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THE CURRENT

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Getting to know you: Rodney Orton

By: *Spencer Fasel & Nicole Swapp*

Rodney Orton is in his first year at Green River Community College (GRCC). He is not only just a student but also actively evolved in the forestry department on campus.

Orton is known for living his life on the wild side.

When he's not working on his mountains of homework, Orton likes to visit actual mountains in Washington. He enjoys fishing all over the state as well as riding his dirt bike.

Orton grew up in Port Orchard but is native to California. He is an adrenaline junkie who is down for almost any outdoor activity, as long as he can go fast or see a beautiful view. "This one time I found myself in some rapids, lost a fishing pole, and had to hitchhike back," he exclaimed.

"With all of those complications, I still had an awesome day," he added. "Twenty miles of river floating isn't bad, you know?"

Orton plans on finishing another year at GRCC in forestry and hopefully find a job in wildlife management. According to him, he is really enjoying his classes and especially when he gets to have experience in the field.

The forestry department takes many field trips through out the year for students to get actual experience in the field. That comes as no surprise since the Green River forestry department is one of the best in the nation.

"The majority of my class is outdoors," says Orton. "The environment is my classroom."

He later explains that working outdoors is not just an easy stroll in the woods. "It's not like I'm just walking around in the woods, it's work. I am working on my studies when I'm out there."

In the courses he is taking here at Green River and the hands on experience he is getting through the forestry department, Orton is hoping to one day fulfill his dream of being in wildlife management. But for now, he is enjoying his time at the college and his adventurous stories in the great outdoors.



Rodney Orton really enjoys fishing. *Spencer Fasel The Current*

Eating on a shoestring budget helps broke college students

By: *Mary Preston*

A group of Green River students curious about how to save money and eat healthier went to the "Eating on a Shoestring Budget" seminar. The seminar was held by Anita Behrbaum, a member of the GRCC wellness faculty and Julie French, a GRCC health educator, last Thursday.

"We do these every quarter because the physical education department is dedicated to wellness," says Behrbaum. "We teach this kind of information to our classes, but we want it to be available to everyone. We want to give students practical ideas that they can apply to change behaviors and make positive steps towards better nutrition."

The seminar focused on key topics such as how to save money when grocery shopping, where to go if for financial help to afford groceries, how to make healthier choices on a low budget and how to get the most out of the money you have.

When grocery shopping, it helps to skip the brand names of the items you're looking for and go for the generic brand. Getting the same basic product for a fraction of the price. Buy lots

of frozen fruits and vegetables. They are usually fresher and cheaper than any other kind of fruit or vegetable. It also helps to grown your own.

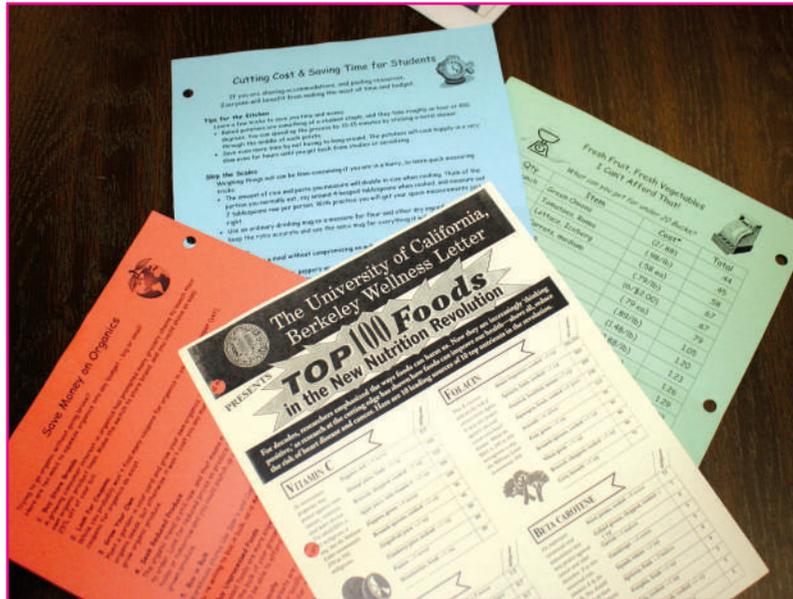
Growing your own fruits or vegetables doesn't require that much space (only a few pots on the back patio) and growing it yourself ensures that it is organic and best of all, free. If you are planning a night out where you plan to be spending money on food, plan how much

has an online menu, look it over ahead of time so you know how much you can plan on spending. If you plan on getting fast food, try to go for something more healthy on the menu (the salad instead of the burger.)

When shopping for fruits and vegetables, try to shop for fruits that are in season. Foods are cheapest when they are in season. For example, the fruits and vegetables in season for the month of April are: pineapples, mangoes, zucchini, rhubarb, artichokes, asparagus, spring peas, broccoli and lettuce.

For students who have trouble affording groceries, there is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (or SNAP.) SNAP is a program that over 30 million Americans use to help with the cost of basic food necessities that they can't afford on their own. Students who are interested in SNAP can go to the workforce education department for more education.

When asked about her hopes for the outcome of the seminar, French said, "I hope that students can learn more about the importance of the foods they select, where to find resources and information on nutrient-dense food, and how to eat on a budget."



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GRCC hosts job expo to help students decide on future careers

By: Cindy (Sin) Park

On Wednesday April 21, there was an employment expo held at Green River Community College's (GRCC) in the Lindbloom Student Center (LSC).

The 2010 employment expo was designed to help GRCC students find great jobs, resources, and career opportunities. All of the booths were run by job recruiters who gave students practical interview skills and taught them how to create a professional resume.

Students could research the companies they were interested in meeting with and find out what elements are mainly required for the applications. Full-time, part-time job, and volunteer programs were jobs being offered at the fair.

Job recruiters pointed out that before job applicants' contact the job booths, they should deeply think about how it is relevant to what they've learned at the college and which practical and applicable job skills they can get from the career programs.

Some full-time job positions require certain kinds of certification. In the case of the company, INDEPENDENCE REHAB, to apply for the full-time job position, applicants' should meet the prerequisites such as completing their OTA (Occupational Therapy Assistance) or PTA (Physical Therapy Assistance) degree.

Some of part-time job positions need communication skills first. GRCC student, Lewis whose futures plan is to become a teacher at an elementary school, said "I stopped by job fair to look into volunteering for YWCA and to see if



A view from the top floor of the student center on the job expo. Each of the booths offered something unique for their company.

Spencer Fasel The Current

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there is a job in the night time."

As he said, many people have different career goals and all of them gathered in the booths ranging from, customer service areas like Fastenal Company or Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, to the professional work such as Exotic Metal Forming Company or Independence Rehab.

Many participating employers stated that in resumes, it is important for students to understand most of recruiters want them to be as brief as possible, writing their resumes clearly, making sure their grammar is correct, and ensuring all facts are true. Adding to this, they said that applicants should try to explain as much as they can about their experiences that are specifically applicable to the industry that they are applying for.

District manger of FASTENAL, a company which deals with local industrial and construction supplies and service, Dave Smith advised "concerning the job-skills, the biggest thing we would think is to see if they are open, and make good eye-contact, and are full of confidence. Like you have more than enough of what it takes for working in the company you want to work for"

Sara Robertson, a journalism major, emphasized that before students apply for the company they're interested in, they should get used to grading resumes. Getting some advice from other people can be very helpful; she went on to say "know what skills can be applied to the job, and deeply think about how this job can be related to how I get into the next job."



A student interested in the career of working for the Social Security Administration.

Spencer Fasel The Current

A letter from the editor-in-chief

A question I have been asking myself for many years now is this: What exactly is the role of a newspaper?

It's a broad question to ask really. Newspapers serve so many different purposes. Some are hidden as community newsletters while others stand out from the crowd, like *The New York Times*.

For *The Current*, it is a little different. Not only are we members of the college, but we are also budding journalists trying to learn the business. Honestly, it's hard. This is a hard, tiring job that we do. For those who have worked as a reporter or an editor for a newspaper, you know the feelings. It's such a different job than you will ever hold due to the laws and ethics behind it all.

There are a lot of "gray" areas in journalism. One is the 45-word First Amendment -- "Congress shall make no law, respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." Journalists hold the right to say what they want, or what they don't want for that matter.

But what I'm talking about is this: Should journalists use the First Amendment all the time? It's a sticky area really. For example, many people may remember the controversial satire piece last quarter. It was our journalistic right to print every word in that article. But, was it the right thing to do?

It really all comes down to what type of journalist you want to be, and what type of paper you want to work for. For right now, *The Current* wants to push the envelope. No, we don't want to cause outrageous riots or anything to that sort. But we do think it is important to go beyond being the "cheerleader" for the college and talk about important topics that keep getting pushed aside.

One of my goals this quarter is to challenge my editors and reporters to push beyond the "cheerleader" ideas and dig deep. There is so much going on at this school, in this state, and in this world to just be left silent.

And with that being said, isn't it our job as journalists to challenge authority? Or, as Joseph Pulitzer once said, "To afflict the comfortable and to comfort the afflicted." To talk about things that are going on in the community? To push people to realize what happens in the world?

Yes, it is.

We are the checks and balances in this country. And what I mean by checks and balances is that the press has a constitutional responsibility to be a watchdog on powerful interests. We are here to challenge this country. To stand up for the people. Journalists as a whole are here to uncover the truth behind lawmakers. That is what we do.

- Nicole Swapp

EDITORIALS

The Current Editorial Board is made up of the following journalists: Nicole Swapp, Remco Zwetsloot, Stirling Radliff, Jean-Pierre Garcia, and Ted Hanrahan.

Publishing process behind Espial demonstrates that harmonizing different views can be challenging

When it comes to art there is no right answer. Brad Johnson once asked each of his students in a poetry class to embrace ambiguity. This is a difficult concept for students to grasp, but it is vital when critique is involved.

Most students review when they hardly realize they are doing so. The latest movies often get a nod of approval or dismissed with a simple "That looks stupid". If a friend disagrees the two discuss and a resolution is made, new insights are gained or nothing happens. That opportunity to gain new insight is what makes discussion worthwhile to begin with.

When it comes to students who are expected to select numerous works of art to be published a little more thought is expected.

Of the two student run publications, *The Current* and literary art journal *Espial*, critical analysis is vital when it comes to judging works. Both have some similarities,

Espial combines English students and visual arts students in the ring together to make content decisions. *The Current* also makes content decisions with a variety of student staff members. Both publications are created to serve the college.

Espial has a slightly different and difficult audience to work with. The artists submitting work, appreciators of art, and the general public.

The language used for review should hold depth, character and strength rather than simple terms. The *Espial* class encourages this in several debates over selection. Parties don't have to agree. In fact the most interesting kind of conversation can be from divergent voices. This quarter there is friction in the selection process. This is bound to happen when there are people in a tight knit group working together for a finished product.

While people can read things differently this is acceptable. The one thing that is ab-

solutely vital in a college campus is the ability to articulate a thought or a series of thoughts with content. It is wrong for a group to dismiss and reject an art piece based on a piece being unhappy. Last year this was a contentious issue for *Espial* until one student voiced concern in support for another artist's true intent. The poem in question was held extremely strong themes that were thoroughly and subtly executed.

