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# New Shakespeare club forms at Green River

By: Ethan Seo

Great people, interesting discussions, and cheerful voices; Green River Community College (GRCC) students can find all those things in their brand new 'Shakespeare Club.' Shakespeare Club meets every Thursday at 2:00pm in SS 1. Officially, meetings go for an hour but usually members end up staying longer; however, don't feel pressured about the extended time, because students feel free to leave the club whenever they want or need to.

Shakespeare club starts with bright greetings; every club members comes off as both friendly and welcoming. In this cheerful mood members began their meetings. First they read a part of the play, currently 'The Winters Tale,' and then discuss the phrase or scene they just read. Also they share opinion and personal experiences that relate to the text. They divided parts amongst the members to read the play through its characters; some people, who do not have a part to read at the time, just seem to close their eyes and feel the Shakespearean story.

Jenifer Locke Whetham, an instructor in English department, is the advisor for the Shakespeare Club. Whetham teaches Shakespeare, the Poetics of Rap and Hip Hop, Creative Writing, English 101, and English 126 at Green River. According to Whetham, Shakespeare club started Thursday, January 7. She started the club so students who were passionate about Shakespeare could continue the work they had begun in class. "My motive was mostly selfish: I learn plays the best when I get to share them with students," she said.

Whetham says that she thinks a quarter is too limited in terms of how much she can teach and how much student can learn. This fall quarter Whetham's Shakespeare class had a dynamic and amazing group of students, they were supposed to read 'A Winter's Tale,' but ran out of time. So Whetham wanted another place to work on this text, as well as others, with her students, both current and former; she knew there were students from her Shakespeare class both the current and previously classes, as well as some of her English 126 students were interested in the club. Unexpectedly, when she started Shakespeare club, she found other students who had not taken any class of hers who still wanted to read and discuss Shakespeare. "I'm delighted," Whetham exclaimed.

Currently Shakespeare club has about 16 to 20 people who show up consistently. About seventeen students showed up for meeting on February 11, 2010 including the instructor. Shakespeare club is not an official club yet, but they are in the process of filling out the paperwork to become one..

The play they are reading right now is Shakespeare's "A Winter's Tale," edited by Marto DiGargi and next up will be "Othello," by Shakespeare. Sheryl Ludgren, one of the members of 'Shakespeare Club,' said, "People can join the Shakespeare club real easy, all they need to do is just show up for the club meeting. I like this club a lot." According to Whetham, there are no requirements for Shakespeare club. If students want to join Shakespeare club, then just contact Jenifer Whetham (jwhetham@greenriver.edu) for a copy of what they are reading.

Whem said, "The purpose of Shakespeare club is having "Shakespeareances" sublime moments with Bard and his plays and poems. She recommends this club to student who long for such Shakespeareances. If someone is interested in Shakespeare they should not hesitate to come in and join in a meeting of the club. 'Shakespeare Club' will provide many more interesting and fun experiences with Shakespeare and members can reach greater insight with others than reading Shakespeare by themselves.



Ethan Seo/The Current  
Club Advisor Jen Whetham discusses 'A Winter's Tale' with Nick Johnson, a club member.

## Getting to know you: Chris Bradley



Ethan Seo/The Current  
Smiling for the camera.

By: Ethan Seo

Chris Bradley, a 20-year-old Green River Community College (GRCC) student, is a cancer survivor. Bradley got cancer for a month, but now he is just an average student attending college.

Christmas Day, 2002, when Bradley was only 13, he awoke to a horrible headache. He said, "At that day I had a really bad headache which made me throw up." his parents took him to different doctors and every doctor said it probably just a migraine. So the young Bradley and his family went back to their house with some strong pain killer that doctor gave them. However, the pills didn't work, so Bradley visited his family doctor. She agreed with the other doctors' prescription, but she suggested C.T scan just in case. In the picture provided by the C.T scan, there was a pecan size tumor in the pineal which is in the dead center of the brain.



Ethan Seo/The Current  
Striking a pose while being interviewed by The Current.

Bradley went to most of Tacoma's hospitals, but no one seemed to want to handle his illness. Finally, he found a hospital in Seattle that could help; Seattle Children's hospital said, "We cannot do surgery because of location of the tumor, you would have an 85 percent chance of dying."

So the doctor just released the brain fluid and sent him back. After a week, Bradley became unresponsive and his tumor got bigger, growing from the size of a pecan to something closer to a soft ball.

When Bradley went to the Mary Bridge hospital in Tacoma, they had to fly him to Seattle Children's hospital. As soon as he arrived, doctors rushed him into surgery. It took twelve to fourteen hours to remove Bradley's tumor.

The surgery was successful, but Bradley needed to learn how to walk and talk again. So he went to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for healing. He also needed to go for speech therapy, occu-



Ethan Seo/The Current  
Chris Bradley hanging out in the main dining area.

pational therapy, physical therapy, art therapy, and school therapy. After he got through all the care system, Bradley was able to go back to his middle school.

School wanted to put him into the special aid, but he did not let them. "Ironically before I got cancer my grades were straight D's, but after I won the battle with cancer my grades averaged as an A," explained Bradley. He kept working hard and came to GRCC.

The reason Bradley came to Green River is, he wants to be a physical therapy assistant at the children's hospital and Green River is the only place which that offers such a program. Bradley wants to work there, because we wants to pay them back for saving his life.

Later he added, "I had surgery by top a neurosurgeon, but even he thought that I wouldn't be able to make it, but I did make it. However, if there was no help from God I would not be here at Green River right now."

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I'm writing this in concern of the recent controversy of the satire piece written by Mr. Remco Zwetsloot. At the Q&A [referring to the "Queer and Allies at Green River Community College" Facebook page] group on Facebook one person used harsh words to discredit the piece as a "hate article" of gays and the author as "uneducated in diversity." I know this not to be the case. I am myself gay and found the article to be both poignant and clear in its message.

Mr. Zwetsloot uses contrast to show the hypocrisy of given gender structures in our society. It is a complex problem that needs to be addressed both in serious discussion and by ridicule. Mr. Zwetsloot clearly points out this problem with maturity beyond his years (which also was attacked in the Facebook discussion). As a proud gay man I just want to say that the fight for equality needs more people like Remco in the fight towards gender and sexual equality.

By: Jon Eriksson

Dear Editor,

We, the students and faculty of the Natural Resources Program at Green River Community College, are deeply disturbed by the hostile attitude toward homosexuals expressed in the recent Campus Newspaper article, "Fairy epidemic engrosses and corrupts the innocence of Americans." We take seriously the nondiscrimination policy of our program and the college at large. Discrimination against any individual or group based on race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, religion, or disability is unacceptable and should not be tolerated. Last week's article represents a blatant violation of our college's commitment to respect all people, notwithstanding the author's lame attempt at satire.

Moreover, we take particular offense that the article implicated, by reference, the Natural Resources Program. We take pride in the strength and accomplishments of our program and refuse to be subjected to false stereotypes. We expect our college newspaper to be capable of publishing a vast range of conflicting viewpoints without entrenching false stereotypes and hostile attitudes toward a particular group. We hope and expect our college to uphold its policy of preventing and stopping, including through disciplinary action where appropriate, acts of discrimination on our campus.

By: The students and faculty of the Natural Resources Program

Dear Editor,

Upon reading the February 5th edition of the paper, I couldn't help but come across a particular article in the Satire section. The article was called "Fairy epidemic engrosses and corrupts the innocence of Americans." I know that it is a Satire piece and it [was] meant to be a joke, however, I found that the article was very offending and should not have been published.

The article is basically talking about how being gay is an epidemic in the country and how gays should be avoided at all costs. It also went on to talk about how being gay was a "malicious pandemic" and that there were still "real men alive" (basically asserting that gay men aren't real men). There are other offensive points in the article, but I will not take the time to point them out.

What I want to stress to the newspaper staff (editors mainly, but also reporters) is that gay and lesbians do not deserve to be seen like this. While I am straight myself, I have a gay friend who was deeply offended by the article. He felt that it was very hurtful. Not all gays and lesbians act like the way they are portrayed.

The article portrays them as people who should be shut in the closet and not see the light of day. It makes them sound abnormal, when in reality they are human beings who deserve dignity. Even if they act different from other people, they deserve to have respect and not be made to feel offended. Some of them get enough crap as it is for being gay; my friend told me that another gay person he knew got beat up after the article came out [there is as of yet no evidence to support this claim or that the alleged event is related in any way]. It is not funny to joke about gay people like this.

I am aware that there was a meeting held about this article and that the article wasn't meant to attack gays and lesbians, but others who act like them. I understand that, but the article didn't show that, at least not to me. It makes it sound like being gay is a choice, when oftentimes it isn't. Why would someone choose to be ridiculed? These people are being true to themselves. I grew up in a Christian home, but I do not hate gay people and do not like to hear them poked fun at, because it's not nice; they are human beings after all, who have feelings.

I heard the paper got pulled after the meeting [this rumor is false], and I'm glad to hear that, since it offended so many people, however I hope this kind of issue never happens again. It's one thing to poke fun at Paris Hilton, but another thing to make fun of an entire group of people.

Thank you for listening to my opinion/side of the story.

By: Jaclyn Shorter

Dear Editor,

Your article on "Unemployment, welfare, and a poor America" did nothing to convince me. You lacked evidence to support your claims. My guess is you are young, lacking life experience. Try and raise family flipping burgers. Unemployment Insurance helps to fill the gap for Americans like my Dad who [by] no fault of his own lost his 100k job. He wants to go back to work, flipping burgers is not the answer.

By: Fred Kravich

Dear Editor,

The Roman historian Publius Cornelius Tacitus wrote, "Bitter the jest when satire comes too near truth and leaves a sharp sting behind it."

