

The Current

Green River Community College



Four Losses for Lady Gators

The women's fastpitch team tries its best, but consecutively come up short

Sports page 14

March 19, 2012 | WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.NET

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 8



Science classes will be forever changed after Green River accepts

\$250,000 grant
from
National Science Foundation

Find out more on page 10!

CAMPUS page 2

March madness

It's fair, it's fun and it's madness. Green River's basketball tournament is a slam dunk.

A&E page 7

Student poets impress even the pros

Mayhem Poets keep poetry alive on campus.

FEATURE page 8-9

Got lunch?

Healthy choices while dining on a dime!

OP-ED page 13

Drone warfare: not "fair" to everyone

U.S. isn't risking any soldier's lives, but it could be at the cost of other civilians.

*"My Commander Shepard was the pinnacle of morality...
She was nobler than Atticus Finch from To Kill a
Mockingbird."*

Alexander Bevier Page 6

All photos by:
Thomas Sørenes | *The Current***Below photo:**

Derek Eilertson jumps and shoots for his team during the March Madness basketball tournament. His team went to the finals, but eventually lost to Jamaal Thomas' team.



MARCH MADNESS: The third month of the year grants Green River a lighthearted and loving basketball tournament

By: Thomas Sørenes
Photography Editor

As he hit the three-pointer, his teammates, his opponents, even the referees started cheering. It was quite obvious that the laid-back atmosphere made for friendly rivalries and a March Madness Tournament filled with laughter.

Green River's March Madness tournament was held in the main gym for three days, from March 7 to the 9. Organized by the Student Life office, the tournament saw six teams consisting of Green River students as they played

for glory in 5-on-5 basketball.

It began on Wednesday with Derek Eilertson's team advancing to the semi finals after winning against Kevin Reinaldy's team.

Eilertson just got through finishing a strong season for the Green River's basketball team and continued to show his strengths in the tournament.

In Wednesday's other game, Jamaal Thomas and his team mates secured their own semi final spot.

Because only six teams registered (out of the eight that the organizer, Lyubov Bernik,

wanted) two teams had to get a 'by' (meaning, the two teams advanced to the next round without playing).

As a result, Le Dai and Ahmed Sheikh's teams were automatically advanced to semi final spots. They were not, however, too challenging for Eilertson and Thomas' teams. Eilertson's team maintained a lighthearted spirit during the first semi final on Thursday. They were often seen laughing amongst each other on the court.

Later Thomas' team won against Dai, moving on to the final.

His team played to their best efforts as they, with Eilertson watching from the sideline, caught hold of the other slot for the final game by winning against Sheikh's team.

Friday's big event (Eilertson vs. Thomas) was a far closer game than those played on Wednesday and Thursday. While the previous games finished once a team reached 15 points, the final day was a two hour long event and more competitive.

With higher stakes at hand, the teams played more defensively than beforehand, while still managing to maintain

an overall positive attitude. The players, even the referees, were all cheering for each other, putting smiles on the faces of those watching from the bleachers. Thomas and his team ended up winning against Eilertson.

With prizes for the winning team, refreshments for

sale (courtesy of the Student Life office) and a great atmosphere, the tournament turned out to be a well organized sports event. The Student Life office puts up events like these every quarter and they might just have started a good tradition with the March Madness tournament.

**Top photo:**

From left to right, Philip Baker, De Anne Nixon, Trayvon Webster, Lyubov Bernik (holding the sign), Josh (winners sign), Jare Sager, Jamaal Thomas, Charles Lee were the champions at March Madness.

Left photo:

A few players wait and watch the competitive teams vie for top spot.

Right photo:

Jamaal Thomas rushes across the court. His team ended up taking number one.



Teacher Spotlight: Cece Hier

Position: Chinese Instructor
Date of birth: December 10, 1959
Years at Green River: Eight years, since 2004

What made you become a teacher?

From elementary school, throughout high school in China, I always had the chance to be a "little teacher" in my classes. My teacher either appointed me or picked me when I volunteered. My job was to lead the class [whenever] my teacher couldn't be there.

One of the comments I got from one of my teachers at high school was that I had the potential to be a teacher. But my dream was to become a doctor, scientist or artist, [I] never thought about being a teacher.

I graduated from China Geo-Sciences University as a hydro-geology and environmental engineer. I worked for the geothermal project of the United Nations in China. Later I worked as an engineer project manager, marketing manager, training manager, public relationship official and overseas vice president for a couple of high-tech import and export corporations for 10 years in China.

After I came to the U.S., I worked as a general manager assistant of the National



Asian market for a Top 5 insurance company (which is responsible for all matters relating to the Chinese and the Chinese market.)

When my first child was born, he was diagnosed as "autistic" at the age of 3 years old. I then quit my work to become a "full-time mother". I worked at home to help my son for 5 years. [After I] carefully considered the weight to return to work, I chose to



Kine Røssland | The Current

Hier in front of her class, dressed in traditional Chinese garments as she teaches her Chinese language class.

teach Chinese at community college, so that I could have flexible time to take care of my children. However, [when] I began teaching in 2000, I could not help but fall in love with this career; there have been opportunities to engage in a higher paid job, but I believe that "teacher" will be my lifelong "career." I really admire my high school teacher's prophecy!

What made you decide to come to Green River to teach?

We moved from Walla Walla to Seattle area in 2003 and lived in Kent temporarily. I searched for community colleges [up to] six miles from my home, I found three community colleges including Green River. I started offering non-credit Chinese language classes for all of the three community colleges and the University of Washington in 2004.

How is it teaching Chinese here in the U.S.?

Teaching the Chinese language and culture to non-native speakers in U.S. is a big challenge. I was told that in the world, Americans are most adverse to learning a foreign language. There

are more than 200 million Chinese students that are learning English in China, yet only 24,000 students are learning Chinese in the U.S. More than 10 years of practice, for me, teaching Chinese language and culture is not a career, but it also has become a mission. I also host "Chinese Culture & Language Communication Center" for all levels and needs. [I] developed, designed and taught unique Chinese language courses for hi-tech companies, groups, venture capital, families and individuals etc. I was selected as one of seven "Super Instructors" teaching the Chinese language for KOMO-TV Northwest Afternoon TV Show: "Goes to College 101" in 2004. I has also been selected as an AP Chinese Reader and worked for the College Board for 2008 and 2010 AP Chinese Exam.

How do you stay in touch with your Chinese heritage?

I grew up in a family of accomplished Chinese culture scholars. Being raised in this environment, I could not help but to have a deep love for the Chinese language and culture. My grandfather is one of the initiators of Nan She ---

an important organization of elite intellectuals against feudal imperial rule in early 20th century in China. I am the overseas coordinator for Sino-logical Institute for Deliberation and Exchange Shanghai, China. In 2011, I was elected as a board member of the Association of Modern Chinese Literature and the Association of Southern Society & Liu Yazi studies. I am also the workshop coordinator of Washington Chinese Art & Culture Committee. In addition, I have studied and practiced Tai Chi since 1980 when I was a University student in China. In the past 30 years I continued to study and practice at martial arts and Tai Chi Academy in both China and U.S. with a couple of top professors and grand masters. As a senior I taught Tai Chi classes at the YMCA, Wesley Homes, the city of Des Moines and the city of Maple Valley since 2005. I am not only teaching Tai Chi as a healthiness activity, but [I] also share the traditional Chinese culture, philosophy and medical theory in of my classes. I will offer a new Humanities course for five credits, "Chinese Culture and Life" at Green River, this coming summer quarter.

Man on Street



What career are you going towards and what are you doing at Green River to get there?

"I'm a computer engineering student and this quarter I've taken math 140, physics 203, and java 2, which is a programming class, which kind of coincides with computer engineering. I'm transferring to UW Tacoma and this is actually my last quarter here and I start [there] the 26 of March."



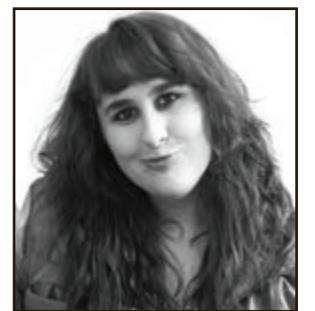
Jeremy Williams

"I'm planning on becoming a theater director, and I'm trying to get my AA here at Green River so I can transfer to Central Washington University and I'm taking Acting 101 and I'll be taking the actual acting course and be in an actual play to help me [learn] the process of creating a play."



Cameron Miller

"I'm heading towards Radio Broadcasting, I'm going to be taking the broadcasting classes but I'm not [a part of KGRG] yet. It's very diverse here [at Green River] and I like that [in] the radio broadcasting program, you can [meet] many types of people."



Kaylee Ohorati

"I'm in Natural Resources right now and I'm kind of planning on going to the University of Washington and maybe working towards research in soils. I started out in forestry a long time ago but I didn't finish school."



Ed Nebendahl

Every other week, *The Current's* editors crawl out of their cave to ask the campus random questions. Suggest a subject at: thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Here is a selection of this issue's answers. For more, plus an archive of old questions, visit our website: www.thecurrentonline.net.

Merchant of Venice sells bigotry

William Shakespeare's classic play continues to discuss anti-semitism with a relevance as if it were written for people today

By: Bailey Jo Josie
Campus Editor

I'm not going to lie; as much as it pains me to say, I fell asleep during opening night of Green River's Drama Department's production of William Shakespeare's play "The Merchant of Venice".