This may have been missed on the reviewer, much like appreciation for famed abstract painter Jackson Pollock "Jack the Dripper". Some may not agree about the content of his work or even like it, but it is a form of art. It is confusing to judge an art piece but the exchange of ideas with deeply personal works add onto this confusion.

This year Avis Adams, *Espial* instructor for the literary portion, described conflict in this year's class vividly.

"It's like herding cats," Adams said with a smile.

There is now tension regarding the role of the publication and the acceptance of different opinions. The issue is vividly shown in an example straight from the *Espial* debates. Further along in the publishing process *Espial* began pairing the visual arts with the written works. One piece was an infant of a few weeks.

When it came to pairing there was a division. One group vied for irony and contrast by pairing the baby with a poem about death or drunkenness. This pairing could cause a lot of controversy with the audience and possibly infringe on the artist intent. Each student was attempting to represent the non-present artist but at the same time make a bold and provocative statement.

The Current commends both points of view, and further opinions on the pieces. Respecting numerous audiences and listening to what each has to offer should be implemented further outside of the classroom. Honest discussion is strongly encouraged.

THE CURRENT Editorial Policy

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

Letters to the editor: We encourage all students and staff to have their voices heard. *The Current* will publish letters to the editor, provided they are signed, include the author's name, and submitted in a timely manner. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. Letters should be sent to thecurrent@greenriver.edu. 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*.

Theft policy: A person commits the offense of publication theft when he or she willfully or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over more than three copies of *The Current* that is distributed on campus [with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that edition of the publication]. A "publication" includes any periodical that is distributed on a complimentary or compensatory basis. In addition to the imposition of other campus disciplinary penalties, a person who violates this provision is responsible for compensating the publication for all reasonable costs incurred, including, where appropriate, the refund of advertising fees.

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Olympia decides that candy tax is the answer to the budget problem State lawmakers keep education on the back burner and tax candy and pop instead

By: Josh Davidson

In a strange and cruel turn of events, Washington has passed a bill through the House calling for the taxation of things such as water, pop, candy, and beer. The bill also removes a large chunk of funding from already suffering two-year community colleges, which would lose 6 percent of their state allotted budgets, or 110 million dollars cut.

A single credit is about 100 dollars for any given student at Green River, making the funding cut close to 1,100,000 credits worth of cash, enough for a student to take 220,000 5 credit classes, which translates to over 1,000 associate degrees. The loss of this money will undoubtedly be felt by community college students, including those at GRCC, be it in tuition costs or an overall loss of quality services on campus.

Along with community colleges, funding was taken away from public schools, four year state universities, Washington state parks, public safety initiatives, and health care funding for poor children and the disabled.

The true absurdity begins with the fact that Olympia continues to ignore tough problems like Microsoft's tax dodge, which has caused the state to lose about \$728.8 million in taxes, almost half of the state deficit. By doing its software licensing in Nevada, Microsoft avoids Washington taxes that apply to software licensing, instead opting for Nevada's lack of software taxing despite the fact that Washington's infrastructure supported the creation of the software.

The easier route has been taken; and com-

munity colleges, along with the well being of all members of Washington State, are directly affected by this bill. Microsoft, Washington's corporate crown jewel, which has spent one million dollars lobbying the state to bend to its will, is allowed to rob the state while things like education, health care, and natural resources are put on the back-burner as a quick fix to eco-

knowledge-based economy, where employers value critical thinking as well as education and training." Obviously enough, the state government does not believe this as corporations are let loose and the students are left without.

"The government keeps stressing that education is so important to the United States, and that we're falling behind. And here they are pulling it out of our hands," said Dustin Roads, a Green River Student studying to be a pilot.

The irony is that education will ultimately result in more wealth for Washington as Washington students fight in the global market for high paying jobs that demand a higher education. Potential Green River student Jeremie Fernando, in response to these funding cuts, commented, "Eventually when students are denied access to these learning pathways they should be allowed [to], they are in turn restricted in the number of jobs they can hold." He

went on to say, "It

threatens my future as a student and limits my potential to learn." Jeremie works full time and cannot afford extra expenses, already strained even before he has started to pay for schooling.

Ironically, it won't even be feasible to drown out one's financial sufferings with candy, soda, and beer-like alcoholic beverages, as this bill introduces a tax on those items: A spit in the eye at college students everywhere.



Cheyenne Sherran doesn't want to spend any more on pop than the normal \$1.50.

conomic troubles.

A quote from Washington State's official governor website highlights the hypocrisy of this move: "Governor Chris Gregoire is a product of Washington public schools. She earned her teaching certificate from the University of Washington. ... Today's students leave school faced with a dramatically different economic landscape than their parents' generation. Globalization is transforming Washington [into] a

Too many choices in America is overloading the human brain

By: Josh Davidson

It's a common thought that the more choices a person has the better off that person is, since there is a higher likelihood that the choice he/she would prefer is in that larger selection. Studies have shown that we actually avoid a large numbers of choices, preferring simplicity. More choices make one less happy in the long run. Our society's emphasis on choice makes it seem to be a seemingly eternal truth, but it is not an infallible idea.

The ideal of "more choice is better" is mirrored in today's mass produced society by the millions of potential choices we are given every day. Whether it's choosing pizza or a hamburger in the Gator Grill, Crest or Colgate while in the dental care isle, and this jam, that jam or a large number of other possible jams in the jam isle.

Sheena Iyengar of Columbia University wondered about the effects of mass choices on society. In a preface to the study she created around the concept she commented, "Current psychological theory and research affirm the positive affective and motivational consequences of having personal choice. These find-

ings have led to the popular notion that more choice is better, that the human ability to desire and manage choice is unlimited."

Part of the study was run in an actual store. In this part of the experiment, consumers shopping at an upscale grocery store were presented with a tasting booth which had either six choices or 24 choices of jam. People would try various jams, and were then printed custom coupons for any jams that they liked. These coupons contained a small code that indicated whether it had been a choice of six jams or 24.

Out of the 242 customers who went past the large display of jams, 60% stopped at the booth and sampled jams. Of the 260 customers who passed the limited selection display of jams, only 40% stopped. This shows that more choice was more appealing at first. In both cases, customers only sampled an average of one and a half jams.

Surprisingly, 30% of the consumers with six choices subsequently purchased jam, while only 3% of the consumers with 24 choices purchased jam. After finding these results Sheena concluded, "Certainly, they appear to challenge a fundamental assumption held by psychologists and economists alike—that having more,

rather than fewer, choices is necessarily more desirable and intrinsically motivating."

Having a large number of choices only ends up confusing and leaving the consumer dissatisfied. When initially presented with lots of choice, a modern American is compelled to make the best choice out of the many. Sadly, the brain is quickly overwhelmed as it can only hold about 8 variables at once, and only focus on one item at a time, rendering any real comparison difficult. If a choice is really made, satisfaction is lowered; by purchasing one jam out of twenty four, the consumer is effectively not purchasing 23 jams, most untested, which may possibly have been better than the chosen jam. Regret over not choosing this or that jam outweighs the pleasure derived from the chosen jam.

This is a basic example but can be applied to many faucets of human life. Especially the college life-style, where choices are being thrown around all of the time, and possibly life changing decisions are being made. Keep things simple; don't over-complicate yourself with a wealth of choices. Our society loves the idea of choice; it's your choice to choose to limit your options. Simplify!

Human life is just a ticking croc

By: Tyler Kion

The ticking croc: one Captain James Hook fed not only his hand but also a clock to a croc so he could hear when he is near. Croc even sounds like clock, and he ticks. The ticking croc is not going to let us be. This croc symbolizes the ominous internal clock within us that starts ticking away the moment we are born and stops at the moment we die. Death, for some, is the only great adventure left to face. However, "A man is not old until regrets take the place of dreams," says John Barrymore.

There are several problems with growing up. It is a fast paced, on-the-go thing, where technology is growing at an exponential rate and we are meant to keep up. As a result, people collectively, aren't happy.

NOT FUNNY

The first problem is the moment we grow up. I once read a children's book called "The Little Prince," whose author, Antoine De Saint-Exupéry, had on its first page the first picture he ever drew. He said it was of a boa constrictor eating an elephant, but when he would show it to the adults they all thought it was a hat. So to simplify it for them he drew his second picture, which clearly displayed an elephant inside a boa constrictor. Once he showed this to the adults they gave him the advice of pursuing arithmetic, geography, and grammar instead. "That is why I had abandoned, at the age of six, a magnificent career as an artist."

It is true that by becoming conscious and aware of the world around us we lose our "innocence," – apropos Hank Galmish's Irish Literature class – which means to be unacquainted with guilt, hurt, or evil. It comes from the Latin verb "Nocere, Noceri," which means to harm. "Innocence" is also related to the word "noxious," which means "injurious to health" but also "harmful to the mind or morals; corrupting" (Dictionary.com).

The second problem is that people confuse the saying "stop and smell the roses". A clichéd device of some kind. Its meaning, however, should not be ignored. We need to take a moment to appreciate something, or someone. It's really quite literal. Really, stop and smell the roses!

We are moving so fast, running from the ticking croc; we can't stop. A flower serves only a few purposes, and the one that is most enjoyable to us, we never take the time to enjoy.

The last problem is that we neglect our dreams as if they were just silly selfish moments. Well, they were just silly selfish moments; but they were the most important silly selfish moments of our entire short, silly lives. It's usually those who give weight to dreams of being astronauts that go to the moon. It's those that give credence to pretending to make movies that become virtuous directors. How selfish is Steven Spielberg, giving many people jobs and bringing beautiful stories to life?

Somewhere down the road we pick up or lose our innocence on how it's not all right to just be us. I propose that we as a society give our values a closer look: don't be stunted by the coarse dialect of our sour culture managers – school, if any institution otherwise, falls into this category.

In leaving for larger academia – universities – don't forget yourselves, fellow students.

Dear new college president: Here is what Green River really needs

By: Stirling Radliff

When I was a little kid, maybe six or seven years old, I wanted to be the President of the United States - all too much in my chauvanism. I found, though not too quickly, that to be a president of anything requires certain abilities which I and a good... about everyone else... don't have. I lack leadership abilities.

The ideal President I had in mind was more along the lines of a great tyrant who ruled the world in triumphant arms: He on his high-horse, like Napoleon, or He with hordes of men waiting to conquer at the demand, like Alexander. For what purposes I wasn't sure.

Our modern society - may I so generalize? - finds war to be burdensome, costly. There are only a few groups I can think who liken to war: the NRA and there kind; "Teddy" Roosevelt and Truman sympathizers. What an antipode from the times of old - that is to say, the twentieth century. There is no denying the political-plutocratic arms we raise and so fight with; but the social mood about it is something wholly undesirable.

Noble men and women - may we call our leaders noble? - are men and women of such interests and intentions which try to diminish life's struggles. One might say we have, socially at any rate, moved on from the war and into the Funeral Oration. Though, we can't at all relinquish the fact that there is a war, and struggle, elsewhere. To forget would not only be deplorable but likewise embarrassing.