I'm afraid the staff of The Current has discovered the truth of this with the recent publication of your article satirizing homophobia. If, as many writers assert, the role of satire is to expose problems and force us to confront them, I have to say the article was successful. I can't remember ever hearing so many discussions on campus about the LGBT and the discrimination our friends and colleagues have to face every day.

Your article not only touched a nerve, it exposed a festering sore that has been ignored too long. Too many of us have ignored the kinds of hurtful comments made by the characters in your article because we either didn't know how to respond or didn't see how much harm they cause. Now that the problem is out in the open, I hope that we are all more aware and become active advocates for acceptance and equality.

By: Phil Ray Jack, English Faculty and President of the United Faculty of Green River

### A letter from the editor:

By: Nicole Swapp

Well, I can fully say that this was not the easiest issue we have ever put out. With so many letters – and we hope you will read most of them – space and timing for our seventh issue have been quite tight.

But, on other notes, we are very excited to only have one more issue left for the quarter. It has been a stressful quarter and we are excited to produce our last issue (don't worry folks, we will be back in the spring).

We are hoping that Spring quarter brings us new computers down here in SMT 133. The current ones are older than dirt, no joke. I mean, they still work and everything but trying to run two or more programs on them is just torture.

We have also been very busy down here in the newsroom deciding on how the newspaper will run next quarter. It is a huge learning process that myself and my editors are going through.

Journalism is moving in a direction, that in

my opinion, I don't like. Everything is now on the web and "easier" for people to get to. Well, I really like having a print newspaper and I think it is something worth preserving.

The world cannot always rely on the web to give them the most up-to-date information out there. Most TV stations and website look at how many times they are being visited per day. That is all the really care about.

A newspaper, however, looks that their readers and the news in the area; not just how many people pick it up a day.

Aside from my little rant, I do hope students and staff reading this issue look throughout the whole issue and send us their feedback. We really do appreciate everyone's feedback and interest in the newspaper. After all, journalism students long ago decided that The Current should be a "citizen of its community."

Also, just one last thing. Please feel free to contribute stories to the newspaper. You don't need to be enrolled in the newspaper-lab class to write for The Current. We always appreciate new work or even story ideas from students. There are only a handful of students on the editorial board and we do need your help.

## The Current: Editorial Policy

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

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

**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.

# LETTERS FROM THE EDITORS

These are the opinions of the various editors of The Current. They do not represent the views of The Current as a whole.

**By: Remco Zwetsloot (News Editor)**

First of all, I would like to clarify how the article came to be and what it was meant to accomplish [referring to his satire article in the previous paper entitled "Fairy epidemic engrosses and corrupts the innocence of Americans"].

The piece was written to mock: people's perception of manliness and how it "relates" to sexual orientation; the use of the word gay as an insult, which is a common – and in my eyes, strange – viewpoint; that homosexuality is a "disease"; the hypocrisy of some homophobes who think lesbian sex is hot; and the reluctance of certain news media to set aside bias and report fairly on a story.

Perhaps it is best to give everyone the definition of satire before I take off on my ramble. Merriam-Webster: "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."

My inspiration spurred from a Facebook status I posted saying I had finally cleaned my room. My friends – being the jolly indi-

viduals they are – decided to, as a means of friendly banter, call me gay for it. This got me thinking: what kind of perfectly normal qualities, attributes, and acts are being perceived as "gay" these days?

A fair few of the things I came up with are in the article: as a guy, you often get mocked for liking Mike's Hard Lemonade or mix drinks, hence, "drinking alcoholic beverages that are not beer." It also seems to be a disgrace to like music with emotional lyrics that don't constantly talk about boobs and sex, "listening to music that is not rap or metal."

Of course there are more examples throughout the article. My intent was to sarcastically exaggerate some people's – mostly homophobes and "manly" men – ideas in a way that would cause them to look ridiculous.

I am fully aware that the stereotypes I attribute to certain segments of society in this article are not accurate in all cases – there are churches who accept gays into their community and there are people who like football and drink beer that treat gays normally or even are gay themselves; but I used the stereotypes as a means of mocking the individuals who do

conform to them.

This is common in satire. Very often famous satirists take controversial issues from society, blow it out of proportion, take it out of context and then write an article that portrays it as a realistic and plausible situation.

This illustrates and ridicules what would happen if people in general, mostly extremists and radicals, are taken too seriously.

In regard to satire, Wikipedia states: "This 'militant irony' (or sarcasm) often professes to approve (or at least accept as natural) the very things the satirist actually wishes to attack."

I hope students, staff and anyone else that took the article in a serious manner and as an act of hate speech realizes that the intent was not to insult, but rather to mock, which is why it got printed in the first place, and why it classifies as a satire – a satire that was hurtful to some, for which I am sorry, but a satire nonetheless.

The part of the article that insulted most people was the "derogatory" terms used when referring to homosexuals. These were put in the article to emphasize the fact that the article was not to be taken seriously. Hence, terms

like "hiney miner," "purple parrot," and "rectophiliac," which are not the most common slander, were used.

I didn't anticipate the offense that was taken to the use of these words; and if I or any other editor that reviewed it beforehand had known how many would be hurt by this, we would have taken a closer look at the language.

I realize now that a college newspaper's audience is divided on the matter of whether it is right to print politically incorrect material; and I will certainly think twice before doing it again, though I can't promise that I'll completely refrain from being offensive in future pieces, as offense is often essential to satire.

With all this said and clarified, I would like to apologize for the pain the article has caused because, whether or not I think the article was appropriate for publication, whether we as writers are allowed to insult people and whether it is ethical to joke about sensitive subjects such as this, I did not mean to cause anyone harm and I regret that it happened – regardless of my good intentions.

**By: Kelli Wyatt (Satire Editor)**

In all honesty, I had no idea the reaction to Remco's satire article in the February 5th issue of The Current would have been this massive. I personally apologize for and regret the pain it has caused, as our intent is never to inflict harm.

At the "meeting" on the Monday after the article was published, we as a staff were criticized for being "young," "ignorant" and "uneducated." I do admit personal ignorance on the topic. I myself am heterosexual, and I realize that I will never fully understand the trials that a homosexual individual is forced to endure. I thought nothing of the language used before publication. However, after the fact that many were offended by the content of the satire article, I will certainly be more careful and consider the consequences of articles I choose

to publish from here on out.

With all of that said, I do not regret that the article was published. Its intent was pure – although the language was coarse – and the events it has caused, although initially negative, will turn out positive. It opened the door to conversations which we, as a community, should have been having publically long before now.

It saddens me to see that we cannot laugh at ourselves. It seems that everything is such a serious topic: that certain words have such heavy connotation; that we have to watch every word we use... I truly hope that it will never come down to this; but it seems that that is the path we are headed down.

There's a certain strength and admiration to be found in people who find humor through their pain. In a sense, this is where the humor in satire

is found. Satire is often offensive (if you don't believe me, read The Onion); but if you allow yourself to be disconnected and set yourself aside as you read, you will find humor in satirical articles. Satire is a sophisticated style of humor, and the point is missed when one puts their ego and emotions between the piece and themselves.

I'm not saying any of this to offend. I'm voicing my opinion and thoughts on the entire situation. I've found it difficult to see this as reality. Yes, I am young. Perhaps I am ignorant. But, even with these things in mind, it isn't fair to discount my opinion and say that we have no sense of responsibility.

The last thing I want to mention is the disclaimer at the top of the satire page. The disclaimer was sarcastic and was also not meant to offend any reader. The last line, "If you are still offended, because you are a fragile person, then send your

complaints to: [gibberish]@greenriver.edu" is obviously sarcastic and calls for the reader to step away from themselves as they read the content of the page. However, some were offended, and because of this, I will change the wording. In the next issue of The Current, the disclaimer will not be sarcastic itself, and the false email shall be changed to the real "complaints" email.

Again, I am truly sorry for the pain this satire article has caused. It was not in our intentions to harm anyone, but clearly we have. This is a learning experience, and rest assured that learning has happened – especially on my part. Regardless of this, there is no guarantee that future satire articles will not be offensive, as the art of satire is taking potent issues within society and ridiculing them. Often, satire will spur changes in the community – just as what is happening here.

**By: Stirling Radliff (OpEd Editor)**

In the previous issue of The Current, our News Editor, Remco Zwetsloot, wrote a satirical article entitled "Fairy epidemic engrosses and corrupts and corrupts the innocence of Americans," which, given the nature of the subject, offended and disturbed many people.

Yet, to the defense of The Current in this nasty plight, some of our readership found the article topical and funny, which, to be sure, it most certainly is (to exclaim further, aside from the bylines, this is assuredly my opinion and isn't necessarily any others).

As it can be found in most any situation, every piece of writing – as with any piece of work – has its audience. Though in this situation, the overwhelming rancor against it suggests well enough that our preferred audience for the piece was perhaps too small; because of that, it may be said that Green River is the wrong place for this type of humor; that Green River students are

overall the wrong audience for this type of humor.

Since the Monday after its release, The Current staff has endured, to some extent, unexpected reprisals on the publication of Remco's satire.

Of the primary claims that many offended students, teachers and administrators have offered is that the piece is "plainly hate-speech and is certainly not satire!"

I would like to clarify on what these two things are as how I understand them – and as it may very well be, how most of the world of satirical writing understands them, as well as, I presume, the majority of the world of news writing.

Firstly, I would like to offer a definition for what "satire" is and why it is just that.

With some authority, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, satire is "a literary work holding up human vices and follies to ridicule or scorn"; and is composed by means of "trenchant wit, irony, or sarcasm [which is] used to expose and discredit vice or folly"

– among, from what I've read in modern satire, and away from the word's 16th century etymology, many other literary devices such as hyperbole, parody, double entendre, and so on and so forth...

Remco's satire utilized a few of these satirical tools magnificently, rivaling that of The Onion, which is, of course, America's finest source of satire.

