

Green River celebrates Cinco de Mayo with style and fun >> Page 2

# THE CURRENT

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the 'student' in 'student-  
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## Getting to know you: Natasha Graves



Nicole Swapp The Current

By: Ted Hanrahan

Behind a pile of notebooks in the back of the Student Life office in the Lindbloom Student Center at Green River Community College (GRCC), is one of the schools hardest working and deep hearted students. Natasha Graves is a GRCC student as well as a major force in the events students enjoy here on campus.

Graves is a business/marketing major here at GRCC, and has plans to continue here education at Central Washington University, but not right away. "I am going to finish my associate in arts during the next year at Green River then continue on to beauty school to become a hairstylist," Graves explained. Graves plans to work as a hairstylist are not the end for her however. "After I am 24 I am going to finish my degree at Central," Graves continued. She plans to use her degree as a 'backup' if she needs it in the future.

"My life goal is to be the first in my family to get a degree" says Graves enthusiastically when asked about her goals; but she hardly plans to leave things there, "my plan is to become a hairstylist and open my own salon and spa" she elaborated and to make her goals even more impressive she intends to do this within the next ten years.

This student has very little downtime in her busy schedule, "I have very limited free time since i work so much" Graves explained, but she does enjoy spending time with her family and friends as well as snowboarding.

So what makes her schedule so hectic? "I am a full time student as well as a student leader on campus" informed Graves. Graves works for CLEO (Community Leadership Education Outreach) at GRCC and does quite a bit of work at the school with them. "I coordinated Giving from the Heart as well as mandatory Inter club Council Meetings every quarter, Terrific Tuesday, and Awards Banquet," as well as assisting in planning the Fall Fling and helping other CLEO members and volunteering.

Graves, who also works at A Total Concept Salon in Federal Way, is a very busy person, but never, no matter how busy she gets, stops caring. She probably words it best herself, saying "I enjoy giving a helping hand when needed. I am a very hard and dedicated individual and am very passionate with everything that I do."

## Green River celebrates Cinco de Mayo with style and fun

By: Steven Morales

Cinco de Mayo, a traditional Mexican Holiday that is celebrated every year all over the world.

On the fifth of May in 1862, Mexico won its first unlikely battle against the French in the city of Puebla and thus Cinco de Mayo is celebrated to this day.

At Green River, the students from the Latin Student Union and Latin Rhythms Club have a yearly performance and a history lesson about the significance of Cinco de Mayo to teach students and the community about this traditional holiday.

The president of Latin Rhythms Club, Sergio Vazquez, helped decorate and organize the event. "Usually we do Cinco de Mayo

to represent the Latino community, to represent our culture,

and

to teach people what Cinco de Mayo really is. It's a misunderstanding between the first battle and independence day," he said.

Vazquez, originally from Guadalajara Mexico, stated how in Mexico Cinco de Mayo is not as big as it is here in the United States; but it's a highly recognized holiday by many people and is celebrated in many ways.

"The event went [on May 5 in the main dining area] really great, people really participated. Without people you can't do anything, the students were well organized. They put a lot of effort to organization of the event, a lot of hard work and practice especially with the Latin Rhythm Club," said Vazquez.

He was very pleased how the evening turned out.

"Thanks to all the students involved, it came out better because of them."

The Latino Rhythms club is dedicated to representing the Latino culture through dance. Latin Rhythms purpose is to build scholarships for 1079 (undocumented) students, community members and high school students.

The Latino Student Union and Latin Rhythms Club put in a lot of effort to represent the Latino(a) culture this Cinco de Mayo. So the next year, when celebrating Cinco de Mayo, students will now know some of the history and significance of that particular day.

Even though the holiday is more popular here in America its still represents the pride and glory of the Mexican people.



Spencer Fasel The Current

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## A letter from the editor-in-chief

It's hard to think that my year as editor of The Current is almost over. Honestly, it's quite sad.

Am I ready to move on? Yes, I think that I am. Do I want to? No. However, being the editor has really opened many doors for me and my future career plans. Originally, I thought I wanted to major in literature and become a teacher one day at a community college like Green River.

I went to a conference with some of the other editors at Central Washington University a few weekends ago and was told about a position that really peeked my interests. It was a scholarship that would pay for half of my tuition for two years with promises of being the editor of their newspaper in my last year at CWU.

After hearing that, and coming to the realization that my time is almost up as a journalist, I have really been debating about the topic. It's hard to fully say that I would love to go into journalism because it's a dying career for what I would like to pursue. On the other hand though, it's what I love and I refuse to work somewhere unless I am in love with it. It sounds silly, but it's how I work.

So it brings me back to thinking about journalism as a career. I mean, we all go to college to learn to pursue something. Or, find out what we love. But how discouraging is it to know that your chosen career isn't on the 'top paying' list. Is that supposed to make us feel that we need to choose something else? Something we hate? I don't think so.

It makes me sad to also think that how many teachers don't support our ideas about our future careers.

I wish that journalism wasn't in the state of such transition, so to speak.

I would love to be a journalist, an editor, a layout designer. Just being in that career field would make me feel so accomplished, not only as a student, but also as a person.

So students, staff, faculty I think that it's fair to say that you need to discover what you want in life. If you want to be a teacher, do it. Become a social worker, whatever it may be. It's import for YOU to be happy, and no one else.

- Nicole Swapp

## Letter from the OpEd editor

Lovely Bunch of Coconuts this quarter has given way to so far.

After the previous issue of this newspaper, Josh Davidson was named "lead reporter": A sit in for me, and lead writer for the OpEd section of the newspaper. Josh is bound to come back in later quarters to write for us. Tyler Kion, our merry-time ranter, was made OpEd columnist ("Not Funny") in the paper before that; he's sadly leaving us after this quarter, moving on to "better" schools, enjoying his major in music. Buona fortuna to them both!

The "Rant and Rave" section was given birth in the first issue of the quarter. This bit of the section allows students, teachers or administrators to voice their opinions, anxieties and frustrations in the newspaper, allowing subjects/topics to be brought up and then, hopefully, talked about. Contact me for more information (contact information below).

The next page over (page 4) has one article in particular I think is quite fascinating, important: Josh's article on how the ASGRCC elections were flawed (see also the letter to the editor, page 5, and the center of this issue). For those interested, it suggests that those elected to the ASGRCC are illegitimate.

Other articles include one about a study on affirmative action, also by Josh, and one about "Green" cigarette butts, by Chelsea Gorham. Tyler's column is about campus safety, apropos the anniversary of the Virginia Tech Massacre.

An odd time in the history of our school. As it has been duly mentioned in previous issues of the paper, our 27-year president, Rich Rutkowski, is retiring (page 4, issue 9; pages 6 and 8, issue 10). After last week's visit by the top four candidates, Dr. Eileen Ely seems to be the presumptive President-Elect. Next in line to her, Dr. Paul Killpatrick. The end results depends on how the Board of Trustees votes in coming weeks (see the editorial).

From what I've been able to gather, apropos the accomplishments of President Rutkowski, whomever is elected would hopefully not change too much; Green River, as it is, is a fine school that requires only very few changes: parking; teachers, part-time/adjunct especially; tuition, books and tools prices. The new president need only take their time to keep the school up and running; a cavalcade ahead of the times.

A Lovely Bunch of Coconuts!

- Stirling Radliff

## RANT & RAVE

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

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

## EDITORIALS

The Current Editorial Board is made up of the following journalists: Nicole Swapp, Remco Zwetsloot, Stirling Radliff, Jean-Pierre Garcia, Ted Hanrahan, Kelli Wyatt, Samantha Shockley, Andrew Honea, Lindsey Williams, and Mary Dusek.

### From 48, to 4, now to 2. Green River needs a new college president and soon. Dr. Eileen Ely has the skills to fill the open position

With the end of the year coming up it's time for the Board of Trustees to pick a new college president. In the last week, the four finalists came for a two-day visit to the campus.

The candidates were taken all over the campus, through multiple open forums and interviews. Each forum was very informational for staff, faculty, and students.

Among the four candidates, Dr. Eileen Ely was a stand out compared to the other three. With her charismatic concern for the college, the students, faculty, and staff, she is more than qualified to be the next president.

**Why did you decide to apply to be president of Green River Community College?**

Personally, Dr. Ely would like to be close to her family. She grew up in the Kent/Covington area, went to Kent-Meridian High School; all of her family lives around there.

Dr. Ely knows of Green River as an outstanding institution and likes how the college is currently being run.

**What skills and qualities do you feel you possess that would support you being president?**

She feels that the president needs to be a liaison between the school and the community. She has a strong background in instruction, student services, foundation, IT, accounting, and facilities. She has also worked with the community in previ-

ous jobs and feels that it's a key position that the president needs to take. Being connected with the college and the community is a key role to play.

**What challenges to you see Green River facing?**

Dr. Ely believes that colleges everywhere need to offer quality instruction. She believes that student success is the key part of the college and would like to see the students be more successful, even than herself.

**How would you support the strong faculty at the college?**

Faculty is the hub of the college. As president, she would support the teachers and find any ways possible to help them.

