

## Winter weather hits Green River



Ryan Gaudinier/THE CURRENT

A snow laced trail on campus was a common sight for over a week.

*Snow and ice effectively close campus for over a week playing havoc on classes, students and faculty here on campus.*

### THE CURRENT STAFF

Winter hit Green River Community College (GRCC) harder than usual this year. The flurry of snow and later ice has caused a major setback to classes and other operations here on campus, and it will be some time before things return to normal.

Classes were first cancelled on January 10 and didn't resume again until over a week later. From January 11 to January 16, all classes were cancelled with the campus running in suspended operations for much of that time. The campus running in suspended operations meant that the library, testing center, tech center, bookstore, enrollment services and the cashier's office were all closed.

The unexpected week off from school had mixed reactions from students with many enjoying the time off and opportunity to enjoy themselves outside in the snow, and with many others simply wanting life and school to return to normal.

The week off has caused classes to be thrown into haywire as many teachers have planned the entire quarter in advanced, and now that timeline that was so perfectly setup has to be dramatically altered. It

also broke any sense of rhythm or routine for students, who were just starting to get adjusted to their new classes before the snow hit. At least January 15 was a scheduled holiday or classes would be one more day behind.

Campus was eerily empty for all those snow days due to the suspended operations, and not even maintenance or the janitorial staff was on campus. It felt like it was still winter break on campus. Programs such as Green River Senate meetings and the TRIO orientation and other events on campus were also cancelled.

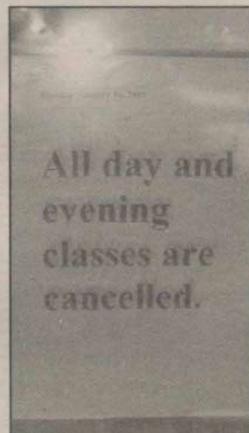
Many faculty members have expressed their thanks to the administration for cancelling school quickly as they felt driving to school was an unnecessary risk. While many people were able to make it to campus just fine, if everyone was forced to drive to campus, traffic and the roads would have been a nightmare.

Operations will eventually return to normal on campus, but it will take some time to get everything running in a proper manner. Students are still readjusting to life back in school, while teachers try to restructured classes. The snow sure has made the start of this quarter interesting.



Ryan Gaudinier/THE CURRENT

The pond by the Technology Center froze over. One can see the ice on top of the pond and the large icicles to the side.



Ryan Gaudinier/THE CURRENT

A common sight on campus for a week.

## Bill proposed regarding student press rights

Ryan Gaudinier  
Editor-in-Chief

A new piece of legislation regarding freedom of speech and press for high school and college students is being presented to the Washington state House of Representatives.

The goal of the bill is to prohibit any form of prior restraint or censorship of public high school and college newspapers. Under the bill, editors would be responsible for determining the content of the paper with a few exceptions in cases of obscenity, defamation, privacy violations, or if the content incites students to create a "clear and present danger" or substantially interfere with the operation of the school.

As student editors would be in control of content, they would also be liable in lawsuits instead of the administration. The bill would take the liability off administration and put in the hands of students creating the newspaper.

The digest of the legislation states, "(The legislation) finds that freedom of expression and freedom of the press are fundamental principles in our democratic society granted to every citizen of this state and the nation by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and by Article 1, section 5 of the state Constitution. These freedoms provide all citizens, including students, with the right to engage in robust and uninhibited discussions of issues. (The legislation) finds that court decisions have not provided adequate protection for the free speech and free press rights of students. (The legislation) declares and intent to ensure free speech and free press protections for both high school and college students in the state in order to encourage students to become educated, informed, and responsible members of society."

In an interview with The Current, Representative Dave Upthegrove, the creator of the bill, said he was hopeful the bill would pass but that he expected strong opposition from school administrators, especially at the high school level.

The bill has ties to Green River Community College (GRCC), as it was a former editor of The Current, Brian Schraum, who started the discussion about student press rights. He invited Upthegrove to coffee to discuss GRCC's lack of official policy regarding censorship, and proposed an anti-censorship policy to combat the lack of official policy regarding free campus press.

Schraum is still actively engaged in the fight, to rid censorship for high school and college papers. In an interview with the Student Press Law Center, Schraum said the bill was stuck in a waiting game but he believes he will be successful.

The current law regarding student press rights is currently in question. The Supreme Court ruled in Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier that administrators could censor high school newspapers as they were not "designated public forums." The law is murkier at the college level as the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in Hosty v. Governors State University may censor college newspapers in some circumstances, while the 6th, 1st, and 9th Circuits courts have all ruled in the opposite manner. The Supreme Court's refusal to hear the Hosty case has caused press rights at colleges to remain in flux.

This bill aims to change all of that, at least in Washington State, by making the issue a matter of official policy.

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# The legislature should pass bill regarding freedom of speech and press for high school and college students

**The Current Editorial Board**

Student's rights have been trampled upon for too long and much too frequently. Freedom of speech is not a right given only to those over 18, or those already out of school, it is an inalienable right guaranteed to all citizens of the United States by our constitution. We here at The Current believe state officials must pass bill HB 1307 - 2007-08 regarding freedom of speech and press for high school and college students.

