

THE CURRENT

Green River Community College Vol.34 Issue 16 May 27, 1997



Carole Bishop

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Photo by Fred Dimaano



Mt. St. Helens

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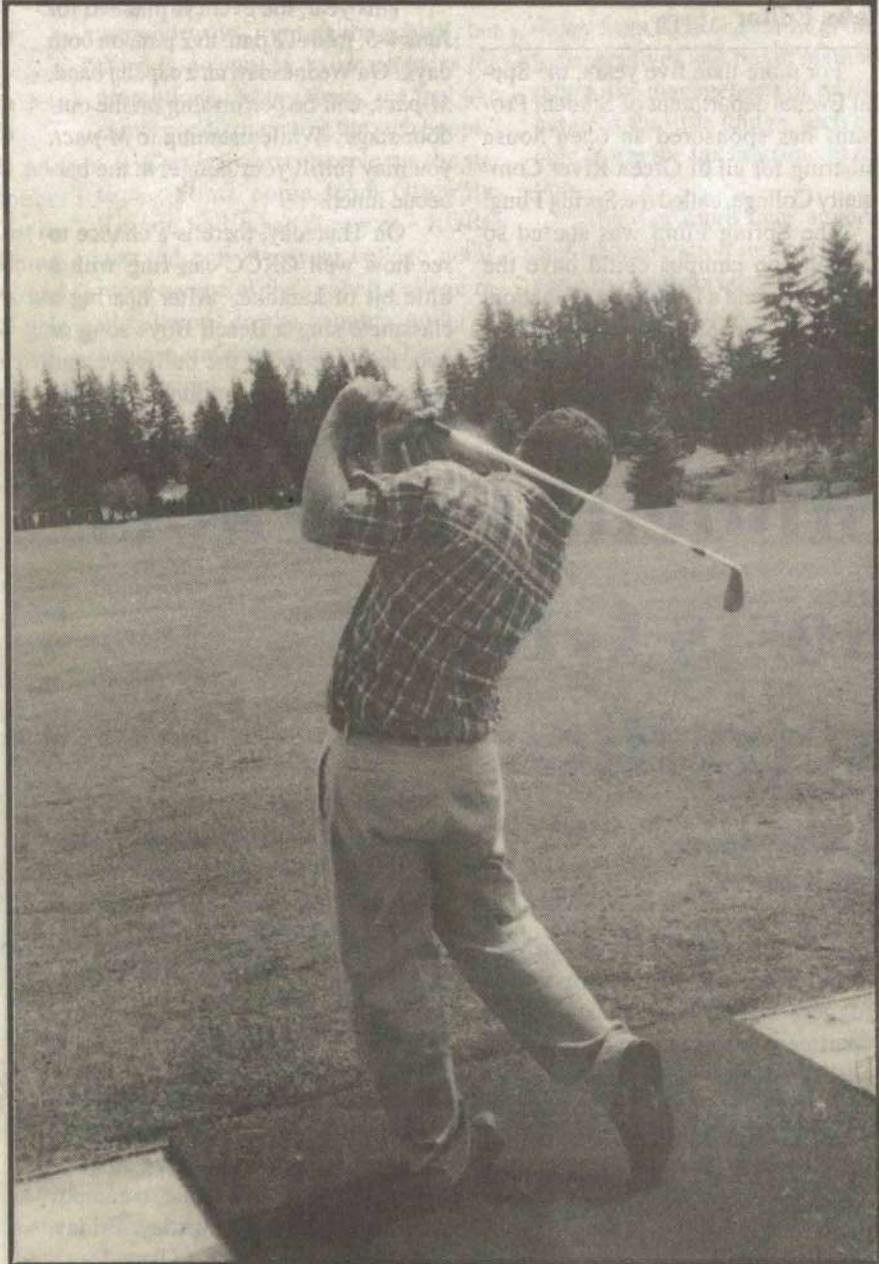
Photo by Don Clapp



Can Man

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Photo by Fred Dimaano



Golf

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Photo by Kristin Moore

Fling into spring and sing that thing

By Brie Blair
News Editor

For more than five years, the Special Events department of Student Programs has sponsored an open house gathering for all of Green River Community College, called the Spring Fling.

The Spring Fling was started so everyone on campus could have the chance to attend a large spring function.

Each year, Special Events showcases a band, a barbecue and a volleyball tournament.

This year, the event is planned for June 4-5, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. on both days. On Wednesday, an a capella band, *M-pact*, will be performing on the outdoor stage. While listening to *M-pact*, you may fulfill your hunger at the barbecue lunch.

On Thursday, there is a chance to see how well GRCC can sing with a little bit of karaoke. After hearing a classmate sing a Beach Boys song or two, feel free to hit the bull's-eye and dunk your teacher at the dunk tank. Free

ice cream will be served, thanks to GRCC's clubs.

After you've gotten your fill of ice cream, you may swing on over to a club's booth and see how you can get involved. Every club will have an advertising booth on site.

To join in on the planning of the Spring Fling, talk to Jenny in the Student Programs office, or phone Ext. 2400.

Student Programs hosts GRCC activities

By Dianna Quick
Staff Reporter

Riding the Metro bus between May 27 and May 30 could win you a Bruggers bagel. The Transportation Department is sponsoring a "Bus for a Bagel" promotion and gift certificates will be given at random to riders getting off the bus at Green River Community College. For more information contact Todd Moser or Bonnie Fox, Ext. 2401.

Campus Clean-up and BBQ will be sponsored by Outdoor Programs Saturday, May 31, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Help clean up the campus from and after the work is done enjoy games, music and good food. Sign up at Student Programs; space is limited.

Anyone for Indoor Rock Climb-

ing? On May 31 those adventurous enough for this sport may contact Marcelo at Ext. 2400. The cost for students is \$15.00, for non-students \$20.00

International Week will be celebrated June 2 to 6. Monday the celebration starts with a Belly Dancer on stage in the Lindbloom Student Center. Tuesday an International Film Festival will be held LSC from noon to 1 p.m. Spring Fling, an annual event on campus, brings food and music to campus on Wednesday and Thursday. Friday, the week wraps up with a Game Day.