**If you could say anything to the students, staff, and faculty, what would it be?**

Ely would be honored to be the president of Green River Community College and would like the opportunity to work with the students.

It is the position of The Current to support Dr. Eileen Ely as the next president (and a fair replacment of current president Rich Rutkowski) of Green River Community College.

Ely shows all the skills a president needs and fully supports the college, the student, the faculty, and the staff, in keeping Green River the best community college in Washington.

### CORRECTION

In the last issue of The Current, dated April 30, there was a mistake on the back page article titled "Green River teachers sturm & sing away in-service day". The article quoted Ajay Narayan as a faculty member that was present during the session. However, Narayan was not present during the interview and the actual person being asked the questions was Chitra Solomonson of the Physics faculty.

## THE CURRENT Editorial Policy

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

**Letters to the editor:** We encourage all students and staff to have their voices heard. The Current will publish letters to the editor, provided they are signed, include the author's name, and submitted in a timely manner. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. Letters should be sent to [thecurrent@greenriver.edu](mailto:thecurrent@greenriver.edu). The editor reserves the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of length, libel, or propriety. All letters become the property of The Current.

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# ASGRCC elections have been run, but how successfully?

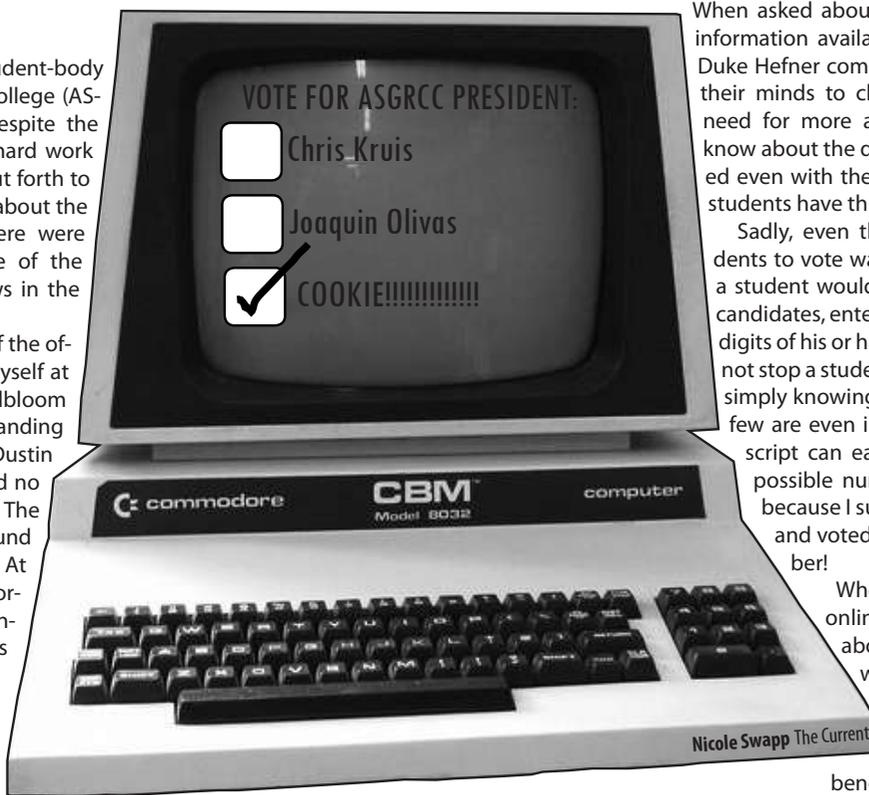
By: Josh Davidson

The recent Associated Student-body of Green River Community College (ASGRCC) elections are over. Despite the fact that a large amount of hard work and unique solutions were put forth to educate the 10,000 students about the candidates and election, there were too many students unaware of the elections, and too many flaws in the election process.

On Tuesday April 27, one of the official election days, I found myself at the election table in the Lindbloom Student Center (LSC) standing near automotive student Dustin Hodgins who muttered, "I had no idea there was an election." The only information I saw around the campus was a few signs. At the table there were four information sheets on the four candidates. One of these sheets was faded and hard to read.

Upstairs from the LSC is the Student Life office. At the reception desk there was Casius Butcher, Chief Justice of the Judicial Committee and the official "referee" of the elections. He believed there had been decent advertising. "Fliers and word of mouth were the main ways we promoted the election," he said. He also spoke of the debate which was held on Monday at noon in the cafeteria, in which candidates discussed things such as parking, and the cost of books from a set of prepared questions.

Still, some students think that the fliers and debate were not enough.



When asked about his opinions on the amount of information available about the elections, student Duke Hefner commented, "I feel they should speak their minds to classes." He also spoke about the need for more advertising. Personally, I did not know about the debate and could not have attended even with the knowledge of it as most college students have things to do throughout the day.

Sadly, even the mechanism that allowed students to vote was flawed. In order to vote online, a student would visit the web page, choose two candidates, enter his or her name, and the last four digits of his or her student number. The page does not stop a student from trying more than once. By simply knowing a student's first and last name (a few are even in this article!) a simple computer script can easily try every one of the 10,000 possible numbers in a few seconds. I know, because I successfully ran it on my own name and voted without typing my student number!

When I asked Butcher about why online voting was chosen, he talked about the hassle of sorting out those who voted twice just to get free candy, and the ease of automatic counting as opposed to counting votes by hand. Despite these benefits, there were major flaws with

the voting system that need to be addressed. My own suggestion is to perhaps send out an email to the entire campus with information on all of the candidates. I know they can, as I've gotten a few unsolicited emails in the past few days concerning campus information. Obviously, more can be done to secure the voting process and educate voters on the candidates and the election, and hopefully these will take place in next year's election.

## Who protects us?

By: Tyler Kion

It's just past the two-year anniversary of the Virginia Tech Massacre that happened in Blacksburg, Virginia, on April 16, 2008. Procedures have changed a lot among campus securities nationwide since then. From this, "President Rich Rutkowski requested an immediate increase to our Campus Security presence" (Greenriver.edu).

Currently there is an ongoing debate whether campus security should be able to carry firearms. Some feel that guns would allow Campus Security to better protect students and teachers.

## NOT FUNNY

However, there is a problem as old as history, which is that people with power have the ability to abuse that power. So, I ask: how do we ensure that campus security would not abuse an increase in authority?

The trespass laws of the Green River trails were a little hazy to me in middle school, so, in 2003, I asked a Campus Security guard about it one morning. The officer said, "It's not illegal [to trespass], but it is dangerous with coyotes and other wild animals or people."

Since then, I have only been back to the trails at night once. Ashlei (an old friend), my sister, her friend Joplyn, and I, had all decided that since Halloween was coming up, we needed some sort of scary thrill to get into the holiday spirit.

We began through the west entrance when we were approached by a car. A man, through a cracked tinted window, asked what we were doing. I said, timidly, that we were just walking around the campus. He, being a concerned citizen, told us with some authority that we were not allowed. So we pretended to turn around as he drove off. [Technically, the Clery Act (Campus Security policy) doesn't consider trespassing a crime.]

We went around and took the side entrance off 116th street that led to the back parking lot (P5).

Just as we reached the trails someone said, "Stop right there!" It was a Green River Security guard. It soon became six! Six security officers were surrounding four 14 to 16 year-old high school students, telling us to put our hands in the air! They had what appeared to be guns.

One of them had a weapon (of some sort) pointed at us. We followed them to three security patrol cars. Only three of us could fit into one, so they separated one of the girls, and placed her in another car.

They took us back to the Admin. building where they interrogated us one by one, isolating us, emptying our pockets, and asking us questions. They accused Ashlei of flushing drugs down the toilet in their bathroom, but never made formal charges.

After more than three hours we were able to make a phone call to our parents to come get us.

I have been told recently by local authorities that we were not supposed to be picked up in any sort of vehicle, nor were we supposed to be separated, nor interrogated, nor prevented from contacting our parents.

When circumstances can lead to such an obvious abuses of power, where is the leadership or the controls to prevent similar occurrences? Until such leadership or controls are in place, do we dare allow the authority of the security guards to be increased to the point where they are legally armed?

# Why affirmative action really should be practiced

Unconscious bias in the majority of society makes affirmative action necessary as an attempt to balance racism and sexism

By: Josh Davidson

Occasionally people complain about the fact that women and minorities are sometimes given privileges that "regular ol' white" men are not. "Why isn't there a white history month?" they ask. "Where's my white culture support group?" "How 'bout a White Entertainment Channel?" "Why is there spots saved at my favorite university just for minorities and women?" Stop your tears and don't feel so left out, folks. These systems of minority/woman support are in place to help neutralize an unconscious bias ingrained into the deepest alleys of our minds.

Most people assume they aren't racist or sexist. Sadly, this is not true. It was less than 50 years ago that racial segregation was actively practice. Stereotypes about certain races and about gender are still a prevalent force in day to day decision making.

An ongoing web based study by the University of Harvard known as Project Implicit set out to find if there was an unconscious bias in society and to what extent. One part of the project studies the positive and negative association with European American and African American faces. A participant in the study is presented with a black box on the screen. On the left is the positive side and a randomly chosen race (white or black). On the left is negative and the opposite race. Faces from both races and either positive or negative words are flashed on the screen and the participant has to associate them with the correct side. When a mistake is made a red X flashes and the participant can try again.