The perpetual case of man's character is his incessant wont to struggle. But these habits can be rid of. It takes great leaders to extinguish them.

"All the great leaders have had one characteristic in common: it was the willingness to confront.... the major anxiety of their people in their time. This, and not much else, is the essence of leadership," wrote John Kenneth Galbraith, author of "The Good Society" and "Money;" among a good many other books.

Confronting "the major anxiety of their people"; we have a leader with a will of this degree, though often unnoticed, who has dealt with his people's "anxieties": Green River's President, Rich Rutkowski.

Rutkowski began working at Green River in

1974 as Dean of business affairs, and then in 1984 was voted President.

In the gusto which made up the term of his presidency, Rutkowski welded into his career a "doctrine" which, legitimately, can hardly be rivaled by anyone else: Educate people, help people.

"In my opinion," wrote Rutkowski in a November 26, 2002 article to the Green River press, "the State of Washington needs to step up its commitment to fund financial aid, keeping the door to education and training open. It is simply good public policy for our state to have a well educated and trained workforce...."

"Community and technical colleges are being viewed as part of the solution to help turn the economy around by retraining laid-off workers for occupations that are in demand now or will be in the future. These people will be able to return to the workforce in new jobs that, in turn, will help reinvigorate the economy...."

"Community and technical colleges are the state's premier job training providers. We stand ready to do our job of providing a skilled and literate workforce."

Rutkowski has never changed in this regard. While President, he oversaw the expansion of Green River to the Kent and Enumclaw campuses. Rutkowski presided over numerous building projects: Kent Campus; the Rutkowski Learning Center; the new Performing Arts building; the new science and tech. centers; the Campus Corner Apartments (CCA); and the upcoming Salish Hall, which is to be the new home of Humanities - and in those buildings, high-tech equipment.

Further, under his leadership enrollment has gone up and over 10,000 students per year across three campuses.

His efforts have created numerous possibilities for thousands of people.

When not presiding over his campus projects, he can be found in Olympia, lobbying for more money to give to the students: for further upgrades in technology; for more building advancements; for more teachers.

"[If] I were to point to one specific thing," says Phil Ray Jack, former president of the United Faculty of Green River, and a member of Green River's English faculty, "it would be [his] commitment to improving the ratio of full-time to part-time, or adjunct, faculty, and improving

the working conditions for adjunct faculty. The progress that has been made at Green River was accomplished through negotiation with the union, but President Rutkowski has gone beyond that and has advocated for the issue in Olympia and with the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges."

Such leadership has built Green River into one of the largest and most renowned community colleges in the northwest.

Now, after 36 years of service to Green River, Rutkowski is retiring - his accomplishments and spirit bound-up in his creation. His successor will have a difficult time living up to such noble standards of leadership.

There are four contenders for the position to replace Rutkowski: Christine Chairsell, EdD, who was the district vice-president and student affairs at Portland Community College; Eileen Ely, PhD, the president of Western Nebraska Community College; Paul Killpatrick, PhD, president of Lake Tahoe Community College; and Scott Morgan, MBA, who was the chief executive officer at the Institute for Extended Learning in the Community Colleges of Spokane.

Whoever is chosen to take on the prestigious leadership role of President of Green River Community College needs to understand some of the unresolved frustrations that Rutkowski - great leader as he was - left behind; and some things we'd like from a president in general.

The primary irritation that comes up is parking. It's an overly talked about topic, but it's worth mentioning again. Raising money to build a parking garage sounds like a wonderful idea, Whoever-Is-Selected!

Another topic, which may possibly be the

most controversial, is the use of alcohol and marijuana. On behalf of the majority of Green River students, Green River should have a progressive stance in Olympia on alleviating the prohibition on marijuana. For alcohol, CCA would like to have less security on the weekends.

For the health of the school overall, more money needs to be spent on hiring fulltime/tenured teachers. As it is, teachers are being paid nearly poverty level wages. Given their positions in society, they should be taken better care of. Being a part-time/adjunct teacher means working several jobs to make about the same wages as a full-time teacher working one job. Not only is it unfair, it diminishes the quality of the educational experience. Rutkowski, aforesaid, excelled in trying to help these important people, but more work needs to be done.

Something that has come to my attention lately is the lack of student/administrator relationships. In a poll, it would be interesting to see how many people actually know who Rutkowski is - not many I'd imagine. For that, there needs to be more public forums; there needs to be more involvement from the administrative side of campus on the wants and needs of the students as a whole; on getting students interested. (And from ASGRCC for that matter.) Having said that - regarding a failure of Rutkowski's - the president needs to be out in the mingle of student life more.

Aside from all other propositions, whoever is elected next needs to keep modernizing Green River. And in light of new state budget cuts, that might be somewhat difficult. But it's nothing a great leader can't handle.



(L to R) Ladeisha Browne, Dominique Mitchell, Jacqueline Lambert, and Arielle Austin all want to be picked for the new college president. Nicole Swapp The Current

News

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Editor's note: All events and people depicted on this page - unless given consent - are fictional. Locations might be real but are representative of author's point. The opinions, descriptions, and stories are not meant to offend, but rather, to entertain and occasionally exaggerate controversial issues. In addition, all opinions are those of the writers, and do not necessarily reflect those of The Current and its staff. If you are still offended, we encourage you to send a letter to the editor at thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Merriam-Webster Dictionary definition of satire:

1 : a literary work holding up human vices and follies to ridicule or scorn

2 : trenchant wit, irony, or sarcasm used to expose and discredit vice or folly

New class offered at Enumclaw campus: Cow Tipping&101 for Fall of 2010

Fluctuations of specialized courses grab attention of students and community members alike

By: Jessi Cheney

In addition to the already extensive catalogue the Enumclaw Green River Community College (GRCC) Campus offers – including '30 Minute Meals,' 'Baker's Secret: Cream Pies,' 'Barista Training,' – starting Fall Quarter, the Green River Enumclaw campus is offering new classes for students, including Cow Tipping&101.

Cow Tipping&101 is designed specifically for the Enumclaw campus. 98% of Enumclaw families own cattle farms, so it would be highly beneficial to offer the students the chance to learn all about tipping cows.

There is more to this class than just tipping cows, however. Over the course of the quarter, students will learn how to tip cows, protect their family's cows from cow tipping, and debate all the controversial topics related to cow tipping. The class also provides students with veterinary experience necessary to properly help the bovine back up and repair potential injuries received during the tipping.

"Because cows cannot get up themselves, we have to do it," said Holly May, one of the instructors for the class. "It's a massive amount of work, and it usually takes all day and sometimes well into the next day because some of the cows get injured."

Originally, there was debate on whether the course should be transferable. Advocates pushed for the class to be transferable, and as of right now, they have won their case.

Cow tipping isn't the only new subject to be added to the 2010-2011 Course Catalogue; Safe Bestiality 101 is a new, welcome subject for the Enumclaw campus.

To the distain of many, however, Safe Bestiality 101 was determined as a non-transferable credit class.

"We were thinking about it," explained Enumclaw Campus President Rober Humphry, "and this five-credit class [couldn't possibly] be a



Enumclaw: Cows are currently being lined up and prepared for the Fall sessions of the recently announced Cow tipping class. Some of these samples may be used in demonstrations for Safe Bestiality 101 as well.

transferable credit. Sure, that guy [referring to a 45-year old Seattle man who died from penetration by a horse] wasn't from here, but Enumclaw is the only place in the state where incidents like that have occurred. It's vital that we educate our citizens."

Students attending Green River's main campus are intrigued and interested as to why the Enumclaw campus gets such a specialized course, while the main campus just sports core classes.

"I think if the School Board is going to put a cow tipping class over in Enumclaw, they need to put a specialized for us here too," commented student Victor Kurnk. "Like... maybe Squirrel hunting?"

The new courses in Enumclaw have raised suspicion in the elderly community especially.

They feel that the only reason the school is offering the class is to "teach the youngins how to misbehave."

The School Board, however, stated that they are only offering the classes for the benefit of the students by implementing safe action and methods. Humphry insisted there is no motive behind the class other than to inform the students about the controversial topics of cow tipping and the safe practices of bestiality; the new courses will be taken no differently than any other course already offered.

He added that "we at the Enumclaw campus cater to every part of our constituency, from elders to our young students." One class that caters to old people is the Facebook&101, which teaches students the works of Facebook; "Connect with family and friends near and far. Face-

book offers instant access to daily updates. Very safe social networking where YOU choose who to interact with. This class includes finding your friends, providing updates and even some fun and games. Parents, learn what your children know and love."

Both the School Board and staffers are pleased with the new additions to the campus.

"I think the classes are a great addition," stated English Professor Charles McCoy. "The School Board needs to come up with more quirky classes like this for every campus. It's a great way for the students to get an education, and have fun at the same time."

These two new classes will appear in the Enumclaw Campus' 2010-2011 Course Catalogue, and residents expect the classes to be a huge hit.

Scantron criticized by C.E.O. of Analyzetrum as monopoly of the National Answers Market

By: Josh Robbins

The long time distributor of multiple choice paraphernalia has come under criticism recently, after it was pointed out by several competing companies that Scantron is the only company given representation or any kind of chance at surviving the National Answers Market.

"This is a tough business," said Richard Hertz, C.E.O. of second leading test brand, Analyzetrum. "People think it's all A, B, A, B, but when you throw C and D into the equation, it can get a little tricky."

Hertz was the whistle blower on the fact that Scantron is the only test format used by both public schools and higher education. "Do you know who that leaves us with? No one. About 30 years ago, it was an open test market with several different test processors being used. And now it's all about Scantron."

He is, of course, referring to the revolutionary development by John Scantron of

the E Option Foundation. The former NASA particle engineer turned into an avid quiz aficionado about 30 years ago.

"Before him it was a whole different game," reflected Hertz. "For a while, no one ever saw the possibility of five letters working out. Then – out of the blue – Scantron revealed the 1981 Scantron 20ex Custom Edition Pro-Platinum Plus. My jaw dropped and I almost fainted when I looked past the D, and staring me in the eye was this bold-faced E in a little bubble."

After patenting the E Option, any test format developer would have to pay royalties to Scantron for its use.

"Have you ever had a teacher who gave you all five possibilities? I had one in 8th grade, and it was f***ing bulls***. You're like, 'Wait a minute, why is there an E possibility here all of sudden? They haven't used E for the entire test. I know this isn't the right answer, but why would they give me a whole other choice just for it to be wrong on this

one question?' It's bulls***!"

Hertz's main issue, aside from his boring and nonsensical ranting, is that other testing methods are not even presented as an option for testing.

He commented, "Have you ever heard of a teacher saying we have a quiz tomorrow make sure you bring your Scantron sheets, oh, or maybe your Analyzetrum sheets. Never. They will fail you if you tried to use one of my companies products, and I am starting to get the feeling I have wasted my life."

After realizing I was asleep, he began to weep quietly.

