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President Barack Obama:

The Current's staff examines how he won, and why he'll succeed as the 'new face of America'

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International students find challenges adjusting

International students show how they are adjusting to college life and American culture

Cheyenne Szarka
Staff Writer

Imagine coming to a new country, learning a new language, and adapting to a different lifestyle, then people can begin to imagine how difficult life must be like for an international student. Here at GRCC an estimated 1100 students from around the world come to Auburn to receive an education that might not have been possible in their home town.

Students of all ethnicities attend GRCC. Haram Kim, 24, is one of the many. Kim, who is majoring in Engineering and hopes to do aerospace engineering once he transfers, is from Seoul, Korea and has been living in the United States since June 2006.

She said that studying in GRCC opens herself to different people from many different countries and she's sure that the experience will help her to be a good leader in the future.

"I'm not adapting to a whole new lifestyle, but I'm understanding it so that I can keep myself as is and understand very different people's personalities and cultures" said Kim about his experience so far.

Don't forget about the hours spent on homework every night and the amount of stress that comes with being a college student. Add the stress that comes from school work, international students have to worry about housing, books, food and

tuition. As we all know, none of these things come easy or cheap.

International students have different ways to pay for everything even when their tuition cost three times the cost for domestic students. Kim, living in Gentry Walk Apartments which is a 15 minute walk from school, pays about \$3000 each quarter.

Kim said that there are some families who are rich enough to support their kids but her family is not included. "It's so hard, I spent \$450 to buy 3 books this quarter," she said.

Anh Thuc Nguyen Ly, a student from Vietnam, said that she shares the cost of his education with his family. "My parents pay for tuition and books, my sister helps me pay car insurance and I work too, so I pay for food, gas and a part of housing," said Ly.

Ly has been living in the United States for 8 months and her major is Finance. Ly has gotten her first job ever within the first quarter. She is currently working for Terry Thayer of Commencement Achievement Program as a Peer Tutor.

"Peer Navigators and the people I tutored were my first friends in America. I appreciate the opportunity so much and I am still helping the offices as a voluntary tutor" Ly said.

Ly is one of the lucky ones whose family and friends help her out. Ly, 18 years



Emma Ikeda/Courtesy Photo

Peer volunteers are international students who fulfill the requirements to assist new international students dealing with college system and new culture

old, is currently living with a host family in Kent, before that, the Campus Corner Apartments.

She said that living in a new country was so strange at first. "From weather to scenery to food to wearing styles," she said. "However, things take time." After all, Ly said that she feels comfortable with the new culture and lifestyle.

There are so many schools to choose from and some may wonder why the international students choose GRCC. Ly said, "I chose Green River because I received good feedback from my friends. I gave it a try and I'm in love with it now"

Many international students agree that

cultural barrier is the hardest challenge for them. "Sometimes, cultural differences embarrass me but other times they actually give me a chance to be closer to American friends," Ly said. She said that the American students are interested in how different they are.

For Kim, the most difficult part of being an international student is feeling alone. "When I get sick, there is nobody who can take care of me, I need to prepare my own food and medicine even though I'm extremely sick" said Kim.

Kim and Ly both agree that overall, GRCC has been a great experience for them.

No recycling dumpster available at Campus Corner

Students split stance on the importance of recycling

Lizz Atkins
Staff Writer

When moving into Campus Corner apartments residents are instantly made to feel at home.

From the all included electricity, water and cable combination, to being just minutes away from your classes as well as having the surrounding of a community of some three hundred students.

Its easy to say living situations, don't get much more filled with perks. But as much as CCA is a wonderful place to live, in one way it is definitely lacking.

There are no recycling options available at the apartments. Because of this students are forced to combine their garbage with their recyclable items and toss them all together into two large dumpsters next to the residential parking lot.

Many students who live in the apartments are of course aware of the garbage situation; but what most of them aren't aware of is that CCA used to offer recycling to its residents.

So why is recycling no longer available? According to Campus Corner representatives students failed to use the recycling bins properly by putting trash along with recycling into the bins.

By doing this a lot more work had to be put in to separate the trash from the recycling.

This overall caused a combination of more time and money being spent. Overtime, recycling stopped being offered do to students not taking going green seriously.

Unfortunately, current residents are divided fifty- fifty in their views towards recycling.

Half of the student don't really care about recycling and consider it an extra hassle to divide their recyclables from their garbage, while the other half is very concerned with how the way resident's garbage is effecting the environment.

"Recycling at Campus Corner Apartments is extremely important because it would really reduce the amount of trash in the dumpsters.

Even if all we did was just recycle paper" says Jennifer Ramierz, first year resident and freshman at GRCC.

So what can the residents that are concerned about how we are effecting the environment do to bring back recycling? The simplest answer to this question is, they can make a commitment.

"I think people realize what is going on here and that they will have to carry their own weight for it to be a successful program" says Terry Stanford, Capital Project Documentation manger at GRCC.

If the majority of residents at CCA ban together and propose that they will use the recycling bins properly, more likely that not CCA representatives will offer the option again.

In all honesty it is easy to blame lack of recycling on CCA, but in truth residents are just as much responsible.

The only way to help the environment and to fight for what should be offered already is to make a stand and that's something students have yet to accomplish.

From ASGRCC's Marycarmen Becerra-Nunez

President signs bill creating American heritage day

Washington, DC - Earlier this week President Bush signed into law legislation introduced by Congressman Joe Baca (D-Rialto), to designate the Friday after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day. The Native American Heritage Day Bill, H.J. Res. 62, is supported by the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA) and 184 federally recognized tribes, and designates Friday, Nov. 28 as a day to pay tribute to Native Americans for their many contributions to the United States.

"I am pleased the President took quick action on signing this legislation, which recognizes the importance of Native Americans to our history and culture," said Rep. Baca. "It is critical we honor the contributions of Native Americans and ensure all Americans are properly educated on their heritage and many achievements."

The Native American Heritage Day Bill encourages Americans of all backgrounds to observe Friday, November 28, as Native American Heritage Day, through appropriate ceremonies and activities. It also encourages public elementary and secondary schools to enhance student understanding of Native Americans by providing classroom instruction focusing on their history, achievements, and contributions. As a state Assemblyman, Rep. Baca introduced the legislation that established the fourth Friday of September as Native American Day in California - which became state law in 1998.

H.J. Res. 62 was originally passed by the House of Representatives on November 13, 2007. The bill was passed with technical adjustments by unanimous consent in the U.S. Senate on September 22, 2008. Then, on September 26, 2008, the House of Representatives unanimously voted to pass the legislation again, this time including the adjustments from the Senate. The legislation was signed into public law by the President on October 8, 2008.

"This law will help to preserve the great history and legacy of Native Americans," added Rep. Baca. "Native Americans and their ancestors have played a vital role in the formation of our nation. They have fought with valor and died in every American war dating back to the Revolutionary War, and deserve this special acknowledgment."

"Since my time in the California State Legislature, I have fought to ensure Native Americans receive the recognition they deserve," continued Rep. Baca. "After introducing the legislation that established Native American Day in California, I am proud to have introduced and passed the legislation that creates a national day of recognition. I thank my good friend James Ramos, now Chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, for standing with me from the beginning on this long journey to ensure the contributions of Native Americans are recognized and appreciated by all."

Washington community colleges to have uniformed courses numbering for transfer purpose

Green River finds that the courses numbering would create registration problems for students

Natalie Lowe
Staff Writer

Any Green River student that is finishing any degree takes certain classes that fall into the certain categories that qualify for what is specified for that degree.

Transfer students often find it complicated to choose a class that is transferable.

A lot of the different community colleges have different class numbers for the same classes that green River has.

It could be very well possible that a student could mistakenly take the same class twice, or think that he or she was done with their degree but that student was actually missing a class.

This can make the transfer process all that more confusing and difficult and this confusion is all due to the class names and numbers being different.

To make transferring between community colleges easier, the Washington State School Board has decided to make the community colleges change their course numbering to make classes have the same

numbers.

This will force Green River community College to change several hundreds of class numbers.

Not all courses will be affected by this edict but many classes will change, mostly in academic divisions and some vocational divisions.

“Although the course numbers will be changing, this does not affect the curriculum or course content, that is irrelevant to the changing of the course numbers.”

Although the course numbers will be changing, this does not affect the curriculum or course content, that is irrelevant to the changing of the course numbers.

Green River Community College is actually one of the last community colleges to be putting the common course numbering into affect.

Judy Burgeson, the dean for the English, humanities and science divisions, explains “the only reason why Green River Community College is following through with the common course numbering is because we lost the fight against the state edict.”

He said that the problem with changing the course numbering is course collision “which happens when a course number is changed to the common number but the

common number is already being used for another class,” he said.

