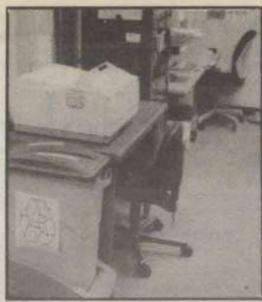




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The Current

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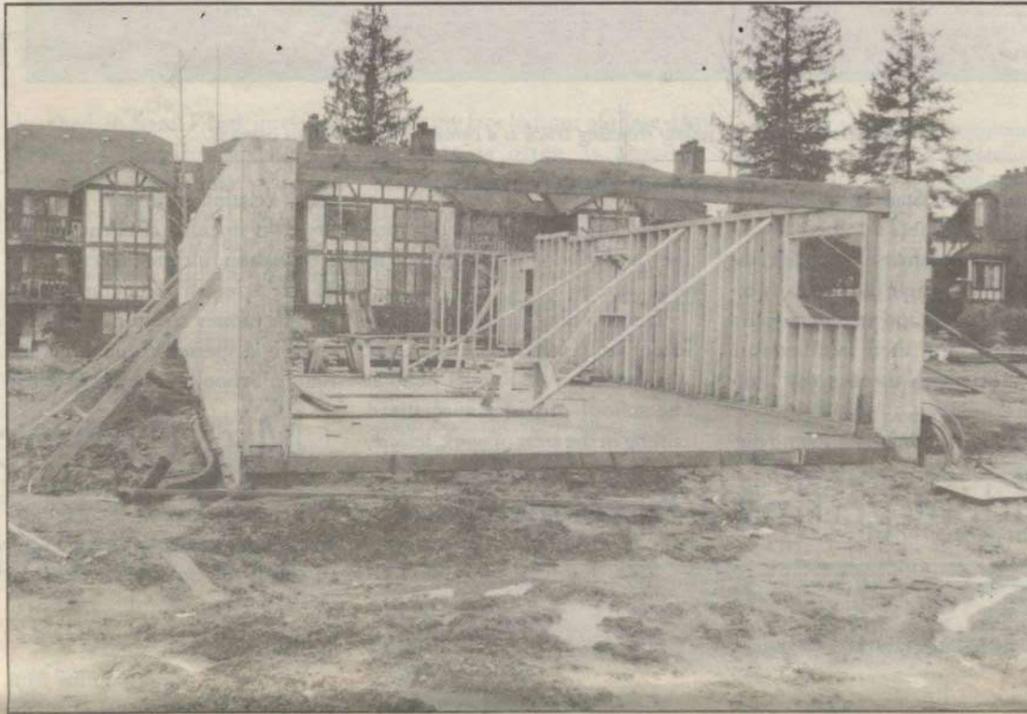
Carpentry Program provides on the job training

By Lisa Law

Many students aren't able to apply the skills they learn in college until after they graduate. But by building a house, GRCC's carpentry students are putting their knowledge to good use right now.

Every year Green River carpentry students get to apply their skills to a project that will benefit their learning experience as well as their futures. The carpentry class has been building houses since 1974 for individuals and contractors. The homeowners are saving anywhere from 30-40% off the cost and the students are learning invaluable skills.

A contractor provides the materials for the building of the house and then the students build the foundation, framing, and roofing, and install siding windows, doors, cabinets, and the interior trim. "We cover every phase of construction from dirt to door knobs, we do it all," said Glen Martin, Carpentry Advisor. When the house is completed the contractor then sells the house and makes a donation to the



Carpentry students working on the main structure of the house.

carpentry program.

The house is located about five miles from Green River in Kent. The construction of the house

started in the fall and takes about two quarters to build. The garage was completed in the fall, and the students are now on to the house it-

self. The class meets daily for four hours a day.

The program is made up of experienced students as well as begin-

ners—students with no previous experience are welcome to take this class. "We take 'em at all levels, all ages, and all genders," said Martin.

Carpentry student Justin Peek is pleased with the program, "I had been doing carpentry for eight or nine months before I started the program," he said, "and I've learned more in the past two weeks than I had in those previous months. I'm really happy with the instructors here."

By receiving on the job training in school, the students are able to learn about all the parts of the house and how it is constructed. "The most exciting feature is that the students get to work on a real life project," stated Lotus. "You can take our degree and go anywhere, there's all kinds of opportunities," explained Martin. There are more jobs available than there are students, and students starting out are averaging \$10-\$12 an hour. After completing the program, many students start out working for residential small builders, and move on to become specialty contractors.

Boeing donation not yet in use

By Ingrid Polston
and Tina Larson

Last month, the Boeing Company donated a sophisticated measuring machine to GRCC's Machine Technology department. The machine will be beneficial to the students in the department, but it is not yet being used for instruction.

The Coordinated Measuring Machine (CMM) is a computerized machine used to measure and inspect complicated parts. Computer programs are written for an electronic probe on the CMM that finds coordinates relative to one another with much precision. The two-ton machine is accurate down to .0001 inch. According to John Finnilla, the afternoon instructor in the machine shop, the CMM can measure a part more accurately than it can be manufactured. It's a test against the

way the part is supposed to be manufactured.

The CMM was donated by Boeing surplus when they received a letter from GRCC's Machine Technology department requesting one. Boeing decided to purchase a more recent version of the CMM, so GRCC received the older machine.

