

KGRG Battle of the Bands comes to the LSC...find out when on Page 13

Any burning questions about welding? Learn more about this 'hot' program on Page 10!

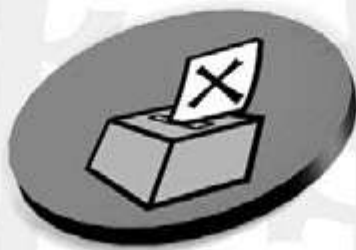
THE CURRENT

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 11, 2005 | GREEN RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NEWSPAPER



Check out our recently-expanded
"Current on Campus"
section and read new columns from Asst. Dean of Student Services, Mark Mitsui, and Student Body President, Ashley French!

Read on **Page 3** for our in-depth coverage on...



where is
YOUR
money going?

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Smoking surveys finally reach potential solutions...Page 9!

Current on Campus

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FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 11, 2005

EVENTS CALENDAR

compiled by Melanie Wittman

Feb. 11
2 pm-4 pm
Sr. Citizen's Valentine's Day Dance
LSC MDA

Feb. 22
11:30 am-1:30pm
Clubs Fair
LSC MDA

Feb. 24
6 pm-10 pm
Uncensored Comedy Night
LSC MDA
\$10 students & \$15 non-students

Feb. 26
9:30 am-2:30 pm
Snow Tubing at Snoqualmie
Meet at the bus circle at 9:30 am
\$15 for students and \$20 for non-students

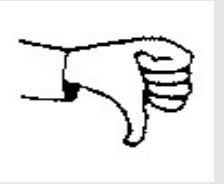
Feb. 26
7:30 pm-10 pm
My Soul Is A Witness
LSC MDA
A theatrical portrayal of the key events and
people of the civil rights movement.

THUMBS UP & THUMBS DOWN



Thumbs up to Catholic Chinese immigrants in Louisiana celebrating both Mardi Gras and the Chinese New Year last Tuesday!

Thumbs down to midterms...heck, thumbs down to terms all together!



Thumbs up to our readers who caught on to our previous typos. Just keeping you on your toes! Hoorah!

Thumbs down to losing our dongle...whatever, that is.



Thumbs up to *The Current* going online...thanks to our readership for your support!

Thumbs down to our absent swamp, and the lack of real gators!



SECURITY BLOTTER

compiled by Nate Dillow

Trespassing

On 1/23/05, a homeless man was found trespassing on campus. He was escorted off campus after reporting he was released from jail a week earlier and was just waiting for the bus.

Theft

On 1/28/05, a set of keys and wallet were stolen. The owner had left their backpack unattended during class and noticed the items missing at the end of class.

Theft

On 2/01/05, a professional photographer camera worth about \$350 was stolen from a classroom desk.

The Current Staff and Info

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We at The Current encourage robust discussion among all members of the Green River Community College campus. Letters to the editor, editorial and opinion pieces, freelance articles and photographs may be submitted to The Current via snail mail or email to the attention of the editor-in-chief. Contact information must accompany all submissions.

Student Government Speaks

by Ashley French
Student Body President

It's that time of year again! As students are preparing to pay taxes and balance accounts so is Green River. We have now begun the 522 budget process for 2005. The 522 Budget is made up of student generated funds entitled Service and Activities Fees (S and A) included in tuition and fees as stated in student's quarterly schedule. These fees all are put into the 522 budget which expense areas include (but not limited to): Athletics, ASGRCC Student Government, Intramurals and Outdoor Programs, Performing Arts, Student Employment, Student Life, Clubs and more. The total budget allocated this year is \$850,000 and with the budget requests totaling \$894,621 we are \$44,621 over budget! Now comes the difficult job of equaling out the

requests with the budget. Voting members of this committee must find a solution to the overage in budget requests in the best way possible. Voting Members include Bob Kickner, Dani Chang, Mary Edington, Jake Hover (the athletic representative), Rachel Brinn and Merrill Johnson share a vote for the performing arts area, Brian Grover, and Johnny Gannaw. Susan Evans serves as secretary and the ASGRCC President chairs the committee. Meetings are run loosely by Parliamentary Procedure so motions and seconds must be made in order to be official. Student Government is required to attend these meetings as well. Various departments on campus also attend in order to justify the amounts they request and be involved in the process.

If you are interested in this process and how student money is being allocated, we encourage you to be involved and attend the 522 budget meetings.

The dates and locations are as follows:

**Monday, February 7th
3:00 p.m. in the Olympus Baker Rooms**

**Wednesday, February 23rd
3:00 p.m. open hearing in the Rainier Room**

**Wednesday, March 9th
6:00 p.m. open hearing in the Olympus Baker Rooms**

The Richards Wrap-Up

by Tiffany Richards
Student Government Correspondent

The Teachers of Tomorrow club was awarded \$1,500 by student government to cover the cost of a guest speaker at this year's Future Teachers Conference at the Feb 3 meeting. The yearly conference, which is organized by the members of the club in cooperation with the future teacher preparation program Project Teach, regularly brings in hundreds of high school and college students throughout the region.

The keynote speaker, author of the novel *Life is so Good* Richard Glaubmen, has agreed to speak at the conference for the requested \$1,500 rather than his normal speaking fee of \$15,000.

Teachers of Tomorrow have, in fact, paid for the entire cost of the conference out of their own funds, which include a \$25 registration fee for all those who want to attend.

This might be the last time the club makes this necessary extra funds request from student government. If the 522 budget committee approves, the club will become a permanent part of the 522 Budget and will receive a greater amount of fixed funding.

In order for a club to become a permanent part of the student activities 522 Budget, its governing officers must turn in a form to the budget committee during the planning period for next fiscal year's budget at the beginning of February proving how the current funding is being spent and why there is a need for more revenue.

The club must also present proof that it has a consistent number of members who regularly attend the meetings.

While Teachers of Tomorrow have

already proved their need for more funding, had a consistent amount of members who regularly attend their meetings and run one of the most successful conferences at Green River, the decision will ultimately be up to those who can persuade the budget committee to include the club as a permanent part of the budget.

Any student and faculty member can support Teachers of Tomorrow, or any other area of the budget currently under debate for that matter, by coming to the first open hearing on Feb 23 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Rainier Room on the second floor of the LSC.

Student Government also approved a \$1,500 request from the Student Programs Emergency Equipment Fund to replace coordinator for the Athletic Department, Patty Saint's 5+ year old computer. As with most computers that have reached that age, they typically run much slower than the more recent models which can interfere with just about any task as it has in Saint's case. The length in which the computer takes to process work has greatly interfered with the ability to complete her job properly.

The by-laws committee, which is a body of members within student government who are responsible for reviewing and further developing all the rules that properly manage all student government members, have proposed a clarity change to Article II, section 2, line 3 of the By-Laws. The changes, which were inserted in the last issue of *The Current*, will be discussed and voted upon by student government at the Feb 10 meeting at 12 p.m. in the Rainier Room on the second floor of the LSC.

Student Success Updates

by Mark Mitsui
Asst. Dean of Student Services

Welcome to the Student Success column brought to you by the GRCC Current Student Newspaper and Student Services. Our goal is to provide you with information that will help you reach your academic goals, get engaged in campus life and take care of yourself.

In each issue we will feature information on important topics such as financial aid, transfer, career goals, student activities, counseling, personal health and more. You can help us by sending your comments, questions and suggestions to us. Please direct them to: Mark Mitsui, Assistant Dean of Student Services care of the Current or email to mmitsui@greenriver.edu or call 253-833-9111 extension 3328. Again we hope you find this column to be helpful.

This week we feature two important topics: Financial Aid and Transferring to a 4 year college.

The application for the GREEN RIVER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS is now available in the Financial Aid Office or on-line at <http://www.greenriver.edu/fscholarships/>. This one application covers over 50 different scholarship opportunities for students. And just think you only have to fill out one application to apply for multiple scholarships! What a deal!!! Foundation scholarship applications will be due back in the Financial Aid Office by April 29, 2005.

If you have questions about financial aid or scholarships, stop by because we're here to help you.

Planning to transfer this fall? Take a deep breath, relax and read on!

by Allison Warner
Transfer Service

Application & Personal Essay: application due dates for fall quarter are quickly approaching. Due dates should be listed on the school's website or on the application. Remember, these are DUE dates so strive to turn in your application earlier.

If you are applying online be sure to save your work each time. For print applications, type or use black ink. Some admissions decisions may be partially based on the quality of the application-neatness is a must!

Finally, don't forget to pay the application fee. The personal essay is your opportunity to tell the schools who you are and what you have to offer. Make sure you answer each question thoroughly. Discuss attributes & experiences that motivated you to apply to the university. Do not write a blanket essay-tailor your essays to each school you are applying to. Give yourself plenty of time to write it and have at least one person proof it for you-The Writing Center (RLC 113) is a great resource for receiving help and feedback on your essay.

Official Transcripts: Request official Green River transcripts by filling out a Transcript Request Form and turn it in to Enrollment Services. Once you turn in the form allow 48 hours for processing. You will have to request official transcripts from all colleges previously attended even if you transferred in your college courses to Green River.

If you have any questions regarding the transfer or application process contact the admissions department of the school you are applying to or contact Educational Planning at ext. 2641.

Good Luck!

Need money for school? Read On!

by Mary Edington
Financial Aid Director

Have you ever heard the phrases, "The early bird gets the worm," or "Don't get left out in the cold."? Those words are true when it comes to financial aid and scholarships. If you would like some assistance in paying your college costs this fall quarter, NOW IS THE TIME TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS!

The Financial Aid Office can help with your educational costs. We have grants and scholarships, loan programs for both students and parents, and work-study jobs on or off campus. Regardless of whether you have what we call "need-based" eligibility, you can still find help through loans, a variety of scholarships and job referrals.

To apply for federal and state grants, you'll want to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the GRCC Financial Aid Application. Application packets are available in the Financial Aid Office on-line at <http://www.greenriver.edu/financialresources/>.

Student loans require an additional request form. To be considered "on-time" and in line early for the available funding, all applications and requested forms should be in the Financial Aid Office by April 15, 2005.

Do you know how to look for scholarships? Stop by the Financial Aid Office and we can help you start the process. We have website listings for scholarship searches, copies of community scholarships, and our own Green River Foundation Scholarships.

Trout McCodfish, mascot for *The Current*, wants to know what you think of this new section. Was it informative and newsworthy? How can we improve? Let us know what you think! Send your input via e-mail:

thecurrent@greenriver.edu

Trout says, "Thanks and ROCK ON!"



Opinions & Editorials

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FRIDAY | FEBRUARY, 11 2005

A bittersweet Valentines Day

Valentines Day brings both happiness and heavy hearts for those with loved ones in Iraq



picture courtesy of www.life.com

Though we celebrate the national day of love here in the U.S., our hearts are in Iraq with the men and women in uniform.

by Jeanne Dinehart
Managing editor

Yes, Valentine's Day is a trumped up holiday to sell stuff. However, last year at this time it also signified the last holiday I would celebrate with my husband for an entire year. On February 17, 2004, my husband was deployed to Iraq. I cannot describe how sad that was; suffice it to say that I slogged through an entire roll of toilet paper while crying and that was just during the first week. Then I bucked up and began soothing myself with HGTV, obscene amounts of homework and Cheetos. One cannot underestimate the soothing powers of Cheetos.