Scantron is a true monopoly company, as it becomes apparent upon entering the bookstore to purchase one of Hertz's products - his products are not sold in the Paper Tree Bookstore, and Scantrons are your only option. You can see them immediately up front, next to the register in ranks of many impulse buys.

When I asked a cashier where I might

purchase an Analyzetrum, or the even less popular Testamagram, they looked at me quizzically and started to chuckle.

"It's a business, and a business that I just happen to be winning at," boasted Eric Scantron, current C.E.O. of Scantron, after the mysterious disappearance of his father following Megascantron's ongoing attempt to dominate mankind. "My father was a genius, and now I'm reaping the rewards of that."

When asked if it was true that the only way to kill Megascantron was by inserting a Scantron with every bubble filled in into his chest he entered an uncontrollable hysteria. "That's a myth! I mean a lie – g-get out of my office! Megascantron will dominate this world, and you will tremble before his might!"

Indeed, we as a nation will continue to tremble at the might that big business still has in our marketplace – despite the economic down turn.

GRCC president search committee narrows choices down to the final four

The final four plan to visit Green River in May for an exclusive tour of the campus and meet the staff & students

By: Evan Hicks

Earlier this year Richard Rutkowski, president of Green River Community College (GRCC) for 27 years, announced his retirement. The college is now trying to find someone who will be able to fill his shoes. On April 20, four finalists for the presidential position were selected.

The Board of Trustees appointed a group of administrators, staff and students to the Presidential Search Committee, the committee in charge of finding suitable candidates. Gold Hill Associates are the consultants which were selected to assist the search.

The committee began the search by drawing up a presidential profile, listing all the required traits needed to apply. Once the Board of Trustees approved the profile, the committee began recruiting and advertising both locally and nationally.

The committee went through the application process, deciding which candidates will be right for the position and who has the best credentials.

John Avery, instructional chair and a head of the committee, said "ultimately we try to be as diverse as possible. Currently we have two women and two men for the four finalists."

When the position for the presidential spot opened up, the committee received 47 applications from within the United States and one from a foreign applicant. The applications were then brought to the Board of Trustees for further

reviewing and questioning.

Thus far, the Board of Trustees and the Presidential Search Committee have narrowed it down to four candidates: Dr. Eileen Ely, Dr. Paul Killpatrick, Dr. Christine Chairsell, and Scott Morgan.

Dr. Eileen Ely is president of Western Nebraska Community College. She was the Albany County campus dean for Laramie County Community College in Laramie, Wyoming. She also has co-authored a book titled, "In Pursuit of Excellence: The Community College of Denver," and then proceeded to co-author another book, "Challenges of the Heart: Pursuing Excellence at the Community College of Denver." Ely believes that school budgeting and funding should be set towards the schools priorities.

Dr. Killpatrick, current president of Lake Tahoe Community College, got his B.S. and M.S. from Western Oregon State University. He was president of Great Basin College in Nevada, president of instructional support and community development at Mt. Hood Community, and he also worked at Yakima Valley Community College as the dean for professional and career education. Killpatrick believes that in helping students with their education, you are also helping the economy in the future.

Dr. Chairsell, district vice president of academic and student affairs at Portland Community College, spent eight years in the Air Force, then moved to Washington D.C. and enrolled at Prince George's Community College. She



Courtesy photos.
The four final candidates for the new Green River President.

Top left: Christine Chairsell
Top right: Paul Killpatrick
Bottom left: Eileen Ely
Bottom right: Scott Morgan

later moved to Nevada where she earned a bachelor's, master's and doctorate degree from the University of Nevada - Las Vegas. She also worked as a political intern for Nevada Senator Harry Reid, and taught political science for eight years.

Morgan has an M.B.A and a B.A. in business administration, and got involved in the community and technical college system in the mid 1980's. Currently, he is chief executive officer for one of Spokane's community colleges, the Institute for Extended Learning. Morgan worked as a Washington state legislative staffer, a fiscal analyst for the ways and means committee, a senior research analyst, director of financial services, and vice president of services at Clark College. He believes that colleges should no longer tend to just academic, but community needs as well.

The traits for the presidential position require that the candidate have a master's degree from an accredited institution as well as senior-level

administrative experience. Some traits that may be considered beneficial to the running candidates include strong leadership, an understanding of and commitment to GRCC's mission statement, knowledge of the college's programs, and excellent communication skills.

The future president's job is to shape the development of Green River to better the education and success of students. The new leader will also need to think on his feet and have some financial intelligence.

During the month of May the four candidates will get the chance to visit the GRCC campus to give them more insight to their future tasks at hand. Interviews will then be held to further the Board of trustees' decision.

For more information and developing stories visit thecurrentonline.net

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A change in plans for the 2010 commencement

By: Mary Dusek

For many Green River students, June 11 will be one of the most memorable days of their lives: their graduation.

The past few years the college has held graduation at the White River Amphitheatre in Auburn. This year, however, the commencement staff has changed the venue to the ShoWare Center located in downtown Kent.

John Ramsey, director of public information, explains "We had two great years at the White River Amphitheatre where the weather was just perfect." He continues, "But we just couldn't continue to chance that it would always be warm and sunny."

The Communicator, a breaking news outlet on the GRCC website, further elaborates, "Though covered, the open-air amphitheatre is susceptible to windy and cold conditions."

Ramsey also stated, "The ShoWare Center provides a large, indoor venue in our district. Seating is fairly close to the floor and sight lines are great. One of our requirements is to have enough seating so we don't have to limit tickets for graduates, and the ShoWare Center certainly fits that bill."

The venue can hold anywhere between 2,500-7,300 people, placed all within 20 rows of seats creating intimacy.



Abbey Fifield, a freshman running start student, may not be graduating just yet; however, when she found out the news, she commented, "My sister's graduation was in the ShoWare center. It was really nice!"

GRCC will be providing shuttle buses to take students to the ShoWare Center at 5pm for the graduation ceremony. The buses will leave Kent around 10pm when the event ends. Students interested may sign up in the Campus Life office in the Lindbloom Student Center. There are 75 seats available on the shuttle, which go on a first come first serve basis.

Green River awaits the visit of 20 South Asian female leaders

With an event organized by International Programs, women from South Asia visit Green River and learn about the states



By: Soo Hyun Cha

International Programs Courtesy Photo

From June 27 to August 1, 2010, 20 female university students from India, Pakistan and Afghanistan will be studying at Green River Community College in a leadership program funded by the US State Department. Students from South Asia are selected by their respective US Embassies after a rigorous interview process to assure that they are ready to become future leaders in society.

Studies of the United States Institutes, also known as SUSIs, are intensive academic programs whose purpose is to enhance foreign undergraduate student leaders' leadership skills and understanding of the United States.

In addition to their studies, these leadership students will meet with community leaders, especially female leaders. The young women will also participate in various extracurricular activities, including community service, group discussions, training, and exercises focusing on leadership. In 2009 students from the SUSI program provided community service at food

banks, hospitality kitchens, and visited the Kent Senior Center.

This program will last five weeks in the summer. It includes four weeks on GRCC's campus, but also two study tours which complement the academic session; the first is within Washington State and the second in Washington D.C.

It's quite different from the classic studying inside a lecture room - they will visit Native American Tribal locations, the Olympic Peninsula and do a three-hour float on the Hoh River to experience the diversity of the United States.

Dr. Barry Bannister, director for international development in international programs, says that this program will be a great opportunity to both of students from southern Asia and students at Green River Community College. Three female students from the college will be selected to be student ambassadors and help students from South Asia discover different aspects of life in the United States.

Our college has put a lot of effort and time into completing this program successfully and to give a positive but accurate impression of America to international leaders. This program will be a great chance for students from South Asia to build confidence as young women and to understand the power themselves as leaders. In addition, they say the empowerment to be a leader is in the inside of individual.

India, Pakistan and Afghanistan have had a long history of tension, and often women there have limited opportunities. According to Bannister, he hopes this program helps them to get to know each other as individuals, to develop "a heart of peace" and to see the world from a new perspective. Women's leadership comes from peace within, confidence and the empowerment to make a difference.

This is, however, not a one-sided program; it is planned to work as an interactive program. Students from South Asia, students at GRCC and community members also have the opportunity to learn about new cultures, thoughts, perspectives and to develop a deeper understanding by spending time and communicating with members of this group.



International Programs Courtesy Photo



Pictures from the past years the women participated.

International Programs Courtesy Photo

THE CURRENT Editor-in-Chief

SMT-134D

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jknowlton@greenriver.edu

Deadline for submitting completed applications is 5 p.m., May 5. Interviews will be held between 3-5 p.m., May 11 in Room 228 of the Marv Nelson Science Learning Center.



Third floor of the Science Center

Nicole Swapp The Current



Sitting area outside Science Center

Nicole Swapp The Current



Hidden obstacle course in the woods

Nicole Swapp The Current



Mt. Rainier overlook

Lindsey Williams The Current

the **S**ECRET and not so secret places to be on campus

Green River is full of secret getaways unknown to many students With a growing campus, it's no wonder the college has immense amount of secrets and surprises

By: Tyler Kion & Nicole Swapp

Green River Community College (GRCC) has a gigantic campus of 28 buildings and one more on the way. It doesn't come as a surprise to find some hidden places around this college. These are almost secret places that have been explored by few and await the company of students to come spend time in their beautiful secret embrace.

In the first door there is a picture of the third floor in the Science Center (SC). This may fall under the category of "not so secret" but to many students it is hidden treasure. Most students have only explored the first and second floor of the SC without any knowledge of the third floor outlook. On the top there is a green house for a science class; but the area is also welcome to other students to sit and enjoy a wonderful view.

The patio area houses about four tables and some chairs along with a bench against the wall to sit on. The view from up top is amazing. Students can overlook the fountain and see the beautiful greenery on campus.

The next secret or perhaps not so secret place is a sitting area outside the Science Center. This area has a small garden with beautiful plants and flowers. During the coming warm months everything comes into bloom and the colors are gorgeous to soak up.

There is no need for headphones here because of the beautiful atmosphere. The trees are green, shimmering in the light and the faint of scent wonderful flowers come through with a gust of wind. It's truly a hidden treasure.

Place number three is behind the Science Math Technology (SMT) and SC buildings. There, in the tangled woods, lays an obstacle course hidden to the outside public. Actually, not fully hidden, but if students aren't paying attention they are guaranteed to walk right by the trail leading into the course.

Not only is this a great place to relax during the summer, but there is also an open hut with a fire pit inside. A great place for friends to meet up and

have a casual lunch, or just a great place to escape from the busy campus life.

Another great feature about this area is that it is used for a PE class taught by Anita and Mike Behrbaum. This is one weekend out of the quarter where students not only get to experience an event of their life time, but also great team building experience.

One of the best experiences anyone can have here is the last hoorah in team building. There is a giant wood wall that everyone has to climb over. As easy as it may sound, it is actually quite challenging because many have to face their fear of heights in order to succeed. The last person left on the other side of the wall also has a difficult time getting over due to the fact that they are the only one left. Once everyone is over however, the experience is something no one can forget.