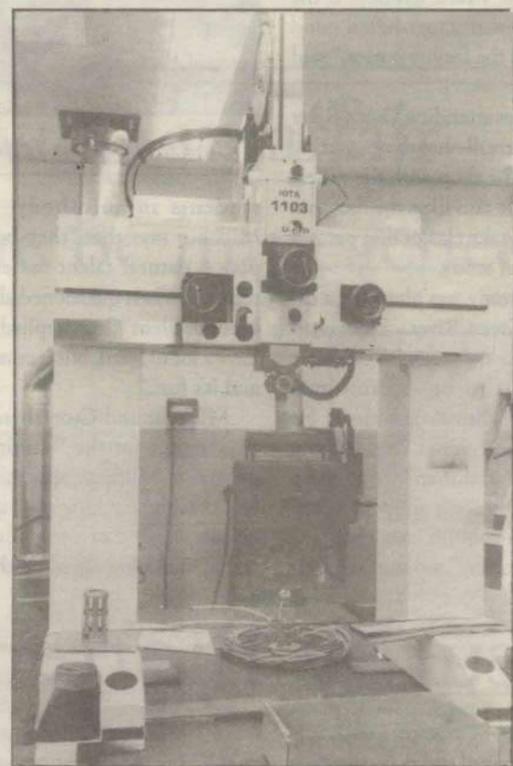
According to Rick Lengyel, Manager of Community and Technical Colleges for Boeing, the CMM was worth around \$85,000 when it was new. Machine Technology instructor, Charles Lengar does not believe the machine is worth that much now, however, because it is a few years old.

The machine is currently not in use in the machine shop. Lengar explained that the machine still has to be certified, calibrated and pro-

grammed by Boeing technicians before the school can start using it. He does not know when that will be.

"We are making arrangements to align and certify [the CMM] for accuracy," said Lengyel, "I suspect it will be within the next 30 days."

When the machine is certified it will be used for instruction in the Machine Technology program. It is user-friendly and minimizes human error, according to Lengar. The CMM will eliminate the use of many instruments and save time. Students are "currently using a lot of measuring devices—this machine replaces them all," said Lengar. He said the machine shop could do fine without the CMM, but it would be like using a typewriter instead of a personal computer.



Boxes and spare parts sit on the CMM while it awaits programming

AA Degree requirements expected to change this summer

By Christal Wood

On January 26th, the GRCC Instructional Council proposed that modifications be made to the requirements for the Associate in Arts Degree.

Changes will be published in the Spring catalog, and are expected to be implemented in the coming Summer quarter. The new require-

ments will apply only to those students enrolling from that quarter on. Students currently enrolled in an AA degree program will have the choice of following previous or new guidelines.

The proposal being forwarded to the Executive Vice President, Mike McIntyre, asks that the Math/Science requirement be altered to al-

low students to take more than one class in a given discipline, taking classes in at least two. The requirements under the other distribution areas will remain the same, as will the overall number of credits required for the degree (minimum of 90). Dave Mowrer, Chair of the Council, foresees no opposition to these recommendations being ap-

proved.

A student going for an AA degree is required to take 15 credits in 3 separate discipline areas under each Distribution Area—such as Humanities, Math/Science and the Social Sciences—in addition to the basic Math and English requirements.

According to Mowrer, there has

been a movement toward "getting student's through faster," allowing more depth of study versus variance in the courses taken. Four-year colleges have relaxed in their requirements, allowing Green River to do so as well. A vote taken by the faculty in December brought the decision that each distribution area determine its own rule.

Environment-friendly Rainier School recycles for GRCC

By Jorge Peña

Rainier School is doing their part in contributing to the recycling needs of the community here at GRCC. Rainier School's big yellow recycling truck can be seen regularly around campus, along with the school's hard-working clients pushing their green totes collecting recyclables.

Located in the Shipping & Receiving building, Rainier School sorts through materials they gather from around the Green River campus. Well into their fifth year, the clients from Rainier School are out in the community and are becoming friends of the environment.

Kathy Anderson, known as "Ms. Keebler" to the clients, is the supervisor of the recycling program. This being only her first year as supervisor of the recycle program, she is learning the ropes and thanks GRCC for giving the clients of Rainier School the opportunity to get exposure in the community.

Rainier School is a Residential Habilitation Center (RHC) for developmentally disabled children and adults. The facility is operated under the Department of Social & Health Services (DSHS) by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), as established by the Leg-



Rainier School's big yellow recycling truck is a common sight around campus.

islature of the State of Washington.

Rainier School's purpose is to:
-make a positive difference in the lives of the people they serve by offering services and resources to individuals and their families in a manner which meets their individual needs

-promote human rights and dig-

nity.

-support everyday activities, routines, and relationships common to most citizens

The recycling program Rainier School setup at GRCC aids clients in the mission of Rainier School. The school provides specialized training in the areas of work, leisure,

social relationships, and everyday life tasks to enhance client self-determination, independence, and to be able to return to the community.

The money received from recycling is dispersed throughout the Rainier School. Money goes to pay

the clients and other expenses needed to keep the program running. For example, gas for the yellow recycling truck. Clients earn between \$150 and \$250 a month.

Green River has cleared out a much needed room for GRCC's computer maintenance, and set it aside for Rainier School to use for sorting through paper and to store the totes used to pick up the recycling around campus.

Rainier School sorts through the paper because recycling cans are sometimes mistaken for garbage cans. Rainier School recycles white paper, color paper, computer paper, cardboard, used trays from the cafeteria, glass, plastic, and aluminum cans. They also tear out the pages from old phone books.

Rainier School picks up recycling from GRCC Monday through Friday. Buildings they gather recycling from include the Lindbloom Student Center, the Holman Library, Humanities/Social Science, Science and Technology, Physical Education, Student Communications, Science/Math/Technology, Business and Industry, and from the Rutkowski Learning Center.

Running Start student getting a head start

By Lisa Law

Running Start student Cris Cron has two advantages over many students attending Green River. One, he knows what he wants to do and two, he has a one year head start.

Cron, a senior at Federal Way High School, is in the Green River auto-body program. After previewing other colleges he decided to attend Green River for several reasons. "I really like Mark (Millbaur, the auto body instructor) he's a good teacher, and the facility is nice," said Cron.

