



Bridging the gap

Discrimination on campus continues, despite efforts

Danny Sutradewa
Staff Writer

In 1963, Martin Luther King, Jr. proclaimed the famous words, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Now, 45 years later, some students claim that that dream still is far from being accomplished in today's society and on college campuses.

Jacob Chuol, an international student from Africa, defined discrimination as "your looks are more important than your true characteristics"

With Green River being a campus that has many students from different nationalities and backgrounds, some say that

discrimination has become a crucial problem.

As a result, GRCC has been trying to reduce discrimination on campus, from the policy of nondiscrimination on campus to the nondiscrimination training held every quarter.

However, some students claim that discrimination still exists on campus.

"I have been discriminated once," Chuol said. "This quarter I went to the financial aid office and was asked to write a letter. When the person at the financial aid office saw my letter, she asked me who helped write it. Her face looked as if it was asking how a person like me could write a paper like that."

However, Brian Akpan, an African American student, isn't surprised by discrimination anymore.

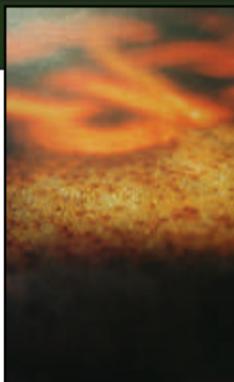
Discrimination,
Continued on Page 4

Staff Photo by Sara Olson



A&E:

Fool's Gold
Viewers will find treasure
in new film.
Page 10



Back:

Vandalism to valuable
Brian Lane finds artistic side
of graffiti.
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

Best selling author, Ishmael Beah visits campus



Students waited in line to meet author Ishmael Beah following his presentation to students and staff on campus on Feb. 12.



George Simons/Staff Photos

Author of 'Long way gone: Memoirs of a boy soldier' talks of life as child soldier

Brittney Walker-Higgins
Staff Writer

Best selling author of "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier," Ishmael Beah visited Green River Community College (GRCC) on Feb. 12. The 27-year-old African native shared his story with members of the community in the Lindbloom Student Center before a packed house.

Raised in Sierra Leon, Beah lived out a normal childhood. He had a love for the poetic rhymes of American hip hop, attended school, and played soccer with friends. His favorite pastime was the elaborate storytelling of the elders of the village.

Stories of war seemed like they were happening in a far off distant land. At the age of 12, the war reached Beah's part of the country and everything he had known was turned upside down.

"Once the war came into my life, I was no longer a child," Beah said at the Feb. 12 event.

His entire family was killed when his village fell under attack.

Beah, along with several of his friends, fled to a nearby military

base where they were forced to fight. Children make up the majority of the population in Sierra Leon.

They were brainwashed because everything that they had previously known was destroyed. The children were soon exposed to drugs, trauma, and constant violence.

Eventually, Beah was released from the army and was sent to UNICEF Rehabilitation Center, where he underwent extensive psychiatric therapy in order to redefine himself.

"How you function in war is very different from how you function in normal society. When you dehumanize someone to kill them, you are actually dehumanizing yourself. I've been extraordinarily lucky to survive the war, have a strong family, and an education," Beah said.

He arrived in the United States in 1998. Most people he came across did not even know where Sierra Leon was located.

"If people did not know that it was a country, how could they possibly know what was happening to the people there," Beah said.

At the age 12, Beah was forced to grow up when war hit his life back home in Sierra Leon. Beah now is the best selling author of "Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier."

Because of the trauma he had been put through, to this day Beah only sleeps three hours each night and awakes frequently. This is just one of the side effects of the war. However he did say this was helpful during finals week of his college years.

Beah wants to one day move back to his home land. He said that each time he returns, he is able to sleep six hours straight because his body recognizes home. He hopes that sharing his story will help to create change.

Beah wrote his book to raise awareness about the issues going on in Sierra Leon. He wants readers to walk away with an understanding of both the beauty of his country and the struggle.

Beah feels that people's perception of Africa is wrong. His book works to show that people's way of life in Africa is not much different than Americans. He emphasizes that no one human life is more important than another.

Through his struggle, Beah learned to appreciate simply being alive.

"When you engage in violence, you do not have the capacity to

even understand yourself; it is when you break away from it that you learn to appreciate life," he said.

Correction

In Issue 7 of The Current, in the article titled "Wi-Fi access available in limited areas on campus," the reporter wrote that wi-fi on campus in the LSC had been cancelled. However, wi-fi only has been delayed. The Current apologizes for this error.

Students offer day to relax on campus

Physical Therapist's Assistant students took time off from class to participate in the annual "Massage-a-thon" on Feb. 15. Craig Chang (right) and other students provided massages to anyone on campus, accepting donations that benefitted the PTA club.

Sara Olson/Staff Photo



Washington NATIONAL GUARD

EQUIP YOURSELF

You know that learning new skills leads to a brighter future. The Army National Guard teaches those skills. You'll experience discipline, teamwork, leadership, and career training. Along with your paycheck, members are eligible to collect tuition assistance and get valuable military benefits. Equip yourself for the future. Call today, and learn how to do it in the Army National Guard.

1-800-GO-GUARD • www.1-800-GO-GUARD.com

UW BOTHELL

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

Apply Now!

Offering undergraduate degrees in:
Applied Computing • Business Administration (with an option in Accounting and concentrations in Finance; Management; Management Information Systems; Marketing; and Technology and Innovation Management) • Computing and Software Systems • Interdisciplinary Studies (with options in American Studies; Community Psychology; Culture, Literature and the Arts; Global Studies; Science, Technology and the Environment; and Society, Ethics and Human Behavior) • Nursing (RN to BSN)

Offering graduate degrees in:
Business Administration • Cultural Studies • Education, including Secondary Teacher Certification • Nursing • Policy Studies

Offering additional credentials for:
K-8 Teacher Certification • Professional Certification (Education)

www.uwb.edu/imagine/
425.352.5000

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
BOTHELL

Campus Calendar

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Men's baseball vs. Olympic, 1 p.m.; Legion Field, Bremerton.
2 Men's baseball vs. Olympic; 1 p.m.; Auburn Mountainview High School.	3	4 Nutrition Brown Bag, 12 p.m.-1 p.m. Application/Personal Essay workshop, 12 p.m. -1 p.m.; Writing Center.	5 University Rep. on campus, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	6	7	8 Men's baseball vs. Edmonds, 2 p.m.; Edmonds.
9 Men's baseball vs. Edmonds, 11 a.m.; Auburn Mountainview High School.	10 Multicultural Dance Exchange, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.; CCA.	11	12 University Rep. on campus, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.	13	14	15 Men's baseball vs. Clackamas, 5 p.m.; Auburn Mountainview.
16 Men's baseball vs. Linn Benton, 1 p.m.; Auburn Mountainview.	17 Study Day; Classes cancelled. Men's baseball vs. Central, 2 p.m.; Spokane.	18 Finals Men's baseball vs. Everett, 2 p.m.; Everett.	19 Finals	20 Finals Last Day of Winter Quarter	21	22
23 Men's baseball vs. Lane, 1 p.m.; Auburn Mountainview.	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 Spring Quarter					