Of his intentions, he was clearly trying to expose our society's absurd conception of "manliness" – which was satirically pronounced near the middle of the satire when the reporter met "a member of the natural resource club" – and, what is most important, whacking our nation's homophobia, which is evidently still rampant.

Secondly, concerning the claim that the satire is "hate speech," it seems quite evident that it isn't.

Hate speech is, according to Dictionary.com, "bigoted speech attacking or disparaging a social or ethnic group or a member of such a group"; and, if I may add, the speech

must have some intention of being hate speech.

Reading the satire, and with objective malice, it seems clear that there is no hate speech in it whatsoever; it has no intent, and seems to overall be in defense of homosexuals.

It seems plain in the utilization of satirical devices, and the operation of his writing, that Remco did not give a hate speech against homosexuals, or anyone for that matter.

If it may be that the satire offered an air of hatred toward anyone, it would most certainly be against homophobes, not homosexuals. But even then, it is a joking piece, granted politically incorrect, which offers a distinctive kind of humor.

On the whole, I think the piece should be commended as a fine work of satirical writing, not at all despised; for what would be an honorable piece of work if not one that pricks and bashes against ignorance and superficiality – of homophobes?

# LETTERS FROM THE EDITORS

These are the opinions of the various editors of The Current. They do not represent the views of The Current as a whole.

**By: Lindsey Williams (Managing Editor)**

The past two weeks have been a very painful experience in several ways, and I would like to personally apologize for the unintentional pain that The Current has caused, specifically to the LGBTQ community.

While I was not directly involved with the article, I take responsibility for being in a management position and not fulfilling my obligation to our readers. I strongly encourage anyone in-

terested in opening The Current's viewpoint on this issue to submit their work. Suggestions for articles are always welcome, as well.

While many feel that the article held no purpose, after seeing the reaction and discovering many things about our campus of which I was unaware, I disagree. This is a wonderful opportunity for our school to grow and to learn from one another, and I truly hope that we all take the best advantage of this rather than let it remain a dark smudge on our time here.

**By: Nicole Swapp (Editor-in-Chief)**

On Friday February 5, The Current published an article in the Satire section titled "Fairy epidemic engrosses and corrupts the innocence of Americans."

The repercussions of this article have been off the wall. The Current staff, including myself, went to the MEC (Multicultural & Equity Council) meeting on Monday the 8 to endure the most difficult thing we have so far; a stoning.

Okay, not literally a stoning, but it sure did feel like it. Honestly, it was very difficult to sit in a room of people who are only there to criticize you and give you dirty looks because they don't agree with something that "you" published.

Well, I would like to make some things clear that have been bothering me since Monday last week; mostly for the people who "claim" they know how a newspaper operates.

First off, The Current doesn't just allow the students that are enrolled in the class to submit articles. We allow all students and staff members on campus to submit work to us. Yes, editing will be done for grammar and such; editors do that to all articles and for all students who take journalism.

Also, every writer is entitled to their own opinion. And just because they write about a certain topic, that does not mean they fully support that topic 100 percent. Sometimes writers are asked to write articles that they have zero interest in. That, unfortunately, is the wonderful world of journalism.

Third, I was very disappointed that most students and staff who read The Current didn't reflect on the nineteen other pages we produced; but rather went straight to page seventeen (satire). It is a little discouraging to only look at one page and then decide to throw it away, or shred it - whichever may have happened.

Another point I would like to talk about is the fact that in the MEC meeting, a member of the faculty members of MEC encouraged people to throw away our newspapers because of this article. That is the most disrespectful thing anyone could do to us, and to this school. Newspapers take a long time to put out; hours and hours of my and my editors free time over weekends were just tossed out the door like they were nothing. And also, it is illegal to throw away newspapers; there are countless

cases of similar situations.

I am also disappointed in the staff reaction to the article being published. As an educator I think that it is very important to stay objective to multiple opinions and not force students to take sides. There were many cases where students came up to me and said that their class talked about the satire piece. They then further explained that their teacher was very upset by it and didn't think The Current should have published the article.

I am sorry and do not mean to offend staff in saying this but I felt that it was very irresponsible to act this way. Not only did they limit our free speech as students but they also put down Green River in doing so. This is a place of learning and having open minds; that includes every possible angle and idea someone can think of. So yes, staff does have a right to talk about the article and put it down; but they also have a duty as educators to not be biased and to give students the opportunity to think on their own.

I would like to make it clear that just because The Current - remember The Current? - published an article that may be offensive to some does not mean that every member of the staff dislikes the LGBTQ community and has the same opinions as the reporter. In the MEC meeting, we were attacked personally. Every person that talked in that meeting pointed fingers at us suggesting that we are "gay bashers" and are "uneducated" about the LGBTQ community.

Well, I have news for you: some of us do have gay siblings and relatives. Most of us think that gays should have full rights just as straight people do. Some of us think that people need to keep an open mind or just shut-up if they don't like two men or women being together - because ultimately they are not destroying the world or you.

But please remember that I said "The Current," because The Current staff was not asked these questions. The Current was just looked at as these things, when in all honestly no one in that room knew the real answer. I know that there were many personal emotions floating around that day; but it is still no excuse.

This is not a letter to make students and staff upset by any means. This topic is obviously not over; but this was my one opportunity to give my side of the story - as a student and the Editor-in-Chief.

## EDITORIALS

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

### Editorial response to Feb 5 satire article

It was difficult for us, as an Editorial Board, to come to a general consensus on the debacle surrounding the recently published satire article; which is why - in addition to what we could agree on (what has been published in this Editorial) - we gave the editors involved a chance to write a personal letter which displays their point of view of the situation.

We had no intention to offend in publishing the article in the February 5th edition. Regardless of intent, we acknowledge that the language used in the article was too coarse for parts of our audience. The Current regrets and apologizes for pain caused to our readers.

We feel that the circumstances surrounding the creation of the article and the consequences of its distribution shine a light on an area of Green River life that needs further exploration. This is why we wish to call for further exposure of the sensitive issues addressed in the article and suggest an improved and ongoing dialogue between divergent voices.

The Current views a college newspaper as a learning environment and a representative of human experience. Collectively there are key lessons to be learned as a staff and as a community from both the issues addressed in the article and the reaction on campus.

For the next issue, we have edited the satire disclaimer because it was unnecessarily offensive to some; and we shall educate our reporters more efficiently in order to prevent any future mistakes. We will also review and more delicately handle sensitive subjects in upcoming issues. These are only a few of the lessons we learned as a newspaper; and we hope the school's community itself will take something from this as well.

We want to assure our audience and the community that we will continue to cover all parts of the school to the fullest of our abilities. The satire page will continue to exist and is omitted from this issue due to a lack of content. It has not been cut completely and will be present in future issues as a matter of coverage and a way to tackle issues present on campus.

Please be aware that we are an open organization. Anyone who wishes to contribute to the paper is more than welcome to do so, and there are several ways in which anyone can easily contribute. If you feel there is an issue with an article that has to be addressed, writing a letter to the editor is encouraged and will be published, assuming there is space for it. Articles can be written and sent in by any member of the community. However, we cannot guarantee it will be published, just as we don't guarantee that to our reporters.

In the future, rest assured that The Current's intentions are always pure, and that we do not aim to exclude any group or individual from the community here at Green River - including our paper.



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# University representatives on Green River campus

Local universities offer students an opportunity for face-to-face conversation and a place to ask questions

By: Soo Hyun Cha

Do you have a university you've always wanted to transfer to, but you don't know if you would stand a chance, what exactly you need to be accepted, or how to get a scholarship? Representatives from local colleges that regularly swing by to help out any future applicant or unsure transfer student can assist you.

The 'representative system' can connect university experts and employers with students on a face to face basis. In this, it differs from transfer fairs, as you have more time to ask personal questions and engage in conversation with the advisor in a more private atmosphere.

The events are usually held on the Lindbloom Student Center (LC) and signing up is not required unless specified otherwise. Locations inside the LSC vary between colleges; some of them are held in the lobby while others are in LC-126.

Christa Callanan, assistant director of admissions of Washington State University (WSU) who was on campus February 9th, is one of the university representatives who regularly visit the Green River campus. She is in charge of coordinator of Transfer and works in the Transfer Relations Office of Enrollment Management at WSU.

The representatives help both Green River Community College (GRCC) students and their own university. "We get communication database from students so the school knows who possible applicants are and what their questions are about our university. We constantly

keep in touch with them through e-mail", says Callanan.

Another representative is Sean Lacy. He is the director of transfer recruitment at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) and he has met with 600 to 700 students since he started visiting our campus, 300 of which applied to PLU.

He adds, "the most frequently questions that students ask are how many scholarships our school has, how long does it takes for me to graduate and whether I have to be Lutheran to enter into PLU but you don't have to be Lutheran. It's okay if students take one religion class."

Vasiliy Matsyuk, a Green River student who went to the booth PLU had set up in the lobby, stated that even though he only talked to his advisor for 3 minutes, he could get a lot of useful information. "My major is communication and I want to get Art degree. So I asked to him which degree your school [PLU] has and can your school count me in as a junior. He gives clear answer and this is very useful program in that perspective."

Fourty-six percent of GRCC's students attend our college to transfer to a 4-year university, and even though most have made up their mind on where they want to go after getting their degree here, representatives help out students a great deal and offer opportunities for big universities to get more applications.

Dates for Univerity representatives can be found on the events calendar at [www.greenriver.edu](http://www.greenriver.edu)



Sean Lacy, PLU representative, helping a student at his booth.

Soo Hyun Cha/The Current

# Money For College day helps students figure out their financial possibilities

By: Kang Sung Wook

On February 6, a workshop called "Money for College" was held at the Auburn main campus. Green River Community College sponsored the workshop for students of GRCC and the community.

