

The Current

Green River Community College



Recipe:
almond
raspberry
muffins

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May 6, 2013 | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GREENRIVERCURRENT

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Bye Bye Birdie

Meet the cast

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The newest production
by the college's drama
department begins June
1, and runs through June
7 and 8.

Photographer credit: Dominic Yoxtheimer | The Current

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Disconnected connections

Social media
connections should
be for betterment
of society

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Also on the Inside

"As technology has become more advanced, our involvement with it has become an obsession and through that obsession our culture has become infatuated with convenience."

Spencer Rock **Page 10**



Photograph illustration by Dominic Yoxtheimer | *The Current*



Spring time has finally sprung throughout campus and the greater Puget Sound area. Student organizations are taking the opportunity to promote themselves in Kennelly Commons, and you can expect more students to start sunning themselves on campus.

So, break out the sunblock and sunglasses, because more good weather is in store.

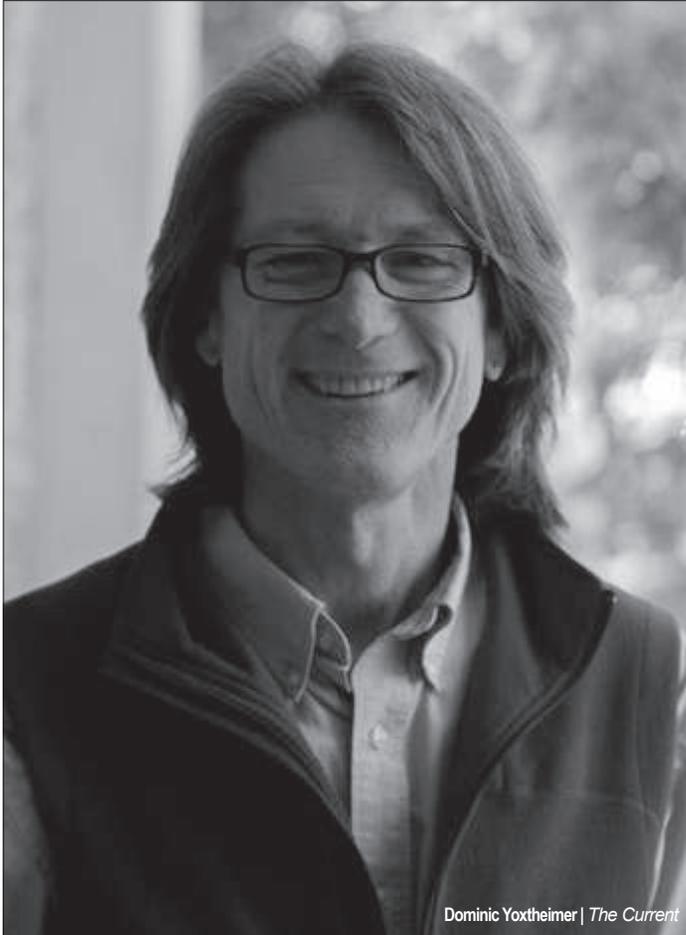


Photographs by Dominic Yoxtheimer | *The Current*

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Position:
Political Science Instructor
Years at Green River: 14

Lloyd Jansen



Dominic Yoxtheimer | The Current

What drew you to political science?

I was drawn to politics by a teacher in my freshman year of high school. It was the middle of the Vietnam War and times were hot. This teacher inspired his students to engage the world, and from that point I became a political activist. In later years, my academic interests grew and I wanted to know the causes of political situations and whether there were solutions to crises, so I started doing a lot of research.

Why did you decide to teach?

I got interested in learning foreign languages and had learned Spanish in Guatemala. I then went to Japan to learn Japanese. It's very common for foreigners to teach English to support themselves while learning Japanese. Long story short, I discovered that I really enjoyed teaching. I wasn't expecting it; in fact, I thought that teaching language was going to be boring, and it was anything but. It was a lot of fun.

How long have you been teaching?

I taught English and Spanish in Japan in 1980-1981 and I started teaching political science as a teaching assistant at the University of Washington

Jansen has been interested in politics since early in his high school career.

in 1989. I've been teaching my own classes since 1992. I still teach part time at the university, and have a class there now.

What courses do you teach?

Intro to Politics, American Government, Comparative Government, and State and Local Government.

Which course is your favorite?

I really enjoy them all for different reasons. I honestly think they're all a lot of fun. I think I constantly learn from each class, because there's always more to learn. Teaching different classes gives me an excuse to learn more and obviously I learn a lot from reading newspapers, reading books, and reading journals, but I learn a lot from my students. I give them assignments to analyze newspapers or human rights reports, and then they bring these materials to classes, so

I'm regularly learning a lot from my own students.

What is your favorite part about teaching?

I love seeing the light bulbs go off. I love it! I love seeing the "Aha!" moment when students are making connections and applying critical thinking, and I love it when students get excited about learning.

What is your least favorite part?

Grading. Grading can be really, really laborious. It can just take endless hours and days, and it goes on and on. Although, it can still be fun to read creative essays, insightful essays and good analyses.

Why is political science important?

Anybody in the world lives in a political world, whether they want to or not. Politics is about power, and knowledge is power. If anybody ignores politics, they are allowing others to have more power over them. The more you know more about what's going on, you have more opportunity to change the balance of power.

Why should students take a political science course?

To understand the political world that affects their lives every day; to be able to understand it and to be able to engage in it.

MAN ON THE STREET

What is one thing you've done, but would never tell someone else to do?



Hannah Ostrander

"Toilets in Japan are scary as hell. You're just sittin' there and everything is chill and all of a sudden it's spraying water at your butt. Probably shouldn't mess with the buttons."



Toni Luu

"I tried cooking spaghetti with barely any water and nothing else, and it didn't work out. The noodles were hard ... it was gross."