The study has found that 70% of participants (of all races) have a slight to strong preference for associating positive words with white faces and negative words with black faces. Anyone

can participate in the study and uncover personal unconscious bias.

Bias in this form can even be shown outside of the research lab environment and in the every day job market. In a study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, about 5000 resumes were sent to nearly 1300 different job offerings. The resumes were sent to some job offerings with black sounding names, and identical resumes were sent to other job offerings with white sounding names. White names were about 50% more likely to get a job despite the fact that identical resumes were sent to multiple different job offerings.

Even segregation hasn't gone away. The Civil Right Project, a project at the University of California, Los Angeles, has actually done studies to show that racial segregation in schools is getting worse.

In a January 2009 statement they said, "The U.S. continues to move backward toward increasing minority segregation in highly unequal schools." The statement included significant information supporting this, like the fact that 40% of American Latinos attend almost all minority school (90-100% minorities). For African Americans this is 38.5%, Asian Americans 16.2%, and Native Americans 20.2%.

Minorities and women are given tools and resources in order to help neutralize these still growing problems of racism and sexism. Although looked at as an item of humor, something almost cliché, it's something real that affects a large portion of society unconsciously – as an echo of the last century's battles.

The large racial diversity here at Green River is something to be proud of. The fact that there's an Office of Diversity &

Multicultural Affairs that is actively working to promote equal opportunity and understanding it a good thing. Understand your own biases and that certain groups get things that others don't, simply because they are faced by an unconscious force existent even in their minds.



Nicole Swapp The Current

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Last week, elections were held for the only student government positions elected by the student body. Do the individuals who won the election represent the true will/opinion of the Green River student body? Absolutely not! This election was invalid in every sense of the word. The majority of the votes cast were bought and paid for by the student government with candy and cookies. These "cookie" votes skew the results of the election completely, and the fact that it was allowed is a terrible blow to the ideals of this school, state, and country.

To ensure my fears were founded I did an exit poll as voters were leaving the voting computer. My findings were troubling; 5 out of 6 people did not know who they voted for immediately after voting. By enticing an indifferent voter with rewards we ensure that the real vote of the student who cares about the ideals and principles of their candidate is drowned by a sea of uninformed "cookie" votes. The idea to increase voting participation using the allure of a tasty reward is great in theory but in practice it does nothing more than completely invalidate those voters who actually care about the results.

Thinking that student government officials might have been misguided into thinking this is the proper and right way to run a democratic process I paid a visit to the Student Life Center and spoke with Student Life Advisor, Ms. Susan Evans. After a few minutes of discussion with Ms. Evans her election goals were clear and evident: totals, quotas, and statistics were more important than conducting an actual valid election. She informed me that, and I quote:

"1,000 "cookie" votes are better than no votes at all" then when asked "Are 1,000 "cookie" votes better than 100 sincere votes?" she responded with an emphatic "Yes". I am shocked and appalled that this is the prevalent line of thought from the STUDENT ADVISOR, the person who is responsible for ensuring that our student government operates within the realm of fairness and democracy. Instead, we are to be subject to apathy towards the democratic process from the highest levels. Seeing that my words were falling upon deaf ears I attempted to file a formal complaint, but unfortunately there is absolutely no complaint/reporting system in place.

I left the student life office feeling upset and disrespected. I am a veteran and every vote bought with candy is a great disrespect to myself and every other American fighting man/woman past or present. We put our lives on the line and in some cases we gave our lives in order to protect your right to fair elections, and that travesty last week was in no way a fair election.

In order to get a better handle on why this happened I interviewed several members of student government to gauge their feelings

about how the elections were being conducted. I did not receive promising feedback. Both of the presidential candidates felt that buying votes was wrong but it did not make this particular election invalid. When I spoke with one of the vice presidential candidates she informed me that she also thought buying votes with candy was wrong, but since it was allowed she was going to do it. The chair of the PR Committee informed me that she did not feel they were "buying votes" at all, and insisted that the manner in which the elections were being operated fell in line with "How politics work".

I submit to you that contrary to the popular belief of our student government and student life advisor; 100 sincere votes are infinitely better than 1000 "cookie" votes, and that IS how politics work.

You may say; "Well that's great! You've identified a problem, but what do you propose we do instead to generate voting participation?" The communication between the Green River student government and the student body is so pathetic it is almost non-existent. I personally did not even know elections were taking place until I saw the poll booths, and when I was asked to vote I initially would not because I did not know anything about the candidates or the issues. Yes, there were biographies available but their weak content was along the lines of "I

am John, and I like sports..."

When people are not voting with their hands they are voting with their feet. A lack of student presence at the polls displays a direct correlation to the general attitude of the student body; one of indifference and apathy towards student government. How do we change this? We need to accept that Green River is often viewed as a stepping stone to a 4 year school and many students are not going to want to be involved in any extracurricular activities. No amount of campaigning, movie nights, or sporting events will sway them to get involved with school outside of the classroom. This does not mean we should stop doing these things, but understanding that there is absolutely no way to convince some people to participate is important. By bribing these indifferent individuals who do not care who gets elected, and instead just check a box in order to receive candy; we completely disenfranchise those members of the student body that do care about the results.

That is a terrible thing.

I propose that we accept our current limitations and work on expanding student awareness. We need to increase the amount of active campaigning by candidates to allow for higher voter awareness, and then allow non-incentive based fair elections to happen and accept whatever turnout is generated. There is no minimum vote required to elect somebody. Whether 6 people vote or 600 people vote someone is going to get the majority and that is infinitely more valid and far truer to the democratic ideals held by our school than the current system.

Presently we might as well play eany, meany, miney, mo, and pick officials with our eyes closed.

-Jeremiah Zemler

**"This election was invalid in every sense of the word. The majority of the votes cast were bought and paid for by the student government with candy and cookies."**

## Smokers can help our planet by just switching cigarette brands

By: Chelsea Gorham

"Green Butt" cigarettes are 100% biodegradable, and when placed in soil can become grass or even a flower; unlike your typical cigarette which can take 10 to

15 years to decompose depending on environmental aspects.

This is a huge reason for concern for those at Green River. We live in a wet area; throwing the averages butts on the ground harms the environment as well as animals who mistake the butts as food.

The effects of these butts on animals are awful: tumors, weakening of the immune system, and abnormal growth as a result of reproductive diseases. This also affects our water as it releases toxins; a cigarette butt left in water for about an hour starts releasing cadmium, lead and arsenic.

The Green Butt's company does not condone littering in any way shape or form. However they are aware that some 4.5 trillion cigarette butts become litter every year. If you can't change the people, why not change the filters?

These filters are made of all natural hemp and cotton which can be combined with seeds from grass, flowers, fruit, and yes, even trees! It is suggested that if you are a smoker you should use a planter instead of an ashtray, so you can watch you little butts grow.

"Throw it and grow it," says Green butts; and even if you throw it in the garbage at least you can sleep soundly knowing they will decompose shortly.

This could really change littering considering around 24.7 % of garbage is cigarette butts.

Since Green Butts aren't available yet, I encourage all smokers to get in the habit of throwing away your butts - in the trash. If I can do it, you can do it.

# News

When news breaks,  
be the first to know

[thecurrentonline.net](http://thecurrentonline.net)

## The new 'green' containers on campus

By: Brittany Bernard

From the spine of the gator to the name of the river, Green River Community College (GRCC) just keeps getting greener and greener. The eco-friendly products here at GRCC can be found not only in the leaf on the hot chocolate cups and in the 100% recycled paper in the printers, but in the garbage as well.

Students may have noticed the newest addition to the college family: the Co-mingle Recycling containers that were acquired by the college around a year ago. About 65 containers were placed around the school and in buildings to promote a healthier, greener campus. Made 100% recyclable, the containers are picked up by the new electric golf carts when needed.

"It's nice because they fold down, and we can get more, for less money. Also, they are better than the regular plastic ones because they are made from recycled [material] and can be recycled," explains Terry Standford, documentation manager here at Green River.

"I think that more people need to take notice when it comes to the environment, it's the only one we've got and they seem to think it's going to last forever," expresses GRCC student Shannon Thornton, 18. "It's just like everything else, you can't take everything without giving some back otherwise you won't be able to anymore," she adds.

Along with the new recycled containers, plans are in the works for the next couple of weeks for a steel dumpster to be placed behind the kitchen in the Lindbloom Student Center for the compost thrown away. "For just the prep, they

bring out so much food that it just accumulates and gets too heavy for maintenance to take care of. This will solve that because once a week we'll just back a truck up to it and take care of it that way," says Standford.

While 'Going Green' does take some extra change out of the budget, it seems to be a worthwhile endeavor.

"This is an immediate action to a problem that needs fixing. We are working on a new compost method called 'Vermin-Composting,' where the worms eat the compost when you put it on top, but we're still working out the issues with that," explains Standford.