Dialogue is essential for the learning process, and in order for any meaningful dialogue about important, controversial, or educational subjects to take place, students must be guaranteed the right to express themselves without fear of retaliation or censorship from the administration.

As the bill states, it is essential for students and young adults to exercise their constitutional right of free speech in order to become responsible, intelligent

citizens capable of expressing themselves in an organized and rational manner.

School is not simply a place for students to go and listen to a lecture and then regurgitate it

*"Here at Green River there are only general rules regarding freedom of speech, no set in stone policy regarding freedom of the press. We ask the legislature to change that, guaranteeing our rights, as well as the rights of all students across the entire state."*

later for a test. Schools should serve as a sanctuary for open dialogue, creativity, and the development of students into responsible adults. This can only happen if the students are allowed freedom to speak freely and about the subjects they desire.

Also, by guaranteeing student's right to free speech and press, you are forcing a bit of responsibility upon them, as they are now liable for what they say and print. This responsibility is

imperative in shaping their character and their development from children to adults.

And it is not as though

students will use the law to start printing as an excuse to start print obscene or fraudulent materials. Other states have passed similar laws, and there has not been an outbreak of obscenity or libel charges. If the law passes, advisors will still work with students to teach them about good

journalistic practices which will protect them lawsuits or printing false material.

This bill is not only good for students, but protects administration as well. Not allowing administration to censor student press removes all pressure and liability away from the administration as they no longer have to worry about lawsuits or other problems stemming from student media.

The law regarding student press rights is currently too murky to let stand, as the courts have not made it clear one way or another just what freedoms the student press has. It is essential, that the law is cleared up and an official policy is drafted guaranteeing freedom of the student press.

Here at Green River there are only general rules regarding freedom of speech, no set in stone policy regarding freedom of the press. We ask the legislature to change that, guaranteeing our rights, as well as the rights of all students across the entire state.

**EDITORIAL AND LETTERS POLICY**

The Current considers itself a limited public forum for student expression, in which student editors make policy and content decisions.

Green River Community College delegates editorial responsibility for student publications to students, and therefore assumes no responsibility for the content of the publications. The College acknowledges the dual 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 the student body.

We encourage all students and staff to have their voices heard. The Current will publish Letters to the Editor provided they are signed and submitted in a timely manner. Letters should be e-mailed to thecurrent@greenriver.edu. We will not publish letters which demean any person because of race, gender, class or sexual orientation. We reserve the right to edit letters for conventions and taste.

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# Project TEACH wins national award

**Krista Weaver**  
Staff Reporter

Our Project TEACH (Teacher Education Alliance of Colleges and High Schools) program has been awarded the Phi Theta Kappa award as the top teacher education program in the nation.

Phi Theta Kappa is the highest honor society that recognizes and encourages two-year college students. Green River Commu-

nity College (GRCC) has had the Project TEACH program since 1998. It is a teaching preparation program that offers pathways to teaching careers.

It also includes the Central Washington University (CWU) BA program in elementary education on campus. Project TEACH specializes in AA and AS degrees for future secondary math and science teachers. People who graduate in Project TEACH from

GRCC successfully transfer to a public or private school either within or out of the state of Washington to teach.

This award states that Project TEACH faculty and students are in a lot of the communities around GRCC. Faculty members and administrators can and do serve on the advisory boards that serve for careers in Education classes for an endless number of high schools in multiple districts.

Phi Theta Kappa will present the award to Project TEACH at the opening session of the 2007 NACCTEP Conference in March 2007. GRCC congratulates Project TEACH on their success working with the communities and opening doors to the future ensuring that the students have every opportunity to achieve his or her goals.

# Washington LEARNS Proposes New Education Strategies

**Howard Hardee**  
Staff Reporter

In a recent letter addressed "Dear Washingtonian" from Governor Christine Gregoire, new plans to develop "a world-class, learner focused, seamless education system for our state" have begun.

The Washington LEARNS committees have reviewed Washington's current education system, including grades K-12 and "post-secondary and workforce training," and has decided it needs to be redesigned. The Washington LEARNS' proposal plans to "reinvest in education during the next decade."

Washington LEARNS first strategy towards bettering the

state's college education\* system involves aligning high school graduation requirements and college admission standards. In doing so, high school graduates will assuredly be prepared for either college-level courses or entering the workforce directly.

For example, both high school graduation requirements and college admission standards will include three years of high school math, including either a math class during senior math or a proven understanding of Algebra 2.

The first strategy also involves a web-based advising program that will inform students about the classes they need to complete a college degree program, as well as which classes will be counted

for students who wish to transfer from a community college to a four year university.

The second strategy will provide scholarships for low income students, or students whose parents did not attend college. This strategy hopes to break the cycle experienced by many low income families who cannot afford to send their children through college, thus remaining a low income family.

The third strategy involves increasing the access to workforce training for low income adults and adults with limited basic skills.