Anyhoo, over one year and one head injury earned Purple Heart Medal later, he's made it home. He needs surgery on both feet and one hand but he made it home. He reminds me of my bedraggled favorite teddy bear that's had some stuffing rearranged and a button or two is missing but he's the same bear! Well, almost. He still hadn't stopped having flashback dreams and Post Traumatic

Stress Syndrome of 'Nam and now he's got flashback dreams and Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome of 'raq. But I can see him now and hug him and even be annoyed by all of his annoying habits: Belching, farting,

pack-rattling, stomping, snarfeling Oy.

Now we will attempt to pick up where we left off, only hopefully better because we will try to apply the lessons of uncertainty we learned in the past year to

everyday life: #1) Say, "I love you, I miss you and be careful," first, because you might not get another chance. #2) Make inappropriate comments whenever possible, such as: "You should really talk to your travel agent

about the 'sun & sand vacation' they sent you on." And #3) Try to remember that someday, you won't ever get another chance to enjoy the first two rules with this person again.

So trumped up holiday or not, it's a happy one for us. However, while I'm glad that my soldier made it home alive, I'm still quite aware of the ones that did not: Over 1,300 U.S. soldiers will not be home for this holiday or any other again. Over 10,000 U.S. soldiers including my husband have been injured in Iraq. Over 100,000 Iraqi's have died in this war.

Most of all I think of the soldiers who have arrived to take my husbands place and I especially think of their families. Valentine's Day will be a hard day for them and 2005 will be an even harder year. My husband and his unit, the 116th of Washington have made it home because the 107th of Ohio arrived in Iraq to take their place. A truly genuine and wonderful holiday for all will be when no one is ordered to go in the first place.



picture courtesy of Jeanne Dinehart

Jeanne Dinehart and her husband MSG. Ed Johnson, reunited for an early Valentines Day, after a year apart while Johnson served in Iraq.

Bush continues to dig us deeper in debt, while domestic problems remain unsolved

by Eric Thompson
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, January 25, President George Bush submitted a request to congress for \$80 billion dollars to continue the war effort in Iraq and Afghanistan. With the tab for the war already up to \$200 billion,

some say that the cost for the war effort is quickly becoming out of control. With the deficit for the next decade projected at \$855 billion, with out the cost of the war, many people say it is necessary to re-evaluate our budget.

With so many issues to worry

about on our nations home front like social security, welfare, and medical insurance, it is hard to understand why we are spending so much time, energy, and money on our nations foreign policy. In his speeches the President talks about staying the course, and how this victory

won't happen over night, but the question is: how long do we have to stay the course? Questions like this are becoming more and more crucial. With local problems like the economy not improving, it is hard to see the big picture of Iraq when it seems like we are making very

little progress.

It's hard to know what the future holds for us in 2005, hopefully it will hold a means to an end for the war on terror, and some solutions for the many problems that we face in our own nation.

Opinions & Editorials

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Man's best friend turned drug's worst enemy *School officials seem to be barking up the right tree with the use of drug dogs in the classroom*

by Jason Wells
Staff writer

Drug dogs have been approved for in-school use by Lakeview School board officials. After much debating, they finally decided that use of drug seeking dogs would not be a violation of student privacy, one of the main arguments against their use. They decided that the safety and health benefits that would come from increased drug security outweighed the privacy issues. Even with this decision though, officials are keeping a close eye to make sure there are no privacy breaches.

The interesting question that rises from this is are they correct in doing this? Along with that, should other school districts across the state use Lakeview as an example and mimic their drug



picture courtesy of www.drugdogsforhire.com

dog behavior?

The answer is yes to both. Recent surveys show that nationwide drug use by teens is decreasing. However, in Washington State and specifical-

ly King County, the numbers are remaining fairly stable. While the lack of an increase is good, reports that show one in three high school seniors have used some sort of illicit drug are not. Instead of a stable number, we really need to start seeing a decline in illicit drug use.

Currently, the only way to discover drugs in school is via a report by another student, or literally catching the offending student in the act. This is a very inefficient system, but privacy laws prevent searching lockers and backpacks without due cause, leaving few alternatives. The Lakeview drug dogs are just the alternative schools have been looking for.

The dogs do not single out any particular student for searching. They follow their highly sensitive canine noses in search of drugs like marijuana and cocaine. They are specifically

trained not to seek out prescription medications, meaning students will have few risks of being unjustly singled out, accused, and/or embarrassed for something they did not do. Conversely, students who are carrying drugs will have fewer chances to distribute them on school grounds due to the drug dogs constant searching.

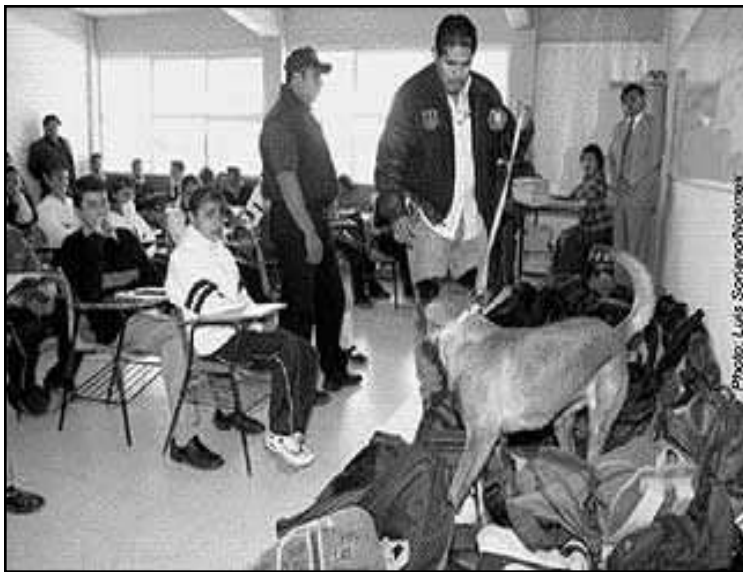
Decreasing the amount of drugs distributed and used on campus would be an excellent way to limit student's access to drugs. Furthermore, some students carry the drugs on their persons to keep them in a safe place. The dogs would also find these students and eliminate their current supply, hopefully decreasing the likelihood that they will carry drugs around at all.

Schools across the state should begin implementing their own drug dog systems. If we want to

see a decrease in teenage drug use statewide, then districts need to work together to provide similar standards and strict punishment. Otherwise, only a select few will have the added protection from illicit substances in their schools.

Now, the question may also arise as to why we should crack down harder on drugs, especially drugs like marijuana which are arguably mild. The answer is because drugs, no matter what kinds of drugs, affect the brain and nervous system and can have catastrophic effects there and elsewhere in the body. Even marijuana has serious health consequences if used regularly. The substances in the drug are highly carcinogenic, and the hallucinatory effects can lead to serious memory malfunction.

The answer to the why should we question is to protect the health of teens everywhere. The better question to ask is "why shouldn't we?" There is absolutely no good reason not to crack down on drug use. Drug dogs provide a viable way to do this without seriously invading any particular student's privacy in the search of drugs. If we don't see other districts implementing canine use, we will be seriously limiting our abilities to protect our students by ignoring a highly viable search method. Children deserve the best they can get in anything, which includes protection. Let's make the choice and give them the best.



picture courtesy of www.cannibusculture.com

A drug dog arrives unannounced to sniff backpacks for illegal substances, much to the chagrin of students.

The no hello phenomenon: A phobia of college students

by Joshua Riel
Staff writer

If one was to take a walk around our campus they wouldn't notice anything and that's just it, not a thing. They say that ignorance is bliss, and on this campus it seems to run ramped. Everyday like robots students get up from their seats and continue the routine of going from one class to another. Ever moving forward with only one thought in their mind "Don't look up." They trudge onward hoping beyond hope not to make eye contact with the nearest human being. For if they were to look up, they would have to engage their brain and acknowledge the existence of another person, and nobody wants to see that. It is with great conviction that they ignore everything around them with a kind of personal blinders. The ground seems to fascinate

them like never before.

It is almost as if they have a natural fear of the next human being. I am one of the very few that dare to gaze upwards. Even though I seemed surrounded in a sea of students, I felt as if I was on some distant planet all alone. Like empty shells, they looked away from me or right through me like I was glass. Yet the same person that just passed me like a shadow in the night is now calling out for all to here, "Hey, bro wassup!!!" He had spotted someone he recognized from his second class. I was a bit perplexed by this phenomenon. The student seemed to come alive for the first time when he had spoken to his friend. But the enthusiasm the student had seemed to leave when his friend had left him, and he had entered back into a, hear no evil and see no evil mode once again.



picture courtesy of www.simplified-signs.org

I soon became interested in this phenomenon and decided to try a little experiment. I then shattered the world of the student who had just talked to his friend. I did the unthinkable I said, "Hello." Seemingly dumbstruck by what I had just said, the student merely kept walking with an even more intensive stare toward the ground like he had just found the cure for cancer. I then decided to test my experi-

ment on all the rest of the unsuspecting students that day. It didn't matter what language I said hello in, but the resulting look on their face was no less than show stopping.

I determined that the reaction you get differs based on gender. For men a simple nod of acknowledgement will suffice, but if it is a woman the man happens to see when he looks up disaster strikes. For he will either get "The Glare" or something mumbled between the look of shock and an awkward smile, and for some reason the woman seems embarrassed with this response. When a woman looks up and sees another woman a strange thing happens, they don't acknowledge each other with a hello they activate their elevator eyes and begin comparing their clothing styles. Stranger still is when a woman looks up and

says, "Hello" to another male student if he doesn't respond right away for some reason he gets slapped.

Stranger still is when I tried the experiment without saying hello and I would just simply smile at the students who happened to cross my path. At first, they will pass you like nothing has happened and then they realize what they just saw and one of two things happen. They get really paranoid and think "Why is he smiling?" or just shake their head because they think I've lost it. Needless to say students seem to have a natural fear or at least awkwardness around "strangers."

Don't believe me, try it for yourself, but remember to take off your blinders first. At the very least you'll be surprised at what you see or at least get a good laugh. Good hunting.

Professor Lloyd Jansen appears live on MSNBC

Political science professor argues that comments made by President Bush were uninformed and false

by Denise Coville
News editor

Political science Professor Lloyd Jansen appeared live on MSNBC Thursday, Jan. 27 to discuss comments made the previous day by President Bush.

The show wanted to find somebody to share their view about Bush's comparison between the American occupation of postwar Japan and that of postwar Iraq.

They found Jansen by doing an internet search.

Jansen has written several op/eds

pieces concerning Iraq, and some have been published in both The Seattle Times and The Current. The piece found by MSNBC was one that had not been published in The Times, but had been reproduced online.

Jansen received a phone call from the network, and they asked him to appear on the show.

"I was pleasantly surprised," he said.