"It's a world-wide issue and I know that some countries are embracing it, but I think it needs to start within the individual places and what better place to start than on a college campus," states Rachell Buske, 29, a GRCC student. "Most people don't realize that 'going green' is pricey, but that in the end it will pay off, it's just a sacrifice we need to make. Some changes do need to happen before we completely deplete all our resources."

Green River is not the only school to be experiencing a transition. "Thomas Jefferson High School in Federal Way was the first to use solar powered panels as a source of energy," explains Stanford. "It was a good idea to save energy, so we kind of ran with it."

With the ever growing controversial topic of

global warming, the green bug has swept the nation.

"I'm pleased that people are starting to notice that something needs to be done, but I think that most are doing it because they think

it saves money," stresses Buske. Whether it is to save money or to help the environment, 'Going Green' is an idea that GRCC has and will continue to cherish.



Spencer Fasel The Current

ASGRCC President Mae Cubing with students Jessica Nordstrom and Paul Deleuw, cleaning up the campus for Green Week, an event held recently to keep the campus clean.

## GRCC hip hop nation presents Blue Scholars

By: Renelyn Cruz

On Friday May 14, 2010, music artists Blue Scholars, Massive Monkees, and Common Market are coming to Green River Community College at 7 p.m. This is a one-time opportunity to see them perform live.

Hip hop can be described as a way of expressing oneself, and who you are on the inside. Some people use the method of song, poetry, or words to express themselves. Some use the method of dance. Without the ability to express, where would a person be? Expression and life are tied together, and forever will be.

18 year old student Shyer Javier heard about the event through friends, and says she is excited about their performance as she has never seen them live before. "I feel like it's going to be really hyped up and energetic," stated Javier. She expects everyone will have a great time.

Javier spoke about how she's already known about Blue Scholars for quite awhile. Her favorite song by the group is titled "Joe Metro," because its message speaks to her.

Michael Batin, 21 years old, has been a student at GRCC for two years, and has been listening to Blue Scholars for quite a while as well.

After hearing about this event through advertisements around the school, he expressed his excitement about the performance, seeing as how this is his first time seeing them live.

When describing the band, Batin explains that "their work is more than just music, it's about life here, and how one goes out about it."

One of his favorite songs is titled 'Fire for the People.' "It talks about all the things we could do if people could just work together," describes Michael. "These guys set a great example for people who strive not to give up."

Though Batin doesn't know very much

about the other performers, he is still thrilled to see what they can do.

JD Rainey, 28 years old, also known as B-Boy Twixx, is one of the performers in the hip-hop group Massive Monkees.

His "humble beginnings" were in 1996-97, when he started dancing with his current group at Jefferson Park Community Center. He has been a performer for the past ten years.

Massive Monkees started out as two separate groups. One was called Massive Group and the other was called Untouchable Spider Monkees.

Even though their dance teachers had to move on with their lives the two groups still wanted to dance and compete, so they decided to combine forces and form Massive Monkees.

Rainey spoke about how he competed in several different competitions, and how he paid money just to compete. That's how they made a name for themselves, and eventually people started paying Massive Monkees to perform. That's when the group realized they were real performers.

His showing at the World Championship for a Sonics game was the biggest performance that made him realize is what he really wanted to do.

On where he gets his inspiration from as a dancer, Rainey explains, "My crew is actually an inspiration to me, because we push each other, and we challenge each other. It's funny because we all learn at different paces, so when I see a crew member going at his style and the way he wants to dance, it inspires me to want to be good at my style and how I want to dance."

These performers are trying to convey messages to us through the methods of song and dance. Why miss out on something so inspiring and beautiful? Coming to this live performance will be very rewarding for everyone.

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## Teacher Spotlight: Jennifer Locke Whetham

By: Tyler Kion

Jennifer Locke Whetham, a teacher in the English department at Green River, fumbles through her morning pages in her book-filled office. She leafs through to today's page to seek advice she had written herself for things to share during our interview.

Why writing?

She looks forward to coming to a class to join them in writing, especially when her students are accustomed to the idea of free writing. To her, this is deeply satisfying when every mind is active and they are able to write as a community together and she treasures being able to start her day writing with her ten o'clock class.

On the floor of her dorm room in undergraduate college, Whetham told herself, while trying to write a paper, "I'm going to be a good writer." She remembers immediately going next door asking her neighbor (who happened to be an excellent writer) "how do you become a good writer?"

Admittedly, she says, this has been her life's mystery.

It wasn't until she started teaching that all of the right information burst through the gates at her. She finds herself saying the things her teachers had said before, that she didn't get right away, to her students. But in teaching these things, she now has a way to translate it for students who struggle with them. "I am not only able to diagnose it [the problem], but also explain it because, if you have a writing problem, I've probably had it."

Whetham writes because she learns from writing and believes writing can be very healing and therapeutic as a meditation process.

What's the hardest thing about being a teacher?

Until recently, she held the perspective that she works in a triage where there are so many things that need to get done; so-in-so needs a letter of

recommendation, she needs to prep for this class, and she has a stack of papers that haven't been graded. There's always about ten different things that demand her attention, so that's why the metaphor about this triage; who is missing an arm and is going to bleed out and needs my attention the most? She says that is a very stressful way of thinking.

Instead, she would like to use the word "flow". Flow, according to Whetham, is a very important concept that psychologists are only recently exploring, where as rappers/ MCs have understood this for years. She uses the concept of free styling, which MCs use to explain the process of free writing.

She uses a brilliant example of white water rafting to explain this idea of "flow". Sometimes, the river is so shallow and rocky that you need to stand up and walk it. Where other times you just float and sometimes you hit rapids. "The sexy parts of the snake river are the scary parts, where there's turbulence. That's why you go tubing!" The parts that feel the most stressful, to her, are the reason you go rafting, that is why she teaches.

Do you have any heroes?

Hank Galmish, another English teacher, is one of Whetham's many heroes. "He's such an intellectual powerhouse! A scholar and a professional." As she blushes a little, she goes on to explain how every time she approaches Galmish about literature or Shakespeare (which she is quite knowledgeable about), he will mention ten authors or critics that she has never heard of or he will passionately quote them or Shakespeare. He is a huge inspiration to her.

Whetham sure has made a positive mark on Green River and hopes to continue to do so. She feels that Green River is her home away from home and would never want to leave this beautiful campus. "I can't imagine my life not teaching," she says with a wink.

Tyler Kion The Current

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# Meet the dynamic duo of ASGRCC

Green River students vote for  
2010-2011 president and vice president

Chris  
Kruis  
PRESIDENT

Young Sunny  
Park  
VICE-PRESIDENT

## BIO:

### Why did you apply to be ASGRCC president?

For me it was something that I have never done before, something that I felt would help make me a better leader and a better person. To learn responsibility, and prove to people of the past that I am not who I used to be. IT is also about the students of GRCC who motivated me and told me that I can do what I say I can do and be who I say I want to be.

### What goals/plans do you have for next year?

One of my main goals for next year is to help people realize that community college has a lot to offer students. I am also really focusing on getting students involved with their school. It is tuff because people see it as just a community college but it is more than that. It is a learning experience outside of the class room. One we can all recognize as diverse and very open. It will be important to me to see a greater involvement between students and the school as well as students and their staff.

### What skills do you feel made you qualified to hold the position you now have?

Well on that note the only real skill I think qualified me is leadership. I stepped up and did it, I have always had this ability to be a leader I have just never really got the chance to apply it. It was until I got the confidence from students that I decided to do something with this skill. I am also very outgoing and smart which is good if you want to get more people involved I feel having an enthusiastic side about it is important and being outgoing and not afraid to say anything helps with that. I met so many students campaigning and I think the one on one was important to the success of my campaign and one on one will be a success with getting people involved

### What do you want to see improved at Green River?

There are a lot of things in this area and there is a fine line between being able and have barriers. The biggest thing I would like to see accomplished is getting students involved. It is important to know what is going on at your school and I as a leader can decide whether or not this is possible. Another issue that I would like to see addressed is smoking there are a lot of people who smoke and feel they don't have time to stop and do so. I am going to propose some ideas to the board as well as faculty to see what types of changes we can make to the policy if any and at the same time find more efficient ways of enforcing it.

### Do you plan on moving into a career in politics? What are your future plans?

I don't really plan life I just point it in the direction I want to go and hope for the best. So far as a career in politics I have thought about it a lot and I think that there is potential there. Maybe one day I will run for senator of this beautiful state or maybe even governor who knows!

## BIO:

### Why did you apply to be ASGRCC vice president?

I have such a huge affection toward GRCC because this special school has changed my life. so I am willing to serve the students by contributing my optimistic qualities. Albert Einstein once said about himself, "I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious."

In 2010 I want to say "Yes, I am an international student, but I am full of passion for serving the GRCC to create possitive changes because I consider here as my school home"

### What goals/plans do you have for next year?

I would like to creat events such as "educating smokers for becoming polite smokers on campus", "best recycle items making contest", "how much do you know about GRCC (contest)" etc. and also one of my biggest goals for this position is to break the barrier between domestic students and international students.