The fourth strategy coincides with this because it intends to expand the state Need Grant program to those adults who, due to a full time job and a family, can

only attend one class per semester.

The fifth strategy plans to avoid importing outsiders to fill in high-level positions by focusing funds on educating Washington citizens, who would eventually fill in those positions.

The sixth strategy focuses in community and technical colleges. Businesses and unions will collaborate closely with these colleges and determine locally specific workforce needs, and take the appropriate steps to fulfill those needs.

While this new education does not seem to drastically differ from the one already in place, Washingtonians will have to wait and watch how it effects our future, positively or negatively.

# Auburn may annex Lea Hill

**Chris Bloomquist**  
Staff Reporter

Many areas of King County have been subjects of either incorporation as a separate city, or takeovers by nearby cities. Much of this seems to be due to a desire by King County to rid itself of the problem of policing and servicing areas that are now unincorporated.

A proposed initiative by King County wants Auburn to annex the unincorporated Lea Hill area. This area includes Green River Community College. The goal of this initiative is to achieve fi-

nancial stability and spread the county's policies.

This take over will be voted on by the estimated 10,400 residents of Lea Hill. Auburn will receive \$1,250,000 and also \$500,000 to be used on roadwork from the county if both the Lea Hill voters and the city of Auburn agree to the annexation says Larry Phillips of the King Country Council. Auburn has so far been somewhat reluctant to annex Lea Hill because of the difficulty of the take over.

Auburn will assume control over all roads, water storage drainage and treatment facilities, as well as parks, law enforce-

ment, and health services says the Interlocal agreement between the City of Auburn and King County. In fact, many of the roads in the Lea Hill area are not to county standards.

Even with the money Auburn would be given by the county to widen or rebuild roads, there would still be a large gap between the money needed and the money received says Paul Krauss, director of Planning and Community Development in Auburn. Also, many parks are not developed to county standards as well. Additionally, all Auburn codes and polices would now need to be ap-

plied to the slew of new facilities they would acquire.

A transfer such as this is extremely difficult, which is why the county is offering the large monetary bonuses. Six years ago Auburn successfully annexed a small part of Lea Hill that was populated by about 3,000 inhabitants according to the King County Urban Density Study.

Due to both the city of Auburn and the Lea Hill resident's consent being required, it will probably be some time before an actual hand over takes place, if ever. The voting is scheduled for the ballot on January 1, 2008.



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**Upcoming events**

**Transfer 101 Workshop**

Jan. 23  
1-2 p.m.  
Rainier Room

**Snow Tubing**

Jan. 27  
9:15 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Snoqualmie Pass  
17\$ students  
20\$ non-students

**Harlem Gospel Choir**

Jan. 29  
7:30 p.m.  
Lindbloom Student Center

**Pre-Med Workshop**

Jan. 31  
12 p.m.  
Baker Room

**Watch Seattle Thunderbirds**

Jan. 31  
5 p.m.  
10\$ students  
20\$ non-students  
Transportation Included

**Watch Sonics Vs. Bulls**

Feb. 2  
5 p.m.  
35\$ students

## Chinese New Year begins with fireworks

*The two week Chinese New Year tradition is a colorful fusion of modern and ancient events designed to welcome luck and prosperity into the coming months.*

**Sumitra Limbu**  
Staff Reporter

Gong Xi Fa Cai! Isn't that so Chinese? That because it is Chinese, and it means "congratulations and prosperousness." It also means that Chinese New Year has arrived.

Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year, is the most important festival of the traditional Chinese holidays. It last for 15 days, beginning on the first day of the first lunar month of the Chinese calendar. Days before the celebrations of New Year start, Chinese families do all the spring cleaning in their houses. They believe that the cleaning sweeps bad luck away.

The Chinese hold a reunion dinner consisting of all the family members from the elders to the youngest in the family. The dinner is usually held in the home of the most senior member of the family.

It all started as a story back in Ancient China, wherein a man-eating beast from the mountains could infiltrate houses silently to prey on humans. The people in that era learned that loud noises and the color red helped to scare the creature away. Hence, fireworks with a liberal use of the

color red became tradition. Once the beast ran away, the people came together to celebrate another year of living a safely, which led to the first New Year celebrations. And that is how the celebrating of Chinese New Year, also known as Lunar New Year, began.

The color red signifies much in Chinese culture, from clothing to home decoration.

Red signifies the scaring away of evil spirits and bad fortunes, therefore red clothing is worn throughout the Chinese New Year. Ironically, during the Chinese New Year, people don themselves head to toe in new clothes to symbolize a new beginning. To decorate the house, crimson banners are hung around the houses and on the front of the doors, with the word "pinyin: fu" which means "happiness". This sign is usually hung upside down as the Chinese word "pinyin: dǎo" which means "upside down" sounds similar to "pinyin: dào" which means "arrive," signifying the arrival of luck and happiness.

Other common decorations are paper cutouts of auspicious Chinese phrases and couplets that speak of happiness, wealth and longevity. The peach blossom symbolizes luck, the chrysanthemum

symbolizes longevity, and the kumquat plant symbolizes prosperity.