The last place isn't hidden so well, but perhaps the secret lies in the individual experiences to be discovered, especially by those who have been there at the sunrise or during the sunset. This true treasure is the Mt. Rainier overlook.

Again, this may not be a super secret place Green River has to offer but beauty is just a short walk away on the foundation trail. The Mr. Rainier overlook has a small bench for students to sit on and just enjoy the amazing view on the top of Lea Hill. As sometimes this is a popular place to be, especially when it's sunny, students can also go down a small path just 600 feet and find another view of the mountain.

While it is true that Green River is growing and expanding over time, it is not true that the many secret places on campus will cease. One of the most amazing things about GRCC is the ability to maintain a natural forest look to the college. Not many schools in the area can say that they try to save as many trees as they possibly can before they build a new building; or even have trails for that matter for students to have an experience of a lifetime on. Green River has all the secrets anyone could ask for.

Teacher Spotlight: *David Norberg*

History: boring, stuffy old men droning on and on about endless facts and dates... Not quite. David Norberg, adjunct faculty here at Green River, is just the opposite. His lively personality gives life to a subject so feared by students.

While memorization is still a must, sitting in class listening to the lecture is much more exciting as David Norberg enthusiastically explains the topic he so loves.

Norberg grew up in Tacoma and then went on to the University of Washington, majoring in History. But that's not how it began, "I was never 100% sure teaching would be my career," David Norberg explained with a smile on his face.

While history was always interesting to him, originally Anthropology and Archeology were two interests that caught his attention. But, while attending UW, he realized that it was the history behind those two subjects that really caught his eye.

He went on to receive his Masters from Western Washington University, and that's where teaching really became an option, "I knew at least that I wanted to try teaching," Norberg explains.

He was a TA at Western when GRCC needed someone to teach in their history department, "It just fell into place, really," he laughed.

Looking back, Norberg says he would have gone for a different career and field, and received more money in the process, but education has always been very important to him.

Now, since 2001, Norberg has been an asset to the History department, teaching U.S. History 1 and 2, The Civil War, African American History, and Pacific Northwest History, both on campus and online.

In all his classes he feels it is important to give students a basic overview and foundation. When he started teaching at Green River he had so much information he could share, but soon he realized it was too much just by looking at the faces the students were giving him. Now, his class resides more on the critical thinking and conversational level.

"In some classes I learn more than the students." This is completely fine with him, because it's based on the questions asked by students. It causes him to be up-to-date on different levels and challenges him to constantly learn more so that he can better his students understanding.

While he wants students to understand history he also wants them to discover the truth for themselves. "If [students] leave my class saying 'he said it so it's right,' that's the last thing I want."

Because history encompasses so many different things, it's important for students to grasp the concepts. "I do think knowledge of the past is critical to understanding the present," Norberg explains, "[and] of course, flawed interpretations of the past can cause us to have flawed



perceptions of the past."

Through this, Norberg encourages his students to study history, and understand that it's changing all the time, due to new discoveries and technologies.

While it seems obvious that to history teachers the events of the past are easily grasped, he acknowledges that teachers are learning every

day. In Norberg's class there is an open and friendly environment to students who want to ask questions or divulge deeper into the meaning of a topic.

Luckily for Green River, this history guru isn't leaving anytime soon. "I can't see [myself] giving it up," Norberg said.

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Study abroad program at Green River "opens your eyes" to new worlds

By: **Brittany Bernard**

From the city of lights to the way down under, through the Cherry Blossom forests and over lush green lands, students experience once in a lifetime opportunities. It's been said that it is basic human nature to be curious, to want the experience of new adventures.

That's exactly what the Green River Community College (GRCC) Study Abroad program aims to embrace. For ten weeks GRCC students are able to study and learn about the culture and values of another country, while still earning 15 credits.

Working alongside Green River, the Washington State Community College Consortium Program offers many more opportunities to students who wish to study abroad, adding France, Costa Rica and many more, which combines with GRCC's offer of Japan, Australia, and New Zealand to make a great selection for students to choose from.

The courses are designed to follow the values of the country that they are studying in, so that the individual can come to understand the culture through their own eyes. While it is still an academic setting, teachers and students are given free time to do things like sightseeing, experience traditions, and open their eyes to new perspectives.

While spending half of the time out of the academic environment, inside the classroom teachers help students see what they are supposed to be learning, by having them be part of every aspect of the class.

"Once you start learning about the people you spend every day with, and seeing how they live, it really opens your eyes," says Melissa Lee, 17, a GRCC student. Lee joined a group of students on the Australia-New Zealand trip during Winter Quarter from January through March.

"There is a lot more culture involved there, they are more willing to accept people for who they are; very nice people," says Lee.

"Students always tell me that it was the most amazing experience of their life. They make connections with people there and some travel back and forth to visit," states Cindy Card, Study Abroad Coordinator, who has been working with the program at GRCC for 20 years.

With the ever growing markets and communities, culture can often be overlooked. "The cultures are so different. With this program, you're there long enough to become part of that culture, learn it, and understand it and bring that back with you," explains Card.

Many students get accustomed to regular routines of school and work and don't often get the chance to veer from them. "Life's too short to just stick with something you already know about. I wanted to do something different instead of the usual routine," says Lee.

Whatever the motivation for joining the study abroad program and stepping into a new world, the end result is usually the same. Students often return home with a new outlook and new perspective on culture and values, and not just those from which they came.

"It's almost as if they are more sophisticated," explains Card, "it's very life changing and a once in a lifetime opportunity. Not many people get a chance like this later in life," she adds.

With the Australia-New Zealand travelers back safe and sound, a new trip is already in the works. One thing that can be taught by culture and diversity, "even if you don't believe in something or a concept, you can still respect their beliefs and learn from them," explains Lee.

Although few students do see the trip as more of a vacation rather than a chance to gain something new and exciting, the rewarding experience is enough to attract the traveling bug in the best of us.



Cindy Card, study abroad coordinator, who has worked with the program at Green River for 20 years in her office

Spencer Fasel The Current

Dance connections teaches members a life lesson

By: **Renelyn Cruz & Samantha Shockley**

While the movements and styles may vary, the rhythm of music is the same and the feeling one gets while dancing will linger in whoever performs the steps. Dance Connections is a club discovering that feeling and rhythm. Students are taught the connection of different dances in a diverse world of cultures.

Frances Lindlan, the Graphics Coordinator for Green River Community College, is the creator of the club Dance Connections. She has been instructing dance for six years, and has been with the club since 2005 when it formed.

The passion for dance Lindlan feels is what gives such energy to the group. The goal of the club is "to bring different cultures together not only to learn how to dance, but to learn about the different cultures behind the dances."

It's obvious that Lindlan isn't the only member of the club who's ecstatic to be a part of Dance Connections. Although schedules might be a little crunched, club members are always willing to squeeze in a little time for dance. "They always come back," Lindlan smiles. It's something that lets her know things are going in the right direction.

"I've always been fascinated with dance," says Caitlin Corbett, a 19-year-old GRCC student. She has been a part of Dance Connections since Fall Quarter of 2009. "I like learning about something new." The club is helping

others immerse themselves in different cultures in a fun and interactive art form.

Corbett became interested in the club because of the poster she saw at GRCC introducing the new dance group. The biggest nudge she got to join the club, however, was Frances Lindlan.

"She's really sweet, awesome, and fantastic," Corbett describes smilingly. It was Lindlan's personality that put that really sealed the deal.

While there are many steps to learn, there is also a life lesson that this club has tried to teach its members. "It's taught me just to relax a little more," Corbett explains. There is no need to worry about what others think because everyone is learning something new. It's just another form of fun.

While there's always competition in any field, in Dance Connections it's about giving it you all. "Even if you can't quite get it all the way, you at least tried," Corbett says.

For some it's a way out of the stress of school, to be so engrossed in the dance that classes and homework just fade when you're on the dance floor. For others it's a golden opportunity to learn about the unique dances of the world. "I've always known that dancing is amazing, but [this club] validated that point," Corbett expresses.

Caitlyn Corbett and many other club members agree that, for whomever, Dance Connections is just "a fun opportunity."

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The heartwarming story of Professor Douglas Johnson and his Warren's Sassy

By: Amanda Lockhart

On February 18 at 2 a.m. Green River Community College Professor, Douglas Johnson, finally got to welcome the newest addition to his family; Warren's Sassy Cat.

Warren's Sassy Cat is a beautiful red haired horse who descended from the Secretariat and Alydar, two legendary race horses, and miraculously won Johnson enough money to ease his troubles all in one race.

The event that led to the terrific day was also the terrifying day that Johnson was informed by his wife Mary that their youngest daughter Gretchen may have Beckwith-Widemann Syndrome.

His wife told him that "kids who have it can get liver and lung tumors," through a teary curtain covering her eyes. This is not the kind of news anyone wants to come home to. "It felt like the whole world was shaking," Johnson expressed.

Processing this information was difficult for Johnson so after comforting his wife he went into his office to clear his head and be alone for a while. Here is where visions of "medical bills and costly therapies... danced in my head like devils," Johnson said, without ease.

For almost two years Johnson had been placing small bets on horse races making him enough money to call it a second income. Johnson said he had read a book in 2006 that "detailed a system for wagering on race horses." The internet was his gateway to the world of horse racing, allowing him access to over 300 races a

day.

In his moment of heartache, Johnson made the decision to bet all the winnings he had saved up over the years on one race. The hard part for Johnson was deciding which horse to lay the fate of his possible financial troubles on. Which one can he trust with his daughter's life?

After watching several races and seeing the horses he would have bet on taking the win, Johnson finally found the one. Warren's Sassy Cat was the horse he chose for what he was calling his "last wager." Johnson's mind was filled with worry, playing over and over how many ways this could go wrong.

It was Sassy Cat's second race of her career. She had taken third in her first race after stumbling her way out of the gate. But for this race Sassy Cat got a clean start and managed to keep up with the two horses that were in the lead.

"My girl was flying up behind them," thought Johnson as he watched her pass them to take the lead. For Johnson, that last stretch was long and brutal as he waited for his girl to finally win the race!

Sitting in bewilderment at what had just occurred, Johnson waited for the balance on his account to move from zero dollars to a whopping \$49,830. He had just won the race that he staked all his winnings on, the race that gave him what he would need to pay for any surgeries and therapies his daughter may need. His wife cried with the news of him winning the race, giving them both hope for things to come.

Later, Johnson and his wife were given the wonderful news that their daughter did not



Douglas Johnson and his horse, Warren's Sassy Cat

Amanda Lockhart The Current

have Beckwith-Widemann Syndrome. The joy they felt was indescribable.

A year and half went by as Johnson watched his beloved Sassy Cat get overworked and run into the ground with an "unbelievably grueling race schedule." Johnson decided that he was going to buy Warren's Sassy Cat and keep her as a pleasure horse. As determined as Johnson was to get her, it wasn't going to be even remotely easy to accomplish.

It took six long months to find the horse that had changed Johnson's life with just one race. It took a couple days to haggle with the owners

on a reasonable price, even though Mr. Johnson was willing to pay far more for Sassy Cat than anyone else.

