



Ryan Gaudinier/THE CURRENT

Student journalists including a former editor of The Current, Brian Schraum, testify in front of Congress in support of House Bill 1307.

## Student journalists take a stand and testify in front of Legislature

**Ryan Gaudinier**  
Editor-in-Chief

to public high school and college media.

See related editorial on page 2.

Journalism students from all over the state flocked to Olympia on Jan. 26 to lend their support for House Bill 1307.

As reported in the last issue of The Current, this bill would extend the right of the first amendment and the freedom of the press clause contained in it

Journalists from as far away as Eastern Washington, such as Brian Schraum, former editor of The Current, attended the session. The bill was being presented to the House of Representa-

tives Judicial Committee, where the bill is expected to pass. If the bill passes through the Judicial Committee it will then travel to the Rules Committee for a second hearing.

Dave Upthegrove, creator and sponsor of the bill said this about the testimony given by the students, "The supporters gave incredible testimony. The opponents did a pretty lame job... I could have made their argument better than them."

Journalism students came in force and numbers and easily overpowered the bill's opponents. Only three people gave

testimony against the bill, while supporters numbered at least 50.

The bill is starting to receive additional coverage in traditional media outlets with newspapers reaching as far as Oregon and Idaho covering the bill which wouldn't even affect their states.

While the bill still has a long way to go before it is enacted into law and there is still a good chance the bill will either die or get bogged down in a committee, Jan. 26 was a wonderful start to a long process.

## Roadhouse offers big meals, good deals

**Boomer Bentley**  
Staff Reporter

There's a new attraction in Federal Way, right between the Top Foods and Walmart. Behold the Roadhouse Grill. A common restaurant chain in the southern states, the Roadhouse serves up famous Texas-style lunch or dinner.

Most entrees cost less than \$15 at the Roadhouse Grill, and each is big enough for two. This makes the newly-arrived restaurant a great alternative to the Gator Grill, which most of the time leaves you still hungry after an overpriced meal and frustrated from limited menu options.

Although you may spend a few bucks more, you can sit down and relish the Texan atmosphere, a fun feature of which is the freedom to simply toss the shells of your complimentary peanuts on the floor.

Besides the standard steaks, burgers, and sandwiches, the Roadhouse also has interesting and creative options. Most notable on the menu are the egg

rolls.

There are three different kinds of egg roll, from jalapeño and cream cheese or smoked salmon to a Southwest Chicken; these quickly became my favorite dish. It's easy to understand why they have become a house favorite. With the egg roll sampler you can have two of each kind served with 3 unique dipping sauces for only \$7.

Lunch for two, which included the egg roll sampler, a Focaccia BLT, a bacon cheeseburger, tea, and a strawberry lemonade came to around \$35. Not bad considering both myself and my companion still had half of our meals to take home with us by the time we were full. My theory is that those egg rolls really fill you up.

Happy hour is obviously the best for catching a special; appetizers are half off.

It is my suggestion that for a unique and satisfying lunch or dinner, head to the Roadhouse Grill, where you won't leave on an empty stomach or with an empty wallet.

## Student programs has students snow tubing on the slopes

**Bimla Thapa**  
Staff Reporter

Green River Community College has provided many programs for students during the school year. One recent program was snow tubing down at Snoqualmie Pass on Saturday, Jan. 27.

The student coordinator, Yuki Ikeda, a member of the CLEO program came up with the brilliant idea of taking students for a trip in Snoqualmie, catching the interest of international students. Her position as a CLEO member focuses on coming up with ideas for international students to experience America. Snow tubing especially was a thoughtful idea and I believe the international students who went agree with me.

When asked why she thought of snow tubing, Ikeda's reply was "Some of the international students have never seen snow before. Of course they don't have any experience of skiing or snow-boarding. Snow tubing doesn't require any experience and it's easy to do. I thought about international students to have more opportunity outside of campus and that's why I came up with snow tubing."

For only \$17, with the transport, snacks and water provided. And snow tubing is certainly not the last of activities Student Programs are coming up with. To find out more about the different activities planned, go to the Student Programs office (located in LSC building).

## Past weather problems causing issues on campus

**Travis Buff**  
Guest Reporter

The snowstorms caused more than just havoc on the roadways; they caused havoc in the classrooms as well.

After missing four days of classes due to the inclement weather, students returned to campus only to find out that they would have to make up that week of work without the advantage of extra days. Less time to finish the same amount of work means more headaches for students and teachers alike. Some teachers dropped parts of their work load out completely, but in many cases, it has become an information cram session.

The staff at Green River Community College (GRCC) has been put in a tough place, because they have to change their teaching plans to fit the new schedule. Many teachers didn't drop units out of their plans, because they are essential to being able to move on the next course, such as in English and math. When the teachers push ahead with important information, it makes it much harder for students to keep up and be prepared for the next level of classes.

"In a couple of my classes, my teacher has just pushed ahead, jamming so much information into each period that I am having a hard time keeping up," says Jason Keliher, a second-year student here at GRCC.

These same thoughts were echoed throughout the campus. Kevin Kauffman, another second-year student, said, "My history class was just overloaded. It made picking up the material in time for the exam very difficult."

Kauffman and Keliher both said they are going to have a hard time keeping up for the rest of the quarter in their classes. This is problematic, because it means that students will be falling behind, and therefore impacting their grades. According to SeattleTimes.com, public schools are having the same problems as Green River due to the snow.

With all the inclement weather problems in the Northwest, students have missed six days of school the past two quarters, which is leading to even more headaches for students pushing for their good grades.

## A look at the 522 budget process

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## Men's basketball suffers tough loss to Highline

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**Testimony in support of free college and high school press****Statement of Mike Hiestand:**

Good morning. Thank you Madam Chair and members of the Committee. My name is Mike Hiestand. I am an attorney and for nearly 20 years now I have worked on legal issues affecting America's student press. From 1991-2003, I was the staff attorney for the Student Press Law Center in Washington, DC. The SPLC is a nonprofit organization that, since 1974, has provided free legal assistance and information to America's high school and college student media.

