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Green River's natural resources program shines above the competition

Finding what makes our forests so unique, award-winning competitors

By: *Tedmund Harrahan*

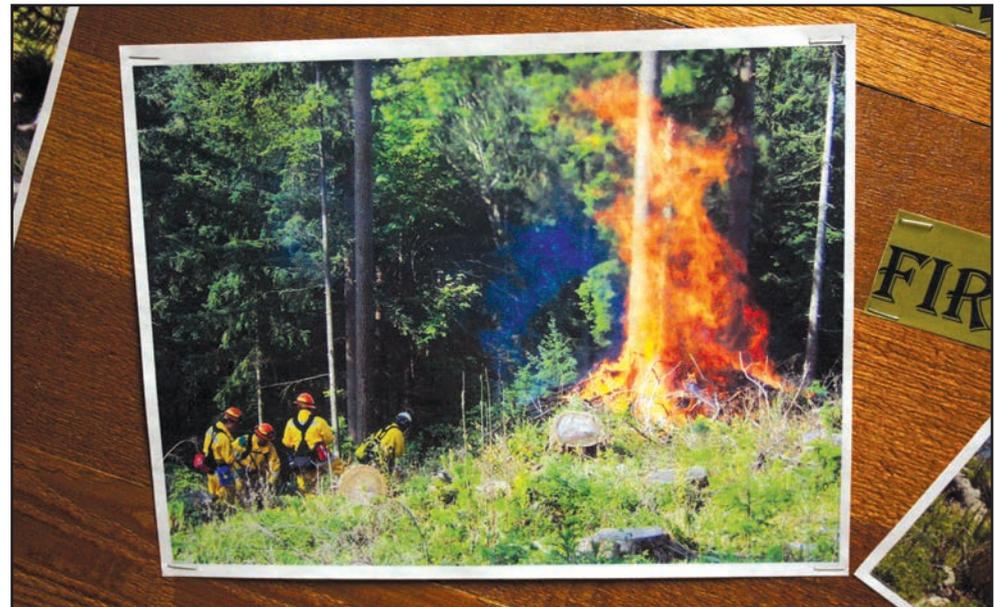
The forests around Green River Community College (GRCC) are perhaps as famous as the school itself, and this can be accredited to the GRCC forestry club and natural resources program. The natural resources program at GRCC is perhaps one of its most successful and popular programs, with countless years of experience and a track record the New York Yankees would be proud of, they have shown themselves to be an integral part of what defines GRCC.

In competition the natural resources department continues to shine as they show themselves to be national competitors against major universities from around the country. "We've beaten Yale for the past six years" says Dick Hopkins, one of the instructors.

The program has actually done much better than that, moving up and down throughout the top 3 ranking natural resources programs in Society of American Foresters, the organization that oversees forestry competition. The GRCC program beat out 22 Community Colleges and 70 universities, taking second to Northern Arizona University last year.

The forestry guys and gals are good for more than just competition; they are also a big part of GRCC. "One of the things people don't realize is that with the fire trucks and students we have here, we really maintain these forests" commented Hopkins. The natural resources program is responsible for maintaining the 4 miles of trails that run behind the school, as well as watching after the 200 acres of forest that surrounds the campus.

When trees land on cars it is the forestry Dept. that's there to clean up, two years ago when a windstorm ravaged the trees on campus it was the good people in natural resources



Lindsey Williams/The Current

On the bottom floor of the SMT, natural resources bulletin board is filled with pictures of projects.

that cleaned up and made the campus ready for students again. Last year on July 2nd a fire was started in the campus forests by a group of kids playing with fireworks and Hopkins along with four of his students had the fire nearly out before the fire department even arrived on scene.

Students in the forestry program have a variety of fields and opportunities available to them after graduation. Tess Pinkney, a student in the natural resources program, is planning on transferring to the forestry department at the University of Idaho and then working as a Park Ranger after graduation.

Paula Kaiser, another student, plans on getting a degree in water quality and plans on going into the water management field or in fish hatcheries. Other jobs available to students in-

clude: park management, forest management, surveying, forest engineering, game wardens, and many others.

Besides maintaining the forests on campus the natural resources department is also actively involved in charity and community service. When Gordy Don, a former GRCC employee, was injured on the job last year, the Natural Resources Dept. stepped in and donated over 3 cords (5 truckloads) of wood to him so he could heat his house. They also helped out in Chehalis last year by bringing firewood to flood victims who were without power.

The Natural Resources department at GRCC is one of the school's shining gems, from competitive splendor to community outreach; the good people in forestry are here to bring nature

GRCC students plan for the holidays in different ways

By: *Sonia Rodriguez*

As we enter the holiday season, many realize that their agenda is full. Between family gatherings, dates and friend requests; there is not much time to even catch a breath in this jolly season. Despite the time restraints, students at GRCC know exactly the holiday diversions they have planned.

Clarence Baber decided he is going to have a laid back holiday season this year.

"Chill with the family, eat food, sleep, not worry about anything and laugh." Baber said.

Bryce Phillips decided to go out of his way this year and help make someone else's holiday a special one, "We'll have a Thanksgiving dinner at Institute for Community Leadership (ICL), write about what we are thankful for and help each other express those feelings."

Phillips has been part of this organization for quite some time now. He says that ICL is about helping others develop leadership skills to help their community like volunteering at a holiday dinner for the less fortunate.

For Christmas Phillips says he will be spending it with family and that as a gift he would like something that is not material-wise- "The war to end would be the best gift...so that my Dad that's in Afghanistan can come back home.

Catherine Munoz and her family are heading for better waters, "My family is planning on renting a big house by the beach for the Christmas weekend and we have a big feast." Munoz exclaimed. Munoz added that they dress their best

and each brings a dish with their best recipe. "It's a lot of fun and we all get to just enjoy each other's company for one weekend." Munoz said.

Bridgett Goforth is aiming to go at it big with her 30-40 family members this year, "We all end up going to Grandma's house, we play our traditional white elephant and we watch football all day." Goforth says that with all those relatives, it's heartwarming because she gets to bond with people she only sees a few times a year. A simple winter jacket is what Goforth wishes for this Christmas.

Janie Jameson's plans are similar only that her hands are full because she has to cook the family dinner for about 12 people. "I cook a great turkey and my specialty is rum punch." A laughing Jameson said. Jameson states that it's a time to relax where they all lounge around in sweats and watch football.

Snow is a great factor in David Poirier's plans, "If it snows, I'm tying my sled to the back of my ATV and I'm heading up to Stevens Path. Poirier explained that it's a tradition for him and his friends to try to throw each other off while the ATV is in motion. "It's a fun-filled thing because you have to be watching out for cops," Poirier said.

Darioun Kazemi-Shirkadeh has an advantage when it comes to snow diversion. Kazemi-Shirkadeh is an employee at Snoqualmie Pass, "As soon as my shift is over, I'll be shredding those hills," Kazemi-Shirkadeh said. He adds that he grabs all his buddies to go snowboarding

and that he likes it around Christmas time because that's when snow hits the slopes.

So whether you plan to have a relaxed or extreme holiday, remember it's a time to capture the true essence of the holiday season with family, friends, joy, love compassion and lots of food, oh, and don't forget football go dawgs!

Did you know?

There are over 50 programs at GRCC

There are 2,387 new students this year

43 percent of students are transfer, 30 are trade, 12 are basic skills, and 12 are "other"

Santa Claus coming to town tomorrow afternoon Annual parade guaranteed to be a smash hit

By: Barbara Thom

What's Christmas without Santa? On December 5th Santa comes to town, in the Auburn Santa Parade. A wonderful experience for people of all ages...The joy of seeing hundreds of children dressed up in their favorite holiday costumes parading down the street of their hometown. Marching bands, dogs, and of course Santa Claus himself are among some of the participants that will round out this year's event.

Martha Koch, International Student Activities Manager at Green River Community College (GRCC) loves seeing the kids as they are just finishing up the parade route.

Koch recalls a favorite memory, "We were trying to convince the children they need to come around the corner to us, they are all excited trying to get their ribbons, the chaos, kids in costumes, dogs in costumes. It's fun."

Koch takes a group of international students to volunteer for the event every year; they have fun she said, hanging out with their friends and usually going shopping afterwards at the local retailers.

When asked about what the students take away from this Koch replied, "They see marching bands...little Brownie troops...dog lovers...a slice of the average American doing the average American thing like a holiday parade, with their family, with their children...An aspect of our culture they don't see on TV."

She finds it all kind of exciting, the big tree,

the caroling, the Mayor speaking, the beginning of the Christmas season.

Second year GRCC student from Indonesia, Jessica Hendrawidjaja is excited to volunteer for a second time at this decades old event. Last year, Hendrawidjaja volunteered to direct the children at the parades end and hand out ribbons.

"They were so excited to get a ribbon" she said. "I stayed to watch the tree lighting, I enjoyed that, it was such a big tree. It was very fun too!" For her best memory, she said "I really like to see children wearing costumes; they are so cute, in a box like a present, wearing a red dress, so it's like Christmas."

Hendrawidjaja said it is fun to do this with friends, she hopes that other students, American students will help too, for fun and to help out the community. Koch agrees, "This is a fun event and everybody benefits from volunteering, it's a great experience."

The City of Auburn has an entire afternoon and evening devoted to getting into the Christmas spirit. Share in the joy as families and friends gather to begin the Christmas countdown. Get caught up in the fun and excitement as the crowd gathers for the parade, community caroling and the infamous tree lighting.

While Auburn's parade is tomorrow, there are several other activities throughout King County that citizens of all areas are encouraged to participate in.



Courtesy Photo/ City of Auburn

Previous Santa Parade in Auburn

EVENT SCHEDULE:

- 2 PM SNACK AND CRAFT @ WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY
- 4 PM PARADE LINEUP (MAIN ST. & E ST. NE)
- 4 PM AUBURN ELITES STREET PERFORMANCE @ CITY HALL
- 4:30 PM PARADE ALONG MAIN ST.
- 5 PM COMMUNITY CAROLING & TREE LIGHTING @ CITY HALL PLAZA
- 6:30 PM MOVIE @ THE AVE, 10 AUBURN AVE.

Over-enrollment gives students a run for their money

By: Jeanette Helms

With college comes many new responsibilities for those who wish to further their education and begin their journey towards fulfilling their aspirations. But here at Green River, it seems one of the greatest obstacles students have to overcome is just getting into class.

Financial aid and parking have plagued students for years, and now, due to massive overpopulation of the school, these are just secondary difficulties to a whole new world of confusion and frustration.

"For me it's been easy. I applied for classes right when my registration access was active, so I didn't have many problems. But my friends are always on waitlists." This is Allison Scripture's second quarter at GRCC. Like Scripture, those who have taken classes here before know how fast classes – especially required classes – fill up.

The new student registration date for winter quarter began November 12.. As of November 18, only one out of seven Math 72 classes offered had no waiting list, and those that did had lists ranging from one person to five.

For Math 97, out of 12 classes offered, only two had no waiting list, and the number of students waiting ranged from zero to seven. Both of these classes are usually required by Compass placement to prepare students for higher-level classes involving mathematics.

In some cases, certain students are given prior registration dates. Teachers can give students special passes to enroll in their class for the next quarter, and there are even some grants that allow students to register early.

Even with earlier registration, a student can be too late to get into a class. One grant recipient was given the chance to enroll as early as November 9th, but found the Medical Terminology class she was going to take was already full.

Like Medical Terminology, there are sev-

eral classes even those who register early in the month for might not get into. Jake Cossio, a Mountainview High School student taking classes at GRCC, registered to take his archery class for fall quarter before summer, three or four months ahead of time.

Though that might seem too early, Cossio got lucky. However, he's finding himself down on his luck registering for winter quarter.

"I tried to register, and all my choices were filled. I only got one PE class." Cossio didn't waste any time; he registered immediately after his registration date. "One of the classes I needed was US History... it was full too."

Sometimes, the excuse 'I can take it next quarter' still doesn't guarantee getting the class, because the offered classes fluctuate from quarter to quarter. English 110 won't be found in the winter quarter catalog, even though it's a college-level writing class that is required for every degree offered at GRCC.

Students who have studied here before and are familiar with these increasing hardships are still struggling to make it into enough classes to remain full-time students, a factor that affects many students' financial aid and insurance.

Aside from a counseling session and an optimistic 'easy'-step-by-step instruction guide, what's going to help new incoming freshman get into classes on time? And with the population of GRCC becoming a fast-growing issue, how many new students will be able to prepare themselves for coming registration dates?

January 6 is the last day to register. But there's nothing guaranteeing those who scan the catalog for classes on that date will find any that don't have a massive waitlist.

For returning students, most have already figured some sort of schedule out, however inconvenient it may be. For new students, at least they have time to get a better luck of the draw next quarter.



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EDITORIALS

The Current Editorial Board is made up of the following journalists: Nicole Swapp, Lindsey Williams, Justin Runquist, Stirling Radliff, Jean-Pierre Garcia, and Samantha Shockley.

Is the financial aid system at Green River as bad as you thought?

Financial aid is a headache no matter who you are, and Green River is no exception to the rule. When The Current originally decided to take a stand against financial aid policies that seemed redundant and wasteful, we were fully prepared to tackle the system like modern day hippies on a mission. Luckily for the Financial Aid office, we had the foresight to look into the matter a bit before going on a rampage. Unfortunately for sensationalist readers, we basically lost all of our hot air after less than five minutes with Mary Edington, the director of financial aid.

Enrollment forms, those evil neon colored papers that financial aid students have to get signed the first day of classes, are not technically required by the state, but they save the school's butt when students drop out. If a student receives their financial aid money and never attends a class, the school is liable to the feds to repay all of that money.

So as long as students attend at least one class, it becomes their bill. Obviously, for those students that are out to cheat the system of a few thousand, this isn't a great policy, but for the rest of the law abiding students, it becomes a benefit to them when they pay taxes someday. For those not familiar with paying Uncle Sam, taxes pay most of your grants.

No going on about how pointless enrollment verification is then. On to the next redundant policy that drives students who don't know the system bonkers every quarter: the supplemental application.