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

Special Feature

Education varies greatly between Spain, United States

Asiesiukiewics presents part two of three letters from study abroad quarter in Spain



Angelica Asiesiukiewics

Hola again! So far I have been in Spain for five weeks, and it has been quite an adventure. Every week there is something new and exciting to do and/or see. But none of this fun is without school.

I have four hours of Spanish in the morning and three hours of geography in the afternoon. It is a lot of work, but I am on the American system of education. It's as if I was at a Green River campus but in Spain. The European college education system is so different. I can go as far as to say that it is more difficult.

When you register for classes at university, you sign up for about six to seven classes per semester. Each class can last up to three hours. However, the interesting part is that you don't have to go to class.

Sure that applies to universities in the

states as well, but there is a penalty for not attending class. In Europe, there are no participation points or attendance points. The main point value comes from the exams, which you take one or two of per class per semester.

However, there is no structure to how you take the exams or when. When an exam is to occur, the professor of the class will post a sign up sheet for the exam. A student must sign up for the exam on a certain day and a certain time.

If there is no room on the sign up sheet or if a student misses their exam time, that student must wait until next semester or next year to take that exam. Until then, that student's grade for the class is a 0.0.

Although passing classes and taking exams might be difficult for a European student, the upside is the cost. A typical university in the United States, for example the University of Washington or Gonzaga University, can cost up to \$36,000 per year. Of course, that includes housing, tuition, class fees, and books.

A typical university in Europe can cost only \$7,000 a year for a European citizen and about \$10,000 for a foreign student, which also includes housing, tuition, class fees, and books.

The difference is mind-boggling. Sometimes it pays to go to a foreign

university.

Most European students enjoy going to school. The education is much more complex, and there is little to no professor-student relationship, but overall the system is on good terms in students' eyes.

However, there is a great difficulty to find a job let alone a steady career after college. For example, Spain's unemployment rate is at 8.1 percent, and the demand for jobs is very high compared to the demand for employees.

Some people find it best to get a job right after high school. That is not the general

consensus because students in Europe love to learn and continue their education in order to receive a degree.

Hopefully the European education system can get slightly easier in terms of exam taking and schedules, and the American system can get a little cheaper in terms of tuition and books.

Until then, I will continue to sit in class for four straight hours, trying to figure out what the teacher is explaining in Spanish about Spanish grammar.

¡Hasta luego!

The Current is just a click away

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



McDonalds attempts to take over coffee scene

Fast food king starts serving espresso drinks

Sean Kramer
Staff Writer

McDonald's is used to revolutionizing fast food, conforming to the changing American diet, or dabbling in profitable markets. Over time, they've changed the way people think about fast food, with products that makes McDonald's enjoyable for almost anybody.

Now, McDonald's at it again. Throughout the next several months, McDonald's will introduce its new brand of specialty coffees to many of its stores throughout the country, including Auburn and Federal Way.

Already successfully offering their own special premium blend of brewed coffee and uniquely flavored Ice Coffees, McDonald's hopes to build upon that success with the introduction of their specialty coffees.

Mochas, Lattes, Cappuccinos, Iced Mochas and Iced Lattes are some of the items that will be added to the menus of several McDonald's restaurants.

"We're selling the same coffee as other places for lower prices," Juan Garcia, general manager of the Supermall McDonald's, said. "We're looking forward to increased sales; we think this will be very successful."

Further showing a vote of confidence in his new coffees, he predicted a 45 percent increase in coffee sales by the end of the year. Prices for these drinks range from \$2.29 and \$3.29 at the Supermall store.

When Garcia, a frequent Starbucks customer, was asked where he'll be getting his coffee from now on, he replied that he never has to go to Starbucks again.

Not every store offers specialty coffees yet, however. Supermall began introducing them the first week of February after \$175,000 renovations to accommodate them.

The 320th street store in Federal Way has been offering them since late last year. Stores in White River and Lakeland Hills are looking forward to having the coffees introduced by summer.

Stores in Wal Marts will not be able to offer the coffees. All of these stores are owned by William Cho, who owns several McDonald's in the Federal Way and Auburn area. According to Garcia, Cho is confident and excited about McDonald's new specialty coffees and has been supportive in getting all of his stores equipped with them.

Omar Osman, a 24 year old student from Kent is a frequent customer of the Seattle's Best stand in the Lindbloom Student Center and enjoys his Starbucks.

However, upon hearing the introduction of McDonald's coffees he said, "They have great service, and it's cheaper, so I'd definitely go buy it there."

"I already go to McDonalds for their coffee, so I'd definitely try the specialty coffees they are offering," Student Mouse Joyce, 18, said.

For other students, McDonald's still has a little proving to do before they can compete with the flare of Starbucks.

"I still prefer Starbucks," Student Yuichi Kusakabe, 22, said. "It tastes better, and they offer way more stuff."

McDonald's so far has been successful with other food products they have recently started to offer.

As for future products McDonald's may offer, Garcia said, "We're looking forward to adding more products in the future" but wouldn't elaborate on what.

Weird & Wacky News

Joe Chouery
Staff Writer

Politics get hairy

The American Mustache Institute or (AMI) has endorsed Mike Huckabee and Hilary Clinton for president. While the institute remains non-partisan, their belief on who should be president is slanted to whoever has most hairy belief system.

"With a crowded field of candidates who clearly made a poor grooming choice, Americans are craving the type of leadership provided by the great former president Teddy Roosevelt," AMI said.

The reasons for the choices are clear. Chuck Norris informed AMI he would "melt your mustaches in a stare-down contest" if you did not support Huckabee, and "Despite being a woman, Sen. Clinton is the only candidate that has been spotted wearing a mustache."

Man lives with corpse for 5 years

An English man kept a corpse as a roommate for five years. For years, neighbors had complained that a stench permeated from the apartment. When workers finally responded to neighbors' complaints, they found a decomposing body reclining on the couch.