Over my career, I have personally provided such help to over 14,000 student journalists and advisers. I am also the co-author of the Center's book *Law of the Student Press*. While I continue to work closely with the SPLC, today I'm fortunate to be appearing in front of you simply as a fellow Washingtonian, living and working in the Bellingham area.

I appear before you this morning to offer my support for House Bill 1307. I can tell you that there is a vital need for this legislation in Washington and around the nation if we have any hope of teaching our young people the importance we place on press freedom and free expression in our country. I provided some assistance in drafting the bill and I would be pleased to try and answer any questions you might have about this legislation. But I'd also like to clear up some information I've heard today and read recently about what this bill will and won't do.

Why is this law needed?

In order to understand what is at stake you have to understand a little about the Supreme Court's 1988 decision in *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 26 (1988), which changed the law for most high school-sponsored student media. And not just a little — but a lot. I know you've got quite a bit on your plate, but if you do nothing else, I urge you to at least take a look at what *Hazelwood* says. In my experience, most people are shocked when they hear just how much it altered the balance of administrative authority. Under *Hazelwood*, school officials have the authority to censor many — though not all — high school student publications if they can show their actions are "reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical (educational) concerns."

In other words, they have to demonstrate they have a reasonable educational justification for their censorship. While it sounds "reasonable," the Court went on to give some examples of what would meet that standard. Among other things, the Court said administrators could censor material they deem "poorly written," "biased," "inappropriate" or "inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order." I don't have to tell you that if all a principal has to do to kill a story or editorial he or she doesn't like is to label it "poorly written" or "inconsistent with the shared values of civilized social order," students learn very quickly that the lofty promises of the First Amendment can be pretty hollow. And unfortunately, as some of the studies regarding student attitudes about the First Amendment you have heard about this morning make clear, it's a lesson that stays with them.

Does *Hazelwood* apply to college student media in Washington?

No. At least not yet. Unfortunately, a 2005 federal court of appeals decision, *Hosty v. Carter*, 412 F.3d 731 (7th Cir. 2005), which ruled that *Hazelwood* could be applied to college student media in three Midwestern states, has led some college and uni-

versity officials elsewhere — including here in Washington — to argue that they now have more control over college student media. The thought that free speech on an American college campus could be curtailed simply by an administrator declaring it "inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order" (however they might define that) is something that should give all of us great pause. HB 1307 would put an end to that threat.

Does this legislation give students free reign to publish whatever they'd like?

No. This law includes some very clear restrictions. Students cannot publish unlawful speech. These are the same categories of speech that every journalist must avoid (libel, material that invades a person's legal right to privacy, obscenity as to minors, etc.). The law also imposes an additional category of speech restriction specific to schools: students cannot publish speech that would significantly interfere with normal school activities.

The standard adopted by HB 1307 comes directly from a Supreme Court standard (known as the *Tinker* standard) that was in place for student publications — and created a meaningful balance between administrative authority and student rights — for nearly twenty years before the Supreme Court adopted its *Hazelwood* standard.

How many other states have enacted laws similar to HB 1307?

Six states — Arkansas, California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas and Massachusetts — have passed student free press legislation that defines the rights and responsibilities of high school journalists (Pennsylvania has state regulations on the book that provides similar protection.) These laws have been on the books for over a decade and there has been no indication of any negative affect on the schools. In fact, if anything, high school journalism is better and more professional in those states because students understand that rights and responsibilities go hand in hand.

Wouldn't this law conflict with the Supreme Court's *Hazelwood* ruling?

No. *Hazelwood* is a First Amendment case. It certainly does not require administrative censorship. Moreover, the First Amendment establishes a "floor" of legal protection. While states cannot pass a law that provides less protection than the First Amendment, the Court has made clear that states can always choose to provide more protection for their citizens. That is what HB 1307 does.

Would this law restrict the authority of school administrators?

Yes. And I understand why some of them wouldn't like. I'm sure it is much easier for some school officials to manage what is essentially a school public relations newsletter than it is to allow an actual student newspaper that provides students a meaningful voice on issues that truly matter to them. However, we have a First Amendment because, as a nation, we decided that a free and independent press plays a vital role in our democracy — even if it's sometimes messier than a state-controlled press.

Fortunately, a number of administrators don't look upon their student newspapers as an adversary, but view an independent student press as a important school asset. They see the value in providing students with a forum to express their concerns and recognize the educational value of a strong, well-supported student journalism program.

What do teachers think of this

legislation?

Every major journalism education group in the country — which represent the teachers in the classrooms and newsrooms who work with the students — has said that the type of legislation proposed in HB 1307 is the best and most effective way to teach journalism. If providing the "best education" for our students is the goal, certainly we must give great weight to those who actually do the educating. Here in Washington, both the Washington Education Association and the Journalism Education Association have endorsed HB 1307.

Isn't the school the publisher?

The use of the word "publisher" in the context of student media is misleading and unhelpful. Like all publishers, schools may provide financial support (though not all do). But even so, a public school principal — unlike the private publisher of *The Seattle Times* — is a government official. The First Amendment specifically exists to limit the authority of government officials to control the speech of its citizens. Those limitations don't exist for the owner of *The Seattle Times*. Moreover, unlike the owner of the *Times*, who actually does foot the newspaper's bills and owns the presses, a public school principal no more owns a student newspaper than he or she owns the district's school buses or the cafeteria. Taxpayers — and very often advertisers lined up by the students themselves — support student media.

Does this bill make student more liable?

No. Student journalists have always been liable for what they publish. This bill changes nothing. My experience has shown that making students aware of their liability is a good and necessary part of teaching young journalists. As almost every journalism adviser will tell you, students that feel a sense of ownership for their publications are typically more careful and conscientious about what they publish.

How often are student media organizations sued?

Libel and other content-based lawsuits against student newspapers generally — and high school newspapers specifically — are extremely rare. In fact, to date, there is not a single, reported court decision where a school district has ever been held liable for material published by its high school student media. (If a school district were worried about liability, they would be much better served by ending their football program than worrying about their student media programs.) Still, because school officials frequently cite concern for liability as a primary reason for wanting to retain censorship authority, HB 1307 contains specific provisions that limit a school or college's liability for student media.