He was on the air for about five minutes, and made his argument over satellite from an uplink studio in Seattle.

He argued that the comparison was an uninformed one. The occupation of Japan had universal legitimacy, he said. Japan had been the aggressor, and the revered emperor had advised his country to obey the U.S. forces.

On the other hand, Jansen said, the U.S. had failed to convince most of the world that Iraq was an immediate threat. Many speculated about ulterior motives.

He also pointed out that in Japan, McArthur could have taken command of a town just by sending a Jeep-full of soldiers. In Iraq, troops are met with the growing insurgency caused by the lack of legitimacy, even though most Iraqis reviled their former dictator Saddam Hussein and wanted him gone.

Jansen said he would be interested in appearing on television again, if given the opportunity.

"It's a good opportunity to contribute to the discussion," he said.

Green River students get a taste of the Outback

After spending six weeks experiencing life the Australian way, students in GRCC's study abroad program will move on to New Zealand

By Jessica Doyle
Staff writer

The study abroad programs offered at Green River are a fantastic way to travel to another country, earn college credits, and learn more about other cultures.

The current session is in Australia and New Zealand, where students from our campus and other local colleges are enjoying summer weather while taking classes about the culture, history and ecology of Australia and New Zealand.

Sophomore Naomi Mueller let us in on some of the fun they've been having on the trip so far.

During the six-week stay in Australia, the students are staying in a dorm at the University of Melbourne. On a typical day, they have class in the mornings until noon and then have field trips or free time in the afternoons. Most of the learning they do is hands-on, so the classes are completely engaging. After school they often play in the courtyard with the boomerang, go to the beach, shop in local markets, and watch Australian films. The lucky stu-

Green River students studying abroad in Australia pose for a photo



photo courtesy of Naomi Mueller

dents have had fun meeting locals and experiencing the nightlife at some real Aussie pubs.

The group just went on a week-end camping trip in the bush of Bomberra, about an hour and a half outside Melbourne. There, they spent the days learning about bush ecosystems and setting traps for ground animals, and nights spotlighting for bats and wildlife. The students got to see koalas, kangaroos, echidnas and many other animals.

When asked about her favorite part of the trip so far, Naomi said "The best experience that I've had so far has been going out at night and meeting people. Culture is beautiful and the quality of life, lifestyle, and people are so amazing down here!"

She says the people are really

relaxed and easygoing, and that "the quality of life is so much more here. "People in the states can be so oblivious to diversity of our world and get caught up in our own ideas and it cuts off so much... people appreciate everything and different things so much more down here."

Some of the phrases she's picked up from the locals are slight variations of those we use here, like "how are you going", "no worries" and "pardon" instead of what.

During their free week before resuming studies in New Zealand, 11 of the students have planned an amazing trip to the Whitsunday Islands. For half the nights they'll stay at a backpacker's motel, and for the rest they'll stay on a 40



Nasa launches space craft that will collide with comet

Deep Impact mission will allow scientists to view the inside of a comet for the first time

by Renada Arens
Staff writer

No, it's not a Hollywood disaster flick. Although sharing its name with the 1998 movie starring Morgan Freeman and Elijah Wood, NASA's Deep Impact mission is anything but science fiction.

On Wednesday Jan. 12, the two-part spacecraft was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida, headed towards a collision with the comet named Tempel 1. This time however, the crash isn't meant to save the world, but to give scientists an inside look at its beginnings and an opportunity to observe the interior of a comet for the first time.

There are two parts to Deep Impact, one named Flyby, which will observe the collision, and the

appropriately named Impactor. After its six-month, 268 million-mile trip, Impactor will detach from Flyby at 23,000mph and blast a crater approximately 14 stories deep and 300 ft in diameter. Discovered in 1867, Tempel 1 is supposedly a typical comet that measures nine miles long and 3 miles wide. Scientists are unsure what the surface is like and precisely how much force will be necessary to penetrate its exterior, blasting out material for Flyby and other telescopes to study.

Comets are thought to be composed of pristine substances similar to those present at earth's formation, something scientists have only been able to speculate about. Researchers are interested in determining the role comets

might have played in bringing water to Earth, and their possible uses in future space exploration.

This groundbreaking mission, costing \$330 million, carries the most powerful telescope ever launched into deep space, which will provide information to the scientists eagerly waiting back on Earth.

Deep Impact and Tempel 1 will be over 80 million miles away from Earth when they collide, and scientists reassure us moviegoers that there is no danger of comet fragments entering our atmos-

phere. The impact, with all the force of 4.5 tons of TNT, will be observable by recreational telescopes and possibly the human eye on July 4.

If Deep Impact's mission is successful, your neighborhood fireworks could have some competition.

Then on Valentines Day the group has to leave one paradise for another and fly to Auckland, New Zealand where they'll stay with host families and attend classes at Unitec University. Studying abroad is an experience of a lifetime, and can open your eyes to new ideas and cultures. At over \$6000 for the program costs plus college tuition and personal expenses, the trip could get pretty expensive, but there is often a lot of financial aid available for those who qualify. There are also many scholarships for students seeking to study abroad, which can be found on websites like "fastweb.com".

Students say the trip is well worth the costs, as it has left them with loads of great memories and great insights into the many ways of enjoying life.

For those interested, the Australia/New Zealand trip is offered each winter quarter, but the next upcoming trip is to Costa Rica this summer. Lots of amazing events are planned, including a three-day trip into the Monteverde cloud forest. The courses offered are 10 credits in Spanish language as well as five credits of drawing plants and wildlife in the beautiful rainforest. For more information on these or other study abroad programs, contact Cindy Card in the IVD building, campus extension 2160.

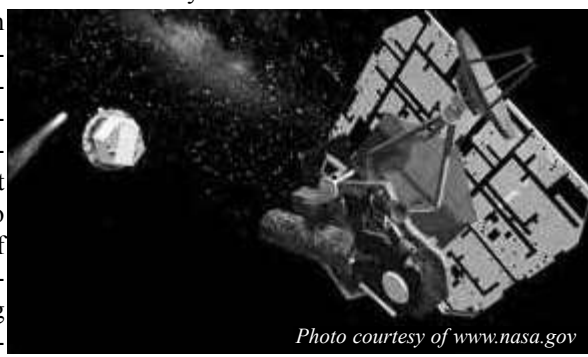


Photo courtesy of www.nasa.gov

The spacecraft will collide July 4 with the comet called Temple 1

Students flood meeting with ideas to help tsunami victims



GRCC hopes to raise money to help fund the reconstruction process in countries affected by the tsunami

Green River joins the countless organizations in charity efforts for southern Asia

by McKenzie Waters
Staff writer

The victims of southern Asia and surrounding areas are in need of supplies. On Jan. 21 there was a meeting at Green River to help.

As of right now, roughly 1 million people are homeless or orphaned, and anything provided to these victims will be greatly appreciated and utilized. Since Dec. 26, at least 150,000 people are counted dead and over 1 million children are without homes because of the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and the tsunami. There is a great threat of disease and malnutrition, which is almost as deadly as the tsunami itself.

There is a need to feed as many as 2 million people each day for the next six months, and the damage done to the homes, buildings, schools and land could take up to 10 years or more

to rebuild.

Green River students will be helping out the people in need, and every cent that can be given will benefit. 10 years is a long time, which is why these countries are in constant need of supplies, food, medicine and much more. This is an ongoing process, and anything we do to contribute will be worth while.

Johnny Gannaw really wanted to do something to help these victims. Many school clubs and organizations came to him with ideas of ways to help, so a meeting was announced for any ideas and fundraisers to help the people in need. The meeting brought ideas of clothing drives, donations, and other activities to get the school involved.

"In order to get students involved in fundraisers and these meetings, we need to do something big and fun to get the students to interact. It will attract different groups," stated

Gannaw.

As of right now, the planning has just started. To give ideas, and learn more about the tsunami victims and what needs to be done, you can contact Gannaw in the student government office, or come to the meetings on Fridays at noon to find out how to contact Johnny.

As for Green River, there is no limit and no goal for raising money.

"We want as much as we can earn, it's a personal goal." said Gannaw.

The thing that needs to be recognized is that it is not too late. The earthquake and tsunami occurred a month ago; compared to 10 years that's not very long at all. The victims in Southern Asia and the surrounding areas will need help longer than we think. It's a never-ending process, and 100 percent of the money/items that are raised will be spent on things needed in the damaged

areas.

Anyone is welcome to these meetings, and suggestions are taken into consideration by other peers. The main goal is to produce at least one major fundraiser and all the money will be sent to an organization like World Vision, then to the victims. These people need our help, and that can't be done without getting others involved. The supply of medicine, food and shelter is quickly disappearing, and the demand is getting higher.

Green River Community College wants to help, and we need all the people we can get! It's not too late. If you can't make the meetings, you can still participate. Talk to other students about it, and the college as a whole can make a difference. Remember, a dollar or two and a couple minutes of your time could mean a lifetime to theirs.

Designers draft food Auburn food drive

by Victoria Haas
Staff writer

The season of giving is no longer just something that happens during the holidays.

Thanks to the American Design Drafting Association club (ADDA) the season of giving has been extended all year long.

Every quarter the ADDA club helps out the community of Auburn by organizing and running a campus-wide food drive. "It's always a good charity effort, but especially during winter quarter when the stores from the holiday season start depleting", said ADDA member Patrick Early.

Another obstacle for many charities is that many people are now donating to the tsunami vic-

tims and ignoring the local aid organizations that they would normally be making a contribution to. Although the food banks recognize the need to help worldwide problems, that doesn't help nearby families in need.

Non-perishable

food items can be brought to one of three locations around campus.

"There will be drums set up by the Holman Library, the Lindbloom Student Center and by the second floor entrance to the SMT building", said Early.

The ADDA club

would like to remind donators that they will not be accepting glass containers.

The food drive will be held February 14-25. All proceeds will go to the food bank in Auburn.

The ADDA club meets Thursdays at noon in the drafting lab on the third floor of the SMT building.



Both photos courtesy of www.yahoo.com

The ADDA club is collecting non-perishable food for local families in need.



"many people are now donating to the tsunami victims and ignoring the local aid organizations that they would normally be making a contribution to"

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Health Services Job Fair

Employment and internship opportunities will be offered by various local, regional and national employers of a variety of healthcare professions.

On Feb. 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. a range of employers, including Apple Physical Therapy, Virginia Mason Medical Center and The Westin Group, will be accepting resumes and answering questions in the Lindbloom Student Center.

Dress for success and contact Karen Brasch with any questions at (253) 833-9111 ext. 2553 or email her at kbrasch@greenriver.edu.

Women and World Religions class opens to all students

The Women and World Religions humanities class will be open to all students interested in hearing assorted religious leaders who will be speaking from until Feb 22.

Although students enrolled in the class have first priority, any student interested in attending the Tuesday and Thursday evening class in HSB-6 should contact Eileen Dunn at (253)833-9111 ext. 2544 to reserve a seat.