Cron likes attending Green River because "it's really hands on, getting to work in the shop with the different cars." He also likes the fact that he is able to take classes that pertain to his area of study.

Cron already has plans for a career after Green River. He has always wanted to work with cars. He either wants to be an "auto-mechanic" or a "(auto) body-man." He plans on receiving a degree from Green River and then "working up the ladder through shop to shop" until he can own his own shop.

Cron is one of two running start



Cron says he likes "getting to work with the different cars."

students in auto-body. Mark Millbaur says that "they both display a natural talent for collision repair." When questioned about his natural talent Cron replied "I still have a lot to learn, but it comes easy, and it's fun."

Millbaur and Cron share a mutual respect for the Running Start program. Millbaur appreciates the fact that the running start students do just as good of a job, if not better, while being "held to the same

standards, and expected to do the same work." Cron feels that it's a "good program" and he likes getting done with his first year of college while in high school.

When asked whether or not he missed being at high school Cron said "I don't really know when games or dances are, but I still have friends there." He feels comfortable being in a class with older students because "If the teacher's busy, then they help you learn."

By Tina Larson

This year's second annual Miss Cornucopia Pageant will be held the first weekend in April, at Kentwood High School. The pageant is open to Kent girls between the ages of 16 and 22. Contestants must live in Kent, work in Kent, or have graduated from a Kent high school to participate. It is required that participants have a GPA of 2.5, and have experience with community service. The participants must write a 500 word essay on a cause of their choice. Talent is encouraged, but not required.

Awards will be given to those who do participate in the talent portion. Cash scholarships are awarded to all who participate, though the amount is not yet known at this time. The first, second, and third place winners will receive Educational Scholarships to be used to

further their education.

The mission of this pageant is to grant scholarships to as many young individuals as possible, while providing a positive atmosphere and training for leadership and the community involvement. According to Paul Vert, a recruiter for the pageant, this is a fun activity for all those who participate in and within the pageant, and it gives the girls new and exciting experiences that they will never forget.

Following the pageant will also be the 27th annual Cornucopia festival being held this mid July. Vert said that last year's pageant was highly successful, and this year the festival's coordinators hope to surpass previous years.

An Organization Meeting will be held the first weekend in February.

Registration is available by calling Paul Vert at (253) 852-8741.

Security Blotter

January 15

An unauthorized person entered an unlocked office, and stole a JVC stereo. This was a three-piece component set valued at \$300.00.

January 21

Two vehicles collided together in the entrance to the "A" Lot. The drivers exchanged their insurance paperwork and resolved the conflict.

A hit and run accident in the "A" Lot damaged a red mercury on the passenger side. There were two women there who had witnessed the accident. They saw a silver pick-up truck back into the Mercury and

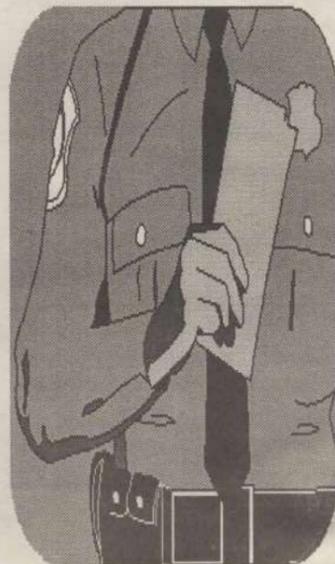
leave the lot. They then returned to the library and notified security.

January 27

A student was leaving RLC 118, when she collapsed for unknown reasons. 911 was called and she was taken to Auburn General Hospital.

January 29

A staff member was observed by other staff members to be having a stroke. He was taken to the maintenance lounge where rescue crews treated him. He was then transported to Auburn General Hospital.



The Current

The Current is the official student newspaper of Green River Community College. It is published every other Monday, except holidays and examination periods, for a total of 15 issues during the 1997-1998 academic year.

Letters to the editor, story ideas, student works, etc. may be submitted to The Current's mailbox in Green River Community College's Student Programs office or to room 200 in the LSC building.

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Opinions

Clinic bombing: This is the way the world ends

By Ryan Duerme

January 22, 1998 marked the 25th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion in the U.S. Over the years, this issue has divided the nation--Pro-life vs Pro-Choice. There is no right/wrong answer to this issue and people who were certain that they were on the "right" side, have found themselves on the other end of the spectrum.

Norma McCorvey of Dallas Texas, the plaintiff in Roe vs Wade, is one such case. She regrets being personally responsible for the Su-

preme Court decision, and now fights to reverse the decision which bears her name.

An abortion clinic bombing took the life of a security guard last month in Birmingham Alabama. This unfortunate accident is a disgusting display of the human notion that in order to save lives, we must take them.

Where is the resolution in that? It's such a hypocritical selfish point of view that will lead to our inevitable demise. This is the way to world peace, not by stopping killing, but by killing everyone. These

"moral-preaching" perverts might as well use an atom bomb. Heck, why not two. Their father's used it, so why can't they, right?

This is another moment in the short human history that reminds us how totally unhuman we are.

The really sick part is abortion is not a social issue. Everyone sees it that way; people take sides on the subject, and battle each other out. But the real war is not between the people and it doesn't take place outside abortion clinics, or the steps of the Supreme Court.

Abortion is a battle inside the

woman who is maybe faced with having to make that decision. Being male, and gay, I can't even imagine what that must feel like. The sickos who bombed that clinic seem to not only know what it feels like, but they have the "god-given right" to make the decision for you. HELLO, is anyone home? Even if these "life-savers" do know what it feels like, it's still not their right to tell people how to live their lives. Who makes murderers decision makers anyway? Oh yes...America, of "LIFE, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

ABORTION STATISTICS:
(provided by the State Department of Health)

-King County has the highest abortion rate in the State for the past five years.