“Then, the school has to find another number for that other course, and it can’t be a number that is already being used or that is in the common course numbering.”

It becomes another problem when these numbers are all being changed around because certain classes follow a progression of numbers which make it easier for the student to understand that the courses have things of a similar quality or are to be taken in succession.

The common course numbering could make the series of class sequences illogical, making classes to be taken first have a higher number than the classes that should be taken after said classes.

Another thing that is a cause for concern is that after the classes change their course numbers transcripts will be a little confusing for students.

For students who have already taken

courses that are going to be changing their numbers, it could be misleading.

It could be possible that student could take another class with a changed number from the common course numbering edict which is the same number as a class that he or she already took.

The numbers will be the same but the names of the class will be different which makes for the student to take a closer look at the classes to be sure that he or she did not somehow take the same class twice.

This edict will be in effect in summer quarter and the classes that will be changing will be able to be spotted by the ampersand symbol (&).

An example of a common course number class will look like BIOL&100, instead of just BIOL 100.

To look up more information on the course numbering, students can check Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges website at www.sbctc.ctc.edu.

“The common course numbering could make the series of class sequences illogical”

Students find simple ways to save money

Reducing small daily spendings makes big difference

Christin Helt
Staff Writer

Let’s face it, there is talk of recessions, times are tight, and people’s wallets are the ones feeling the effect.

Advertisements keep punching people in the face with buy this, and buy that, when there really is no money to be throwing around.

Breaking these habits of compulsive spending that have been taught since childhood will not be easy, yet debt is a word people hear too often in this day.

Here are some ways to save money, keep rent paid, and food on the table while the economy recovers.

Saving money can start as soon as the

alarm clock goes off in the morning. Taking shorter showers for example saves on the water bill and in the long run is better for the environment.

Furthermore, as far as resources go, when leaving a room, make sure all the lights and appliances are turned off to save on the electricity bill.

At www.pugetsoundenergy.com people can find handy tips and suggestions on how to reduce monthly fees.

Before leaving the house, make a pot of coffee as an alternative to spending \$5.00 at an espresso stand, and make a bag lunch instead of eating fast food for lunch.

“If at all possible, carpooling to school in the morning is a good idea to save money on gas and wear and tear to vehicles,” said

Brittany Wilkes, 18.

Impulsive buying is what gets many people into big financial trouble. In the last five years grocery store prices alone have gone up twelve percent.

Taking a list to the grocery store and never going shopping when you are hungry is a surefire way to get in and out with only what you need and not what you want and can’t afford.

Buying in bulk is ultimately cheaper than buying products individually and this also keeps your gas tank happy with fewer trips to the store.

If you don’t mind not having name brand products, generic brands are much more inexpensive and the differences are minuscule.

Coupons found in the Sunday paper as well as online are an excellent way to keep

some extra cash, especially when manufacturers’ coupons are combined with store coupons.

The most important thing to do before buying a product is to think about it carefully and weigh it’s importance to everyday life.

Small efforts can be made to budget money and keep stress levels down.

Keep a coin jar next to the front door to drop change in every day.

People can either deposit the money into a savings account or use a coin star once a month for some extra dough.

Instead of seeing a movie at night, go to a matinee at a theatre that has a student discount.

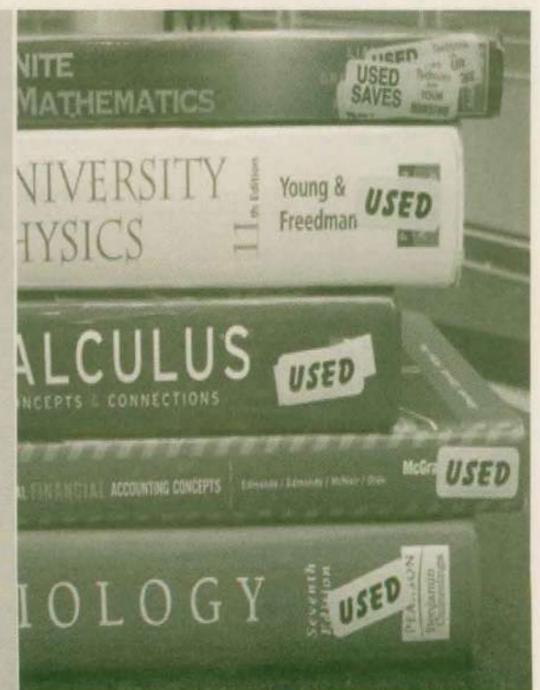
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Obama's election result of swaying swing voters

Obama improves on '04 numbers from important voting demographics

Justin Runquist
Staff Writer

On November 4, America nominated its most unlikely president-elect in U.S. history, an African American Senator named Barack Hussein Obama, a relative unknown just a couple years before the election.

In what was considered a long, monotonous election year compared to those of the past, American citizens and the world alike had little time to develop a clear perspective of Obama, yet he was able to pull off a decisive win against one of the most reputable senators in Congress.

Obama ended up winning the popular vote 52 to 46 percent. He also won the electoral vote 365 to 173. In order to accomplish this feat, he had to win in places where Democrats had lost in the previous two elections.

He campaigned vigorously in battleground swing states that could have tipped the election either way, such as Pennsylvania, Ohio and Iowa. Based on some of their previous political leanings, the odds seemed they may be against him in those states, but he prevailed.

Not only did Obama win these key battleground states, he also won other states that came as a surprise to most people. Padding his victory were the traditionally red states of Indiana, Virginia, North Carolina and even Florida. All of which gave Obama a substantial amount of electoral votes. Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada went in his favor too.

The entire election was based on sending the country in a new direction. Only 16 percent of those questioned in a CNN poll said they think the country is on the right track. That is an all-time low. 83 percent said they think things are going badly in our country. That is an all-time high.

Running on a message of change and hope, Obama represented a new face among politicians to most Americans, who have grown tired of the Bush administration. More people tended to believe that Obama would bring change over McCain.

McCain supporters actually cited experience as his greatest asset. Simply being a Republican worked against McCain though as that made it all too easy

for Obama to draw similarities between McCain and the unpopular President Bush.

Obama managed to garner an overwhelming amount of support from young people. He won 66 percent of the vote from 18-29 year-olds. That was a 12 percent boost from John Kerry's youth vote in 2004.

Women, the largest demographic in America, voted for Obama 56-43 percent, and men supported Obama 49-48 percent. He also won 95 percent of the African American vote, and 66 percent of the Hispanic vote.

During the first months of the general election, Obama and McCain intermittently stole the lead from each other. Obama received a slight bump in the polls after his convention. That was quickly thwarted though as John McCain held his convention soon after and received a tremendous surge of popularity after announcing his running mate, Governor Sarah Palin. That trend would prove only momentary after what was about to happen next.

In mid-September, when the economic crisis hit hard on Wall Street, Obama took the lead back from McCain. McCain suspended his campaign to make his way back to Congress and help write legislation to solve the crisis, but that did not impress voters.

From that point on, polls showed that voters tended to side with Obama as he averaged a nine point lead through October. The people clearly trusted him to handle the economic crisis better than McCain. It quickly became the most important issue of the election to most Americans. Pew Research Center exit polls showed that 63 percent of Americans listed the economy as the top issue of the election.

McCain had a chance to take back the lead in the three debates held from September 26 to October 15, but audiences weighed in to announce that they thought Obama was the clear winner of all three debates. In addition, Palin, lost her one and only debate to Obama's running mate, Senator Joe Biden.

Since November 4, the world has watched in praise and amazement at the fact that 143 years after slavery was abolished in this country, an African American will be our next president. Leaders all around the world since have congratulated the U.S. for its progress in social acceptance.

Washington finally sees break in Gas prices

Gas prices hit recent lows and students at GRCC react

Alex Sluys
Staff Writer

Gas prices are going down and GRCC students are finally getting a break at the pump.

The price per gallon concludes the month of October at a Washington State average of \$2.81, a dramatic difference from the \$3.82 we were paying at the beginning of September.

As November began gas prices dropped closer to two dollars per gallon.

"I think the gas prices are good now but I'm afraid there just going to go back up again," said 19 year old Sihnae Moore, an AA major at Green River Community College.

Another GRCC student Michele Sadler,

an 18 year old History major said, "I wish the gas prices could be as low in the summer as they are now."

The common theme seems to be that everyone seems to love the gas prices now, but what's going to happen when they go back up. Many fear it is only a matter of time before a repeat of last summer.

High summer gas prices were a result of many things, Hurricane Ike being one of them. Although there was not as much damage as experts expected, the hurricane still caused an overnight increase of 30 cents per gallon. Other causes included high demands and rising tensions in the Middle East.

