot start, they have sputtered to a 4-4 record as of April 6.

The inclement weather has somewhat stalled the team's momentum as seven games have been postponed due to the recent rain. In fact, there was a stretch of the season where the Lady Gators didn't play a game for 18 days. After the long layoff the Gators lost their first three games back including one at the hands of a team previously without wins, South Puget Sound.

Despite the recent struggles, hope remains high as the team sits in second place in NWAACC west standings with a long road ahead of them including a doubleheader on April 9 against the team ahead of them in the west, Centralia. With a sweep of Centralia the Lady Gators could gain the outright lead in the division.

During the early season, the Lady Gators have been led by sophomore pitcher Caitlyn Duggan. She currently leads the Lady Gators in

wins with two and she even got the victory in a one-hit shutout against Big Bend in the second game of the season.

Another key performer for the Gators has been the former SPSL player of the year, Pitcher/First Baseman Kayla Evans. Evans has been giving the Gators solid innings at the mound as well as leading the team in homeruns.

As the season reaches its midpoint, the Lady Gators have a key stretch of their schedule coming up as six of their postponed games will be played in a span of four days in mid April.

Of the six games, none of them will come against a team with a winning record and two of those games just so happen to be against one of the last place teams in the west in Grays Harbor. As the luck of the draw would have it, the Lady Gators will also play the other last place team, Pierce College, before these next six games.

With at least three very winnable games ahead of them, the Lady Gators know that they have a very real shot at a division crown. This key stretch could end up being a big factor in the playoff hopes of the team. With seven freshmen on the roster, they will be looking to show the toughness and fight of a veteran ball club.

With a run to the playoffs a very real possibility the Lady Gators will need solid support from their fans so be sure to catch a game and root them on as the regular season head towards the pennant race.

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Struggling baseball team comes together and performs

With just 21 players, coach Acker and his guys manage to stand strong at a second place in the league

By: Luke Goodgion

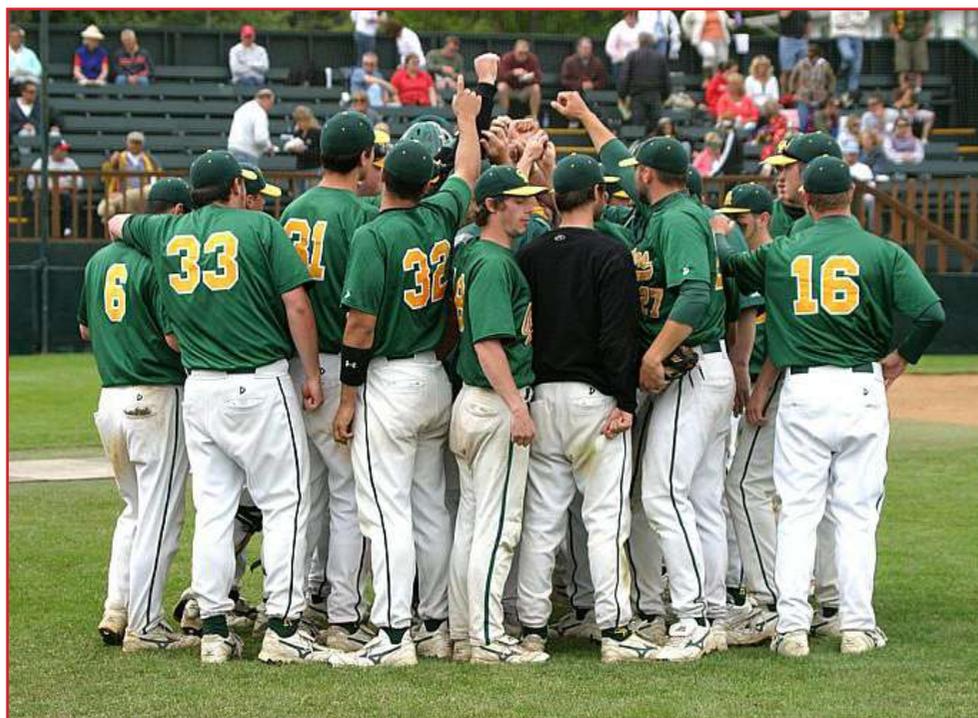
The Green River Baseball team started the offseason with a solid team with depth and talent in every position, but recently the roster has dropped from 40 to only 21 men. The Gator Baseball team came into the season with a talented veteran team with several key freshmen with hopes of making a huge threat to the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC). The lack of depth has made things very difficult on the team.

Despite the lack of success that was expected from what was supposed to be a powerful team, Coach Acker is ecstatic about the way the team is handling themselves. "We only have 21 players and can hardly suit up a team," he explained. "But through the problems we've faced this year, I couldn't be any happier with what we're doing." Acker knew it was going to be difficult to win with such a small roster and having absolutely no depth in the offense is nothing that he can control.