-There were 10,538 abortions in King County last year, and 21,373 live births.

-Latest statistics show that there were 23, 396 abortions in the state in 1996, down from 26, 635 the previous year.

-Statewide 21.5 percent of all pregnancies last year ended in abortion.

Confessions of a Real World

Addict

By Ingrid Polston

Seattle is once again a shining star in the universe of popular culture. First it was grunge, then the latte invasion, and now MTV's *The Real World*. The folks at MTV have decided that Seattle is the next city they are going to be sending seven hip young people to get a taste of what "real life" is all about, and bless the city with their bickering and self-righteous attitudes. Lucky us.

Word has it that filming for the series started last week, reportedly at a fancy-schmansy house down on Pier 70. No doubt the seven young whipper-snappers will soon be sighted at Seattle's hottest spots with camera crew in tow, dancing and drinking the night away. Silly me, I thought that in the real world people had to get a job and pay rent.

All complaints aside, I really must confess I watch the show religiously. I'm the one staying up all night watching the marathons. I

laughed so hard I had intestinal problems when Flora got stuck in the window and broke it, I cried when Pedro died, and I hated Puck with a vengeance. If I happen upon a rerun while flipping through channels, all obligations and promises are forgotten and I plant my fanny on the couch and it doesn't move until the sun comes up. Yes, I am a *Real World* addict.

Now, try to be understanding. Remember, admitting you have a problem is the first step to recovery. This is not exactly easy to admit in front of you, my peers, the student body of GRCC. However....I have this strange feeling I am not alone. Tell the truth, I know you watch *The Real World* too, and hey, I still like you.

Anyway, enough about my personal problems. I see this *Real World* Seattle thing as a possible growth experience. Personally, I plan to exploit MTV's attempt to create a fishbowl of today's young generation by imposing on every possible aspect of the cast's lives. My goal is

to get my face in front of those darn cameras as often as possible. Whether that means hanging out in cheesy dance clubs waiting for the cast and their entourage of cameramen, dressing up as the pizza girl, or throwing pebbles at their window in the middle of the night while gleefully singing show tunes. It's dog-eat-dog out there, people, and I've gotta do whatever it takes to show the world that I *am* a Superstar.

But I don't have to be the only one....and I doubt I will be. The *real* world is chock full of crazies looking for an easy way up in life. It's up to us, the people of Seattle (and surrounding areas) to illustrate this to the rest of America. So join me. If you should happen upon a group of ostentatious youngin's with cameras pointed in their faces while strolling the streets of downtown Seattle, do whatever it takes to mess them up, shatter their little bubble of pseudo-reality. In other words, stick your face in the camera, wave and shout "Hi mom!" America will thank you.

Rants and Raves

Rants and Raves is an anonymous forum for GRCC students to voice their opinions. Rants and raves may be submitted to *The Current's* mailbox at the entrance to the Student Programs office. Please initial any submissions.

Rants

"People drive on campus drive too fast. They don't pay attention to what they're doing--I've almost been run over many times." - H.H.

"The green tortillas in the cafeteria are gross. Why can't we have regular white ones?" - T.B.

"Spice Girls should be taken off the juke box." - K.A.

"The cafeteria needs to make fresh food more often. They let it sit out under those lights for too long. People who have night classes never get to have fresh food, it's always dried out and crusty." - L.L.

Raves

"The squirrels are fat and healthy."

"A special thanks to the ladies who clean the tables in LSC. They are very nice, and do a great job." - T.B.

"The morning show on KGRG is great! Bob and Mark are funny." - M.W.Y.M.

Survey: If Clinton lied about having an affair with Monica Lewinsky, should he be impeached?



"If Clinton lied about his affair with Monica Lewinsky, then he should not be impeached because it is irrelevant to his job as President."

- Stuart Mitchell



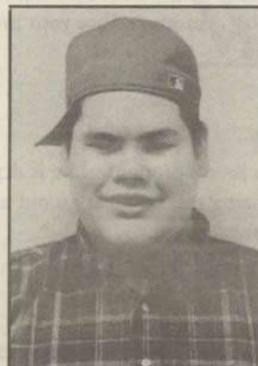
"He should be impeached or resign because he is supposed to be an honest man, not going behind anyone's back."

- Jenn Vansickle



"If Clinton told Lewinsky to lie he should be impeached. He is in the highest political position in this country, he represents the United States of America. What does this say to the rest of the world? What does this tell the American people about monogamy?"

- Sharon Patterson



"I think that he should stay in the White House. The President's sex life is nobody's business but his. Stay up, playa Bill!"

- Steven Taniguchi



"If the President was guilty I don't see why he should be impeached. I think he has done an outstanding job as President and feel that this affair has no relevance to the job he has done so far."

- Russell Wilson

Photographs by Lisa Law

Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board. Signed editorials reflect the sole opinion of the writer, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board. Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold the name on request.

The Current reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper.

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion or policy of the administration, unless so attributed.



Horoscopes

DISCLAIMER: If meteorologists can blame El Niño for bad, and uncharacteristic weather, then why not blame El Niño for all your problems, social, emotional, and physical shortcomings that honestly is your own damn fault. Oh, I am very sorry I wasn't able to make in on the first issue. I vow that it'll never happen again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) Floods

You are going to find yourself overwhelmed by floods of new opportunities, and some bad luck that previously never affected you. You thought that by living on higher ground everything is fine and dandy. Well, thanks to our friend El, being on higher ground will prove inefficient. Be careful the next couple of weeks as you try and stay afloat this ocean of ideas, and situations. Take that life jacket that has been collecting dust out of your closet, and put them to good use, just remember where you last put it.