But who will a reader sue if the student newspaper libels them?

It is true that students — who tend to be asset-poor — are not generally the most attractive targets for a lawsuit. But limiting their free speech protection because of their limited net worth raises an important question: Should the First Amendment come with an income-eligibility test? The First Amendment has always been a harbor for the minority views of those with less power (and presumably wealth), which, over our history, have included such "unpopular" views as abolition, women's rights and civil rights. Young adults have arguably the most important long-term stake in our country of any demographic group and need to have

their voice heard whether or not they currently have the money to make them an attractive defendant.

What about all the horror stories you hear regarding what student newspapers or yearbooks have published?

Such incidents have occurred, but they are certainly the exception rather than the rule. Moreover, such incidents tend to occur at schools that lack a qualified or committed journalism adviser. Too often, school officials appoint individuals to advise student media who have no experience or no desire to do so (often brand new hires lacking seniority to object). As the saying goes, you reap what you sew. I only wish some schools put half as much effort into hiring and supporting qualified journalism teachers as they did hiring their sports team coaches.

The vast majority of student publications go about their business in a responsible manner. I only wish all of you had the opportunity to attend one of the big, national student media conventions. Not only would your "horror" concerns disappear, but you would be truly inspired by some of the best and brightest

kids in the country and be amazed by what is possible where a student journalism program is given the tools and support to flourish. And, frankly, if any school administrator would like to have a head-to-head match of their student media horror stories against my administrative censorship horror stories, I'll take that match any day.

Isn't this a liberal (or conservative) issue?

Absolutely not. Free expression protections — and censorship — cut across all political and ideological boundaries. As multiple examples on the SPLC Web site ([www.splc.org](http://www.splc.org)) will show, the restrictions placed on student media have been used to censor students who have attempted to include positive material about religion, conservatism and the pro-life movement in their student publications. If conservatives or liberals are not willing to support free speech protections for students for partisan reasons, they should be prepared to face the fact that the views they espouse will, sooner or later, be the ones that are censored.

Why is this legislation so important now?

I have a quote from the noted 19th century educator Horace Mann that I've kept posted near my desk for years. It reads: "The great moral attribute of self-government cannot be born and matured in a day; and if school children are not trained to it, we only prepare ourselves for disappointment if we expect it from grown men."

It's frequently said these days that we live in a "new world" that requires a "new balance" between governmental authority and individual rights. If that's correct, it's also accurate that now — probably more than ever before — we need our next generation to fully understand and appreciate the liberties at stake in order to participate and help formulate that careful, reasoned and workable balance that they will be asked to live under. We currently have in place a system of civics education whose central message is far too often: "look but don't touch." House Bill 1307 reminds our youngest citizens that the freedoms they talk about in class are not just questions to study for an exam, but principles to live by and stand up for. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

# Parking an ongoing issue for GRCC

John Huber  
Guest Reporter

Green River students and staff have grown accustomed to dealing with limited parking availability, and with current and future construction projects competing for space, the situation is not likely to improve any time soon. Fortunately there are alternatives in place to help alleviate the frustration of commuters.

Parking is always a hot topic at Green River. There are approximately 2,300 general parking spaces available on campus for use by nearly 9,000 students, and with an estimated annual enrollment increase of up to 3 percent, student population growth is easily outpacing that of parking facilities. That's because there is no planned increase in the number of on-campus parking stalls in the foreseeable future.

With new parking facilities unlikely, the college has been forced to implement alternative provisions. The primary off-campus parking option is the park-and-shuttle service offered from Pacific Raceways. Conveniently located just off State Route 18, the Pacific Raceways lot is lighted, paved, secured and free to students, staff and faculty. Three 25-passenger shuttle vans service the route, departing at approximately 15 minute intervals between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. The 2.3 mile one-way trip takes around eight minutes.

Transportation alternatives, such as carpooling and Metro transit ridership, are strongly encouraged. Multi-passenger vehicles have the incentive of obtaining a daily-use parking pass for designated spaces before 10:30 a.m., and two Metro routes, 164 and 181, currently serve Green

River passengers from Kent, Federal Way and Auburn.

According to Director of Facilities Tom Weisweaver, capital improvement projects such as the new Sciences building have had the most severe impact on parking lot capacity. Weisweaver indicated, however, that the administration is working to reverse the trend by studying ways that improvements might be made, such as improvements to layout or circulation. He went on to say that the planning committee has even gone so far as to study the feasibility of underground parking.

Regarding the idea of multi-level underground parking, administrators indicate that they favor the idea. According to Dean of Instruction Sam Ball, "In an ideal world, we would build a parking garage." Unfortunately, studies show that the possible designs require extensive mitigation efforts

to address surface-water runoff concerns, and these factors could drive the cost up by 100 percent or more. Further complicating matters is the fact that the State of Washington provides funding for new building projects, but in most cases does not fund parking improvements.

Other available alternatives for students include the college's many night and evening classes, its two satellite campuses in Kent and Enumclaw, and Internet distance learning courses. While each of these options have their own challenges, the programs as a whole have the effect of reducing commute trips and parking congestion, if only indirectly.

For more information on Green River's parking options, contact the Parking & Security Office at (253) 833-9111 extension 3350 or Judy Cook at (253) 833-9111 extension 2566.

## TRIO holds workshop in Glacier Room

Krista Weaver  
Staff Reporter

TRIO held a workshop on Tuesday January 23rd in the Rainier Room. The workshop/presentation went over results from the Learning and Study Strategies Inventory (LASSI) that is offered for all TRIO participants to take. They held the workshop to offer our participants an opportunity to

learn more about their results on the LASSI and to discuss strategies for success.

TRIO is a team of professional staff and student tutors who provide one-on-one academic support to First-Generation students, economically disadvantaged students, and students with disabilities. TRIO Student Support Services is one of more than 900 similar programs nationwide.

TRIO's purpose is to teach the students how to pass the college system, identify their goals and achieve great academic success.