According to Edington, this isn't the complete waste of time we all seem to think, it makes processing applications quite a bit faster and some of the information actually helps students to qualify for more money. Now who doesn't like more money? A few pages of basic information, most people know by heart anyways, is a small price to pay for a few hundred bucks. So again, no rampage against the sys-

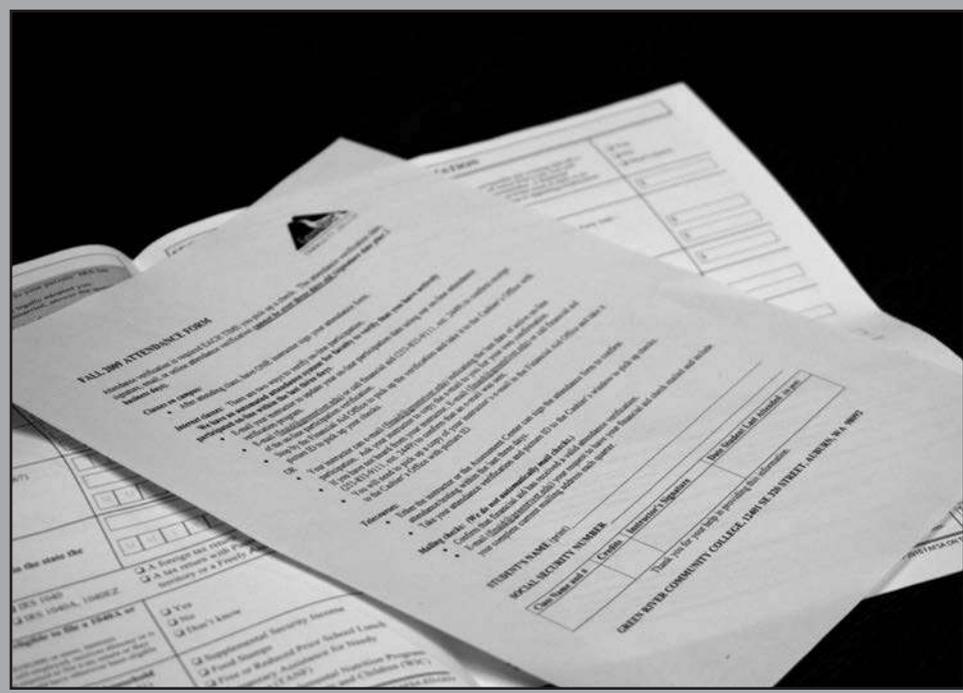
tem there.

Well, okay, a few forms are legit, but that line to get paid couldn't be, right? Yeah...wrong again. Sending checks out in the mail before school actually starts falls under the same liability issue as enrollment forms, only at least now, students have to physically make it to campus at least once.

Mailing checks would also give slackers the opportunity to avoid meeting our lovely squirrel and rabbit population, we wouldn't want that either. Financial Aid realized how much of a pain it can be, so they're working on getting students preloaded debit cards. This should go into effect in a year or two. If you aren't excited about the card idea, there will be other options.

Randomly having to bring in your taxes is the only other complaint we could come up with, and they explained that one too. Darn those efficient people! The federal government randomly audits 1/3 of applications to verify tax information, but there are some ways to guarantee you'll be flagged. Filing FAFSA with estimates of taxes, having an abnormal family amount based on income, filling the form out wrong, having independence status backwards, and a long list of other things will get you the tax verification request. Green River has nothing to do with that, so we can't really blame them.

Sorry if you were looking for some awesome scoop, there just isn't one at the moment. We agree that their policies may be inconvenient and sometimes irritating, but they are all justified and necessary with a school as large as Green River. We should be thankful they let us slide with just one enrollment form; they're actually supposed to require all of our instructors to sign that paper every quarter. Financial Aid cuts us a real break on that one, so say thank you to the cashiers on the 4th of January that you don't have to give them more than one.



Nicole Swapp/The Current

Just a few of the forms students have to fill out in order to get your financial aid check.

The mistreatment of American teachers

Commentary by: Stirling Radliff

The value of education is evident, as it is the thing which motivates social and political progress. The regrettable farce that seems to permeate through America's educational institutions now, is the strong – and seemingly eager – ability to take advantage of its teachers.

Of those who are taken advantage of, adjunct teachers are significantly worse off.

There are roughly 4,200 colleges and universities in America, enrolling some 17 million students. In 1970, only 22% of teachers were part-time/adjunct teachers, 78% were full-time.

In 2005, 46% of teachers were part-time/adjunct teachers, 54% were full-time. The percentage of part-time/adjunct teachers continues to grow faster than full-time.

Instead of investing in quality, full-time/tenured faculty positions, institutions have greatly begun eliminating full-time/tenured positions, and exploiting part-time-adjunct positions and all of its ragged benefits.

A good portion of part-time/adjunct teachers are paid very low wages – often less than \$2,700 per course. For a full load of classes – being three – a part-time/adjunct teacher would only be paid \$8,100 per quarter; or around \$32,400 per school year.

This is variably low compared to full-time/tenured teachers who often make twice as much; and is steeping closer to poverty-level wages.

"When we talk about part-time faculty, we are actually talking about a very diverse group of people," said Phil Jack, President of the United Faculty of Green River.

"[At] Green River, we refer to these faculty members as 'adjunct faculty' because many actually teach more than a full-time load by working for several different colleges."

Before gaining full-time status, Phil Jack, like many other teachers, needed to work more than a full-time load just to earn "a fraction of a crappy wage."

In one quarter, he taught a morning class at Lake Washington Technical College, two classes in Everett Community College, and evening classes here at Green River.

For those who want to retire, it is often the case that teachers will continue teaching in order to keep their benefits – which are usually few if any. In Washington, faculty members are eligible for benefits as long as they average 50% of a full load.

The chaos and "job insecurity" these teachers deal with makes for the diminishment of what would be "quality education."

What these teachers are left with is little time to create good class programs, and very little amounts of money to build what would otherwise be a comfortable life.

Ideally, the thing for Green River to do, as for any school, is to uniformly engage in "equal pay for equal work," to ensure fair wages for all teachers.

"This [equal pay for equal work] should not only include increased pay per class, but should also include opportunities to participate in the types of 'out-of-class' responsibilities that full-time faculty engage in – such as advising, committee work, and shared governance," said Jack.

Because these teachers have such a "limited status," their abilities to affect their given schools, and the students therein, are gravely

diminished.

It should be made clear, though, that the quality of the teachers teaching isn't in question so much as the resources they are given to teach with.

"Not only do many of our part-time faculty members teach on multiple campuses, but they also lack things like offices," said Jack.

Because these faculty members lack even the most essential things teachers should have – like offices – the relationship between them and their students become choked and frazzled, if not nonexistent.

"Just today," said Jack, "I walked through our faculty lounge area and saw two adjunct faculty members trying to have private conversations with their students – in the same room with people coming in and out."

I imagine this happens quite often, as it has happened to me before: people "coming in and out" of a lounge, or only having time to talk to a teacher on the way to his/her other classes across campus, or to meet up with him/her at a distant prearranged date...

This isn't the way the educational system should work.

C.B. Neblette wrote, "The critical factor is not class but rather the nature of the teaching as it affects learning."

If we students want a quality education, we, like the administrators of our schools, need to make sure that our teachers have the necessary and quality resources at their disposal to accurately and graciously give us our lively lessons – the knowledge to better understand the world, and the methods for which we can proceed from it.

In order to breed into a school system where teachers have more power to make decisions in their schools, and to more easily interact with their students, and to let them teach better quality lessons, schools need to hire more full-time/tenured teachers.

The Current Editorial Policy

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

Letters to the Editor

We encourage all students and staff to have their voices heard. The Current will publish **letters to the editor**, provided they are signed, include the author's name, and submitted in a timely manner. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. Letters should be sent to the-current@greenriver.edu. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of length, libel, or propriety. All letters become the property of The Current.

The importance of organ donation

By: Randall Miller

On March 23rd, 2003, Michael Gerard Miller attempted suicide. Four days later Miller died at Mary Bridges Children's Hospital. He was born June 24th, 1988.

By all accounts Miller was loved and respected. Time and again he was found acting the part of a good Samaritan for his love of helping people.

Unfortunately, the one person he couldn't help was himself.

Through all the tragedy and grief, Suzanne Smith-Miller and Michael Patrick Miller, his parents, decided to do what their son would have wanted: to donate his organs to Donate Life Today with the hopes that they be given to people who have been desperately waiting for a donor.

Most of the time, organ donation is an avoided topic.

Some of the many reasons people try to avoid this topic are because of spiritual beliefs, or, plainly, because of the painful feelings that

come with talking about death.

Of course, these are decisions that nobody wants to make – especially for themselves – but in truth, organ donation is vitally important to those that desperately need them.

Statistics provided by Donate Life Today show that 18 people die each day waiting for a transplant of some major organ that would otherwise save their lives.

There are over 100,000 people currently on the national waiting list for organ, eye and tissue transplants.

Donate Life Today says that one organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people per day, and a tissue and eye donor may enhance the lives of more than 50 individuals per day.

The statement below is an official press release from Donate Life Today talking about their plans for the Rose Parade and how they will honor the donors who so selflessly helped in combating the shortage of donors here in the Pacific Northwest and in states like Montana, Idaho, Oregon and parts of California.

LOCAL ORGAN DONOR CHOSEN TO BE FEATURED IN WORLD-REKNOWN ROSE PARADE

14-Year-Old Lake Tapps Boy Honored For the Gifts of Life He Gave to 5 People

SEATTLE, WA. – (November 1, 2009) – Michael Gerard (MG) Miller was an energetic 14-year-old young man from Lake Tapps. He loved to snowboard and help others. Known as a "good samaritan", it is no surprise that in his untimely passing he saved the lives of 5 other people through the donation of 6 organs.

MG's unselfish final act will be honored at the famed Rose Parade on January 1st in Pasadena, California as a "floragraph" bearing his photo makes its way along the parade route as part of the Donate Life America Rose Parade Float, titled "New Life Rises".

"To have MG and his family represented in the Rose Parade is an honor for us," says Megan Erwin, Executive Director at Donate Life Today. "We hope that the decision they made and the way they honor MG's life will inspire others as it does all of us."

Chosen from hundreds of other candidates, MG's selfless gift will make him one of the featured floragraphs on the famed Donate Life America float.

His parents Mike and Suzanne, and brother Randall, will travel to Pasadena twice-- first in December, to decorate the floragraph personally, and again to watch the parade from the grandstands on January 1st, along with millions of other television watchers from around the world.

MG loved to snowboard, play basketball, play videogames, and listen to music. He was a typical child, growing up with curiosities for trains, dinosaurs and science fiction movies. He had a passion for life, loved to travel anywhere, and had a great sense of humor. His friends meant the world to him; he loved spending time with them.

Turning into a young man, his love of helping people led him to tutor reading classes at Lake Tapps Elementary School, and often took time to encourage younger kids downhill on the ski slope. As his dad said, "his capacity for giving was growing to be as big as his heart."

MG was cared for by the staff at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital in Tacoma. MG donated both kidneys, his liver, lungs, and heart to five different recipients. Suzanne knew right away that MG - the "good samaritan" - would have wanted to be a donor and she made this known to the staff at Mary Bridge.

"We are so thankful to the amazing staff at Mary Bridge," said Suzanne, MG's mother. "They supported us every step of the way through the most difficult time. Just knowing some good has come out of the loss of our son has brought us great comfort," she added.

Donate Life America creates this float in honor of the gift of life and those who give it. This year's float, titled "New Life Rises," represents when organ, eye and tissue donors save and heal lives, New Life Rises to give hope to individuals, families and communities in need.

It will honor 76 deceased organ, eye and tissue donors and include 24 float riders. More information is at www.donatelifefloat.org.

The Season of Giving is a time to "Give Thanks, Give Life". In November and December, we honor and celebrate the gifts passed to others through organ, eye, and tissue donation each year. As family and friends seek to find that perfect gift for each other, the easiest, least expensive and most meaningful gift sits in front of us all: the gift of life.

There are more than 100,000 people on the national transplant waiting list. 18 people die each day waiting for transplants. Locally, over 1,600 people are waiting and not all of them will live to see the transplant they need. In this time of giving, Donate Life Today encourages everyone to register their wishes at www.DonateLifeToday.com and give the greatest gift of all.

...

Editor's note: The press release above features Randall Miller's brother, Randall Miller is a reporter for The Current.

What you don't know might just kill you

Weighing the risks of the vaccine versus the swine flu itself

Commentary by: Nicole Palmer

The swine flu has had the world in a panic since it was first detected in Mexico during March of this year.

It suddenly became very common to see people wearing masks, seeing "wash your hands" signs, and people using hand sanitizer. They were starting to take every precaution to remain germ-free.

In October, the swine flu vaccination became available in the United States.

The groups recommended to first take the shot, according to the Center of Disease control and Prevention are "pregnant women, people who live with or care for children younger than six months of age, health care and emergency medical services personnel, persons between the ages of six months and 24 years old, and people ages of 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for 2009 H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems."

There has been some concern among the public about whether or not the ingredients in the swine flu vaccination are harmful to the body.

In 1976 there was a swine flu outbreak which, according to the World Health Organization "is most remembered for the mass immunization that it prompted in the United States. The strain itself killed one person and hospitalized 13.

However, side-effects from the vaccine caused 500 cases of Guillain-Barre syndrome and 25 deaths." Guillain-Barre syndrome causes paralysis and even death in some cases.

Some of the potentially scary ingredients included in the swine flu vaccine are: thiomersal (a mercury compound), formaldehyde, squalene (a shark liver oil), and aluminum. Each ingredient has its own daunting side effects.

Thiomersal has been linked to cases of autism, and other developmental disorders.

Squalene may cause Gulf War Syndrome, autism, lupus, and arthritis.

The vaccine is made from eggs, so people with an allergy to eggs cannot take it.

However, the biggest fear of the shot is the possibility of developing Guillain-Barre syndrome, as it can cause the most serious damage of all its side effects.

The amount of these ingredients varies from country to country, and also from the manufacturer who produced the shot.

Some of the shots contain less mercury than you would find in a fish sandwich, but some contain twice as much.

Anyone can ask his or her doctor which manufacturer they received their shot from and receive a list of its ingredients.

Most of the fear of this vaccine can be linked back to the deaths in 1976. However, the vaccine now is different from the ones used back then. It has now gone through more testing, and uses less harmful ingredients.

It is up to each person to weigh the pros and cons of the vaccine and to decide for themselves whether to take the shot or not.