Michael Nobtko

"Driving around without contacts or glasses. If you have bad vision ... you're not going to be able to see street signs. Finding my way around was really difficult until I got contacts."



Eric Cahoon

"Running down a trail at 11pm with a flashlight, when it was wet. It's rocky and rather steep. I survived somehow, I'm not sure."

Save a tree!



Read The Current on issuu.com

Every other week, The Current's editors crawl out of their cave to ask the campus relevant questions.

Suggest a subject at:

thecurrent@greenriver.edu

Between the lines

'Gravely troubled' faculty, President Ely to meet over unprecedented letter of concern

By: Victoria Guth
Campus Editor

An unprecedented letter detailing years of unpleasant working relationships between the college faculty and President Dr. Eileen Ely has prompted a pledge from Ely to meet with faculty leaders.

The pledge came Tuesday, the day before Ely was to respond to the letter of concern in an interview with *The Current*.

The four-page letter, signed by the heads of 11 college divisions and by Hank Galmish, the head of the faculty Instructional Council, says it reflects the opinion of "an overwhelming majority of tenured faculty at the college." The letter was originally read by Galmish to members of an accreditation team that visited the college late last month. It was also e-mailed to Ely, Vice President Derek Brandes and college faculty.

The letter highlighted what its authors called "a collapse of shared governance." Examples, as outlined by the chairs, include changes to existing positions such as the deans of instruction, and removal of other positions entirely, as with the executive vice president. They also described a lack of consideration they perceived from the president toward the input of faculty members.

Additionally, the letter addressed several instances of "termination of many long-term employees." A total of 16 workers are said to have left GRCC since Ely became president, whether by terminated contracts, demotions or



Green River's president, Eileen Ely.

personal compulsion.

"Statistically, 95 percent of the tenured faculty are in support of the letter," said Galmish in an interview with *The Current*. "It was generated by the faculty."

Separately, the division chairs collectively expressed a desire that the letter would lead to improvements in communication.

"We're asking for more transparency ... the president has not had cross-campus meetings with faculty and staff on a regular basis," said John Avery, transitional studies and wellness division chair. "That would be something we would want."

According to the letter, the chairs maintain that under the college's current practices, they have reason to be "gravely troubled about the future of our college."

One worry is that the environment described in the letter will ultimately affect the education of GRCC students.

"Long-term, when institutions go this way, what begins to happen is [faculty members] eventually give up on fixing the problem ... and they look for places where they'd rather work," said Jaeney Hoene, English division chair. "And I think you start to lose good people at that point. I think that certainly has begun to happen here."

Ely addressed the letter on April 30 in an e-mail sent to faculty members. In the e-mail, the president acknowledged the existence of an "adversarial relationship between faculty and administration." She then recounted her understanding of how and when the letter had first originated, and described her actions in the days succeeding that event.

"After receiving the letter, I met with the accreditation team leader Dr. Patrick Lanning," Ely said in her e-mail. "We briefly discussed the content of the letter, and I shared several responses with him at that time. I also offered to submit a documented response to the letter in writing the following day. This information was not shared with anyone outside the accreditation team, as it contained confidential personnel information," she said.

The president then proposed a meeting with Instructional Council leadership members, as well as her administrative team, to further address the content of the letter of concern.

Galmish responded favorably to Ely's overture.

"I think it's a good step forward," he said. "I think it's important for all parties involved to sit down and try to make things better."

The meeting proposed by Dr. Ely has not yet been scheduled.

Students attend Power of One Conference

By: Aisha Addish
Staff Writer

The refreshing and empowering experiences associated with Power of One Conferences attract hundreds of students each year.

The 2013 Power of One Conference took place over the last weekend in April, and was hosted at the Boise State University.

Hosted by the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education, and LGBTQA organizations all over the Northwest, the Power of One Conference is a three-day event that is designed to promote and encourage leadership for the youth. The platform of this event is designed to educate students and stimulate a sense of social justice for a more cohesive environment.

Because of the importance of unity, there are no limitations or qualifications for who is invited. Anyone is welcome to experience these three days of enlightenment. This annual event is packed with informative workshops, fun activities, inspiring performances and a variety of networks students can receive for their own benefit.

As a leadership conference, students are taught the psychology of themselves and of others. They are trained to cultivate their own identity and to realize that the social norm is not the only way to live.

Audi Audije, student coordinator for diversity services for Green River Community College, was one of the event's few GRCC attendees. But despite the lack of representation, he made it evident that it was one of his best experiences. During his interview, his passion radiated as he spoke.

"Just being there with other students made it so inclusive," said Audije. "There were so many different and inspiring perspectives."

He believes that these types of events allow for students from all over the world to develop recognition and empathy for different perceptions. Embracing humanity is a celebration, and the Power of One Conference is one of the hundreds that have affected GRCC, and the whole Northwest Region.

Green River completes seven-year plan

By: Koen Valks
Staff Writer

Green River Community College is moving towards a positive future, having recently finished a seven-year strategic plan that depicts the goals and future direction for the college.

GRCC has been working on the plan since 2012, in order to adapt and react to the ever-changing academic environment.

The strategic plan started by reviewing outside factors such as competition, technology and the

needs of the community, which assisted the college in determining the primary areas of need. Essentially, the strategic plan provides GRCC with a "roadmap for the next 7 years and helps with giving direction" according to Vickie Sheehan, executive director of college relations.

In order to keep track of the plan's effectiveness over time, the college has set specific program goals to be achieved each year. The strategic roadmap may run into obstacles along the way, because set dates and times are

likely to change.

There are also limitations to the strategic plan, because while it does provide innovative ideas for the future, it does not explain the specific course of action needed to arrive at these developments.

The biggest challenge is connecting the plan to reality, according to Chris Johnson, the executive director of institutional effectiveness. Because of this, after the strategic plan was finalized, an operational plan was made to keep track of this progress and make sure these

concepts do eventually become a reality.