Experts say the recent decrease in gas prices is caused by low demand. Gas prices are expected to remain low through the winter as the demand stays low, but as the weather gets nicer, travel demands go up, and so do the gas prices.

Gregoire rides Obama boost to victory in WA

Over 100,000 votes the difference in rematch of '04

Justin Runquist
Staff Writer

Washington's hotly competitive gubernatorial election came to an unexpectedly quick conclusion on November 4 as Democrat Christine Gregoire was reelected for her second consecutive term.

Despite the predictions, this was far from the controversial neck and neck gubernatorial race of 2004, in which Gregoire defeated her opponent Republican Dino Rossi by only 133 votes after several recounts. Up against Rossi again this year, things looked like they might shape up similarly.

Rossi lead in most polls up to the election, and even Gregoire's campaign was bracing itself for a tough fight, estimating that Rossi would start out with a solid four point lead in the race and that Gregoire would have to stick it out and battle back for several days. As the voting commenced on election night though, the results looked a bit different.

The race started out tight, but eventually Gregoire took a noticeable lead, and it only grew from there. Finally, she was declared the winner with 53 percent of the vote. Rossi took 46 percent of the vote, so it was not nearly as close as people thought it would be with a seven point margin between the two candidates.

In retrospect, the most similar aspect of the 2004 and 2008 race was the nasty nature of the mudslinging attack ads flying out from both campaigns. People will forever remember this as a very slanderous election. It will also be remembered as the most costly election, as it broke state records for spending.

After she was announced the victor of the fight, Gregoire stopped for an acceptance

speech. Both candidates seemed ready to put the dirty politics aside at that point.

"All of the negative ads are down," said Gregoire, "It is time for us to come together as one great state."

She mentioned Barack Obama when she spoke about the tough fight ahead, something she did throughout the campaign to associate herself with the popular new president-elect.

"We are going to have some tough times in the days ahead and it's going to take every one of us working together, no matter party affiliation, no matter what. It's going to take every one of us. As (Obama) said, it's going to take some sacrifice," she said.

Particularly, Gregoire named off one of her main focuses for the next term as providing affordable education for every child and college student in the state.

"With Barack Obama as a partner, every one of our children will be able to have a world-class education. It will start with early learning, every kid who wants to go to college will go. Every kid who wants to get involved in the trades will go," she said.

Gregoire has much more than just education to think about now though. She plans to increase jobs; provide healthcare for all children in the state by 2010; and cut the deficit. Rossi is holding her to a promise to not increase taxes or fees in order to shrink the deficit, so that adds more pressure and complication to her plight as the people expect not to have tax raises. To add even more complication to the mix, Gregoire may have trouble trying to restrict spending in working with an increasingly Democratic Legislature.

Rossi gave his concession speech on November 5. He said that even though he lost, he is still happy, and that he knew he would be happy regardless of the outcome.

Reichert wins seat in 8th District

Dave Reichert wins third term, a rare Republican victory on election night, overcoming "Obama boost" to edge past Darcy Burner

Jean-Pierre Garcia
Staff Writer

Auburn resident, Dave Reichert has survived the challenge to his incumbency and will continue to represent moderate Republicans in the Washington state congress' 8th district.

"It is a long grueling stressful process, and especially in the last two years. This campaign for congress we are only a few handful of members who survived this battle," said Reichert.

Friday night Democratic challenger Darcy Burner made a concession speech. In a public statement Burner said

"It is likely at this point that Congressman Reichert has won re-election, and while we will certainly ensure that every valid vote is counted, we accept the decision of the voters."

Late Friday night Reichert was leading by 8,000 votes out of the 270,000 cast.

"All three [of my] campaigns have been tough battles, but I think in the end the people of the 8th District recognize they have a representative who represents all the people in the 8th District," Reichert

said. "I think people recognize that I have a moderate, common sense, logical approach to this job."

A self-professed moderate Democrat, Green River student Christiana "Elle," voiced her support for Dave Reichert due to his career fighting crime, through congress and in law enforcement.

Reichert was a King County sheriff involved in the investigation of the "Green River Killer."

Elle believes he could work well with Governor Gregoire.

Crime is an issue that Darcy Burner's website was lacking.

Perhaps this may have swayed voters like Elle who would have voted Democratic otherwise.

A second economic stimulus and environmental protection are said to be the first things on David Reichert's agenda.

"I think people recognize that I have a moderate, common sense, logical approach to this job," said Reichert.

Barack Obama's victory proud moment in U.S. history

According to Michael Espinosa, Obama victory historically significant, but also right choice

Commentary by
Michael Espinosa

"If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer." Barack Obama opened his acceptance speech, Tuesday night.

On that cold November night, virtually everyone was crowded around a television waiting for the results. Barack Obama defeated John McCain, by over double McCain's electoral vote, 364-173.

Many Americans have grown tired of the election, listening for twenty-one months, listening to the deafening rhetoric from Republicans, Democrats and Independents. As John McCain put it during his concession speech, "we have come to the end of a long journey. The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly."

During his concession, McCain congratulated Barack Obama to the boos of his supporters.

While many of us are not surprised that his supporters would be disappointed, and that they have been booing the mentioning of Obama's name for weeks, McCain took the high road pausing midsentence with a simple "please".

Calling his supporters to put their partisan battle to support our president-elect, McCain went on to

say, "... it's natural tonight to feel some disappointment, but tomorrow we must move beyond it and work together to get our country moving again. We fought -- we fought as hard as we could."

We are in an age where an African-American man is capable of being elected president of the United States of America. So many people thought that they would never see the day.

McCain was hanging by a wire for the last few days, and he tried to keep an optimistic view of the progress of his campaign. But when the results for Ohio came in for Obama, it had become clear to everyone that McCain had no chance of winning, since no republican had won the presidency without winning Ohio.

Obama held his acceptance speech in Chicago, to a sea of people. Even when the victory party was an arrogant move in the last few days of the campaign, it turned out to be an over-the-top event.

Sadly, of all the people that were at the event, the most important person to Obama was not: his grandmother. Following the announcement of her death Monday morning, Obama continued to campaign in Florida. And

"You've seen the video tapes of Walter Cronkite the night that the men landed on the Moon for the first time, when Neil Armstrong stepped out and he could just barely get out monosyllables-- Politically, that's what this is. This is man on the moon."

-Keith Olbermann

while his victory was storybook-like, the happy ending was not so happy, since his beloved Grandmother did not live to see the day where her grandson was able to become president of the United States.

Like most politicians, during his speech, Obama announced "This is your victory". However cliché that statement is, it still touches the heart of every supporter drowning in that crowd; drowning in people as well as tears.

Many Obama supporters, such as Jesse Jackson, could not keep their eyes dry through the speech. In such a powerful hour, every heartbeat seemed to be in sync.

Since Obama won, we can imagine that there will some big changes in healthcare, taxes, and many other issues.

Finally, the rich will be paying a similar annual percentage as the middle class, and most of our citizens can finally receive healthcare without having to go through insurance company loopholes.

If everything goes to Obama's plan, which is very unlikely, America will be out of Iraq and there will be more of a focus on Afghanistan. And no longer will America have to spend thousands upon thousands of dollars a day on a meaningless occupancy.

Hopefully, America will be more prone to embracing alternative fuels, and getting over our addiction to not just foreign oil, but oil in general. With the currently

innovative technologies, such as a water powered car (from Japan) or the compressed air powered car (from France), and be able to lower gas prices to where they were before GWB took office those eight long years ago.

This was truly a very historic election; the gravity of the outcome could be felt by everyone. Everyone knows that the history of the country would change Tuesday night, either for Obama or McCain.

With the first ever African-American politician to ever take the office of president, or the oldest man to take office, the election of 2008 was one to get down in the history books.

But on this November night we, as a nation, have taken a giant step forward in the march toward true equality amongst men, what our founding fathers dreamt of all those centuries ago. With numerous citizens from many foreign countries staying up in their respective time zones in order to watch history be made here in our own turf, cheers could be heard all around the world when it was announced that Obama would be our president-elect.

Not to mention the appreciation from Kenya, a country who declared November 6th a national holiday to celebrate Obama's victory.

As commentator for MSNBC, Keith Olbermann put it, "You've seen the video tapes of Walter Cronkite the night that the men landed on the Moon for the first time, when Neil Armstrong stepped out and he could just barely get out monosyllables-- Politically, that's what this is. This is man on the moon."

Correction:

In Issue 2 there was an article on the 'Election '08' page about non-partisan news that was attributed to former staff member Alex Hoggard. The article was actually written by present staff member Justin Runquist.

Editorial Policy

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

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.

The Current Staff

The Current is a public forum for student expression at Green River Community College, since 1965.