"Hóng bāo" or "red packets" are a big favorite among the younger generation, as it means receiving a holiday gift of cash. The main reason for giving away "Hóng bāo" is to distribute the symbolic lucky red paper. But there will always be money ranging from a dollar to one hundred dollars in the envelope. The dollar amount in the red envelopes should always be an even number. To the Chinese, odd numbers are only associated with the giving away of cash during funerals.

How can we forget the luxurious display of food during this wonderful festive season? The food ranges from ordinary Chinese staples to traditional dishes of candies, kwatji, turnip/taro cakes and many more. One such traditional Chinese food is "niangao" which is a Chinese New Year lucky cake; red bean paste between two layers of longane flavored rice paste. Dumplings are another food that is eaten traditionally at New Year. However the most well-known fruit associated with Chinese New Year is the mandarin orange. It is also special for its color, which is similar to gold.

To all the students at GRCC and all those who are celebrating the Lunar New Year, "Xīnnián kuàilè" which means "Happy New Year!" And don't forget, "Gong Xi Fa Cai!"

## Tips for transfers

*Educational planners offer advice and workshops to guide students through the transfer to university*

**Bimla Thapa**  
Staff Reporter

Are you one of those students who are intimidated by the confusing process of transferring to a two or four year university? Or perhaps you know someone who experienced difficulties when transferring? How would you like to avoid all those hassles by seeking assistance from our amiable Educational Planners, Tina Christian and Alison Warner at the Transfer Services, located at the Lindbloom Student Center (LCS)?

Tina and Alison are there to aid students graduating with both AA and AS degrees to a two or four year university. The assistance our friendly Educational Planners provide depends on the type of college degree the particular student is interested in. They aid electing major graduates by evaluating the differences between the degrees and working out which suits them best.

Aside from professional advice, Tina and Alison also organize workshops for students to help them find an area of interest and steer them to the right direction by laying out all the options. These workshops are broken into different categories, each focusing on a major step in transferring to university. Workshop 101, in Tina's words, is about the "ins and outs of transferring," the process and how to prepare for it. It "interprets questions students have problem understanding" and clarifies doubts.

The process of application and transferring varies with the college and major of study the student has in mind. Information about transfer requirements is something students will find in the workshop Transfer 101. There is also a Personal Essay Workshop where Tina and Alison help students with the personal essay required by every university. Our eager educational planners are there to brainstorm ideas on how and what to write about.

What are the basic requirements for transferring? Good grades, sufficient credits, SATs and ACT scores, with all the official transcripts from all the schools the student has attended, along with determined a mindset for excelling.

Only the individual student is ultimately in charge of the entire transfer procedure. Our Educational Planners, Alison Warner and Tina Christian are there to equip students with knowledge and connections. It is up to the students to make full use of what is provided.

Not only do Tina and Alison connect students with a university representative but also go all-out by assigning students to faculty advisors according to their major and making sure that each and every student is given the same devoted attention and assistance required.

Is there advice for a hassle-free transfer? Prepare early. Do research on the school of your interest at least a year ahead, and talk to a representative to garner inside information. Also, fill out your application as far in advance as possible. According to Tina, it is best to actually go to the university and get a feel for it before applying.

Whether you are undecided or not, make an appointment with Alison Warner and Tina Christian, and you can see just how genuine their eagerness is for helping you "find the door and how to open it." So wait no longer. Meet up with our Educational Planners at the Lindbloom Student Center, room 126. Make your future happen.

## Winter windstorm wallops campus woodlands

**Dick Hopkins**  
Forestry Instructor

The winds of December 14 leveled many of the 110-year old Douglas-fir trees in the vicinity of the Foundation Trail that were infected with laminated root rot (Phellinus weirii). The loss of trees wasn't as extensive as the Inaugural Day Storm of 1993, but in the laminated research plots that are in their 5th measuring year, the potential damage to the research was significant.

Natural Resources students and instructors went to work in the school forest at daylight the morning of December 5th with three objectives for restoration. They began planting 1500 Douglas-fir seedlings that they had just acquired for 10 new research plots, almost as soon as over-story trees had blown down. They also began clearing the plots of big trees that had fallen across the research trees and the trails so they were passable again.

Natural Resources hired an excavator to lift the big trees from the plots and from the trails.

Students and instructors worked from December 15 through December 29, taking one weekend and Christmas weekend off. They hired an excavator to lift the big trees from the plots and from the trails. By January 1, the Foundation Trail and research plots were restored, and 10 new research plots were planted. Several thousand more seedlings have been ordered and restoration work of the research plots and trails continues.



A wind storm this december killed many of the Redwood trees near the Green River trails.