Injuries have posed a threat as well, and players have been playing positions they have never played before just to fill the field. "These guys are being asked to do things they never have had to do before," Acker stated. "We've had to play infielders, catchers, and pitchers in the outfield just to have a glove out there."

The team's chemistry has been phenomenal through all the strife they have faced. "They know that the only way they are going to win is as a team," the coach said. The Gators have had to adjust and re-adjust in every single game to whatever situation arises. "I'm so proud of them and the way they have handled themselves," Acker said. "This group is great and they are great ball players too."

The players have made extra efforts to reinforce their bonds knowing that having each other is the most powerful weapon of all. "We are on a winning tract now and that's because we have come together, backed each other and been supportive," David Macey, starting pitcher for the team, explained. "We have made adjust-



Green River's 2008-2009 baseball team bring it in for a group huddle during the game.

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ments at the right times when they are needed so that we can win games."

The Gators' defense has proved itself repetitively by allowing only ERA 1.3. Starting pitchers David Macey, Jake Shadle, Cody Hebner, and Damon Porter have shined. The bullpen led by Golden Glove winner Nathan O'Bryan have been equally successful in stepping onto the hill and getting the necessary outs to give their team the best chance to win.

However, the talent in the arms of the Gators staff is far from its peak. Shadle was a 36th round draft pick in the 2008 MLB amateur draft by the San Diego Padres but decided to polish his abilities here at Green River. Macey is another 90+ MPH pitcher who has the ability and drive to further his baseball career.

Coach Acker and his limited roster will be fighting harder than ever to earn this year. "I

know they can do it," Acker said, "our offense will come around when we need it." Having the bats necessary to win was not an issue before the season started but has proved an issue now. "Every player is playing all day and it is simply wearing them out," Acker explained.

Going 7-5 in the preseason, Green River has a lot of ground to make up to get to where they want to be at the end of the year. The Gators opened up the regular season strong, standing at 3-1 in league and 10-6 overall, putting them in second place. Lower Columbia, the natural baseball powerhouse in the West Conference, is leading the conference at an 18-1 overall record. Lower Columbia has been embarrassing their opponents with scores such as 31-3, 21-3, 15-1, and 19-6. The Gators won't be seeing the Red Devils until they head out there for a double header on April 24.

Athlete Spotlight: Jodi Owen

By: Ryan Cleland

Jodi Owen, one of the most talented tennis players at GRCC, is in her second year at the school on the girls tennis team. Owen has been an influential member of GRCC's tennis team since her first year on the team.

As a freshman, Owen won the Jack Johnson Memorial Award, an award recognizing great performance in the classroom and in their sport. She was also able to lead the Gators to a second place finish in the NWAACC championship, as the singles champion and a doubles runner up, against 5-time defending champion Bellevue.

Owen didn't just pick up on playing tennis all by herself. She had a little help along the way from a very special person in her life. This influential figure was her father, Cliff Owen.

Cliff started teaching Jodi to play tennis when she was 6 years old. It wasn't until many years later where she decided to take her game to the next level. Jodi started playing big time her freshmen year of high school, at Franklin Pierce in Tacoma, Washington. Although Owen has played tennis for 14 years, she never thought she would be able to reach

the college level to play.

Jodi, a sophomore, is in her final quarter at Green River. Next year Jodi will be attending Pacific Lutheran University (PLU), where she will be playing tennis again.

Although Owen was contacted by the University of Washington (UW) and Eastern Washington University (EWU) she decided to attend PLU. Owen played against the top two players at PLU already and ended up beating them. She said that she has no plans to take tennis to the pro level but just loves to play it for fun.

Waking up bright and early every day to go to tennis practice at 5:30 a.m. is no easy thing to do every day of the week and it can get hard and stressful at times, but Owen never gives up. She is a very hard worker who believes that success only comes from hard work, and she does just that.

In high school her coach taught her to never give up, chase down every ball and always keep fighting. Owen also says that the mental part of her game is by far the most important factor in how well she plays. Being focused on the court can pay off big if your opponent loses focus just even the least bit.



Honea's House

By: Andrew Honea

The NBA playoffs are almost here and without surprise, the Lebrons (Cleveland Cavaliers) are ahead of the pack. Lebron James, in the midst of a possible MVP campaign, has played a huge role in their success but I am going to jump off the band wagon on that one.

The Lakers have done a great job of staying just as competitive, with a reborn Kobe Bryant than you have to love now that he learned how to pass the ball. Obviously we could be looking at a Kobe-Lebron final, but will that truly decide who is better?

I have been saying it for months and I will say it in the face of any NBA fan on the planet earth. I CANNOT stand Lebron James. He was once a great young player, straight out of high school to the pros, with hopes of making it big.