Police arrested the tenant, but determined that the death was not suspicious. The tenant, who reportedly is suffering from a mental illness, failed to report the death. The local coroner's court immediately launched an investigation to determine how the corpse had gone unnoticed.

Oldest living animal dies

Scientists killed the oldest living animal. While dredging North Atlantic waters, a team of Bangor University Scientists found a very old clam. They then proceeded to cut it open and count the growth rings. They soon discovered that they had just killed the oldest animal alive. The clam, around 405 years old, beat out a previously reported clam of 374.

Postdoctoral scientist Al Wanamaker told London's Guardian newspaper, "Its death is an unfortunate aspect of this work, but we hope to derive lots of information from it." Other clams refused to comment.

Invisible ink found in voting pens

Voters in Chicago were told that the ink in their voting pens had invisible ink. Election judges told 20 voters not to worry about their malfunctioning pens, because they had invisible ink, and it would count their vote.

After finding 20 blank ballots, election officials realized that they had made an error and attempts to contact the 20 voters were made.

Campus takes stand against discrimination

Discrimination,
Continued from Page 1

"Everywhere you go, there is discrimination," Akpan said.

Louis Hull, sociology instructor, said that society has a tendency to compete against different racial, cultural, and religious groups.

"We tend to compete with other groups for social rewards," Hull said. "We use race among other things to determine who deserves the social rewards and who doesn't."

There are several clubs on campus for cultural and racial clubs, such as the Black Student Union and the Native American club.

Chuol thinks that these clubs bring discrimination to the forefront of students' minds.

"The racial clubs on campus make the discrimination more obvious," Chuol said.

However, Sherlyn Bassard, advisor of the Black Student Union (BSU) for four years, believes that clubs succeed in unifying the campus and bringing awareness to students.

"Many clubs on campus are not to discriminate others. Those clubs are made to unify other students and reduce

discrimination," Bassard said. "For example, in BSU, we encourage the membership of students from all over the world to come and learn each other's culture."

Akpan would like to see more activities and events on campus to attempt to unite all of the students.

"I hope that GRCC makes an event that unites all of us together," Akpan said.

Although discrimination still exists in society 45 years since King's famous speech in Washington D.C., numerous other factors about the similarities among the human race remain.

Hull brings attention to the biological similarities between students.

A research proves that biologically all humans are the same, regardless of the color of the skin.

"The Human genome project mapped the entire human genetic code. Each cell has 100,000 genes and about six genes control the amount of melanin we each have. That melanin controls the skin color," Hull said. "So, each of us has the potential to produce any skin color that we see around the world. When you start thinking about that, it can make you feel a little more connected to the guy next to you."

Love Carefully



Annual check-ups, birth control, emergency contraception, early abortion, HPV vaccine, testing for pregnancy and STIs, education and treatment.

Planned Parenthood
of Western Washington
www.ppww.org | 1.800.230.PLAN



Ask if you qualify for FREE Services.
We'll bill most major insurance companies.

Planned Parenthood® is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.
©2007 Planned Parenthood® of Western Washington.

Budget plan will only hurt important programs

Proposed budget plan is just another tool for Bush to get his way



Commentary by Joe Chouery

The great George Bush has spoken, and his voice took voices like yours and mine and threw them out the window.

Citizens have many views on where our money should and should not be spent, but our somewhat elected president has made his priorities present with his proposed budget plan for 2008.

Not surprisingly Halliburton and other war profiting companies got his undying attention. Bush and his overly Republican zombie

brained thinking of Regan-nomics has deemed that the war in Iraq will yet again take precedence over the lively hood of you, me, and our kids.

As a result, 151 different government programs will be cut if the president gets what he wants.

He claimed that if we abide by his plan, our nation will be deficit free in a few years. While this idea sounds about as warming as the Easter Bunny, it has just as much substance.

According to National Priorities Project, America spent 137.6 billion in the financial year of 2007 on the war in Iraq, but Bush's 2008 budget only called for 70 billion on the war on terror.

This information only can mean one of two things: fighting terror just got about as half as expensive, or he is lying again.

Either or, he has no attention of balancing the budget, and he thinks

that you and I are stupid.

When laws that protect our country from evil tyrants mysteriously impede his path, he always finds loop holes allowing his progress at our nation's cost.

One of his favorite holes is called emergency funding.

While the name of this fund suggests that it applies to an "unexpected and sudden event that must be dealt with urgently," (Encarta Dictionary's definition of emergency) it really funds a not so unexpected war in Iraq.

Another problem with this budget is the fact that Bush did not adjust it for the annual minimum tax adjustment. The tax targets people over a certain income level.

The level is supposedly adjusted with inflation. Every year it must be adjusted

by Congress, or the mid-class will be caught with a tax that was established to tax the rich.

Though this tax is not unexpected, such as the war in Iraq, it seems that ignoring it will make it self adjust.

Some of the hardest hit areas to his plan are Medicaid, Medicare, public education, foster care, and social security for the disabled.

These programs may not seem necessary for our fearless rich leader, but he does not have a disabled father that does not have healthcare or a foster child that may not learn to read due to a collapsing public school system.

Consider this: our faith is now in the hands of Congress. This is the same Congress that has bent to every whim that Bush has asked for.

I predict that they will haggle over this budget.

And, after they drive the bill off the lot, it will fall apart into a rusted heap with the not so sweet sent of lemon perfuming from it.

Nothing will be gained except another expected emergency.

"Consider this: our faith is now in the hands of Congress. This is the same Congress that has bent to every whim that Bush has asked for."

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

Racism continues in society, on campus

At first glance, almost everyone appears to accept the fact that racism is not acceptable. This would be expected in a democratic country such as the United States. However, racism remains in nearly every aspect of today's society - the schools, workplace, and government.

In the end, racism still is a big issue in America and also at Green River Community College. The act of racism may vary from stereotyping to discrimination, but the bottom line is that it creates unnecessary tension and conflict in the campus environment.

Racism is a sensitive issue and needs to be handled carefully. However, it should not be tolerated at all. It's unjust, narrow-minded, and unnecessary.

February is Black History Month and provides an opportunity for Americans to reflect on the history and value of African Americans.

However, these practices should not be reserved for just one month and for just one race. Racism rages against all minorities and all religions.

Yes, it would be beneficial to take a day this month and visit a museum or research all of the important African Americans that have blessed this nation. However, it would be even better to start living a life that reflects respect for every person, regardless of how different they are.