Editor in Chief:
Casey Greer

Campus Editor:
Tammie Tamara



**A&E Editor/
Advertising
Manager:**
Katie Barr

Sports Editor:
Sean Kramer



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

Journalism advisor:
John Knowlton

Reporters:

Kylie Noble, Kelcie Fingarson, Christin Helt, Yuki Inoguchi, Alex Sluys, Lizz Atkins, Cheyenne Szarka, Jenna Fernandez, Richard Jackson, Jean-Pierre Garcia, Justin Runquist, Andrew Honea, Michael Espinosa, Kelsie Dougherty, Natalie Lowe, Lindsay Gordon, Jennifer Horn

Five Best Places to Eat for \$10 or Less

By Kelcie Fingarson

Picante beef flavored top ramen and mayonnaise smothered McChickens seem to be a couple popular favorites for the poor and frugal college student. Having to pay for sky rocketing tuition, books and some even housing, times are tight. It's impossible to be able to treat ourselves to extravagant meals on a daily basis. But, it's a realistic idea to go out to a nice, yet inexpensive lunch every once in a while. Surprisingly there are several eateries, from Mexican to Asian food, cheeseburgers to fluffy omelets in the nearby area. Every place offers bubbly customer service, tasty dishes and best of all, they are all under 10 dollars!

The Krain

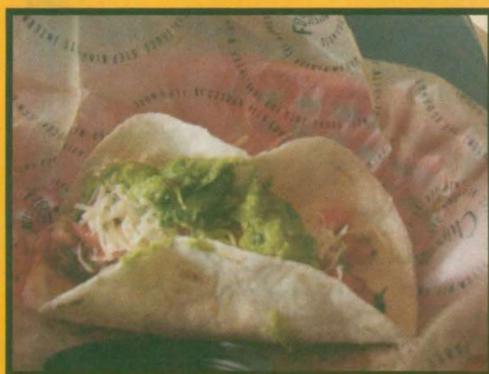
The Krain, located in Enumclaw has been a tavern, a dance hall, a candy shop, and now a restaurant. The building is over a hundred years old and is family owned. First step in the door and you get a warm homey feeling, walls covered with cute antiques and newspaper history of the town. Breakfast is served all day. Everything from scrambles filled with ham, cheddar cheese, onions, green peppers, eggs and potatoes to absolutely delicious omelets to a stack of fluffy hotcakes and a side of bacon. Just when you think your scramble or omelet is plenty to fill your belly; they ask you if you'd like toast, an English muffin or biscuits and gravy to accompany your main dish. To top it off, the Krain makes homemade strawberry and raspberry jam and "to die for" smoothies. Breakfast ranges anywhere from \$6.29 to \$9.29. If you'd rather take the lunch menu route, they offer burgers, specialty sandwiches such as a melt, veggie sandwich or their famous kielbasa grinder. You can chow down on a yummy lunch for anywhere from \$4.59 to \$8.99. This adorable place is my number one recommendation and is likely to be your new favorite restaurant!



All photos taken by Kelcie Fingarson

Chipotle

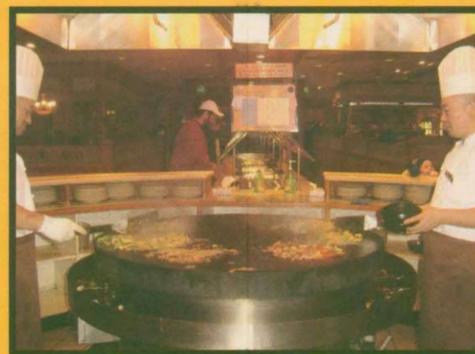
Chicken, steak, or shredded pork or beef? Would you like a humongous burrito, three soft tacos, 4 hard shell tacos or possibly a salad? These are all questions you'll be asked at Chipotle Mexican Grill. Depending on the meat you'd prefer prices start at \$5.70 and go up to \$6.00. Burritos are heaven, stuffed with black or pinto beans, rice, your choice of meat, fresh tomatoes, salsas, sour cream and cheese. I usually give in and pay the extra \$1.60 to have a pile of freshly made guacamole. Homemade tortilla chips with either salsa or guac. make the meal complete and extremely filling. Their drinks are completely reasonable and fun, margaritas, specialty or domestic beer and soda. Chipotle can be found in the heart of Kent Station or in Federal Way close to the commons.



Chicken Soft Taco with Guacamole

Jasmine Mongolian Grill

Imagine an all you can eat buffet of fresh chicken breast, beef and pork, mixed with noodles, and every veggie imaginable. Now top it with delicious sauces such as garlic, lime, red wine, chili oil, and you can't forget their necessary chef sauce. Can you even begin to fathom that this healthy, wholesome meal is only \$8.99 at Jasmine Mongolian Grill? To accompany your meal, you are offered either sweet and sour or egg flower soup, a bowl of white rice and a few pieces of rice paper. The rice paper is fun to make your noodles in to a little tasty burrito. I always walk out stuffed, with a fortune cookie and extra money in my pocket! Located next to the Commons in Federal Way.



Red Lobster

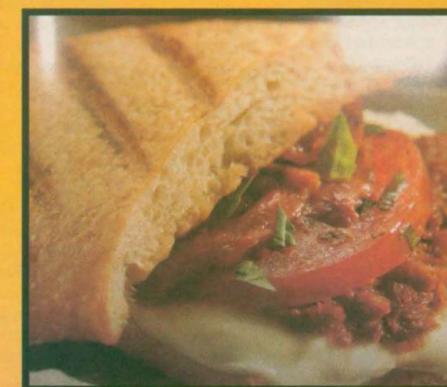
When I hear the words "Red Lobster", the first thing that comes to mind is "Out of this World" cheesy biscuits. But, I've only been there for dinner and it's a bit fancy. Surprisingly, their lunch menu has a wide variety of soups, salads, chicken and seafood, and for all \$10 or less! The best deal was endless soup, shrimp garden salad and cheesy biscuits for only \$6.99. If you don't want salad, they have fish filet sandwiches, popcorn shrimp or chicken strips, all with fries for around \$7.50. But, my personal favorite is their shrimp linguini alfredo tossed in garlic parmesan cream sauce. So if you're looking for a treat and maybe a bit of seafood come to Red Lobster.



Coconut Shrimp with Tartar Sauce

Panera Bread

For those of you who want a wholesome meal in a short amount of time, look no further than Panera Bread café. This quaint old world style soup and sandwich restaurant offers an assortment of homemade soups, sandwiches, grilled Panini's, and an abundance of specialty breads. All of which remind me of the phrase "just like mom used to make". Daily soup specials include French onion, baked potato, and Boston clam chowder to name a few. Their broccoli cheddar soup is a personal favorite of mine. At \$4.29 a bowl that makes for an inexpensive way to warm up and fill your belly on one of those cold, damp, Seattle winter days. If soup is not your forte', then enjoy one of the specialty sandwiches made to order with all fresh ingredients and homemade bread. A Panera favorite is the Smokehouse Turkey Panini for \$8.99. It entails smoked turkey breast, smoked bacon, smoked cheddar and a sundried tomato ale mustard, all grilled hot on artisan three cheese bread. It's a must stop lunch spot found either at Kent Station or The Commons at Federal Way.



Smokehouse Turkey Panini

Gator Men 'Gear up' for 2008-09 Season

GRCC Men's basketball team kicks off their season in style

Baris Cirak
Staff Writer

Green River Community College Gators kicked-off the promising basketball season with the first ever "Gear Up for Basketball" event. Spectators were able to see the players show off their skills all over the court with a 5-on-5 scrimmage along with a three pointer shootout and a slam dunk contest.

The night started with the announcements of the '09 Men's Gators squad. Full roster was present at the event, including five returning sophomores. Raffle tickets were available before the event.

Right after the announcements, a number of raffle tickets had been drawn for Green River t-shirts. After the introduction the team was split in half by the head coach Tim Malroy for the scrimmage game, officiated by the fifth-year assistant coach Roderick Mabry.

Giovanni Lee, second-year swingman out of Stadium High School, displayed his athletic ability to those who were in the gym for the first time, giving some tips about the slam dunk competition coming up with a couple of sweet assists from Jordan Paulson, another sophomore guard from Bellarmine Prep High School. The game lasted twenty minutes in total, equaling a first half of a regular game.

"We loved it," said Mahmuthan Savrun, 19, an Intensive English as a Second Language (IESL) from Cankaya High School, Turkey. "I wish the game was longer than this. The team has a lot of potential to be seen and all I hope is to see

that potential to be displayed to the fullest in the upcoming season."

The competition part started with the three pointer contest. After a close match-up in the final round, one of three Swedish players on the team, Henoag Yizgov, from Stockholm, Sweden, won the contest in front of freshman Michael Crudup out of Cleveland High School.