TRIO Student Support Services is funded by a federal grant to work with 200 eligible participants each year. Part of the eligibility criteria to be in TRIO would include being a) first-generation to college (for their purposes, neither parent has a bachelors' de-

gree), or b) low-income (which is determined by federal standards), or c) a student with a disability. As part of the grant requirements, they provide access to resources and services designed to help you be successful in college. They provide services such as presentations for the students.

## Difficulties for Running Start students

Caitlin Leady  
Staff Reporter

Running Start is a programmed designed for juniors and seniors still in high school to be able to take courses at GRCC. Once enrolled in their classes at GRCC students should expect to meet the expectations of other community college students.

This includes class participation, homework, and attendance. Students who choose to do running start are taking on a lot of responsibility, and need to fulfill the requirements expected of them.

Students are responsible for figuring out which classes will transfer to a four year University, and which will not. Also they are responsible for making sure their

classes do not conflict with each other, between high school and the community college.


Students should not be able to come late to classes because they are coming from the high school. They should give themselves an ample amount of time so this doesn't happen.

Attending community college and high school at the same time

makes it harder for a student to adjust.

You are not taking that full transition into college because you're still experiencing the joys of high school. Not all students can adjust easy to new environments and rules, which is why this program is not meant for everyone.

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Student Government  
**ASGRC**

Upcoming events

**Workshop Day No Class**

Feb. 8

**Ice Skating**

Feb. 10  
12:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
\$10 students  
\$20 non-students

**Paintball in the Prairie**

Feb. 11  
10 a.m.  
KC Crusaders  
\$15 students  
\$22 non-students

**Senior's Citizens Valentines Day Dance**

Feb. 14  
2 - 4 p.m.  
Lindbloom Student Center

# Watch your tuition dollars at work

*Meetings offer students the opportunity to have a say on how their tuition dollars are used*

**Ca\$h Chen**  
ASGRCC Vice President

Do you know where your student fees are spent?

Some of those fees go to the Service and Activity fees budget. For the academic year 2007/2008 the budget will be \$965,000.

How would you spend that money? The ASGRCC Finance Committee will be helping to make that decision in the upcoming 522 budget process. Do you want more funding for the radio stations? Do you care?

This budget funds everything from the school newspaper to major events such as the Springfest, Fall Fling and Monday Mix, as well as a number of clubs including the Forestry Club, athletics, drama, and childcare scholarships.

The committee includes chairperson, David Craft Jr. and members Samantha Fletcher, Rebekha McFarland, and Cory Peeler. These students, in collaboration with the Student Programs Budget Team, will come up with the final budget that will be submitted to the Board of Trustees.



The Finance Committee helps to determine the budget for many programs here at Green River Community College.

Photo Courtesy of Ca\$h Chen



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# An early look at the 2008 candidates for Presidential Election... For the Democrats

**Taylor Gillian**  
Staff Reporter

The official Democratic presidential candidates are: Connecticut Senator Christopher J. Dodd, former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards, former governor of Iowa Tom Vilsack, and Rep. of Ohio Dennis J. Kucinich. Those who have announced their plans for an exploratory presidential committee are Governor of New Mexico Bill Richardson, New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Illinois Sen. Barack Obama, and Delaware Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr.

Christopher J. Dodd was born May 27, 1944. He announced his candidacy Jan. 2007. Dodd has served as a senator for five terms. He was a Peace Corps volunteer in Latin America in the 1960s. He has been a long time critic of US

involvement in Iraq, and has concerns for the current Iraqi situation. Dodd sponsored the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993. This act allows twelve weeks of unpaid leave for the birth or adoption of a child and for illness.

In his campaign announcement, Dodd plans to focus on unemployment, energy, and healthcare. Dodd said in his video announcing his campaign intentions; "I'm terribly disappointed about what's happened in Iraq in the last number of years, and the fact that the president wants to continue with a fatal policy instead of insisting the Iraqis come together politically and providing them the help to achieve that."

Tom Vilsack was born Dec. 13, 1950. He announced his candidacy in Nov. 2006. He served as Iowa's governor for two years and balanced Iowa's budget with-

out raising taxes. Vilsack's main issues are dependence on foreign oil and continuing efforts for alternative energy solutions.

In his video announcement, he acknowledged his position as the "underdog" in the race, saying he was "comfortable in that position." He will focus on the energy crisis, nurturing an innovative and creative economy, secure energy, and the "idea of America's place in the world."

Dennis J. Kucinich was born Oct. 8, 1946. He announced his candidacy on Tuesday Dec. 12, 2006. Kucinich has served for six terms in Congress. He was elected the youngest mayor of a major US city at age 31. He won the Ohio election with 66% of the votes. This will be his second attempt at running for President, the first coming in 2004. He is an opponent of the Iraqi war, and wants

to bring the troops home now.

Kucinich, one of seven children from a working class family, plans to focus on retirement, poverty, healthcare, budget deficits, the education system, and unemployment.

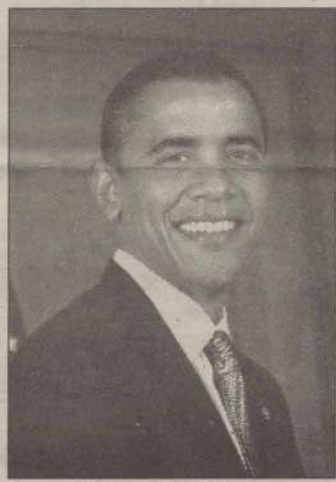
John Edwards was born Jun. 10, 1953. Edwards announced his candidacy in Dec. 2006. This will be Edwards second run for presidency. He first ran in 2004, but was beat out for the Democratic nomination by John Kerry. Edwards then agreed to be Kerry's running mate. Edwards passed up an elected seat in the Senate in 1998 when he decided to run for president. Edwards is a wealthy personal injury lawyer. His main political agenda has been and continues to be economics and poverty.

Edwards announced his presidential candidacy from a Katrina

ravaged New Orleans where he was helping to restore a home in the upper 9th ward. He promised to focus on global poverty, global warming, a new energy economy, and universal healthcare. He has established a group called OneCore to help with poverty. They will celebrate Jan 27 as a National Day of Action. Edwards has also helped raise the minimum wage in six states. In his video announcement, he said he will work on "establishing morale leadership in the world starting with Iraq; reject this McCain doctrine of surging troops and escalating war in Iraq. We need to make it clear we're leaving, and we need to start leaving. We need to get engaged in the genocides in Sudan, in the atrocities in Uganda."



