



Textbook sales continue to plague students

The Paper Tree bookstore offers options to help students save money

Caitlin Williams
Staff Writer

Of the many infamous college expenses, textbooks are among the worst.

Students already are paying high prices to further their education, so the additional cost of books can leave them frustrated and in a financial pinch.

"The prices are pretty steep," Lauren Restis, a second year student, said. Restis is not alone in this opinion; it commonly is felt that students are being cheated by bookstore prices.

However, what students seem to be the most frustrated over about is the Paper Tree's book buy back policy.

"I feel I don't always get enough back for my books," Restis said, as she described getting \$10 back for a used book she bought for \$75.

What much of the Green River community does not know is that the bookstore has actually worked to improve its buy back policy.

Gary Jones, who heads the Paper Tree bookstore, acknowledges that the store is unable to compete with other online sites, such as Amazon.com and ecampus.com, despite price checks of every book in stock every quarter.

Still, when it comes to other community colleges, Green River actually is ahead of the curve.

While it maintains the standard buy back price allowance of 50 percent of the original price (if the book is going back to the shelves), the student also can elect to take a Paper Tree gift certificate which will allow the student to receive 60 percent of the book's original price.

The Paper Tree actually is the only college bookstore in the country that has the gift card option, with the exception of a college in Utah.

Also, if a student were to buy a book online, from Amazon

for instance, they could actually sell it back to the book store at a normal rate.

"Students see it as not getting enough money back, when in actuality they are getting back 10 percent more than they would if we hadn't bought it [the books] back at all," Jones said.

Now if all that is just too complicated or still too expensive, another alternative is provided to re-sell books back into the Green River community.

There is a billboard behind the staircase and across from the cafeteria in the student center that can be used to find or sell books between students with no college or bookstore affiliations.

What has become a popular option with students in the past few years is online book shopping, whether through the Paper Tree online or other non-related sites such as Amazon or ecampus.com.

"When I have to buy a book for over \$100, I usually go online for it," Alicia Flatt, a second year student, said. "I know of someone who needed a book that would cost \$195, but they found it on half.com for \$2."

Highline Community College also has started a new program called the Student Book Exchange. It is an organized book exchange taking place over the period of several days.

It completely is free of market-influenced prices that have come to be the bane of many a students' bank accounts.

The Paper Tree bookstore itself actually is a business independent from the college.

"We are a self supporting entity. We are part of the school, but we are set up separate. The money we generate doesn't go directly back to the school," Jones said.

Rather, its income is saved and then the bookstore is commissioned to pay for remodels done to the student center.



Sara Olson/Photo Illustration

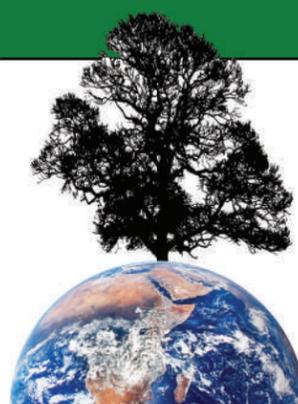
Center

Rock this city
The Northwest offers music venues for everyone.
Pages 8 & 9



Back

Earth Day
Green River weighs in on how they're celebrating Earth Day.
Page 12



Campus - Pages 2-3
News - Page 4
Opinion - Page 5
Feature - Pages 6-7
Sports - Pages 8-9
A & E - Pages 10-11

Northwest experiences abnormal weather

Some believe snow in late March hints at environmental changes

Autumn Choo
Staff Writer

Although some might have been happy to see the unusual snow this March, others may be asking the question, "why?"

During the winter, it is not unusual to have snow in Washington; however, this snow flurry occurred during the first days of spring.

Some people were concerned that this spring snow shower could be a sign of environmental destruction. Some also may wonder how global warming could be related to the issue.

"When I was a young person, there was more snow, and it was colder

than now, but individual storms will happen even if global warming occurs," Bob Filson, geology instructor, said. "It's just that the average is warmer than it used to be. We will still get snow storms and cold times just not as many as we used to."

He also assured that there is no cause and effect relationship between global warming and Washington's snow in March.

Then what caused snow in March?

"The temperature of March was usually almost freezing, but just above. It usually rains, but sometime it gets a little bit colder," Tim Schultz, geography instructor, said. "The time when it gets a little bit colder is usually because there is a mass of cold air that comes down from the North and moves over Washington. We call it cold front."

He explained about two air masses. There is an air mass called "maritime polar," which is cool and humid over Alaska. The "continental polar," a cold and dry air mass, is over Canada and the northern part of America.

When maritime polar and continental polar meet, the relatively warm air mass, maritime polar, is pushed up and the weather gets colder. Then it forms snow.

Schultz also suggested that El Niño and La Niña could be one of the reasons why

"When I was a young person, there was more snow, and it was colder than now, but individual storms will happen even if global warming occurs."

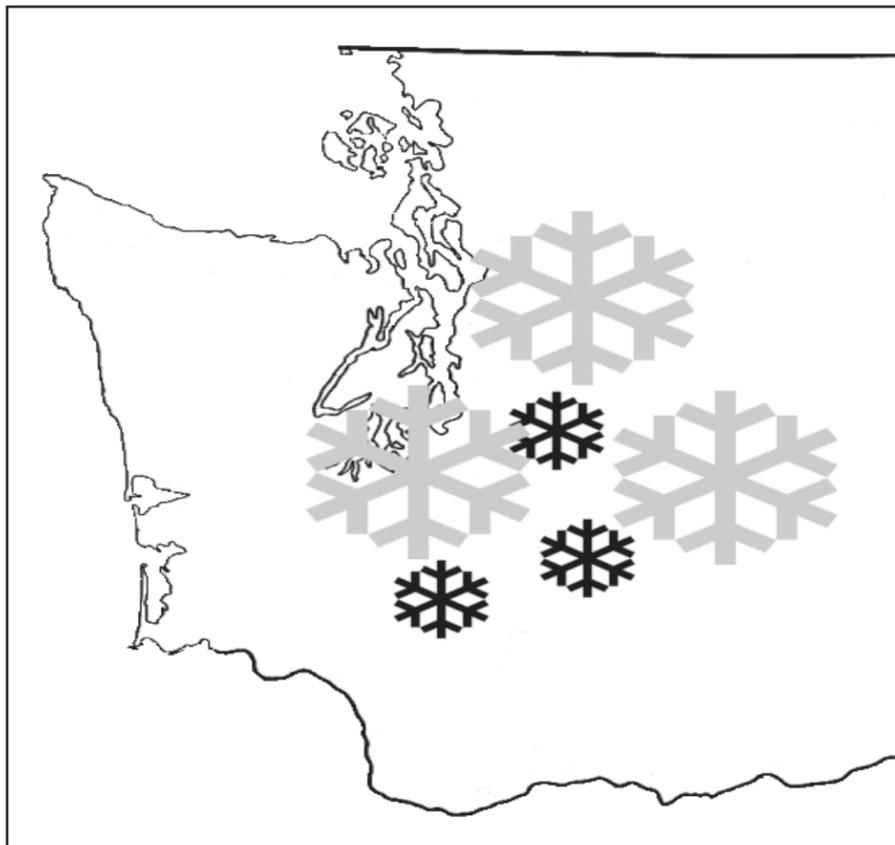
—Bob Filson,
geology instructor

it snowed in March.