PISCES (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20) Ice Storm

It's that crappy medium between snow, and rain. Freezing rain really sucks. You can't travel the roads to take you places, you can't call anyone to talk to because all the communication lines are down, and to top it all off, the power may go any moment. This is a very delicate, and fragile situation. Be careful, the potential for falling on your ass is 100%. Take this opportunity to get to know your "family" cause you're stuck at home. You might be surprised at what you discover, and maybe even form new or strengthen old relationships.

ARIES (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19) Tidal Waves

Unless you know how to surf, and surf well, stay away from the beach. Too bad you are not living in a land-locked life, there's no such thing. Water is everywhere...like gravity...and stupidity, so it all depends on your previous experiences with waves. If you have experience there lies glory for you, and if you've never surfed before stay on shore. And if you are one of those that never have and want to try, now is not the best time.

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 20) Mild Winter

Taurus is in a favorable position. Usually your climate is very cold and harsh, however thanks to El Niño, all that bad weather is heading north and south of you. You might say a rigid high-pressure situation is hanging over you. It's warm outside, and there's no need to bundle yourself up, in fact feel free to take off your clothes, and reveal yourself (metaphorically speaking {sometimes}).

GEMINI (May 21 - Jun. 20) Lost Fishie

El Niño has caused some local wildlife to go astray. Wildlife that follow the warm waters back to their winter homes find themselves in foreign territories because El Niño has confused them, and led them to strange new worlds. This is your current situation. This is a very critical time. You either have to adapt to your new environment, or gather enough energy for the long journey home. Be careful El doesn't lead you someplace else, or you're doomed.

CANCER (Jun. 21 - Jul. 22) Winter Storm Warning

This is a warning to you. A big storm is heading your way. Take shelter, you do not want to be in the danger zone. Take provisions, and even livestock if you have access to any, then prepare for the worse. I don't suggest running away from it, cause you're likely to get stranded in the middle of nowhere, with no hope but a quickly dying cigarette as a signal flare.

LEO (Jun. 23 - Aug. 22) In Orbit

Leo's have managed to escape out of Earth's atmosphere. In orbit, they are unaffected by the influences of El Niño as well as other physical forces, like gravity, friction, and bad taste. They are in a state of limbo, completely free, floating, and maybe even content. Take advantage of this trouble free time in your life, cause eventually the spaceship you're staying in will fall prey to the invisible force of gravity. So enjoy it while the ride last.

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sep. 22) OZ

Due to the El Niño caused storms, you have been blown into the land of Oz. Aren't you lucky? Actually Dorothy you gotta find your way back to Kansas, where you belong. That's really where you can find courage, a brain, and a heart, and not form some fantasy-whitebread-communist community. That doesn't exist. Courage, wits, and love can only be found by living, and not day dreaming. Face your problems instead of subconsciously wishing a house would fall on your wicked problems.

LIBRA (Sep. 23 - Oct. 22) Drought

Some parts of the world are suffering from severe drought. Life is dry and cracked. The rain falling outside is deceiving. Inside everything needs revitalizing moisture, so go out and fill your heart with rain clouds that'll fertilize your fields and save this year's crops.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) Fog

You definitely need to keep your headlights on this next few weeks cause El is bringing some unusual fog that doesn't seem to wanna lift. Don't worry though, sunshine (in the form of love) is coming to burn that away. So keep your eyes open for what's ahead.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) Raining Aliens

Some say that El Niño is caused from the exhaust of alien spacecrafts. This might explain the high level of radio activity happening in your life. Watch carefully what kind of chemical experiments you are conducting and be cautious about where you're expending kinetic energy, cause some chemical reactions can do some terrible harm to your well-being, mentally, and sexually (oops...Freudian slip) I mean physically. Speaking of Freud, I will be using some if not all of his theories on the next edition, so watch for it.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) Biosphere

You are so clever. Creating your own little habitat to live in. The climate inside is so nice and pleasant, and you seem very content. But don't you miss people? I mean this little greenhouse you built can only hold one, and even if you are nice and dry everyone else is outside, in the cold yeah, but still together.

The 50's are alive at GRCC

By Akio Segawa

The Fabulous 50's Week, put on by Student Programs, will take place in and around the LSC February 17 through 20 during the lunch hour of each of the days. This trip through time will then come to an end with a 50's music dance.

There will be many different activities going on during the event to get people in the 50's mood. Elvis will be in the building sometime during the week. Yes, a professional Elvis impersonator will be hired. The Elvis wanna-be will sing and rock 'n roll the place until everyone's reaching for leather jackets and poodle skirts.

Even with Elvis singing and swiveling his hips, it may take a little more to get some in the 50's spirit. So to help strengthen the 50's atmosphere and ease some overworked mid-term brains, students dressed up in real 50's attire will be giving away ice cream.

On the last day of the fabulous 50's week a dance will be held. Everyone is invited and is encouraged to dress in 50's style clothing. This is a great opportunity to dust off those old dancing shoes and swing the night away.

For more information on anything seen above, contact student programs located on the second floor of the LSC or at EXT2400.

GRCC hosts an all invited talent show

By Akio Segawa

On February 27 in the LSC, G.R.C.'s International programs is hosting an all invited talent show. The Gator Show of Talent, which is supported financially by the student government senate, will feature a 15-act show of a large variety of talent. Also included will be a ham dinner, an assortment of vegetables and desert, all for just one admission price of \$5.00. Tickets will sold until February 23, and will not be sold at the door. However, tickets will need to be bought as soon as possible as the show is expected to sell out.

The Gator Show of Talent will be about a two-hour show. The acts will vary from singing dancing to even acting. Every act will be carefully selected through a series of auditions to ensure the quality of the show. A large diversity of entertainers will be featured, and everyone is guaranteed a good time.

Auditions will be held on February 9, 10, and 11 from 5:00 to 7:00. Decisions will be made by February 12, 9:30 a.m. Applicants should bring their own props and costumes, and singers should bring their own cued tapes. These audi-

tions are meant to be extremely comfortable and relaxed. So just be prepared to have fun. The Gator Show of Talent is also looking for stagehands to volunteer. From lighting to costuming just about every position is available; it's just a matter of finding one's own interests.