Some may say that the topic of racism has been exhausted in America. But until changes are made, and U.S. citizens start reflecting the freedom and blessings they have, discussions will rage and articles will be written.

A campus environment is a smaller part of society. It's also a place where students first learn how to behave in a society. If they don't learn how to respect others despite of their race now, they never will.

McDonald's shouldn't try to sell coffee

Over the years, McDonald's has been trying to expand its food and beverage choices. It has been experimenting with salads, burgers, and teas. But every once in a while, it crosses the line of its fate as a fast food restaurant. After all, Asian Salad with Grilled Chicken doesn't sound like food that is meant to be fast.

In all fairness, although those new experimental menus aren't always great menus, most of them have been bearable. However, when it tries to sell coffee, it's pretty questionable. Most people confess that they won't take the risk of trying it. This is Washington State after all - the home of the latte and stupid Christmas songs about those lattes. Starbucks pop up just around the corner from each other, and they all survive.

It's also no surprise that the Starbucks drinker that McDonald's is trying to kidnap does not go to Starbucks just for their 16 oz. vanilla latte. They go for their grande skim sugar free split shot ristretto latte in a pretty cup with quotes from abstract authors and business executives blazed on the side. It's hard to imagine that the home of the Big Mac and dollar double cheese burger could offer the exquisite novelty drink that Washingtonians are legally addicted to.

When it comes to fast food, everyone knows that they don't really cook food or make real drinks. A little hint, it's better to stick with juices and sodas.

The Current Staff

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



Editor in Chief:
Sara Olson

Opinion Editor
Tammie Tamara



Managing Editor:
Jamie Page

A&E Editor:
Katie Barr



Campus Editor:
Bimla Thapa

Advertising Manager:
Amy Lipko



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

Journalism advisor:
John Knowlton

Reporters:

Chelsea Thompson, Caitlin Williams, Brittney Walker-Higgins, Peter Chow, Joe Chouery, Tessa Cosand, Baris Cirak, Colleen Morgan, Elizabeth Jovanovich, Danny Sutradewa, Jienn Baek, Sean Kramer, David Johnson, Alex Hoggard, Elizabeth Diachenko, Will Brown, Brenda Amolo, Casey Greer, Cedric Walker, Lucy Lai, Stefanni Becker, Steven Thomas

Fast forward to success

Forward in Reverse looks to be on their way to the big time, rocking venues around the Northwest

by Katie Barr



Photo below, left to right: Brian Esparza, Michael Gese (in frame), Connor Theisin, Michael Russel.



It seems as if every teenage boy wants to be in a rock band. Some might even succeed in starting their own garage band with friends, making noise, but not music. But how many of those bands will succeed in making it to the big time? Forward in Reverse is on their way to just that, with fans of all ages already falling in love with them.

The band consists of students Michael Russell, Connor Theisin, Brian Esparza, and Michael Gese, who attends Auburn Mountainview High School.

From early on, the boys' love for music has led to much of their success thus far. "I used to put in my dad's Nirvana tapes and Pearl Jam tapes and listen to it all day," Theisin said.

Forward in Reverse has a very original sound, not like most contemporary rock on the radio. Fans have said that their music sounds similar to bands such as Senses Fail and Taking Back Sunday, but Russell disagrees.

"We sound like Forward in Reverse," Russell said.

All of their songs are written by band members and usually are about perseverance and making it through the hard times in life.

According to Theisin, the band gets inspiration from the little things in life, such as "girls, guys, shoes, hamburgers, anything."

Forward in Reverse is taking big steps in their career, despite only being together for one year. Each member has many talents and can play several instruments.

Despite being relatively new as a band, each member recognizes the need for determination in the music industry and has found different sources for it.

"Women, cash, everything rock and roll, living the dream," Esparza said about his commitment to making it.

"Just someone saying that they like our music," Russell said.

Forward in Reverse has big plans that their fans will be looking forward to, such as an album release before summer. They're also trying to arrange a tour for this summer.

As for now, they have a free demo CD with two of their favorite songs on it. They also have two upcoming shows booked - one at El Corazon in May, and the other at Studio 7 on Feb. 27.

As each show comes and goes, Forward in Reverse gets closer to achieving all of their goals.

Esparza one day hopes to see "a beach ball at a show, going back and forth, and everyone having a good time."

Theisin just wants to crowd-surf. Russell looks forward to the day when they are playing a show "that is packed, and everyone knows our music and is singing along. I just want people to like our music. That's all I want."

Most people can't imagine getting on stage and performing in front of friends and complete strangers alike. However, Forward in Reverse has done that 13 times together now. And, by the way things are going, many more seem to be in their future.



Photos and design by Sara Olson

Valley Cup end in disappointment for Gators



George Simons/Staff photo

Freshman Gator, Giovanni Lee (23), receives an alley-oop from a teammate during Green River's game against the Highline Thunderbirds on Feb. 13.

Teams, government lose in tournament against Highline

Baris Cirak
Staff Writer

The third annual Traditional Valley Cup Event took place at Highline Community College in Des Moines on February 13. About 40 attendees set off from the college to go to school to cheer on the Gator basketball teams.

"I'm very pleased with how the event went. What I wanted was excitement from the students for our basketball teams, and that's exactly what happened," Shauna Stadnik, student government president, said.

Stadnik also organized this event.

The first clash was between the women's teams as usual. Highline game are important for the women's teams, as they needed two wins out of three to go to the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) playoffs which will be held in Kennewick, Wash.

However, a slow start of the Gators created some question marks about the win among the students. After trailing by two at the half time (29-27), the Gators got back in the second half with the support of the fans and won the game by six (62-56).

At the half time of the women's game, the first part of the student government game was played. GRCC won the game and went up by one in the contest involving all of the night's events. With the win by the women's team, the lead became two.

The second game of the night also was crucial for the Gators as they needed to

win all of their games in order to guarantee a playoff spot. The game started head to head and went that way until the half time with the Thunderbirds leading by two (36-34).

At half time of the game, the second part of the student government game was held. Highline won that game, cutting GRCC's lead to one.

After long negotiations between two student government presidents, the rules were figured. If the Thunderbirds win the game by six or up, as Lady Gators won by six, the Valley Cup would go to Highline for the third straight year.

The Thunderbirds took advantage of the poor shooting percentage of the Gators and won the game by 11 (73-62) which pretty much ended the hopes of the Gators going to the NWAACC playoffs. The Valley Cup also went to Highline again.