Speaker Schedule

Feb. 15	Rouha Rose Dr. Jasbir Kaur	Baha'i Sikh
Feb. 17	Suzanne jeneby	African Tribal
Feb. 22	Rev. Dr. Jon Schmick	Protestant

Tuition leaving your pockets empty? Scholarship deadlines are just around the proverbial corner...

by Stacie Engen
Staff writer

Every year, students fresh out of high school and community colleges are awarded millions of dollars in college scholarships nationwide. Scholarships applications are accepted based on GPA, personal abilities, academic awards, participation in honors programs and community services and much more.

One such scholarship, worth \$12,000, will be awarded to a Green River transfer student to attend the University of Washington, Tacoma Branch in fall Quarter of 2005. Applications for the Next Step Scholarship can be found in the financial aid office and should be returned by Feb. 10.

For accounting and/or business students, the Washington CPA Foundation of the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants will be awarding scholarships for the

2005-2006 school year. The awarded amount varies and applications can be found in the financial aid office.

Running start students who are currently seniors in high school have the opportunity to earn \$1000 to \$5000 through the 2005-2006 Governors Scholarship, a scholarship established in 2001 to assist Washington's youth.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution is offering various amounts in nursing school scholarships, medical scholarships, political science, history, government and economics Scholarships.

The Nursing Scholarships and Financial Aid Guide, a booklet containing a variety of scholarships specifically focused on nursing education, can be found in the financial aid office or online at

<http://www.ahec.spokane.wsu.edu/>.

African-American, Hispanic/Latino and American



photo courtesy of www.yahoo.com

Get your hands on some of the millions awarded to students

Indian students who want to enter the fields of chemistry, bio-

chemistry, chemical engineering or other chemistry-related fields such as environmental science, materials science or toxicology would be interested in a scholarship from The American Chemical Society. The scholarship offers varying amounts.

Applications for these and other scholarships are available in the financial aid office and should be returned by Feb. 29, 2005, unless otherwise noted. More information on this and other scholarships can be found at the Green River site under financial aid.

The deadline for all Green River scholarship applications, which will be awarded to students planning to attend Green River Community College during the 2005-2006 school year, is by 4 p.m. on April 29, 05.

Further scholarships can be

found on scholarship search engines such as www.fastweb.com and www.wiredscholar.com. Scholarship search engines provide scholarship applications based on your specific qualifications.

However, in using the web as a tool in your search for scholarships, it is important to keep yourself safe from online scams. Scholarship scams are common when you are asked for money or are "promised" a scholarship when an agency will "do all the work." It is essential that you never give out your personal information online or over the phone.

You can find more information about potential scholarships, application requirements, and deadlines online at the Green River site and in the Financial Aid Office.

Nocturnal students flock to Green River's rave

"Looking Up" From the Digital Underground of Pulse Radio's Recent Event

By Andy Gardner
Staff writer

Standing outside, waves of "candy kids" decked in fluorescent beadery clinging to all of their available appendages waited patiently as campus security patted down everyone who entered the Lindbloom Student Center. All walks of life were present, ready to celebrate love with laser lights, glow sticks, and Vick's Vapor Rub, toting these items as if armed for war.

Standing in the courtyard, you could hear the rhythmic pulsing that drove the main room melodies, an underground heart beating from our very own lunchroom. For the following eight hours, Green River Community College surrendered itself to the sav-



photo by Andy Gardner

DJs worked in shifts to keep the music going all night

ness, strange painted faces huddled in small groups, jovial in the shadowy hallway.

Adolescents in costumes and

distorted pajamas boasting permanent smiles through tightly sealed jaws conversed by way of sensuous touch, giggling, euphoric.

The lunchroom, converted into a makeshift main stage, was set ablaze with the fluorescent fire of glow sticks dancing in the black lit atmosphere. On stage, professional disc jockeys from the world over performed in shifts. Behind them, three towering screens flash psychedelic imagery. The main room masters made repetitive beat patterns flow artistically as the bridged each track, daisy chaining drum lines in a poetic digital blasphemy in tandem with the strobing projections displayed behind them.

The Olympic and Glacier conference rooms offered side show variety, as speedy Hardcore and Drum'n'Bass boomed from the

speaker stacks.

The upstairs, which had been converted to a VIP only lounge, was a n n e d T e a m Monster, and the recreation desk had manifest in to a M o n s t e r Energy promotions station. Team M o n s t e r, s t a n d i n g behind the candy stand counter temporarily laced with sex based advertisements, handed out free energy drinks and stickers; they even got to see a little "Girls Gone Wild" live presentation.

Titled "Looking Up," the party was arranged by Green River's own Pulse Radio 1330 A.M. in collaboration with Outbreak entertainment.

Jess Flarity, 19, ran around frantically for the most part of the evening making sure everything ran smoothly. Flarity is the programs director for Pulse Radio. His directorial assistant, Richie Wells, 17, also saw little rest through the evening. The following Monday Wells explained to me that he had spent 24 hours on campus starting at noon on that Saturday.

At twenty dollars a head (\$40

for VIP) this was a fundraising event to improve the dwindling

Pulse budget, rough \$10,000 dollars annually, in hopes to improve their multimedia situation and bump their signal up a few notches. Pulse currently broadcasts at a measly 500 MHz (most cordless phones are 2+ GHz).

Overall the event appeared to be a success. Flarity hopes to see more of such events thrown in the near future. For information about Pulse Radio or to access the digital stream of their techno radio shows visit www.1330.com.



Students line up outside for Green River's rave

More than **25** million
Americans are affected
by severe, chronic pain.

- National Chronic Pain Outreach Association

**You can help them.
Choose a career less ordinary.**

Discover how you can help others lead healthy and pain-free lives. Get a degree in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. For the best natural health education in the world, please visit college8.bastyr.edu.

BASTYR
UNIVERSITY

Another round of smoking surveys hold potential to help solve campus problems

By Tiffany Richards
Staff writer

They were seen throughout the campus only two weeks ago, several student and faculty volunteers urging all persons passing by to fill out yet another smoking survey to appease both the student and faculty. While to the nonchalant student here, these actions might have seemed pointless and only put forward to make it seem as though something constructive was being done to finally put an end to the never ending conflict between the smokers and non-smokers on campus, careful and thorough research has revealed that something productive is actually being done to solve this problem for the first time in years. This particular survey is just the beginning of the lengthy revision process of the unclear smoking policy that governs the campus.

As early as 1989, the Green River Safety Committee, a selected body of faculty and students who review the potential safety and health hazards on campus that can affect all who learn and work here, revised the smoking policy so that it restricted all smokers to light up in specified areas around the campus only. But because it was inconvenient for smokers and there was no enforcement to be sure it was being obeyed, the policy fell into nonexistence as the years went on.

In 1998, in response to various

student complains and a statewide law concerning smoking, the Safety Committee formed and enacted the existing policy which allows people to smoke nearly anywhere on campus as long as they're 20 feet away from the building's doorway, with the smoking shelters and many of the previous designated areas intact. But in the six years since this policy was implemented, little has been done to curb the continuing controversy about where smokers should and shouldn't light up on campus.

This unclear smoker's guideline has succeeded in intensifying the problem rather than solving it as the Safety Committee originally intended. It seems that every attempt to revise the policy, every survey the student body has been forced to fill out, have resulted in no action and continued suffering for everyone involved.

Basically, the previous smoking policies have failed because they have been very unclear. This is why the group is currently in the middle of revising the smoking policy so that it will be both clear and favorable to both smoker and non-smoker alike. Both the Safety Committee and student government have reviewed the most recent round of complaints concerning the smoking problem and have considered them to be within logical reason and worthy of administrative attention.

Because this conflict is of par-

ticular concern, a sub-committee has been created to deal specifically with the smoking issue on campus; this action is taken for all legitimate issues of specific concern. The members of the "smoking policy" sub-committee of the 2004-2005 academic year include John Ramsey, Fred Creek, Ashley French, Laura Leyde, Lorenzo Ortiz, Julie French, Mark Mitsui and Kathy Johnson. The sub-committee's members are currently in the middle of researching the smoking policies of other community college campuses throughout Western Washington and carefully studying the opinion of the student and faculty, which is where the smoking survey comes in.

The most recent smoking survey was designed with a set of very specific questions in mind, questions that would remain unbiased toward either party involved and will hopefully ultimately result in the best possible representation of student and faculty opinion. Fred Creek, the current head of campus security at Green River, was the "smoking policy" sub-committee member who organized the survey and personally collected the results. Creek received many positive responses in spite of the fact that most students and faculty members have little or no patience regarding surveys concerning this issue.

"I received positive feedback from being out there everyday collecting surveys. Students and

employees are glad to see that something is happening." When asked why the process is taking so long to complete, Creek said, "We're trying to do it right the first time." And while last year's attempt to revise the smoking policy did fall through, the opinion results form the extensive research in the current policy revision process.

The results of the survey and the region-wide college policy research are currently being gathered together, and as soon as this is finished, the results will be turned over to the head of the Safety Committee, John Ramsey, who will, in turn, compile the findings. Both him and the members of the "smoking policy" sub-committee will

present the results to the rest of the Safety Committee, who will work together to create a revised smoking policy that is based only on these well-researched findings.

Student Government President Ashley French clearly stated the committee's end goal. "We don't want to eliminate smoking on campus, but create a happy medium between smoker and non-smoker." Both she and the Student Government Vice-President, Laura Leyde, promised to improve the smoking policy if elected to their current positions.

An overflowing ash tray on campus.
photo by Liane Behrens.



Veterans For Peace celebrate veterans all year round

by Jeanne Dinehart
Managing editor

The Veterans For Peace Organization began in 1985 with a handful of veterans, including one pastor and has since grown by thousands across the USA. Their stated purpose is: "we, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace and justice. Americans will be secure at home only when there is peace and justice abroad. To this end, we will work, with others:

- toward increasing public awareness of the costs of war,
- to restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations,
- to end the arms race and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons, and
- to abolish war as an instrument of international policy.

- to achieve these goals, members of Veterans For Peace pledge to use non-violent means and to maintain an organization that is democratic.

Phil Heft, a retired math instructor for Green River is an Air Force veteran who served in the Korean War. Last year he joined Veterans For Peace because, "it's a worthwhile organization and I'd like to see U.S. soldiers leave Iraq." Heft holds a peace vigil every Wednesday from 1-2 p.m. at the intersection of Kent-Kangley and the Benson Road.

He carries a sign that reads, "Don't kill our 19 year olds in Iraq," and has been doing so for about two years. Others have joined him at times, however even if it's just Heft standing out there alone, he still goes.

"The response I get is mostly all positive, a lot of waving and thumbs up. Once in awhile

someone will stop and talk to me and at first they seem angry but once I explain my concern for our soldiers, they seem to understand," said Heft.

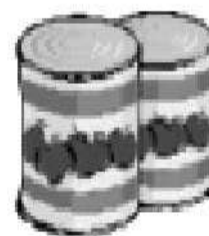
In addition, Heft also helps VFP set up and watch over a traveling memorial cemetery for the more than 1,300 U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq. The memorial which is called The Arlington Northwest Display, consists of a cross, star or crescent representing the deceased. People can go to a book of names and place one of the soldier's names on one of the symbols.