The workshop consisted of four topics: How to find scholarships, writing a scholarship essay, funding for displaced workers and low income families, and personal finance for college students.

Lindsey Morris and Beth Gatzke were in charge of the workshop about finding scholarships. They explained what scholarships actually are, where students can find them, what the scholarship application basics are, letters of recommendation, and resources that students can use.

An important point was emphasized multiple times; proofreading applications of students. "Don't forget to have other people proofread your essay," said Gatzke.

At the end of the workshop, Morris and Gatzke introduced some resources students can use for their scholarship: [www.greenriver.edu/moneyforcollege](http://www.greenriver.edu/moneyforcollege), [www.thewashboard.org](http://www.thewashboard.org), [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), and [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com).

Timothy Anderson presented the workshop titled 'writing a scholarship essay'. He explained that there are three things committees look for; who you are, where you want to go, and how you are going to get there.

Similar to the previous workshop, Anderson pointed out the importance of proofreading essays, "when you proofread your essay, do it by yourself first, then find some honest friends,



Richard Rock educates students about the ways in which you should handle your money.

Kang Sung Wook/The Current

and ask some other professional people such as instructors."

He continued, "don't give them any other information, but just asked them to read your essay and to tell you what they think is your essay

about."

The third workshop, personal finance for college students, was hosted by Richard Rock, who has worked at banks for more than 40 years.

Rock emphasized three habits that students

should take up if they want to deal with money responsibly.

First of all, Rock said it is of the utmost importance to spend money wisely.

"Keep an eye on where your money is going by tracking your cash. Write down every dime you spend for at least a week," he recommended.

The second point that Rock make is avoiding any overcharging fees on creditcards.

"I've never paid for any fees in my life. Even if it is just a little amount, it will affect your financial plan."

Rock pointed the lastly about the importance of establishing a positive credit history and score. He wanted students to be aware of the importance of those because it will be with them forever.

To help the students establish their credit history and score, he recommended the Annual Credit Report Request Service.

The fourth workshop was held by Linda Downing, who works in Science mathematics technology (SMT): 'funding for displaced workers and low income families'.

A good thing to keep in mind is that any students or member of the community can talk to workers like Downing one on one, which makes it a lot easier for anyone to find who can help them and what kind of help they can get.

"Simply, what we want is just for anyone who wants help to come to see us," Dowing said, "and then, we will find out which programs are helpful for them."

A lot of helpful information was given at these workshops, which is especially convenient in hard economic times like these.

# The 'don't ask, don't tell' policy

## Debate on repeal continues with much vigor

By: Jacqueline Lambert

Barrack Obama's state of the union speech revived the discussion about Obama's promise to repeal the 'don't ask, don't tell law' that is in place for the armed forces. The law, which was put in place in 1993, forbade lesbians and gays to be open about their sexuality while serving in the military.

One of the first things former president Bill Clinton tried to accomplish when he was elected was allowing homosexuals to join the armed forces.

After much criticism and opposition from congress, a compromise was made: the "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy. For the past 17 years the military has adhered to this policy, but with a new president and congress in place, will this change?

President Obama and former Secretary of State Colin Powell both support lifting the ban of gays and lesbians serving in the military. Last October at a Human Rights Campaign dinner Obama addressed them with the following:

"We cannot afford to cut from our ranks people with the critical skills we need to fight any more than we can afford -- for our military's integrity -- to force those willing to do so into careers encumbered and compromised by having to live a lie. .... I will end Don't Ask, Don't Tell. That's my commitment to you."

Many students at Green River Community

College (GRCC) agree with Obama. Maureen Frisby stated, "Why should men and women be penalized because of their sexuality? If they want to serve, they should be able to serve without being judged. We need to thank them for protecting our country, not shooting them down for their sexual orientation."

Others argue that since the policy is working, why would lawmakers want to change it?

GRCC student Chris Brown, who served for eight years in the military as a sergeant, said "Don't ask, Don't tell should remain as a policy. Removing the policy could entice, or eager on, forced answers about an individual's sexuality." Brown also stated that "if others know about your sexuality, they may not want to defend you during battle. There are boundaries in place in the military, and you don't cross them."

Senator John McCain also disagrees with Obama's proposition to change this military code.

McCain said: "I recently had a conversation with some other military leaders on this issue and their point to me was 'It's working, so leave it alone. Generally, overall, it's working.' ... And right now we've got the best military we've ever had -- the most professional, best trained, and equipped and the bravest. And so I think it's logical to leave this issue alone. I really do."

Polls by Quinnipiac University show that



Bailey Joise/The Current

A person who feels the current policy is unfair, a viewpoint shared by 66 percent of Americans.

there is a lot of support for a change in policy: 57 percent of Americans think homosexuals should be able to openly serve whereas only 36 percent think the contrary, but whether this repeal will get through Congress or not is still debatable.

Obama has many other high priorities he is

passing through the legislature such as health care reform, and small bank bailouts, so this issue might not always get his full attention. Guaranteed is, though, that this will be a big battle in politics, especially with elections coming up.

## State passes bills in honor of fallen officers

By: Evan Hicks

As a result to the six police shootings that took place last year, the state legislature has put together several bills. One bill requires the judge to set bail for any criminal accounted for felony. While another grants benefits to the families of officers who died in the line of duty.

On November 29 2009, four police officers were gunned down in Spanaway, WA by Maurice Clemmons, a convicted felon in both Arkansas and Washington. Clemmons was shot and killed on December 1, by an officer checking out a stolen car in South Seattle.

Three weeks after the Lakewood shootings, two deputies were called to solve a dispute between brothers, in which one was carrying a loaded gun. When the police arrived on scene one brother invited the police inside while the other brother ambushed the deputies from the stairs. The armed suspect was shot and killed. The deputies were then rushed to the hospital with critical injuries.

Not only have these bills been passed, but Governor Gregoire has also proposed that the Interstate Compact of Offender Supervision (ICOS) be changed.

This would mean that Washington has the power to hold, sanction, or return criminals who violate their supervision. Washington must also receive the criminal history before the criminal arrives to Washington.

A website has been built to honor and remember the fallen officers. The site allows peo-

ple to make donations, write out their condolences, and learn about who the officer was. You can visit this site at [www.nleomf.org](http://www.nleomf.org).

Adopted by the State Senate, the bill SR 8687 -- Honoring the fallen officers, states that

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor the lives, service, and sacrifice of six of its fallen heroes - Officer Timothy Brenton, Sergeant Mark Renninger, Officer Tina Griswold, Officer Ronald Owens, Officer Greg Richards, and Deputy Kent Mundell

Jr., and let it be known that the Washington State Senate stands with the people of Seattle, Lakewood, and Pierce County, and every member of the state's law enforcement community; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of

this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the families and law enforcement agencies of these six fallen officers."

Matt Stevenson, a student at Green River Community College, wholeheartedly agreed with the measures passed in the bill.

"I'm glad that the state passed these bills because why should we accept criminals from out of state, especially if we don't have a bio on them."

At the Lakewood officer memorial Sergeant Jeff Young, of the Bannock County Sherriff's office, was interviewed by Local News 8. Young stated, "These officers gave their lives doing what they love to do. And so for us it is an honor and what we call it is to honor those that have gone before us."

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# Ceramics on Campus



By: Jean-Pierre Garcia

Looking outside of the HSC ceramics lab, there are several shards of artwork left behind at the base of the surrounding trees. According to Paul Betvier, head of the ceramics at Green River, it's pretty common to see shards of forgotten pieces on numerous campuses and ceramics studios. Some of Betvier's own works can be found scattered at different campuses, along with other works from famous artists who have spent time firing clay in a kiln. A few of the pieces were put on display and never taken home. One of Betvier's former students simply said he could not take his project back to Sweden and that's why – to this day – you can still see a lopsided M&M piggy bank sitting across from the HSC entrance. Betvier said that several students have asked to take it away, and he has frequently approved, but it seems the blue artwork is here to stay.

Other works were demo's gone wrong or other unwanted pieces. Instead of throwing the pieces away, the artists are often recommended to contribute to the garden. In a sense, it is an artist's opportunity to return the original works of earth's material to the earth. Betvier enjoyed the symbolism there. He also enjoyed how the joy of returning earth to earth is shared in different cultures. In numerous places, the shard yard is hidden – depending on the season. In the fall, the needles bury the abandoned pieces. Moss grows in and out of the pottery. When spring returns, the pine needles leave, but the beauties of the forgotten pieces remain. They are given a new life with each season. Resting at the tree trunks are not the best pieces but they remain. Betvier was proud of the shard yard and saw it as a sign post for his department. If a student wants to find the ceramics studio, it's easy to find with earth ware just outside their doorstep.

"A historical connection – more of a historical leap – would be the shard yards of ancient Japan and Korea," Betvier said. "The pieces that were not sellable were smashed, and there are now massive gardens."

In other parts of the world, the beauty of nature overwhelms and hides the work with massive amounts of undergrowth blooming. After the plants have died and winter takes hold, the bits of man-made beauty are revealed again. The concept has caught on in other art branches; Betvier noticed that drawings and paintings appear to be caught on trees too. They look windswept and caught, like kites among the branches.

"Artists here are responding and claiming their space," Betvier mentioned with the last remnants of his cacti collection in his office.



From the shadows of the shard yard are works lit up and showcased next door to the ceramics studio. Each piece on display is student work selected by the heads of the department. Betvier said that the works resonate with what's currently being taught in the classes and show a range of strength and growth. From timid pots to large landmarks, Betvier sees the works selected as a testament to the students and instruction taking place. Studio volunteer, Dennis Wisniski, saw the pieces as good representatives of the ceramics department as a whole.