It wasn't a small nap; a result of late night studying and working (journalists tend to forget that sleep is a necessity). It was a full-on pass out about 25 minutes into a 2-hour show.

I remember loving the opening scene of the show, which was held in a nightclub of some sort, where beautiful women danced in sequence and jealous boyfriends showed their masculinity with less-than-convincing stage punches. I was outraged at myself for sleeping – I was enjoying myself, damn it!

Plus, I was intrigued by the overall theme of the play, which Director Robin Bowles described as being about,

"greed, religious bigotry, twisting of the law, [and] egotism."

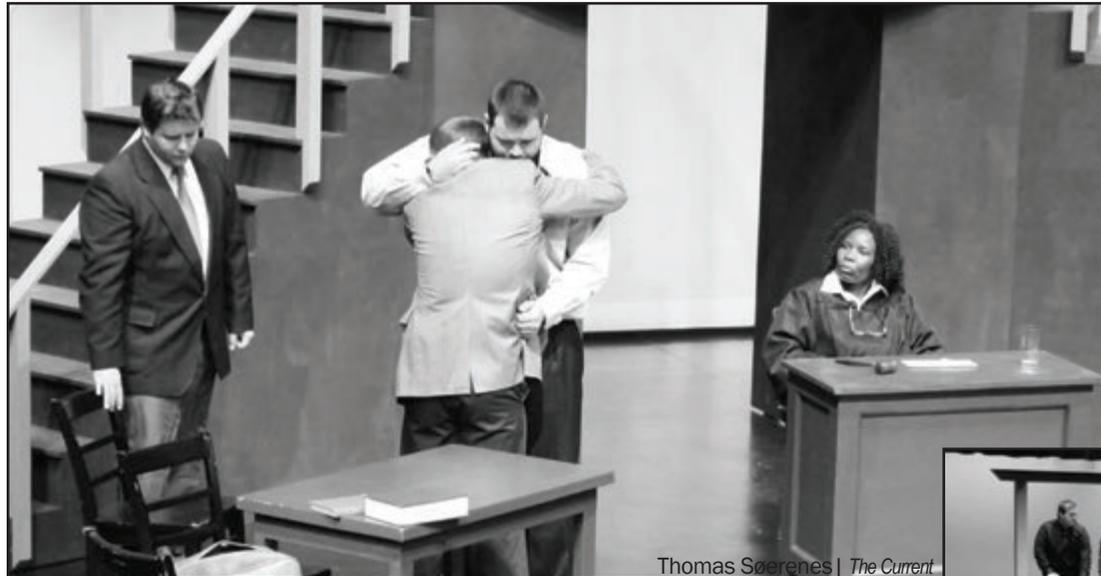
Bowles went on to explain why he had chosen 'Merchant' and cited that "All you have to do is read the paper or watch the news and see that these problems are very current and they disturb me in a big way, a big, big way."

Sadly, I didn't get the chance to experience these themes for myself that night.

Luckily, that's what matinees are for. I was not disappointed.

The story of 'Merchant' follows complex characters that are remarkably unlikeable, like Shylock, a shrewd Jewish man who becomes obsessed with exacting revenge on the good-mannered and well-liked merchant, Antonio. You can't really blame Shylock though – Antonio just so happens to be horribly anti-Semitic.

Despite all of these faults, you find that you care for these characters; this is thanks entirely to the extremely talented



Thomas Sørensen | The Current

ensemble cast.

Take the character Shylock, as played by Jack Hackett: vengeance takes him so far that he obsesses over cutting one pound of flesh from Antonio as part of collateral for the merchant not paying Shylock back the money he borrowed. Hackett's performance is so layered and well-acted that the audience repulses at his

sadism, yet feels nothing but sympathy for him and his hardships as a Jewish man.

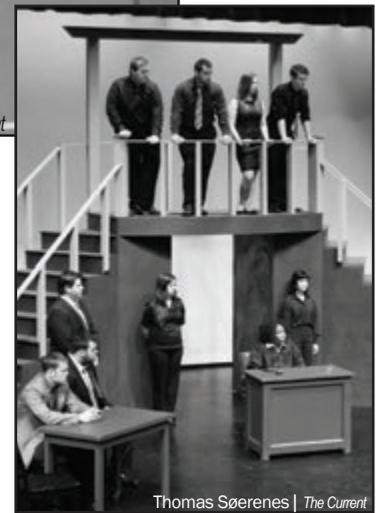
Hackett is but one example though; sadly, there just aren't enough words to fully re-tell the sheer talent of the students who put on "The Merchant of Venice."

Fortunately, I got to experience it all for two shows... well, one and a half.

Above photo:

Bassanio (played by Jordan Bredenger) and Antonio (Tony Reavis) embrace during a climactic scene of "The Merchant of Venice."

Right photo: A scene from the second Act of "The Merchant of Venice."



Thomas Sørensen | The Current

Students bring joy to singing contest

The Indonesian Student Organization gets down with a musical contest with the variety and breadth of a Jerry Lewis special

By: Kine Røssland &
Bailey Jo Josie

Musical performances, crazy beatboxing, and a surprising flute performance were some of the events you could see at the Indonesian Student Organization Singing Contest held on March 2.

All the seats were filled and the room had a perfect mellow vibe. Family, friends and other students from Green River came to watch and show their support.

The event opened with a video about the ISO and an introduction by the night's hosts, Sherman Carrillo and Karel Theodore Widjojo, whose chemistry onstage left the crowd laughing.

All seven finalists of the contest (there was an audition for the event a few weeks ago) gave strong performances, some covering popular songs, others performing self-compositions; the latter of which were students Murillo Rivera

and Michael Batin.

Rivera's song, accompanied by piano, was a joy to listen to and watch; his song was passionate and well enough composed that it could have easily been mistaken for a professional ballad. Same goes for Batin, though he took a more pop-rock and upbeat turn.

He played guitar onstage and sang as a backing track substituted for the rest of the instruments. He

had a few fans in the crowd, and overall his performance was well received.

Ivan Salmin and his backing "boy-banders" seemed to have the girls hooked as they walked on-stage and performed a mash-up of pop songs with a beat box solo at the end.

Another group that sang a mash-up was Famous Red Scarf, who did a medley of "Check Yes Juliet", "Secret

Valentine" and "Skyway Avenue" by We The Kings; their mix of talent and chemistry onstage helped secure them third place.

There was a little bit of everything at the event - Huy Bui and his guitarists covered Ozzy Osbourne's "Mama I'm Coming Home," while Yohanna Tania sang a beautiful rendition of Whitney Houston's "One Moment In Time;"

her impeccable vocals helped earn her second place.

In the end it was Christopher Verdi who took first prize, covering the super-hit "Use Somebody" by Nashville rockers Kings of Leon.

As finalists prepared for the next acts, there were mini shows that kept the crowd highly entertained,

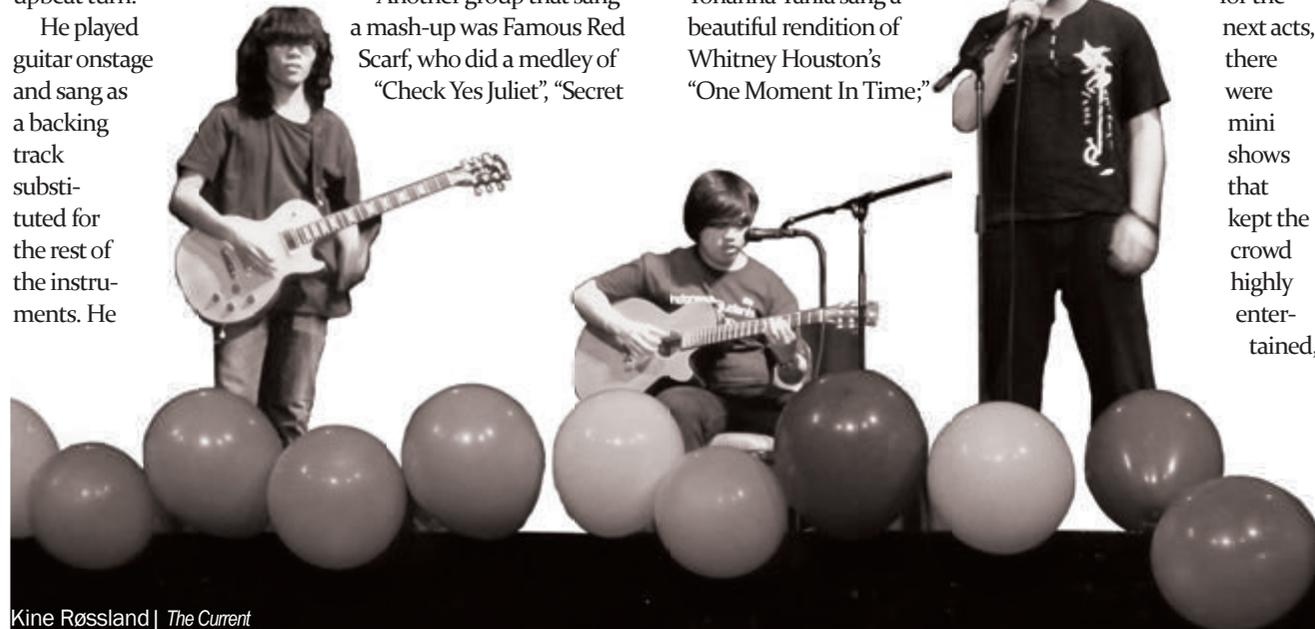
some of them being even better than the finalists.