"People are invited to come out and help, volunteers are always welcome," said Heft. The display is expected to be shown next on Mercer Island, in Rainier Valley and at Green Lake. To find out the exact dates of the next Arlington Northwest Display, contact: www.veteransforpeace.org or the local chapter at: www.vfp92.org.

Food Drive

February 14 - 25

Help the ADDA and Green River support our communities with much needed food.



Drop non-perishable donations off in bins outside the...
:: 2nd floor entrance to SMT building
:: Lindbloom center (by Paper Tree bookstore)
:: library

All donations will be taken to Auburn Food Bank.

Features

P10

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 11, 2005

Students weld their way to success

Green River program allows students to merge their skills and passions

by Nate Dillow
Staff writer

As 40 percent of all students are taking classes that everyone loves to hate, like math, English, history, science, etc., in hopes of transferring to another college, the other 60 percent are taking hands on classes and degrees oriented towards a certain working field. One of the most popular and most rewarding programs offered on campus is the welding program. Students that are interested in becoming a welder and join the welding program on campus have no trouble finding a well paying job in the welding field.

Some of you may have seen welding on the Discovery Channel's *Monster Garage*, *Monster House*, or *Orange County Choppers*. These shows are great ways to show people the artistic side of welding, but welding is a lot more than that. Instead of making cars and motorcycles like on television,

the average welder will do repair work for a manufacturing company, put together metal structures for warehouses or commercial buildings, build airplanes for Boeing, or even build bridges and overpasses for the ever expanding roadways in Washington.

"No matter how advanced we get in computers and robotics, manpower will always be needed in the welding industry," said Scott Schreiber, a welding instructor who is on his fourth year of teaching on campus. "Machines might be able to do some welding on cars, but you will always need humans to do welding on a bridge or building."

Within the next 10 years, the welding occupation is expected to have a steady 5 percent growth. This may sound like a low growth rate, but students that graduate from Green River with a welding degree find work shortly after completion. This is because employers that need



The welding room, where many Green River students get ready for work.

Picture by Randy Zweigel.

welders know Green River has a great welding program and students that graduate with a welding degree know the needed information.

Some students are lucky enough to receive a welding job before they complete their degree. The opportunity of a high paying job causes some welding students to drop the class, while other students juggle work and school in order to earn a degree and a chance for more money.

In Washington, the different wage levels vary based on the location of work, the skill level

of the welder, and the employer. As experience and skills of a welder increase, the pay and benefits also increase. The average entry level wage for a welder in Western Washington is \$12.40 to \$14.50 per hour (\$2,150 to \$2,510 per month). Experienced welders in Western Washington average \$15.50 to \$18.70 per hour (\$2,690 to \$3,240 per month).

In order to make these wages, a welder needs to have some experience in welding. The different welding classes and degrees give students the needed experience to succeed in the

welding field. The main welding degree is the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree. This is a two year, 105 credit course designed to teach the student everything that they need to know for employment into the welding field.

Students can also receive a Certificate of Proficiency (Cert-P). This is a 26 credit course to help the student learn basic welding, receiving experience in a short amount of time. Students generally spend about 20 hours a week in class when they are earning an AAS or Cert-P for welding.

The sparks fly as a Green River student finishes up a project.



Picture by Randy Zweigel

Welding students create masterpieces

by Victoria Haas
Staff writer

Artists akin to the likes of Jesse James and Orange County Coppers have set up workshop in the welding technology building on campus. Tom Deal and Butch Thuney are both devoted to every aspect of motorcycles.

"Butch and I have a knack for building bikes," said Deal.

Deal and Thuney help out with the welding classes at Green River and then spend most of their free time building chopper-like bikes.

"It's just something I enjoy doing," said Thuney.

Thuney can be found Mondays and Wednesdays helping out the TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas) welders, while Deal is around on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

"I started because of the custom bikes, but I just like motorcycles all

around," said Deal.

Deal has been helping out at Green River for two years and Thuney for six.

"I've been working with motorcycles for about 25 years now, but it's not a job, I just enjoy putting them together," said Thuney.

Both men agree that building a bike up is challenging, but at the same time very rewarding.

Many times Thuney and Deal will

take a standard metric bike and convert it into something that more resembles a chopper.

"It's a blast to take basically nothing and make something out of it,"

said Deal.

Every now and then Deal and Thuney will barter with the machine shop and have them help out with an aspect of their projects and in return

do some welding for the machine shop.

"In addition to the auto body shop that Green River has, I think it would be beneficial for them to have a sheet metal fabrication shop," said Thuney.

Both men are grateful that they've found a spot

at Green River where they get to help out the next generation of welders while creating what they enjoy.

"The good thing about working in a smaller shop is that you can pay attention to the little things," Thuney said.

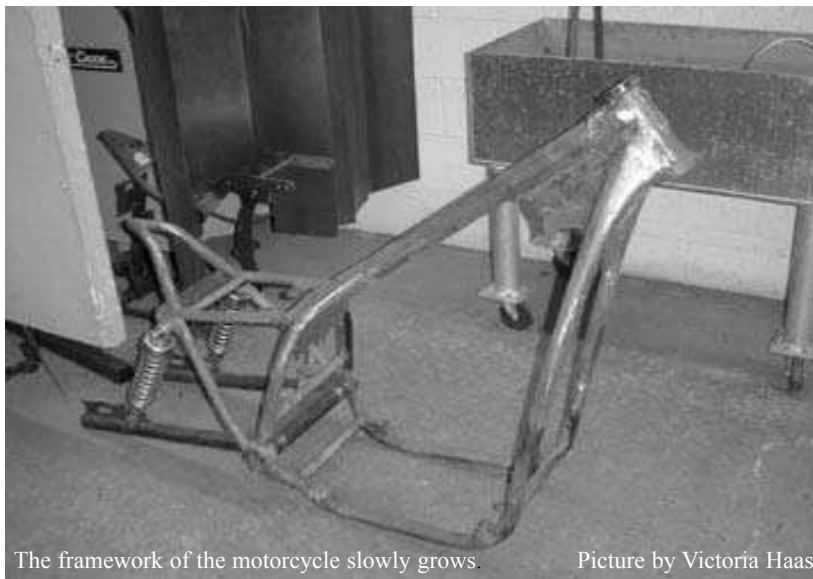
Both men are currently working on bikes and agree that it takes a while to complete a project.

"It usually takes about four to six months to fabricate a complete bike and then you usually allow about a month to paint it," said Deal.

Shows on television that show off bikes being built in seven days is Hollywood magic where they also have all the parts ready at hand.

"Even the simplest weld takes time to make sure everything is right," said Deal.

Deal projected that his current bike-in-the-works would be completed around springtime.



The framework of the motorcycle slowly grows.

Picture by Victoria Haas

Cell phones: Just another school supply

by Renada Arens
Staff writer

If you are a typical member of the Green River populace, you know exactly where your cell phone is right now. (If you don't, you're probably looking for it.) Cell phones are as common on campus as backpacks and denim. You can find them in the hands or pockets of students roaming sidewalks, classrooms, and hallways.

However, somewhere, in the overlooked minority, there exists a group of people who function without cell phones. Are they disconnected? Archaic? Completely out of it? I talked to several of my classmates and discovered that the "cell phone-less" might not be missing as much as you think.

Therese Holt, 21, said "If I can't find it, I get a panic attack." A cell phone is one more thing to worry about. Aside from the cur-

rent roaming charges, the cell phone user must also keep track of where the thing is, what mode it's on (silent, vibrate, or off?), not to mention the latest ring-tone downloads.

When asked what she would do without her cell phone for a day, 20 year old Megan Bolles commented "Knowing me, my car would break down

Originally a technological advancement just for emergencies, now a requirement for all students

that day." While no one argues their convenience in cases of

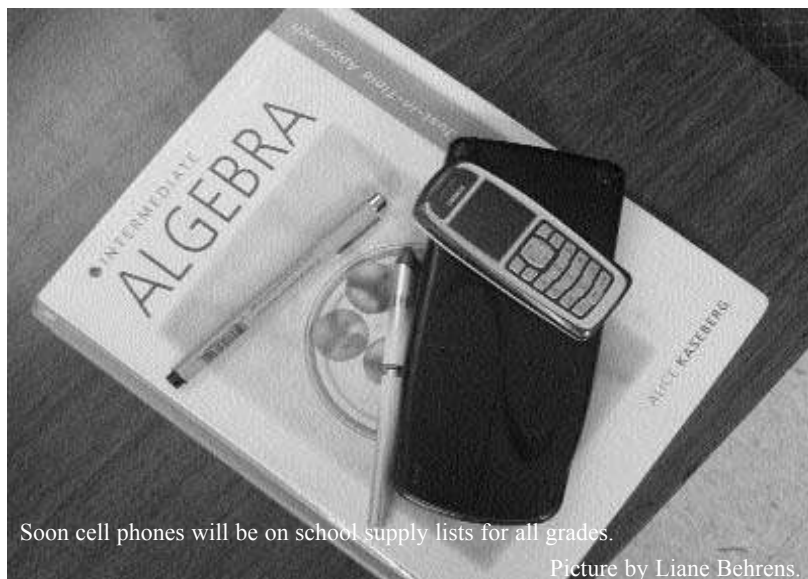
vehicular malfunction, cell phones have become much more than sources of emergency assistance.

"My cell phone is one of my best friends," said Justin Williams, a 17 year old Running Start student. While 18 year old Jared Smith said "Cell phones are addicting," Brian Bills, also 18, explained that since he's never had one,

he doesn't know the difference. However, it seems clear that once people bond with their personal communication and entertainment devices, they can't imagine themselves without one.

Of the few students I came across who don't have cell phones, surprisingly, none of them were fraught with anxiety over their lack of this "essential" commodity. They are content to use the outdated payphone if necessary, and talk to the stranger in the hallway instead of their friends across campus. Neither are they above a laugh at the expense of those developing tendonitis from text-messaging and running up charges roughly the amount of tuition.

And if they absolutely must use a cell phone to call their best friend or have their car towed, well, they can always borrow yours.



Soon cell phones will be on school supply lists for all grades.

Picture by Liane Behrens.

Making the rounds with security

by the Current Staff

The security on campus have many different jobs, ranging from giving parking tickets to insuring the safety of students to mundane activities like simply walking the campus. To find out what a security officer does on a typical day's work, a reporter followed Tony Archibeque during his day.

Walking around with Archibeque the first order of business was to check for parking

violations. Tickets range from \$10 for a second parking ticket - the first ticket usually being just a warning - to \$175 for parking in a disabled spot. Archibeque mentioned that if parking violations aren't paid, security has the right to boot the car, something that can't be undone until the owner of the vehicle contacts Fred Creek, head of security.

As Archibeque continued on his rounds, a few violations were spotted, but either they had already been ticketed or were

exempt.

Although security officers tend to spend quite some time browsing the cars for violations, safety is really their number one focus. Officers are always on the lookout for suspicious vehicles and/or persons and other safety issues.