Another adventure trip is planned for Saturday, June 7. Sea Kayaking will be for the more adventurous of the student body. Contact Ryan, Ext. 2400. Students \$40.00 non-students' \$45.00. Space is limited.

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The staff of the Current would like to thank all individuals who made it possible to accomplish this 16th issue of the '97-'98 school year.

May 27, 1997

KGRG in critical need of funds

By Brie Blair
News Editor

Green River Community College's student radio station, KGRG, has a desperate need for money.

As technology increases and GRCC's administration is expects more, the level of performance must increase. This includes a fax machine, new computers, better equipment, and new CDs. On occasion, KGRG gets used equipment donated from other stations, but this equipment does not last very long.

The goal for the annual fund drive was set at \$5,000 this year and pledges brought in more than that amount. Two years ago, the station was getting over \$10,000 during the fund drive. Fundraising concerts are loosing money because headlining bands cost more than KGRG can pay. No advertisements are sold to businesses, which also decreases the money that KGRG could have.

"Administration wants KGRG to market the school more often on the radio," said Sanrica Marquez, promoting director. "We advertise right now, but it's hard to increase that with less funding for better computers and programs for those computers.

"They want us to come up with more ideas to promote the school, but there is no money to supplement the promotions. Many times, we feel like circus poodles jumping through hoops."

Currently, sixty people run the station. Some come from Olympia, Everett, and other distances. KGRG was the only two-year college nominated as one of the six best college radio stations in the country, going up against stations centered at big name universities.

"The purpose of having KGRG at Green River is to train and educate people in the radio field," says Marquez. "Some of the best education that we can provide is at radio and music industry conferences. Unfortunately, the state will not grant us money, because it is an out-of-state function. Once again, we're stuck."

In the first week of September, KGRG will attempt to send deejays to CMJ, which is an annual music conference in New York. With airfare, hotel, meals and conference registration, the cost is over \$1,500, which must be paid by the attendee.

"I'm still paying off my parents for the last conference I went to over three months ago," Marquez commented.

The administration expects many things from KGRG, such as giving tours for executives and board members. In return, the management of KGRG plea bargains for little things, such as being able to use the fax machine in registration.

"We fax more than anyone else, and administration supports that. Why can't they support that with funding us the money to buy a machine?," asked Kelly Chafen, sales manager.

Besides the program director and his assistant, nobody is paid working for KGRG.

On a weekly basis, deejays spend about six hours in the KGRG office. More time is spent covering concerts and working on new fund-raisers. The management, including Chafen and Marquez, spend at least four times that time working at the station.

The time we spend at the station is stressful on our families. Many of us can't get jobs because we spend so much time at KGRG, which puts stress on ourselves," said Marquez. "Without the support of GRCC's administration, we're going to have to spend more time working on the station and finding new ways to bring in money.."

Diversity Fair taking place at GRCC

By Stephanie Jacobson
Editor in Chief

The Gap Theatre will be performing at the Diversity Fair next week at Green River Community College. The Multi-Cultural Task Force and The Early Childhood Education Department (ECED) will

be sponsoring the event, which will occur on Saturday, May 31, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Lindbloom Student Center. In addition to the Gap Theatre's live performance there will be booths about community resources, diversity displays, vendors and a make-it and take-it workshop. The fair is di-

rected towards people who work with or are studying children. There is a fee of \$25 which includes admission, lunch, the performance by Gap Theatre and all needed conference materials. Attendance does require pre-registration. For more information or to register, ECED may be contacted at Ext. 2729.

Health Fair promotes alternatives for well-being

By Amanda Kleinert
Managing Editor

Wednesday, May 14, Green River Community College held its annual health fair in which many businesses and non profit organizations participated.

One booth was run by Dr. Anthony Palumbo from Kent who offered information on naprapathy, a form of health care that relieves pain by locating tissues in the spine which connect to spinal nerves.

The naprapath then locates the tissues and nerves using charts and releases the nerves using manual pressure. Presumably, naprapathy is a very gentle, but the effectiveness of it is not known.

"The treatment is not currently covered by insurance companies," said Palumbo, "but I am in the process of pursuing coverage."

The Washington State Substance Abuse Coalition had a booth with many brochures dealing with alcohol, LSD, drug awareness, drunk driving and cocaine/crack.

The Coffey Chiropractic Clinic from Auburn had information on chiropractic care, and brochures on how to recognize if a chiropractor can help a situation.

One brochure was titled "Only a Chiropractor Can Tell if Chiropractic May Help You."

Dr. Jack McNerny of Coffey Chiro-

practic said that for most insurance companies to cover chiropractic care, the patient must be referred to the chiropractor by a medical doctor.

The Nikken company, based in Japan, also had a booth displaying their massage and health care products. The Nikken com-

pany uses theories developed by NASA to design their products.

One of the people who displayed the products, Connie Getchman, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 19 years ago and just recently started using the Nikken products. Getchman claims that the therapy works better than the steroid shots the doctor had prescribed for her. The steroid shots had left a large bruise on Getchman's forearm.

The company is the 12th largest in Japan, and produces massagers, magnetic shoe inserts, magnetic pads and pillows and mini massagers.

The Manna Health company had a lose weight/quit smoking booth, where they demonstrated an herb that would make sugar or cigarettes taste bad. First, the people who visited the booth and were willing to try the herb, gurma, were handed a sugar cube, two M & Ms, and a cup of water. The volunteer ate one of the M & Ms and half the sugar cube. Then, they put a small amount of the herb on their tongue, rolled it around, and washed it down with water. Then the volunteer took a bite of the sugar cube, and ate the other M & M.

The reaction from all the volunteers was that the sugar tasted like sand and the M & M tasted like paste.

The King County Solid Waste Division had a booth on home composting, with a compost box demonstrated. The box was filled with worms and parasites, which compost home waste such as fruit, eggs, and other degradable waste products. The table also offered brochures on tips for lawn care and recycling.

Ken Przybylski, who lives by SIR, has red worms for composting for sale, and can be reached at 631-1570. He sells them for \$5 per coffee can.

Other booths at the health fair were Kent Police Department, GRCC Women's Center and GRCC Counseling Services.