Negative side effects are of course possible, but are they worse than the illness itself?

With any other illness, personal hygiene is always of the highest importance. If you are making sure that you wash your hands, cover your coughs, and try not to touch your face – is it necessary to have a vaccine?

I believe the side effects of the shot are too much of a risk as opposed to having the flu, and I don't believe that the vaccine has been tested thoroughly enough.

If you are thinking about taking the swine flu vaccine, remember to be careful.

Ask your doctors for the list of ingredients and how much of each is used in the shot.

Remember that there are many side effects; not only things like dizziness and nausea, but also paralysis and death.

Keep this in mind and decide for yourself which is more of a risk – side effects of the vaccine, or actually getting the swine flu this holiday season.



A patient receiving the H1N1 vaccine.

Courtesy Photo/weblogs.baltimoresun.com

America's prison system is definitely not functioning well

Commentary by: *Kaitlin Stoufer*

Our correction system is broken. Many people never see or think about it because they have no direct contact with it. But it's time to face the facts about one of the most messed up systems in America, and see what we can do to fix it.

Through the complex filtering process of the so-called "justice system," most criminals never face the actual prison system.

Take a model of this filter process for example: out of 1,000 serious crimes, 500 go unreported. This is a scary thing; it's what the officials like to call the "dark figure of crime."

Then out of those 500 cases reported, only 100 of them are actually solved.

Wow!

This means that the criminals behind 400 of every 500 crimes are still roaming the streets causing trouble.

That leaves 100 people arrested. Out of those, 65 are adults and 35 are juveniles. When it comes to the adult cases, 30 of them are dropped and 35 accepted to go to trial. Five of these people will jump their bond and leave – thirty going on to trial.

Out of those thirty, three will be acquitted, 23 will plead guilty and four will plead innocent but found guilty.

Of the 27 adults sentenced, nine of them will be placed on probation and 18 of them will be incarcerated.

Of the 35 juveniles, 30 of them will be put on probation or have their cases dismissed with a mere five of them incarcerated.

How does this happen?

We went from having roughly 1,000 criminals to only having 23 of them incarcerated.

One of the main reasons our correctional system is so messed up is because it doesn't really correct the problem. It basically houses a crimi-

nal for their sentence and then lets them back out into the public, often times with no money or skills.

That makes it almost impossible for a criminal to go into a respectable life when all they have known in prison is to take care of themselves at any cost.

Even for the inmates who are chosen to get to work while serving their sentence – this doesn't guarantee an easier reentry into society.

Their wages are typically broken down like this: 30 percent is their net earning; 20 percent goes toward their legal financial obligations; 5 percent goes to crime victim compensation; 15 percent is put toward the cost of their incarceration; 10 percent goes into mandatory savings; and 20 percent is given to the debts owed to correction.

This means that only 10 percent of the inmate's already small wages will actually be accessible to them.

Usually this is one of the reasons that the reentry rate is so high, when released an offender has nowhere to turn but back to crime.

Ron Riley, a Criminal Justice teacher at Green River, sums up why our correctional system is dysfunctional. He says, "Jails... constitute the single greatest liability for sheriffs and police chiefs, but generally receive the least amount of attention and budget."

The Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) says that 97% of all incarcerated offenders return to local communities. "...these early release inmates typically lack the life skills and education to not become recidivists", says Riley.

Overpopulation is an obvious problem. Riley adds, "The problems stem from a combination of politicians running on a get-tough-on-crime platform, then steadfastly refusing to fund the institutions or consider alternatives to incarcer-

ation for some offenders... and the public who maintain a 'not in my backyard' attitude toward prisons."

We have 15 correctional facilities in Washington, and according to the DOC there are 18,627 people in these facilities. The capacity is only 16,756. That puts the total confinement percent of capacity at 111 percent.

Riley says, "The biggest problem in the prison system, currently, is a combination of overcrowding and a substantial lack of reentry training for the inmates."

Our state is looking into the possibility of releasing a large number of felons who have been deemed non-violent.

This sounds like a horrible idea to me.

Yes, it would help with our overpopulation problems but then we are releasing criminals

who need to rethink their lives. And why would we have laws if the people who break them are simply released?

It is a bad idea to release felons on the grounds of decreasing prison population size because it will show that people can break the law and easily get away with it.

Letting these inmates go will cause a general disregard to the law; people will not take the laws seriously unless there is a consequence for breaking them.

Riley sums up our correctional system in one statement: "We refer to prisons as correctional facilities but we do not correct anything." He is right.

It's time to heal the wounds that have been ignored for so long; it's time to rethink our broken prison system.



Courtesy Photo/blog.pennlive.com

Two security guards monitor a federal prison.

Everything but marriage is not enough

Commentary by: *Kiri Burrige*

Washington State recently became the first state to approve gay rights by direct will of the people, rather than a court or legislature. Referendum 71 was nicknamed "everything but marriage," because it means just that: domestic partnerships are granted the same rights as married couples, except they are not legitimately married.

Why is it that we as a state grant gay couples all of the rights as straight married couples, but still do not allow them to be man and man or woman and woman?

People are people regardless of their sexual orientation and I still honestly don't understand why it's anyone's business as to who is allowed to get married.

During the campaign, parties against passing Referendum 71 sought for ridiculous commercials targeting parents of young children.

One commercial told a story of a second grade teacher reading a book to her students about a "different kind of relationship." The ending of the commercial asked, "Would you want your children learning about this in school?"

It's not necessarily a school's job to educate students about partnerships; that's the parent's job.

Unfortunately, some children are taught that being gay is morally wrong and a sin, which makes them grow-up to impress these same ideals onto their own children.

Referendum 71 protects lesbian and gay

couples who are in committed relationships by enabling them to take care of critically ill partners without being fired; cover a partner in family health insurance; and by making sure hard earned pension and death benefits protect children when a parent dies.

Amanda Daily, a GRCC student, thought that since Referendum 71 had passed it would be one step "closer to achieving equality amongst the world."

Equality amongst the world is far from reality but Washington has definitely taken a huge step in the right direction, especially for the gay community.

Josh Gardner, another GRCC student, thought that passing Referendum 71 wouldn't make a difference in anyone's opinion of the gay community because "they already have a pre-set decision on how they view gay and lesbians, and it won't change their opinions even if they are able to have the same rights as a legitimate married couple."

At GRCC, the Gay/Straight Alliance strives to create equality and understanding amongst both gay and straight students hoping to shorten the gap and widen the acceptance of each other.

Although various groups supporting the rights of gay marriage are in effect, there will now and always be people who refuse to accept gay couples as legitimate couples.

The only thing we can do is educate people and hope that they will accept them for who they are – regular people.

News

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TRiO helps first-generation college students

Introducing TRiO, the program that's always there to help

By: Kristine Littleskare & Lindsey Williams

TRiO is a federally funded program designed to assist first generation and special needs students succeed in college. Any student whose parents did not receive a Bachelors degree is considered a first generation student, and can apply to TRiO.

While statistics show that about 12% of students attending a community college graduate within three years, it is cut in half for first generation students. Not having parents who have gone through the mazes of financial aid and choosing courses puts first generation students at a distinct disadvantage, and TRiO is here to help.

JoAnne Martin, the Director of TRiO, excitedly expressed, "Out of students attending the TRiO program [at Green River], 25% graduate within three years." That is more than double the average graduate rate, and its all thanks to the dedicated staff in TRiO.

Walking in the door of Student Services, workstudy students are usually catching up on homework or doing projects at the front desk. They serve as the first point of contact for TRiO and take their jobs very seriously, but with a smile. This quarter, there have been multiple front desk faces, next quarter may bring even more.

Next to Martin's office is Annalee Dunn's. Dunn is the advisor in charge of hiring work-

study students, her quick wit and even quicker smile are a common sight at TRiO everyday. Dunn is also taking a math class this year, so one might see her there as well. With a stash of delicious mints right inside her door, students pop in and out all day.

Christine Miller, another advisor for TRiO, handles the trips to various universities for TRiO students, and she is a key leader in getting workshops and activities together for not only her advisees, but for all TRiO students who can make it.

The three ladies are always happy to answer questions, be they personal or school related, and its a rare sight to see a student leave TRiO offices without a smile on their face and a goal in their heart.

These women inspire students to beat the odds, to reach higher than they ever thought possible, and to have fun in the process. While TRiO only has about 200 openings at Green River, students are encouraged to apply. First generation students are not the only people that TRiO can help, in fact, there are several ways that a student can qualify for the more specialized and personal advising that TRiO offers students.

Nickolson has a favorite quote, "Not one drop of my self-worth depends on your opinion of me," by Quincy Jones. She says, "Because I know who I am, Finally! It took a long time to get there, and TRiO helped."

For students interested in joining the pro-

gram, TRiO is located in teh LSC next door to Diversity and MultiCultural Affairs, and they are always happy to meet a prospective new TRiO student.

You're eligible for TRiO if:

- ✓ Your mother or father has not earned a four-year degree
- ✓ You Qualify for low-income status
- ✓ You have a disability

CONTACT TRiO at:

- ✓ 253-833-9111, ext. 2655
- ✓ Stop by the LSC room 273 to talk about joining TRiO or pick up an application

New Years Day is on the way

Students share their plans for the holiday

By: Jessica Decker & Jeanette Helms

As the end of the quarter approaches, people begin to lose focus at the thought of winter break and all its events. One of the most exciting holidays that take place during the break is New Year's Day.

There are a lot of different ways in which people celebrate New Year's; some people, like 2nd year Green River student Andres Fernandez, just wants to spend time with their family and friends, while others prefer to go out partying and admiring the traditional firework shows. On a day like New Year's, you can find a great party almost anywhere - even in the middle of the street, where the excitement and energy in the air repel the cold.

The most famous and well-visited show happening in this area is the fireworks display at the Space Needle in Seattle. With more than 2000 pyrotechnic effects, it has attracted nation-wide news and gets almost half a million real-life viewers annually, many of whom actually reserve hotel rooms just to see it. The show can be seen from miles away, and there are several popular watching spots, like off the docks at Bell Front. Student Nathan Dvorack is already prepared to spend the evening having a "ridiculous amount of fun" in the city.

For those who choose to stay indoors, getting together with family and friends, enjoying a feast of good-luck' foods (like black-eyed peas and collard greens), and counting down to the stroke of midnight is more than enough fun. Many religious communities celebrate together, often in events hosted by church organizations or clubs. "Last New Year's Eve I went to a New Year's dance for our church," commented Amanda Sainati, another 2nd year GR student. "To welcome the year 2010, I plan on spending the night with a ton of my friends. Most of them are going to be graduating high school, so this next year is going to be a year of celebrations for them."

Whether or not students can celebrate in the way that they did last year, New Year's Eve has been a long time tradition of excitement and fun. Bringing in the year 2010 will prove to be quite eventful as the world completes its first full decade in the 21st century.

Trips on a bus

By: Remco Zwetsloot

A search for adventure and... anything interesting, really. Take 4.

I've been asked if I even like anything about the US, which surprised me because I don't think it is that bad here. Because of course I like you guys! I love you actually. And to express that, I shall refrain from being too cynical. Or attempt to, at least.

Destination: Covington. Companion: Stirling Radliff. Aim: harass friend who works at Home Depot. Mistake: We didn't realize he was working in Renton.

For the sake of positivity we got a ride instead of taking the bus. So sadly, no nipple-scooper this time, but it was four times as fast so you don't see me complaining!

First stop: Cutter's Point, where we played a good game of chess with an incredibly incomplete set of pieces. I won, obviously. Next came a chance for me to be positive: lunch at Red Robin. Since their burgers are way overpriced (but awesome and delicious and just generally owning, I'm sure...) I ordered the tortilla chicken soup. Since I promised not to be cynical, I'll just be factual: it tasted just as terrible as it looked.

After the last uneventful bus trip I was eager for adventure so me and my companion set out to find an interesting or intriguing person, preferably homeless as they always have so much to say. Not really being familiar with the area, we just walked down the road. Then it started raining. We fled into a gas station where I purchased the most epic item ever to be sold: a pen... with a nail clipper on it... great, heck yes it is! So worth the 5 dollars it cost. However, it was still not adventurous, so it was time for rebel mode.

There was another gas station across the street, and while goody two-shoes Stirling was seeing a man about a dog... I mugged the store and narrowly escaped with my loot: a tootsie roll. Adrenaline still pumping and companion again at my side, we jumped over the next fence we saw, charmingly if I may say so myself, instead of just walking through the gate. Modern-day Che Guavara's? I think so.

Despite all this excitement, we still hadn't found our much-desired homeless person! Then, as if God had read our minds, we saw a Walmart. We went in with high hopes, looking forward to engaging in conversation with such a weathered member of society, but then, it appeared, this Walmart had no greeters. So, still no homeless people for us.

Instead, we went Christmas shopping. It was great. Did you know Walmart has a pretty big collection of erotic novelettes? I didn't. But the old men that were loitering around there every time we walked by did.

Apparently the buses were not amused by our sneaky car ride to Covington and proceeded to punish us by making us wait 70 minutes in the freezing cold for the 168 to Kent Station. After finally arriving, we hopped on the 180 to Auburn Station and upon arrival found out that we had missed the last bus to Green River by 3 minutes. We had to get a cab home, where we finally arrived at 1 AM after being on the road for nearly 4 hours. I love American public transportation. Love it.



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The five best ways to waste your time

By: Jordan Barnes

I consider myself a hard working individual. In fact I study frequently, and take pride in achieving excellent grades. But even I notice I have too much time on my hands, especially during school.

Majority of the time, while sitting in class, students always ask what it is I'm actually doing. I simply tell them "I'm wasting time." This might sound fairly easy, but it's actually a sophisticated art form. What's even better is that there are a variety of ways to waste time. After my own personal experience, years of schooling, and personal interviews, I've come to the conclusion that the art of wasting time is a key element to a student's education. So sit down, free your mind, and allow me to introduce you to this phenomenon sweeping schools across the country.

Time wasting technique No. 5 - Find a classmate to talk to:

This one is obvious, and can be an effective time-waster. Find a fellow classmate near to you, perhaps one you can hold a decent conversation with. Ideally, small talk about your classes' initial assignment is a good place to start. But, by periods end, I can guarantee you will have strayed away your previous conversation to something about the Lakers chances of winning back-to-back championships or how bad you felt for John because Annie had an affair with Steve on Days of Our Lives. Someone relate-able like this can make 60 minutes seem like six. If you do this during class, you deserve a B and a pat on the back for your time-wasting ability.