Car theft, lately, has been a top priority, as two cars in the past few weeks have been stolen. One of these was a Honda, something that didn't surprise Archibeque. All 20 security guards, while on shift at the campus, the raceway,

or the church, keep a close watch on all cars, but especially "tricked out" Hondas, as thieves tend to target them most.

The security officers also patrol the campus housing, where they mostly watch out for fights and strange activities.

Security provides services such as battery jumps, air compressors for flat tires, helps with lock outs and tire changes. Archibeque got a call for a jumpstart, which he provided free of charge, to a young woman.

Besides tracking down criminals and keeping the campus safe, security has other services. Security has a lost and found, which is always helpful for students freaking out over lost wallets, jackets or books. This is located in the campus security office in the administrations building in the east entrance to the college.

Through their hard work and determination, security helps maintain the safe feeling at Green River.

Valentines Day doesn't have to be painful

by Melanie Wittman
Senior reporter

To someone who's in love, Valentine's Day is all about sharing love with that special some-

one you have in your life. But what if you're single? Then Valentine's Day seems to become less about love and more about the evil, capitalistic

card companies who want nothing more than to get their hands on your hard earned money by making up a holiday, right?

I used to think that way. My last Valentine's Day involved my best friend and I purchasing two of the kissing bears from Hallmark and defacing them in our bitterness.

It was a fun day. But Valentine's Day should be about the love, not about being angry at the dating scene (or inanimate objects). And just because you may not be in love, or even dating someone, it's still a good idea to try and make something good out of this holiday.

I know how easy it can be to be bitter on Valentine's Day, but that doesn't mean you need to give into it. You can make the best out of the holiday if you really want to. Remember that you're not the only single person out there and that Seattle is one

of the top ten places in the country to meet single people. For the single person who wants to make the holiday of love somewhat bearable here are a few suggestions.

For those who want to celebrate being single, going to a club or to a concert might be the best thing to do. Seattle and Tacoma have great nightspots, and Valentine's Day will bring some special events (even for singles). Try checking some clubs and see if there's anything out there. A lot of clubs will be holding different special events, with great DJs and bands scheduled to perform. Check with your favorite club to see if it has something you'd want to go to. If you're in a rut, try checking clubzone.com for Seattle nightlife events.

If the club scene is not really your thing, or you just can't really put yourself out there on Monday, then try and organize a

night to spend with your friends. Believe it or not a lot of them are single, too. You can get together with some singles you know and go out to dinner or see a movie.

One important thing to remember is that Valentine's Day isn't all about you. You should also find ways to show the people you love how much you care about them. Giving valentines to your friends and family is a great way to show others how much you care and you'll feel good about spreading the love. Also it could be used as a nice gesture towards the special guy/girl.

No matter what you decide to do on Valentine's Day don't get yourself down. Remember that there are people out there that love you. But if that's not enough to get you by, there are kissing puppies at Walgreens for \$5.99 with the purchase of three cards.

Free Birth Control for One Year!
For women and men at Planned Parenthood

You could qualify if:

- ▶ You have moderate income (Teens based on their income alone)
- ▶ Washington resident and U.S. citizen or green card
- ▶ No other Medicaid coverage

Services include:

- ▶ Annual exam and counseling
- ▶ Birth control pills, nuva ring, DepoProvera, diaphragm, IUD, cervical cap, condoms, foam, contraceptive patch
- ▶ Emergency contraception
- ▶ Vasectomy or tubal ligation

Planned Parenthood
1-800-230-PLAN
www.pppww.org

Arts & Entertainment

P12

FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 11, 2005

Metallica unleashes an insightfully 'monstrous' DVD documentary

by Eric Thompson
Staff writer

MUSIC DVD REVIEW

January 25, 2005 marked the release of Metallica's highly-anticipated *Some Kind of Monster* DVD. The rock documentary explores the lives of the members of the band during the three years that it took to record their last album.

Unless you have lived under a rock for the last 20 years, you have undoubtedly heard of legendary hard rock band Metallica. The many-time multi-platinum band includes: vocalist and rhythm guitarist James Hetfield, drummer Lars Ulrich, Lead guitarist Kirk Hammett, and the newest

edition to the band, bass guitarist Robert Trujillo. The movie also deals with Jason Newsted, former bass player of Metallica, and the effect his departure had on the

band. The documentary explores the effects of the his departure as well as all the other hardships the band faces while in the process of recording their latest album, *ST. Anger*.



ST. Anger was the band's first studio production in five years. When recording begins, the bands' relations were at an all-time low after Jason leaves the band. Metallica's management, Q-Prime, suggests a group therapist to

help ease the tension in the band and to help them stay moving in the right direction. The brutal group therapy forces James Hetfield, the bands front man, to

enter into a rehab program for his alcohol addiction. With no bass player and James in rehab the band is down to only two active members for almost 14 months.

Some Kind of Monster provides amazing insight into the previously private lives of the band members as well as the actual recording process of *ST. Anger*. The movie captures everything from how they come up with song lyrics to how they pick where they will be recording. In several scenes it shows how the band overcomes differences in opinion on just about everything. The diverse documentary does a good job balancing the many different aspects of the band. There are more humorous personal aspects like when James takes his daughter to ballet lessons. They also do a good job showing the business side in scenes where the news is broken to them that MTV has selected them to be an MTV ICON.

The film was originally funded by Metallica's record label but when Newsted left the band and Hetfield takes off to rehab the record label wanted to take what footage they had and turn the band into the next Ozzy Osbourne show. The film makers and the band both object-

ed and could not reach a compromise with the record label. In a very unexpected turn of events the band bought out their label's interest in the film and there by freeing the documentarians to make the film they



wanted to make.

The film was been released all over the world in many large film festivals some of which include the Sundance Film festival. The documentary has done very well for its self by bringing in \$2.2 million at the box office opening weekend. Critics agree it success largely in part for showing the more human side of the heavy metal rock stars who have been able to stay on top in the business for over 20 years.

Spiros offers traditional Greek cusine and cutural atmosphere

by Jackie Kim
Staff writer

Saying "I Love You", "I like you", or the old fashioned "I just didn't want to be alone on Valentines Day" with a student's budget in mind can be challenging and Spiros in Kent offers a cost effective romantic setting for Valentine observances. A dinner for two with two appetizers, two entrees, dessert, and coffees came in at \$44 before tip.

Greek dishes are on the menu with options for vegetarians and carnivores alike. Nothing is classier than taking a vegetarian out and eating red meat in front of them, trust me.

The meals focus on traditional Greek

dishes; souvlaki and gyros abound in feats of relatively delicious fantasy. The souvlaki comes with your choice of meat and Greek fries or rice. Falafel is available, and the ubiquitous pita bread faithfully finds itself with many dishes on the menu.

Paprika and feta cheese are your friends



on this long sojourn of the stomach. The calamari appetizer is lightly fried and served with little garnish. The tzatziki sauce is appropriately cucumbery.

Service is prompt and friendly so nothing will get in the way of focusing solely on your loved or fondly considered ones.

But food isn't the only thing that draws this reporter like a moth to flame.

It's belly dancing. Friday and Saturday nights at 6:45 pm and 7:45 pm you'll find a live performer writhing around the dining areas with a sword balanced on her head and cymbals chiming in perfect time to new world music. She accepts tips, but depending on your date you may want to skip putting money in anyone else's pants. The lighting is soft and yellow which can do a lot for mood and complexion. Casual dress acceptable.

Location information:
215 1st Avenue S. Kent, WA 98032
253.854.1030

Entertainment Release Calendar

Movies



Feb. 11

Hitch

Feb. 18

Constantine

Son of the Mask

Feb. 25

Cursed

Man of the House

Music

Feb. 15

Here Come the ABCs - *They Might be Giants*

lcd Soundsystem [self-titled]

Feb. 22

The Beekeeper - *Tori Amos*

DVDs

Feb. 15

Donnie Darko: The Director's Cut

SAW

Feb. 22

I Heart Huckabees

The Shield: The Complete Third Season

Games

Feb. 15

SEGA Classic Collection (PS2)

Wario Ware: Touched! (DS)

Xenosaga Episode II: Jenseits von Gut und Bose (PS2)

Feb. 22

Gran Turismo 4 (PS2)

Kessen III (PS2)



The 'battle' will commence at Green River

by Nadine Bedford
Staff writer

The KGRG Battle of the Bands will take place February 19 at our very own Lindbloom Student Center in the auditorium showcasing 10 new up-and-coming bands. For only \$8, you will have an afternoon filled with the sounds of emo, rock and punk. The show starts at 2PM and features such talented local bands as ISA, The 8 Hour Disease, Public Dispute, Glimpse, 4 Color Process, Jude Dugan, Real Life Trauma, Standing Room Only, Typical Ace and Dispatcher Cliff.

Each band is limited to a 3-song set, or a total of 15 minutes, whichever is shorter. So don't worry, if you absolutely hate a band, you won't have to endure them

long. On the other hand, if you love one of the bands, you'll have to find a way to soak up as much of their beautiful music as possible in only 15 minutes. There will be a total of 4 judges from various parts of the music industry. One will judge in originality. Does the band have a unique and creative sound or are they just ripping off the latest fad? Another will judge the bands appearance. The third judge will scrutinize the energy of



the band. The bands need to be really passionate, energetic, tormented or emotional if that's what the song calls for. The final judge will be in charge of talent and will focus on how well a band plays their instruments as well as how well the band works together. All four judges will base their assessments on a scale of 1-10. Lastly, each judge will keep a score of 1-10 on crowd response. Bottom line, the more people that show up

and scream for a particular band, the more points that band will receive. The winner will receive 50% of all entry fees and KGRG will keep the other half, as this show is a benefit for the radio station.

Come check out these bands while they're still considered local. Any one of them could rise to the top within the next few years. Just to give you an example, way back in 1989, an up-and-coming band named Nirvana played at Green River Community College for just \$5. Could one of these bands be the next big star? You be the judge. For more information, log on to KGRG.com or e-mail Littlerusty@kgrg.com with your questions.

New film succeeds despite a few small hitches

by Tyler Foster
Movie fiend

MOVIE REVIEW

Yes, yes, it's true. Hitch has the markings of a big-budget studio-produced romantic comedy written all over it, those being the kinds of soulless enterprises that have less than nothing to offer except the empty shell of a sugar-coated ending.

And, of course, with a star like Will Smith toplining the flick and funding provided by Sony, it is a big-budget, studio-produced romantic comedy. But despite a script filled with some unnecessary pratfalls and tired setups, the actors manage to infuse a real chemistry, and



when the romance is believable and the characters likable, it's hard to blow off Hitch as another soulless drag.

Smith plays Alex Hitchens, a once-nerd who has devoted his life to helping guys get past their social troubles and mental blocks and win over the woman of their dreams. His latest client is Albert (Kevin James), a slobby dork who has fallen for the movie star he does accounting for, Allegra Cole (Amber Valletta). As Alex improves on Albert's game and the sparks begin to fly, Alex finds himself wrapped up in the beautiful Sara Melas (Eva Mendes), a writer for a local gossip column. Alex finds his game falling apart in front of her, and tries to figure out why during his attempts to win her over.