The college will continue to build upon the core values it has laid out. Student success and access, high quality teaching, learning and support, community engagement, equity and global awareness are all vital incorporations in future planning. As the strategic plan provides the college with goals and a direction, continuous improvements will be made as the college adapts to a demanding environment with a willingness to strive forward.

Also on the Inside

"It was super special. I knew I had to be aggressive to make birdies and make up ground."

Broc Johnson **Page 12**

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A&E

A&E Editor: Kaylee Onorati
ae.editor@mail.greenriver.edu

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May 6,
2013

Centerstage with Bye, Bye, Birdie



Matt Dalos as

Conrad Birdie

How has this role challenged you?

Conrad Birdie is a very lively person, he's really out there and nobody really like him exists today. You could compare him to Justin Bieber or Justin Timberlake. I'm trying to incorporate Elvis into it. [Birdie] is kind of a crazy person, but he's also got some depth to his part.

What have you done to prepare yourself for this role?

I've done some research on Elvis, watched some of the movies. There's two Bye Bye Birdie movies, but I tried not to watch those because that's someone else's performance. I do a lot of singing practice and it takes a lot of memorization. I really don't have lines, and songs are a little easier to remember than lines, but still I've got to dance while [singing]. You just make your best effort and do it.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

I honestly don't have any idea. For now, I'm just trying out an acting class. Like I said, this is something I would like to continue with.

Josh Bowen as

Albert Peterson

How has this role challenged you?

This role has challenged me a lot, vocally and acting wise. It's the first lead role I've had, and it's deeper than I've had to go. The only other role I've had before that was significant was Gaston and the only thing that he has ever done was be a giant, prideful son of a gun. It's difficult to try and convey emotion and attempt to be nervous. It's a lot of fun.

What have you done to prepare yourself for this role?

I've actually spent a lot of time working on my voice for this role. I haven't been trained vocally and have only done choir since winter quarter. A leading man has a very specific sound and I've been trying to emulate that by listening to people on YouTube; Andrew Rannells, Neil Patrick Harris, all very prolific actors.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Let's see ... I'll be ... 28, holy cow! That's a long ways off. I'll probably be graduated from college, a bonny bride on my knee, maybe a kid or two.

Heather Dial as

Kim MacAfee

How has this role challenged you?

I have to dance a lot, and I love dancing, but it's hard. I also have to play this ditsy girl and I don't really think of myself as a ditz.

What have you done to prepare yourself for this role?

I really think about what Kim is going through and all the things she is dealing with. Not just what she is saying. What actually is making her say the things she says and I really try to think about what is going through her head. I'm trying to get into who she really is, not just what she seems to be.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Probably graduated from a university with my B.A. in music. And hopefully playing piano somewhere. Central is what I'm leaning towards, because it's close and it's cheap. Also, I'd really like to go to Berklee College of Music or the Boston Conservatory.

Tashi Gutterud as

Rose Alvarez

How has this role challenged you?

Rosie is a lot different than me. She is very tough and very controlling, she's kind of the boss in the relationship between her and Albert, especially in the first few scenes. That's different, I'm not really used to that. And, by singing; I kind of freak out when singing, but when it's in character it's easier.

What have you done to prepare yourself for this role?

Just the usual, going through the book and analyzing the character and working, scene partners, dancing and singing a lot more than usual.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

I'd really like to stay with acting. It's my passion and it really makes me happy, but hopefully in ten years I'll be living on the beach, with a dog and my soulmate.

Interviews conducted by James Whipkey

Is "Oblivion" being oblivious

By: Laura Gray
Staff Writer



Oblivion takes viewers to a future where the Moon and Earth have been destroyed after an alien attack in the year 2017.

All the actors did a good job with their roles. The characters themselves just did not have much to them for the audience to really care about.

The plot line was very simplistic and straight forward. If one likes and knows science fiction films, they will likely figure out the story about 15 minutes into the film and the ending not much longer afterwards.

This makes me wonder if Oblivion isn't just a rip off of all the other science fiction movies that have come out.

The storyline did have some twists that would be interesting,

if one had not already figured out the plot by those points.

There was only one twist that was not really hinted at during the movie which was actually a good surprise. That is only if one is not already bored by this point.

Due to the obviousness of the plot, the added twists felt more like they were meant to prolong the film rather than give anything new to Oblivion's story.

When the writers were inventing the script, they seem to have lacked creativity and originality. This made Oblivion just like all the rest of the sci-fi films.

The special effects were done well. The destroyed moon looked splendid giving the destroyed Earth a new sky. This really added the feel of desolation to the post-apocalyptic Earth.

Fans of science fiction will still enjoy Oblivion, so long as they are prepared for all the references to plots in other science fiction films.



FEATURE

Welcome to a beautiful mind

Charlee Ellingson allows us to see into her thoughts through her artwork

By: Kaylee Onorati
A&E Editor

Charlee Ellingson, a freshman at Green River, has brought the campus new artwork. With her artistic style and love for creating, she definitely has a bright future ahead of her in the art world.

Her love of art started at age five when she began drawing. Since then she has continued in her passion to become an artist.

Ellingson has experimented with many art mediums, from water color to sculpting. Sometimes she even uses power tools to make her pieces.

When looking at Ellingson's art, it seems like you can feel what she was feeling at the time she was creating it. This is one of the reasons Ellingson is so good at what she does. She knows how to portray emotions through colors, shapes, lines and subject choice.

Ellingson has long been a part of the art loving community, tak-



"Art is my way of not going crazy."

- Charlee Ellingson

ing classes since a very young age. Her style of art is inventive and eye catching.

Her art can go from cute to disturbing, humorous to thought provoking. She knows how to get people's attention with her art.