Clowning around at the Health Fair

Photo by Fred Dimaano

May 27, 1997

What's new on campus

By Kristin Moore
Staff Reporter

The Rutkowski Learning Center

Many students and staff have probably noticed the construction being done on the old Holman Library and wondered what was going on. All that construction isn't just for fun, those builders are busy meeting the completion deadline of the new Rutkowski Learning Center, according to John Ramsey of the Public Information Office. The Rutkowski Learning Center, named after the Green River Community College president, is scheduled to open Fall Quarter and house a variety of different things.

Classrooms, faculty offices, administration offices, the print shop, and the Public Information Office are some of the facilities the remodeled building is designed to house.

The Rutkowski Learning Center is the second phase of the Library Project. The whole project is estimated to cost around \$18 million, and according to Ramsey, the project is on schedule and the budget is still on track.

Those interested in finding out more about the Rutkowski Learning Center may contact Jim Grossman at Ext. 3307 or Ramsey at Ext. 3360.

Ice and Fire, Iceland Field Course

Ice and Fire is the name of the Iceland Field Course coming up this summer. This summer program will involve a two-week trip to Iceland with trail hiking and tent camping around various parts of Iceland.

Students will gain hands-on experience in studying the effects of glaciation, volcanic activities, and the resulting landscape. Students will also be able to observe the island's plant and animal life, while learning how humans respond to an environment filled with ice and fire.

Students participating in this summer program will travel on July 12 to Iceland and remain there until July 26 until they travel back on July 27. Besides the trip itself, students are expected to meet twice: before the trip for an overview and some brief training, and once after the trip to review and recap experiences and lessons from the trip.

Students who enroll in Geography 190, Geographic Explorations: Ice and Fire Iceland Field Course, will receive six social science credits upon completion of this summer program.

Students wishing to find out more about Ice and Fire, an Iceland Field Course may contact Rawhide Papritz, instructor, at Ext. 4378 or e-mail at rpapritz@gccc.etc.edu.

GRCC Childcare Center provides summer care

By Jeremy McCoy
Staff Reporter

A new option will be available for students in need of child care for the upcoming summer quarter. The Green River Community College Child Care Center, located two blocks north of the campus on 124th Ave SE, will be open during the summer quarter, this includes between mid-August and mid-September when there are no classes. The Child Care Center is open between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. and is available for students with children aged 18 months to kindergarden who take six credits or more. The center is looking for new kids and is looking forward to the many new activities they have planned including walks to the park and swimming. The center is also looking for work study students for the summer and fall quarters. If interested you may contact student aid to make arrangements. Students who are currently in any program that might enjoy sharing gifts or experiences with the kids at the center are welcome. Students who are interested in signing up their children or sharing gifts at the child care center, you may contact the center at 939-7400.

Campus Security Blotter

By Kristen Moore
staff reporter

On April 30, a male student was sitting in class in the HS building, listening to the instructor when his chair suddenly broke in half. The man fell to the floor and injured his spine. He was rushed to Auburn General Hospital for treatment.

On May, 5 a woman returning from class discovered that her license plates were missing from her car. The woman had parked in Lot G for approximately one hour. The King County Police Department was notified and is handling the situation.

Also on May 5, a person was on campus drinking and making rude and lude comments to students in front of

the Lindbloom Student Center. Someone notified security and they confronted the person. The alcohol was discarded and the individual was escorted off campus.

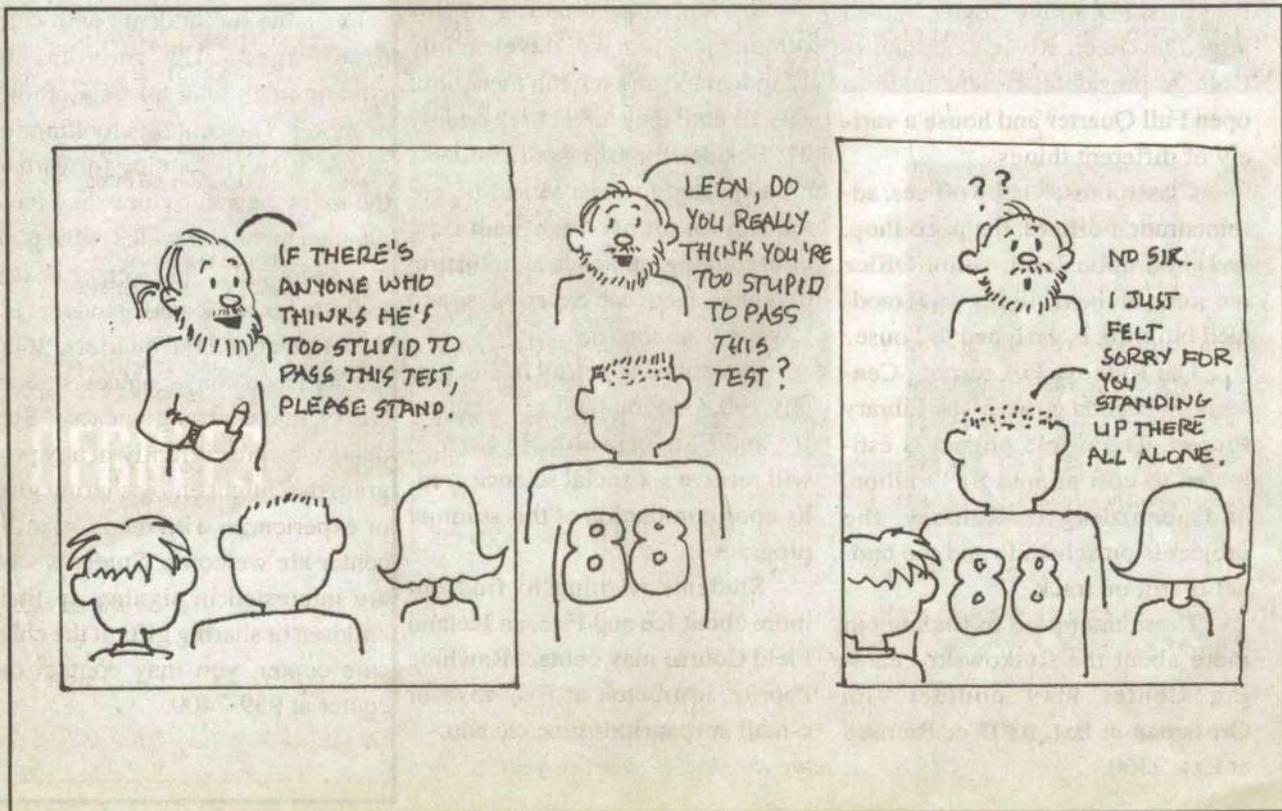
On May 9, a male bicyclist was coming around the corner of the Science Math and Technology building when he swerved to miss a student and fell over. During the fall, the man received cuts on his right forearm. The bicyclist had a history of epilepsy and suffered two mild seizures after the fall. Emergency services were notified and the man was taken to Auburn General Hospital for further treatment.