One was a 13-year-old girl from the Auburn area who completely nailed Adele's "Someone Like You". Other filler acts included a flute solo that took people off guard by his excellent rendition of popular pop songs with the wind instrument.

For the final performance, which was also a filler act, Samuel Tan owned the stage with his beat-boxing. He mixed dubstep with LMFAO's hit song "Party Rock Anthem" and the crowd went wild, mainly because of the sheer talent he exuded.

His beat-boxing sounded as organic as real instruments being played and it felt as if there was a whole band performing.

Tan's finale was a perfect end to an all-around entertaining and show-stopping night. For those who want more events with the same amount of energy, the ISO also has student events, coming up spring quarter.



Kine Røssland | The Current

Accompanied by electric and acoustic guitar, Huy Bui performed a well-received cover of Ozzy Osbourne's "Mama I'm Coming Home."

Student poets impress even the pros

Green River and Mayhem Poets hosts a poetry night that invites students and groups to slam with rhyme, passion and style

By: Jacob Jagodinski
 Assistant A&E Editor

Rhyme until there is nothing left to say, for the passion of poetry will grip anyone with a single sway. Please, take my hand as I lead you through an enormity of English indulgences that went my way one delightful night.

Neither Shakespeare nor Doctor Seuss appeared upon the stage. But there was a group of student poets, gifted performers and the profound Mayhem Poets who made their way before the spectators.

A quintessential yet amusing introduction sent an awakening towards the audience through the words of Green River poets. This is where the beauty of the

event began, for it was the next cohort that caught me by surprise.

The Mayhem Poets entered the stage with a bang and left with a boom. At the edge of my seat, I became ever aware as the loquacious sensation of the poets roared the room. Kyle Rapps, Scott Raven, and Mason Granger gave a performance of worthy note.

That night, many of Mayhem's poems had a particular flair, or meaningful theme that was especially apparent. One of these poems was called, "Martin Luther Queen." It was full of laughs, but it hit hard on sexism and gender roles within society.

In another instance, the three poets composed what they called a "one word poem," in which they would

take turns saying one word, collaborating together to form sentences. On paper, it sounds perplexing, but in reality, it results in some of the funniest verses that can reach the ear.

After Mayhem left the stage, an assorted array of talented poets, and other miscellaneous singers and rappers emerged.

Least to say, I was amazed, baffled, and awestruck by each and every word that went my way. The event was a success, and in the eyes of its key organizer, Shaan Wade, it was a grand triumph.

As Wade put it, the goal of the poetry hearing was not only to bring poets together for common mirth, but to possibly take a step towards getting people more excited about creative and artistic

events within the school. He talked not only about future poetry hearings, but of other subjunctive talent shows for students of a unique inclination. I was baffled by this notion at first, but after the poetry hearing, I saw what Wade had done.

"I actually got a post by the

library a few days ago," said Wade. "They want us to start doing poetry contests," he explained after the event.

The event was not only a success because it was entertaining, but because in its own vague way, it has begun to inspire people across campus.

It's due to the initiatives

of people like Wade, and the encouragement that spawns from creative idealists such as the Mayhem Poets that allows for schools like Green River to be a place for the dreams of any student. So let it be said that radical rhythms are for the future of Green River's creative culture.



Thomas Sørenes | The Current

Kyle Rapps, Scott Raven and Mason Granger -- the Mayhem Poets -- encourage students to experiment and practice poetry. Their goal was to excite people about poetry and create future community events.

It's never too early
 to start reading
The Current!



Tell your friends!

Romancing Russian keys

Pianist Yelena Balabanova graces Green River with her romantic style and knowledge

By: Mareesa Crotty
 Staff Writer

A soft glow of leafy foliage veiled the stage's black curtain backdrop, setting an atmosphere of romanticism as pianist Yelena Balabanova stepped into the light and a quiet hush fell over the crowd.

In a thick Russian accent she spoke to the audience. Her voice was gentle as she shared unique and interesting stories about the songs she would be playing, including background information about the composers.

March 7 was brimming with music that Balabanova described as being "romantic in nature" and was presented on a beautiful grand piano in the Green River's Performing Arts building. The musical compositions ranged from the Russian Romantic era to early 1940s film scores.

The show began with three

songs by famed composer Sergei Rachmaninoff. Balabanova's renditions of his pieces were as played as well as any professional pianist could, but the first two compositions did not do her talent justice.

Thankfully, as the third song came along, "Prelude in G minor, Op.23, No.5," there was redemption in its exciting vivaciousness of catchy rhythms; the crowd's bobbing heads in sync to the music was a sure sign of unified agreement.

She then transitioned into the music of Nikolai Medtner: the Sonata Tragica in C sharp minor, Op. 3, N.5, also known as "Forgotten Melodies" The delicate chiming notes intertwined the resonate bass. It seemed to make the music become the night's calm before the storm with its tranquility.

The "Warsaw Concerto," by Richard Addinsell was a piece

from the movie Dangerous Moonlight, a drama-romance-war movie about an American newswoman who falls in love with a Polish pilot/pianist. The song selection captured the essence of romance that Balabanova sought after with her song choices. All of the music that night was beautifully harnessed from their original composers and were expressed with great passion by Yelena's fingertips.

The recital was free for all who attended. This was a personal favor to Julie Swienty, Green River's piano teacher. Balabanova stayed at her home

Balabanova was allowed to evaluate Swienty's piano students. She frequently performs and judges at state and international competitions, and the students in turn were given the chance to evaluate her as well at the recital.

Yelena Balabanova was raised in Russia, where she began her training in music at the age of four.

She received a Bachelor's degree in Piano Performance, and Teaching with high honors from the Moscow Gnesins' Music College at the age of 19. She also received a Master's degree in Piano Performance, Teaching and Chamber Music from the Russian State Academy of Music in Moscow; as well as a doctorates degree in the Musical Arts from the University of Colorado.

Balabanova also has a recently-released CD available entitled "At God's Waterfall." The CD can be purchased online.

Overall, the night was an assortment of musical pieces rarely found and played on the Green River campus, and it was a refreshing interlude from the music of today.



Play the role



Game Prose

Alexander Bevier

About a year ago, my grandmother passed away from a stroke. I remember her looking blankly at us in the living room as my sister called 911. We followed the ambulance together. Both of us knew that she wouldn't be coming home.

I remember waiting in line in the ER lobby, my sister was filling out paperwork to get us in and see her. I was standing tall, trying to be as stoic and firm as possible. If this was going to be my grandma's final hospital visit, I wanted to make sure I could handle the doctor telling me that with a straight face.

As I stood in the lobby, I remember thinking about the game Mass Effect and it's sequel (I was playing through them sequentially at the time). In the series, players control Commander Shepard as he (or she, if the player decides) travels the galaxy trying to save it from certain doom.

What makes the game memorable is its implementation of moral choices. During every pivotal point in the game, Shepard can either make a noble or rebellious choice to progress. These actions have long-standing consequences in the series; including the deaths of supporting characters (or yourself) in the sequel.

My Commander Shepard was the pinnacle of morality. She was the kind of character that would be able to do the right thing every time and take full responsibility if she couldn't. She was nobler than Atticus Finch from To Kill a Mockingbird.

While I was in the hospital lobby, I kept thinking about how Shepard answered questions during some of the series' emotionally trying moments.

I remember how forward she would answer, but still manage to show some empathy when informing people of their dead comrades.

My Shepard is me. The decisions I made in the game helped give me guidance about how to talk to people about my grandmother's passing. I knew how to react to my grandma's death because I was playing a morally upright character capable of dealing with emotional strain.

When my entire family was in the room with my unresponsive grandma at 3 a.m., I volunteered to stay the first night with her and let everyone else sleep. I knew I was the only one there fit to handle the emotional night.

Mass Effect 3 recently

"...the game helped give me guidance about how to talk to people about my grandmother passing."

-Alexander Bevier

came out. This game is now telling a much more personal story for Shepard as he/she evacuates Earth as it's being decimated by an alien invasion. The game deals with Shepard's emotional loss and grief, as he/she becomes the only one capable of saving the world.

I don't know how I feel about this. For me, Shepard was a reflection of myself. She was a metaphor for how to be a strong person against adversity. Now, in an attempt to make the character more dimensional, she loses what helped me learn from her.

Video games are a wonderful medium. Like all art forms, they leave impressions on us and we learn from them. They may not always seem like much; I have no idea what something like Doodle Jump could teach you, but there will always be unforgettable gaming experiences that I will cherish.

MOVIE REVIEW

"This Means War" means good fun

By: Anna Yang
Staff Writer



A travel agent and a cruise ship captain meet up in Hong Kong after a nice peaceful dinner. They devise a plan to stop a massive destructive weapon. Why in the world would these two characters meet for this reason? Because they are lying. Actually, they are United States CIA agents on a top secret mission.

Adding action, romance and comedy all into one flick, Joseph McGinty Nichol has truly declared a triple threat to film. "This means war" brought a cliché type of story into a well-delivered film with incredible scenes, splendid actors, and overall just a great laugh.

"This means War" follows two top CIA operatives, Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"FDR" (Chris Pine) and Tuck Henson (Tom Hardy), who are partners as well as best friends.