El Niño occurs when the bottom of the ocean moves to the land and the top of the ocean moves in the opposite direction, so cold water comes to the surface.

During La Niña, on the other hand, the top of the ocean moves to the land and the bottom of the ocean moves the opposite way, so warm water stays on the surface.

"We have warm winters during El Niño.



Sara Olson/Photo Illustration

Auburn and much of the Pacific Northwest experienced the rare occurrence of snow during the final weeks of March this year.

Then we go back to the condition called La Niña. Cold water comes to the coast," Schultz said. "There are much colder temperatures on the average during La Niña than during El Niño."

Schultz also said, "A lot of times, we associate La Niña in the Northwest with

colder weather than the average."

It usually rains a lot in Washington State. However, because of La Niña, the temperature gets lower and it goes below 32 degrees. Then we will get snow instead of rain.

Students opt to join the military for various reasons

Military helps students with tuition, finding prospective careers

Tyler Walton
Staff Writer

The military is a career choice that many college students consider for a number of reasons, and Green River is no exception.

Students may go into the military for reasons that include a steady job, a more solid source for college money, a chance to travel, or things that one can do in the military that they could not do in other jobs.

One incentive for students to go into the military is that it pays for a student's college as well as providing a regular paycheck.

"100 percent tuition right now

is what the Navy pays," Petty Officer Joshua Kelemen, a Navy recruiter who works at South Hill, said. "We'll actually pay up to \$65,000 to pay college loans off. We'll pay off their college loans, and they can still go to college while in the Navy."

According to Kelemen, many colleges have special programs where students who are enlisted in the Navy have access to special online classes so that they can attend college, even if they are deployed.

However, the need to pay tuition is not the only reason students go into the service.

David Helmes, a student at Green River, is planning to enter the military after completing his degree and take advantage

of the ways the military can help in a civilian career as well.

"I'm planning to go into the Air Force, because it will help me with work ethics," Helmes said. "When I later on have a family, I'll be able to say I served my country; I actually did something; I didn't just sit around. I actually stood up and defended my country instead of taking a free ride."

He also had other reasons for going into the military, including family and opportunities he wouldn't have elsewhere.

"I always wanted to fly. My father and grandfather also went into the military, but I'm going into the Air Force because I want to fly," Helmes said.

Other benefits he'll later get include how being in the Air Force would enable him to fly passenger jets after his service and allow him to retire with government

pensions.

There already are a number of students at the college who have served or currently are serving in the military.

There is a veteran's office in the Lindbloom Student Center where student veterans can go and get their benefits sorted out with the college.

Manila Mercurio, a veteran of five years in the Navy, runs the veteran's office.

"What this office does is process paperwork," Mercurio said.

She also said that veterans can invest in the GI Bill, which is "a reimbursement from the veteran's administration for school."

The GI Bill, officially referred to as the Serviceman's Readjustment Act, is an

option for active duty soldiers to forfeit \$100 a month for 12 months to later receive approximately \$1,000 a month as a full time student for up to 36 months.

"Bottom line is that it helps pay for school," Mercurio said.

The military offers different options to different people, depending on what they want out of it, and what they do when they go in; it can pay for college, provide a job, or offer travel opportunities.

What students get out of it depends on what they put in.

"For me personally it helped me find direction, helped me realize the value of having an education, and you meet a lot of great people, and, depending on where you're stationed, a lot of great places too," Mercurio said.

Crossword puzzle answers

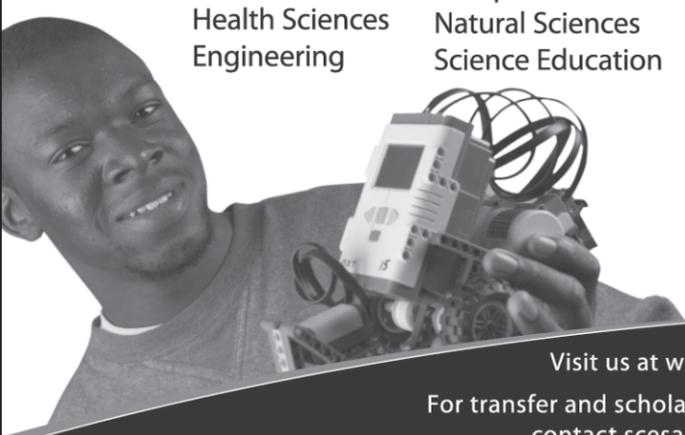
- Across**
 4 *Climate*
 5 *Earth Day*
 7 *Plant a Tree*
 9 *April 22*
 10 *Eco friendly*
 12 *Fluorescent*
 13 *Global Warming*

- Down**
 1 *Recycling*
 2 *Hippies*
 3 *Nature*
 6 *Gaylord Nelson*
 8 *Kennedy*
 11 *Arbol*



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Campus Calendar

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Sex Signals; 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	3	4 Sonics vs. Houston Rockets; 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m.; Key Arena.	5 Men's baseball vs. Grays Harbor, 1 p.m. Aberdeen.
6 Men's baseball vs. Grays Harbor; 1 p.m.; Aberdeen.	7 Monday Mix: Dub Lounge Reggae; 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	8	9	10	11	12 Men's baseball vs. Lower Columbia, 1 p.m.; Auburn Mountainview High School.
13 Men's baseball vs. Pierce, 1 p.m.; Auburn Mountainview High School.	14 Native American Celebration; 4/14-4/19.	15	16	17	18	19 Men's baseball vs. Centralia, 1 p.m.; Lea Hill Park.
20 Men's baseball vs. Centralia, 1 p.m.; Centralia. Ice Skating: 12:30 p.m.-5 p.m.; Kent Valley Ice Centre.	21	22	23 Faculty In-Service Day; Classes cancelled.	24	25	26 Men's baseball vs. Tacoma, 1 p.m.; Lea Hill Park.
27 Men's baseball vs. Grays Harbor, 2 p.m.; Aberdeen.	28	29	30	5/1 Pediatric Interim Care Center visits campus; 12 p.m.-2 p.m.; SMT 215, Lecture Hall.		

For more information on events, go to www.greenriver.edu/AboutGRCC and click on the Events Calendar

Student council seeks to raise awareness

Student president intent on preserving safety on campus, scholarships

Alan Bloss
Staff Writer

The State of the Quarter Address recently was released by ASGRCC President Shauna Stadnik. The address sought to raise awareness of student government and highlighted the various bills that have been passed.