At about 7 a.m. on May 12, a gold colored Dodge Colt was spotted in the Lea Hill ballpark parking lot with all of

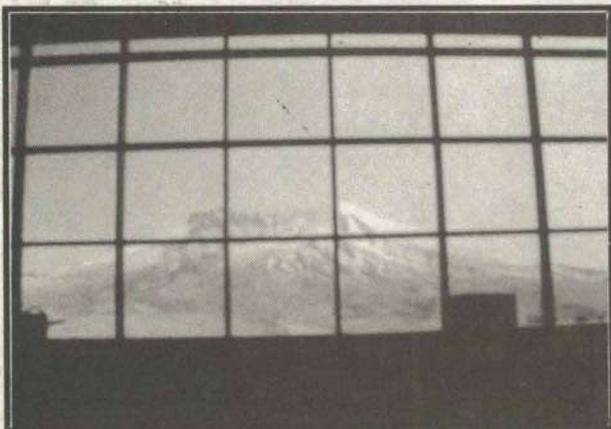
the windows smashed in. Security investigated and found licensing papers on the ground beside the vehicle.

The listed owner was called, but the person who answered the phone said they didn't know anything about the car or its owner. Security then dialed the business phone number, but security was informed that the listed owner no longer worked there. After coming up with nothing on the owner, Valley Towing was called and to remove the vehicle.

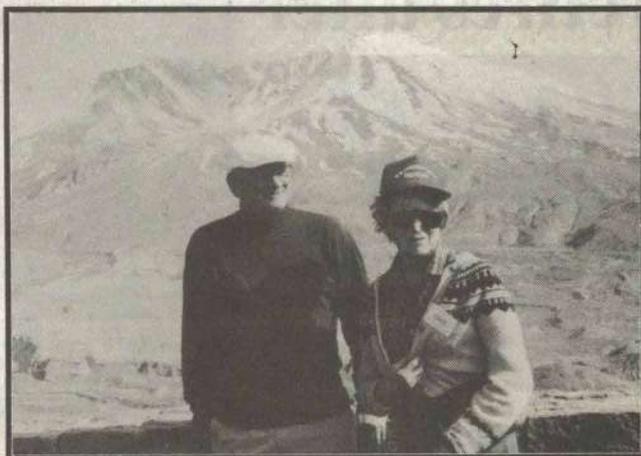
On May 15 at about 1 p.m., a brown Camaro was seen swerving across a double yellow line on 320th street to avoid a car turning right. The car then ran into the bucket of a tractor in the other lane. Security tried to stop the Camaro, but the driver left the scene.



Mt. St. Helen's observation site is good



The view from inside Johnston Ridge Observatory
Photo by Don Clapp



Ty and Marianna Kearney at the Johnston Ridge Observatory
Photo by Don Clapp

By Terry Clapp
Staff Reporter

"Vancouver, Vancouver! This is it!"

Seconds after those words were radioed to his colleagues in Vancouver, Wash., David A. Johnston, a US Geological Survey volcanologist on duty at an observation post four miles from Mount St. Helens, became one of 57 people who died in the May 18, 1980 eruption of the volcano.

Last weekend, seventeen years later, the Johnston Ridge Observatory (JRO) opened in honor of his memory. After grand opening ceremonies, more than twenty thousand people became the first visitors to relive and learn about the eruption of the most active volcano in the continental United States.

Visitation to the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument area has increased 231 percent — about 4 million visits per year, according to United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service visitor's guide. The guide reports that since 1994, however, the recreation budgets have decreased by 15 percent per year. Visitors during the grand opening weekend enjoyed free admission, but admission is now \$8 for a regular pass or \$24 for an annual pass,

and free to those age 15 or under.

Even though visitors will now have to pay a fee to visit JRO, the last of three visitor centers to be built by the USDA Forest Service along the Spirit Lake Memorial Highway in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest since the eruption, access to high-tech education may be worth the money for all ages.

As 11-year-old Tyler McGraw watched the volcanic eruption unfold in stages — landslide, lateral blast, ash column, pyroclastic flows, mud flows, and lava dome building activities with the aide of a lighted topographical map, he commented, "It's cool! I like it, but I would hate to be the person who died in this."

The \$176 million federally funded observatory offers the following to visitors:

- *a 280 seat theater where a 16 minute film called Message From The Mountain graphically demonstrates the lateral blast of the volcano using computer-aided animation

- *terminals in the exhibition hall to access volcano information on the World Wide Web

- *live seismometer readings from

sensors placed inside the volcano that are sensitive enough to record rocks falling inside the crater

- *a room-sized fiber optics model of the volcano that portrays the sequence of eruptive events using 65,000 multi-colored fiber optics lights

"It's great! Fantastic! One-hundred percent accurate. I really like the light show!" said Ty Kearney, a survivor of the eruption. Kearney and his wife Marianna were eight miles from the volcano, nine miles inside the 17 mile blast-zone that morning as volunteer volcano watchers for RACES, an early-warning amateur radio network that assisted the Washington Department of Emergency Service.

"Geology is my hobby," said Kearney, who was at the JRO for the grand opening ceremonies Saturday. But, he added, "I haven't volunteered to watch a volcano since."

Photos shot by Kearney in the first few seconds of the eruption of Mount St. Helens are displayed on the walls of the exhibition hall of the JRO — some of the same photos that were featured in National Geographic in 1980. One photo caption reads, "I almost didn't take any pictures. I wanted to get the heck out of there."

May 27, 1997

Hated school, loves teaching

By Chris DuBray
Staff Reporter

In the summer of 1980, Tom Phelps, 41, began courses at Green River Community College to prove to his parents that he would hate college. Now a full-time teacher at Pierce College in Lakewood, his view of college has changed.