The purpose of this talent show is to create diversity for all of the campus. Sitting arrangements for the audience will be by groups of 10. By doing this the large diversity of people will be able to converse and interact with each other, having the talent show as a common interest. "We want to give an opportunity for the students to represent themselves and their culture," said Ricardo, one of the coordinators for the show.

Starting time for the show is 6:00 p.m. in the main dining area in the LSC. Tickets can be purchased at the Student Programs center, located on the second floor of the LSC. The Gator Show of Talent endeavors to be a great way to interact with many different people, cultures and ethnic backgrounds, while the show is planned to be full of entertainment that will make people think, cry, and laugh out loud.

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

By Matt Martinson

On February 6, Outdoor Programs will be going skiing at Crystal Mountain. They will be leaving at 7:00 a.m. from the bus circle at GRCC. Cost for tickets is \$30, which includes a ride to the mountain and lift ticket. Sign up is in Student Programs.

On February 7, Outdoor Programs will be going ice skating at Sprinkler in Spanaway. The group plans to leave Green River on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and return by 8:00 p.m. that evening. "It's gonna be great fun!" claims Jenny Gustavsson, one of Outdoor Programs' two leaders.

For those who wish to go on the skating trip, it will only cost four dollars, which includes more than just skating. After skating, Outdoor Programs will be going indoors, watching a movie which is covered by the four dollar ice skating fee, and going out to dinner, which will be up to each participating individual to pay for.

Advice Column: Dear Matilda

Having problems with that "special someone?" Need some friendly advice or an opinion from a self-proclaimed love and sex expert? Dear Matilda can help!

Send Matilda any questions to askmatilda@hotmail.com, or drop them off in *The Current's* mailbox in the Student Programs office in an envelope marked "Ask Matilda." Please do not include any names.

All questions will be responded to through email by Matilda, but not all questions will make it into *The Current*.

Dear Matilda is a relationship advice column featuring *The Current's* own love and relationship "expert" Matilda Philipooses. This advice is by no means professional, and should be followed at the reader's own risk.



Dear Matilda,
How do you personally define love?
Webster D.



Dear Webster D.

Obviously there are many different types of love. You're not going to love your siblings exactly the same way you love your friends. You're definitely not going to love your pets the same way that you love a spouse or lover (well most of us anyway).

The love between two people who are not related and are more than just good friends is hard to define and I think that is why a lot of people have problems identifying it as love. If asked, most people will respond that they haven't ever been in love. Love shouldn't be something to try to define like vocab on a science test.

Love is unmistakable and the feelings that come along with it are as well. Love is also individual to each couple and it is different for each couple but there are some things that are universal. Love is that unmistakable feeling that only that

special person makes you feel when you are with them, and its finding it difficult to stop thinking about that special someone when they are away from you. Love is not how much you know about someone (although I feel that if you do love someone you will most likely want to know everything about that person, but that is different for everybody), or how long you have been together. Love is not about anniversaries or even marriage. Love is not necessarily about sex but the other side of the relationship, the mental aspect. How well the couple knows each other without actually knowing every little detail about the other person. It's how well the couple "connects" mentally and how easily they can talk to each other. But love does not "make" a relationship, you still need communication and both sides must be willing to work hard at the relationship to make it work because without those two things the strongest love can be torn apart.

There is an old saying that you must love yourself before you can love someone else. But, it takes someone that loves you and sees all of your good traits to make you aware of them.

Love is unmistakable and should not be taken for granted, as for most people real love is few and far between.

-Matilda

Dear Matilda,
I'm crazy about this girl who happens to be gay. Anyway, I have the most incredible time hanging out with her. We relate so well; she's funny, smart, cynical, and very sincere. She's introduced me to a whole new world if you

want to put it into a cliché. I have had more fun with her than any girl I have dated. I wanna tell her the three magic words and ask for her hand in dating, but I know that is selfish of me. But I can't shake this feeling either and avoiding her would be just as selfish. What should I do? Chasing Amy

Dear Chasing Amy,



First of all this is one of the most difficult situations to get through whether the friend is gay or just does not have romantic feelings for the other person. There is also no right way to handle it. If your friend is gay obviously asking to date her is not going to be a good idea and would be very selfish. Tell her how you feel but make sure that she knows that you know she does not want anything other than what you already have together. By all means, do not tell her that you want to date but be straight with her about your feelings. If you two are truly great friends, as you say, and she cares about you she should understand and probably be flattered. Her re-

sponse is going to hurt for a while but getting it out into the open may help you to get through this and to move on. She will also respect you for your honesty but you must respect her in her response. If it is out in the open it does leave you vulnerable to getting hurt, but if she cares enough for you she won't let you get hurt and can help you to work through it together. Telling her may even make your friendship stronger in the long run. Good luck.

-Matilda

Dear Matilda

I've been [with] this guy for months—but my definition of "with" is sort-of unconventional. I mean, I am with him only during some weekends when I manage to go down to Olympia. We have the greatest time and the coolest part is it's only between him and me. He's not gay, but I have a "turning" effect on him—go figure. So my problem is that emotions have gotten in the way. My emotions that is. I am starting to have a physical and an emotional f*ck with him, and for him it's just totally skin. I wanna break it off because I can't afford to have an emotional "relationship" when it's not mutual. But I also don't want to lose the good, very awesome time we have together that I am not getting from anyone else. What's your honest advice?