Tuck is a divorced man who has a young son, whom he is not on good terms with, while FDR is a ladies' man. During a mission, they had a slip up and both were, "grounded." Because of that, someone was sent after them.

Tuck decides to try and meet someone online, so he made an online profile.

Lauren Scott (Reese Witherspoon) is a product testing director who had recently gone through a breakup. So, her best friend, Trish (Chelsea Handler) created a profile for Lauren without her knowing. Thus, she meets Tuck (and eventually FDR) which began their epic battle against each other, while also capturing the person after them.

Assuming this film was going to be a disappointment, it is interesting how



Pine, Witherspoon and Hardy all star in fun spy film "This Means War"

entertaining it was. The chemistry between each character felt natural, real and played really well, especially the friendship between Tuck and FDR. The well put action scenes and a hot scene between Witherspoon and Pine really made the film enjoyable.

However, there were a few disappointing aspects to the movie. Being only 97 minutes, it felt rushed.

Also, Witherspoon's role did not represent her skills like it could have. In other films, such as "Walk The

Line," the character framed her talents in a much better light than this motion picture.

Overall, this film was hilarious and steamy. It engaged the viewer throughout every moment. The movie constantly brought new humor to the plate. This film is perfect for all audiences and cohorts.

Rated: PG-13

Director: Joseph Nichol

Starring: Reese Witherspoon, Chris Pine and Tom Hardy

The Current Picks

WEBSITE/APP

drinkify.org



By: Gentry Seipert

Lovers of music and alcohol unite! Drinkify.org provides a beverage to some of your favorite musical artists. If you find yourself bored with your current cocktails of choice, are an overall novice to mixing, or you're looking to expand your bartending skills, the website 'Drinkify' might just be exactly what the doctor ordered. Blending just the right amount of swanky cocktail knowledge, pop culture, and often times, humor, the site quickly allows users to access a world of intelligent or hilarious cocktail suggestions based on the music they're listening to. Give it a try.

MOVIE

The Sandlot



By: Dylan Whitcher

With baseball season fast approaching, there is no better time to watch a family friendly baseball classic.

"The Sandlot" follows socially awkward Scotty Smalls, who desires to learn the game of baseball. After Scotty meets a group of baseball gurus, his dream is ready to come to fruition.

Scotty finds himself in a tricky situation, after accidentally losing a cherished baseball, and having to deal with an animal known as "the beast" who is holding the ball captive.

Filled with heartfelt laughs throughout, childhood is instantly brought back.

BOOK

Brave New World: Revisited



By: Bailey Jo Josie

Written 27 years after his masterpiece, "Brave New World", Aldous Huxley followed up his marvelous dystopian novel with "Brave New World Revisited".

He reflected on the message of "Brave New World" and analyzed whether or not we as a society were heading towards the fate of living in a world where there are no families, no love, and everyone is high on false happiness and fulfillment.

And according to Huxley, we most certainly are.

The scary part about reading this is that it was written in 1958, and can easily be translated to today's troubles and worries.

MUSIC

Jem



By: Rachel Sant

Jem is an excellent alternative musician that leaves you wanting to hear more. This artist's music is both catchy and addicting. Jem combines synthesis with her own extraordinary vocal talents and a variety of instrument choices, including piano. Her primary style is adult contemporary, as shown in her three albums, but she performs other genres as well. Jem is heard in many television shows, including The Mentalist and CSI Miami, as well as in movies such as Eragon. So if you're looking for someone with a considerable amount of diverse talent in music, this is your artist.



All OBAMA photos Taken by Thomas Sørenes

Curators celebrate 'Bad Art'

Alternative and parodic art is celebrated at the Official Bad Art Museum of Art

By: Al Eufrazio
Contributing Writer

A warped Mickey Mouse sits on the lap of Mona Lisa, who is smiling as always, despite having a finger caught in a mouse trap. In a psychedelic world, two hot dogs lustfully climb a hill towards a sculpture of a woman's torso. A nude reclines on a leopard-skin couch, one leg unusually disproportionate and other parts of her anatomy seemingly botched by surgery.

As far as art museums go, the Louvre it ain't!

Rather, it's the Official Bad Art Museum of Art (just call it OBAMA), at Seattle's own Café Racer. The modest neighborhood eatery, located in the University District at 5828 Roosevelt Way NE, has hosted the oddball art gallery since 2008. OBAMA is a straight-faced celebration of the common man's more dubious artistic achievements.

The faux-highfalutin' ambiance is all silly fun for curators Jo David and Marlow Harris. The husband-and-wife team

are locally known for their appreciation of all things odd and quirky. David is a photographer and artist; Harris is a real estate broker specializing in unusual properties. They are longtime supporters of the art car scene and unveiled their own kitschy, Elvis-themed van in 2010. For them, devising OBAMA was right up their alley.

When their friend, Café Racer owner Kurt Gissel, purchased the storefront next door to expand his business, he asked David and Harris for decorating advice. Having recently visited a Museum of Bad Art in the Boston area, they suggested doing something similar.

"I figured a gallery of bad art would get more coverage in the media," says David. "Especially one with a really stupid and redundant name." Gissel agreed it could work and drafted them to curate it.

Initially, David and Harris borrowed paintings from the collection of Dan Eskenazi, a friend and local connoisseur of outsider art. As OBAMA's notoriety grew, the public began

loaning or donating their own bad art to the cause.

"They'll just drop them off at the bar," says David. "Sometimes they don't even leave notes telling us who they are!"

Harris remembers one set of donors with particular bemusement.

"A family from Kirkland stopped by, dressed formally, looking embarrassed and completely out of place in here," she says. "They dropped off a velvet painting of a big-breasted nude and said, 'We found it in our attic.' And then they quickly left!"

The couple has written whimsical descriptions to include with the dozens of pieces on display. "One can only speculate that the hostility... in the painting stems from the overpriced dogs selling at the [King] Dome during this period," reads the label beneath the lustful hot dogs. "Along with a... machismo-female issue from Friday night's date gone badly."

As the ever-tightening wall space attests, OBAMA has quickly grown into a repository of the best of the

worst from flea markets, attics and eccentric private collections. But mere mediocrity does not always make the cut.

"We've given some pieces away that weren't bad enough," said David.

So what, exactly, constitutes bad art? Does it hinge on the subject matter? On an amateurish quality? On the ability, as in one piece, to duplicate a Van Gogh entirely in yarn? For David and Harris, there is no cut-and-dried answer.

"I think it has to be enigmatic; something about it has to make you say, 'Wow, what's going on here?'" says Harris.

"Or it's unintentionally bad," adds David, "Someone started making good art and something horrible happened along the way."

One thing is for certain: the initial expectation that OBAMA would attract attention to Café Racer has proven generously true. Musicians and other performers regularly vie to perform among the aesthetic absurdity and standing room-only crowds.

Good vibes from bad art? The Louvre it ain't, indeed!

The lengths we go

By: Kally Bieber
A&E Editor

See that story over there? OBAMA Art Museum? I wanted to see that for weeks. I was extremely excited about going there to get pictures for that story. The Associated Collegiate Press convention was held in Seattle this year, and it was a perfect opportunity for The Current to check out the OBAMA museum right after the convention. Seems simple, right?

Wrong.

I parked in Chinatown to avoid downtown Seattle traffic. Once we arrived to the car, the first thing I noticed was a small yellow envelope underneath my windshield wiper. It's not that I had not paid for the parking, but that I had failed to put the receipt on my dashboard. But really, \$35 was no big deal.

We all piled into the car, and apparently lunch didn't settle well for one of the passengers. We rolled down the windows gasping for air, searching vigorously for a bathroom. We came across a convenience store, and he almost fell out of the car as he ran to the bathroom.

No more than 30 seconds later, he returned, claiming that the bathroom was out of order, and that we needed to find another restroom, fast!

As we searched all around China town, it seemed as though each store had the notion that having a restroom in their store was illegal. There was no bathroom to be found.

Just when we started to feel desperate, my friend decided that it would be best to just go to the museum where there was a guaranteed bathroom. He came to the conclusion that if he didn't think about his impending emergency, he would be able to make it the five miles to the museum.

Finally, we were on the road and all was well. In the back someone was feeding me directions. Finding the exhibit was not troublesome. But on the other

hand, the thought of parking made me want to punch a kitten. Every curb and every lot I found was permit only, or I would have to pay up the ying yang.

I circled around a few times, getting more and more frustrated with each block. At that point, I just wanted to reach the museum and take the second parking ticket for the day. Just around the block and we'd be back there when what-do-you-know, I drive right into the side of another vehicle. Side swiped and bumper damaged.

But of course, what else do you expect to happen.

The traditional swap of information between drivers proceeded as all the passengers looked as though they had just seen someone

"But on the other hand, the thought of parking made me want to punch a kitten."

Kally Bieber

get murdered. But, being the hard-ass that I am, I hopped right back into the car and again we were on our way to the museum.

As we parked, probably illegally, the realization of what just happened hit me. I shooed everyone off to the museum, so that I would have a chance to call my parents and tell them of my incident. Still with the adrenaline rush of a car accident, I didn't realize that I was missing out on the one thing that I had been looking forward to for weeks.

As journalists, we sometimes have to make choices that we don't like and push through troublesome times. But we have to make those sacrifices; we have to do whatever it takes to get the story, because if we didn't, we wouldn't be real journalists.