Unfortunately, it seems as if he has made it to big because he has turned into the "Old Kobe" who in my opinion, very few true fans actually liked. He could obviously take just about any player in the NBA and destroy them on the court, but that isn't always enough. There is a reason that 5 men are on the court for a team at any given moment.

Kobe, especially since the arrival of Pau Gasol, has finally learned to pass the ball and the Lakers couldn't be much better now. Some would even call them the favorite for a 2nd straight NBA championship and I can honestly say that I would not be completely opposed to that idea.

Especially if it means Lebron James would be getting beat in the post season and denied another ring. No disrespect to James. He is obviously a very talented athlete. He performs on and off the court, and keeps a near spotless record in the streets as well. There is no doubt in my mind that Lebron will obtain his ring in time, and he will likely get more than one. My only hope is that he can learn the meaning of team work before he has the privilege of becoming a champion.

Kevin Durant is another phenomenal player, and in his third year in the league, he has already led his Oklahoma City Thunder to the playoffs for the first time ever. His performance every game is breathe taking to fans around the country but hopefully he doesn't get Lebron syndrome, and he can transition straight into "Kobe 2.0" play.

The 2010 NBA playoffs should prove to be a great experience. The old swagger of the obvious candidates combined with first time contenders, specifically the Thunder, will make for a great end to the season (a lot of Seattle fans must be pissed).

But obviously, I have to be bias, and support the Atlanta Hawks, who are in the playoffs for the third straight year since what seemed like a fifty year play off drought. Although they are not likely to make it to the finals, 2010 should prove to be as memorable as ever with many teams keeping the same strategy...Beat Lebron!

Kelly Eisenhour wins local jazz competition



By: Ryan Inouye

Kelly Eisenhour, a skilled jazz musician and wonderful choir teacher, has won the 6th Annual Seattle-Kobe Female Vocal Jazz Competition. The competition was held on March 22 at the cozy and swingin' club called Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, in Seattle.

The multi-talented jazz singer came out on top out-singing seven other finalists and sixty contestants for the prestigious award. Plane tickets were included.

She will be bringing her son along for a free trip to sing in Kobe, Japan on May 5th. Kobe, Seattle's sister city, will also host a singing contest and the winners swap cities to perform, but not compete. After a fierce climb to the top in her first competition, a relaxed venue might be right up Eisenhour's alley.

Eisenhour had the stressful choice of two songs to impress the judges. Judges consisted of Jim Wike, from the radio station KPLU, and Misha Berson, an arts critic from The Seattle Times.

Eisenhour decided to use an up-beat medley made up of the songs, "I've Got Rhythm" by George Gershwin, and "Lemon Drop" by George Wallington. These up-tempo titles won the audiences over and perhaps a few of the critics.

What might have pushed them off the fence was her third performance where she slowed down with a soulful love ballad called, "The Very Thought of You."

Eisenhour kindly admitted that she was very nervous before the show but when she started singing, she gradually calmed down. Stress can strain a performer but she accepted the possibility.

"That's the risk you take when you have the chance to lose," she said.

Eisenhour is from Tucson, Arizona and has traveled across the United States to attend college and start her music career. She attended the very famous Berklee College of Music, in Boston, as an undergraduate student. During her enrollment at Berklee she was in a bands like F.M. and Rave. Later, she would move on to Brigham Young University as a graduate student and there she joined a band, with an amusing name, called "Lush Life". After receiving her Bachelor's degree from college she has gone on to making outstanding, thoughtful, jazz music

The accomplished singer/songwriter has worked in many cities across the country and has won several awards. She won a Grammy award in 2006 for her work on the album, "Gladys Knight: One Voice." She has also performed in

many well known venues including opening for Ramsey Lewis at the Park City Jazz Festival, performing live at the Apollo Theatre, and was an invited performer at the 2007 International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) conference. She has also worked in Las Vegas for eleven years, singing 6 nights a week.

After working in Las Vegas and Utah she made her way to Washington and became a full time faculty teacher of American Popular Music, Jazz Choir, and Concert Choir. She commented that Seattle is unique in its artistic ways.

"People appreciate out of the box thinking, which allows for people to experience their life in their own way," She said.

Eisenhour has a twelve track jazz CD released in 2007, called "Seek and Find." Her CD has many heartwarming songs that take you on a journey of love. Her lyrics are emotional, gentle and remind the listener how love can be confusing, but nice. Her voice is soothing to listen to and complements the instruments well. Her CD can be bought from various websites like amazon.com, cdbaby.com, and itunes.com.

The inspirational jazz artist directed the Mt. Hood Vocal Jazz Festival Green River Jazz Voices on April 9th, 2010. She will also be directing the GRCC Concert Choir and GRCC Jazz Voices Concert in the Arts Theater on June 2nd at 7:30 p.m.