"It's always a challenge to get students interested in what goes on in student government," Stadnik said. "Many students don't know we exist."

A key issue mentioned in the address is the so-called 522 budget. This \$1 million budget is funded by students and provides support for programs such as athletics, student government, and the Community Leadership Education and Outreach (CLEO).

It also was announced in the address that the ASGRCC Scholarship is being revived. This scholarship was started in 2003 and awards one domestic and one international student \$500 for their Green River education.

"All in all, it's been a successful year," Stadnik said. "Spring quarter is the time to give it all we got and reach out to as many students as we possibly can."

Another project highlighted in the address is the "Reaching Out to Students" survey. This project requires senate members to survey five Green River students per week and present the responses in their meetings.

"It's always a challenge to get students interested in what goes on in student government. many students don't know we exist."

—Shauna Stadnik, ASGRCC president

"The surveys were about reaching out to the students, and that's exactly what we did," Stadnik said. "By hearing all the concerns students have, we are able to find ways to address the needs."

Student Margarita Atanasova organized the "Sex Signals" event and is a strong supporter of the work student government does.

"I like what they do, and I think it is a really good thing for people to be involved with on campus," Atanasova said. "It is an opportunity for any student to be more involved with the issues that are going on."

One bill that passed was the result of a medical emergency on campus last month. After a student suffered a heart attack, it was determined that the school needed more than one defibrillator.

"Our director of campus safety came to the senate and asked for money to get some more AEDs (automated external defibrillators)," Stadnik said. "Senate

passed for three defibrillators, and they rounded up some more money in different budgets for four others. So, now I believe our campus has eight."

The user-friendly machines are able talk to the person operating them and are located on the wall of different buildings around campus.

"It happened to one student, and we just want to prevent it from happening again,"

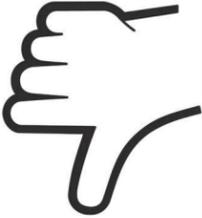
Stadnik said. "That one minute could save someone's life."

The quarterly address also served as a reminder that a new ASGRCC President will soon be elected. Stadnik offered her advice for the next President.

"It gets really busy and stressful at times," she said. "Just keep on smiling and know it's going to be one of the best things that will ever happen to you."



Next Issue
The Current presents a review of the candidates for the student elections



The Current is just a click away

The Current now can be viewed online at www.greenriver.edu/thecurrent



Weird & Wacky News

Tammie Tamara
Staff Writer

9-year-old takes off with major cash

This is a material world, and he is a material boy. A 9-year-old boy ran away from his home with \$10,000 cash. After a row with his mother, the Indonesian boy took the money and spent it in a shopping mall.

He killed time playing video game and shopping. He bought a Playstation, toys, and a cell phone. On top of that, he also spent several nights staying at a hotel.

He was finally sent home by a taxi driver who recognized him from the news with almost none of the cash left. The police arrested a guard who helped the boy change the dollars to rupiah, the Indonesian currency.

In the end, the boy's father dropped the charge against him. He said that he was just relieved that the boy was safe.

Toddler equipped with firearm

Gift list for toddlers: stuffed animals, a bicycle, a gun. A father from Illinois gave his 10-month-old toddler a shotgun. Moreover, the boy was issued a gun permit. His father just had to follow the normal procedure for the issuance of gun permit.

He had to paid a \$5 fee and fill out the application. Listed in the card are the toddler's height of 2 feet 3 inches and his weight of 20 pounds. In addition, a doodle is placed in the card instead of signature.

His father said that when he first applied, he wasn't expecting to be accepted. Illinois State Police said the application process was designed to prevent convicted felons.

However, there is no restriction in the rules regarding the age of the applicant. The father said that he probably will keep the gun until the boy is at least 14.

Coffee made from cat dung worth £50

The most expensive coffee in the world is made from dung. Civet coffee, a South East Asian coffee is made from beans that have been partly digested and egested by a civet cat. The coffee bean itself is worth £324 per kilo. The blend of this Civet coffee and Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee will be available during April at Peter Jones department store in London. The espresso will cost £50 a shot.

Man gets creative in iguana robbery

To get the job done, people can get really creative. Jereme James was found guilty for sneaking an iguana in his hollow prosthetic leg. He illegally moved the banned iguana from Fiji Island. The iguana is an endangered species and is protected. The man faces the possibility of 20 years in jail.

Green River gives its 20 cents

Legislation proposed to ad 20-cent surcharge for using bags at stores

Joe Chourey
Staff Writer

The Seattle City Council and Mayor Greg Nickels have proposed legislation targeting plastic and paper bags.

The proposal puts a 20-cent surcharge per bag to any consumer who buys an item that requires bagging such as groceries. The plan also puts a ban on foam take-home containers at

restaurants. The idea behind these actions is to aim at the promotion of recycling and discouragement of needless consumption and littering.

The 20-cent fee will be split. The city will receive 15-cents, while the retailer collects the remaining 5-cents, unless the retailer grosses less the \$1 million a year. If the retailer grosses less then the set amount, they will collect all 20-cents.

The fee under proposed law would be subjected to sales tax, and many companies do not know if the 5-cents would cover administrative costs.

Seattle Public Utilities reported that Seattle stores had handed out 360 million bags last year. They estimate that the fee would generate \$10 million per year for the agency.

Most of this money would be spent on waste prevention, such as environmental education programs and recycling. About \$2 million would be used one time to give residents reusable cloth bags. Each household would be given one bag on the

first year.

Fred Meyer deducts a small amount of money from a customer's bill if they bring in one of Fred Meyer's reusable tote bags. They also give 5-cents per bag if you bring in your old plastic bags to reuse.

Antonia Bennie-George, a physics instructor, suggested that a simple solution would be to initiate incentives rather than fees to promote reusing bags.

"If the rebates were larger, say 10 cents or more per bag, then maybe more people would bring their own shopping bags," Bennie-George said.

Student Gabriel Conlon is a proponent of Seattle's plan.

"The money was not a problem," Conlon said. "In the long run, it would pay itself off. I think it will encourage people to reuse their bags."

A group called Foam-Free-Seattle who had advocated for the legislation for over a year, hopes that others will accept the idea as Conlon did.

The plan is based off of a law passed in Ireland. Ireland reported that they had reduced their bag consumption by 90 percent.

Many who support the plan do so because they claim that it gives consumers the right to choose whether or not to use plastic bags unlike San Francisco, where they have banned the use of plastic bags at grocery stores.

Running start student Canaan Warren disagrees with the plan.

Warren said, "It's a good cause; the mind is in the right spot, but that is a lot of money for a plastic bag."

He also did not like the idea that the fee would be subjected to sales tax.

"Taxing taxing is just a little bit insane," Warren said.

"If the rebates were larger, say 10 cents or more per bag, then maybe more people would bring their own shopping bags."
—Antonia Bennie-George, physics instructor

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Radio stations, media killing the essence of rap

Rap is evolving due to sub-culture's influence



Commentary by Alex Hoggard

So everybody loves to ask and argue about the million dollar question: "Is rap dying?"