"I think community colleges play an incredible role in a student's education because we are the people with the open door policy," Phelps said.

Phelps, a native of Illinois, moved with his family to Washington in 1980. After completing three years of service for the U.S. Army, he finally took the advice of his parents and began GRCC at the age of 24.

He only planned on attending one quarter of courses, but ended up staying three years and earning 156 credits. To earn credits toward a business degree, he enrolled mostly in Economics, Math and Accounting classes.

His 20 hour shifts on duty with an ambulance often competed with his ability to study, but Phelps always made sure his homework was done.

"I set priorities for myself to put studying first," Phelps said.

Phelps' attitude on studying ended up paying off in the end when he graduated from GRCC with a 3.96 grade point average. Upon graduation, he was also awarded the Social Science Division award (given to the top student in that division) and the President's Award (given to one student at graduation).

Phelps then went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree in Business after four years of attending Pacific Lutheran University. He briefly taught part-time between GRCC and Pierce College be-

fore leaving for Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., to begin graduate school where he majored in Economics and minored in Math.

After completing graduate school, he returned to Washington to begin teaching full time at Pierce College where he is now Chairperson of the Business Division, a two-year office. Phelps said his normal schedule of classes is made up of mostly Economics and Math classes, but is currently only teaching one class per quarter while acting as the Division Chairperson.

Phelps also teaches a Quantitative Math night class at PLU and leads a Math Anxiety Course for those who are stressed out with their math classes.

"Math is not a spectator sport," he said. "I try to help figure out what study techniques work for each individual."

Phelps said he is only a few credits away from a Master's Degree in Business, but hopes to pursue a Master's Degree in Education, seeing that he plans on teaching for the rest of his life.

"When you're 41, it makes a difference if you give something back to life," he said.

What started out as an attempt to show his parents that he would hate college turned into a lifelong career. Phelps said that if someone had told him he would attend a community college for three years, a university for four years, and then go to graduate school, he would have snickered.

"If someone had said I was going to end up teaching college," he said, "I would of fallen on the floor laughing."

Addicted to GRCC

By Katie Millbauer
Staff Reporter

Some students struggle to stay in school, but Susan Stokes finds it tough to stay out.

After graduating from Kentridge High School, Stokes, a 43-year-old Renton native, attended Edmonds Community College and Seattle Central Community College. She received an associate in science degree at Green River Community College in 1977.

After graduating from GRCC, Stokes worked as a funeral director and as a bakery manager, but she decided that she wanted to go back to school so that she could gain the skills to begin a career that she would be happy with for the rest of her life.

She went back to GRCC in 1993 with the goal of teaching children at the Muckleshoot Tribal School. In the year following, Stokes gained the credits she needed to turn her associate in science degree into an associate in arts degree. As a returning student, she received a lot of support from her instructors.

"Every teacher I had was influential," said Stokes. "All of the teachers I had at Green River took a real interest in the individual student. I appreciated the support I got from the teachers there, and from the women in the financial aid office."

"Claudia Questo (who teaches English Literature) really fired me up about coming back to school," said Stokes.

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Mr. Can Man takes tons

By Pete Schuetz
Staff Reporter

James Schipper, aka the Can Man, is a common sight on the Green River campus.

Riding his trusty tricycle, Jim works five days a week collecting cans and other sources of aluminum.

He started working here almost seven years ago as a volunteer for the epilepsy foundation.

After his two years of service was up, he liked it here so much he decided to stay.

Jim made enough money to buy two tricycles by collecting about 2500 pounds of cans a year.

"I love it when they throw money away," said Jim.

Originally from North Dakota, he now resides in downtown Auburn.

Jim can be seen walking and riding all over campus, but this isn't the only place he works.

There have been sightings of him in Auburn and even places as far away as Renton.



James "The Can Man" Schipper and his stash.

Photo by Fred Dimaano

Addicted to GRCC

Continued from page 9

After graduating from GRCC for the second time, Stokes attended Central Washington University. She graduated from CWU with high honors and received a bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

Today, Stokes is living her dream of teaching at the Muckleshoot Tribal School. She began at the school as a student teacher, and is now the education coordinator and in a lead position with the Head Start program.

"I feel I'm very lucky to be

able to teach the children on the reservation," said Stokes. "It's the most outstanding group of children. All children are outstanding, but I really love teaching these kids."

Stokes, a single mother, keeps very busy, but apparently not busy enough to stay out of school. She is currently working towards a graduate degree in curriculum and instruction at Seattle University.

"My way long-term goal is to eventually teach teachers," she said.

Scavenger Alert

Pirates sail the high seas
And look for gold
If you find the jar of keys
An eye patch you will hold
Do not be afraid to ask
The pirate that you see
It's not an easy task
But, REWARD you will be.

May 27, 1997



Emily McMullin - "Study really hard, spend hours at the library. I don't cram because if I cram then I'll forget the information so I have to study in advance so I don't forget it."



Shannon Guthridge - "I read the material once and then go back over it and ask myself questions about what I think will be on the test to see if I understand the concepts."



Renee Smith - "I try to get into a big group of people that are studying so that we can all study together in the library or study on our own and listen to music."



Kristi Gallen - "I usually procrastinate and wait till the night before and I try to use flash cards. Just read over everything the night before that's my study tactic."

How do you prepare for finals?

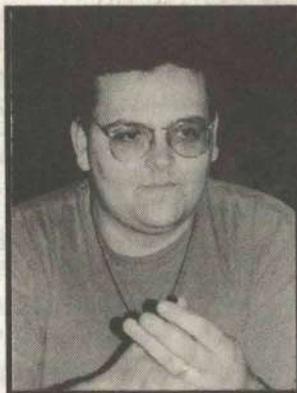
By Pete Schuetz
Staff Reporter
Photos by Fred Dimaano



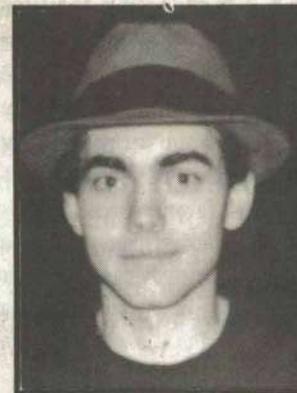
Jennifer Lurie - "Basically I just lock myself in my room. I don't want any radio or TV. I have to concentrate and read the book."