"We have decided to put together a rule book though, to make sure things run smoothly in the years ahead. We will have both senates vote on it after I write it," Stadnik said regarding the ruling matter occurred in the Valley Cup.

The women's team lost to South Puget Sound Community College Clippers on February 16. Looking forward to going to the NWAACC playoffs, the team now has to win games against Clark College game on February 22 and hope Grays Harbor loses to Centralia.

Megan Borjesson, team captain, was honored by NWAACC with being chosen for Winter All-Academics team. Borjesson also is the vice president of the student government.

The women's team still has hope through the last week of the season, while the men's team waits for miracles to happen.

Gator Results

Men's Basketball

Date	Results	Record
1/16	Centralia, 69 d. Green River, 66	1-4
1/19	Green River, 78 d. Highline, 64	2-4
1/26	Clark, 91 d. Green River, 84	2-6
1/30	Green River, 86 d. Pierce, 75	3-6
2/2	Lower Columbia, 83 d. Green River, 65	3-7
2/6	Green River, 75 d. Tacoma, 72	4-7
2/9	Grays Harbor, 86 d. Green River, 71	4-8
2/11	Green River, 81 d. Centralia, 77	5-8
2/13	Highline, 73, d. Green River, 62	5-9
2/16	Green River, 89 d. So. Puget Sound, 80	6-9

Women's Basketball

Date	Results	Record
1/12	Grays Harbor, 53 d. Green River, 47	1-3
1/16	Centralia, 79 d. Green River, 61	1-4
1/19	Green River, 54 d. Highline, 53	2-4
1/21	So. Puget Sound, 78 d. Green River, 51	2-5
1/26	Clark, 72 d. Green River, 61	2-6
1/30	Green River, 72 d. Pierce, 41	3-6
2/2	Lower Columbia, 62 d. Green River, 45	3-7
2/6	Green River, 69 d. Tacoma, 58	4-7
2/9	Green River, 75 d. Grays Harbor, 71	5-7
2/11	Centralia, 79 d. Green River, 56	5-8
2/13	Green River, 62 d. Highline, 56	6-8
2/16	So. Puget Sound, 66 d. Green River, 51	6-9

Gator Profiles: Jamichael Bailey and Travis Wagner



Name: Jamichael Bailey
Height: 6'6"

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: "Transformers."

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?

A: Michael Jordan.

Q: Who is your favorite celebrity?

A: Jesus Christ.

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

A: A preacher.

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

A: Ball handling.

Q: Do you have any message for the Green River community?

A: This is a great supporting crowd.

Thanks and keep it up.



Name: Travis Wagner
Height: 6'4"

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: "We Own The Night."

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?

A: Dirk Nowitzki.

Q: Who is your favorite celebrity?

A: Mark Wahlberg.

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Lasagna.

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

A: Be a better defender and leader.

Q: Do you have any message for the Green River community?

A: Be yourself.

Mariners make smart move by acquiring Bedard

Team will have time to break in new pitcher, make long-term decision



Column by
Casey Greer

Erik Bedard finally is a Seattle Mariner.

The trade of the former Baltimore Orioles ace and five Mariner has been completed, after nearly two months of negotiation between the teams. The Mariners sent top prospect Adam Jones, left handed reliever George Sherill, and three other pitching prospects to Baltimore in exchange for Bedard.

Since the Mariner's infamous acquisition of Heathcliff Slocumb, which sent future All-Stars Derek Lowe and Jason Varitek to Boston, Mariner trades are often criticized heavily before the player in question takes the field.

When Randy Johnson was traded to Houston in 1998 for Freddy Garcia, Carlos Guillen, and John Halama, Seattle as a whole seemed to echo with a collective sentiment of "WHO?"

Garcia pitched well as the M's ace, nearly winning a Cy Young Award. Guillen was an adequate replacement for the soon

departed Alex Rodriguez and since has made an All Star game while playing for Detroit.

Johnson's time in Houston was effective, though brief. Johnson was a free agent after the season, and despite going 10-1 with a 1.28 ERA for the Astros in the regular season, the team lost in the first round of the playoffs.

Johnson bolted for Arizona shortly after that.

Trading for Bedard allows the Mariners two years to see how Bedard

adjusts to the American League West and Safeco Field before opening their check book.

Bedard is not an unrestricted free agent until 2010, and re-signing Bedard will be high on the Mariner's list of priorities.

Bedard is not the only left handed ace to change uniforms this offseason. The Minnesota Twins shipped former Cy Young winner Johan Santana to the New York Mets.

One criticism of the Bedard trade is when it is compared to the Santana trade. The Mets gave

up arguably less for Santana.

Santana has a lot more mileage on his arm than Bedard does, having pitched nearly double as many innings in the majors. Also, as part of the trade, Santana signed a six year contract for \$137.5 million.

Bedard is leaving behind Camden Yards, a great hitter's ballpark, and an AL East which includes juggernaut offenses in New York and Boston, and dome stadiums in Toronto and Tampa Bay.

Santana is leaving behind the Metrodome in Minnesota, another hitter's ballpark, but played in the AL Central

which is predicated on solid pitching, as opposed to the deep, powerful offenses in the AL East.

New Mariner Carlos Silva and Santana played together in Minnesota, and are friends. A rotation that included Felix Hernandez, Silva, Johan Santana, all natives of Venezuela would have been intriguing.

When the Mariners signed Silva, and Santana was on the market, one couldn't help but visualize the "three amigos" signs that would have been scattered throughout the stands at Safeco

during the ALDS, had the Mariners made a playoff charge.

Perhaps a similar symmetry can be found with Bedard, who hails from Ontario, a neighboring Canadian province to Quebec, where 2007 first round pick Philippe Aumont is from.

It is easy to criticize a trade on the day it occurs, especially when trading potential for a commodity. Erik Bedard is in the prime of his career and has made significant strides in each of the last four seasons.

Adam Jones has had limited playing time in parts of the last two seasons, with limited success.

The Mariners have a history of trading their top prospects, but unfortunately also have a history of "selling low."

Jose Cruz, Jr. once was a highly touted switch hitting corner outfield prospect taken third overall in the MLB draft. Cruz, Jr. was traded to the Toronto Blue Jays in 1997 for two above average relievers.

Marc Newfield was drafted sixth overall, and was traded to the San Diego Padres along with Ron Villone for a solid starter in Andy Benes, who would help propel the Mariners into the playoffs in 1995.