Hillary Clinton



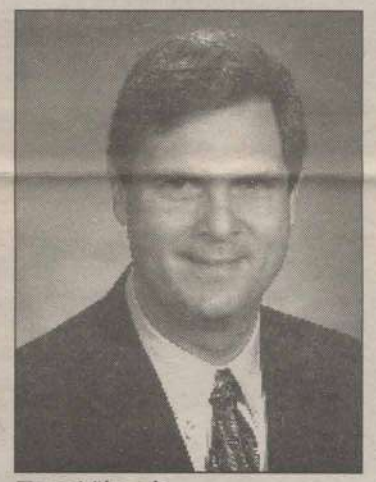
Barack Obama



John Edwards



Christopher Dodd



Tom Vilsack

## For the Republicans

**Taylor Gillian**  
Staff Reporter

The official Republican presidential candidates are Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback and California Rep. Duncan Hunter. Those Republicans who have announced their plans for an exploratory campaign are Arizona Sen. John McCain, former New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Guiliani, former Wisconsin governor Tommy G. Thompson, former Virginia governor James S. Gilmore III, former governor of Massachusetts Mitt Romney, Colorado Rep. Tom Tancredo, Texas Rep.

Ron Paul, and former governor of Arkansas Mike Huckabee.

Sam Brownback was born Sep. 12, 1956. He announced his candidacy in Jan. 2007. He is a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and a leader of the GOP's conservative wing. In 1996 he won the Senate seat formerly held by Bob Dole. Brownback began serving his first full term in 1998. He was re-elected in 2004. Brownback is a favorite of Christian conservatives, voting to ban same sex marriages. He is an anti-abortion voter, disapproves of human cloning and embryonic stem cell research, and

has supported such legislation. His campaign focus will be on family and culture.

Sam Brownback is a father of five children. He grew up in Parker, Kansas, where his parents own a farm. In his campaign announcement, Brownback promised to focus on such issues as rebuilding our families and culture, term limits for judges and members of congress, the nation's energy dependence and the search for alternative and clean burning domestic fuels, and a flat tax vs. the tax code we now have in place. He will focus on cancer research and the spending of federal gov-

ernment money as well. He also mentioned our need for "protecting all life," from Darfur to Iraq, and within our own country.

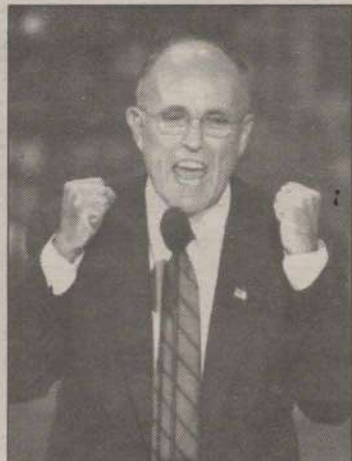
Duncan Hunter was born May 31, 1948. He announced his candidacy on Jan. 25, 2007. He has served on the House Armed Service Committee for 20 years, elected in 1980. He has been re-elected with good margins. Hunter is a decorated Vietnam veteran. He was in the army 1969-1971, and had combat service in Vietnam. He served in the 173rd Airborne and with the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Hunter plans to focus on as he

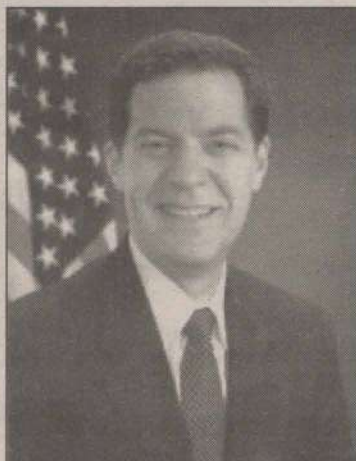
puts on his website [www.gohunter08.com](http://www.gohunter08.com); building a strong military, supporting US military men and women, fielding a national missile defense, po-life, protecting children from predators, against gay marriages, foreign trade policies, economy, taxes, border security, fair and equitable trade, and the war on terror. On January 22, 2007, as the California Representative, Hunter reintroduced the Right to Life Act. This act states that life begins at conception.



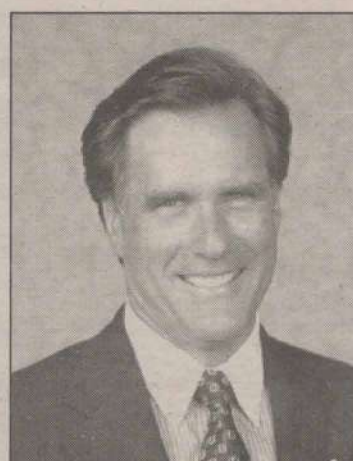
John McCain



Rudy Guiliani



Sam Brownback



Mitt Romney



Duncan Hunter

## Fiery cast of characters keeps Smokin' Aces an entertaining film



Maury Sterling, Kevin Durand and Chris Pine play the degenerate mecenary trio, "The Tremor Brothers". Photo Courtesy of Yahoo! Movies

**Jeff Price**  
Copy Editor

Smokin' Aces is a fairly unoriginal movie filled with original characters. Director Joe Carnahan doesn't invest too much in developing a plot, but manages to draw some real acting talent into this flick.

The movie starts with a 20 minute intro to the situation at hand. The scene interchanges with introductions of each of the hit men looking to cash in on the \$1 million bounty laid on Buddy "Aces" Israel's (Jeremy Piven) head.

This film is not for the faint of heart or the epileptic. The ed-

iting style of this movie is very fast-paced and the sound track is engaging. It has a very Tarantino-esque feel, yet it doesn't quite live up to his level of storytelling. This is a movie full of a ridiculous level of violence, big-ass guns, crazy white people, and black lesbians.