Washington Mutual

Dear Washington Mutual,

One-sided emotional relationships are not a good position for anyone to be in and are really hard to deal with. You need to make a choice of which is more important to you, your peace of mind that you are satisfying your sexual desires but

setting yourself up for heart break, or to protect yourself from heart



break and lose that physical act from your life for the time being? I think you are better off to stop the physical act now and save yourself some heartache. If you do stop the physical part of your relationship you will most likely be confronted by your friend as to why you are not having sexual relations anymore. Be strong and honest, just state why but be prepared for him to be upset. You have set yourself up for a confrontation that may end your relationship altogether, but it is better to confront it now and save yourself heart ache than to take the easy way out and get really hurt later on.

-Matilda

Movie Reviuw:

It's a "Spice World" out there

By Ingrid Polston

Action Heroes? Feminists? Miracle Workers? These words don't typically remind one of the Spice Girls. But in their movie "Spice World," the Spice Girls are all this...plus chart-dominating pop stars of course.

"Spice World" is a silly movie about a silly group. Reminiscent of The Beatle's "A Hard Day's Night," in this film the Spice Girls romp around England enjoying their new-found fame, lip synching to their hits, and occasionally getting into mischief and wacky adventures.

Now, anyone going into this movie expecting a quality cinematic experience is going to be very disappointed. It's supposed to be stupid, and it certainly succeeds in that. But like "Airplane," "Austin Powers," and "A Hard Day's Night," it's a funny sort of stupid. The girls

know that their act is a complete farce, and in "Spice World" they exploit that. The girls don't take themselves too seriously and are able to make fun of their act—Gerri (Ginger Spice) wakes a young boy from a coma when she tells him she's going to take her shirt off, Victoria (Posh Spice) describes in horror a nightmare in which she was wearing no makeup.

The humor is silly, but still funny. This movie is enjoyable to look at; lots of bright colors and interesting clothes, and who can resist those cute British accents? However, the Spice Girls should have just stuck with the comedy. It's only when the girls try to be serious and send a message out that the movie becomes pathetic. The Spice Girls are all about "Girl Power," they claim, and in this movie they attempt to illustrate the importance of friendship and female empowerment. But it just doesn't work.

Messages of self-respect somehow aren't all that convincing coming from a studio-manufactured pop group of cleavage-bearing, giggling girls.

The acting in "Spice World" is surprising—that is, it's better than average. The actual girls themselves are a lot smarter than they let on. They know that their whole existence as superstars is a joke. They don't really expect anyone to take them seriously, and again, they know just how to exploit their ridiculousness to the point of hilarity.

Overall, "Spice World" is good for a few laughs, just don't expect Academy Award nominee material. Better to go see it soon, though, before the Spice Girls make their inevitable quick exit from superstardom, joining the likes of New Kids on the Block and Vanilla Ice.

Wanted!

Poetry, Photos, and Art

For Student Works page

To submit: bring to Student programs office and drop off in The Current's mail Box in an envelope marked "Student Works" or send via email to askmatilda@hotmail.com. Thank you.

"Yield" keeps same style as previous Pearl Jam albums

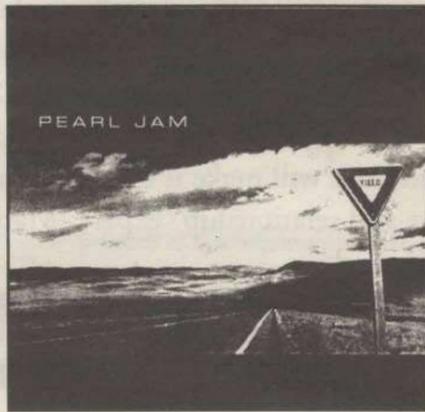
By Matt Phelps

All the rumors that Seattle-based Pearl Jam was going back to the guitar-oriented sound of their first release, "Ten" that made them a household name, is false. The guys, lead singer Eddie Vedder, drummer Jack Irons, bassist Jeff Ament, and guitarists Mike McCready and Stone Gossard are back with their fifth release, "Yield," on Feb. 5.

"Yield" is more in the vein of Pearl Jam's three previous releases than sounding like "Ten."

"Yield" is a very good album for those who like music that is abstract and different.

This is one of the most abstract albums I have heard in recent memory (only exception would be "POP") to be released on a major label that might have a chance to become mainstream. But it would be on their name recognition alone and not on musical content.



The CD starts out with "Brain of J.," which is a blistering song in which lead singer, Eddie Vedder delves into his falsetto almost sounding as if he is trying to copy Our Lady Peace's singer on their new album, "Clumsy." Although the song has a good groove it may not be very radio-friendly.

mors of a video for "Given to Fly" are false. Pearl Jam has no intent of changing their minds on the subject of videos in the near future.

"Wish List" is a great song that flows from beginning to end, something that in the abstractness of this album is very rare to my ear. "Wish List" has a great fusion of instrumen-

tation and the vocal melody is very pleasing.

"Pilate," the 6th track on "Yield," has one of the worst and least creative choruses in recent memory, this is the worst song and the only real black mark on this album.

"Do the Evolution" has some of the most original distortion I have heard in a long time and the guitar parts compliment it fully. But this song had to be written from the wacked side of Vedder's consciousness. From the lyrics to the phrasing, this song is very creative and original but very out there.

If you like those little songs on "Vs.," "Vitalogy," and "No Code" that sounded like they had more studio time than songs to record then don't fear, they have managed to do it again with the 20 second song designated to track 8 and symbolized by only a red dot on the back

of the CD case in the song listing.

The last five songs finish this CD out on a good note, as they are all very well put together but still a bit abstract. They take a bit of listening to to get your ear used to them but it's worth it (like the rest of the album).

There are really are no extraordinary songs on this CD, but the packaging alone is a reason to buy this CD. The photography in the accompanying booklet is beautiful and the CD case itself is pretty cool.

Pearl Jam continues to push the envelope with their music and forges ahead. The band will never become boring at this rate. But I fear they will never get back to the real talent in the band—Gossard and McCready's guitar work—and making their music a little less Vedder.