Oh, and by the way, my friend with the little 'problem', never went to the bathroom.



Got Lunch?

Healthy choices while dining on a dime

Green River

WEST ENTRANCE

SE 320th St.

EAST ENTRANCE

124th Ave. SE

SE 312th St.

Food Market on Lea Hill

132nd Ave. SE

Meridian Square in Kent

SE 272 St.

Eight local restaurants for students: *How to buy a healthy lunch for \$5*

A **LEA HILL FOOD MARKET**
\$0.99 - Arizona ice tea
\$0.99 per lb. - Apple
\$2.10 - Turkey Wrap
\$0.89 per lb - Carrot

Total: \$4.87

A **CASA CABANA MEXICAN RESTAURANT**
\$0.00 - Chips & Salsa (if eating in)
\$1.75 - Mini tacos
\$3.50 - Side salad

Total: \$5.25

A **SUBWAY**
\$5.00 - Regular Footlong Sub
\$0.00 - Water

Total: \$5.00

B **PHO 7**
\$3.50 - Banh Mi - tofu or chicken
\$1.25 - Cha Gio

Total: \$4.75

A **HERFEY'S BURGERS**
\$2.99 - 1 pc. Cod
\$1.99 - Kim chee

Total: \$4.98

B **PIZZA HUT**
\$3.99 - Personal Pan Pizza
\$0.50 - Buffalo wing - Wed. only
\$0.50 - Buffalo wing - Wed. only

Total: \$4.99

A **RINGO WOK TERIYAKI**
\$1.50 - Egg roll
\$1.50 - Egg roll
\$2.00 - Salad

Total: \$5.00

B **BAY TERIYAKI**
\$2.50 - Miso soup
\$2.50 - Kimchi

Total: \$5.00

Stay Current

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

Also on the Inside

"It was quite obvious that the laid-back atmosphere made for friendly rivalries and a March Madness Tournament filled with laughter."

Thomas Sørensen Page 2

The Undercurrent

Espial applications due April 6

By: Aaron Kaneshiro
Staff Writer

Green River's yearly literary art journal, Espial, will release a new issue in May, featuring work from students as well as staff and faculty.

Espial accepts submissions of a wide variety of works including poetry, short stories, paintings, photos, ceramics, metal work, collages, drawings, and pottery. The entries are reviewed and selected by students enrolled in the Espial class to ensure that the best work is put into the journal.

"We begin with a blank slate and finish with a book," said Avis Adams, one of the leading directors of the program. All fine arts and literary material in Espial are samples intended to encourage students to make art. This process is almost entirely student-run.

The 2010 edition of Espial was awarded with an honorable mention in Washington Community College Humanities Association's Campus Literary/Arts Magazine of the Year contest.

UWT transfer scholarship announced

By: Rachel Sant
Senior Writer

A \$6,000 scholarship from the University of Washington Tacoma is now available for Green River transfer students.

Green River is one of the seven selected community colleges to receive the Next Step Scholarship. It will be awarded to one student from one of participating schools. UWT is awarding \$12,000 for two years, giving \$2,000 each quarter.

In hopes of strengthening and training the South Puget Sound labor force, exclusively Washington state residents may apply for the Next Step Scholarship. Graduates after September 1, 2011 or currently enrolled students with a GPA of 3.5 or above will be eligible.

This scholarship is only available to students wishing to transfer to UWT. Applications are due on April 6. The top three Green River applicants will be considered for the final selection process.

The Current earns honor among journalistic peers at ACP conference

By: Alexander Bevier
Senior Writer

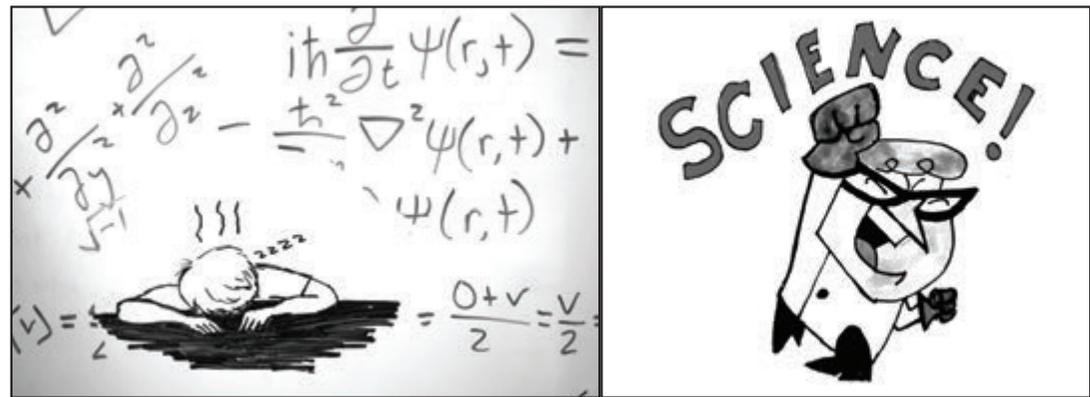
Green River's student newspaper, The Current, was awarded third place for Best of Show of the two-year college newspaper division by the Associated Collegiate Press during its 'Media +' conference. The award was won against over 400 colleges from across the United States and Canada.

The ACP also awarded prizes for four-year daily, four-year weekly, four-year non-weekly, website (small school) and website (large school) newspapers.

The conference was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Seattle during the first week of March. First place for two-year college newspapers was awarded to The Sentinel from North Idaho College. Second place was given to The Pioneer from Pierce College in Lakewood.

This award stands alongside The Current's first place prize in General Excellence, which was awarded by Washington Community College Journalism Association last June.

SCIENCE CLASSES AT GREEN RIVER



EXPECTATION

REALITY

Bailey Jo Josie | The Current

Green River receives \$250,000 science grant

National Science Foundation grant will change student experience

By: Rachel Holley
Staff Writer

The student experience for science and engineering majors will be transformed as Green River, in collaboration with the University of Washington, recently received a \$250,000 National Science Foundation grant.

The grant "Inquiry Lab Modules: Introducing Research Experiences at Community College" constructs a new path in teaching and learning science altogether. Thanks to this award, Green River science education will rely less on dismal textbooks and more on exciting, hands-on experiences.

According to Physics Instructor Chitra Solomonson, the grant's principal investigator, the ILM is basically a "bite-sized research project." These modules will provide students with a real-research experience centered on self-designed experiments.

Initially, the grant money will mainly be used for the physics department, but Solomonson hopes to see a ripple effect in all the scientific disciplines.

"Physics is just one aspect of it," said Solomonson. "The grant is housed in the physics department, but ideally it should be shared within the campus with all the relevant disciplines."

The grant is designed to be multi-faceted. First, studies have shown that undergraduate students are more likely to continue in science, technology and math fields when schools incorporate such research-based programs. This grant will not only help to increase students' interest in science, but is intended to bolster students' chances of being accepted into STEM programs at four-year uni-

"It's not a bunch of equations in a textbook. It's real. It's dynamic. It's enjoyable and it can be very creative."

Chitra Solomonson, physics instructor

versities.

Getting into a four-year school is becoming increasingly difficult. While more students are applying to four year colleges, budget cuts are forcing four-years to accept a less students.

"To increase competitiveness, students must find a way to enhance their application, their resumé, and [this program] does that," said Solomonson. "It shows that they have something that is above and beyond what they learn within the confines of a traditional classroom."

In order to broaden the

horizons of Green River students, Solomonson and her team are hoping to take class trips to observe experiments conducted in UW laboratories. Students may get to use some of UW's advanced nanotechnology equipment at the Nanotechnology User Facility.

It is significant for UW to partner with Green River. The four-year university plays a vital role in providing technical support and

resources, which allows students to get a glimpse of what it really means to be a scientist at a four-year university and beyond.

Currently, this project focuses on researching and creating organic solar cells, devices that use organic materials to convert solar energy to electrical energy. Solomonson explained that she chose this topic because it is cutting edge and appealing to students. Also, it's an interdisciplinary field. The study and fabrication of organic solar cell devices involve many scientific disciplines, ranging from

physics to chemistry, and from math to engineering.

One of the final goals of this project is to spread the impact of this project and to replicate this program in other community colleges. Green River received glowing reviews from NSF in evaluating our school's worthiness to receive the grant. Many reviewers noted that the program produced by this grant could serve as a model for the nation. If the program becomes a huge success, Green River will be helping other community colleges' faculty to design and initiate similar grants and programs.

As far as students' expectation to a better change, Solomonson and her team are planning to do one class of pilot study in spring of 2013, though the full implementation will not take place until the 2013-2014 academic year.

All in all, one of the most important outcomes of this innovative program is that it will not only help transform the way science is taught, but also the way science is viewed by students of all ages.

"It increases awareness of what doing science means," said Solomonson. "It's not a bunch of equations in a textbook. It's real. It's dynamic. It's enjoyable, and it can be very creative."

Transfers to public universities in Washington State

When it comes to picking an in-state university to transfer to, some students have no idea where they should go. Do you pick based on grades? Tuition? Because your friends go there? See why other students may have chosen these top three public universities.

By: Aaron Kaneshiro
Staff Writer

Central Washington University

-Does not rank on The Center for Measuring University Performance.

-The top 63 percent of first year students had a high school GPA above 3.0, and 81 percent of applicants are admitted to CWU.

-Located in Ellensburg, CWU is in the smallest of the three cities these universities are in.