Photo courtesy of Dick Hopkins

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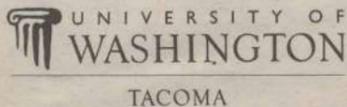
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## Wide range of new features makes for World of Warcraft: The Burning Crusade to be well worth the wait

Jesse Gauntt  
Guest Reporter

Blizzard's long awaited sequel, *The Burning Crusade*, began its invasion on the night of Tuesday, January 16, at the stroke of midnight. Blizzard hopes it will live up to the success of its predecessor, *World of Warcraft*, which was a global success by all means. The expansion brings two new races, the world of Outland, one new profession, and new challenges to the table. Also worth mentioning are the Caverns of Time, new Player vs. Player (PvP) features, new skills and abilities, and flying mounts. I am making the assumption that, if you are reading this article, you are familiar with the game, but I will do my best not to alienate readers with little or no experience.

For casual gamers, the expansion offers *The Caverns of Time*. These caverns allow players to journey to the previous *World Tree Nordrassil* during the *Burning Legion's* invasion, to see the beauty of *Lordaeron* before the

plague. A wide range of possibilities can be expected from this area with future patches. Now that warps through time can be explained, just about anything goes (although I don't think we'll find a path that leads to Aiur, the capital of the Protoss race in *Starcraft*). One warning though, much of the content being poured into the expansion will benefit players who reach Level 70. If you were having trouble enough reaching 60, you will miss out on many new abilities, but most importantly, you will not be able to travel to Outland, which requires that you be level 58 to enter *The Dark Portal*.

As for you hardcore gamers, I hope you didn't just finish your Tier 3 armor set last night. The best items of *World of Warcraft* will quickly be replaced by sidegrades and Tier 4 sets in *The Burning Crusade*. The raid system will also be restructured, too, as there will be no more 40-man raids. Some dungeons will allow a maximum of 25 players and others will allow even fewer play-

ers. This should allow for more organized raids.

Another new feature of the expansion introduces a dungeon difficulty setting, which has two options; Normal and Heroic. This will hopefully allow less dedicated players to experience dungeon content, soaking them in *Warcraft* lore, and giving more dedicated players plenty of challenges.

Personally, I'm excited about *The Caverns of Time*, new areas to explore, and of course, the Male Blood Elf dance that perfectly mimics Napoleon Dynamite's moves. The next few weeks should be interesting, as Blizzard has struggled to keep *World of Warcraft* running even in calm times, so I wouldn't recommend getting the expansion until the initial rush is over. Additionally, I'm hoping that Blizzard will announce a new project after *Burning Crusade* is launched. If you would like to learn more about the changes, which I've briefly summarized, you can visit [www.blizzard.com](http://www.blizzard.com) for a more detailed explanation.



Photo Courtesy of Blizzard Entertainment  
The creature shown above represents one of the many new features of *Burning Crusade*: flying mounts.

## A Night at the Museum makes for an entertaining and family-friendly evening

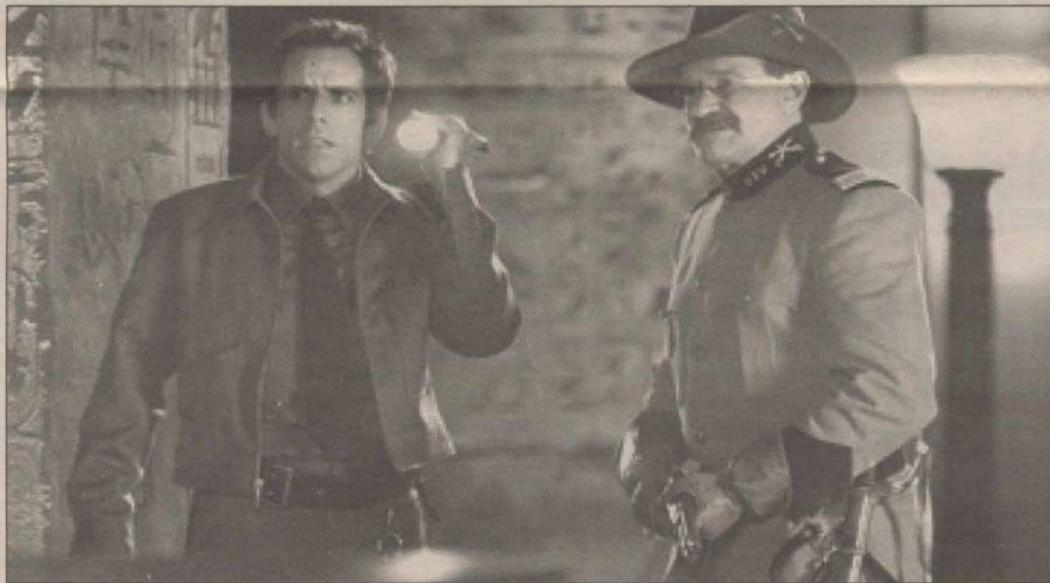


Photo Courtesy of Yahoo! Movies  
Larry Daley, Ben Stiller and Teddy Roosevelt, Robin Williams, attempt to figure out why the museum's resident's come to life at night.

Chris Bloomquist  
Staff Reporter

Have you ever gone to a movie and wished you had stayed home doing your homework or watching TV? Have you ever been sick about wasting your time and money on a lousy movie? Well, that will not be the case if you spend your evening watching *Night at the Museum*. It is an excellent movie directed by Shawn Levy.