Each are arranged carefully to give students the best experience of being showcased-some for the first time. The artists are asked permission to be presented. Betvier is also the curator of the Helen S. Smith Gallery. Betvier encouraged students wanting to take their own shot at selecting and arranging work in the Helen S. Smith Gallery to enroll in Art 180 portfolio class. They're allowed to do just that in the class. Their arrangement, work, and selection will be available to view March 2nd.

Featured to the left are two of the numerous interesting designs featured in the spotlight. There is a childlike face painted with redlines and an arm that functions as a handle for what appears to be a pitcher or vessel of some sort. The red paint is suggestive and the pattern seems to be cracked. A lot of pain leaks from the piece. The childlike demeanor makes the pain that much more frightening. Farther to the left is a sculpture with less of a vibrant contrast to its coloring. Its smooth and at the same time twisted and dissected as chunks are out and in the open like a pop up book. Its suggestive of a figure or maybe an operated heart. The themes are strongly felt as well.



Courtesy Photo/ Naomi Rhodes

A self portrait created in 1977 by Naome Rhodes illustrates one part of her life.

# Teacher Spotlight: Naomi Rhodes

By: Alexander Bevier

"Bob Dylan slept on my floor," said Naomi Rhodes; an adjunct Anatomy & Physiology teacher at Green River Community College (GRCC).

"I didn't really think much of him at the time. He gave a concert on campus and he wasn't very [well] known and he needed a place to stay with his girlfriend so he slept on our floor."

Rhodes is a fascinating woman who embodies a vivacious life. From performance art to karate, Rhodes is a valuable asset to GRCC's faculty.

During class, Rhodes talks about her life as a black belt and later on an acupuncturist. Before that, she spent her time as a dancer and visual artist. Rhodes excitedly went to her computer and displayed sketches of statues at the Metropolitan Museum of Art she drew while attending Bennington College in Vermont as a dance major. After her mother passed away, she switched her major to visual art and transferred to the illustration department at Parsons School of Design in New York.

Rhodes was showing wondrous art created during the late seventies. Subjects for her work range from political issues to interpretive portraits of her daughter and former lovers. She then showed photos of her performance work.

"At the time, they were doing performance artworks in the art community in New York and they were doing all kinds of painting each other and pouring paint and stuff so I did it to rock 'n' roll with this second degree Kenpo Black Belt."

When asked about how she got into acupuncture, Rhodes commented that "I was better at punching and kicking people than stroking them. That was horrifying. I decided more remedial work had to be done so I put myself in the Shiatsu class. People started to get better."

She eventually studied massage and acupuncture. While studying, she took avid notes and knew the material so well that she was asked to join the faculty before she graduated.

Rhodes showed videos of her karate grand master as she spoke about how she got into teaching.

"There was a job opening. It was not my field, but they needed someone fast and I was never bad at anatomy" she said as her grand master karate chopped through four blocks of solid ice on her computer. While teaching, she figured out her own perspective on life.

When asked, above all the things she has experienced, what was the most satisfying, she quotes Bruce Lee: "The artless art is the art of the soul at peace, like moonlight mirrored in a deep lake ... Masters in all branches of art must first be masters of living, for the soul creates everything." She posed the question; "what does it mean to be a master of living?" she replied, "I guess I'm still trying to answer that," she said. "I think one of the answers is you shouldn't have to pick."

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## What GRCC students do when free from school

By: SungWook Kang & Samantha Shockley

"Free time," it's something that college students look forward to, no matter their race, gender, or any other association that makes the world a diverse place. Whether it's going for a run through the trails of GRCC, reading in the peace and quiet of your home, hanging out with friends and going to a movie, all students have something unique to do when homework is finally set aside and fun takes its turn in their life.

"I usually hang out with my friends," Ryan West, a domestic student, explains, "With them, I often go to downtown Seattle, especially Pike Place Market." Driving with friends, and just getting some fresh Seattle air is what is needed to relieve the stress of school and liven up the atmosphere.

On the other hand, Scott Abramson seems to spend his free time doing personal activities. "Well, I like to exercise a lot. I ride my bicycle and come to school because there are many trails I can ride [my bike] around the campus."

The common denominator for many students is to hangout with people who you are close to. Roger Kim recommends making friends, "If you do that, then you can easily find what to do with them in your free time."

Kim's advice? Do something that's not too far away, you'll have more time to do it, and less stress planning the event. A major problem that can cause students to stay at home and sit in front of a talking box, not knowing what to do or what there is to do.

Tsz-Lun Li, an international student from China, recalled what he usually does, "I always stay at home playing computer games, studying, or talking with my friends on Skype because I have no idea what to do," he explains.

While the traditional go to a movie, or just hangout with friends can be over played, Tomoya Sugiyama, from Japan, does something a little different than what other students do, he goes to a casino.

Sugiyama said blissfully, "I love to go to the casino so much because it's so exciting and sometimes I can win some money. I guarantee you will never feel bored there," he emphasized.

There is no wrong answer to the question, what do you do in your free time. But a great way to start having fun and not just sitting around, watching television, or playing video games, not that those are bad ideas, but to break away from the norm, get out of your comfort zone, and just have fun.

## The death of superheros

### Are comic book heros in danger for their lives?

By: Samantha Shockley & Bailey Jose

In the modern world of comic books, whether from the DC Universe, the Marvel Universe or from Dark Horse Comics, things are never short of surprise or tragedy. From the Joker paralyzing Batgirl to Norman Osborn, alias "the Green Goblin" being the brains behind the plot to kill Spider-Man's unborn child – things can never be considered dull or uncontroversial. In 2007, Marvel's predominant stars and bars-bearing superhero, Captain America, was assassinated and the end of the nostalgia and mythology of the comic book world seemed to have abruptly ceased. But had it really?

Is the time of comic book superheroes really concluded? It's debatable, if nothing else. On one hand, people have said that the world is "changing for the worst" and comic books are depicting the feelings and the events that evoke these feelings; it downplays the truth to be more reader-friendly and ultimately leaves the reader thinking that things are not as bad as they really are.

During WWII, people became outraged when it was depicted that Superman could just go right through Germany and kill Hitler himself. People were angry because Superman was taking the glory away from the real men, the real soldiers who were fighting overseas. Maybe this backlash enabled the writers and artists to depict Superman and his companions as keepers of the peace back in America, and as the heroes of the home front who didn't get involved with the War directly.

"Creating movies based on comic book superheroes is just to expand and get superheroes every where. I enjoy the movies, but I think comic books have lost popularity because of this transition," Steve Tang explains. The Green River student isn't a huge comic book guru, still

sees it as a major transition from text, to the big screen.

But there are those who say that the superheroes' legacy has not ended, but merely shifted from light-hearted comic books to live action movies and dark graphic novels; the only thing that has ended is the lightheartedness of the Golden Era: things are darker and much more realistic now. And with the evidence of well over a dozen movies made in the last ten years that are based off the comic books, it is hard to argue this point.

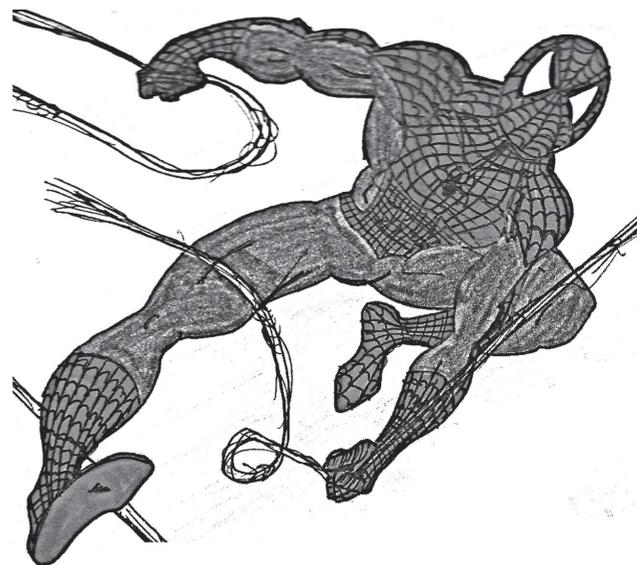
"It's just another phase, it's a big change, the morals might not be introduced and Hollywood will put their own twist on the hero and the villain but ultimately it's a transition from print to the big screen," Jordan Bye, a 2nd year Green River Student explains.

From the brilliant (the Dark Knight, Watchmen) to the forgettable (Elektra, The Punisher) to the double takes (Hulk, The Incredible Hulk), superheroes are even more so at the public's disposal. And they all have a certain darkness to them that wouldn't have been dreamed about back in

Captain America's day. It is what makes the characters more real and relatable.

"Hollywood seems to cut into the person, turning it into a drama, where you know the hero and see their problems," Bye comments. Many students agree that while it may change the persona, it can also change the atmosphere of the piece, it's no longer just a hero verses a villain, it's a story, epic and in-depth.

So what can anyone expect in the future of the comic book heroes? Plenty more movies and fans are asking, begging for more. The superhero hasn't faded away into the pages of their own histories; they have only begun to transform into something reachable.



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### Students Favorites:

#### Jordan Bye:

"My favorite hero is Superman, and not because he's generic but because he has the biggest moral code. It seems that his motto is save everybody, don't pick and choose. He was always the selfless one. Clark Kent is the most selfless superhero."

#### Samantha Swans:

"I love batman, because he doesn't have any super powers, he uses all technology and his brain. It's all real with him. Christian Bale it hot in the movie, but I don't know about the comic book batman."

#### Steve Tang:

"It's between Spiderman or Superman but I think Superman wins, because he's super buff and he can fly, and he rock a cape."

# Recycled art makes a vibrant green statement in tough economic times

## Hanging sculptures in the Helen S. Smith Gallery are another quilt-like feather in Julia Haack's artistic cap

By: Alexander Bevier

The concept of recycled art is to reuse materials and create memorable works with them. The works stand for beauty created by things that were not initially intended to be beautiful.