"Mike was known primarily as a shooter/scorer in high school, but we believe he can be an outstanding all around player. He has the physical tools and mental toughness to come in as a freshman and contribute at multiple positions. Mike is determined to succeed and I have no doubt that he will do so with the tremendous support he will receive from his family," said Coach Malroy.

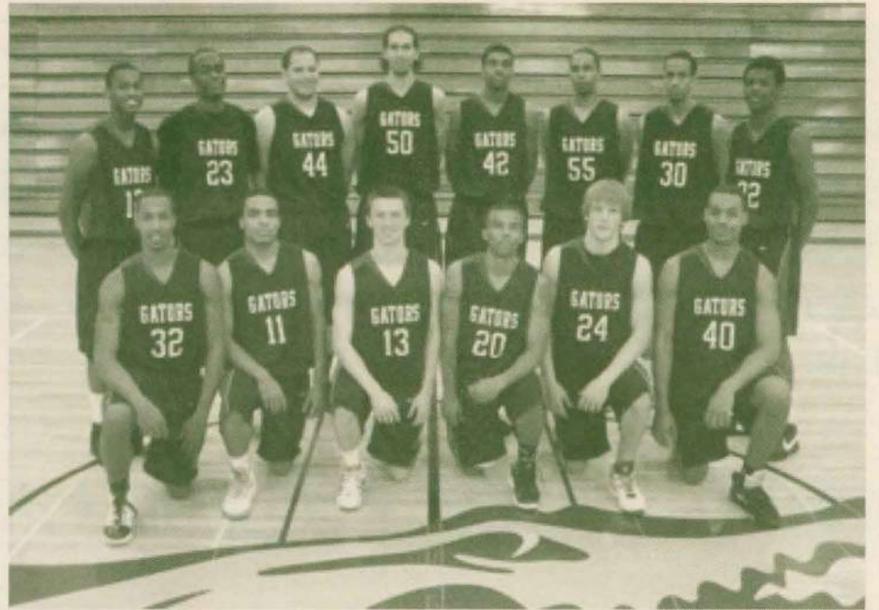
This year the Gators have an international touch on the squad. Three Swedish players, Henoah Yizgov, Tomas Jonas and Phillipus Assef have joined the team after the Fall Quarter International Student Orientation.

The last action of the night, and the most anticipated, was the Slam Dunk Contest.

After showing off a little bit in the scrimmage game, Giovanni Lee was going into the contest as the favorites in front of Jamaal Thomas, freshman forward out of Garfield High School, and Michael Crudup.

"Gio should get this," said Coach Malroy. "But it's not going to be easy. Crudup is a sleeper, you cannot tell how high he can jump." Lee won the contest with his spectacular "Dee Brownesque" self alley-oop dunk from the backboard gave him the lead in front of Thomas, the highflying power forward.

Jamaal Thomas and Jade Collier have reunited in Green River Gators after playing together for three years at Garfield



www.greenriver.edu/Courtesy photo

The 2008-09 Gator Men's basketball team makes their home debut on Dec. 5.

High School. Collier and Thomas carried the Garfield High School to 4A State Championships.

After finishing in the sixth place of Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) Western Division, where the first four teams qualify or the NWAACC Championships in early March, the Gators have kept the sideline staff, as they did in last three years except the addition of the assistant coach Godfrey Drake, a Jackson, MS native, who played college basketball in Southern Missouri University.

Gators want support from Green River community. Annual "Jam the Gym" day will be combined with the annual "Valley Cup" in which student governments of Highline Community College and GRCC are in a clash, the event is to be held in Green River first time in three year history

of the cup, on February 18th.

"We are giving our best to support the Gators. But unfortunately we are a handful of people that are always there, we absolutely need some more people to come to the games if we want to be one of the first schools in NWAACC to have full stands and a spirit," said Cem Serbetci, 21, a sophomore. Athletic division wants more people to go to the games, too. (Learn the name of Patty's corner) is doing hot dogs, snacks and drinks for purchase. All the money that is collected there is going towards the Gators' athletic scholarships.

The Gators want to make the NWAACC Championships that is to be held in Tri-Cities, Washington in early March. The Gator fans are loud and proud to make their dream to come true.

Refereeing a job for some students

GRCC students make ends meet on a soccer field

Natalie Lowe
Staff Writer

Everyone at Green River Community College has some way of footing the bill for school expenses whether it is working a full-time job, one or more part-time jobs, scholarships and financial aid, or having their parents foot the bill.

Obviously these things are necessary to pay for our education, but sometimes these jobs are boring and unfulfilling and leave employees wondering what else they could do to earn their paycheck. One alternative to those jobs that students work to help pay for school is to work as a referee for soccer games. Because this job is usually available only on the weekends, and the occasional weeknight, it is definitely different from many part-time or full-time jobs.

Robbie Schuck, a 17 year old running start student, referees on weekends and weekdays as his form of employment.

He enjoys refereeing because he plays soccer but he also acknowledges that it is a very unique job.

"It's different in that it is extremely flexible. You choose where you work, at what time, on which days, how much, all of it. Your [referee] license is good anywhere in the state, and for most all games. So you can always find something to do," Schuck said. "Each game is different and unique in its own way, so it is not easy to get bored, especially when you first start. So I think

refereeing is a better job than any other."

Although it would help to have a basic interest and knowledge of the game, it is definitely not necessary. To become a referee all that is required is going to a two day learning session, paying the \$50 (use digits for numbers over 10+, though your ap style may be correct for "dollar") fee to sign up, and passing a test that is taken at the end of the learning session.

It is similar to many jobs, going through the training process to see if you are qualified, but you also have time to study if you are not familiar with all of the rules.

Also, the monetary compensation is comparable or better than other part time jobs; referees at the sidelines can make 20 dollars or more for just one game, and games usually last an hour and a half, which is almost fifteen dollars an hour for relatively easy work.

Another benefit that is different about soccer refereeing is that even though the referees are not actually playing in the game, they still get exercise

running up and down the field to follow the action of the game and be able to make accurate calls. Some jobs entail standing around doing nothing, or just being in one place for extended periods of time and refereeing incorporates activity.

<http://www.wasrc.org/index> For more information.

Gator Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
Nov. 21	@North Idaho	7:30
Nov. 22	Blue Mountain @ NIC	3:00
Nov. 28	Wenatchee Valley @ SVC Cardinal Classic	5:00
Nov. 29	Skagit Valley Classic	TBA
Dec. 5	North Seattle	7:00
Dec. 6	North Idaho	3:00
Dec. 13	Spokane	3:00
Dec. 16	@ Olympic	5:00
Dec. 19-21	Whatcom Crossover	TBA
Jan. 3	Pierce	5:00
Jan. 7	@ Lower Columbia	8:00
Jan. 10	Tacoma	5:00
Jan. 14	Grays Harbor	8:00
Jan. 17	@ Centralia	7:00
Jan. 19	@ Highline	8:00
Jan. 21	So. Puget Sound	8:00
Jan. 28	@ Clark	8:00
Jan. 31	@ Pierce	7:00
Feb. 4	Lower Columbia	8:00
Feb. 7	@ Tacoma	3:00
Feb. 11	@ Grays Harbor	8:00
Feb. 14	Centralia	5:00
Feb. 18	Highline	8:00
Feb. 21	@ So. Puget Sound	5:00
Mar. 5-8	NWAACC Championships	

NCAA should follow Barack Obama's advice

Obama's desire for a football playoff reflects that of fans.



Column by
Casey Greer

Barack Obama has taken questions for months, he's deflected false accusations, and given inspiring, well thought out answers to several tough questions, but never did he give a more perfect answer than the Monday before the election.

Much to my chagrin, football has ousted baseball as America's game, and there was no more ideal setting for the two candidates to square off in front of America's working class, than on Monday Night Football.

In an event that ESPN boasted about for days, both Obama and John McCain were interviewed by ESPN personality Chris Berman. Parts of the interviews were shown at half time, and despite how close the two candidates were to Election Day, less than 24 hours away, they fielded questions that mostly pertained to sports.

The two were both asked questions related to their own sports experience, to which they gave standard answers. Both claimed to be decent athletes who received life-altering advice from a coach.

However, the climax of the entire interview, the moment where people across the country stood up and shouted a collective "Hell Yeah!" came early in the halftime proceedings.

Berman asked McCain and Obama what they would change in sports if they had the power to do so. McCain beat the proverbial dead horse that is performance enhancing drugs. We've all heard too much about steroids already, and as the curtain is lifted it looks more and more like drugs were as readily available and willingly ingested as Flintstone vitamins.

Obama, however, gave an answer that perhaps made even the "blue collar" political celebrity "Joe the Plummer" shed a joyful tear.

"I think it is about time we had playoffs in college football. I'm fed up with those computer rankings. Get eight teams -- the top eight teams -- right at the end. You get a playoff. Decide a national champion," said Obama.