Time wasting technique No. 4 - Use your phone and text:

If your teacher is the strong and silent type, then do exactly what he/she likes and just chat it up...silently. Not all classes are going to have likeable people in them, so why not use the technology in your left front jean pocket and talk to your buddy. Doing this can be costly as teachers might take your phone or possibly ask you to leave, but in the middle of their boring lecture on grasshoppers and their effect on society, it might be worth it. Texting will easily earn you a B+ on the time-wasting grading scale.

Time wasting technique No. 3 - Read a book: Some people might think, "Wait, since when

has reading been a waste of time?" It's definitely a waste of time if instead of learning about poly and binomials; you're reading about Hogwarts or Frodo. Find an enticing book, get lost in it, and let the time get to wasting.

According to 35-year-old teacher, at Orting High School, Misty Peterson, "A lot of our students here are reading during my class. I don't get too upset, because I used to do it myself". Amazing, simply amazing. Even teachers are getting into the art of wasting time. If you can become the bookworm nerd during class, you deserve an A- in time-wasting 101.

Time wasting technique No. 2 - Use the Internet:

Ahhh... the World Wide Web. We all use it when we're bored, and even when we're not we find ourselves harvesting pineapples on Farmville.com or checking our slumbering stocks on CNN. If we can use the Internet in our free time, why not use it when we want to waste it?

With social networking giants such as Myspace and Facebook, and an array of random web game and humor sites, there is nothing more entertaining than lounging in front of the computer.

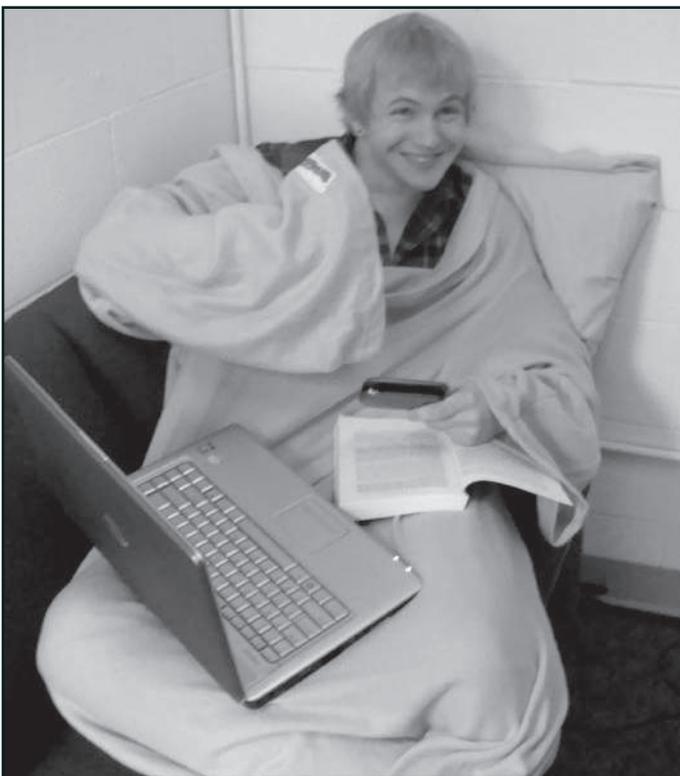
"I'm constantly on Facebook during class, I practically live on the website bro." This comment coming from up and coming running start student 18-year-old, Grant Hathaway.

Personally, if you work as hard as I do, I suggest Youtubeing it up. At this website you can watch countless morons trip and fall. Just make sure not to LOL (laugh out loud) while earning a solid A for wasting time.

Time wasting technique No. 1 - Take a nap:

According to psychologists Amy R. Wolfson, PhD, of the College of the Holy Cross, and Mary A. Carskadon, PhD, of Brown University Medical School, 26 percent of high school and college students sleep less than 6.5 hours of sleep a night. After studying hard all day and night, why not make up an extra half hour? You have nothing else to do anyways. Obviously sleeping makes time fly by, so try it during class and hope the teacher doesn't catch you. If you can successfully cut logs and count sheep during class, you get an A+ and a big wet cheek full of drool. You are now a professional time-waster, take this in stride and keep on improving.

So there you have it, the top 5 time-wasting techniques. Use them wisely, but only if all your work is already finished... yeah right.



Student at Green River, Ted Hanrahan, wastes his time by:

☒ **Surfing the web for snazzy new kicks** ☒☒☒

☒ **Reading the latest copy of New Moon**

☒ **Texting his bestest bud Ryan West**

☒ **and taking a mini nap!**

Judging by our friend Ted's grades this quarter, maybe he should have been studying instead!

photo by Samantha Shockley

Nominate your own Golden Gator

Green River Foundation tries to help keep the college's history alive

By: Remco Zwetsloot

Founded in 1975 to help students who didn't qualify for state support, the Green River Foundation is still going strong. It's mission was to meet the needs of students who didn't qualify for state support but did need a scholarship, and they have managed to do so to this day, offering 169 scholarships the past academic year.

In winter and fall quarter of 2010, the Foundation is celebrating their 45th anniversary by looking for, and honoring, our Golden Gators: teachers, students, or anyone else affiliated with the college with inspiring stories about the school.

Golden Gators are 'everyday heroes'; their story doesn't have to involve saving a little cat from a burning building. What matters is what they brought to the school and how that affected their fellow students and faculty.

Take nominee Mr. Harold Ekern for example, who taught at this school in the 70's: he was nominated by one of his former students, Henry H. Peyton, who still remembers how Ekern affected him in college: "He was a great source of information and an inspiration on both the academic and personal sides. He led by example and always demonstrated an honest dedication to help each student succeed in life." Through the years, he expressed how he will always owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Ekern.

Stories like that are what the Green River Foundation is looking for in order to help them "celebrate Green River's 45th Anniversary in a

meaningful way that reminds us of what makes this place special," said development specialist Matt Swenson. "It would be

Nominating a Golden Gator takes only a few minutes, and it's the perfect chance to show appreciation for someone who really made that extra effort. Be sure to describe how the person you nominate affected you/Green River. Try to include as much information on your nominee as you can. Nominations can be in by individuals or groups and they can be anonymous.

Whether you're an English professor with a certain knack for the written word, or a freshman who dreads essays, submissions can come from anyone. Formal or informal, short or long, the Foundation wants to hear who touched you and/or the school in general and how.

More information on the Foundation and the Golden Gators is available on the school homepage, and updates on this event can also be found on our website, www.thecurrentonline.net.

How to submit your nomination:

* E-mail: Mswenson@greenriver.edu *

* Facebook: [Green River Foundation](https://www.facebook.com/GreenRiverFoundation) *

* Snail mail: 12401 SE 320th Street, Auburn, WA, 98092, Attn: Matthew Swenson *

* Phone: (253) 288 3346 *

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Samantha Shockley/The Current
Neesha Patel teaching her 9am math class in the SMT at Green River Community College

Teacher Spotlight: Neesha Patel

By: Rebekah Quinn

Math. The Very word strikes fear in the hearts of students everywhere. The thought of fractions have the power to cause nightmares. Many students dread having to take the class, and wonder why anyone would want to teach the fearful subject.

Neesha Patel has been teaching at Green River for nine years. Teaching math. Her outlook on math is completely different from many, "It's not just about teaching math," she explains, "it's about removing these barriers of fear that are associated with the subject." Her bright opinion about math is what makes her such a strong and compassionate individual, "Math isn't black and white, it's not right or wrong, there are all these gray areas to how you can approach it."

Prior to teaching Patel was a systems analyst and a math tutor at Renton Technical College, Highline community College and in the Kent School District. The steps that led her to teaching aren't at all typical. She recalls that her life was going in a completely different direction when she recognized all these incidental steps that kept pointing her towards teaching.

While working at Renton Tech Patel realized her love for teaching. She felt that the seed of teaching was planted in her after she had been tutoring a student who

had failed the GED test many times. She remembers the day as if it was yesterday, "I walked into the room and he came up to me with a big grin on his face, he had his arm outstretched to shake my hand and he told me he had passed his GED."

Every day in Patel's classroom students' opinions about math can be changed, their eyes opened to the bigger picture through her dedication and passion for teaching. "There are times when you really are able to transform a student, and that is why I love teaching," Neesha Patel explains.

When asked about her experience at GRCC Patel said sincerely, "Students at Green River aren't typical students. They're going to school a lot of them full time. They work, sometimes some of them work two jobs, they have small kids and they are juggling all these things around but yet they are so motivated. It's just lovely teaching students like that."

The concept of juggling life also applies to Neesha Patel. In the spring Patel will graduate from the University of Washington with her masters in teaching. She remarked that in the last four years she really decided that she loved what she did, and she wanted to make that commitment.

To go from being a systems analyst to becoming a teacher is very unique. Neesha Patel is an example for everyone, find out what your passion is and run with it.

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By: Samantha Shockley

It's the Holiday Season, in our hearts, and on the radio, in stores, and definitely in our wallets. It's a time when the weather is crisp; slush falls from the sky and strays to street corners. The scent of pine and cinnamon fill the air. Everything seems to revolve around getting the best gifts for loved ones, but what slips the minds of many are the unfortunate families and children that go without food or gifts this time of year. It's the season of giving, so let's give back and help people in need. Whether its gifts, money, or time, every generous bit helps.

Make a child's dream come true by contributing to the Make a Wish Foundation:
<http://www.wish.org/help/donate> - Make a Wish Foundation



Provide new unwrapped toys for needy children during December:
<http://www.toysfortots.org/> - Marine Toys for Tots Foundation



Give the gift of any usable household item; donate money online, over the phone, or by mail; volunteer your time:
<http://www.vinemapleplace.org/> - Vine Maple Place



Donate money, gifts or time serving and helping homeless families this cold winter season:
<http://www.ugm.org/> - Union Gospel Mission in Seattle



Something much better than penance

The Wednesday night poetry slam at the Spitfire is a great experience

By: Stephen Dufendach

Every Wednesday night at a restaurant called the Spitfire in Belltown, there's a very special event known as a poetry slam. Though the term isn't one that's commonly understood, slams have become a very exciting phenomenon in poetry over the last three decades. In short, it's a live contest between poets.

Evening gatherings at the Spitfire are broken up into three sections: an open mic, a featured guest, and then the slam. On the night of November 18th, like usual, the first couple hours were devoted to the newcomers and guest, and then it came time for the competition.

During this final part, about five poets took turns delivering their work, and all of them were visibly overflowing with determination and love of their craft. When the signs were held up after each segment, just about everyone got between a 7.5 and a 10. It wasn't really about the points, at least it didn't seem so. Every routine was straight from the gut, ridiculously more authentic than just about any other performance you could witness, and ranged from humanitarian political venom to damnings of irredeemable memories.

Brad Johnson, an English professor at Green River who is himself a poet, explains what exactly a slam is.

"Slam poetry is a performance art, it's a spoken word, where people are sharing in front of a group this thematic idea they come up with — and these gestures and intonation and inflection. They're trying to tell a story through very vivid, colorful language, that can be very aggressive, very soft-spoken, very in your face. It has attitude, has passion — and has to be done live."

He goes on to explain that crowd reactions are very important, because the performers feed off of the energy they get from their audience.

"It's an event where anybody and everybody is welcome to come and bring an idea, and share a poem. It's usually between two and four minutes, and then you have a panel who judges them based on creativity, imagery, message, inflection, tone, all those kinds of things, and assesses who they like. And they keep honing that group down, to two or three who go on to the next round. It's a national competition, ultimately.

"Then there are also open mic nights, where someone can come and throw down their lyrics and see what people think of it."

Leading up to the actual slam, there was quite a bit of talent at the open mic also.

The first poet to take the stage went by the

name of Sunny. His poem sped through dozens of quirky little architectures of thought, it demanded to be hung onto tightly from start to finish. He mentioned later that he had written only the day before and that this was his first time reading on stage. Many lines of it began



Ranjii Eddins performing on stage at the Spitfire.

with "this poem is", followed by some of the most unconventional and mind-opening kinds of descriptions of the emotions one feels in solitude. The only thing that really repeated in his poem was the assertion that "this is not a love poem, but it has love in it".

The next poet went by the name Alive with Skies. He rapped and recited both at once, and had a style that both confronted the audience and confided with them. His tone and rhythm would jerk in different directions as he mo-

tioned with his body; a line would pry distrustfully at the sentiments of the line before; a line after that would half forgive and half reject the world and himself. More than even his poetry itself, which had some really vicious wordplay, his natural swagger and sense of playful conflict

rhythm and fury of live poetry.

And finally, there was the featured poet of the night. He was a young blonde man by the name of Steven Wilbur. He read quite a few poems, beginning with a list of one-liners that replaced the heart with the digestive system as a source of metaphors for love. He had very good historical and biological reasons for this, and his ideas got the most laughs of the night. Then he went on to all kinds of other topics and forms — unrequited love that was no less joyful for being unrequited; the curious abstractness of everyday life; the spiritual implications of a childhood ski injury. His poetry was very fresh, far beyond sincere, had so many dynamic couplings of words one would never think to place beside each other, that created very unique effects. He was on a nationwide tour — back in his hometown of Seattle for the time being — promoting his first chapbook, which he was selling for an optional fee.

There was something very, for lack of a better word, existential about the whole experience. It was a dark room, the most intimate of situations and settings, and just one vivid spotlight where these figures stood. They were spewing the most explosive, Dionysian sorts of thoughts — and it just had this sense of finality, like the audience was witnessing a surreal moment lost in the depths of the city at night, a moment that would never happen again, that had so much bizarre charisma radiating from it, all these faces who would never live again, sharing so many things so fast that all shattered habitual perceptions of order, because what they expressed made so much sense in ways that were so defiant of typical everyday life.

To make a comparison between this poetry recital and, for example, a concert — there was something so much more intricately intoxicating and alive about the streams of language building on one another, than to watch a series of musical works. A concert would contain only a fraction of the amount of exponentially multiplying possibilities in such a short space. A concert wouldn't be nearly as blatant, yet so rich in a totally unadorned way.

For anyone interested, the Spitfire hosts its open mic, featured poet and slam every Wednesday night from 8-11. It's 21 and over and there's a \$5 cover.