Ben Stiller plays Larry Daley, an unemployed divorced father of a son named Nick, who is played by Jake Cherry. There are also some other great actors in the movie. Robin Williams plays Teddy Roosevelt, Mickey Rooney plays Gus, Owen Wilson is Jeddiah and Dick Van Dyke plays Cecil.

In order to prove to his ex-wife that he is a capable father, Daley takes on a job at the Museum of Natural History as a night watchman. He thinks he's in for an easy job, sleeping at the information desk and playing with the intercom. Little does Daley know

what he's really in for. All the exhibits come to life at night, from monkeys to mannequins. Daley has a Gulliverian experience when he is captured and tied up by the members of the Wild West diorama. Throughout the movie, many other exciting and frightening things happen to him.

The special effects are well done, and often funny or simply amazing. Several times I wondered how they did some of the great effects, such as the hordes of tiny figurines fighting in front of a life-size Larry. This is unlike some films where the computer generated effects are somewhat washed out and easily distinguishable from the real props. The camera angles were well used; the camera wasn't immobile and it took in the setting completely. The museum was fleshed out with various items. My only complaint is that one of the museum pieces admits that he is just made of wax which, in my opinion lessened the effect of "coming to life". If he was just a piece of wax, how did he know about the life experi-

ences of the person he was supposed to represent?

Stiller's performance as Daley is wonderful. His portrayal of bumbling Larry is uproarious as he tries to return all the exhibits back to their rightful place before daybreak. Jake Cherry does a great job of portraying Larry's son, Nick. Legendary actor Dick Van Dyke's portrayal of the villainous Cecil is stunning. You really start hating Cecil by the end of the movie. Mickey Rooney is also hilarious in his portrayal of Gus, a 70 year old man that talks smack and picks fights. The movie is extremely funny throughout, and never gets slow or boring. This movie is perfect for the entire family and will definitely be enjoyed by children. Don't be put off by the PG rating, which is earned by some slapstick violence and off-color jokes. This movie appeals to all ages, and in fact some of the loudest laughter could be heard coming from the older people in the audience. It is an hour and a half of hilarious action.

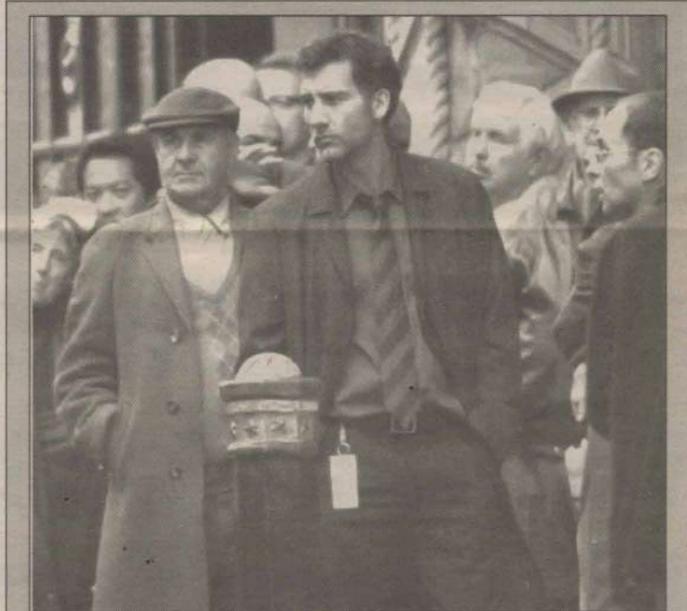


Photo Courtesy of EW  
Clive Owen plays Theo in the exciting but poorly planned "Children of Men"

## Good directing plus poor story makes *Children of Men* a mediocre flick

Jeff Price  
Copy Editor

Alfonso Cuarón's film *Children of Men* aims to tackle a controversial look at the future. The problem is, we have no idea what really happened. Women can't have children. Why? Everyone wants to go to England. Why? Immigration problems? The government's draconian new look? As good as this movie is, it creates far more questions than it answers.

Theo (played convincingly by Clive Owen), is asked by his ex-wife Julian (Julianne Moore) to get some transport papers for a young girl named Kee. The only papers Theo could get though were joint transport papers, meaning he had to go as well. He soon learns that Kee is pregnant. The first pregnancy in 18 years, but again we don't know why this is the case. His goal is to take Kee to the coast where a boat sent by the Human Project will pick them up. The journey includes several twists that aren't adequately explained. As they approach the coast they are sheltered by an old hippie friend of Theo's named Jasper. Jasper (Michael Caine) provides most of the comedic release in the film. And he raises the same questions about the current drought of pregnancies that failed to be answered during the rest of the film.

Cuarón brings to the film some of the best camerawork since *Saving Private Ryan*. He does a fantastic job directing and as one reviewer put it, "even the dogs perform masterfully under his direction." It's just a little disappointing that the story lacks the power of the directing. Nevertheless *Children of Men* is an all-around a solid film. Cuarón does a solid job with what he was given, despite the skeptical storyline and lack of closure.