For her high school senior project, Ellingson wanted to do something different. She had her own art show at Park Place Deli in Seattle. The show was a success. Her artwork was up for

a month in the deli, and she had one night where she was there to answer viewers questions, and see peoples reactions to her art. She sold five pieces of art making a total of \$900.

When asked why she enjoyed art, Ellingson said, "Art is my way of not going crazy."

Ellingson is inspired by Tim Burton and Beth Stichter.

Green River was lucky enough to get Miss Ellingson to be a part

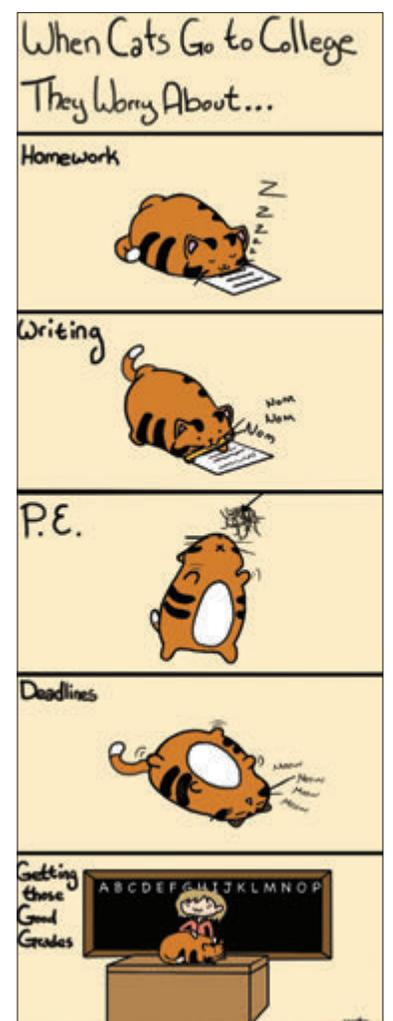
of our student body. "Green River is the most artsy of the community colleges," said Ellingson.

Not only has she impressed her high school with her talents, but also Green River. You can see many of Ellingson's art pieces in the student show this month. The show is held in the Holman Library. You can see a handful of her fantastic drawings and even a 3D sculpture constructed out of everyday materials.

Ellingson plans on going to Western Washington University after finishing her Associates in Fine Arts here at Green River. She will be going towards a degree in Fine Arts at Western.

Ellingson, though her dream is to become an artist, wants to get an education in teaching or illustration. Maybe even make a comic book. Someday she would like to open her own gallery. She has big dreams for her future.

Watch out for this artist, she's going to rock the art world.



The Current Picks

GAME

Minecraft



By: James Whipkey

Minecraft is an open world sandbox game.

It revolves around the player being able to alter their environment in any way they see fit. This is mostly done by building with material blocks.

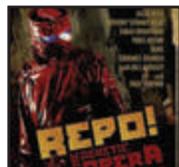
A player could build the manor of their dreams on a picturesque snow capped peak. They can even make a farm or a forest.

The player can tunnel deep into the earth to create the largest diamond mine the world has ever seen.

A person is only limited to the confines of their own imagination and creativity.

MOVIE

Repo! The Genetic Opera



By: Laura Gray

Repo! The Genetic Opera is a cult film made by the director of Saw 2, 3, and 4.

This means that there is blood and gore in the film.

The film is visually stunning, even the gory scenes.

It is a dark and twisted musical set approximately 50 years in the future. This is not a musical akin to movies like Sound of Music.

These songs are much darker with a rock influence. In many of the songs you even watch mutilations while characters sing.

This is a must see for anyone who likes cult films.

BOOK

The Giving Tree



By: Kaylee Onorati

The Giving Tree, though a children's book, can be enjoyed by all ages.

Shel Silverstein, the author, writes and illustrates all his books. His pictures and words are always charming to the eye.

The book is about growing up and how life is a cycle.

Throughout the main character's life (a little boy) his tree gives him everything it has. Its fruit, its shade and its love. The child and the tree grow up together.

The story has a bittersweet ending that makes even the strongest people a little emotionally distraught.

MUSIC

Good Old War



By: Benjamin Biernacki

Good Old War's debut and eponymous album features songs covering a range of topics, but all sharing the same sort of upbeat tempos, lilting vocals and plucky chords.

There is something surreal in hearing Keith Goodwin sing about an often broken heart while the mood of the song seems to be joyous; even the band's most tragic songs hint at a brighter tomorrow.

This is an album that understands fragile and broken emotions, but will also help pick up the pieces.

OPINION COLUMN

Playing for KEEPS

New jobs are opening in the gaming world

By: Derek Forbes
Staff Writer

Video games are generally not seen as a viable career choice. Though it is not well known, pro gaming is actually becoming a real job for many people.

Pro gamers are able to gain a very high income purely off being good at their respective video game. In the case of Starcraft 2, the top three earning players have made over \$300,000 in only two years, solely from winning tournaments.

But for those that cannot win tournaments so consistently, sponsorships for teams and players have become so huge that pro gamers are able to earn a respectable salary. League of Legends is a good example of this. In their new pro league, the League of Legends Championship Series, the eight teams that qualify are able to earn a salary from their team and the creators of League of Legends. This leads the teams to have a large amount of money which they use to live in huge mansions where they train to get better.

These gaming houses where they play anywhere from 8-14 hours a day are essential so they can bond as a team and improve their skill at the game. Nearly all the teams in the League of Legends Championship Series live in gaming houses which shows the consistent sponsorship income in gaming that allows these teams to live so well.

The sponsorship income is generated from the large amount of people watching pro gaming events.

There is a huge scene behind pro gaming that you would not believe. Streams of video game tournaments reach 100,000 to 200,000 viewers on average. This provides an opportunity for companies to advertise to many people, which is why video game teams get sponsored so much. So these sponsorships would mean nothing without the community of people watching video game events.