After all the arrangements were made, Johnson was finally able to start looking forward to seeing his Sassy Girl on Valentine's Day of 2010. Unfortunately for him, some mishaps occurred along the way and he was forced to wait another four days before he could have her.

Johnson described his first image of Sassy Cat as her looking "sweaty, dirty, worn, underfed--and hopelessly beautiful." The day finally came that he could call Sassy Cat his own.

Interested in participating?

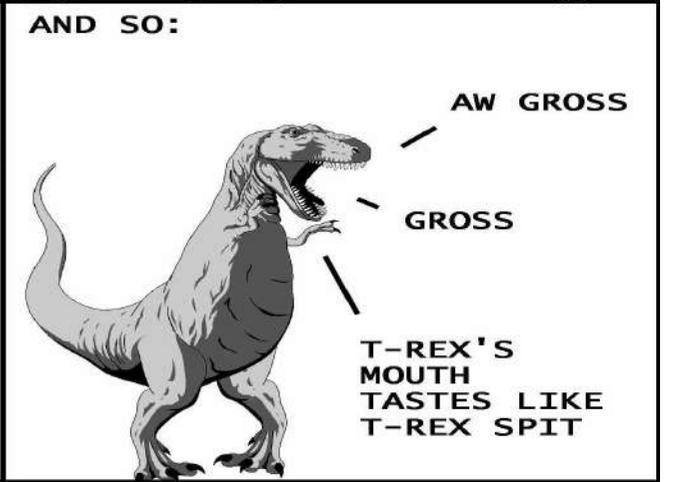
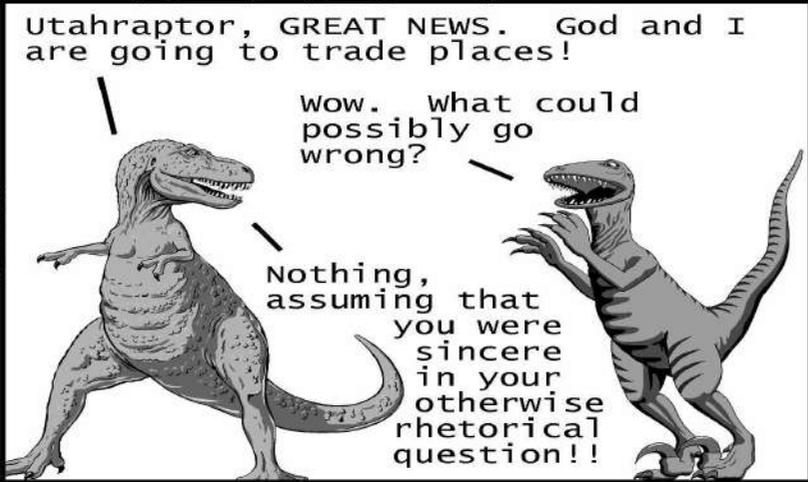
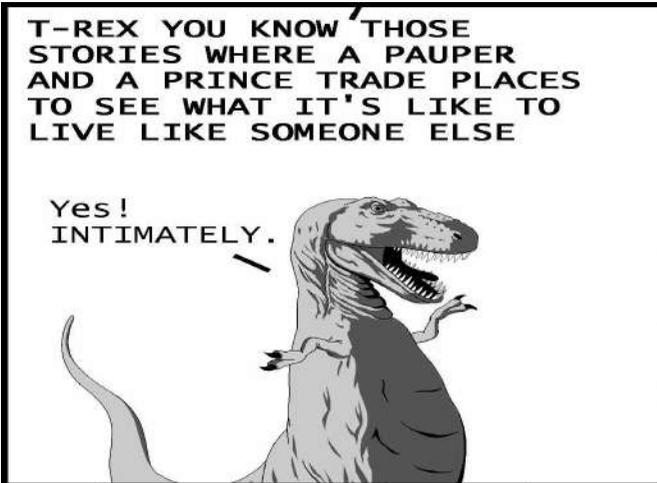
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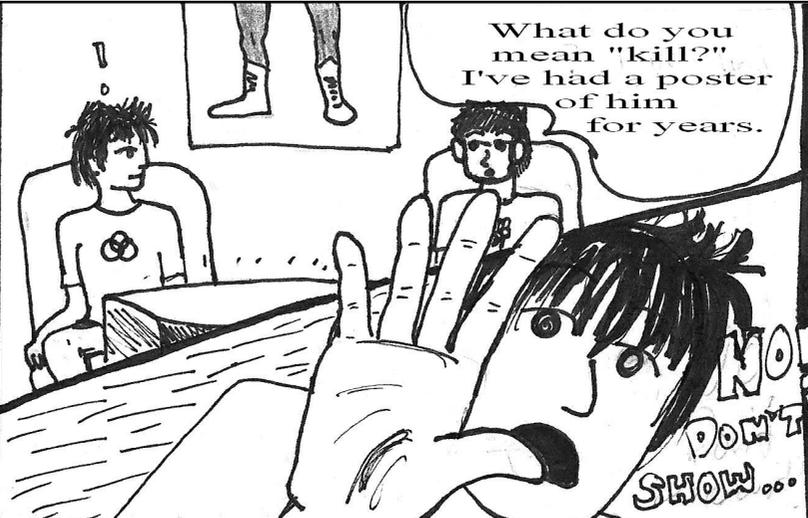
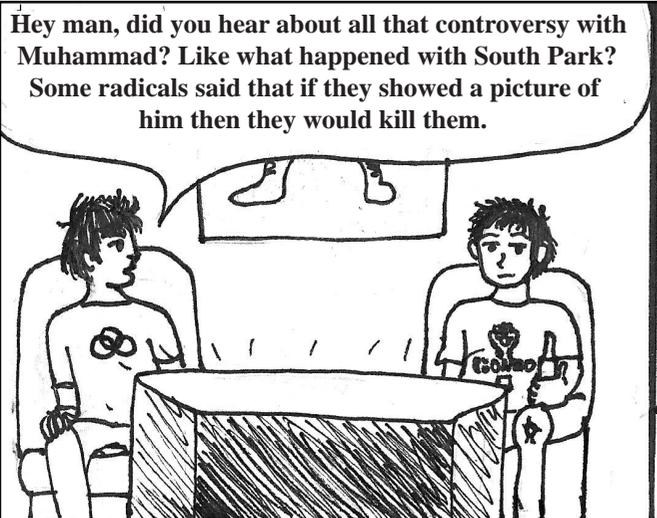
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By: Bailey Jo Josie



Level: Difficult

				6				1
	5	7			3			
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Level: Easy

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Sudoku

FOR ANSWERS VISIT

THECURRENTONLINE.NET

A Seattle original grunge band plays a concert back on their home streets

By: Bailey Jo Josie

Under the guise of the anagram "Nudedrag-on", the band Soundgarden made their first public concert this last weekend since their 1997 breakup on Friday, April 16 at 10 p.m. To a roaring crowd of about 1000 fans, the band came out on stage and opened with the classic "Spoonman" from the album "Superunknown", and continued on for a 90 minute set, ending with a Doors cover.

Though they did not play the radio hit "Black Hole Sun" (which Frontman Chris Cornell has cited as his favorite song of theirs) they didn't disappoint a single soul in that audience. Ripping into "Spoonman", the guitar and drums were beyond perfect and sounded like any live version the band may have played back in the day. The only song that seems to have people scratching their heads over is the band's decision to cover the Doors' song, "Waiting For The Sun" from the album, "Morrison Hotel".

Actually, anyone could say this about the rest of the set list. Guitarist Kim Thayil, bassist Ben Shepherd, and drummer Matt Cameron (who has been keeping busy playing with Pearl Jam)

rampaged on without falter or fear, ripping through every song as if there was never a thirteen year hiatus or even a whisper of a falling out.

As for Cornell, who has had success as a solo artist and singer of the epic 90's rock hybrid Audioslave (with members of Rage Against The Machine), vocals were steadfast and powerful as he is one of the best vocalists of the last 20 years. Even in a live show, his range, though rough at times, is undeniably a juggernaut of sound that anyone could mistake for a physical force. There is a reason Soundgarden is called the Led Zeppelin of the Grunge Era and with this small gig, 1,000 people were reminded why.

Being one of the Big Four of the Seattle Grunge bands of the 90's (the others being Pearl Jam, Nirvana, and Alice In Chains), Soundgarden was the only band to break up and go their separate ways, while Pearl Jam is still going strong, Nirvana and Alice In Chains have had significant loss with the deaths of Nirvana guitarist and singer Kurt Cobain and Alice In Chains' singer Layne Staley (though AIC have found a new singer and released a new album last year).

News of the concert broke out on the inter-



net on Thursday, April 15. The only thing people knew was that the show was going to be at the Showbox in Seattle and that it was the next night on April 16. When tickets went on sale on Friday morning, they sold out within minutes.

Most people weren't lucky enough to get a chance to go. Matt Zykowski said, "I've been wanting to see them since I've heard of them and I was really bummed I didn't get a chance

to see them, I wish I would've heard about it sooner."

Rumors about the band getting back together have been in the news for the past few months and the show on April 16 is reportedly a public band practice for Soundgarden's co-headlining gig at this year's Lollapalooza festival with Lady Gaga and Green Day. There are rumors of a summer tour.

Cinco de Mayo celebrated on campus

By: Neil Solano

The Mexican holiday known as Cinco de Mayo will take place at the Lindbloom Student Center on the fifth of May and will be hosted by the students of the Latino Student Union (LSU).

Music, food and many Mexican traditions will take place during the event in honor of the holiday, but one thing everyone will be looking forward to seeing is the many traditional dances that will be performed on stage on May 5.

Last year LSU, previously known as M.E.Ch.A (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan), hosted the event for the first time. Many students, parents and faculty showed up with all intentions of having a fun time. Well over a hundred people celebrated on campus. After the major success last year, LSU will try to double the attendance, performances and enjoyment.

Sergio Vazquez, instructor and lead of the GRCC Latin Rhythm Club, is pushing to accomplish that goal after spending countless hours on choreographing the dances taking place on the stage. Vazquez is well known for the performances he constructs for GRCC and local community events.

A few favorite dance styles from last Cinco de Mayo include Cumbia, Reggaeton, Duranguense and Folkloric. Vazquez assures dance enthusiasts that the same styles will return this year with twice the dancers to make sure all dances look professional.

Every Friday from 12 to five p.m. Vazquez and the rest of LSU get together and practice on the same stage they will perform at on May

5. Everyone works hard to nail each step while retaining the fun atmosphere that motivates the dancers.

Lucrecia Lopez, member of the Latin Rhythm Club and female lead dancer for the event, had plenty to say of the group's teamwork.