Nonetheless, the acting was superb. Grammy-award winning musician Alicia Keyes was solid in her acting debut. She brings an intangible sexy flair to the screen. Her relationship with Sharice Watters (Taraji Henson) brings a very human element to the movie. Ryan Reynolds has successfully graduated from college humor flicks to gritty crime dramas (al-

beit this isn't much of a drama).

Carnahan's sense of humor is evident throughout the film, but it fails to really take over. Despite the lack of a plot, this movie is very engaging.

As an action flick fanatic, this film sucked me in and kept me involved for the entire 108 minutes. This movie was destined to be the ultimate guy flick and it achieved its goal exceptionally well. Every actor involved had fun with their roles, no matter how small a part.

The only bad thing about this movie was Andy Garcia's horrible fake accent. At least Ryan Reynolds' outstanding acting saved a deadpan ending.

## Renowned author returns to the science fiction genre with Night Train to Rigel

*Zahn brings intriguing plot and interesting characters to his latest novel*

**Chris Bloomquist**  
Staff Reporter

Night Train to Rigel is an excellent science fiction novel by the legendary author Timothy Zahn. The book follows the adventures of Frank Compton. It is set in a world where several different alien races live in peace, and Earth is a newcomer and relatively low-tech compared to the other inhabitants of the galaxy.

Frank is an ex-government agent with no job and no friends. He gets a message from an anti-social group of aliens, who claim they need his help to save all life in the galaxy. He visits many planets and battles evil aliens in his attempt to save the galaxy.

Zahn has an excellent writing

style that is very easy to read. He has a brilliant technique for explaining complicated science related issues in the context of the conversations that take place. For example, when the high-tech quadrail is introduced, one character explains to another how it works.

This technique keeps the story from getting boring with endless pages of how something works. Also, I liked that the characters are not stupid. In some books you want to shout at the character "Don't open that door!" but that is not a problem in this book.

The characters are all intelligent. There are also many plot twists and I was very surprised at some of the things that happened in the book that I had not expected.

The story moves very quickly

and never gets caught up with too much description. Zahn focuses a lot more on what the characters are thinking than how they are feeling, which makes the story less complicated.

The author is a master at making the impossible seem possible. It is easy to believe that all of the author's inventions in the story and it never got to a point where I thought he had taken it too far. The story contains no profanity or anything else questionable, except for a few violent sequences.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys science fiction books with lots of action and intrigue.

**KGRG**  
**Presents:**  
*The Music of the Month*

<p><b>Friday</b> 02/02</p> <p>The Showbox <b>A Quiet Uprising</b> <b>Lay To Rest</b> <b>The Ellis Armor</b> <b>Before I Die</b> \$7 adv. (Ticketswest) All ages bar, with ID 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Monday</b> 02/05</p> <p>The Showbox <b>Jack's Mannequin</b> <b>Head Automatica</b> <b>The Audition</b> <b>Get Back Loretta</b> \$20 adv. (Ticketswest) \$23 door All ages bar, with ID 6 p.m.</p>
<p><b>Saturday</b> 02/03</p> <p>Hell's Kitchen <b>Strike Anywhere</b> <b>Sinking Ships</b> <b>Shook Ones</b> <b>and Sunset Riders</b> \$10 door All ages bar, with ID 5 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Monday</b> 02/12</p> <p>El Corazon <b>Terror</b> <b>The Warriors</b> <b>All Shall Perish</b> <b>War of Age</b> \$12 adv. (Ticketswest) All ages bar, with ID 7 p.m.</p>

## Popular music and arts venue changes location

**Howard Hardee**  
Staff Reporter

The Vera Project is a youth-focused music and arts center that regularly hosts artists representing a wide range of genres. Vera has recently moved out of their longtime 1916 4th Avenue locale and plan to move into the Snoqualmie Room in the Seattle Center Feb. 23. In the meantime, Vera hosts concerts at various venues around Seattle.

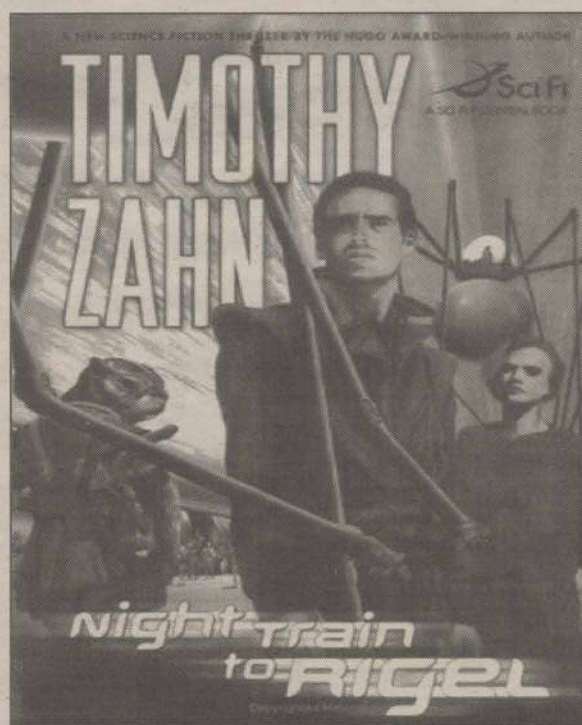
The Vera Project was founded in 1999 by Dutch exchange students from the University of Washington James Kebles and Shannon Stewart. Kebles and Stewart were inspired by a Dutch band they met in Seattle to seek out a movie and music venue called Vera. Vera is a Latin acronym of Vera et Recti Amici, which means, "true and sincere friends."

Kebles and Stewart's creation offers more than a concert venue

for people under 21. The Vera Project also includes classes that involve the art of silkscreening (a printmaking technique that creates a sharp edged image using stencil and a porous fabric), sound engineering, and break-dancing. On the last Thursday of every month, the Vera Project hosts a night of song writing and improvisation called Acoustic Veracity that features performances by over 20 different artists.

Internships are also available for young adults looking for job training. Those interns who successfully complete their internship usually find related jobs in the Seattle music industry.

The Vera Project offers a broad range of musical genres in concert as well as interesting classes for those looking for a career in music. Any intrigued individuals should look for the project to move into its permanent residence in late Feb.