This community of people supports the scene immensely and many of these people have the dream of becoming a pro gamer, and maybe you do too.

This dream is one that is glamorous, but it is not an easy thing to accomplish. In order to become a pro gamer, one must dedicate a huge amount of time purely to playing a specific video game.

This does not mean 2-4 hours a day, this means 8-12 hours a day of trying to get better. The reason for that is there are already many pro gamers who play 5-7 days a week, 8-14 hours a day.

Pro gaming can be a high risk high reward type of career, as some players do not have sponsors and try to gain high spots in tournaments to earn some money. But as mentioned before, the pro gaming scene seems to be becoming a more reliable and consistent career with the emergence of leagues such as the League of Legends Championship Series.

Pro gaming is on the rise. Video games are becoming very popular with the new generations and at some point pro gaming may surpass leagues like the NFL or the NBA. So keep your eye on the pro gaming scene, it might show up on your TV soon.



Friday May 17 10am-2pm Spring Pledge Drive '13

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Also on the Inside

"We're asking for more transparency ... the president has not had cross-campus meetings with faculty and staff on a regular basis"
 John Avery **Page 4**

Cooking Corner

Almond Raspberry Muffins

Ingredients:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 cup whole or low-fat plain yogurt
- 1/2 tsp almond extract
- 2 large eggs
- 8 tbsp (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted and cooled
- 1/4 cup of raspberry jam

1 Preheat oven to 375 degrees and grease a muffin or mini-muffin tin

2 Whisk the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt together in a large bowl. In a medium bowl, whisk the almond extract,

yogurt and eggs together until smooth.

3 Gently fold this yogurt mixture into the flour mixture with a rubber spatula until just combined.

4 Fold in the melted butter.

5 Spoon 2 tbsp of the batter into each muffin tin. Drop 1 tsp raspberry jam into each cup, then spoon the remaining batter evenly on top.

6 Bake until golden brown and a toothpick inserted into the center of a muffin comes out with just a few crumbs.

7 Let the muffins cool in the pan for 5 minutes, then flip out into a wire rack, and let cool for 10 minutes before serving.



Important Notes:

Folding is an important term to know when baking. Folding is a technique used to combine two mixtures of a different density. Typically, one is adding a lighter mixture to a denser mixture. The technique itself involves adding the lighter mixture to the denser one and then scooping up part of the denser mixture and folding it over the top of the lighter mixture. What makes folding so much better than normal stirring? Folding allows the mixture to stay lighter and fluffier. If done correctly with this recipe, your muffins will turn out light and fluffy as opposed to hard and dense.

Make sure you fold until the two mixtures are just starting to combine. If you over mix the batter it will ruin the texture of the muffins.

By: Makena Cayce

Two Budgets, One Look

Why pay for more when you can get the similar look for less?

This Spring, it's all about the stripes! This look is the new casual chic and can be either worn to school or a daytime date. A vertical-stripe stretchy leggings, paired with a plain white round-neck cotton top and a fitted jacket in crepe fabric with front welt pockets. This outfit can be spiced up with a leather satchel bag with metal tips, a pair of faith cameo extreme platform ankle boots, a wilder roll brim boater hat, some gold circuit rings, and a dark identity bracelet.

\$270.61 VS. \$8305



1. Bag:	JUST Fab \$40	vs.	Gucci \$2290
2. Hat:	Asos \$35	vs.	Topshop \$50
3. Blazer:	H&M \$35	vs.	Versace \$1695
4. Scarf:	Love Couture \$9	vs.	Alexander McQueen \$295
5. Ring:	Nasty Gal \$12	vs.	Cartier \$1525
6. Bracelet	Nasty Gal \$22	vs.	Versace \$695
7. Top:	Forever 21 \$10	vs.	Topshop \$90
8. Stripes Pants:	Forever 21 \$8	vs.	Michael Kors \$1295
9. Shoes:	Asos \$100	vs.	Nasty Gal \$370

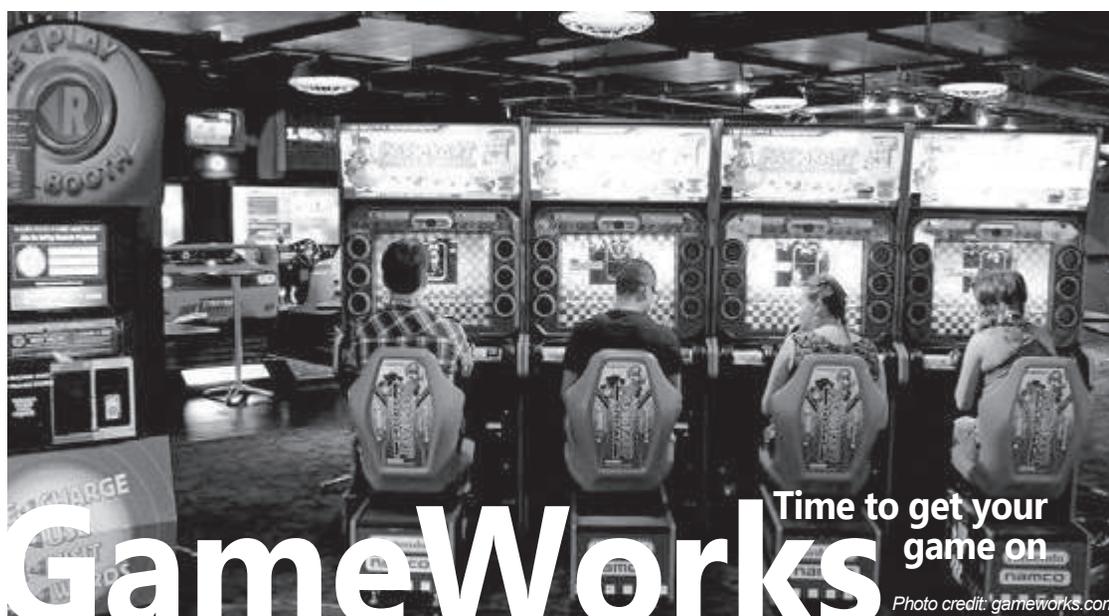
By: Sally Okhios

VENUE REVIEW

QUICKFACTS



NAME: GameWorks
VENUE TYPE: Arcade
ADDRESS: 1511 7th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101
PHONE: (206) 521-0952
HOURS: Mon-Wed 11am-12am
Thurs-Fri 11am-1am
Sat 10am-1am
Sun 10am-12am
*18+ after 10pm daily
WEBSITE: gameworks.com
PRICE: \$10-\$35