"Something better than penance" was just one of many phrases that jumped out that night, flickered for just a moment, and then was overlapped too soon by a following line. Yet it sums up poetry itself, and the sense of community that was present at the Spitfire that night, quite well.

Other performers throughout the night...



Steven Wilbur



Sharyn

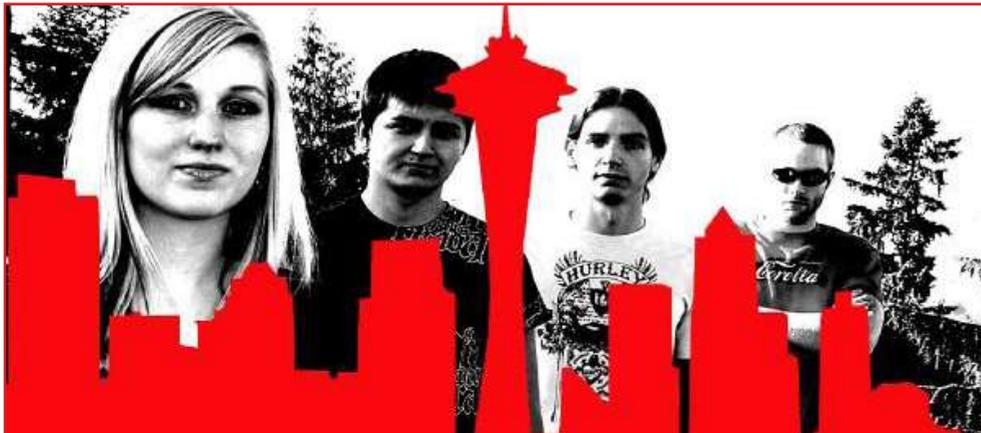


Alive with Skies



Sharyn Wolfenbarger

West on 18 sits down with The Current for a personal Q&A



By: Mary Preston

Ohio may have the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame but Seattle bands continue to rock the industry.

Grunge and alternative greats: Pearl Jam, Nirvana, The Foo Fighters, and Alice in Chains, all got their start here in Seattle.

It is fitting that the term "Garage Band" also originates from Seattle, due to a large portion of great Seattle bands came from humble beginnings prior to being signed.

In the beginning, it was not the money or the fame that brought the famous rock bands together. It was talent and a shared love of music.

When West On 18 agreed to answer some questions last week about their band and their music, it became apparent that local band West On 18 lives up to Seattle's musical standard of excellence.

Their lyrics are thought provoking and original. The beat, courtesy bassist Taylor Winkle and Drummer Robert Baker, is incredibly catchy.

West On 18 are able to mix the rough edge of old school rock with a slight new age indie twist to give their music a unique sound.

The band includes four members: Lead singer Dave Zamora, KGRG dj Taylor Winkle on bass, Drummer Robert Baker and lead guitarist Scott Reed.

Question and Answer

Q: What made you guys want to start a band together?

DZ: Our aspirations of playing music.

RB: I joined the band with Dave because I

thought this project looked like it had a lot of potential.

TW: They needed a base guitarist, and I really liked the way their music sounded.

Q: What is your favorite part of playing together as a band?

RB: We're always on the same page music wise.

DZ: We're all different people, but when we come together, we mesh really well.

SR: When we all play together, and we nail that note or chorus, it's surreal, like it's not us playing.

TW: I like having music as a creative outlet.

Q: So tell me about your music. What kind of music do you try to create?

SR: We write music that can relate to a large group of listeners.

RB: We try to stress being positive in a negative situation. Our songs are about perseverance.

TW: We try to make music that's appealing to the senses.

Q: What is your favorite song that you've made so far?

DZ: "Do you remember me" because it has an original sound that most people don't usually hear. All of our songs are original, but this one really seems to have something extra.

TW: "Cut Loose" because when I play it, it makes me feel like a rock star.

Q: So where do you see the band going, as far as albums, etc?

RB: We want to expand our music and bring



Courtesy Photos/West on 18

Promotional photos for West on 18's album feature band members (above l-r) Producer and drummer Robert Baker, KGRG dj and bassist Taylor Winkle, Lead guitarist Scott Reed and Lead vocals Dave Zamora. . (Left) The Seattle skyline peaks between band members in the photograph titled "cover art 2" at myspace.com/weston18band.

more variety to our sound, whether it be locally or more large scale.

SR: We want to keep evolving our sound.

TW: I really think we have the potential to get signed professionally.

DZ: I'm more into the way that our music inspires people than the money we could make from it. If I get a chance to play on the big stage once in my life, I'll die a happy man.

If you're a rock fan who isn't afraid to try something different, West on 18 won't disappoint.

Want more West On 18? Check out their myspace for demosc, member bios, and upcoming events.

Artist Profile: Melissa Gile

By Michelle Kuhn

Whether you see them or not, there are many artists here at Green River.

To see a few, step into a painting class or even drawing or pottery class, and meet someone like Melissa Gile.

Gile is a 17-year-old running start student here at Green River, and is painting a self portrait for her final project in her painting class.

The assignment was to create a self portrait which "represents their personal identity—who they are."

Gile's portrait is from a photo in which she is feeding a parakeet seeds that are stuck to a Popsicle stick at the zoo. Gile says she chose this picture because she loved the zoo and she had fun with the "Budgie Buddies" as she called the parakeets.

Her colorful piece is full of life and joy as she smiles at the small bird. Gile seemed very concentrated however while working on her art.

Her portrait is not finished yet since she has only been working on it for a few days, but she plans on being finished in about a week.

Though this is Gile's first time ever taking a painting class, her portrait seems to display the skills she has learned from taking this class. The different strokes and blending techniques used in Gile's portrait shows her attention to detail in her paintings, which could have some believe that she has been painting for quite some time.

When asked about her favorite artist, Gile stated that she really likes Matisse paintings, she also admitted that she really didn't follow and artists until taking this painting class.

Gile has always been interested in art, and has enjoyed drawing since she was a small child. She use to live in Seattle and expressed how she "use to go to the library and check out dinosaur books (to draw the dinosaurs)." Painting is a new concept for Gile, but something she is enjoying.

The arts however, are probably not in the future for this 17 year old, Gile plans on having a career in engineering, most likely something with robotics. She plans to keep painting as a past time.

For other interesting art pieces, one can also look in the Helen Smith art gallery located in the library.

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The sounds of 2009, in review

By Charles Renwick

While 2009 showed quite a bit of promise with musical releases, the year didn't deliver as expected.

Take Clues for example—the new duo band with The Unicorns Alden Penner, and Arcade Fire's former drummer, Brenden Reed. Their debut album had high hopes of being a fresh and creative outlet but instead they mixed eleven songs featuring instruments being tortured through "edgy" sound effects.

The disappointing records were too common throughout the year. The now local slow pop band, Say Hi, shared "Oohs & Aahs", which lacked the usual young wit of their five earlier albums.

Bishop Allen's third attempt, *Grrr...*, rapidly got repetitive and boring.

However, the unimpressive releases helped provide moral comfort for choosing Grizzly Bear as an album for the year.

Grizzly Bear emerged from Brooklyn in 2004 and immediately made a stirring in the indie rock genre.

The band consists of four players, Ed Droste (usual vocals), Daniel Rossen (vocals, guitar, keyboards), Christopher Bear (drums), and Chris Taylor (bass and producer).

Although they are known to experiment with styles and sounds, the band is one of the more accessible bands in the experimental spectrum.

Their third full length studio album, titled *Veckatiment*, was released in May with a wide

span of great reviews, the album reached #8 on the US Billboard chart.

Veckatiment achieved what Grizzly Bear couldn't quite do with their previous albums: perfect synergy.

Grizzly Bear's past releases were diverse but they still had much crafting to practice. In timing and theory, the albums were unnatural and out of place.

The band was not only able to correct these pitfalls in *Veckatiment* but the former problem spots now shine through the entire album.

The album's first track, "Southern Point," foreshadows the songs that follows by having addicting melodies and tempo changes that keep the song interesting.

"Two Weeks" achieved what Grizzly Bear had never done before, make a song groove and dance. Even though they hammer the same few chords, sing the same riffs, and predicatively repeat the same lyrics the fantastic drumming and beat carry the song.

"About Face" may be "Two Weeks" polar opposite, the guitars and bass riddle through patterns and Ed Droste soft voice sings omnisciently. The song is very quiet too, which adds a subtle distant feeling, a technique Grizzly Bear is very good at.

"All We Ask" is the closest the band gets to storytelling with lyrics like "You made the call and I just stood by / I stripped the sheets and emptied out the sky."

Although the story is left uncompleted, the vagueness forwards the confusion and com-

plexity of its situation by singing, "You took the car around the back and I waited by / and the crowds, they light the carnival / calling us."

The ending track, "Foreground," leaves a sweet taste. The tempo is slower and the music lies very tranquil, much like the theme in Grizzly Bear's debut album *Horn of Plenty*. As the piano mournfully obsesses over two notes, violins and shakers calmly enter the mix. When the song (and album) comes to a rest, it is graceful with the help of a brief choir.

Despite a prior rant, not all of this year's music were let downs and there are plenty of great records to check out. The following are honorable mentions and great additions to new playlists.

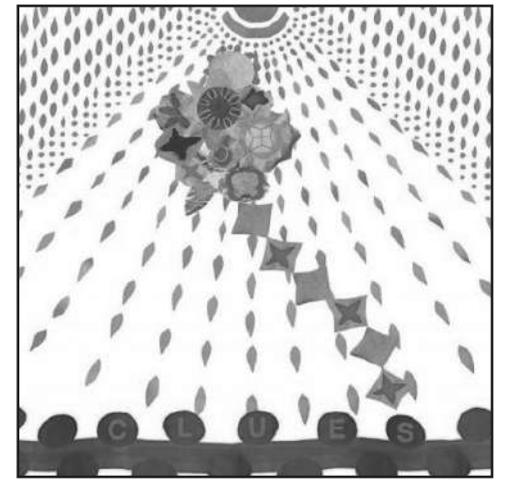
The ultra-popular Andrew Bird released some of his best through his latest solo LP, 'Noble Beast'.

The unconventional Icelandic group, Múm, has a great album that mixes folk styles with electronic and acoustic instruments titled 'Sing Along Songs You Don't Know'.

The Dirty Projectors also give an awesome and creative attempt with their 'Bitte Orca'.

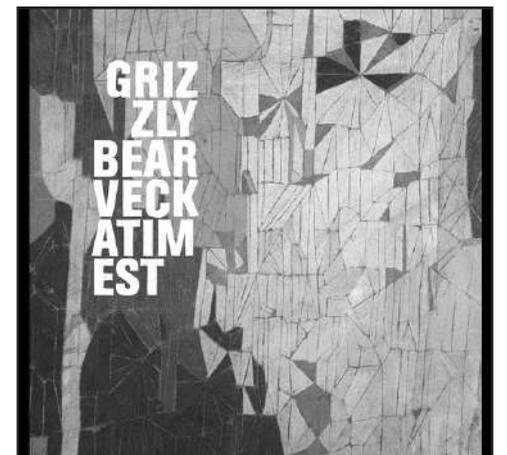
Anyone looking to expand the culture of their musical collection should get a copy of Beirut's *March of the Zapotec/Holland*. The only reason it is not a 2009 choice is because a double EP is not counted as a full album.

The enormous amount of horned instruments easily fill the first EP (*March of the Zapotec*) but the second disc (*Holland*) contains 5 tracks from Zach Condon's solo electronic work, a style he hasn't attempted since his teen-years.



Clues CD cover.

Courtesy Photo/ awmusic.ca



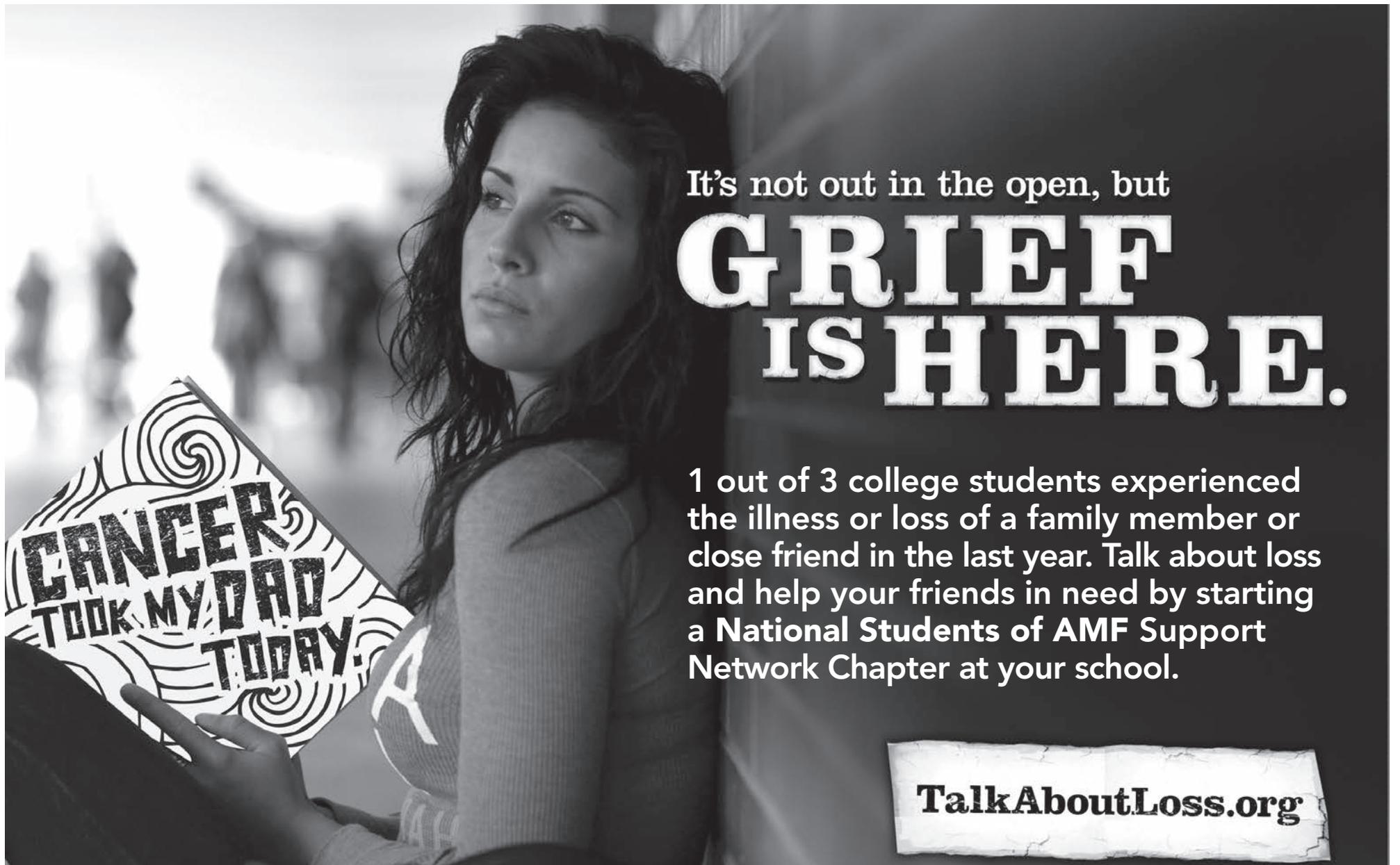
Grizzly Bear CD cover.