Shannon Brandt - "I take note cards. I break down the notes and I study the note cards and I study with a study partner."



Ken Plyler - "I usually study all week. I take a week off from work so I can study"



Rick Morrow - "The best way to prepare is to gather together your hoard of half crazed visi Goths and go on a raid across the plains of central Europe on horseback and descend down into Rome and sack the city and burn the books... all the fun stuff"

Life as an older student

By Joanna Van Deurzen
Special to The Current

The older student is a person who may seem to be and feel displaced and disorientated at some time or another. The older student is a person of middle age, someone that has spanned a lifetime, or maybe even several jobs.

That person is here, almost always, not because they have decided it is time to get a "fresh start in life," but because by some derailment in life's so-called "normal course of events," they have had to return to school.

The comfort level is not with the blue jeans that are "manufactured" worn out or the denim jackets that are the "coined" clothing of the younger set but of the "dressed for success" clothing that the older student has worn for years, all of their working and productive life until they returned to school. The older student has traded in the apron they used for cooking, the lunch box from the aerospace job, and the briefcase they used as the executive whose job is no longer. These are now symbols of a life from long ago, and replaced with a backpack on the back for books - usually in a neon of colors for carrying all the books to and from the place we now call school. To the older student, "school" has become our full time occupation. It seemed very strange and very odd when I was questioned and asked "What is your occupation?" I remember replying, "I am an older, full-time student."

When the word "recipe cards" is mentioned to the older student, that doesn't mean their grandma's favorite chocolate chip cookie recipe for the holidays, it means or could mean a learning tool for studying, or flash cards for class terminology or any number of math basics that we need to know before getting into the next advanced level of our program. To the older student, the note book and calendar book is not the financial plan for the financial planner to review or the figures for the new mortgage. It is a book to take notes for class and then when you are in the library for your "quiet

time" - filling in the spaces with your thoughts and reviewing for the next class. The calendar book is not the social calendar that everyone thinks older students thrive on; it is the calendar book in increments of every 15 minutes to an hour, so we know where we are to be, have to be, and have been.

The older student deals with not being able to focus on the things they are supposed to, such as the "be here now." Most of us have worked for roughly a quarter of a century or more. And now, we are forced to either return to a working world that no longer exists because the "90s automation" has done away with the only thing we knew how to do, or we can no longer do the job we had, let alone function physically as we once did.

Lastly, we could have lost our spouse who was the primary breadwinner and took care of us, so we did not even have to write a check, let alone balance the checkbook.

The older student deals with aging eye sight where the teachers copy things in larger print so that test can be taken easier. The older student needs more time to complete tests and "quiet" space, since the older student received his or her basic or primary education in the 40s and 50s where noise in the classroom was not tolerated and any type of noise or commotion in the school was unthinkable.

The older student has a difficult time with the younger population of the school making lots of noise and creating lots of commotion. It is not because they are different, or odd, or unusual, but, for the fact that we did not receive an education where these things were part of our education and the older student equates "quiet time" with concentration.

The older student may have difficulty with a comfort level of being accepted as "one of them." Too often, younger students seem to look at the older student as if he or she did not know a whole lot. We actually do know a whole lot about many things. The older students can be a mentor and a guide to a lot of younger students,

but, most of the time, older students are not always comfortable in the campus environment.

Many older students have to get a totally new education. They are quizzed and questioned, and not about job responsibilities, hiring policies, or pay ranges, but about their own goals for the future. They are often asked "What are your goals?" For me, a goal is something that I did each day, no one ever talked goals in terms of "short term goals" or "long term goals" such as what are your six month goals or where do you plan to be in five years?

Financial Aid in my vocabulary was having a "job," through which I saved enough to enroll in a "work-related training class" at the local vocational school, provided you could pay for the class. Financial Aid was a "little help from mom and dad" when my small hourly wages did not quite make it until the next pay check was due and some unforeseen school expense came up - then it was always paid back.

An older student sometimes has difficulty being in sync with the rest of the student body and will develop his or her own comfort level so he or she can accomplish what he or she needs to accomplish. Being an older student can be very rewarding and give you a feeling of real accomplishment, but it can also be the most "forced-upon challenge" you may not have wanted to undertake in your life.

Life as an "older student" is a real change, a new experience, an adjustment, and above all an education in itself. Now that I am into "school, jeans and tee shirts as an older student" (now turned bermuda shorts and walking shoes with the advent of spring and summer), I will endure and labor until I have my college degree. I look at my opportunity for this education as "I only wish that it would have come many years sooner," and each day I say "Be here now" and "No greater feeling, then knowing I have done my best."

May 27, 1997

Diversity is normal

By Stephanie Jacobson
Editor-in-chief

Cowboy boots, purple hair, Dr. Martin's, and lettermen's jackets, all represent various social groups. Different social groups represent different ideas, morals, choice of music, clothes, sexual orientation, all sorts of things. One might not like the actions of others, what they say or wear but one must TOLERATE it!

Tolerance in our society must be practiced, especially on our campus. Most students at this school are at the point where they are discovering themselves and discovering what they are all about. It is not one person's place to tell another how to act or how to live. What makes one style right from another?

Cliques are not wrong. One needs to be with others that they feel comfy with. But because a person may shy away from other types of people, doesn't mean a guard should be put up. One shouldn't be criticized for being different. Feeling accepted is important in our society, even though it shouldn't be as important as it is. If one doesn't feel like one belongs, it may cause a decline in self esteem.

Sexual preference and race should also be tolerated. One should see no color. Same sex relationships are no one's business except those who are involved in one. It is what is inside that really counts. You do not have to agree with anyone's opinions, beliefs, styles, or way of life; but you should listen, comprehend, and learn to accept others' viewpoints.

Diversity is what makes the world go 'round. Without it, life would be a bore.. There would never be constructive disagreements. Education and knowledge would decrease. Everyone would know the same things. People would never know who they really were if they didn't express themselves in the way they wanted. Imagine the same clothes, the same music, same political, same views, same EVERYTHING! This would be a very unacceptable way of living.