In Zahn's latest novel, ex-government agent Frank Compton is tasked to stop an impending interstellar war. Photo Courtesy of Amazon.com

# HD-DVD and Blu-ray discs battle for control of the future high definition market

**Chris Bloomquist**  
Staff Reporter

Two new forms of high density optical discs have recently entered the market. These two forms are HD-DVD and Blu-ray. Both formats have their positive and negative aspects. The battle over what format will rule the market is the technological battle of the future as Sony and Toshiba compete for the consumer's dollars. These high definition formats offer sig-

nificantly better quality images than the previous DVD format. So, if you're the kind of person who likes to see every pore on an actor's face, one of these new systems is for you.

Blu-ray discs are developed by Sony and can hold up to 50GB of information on a dual layer format and 25GB on a single layer format. This translates to about 9 hours of high definition video on one 50GB disc or about 23 hours of standard definition video ac-

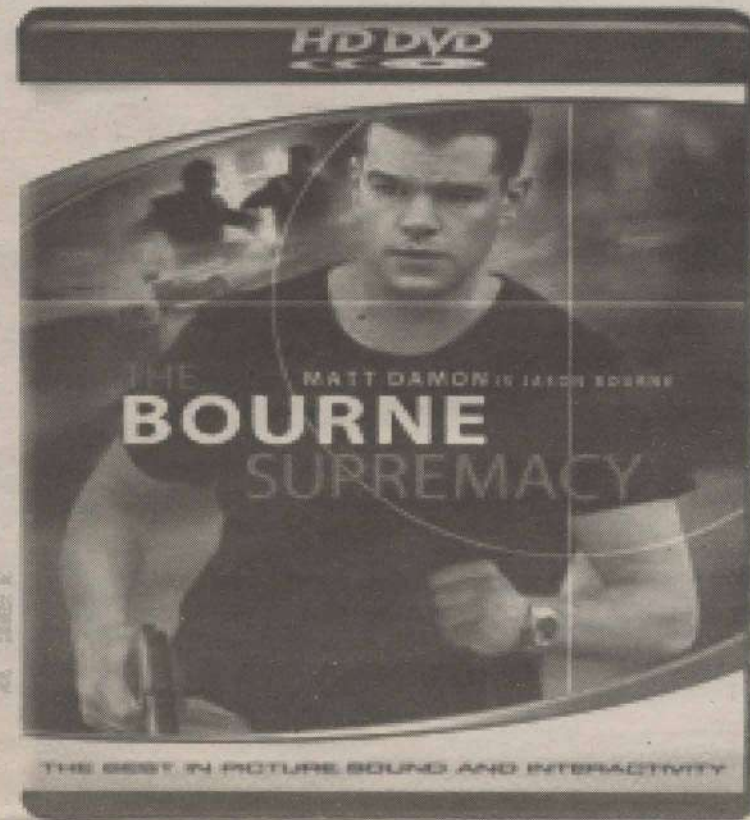
ording to Sony's website. One of the main drawbacks to the Blu-ray format is the price. The bottom of the line Blu-ray player runs about \$800. Additionally, each movie is priced about \$40 at most stores, such as \$39.99 for most new releases according to Best Buy's website. The reason Blu-ray is so expensive is because the information is stored much closer to the outside of the disc than on any other player. This means an expensive protective material encloses the disc. The location of the information on the disc also makes it extremely vulnerable to scratches and fingerprints. An alternative method of getting a Blu-ray player would be to buy a new Playstation 3 gaming console which includes a Blu-ray player. Unfortunately, there is a high demand for these \$599 machines and you would have to be very lucky your get your hands on one.

HD-DVD is most strongly backed by Toshiba. HD-DVD was built to be the successor of the DVD. An HD-DVD can hold 30GB of video in the dual layer format or 15GB in the single layer which is about six hours of high definition viewing and 14 hours for standard definition. Unlike the Blu-ray, HD-DVD players only cost about \$400, ac-

ording to Toshiba's website. Additionally, movies cost about \$25 at Best Buy. Also, if you own an Xbox 360 you can get a HD-DVD player added on for only \$200.

Blu-ray discs can hold more information than an HD-DVD, but the downside is its price. Both formats offer nearly identical visual quality. Since both of these formats are relatively new on

the market, the prices will eventually fall to a more affordable level. HD-DVD has been around a little while longer than Blu-ray, and may boast a larger library of movies. Due to the fragility of the Blue-ray discs, the HD-DVD holds the advantage going into the new year.



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# Green River men suffer tough loss to reigning league champs

**Matt Cannon**  
Staff Reporter

After leading at halftime 40-36, the Green River Gators fell to Highline 84-80 in a tough loss on Jan. 27 in front of a strong crowd of around 250. Highline (10-3) took the lead only once in the first half, but came out with the hot hand in the second half to put the game out of reach from Green River to put them at an astounding 8-1 in the conference. It took all 40 minutes to finish off Green River, as Banard Banks hit a three-pointer from half court to end the game.

The Gators' record dropped to 8-10 overall, and 3-5 in division play after one of the toughest losses of the season. Highline's Morris Anderson led all scorers with 24 points, and Banks led the Gators with 19 of his own. Second chance points killed the Fighting Gators chance to get a big win, as they were outscored in that statistic 16-8.

GRCC led by as many as 13 in the first half, pushing the score to 22-9 before Highline cut that lead to 40-36 at the half. During the first half, Green River was clicking on all cylinders and

seemed to have firm control over the game at the time. Highline, however they refused to give up, and took the lead early in the second half and never relinquished it. The closest Green River came to Highline in the last 15 minutes was after Banks hit the half-court shot at the buzzer to push the final score to 84-80.

Green River's leading scorer Marc Williams had a tough game on the offensive side of the ball, going 3-11 from the floor and 3-11 also from the free throw line. He finished the night with 12 points, 11 below his season average, the lowest scoring night since a game against Portland in which he scored 12 in as well.

The Gators made only 8 of 24 free throw shots as well, the second worst night from the stripe all year. Only a game against Clark College was worse from the line, making only 3 of 8 attempts.