Local artist Julia Haack uses salvaged wood to prevent trees from being cut down for her patterned creations.

The statues hanging from the walls of Helen S. Smith Gallery are all composed of salvaged wood and colored with latex paint. These compositions stand as a testament to recycled art.

The wooden materials are all composed in patterned strips and painted in solid colors. This composition gives the statues a quilt-like visual. The overall design of the statues range from overlapping circles to hard-angled, three dimensional triangles.

"I am trying to reduce my personal footprint on the world- and using salvaged materials keeps it out of landfills," Haack said.

In addition to recycling wood, Haack has previously used materials such as glass, metal, plaster, and found objects.

When designing these pieces, Haack wanted to use high-spirited color schemes as a positive reaction to the current despair from difficult economic times.

The paint she used was a combination of left-over from house painting gigs and what was donated to her.

"My mother works with clay, and her mother was a painter. Creativity was always encouraged," Haack replied when asked about her education and artistic background.

Haack's first sculptures were in clay and she has a B.A. from the University of New Hampshire with a focus on sculpture. She

has also taken numerous art courses at six different schools.

Her training and experience in school led to a commission with Seattle Public Utilities, as well as being awarded four grants and three artist residencies. Her influences range from Alice Aycock to Gee's Bend Quilts.

Comments about Haack's work focus on her color scheme and use of angles.

One comment says that the work "strikes

into your subconscious; loud, bold, awake, very clear. Amazing!"

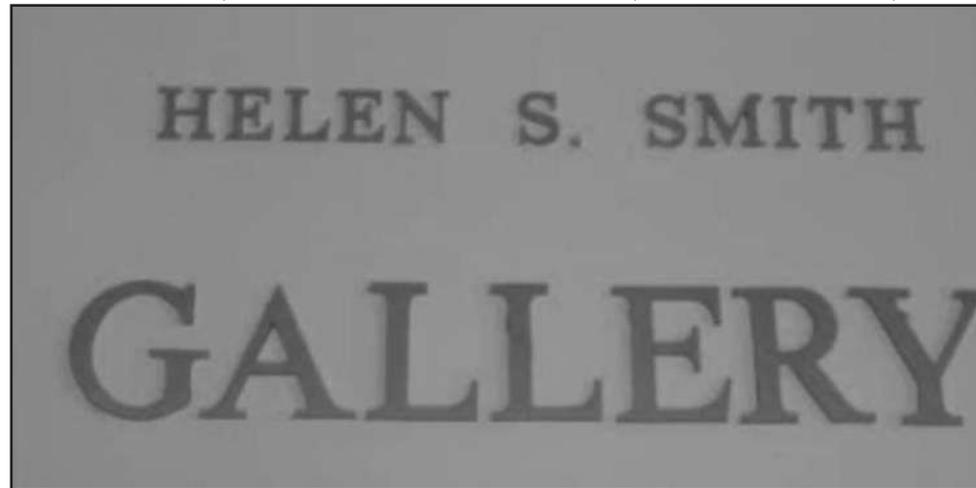
Another one says that is "makes me think of different eras. Tribal influences and patch-work quilts depending on color scheme, very detailed".

She gets her material primarily from Seattle's industrial district.

Her artwork will be on display in the Holman Library until the 21 of February.

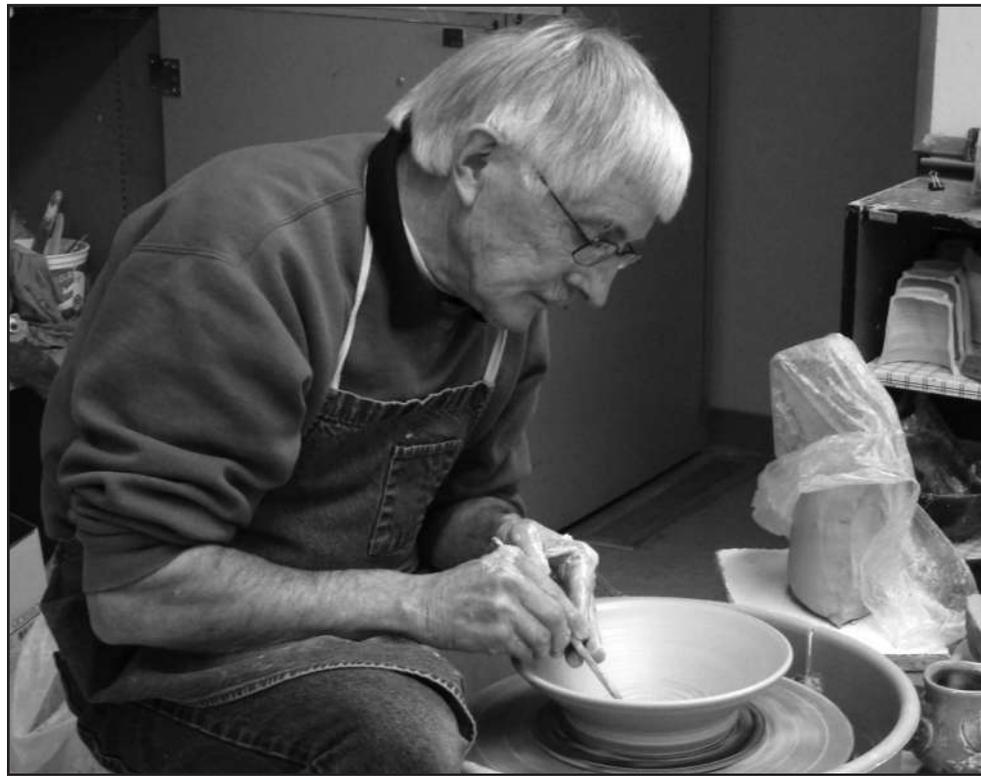
**"I am trying to reduce my personal footprint on the world- and using salvaged materials keeps it out of landfills."**

**- Julia Haack**



The Current Archives  
Featured in the Helen S. Smith Gallery until February 21, is local green artist Julia Haack's hanging sculptures.

# Clay lives on a spinning potters wheel in HSC as students shell out the creative process



By: SeoHee Kim

Smooth curves, beautiful colors, and various designs. Pottery is full of gusto.

The pottery is delicate, smooth, and bright. Rustic pottery shows us natural beauty.

A visit to the Humanities and social science building C (HSC-9) could lead to a classroom full of aspiring potters.

Be aware though, there might not be room at the wheel. Many students make their own pottery even if they aren't currently in the class.

Few can blame them, there is an absorbing focus when it comes to creating these works.

Before making the pottery, students have to make a plan. They are taught different methods for forming the clay including cups, plates, vases, and pots in the multiple ceramics courses available on campus. First, students work the clay partly, next comes the basic shape.

There are two basic techniques. The first technique is called coiling. Students make long rolls of clay using her or his wet hands.

They use this technique, until the pottery is the correct size; the long rolls try to go to their places.

Modeling and padding are the second main techniques to make pottery. In this technique, students take a piece of clay and put it on top of the model.

Afterwards they touch the top of the pottery very carefully with a paddle until the pottery is the correct size and shape.

When they make their own shape, students use a variety of tools like a graver or a stamp in which printed pattern is used to decorate the pottery. Next, students finish shaping the pottery, they dry the pottery using a special dryer because they have to remove moisture from their pottery.

After students dry their pottery, they put glaze on their pottery to make it colorful and sparkley. Next, students have to bake the pottery. Students who finish putting glaze on their pottery, go to a special room to bake the pottery. In the special room, there are two tools to bake the pottery.

Brannan who is the pottery class instructor said, "This tool, we call a kiln, students put their pottery to fire in a kiln. Fire high is 2350-2360 degree. If you want to get the hard pottery, you have to put pottery in a kiln and wait about 24 hours."

Although making pottery seems easy, it needs effort. Whenever students who made their own plate or cup see their special pottery, they feel worthwhile.

It is from these kilns and dusty hands that we get the impression that our campus is full of ceramic pieces around each corner.



SeoHee Kim/The Current



Common scenes in HSC-9 with Ceramics instructor Brannan (top) at the wheel and pottery works in the making everywhere. Tools of the trade include special electric kilns and everyday objects (above l-r).

**Green River's choice music and awards echo Grammys**  
Musical statements show similarities and differences to industry honor

*By: Evan Hicks*

The Grammys happened a little over two weeks ago and yet students from Green River Community College (GRCC) are still raving about their favorite hits of 2009.

With 2010 beginning, GRCC nominates its own top five songs of 2009. Counting down to number one, at number five we have Cobra Starship with their hit Good Girls Go Bad, 3OH!3 with Don't Trust Me at number four, Taylor Swift with Love Story at number three, Ke\$ha with Tik Tok at number two, and our number one spot goes to Black Eyed Peas with Boom Boom Pow.

Surprisingly enough none of the artists above won a Grammy for those songs or for best artist. Taylor Swift won an award for best album of the year and the Black Eyed Peas won best pop performance of the year.

30 students from GRCC were asked to give their top five artists of 2009.

While most students had similar tastes in music, there were also students who preferred the less popularized bands. Such bands that are not as recognized by the public include Of Mice & Men, Bless the Fall, Radiohead, Johnny Craig, and Rocket to the Moon.

Kerie Ostrem listens to these bands because for her they are more passionate about their music and are on a more social level with their fan base.

"Personally I feel that bands like these are not sellouts," Ostrem said

Ostrem also recommends for the immediate condemnation of auto-tone, "Auto-tone sucks because it takes away any form of natural talent in singing."

One artist that uses auto-tone casually in their music is T-Pain. Auto-tone has become an industry sensation for artists like T-Pain, Cher, and Daft Punk. This echoes and conflicted with a variety of students.