Benes went 7-2 as a Mariner despite posting a 5.86 ERA. In the offseason, Benes was a free agent and signed with St. Louis.

Neither Cruz nor Newfield lived up to the lofty potential that scouts projected for them.

Conversely, potential is the reason that Ryan Anderson, Gil Meche never were traded by the Mariners, although they could have been the catalysts to many blockbuster trades.

All of those prospects were overflowing with potential, but as the saying goes, "Potential gets people fired."

Both Gord Ash and Randy Smith, the General Managers of the Blue Jays and Padres respectively, at the time, have since been fired. Woody Woodward, the Mariners GM at the time, resigned in 1999.

The bottom line is, like it or not, that trading for Erik Bedard makes a lot of sense. Adam Jones is considered a 5-tool prospect, a term nearly as dangerous as potential in terms of job security.

Comparisons have been drawn to Ken Griffey, Jr., much like Ryan Anderson drew comparisons to Randy Johnson.

For every Randy Johnson there are ten Ryan Andersons, and for every Ken Griffey, Jr. there are ten Marc Newfields.

No matter what Jones does in Baltimore, or anywhere else, this is the type of trade that good teams make. Just ask a Red Sox fan how the Hanley Ramirez and company for Josh Beckett trade is working out.

Want to see your name in print?

Come and write for The Current

The Current is looking for photographers, reporters, graphic designers, and editors.

E-mail or call for more information.

E-mail: thecurrent@greenriver.edu

Phone: (253) 833-9111, ext. 2375

Friday | April 28, 2006
THE CURRENT

The Green River Community College Student Newspaper Since 1965

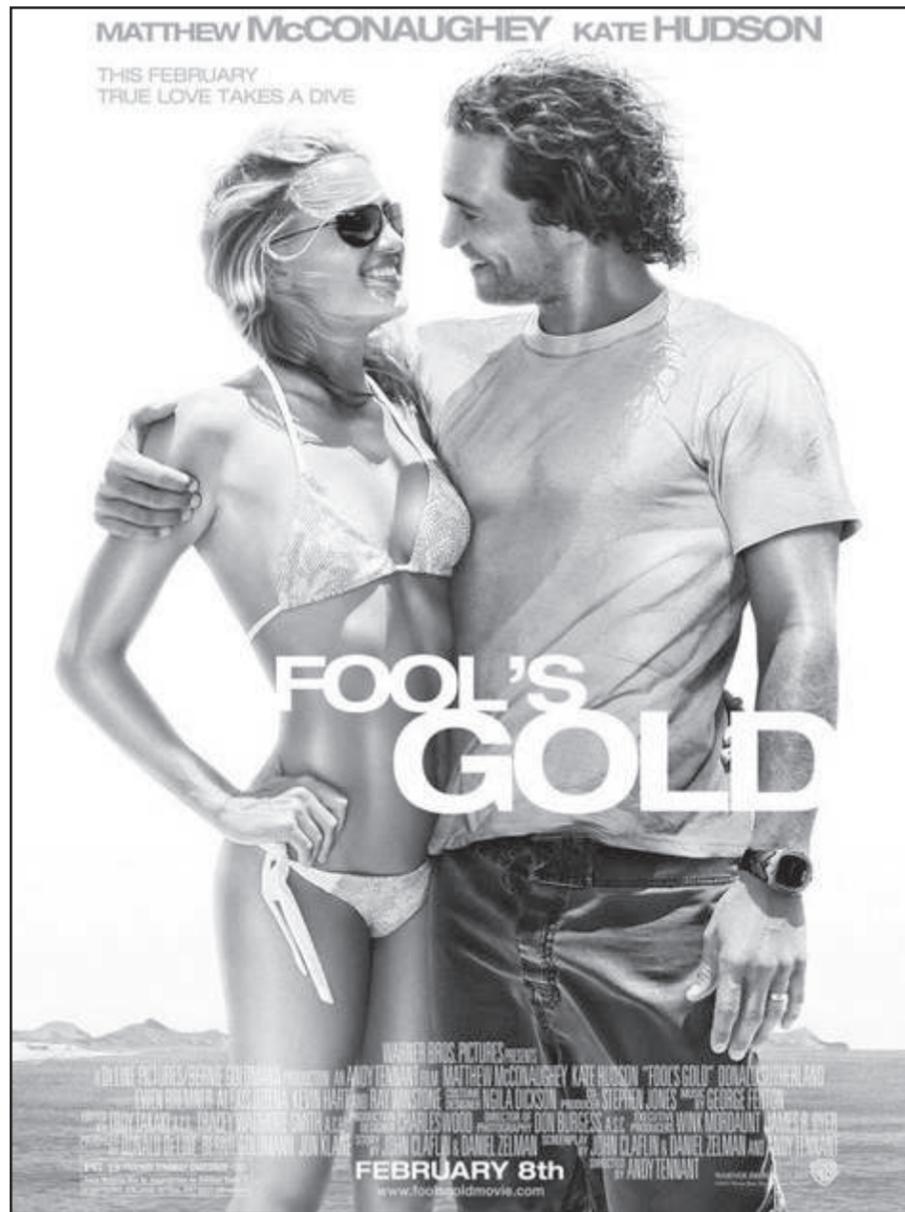
Instructor Paycheck
How much do they really make?
see inside | 8-9

FREE | Additional copies 25¢

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

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

Viewers will find treasure in 'Fool's Gold'



www.iesb.net/Courtesy Photo

"Fool's Gold" follows a couple rekindling their love during a treasure hunt, going through obstacles, and searching for the treasure of a lifetime.

New computer fits all needs

Macbook Air tops other laptops in the market

Colleen Morgan
Staff Writer

MacBook Air is the world's thinnest notebook and now is available to buy.

What exactly is a "MacBook Air?" Well, it's a new notebook that Mac has come up with. It's extremely thin and very portable designed for people on the go.

MacBook Air is about as wide as the average person's index finger. It ranges from 0.16 to 0.76 inches in height (closed) and can comfortably fit in a manila envelope. It weighs about 3 pounds and especially is convenient for people with spatial limits.

Since the theme of the MacBook is being thin, the designers came up with a way to make the port hatches flip down to reveal (and closes to hide) all the ports you really need: a USB 2.0 port, a headphone jack, and a micro-DVI port that supports DVI, VGA, composite, and S-video output.

The 13.3-inch, wide screen LED backlit MacBook Air has the same viewable space as the MacBook despite the obvious difference in thinness.