Courtesy Photo/ pastaprima.net

It's not out in the open, but
GRIEF IS HERE.

1 out of 3 college students experienced the illness or loss of a family member or close friend in the last year. Talk about loss and help your friends in need by starting a National Students of AMF Support Network Chapter at your school.

TalkAboutLoss.org



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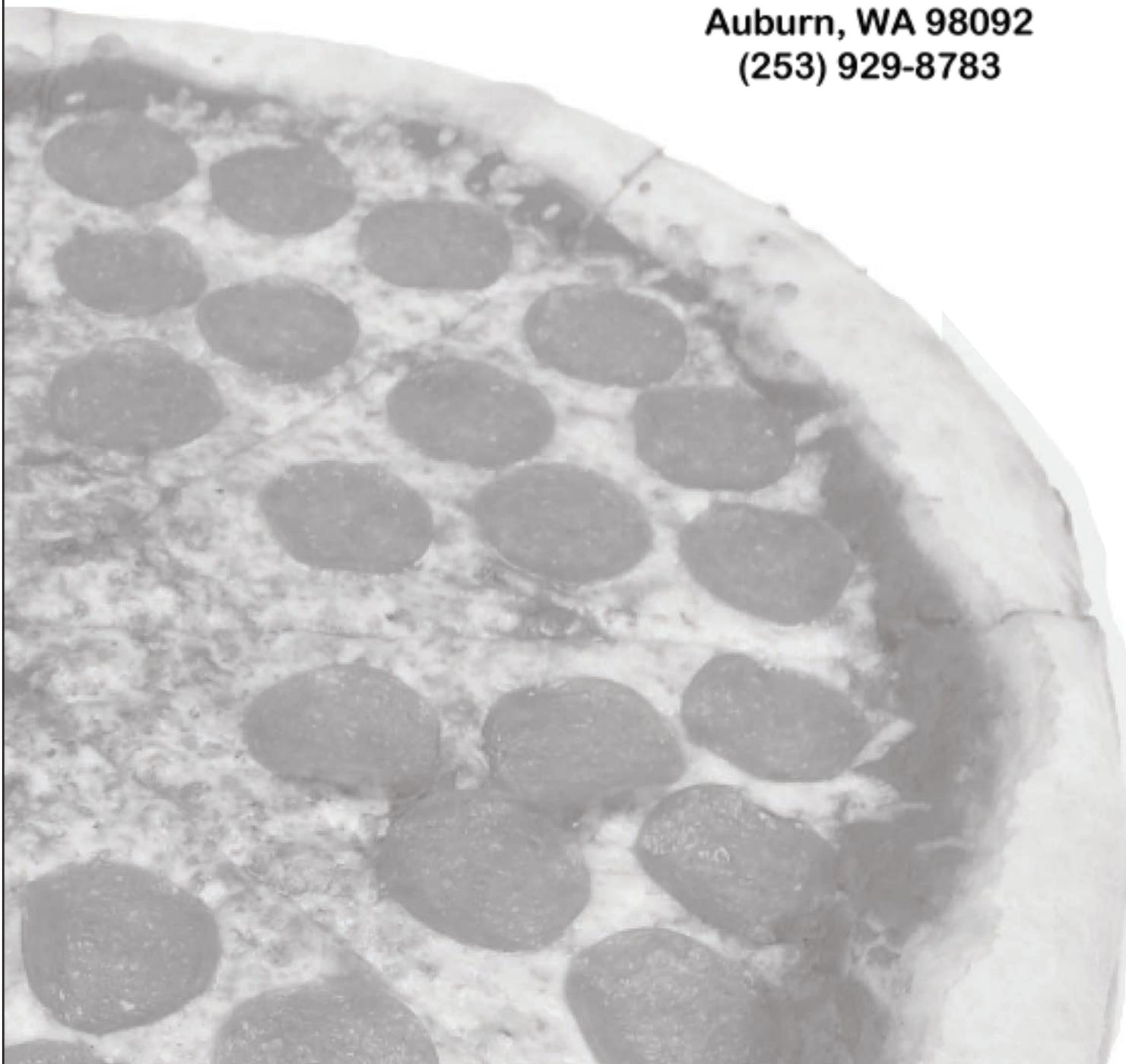
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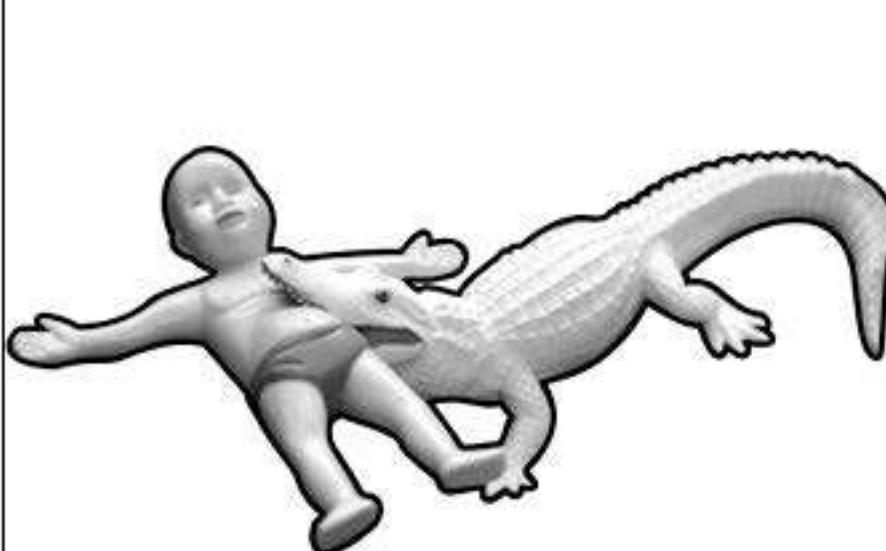
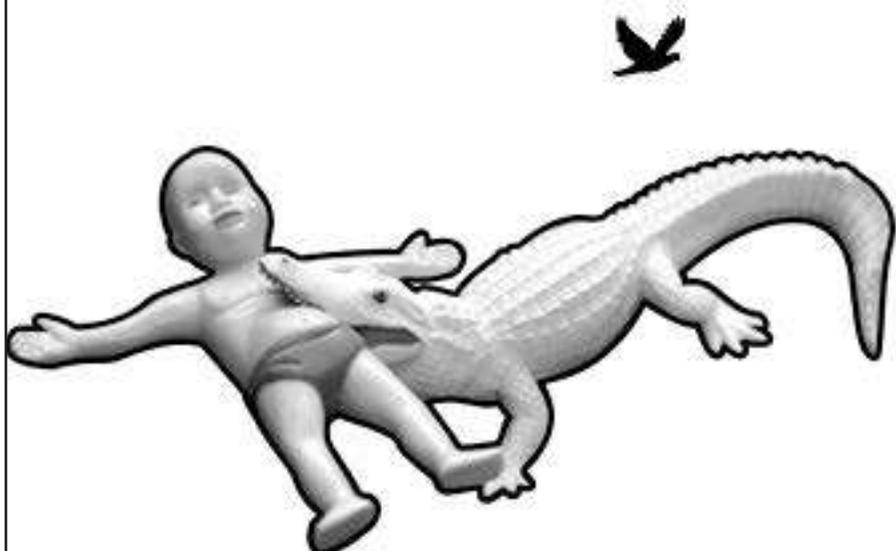
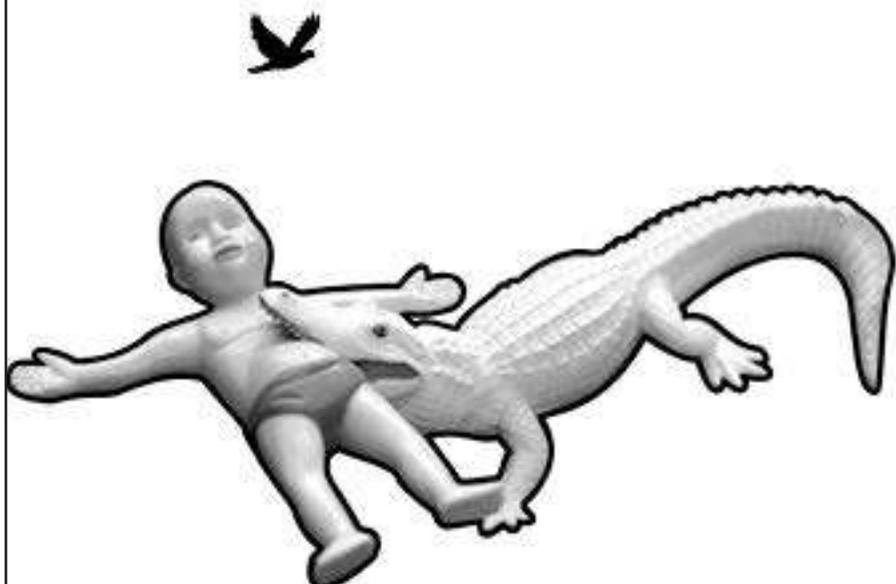
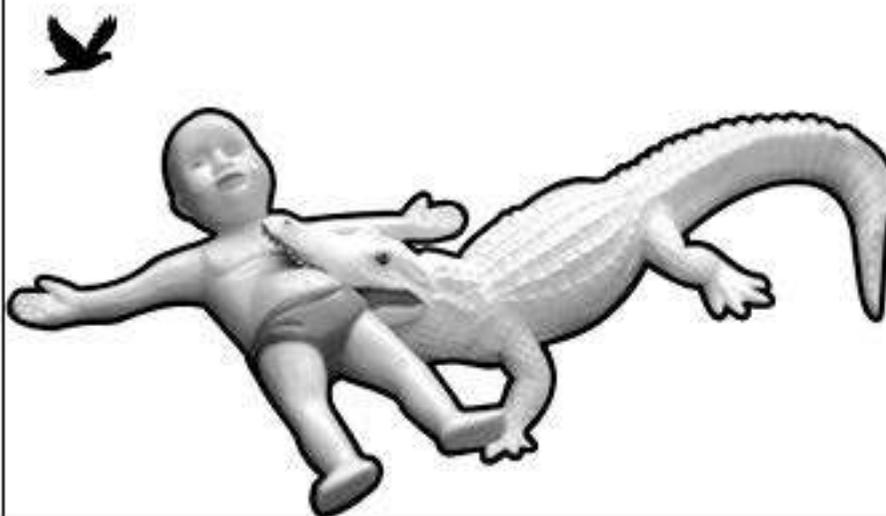
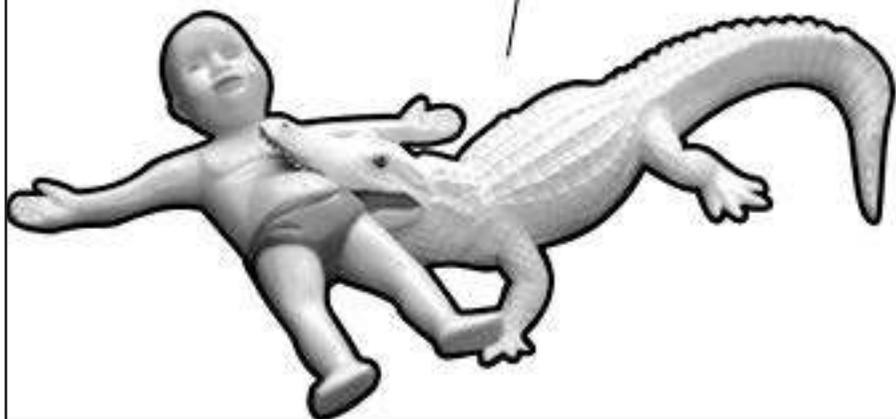
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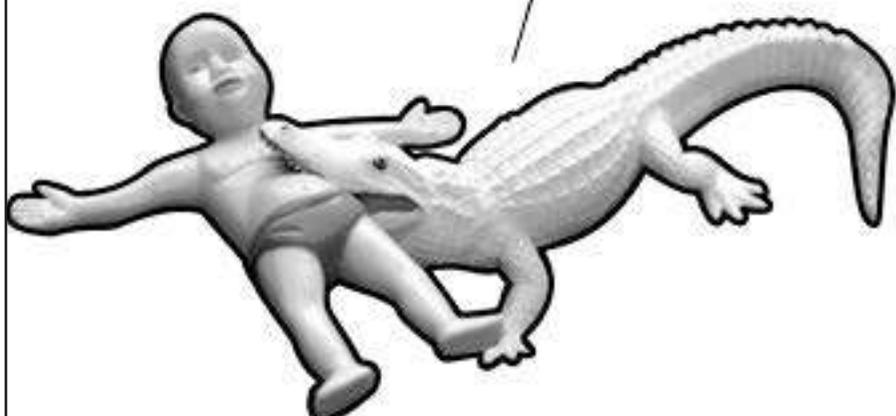


Gator & Baby

Hey Behbeh, wuts yo numba?



Well...



This is awkward... >:|



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The legacy of president Glenn Beck

Article by Rita Mae Brown spurred events which tumbled out of control

By: Remco Zwetsloot

On November 2nd, what is perhaps the greatest opinion piece in history was published. Rita Mae Brown, a novelist, activist and animal lover, wrote the article: 'Animals make the perfect humans', and decided to give the honor of publishing it to CNN.