Green River was still in the game until the final buzzer sounded. Had they sank a couple shots down the stretch and gotten a couple stops on the defensive end, they could have evened their record to 9-9 and 4-4 in conference play. It's tough to lose a game like this, especially after

their blowout win versus South Puget Sound stopped a two-game slide.

Green River's next match up

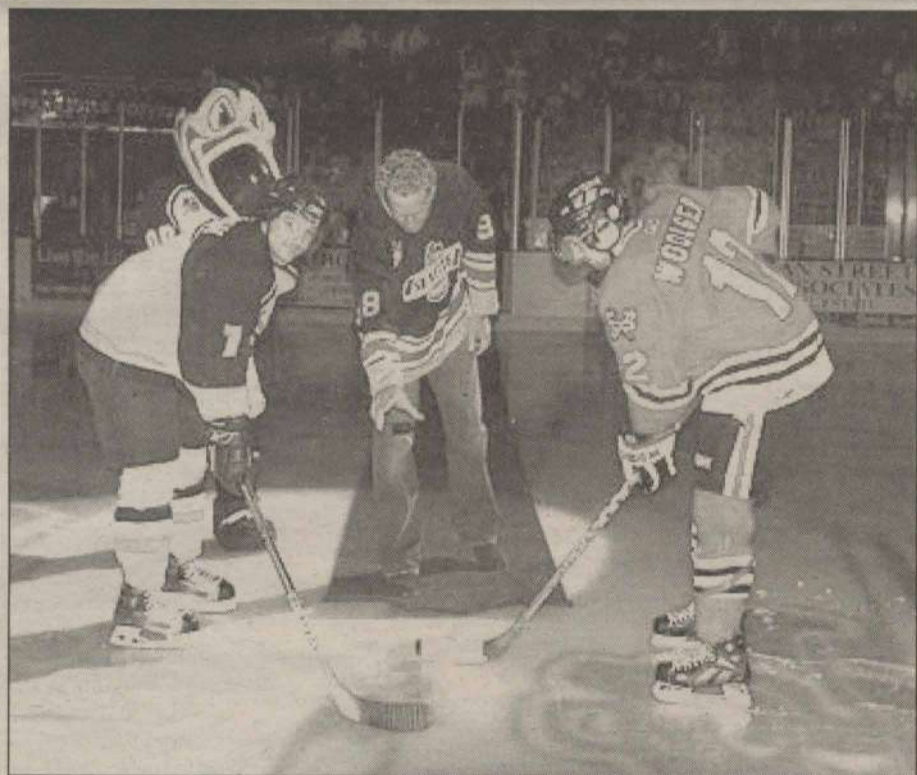
will come next Saturday at home in a rematch against Clark College, which defeated the Gators 77-75 on Jan. 6 when they went

on a 7-0 run in the final minutes, this game may prove pivotal to the direction the team is heading the rest of the season.



A team photo of the men Gators who suffered a tough loss to Highline Community College.

Photo courtesy of nwaacc.org



The thunderbirds get ready to play a playoff game on April 1.

Photo courtesy of The Seattle Thunderbirds

## Gator Women drop three, but season looking brighter

**Kyle Riger**  
Staff Reporter

The lady gators continue to look for a spark this season as they drop 3 in a row after a heartbreaking loss to Highline on Jan. 27 by the score of 64-70. GRCC led by as many as 16 points in the first half but couldn't keep that momentum swinging when the second half came along.

Going into the second half leading 37-27 the Gators had a lapse on the defensive end that let highline explode for 43 points in the second half. Forward Sharissa Pauley gave all she could in the game and ended up with a game high 28 points by shooting 8 for 15 from the field and 12 for 14 from the charity stripe. Highline (13-2, 8-1 conference) though proved to be too much forcing the Gators to turn the ball over 28 times and out rebounding the Ga-

tors by seven.

The loss proved to be as tough as any in the season following two straight tough losses to Centralia and South Puget Sound. Some good can come of this loss though, the team seems to have found someone who can step up and be a big time scorer (Pauley), they shot a solid 80 percent from the free throw line and all but two players had at least an assist, showing good ball movement, the loss came to the team that is on top of the division and the Gators kept competitive all game.

The Ladies should not hang their head over this loss, but should be looking to build off of it in the upcoming game at home against Clark on Feb. 3, who they lost too in a 66-64 nail biter on Jan. 6.

## GRCC students hit the ice rink

**Boomer Bentley**  
Staff Reporter

International Programs sponsored an event for Green River students in which for ten bucks you could go watch a Seattle Thunderbird hockey game. The event took place on Jan. 31 at 7 p.m., where students met at the bus circle here at 5 p.m and made their way to the game.

The \$10 price included transportation, extra money for food and souvenirs that may have been required. The cost was \$20 for non GRCC students.

If you were hesitant to sign up because you thought hockey is boring, then you have to remember that student were sure to be in on countless hard hits and definitely some fights and confrontation. For being a dull sport to watch on the tube, hockey is by far one the most entertaining events to see in person.

The T-birds with 47 wins find themselves once again among the elite teams in the Western Hockey League. Which is impressive considering you have to be older than 16 but younger than 21 to play, and to put a

good team together year after year speaks for itself. It's almost like college sports, where recruiting and coaching determines the strength of the team.

All in all the hockey night was considered a successful and many more are sure to come. For any more questions concerning events such as this one please contact Ching-Wan "Steve" Chung, International Student Ambassador at [cchung@greenriver.edu](mailto:cchung@greenriver.edu) or by calling Green River extension 2400.

### Women's Basketball Schedule

Feb 3 Clark 3:00  
Feb 7 @ Lower Columbia 6:00  
Feb 10 Pierce 3:00  
Feb 12 @ Tacoma 6:00  
Feb 14 @ Grays Harbor 6:00  
Feb 17 Centralia 3:00  
Feb 21 S. Puget Sound 6:00  
Feb 24 @ Highline 1:00

March 1-4  
NWAACC Championships

For stats and more go to  
NWAACC website: [NWAACC.org](http://NWAACC.org)

### Men's Basketball Schedule

Feb 3 Clark 5:00  
Feb 7 @ Lower Columbia 8:00  
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