### What skills do you feel made you qualified to hold the position you now have?

I am a very hard working girl both in school and in my life. As this is my forth academic quarter in Green River Community College, I have maintained a 3.98 GPA through all of my classes so far. I am actively involved in volunteer works at school as well as doing volunteer camera work at an American church since last year. I was a recipient of a scholarship award from GRCC International Programs in 2010 Spring. I graduated from Art High School in South Korea with a major in film making, as a student director, editor, writer, and camera person I made over 10 films and received numerous awards from many student film festivals in Korea. I learned how to communicate with people through the process making films. I believe that these experiences would be really helpful to be a good leader.

### What do you want to see improved at Green River?

More volunteer opportunities, scholarships, students involvement in school and longer library hours.

### Do you plan on moving into a career in politics? What are your future plans?

I am planning to transfer to UCLA to pursue a BFA program in Visual Arts/Film and also I would like to futher my studies by applying to the American Film Institute for completing masters degree. My goals are becoming an artist, a production designer, and a director of children's movies.

# How will your campus change?

By: Mary Dusek

Two years ago, Green River Community College (GRCC) was awarded the renovation of the Science, Math and Technology (SMT) Center and the reconstruction of the Trades and Industry (TI) buildings by the legislature. Due to recent federal cutbacks, the TI renewal has been delayed, but the SMT reconstruction, which is set to begin in February 2011, will continue as planned.

Salish Hall should be completed by fall quarter 2010, and the classes and staff offices currently in the Humanities and Social Science (HS), Social Science (SS) and Business and Industry (BI) buildings will be relocated to the new building. The newly vacated HS, SS and BI buildings will then house the SMT classes and offices during the remodel.

Sam Ball, dean of instruction, describes the moves looming in the next few years as a "campus-wide chess game."

Ball said that students should expect the SMT to be fenced off, similar to the current Salish Hall construction; however, the paths to the parking lots will remain accessible to students.

Additionally, Ball mentioned that the renovations will be "quieter [than Salish], due to most of the construction taking place within the existing walls."

"When we are done, it will look like the inside of the Technology Center (TC) and the Science Center (SC)," Ball added. There will be more room for students to move around between classes like some of the newer halls. "We would

hope to be fully operational by fall 2013."

The SMT renovation's estimated costs are around \$21 million, and the new TI building is expected to cost the school about \$26 million.

The Trades and Industry staff were fairly disappointed to hear that their project will be pushed back to 2013, but they were still very supportive of the decision to go ahead with the other construction project.

The future TI building, which will be located across the street from the main Green River campus, will also aid the difficult parking situation. According to Ball, about 80 new parking spots will be created alongside the new building.

In addition to the new SMT and TI buildings, Green River hopes to eventually also replace the current HS, SS and BI area with a new student life center and a new entrance to the campus.

"We try really hard to build on existing sites," Ball commented - the current SC and TC used to be athletic fields. Green River prides itself on being very environmentally friendly, and the construction of new facilities will not harm that reputation, and building on currently used ground assures that trees will not have to be cut down.

The construction of Salish Hall is only the beginning of an over 5 year campus construction plan for a newer, more technologically friendly campus. The complete construction of all of these buildings will most likely bypass the two years the average students spend here at Green River. However, the upcoming SMT renovation will affect those who plan to remain here next year.



The SMT (green) renovation is expected to start February 2011, on schedule, with an estimated cost of \$21 million.

The TI building's construction, which would replace the old TI (red) complexes, has been delayed due to budget cuts.

The Salish Hall construction (blue) should be completed fall quarter 2010.

The school is looking to replace the BI, HS, and SS buildings (yellow) with a new Student Life Center and a new campus entrance.

## The college budget for 2010-2011 finalized

By: Evan Hicks

Green River Community College (GRCC) has been anticipating the results of budget discussions since the beginning of April. Now that the results are in, staff can begin preparing for next year's problems.

The school year begins in July and ends in June. This year, Green River aimed to save \$600,000. After reaching the goal this year, faculty and staff plan to keep the same target savings for the 2010-2011 school year.

The GRCC general fund currently has a \$1.4 million permanent budget deficit. Because this deficit is permanent, Green River will be seeing it again in the 2011 and 2012 school years.

However, the budget is balanced out due to the temporary budget surplus of \$2.4 million. This means that there will be one million dollars left over to help with spending costs. 85 percent of the operations budget is spent on salaries and operations on campus. The surplus was gained through serving record numbers of

**No teacher will be laid off, but tuition increases by 14% over two years**

students and cutting expenses.

\$300,000 in funding was also given by state legislature for Maintenance and Operations at the Kent campus. This will be a provided funding for the campus every year.

This year, GRCC had over 1,000 more Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) than last year. Due to the outstanding number of FTEs in worker retraining, Green River is one of 34 colleges to re-



ceive funding. The funding for worker retraining equals approximately \$247,000, and will only be spent in the 2010-2011 school year.

Unlike Green River, many other colleges around Washington are laying off employees because they are not seeing as many FTEs in their worker retraining programs.

GRCC can relax a little now without the stress of losing valuable employees. Green River won't have to lay off any of their staff next year.

"It's our mission to fill out this demand and we can't do that by laying people off," said John Ramsey, director of public information. Next year though, Green River doesn't plan on hiring new non-instructional staff.

Ramsey also mentioned that we will need to start seeing improvements in order to keep layoffs from happening. Improvements to things such as enrollment, high fill rates and cutbacks to programs with out of state traveling.

The community and technical college budget was cut by \$108.7 million due to state program reductions. Part of this cut includes the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 tuition increases, which amount up to 14 percent.

## Gator Jobs - a good resource for unemployed students

By: Soo Hyun Cha & Mary Dusek

Green River Community College helps students find employment either on or off campus through their Gator Jobs program, which allows students to find work to either in their chosen future career pathways or to help pay for tuition and fees.

When you log in the school's homepage, you can find a link at the very top of the page entitled "Jobs". This is the Gator Jobs section, and it has a huge database with hundreds of job opportunities. It is a free online employment search available to students that only requires registration to begin.

This site enables you to maintain a personal calendar, manage multiple resumes, search for and apply for job opportunities online. The registration process is really simple and includes other jobs off of the Green River campus as well. Jobs from all over Washington State are within the online registry.

If you are still lost, Karen Brasch, student employment specialist, can help you. One thing for you keep in mind before meeting with her is to make an appointment in advance.

According to Brasch, "over 200 jobs are available to students", and on campus jobs are available right now. Jobs that are currently available at Green River include work study jobs, Information Technology (IT) jobs, and tutoring jobs. Work study is a money award that is offered as a part of your federal financial aid.

When you go by Barch will provide you with a card which walks you through the online database while also supplying more in-depth information about Gator Jobs.

You will also be given the schedule of job

fairs that come to campus and contact information of students currently working in your field of interest and their companies. This means that if you're interested in a career in accounting, you can get the information of a student that works as an accountant and their employers.

The average pay for a job on campus is around \$ 12 per hour, with about 16 to 20 hours in a week.

Hae In Ahn, who is a CLEO member, works on the Green River campus. CLEO is the college's leadership program, and members' main responsibility is managing programs. Ahn is also an International Student Ambassador. With this position, she must help new international students throughout each quarter.

She said, "I have grown up through this hands-on experience". Ahn feels great responsibility as a staff member and a student. Since international student tuition is higher, it is impossible to finance everything with an on-campus job, but Ahn says her salary is enough to pay for her rent. Aside from the money, Ahn says that while working here she has actually learned things that are more valuable to her than money.

On the Green River Gator Jobs website, the available part-time positions currently include an Anatomy and Physiology Tutor and an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Fieldwork Coordinator.

There are easy links to download applications for either position online. The application material can also be obtained through the Human Resources office, located on Mathews Way, between 7:30am - 5pm on weekdays.

Alright man! Today is the day to accomplish some friggin' GOALS. Today is the day to achieve ALL the goalsets!!

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Frig, maybe today's the day to play eighty billion games of solitaire instead!

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proud officers, all!

You're assuming that a day is predestined to be one of these days!

Perhaps!

You think I should be serving under Air Marshal Today Is what You Make Of It?

Sure. Sign up to serve with Petty Officer why Are We Giving Our Opinions Stupid Military Ranks Anyway.

way ahead of you, Utah-raptor!!

Wait... "STUPID military ranks"? Brigadier General I Thought we were Friends, Utahraptor!!

Okay wait suddenly I see your point

Sigh...

I guess Yahoo! answers is my last hope.....

What's your question?  
Am I weird or am I absolutely normal?  
You have 72 characters left...  
Add a little more detail (optional)...  
I get a "hard on" whenever I see Dobby in Harry Potter. Is this normal?

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By: Bailey Jo Josie

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**Level: Challenging**

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

**Level: Difficult**

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

## Laughing is just what the doctor ordered

By: Mariah Craven

Do yourself a favor and laugh more, because new research shows it can lengthen your life!

According to the official U.S. Navy web site, "Laughter research [yes, there is someone out there researching this] has shown that humor and especially laughter can help keep our bodies strong and disease resistant."

### Famous comedian Cash Levy comes to town

If you're looking for some gut clenching laughs look no further than our very own Auburn Avenue Theater.

This Saturday May 15th is Comedy at the Ave presenting three stand-up comedians that will "keep you laughing all night long!"