Representatives from all three branches of government met up to discuss this revelation, carefully considering every argument. Some members of the House opposed, but the majority was baffled after being told that dogs have 110 million scent receptors compared to a human's mere six million, that they will never lie to you and that they will never pay for sex.

The question that remained was: who will be the next most powerful being in the world? Who is the most superior of animals?

Debate wasn't necessary, as no one attempted to challenge the greatness of prominent Washington barker Glenn Beck.

After continuously urinating in the Oval Office to mark his territory, pug Beck proceeded to give his inauguration speech.

Due to his lack of comprehensive speaking skills, he had to write his speech down on a chalkboard; but all was well, according to attendee Jane Christiansen, who flew all the way out from Alaska: "It's new, but awesome all the same. He has so much charisma and really cares for this nation; I think I even saw him cry up there!"

A bystander joined in: "Not only have we finally found leaders who aren't hypocrites, we got rid of the communist regime that was taking over the country as well! We finally have intelligent leadership. Mae Brown should really be awarded for her contributions."

Meanwhile, though most people were exhilarated, opposition didn't let up.

The communists, who had lost control of both the senate and the House at this point, were especially concerned with Beck's inability to practice mathematics and how that would impact the economy. Their critiques, however, were easily refuted.

"You small minded person! Why should I need to be able to count? Government shouldn't be involved with economics anyway!" Beck wrote on his chalkboard with intense fury and condescending shakes of his three-chinned head.

Other countries, with human beings in power, agreed with the communists and attempted to come up with a solution using reason and common sense. Beck's administration was displeased with so many inferior beings 'running their mouths', as they put it, and decided to take action.

"We are not politically correct and proud of it! Being diplomatic serves absolutely no purpose," said Bill O'Reilly, newly appointed VP. "It is time for the truth!"

To rile up the masses for the coming battle, Beck put his propaganda machine to work. Picture books were handed out, contests were held for the best soviet flag-burning video, dog food was handed out for free by volunteering patriots and commercials were made wherein dogs went all out inside libraries.

Thus, the War on Intellect commenced.

Intellectuals were labeled extremists because

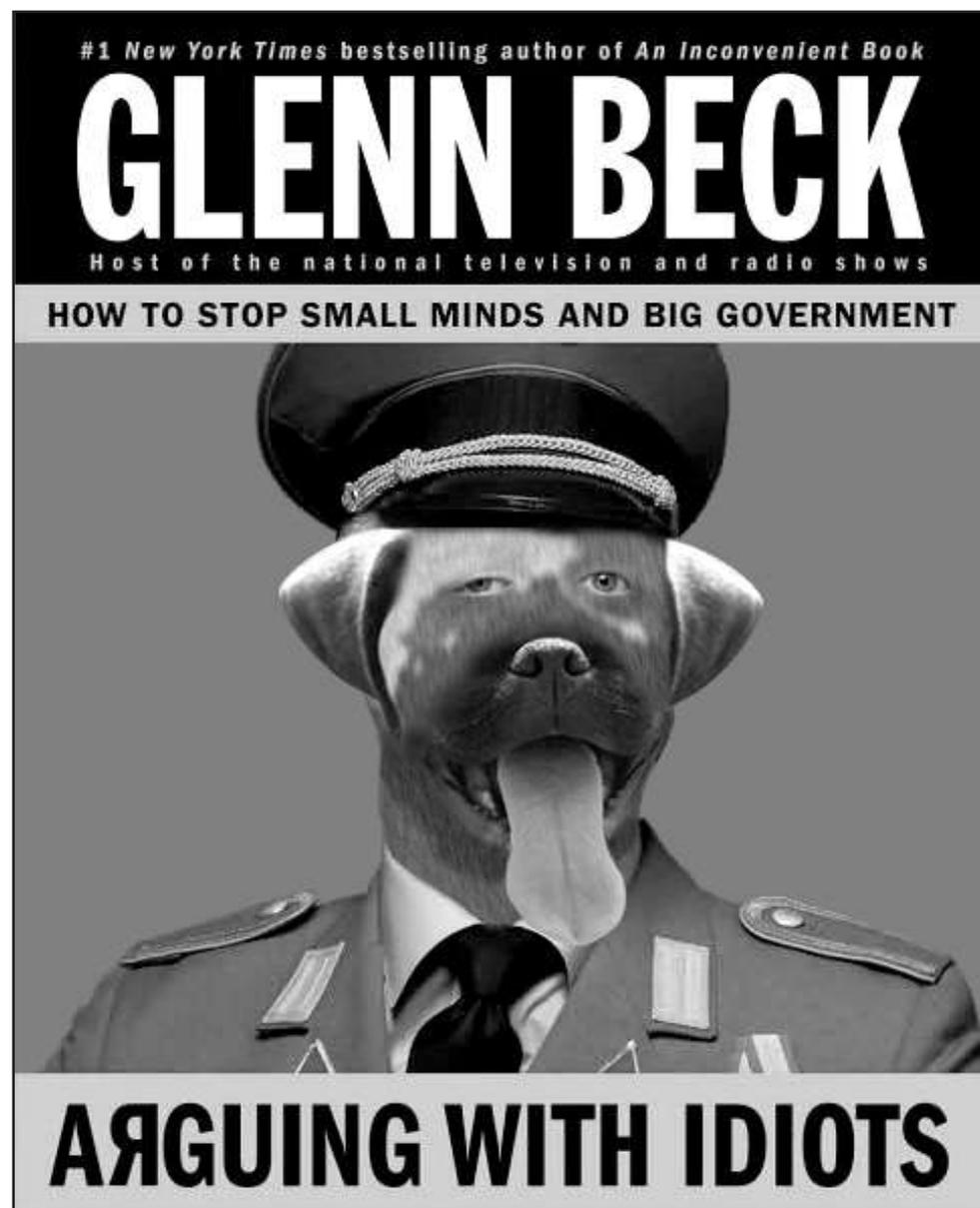
of their different way of life that, evidently, endangered the existence of the American people. Patriots all over the country set out, torches and weapons clenched between their teeth, fangs, beaks or even baleen, to wreak havoc on libraries, schools and whatever else they could find that boasted the stench of intelligence.

After every one of her books was burned, Mae Brown got the notion that her opinion on animal superiority might have been somewhat stupid.

Her human flaw to evaluate decisions frustrated her deeply and she tried to transform

of the country, and, contrary to the previous administration, the constitution was actually adhered to (when convenient, of course). Pragmatism was considered taboo and the nation lived on in a blissful ignorance.

The utopia wasn't long-standing, however, as after several months some loud-mouth TV 'commentator on life' broadcasted a show on the communist channel CNN. "He doesn't even check facts!" Beck typed in slowly on his newly acquired computer, "I can't believe people actually listen to this guy, what a retard". Regardless of the administration's efforts to shut it down,



Kelli Wyatt/The Current

Glenn Beck's new book, filled with valid, sound and utterly relevant arguments against spewing random nonsense.

herself into a horse, "Because the journey from your mind to a horse's mind is the longest journey you will ever take," she later explained.

Sadly, as all scientists had been slain by partisan parrots, the operation failed and Mae Brown passed away. A statue stands in Washington DC to this day so the entire country may commemorate her greatness.

The nation itself, however, continued to prosper.

With all intellectuals out of the way, the free market system was re-instated, climate change was again regarded as insignificant, Muslims (the ones left alive, anyway) were chased out

in a nation without intelligence, this populist show became increasingly popular and eventually tore the nation apart.

Beck, when taking a walk to blow off steam, tragically died when he was hit by a car after living a very exciting 11 dog years.

A sad day for many Americans, but, the communists who were, by many of Beck's followers, held responsible for the car – a blessing. With the only arguably smart person in Beck's party – Beck himself – out of the way, the communist regime managed to regain power quite quickly and put former White House dog Bo in charge of yet again running the country into the ground.

Stress? No more. Be gone, studying problems!

By: Remco Zwetsloot & Kelli Wyatt

As the end of fall quarter at Green River Community College nears, students are stressing more and more over the finals they have yet to study for.

Everybody is feeling the pressure. From that English final you haven't even found a topic for, to the math exam for which you forgot what hypotenuse even means... While everybody knows the stressors that "finals week" entails, not everyone studies the same way.

"I detest studying," explained Herman Shorter, one of many stressed students at the college. "In class, I'm like a sponge. The teacher says something, and I just... Like... Absorb it. And then like, squish, like get the information out, right?"

"So when they tell me to study for things they haven't talked about," Shorter continued, "I just get lost. Like I'm walking through a maze. Like... A maze, seriously."

Shorter, like so many others, refuses to do work and instead spends his time hanging out with friends.

"I used to do that too," said Elisa Jordan, another student, "studying just harshed my mellow. But after the first test my grades kind of started to suffer, and the university I wanted to transfer to started to get out-of-reach."

She continued: "I couldn't study regularly, it's just too hard. So I tried to find methods to help me; I took pills, stayed up all night hopped up on red bull and even went so far as to get a tutor. Once I was just so desperate, I actually read a book, but that was a one time thing, believe me!"

Research was conducted by Green River science majors, and as they expected, the results showed that studying ahead, did nothing to help the student score higher on their exams or essays. They concluded that, "studying ahead, even if only two weeks, does absolutely nothing to help the student's grades," and added that reading, especially in public, is a total no-no that should be avoided at all costs.

Instead, the independent, trustworthy research showed that the best way to study was not to be all weird and learn, but to inject owlroids instead.

This was discovered by Adam Young, one of the science majors that worked on the project. He discovered that, when owl DNA was used on small household felines, their comprehensive reading skills actually exceeded those of the average American adult.

"Yeah it seriously helps my GPA. Like, 2.0 right now. Awesome, dude!" said Shorter after he pocketed a \$50 bill given to him by Adam Young, who was now in the process of building a cart to sell his newly discovered (independently and without his own profit in mind, of course), developed and now marketed owlroids.

Moral of the story: trust independent science and buy owlroids to boost your obviously lacking skills, all your problems will soon be over.

Owlroids will soon be available for purchase in front of the TC building. Money back guarantee*, side-effects may include oddly sharp nocturnal vision and random growth of feathers, multi-functional: can be used as vase for tiny flowers when emptied. Say good riddance to all your problems for only \$100!

* not really, fool!

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Famed tyrant ressurected: but who is he?

Rumors claim that the unknown terror is planning to take control, starting with registration

By: Jaclyn Shorter

For months now, there has been a conspiracy theory floating about campus that has the students and staff of GRCC talking like madmen.

The rumor entails that an infamous tyrant of the 1930's and 1940's is back from the dead. He was reportedly spotted in Berlin, walking around the city at night and terrorizing the synagogues. There have also been sightings of him around the US, with several near campus.

The tyrant has been sighted with numerous unknown officials. According to a local, anonymous spy, he is planning to take over the GRCC presidency with the newly formed Registration Regime, his second chance at Aryan domination.

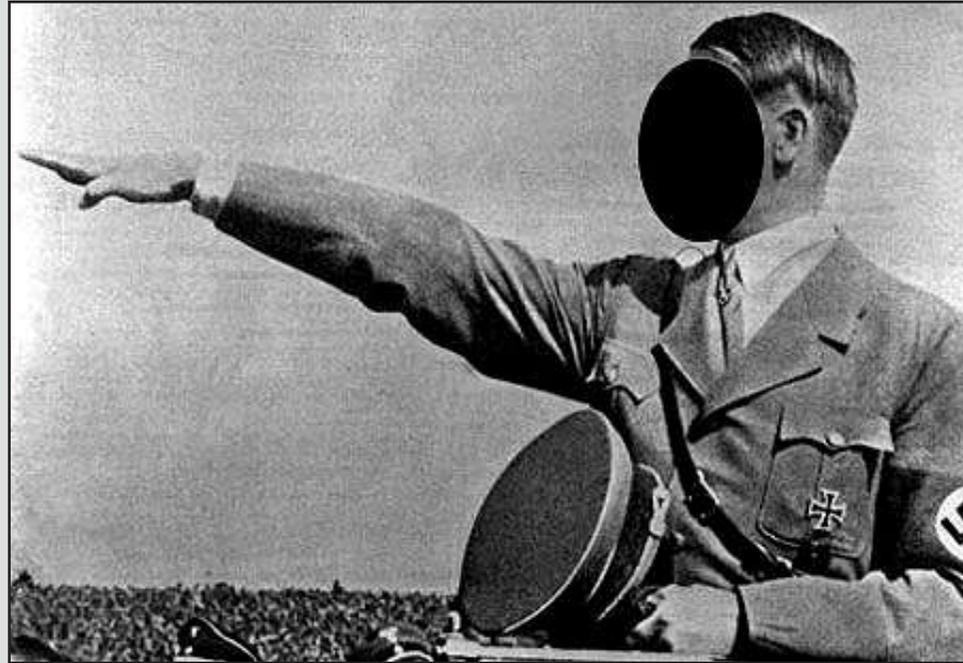
"I have missed my chance to implicate my power and show the world who is boss," stated the tyrant as he brushed off some maggots from his hair. "But I'm back... AND I WILL REIGN!"

He decided to utilize the plight of the GRCC students and faculty members to come to power and form his group. The Regime was based off numerous complaints about the registration process. Students wouldn't stop ranting about how the classes they needed are always full and the wait lists are too long.

The Registration department didn't care, because, in the end, the process was left untouched.

He proceeded to gather groups of students and staff members who thought the process was fair and rally them together at meetings. They even tried to interrupt class meetings. When that failed, he devised a handbook of policies that he titled *Meine Reglen* ("My Rules").

The new policy states that people must have an "IQ of 50 or less so that they will not have the brains to question what the Registration



Courtesy Photo/guardian.co.uk

The tyrant has never been seen without his black oval mask to cover his face, as shown above.

Regime implicates" states *Meine Reglen*, page 145. "If anyone goes against this policy, they will be punished," states a later passage.

The point of the plan is to "show you weaklings who is boss and weed out the offenders," as the cover of the book boasts.

Already, over 20 students have been marked as "offenders". These students sent complaints into the Registration Office about the unfairness of the practices of the regime, and the office relayed it to their leader. Because these students chose to stand up against the Regime, they were gathered up in cop cars and sent to jail; they were sentenced to 20 years of imprisonment for "defying a governmental leader," as local police stated, confused by the whole process.