There is a line to be drawn. There are some things that should not be endured. Things that may be morally or ethically wrong, definately should not be put up with. People should know what is right and what is wrong. For example, believing that one race is superior than another, stealing, or homicide, these things are wrong. A founding belief of our democracy is that the First Ammendment guarantees freedom of expression.

One shouldn't be afraid to be himself. But there are people who are afraid to be themselves just to survive. There are people in the world that are afraid of people who are not like them and the end result is violence. That behavior is unacceptable. Bashing of any kind should never occur.

The key word is accept. It is not difficult. Do not ridicule those that are different. Listen and watch, comprehend, then accept. No judgment is required or necessary. Acceptance does not equal agreement. Without differences in our world people would be bland and without color. The differences are what makes this world turn.

Swing into tennis

Holly Blanchard
Proofreader

The Green River Community College tennis teams have some fine players. Different players have different reasons they took up tennis in the first place.

Brad Foster originally became interested in tennis because most of his friends were standout basketball and baseball players.

"I wanted to be a good athlete like the rest of my friends," said Foster.

"I was good, but not good enough to stand out," he said. He was a "raw" tennis player and he became better with coaching.

Foster enjoys the challenges of tennis.

"I love the competition," he said. "I hate losing."

Melisa Biscayno started playing tennis at 10 years old, in a less deliberate fashion.

"One day my dad wanted to do something," she said. They decided to go to a park and play tennis, though they hadn't played before.

Biscayno found she enjoyed tennis. She took lessons; later, she became skillful enough to play in tournaments.

They both credit coach Steve Sauers for the high quality of the Gator teams.

Foster said Sauers knows how to recruit good players. GRCC has built a good reputation over time, so good players are more likely to sign up.

Foster wasn't recruited. He said he came to GRCC to play tennis.

"I knew they were a winning team, and if I was going to play somewhere, it was going to be here," he said.

Biscayno said, "He takes the time and effort to go out and look for (players) to come out and try out for the team."

"Sometimes for me it's difficult to spot out a weakness, if anything, and he's there to stress that," she added.

"I don't think he's ever picked up a racket in his life, but he always has something good to say," said Foster.

Both players said they like the competition and don't like to lose.

Foster said to be serious about tennis, "You have to play every day," and play with other good players. Tennis is a sport of skill and mental toughness.

Biscayno said that tennis, while fun, can be a "very frustrating sport."

"If you're a perfectionist, it might not be the sport for you ... because it's very difficult to be perfect," she said. Her advice for players is to practice and have fun.

Both players plan to continue playing when they transfer to four-year schools.

Biscayno doesn't plan to turn pro, but she is currently playing in tournaments outside school for money. She said she is ranked number seven in the Northwest.

Foster hasn't decided yet if he will play professionally.

"I'm taking it day by day," he said.

Gators aren't green with tennis

Holly Blanchard
Proofreader

At the Northwest Athletic Association of Community College tennis tournament at Yakima Valley Community College, the Gators triumphed again, both men and women winning the title matches. This makes the sixth straight NWAACC title for the men and sixth straight title for the women and the eighth in nine years.

Women

Green River	273
Skagit Valley	230
Yakima Valley	136
Walla Walla	130
Spokane	83
Shoreline	50
Bellevue	0
Columbia Basin	0

Men

Green River	264
Skagit Valley	226
Bellevue	124
Shoreline	117
Yakima Valley	116
Columbia Basin	42
Spokane	11
Walla Walla	0

May 27, 1997

Gators third in league

By Kristin Moore
Staff Reporter

The Green River Gators golf team took third in state at the Northwest Athletic Association of Community College Championship Tournament in Spokane on Tuesday, May 20th. Columbia Basin Community College, Green River's biggest competition, took first at the tournament on Tuesday.

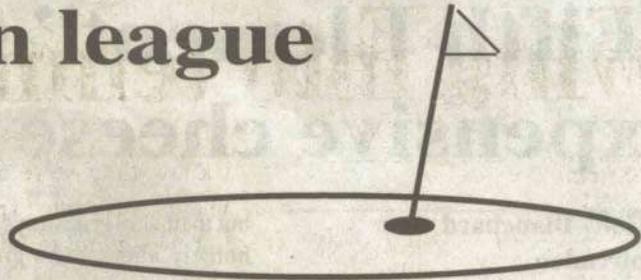
Although the team as a whole only placed third, some of the individual players "did outstanding," said golfer Collin Crenshaw. Golfer Joel Skarbo tied for medalist, the top ranking in state, with a player from the CBCC golf team and golfer Brian Powlus is placed in the top ten.

"We're really happy with how we did this season," said Crenshaw. "After taking first in our league and third in state, we're feeling really good. A little disappointed we didn't get first, but really pleased."

Coaches: Mike Fosnick
Mike McGraw
Stephanie Coleman
Larry Turnball
Doug Schroth

Players: Sarah Hendricks
Deadre Garthwaite
Corrine Belfield
Ryan Brodie
Collin Crenshaw
Neil Friedenberg
Nick Hermann
Mike MacKinnon
Mike Mallagh
Brian Powlus
Chad Razwick
Michael Linderman
Joel Skarbo

Special apologies to Joel Skarbo for leaving him off the team roster last issue.



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“Fifth Element” is expensive cheese

By Holly Blanchard
Proofreader

“The Fifth Element” is an exciting, visually interesting and very goofy film. If you like special effects and aren't in the mood for character development, this is the movie for you.

It starts in Egypt in 1914, where two archeologists discover hieroglyphics in a temple. They are about Absolute Evil which will come every 5000 years. The only weapon that can destroy it is a group of four stones, representing the four elements, with the Fifth Element in the center.

The priests of this temple have guarded the secrets of these hieroglyphics and the stones for generations. The current priest tries without success to keep the archeologists from learning any more.

An ugly spaceship looms over the temple. It belongs to the Mondoshawan, the aliens who left the stones. The Mondoshawan look like giant armor-clad armadillos.

The armadillos know wars will soon erupt on Earth, so they take the stones away for safekeeping. They promise to bring them back in time to destroy the Evil. The priest vows to pass on the secret to future generations.