I believe it's not dying, and in fact, rap is adding more sub-cultures into the mix of the true genre of rap. I look at subculture as being a fake or something that doesn't properly represent real rap music.

Like how upper class suburban teens dress and talk how they think a rapper does, with big clunky jewelry and sagging jeans, when in fact early rappers wore tight sweat suits and a rope chain.

I'm not saying these sub-cultures aren't hurting rap music, but sub-cultures are expanding it more for the commercial side.

I believe Nas's sentiments are true. The game is so commercialized, and the intellectual content of older rap songs is not there, but being replaced with verses about "watch me crank dat soulja boy, den superman that hoe."

So if we like to argue about the mix and match of the passion and lyrical content that no longer is there from this new sub-culture of rap music, then I believe it's a good argument to be made.

The new and flashy young and energetic rap is what is so easily marketable right now because the club scene is crazy. These lyrics spawn dances such as the "Soulja boy" and "Walk It Out".

These songs are saying absolutely

nothing with real meaning, but they have a good beat, so the music gets air time.

What happened to really feeling the music and just putting your hands in the air because you could really feel what Ice Cube was saying about a good day?

There are some exceptions with those rappers that are still fairly young in the game. They are like the old rappers trying to carry on the significance of rap. Rappers like Lloyd Bank, Cassidy, and Lil Wayne are more likely to emulate the vets like Jay Z and Snoop Dogg.

These artists have all had nice commercial sounding radio hits here or there, but they do it in a way that still stays true to them and true rap fans.

The rap game has shown me it's still here, but it's up to artists that have such tight lyrical content and uniqueness

to them that have to stand up to the record labels, media, promoters and radio stations that try to make them so commercialized.

Leave that to the ones that aren't loyal to the realness of rap.

So is the million dollar question really "is rap dying?" or is it "has rap music evolved so much that it's not true to its beginnings?"

I believe that the game can only get better with time. Let's leave the dancing to the Pop and R&B artist that do it so good.

If real rap is going to stand the test of time, then rap artists need to get back to their roots – the pioneers of rap like Run DMC and Public Enemy who rapped with passion and purpose.

Their verses talked about urban culture and black community. Today's rappers have verses that speak of nothing but sex and violence. The messages no longer ignite thought and change.

No, today rappers are nothing more than pawns to the subculture of dance and fashion driven by urban ways.

"If real rap is going to stand the test of time, then rap artists need to get back to their roots – the pioneers of rap like Run DMC and Public Enemy who rapped with passion and purpose."

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.

Editorials

Earth Day provides opportunity to act

For years now, global warming has become one of the biggest issues in the society. People all around the world are discussing it, eliciting two possible responses.

People either choose to be scare or believe that the whole climate change theory is garbage.

Nevertheless, more people have become more aware of environmental issues. Whether people believe in global warming or not, it doesn't matter. As long as people do something for the environment, it is good enough.

As Earth Day approaches, it is one more chance to remind oneself to act. Being green, greener at least, does not mean that people have to change their whole lifestyles.

As cliché as it sounds, little things do count. Just by remembering to turn off unused electronic devices and recycling reusable materials is a step in the right direction.

Some people may argue that one small act by one person isn't enough. However, others can always say that if everybody thinks that way, nothing will ever be done.

If earth is indeed traveling along the downward spiral known as global warming due to the careless actions of millions of people, why can't we solve it with cumulative actions by millions of people?

Some people say that global warming is not true. That it is just a stupid theory made up by the scientists. Maybe it is; maybe it isn't. The important thing is even the possibility that it is true and that we are gradually making it worse is scary enough.

If we know that we can do something right now, why don't we?

Many debates are going on due to the climate change issue. But in the end, people should be able to come up with one solution.

People know that the environment, apart from climate change, is an important issue. So they have to act. And the Earth Day is a perfect opportunity for everybody to remind themselves to do so.

Legislation could ignite permanent change

Residents and shoppers of Seattle may notice a new fee gracing their grocery store receipt soon.

In an effort to encourage better stewardship, legislation has been proposed that will add 20 cents per bag to shoppers' bills at grocery stores.

To avoid such a charge, shoppers can opt to purchase their own clothe-bags that they can reuse every time they go grocery shopping.

This may strike some as odd, inconvenient, or even angering. With high gas prices and general inflation, the last thing most people want to see is another annoying charge added to their daily living.

However, people should not be surprised by this proposed piece of legislation. Our society is focused on going green, and for the most part, this campaign has been welcomed with open arms.

Hybrid cars are being manufactured, public transportation is being encouraged, but many don't want to make the personal changes necessary to elicit change.

If improvement is what people want to see, this is the place to start. Habit will become habit if Americans are willing to make the change.

The Current Staff

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



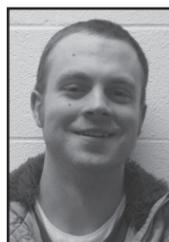
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The Current office is located in SMT 134 and can be contacted by phone at (253) 833-9111, ext. 2375.

Rock this city

Despite the dreary forecast and nearly constant rain, the Pacific Northwest knows how to rock. Home to the Experience Music Project and numerous venues, there is an event to satisfy the musical appetite of just about everyone.



The Showbox

April 22 - Hot Chip
April 26 - As I Lay Dying
May 2 - Colin Meloy
May 6 - B-52's
May 7 - Augustana
May 9 - Kate Nash
June 18 - She Wants Revenge
 *Ticket information online.

El Corazon

April 20 - 89.9 KGRG and Infinite Productions Present: Nekromantix, Lower Class Brats, Bamboula; Doors open at 7 p.m.; Show starts at 8 p.m.
April 22 - The Dollyrots, Jaguar Paw, NOVELS, Starshifter, The Neon Wilderness; Doors open at 7 p.m.; Show Starts at 8 p.m.
April 24 - Drive-Thru Records Small Fries Tour; Doors open at 7 p.m.; Show stats at 7:30 p.m.
April 27 - Exposure Music Festival, featuring: Forward in Reverse, Fuel for the Flame, Late Fright, and more; Doors open at 11 a.m.; Show starts at 12 p.m.

White River Amphitheater

June 2 - Iron Maiden
June 24 - Tim McGraw
August 9 - Brooks & Dunn
August 20 - Radiohead
 *Ticket information online.

Studio Seven

April 29 - The Supervillains, The Cauze, Natalie Wouldn't, and Legal Lies; Doors open at 7 p.m.; Show starts at 7:30 p.m.
May 2 - Corporal Mortification, I Rot, Crush Your Enemies, Killing Roots, Burning of I; Doors open at 7 p.m.
May 3 - Wild Wild West Reggae Dub Tour 2008 with Michael Prophet, The Hawaiian Lyon, and The Scientist; Doors open at 8 p.m.