Most of the music that students are listening to depends highly on their preferred genre choices. The top five genre choices go to hip/hop, rock, indie, techno, and Spanish. Rochelle, a student at GRCC said, "I enjoy listening to music that's upbeat, like rock and foreign music." Rochelle feels that lately rock hasn't been as appealing to her because it seems there are a lot more bands with emo influence than there used to be.

One of the biggest sensations to hit the music scene since Madonna is Lady Gaga. With her unique voice and style, Lady Gaga has conquered the billboard charts with a vast amount of songs, such as Poker Face and Bad Romance.

Students are already making predictions about next years Grammys. Ostrem would really like to see Blink 182 win a Grammy next year, "If they produce a new album, and it comes out in like October, I think they for sure will win."

**Apple's iPad not for the new generation**  
Multimedia tech wonder leaves students disappointed in comparison

*By Guido Bakkes*

Apple recently introduced the highly anticipated iPad, and will be in stores as soon as March this year.

The iPad is a multimedia device on which the user can browse the web, read eBooks, send and receive e-mails, play games and more.

The device seems very similar to the iPod Touch, but bigger. It runs the same operating system (OS) as the iPod Touch and iPhone, and therefore runs most of the applications that are available on those 2 devices.

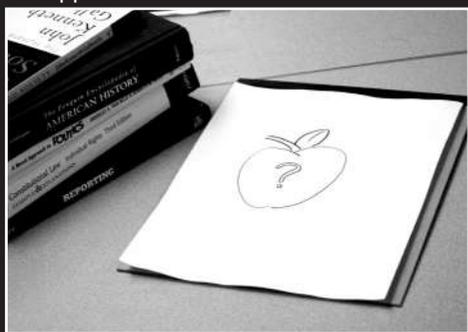
However, many people feel disappointed by the introduced iPad. It lacks many things that it was expected to have. For example, it doesn't have multi-tasking, it can't make or receive phone calls, it doesn't have a camera,

it doesn't have USB-ports and it doesn't support flash.

The reason why it does not support flash is because Apple's CEO Steve Jobs says that the Internet world is changing and that flash no longer needs to be the only choice.

He states that HTML5 will be taking over flash in a matter of time, simply because it runs smoother than flash and doesn't cause browsers to crash as often as flash does.

On the Internet, people have started mocking the iPad, mainly due to the fact that the name 'iPad' closely resembles a popular brand of "sanitary napkins."



Many people question the iPad's purpose. Steve Jobs said in his keynote that the device is "way better than a laptop, [and] way better than a smartphone."

It is difficult to see what the market for the iPad will be. For example, students need an actual computer for school and probably already have an iPod, professionals need more than a big iPod Touch and the average working adult already has a desktop/laptop and maybe even an iPod and iPhone.

These questions will be answered soon enough when the iPad hits the stores in March.

One obvious purpose of the iPad is to compete in the eReader game. Amazon's Kindle has been the most popular eBook reader, followed by Barnes & Noble, but the iPad is expected to give these two a run

for their money.

Apple is also launching its own bookstore called the 'iBook' app. This app will be similar to Apple's App Store, and users will be able to download books, and read them instantly. However, eBooks purchased through Amazon, or any other company, are not compatible on the iPad, or the other way around.

The price of the iPad ranges from \$499 to \$829. This all depends on how much memory you want and whether or not you want the AT&T 3G-network availability. Every model of the iPad has Wi-Fi, so a 3G-network is optional. The plans can be cancelled at any time.



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# U.S. looks to continue good fortune in 2010 Winter Olympics

By: Curtis Rogers

Coming off of the most successful decade in U.S. Winter Olympic history, team USA will be looking to build upon their recent success and come away with yet another excellent showing. Team USA will be sending 216 athletes in 15 different sports to compete in Vancouver during the next two and a half weeks and some familiar faces such as short track speed skater and Seattle native Apolo Ohno as well as skier Lindsey Vonn will be looking to make history during the upcoming winter games.

Easily one of the most recognizable athletes who will be competing at the Winter Olympics is Ohno with his trademark soul patch and rock star following. During the 2002 Salt Lake City winter, Olympiad Ohno burst forth onto the national scene as he captured two medals (1 gold and 1 bronze). At the 2006 winter games in Turin, Italy Ohno captured three more medals and he now sits only one medal away from tying Bonnie Blair's record as the most decorated US winter Olympian in history.

Before the 2006 Winter Olympics many people had never heard of female skier Lindsey

Vonn. However that all changed after she suffered one of the most brutal crashes in Olympic history which led to her having to be medically evacuated. Despite the horrific crash she managed to compete the next day and landed an eighth place finish. Now with all of that in her past she'll be looking to come out with a vengeance and shred the slopes of Vancouver. Vonn is favored to win the downhill and super-g events as she won both of those events at the 2009 World Cup of Skiing.

One of the more intriguing story lines heading into the Olympics will be how the USA men's and women's hockey teams perform. After a disappointing eighth place finish in 2006 the men's team will be going with a much younger look as only four players will return from the 2006 squad. Gone are mainstays like Mike Modano and Jeremy Roenick and in-

coming are the next wave of American talent like budding superstars Patrick Kane of the Chicago Blackhawks and Phil Kessel of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Despite being one of the youngest teams in the tournament Team USA is expected to challenge for a medal but will have to knock off the traditional powers Canada and Russia

if they want to end up on the podium.

On the ladies' side it looks as if it will be the same two teams competing for the gold medal as Team USA and Team Canada continue to be light years better than the

rest of the competition. The Americans will be relying on Forwards Krissy Wendell and Julie Chu to carry the squad to victory.

The biggest rivalry in the 2010 Olympics won't be between two countries; in fact it will be between teammates Shani Davis and Chad Hedrick of the US speed skating team. The rivalry started back in Turin when Davis refused to participate in the team pursuit event. After refusing to participate Davis received harsh criticism from Hedrick despite Davis not even being eligible to participate in the event. This has led to much friction between the two skat-

ers but Davis has responded to the criticisms by becoming arguably the best speed skater in the world. Davis will be favored to take home gold in his only two solo events, the 1,000 meter sprint and the 1,500 meter sprint.

Ever since the inclusion of snowboarding in the Olympics in 1998 the USA has dominated the competition having come away with 14 medals, including sweeping the men's halfpipe event in 2002. This year's snowboard team looks like it may be given its first true test as only a few members are expected to medal this year. One of those members just so happens to be the king of snowboarding, Mr. Shaun White. After winning gold in the 2006 Olympics in the half pipe he has continued his momentum by winning three consecutive X games gold medals in the half pipe. Anything less than gold for the "Flying Tomato" will be seen as a sure disappointment.

On the women's side Gretchen Bleiler will be gunning for the one thing that has eluded her during her career and that is a gold medal in the Olympics. Her career resume is quite stacked with four X games gold medals but she failed to win the gold in her first Olympic go-around in 2006. Heading into Vancouver she will be the favorite in the women's half pipe event.

This Olympic team has been dubbed by some experts as one of the greatest US Winter Olympic teams in history. Look for the USA to challenge for the most medals won in Vancouver and be sure to root them on as they go for the gold.

## Lady Gators are in transition

By: Sean Kramer

The Gator Women of the hardwood are under new management. A new coach, new philosophies and a new direction for Green River's women's basketball program, but, change couldn't have been any more unexpected.

On January 26th Dennis Olson, in his third year in charge of the Gator Women's program, decided to resign for personal reasons leaving a fairly inexperienced first year coach in charge.

In his stead, the interim title was handed over to Associate Head coach Mary Layton, a former Green River player who returned this year to begin her coaching career as an assistant.

"Dennis made a decision that was best for the program and for himself and I accepted his letter of resignation," said Bob Kickner, the Athletic Director. "We plan to have Mary as interim head coach the rest of the season ... I'm fully confident in her ability to get us to the rest of the season."

The change represents a number of challenges for the Green River program, the least of which might be the fact that Layton is only one year removed from college herself and has no prior coaching experience. A radical shift from Olson, who had over three decades of coaching experience.

She admits there might be a shuffle in the player-coach dynamic.

"It has been somewhat of a problem," she said. "But the more I show them what I know and what I can do for them, from the experience that I've had, they start to tune into that and respect that a little more."

Being able to learn from a three decade veteran of coaching has been a help, however.

"It's been a huge help, I've had a lot of time this last month," she said. "I've learned there's a huge difference between knowing what you need to do and teaching it."

Still, Layton is putting her own stamp on the team. Practices, game plans, tempo and even the playbook has been changed to match the personality of their new coach and what she's used to, admitting she's "kind of had to go with what I knew."

The playbook has become a little more complex, the intensity has been ratcheted up and the tempo has been increased.

"(Dennis') aesthetic was more of the basics, the fundamentals," said Katie Tillman, team captain and one of the two Sophomores on the team. "With Mary there's a lot more conditioning and scrimmage play, and learning that way instead of the fundamentals first."

Amidst the changes the Gators have struggled on the court, dropping 11 of their last 12 games after Feb. 13th's loss against South Puget Sound.

Contributing to the struggles could be the youth of the team, composed of mostly Freshman. Regardless, Layton still sees improvements.

"Having a young team is hard because they're coming in from all different sorts of schools and backgrounds, and they've never played for a college before...but they've done a good thing of figuring things out," she said. "It's been taking us the whole season...to get a feel of a team going on. They're improving all the time, every game we're improving. I think we're looking at a strong end to the season."

In the mean time, the school will conduct a formal coaching search for the position to be filled full time. According to Kickner, he is confident that Green River has a "position that should be able to attract a pretty good pool of candidates."

When the school hired Olsen they couldn't have been happier with who they got. Dennis Olsen came with a plethora of wins, and Tacoma Dome playoff appearances, as head coach of Auburn High School's girl's program, among a few other stops before arriving at Green River.