# KGRG-sponsored Acoustic Tour combines a variety of indie artists for a fun-filled event

**Julian Martin**  
Entertainment Editor

Daphne Loves Derby's The Acoustic Tour presented a welcome remedy to the wintry conditions of last week. Held at Seattle's El Corazón on January 11, those attending the concert found both an inviting atmosphere to warm up in and an entertaining array of performances from several indie and alternative artists. The tour promotes the release of Daphne Loves Derby's latest album *Good Night, Witness Light*, which is scheduled for release sometime this March. Opening for the local band were alternative/hardcore artist, Alabaster, experimental rock group House of Fools, indie artists Ronnie Day, and the indie duo Meg & Dia.

Unfortunately, I was unable to see the first two opening bands, as I was looking forward to seeing House of Fools, and am still very intrigued as to how Seattle band Alabaster, a group whose music sounds reminiscent of alternative/hard rock band Evanescence, sounded in conjunction with a more indie line-up. I arrived shortly after folk artist Ronnie Day began his set, and while I had not heard any of the artist's music previously, I was instantly intrigued. Born Ron Guglielmo, the 18-year-old musician from Redwood, California started touring last year after building

up an internet fanbase through Myspace. Day has released one independent album, titled *Nine Sleepless Nights*, and recently released his second CD, *The Album*. On the artist's Myspace page he describes his latest album, "Over the span of 16 tracks, I cover my three-year relationship with my first and only girlfriend, Jamie", and continues by saying *The Album* is an assimilation of musical expression". The simple set

*"The Acoustic Tour presented a welcome remedy to the wintry conditions of last week... an inviting atmosphere to warm up in and an entertaining array of performances"*

consisting of Day and an acoustic guitar seemed to reflect his lyrics and playing style; seemingly quiet and simplistic, yet full of an emotional force that kept the crowd entrenched in feeling as if they were alongside the musician throughout his relationship. Although Day's music seemed moving, at times there appeared an underlying sense of it being recycled and repetitive as well. Although his past experiences with his ex-girlfriend may be the focus for his sound, the artist needs to find a new source of inspiration for his next album.

Following Day were sisters



Meg & Dia performing a song from their latest album "Something Real", released last August.

Meg & Dia, whose bubbly dispositions seemed to wake the crowd from the previous act. Comprised of Meg, age 21, on guitar, younger sister Dia, age 19, on the keyboard, Carlo Gimenez on guitar, and Nicholas Price on Drums, Meg & Dia can also attribute their rise in popularity to Myspace promotions, and were even selected as the official "Myspace Band" on the 2006 Warped Tour. Before ending with their hit song "Monster," the group stopped their show to present their friend, whose birthday was the day before, with a cupcake and proceed-

ed to sing Happy Birthday to him, along with the audience's help. Dia then dedicated their next-to-last song "Masterpiece" to him, saying it was for him because he "is a masterpiece". A unique jazz-styled cover of The Killer's "When You Were Young" by the group, and an enchanting solo by Dia also lent to making their performance both animated and unforgettable.

After such an energetic and remarkable show, I had high expectations for the upcoming headlining band. I had only heard a few of Daphne Loves Derby's songs

before, and suffice to say was only slightly impressed. However upon hearing the group live, I found that while they were not quite up to what I was expecting, they still presented a decent live show, playing a variety of fan-favorite songs in which nearly the entire audience sang-along to, as well as several songs from their new album, *Good Night, Witness Light*. While I may not have emerged a fan, the crowd seemed to love the band, and I would recommend their show for anyone who is a fan of a relaxing performance.

Julian Martin/The CURRENT

## Entertaining eccentricities of the Fremont Solstice Celebration shown through photography exhibit



One of the many cyclists of the Fremont Solstice Celebration's famous parade.



The Fremont Solstice Celebration's long parade features a multitude of cyclists, each with their own unique body paint.

**Krista Weaver**  
Staff Reporter

The Holman Library has new art in the Helen S. Smith Gallery from January 2 til January 26. The photographs are taken by Ron Hammond at the Fremont Solstice Celebration in Fremont. Fremont is in Seattle and just north of the canal that connects Lake Union to Puget Sound.

The Solstice Celebration is a legendary festival. It raises awareness with almost 30 programs serving low-income individuals and families throughout the Puget Sound area. It is held on the weekend closest to the summer solstice. This festival is three days long and is full of

fun-filled music, dancing, eating, drinking, shopping, and an extravagant street fair. The highlight of the whole festival is Saturday's parade. The parade is well over two hours long with only a couple rules: no motorized floats or vehicles, no commercial sponsorship, and no printed material or signs. The parade is funny and old fashioned the pictures in the library are black and white and a little adult rated with people riding bicycles and unicycles in their birthday suits. They still have to this day people in the parade riding nude, but with their entire body painted.

If you read the article in the library underneath the pictures it says that, "Each year Hammond

fears that it will be the last year. He hopes that the photographs that he has taken will convey all the chaos, energy, good humor, and beauty of this popular neighborhood festival." Hammond is much more interested in the people and places than he is interested in the events. He has stated that, "My work usually organizes itself into loosely-defined, ongoing projects that are never finished but often pause for a show or a hand-bound book."