Across the country, collectively, armchair quarterbacks from the corporate types to college students stood. "This guy gets it," they said.

There are issues in sports that are polarizing, which divide people on either side of the side of the issue. Obama encourages unity, and there is perhaps no more uniting concept in sports than that of a college football playoff.

If the presidential election was a landslide, the percentage of people in favor of a playoff is a lahar.

According to a 2006 survey on cnnsi.com 82 percent of fans would like to see a playoff system and a 2007 college football player survey indicates that 73.1 percent of players wanted a playoff. So what is the hold up?

Despite the seemingly endless numbers of sometimes complicated scenarios for a college playoff, there is a very simple answer

for why one hasn't been implemented yet, money.

From a business standpoint, college football is an amazing industry. Without \$100 million in player salaries to pay, stadiums which often seat nearly 100,000 people, fans with built in reasons to be loyal, such as their own previous attendance to the academic institution (which is what I'm told some of these BCS schools are), and sponsors for every conceivable facet of the games, college football is extremely profitable.

However, greed begets more greed, and unfortunately for the majority of fans, those who control the NCAA hold the money, and thus the power, and don't want a playoff.

In public those people will attempt to endear themselves to the mothers and fathers who are concerned for their own children in school, and claim that the playoff would cut into a players time to study, and that a 14, 15, or 16 game season is just too long.

However, the present bowl season occurs predominantly during most schools' winter breaks, and while an extra two or three weeks may seem imposing, it certainly isn't a problem for the NCAA Basketball tournament which "imposes" on 65 teams, and "forces" players to miss school as they play as many as six games spread across those three weeks, right in the middle of spring quarter no less.

In reality, if a few bowl games are cheapened, the previously low-overhead operation that is college football suddenly incurs some financial risk. Sponsors for bowl games usually pay about around \$15 million for the sponsorship, and the

television station broadcasting the game near \$20 million.

With four BCS bowl games and a BCS national title game, there could be around \$175 million at stake.

However, if playoff were in place, an eight team playoff as Obama suggested, by sheer volume it would seem like the NCAA would increase its profit.

Perhaps NASCAR's "Chase for the Sprint Cup" is the best example by which the NCAA can draw positive conclusions. NASCAR's controversial rotisserie style playoff came about after Matt Kenseth won the then Winston Cup in 2003, despite winning only one of NASCAR's 36 races, while Ryan Newman won eight races and finished sixth in points.

Whether by coincidence or more likely in reaction to Kenseth's 2003 season, NASCAR implemented the "Chase" in 2004, and changed its scoring system, putting a greater emphasis on winning races, and less emphasis on cosmetically good finishes. Steve Spurrier, Pete Carroll, are you listening?

Since implementing its playoff, NASCAR has continued its meteoric rise into the sports forefront, leaving its once niche status in the dust. Television ratings are up, and the sport was more profitable until this year, when it has struggled as a reflection of the country's economy.

Obama's playoff would give the NCAA two more games to prostitute to sponsors, advertisers, and fans. But in a sport that is perpetually behind the times and a governing body and its ground level representatives (coaches) wrought with corruption, who are you and I as fans to have the audacity to shake the apple cart?

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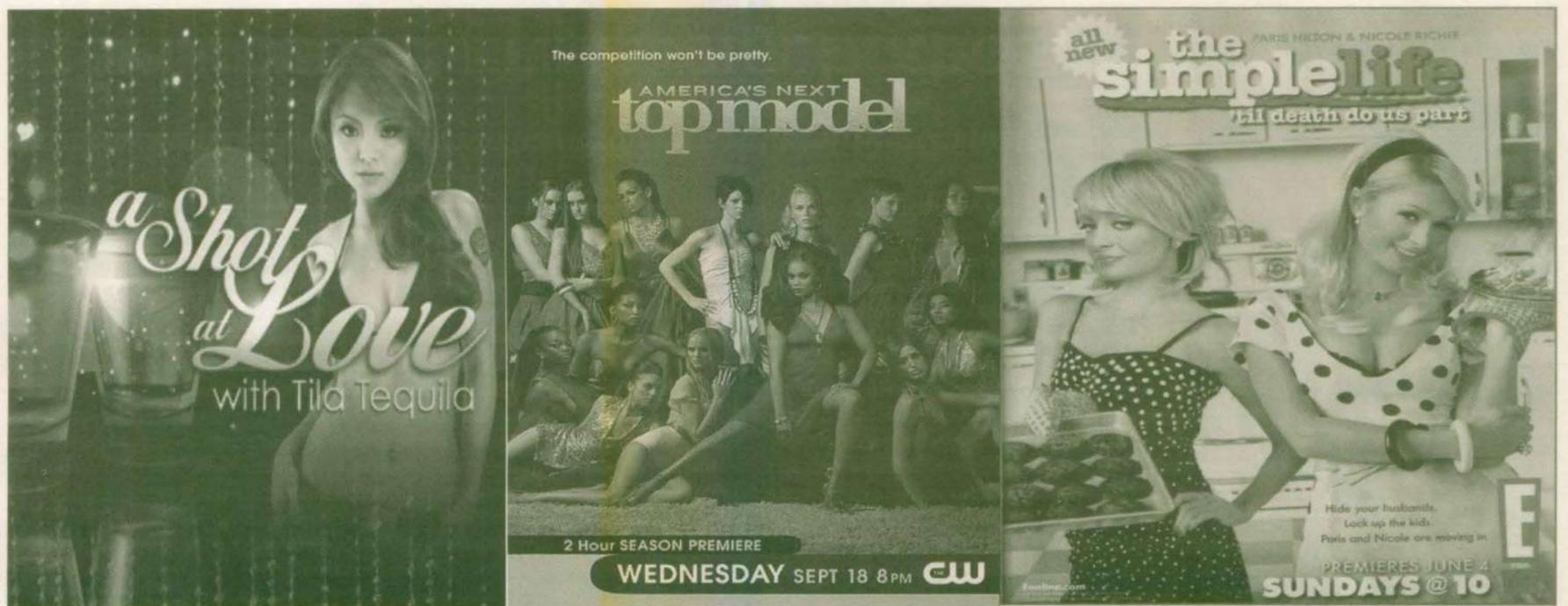
How much do they
really make?
see Inside | 8-9

FREE | Additional copies \$5.00

Planning for
June ceremony
now under way
Over 2,000 expected
at commencement

Legislator tours, speaks on campus
Upthegrove to support new construction at Green River

Mushrooming reality shows replace the good ol' sitcoms



isteps.blogspot.com/www.teamsugar.com/img124.imageshack.us/Courtesy Photo

Reality shows with bad qualities dominate television

Commentary by
Kelcie Fingarson

Sunday, Monday, happy days. Tuesday, Wednesday, happy days. Thursday, Friday, happy days. Saturday, what a day, groovin' all week with you.

I miss the happy days, the days where families and friends alike would snuggle up to the warm fire and get sucked in the world of sitcoms. Sitcoms used to be comfort food and an escape from the stress and yawns of everyday life.

After a long, gruesome day at your desk job in Dullsville, you would race home to crack open a beer, elevate your feet and watch your favorite characters come to life in your own living room. It's as though the characters were part of your own family, each of them

distinct with quirky, comedic or relatable personalities that were entirely too easy to fall in love with.

Ah, such a wholesome time. But, times are changing, the cute lessons learned at the end of each Full House episode and the quick witted comedy in beloved shows such as Seinfeld; seem to be going into oblivion.

"Sitcoms used to be comfort food, and an escape from the stress and yawns of everyday life."

The replacement of such shows you ask? None other than the dominating world of tribal councils, cat fights, and extreme physical challenges, I'm talking about reality television.

We could blame Alan Funt for starting this mess, with his 1948 creation of Candid Camera, which most say was the first form of reality TV to hit the air. As you can imagine, the concept of reality television was astonishing to folks of the late 40's who had never sunk their

teeth into such a thing.

Most teens living in this racy world today are counting down the hours until their favorite guilty pleasure will captivate their eyes and ears.

There are two main reasons why sitcoms are going to their graves and networks are being dominated by reality programs. Number one, reality TV is cheap.

Think about it, you don't have to pay script writers or actors. A sitcom or drama may have two to four principal actors, and then there is the supporting cast that can go up to a dozen people.

It takes a lot to make sure these actors and actresses are picture perfect with flawless makeup and flowing locks. If the show is a hit, the network demands an obscene amount of cash. For the 2001-2002 season of the well-liked Seattle based show "Frasier", NBC negotiated a whopping \$5,200,000 an episode!