-Central's three most popular majors are business/marketing, education, and social sciences.

University of Washington

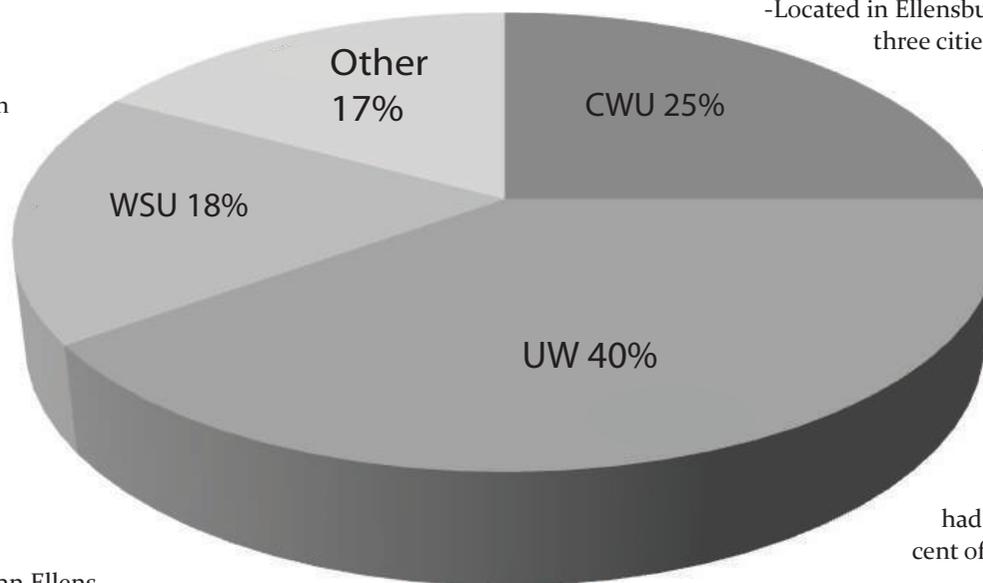
- Ranked 11 in the top research universities in America by The Center for Measuring University Performance in 2010.

- Largest campus in Washington with 42,428 enrolled.

- The top 59 percent of first-year students had a high school GPA above 3.75. Only 58 percent of applicants are admitted into the university.

-UW is also adjacent to downtown Seattle, placing it in the largest city in Washington.

- UW's most popular majors are social sciences, business/marketing, and biology.



*Percentages are based off of 78 students, and were conducted between 2009-2010. All data can be found at sbctc.edu

Washington State University

-Washington State University was ranked 39 in the top research universities in America by the Center for Measuring University Performance in 2010.

-Though its tuition cost is similar with UW at about \$10,799 annually, it is easier to get into, with 82 percent of applicants being admitted.

-Additionally, the top 62 percent of first-year students had a high school GPA above 3.29, which is a little higher than first-year students at CWU.

-WSU is located in Pullman, a city larger than Ellensburg but considerably smaller than Seattle.

-WSU's three most popular majors are business/marketing, social sciences, and health professions.

STILL ON A WAITLIST?

Don't worry about it - we got your BACK!

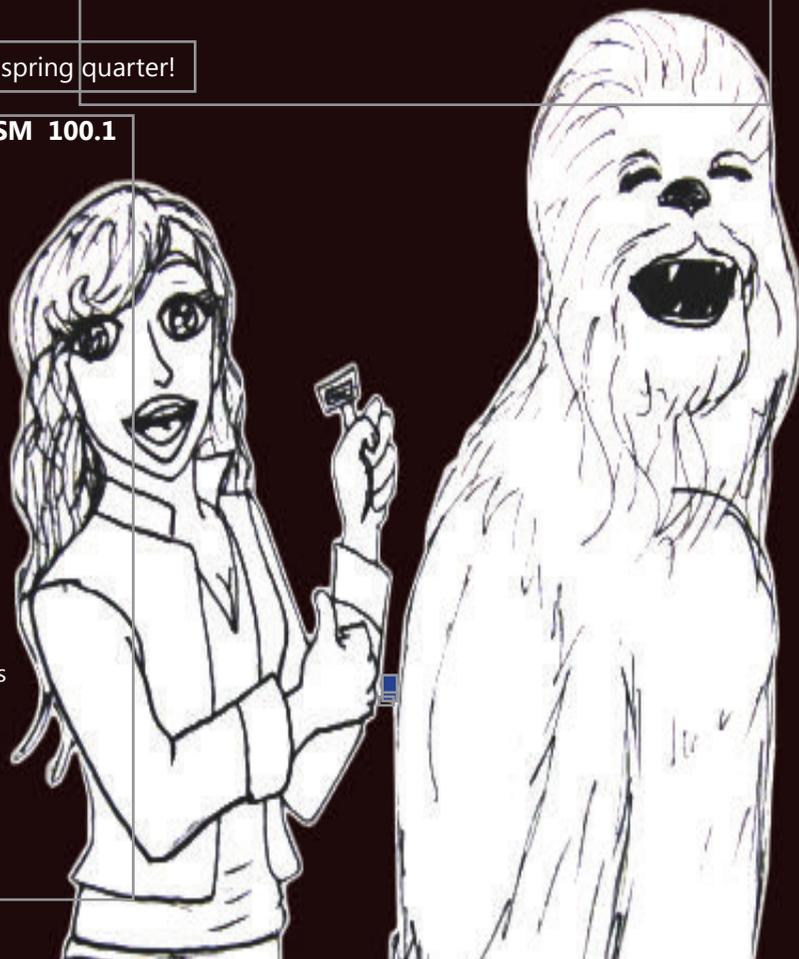
Sign up for spring quarter!

JOURNALISM 100.1

MWF

12:00-12:50

(No wookiees suffered razor burn during the making of this ad)



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Condoms are 98% effective in preventing pregnancy.
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EDITORIAL

Journalists looking for serious commitment

The Current addresses lack of a focused journalism program

Editorial Board: David Caldwell, Asha Johnson, Sean Rockey, Bailey Jo Josie, Kally Bieber, Olivia Mok, Dylan Whitcher, Thomas Sørenes

In the era of ludicrous and inflationary tuition along with consistently sparse entry-level career opportunities, the idyllic tradition of four-year degrees has been fading fast.

Many are wising up to the diversity of higher education options that America offers outside of four-year schools. For these purposes, Green River has served as an excellent platform for a variety of career paths with its substantial assortment of certificates and degrees. A notable absence exists, however, in a focused journalism program, and we at The Current believe that the establishment of a certificated program for print and online journalism would serve the interests of both students and the school itself.

Currently, most journalism classes satisfy an elective credit requirement, but few are necessary for the common goal of an associates degree. Despite the many radio classes serving as steps towards a certificate in broadcast journalism, there is no corresponding certificate or degree of any sort for written journalism. This leads many students interested in newspaper and online journalism to simply take the first news laboratory class and give

up on further news classes from lack of need for additional activities credits, regardless of their interest in the classes. A journalism degree will solve this frustration by giving purpose and an ultimate goal to students who chose to stick in the field.

Significant money factors apply as well: a 2-year journalism degree will grant student journalists the ability to work straight out of

*Green River
"has an
opportunity to
lead by example."*

community college without the necessity of spending another two years of time and money at a university. Any of the Puget Sound's numerous weekly local papers serve as a perfect entry point for up-and-coming journalists in the region, and along with the ever-burgeoning online news market, the opportunity enabled by a GRCC pre-professional journalism certificate will hold clear value.

Green River radio is

widely acknowledged as one of the best two-year broadcast programs in the country. KGRG's recent implementation with iheartradio is demonstrative of this, as out of the 14 radio stations in the college radio category it is one of only two schools chosen west of the Mississippi, along with UC Stanford. The success of The Current has made a strong case for similar attention to be given to printed and online journalism, reinforced by recent awards it has won at conferences from organizations such as the Washington Community College Journalism Association and the Associated Collegiate Press.

Other two-year community colleges in the area have seen their journalism programs abandoned in recent years. But their losses can serve for our gain, and Green River has an opportunity to lead by example and stand out as a premier choice for students interested in journalism as a career. Perhaps most importantly, Green River will be offering students greater flexibility in education by doing so, which will further convince prospective students that Green River has something for everyone in the realm of higher education.

Editorial Policy

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

body.

Theft Policy

A person commits the offense of publication theft when he or she willfully or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over more than three copies of The Current that is distributed on campus (with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that edition of the publication). A "publication" includes any periodical that is distributed on a complimentary or compensatory basis. In addition to the imposition of other campus disciplinary penalties, a person who violates

this provision is responsible for compensating the publication for all reasonable costs incurred, including, where appropriate, the refund of advertising fees.

Letters to the Editor

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

Adventures during the ACP conference

**The Chief**
Asha Johnson

Education and revision is paramount to doing a good job in journalism. One of the best ways to make us better at my job is conversation, and I had more conversations about journalism than ever at Media+, the Associated Collegiate Press' conference.

The conference this year was held in Seattle. Over four days, I went to countless sessions about every aspect of journalism. I learned from seasoned pros and other students how to be an editor and how to become a better journalist; but the most important thing I learned was just how vital journalism is to society.

Journalists write the first draft of history. We write it in order to ensure the public knows about the world's current events. We write so the people can understand what's going on and develop ideas to contribute to the marketplace of ideas that makes a country with freedom of speech great; and this marketplace is growing larger every day.