HEY YOU!

take our Reader Poll

The Current's editorial staff would like to find out a little bit more about you, our reader, and what you think of us. Please turn this form into our mailbox at the entrance of the Student Programs office. Thank you!

When do you read *The Current*?

- a) Whenever I see a new issue.
- b) When I see something on the cover that I like.
- c) This is my first time reading *The Current*.
- d) other _____

I am:

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- a) News
- b) Opinions
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What about this section do you like? _____

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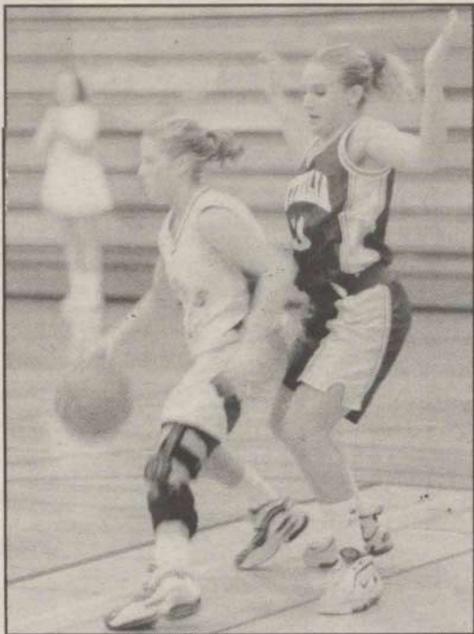
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Women's Basketball Lady Gators squeeze past Centralia

By Zhawn Salsman

On January 21, Ex-Kentwood Conk Melissa O'Connell scored over half her points in the second half as the Lady Gators beat-up on Centralia, 78-73. Melissa shot 7 for 15 from the field. Fellow Gator Jaime Smith added a monstrous 20 points on 10 of 20 shooting. The Gators are now 11-7 overall and 2-3 in the NWAACC Western Division. Green River's Stephanie Imhof finished with nine points despite going 1-9 from the field, she also finished with 14 assists.



#22 Stephanie Imhof working the ball down in the key.

Photograph by Lisa Law

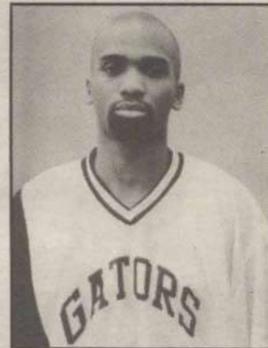
Baker finds new home at GRCC

By Jason Reed

In the summer of 1997, McChord Air Force Base left a five foot nine inch package for the Green River Men's Basketball Team. Derrick Baker, the lead gunner at the point for the Gators this year, has paced the squadron with his speed and leadership. This year's men's team has faced many mountains that were placed in their way, but they've battled back and are on the verge of a play-off spot, and Derrick Baker has helped lead the charge.

Baker, 23, grew up just outside of Oakland in a town called Fairfield. All his life he's had one target, and that was simply playing basketball. Kerrick excelled in his high school days, and actually came in contact with GRCC coach McGraw at one point. He would soon take to the air as he enrolled in the Air Force. He did not stay punched in for Uncle Sam for too long, as coach

McGraw came knocking. Hardly able to turn down a chance to play ball, Baker agreed to play for Green River. He didn't take long to step



Derrick "Shak'n" Baker.

Photograph by Lisa Law

a nightmare for opposing point guards. Fast feet are a must for a man who in his high school days had the chore of guarding the Phoenix Suns All-Star point guard Jason Kidd twice a year. Not to mention matches against N.B.A. Slam Dunk Champion Isaiah (J.R) Rider. Baker's athleticism was exemplified in other arenas as well with a year-long scholarship at Alabama State University for track and football. He couldn't stay long, for it was the love for basketball that drew him back.

Baker is not sure of next year's plans, but basketball is a fixture on the agenda. He would like to play at least two years at a university somewhere on the west coast due to the style of play that he enjoys. After searching different avenues, Baker has found his true love, and has blessed Green River with a high flying point guard known as Derrick "Shak'n" Baker.

into the starting rotation. Those who are able to observe him play will quickly realize that no one plays defense like Derrick Baker. With lightning quick feet and reflexes he's

Gators step up in second half

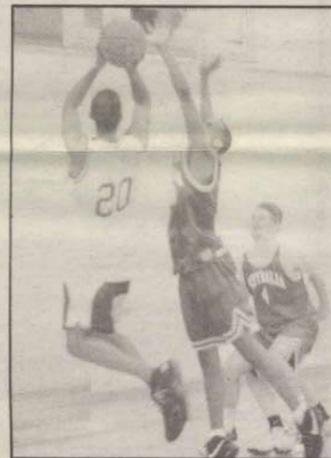
By Zhawn Salsman

On Wednesday, January 21 the men's basketball team won a close divisional game with a 61-58 victory over Centralia College. With time ticking away, Lonyatta Alexander made a great reverse lay-up to give Green River a 59-58 lead. The

Sophomore forward then drained two-free throws with 14 seconds left to put Centralia away. The Gators were behind Centralia for half the game, but the come-from-behind victory improved their Northwest Athletic Association of Community College's Division record to 2-3.

The Gators could get no closer than four points until about half-way into the second half. Centralia's lead came from Justin Evander's 16 point first half, he went 8 for 9. Evander was coming off screens at the top of the key and having his way with the Gator "D" driving for

Photograph by Lisa Law



#20 Craig Looney giving the Trailblazers a free lesson.

an uncontested lay-ins for 20 minutes. The Gator defense stepped up in the second half and it gave them turnovers and points. In the first half the turnovers were even, but in the second half the Gators had a 10-2 advantage. Lonyatta took Evander out of the game with great defense, the Trailblazers had only two baskets in the second half.

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