The 1280-by-800 resolution displays images and colors at the same brightness as the MacBook, providing the consumer with full-screen performance and all the benefits of a slim design.

The mercury and arsenic free display also is more power efficient, which leads to longer battery life.

The keyboard is full-size and has keys just like the ones on MacBook. However, besides the fact of being thinner than the

MacBook, MacBook Air also goes further by adding backlit key illumination, making it appeal to those who don't necessarily work in ideal settings for typing.

Depending on the lighting availability, a built-in light sensor automatically adjusts the keyboard and display brightness for optimal visibility. This kind of setting shows how practical yet fashionable this computer is. Everyone, despite age difference, can find a use for this computer, especially with this setting.

In redefining thin, MacBook Air has gotten rid of the no longer necessary optical drive. This is possibly because MacBook Air is built for the wireless world.

As an alternative to watching DVDs, consumers can rent movies wirelessly from the iTunes Store. Instead of keeping a stack of discs around gathering dust, consumers can back up files wirelessly using Apple's new Time Capsule.

Eventually, installation of software onto the MacBook Air from a CD or DVD might come up. A new feature called Remote Disc is provided to the consumer so they can wirelessly use the optical drive of a computer nearby.

This provides the consumer with a way to use an optical drive if necessary, however, only when the time presents itself, conveniently allowing the consumer to have a computer without lugging around unnecessary equipment.

This wireless capability is also convenient when transferring information from one computer to another.

It seems as though Mac has come up with a perfect computer. They've managed to create a fashionable yet practical and efficient notebook.

Action-comedy strikes gold with mix of humor, romance

Chelsea Thompson
Staff Writer

While watching "Fool's Gold," the newest Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey flick, the audience finds itself looking for their sunscreen and beach towel.

The scenes of the tropical islands were so warm and inviting – compared to our dreary weather lately – that it's worth going to see this action-comedy if for nothing more than to feel like the sun is shining in the theater.

The story begins where Tess (Kate Hudson) and Finn (Matthew McConaughey) are treasure hunters off the coast of Florida, spending much of the time in their bathing suits, swimming in the clear blue ocean. The audience could almost reach out and touch the water and feel the sand between their toes.

The catch is that Tess and Finn start out by getting divorced. After 8 years of treasure hunting with Finn, Tess decides he's never going to grow up, so she chooses to go her own way.

But right before she can leave, Finn finds a clue to the treasure they've been searching for all along.

Tess decides to approach her boss, Nigel Honeycutt (Donald Sutherland) to fund her effort to continue to try to find the treasure on her own, but Finn gets to Nigel first by being knight in shining armor to Nigel's dimwitted daughter in distress, Gemma (Alexis Dziena).

Tess isn't happy about the news, but finally joins in the hunt.

Finn is haunted by a debt he owes to the gangster, Bigg Bunny (Kevin Hart). His cronies supply some of the needed comedy relief from confusing relationship twists between Finn and Tess, and also some of the unreasonably aggressive scenes.

Finn isn't the only one searching for the treasure; an ex-treasure hunting partner by the name of Moe Fitch (Ray Winstone) also has his eye on the prize.

McConaughey provides his role of a man unfazed in his search for the treasure. He is always being positive.

Hudson recreates her "How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days" frustrated character, wanting to leave but unable to keep herself from the urge to find the treasure.

Kevin Hart as the villain wasn't all that intimidating even while his character performed out of place violence. Sutherland was convincing as the wealthy lonely father, trying to find the lost love of his daughter.

Dzienna was ditzy, but her character was likable and humorous.

A few scenes of violence and brief nudity didn't belong in this PG-13 movie. The director, Andy Tennant, could've done better with his time in making Tess's and Finn's relationship more realistic.

This movie is no "National Treasure," but people searching for an escape from movies such as "No Country for Old Men," "Rambo," or something that is considerably lighter might want to catch Fool's Gold.

It's worth the time and money – it has earned its weight in gold.

Hey! Full Time Students

Get a 60% savings on any additional credits from 11-18.

If you are enrolled in:	add a:	your additional tuition cost is only:
10 credits	3 credit class	\$ 89.40
12 credits	3 credit class	\$ 89.40
12 credits	5 credit class	\$107.00
15 credits	3 credit class	\$ 89.40

Sign up today!

Stop by the Career & Advising Center for more details.

New DVDs to hit stands still worth seeing



Sara Olson/Photo Illustration

Movies such as "Blind Dating," "Gone Baby Gone," and "We Own the Night" hit stores on Feb. 12. "Gone Baby Gone," starring Casey Affleck and directed by Ben Affleck is

was called Oscar-worthy while it was in theaters and since has been nominated for several awards.

Movies missed in theaters now available to rent

Steven Thomas
Staff Writer

Students may find themselves wondering down the aisles in the video store looking for great movies to rent.

Many movies recently have been released to DVD. For prices cheaper than a typical movie ticket, students can enjoy some of the same great movies in the comfort of their own home.

On Feb. 12 three great movies were

released straight-to-DVD. These movies are "Gone Baby Gone," "Blind Dating," and "We Own the Night."

Although some might not be well known, these movies are just as great, if not better, than anything currently in the theaters.

"Gone Baby Gone" was actor Ben Affleck's debut movie as a director. The movie starred Morgan Freeman and Affleck's younger brother Casey Affleck as a private detective working with a police captain (Freeman) to investigate the disappearance of a four-year-old girl.

With many twists and suspenseful scenes, *Gone Baby Gone* is a movie worth seeing. The plot is surprising and will keep

audience's eyes locked to the screen for the entire time and will have them begging for more.

"Blind Dating" is a romantic comedy starring Chris Rice ("Smokin' Aces"). Rice plays the role of Danny, a 22-year-old blind guy looking for love.

His brother Larry (Eddie Kaye Thomas, "American Pie," "Harold & Kumar") sets Danny up on many "blind" dates until he falls in love with an Indian woman (Anjali Jay).

The last movie, "We Own the Night" is a thriller/drama based on a Russian mafia and a nightclub manager (Joaquin Phoenix, "Walk the Line"). Robert Green (Phoenix)

is a nightclub manager that gets mixed up in a drug heist with a Russian mafia and has a choice - to have fun with the drugs that he is receiving, or to do what is right and help his police chief brother and father make a major drug bust and put his own life in danger.

Overall, all three are worth seeing. For those looking for a hard-hitting them about realistic events without a typical "happy ending," "Gone Baby Gone" is for them.