The Headliner is comedian Cash Levy whom you may recognize from his numerous appearances on Comedy Central, Fox, NBC, The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson (CBS), or Comics Unleashed.

Levy has 15 years of stand-up behind him and has been performing for sold out clubs across the country. With his quick wit and improv talents,

Levy often gets audiences involved.

The show starts at 7:30pm with tickets running \$17 or a reduced price of \$15 for college students. The Auburn Avenue Theater has been the location for various live performances for over 30 years.

This dinner theatre is one of the last of its kind in Western Washington and now can promote long and healthy lives through comedy. Along with your peas and carrots be sure to factor in at least 3 fart jokes, 2 "yo mamas" and 1 knock-knock joke...your very life could depend on it!

Upcoming events at the Auburn Avenue Theater include:

#### June 10-12 (\$15/\$12 students)

Auburn Community Players present "Into the Woods." A crooked fairy tale following a Baker and his wife's journey to break their curse of childlessness. Including characters like a bloodthirsty Little Red Riding Hood, an ambivalent Cinderella, and a witch...who raps!

#### June 19 (\$17/\$15 students)

Comedy at the Ave. With jokes and jokes and jokes three comedians will do their best to have you rolling on the ground in hysterical laughter... or just laughing out loud might do, if you can contain yourself that is.



By: Alexander Bevier

"Stage Door" is a play about a group of actresses trying to find work and become famous. It's about the struggle actresses must pursue in order to do what they love. Many end up quitting, getting married, going home, etc. But, one actress refuses to give up. Her name is Terry Randal and she is the main character in the play. "Stage Door" is currently being produced in Green River Community College's theater class and will be performed at the end of the month.

The play is currently in rehearsal on campus' Performing Arts Center every day from eleven until one PM. The cast has been eagerly preparing for opening night.

The blocking (stage directions) are all set and the actors are focusing on repeating these actions until it becomes second nature to them. This is the most important part of the rehearsal process. Memorization can make or break any production.

The play's Assistant Director and student, Steven Johnstone, spoke about the rehearsal process and getting the actors to this point. Johnstone, solely responsible for blocking (directions where actors must move on stage on each line) several scenes, had to trust the actors to understand his directions as well as question anything that may seem odd to their character. This synergy is paramount to creating a meaningful performance on stage.

"Stage Door" was written in 1930 by Edna Ferber and George S Kaufman. It was written in order to immortalize theater's place above the motion picture; the rising force in the entertain-

ment industry. Ironically, the play was adapted into a film in 1937 with Kathryn Hepburn playing Terry Randal. Beyond the character names, the movie has very little to do with the play.

The film received Academy Award nominations for best picture, and Andrea Leeds (playing Kacy Hamilton) received a nomination for best supporting actress.

The scene being rehearsed featured the main character, Terry, talking to a man trying to convince her to move into the film industry. He believes that she will relieve the roles she deserves in motion pictures.

The only problem is that Terry's heart and passion remains on the stage. It's the crux of the play and raises many provocative questions about an artists' dedication; much like the musical "A Chorus Line," except "Stage Door" isn't about dance.

Green River's production has been slightly edited to remove anything politically incorrect for modern times and the sets are finished and look fantastic. Some of the slang and expressions in the script are unknown in modern culture.

The backdrop features two sets of stairs heading in opposite directions. Props include an real grand piano. All this creates a believable illusion of a boarding-house full of budding, young actresses.

Stage Door will play on May 28, 29 as well as June 4 and 5, at the Performing Arts Center. Each show will begin at 7:30. The doors will open at 7. Tickets are available at the door or by calling 253-833-9111 ext. 2400. It will undoubtedly be oysters of fun.

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On the *Move*

## 2010 FIFA video games drift worlds apart

By: Neil Solano

FIFA '10, which was released six months ago, and the 2010 FIFA World Cup (FWC) South Africa video games are now sharing the racks of all gaming stores. The question that most soccer fanatics ask themselves remains - which one is better?

On April 27 the FWC video games were released, resulting in wide spread hysteria and predominantly positive feedback. Graphics, game play, commentary are only a few of aspects improved when you compare the FWC series to previous FIFA editions.

There are other, basic differences between the two games, too - FIFA '10 being a game with the worlds best soccer clubs (football clubs, 'FC'), and the FWC 2010 featuring only national soccer teams.

The FIFA 10 video game was a stepping stone for the FIFA series with the new "create your own game face" feature. FWC 2010 expands on this tested element.

If new to the game, don't worry about difficulties with the controls. EA Sports added new one-two buttons for those who aren't so familiar with the games.

FIFA fans both old and new are saying that

FWC is the one to buy. Harvey Conan, a Green River student and owner of both FIFA'10 and FWC 2010, mentioned how the two video games differentiate from each other.

"FIFA '10 is more of the game you play with friends. The FWC has so many features of the actual World Cup that it makes you feel like you're in it. That one is played more by yourself," Conan said.

EA sports purposely made the new FWC game look and feel as if the player is in the world's biggest competition.

In FIFA 10, a player would pick a team then go on and play. After winning a league or championship, the players jump around for a while before you're back to the main menu, picking your next opponent.

However, in the FWC you actually get to see the fans cheer in the sidelines with your country's colors, and the players react the way real athletes would after winning a tournament of that magnitude.

The final verdict is still out - do people generally prefer the realism, in-depth detail, and stunning graphics in FWC, or would you rather go for the easy to learn, get up and play FIFA '10 game? Only time (and sales numbers) will tell.

# Freddie might as well claw at you with butter knives

By: Bailey Jo Josie

In recent years, the film industry has made tremendous leaps and advances that improve the showing and production of film that one can only describe as evolution at its most entertaining. Except for one genre: horror.

To put it bluntly, horror movies of this generation are boring, predictable and completely uninspired. Like the new remake of *Nightmare on Elm Street* that just came out.

It very rarely are they scary. Of course, there are exceptions, like the last scary movie GRCC student Jacob Myers saw:

"28 Days Later. I think that's the most recent horror movie I jumped at or was on the edge of seat for. Or *An Inconvenient Truth*, that Al Gore guy really creeps me out," Meyer said.

Could it be that audiences are braver than past generations or that moviegoers have become so immune to violence that a dagger going through someone's spinal cord and out their nostril is nothing? Perhaps, but I believe there is a much simpler reason: directors have become lazy.

Take for example, "*A Nightmare on Elm Street*", the new one. It is a remake or "re-imagining" of a successful movie franchise that has frightened people since the mid 80s, which admittedly has clichés, but they were presented in a new way. "A man who kills you in your dreams? How would that be done?"

This new film has the same clichés, but they are all shown in a recycled way that any horror fan with a cunning eye can see as old and, yes, lazy.

Here are a few ways that could have made the film better and possibly scarier and some ways to help the wannabe Wes Cravens and Stephen Kings of tomorrow:



## BETTER SUSPENSE

There is a reason why the original *Halloween* movie is still revered as one of the scariest movies of all time; it was extremely suspenseful.

It is so suspenseful and frightening that you hardly notice there's barely any blood in the movie. Most modern scary movies have a difficult time even coming close to such quality.

They are either very fast paced and there is hardly any suspense, or they drag on for so long that the viewer becomes bored. Thanks to the *Saw* franchise, blood and gore has become the main artery of horror films.

As if the new mantra is "If we can't scare them, let's gross them out and make them squirm." The new *Elm Street* had hardly any suspense at all, which is one of the factors that contributes to its mediocrity.

## KEEP CGI TO A MINIMUM

Yes, CGI (Computer Generated Imagery) has made a sensational impact on movies and in some ways have made movies better than previously imagined, like the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy and the *Harry Potter* movies. But in the new *Elm Street* movie, this wasn't the case.

There is a scene where the heroine of the story, Nancy, is falling asleep in her bed and above her headboard, we see Freddie Kruger's face pushing out of the wall as if it were rubber and almost touches her.

In the original *Elm Street*, the same scene occurs but is much more chilling because you actually see a face pushing out from the wall.

In the new movie, it is all CGI and it looks completely fake which in turn makes it completely not scary.

## MUSIC MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Another element that the film was missing was that real teeth-clenching music that doesn't give you goose bumps, but instead resembles the feeling that millions of tiny needles are pressing into your skin. The music is supposed to be terrifying, but in a subtle way.

This doesn't happen in *A Nightmare on Elm Street*. What happens is that the music only comes onto the scene as Freddie is killing his victims, perhaps to draw surprise and confusion from the viewer.

The downside to this is that it doesn't leave as big of an impact on the viewer; it doesn't stay with them. *The Shining*, *Jaws*, and *Halloween* are all classic horror movies all with one thing in common: petrifying music. Modern horror movies need to get back to this. Screeching strings, demonic pianos, anything that can scare you on its own.

Twin Peaks' strange themes in the 90s play better in games

By: Alexander Bevier

David Lynch's "Twin Peaks" was a major television show 20 years ago. It was a show about Agent Cooper (played by Kyle MacLachlan) hunting down the murderer who killed Laura Palmer; the girl-next-door type with a dark side.