The Puyallup Fair

Sept. 6 - Bucky Covington
Sept. 9 - Casting Crowns
Sept. 17 - Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons
Sept. 19 - Carrie Underwood
August 20 - Radiohead
 *Ticket information online.

Staff Photos by Katie Barr

Baseball team split series with Lower Columbia

Coach claims no need to worry over losing record

Sean Kramer
Staff Writer

The Gator baseball team swung into action against NWAACC powerhouse Lower Columbia last Saturday, hoping to turn around what has been a slow start to the league schedule.

Playing in perfect baseball weather, Green River was able to come up with a 1-1 split from the Lower Columbia Red Devils in front of a good home crowd at Mountainview High School.

Green River was able to take game one of the double header behind Christian Scholl's arm and an offensive explosion in the first inning.

The Gators put seven runs on the board in the home half of the first, including scoring three runs before the Devils were able to get a single out, even scoring two runs on a strike out thanks to a throwing error which culminated in a 7-1 Gator lead at the end of one inning.

Green River ace, Christian Scholl, pitched into the fifth inning before running into trouble, but by that time the Gators already had given him an eight run lead. Lower Columbia's late inning rally fell short as the Gators hung on for the 9-6 victory.

The tail end of the double header was more closely contested. Going into the bottom of the fourth, behind 4-1, catcher Tyler Owens got the Gators back in the game with a two-run single, closely followed by a bases loaded walk from Jordan Shadle to tie the game at 4-4.

David Neil delivered a big blow, putting the Gators ahead with a two out RBI double in the fifth inning, followed by Cody Brook's padding the lead with an RBI single, giving Green River a 6-4 lead.



Sara Olson/Staff Photo

Gator catcher, Tyler Owens, awaits the throw, as a Lower Columbia player slides in safely to home plate. The April 12 series against the Devils was split between the two teams, with Green River taking the first game, and Lower Columbia winning the second.

However, the fun wouldn't last.

Gator pitcher Brian Hill struggled late in the game giving up two runs in the eighth inning, causing the game to go into extra innings. Lower Columbia took control and knocked off the Gators 10-6.

"I thought they did a good job battling back," Matt Acker, Gator head coach, said. "You want to win your games at home; we had some opportunities there."

Overall the Gators played well. Even without great production from their big bats, Van Hoof and Volkel, the Gators were able to put runs on the board.

However, the pitching could have been

better. The Gators had to go to their bullpen a little earlier than they would have liked.

"(Scholl) did good. I think the weather got to him a little bit," Acker said of his ace, who got the win in game one, but only was able to pitch into the fifth.

Coming into the weekend, the Gators had a record of 9-13 overall and 2-4 in league play. That includes dropping three in a row to first place Tacoma, but Acker knows that there's no need for panic.

"You put a plan of action together and follow it," Acker said. "We've been through this before; they know what they're doing; we'll be okay."

The Gators also have had to deal with injuries leaving key players out for the season. Key injuries include starting pitcher Kevin Kauffman and outfielder and first baseman Joey Lind.

"We've been through this before; they know what they're doing; we'll be okay."
—Matt Acker,
Gator baseball
head coach

Gator Profile: Jason Read



Name: Jason Read
Position: Pitcher
Height: 5'9"

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Spam and rice.

Q: Who is your favorite musical artist?

A: The Expendables.

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: "We Own the Night."

Q: If you weren't a baseball player, what would you be?

A: Construction worker.

Q: What is one thing you want to improve on this season?

A: The team, friends.

Q: What do you do to get pumped up for a game?

A: Show up.

Q: What is your favorite part of playing for the Gators?

A: Gain experience.

Q: Do you have any words of advice for young baseball players?

A: Stay with it.

For more information on individual and team statistics for the Gators, visit www.cybersports.org.

Softball schedule

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
4/19-4/20	NWAACC Crossover/Pasco	TBA
4/22	Centralia/Centralia	2 p.m.
4/25	Pierce/Green River	2 p.m.
4/26	Grays Harbor/Aberdeen	12 p.m.
4/29	South Puget Sound/Olympia	3 p.m.
5/2	Highline/Des Moines	2 p.m.
5/3	Centralia/Green River	1 p.m.
5/6	Pierce/Tacoma	2 p.m.
5/9	Grays Harbor/Green River	2 p.m.
5/16-5/18	NWAACC Championship	TBA

Baseball schedule

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
4/19	Centralia/Green River	1 p.m.
4/20	Centralia/Centralia	1 p.m.
4/26	Tacoma/Green River	1 p.m.
4/27	Grays Harbor/Aberdeen	1 p.m.
5/3	Lower Columbia/Longview	1 p.m.
5/4	Lower Columbia/Green River	1 p.m.
5/7	Pierce/Green River	3 p.m.
5/10	Pierce/S. Tacoma	1 p.m.
5/11	Centralia/Centralia	1 p.m.
5/17	West Region Playoff	TBA

NFL draft brings out 'dork' in all sports fans

Big day in football tops all other sports



Column by
Casey Greer

April came and is nearly gone, which means America's hardcore sports fans are tuned into baseball, the NFL Draft.

The reality is that in 2008, the NFL Draft garners as much attention as the early season in Major League Baseball. For football fans, there is one man to thank, Paul Tagliabue.

Tagliabue created, in conjunction with a perfect storm of excellent circumstances, television personalities, marketing tactics, entertaining product, and sheer luck, an NFL which is relevant year round.

Today the NFL has its own network with its own analysts; they play games overseas, they have a show on ESPN every day, even during the offseason; and there are hundreds of mock drafts strewn across the internet.

Perhaps this is time for an admission on my part. I am a dork. I'm not the type of dork that sits in his bedroom, surrounded by walls covered in Star Wars

posters, memorizing lines from the same series of movies in preparation for his next Star Wars convention

However, while I'm not a Star Wars dork, I sympathize completely with my dork brethren.

My "Star Wars Trilogy" consists of baseball, basketball and football. I, like my Star Wars-loving counterparts, don't consider myself a fan of my obsession, but a part of it.

When I wake up in the morning, before I go to work or school, I check the internet for sports news, with ESPN on the TV next to my desk.

I have ESPN on at least in the background during most of my time at home, and I routinely watch the same edition of Sportscenter two or three times.

I have a half dozen or so non-mainstream websites that I frequent for the latest sports news. Also, while at work, I check ESPN's website on my cell phone at least two or three times a day. Please don't tell my boss.

So while some people may find watching NFL Live from March

to September a bit pointless, I feel that sports never stop, they just shift gears.

I remember watching the NFL Draft in my uncle's basement in 1999 at 12 years old. I also remember agonizing when Bill Polian, the president of the Indianapolis Colts took Edgerrin James instead of Ricky Williams, who was the consensus better prospect.

Mike Ditka, the New Orleans Saints head coach at the time had attempted to trade up to the first overall selection to draft Williams, but failed. He instead traded all of his picks in the 1999 draft, and two from the 2000 draft to the Washington Redskins for the fifth overall pick and selected Williams.