Or that's what the trailers want the audience to believe. For some reason, the movie is content with selling itself short as that gimmick, when the story is really just about two couples. And they're nice, likable couples at that. Will Smith manages to develop just a tiny bit further as Hitch, ditching a bit of the smart-alecky approach that has made recent comic roles annoying. Kevin James is funny and likable as Albert, and Amber Valletta is instantly winning as Allegra, with an almost Cameron-Diaz-like quality. But

the best is Eva Mendes, who is a truly charming screen presence.

Director Andy Tennant handles the movie with a charming touch that keeps things breezy and fun. Still, Tennant isn't afraid to put some of the more affecting moments up, with some characters looking truly heartbroken, and on the edge of tears. Not that Hitch is likely to make anyone weep, but it's a step further than the monologues and frowny faces that

most will settle for. Most of all, however, it shows that Tennant wants to put a little bit more focus on the characters than the events going on around them, and it again elevates Hitch a step above the expected.

But those events - what a waste. As anyone has likely seen from the numerous television

spots, DVD previews and theatrical trailers Columbia has unloaded on America, there is an allergy disaster, a kissing mishap, some bad-idea dance moves, and Will Smith kicking Eva Mendes in the head trying to board a water-ski. None of which are very interesting compared to the way the characters react to them. Of course, worst of all is the movie's central conflict, which is quite predictable. The movie also clocks in at 119 minutes, which is a little long for such a simple problem to come about.

But Hitch is not only harmless, but it's also fun. As an added bonus, in lieu of outtakes, we even get dancing from the cast. There's not a lot here not to like. With such a charming cast and upbeat attitude, Hitch is a pretty good Valentine's Day flick for both parties in a relationship, and it's nice that for once a genre as predictable and stale as the romantic comedy has a little bit more to offer. Hitch is being advertised as "The Cure for the Common Man." Hitch the movie isn't quite the cure for the common rom-com, but at least it's a step in the right direction.

Overall Grade:

B

KGRG
89.9 FM

Concert Calendar

February 12, Saturday @ El Corazon
(formerly Graceland0

Infinite Productions and Graceland present **Flogging Molly**, and **Kane Hodder**. \$20 adv. @ TicketsWest, El Corazon, Singles Going Steady, Cellophane Square, and all Sonic Boom locations, \$22 Day of Show. All Ages/Bar with ID. Doors @ 7, Show @ 8.

February 14, Monday @ El Corazon

Infinite Productions and KGRG present **Rise Against**, **Tsunami Bomb**,

Alexisonfire, and **Only Crime**. \$10 adv. @ TicketsWest, El Corazon, Singles Going Steady, Cellophane Square, and all Sonic Boom Locations. \$12 Day of Show. All Ages/Bar w/ ID. Doors @ 6, Show @ 7

February 24, Thursday @ El Corazon

Infinite Productions and KGRG present SubCity "Take Action Tour" featuring **Sugarcult**, **Head Automatica**, **Hawthorne Heights**, **Anberlin**, and **Plain White T's**. \$15 adv. @ TicketsWest, El Corazon, Singles Going Steady, Cellophane Square, and all Sonic Boom locations. All Ages/Bar with ID. Doors @ 6, Show @ 7.

for more information check out www.kgrg.com or tune into 89.9 FM.

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Underrated British spy drama shows itself to be worth noticing

by Corey F. Theis
Staff writer

TV SHOW REVIEW

Procedural dramas have become very popular in the last five years. Shows like *C.S.I.* and *Without a Trace* have risen to the top of the Nielsen chart. One show, however, is just as good or better, but has not reached the acclaim of its predecessors. This show is *MI-5*. *MI-5*, which airs Saturdays at 10 p.m. on A&E, is a British import titled *Spooks* when it airs on the BBC. The real *MI-5*, according to the official government website, is a security service that "is responsible for protecting the UK against threats to national security." This show is in the same vain as *24* and *Alias*, but is less action-packed; it is not less tense, however.

MI-5 centers around a group of characters lead by Adam Carter, a recruit from rival *MI-6*. His wife still works for *MI-6* and even though they compete their love

is evident. What sets this show apart from other spy dramas is its style and tone. *MI-5* recruits not only have to spy on their targets, but they also must keep other government agencies, like *MI-6*, in check. The recruits cannot trust anyone, which leads to devastating consequences in their personal lives. This show illustrates what it must be like to constantly lie and fear danger for yourself and your loved ones.

One character, Zoe Reynolds, tells her fiancée of her job; she later fears that he has told his brother. Zoe also must deal with a co-worker who is in

love with her despite her rejections. All these situations plus her important job make her life stressful; this series explores that idea with all its characters.

The action is minimal but the suspense is high. In an earlier episode Adam must



meet with a contact that will help save a man *MI-5* is protecting. This contact must remain anonymous. *MI-5* is closely watched by *MI-6* so Adam and his team must shake the surveillance. We

watch for 20 minutes as Adam walks throughout London dodging into stores,

changing clothes, hopping on subways, and doing whatever he can to stop being tracked. *MI-5* operatives are stationed all across London giving him messages on restaurant signs and by placing quarters into homeless men's cups. Although these scenes basically contain images of Adam walking throughout London they are exciting.

The main nitpick of this show, however, is its over reliance on hidden cameras. In almost every mission, including Adam's walk through London, the *MI-5* team can watch every move at their headquarters through the use of hidden cameras. It seems highly unlikely that there would be this many in London.

Overall this show features believable characters placed in tense situations and leading outside lives that are plagued by lies and deceit. It is unique and enjoyable. Be warned, though, since this show is filmed in Britain it can be daunting trying to understand their accents and unique slang.

The Current reflects on the all-time greatest video game franchises

by Brian Vines
A&E Editor

The video game industry has seen plenty of standout games over the years but few can keep fans as enthralled quite like these following franchises have. While there are plenty of other games that would be worthy of mentioning, here is a list of five of the greatest video game franchises of all time...

5. Metroid

Publisher: Nintendo / Origin: 1986

Forget Lara Croft; Samus Aran, the cyborg-clad star of Nintendo's classic *Metroid* franchise, is just about the greatest video game heroine ever. Armed with a myriad of powerful weapons and abilities (rolling into a ball, jump jets, etc.), Samus has been hunting alien metroids and space pirates in her numerous adventures on nearly every Nintendo console and handheld. With a successful transition to the third-dimension a couple of years ago, *Metroid* should remain to be one of Nintendo's landmark franchises for years to come.



Most notable games: **Super Metroid** (Super NES - 1994), **Metroid Prime** (Gamecube - 2002)

4. Panzer Dragoon

Sega / 1995

The cult-acclaimed shooter, *Panzer Dragoon*, is just about the most underrated videogame series in history. Having originated on the Sega Saturn (with a

recent sequel on Xbox), *PD's* premise revolves around its straightforward stages and ultra-frantic gameplay. To provide a better idea, it plays a lot like Nintendo's *Star Fox* games but features flying dragons instead of arwings (space fighters) as well as a much darker tone, overall.



Combine all of this with its gorgeous, multi-pathed levels and incredible boss-battles, and *Panzer Dragoon* is one of the most enjoyable action series' of all time.

Most notable games: **Panzer Dragoon II Zwei** (Saturn - 1996) and **Panzer Dragoon Saga** (Saturn - 1998)

3. Final Fantasy

Square Enix / 1987

Perhaps the main thing that the *Final Fantasy* brand has been known for over the years is its status as the benchmark against which all other traditional RPGs (Role Playing Games) are set. Regardless of which installments were better or worse, Square's *Final Fantasy* titles have been responsible for some of gaming's most memorable moments. Remember the infamous opera scene or the events leading up to the face-off between Cloud and Sephiroth? Even if you don't, there is no denying that *Final Fantasy* is, by far, the largest and most popular role-playing franchise on the planet.



Most notable games: **Final Fantasy III** / Japanese **VI** (Super NES - 1994) and **Final Fantasy VII** (PlayStation - 1997)

2. Sonic the Hedgehog

Sega / 1991

Sega's trademark blue hedgehog has been collecting rings, running loop-de-loops, and thwarting arch-nemesis, Dr. Robotnik, for nearly 15 years now and shows no signs of stopping anytime soon. While the quality of the recent *Sonic* titles may have taken a bit of a dive, the two-dimensional platform installments are what make this video game series among the best ever. These 16-bit classics are best known for their blazing fast gameplay and imaginative level designs and they are responsible for introducing the franchise's most notable characters (Tails, Knuckles, etc.). So while Sonic doesn't necessarily share Mario's persistent quality, his superb Genesis adventures more than make up for it.



As for *NiGHTS into Dreams*: it was made by the same development team behind the *Sonic* series (Sonic Team) and featured terrifically creative gameplay starring a flying jester creature. Classic stuff.

Most notable games: **Sonic the Hedgehog CD** (Sega CD - 1993) and **Sonic the Hedgehog 3 & Knuckles** (Genesis - 1993)

Most notable game that technically isn't even a Sonic game: **NiGHTS into Dreams** (Saturn - 1996)

1. Super Mario

Nintendo / 1985

Whether he was battling Donkey Kong in the early '80s or swinging Bowser by the tail in the late '90s, Nintendo's flagship plumber has always enjoyed the luxury of starring in consistently excellent games. As the star of some of the greatest and most influential video games of all time, it is no wonder that *Mario* remains the most acclaimed creation of Shigeru Miyamoto, the famed mastermind behind many of Nintendo's most reputable franchises (*Zelda* and *Metroid* included). Aside from exploring castles and saving princesses, Mario has undertaken many other endeavors such as go-kart racing, tennis, golf, and even medicine throughout his extensive career as videogaming's figurehead.

Most notable games: **Super Mario 64** (Nintendo 64 - 1996) and **Super Mario World** (Super NES - 1991)



There's a Hockey team in Seattle!



by Sean Golden
Guest writer

You bet your sweet hockey puck there is and they've been around since 1977 when they were called The Seattle Breakers. In 1985 they became The Seattle Thunderbirds and are a member of the Western Hockey League, which consists of twenty teams, fifteen across western Canada, and five in Washington and Oregon. The players are all 16 through 20 years old, and mostly come from western Canada, and a few from the US.

Each team is also allowed two European players. The T-Birds, as they are affectionately known by their fans, are flying high so

far this season, and with 22 games remaining, they sit at 34-15-0-1, which is wins, losses, ties, and overtime losses, respectively. They have a perch at the top of the US division, with a 17 point lead on their I-5 rivals, the Portland Winter Hawks. Rounding out the division, are the Spokane Chiefs, the Tri-City Americans, and the new nemesis, the sophomore season Everett Silvertips.