The film leaps 300 years into the future when the Absolute Evil appears in the form of a giant gas ball carooming toward Earth. The President of the Federated Territories orders the army to destroy it, but no weapons work.

A priest, Father Cornelius (Ian Holm), explains to the president the true nature of the gas ball; its goal is to destroy all life. Only the stones and the Fifth Element will defeat it.

The armadillos head back to Earth,

but their ship is destroyed by some very homely aliens, who grunt “It's show time!” before attacking.

Government scientists recover a piece of genetic something from the remains and reconstitute it into orange-haired Leeloo (Milla Jovovich). We later learn that she is the Fifth Element and a supreme being.

Leeloo escapes the lab by leaping out of the miles-high building, crashing through the roof of a flying cab.

The cab is driven by Korben Dallas (the ever-annoying Bruce Willis), a retired fighter pilot. He helps Leeloo escape. After fleeing from the police, Dallas takes the supreme being to Father Cornelius. The priest recognizes who she is by a tattoo on her wrist.

The man behind the attack on the armadillos, a tycoon who glories in the name Jean-Baptiste Emanuel Zorg (Gary Oldman), discovers the stones weren't with them. He is a comical villain with a clanking leg, a plastic cap and a southern accent. He wants Absolute Evil to take over because he enjoys destruction.

Zorg is disappointed with the homely aliens. He expresses his disappointment with explosives.

The armadillos have entrusted the stones to a blue opera singer on a resort planet. Leeloo, the priest, Dallas, Zorg and the homely aliens all converge on the planet to retrieve the stones. Violence of all kinds ensue.

The characters have an annoying tendency to gibber, the plot is thin, but the sets are impressive. My favorite set was New York, with its gigantic building and tiers of highways, cradled by a layer of soft gray smog.

As a movie “The Fifth Element” looks much better than it is.

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PsychoBabble

By Stephanie Jacobson
Editor-in-Chief

Theatre Extempore will be performing "PsychoBabble" in its west coast premiere. The play was written by Ken Mays, and will be performed in the Performing Arts Building at Green River Community College. In order to prepare for the play, the students participated in a session with a certified therapist who specializes in psychodrama, Dr. Robert Bhrem. The performance will be on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, May 30-June 8. Reservations may be made. For additional information or reservations Gary Taylor may be contacted at Ext. 2405.



Lauren Pecovich and Ben Courmoyer

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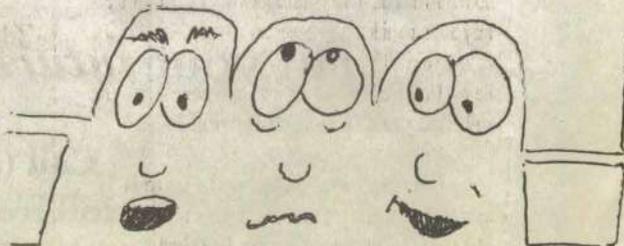
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OPEN BOOK TEST?
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May 27, 1997

**By Stephanie Jacobson
Editor in Chief**

Warning: All of these horoscopes are irresponsible lies.

Aries (March 21-April 19): In the next couple of weeks you will experience some tension. Release it by doing something constructive. Go hiking or swimming with a significant other. Your love for something will be noticed by important people. Giving someone you care about a flower will bring you luck

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You need to get rid of all the bad vibes you have been experiencing. Go doing something fun! Be the life of the party. But stay away from leering people. They may get you into trouble. Listen to your friends, they are just trying to help. Eating pizza on Wednesday will bring you luck.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Happy Birthday! Your friends might not be too big on your birthday, but they still love you. Find it in your heart to forgive them. It is time to party harty but be safe, very safe. You are somewhat vulnerable this month and need to practice moderation. Eating a hamurger (or veggie burger) will bring you luck.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Work hard and you will be rewarded. All that you stand for will finally sink in to those who have never understood. Love will come and go unless you are extra romantic. Try long walks when you need to clear your head. Watching the news on Friday will bring you insight and luck.

Leo (July 23-August 22): Your better half will be your support group for the next couple of weeks. Depend on them as much as you need to, your going to need it. But remeber that they need you too. You will have a very creative spurt, so take advantage of it. Take some time for yourself or to get close to someone you love.

Virgo (August 23-September 22): Whoa....slow down this month. Take extra caution in what you do, there may be some hidden consequences. Beware! In work and in love you will be greatly rewarded if you take the tempo down. Do something nice for yourself because no one else will. Treat yourself to an ice cream cone on Thursday.

Libra (September 23-October 22): You are in dire need of a road trip, to just bust out and get away from things. Make sure your finances are in order. Don't lend money to

anyone it, will turn out to be very unprofitable. Buy a pet to brighten your days with a little extra love.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21): Keep close to home...a bomb is gonna hit and you might as well face it up front. But you will find strength in your friends and maybe a new love. Contact old friends too, you may need the al-lies. Someone will do something very romantic for you, don't ask questions, just enjoy it.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21):Be Careful with your manipulations this month. Your friends aren't going to put up with it like they used to. Do something constructive, learn a new dance or paint a picture. Your finances are running low, get a new job, you will find the one you have been looking for, again!

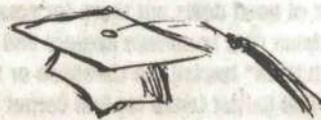
Capricorn (December 22-January 19): Be up front with people. Your honest nature will help solve a lot of problems. Put your skills to work to help a friend. In the next couple of weeks keep busy doing the things you love. On Saturday, go to a favorite spot and enjoy the atmosphere.

Aquarius (January 20-February 18): Don't trust anybody except those very close to you. Everyone is out to get you and all your really cool ideas. Give information on a need to know basis. Your love life will be booming. Ever body wants a piece of you and you time...choose wisely.

Pisces (February 19- March 20): In the near future you will need to make yourself visible for work and for play. Make appearances and have fun. Go all out ...what do you have to lose? Finish all those things you have been putting off. You are so hot nothing can stop you from doing what you want.

Congratulate your fellow students with congrats in The Current.

Spots to wish your friends luck in the future or just to say good job will be on sale until Wednesday, May 28. You can purchase ad space in The Current Office, located on the upper level of the LSC, next to KGRG. For more information you may contact Amanda at Ext. 2375.



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