James quickly rose to prominence, and Williams got high, was ineffective as a Saint despite posing in a wedding dress with Ditka, was traded, retired early, and ended up in Canada after failing multiple drug tests.

I wondered what Polian saw that the rest of the football world didn't. As Williams was to marijuana, I was hooked to the

draft.

When I was growing up, my parents frequently warned of the perils of "the real world." I didn't realize they were right when I made my first rent payment, paid my first credit card or cable bill, or anything like that.

Instead, I realized when I got a job that forced me to work every Saturday from nine to five. I missed two years of college football and didn't get to watch two NFL Drafts. It felt like the real world had wound up and punched me in the stomach.

The draft doesn't bring millions of people together to drink beer, eat, and yell at their TVs like the Super Bowl.

Actually, while the NFL Draft has grown in terms of national importance, I'd imagine that most people, even casual sports fans, won't know who their local team drafted until the following Monday, or even when 2008 season begins.

However, on April 26, dorks like me will be hunkered down in our own makeshift bunker, with a six pack of Red Bull, and a TV dinner, yelling at the television.

We'll be doing our best Mel Kiper, Jr. impressions and analyzing as teams phone their

picks in from their respective "war rooms."

When my roommate opens my door, wondering what is wrong, I probably won't turn my head. Instead I'll be muttering something unintelligible like "Team need, best player available, wide receiver, safety."

As he backs out the door, with me still muttering nonsense to nobody in particular, he'll consider calling for help. Then he'll finally see the college game tape of a third round offensive tackle on the screen.

He'll remember what day it is, who lives with him and put a rain check on the straight jacket.

As Roger Goodell steps to the podium for the first time that day, each and every dork's blood pressure will raise to the same

"For a sports dork, it's a rare occasion to have an event televised that celebrates our 'dorkdom'."

level it was at when sixth round pick David Tyree caught a ball on his helmet in last year's Super Bowl.

Former football players love to watch football because they can relate.

For a sports dork, it's a rare occasion to have an event televised that celebrates "sports dorkdom." The NFL Draft is our Super Bowl.

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New game frenzy based on 50's music fans

Rap star expands career further into video game industry with new game

Matthew Janes
Staff Writer

Most people assumed that after the release of "50 Cent: Bulletproof," the celebrity would be done in the video game realm and return to his domain in music.

That assumption that most people made was wrong.

The question now is, how do you make a serious video game when its main selling point is the soundtrack?

Bulletproof could attribute its meager success to the fact that 50's die-hard fans will generally buy anything with his name on it, as well as the fact that they could listen to his music while unloading entire clips of bullets into the scum of society.

The upcoming release of "Blood on the Sand" is scheduled for fall of 2008 and will feature tracks specifically for the game to encourage fans of the artist to purchase the game even after experiencing the tedium of its predecessor.

"50 is going to create exclusive tracks for the game that you can only listen to in the game," Aaron Blean, a producer at Vivendi Games, told MTV news.

Not much has been released about the storyline or focus of "Blood on the Sand" but it is known that it will take place in a desert landscape, the global location of which still has not been made known.

Probably the strongest point in the game's favor, other than the exclusive tracks, is the graphics. The screenshots and demo videos

look amazingly life-like and really capture the potential of the Xbox 360 and PS3.

Also refreshingly absent at this point in production is the ridiculous inclusion of other artists in laughable roles, such as Eminem as a dirty cop who assists 50 Cent in his mission to clean up the streets.

However, gamers definitely can expect to see vitamin water making its marketing appearances quite often, according to the producers. Also, the rest of the G-Unit will be included in the game for multiplayer and cooperative play modes.

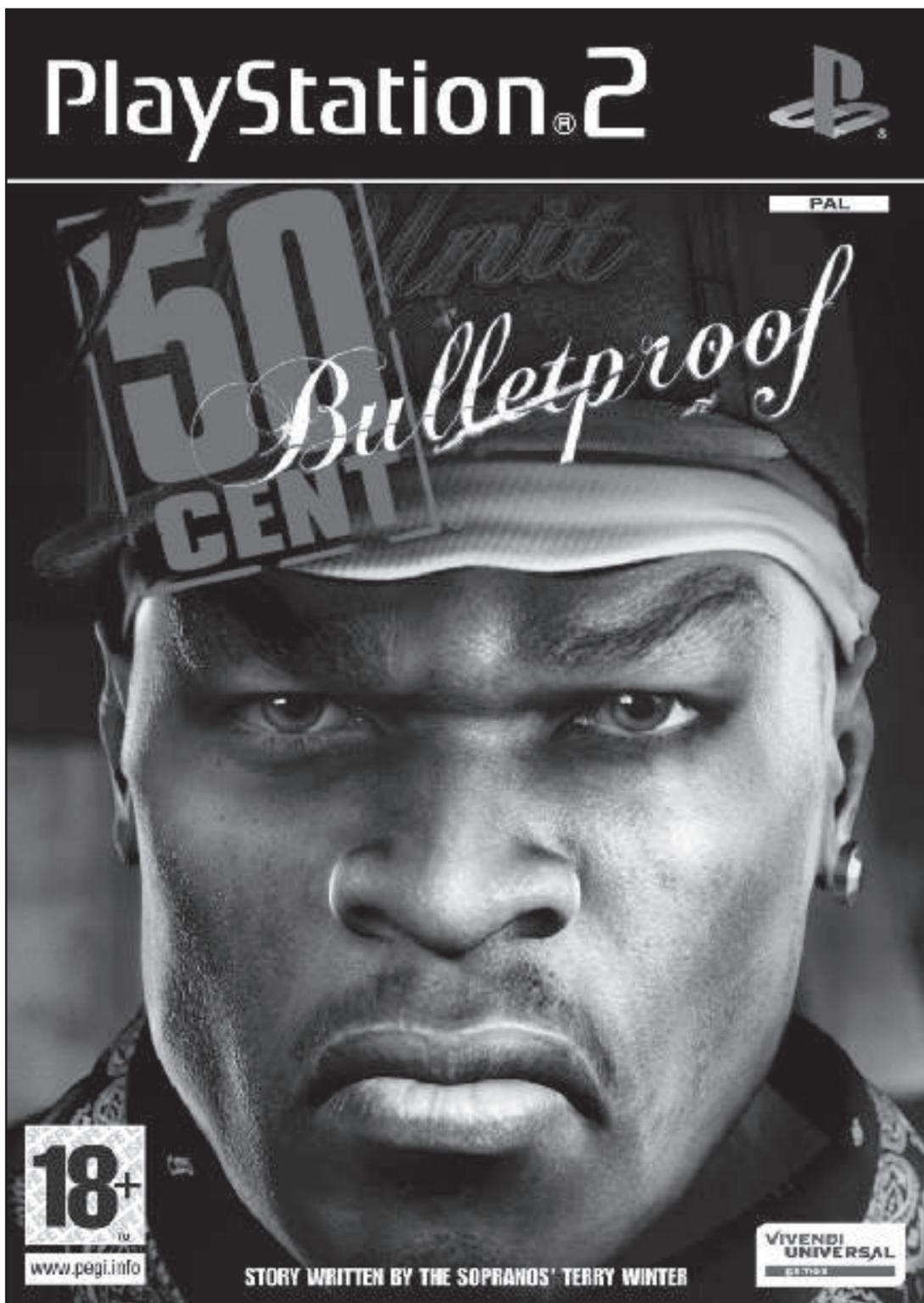
Where the production team decides to go with the storyline, whether it'll be desert warfare or some vigilante quest to hunt down terrorists in the Middle East, it most likely will be the deciding point as to whether this game will be a hit or a miss.