When you get a chance stop on by the library and take a quick look at photographs. You won't be disappointed.

Ryan Gaudinier/The CURRENT

# Gators women's basketball shows promise after rough start

Howard Hardee  
Staff Reporter

The 2007 season will be an uphill battle for coach Rochelle Mitchell's women's basketball team. After losing all but one of ten preseason games, GRCC began conference play on January 6 with a disappointing 66-64 loss to Clark Community College.

"We lost to a team we should have beaten, so we'll have to pull some upset victories in the future," Mitchell said. "Our number one goal is a winning season."

The squad, which has been meeting for practice since the third week in October, saw only one player return from last year's team that posted a 7-20 record on their way to a sixth place finish. Among those who did not return was last year's leading scorer, which puts a hurt of GRCC's offensive production. With nine freshman, leadership is also pressing issue according to coach Mitchell.

"We lack someone who wants to take control," Mitchell said. "Our only sophomore, Kasi Wells, has started to move into that position. She is becoming our emotional leader."

At least a fourth place finish is required for the girls to proceed to the NWAACC Championship Tournament, which begins on

March 1. However, on the way they face significant road blocks in the near future. A big game against the dangerous Highline Community College on January 27 figure to present the biggest challenges the girls will face all season.

"Highline and Tacoma both had excellent recruiting years," Mitchell said. "They both have twelve very athletic, talented players."

Before Mitchell was a math teacher and basketball coach, she attended Lower Columbia Community College, Western Washington University, and St. Martin's College, making her more than familiar with the situation most of her athletes face.

"The community college system is tough for young female athletes. It's hard to get them to commit to a two year program when they would rather be off at a four year university, even if they aren't playing basketball. With guys it's different, most of the time they'll go wherever they can play."

Despite all of the adversity that her girls face, Mitchell believes her team can be competitive in the near future.

"We can beat any team any given night if we play to our full potential for 40 minutes," she said. "We have the talent. If we

can put it together, we will be a force to be reckoned with." The Gator Women next host

Gray's Harbor on Jan. 20 followed by a road trips to Centralia and South Puget Sound on Jan. 22

and 24.



A team photo of the Lady Gators who are looking to improve upon their current 2-11 record.

Photo courtesy of nwaacc.org

# Ladies volleyball takes home fifth place in the NWAACC championship tournament

Lady Gators take home the Western Region Crown

Boomer Bentley  
Staff Reporter

Green River's Women's volleyball team began the season with a slow 0-4 start, but more then turned it around finishing the

season on a tear with 14 consecutive league victories earning them the crown in the western region. The first place success didn't quite translate to a NWAACC championship though as the Gator volleyball team fell a little short

as they finished 5th place in the season finale NWAACC championship tournament. The season though was definitely nothing to hang their heads over and could only be described as a success as the team muscled out a total of 30 victories throughout the season, and coming up on the short-end of the scoreboard only 11 times. The NWAACC was dominated by

Mt. Hood CC who went only two games better than GRCC with a 30-7 record.

With the birth of her first child upcoming former volleyball coach, Anna Gorman, took a leave of absence from coaching turning the reigns over to Kyle Densley who has completed the USAV Coaching Accreditation Program, has extensive connections in the volleyball coaching community on a national and local level. His U-17 club team based out of Kent has been in the top rankings for teams in the Puget Sound area.

Former player, Kaci Ingram, has the duties of assistant coach. Ingram was a Western Region all-star during her play in 2004.

The team surprised with its youth this year with all freshman excluding one, paving a nice path for next years team, which should consist of the same core players. Look for big things to come from the GRCC volleyball team as they go into next year with championship aspirations and confidence lead by a nationally renowned head coach.



Lady Gators finish their season with a fifth place finish in the NWAACC championship tournament

Photo courtesy of nwaacc.org

Women's Basketball Schedule	Men's Basketball Schedule
Jan 20 Grays Harbor 3:00	Jan 17 Tacoma 8:00
Jan 22 @ Centralia 6:00	Jan 20 Grays Harbor 5:00
Jan 24 @ S. Puget Sound 6:00	Jan 22 @ Centralia 8:00
Jan 27 Highline 3:00	Jan 24 @ S Puget Sound 8:00
Feb 3 Clark 3:00	Jan 27 Highline 5:00
Feb 7 @ Lower Columbia 6:00	Feb 3 Clark 5:00
Feb 10 Pierce 3:00	Feb 7 @ Lower Columbia 8:00
Feb 12 @ Tacoma 6:00	Feb 10 Pierce 5:00
Feb 14 @ Grays Harbor 6:00	Feb 12 @ Tacoma 8:00
Feb 17 Centralia 3:00	Feb 14 @ Grays Harbor 8:00
Feb 21 S. Puget Sound 6:00	Feb 17 Centralia 5:00
Feb 24 @ Highline 1:00	Feb 21 S. Puget Sound 8:00
	Feb 24 @ Highline 3:00
March 1-4 NWAACC Championships	March 1-4 NWAACC Championships