Reality shows have another potential source of revenue less available to other types of shows. Advertisers are willing to pay substantial amounts to have their product incorporated in the show. The last and most important reason why reality

television is so successful and in such high demand is that capturing the struggles, emotions and victories of everyday Joes is enticing and extremely addicting. We like to see "normal" people's faces on the small screen.

We want to cheer for the underdog to win the race, roll on the floor laughing when the goofy guy makes a complete fool of himself, and cry when our favorite singer gets voted off.

Many may be upset that television that calls for talented actors and mind blowing scripts are slowly falling off the face of this planet. I suggest those people suck it up or toss their television sets in the dumpster, because this trend is here to stay.

"I suggest those people suck it up or toss their television sets in the dumpster, because this trend is here to stay."

A documentary gives insight to Bush's life and presidency

A GRCC political science class watches the movie

Jenna Fernandez
Staff Writer

The movie "W" is a dramatized documentary of George Walker Bush's life. This film, written by Oliver Stone, gives us a behind the scenes glimpse into the life of our 43rd president.

Written in only 42 days, the movie switched back and forth from events in his adolescence to present time. It gave us a taste of Bush's younger, rebellious side, which few people know of. Constantly being held as number 2 to his brother, Jeb Bush, George faces hardships and learns to overcome them in attempt to win his parents affection.

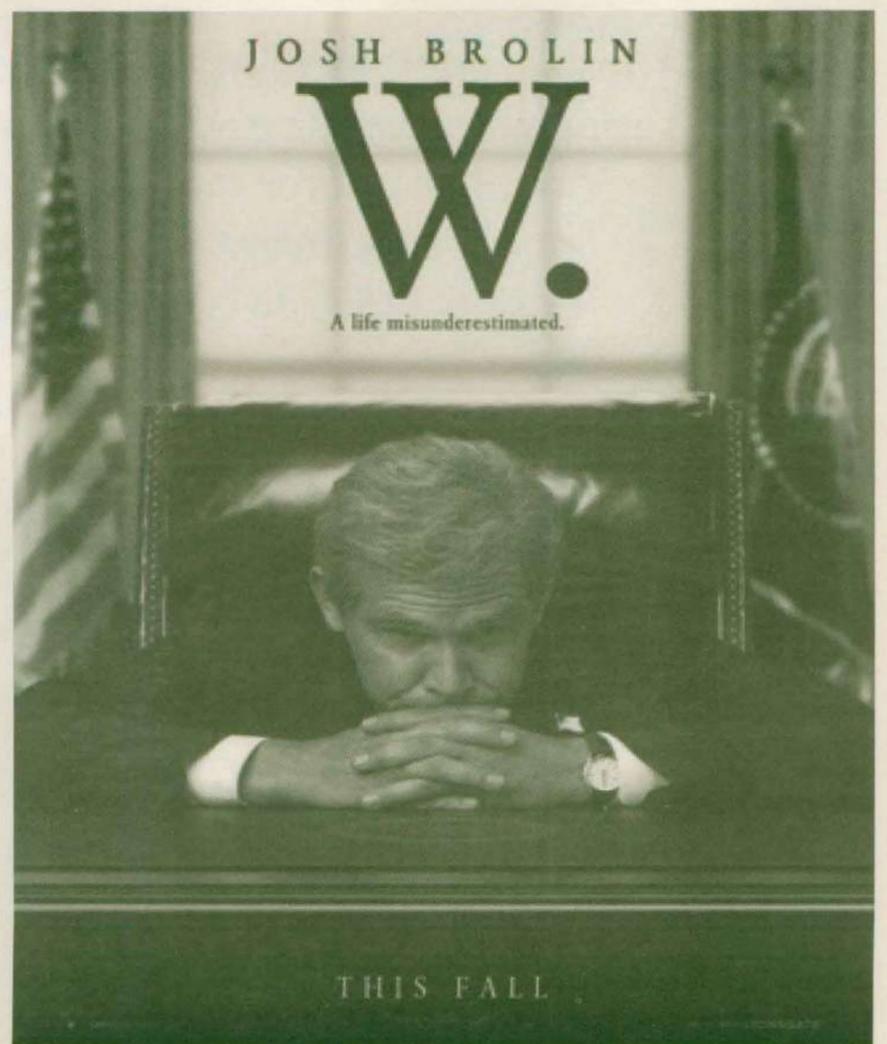
As the Political Science class of Mr. James Todd went to see this film, many had interesting responses that varied from each other. "Overall, this movie was very informative and I felt it gave me an entire new outlook on the presidency in its current state," said student Kristina McCormick. "The man has undoubtedly changed American History." While some came out more optimistic towards Bush, others did not.

"The character of 'W' showed us the failure and poor leading skills of Bush Jr. while at the same time showed the accomplishments and disappointments of his father." Jordan Smith says.

Some feel like the show boosted viewers thoughts towards our President, while others inevitably begged to differ.

"I feel as if the decisions Bush made in his presidency were from impulsive choices based upon the best interests of the Nation at the time," said Kristianna Bautista. "These facts were brought to light when I saw this movie." She said that the movie made Bush seem more relatable than before. "He was a weak, easily influenced person from his college years and then he grew up and the film let us watch that," she said.

All in all, the general reaction was that of contentment. The movie was subtle, yet to some was reason for a good laugh. Though completely factual, Bush's life was chaotic and stressful. With great actors impersonating Karl Rove, Condoleezza Rice, and Dick Cheney, the show was a hit! "W" is a must see if you're looking for a comical, fun, informational movie!



MySpace and Facebook neck to neck to popularity

The two giant networking sites poke each other with features and applications

Jenna Fernandez
Staff Writer

In this technological world, teenagers are constantly finding quick and easy ways to communicate. Over the past five years, we've watched the internet world expand and attract people of all different ages. Today we face a serious power and popularity battle between the Gods of the online communities. Myspace and Facebook are the two most in demand internet sites used by the teenage world. They offer fast, easily accessible ways to communicate with those across the room, or across the world.

Identifying the purposes of these websites may appear to be simplistic, but they both have way more to offer than what meets the eye. First is the obvious, both Myspace and Facebook are social networking sites that help us keep up with each other in a speedy fashion.

Just like text messaging, both of these sites allow you to send a fast message over to another friend.

The sites also have many other functions, these vary, thus the reasons why some like one better than the other.

According to CNN.com MySpace was created in August of 2003. Employees of Friendster (an older online community) saw the potential in their company's website and decided to mimic the more popular features in their own site.

It only took them ten days to launch the

first MySpace version. Currently attracting over 230,000 different users daily, MySpace has come leaps and bounds in the past five years.

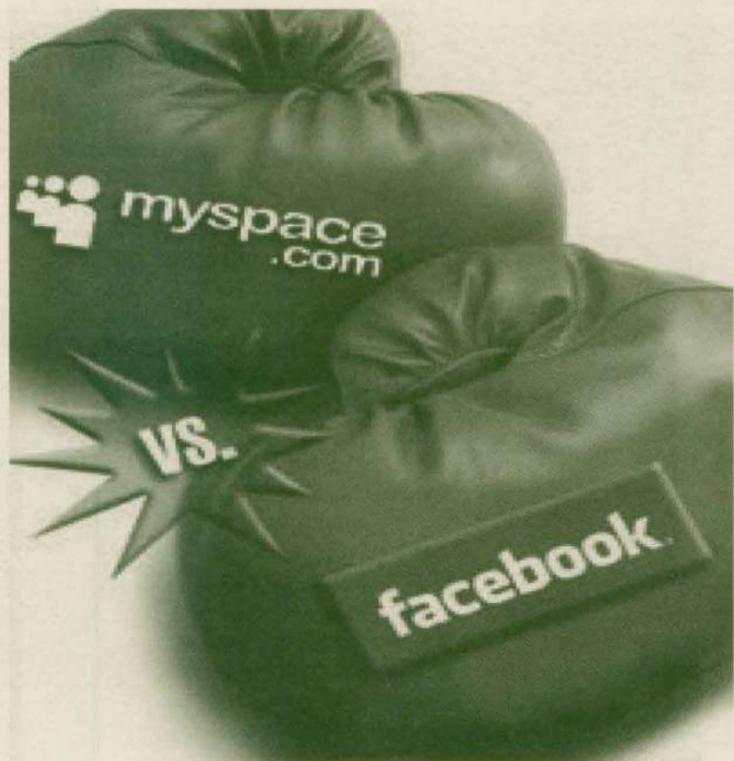
Creating unique content, Myspace offers a broad network of friends, blogs, photos, music, personal profiles, and videos. With new features like Myspace TV, IM, Mobile, News, Polls, and even Karaoke, this internet community has attracted nearly three quarters of the United States population.

Facebook, the competing site of Myspace, is fairly new to the online realm. Launched in February of 2004, this site is privately owned and, like MySpace, frees to use. When first established, in order to get a profile you had to register with a college or work email address.