"I would say it's inspired by 'Three Kings' meets 'Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels,'" Blean said. "It's definitely a crime story."

It has the basic needs for a good game met already: solid music, great graphics, and a pre-existing fan base, but it is the unknowns that will make or break the game.

"We've emphasized the game play quality more than anything this time around," Blean said. "We can't wait to show the game around."

50 cent has a second video game coming out, "Blood on the Sand" filled with tracks of his music.



www.coolshop.dk/Courtesy Photo

Going Green

Across

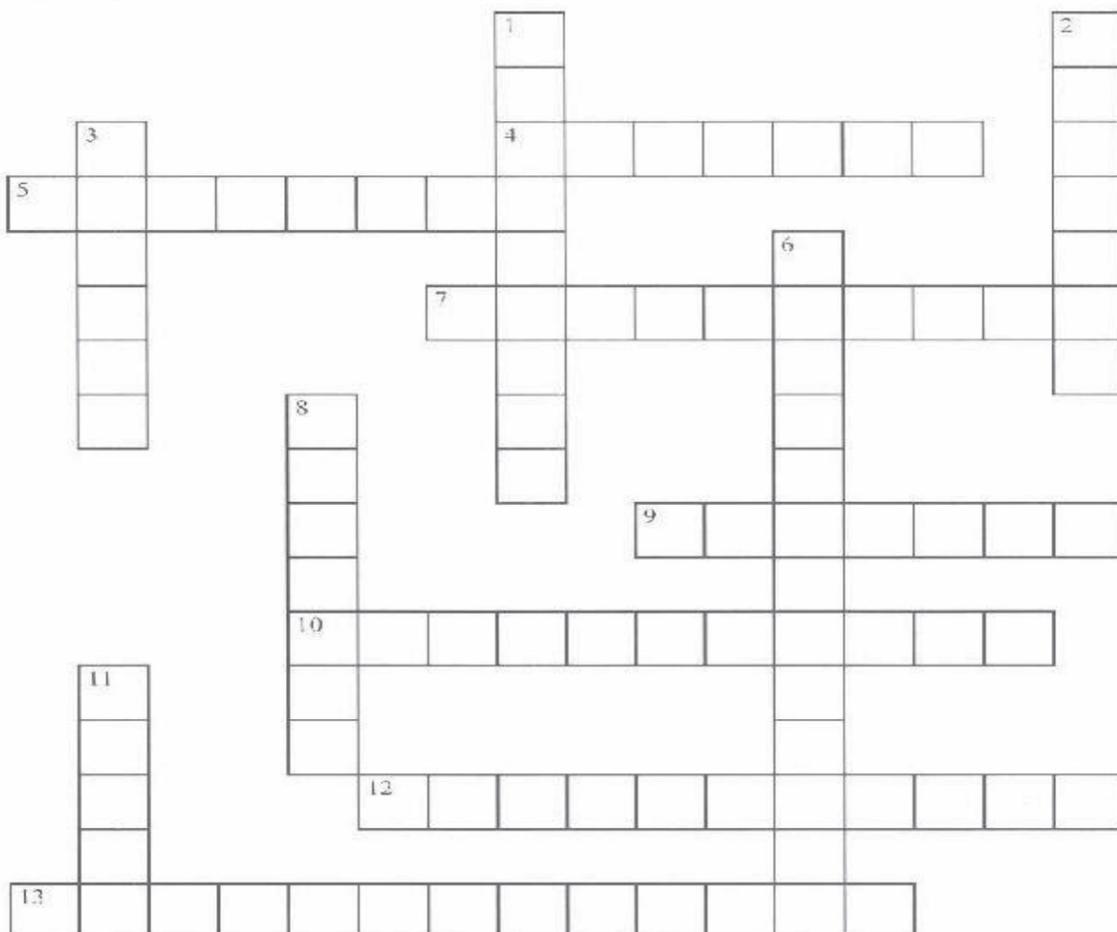
- 4 The "normal" weather patterns of an area
- 5 Lesser-celebrated "green" day
- 7 Most common activity to help the environment (and oxygen supply) on Earth Day
- 9 Date of Earth Day
- 10 Meaning "nice to the environment" (even some coffee shops are switching to these kinds of cups)
- 12 Type of energy-saving light bulbs
- 13 Current major environmental problem involving the ozone and climate change

Down

- 1 Putting used material back into use
- 2 Group of people who thrived in the 1960's, known for their love of the earth
- 3 What Earth Day is all about protecting
- 6 Founder of Earth Day
- 8 President who was to be persuaded of the importance of environmental conservation through Earth Day
- 11 Word for "tree" in spanish

Answers on page 2

Made on puzzle-maker.com by Jamie Page



'Street Kings' can't be saved by gory shoot-outs

Writers miss mark with star-studded film

Karie
Staff Writer

"Street Kings" was a bit of a let down. With a cast like Keanu Reeves, Forest Whitaker, and Hugh Laurie ("House"), I went in expecting greatness and instead saw a mediocre performance paired with a poorly written script.

After being accused of murdering a fellow officer, LAPD Detective Tom Ludlow (Reeves) sets out to set things straight and discovers just how corrupt the system he lives and breaths really is. He ends up going against his fellow vice officers and learns who the good guys and bad guys really are.

Most of the blame for this movie's lack luster performance needs to be put on the writers. "Street Kings" had the potential to be an awesome good cop/bad cop movie, but it has too many twists that can make it hard to follow. The movie was overwhelmed with racial slurs and street slang that at times I thought I needed a dictionary to understand what they were saying.

The script written for each character didn't seem to fit either. Whitaker's character, Captain Jack Wander, is supposed to be the big man in charge, the man who can pull any strings. Through out the movie, he controls Ludlow and threatens Captain James Biggs (Laurie), who tries to interfere

with his plan to become chief.

But all around, Wander comes off as whiney and awkward, instead of the fierce and dominating cop you'd think he'd be. Whitaker does his best, but one can only do so much with what's given.

Reeves character, Det. Tom Ludlow, can be a little confusing as well. I spent the movie trying to figure out if he was supposed to be one of the good guys or one of the bad.