It took place in a small-yet-odd town inhabited by small-yet-odd people. It was an unforgettable cast of characters, yet *Twin Peaks* seems to have fallen out of the culture's eye altogether - except for in the video game industry. The 30 episode CBS show is perfect fodder for a video game, and it has been the inspiration for many games over the years.

"*The Legend of Zelda: Link's Awakening*" was released on the Game Boy in 1993. The game brought the series' protagonist, Link, to Koholint Island. The characters fit the small town-yet-bizarre feel of "Twin Peaks". The Island's eccentric cast often said to Link lines such as "Hey, man! When you want to save just push all the Buttons at once! Uhh... Don't ask me what that means, I'm just a kid!", and "I'll be lost in the hills later, so keep a look out for me, hear?".



In a January interview with Takashi Tezuka, general manager for "*Link's Awakening*", he mentions that the show was an inspiration to him and he wanted to create a world similar to it. "At the time, *Twin Peaks* was rather popular. The drama was all about a small number of characters in a small town," said Tezuka. "So when it came to *Link's Awakening*, I wanted to make something that, while it would be small enough in scope to easily understand, it would have deep and distinctive characteristics."

Modern games have even stronger references to "Twin Peaks". *Deadly Premonition* on Xbox 360 is almost entirely based off of the show. The game is about an FBI agent coming to a small Pacific Northwest town to investigate the murder of a girl-next-door with a hidden double life (much like Cooper hunting for the murderer of Laura Palmer).

*Deadly Premonition's* characters are also heavily inspired by David Lynch's short lived drama. Instead of a woman carrying a log everywhere (called the Log Lady), the game features a character who is infatuated with an infatuation with a pot.

In addition, the game feels intentionally bad. "*Deadly Premonition*" looks and feels like a game that would be played seven years ago (a whole generation in video game terms); almost as if playing the game makes you a part of some bizarre joke.

The bizarre characters like in "Twin Peaks" seems to fit games better than television. Games often demand that players extend their disbelief in absurd cases. In the second *Legend of Zelda* game, players must accept that the only thing men can say is "I am Error". Gamers have to understand that, for no real reasons, they can only rob certain stores in "*Grand Theft Auto*".

The fact that players know that they are looking at polygonal representations of humans lets them accept unreal truths about the game's reality. These truths are one of the reasons people play video games; . It's why people loved the bizarre things in "*Twin Peaks*".

Weird things are crazy-addictive.

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## Green River football is putting the 'student' in 'student-athlete'



Justin Runquist The Current

By: Sean Kramer

The term student-athlete is supposed to be pretty cut and dry; Students who happen to be athletes. The sad truth is that this is not always the way it's perceived.

When the Northwest Community College Football League was inceptioned last year it made the term even more ambiguous than it already is.

In their case, it might as well have been athlete-students; football players who just happened to be students.

This is complicated because these teams are not officially linked to the schools they represent. Instead, the players are enrolled at colleges such as Green River not because they want to study here, but because they have to take a few credits to be eligible for the team.

The line between student-athletes and just athletes was drawn last year when the requirement was simply for players in the league to be enrolled for five credits in the fall quarter, any five credits, to be eligible to play in the league.

As one can imagine, many of the 60 plus players that comprised Green River's roster in the fall weren't seen coming back in winter quarter.

"Those are the guys that aren't here anymore," said LeRon Yarbough, a captain on the Green River team.

"They put themselves in a deep hole," said Green River's head coach Todd Strotschein of the kids who dropped out of classes after the season. "College coaches are looking for kids who've knocked out their core classes and can transfer over. There's a reason these kids aren't around anymore."

In the meantime Yarbough, fellow captain Michael Strong, and other members of the Green River football team are found in classes and in the weight room on campus during open hours every day working out.

"I'm really proud of them," Strotschein said of those players. "They're really taking this seriously. They understand it."

When league Commissioner Kory Hill created the league, this is what he envisioned. Even though issues such as money and Title IX impair his ability to fully incorporate and bind these teams to their respective correlating schools, he can still attempt to create the student athlete experience. The goal is to help these kids either use football to continue their education or to help them resolve issues that are holding them back from four year football programs.

In the opinion of the league and its coaches, education is the driving force behind that.

"It's up to the players. If they want to go on and play at a D-1 school, they have to make

their grades," Strotschein explains, "so it's really important, we really push that hard. They have to be determined to make it."

To drive home his point, Strotschein gave an example of how the Idaho Vandals' head coach, Rob Akey, chose a transfer player with a 3.3 GPA over an equally capable player with a 2.7 GPA. "He wanted the guy with better grades."

Other programs have noticed what the league is all about as well. Washington State coach Paul Wulff, who played alongside Strotschein with the Cougars in the 80's, has referred some of his players that couldn't quite make the grades to the NWCCFL.

Oregon State coach Mike Riley has also inquired about the program. Simon-Frazier, who will begin playing Central Washington this season, has also noticed.

"My goal is to make sure we get the guys that are going to go on," Strotschein said. "The kid has to believe it. I can't have a kid out there who is a really good kid but doesn't believe he can move on. He's not going to work hard [to do the things he needs to] to move on."

A major step for the league as a whole going into year two of existence is the notoriety the league is now gaining among high schools in the area, and the familiarity high school coaches have with the league. Strotschein now has the luxury of being able to recruit talented freshman straight out of high school.

Sadat Sulley, a high school student from Spanaway, heard about the league from a friend who played at Tacoma last year, and with encouragement from his high school coaches took the opportunity given to him by Green River.

"The first thing (coach Strotschein) talked to me about was schooling," Sulley said. "And for me and my mom, she tells me school comes first before any sport, so I have the mindset of school first already."

Auburn High School's Estefano Pina is also an example of the type of player this league was created to help.

"My grades weren't quite there, and it gives me another year to play football and get looked at," Pina said. "I have things to improve on and this gives me a year to improve on those things."

"Coach Strotschein preached that even though this isn't a four year league, to still try your hardest, because they're going to be watching you and you want them to notice you, so if I work 100 percent here they'll see it and want it."

Going into the 2010 season, the league will be changing the requirement from any five credits, to five credits in core classes such as Math and English. In 2011 the goal is for players to be enrolled full time, with at least 12 credits.

# Seahawks: It's a whole new ballgame

By: Curtis Rogers

Almost no team in the NFL has had a more eventful offseason than the Seattle Seahawks. With a multitude of retirements, lay-offs and fresh blood, this team will have a drastically different look heading into the 2010 season.

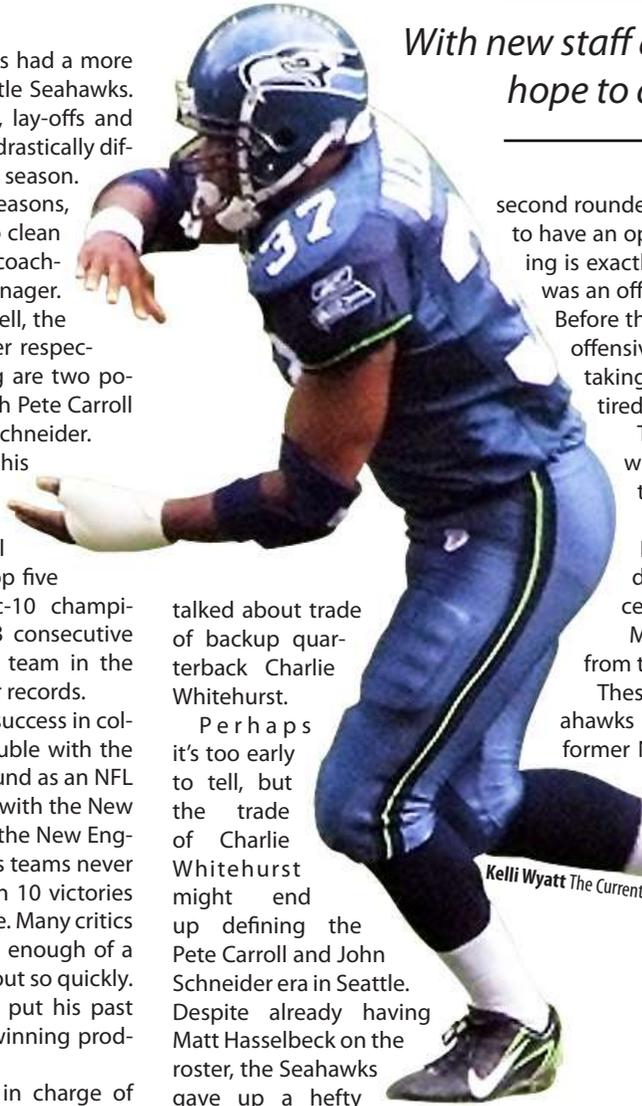
After back to back dismal seasons, the team's front office decided to clean house and start over with a new coaching staff and new general manager. Gone are Jim Mora and Tim Ruskell, the head coach and general manager respectively, from a year ago. Incoming are two polarizing figures in new head coach Pete Carroll and new general manager John Schneider.

Coach Carroll's track record at his previous location, the University of Southern California, is something to behold. Two national championships, seven straight top five finishes, seven consecutive Pac-10 championships and an NCAA record 33 consecutive weeks ranked as the number 1 team in the country as well as countless other records.