Communication is never ending. It's staggering. People were shocked to know how fast news could travel the world when the telegraph was invented. Today, the telegraph hides in a corner as Twitter becomes the home for information's first adopters. Twitter is the only place to be for people who want to know what immediately is going on in the world.

In Nov. 2009, when four police officers were shot in Lakewood, the Seattle Times was the first to report the story by using Twitter to keep their eager readers full

of information. The Twitter posts also aided in reporting when members of the community gave the paper leads to help their investigation. The Seattle Times was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for their coverage.

This story is one of many that show the importance of journalism. Journalism has been at the forefront of social change. They inspire others to change the status quo. It's important to remember that it was Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" that inspired the early Americans to stand against British taxation. It was Edward R. Murrow who bravely spoke against Sen. Joseph McCarthy's Red Scare. Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein's coverage of the Watergate scandal was the catalyst leading to President Nixon's resignation.

A strong press is essential to a strong world. Green River is one of the 110 schools at the ACP conference and they all believe the same thing. Talking to them reinforced our goals to strive to be the best journalists possible. This was also strengthened with The Current winning third place for best two-year newspaper during the conference's award ceremony. It's an honor to earn the award. We will continue to work to show that we deserved it by providing you with the best newspaper we can.

This issue is the first after the conference. I hope my new-found education and inspiration is noticed. The entire team worked to put every fiber of their being into this paper. Read it. Savor it. Learn from it. These pages will be what historians will read to figure out what was important to students, but we work to serve you.

Note: this letter was a contribution from several writers, along with Asha Johnson, Editor-in-Chief.

Drone warfare: not 'fair' to everyone

Unmanned vehicles may be the cutting edge in warfare, but don't forget that human lives are still at stake



Commentary by:
David Caldwell

A sleek, polished exterior coupled with a tiny, ergonomic design which surpasses what we once considered possible. A description such as this is usually bestowed upon newly announced Apple products, but today also functions as key selling points for military drones, alongside others such as "capacity for destruction" and "remote extrajudicial assassination." Drones are an increasingly prevalent force in the modern U.S. arsenal, and while they are effectively brandished as the hot new

military technology of the future, their escalating use as tools of war by the United States in recent years is a cause for concern.

Drones have been considered the future of U.S. military and agency intelligence for over a decade now, having been recognized as smaller, safer, and less expensive than any manned aircraft. The transition from traditional forms of air reconnaissance to drones in the last several years cannot be understated; as of 2011, the Air Force announced it was training more drone pilots than fighter and bomber pilots combined. As an intelligence tool the drones perform admirably and efficiently, however, their

emerging role as direct machines of war is surfacing, with encouragement from the Obama Administration.

Pakistan in particular has seen an incredible surge of drone strikes since President Obama took office. Drone attacks in Pakistan villages and mountain ranges have often resulted in dead Al Qaeda

fighters, however, these quick strikes are less precise than the administration sells them as. Many "successfully" killed terrorists are surrounded by the bodies of dozens of civilians who

had the misfortune of being around during the remote-controlled bombing. The U.S. does clearly attempt to minimize civilian casualties, and has said it only targets armed groups, yet independent estimates tell of 391 to 780 civilians have been killed in drone

strikes since 2004, including 175 children.

Civilian casualties are always downplayed as a necessity of war, but drone warfare usually falls under the unglamorous title of extra-judicial killing, meaning that no legal justification is necessary for a strike to be planned and executed.

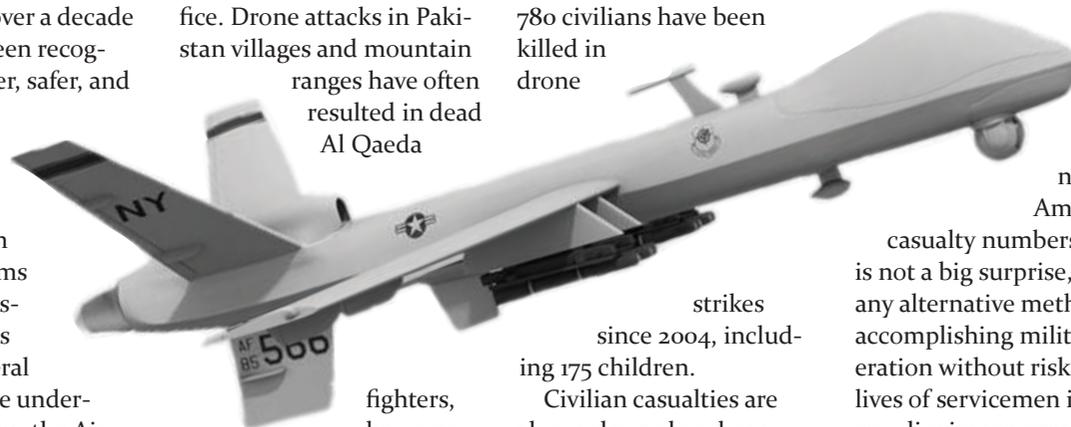
This has been the result of multiple lawsuits and protests against the U.S. Government, but American popular opinion generally sides with the use of combat drones. Coming off of two ground wars

with notable American casualty numbers, this is not a big surprise, as any alternative method of accomplishing military operation without risking the lives of servicemen is seen as a dire improvement.

As drones are utilized more and more, however, societal acceptance of their use becomes a double-edged sword. The middle eastern conflicts America has been involved in have

already been exceptionally detached from American life, and there has been little incentive to act as though we are actually at war unless people we know are serving. With no element of human risk, drones remove even that conditional emotional attachment, and normalize war into a concept devoid of personal investment for all citizens save those at the top of military command.

Pilots for the aircraft are in small, safe rooms in Virginia CIA office buildings, and the future of drones looks to smooth over all human aspects whatsoever. Drones that will be able take off, pilot, and land themselves are just around the corner, and a robotic military is appearing less far-fetched with every new year of technological advancement.



Using Twitter to capture evil war criminals

Kony 2012 may be a social media phenomenon, but it will not capture the man Joseph Kony any time soon



Commentary by:
Sean Rocky

Child abduction, sex trafficking, war mongering, rape, murder; just some of the innumerable horrendous atrocities that the Uganda-based "Lord's Resistance Army" has been accused of over the course of the last decade. The army's leader, Joseph Kony, is wanted in the International Criminal court for said acts, and is currently evading capture.

On March 5, a non-profit group titled "Invisible Children" released a thirty-minute documentary illustrating the horrors that Kony and his army have been accused of. In under five days the documentary had over 80 million hits,

making it one of the fastest viral videos in history.

The video appears to have been made with the best intentions in mind; unfortunately the strategy of the campaign and the timing of it have brought up a lot of criticism by other activists.

"While this is a very impressive example of viral marketing, it's raising awareness for a cause that doesn't need awareness... Those 30,000 kids who were kidnapped, this isn't going to un-kidnap them," stated Scott Gilmore, chief executive of Peace Dividend Trust.

The primary point of the video is to raise awareness about Kony and cause enough uproar that major nations would act to place him into custody. That strategy would have been great fifteen years ago in 1987, when Kony was just forming the LRA and their crimes weren't so vast in scale.

"What does it profit to market the infamy of a man already famous for his crimes and whose capture is already on the agenda?" said Angelo Izama, a Ugandan analyst.

In October 2011, President Obama assigned 100 U.S. armed military advisers

to Uganda in order to help the Ugandan military capture Kony. Some people, the advisers included, argue that raising global awareness for Kony now might scare him into hiding, thus actually reducing the chance of him being captured; especially since

the video came out after a covert regional plan to capture him had been set in place for months.

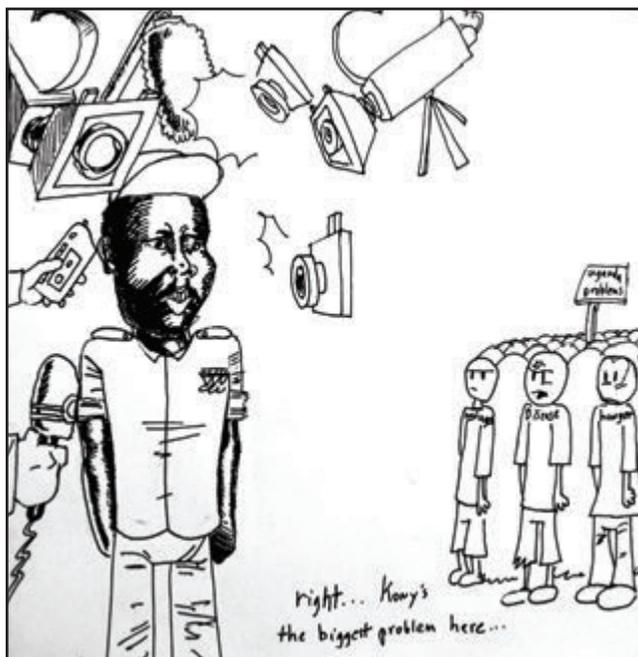
"All I can say is, it couldn't have happened at a more unhelpful moment when you look at it strategically and operationally," said Peter Pham, a member of the Atlantic Council and a civilian adviser for the military group that sent the advisers to Uganda.

A campaign for Kony's arrest at this point seems mainly counter-productive. Given the plethora of other problems Uganda is facing right now, the LRA seems to pale in comparison. Not only does the LRA only have approximately 250 armed members spread across four separate countries currently, but Kony isn't even in Uganda any more; he hasn't been for nearly six years. The LRA leader is most likely taking refuge in central Africa, far away from where the "Kony 2012" video claims him to be.