The Thunderbirds are paced by 18 year old center, Aaron Gagnon, who has 26 goals, and 25 assists through 50 games this season. His 26 goals are also good for 9th in the league. Right now they are fighting for the best record in the league, which

ensures home ice advantage throughout the playoffs. If the Thunderbirds happen to win the WHL title, they would earn a spot in the Memorial Cup. This is played every year between the



courtesy of
Seattle Thunderbirds.com

champions of the WHL, the Ontario Hockey League, the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, and a host team, which

changes every year. This is the most coveted prize in junior hockey, something that the T-Birds have never won. This year proves to be their best chance at a Memorial Cup in their history. But sadly, the T-Birds are not drawing too well. The Thunderbirds play their home games at Seattle Center's Key Arena, also home to the Sonics, however, unlike the Sonics, the T-Birds only draw about 3000-4000 a game. There are a number of reasons for this, but one main reason, is that many are not aware that the Thunderbirds exist, or that they are one of the cheapest forms of entertainment in Seattle. The best seats for a T-Birds game are \$20. The cheap-

est are \$16. Not going to break the bank of most strapped-for-cash college students. So, you can go see the T-Birds, sit in section 114, and pay \$20, or you can go to the same seat for the Sonics and pay over \$100.

Students of Green River: Go support the Seattle Thunderbirds! Upcoming games, are 2/9, against Spokane; 2/12, against Everett; and 2/18 against Red Deer. For tickets, call the T-Birds office at (206)448-PUCK (7825). You'll have a great time, and next time you see me on campus with my black T-Birds hat, send a "Go T-Birds!" in my direction.

Wounded Gators down but not out



By Nate Ells Miller
Staff writer

The Gators entered the Highline Gymnasium knowing that they had a tough game ahead of them. They did however have the confidence from a win last week, which not only inspired the team but also enough fans to show up to drown out the cheers from the highline students. The Green River women entered the game with such intensity that the only outbursts were from Highline's coach. It was a real fight straight from the beginning and

the gators had the upper hand.

With the first quarter of the game already gone, the Gators were up by one. Then a two pointer by Highline's Rebecca Johnson gave the Thunderbirds the lead. As the first half disappeared, so did the speed of the ball, as Highline slowed down and waited to pick up the fowls and used most of their energy on defense. It was 41-28 with one and a half minutes left in the first half. However Gators would shorten the T-birds lead to ten before the half was over with a last fowl.

The second half started off quick for Highline with five

unanswered points. As the Defense bared down on Amanda Foster she had no where to pass, so as a last desperate move she threw it up



between the arms of two T-birds and snuck it in for two. With the Gators showing far more intensity it appeared the game may

be changing for Green River. Highline's Defense was making it real hard for the Gators to stage a late comeback and the score kept a ten point difference through out most of the third quarter. Coach Finlan called a timeout with six-thirty left in the game and as he tried to inspire his tired team into finding some energy, the Gator fans tried to grip on to some hope that Highline could be beat.

The women came out of their timeout rejuvenated, however Highline had created too much of a lead and despite a vigorous fight, Highline won 77-61. Although this loss may seem

like a nail in the coffin for Green River's season, the women's team should feel proud of the wins they did accomplish and the hard work they put into a still very impressive season.

After the first game between the Gators and Highline, the team said that their primary goal was to get to understand one another. Well in my mind they achieved that goal because anyone saw the game at Highline would tell you they played as one team, not individuals.

Spring brings major league baseball

by Yasunori Chiba
Staff writer

Since the Boston Red Sox won the World Series, many players have registered as a free agent which permits a player to go to any ball club they want. This off season was a sort of repetition of surprises and actually some big surprises that happened week by week. The reason is because a lot of superstar players became free agents such as Pedro Martinez and Carlos Beltran. Also a trade of course is always available for almost all of the players who often get more surprises than just free agent moves.

It happened, as usual, the New York Yankees acquired lots of players such as Carl Pavano who was one of the big names on the market. However, the biggest addition for the Yankees this winter must be signing Randy Johnson who will be 42 years old during the next season. He's obviously the best left hand pitcher in major league

baseball and he might throw at the opening game against the Red Sox instead of Mike Mussina.

As long as the Yankees were spending big money, another team in New York also decided to chase a big name. At first, the New York Mets acquired



courtesy of
<http://www.kdfitv.com/sports.htm>

Pedro Martinez from the Boston Red Sox. Martinez had received several offers by various teams since he became a free agent player. Most of the teams, which includes the Red Sox, never guaranteed him four years except the Mets. Even if they got Martinez, they could not satisfactorily build the 2005 Mets. Carlos Beltran,

who became a free agent from the Houston Astros, joined the Mets and also became only the tenth player in the history of baseball who made a contract over a hundred million dollars.

There are many big moves happening. Oakland Athletics has released Tim Hudson to Atlanta and Mark Mulder to St. Louis. Seattle Mariners added a power by joining Adrian Beltre and Richie Sexson. Both players have won the homerun title. The rest of the big names, such as Sammy Sosa and Magglio Ordonez, will be joining a new team soon.

The record would be a highlight of 2005. Barry Bond would have the opportunity to make second place for the number of homeruns in history. Ichiro will try to be the first player who smacks 200 hits for five consecutive years from his rookie year. The rivalry between the Red Sox and the Yankees is definitely heating up.

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Patriots win third Super Bowl in four years



picture courtesy of www.yahoo.com

Super Bowl MVP, Deion Branch, hoists the Lombardi trophy along side coach Bill Belichick (left) and Patriots owner Robert Kraft (right) after the victory.

By Randy Zweigle
Opinions editor

The consistent and solid Patriots proved that they are the first dynasty team of the 21st century last Sunday by beating the Eagles 24-21 in Super Bowl

XXXIX. Although head coach Bill Belichick and the rest of the Patriots shun the word "dynasty", it's safe to say their place amongst the NFL's all time elite teams is secure. With the win on Sunday, the Patriots

become only the fourth team in NFL history to have won three Super Bowls in four years.

When you think of the Patriots over the past four years, you wonder how they are able to win without a bona fide superstar.

Sure they have two time Super Bowl MVP Tom Brady, but after Brady, there really aren't any other household names. That is what makes the Patriots so great. They play as a true team, with all members of the squad contributing their skills to the ultimate goal: a win. In today's age of flashy touchdown dances and individual achievements, the Patriots have reverted to the tried and true approach of team play.

That team effort paid off on Sunday when the Patriots shut down Donovan McNabb and the Eagles 24-21. Every time the Eagles looked like they were going to take hold of the game and the lead, the Patriots defense was there to make the big play. Patriots' safety Rodney Harrison, who could have easily been the MVP along with a few other Patriots, made a key red zone interception early on when the Eagles were threatening a score. Harrison also forced a fumble and came up with the game ending interception. The Patriots defense was relentless in the first half with constant blitzing and pressure from the line backing core, not allowing McNabb to get comfortable in his offense and forcing the Eagles to turn the ball over.

The Eagles were also able to keep Brady in tact in the first half and went into the locker room at half time tied at 7-7. However, after the half, the Patriots made the correct adjustments and the offense came alive. Brady made virtually no mistakes as he drove down the field and scored on each of the Patriots first three second half possessions. In the air, Brady and wide receiver Deion Branch hooked up an NFL record eleven times and on the ground, former Husky Corey Dillon got the running game going with a few key runs and screen passes. By the fourth quarter, the pressure seemed to be getting to McNabb and despite a late touchdown score, poor clock management sealed the Eagles fate. When it was all said and done, Belichick had won his ninth straight play-off game, improving his record in the post season to 10-1, a new NFL record and Deion Branch was named the game's most valuable player.

However, with Belichick's two top coordinators leaving to new jobs, the future of the Patriots is foggy. Only time will tell if the team, who so well represents that word, will continue their winning ways in the 2005-2006 season.

Seattle Mariners need to work hard for the money

by Nate Ells Miller
Staff writer

When it comes to American pastimes, most of us conjure images of the fourth of July, fireworks, and baseball. Well at least maybe you used to think of baseball before the last couple of years. It wasn't long ago that the Mariners were on a pace that was destined to deliver them to the World Series. However between the legendary Yankees and being in one of the toughest leagues around, the Mariners never got the chance to shine.

Then after a long season last year the Mariners were just able to break even as far as wins. So

then what's with all this new Mariners Hype? The answers begins with many of the team's problems from last season. Starting with their Manager; OK even though Lou Pinella did get a little hyper during the Mariners' glory days, they were still the Mariners' GLORY days.

So the Mariners got a new manager who promised to show signs of life while he is coaching. Hopefully Coach Hardgrove will be able to do for Seattle what he did for the Indians. Along with the management, Seattle did one better and answered the calls of protesting fans who circled the closed gates of Safeco Field pleading the salary cap be raised so that the

Mariners could sign some big hitters.

The first to be signed was



courtesy of
www.teamflagstore.com

Richie Sexson who will take over for retired John Olderude on first base. Sexson is coming off of a good year hitting at .233 and 23 RBI from Arizona. It was only days later that the Mariners

shocked Seattle with the news that they had acquired Adrian Beltre from the Dodgers who hit above three hundred last season and more than fifty runs batted in. Beltre would take Scott Spiezio's place at third.

With the season approaching and the short stop Jason Lopez still lingering on and off the disabled list, the Mariners made a gutsy decision and signed on former Reds player Pokey Reese who hit .285 last year and got 52 RBIs to fill in for Lopez. With these new hitters along with returning Ichiro, Boone, Winn, and Ibanez, the question of offense has been answered. But what about pitching? So far the Mariners have announced

they're scouting for a new starting pitcher to replace ex-mariner Freddy Garcia but so far they have only signed Jeff Nelson.

This could be a very important trade decision if the Mariners are looking to make a comeback this next year. If they can't bring in a new starter, it could very well be up to Jamie Moyer who is coming off a bad year to step up for the Mariners bullpen. Either way, with Fan Fest already past the curiosity fever, this new Mariners team is becoming more and more clear. It looks like we'll just have to wait and see if the Mariners can bring "the American past time" back to Seattle.

Gator men bitten but gearing up for an intense game of the season



Dan Jeremiah
Staff writer

In another clash of the titans this week in Des Moines, the fearless Gators fell to the Highline Thunderbirds again in a league battle 73-78. This loss dropped the Men's' basketball team to 4-6 in league and 9-11 overall.

Wednesday's game was high-

lighted by the sharp shooting abilities of Darren Edenshaw. Darren finished the game with 23 points and 7 rebounds, followed by Shaitan Wilson who dropped in 20 points and pulled down 7 rebounds as well. The five foot ten guard Zenrique Tellez led the Thunderbirds' attack with 20 points and was followed closely by Nathan Jackson who poured in 16, and



Tavar Proctor who scored 14 and pulled in 10 rebounds.

The rivalry between our Gators and the Thunderbirds has always

been a fierce one and the loss was difficult to swallow; however this game isn't over yet. Our Gators still have six games left in the regular season before the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges tournament begins in the first part of March.

The final regular season home game will be held on Saturday the 26th of February at 7 pm

against Grays Harbor. Grays Harbor is 5-5 in league and 11-10 overall.

The teams should be very evenly matched which will make for an exciting night of hoops. Admission is free to Green River students so come on out and support the guys as they finish out their season.