Being privately owned, the intent was to attract an older crowd. After seeing how popular this business site was, the prerequisite of having a college or work email was gotten rid of.

Now, more of a social networking website, Facebook has landed on the charts, engrossing over 100 million users in its features and abilities. The most popular out of the many features is the "Poke" feature. This poke feature allows you to bring yourself to friend's attentions without saying anything.

When surveying 52 students at Green River Community College, 34 said that they prefer Myspace over Facebook. The other 18 declared that Facebook was their fave.



AP/AOL

www.bloggingstocks.com/CourtesyPhoto

"I like Myspace a lot better than Facebook because all of my friends have it and it's a lot easier to navigate than Facebook is," Green River student Stephanie Greenside stated. "Facebook is more of a mature setting; it helps you get linked with job opportunities in your area and network with people that go to your college." Junior Sam Wiseman says.

Whether you enjoy spending endless hours socializing online, or prefer

publicizing your band or Videos, Myspace and Facebook are notorious for lending a hand.

Both of these websites offer a great deal of innovative ways to keep you busy and entertained.

Whichever set of features tickle your fancy, go start up an account and get accustomed with the ever popular online world! Myspace or Facebook? You make the call!

Fresh ideas for students to do this thanksgiving

Jennifer Horn
Staff Writer

Two thousand and eight has been a rollercoaster ride for many. Complete with devastating news of economic downturns and dog-eat-dog political races. It has been a year when a day to revel in the good parts of life and remembering what we're thankful for is more than welcome. Thanksgiving Day is a perfect opportunity to slow down and savor good food and good company.

This year Thanksgiving falls on Thursday, November 27. Many Green River students will be feasting with their families and friends, but there may be some students who will want or need to look for an alternate way to celebrate this holiday. So for the students who fall into the latter category, we have compiled some places to go and things to do for Thanksgiving 2008.

Places to go:

Alta Crystal Resort at Mt. Rainier

SR 410 East, Greenwater, WA 98022
Phone 800 277.6475 Local 360 663.2500
Fax 360 663.2556
Email: reservations@altacrystalresort.com
www.altacrystalresort.com

Spend Thanksgiving in the mountains! Guests not only have the opportunity to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal cooked for them, they can also: go hiking,

snowshoeing, sledding, take a dip in the hot tub, or find the perfect Christmas tree, among other wonderful things. Call or visit website to make reservations.

Thanksgiving Dinner and Cruise
Aboard the Royal Argosy
Thursday, November 27, 2:00-5:00pm
Royal Argosy, Pier 56, Seattle Waterfront

Phone: (206) 623-1445 or (800) 642-7816

Volunteer your time

United Way of King County
www.uwkc.org

If you are feeling generous, Thanksgiving is a great time to volunteer and make a difference in the lives of others. At the United Way of King County website there are tons of one-day volunteer opportunities. People are needed, especially on this holiday, and very much appreciated at retirement homes, churches, and homeless and youth shelters. So if you're looking for something to do for Thanksgiving, don't forget that this opportunity exists.

E-mail: sales@argosycruises.com
www.argosycruises.com

"Join Argosy Cruises for a fantastic Thanksgiving dinner and leave the dirty dishes to them! You and your friends or family can enjoy a memorable event on the beautifully appointed Royal Argosy. You'll have your choice of a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings, or be bold and order a non-traditional entree. All this and a stunning cruise through the waters of Elliott Bay. Rate includes 3-hour cruise, seated 4-course dinner, coffee, tea and soda and live music."

\$69per adult, \$49 per child ages 5-12, free for kids 4 and under. (Dining Room service charge and applicable taxes additional at time of booking)
Visit website to learn more, view menu options and make reservations.

Skamania Lodge

At scenic Columbia River Gorge
1131 SW Skamania Lodge Way



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Stevenson, WA 98648
Reservations: 800-221-7117
www.skamania.com

If you don't mind taking a road trip on the long holiday weekend, you can enjoy a luxurious stay at the Skamania Lodge near the Columbia River Gorge. They are offering a Thanksgiving Holiday Dining Package with prices starting at \$249 (plus gratuity, tax, and lodge fee). Package includes an overnight stay for two in a Superior Forest View guest room and \$100 Holiday dining credit. They will be serving Thanksgiving dinner in the Cascade room on Thursday, November 27. The scenery is beautiful and there is a golf course, full-service spa, on-site hiking (the lodge is located on 175 wooded acres), and a fitness center which offers an indoor pool, indoor and outdoor whirlpools, tennis, basketball, volleyball

and more. The lodge is also near over 70 waterfalls, including Multnomah Falls, which at 620 feet is the fifth highest waterfall in the United States. Call or visit website for more information or make reservations.

Seattle's Tree Lighting

Celebration and Holiday Parade
November 28, 2008

Westlake Center
1601 5th Ave # 400
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 467-1600

Parade commences on 7th Avenue at 8:45am, marching down Pine Street and University Street before heading north to Macy's for the official Tree lighting and lighting of Macy's star at 5pm. A spectacular firework display rounds off the day's activities.

Q + A: SIHAYA

By Lindsay Gordon

It was a dark and rainy Monday when I woke to go meet with the boys of Sihaya. During the trek to Seattle, I contemplated the bands lyrics and style. Lead guitar and vocalist, Matt Wilson, imitates the emotional journeys portrayed in his songs by using unexpected contrasts in his music. In the aptly named song, "Sunlight's End", he sings "I walk down cold concrete light". Bassist Jordan Ribera keeps the beat going throughout the melancholic, yet hopeful composition. Some of these concepts were still a bit murky for me, so in order to get a better grasp on the band and its members, I sat down with them for a quick Q and A session, in the jazzy Café Mona.

Q. So, tell me how you guys met?

Matt Wilson: We met at church.

Jordan Ribera: When did you start going to Green Lake [church]?

MW: I think like 9 years ago.

JR: So we met like 9 years ago!

MW: Yup we were young little tykes back then.

And you've been best buds ever since?

MW: Yep pretty much. But I don't think we started playing in bands and stuff till we were like 15.

So you started playing together in high school?

MW: Pretty much. I think it was kinda on accident. One show we were like, "Hey, we need you to come play base for us". (chuckles)

JR: Mark (brother) and I played drums and base in the intermissions.

MW: You jammed for like 5 minutes!

JR: Yes. I was on stage the entire night.

MW: You were the only person that didn't get off stage the whole night...

Q. How did you decide on the name "Sihaya"?

MW: I found it in a book; Dune, by Frank Herbert. I tell everybody it means "desert spring" which is true, but you'd have to read the book to find out what it really means.

So what does it actually mean?

MW: You have to read the book!

Q. What kind of musical influences do you have?

MW: I think the first record I ever got was "Much Afraid" by Jars of Clay. I still love that record. That's the band that made me want to get into music.

And you, Jordan?

JR: I like to listen to everything from folk music, to death metal. I've actually been in a folk band before (The Optimus Club), which was awesome. I played the banjo.

Q. What about non-musical influences?

JR: Someone put the word "beards" in their influences on their MySpace page, and I thought it was awesome.

MW: You don't even have a beard.

JR: I know. But I'm still influenced by them.

Q. How would you describe you music to listeners?

MW: Honestly, I have no idea what it sounds like to other people.

JR: What does it sounds like to you? (Matt)

MW: It sounds like the music that I want to make. I mean, there's not really a band out there that makes music the way I want to hear music. It's kind of like going to see Coheed and Cambria. You just come away with this feeling of intense emotional passion.

Q. A lot of your music seems to speak from the soul and express some personal emotion. Does this ever cause you to have second thoughts or anxiety about performing your songs in front of people?

MW: Absolutely.

JR: That's what makes it interesting.

MW: I mean, it would be no fun at all if it was just like, "Oh I don't really care about music. I'm just going to go out there and play it in front of people. No big deal". When you play music that way you don't get any kind of reaction out of anybody. People are just gonna go, "Eh, whatever. There were some songs this band played, I don't even remember."

JR: But the drummer was good!

MW: Ya, that's kind of the universal [response] for whenever a band sucks.

Whenever you put your feelings down into songs, what's actually in your heart, of course you're going to be nervous when you get up in front of people.

The times I've sung [those] songs I've come off stage saying, "Man I cannot believe that I just got up in front of a bunch of people and said that!" Those are the shows that people come up to me, just buzzing, [saying] "that was awesome, just amazing!"

Matt Wilson (left) and Jordan Ribera (right) find shelter from a storm under the eaves of a church.



Photo taken by Lindsay Gordon

You can check out Sihaya's music at the bands' MySpace page: www.myspace.com/sihaya-music or website at: www.Sihayamusic.com