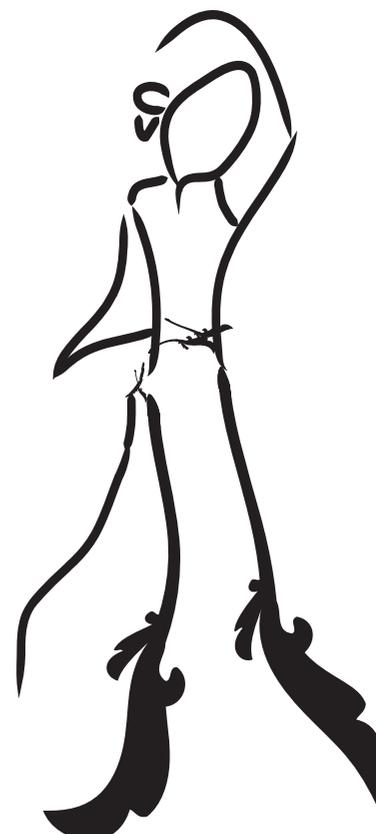
"It's easy to teach the dancers when they pay attention so well. When Sergio or I aren't there to help one of them with the steps, the other dancers don't hesitate to assist them," Lopez said.

LSU isn't just relying on practice to make the performances professional. They are also preparing themselves mentally and getting rid of pre-performance jitters. LSU recently performed in a Kent Meridian High School culture assembly where they collaborated with the dancers from the high school.

Darla Jara, the Folkloric instructor for the LSU dancers, was there to instruct the high school students. Jara also performed a Folkloric dance for GRCC a month ago at the cafeteria along with performances by the step team. She commented on the endless events that keep coming her way.

"Teaching students either here at GRCC or anywhere else is difficult if we don't practice. But because I get to work with great students, it's easy. I love teaching it which also helps a lot," Jara said.

The hard work and dedication put together for this year will undoubtedly be seen on stage. Everyone is welcome to join the fun and get a little lesson on the famous Mexican holiday.



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On the *Move*

SP2860

Old vinyl records make a comeback over ever popular CDs

By: Mariah Craven

Remember the feeling of toting a cassette player around? It was that heavy plastic brick carried around in hands and pockets everywhere, tinkering until the hushed static begged the tape to be flipped.

Cassette tapes have nearly gone extinct in this digital age, and CDs are beginning to display symptoms that suggest they'll undergo the same fate soon. Between 1887 and 2009, the world of recorded-music has seen mind-blowing breakthroughs, each one altering the way our ears nourish our soul forever.

In 1887, Emile Berliner was first to patent a new form of recording sound, using flat discs rather than cylinders.

Since then the industry has exploded. In today's culture, the vast reaches of the musical universe are accessed with the click of a mouse.

What is this new wave of Internet streaming, and downloading doing to the music? Since Mp3s came out in 1999, it's clear they take the cake when it comes to listening devices. The appeal is in its ability to hold entire music collections and videos within a tiny portable square that you can conveniently take everywhere.

One of the consequences of easier access is the decline of album sales. Another, more surprising one is that, despite the boom in digital recording, Vinyl has made a major comeback in sales. Between 2006 and 2007, CD sales fell 17 percent while sales of LPs rose 36 percent.

The renewed hype for the classic crackle of vintage is promising, but it isn't enough to save the music industry.

As of 2009, CD sales have dropped 54.6 percent. Digital sales are rising steadily, but not quick enough to make up for the billions lost in CDs. Vinyl only makes up for a small percentage of album sales. The Seattle Weekly reported that "of the 374 million or so albums sold across the country last year, just 2.5 million—not even 1 percent—were vinyl." The rest of the sales are CDs and Mp3s.

Since the Internet is fast paced and accessible, artists increase playtime and promotion. This forces new musicians to be creative, each competing to stick out among numerous pages of up and comers.

Before, to discover new bands, one had to venture to shows, buy albums, or share mixes of the latest sounds. Now, it's possible to listen to hundreds of bands and obtain numerous albums without leaving the house or paying a cent.

"Walkmans are a pain in the ass and it's easier to steal Mp3s than CDs," jokes KGRG DJ Christopher Leir.

"It's cheap and I'm poor. Twelve bucks for a CD or a download for free...I'll go for free," he adds.

Virtually any album or song is available online and downloaded at the unbeatable price of... nothing.

It's easy to overlook the harm caused by pirating music, but when albums aren't selling, everything is affected, including the artist. With so many people "file sharing" and pirating, the industry takes a heavy hit.

The nodding of your head is the result of the hard work of an artist who deserves support. Next time cravings to feed starving ears comes around, think of who could be hurting before reaching for free food.

Easily damaged, costly, and cumbersome, there is little love for CDs, tapes, and many dismiss vinyl. However, all these dissipating mediums have one thing in common; they are fun to have. The little booklets of information, album art, originals, and pictures are what make obtaining music fun, something that gets lost in



Kerry Kralovic The Current

high-speed transfers.

Elise Manning, the music director at KGRG, may use her Mp3 player most days but she still keeps her vinyl records spinning.

Like many of us who grew up with LPs, Manning's love for vinyl records are deep-rooted. Manning noticed the popularity shift from CDs to vinyl records, and thinks the change is due to the cool image records have developed while in hiding.

"People think it's awesome to collect vinyl because they're not used in the general population anymore," says Manning.

The importance of music in a physical form is vital. The act of putting a record on or flipping a

tape is nostalgic. They are movements our fingers will always remember. Much like receiving a handwritten love letter versus an e-mail, when that special-someone makes you a mixed tape or CD, it gives you the fuzzies knowing they did more than click and drag things onto your iPod.

The growth in technology is exciting, but watching the fade of such familiar devices is heartbreaking. Nevertheless, the end is not imminent, with vinyl's resurgence there is still hope for CDs, tapes, and other dissipating forms of the recorded-music business.

It's also a hope for today's artists, industry and those of us who aren't ready to let go of the past.

Pacman is Picasso; true story

By: Alexander Bevier

It's funny that I write a column about video games in the Arts and Entertainment section of a newspaper when not everybody agrees that video games are art. When Richard Ebert blogged on April 16 stating, "Games can never be art," I almost cringed that this argument continues. This debate should have ended around the same time parents realized that playing games won't make their children serial killers - unless they did make you child a serial killer. In which case, I am so sorry.

Ebert has always held an understandable argument stating that games aren't art. He holds that video games have no sense of authorial control. When playing Super Mario Bros., players can run through the game and defeat King Koopa in twenty minutes. They could also simply push the A button to jump until time runs out. These two completely different experiences make video games stand out against other artistic mediums. "Gone with the Wind" is the exact same film every time you watch it.

Game Prose

Whenever I am asked whether I think video games are art, my response is usually along the lines of what isn't? What exactly is art and what isn't? It's a hard question. Over the years, I have spent a lot of time trying to figure out such a topic. If "Citizen Kane" is art, why isn't Snakes on a Plane? Both are films, but both have different purposes. Kane explores cinematic themes, and the latter entertains and earns money. Is art in the creative process and not in the actual product? Development or creative intent seldom defines the final product.

Think about your favorite works of art. Think about what you liked. Think of what you didn't. How does this affect the piece as a work of art? Let's say your best friend disagrees about everything you just thought. They think that the piece is horrible and ought to burn out of existence. Does this make the piece a better or worse piece of art?

I have a theory that art is made in the discussion of product. It is in interpreting the themes and techniques used to create something that we can call something art. The fact that video games are even in question over their artistic merits proves that they hold persuasive importance. By this definition, everything is art. From the new Pepsi logo to the latest Batman comic, the only important is the discussion and interpretation following creation. A good critic never dismisses anything.

The biggest disadvantage games have against books, photography, or film, however, is that they are still a young medium. The first video game was made in 1958, and the first commercially available game came out in 1972. Film has been around for over one-hundred years. Critics have had a hundred years to come up with ways to discuss film. We're still learning how to talk about games. It's why columns about video games are important.

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Green River fastpitch teams' big jump

By: Sean Kramer

What a difference just a few years can make for a team. Three years ago the Gator fastpitch program finished off a two year run in which the team had only a single victory.

In 2010, the Gators instead are very close to securing a second consecutive berth in the NWAACC playoffs.

The Gators can accomplish this by nabbing one of the top four spots in the NWAACC West. As of the weekend action on April 24th, the team is sitting at 8-7 and in fourth place in league play with about three weeks left, and a near five game lead over the fifth place team, Grays Harbor.

However, just being playoff bound won't be enough to satisfy what head coach Scott Dillinger envisions for his program. Throughout the last three years under Dillinger, the program has been on a steady course of improvement, and with those improvements, the expectations also rise.

"We thought we had a shot at the division," said Coach Scott Dillinger of his team's potential to win the NWAACC West this year. "But we expected to make a big jump this year."

"We felt that if we played our cards right we could compete with Pierce," Dillinger said. "But in the long haul their depth will get us. Realistically, it's a battle for second."

On the diamond, the Gators have dropped their last three in contests against Pierce and South Puget Sound, which has slid the team back to fourth. Along with South Puget Sound, the Gators are also battling Centralia for the second place spot behind Pierce, which matters for playoff seeding come time for NWAACCs. Still, the Gators have seven remaining games down the stretch against the three teams ahead of them, so there could be major standings shake ups as May approaches.

Of course, it wouldn't be a usual year for Dillinger if the team didn't have adversity to deal with. After the trip, the team lost three girls due to grades, forcing him to shuffle up the roster even more. Another problem is that the team only had two key players from the year before.

Pitcher and Infielder Caitlyn Dougan is the

main returner, whose role has been expanded from being the horse of the rotation last year, to having to play the field a lot more while still playing her part in a much deeper rotation.

Duel sport athletes Jordan Tamblyn and Samantha Potts, who also star in Volleyball at Green River, are also Sophomores that have provided the Gators with some depth.

Still, the Gators have been infused with a talented freshman class that have the Gators gunning for an even better finish than they had last year.

Freshman standouts Kayla Evans and Alexa Park have headlined the rotation, which has been the strength of the team thus far. They've also provided the team with big bats, leading the Gators in homers and both hitting over .300.

The Gators also got a boost this season with the addition of NWAACC veteran Carrie Crookshank. The former All-NWAACC pitcher at Highline came to Green River last year in the Spring, but was added to the fold this season, and she has provided a huge boost as one of the few Sophomores on the team.

Despite the adversity, the results thus far this season seem to be a night and day difference in the program from when Dillinger got here to the years before he came in.

"When I was at Highline, we'd get in trouble if anybody scored on us," said Carrie Crookshank of the team she played on before she got to Green River. "Now that I'm here, and there's better coaching, better girls and a better skill level on this team, we [too] get in trouble if anybody scored on us. It's improved dramatically."

Last season, the Gators got over a big bump when they made their first playoff appearance since 2005, but were knocked out in the opening round of NWAACCs to Spokane. The hope this year is that the progress will continue.

"Last year was a trial for us to get experience in the NWAACC tournament," said Caitlyn Dougan about the team's run last year. "I believe this year we can go much farther."

Should the Gators make their return to the playoffs, they'll match up against an opponent from the NWAACC South, which includes the defending champion Mt. Hood.

Women's golf team wins Wenatchee league match

By: Curtis Rogers

The Green River men's and women's golf teams traveled to Wenatchee on April 11-12 for their first tournament in nearly six months, the Wenatchee League Match at Highlander Golf Club.