With 20 attacks leading to 17 abductions in the last three months, the LRA is still definitely an issue that needs to be dealt with. That said, there are definitely more pressing matters in the area, such as the nearly 2.5 million refugees that have been displaced from conflicts from multiple countries, or the plethora of health issues caused by lack of food and quickly spreading diseases.

Yes, Kony is an awful human being who deserves to rot in a jail cell for the rest of his days. Nobody is debating that. What is debated is whether or not placing him on a pedestal and making him the primary objective of the area's efforts is a wise decision; given the current state of the country.

Uganda definitely needs help, and any one person can make a huge difference. Let's just not focus all of our attention onto one person is all I'm asking.



"Right... Kony's the biggest problem here..."

Calendar

WOMEN'S FASTPITCH

Mar 24	SW Oregon @ Centralia, 1 p.m. Chemeketa @ Centralia, 3 p.m.
Mar 25	Skagit Valley @ Centralia, 9 a.m. Clackamas @ Centralia, 11 a.m.
Mar 27	Eastern Washington @ Service Playfield in Auburn, noon & 2 p.m.
Mar 30	Grays Harbor @ Aberdeen, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.
Mar 31	Centralia @ Centralia, noon & 2 p.m.
Apr 3	Highline @ Service Playfield in Auburn, noon & 2 p.m.
Apr 6	Pierce @ Heritage Rec in Auburn, noon & 4 p.m.
Apr 7	South Puget Sound @ Game Farm Park in Auburn, 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.
Apr 10	Grays Harbor @ Service Playfield in Auburn, in 1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.
Apr 13	Centralia @ Service Playfield in Auburn, 1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.
Apr 14	Highline @ Des Moines, TBA
Apr 27	Pierce @ Service Playfield in Auburn, 1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m.
Apr 28	South Puget Sound @ Olympia, 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.

MEN'S BASEBALL

Mar 21	Yakima Valley @ Yakima, 4 p.m.
Mar 24 & 25	Big Bend @ Moses Lake, noon & 3 p.m. (schedule for both days)
Mar 31	Centralia @ Centralia, noon & 3 p.m.
Apr 1	Centralia @ Auburn High School, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.
Apr 6	Tacoma @ Tacoma, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.
Apr 7	Tacoma @ Auburn High School, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.
Apr 14	Lower Columbia @ Longview, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.
Apr 15	Lower Columbia @ Auburn High School, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.
Apr 21	Clark @ Vancouver, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.
Apr 22	Clark @ Auburn High School, 1 p.m. & 4 p.m.

Standings

West Region	MEN'S BASEBALL				
	W	L	Pct.	GB	Streak
Tacoma	4	0	1.000	-	4W
Lower Columbia	4	1	0.800	.5	3W
Clark	6	2	0.750	1	3W
Centralia	4	2	0.643	1	1T
Pierce	3	5	0.375	3	1L
Grays Harbor	3	5	0.375	3	2L
Green River	3	6	0.333	3.5	1W

West Region	WOMEN'S FASTPITCH				
	W	L	Pct.	GB	Streak
Grays Harbor	1	3	0.250	-	1L
Pierce	1	3	0.250	-	3L
Centralia	0	2	0.000	-	2L
Highline	0	0	0.000	-	-
S. Puget Sound	0	0	0.000	-	-
Green River	0	2	0.000	-	2L

Find full league standings, stats and more at www.nwaacc.org

WOMEN'S FASTPITCH

Four losses for Lady Gators

The women's fastpitch team tries it's best, but consecutively come up short

By: Amy Brons
Staff Writer

The Green River Lady Gators fastpitch softball team has started the season with a sigh, losing their first four games.

The team opened the season with high expectations, but currently find themselves doing a bit of soul searching as they try to turn things around for the rest of the season.

In the season's opener, the Lady Gators travelled to Bellevue and were destroyed, losing both games of the double header by a combined score of 28-7.

Green River wasted no time afterward, playing hosts to Big Bend Community College the very next day.

It appeared as if the team would turn things around; after two innings of play Green River led 3-1.

However, after a nine run third inning, the Vikings never looked back,

ultimately winning the game 13-8.

In the second game of the double header immense progress was made, but the end result was similar.

Once again the girls started off keeping the score close, trailing only 3-2 heading into the fourth, but allowed four runs to come through.

Green River never gave up, scoring three runs in the fifth and two runs in the seventh, however the comeback came up short as the team once again lost, this time 11-7.

While the pitching has been a definite problem for the Lady Gators thus far, their defense has been strong; during the double header against Big Bend, the team did not have a single error.

The Lady Gators will look to turn things around Saturday March 24 where Green River will play South West Oregon and Chemeketa.



Kihani Palmer-Kahananui | The Current

Kihani Palmer-Kahananui, number 15, looks ready to swing to win.

MEN'S BASEBALL

Gators are low, but looking up

Green River's baseball team has a lot to work on, but have plenty of time to polish

By: Dylan Whitcher
Sports Editor

The Gators kicked off the 2012 baseball season in Yakima, where the team finished with a record of 2-3.

They were thought to be a team that prided themselves on pitching and defense. This has not been the case yet so far.

Green River is allowing a bloated 8.2 runs per game to go along with four errors, but head Coach Brian Embery is not concerned with the team's early woes.

"I am not worried about allowing 8.2 runs per game because it is only

their first time out, I have much confidence that it will get better," Embery said. "That is an area I am not concerned with."

Amidst the team's pitching struggles, there has been a bright spot for the pitching staff, with sophomore Taylor Hetrick striking out 15 batters thus far, who is tied for fourth best in the entire Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC.)

However, the pitching staff as a whole has a lot of work to do if Green River wishes to be relevant come league play.

Embery may not be worried about the pitching just yet. However, the

teams high number of errors is concerning.

"It is discouraging to my players that we are averaging 4 errors a game and it will continue to be a concern," Embery said. "Our infield is just not very good, it is just about taking the time to find out who works best where.

Despite the lack of defense, the Gator's offense has been scorching hot as of late; the team averaged 6.8 runs per ball game in Yakima. And what is most pleasing is the fact that the hitting is not coming from just one player.

Their batting skills were on full display Sun Mar. 4, as the Gators cruised past Grays Harbor by a score

of 10-4 and later rolled through Yakima Valley, 11-3 on the same day.

"I am a bit unsure what to expect from this group of kids," Embery mentioned. "[Green River] made amazing progress; we played horrible Thursday, improved Saturday and played amazing Sunday."

The team is just now discovering who they are and with league play still two weeks away, they have plenty of time to figure things out.

"The boys are definitely learning to become a team and realizing the importance of working together," Embery says.

Justin Lanier: Gators' star defender

By: Dylan Whitcher
Sports Editor

Justin Lanier's journey to Green River is one of a kind; after harnessing a serious disability, Lanier has been a leader and a main reason for the team's success this season.

Lanier, a graduate from Thomas Jefferson High School and arrived to Green River as a freshman during the 2010-2011 season. After averaging under four points per game and barely over one rebound, Lanier knew what he had to improve on if he wanted to be a major contributor during his sophomore season.

"I knew my role as a defensive stopper and I would have to become more of a scoring threat" Lanier said. "[The coaches] saw my abilities as a defensive player."

Throughout Lanier's basketball career, personal achievements have not been on his mind; all La-

nier cares about is doing whatever he can to help the team win.

"[Lanier] puts the team's needs ahead of his own, and he has worked hard to improve his game." Head Coach Tim Malroy said of his sophomore captain.

It was easy to tell the coaching staff had a rise in confidence; by years end Lanier had played the second most minutes (649) on the team.

Lanier is not on the floor because of his defensive abilities, but because he has an uncanny knack for getting his teammates the ball at the right time.

"I like getting my players opportunities" Lanier said.

While scoring was not a top priority for Lanier, he did manage to take his point average and raise it from 3.8 to a respectable 7.5; despite standing at only 6 feet 2 inches tall he averaged 3.0 rebounds per game as well.

"By the end of his sophomore year Lanier became a solid, dependable and critical piece of our success" Malroy said.

Lanier's can-do attitude mixed in with his unselfishness is the main reason why he has emerged as the team's emotional leader, and one who prides himself on leading by example.

"No matter how good a team may be, they have to get it in practice and go hard everyday" Lanier said. "It takes hard work to win."

While the team missed the playoffs once again by a single game, there is no doubt in Lanier's mind that the Gators can play against anybody: "It's frustrating to see the potential our team had this year. We could easily be playing with the best of anybody."

On Feb. 25 against Tacoma in the last game of the season, the Gators lost by three. The loss may have eliminated the team



Thomas Sørenes | The Current

Lanier shows dedication out on the court; he has played the second most minutes on the team with 649.

from playoff contention, but it was nothing to hang their heads on; Tacoma went on to win the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) championship. During that game, Lanier's unquestioned unselfishness shined

through once more; Lanier recorded a team high three assists to go along with his three points.

"I competed," Lanier said "I took the season seriously, I had to fight for my time and I was given every opportunity to shine."

Green River may be say-

ing goodbye to Lanier, but he may not be saying goodbye to basketball.

"He has the tools to play at the four year level, and I hope he chooses to do so," Malroy said. "His future is bright, even if basketball is not in the picture."

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