By: Tyler Coxey
Staff Writer

GameWorks is a two-story super arcade located near Pike Street in downtown Seattle. It's conveniently situated next to a Regal Cinema and is within walking distance of various restaurants, such as the Cheesecake Factory, as well as clothing stores, such as the American Eagle Outfitters.

Under its roof, GameWorks not only provides hundreds of assorted games, but also serves a variety of food and beverages which includes a full bar.

Enough fun will go around as GameWorks accommodates event sizes from as little as a party of ten to a crowd of twelve hundred. With a wide

variety of games, from old-schoolers like Frogger and PacMan to high-tech racing games, it's not going to be easy to sit still. You might have to strap yourself in so that you don't go flying out of your seat due to all the excitement.

With many different activities, GameWorks welcomes gamers and non-gamers alike.

I've been an arcade enthusiast my entire life and GameWorks is by far my number one arcade choice. I attended their play your way Thursday event from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. and only paid \$10 for an amazing gaming experience. It would be \$12 for new members with a \$2 card activation fee. That's eight hours of non-stop gaming! Can't make it Thursday?

Can't make it Thursday?

You're not out of luck, they have plenty of other promotions every day of the week, including eat and play combos and other group deals.

What I really enjoyed about GameWorks is that most of their games encourage collaboration, so I won't be playing games just on my own.

Whether you're working together to mow down a horde of zombies or individually high-speed racing for first place, the friendly competition will let you walk away with a smile.

The employees are incredibly nice and helpful, but a word of advice: you may not want to challenge them to a game. I made that mistake once and they beat my highscore by twice my score.

I guess I needed some practice, however, that's not a problem because I will be returning to GameWorks in the very near future.

Attire is casual and the place is very noisy, but you would probably expect such a thing from an arcade filled with enthusiastic visitors.

Parking is a breeze with about four parking garages less than two blocks away. I recommend the City Centre parking garage located on Pike, one street away. They have fairly low prices with \$6 dollar parking after 5 p.m.

All in all, GameWorks is safe and fun for kids and it will always be a frequent destination of mine and I will go out of my way to come back every week.

Life hacks

As much as some of us want to do everything under the sun while we're not in class, there will be days that we'll do absolutely nothing ... and like it. Whether you're sitting at home or going out, you can take a few shortcuts to make your day much better.

Bedtime entertainment

I know I like to watch some movies before I go to bed, but it's hard to get comfortable if I'm not lying down. If you have VLC in your laptop, open your videos in VLC. In VLC, go to tools, effects and filters, then click on video effects and select rotate video 90 degrees. You can now have the best of both worlds and watch videos while lying in bed on our side.

Foggy lights

Cloudy car headlights can be dangerous when driving at night. With some toothpaste and a cloth, this is a simple fix. The first thing to do is apply some toothpaste and spread it all over the headlights. After leaving the toothpaste on for a few minutes, rinse and clean it off with a wet cloth, now enjoy your spotless headlights.

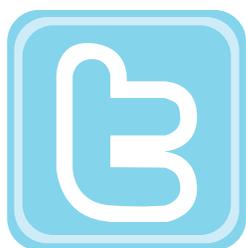
Listerine and waterworks

I don't know about you, but I cry every time I use mouthwash. Here's a trick to make mouthwash less painful, all you need is some mouthwash and a cigar tube. First off, empty and clean the tube, then fill it with desired amount of mouthwash. Finally, run the filled tube under hot water for about 10 seconds and enjoy your painless rinse!

Don't take too long

Getting ready in the morning can be one of the longest rituals of the day, but here's a way to get out of the house in time. Make your playlist exactly as long as you have to get ready in the morning. Go from chill songs to more energetic. You will be able to tell how you are doing on time by the currently playing song.

Credit: vodoocc on imgur.com



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Corrections

As much as we like to think we are, journalists are not perfect. Because of this, we welcome our readers to let us know when we make mistakes in our paper.

If you find that we've spelled someone's name wrong or stated our facts incorrectly, please contact us at:

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Tech promotes advancement? Or laziness?

Convenient technology is a boon for humans, but the cost might be too high

Commentary by:
Spencer Rock

One of my favorite Disney Pixar movies is Wall-E. At face value, this is a movie about two robots that fall in love. However, there is an underlying message to this movie about what direction humanity is heading; in the movie, human beings are so obese that they can't walk. They never leave the hover chairs used to get around.

As technology has become more advanced, our involvement with it has become an obsession and through that obsession our culture has become infatuated with convenience.

Of course, Wall-E is an exaggeration of the direction mankind is heading toward, but

the moral still rings true.

When I was a kid and I wanted to watch a TV show, I had to be home on a certain date at a certain time in order to see it. If I couldn't do that, I had to wait for the rerun or go without. Nowadays, you can DVR or TiVo any show you like so that you can watch it when you are able to. If that doesn't work, you can use a variety of services like Netflix to watch shows on demand.