Olson's hiring three years ago set the bar pretty high when it came to the experience the Gators could get out of their next coach.

"There are very few people that have the reputation and the pedigree that Dennis Olsen has," he said, mentioning it's "not likely" they'll grab a coach of his pedigree.

As for Layton's candidacy, she hinted that seriously pursuing the job fulltime is probably not in her plans, but would be more than welcome to return to the coaching staff next year.

“After winning gold in the 2006 Olympics in the half pipe he has continued his momentum by winning three consecutive X games gold medals in the half pipe.”

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## As baseball kicks off, Acker looks to finish on right note

By: Luke Goodgion

The Green River baseball team was ranked 6th coming into the 2010 season in Coach Matt Acker's last year here at Green River. Green River Community College (GRCC) finished 3rd in the North West Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) playoffs last year and pose a huge threat this upcoming season.

The Gators have the majority of their team from last year returning.

"We have a lot of talent in our returners as well as the new talent coming in from the freshman," Acker stated.

The pitching staff has a lot of talent and depth in the bullpen. Returners David Macey, Jake Shadle, Nate O'Bryan, Sean Goforth, Jordan Noot, and Brendan Jeffers are returning to the team from a successful season last year and want to cap it off here at Green River.

"We want to post great numbers as a staff, pitch to the situation, and bring the NWAACC championship back to Green River," Macey stated. Nate O'Bryan, a left handed pitcher from Olympia, set the NWAACC record and possibly the college record with 17 runners picked off last year.

Freshmen Cody Hebner, Swayze Guerrero, Chris McElderry, Damon Porter, and Tanner Walker will have their first season playing collegiate baseball. The strong pitching staff will be backed up by a talented defense and a powerful offense. First baseman, Zach Gagnon, had a .303 batting average his freshman year and was third on the team with 53 hits and second in RBI's with 45. He was selected first team all Western Region and was named to the All Tournament team. "We have some really good freshman who can actually hit this year," Gagnon said.

Key players to look out for this year in the of-

fense are Zach Gagnon, Bobby Jo Tannehill, Andrew Larson-Pulvar, Connor Cook, Corwin Patis, Tanner Nielsen and Tyler Conklin. The offense has a trusted bat from top to bottom of the lineup. "We will hit for a high average this year throughout the lineup," Acker stated. The competition will be fierce this year and Coach Acker believes his team can be the team to win it this year. "We need to stay pissed off and hungry to win and this year will be ours," Acker said.

Having 4 of the teams ranked higher than GRCC in the conference doesn't scare the team at all. "We know we can beat them," Acker explained. "None of those teams in our conference placed higher than us last year in the NWAACC playoffs last year". This will be Coach Acker's last year here at Green River leaving with the most wins and most years coaching here at GRCC. The season starts February 27 at Skagit Valley and their first home game is the next day at Auburn Mountainview High School.

## Honea's House

By: Andrew Honea

Another NBA All-Star weekend has come to a close, and we are just that much closer to a predictable play off series, likely involving domination by the Cavs and the Lakers. But that isn't the big picture. The big picture is indeed the festivities that took place in Dallas, Texas for All Star Weekend. It involved new and old competitions entertaining the crowd from start to finish.

First off, the 2nd Annual HORSE competition took place with defending champion Kevin Durant. Other participants were Boston Celtics Guard Rajon Rondo, in his first all star appearance, and Omri Casspi. Casspi didn't seem to have a chance from the get go. He missed shot after shot, but did manage to hit a pretty impressive free throw...which was immediately countered by both Durant and Rondo. As many would guess, Casspi was the first defeated, leaving Rondo and Durant to a finish for the ages. After time restrictions ended the original competition, the two remaining contestants were forced to resort to a 3-point competition, ending with Durant hitting 8 of 11 three pointers and a 2nd straight HORSE competition victory.

Next up was the skills challenge which came down to two former champions of the competition. Deron Williams of the Utah Jazz and Steve Nash of the Phoenix Suns made it exciting in the first round but due to some simple mistakes, Nash came up with the big victory. Unfortunately, Williams carelessness on the passing drill pushed the competition to the point where it wasn't even close anymore.

Next, the 3-point competition. This was the first true big name competition I've seen in years and was honestly the most competitive activity for all star weekend in my opinion. Stephen Curry, out of Golden State, made things interesting trying to pull off a David vs. Goliath type victory, after scoring 19 points in the first round. Paul Pierce, of the Celtics, and Chauncey Billups, of the Nuggets tacked on 18 in the first round as well. In the end, it was the streaky shooter Paul Pierce with the Victory.

Lastly, the dunk competition, and in my opinion one of the more disappointing competitions that took place over all star weekend. On UW Alumni Nate Robinson's way to a 3rd straight dunk championship, he showed truly no real creativity in his 51% victory.

It feels like it's time to put some real competitors back in this competition because this year, the result was just sad. On top of the lack of skill, defending champ Nate Robinson decided to retire from the competition after winning his third straight title in as many years, in my opinion showing that he has run out of ideas which was evident in the competition.

Overall, NBA weekend wasn't completely disappointing, but if it keeps up the route that it is on, All star weekend is sure to lose more and more of a fan base, as each year progresses.

## Athlete spotlight: Kayla Evans

By: Robert Barger

The fast-pitch season doesn't start until March, but the players have been preparing all year for the season to start. First year student, Kayla Evans, is one of these players and she is more than excited for the season to start.

Evans is a first year player who graduated from Kentwood High School. Last year she enjoyed a particularly stellar season where she was the recipient of South Puget Sound League (SPSL) Pitcher of the Year.

Despite her past accomplishments, she is focused on the task at hand. Evans and her fellow gators look to build on their third place finish in the North West Athletic Association of Community College (NWAACC) league.

"Personally, my goals for the season are to hit at least two homeruns, pitch two shutouts, and make it to the NWAACC tournament," said Evans. "As for the team, I would like to see us beat Central Washington University JV again for our pre-season games. I would like to see our GPA be the highest a GR Fastpitch team has ever had. Lastly, I want to beat Bellevue, Mount Hood, and make it to the top 4 in NWAACC tournament."

During her growing years she had developed a natural talent for fastpitch. Evans has been a pitcher with a devastating bat for the majority of her career. Last year for Kentwood she posted eye-popping numbers on the mound as well as in the batter's box.

Fastpitch for Evans has done more than present a challenge. As well as giving her a confidence boost and creating new friendships, it gives her an outlet for her stress, and provides time to spend with friends who share the same interests.

"Man, I would be lazy if I didn't have fastpitch," said Evans. "Honestly, I think I would be a totally different person if I had never played fastpitch. Meeting all the people and getting different advice and friendship are a big part of playing fastpitch!"

Evans dedicates a lot of her success to the people who have helped her throughout the years. Her drive to please coaches was one of the deciding factors in choosing Green River Community College.

GRCC was Evans' choice of schools because it was close to home, the girls were really fun to be



Robert Barger/The Current

Kayla Evans concentrates at batting practice on February 16.

around, and she really liked Head Coach Scott Dillinger. Their recent success didn't hurt her decision too much either. After GRCC she plans to hang up the competitive spikes and focus on getting a degree in Medical Imaging while playing adult slow-pitch softball.

Evans plans on competing at a high level in the NWAACC this year and would like to make a visit to the tournament at the end of the season.

GRCC was Evans' choice of schools because it was close to home, the girls were really fun to be

around, and she really liked Head Coach Scott Dillinger. Their recent success didn't hurt her decision too much either. After GRCC she plans to hang up the competitive spikes and focus on getting a degree in Medical Imaging while playing adult slow-pitch softball.

Evans plans on competing at a high level in the NWAACC this year and would like to make a visit to the tournament at the end of the season. Meeting her personal goals and providing some strong pitching would be a step in the right direction to help her team get there.

# Green River students protest at the state capitol

*By: Remco Zwetsloot & Jean-Pierre Garcia*

A massive crowd of both supporters and opponents gathered in Olympia on Feb. 15 to voice their concerns about imminent statewide budget cuts and possible tax increases.

The cuts and higher taxes are, according to the Democratic-controlled state legislature, necessary to close a \$2.8 billion budget gap. Major parties in the political spectrum were angered by the implications of the recent bill. A majority of conservatives opposed the bill on grounds of tax increase and the liberals were against budget cuts.

The first rally, which started at roughly 10 a.m., consisted of an estimated 3,000 people that were against the planned tax hike. Holding signs reading "give us liberty, not debt" while chanting "no more tax."

They were soon replaced by other groups opposed to the budget cuts.

Among the many thousands who protested cuts to education, health care and jobs were 15 students of Green River who had taken the time to drive to Olympia to contribute to the protest. College students like Evergreen and the University of Washington were also present.

Signs with "budget cuts are nuts" were waved in the air as numerous speakers spoke out.

In a letter from ASGRCC President, Mae Cubing, the Washington student association released that Senate Bill 6562 has been moved to vote. The bill proposes that tuition will be allowed to increase by 14 percent over the next three years. This means tuition has increased a whopping 70 percent since the economic downturn.

"It provides no promise that the legislature will reinvest in higher education once the economy improves," Cubing said.

She was concerned about how the possibilities would affect middle income families. She further expressed how she was disappointed about how the bill fails to lend a hand to a large population of students.

"It appears at first glance to provide financial aid for middle income families, but because it is based on triggers, it could be up to three years before any is available to them," Cubing said.

She added that tuition would need to increase \$6,000 a year before some families are eligible for a state need grant.

The legislative session is scheduled to end March 10 with announcements regarding the budget this week but have been pushed it back to next week. Without exact numbers released, there are little promises to how it will affect numerous programs on campus. The implications of recent budget talks look grim.

"I have no number figures for the cuts on work study grants," Cubing said, "but those are just as dismal, to looking basically non-existent next year."