For a more enjoyable movie experience with the typical happy romantic ending, people should see "Blind Dating."

Laughter abounds in book of essays

'Bright Lights, Big Ass' provides honest tales

Amy Lipko
Staff Writer

Jen Lancaster is a bitch, and she wants you to know it.

In the follow up to her first book, "Bitter is the New Black: Confessions of a Condescending, Egomaniacal, Self-Centered Smart-Ass, Or Why You Should Never Carry a Prada Bag to the Unemployment Office," Lancaster shares heart felt craziness through essays chronicling days of her life.

"Bright Lights, Big Ass: A Self-Indulgent, Surly, Ex-Sorority Girl's Guide to Why It Often Sucks in the City, Or, Who Are These Idiots and Why Do They Live Next Door to Me?" is not only another long title, it's a full out expression of brutal honesty mixed with a dry wit that Lancaster is able to sustain with her unique writing style.

Throughout the 300 plus pages that make up "Bright Lights, Big Ass," Lancaster utilizes footnotes, e-mails, and logs, highlighting special subjects.

Although all of this added information typically brings a great story to a boring halt, in this book it only works to enhance the bold sassiness that flows from every saga told.

The essay entitled "The Butterfly Effect" is one such saga. It's a hilarious tale of how boredom ended up costing Lancaster and her husband, Fletch, nine days without heat (in Chicago, no less) and an amazing lesson in how to handle self-deprecation and a spa robe.

Anyone who has ever had to fend off an aggressive telemarketer would be able to appreciate how Lancaster and her monkey pajamas fought off a situation that warranted nothing less than a harassment suit in another essay entitled, "No Molestar - The Attack of the Sock-Monkey Pajamas."

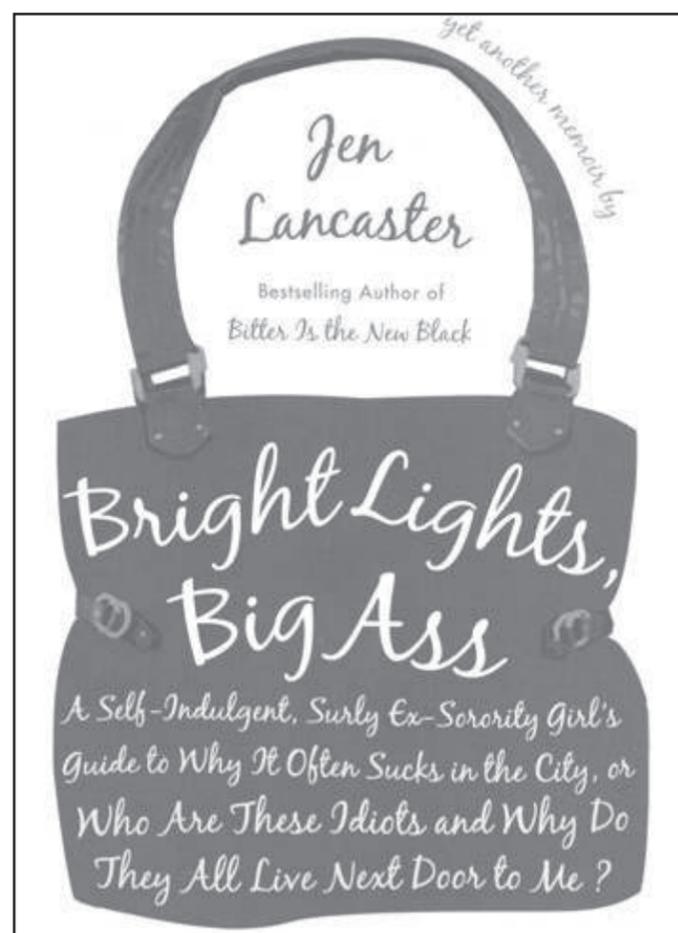
Another scenario that the

greater part of society will be able to relate to is the dreaded hunt for a new apartment. As the couple searches the big city for the perfect abode, Lancaster writes about her frustrations with a mirthful twist on bitter disappointments that will have the reader laughing out loud.

One of the great lessons gleaned from "Bright Lights, Big Ass" is that unfailing wit can be applied to almost any challenge one might face.

Whether it's the miss-spelled neck tattoo on the rude Target cashier, or learning that working as a temp allows the freedom of avoiding office politics, they all encourage a brighter outlook as Lancaster describes learning from them.

Lancaster's triumphs have landed her another book deal. "Such a Pretty Fat: One Narcissist's Quest to Find Out if Her Life Makes Her Ass Look Big, Or, Why Pie is Not the Answer" hits stores May 6. She also will be making a stop in Seattle on May 20.



Sara Olson/Courtesy Photo

Jen Lancaster's book, "Bright Lights, Big Ass" is just one of her published works. "Her next book arrives on May 6.

Vandalism to valuable

*Brian Lane takes graffiti,
turns it into abstract photography*

Tessa Cosand
Staff Writer

The artistic quality of graffiti has been debated by many. However, photographer Brian Lane has computer the true beauty of graffiti, turning what some consider vandalism into works of art.

Several photographs by Lane are being displayed in the Helen S. Smith Gallery through Feb. 28. This is the first time the acclaimed photographer has been shown in the Green River Gallery.

Lane's photos, shown in the collection "The Continuing Fragmentation of Language," focus on the visual image of lines, gestures, letters, light, intensity, and shape.

Lane captures every minute detail of the graffiti, using a short depth of field, and magnifies the art so much that it appears similar to an abstract painting.

Although Lane's artwork is simplistic, it still captivates the viewer. The onlooker is drawn to the vivid swirls and curves in

each photo and is left questioning what each separate work of graffiti is conveying.

The majority of Lane's photos in the Helen S. Smith exhibition have a dark background that contrasts with the vivid and sometimes neon colored words shown.

"Halo," "Gold Danger," and "Black Velvet" are just a few of Lane's unique and inventive photos. A total of 11 photographs can be seen in the gallery.

These photos are similar in nature, but evoke a different mood.

Lane has a wide range of experience and has been a member of the Seattle Print Arts Association since 2001.

In 2003, he opened Print Zero Studios and has displayed his work at various art shows.

His photographs also can be seen in "Bricolage," a literary and arts journal from the University of Washington.

Lane's photographs are for sale and range in price from \$300 to \$1200.



Left: Brian Lane's photograph, "Black Velvet," is being displayed in the Helen S. Smith Gallery through Feb. 28.

Staff photos by Sara Olson