We also had to buy CDs when I was a kid in order to own the music that we liked. Not too long before that, people would wait by the radio for their favorite song to come on, or they would have to go see it performed live. Now, you can get the one song you like by an artist on iTunes for 99 cents and carry it around with you on an iPod so that you can listen to that song any hour of the day. Just about anything we use for entertainment in our modern culture has a story like this: smart phones, computers, video games, etc.

Aside from entertainment we have even found a way to simplify the effort we put into human interaction. You want to talk to someone throughout all the hours of the day? You can talk to someone over text instead of having a conversation with them in person. Then if you want to have a conversation with someone "in person" without having to travel to wherever they are you can get a web camera or download the app on your phone and Skype them so that you don't actually have to go anywhere.

One of the worst offenders is Facebook, which has become a cultural phenomenon that not only provides a place where human contact is simulated, but it now involves all kinds of entertainment, like games and apps, to perpetuate people to use it more often.

All of these things are a huge part of our culture and most young people cannot imagine what life would be like without these different forms of technology. They don't quite realize

the way that it affects their interactions with people around them. Instead of going to the park and playing Frisbee with a few friends, there are a lot of people who would rather sit at home and catch up on their favorite shows. Instead of hanging out with people in person, many believe that liking posts on Facebook and Instant Messaging is a more convenient way to get to know someone.

I personally know of people who I've seen in person less than a handful of times who text me constantly and believe that this makes us close friends when in reality they are no more than an acquaintance who text me all the time.

Yes, technology is convenient and it was created to make our lives easier but that is no reason to simplify what could be a true human connection with words on a page. It is important for us young people to start building relationships that will last, instead of letting technology rule one of our most fundamental human abilities.

That's what
HE said, SHE said

"I have not yet begun to fight."

- John Paul Jones

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter."

- Mark Twain

"I am become death, the destroyer of worlds"

- J. Robert Oppenheimer

"Laugh, and the world laughs with you; weep, and you weep alone."

- Charlotte Bronte

"There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you."

- Maya Angelou

"You cannot find peace by avoiding life."

- Virginia Woolf

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The Current encourages all its readers to be involved and will publish letters. Anonymous letters are not accepted and the editor reserves the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of length, libel, or propriety. All letters become property of The Current. Send letters to thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Disconnected connections

Social media connections should be for betterment of society



Commentary by:
Jeff Waits

On April 19, the Boston Marathon was attacked by two young men for reasons we are still coming to learn. Following the event, thousands of people were tweeting unconfirmed and flat out false information, which compromised the safety of the community and police officers directly involved in the manhunt for the suspects. Many of these people were glued to the police scanner and were tweeting what they heard, regardless of the source.

It turned into a bad game of telephone.

Then, as I was watching CNN cover the breaking news story, Anderson Cooper pulled out his phone and shared with the country the Boston Police Department's tweet that they had finally caught the elusive suspect number two.

I had one thought: awesome.

Cooper was using Twitter in a very practical way. Less than a decade ago, there was no way for us to confirm information that quickly. It reminded me how engrained social media has become in our society, and that there are great advantages to having it.

There is no doubt that social media has many disadvantages, such as the myriad tweets concerning Boston. Even worse are those celebrities that use it as a sort of diary and post douche bag comments. Not to mention us common folk, who really like to post pictures of our food and pets.

But outweighing those examples are the advantages. It's used far and wide to promote and support all causes political, medical, educational, etc. Groups such as the World Health Organization are constantly updating their twitter feed with useful information and providing links to worthy causes.

So you should ask yourself, how do you use social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram? Do you use them to post miscellaneous things in your life, or do you use it more dutifully? Or at least more practically?

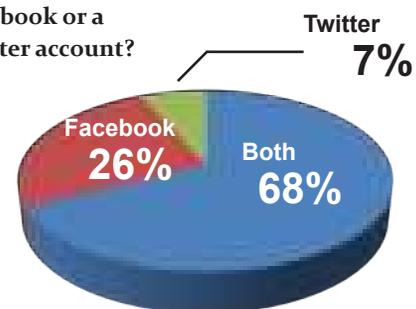
"There are definite advantages of having social media. I've met several amazing friends through social media that I would never have met without it. Older people tend to think it is a fad, but it is just not true," said Kate Retherford, a social media manager at Frontier Communications.

Make no mistake, social media is here to stay. It's how we stay connected. Sure, most of us are guilty of getting a little too distracted with our fancy smart phones and all the bells and whistles that come along with it. Some people tend to stare at their phones and choose to text a friend miles away rather than use their voice to talk to the person sitting right next to them, and that is certainly a rude gesture.

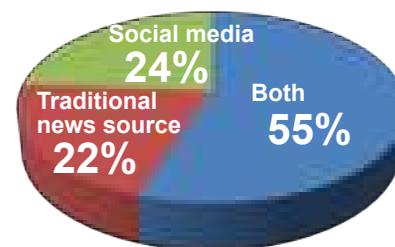
But we are more connected than ever before.

Social Media & News

Do you have a Facebook or a Twitter account?



Where do you get your news?



105 students surveyed

Whether you use social media to communicate with your fellow teachers or students, exert influence over others, or simply to stay connected, we all have to remember to be responsible and be accountable with what we post online where millions of others can read it. But more importantly, keep asking yourself if there is another way you can use these platforms for the better. Maybe post a link to a local cause or event every now and then. Ask your hundreds of followers to donate to a charity instead of asking them what to wear to class.

Explore Green River, get experienced

Green River offers the university college experience for less



Commentary by:
Derek Forbes

Do you ever feel like you're not getting the college experience you want? Well look around Green River and you'll find it.

As a Running Start student I never really looked at Green River as somewhere to gain a real college experience, I saw it simply as a place to earn credits; nothing more. After doing some research and looking around the college I've found that there are plenty of opportunities to have fun and really enjoy the college years.

With tons of events, campus housing, a building for students to hang out in, cheap tuition and a section purely dedicated to giving students events to go to, I think that Green River has a strong capability to provide its students the college experience that they want.