Despite his absurd amount of success in college football, Carroll has had trouble with the pro game. During his first go-around as an NFL head coach he spent one season with the New York Jets and three seasons with the New England Patriots in the mid 1990s. His teams never finished a season with more than 10 victories and he won only one playoff game. Many critics of his system said that he wasn't enough of a leader and that's why he burned out so quickly. Coach Carroll will be looking to put his past troubles behind him and put a winning product out on the field each Sunday.

The man that has been put in charge of building that winning product will be new general manager John Schneider. Schneider comes to Seattle with a very solid track record in the draft as he was able to find hidden gems such as Aaron

Rodgers, Greg Jennings, and Ryan Grant during his time as director of football operations with the Green Bay Packers. One of Schneider's first moves as general manager was the much



talked about trade of backup quarterback Charlie Whitehurst.

Perhaps it's too early to tell, but the trade of Charlie Whitehurst might end up defining the Pete Carroll and John Schneider era in Seattle. Despite already having Matt Hasselbeck on the roster, the Seahawks gave up a hefty amount for a player who has taken snaps in only two games during his four year career and has yet to complete a pass during a regular season game. The price the Seahawks had to pay for Whitehurst was a 2011 third round pick in the draft as well as swapping second round picks with the San Diego Chargers in this year's draft.

With two first round selections and a late

*With new staff and good draft picks, Seahawks hope to drastically change course*

second rounder, the Seahawks front office knew they were going to have an opportunity to reload through the draft, and reloading is exactly what they did. Their first selection (sixth overall) was an offensive tackle from Oklahoma State, Russell Okung. Before the draft many experts had Okung rated as the best offensive tackle available. The big 307 lb behemoth will be taking over the position of left tackle of the recently retired Walter Jones.

The Seahawks next selection was the 14th overall, which they received from the Denver Broncos during the previous season. Seattle used this pick on the dynamic safety from the University of Texas (UT), Earl Thomas. At the UT, Thomas was a force on the defensive side of the ball as he racked up eight interceptions during the 2009 season.

Many Seahawks fans will be expecting big things from these two rookies during their tenure in Seattle.

These two weren't the only impact players the Seahawks picked up during the draft. In the second round former Notre Dame wide receiver Golden Tate fell into to the Seahawks slot. Tate won the Fred Biletnikoff award in 2009, which goes to the best wide receiver in college football.

Later on in the draft Seattle was able to acquire not one but two veteran running backs via trades.

The first running back they were able to land was Lendale White from the Tennessee Titans. All Seattle had to do to land the former 1,000 yard rusher was swap fourth and sixth round picks with the Titans.

The other running back was Leon Washington from the New York Jets. Washington is coming off of a compound fracture of his fibula which kept him for nearly the entire 2009 season.

With training camp just around the corner, the excitement and anticipation will be as high as they get in Seattle.

## Surprising NFL draft picks leave season unpredictable

By: Andrew Honea

The NFL draft has finally taken place and preparations for the 2010 National Football League (NFL) season are well underway. Although some moves made in the draft were expected, this year's draft was dominated by surprise pick after surprise pick which left football fans in the same state of mind as me: completely baffled.

Sam Bradford, Colt McCoy, Jimmy Clausen, and Tim Tebow were all drafted but not necessarily in the order we would have expected. This should make for an interesting year in the NFL, considering many young players who expected a chance to lead an underachieving team won't even get a chance to play.

## Honea's House

The first overall pick in the 2010 NFL draft went to the St. Louis Rams. The Rams have been very consistent over the past few years. Unfortunately, they have been consistently bad. St. Louis picked Sam Bradford, the Quarterback from the University of Oklahoma.

With Mark Bulger out of the picture at St. Louis, it is up to Bradford to take the reins of a struggling offense and lead them to the top of the NFC West, alongside the always strong running back Steven Jackson. Don't expect an immediate jump to the top of the NFC, but with Bradford the sky is the limit for this St. Louis team.

A big surprise in the NFL draft had to be University of Florida QB Tim Tebow being drafted in the late first round by the Denver Broncos. Tebow has been criticized for his throwing style coming into the NFL, but has been working all spring to fix the error. Unfortunately for Tebow, the chances of getting early playing time aren't great - at a very strong Denver team, Tebow will be playing behind two very talented quarterbacks.

Many have wondered since the pick occurred if this was a waste of a pick for Denver. Calling a former Heisman winner a "waste of a pick" might be stretching it a little bit, but only time will tell if he will be able to contribute in Denver, or if he will be moving before he makes an impact in the NFL.

Jimmy Clausen is possibly the biggest shock in the NFL draft, and that's not just based on how early he was drafted. It is actually quite the contrary. Many expected Clausen to be drafted in the early or mid first round to a team in need of a strong QB with a promising future. Unfortunately, for him Clausen wasn't drafted until the second round to the Carolina Panthers. However, this might prove to be better for Clausen, in terms of earlier playing time.

Like always, the NFL was full of some picks that everyone saw coming and others that people probably wish didn't happen. I will, however, say the same thing I say about every sport when a major roster change occurs: only time will tell if the additions to these teams will play off in the long run. We could be looking at another NFL legend just beginning to display his talents at the professional level, but it is just as likely that these college legends will become major busts at the next level.

## Athlete Spotlight: Madalyn Johnston - women's soccer

By: Daniel Duffy

Ever since the age of 5, Madalyn Johnston has been heavily involved with soccer. Since graduating from Kentwood High School in 2009, she has continued playing for the girl's soccer team at Green River Community College.

While at Kentwood, she played freshman, sophomore, and junior year at the position of Left Outside Mid. Due to her need for a job at that time, she was unable to play for the Kentwood Conks her senior year, which ended her high school soccer career.

Other sports she participated in were Track, where she ran the 100 meters. After graduating, the love for the game was still with her and she decided to play for the Green River Gators, a predominant decision based on the scholarship offered by the college.

When asked about what she thinks about this upcoming soccer season, she states, "This upcoming year is going to be very exciting and unpredictable. Compared to previous years, our team this year has added so much talent to the team which should make us a relatively competitive team." When she is not playing soc-

cer or working, she enjoys hanging out with her friends and going shopping.

Johnston has had many inspiring people in her life, but one that stood out was the professional soccer player Mia Hamm. Johnston says, "She is truly an amazing person and is an amazing soccer player. All that she does to help out the community has really expressed her personality, she was a really a great example to follow."

Despite many challenges in her career, including skipping her senior season, Johnston has maintained a love for soccer.

One challenge that was especially hard to deal with, and one that is an issue in almost every sports team, was the struggle to get along with everyone she played with. "There are so many diverse characteristics on a soccer team and trying to get along with everyone is nearly impossible," said Johnston.

This year at Green River Community College, Johnston has had many teachers but so far her favorite teacher has been her English 100 teacher, Julie Moore. Her favorite class she has taken was math with Allan Hendrickson. "He really pushed me to succeed in class"



Kerry Kralovic The Current



espial

2010 ESPIAL

unraveled

***"Creativity can have many forms and is not just something you see, it's something you experience. In our journals we want to give you a sample of some of the art work created at this college. And why would we want to do that? Because art is for everyone."***

**By: Nicole Swapp**

Espial. What exactly is that. Well, there is the fancy definition that describes it in the context of observing something. Or, also as being seen or noticed.

But being seen, what exactly does that entail? As an artist or a poet, it means being seen in the annual Espial [a literary art journal] published by students every year.

The Espial class involves the collaboration of two different classes; English 239 taught by Avis Adams and Art 150 taught by Gary Oliveira. With a class of about 29 and a mixture of many ideas, Espial brings multiple views of art and poetry to print.

Among the students of Espial is Tanya Cohen, a second year student at Green River. Cohen expressed how wonderful Espial is and how

everyone has their own voice and own opinions.

Her hopes for Espial are to continue to make it a positive journal for poets, artists, and Green River students, staff, and faculty look to for a great collaboration every year.

This class is only offered during the spring quarter, but students can start to think of work to submit through out the year. According to their website, every spring the two classes work together to produce the student centered literary art journal.

"Every student in the class analyzes and selects all work submitted by Green River and evaluate the written entries to come up with their final selection to print in the journal.

Espial through out the years has had many faces,

well covers, and different styles. Among the difference is sometimes a black background with a vibrant color on the front. Last year's journal was a purple background with every art piece from espial all combined together to make the cover art. It was quite intriguing.

Many students have grazed the pages of Espial and love the feeling they get to see their hard work published in the journal.

"While I was taking classes, I needed to submit my work to Espial," said Jeanette Helms, a student and previous artist in Espial 2009. "Actually, I didn't think my work would be accepted because I didn't spend too much time on them."

Helms later when on to say that "it was a really cool experience [to be in Espial]. People should do this because we can get to know each other through our writing."

The 2010 Espial journal will be out in June and students, staff, and faculty can purchase it for just five dollars.

**(es·pi·al) 2010**

- 1. the act of watching or observing; observation**
- 2. A taking notice of something; a discovery**
- 3. The fact of being seen or noticed**

2010