Ludlow is a detective who is hailed a hero by the public, but called unorthodox by his fellow officers. He doesn't play by the rules and kills who ever gets in his way. He seems to jump back and forth between

right and wrong, and it was near the end that I finally figured out which side he was supposed to be on.

I'd say the best performance was given by Chris Evans ("Fantastic 4") as Detective Paul Diskant. As the cop who has to investigate the murder of a police officer, he tries his best to play by

the rules while also trying to clear Ludlow of the murder charges. Evans portrays the vibrant young cops very well, while not overdoing it.

A movie that was made for guys (I was one of about four females in the whole theatre), it was perfectly clear why the "R" rating was given. "Street Kings" is jam-packed full of gunfight and bloodshed.

"Street Kings" opens with a shoot out and ends with a shoot out, with plenty more in between - no gory details spared.

I definitely was impressed with the action scenes, which is why I don't think

"Street Kings' opens with a shoot out and ends with a shoot out, with plenty more in between - no gory details spared."



www.foxsearchlight.com/streetkings/Courtesy Photo

"Street Kings" features stars such as Hugh Laurie, Keanu Reeves, and Forrest Whitaker. However, the film falls short, with poorly delivered story line.

the movie is a total bust. They were well played out and realistic enough to keep me waiting for the next one.

There is a little comic relief thrown in as well. Cedric the Entertainer makes an appearance as Scribble, a gangster/drug dealer who drives an orange Cadillac.

And just so the chicks that do go see it

aren't completely overwhelmed, there is the romance between Det. Ludlow and hospital nurse Grace Garcia to follow.

Overall, if you're out to see the next Oscar winner, you'll leave disappointed. If it's action and drama you're looking for or just something to do with the guys, this is a great movie to see.

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Earth Day

Although it doesn't generate the "gimme and greed" hype that "legitimate" holidays like Christmas and Halloween do, Earth Day is just as noteworthy, if not more so.

Earth Day occurs on April 22 and gives the nation yet another reason to help the world around them.

Green River weighs in on how they're going to honor Earth Day.

*"Natural resouces are going to sell and plant trees on Earth day. We are working on a bio energy plan."
—Dick Hopkins,
Natural resources insturctor*

*"I look out for litter and want to join a group that supports the environment."
—Justine Deleeuw*

*"We really consciously recycle, and we've started buying cloth shopping bags for the grocery store, and we walk to work."
—Carol Miller*

*"I have never actually contributed to earth day, but I feel I would enjoy planting a vegetable garden."
—Amy Matheson*

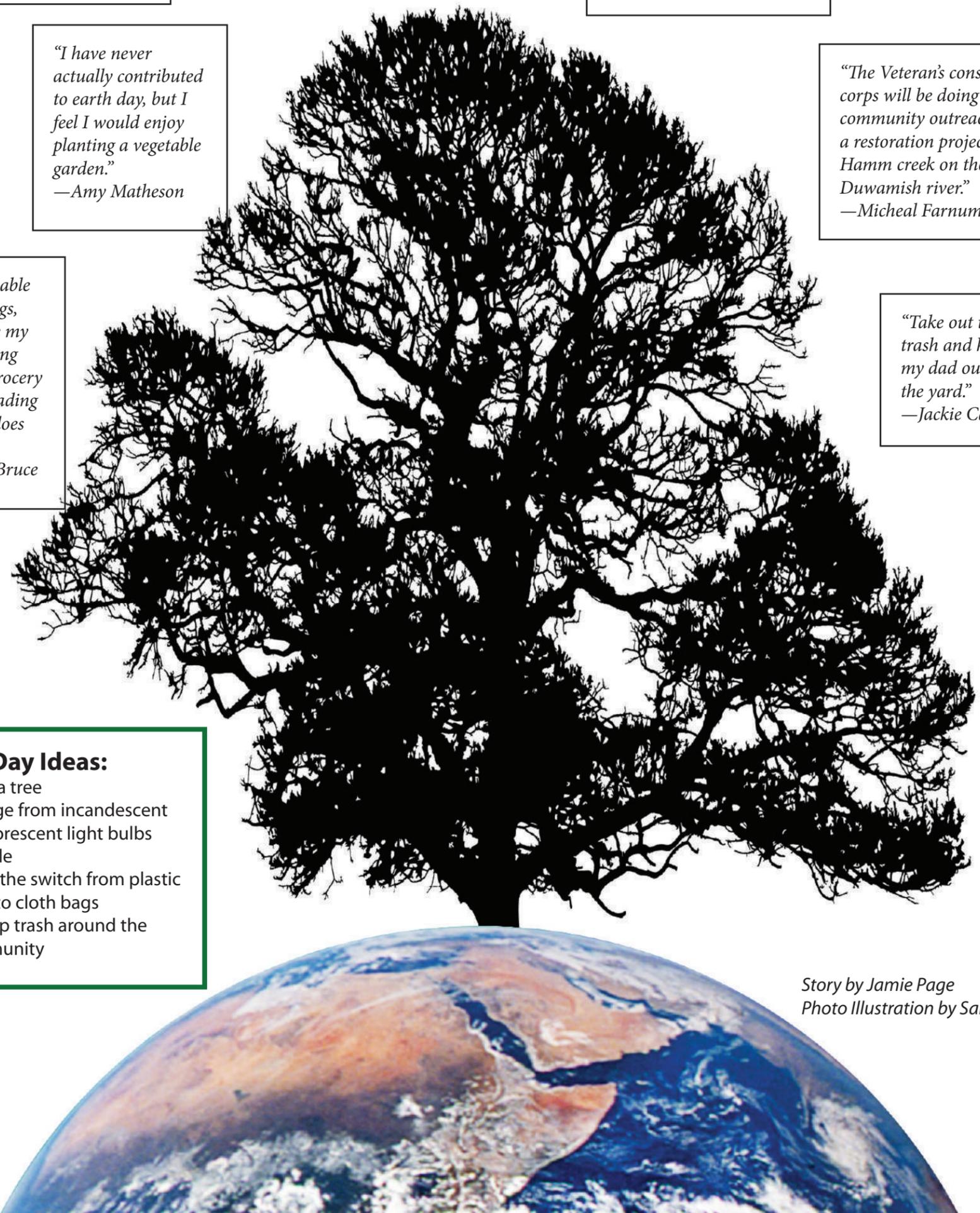
*"The Veteran's conservation corps will be doing a community outreach and a restoration project on Hamm creek on the Duwamish river."
—Micheal Farnum*

*"I use reusable grocery bags, and I have my friends using reusable grocery bags. Spreading the word does wonders."
—Lindell Bruce*

*"Take out the trash and help my dad out in the yard."
—Jackie Capps*

Earth Day Ideas:

- Plant a tree
- Change from incandescent to fluorescent light bulbs
- Recycle
- Make the switch from plastic bags to cloth bags
- Pick up trash around the community



Story by Jamie Page
Photo Illustration by Sara Olson