In the Student Life section of the Lindbloom Center, there is a white board that has all the events for the next month, and there are a lot. Stacks of fliers give more details on each of these exciting events.

Green River recently provided a trip to Hawaii with all expenses paid for only \$800. If that's not a good college experience I don't know what is.

"We try to make the best, most fun, and cheapest entertainment for the students at Green River," said Amanda Cliff, an office assistant at Student Life.

Clearly, the college is committed to giving students a memorable and affordable experience.

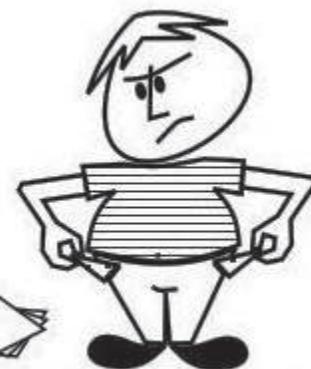
People often argue that community colleges are not about the experience and people only go to gain transfer degrees, but Green River does not seem to reflect that ideology at all.

Green River tries to make students feel like a part of the college and they have done this successfully with their housing that is on campus. Students have the opportunity to live on campus and get the dorm experience with a close knit community of students who spend a lot of time at the college. With all of these characteristics that Green River provides, one begins to wonder why students continue to pay so much for universities.

Tuition prices at universities are very high, yet many high school students go right to universities

UNIVERSITIES

On campus housing: Yes
School sports: Yes
Student activity center: Yes
Entertaining events: Yes
Accredited degree: Yes
Tuition cost: \$25,900



GREEN RIVER

On campus housing: Yes
School sports: Yes
Student activity center: Yes
Entertaining events: Yes
Accredited degree: Yes
Tuition cost: \$8,885



after they graduate. Many students do this so they can have the college experience that universities provide. But if they just go to Green River for two years and get a transfer degree, they can attain that college experience without

nearly as much expense. Green River provides many ways to have a good college experience at a lower cost than universities. So, look around at what you have before you look forward to universities.

Stay Current

Stay in touch with the community by following The Current on Facebook and Twitter:
www.facebook.com/greenrivercurrent
www.twitter.com/thecurrentnet

Also on the Inside

"With many different activities, GameWorks welcomes gamers and non-gamers alike."

Tyler Coxy Page 9

WEST DIVISION STANDINGS

BASEBALL

Lower Columbia	15-5	.750
Tacoma	12-4	.750
Pierce	12-4	.750
Clark	8-8	.500
Centralia	6-10	.375
Grays Harbor	5-15	.250
Green River	2-14	.125

SOFTBALL

Centralia	9-1	.900
Pierce	5-2	.714
Grays Harbor	7-3	.700
Highline	3-7	.300
Green River	3-7	.300
South Puget Sound	2-9	.182

SCHEDULE

BASEBALL

Fri. May 10, 1 p.m.
Centralia @ Centralia, Wash.

Fri. May 10, 4 p.m.
Centralia @ Centralia, Wash.

Sat. May 11, 1 p.m.
Centralia @ Green River, Wash.

Sat. May 11, 4 p.m.
Centralia @ Green River, Wash.

SOFTBALL

Tue. May 7, 4 p.m.
Pierce @ Lakewood, Wash.

Tue. May 7, 6 p.m.
Pierce @ Lakewood, Wash.

Fri. May 10, 1 p.m.
South Puget Sound @ Olympia, Wash.

Fri. May 10, 3:00 PM
South Puget Sound @ Olympia, Wash.

Johnson's eight under par score underlines his talent

By: Bob Kickner
Director of Athletics

Green River Community College Sophomore Broc Johnson (Todd Beamer High School) has set the bar high during his two year career for the Gator golf program.

Monday, the 2012 NWAACC individual champion continued his impressive career with an eight under par round 63 at Indian Canyon Golf Canyon in Spokane, Wash. in the second round of the Bigfoot Invitational.

Coming off a challenging 75 at

Hangman Valley, Johnson charged back up the leader board to tie Spokane Community College's Evan Omelia at 138 before Omelia took medalist honors in the first playoff hole when Johnson took his only bogey of the day.

Scoring a 63 is a rare feat at any level. According to long time Walla Walla head golf coach Mike Rostalan the 63 is the lowest score he can recall in any NWAACC competition. KC Chang carded a 64 in the 2010 NWAACC Championship.

The two-time 4A Washington HS runner-up stated that he once

scored an eight under par round at Riverbend GC in Kent under competitive conditions. But Monday was the first 63 he has landed.

With the 2013 NWAACC Championships coming up on May 19 and 20, Johnson is raising his game at the right time.

"This was a big confidence boost for me," said Johnson.

"It was super special. I knew I had to be aggressive to make birdies and make up ground. Hopefully this will continue as we move forward as a team toward the May championships."



Bob Kickner | The Current

Broc Johnson

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Ken Kinloch's associate's degree and university certificate only got him so far in his career in the technology field. When it was clear he needed his bachelor's degree in Information Security, Ken looked to the state's only nonprofit, competency-based, accredited online university.

At WGU Washington, Ken advances through his program by demonstrating competency in degree subject matter instead of logging hours in a classroom. He balances school and a full-

time job thanks to the one-on-one support of his faculty mentor, Mariah (pictured above). And as a graduate of a Washington community college, Ken transferred his credits seamlessly into his WGU Washington program.

"As a nonprofit, the cost was right," Ken says of the flat-rate tuition, less than \$6,000 a year for most programs. "It was well my budget. And the program also includes industry certifications. I can apply the skills I'm learning on the job."

Washington community college graduates who transfer to WGU Washington will receive:

- 5% tuition discount
- A chance to apply for a \$2,000 scholarship



WGU WASHINGTON

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