The ladies fared very well despite the lengthy amount of time off as they were able to take home first place overall in the tournament with a slim two stroke victory over Spokane Community College.

A key factor in the result of the lady Gators was their overall quality – almost all of the golfers managed to place in the top 10 and their lowest ranking was 11th place. Sophomore Caral Martinson led the way by finishing in a tie for first place with a first round score of 82 and a final round score of 78.

Sophomore Annie Viola had a very solid weekend on the course as well. She came away with a third place finish, shooting a first round score of 83 and a final round score of 78, only one shot behind her teammate Martinson and freshman Alexa Bell of Spokane.

Courtney Tappan rounded out the solid performances by the Lady Gators with an 11th place finish and a final score of 171, just 11 shots behind the lead.

Viola and Tappan both showed improvement – both golfers improved their scores during the tournament. Viola really stepped her game up and finished 20 shots better than her first go-around back in September. Tappan also proved that she is a force to be reckoned with, as she was consistent

even after a long break and scored two strokes better than her previous score of 173.

Coming off of a solid fifth place finish in the first tournament of the season back in September, the men's squad was looking to continue their momentum into the Wenatchee League Match.

Unfortunately, the men's team was unable to fare as well during the tournament, and with only two golfers competing in the tournament, the Gators were ineligible for the overall team standings and received an automatic last place.

After the first round it looked as if freshman Jeremy Johnson was going to have an outside shot at contending for the lead but slipped up in the final round and ended up in 31st place, 20 strokes behind the winner, sophomore Kevin Shewfelt of Bellevue College.

Johnson has shown a fairly solid level of consistency this season as his previous finish was 25th place in the season's first tournament.

Freshman Chris Sveda rebounded from a rough first round of 89 and with a final round score of 83 he pushed himself into 47th place, 9 rankings higher than his 56th place finish in the first tournament of the season.

Both teams head to Spokane for their next match of the season during the weekend of April 25-26. This next tournament is the halfway point of the season for each team as this will be the third tournament for each team.

With the Southwest Oregon Invitational and the NWAACC championship right around the corner the Gators will be looking to come out swinging during the final matches of the regular season.

4A baseball too close to call for 2010 state championship

By: Ryan Cleland

Green River is home to many Running start Students. These students represent high schools within the area, all trying to push for the baseball State championship in 2010.

The 2010 south Puget 4A north baseball league is well under way this season. With Tahoma winning 3 of the last 4 SPSL titles, they look to make a run once again this year with Kentwood and Kentlake, to fight for the top spot. But don't count out under the radar schools such as Federal Way or Thomas Jefferson.

With high school baseball well under way, some of the local high school teams are off to super starts. With a Tahoma club looking to repeat their outstanding performance last year, when they went 15-1, they are looking to make yet another push for state. Led by stars such as Jared Casper and Taylor Smart, the Tahoma Bears have a serious shot at the title.

Kentlake, also a school looking to make it to state, went 10-6 last year, and they're doing whatever they can to push their way into the top this year. Led by dual ace pitchers Zach Wright and Doug Christie, the Falcons look to be strong contenders in the post season. Wright, with a fastball tapping out in the high-80's on the radar gun, will be attending the University of Washington with Christie next year.

Another school looking to maintain their form from a stellar '09 season is Kentwood. Last year the Kentwood Conquerors went 14-2, and are looking to improve on that mark here in 2010, where they're considered to be real contenders for the state championship. Kentwood's promising season is being led by Austin Voth, a senior who will also be attending the University of Washington next year. Voth, one of the top pitchers in the division, has hit 90 on the radar gun many times.

Among other schools looking to make a run for the title are Federal Way and Thomas Jefferson (TJ), with big time future stars in Jeff



A match between Kentwood and Kentlake, two competitors for state

Kerry Kralovic The Current

Brigham at TJ, and new star Nick Tanielu at Federal Way. With guys like these on the rosters of these two teams, no one can truly be counted out of the race.

In a league filled with teams ready to blow

up and win, they need all the fan support they can get. So be sure to go to your local High School and see a baseball game packed with action. You can watch the MLB any day. These kids are the future of baseball.

The MLB season is here

By: Andrew Honea

The Major League Baseball (MLB) season is back and it has swung into full force in no time. We have the usual teams winning games, along with some other teams that are doing better than normal.

Some teams are on tremendous hot streaks while others just can't seem to get it going. 2010 proves to be an interesting year in Major League Baseball. While some rookies aren't hesitating in the least bit while making their entrance into the big league, other veterans are looking to rediscover their stroke before they are forced to call it quits.

Honea's House

2010 has already proven to be an interesting year when you look at pitching. One occurrence came with Ubaldo Jimenez, a highly underrated starting pitcher at times, from the Colorado Rockies. A mere two weeks into the start of the season the inconsistent pitcher found himself pitching a no-hitter against the also inconsistent Atlanta Braves. This could possibly make his coach nervous, due to the superstition that pitchers sometimes "drop off the map", after pitching a no-no or perfect game. This feat is definitely an impressive performance but if this superstition ends up being reality, the Colorado Rockies could find themselves down one very impressive starting pitcher.

Another great story that has taken no time taking flight in the 2010 MLB season is Jason Heyward, a 20 year old outfielder for the Atlanta Braves. All eyes have been on Heyward since the start of spring training and Heyward did not disappoint. In his first major league at-bat, Heyward crushed a homerun to right field. Heyward has done a lot to keep his reputation, and has turned into a key for the clutch Atlanta Braves team. With a walk-off RBI hit in the books, Heyward also finds himself as a contender for most RBIs in the majors, and a definite great choice for rookie of the year.

Last year, Zack Greinke is a name that came up constantly in the big leagues up until he received the 2009 AL Cy Young Award. Greinke won the award going 16-8 with a 2.16 era in 33 starts. Many believe that Greinke would have hit the 20 win mark if not for a lack of run support by the underachieving Kansas City Royals offense. That has proved to be a similar story for KC in the 2010 season as well, as Greinke has started out 0-2, in 4 starts. This disappointing start has come with a 3.28 era, which definitely isn't the low point of his season thus far.

As I mentioned before, 2010 will be another great year for baseball fans. As each year goes by, a new generation inches closer in the MLB? Are we making our way away from our Chipper's and Jeter's into a new brand of baseball? Only time will tell until this question is answered, but one thing is for sure. Doors will only continue to open for the younger kids, but it is their choice whether they want to take this opportunity by the horns and go with it.

Athlete Spotlight: Chris Sveda - men's golf

By: Daniel Duffy

Golf was known to bring happiness to this country through the Great Depression. When everyone thought nothing was ever going to change and get better, they looked at golf as the one thing they could go play or watch that would help them relieve their stress. The quietness and the peacefulness that golf made them feel just let them sit back and enjoy the beautiful scenery. But for Chris Sveda, that is about as far from reality as it can get.

It all started out 6 years ago when his dad gave him a cheap set of golf clubs. After picking them up and giving them a few swings, he knew he loved and had a special gift for this sport. Since then, Sveda has evolved into a star on the Green River Community College (GRCC) golf team.

Though he has played a total of six years, only four of those years were spent playing competitively. He started out at Tahoma High School, just about 10 to 15 minutes away from GRCC. After deciding to try out for the Tahoma Bears Golf team, he secured a spot on JV. In the next two years at Tahoma, he moved up to the Varsity team where

he would remain the rest of his high school career.

Many different people have influenced Sveda's career, but when asked who his biggest influence on his golf career was, Sveda answered Tiger Woods.

"His life story and how he had a strong emotion when his dad died. His passion and love for the game, makes me interested and has a strong influence on me."

Sveda was not only a golfer but participated in many other sports like Basketball, Track, Football, and Baseball. The sport that he chose to focus on was golf because he saw the technicality that was involved in the sport. He also saw that you need patience in order to play to the best of your ability. This uniqueness to the sport intrigued him.

This season for the Gators has started out great. "The season is going well, the girls took 1st place in our first tournament and we have a couple additions to our [men's] golf team and we're going to make a strong impact on future tournaments."

When the time comes that Sveda has to leave Green River, he plans to go to University of Washington in Tacoma and put the credits he has earned at Green River to use.



Andrew Honea The Current

Green River teachers strum & sing away in-service day

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia

A bespectacled Ken Marr gently taps his brown new balance shoes in time to guitar strumming. Numerous chords echo across the hall. A curious venue, the guest will be greeted at the door of two deadhead skeletons holding signs with two self-incriminating jokes, "what did the deadhead say when he ran out of pot? What do you call a deadhead that just broke up with his girlfriend?"

Among the workshops during in-service day of April 20, there was a jam session from 10:15-11:30 hosted by chemistry teacher, Marr.

John Avery enters with a smile on his face, guitar in hand. He is followed by physics instructor Ajay Narayanan. "I only come to listen," he started off saying. Later though, he would be caught singing songs from The Beatles.

When others had asked if she was going to attend the critical thinking workshop, she refused. "I'm going to live my passion. I'm going to sing, even if I can't," he said.

Avery, in black leather coat offers agreement. "Yeah, might as well have some fun." He was asked by Roland Vieira, English instructor, if he was a jazz player as Avery began to play. Avery replied that he was just strumming.

In slightly more formal attire a green button up shirt and slacks, Frank Primiani a business administration teacher, enters.

There is small talk about learning Italian through a Danish film where most everyone is dysfunctional. The staff laughs.

Keeping the lighthearted introductions

Marr begins the first song with "I just don't look good naked any more."

Relaxed and in good humor the four players move to a Hawaiian song selected by Vieira. Translated the song is entitled, "I really care about you, but I have to find my own way". Vieira had a personal slant to the song. His father grew up on the main island of Hawaii. He left to study on the mainland, his sister remained. He envisions the song directed from his father to his sister.

The third song was a 60's classic "A Summer Song" by Chad and Jeremy. At this point the players began to play a tad timidly, but once the music connected with the chords, they loosened up. Several voices joined in. When Marr added a beat he referred to another musician. "How can you put in an extra beat," he chuckled and replied to his own query "Because Kenny can." Marr would then explain a few more complicated chords.

"We kind of rock out here," he says with a guitar pick plucking away.

Owl City's "Fireflies" was brought in by Primiani and the group tried to play an acoustic version of the lyrics. Spending several minutes and still not getting it quite right in the chorus Marr shook his head slightly and laughed it off relating how much time is involved in getting a sound just right.

"I could waste a night, 365 days a year learning songs," Marr said.

"Yeah and those paper are still not graded," Avery added.

Reverting back to the classics the group played "House of the Rising Sun." Towards the end, Marr's broken fingernail he had held together by superglue was irritating him yet he continued to strum away.

The session had a new energy when they finished with The Beatles. Narayanan added volume to his voice with "Norwegian Wood" and then they moved on to "Eight Days a Week". Kathryn Hoop, geology instructor, quietly sat back with papers in hand. She admitted to grading when she wasn't supposed to, but sang along with the room.

The jam session closed with "From Me to You."

Sad to leave but happy to have spent their workshop time with fellow musical enthusiasts, the room was cleared for lunch and the tables returned to their intended place.