The retirement of GRCC president Rich Rut-

kowski signaled the perfect time for the Regime to take full power. If they could secure the presidency, then they would have a foothold in securing the practices of the Regime.

"I'm scared to death," stated student Jane Doe, her eyes wide. "I need my classes, but I don't want to defy the Regime..."

According to the rumors, the Regime plans to take hold of the GRCC presidency shortly before the start of Fall Quarter in 2010.

Be warned that being unhappy with the policies of the Regime will bring about punishment and possible banishment from campus. After all, who wouldn't want to be prevented from taking needed classes??

Life-like babies

For a smooth transition to parenting

By: Kayla Preiss

Who wants to deal with nine months of pregnancy?

Child birth can be a beautiful thing... But why go through all the trouble if you don't have to? This is why you can now order your own real life-like baby, and have it delivered within five business days.

These real-life babies look and feels like the real deal. You have the choice of picking the baby's weight, as well as the eye, hair, and skin tone. Also, these babies soil themselves, cry and function like a real baby does, but – for all you ladies – you don't have to deal with the stretch marks or the weight gain. They even have a regulated pulse coming from their chest cavity.

The controversy arises when the kids or adults who purchase these babies ask for maternity leave from schools and their jobs.

One 25-year-old mother, Samantha Hallock, stated, "If it is simulated to be a real child, and I have to take care of it like a real child, then why can't I get maternity leave like I would with a real child? Sure, I don't have to be pregnant, but it's the same responsibility as a real child so I should have the same rights as everyone else..."

Others argue that, because you don't have to go through nine months of pregnancy, customers don't need maternity leave.

"Maternity leave is for when you are pregnant! And clearly with these dolls," argued one mother and local student, Katherine Heights, "you aren't! These lunatics don't deserve the same perks as those who endured the pregnancy."

On the flip side, it is a way for younger children to experience what parenting is like. It can show kids the responsibilities of having a "real" child, and perhaps it could balance population growth in the United States.

Every mom in the world thinks the idea of real-life babies is fabulous because it teaches teens to have protected sex. If they don't, they will get a real baby. And that's just horrible.

"I think the idea of Real-Life "Fake" Babies is absolutely ridiculous," wined John Majority. "I wouldn't buy this for my kids, let alone myself."

Whether you decide to go with the long nine-month process of pregnancy, or you decide to order your very own Life-Like Baby, you will fully understand the responsibilities of having a child of your very own.

Even if that means you don't get to take the maternity leave you want to.



Courtesy Photo/picasaweb.google.com

"Real" babies, such as this adorable one, have already been purchased by those wishing to by-pass pregnancy.

Hollywood prepares America for 2012

Who would have thought the end of the world would be the answer to the crappy economy in U.S.?

By: Samantha Kootz

The long awaited date, December 21st, 2012, is almost here. And it's making people happier and healthier than ever.

For years, people have been acting irresponsibly with their money. With the world coming to an end in just three short years, it looks as if this trend will only continue.

The good news is that the economic recession we've been stuck in seems to finally be on the way back up. More than ever, people are refusing to look into a future that won't exist and are focusing on the present instead.

Brandie Stout, former GRCC student, admits to spending most of what is left in her savings instead of using it toward tuition.

"School seemed like a good idea... Until I really did my research by watching the movie 2012," Stout explained. "Now that I understand how the world will end, I don't see a point in

spending my last few years doing homework! I'll just party the rest of the time," she added, winking.

With everyone spending, stores everywhere are hiring; with an increasing employment rate, more people have money to spend. It's a spiral that – for once – is helping the average family.

Spirits seem to be going up along with the economy. Without needless worrying over money and credit, people are enjoying themselves for the first time in years. People are forgetting petty squabbles and relaxing, determined to spend their last years alive happily.

"Sure, I always knew I could die at anytime but now that I know for sure that I won't live until old age, what's the point in going around looking emo?" asked Summer Bell, former lead singer in the band Everything Sucks, sounding as cheery as her new brightly colored clothes.

Jake Niehaus, protesting the idea by himself, skeptically spoke about the Mayans and doubt-

ed their ability to predict the end of the world. "They didn't even know enough to survive," he explained, "and we're supposed to believe that, because they couldn't come up with an infinite calendar, our world will end?"

NASA also disagrees with the conspiracy theory, releasing a statement titled, "Why the World Won't End".

"Nothing bad will happen to the Earth in 2012," NASA scientists insist. "Our planet has been getting along just fine for more than 4 billion years, and credible scientists worldwide know of no threat associated with 2012."

"What does NASA know about anything? You know the moon landing was completely staged... Right?" argued 17-year-old running start student, Lacey Smith. "All reasonable people understand that every good thing must end; it's simply our time to go."

Volleyball ends disappointing season

Despite youth, Gators had playoff expectations

By Ryan West

Spike! Out of bounds. What happened to that unstoppable gator teamwork? Leaving a disappointing season behind them, the gator girl volley ball team seems to be looking both to the past and future to gather strength and wisdom for the next season.

They have a whole new training program lined up for next season. "We have a very strong core team and we will pull through" says the head coach Kyle Densly.

This season was rough on the gator girls. They finished the season with 7 wins and 24 losses. Coming out 6th in the west, "We have some inexperienced players but loads of talent" said coach Densley.

But with the gators impressive history we expect great things from them in the future, we play hard and came up short, next year is our year"

The gators have been tearing through the competition for a better part of 6 years now. Bouncing back and forth from 1st and 2nd place

in state competition "We have a very strong nucleus, these girls are dedicated" said Densley.

The Lady gators hope they can pull some strength for next season from experience despite losing their outstanding sophomores.

Some of the star players are leaving for higher education.

Ashley Paries has had lots of offers to play at the four year collegiate level.

"These are not easy achievements these girls have some real talent," said Densley.

Samantha Potts will also be attending

a Four year University on a volleyball scholarship next year.

Coach Densley has assured that the girls will be working even harder to train those freshmen players. "We have two sophomore girls coming back next year, but the team is mostly raw talent," said Densley. There talk of a new weight lifting regiment to go along side regular practice.

The gator girls need the support of the students, bring a friend bring a parent. Come support history in the making.

**"We have a very strong nucleus, these girls are dedicated."
-Kyle Densley, Head volleyball coach**

Women's soccer ends season falling short of goals

Women's soccer team able to keep close bond, despite close losses throughout the season; hopes more exposure is key to future success

By Mallory Lambarena

The women's soccer team at Green River Community College played their best this season to come out with a 3-10-1 record. The team was comprised of 12 players passionate for the game. All the girls worked hard together to better themselves and the team, while striving to come out on top.

"The team chemistry was really good. Of course, we had our moments in the heat of the game, but we all got along great," said Erica Kobe, the second highest scorer. Carli McCrabb, the lead scorer with 10 goals and 2nd All Time, agreed with Kobe, that the chemistry was "so great! We all had so much fun! Practice was something we all looked forward to because it was a chance for all 12 of us to hangout and catch up." McCrabb also loved the road trips because "all the girls got along so well, which is really rare."

As with any team, there were many highs and lows of their soccer season. The girls definitely agreed that the highs overrode the lows overall. Bri White, first captain, thought her most memorable moment of the season was when "we beat Highline twice, which was a good victory because they underestimated us all year." Kobe's high of the season was "tying Olympic 4-4 the second time playing them when they beat us bad the first game." Overall, the wins the girls worked hard to accomplish, made up for the slight struggles the team came across.

The lowest points in the season for the girls were frustrating losses to teams they thought they should have beat in the end. White's least fond memory was when they lost to Columbia Basin 1-0 when they dominated them

the whole game and they were the NWAACC champions the previous year. Kobe recollected about the time they had to play a game against Tacoma in six inch standing water, which made it difficult to play to the best of their abilities. McCrabb and Kobe both found it difficult to play without a lot of players. "It was really frustrating when we couldn't even field a full 11," McCrabb expressed.

All three girls agreed that the women's soccer team is not well advertised throughout campus. Kobe noted how a lot of students don't even know there is a women's soccer program. White, agreed with frustration, "There is no awareness of our soccer team on campus. It's hard to better our program when the student body doesn't know we have a women's soccer team."

With more advertisement and awareness of the program, there would be more girls trying out for the team, which could lead to a strong team next year as well. McCrabb thought one way to achieve a dominant team for next season would be "recruiting and raising awareness that we have a real team; a team with a lot of talent and potential. A lot of students don't know that we have a team, so that makes it difficult when there is a lot of talent walking around campus, and they are not being noticed."

Overall, the Green River's women's soccer team had an enjoyable season. They bonded and worked hard to play well as a whole and as individual players too. Next year's team will not be the same without the graduating players, but to the returning players next season, McCrabb knows she will "really miss them next year and hopes that they 'just keep fishing!'"



Courtesy Photo/greenriver.edu

The 2009 Green River Community College woman's soccer team.

Women's soccer final record:	Sept 30 - @Olympic L: 0-4	Oct 21 - Tacoma L: 0-2
Sept 8 - Columbian Basin L: 0-1	Oct 3 - Walla Walla L: 0-8	Oct 24 - Olympic T: 4-4
Sept 11 - @Tresure Valley L: 0-7	Oct 7 - Highline W: 2-1	Oct 28 - @Highline W: 3-2
Sept 12 - Spokane L: 0-5	Oct 10 - Wenatchee Valley L: 2-3	Nov 4 - Bellevue L: 2-4
Sept 16 - Yakima Valley W: 2-1	Oct 17 - @Bellevue L: 0-3	Nov 7 - @Tacoma L: 0-5

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Making a run

Green River men's basketball 2009-10 preview

Gators finally believe they have the pieces to take program to the next level

By Sean Kramer

Defense wins championships. It's an over-used cliché used in almost every team sport. But, it's a cliché for a reason.

It's also a cliché that Green River Men's basketball coach Tim Malroy hopes will apply to his team going into the 2009-10 season.

Going into his sixth season on campus as Coach Malroy is finally looking to get over the hump, and he hopes putting an increased emphasis on defense, especially full court pressure, will be just what the Gators need.

After all, it's been pretty lean lately to say the least when it comes to the gator men of the hardwood, only finishing as high as sixth in the NWAACC each of the last six seasons.

So why not try something new?

It's easy to tell from simply watching a practice what kind of team the Gators are looking to be this season. Emphasis on drills where guys are flying to the basketball looking to create turnovers, relying on teammates on the defensive end and doing anything that can be done to disrupt the offense dominated the agenda. The only significant offensive drills were lay-up drills.

While a defensive mentality is one reason the coaching staff is looking for a breakout year this year, Malroy hoped that breakout season would've been last season.

"We did have some high expectations last season," said coach Malroy. "We were, unfortunately, not able to keep our team together through the whole season so we will never know how good that team could've been."

Last season's promise turned out to only be more of the same for the Gators, finishing sixth in the NWAACC West, going 6-10 in league play.

"The new squad (last year) didn't look intimidating to anybody but we were able to stay in all our games and scrap and fight," Malroy said of the patch work roster he had to put together on the fly last season. "We pulled out some wins that maybe on paper we shouldn't have won."

What the Gators did pull out of last season, were experiences and the identification of key players that has Malroy and the Gators excited for what could be the team's first playoff run since 2003.

That's experience and grit that Malroy is confident will translate into better chemistry and success in 2010, pointing out a level of dedication that he's never seen before from his team.

What the Gators found out the most from last season's adversity was a trio of special Sophomores returning that gives them confidence in their ability to make a run, and it starts with standout point guard Jake Wilcox.

Having a lot of the scoring load put onto his shoulders last year with the departure of guards such as Corey Toombs, Wilcox stepped up down the stretch leading the team in assists and was among the leading scorers in points.

"I think I need to get everybody involved on the court," said Wilcox of what he's expecting out of himself this year. "Make sure everybody gets their grades and just to be more of a coach extended on the court."

"Having an experienced point guard is really great for a coach," said Malroy of his point guard. "He doesn't make me nervous with the ball in his hands at all. He's taking the next step as a point guard which is understanding where his team mates like to get the ball."

Jake's backcourt mate comes back to the Gators this year as one of the pleasant surprises from last season's adversity. Taylor Cliett is what could be called a walk-on, coming onboard mid-season last year, doing whatever the coaches asked of him and proving to be an invaluable piece to the puzzle as the Gators struggled just to keep the roster together.

This year, Cliett feels much more comfortable.

"I feel like I'm always expected to lead on defense. I feel like I know my role this year better than last year," he said.



Sean Kramer/The Current

The Gators exit the huddle after a pre-season practice. Defense dominated the day's agenda.

"I was very fortunate to have him walk-on here," said Malroy of Cliett, who will be the team's starting shooting guard this season. "He picked up things very well and did whatever we asked. He's carved himself a nice spot on this roster. He's probably our best defensive player and has come back this year and done very well."

The X-factor of the returners could be Jamaal Thomas. The 6'4" Wing player from Garfield High School had a solid year scoring the ball in the paint for the Gators last season, but coaches think they've only tipped the surface when it comes to his potential in the sport of basketball. His freshman season at Green River was only his second year of major organized basketball, playing only his Senior year at Garfield, where football was his first sport of choice.



Sean Kramer/The Current

Jamaal Thomas skies for a slam dunk during practice

"I see a lot of potential in myself. I've always seen a lot of potential in myself," Thomas said of his expectations in 2010. "What I really want to improve on is getting better as a team, really."

The key for Thomas will be improving on the little facets of the game and getting more fundamental, such as his defensive footwork and shooting. Everybody involved with the program thinks that will only be a matter of time.

"He's like a sponge; he picks things up very quickly. I would say he's a natural athlete. He's just a natural basketball player and the sky is the limit for him," said Malroy. "He could go play a lot of different places."

Of course, basketball is a team sport, and Malroy couldn't stress enough that he wanted to have a team that was up to ten players deep.

In order to run the type of defensive system he wants he needs the ability to have guys come off the bench for any given player and be able to step in right

away to fill the previous player's roles.

It's safe to say that there's confidence that this could be the case, as he raved about player after player and the types of things that he likes out of each one and their potential to help the team.

Players such as Shermarke Ibrahim, who is lauded as a defensive specialist. With his length and athleticism, the Sophomore presents mismatches out on the floor. Freshman Murkice Carter is counted on to add an immediate impact as a freshman, coming in with experience from being part of a Community College program in California. Chris Plooy is a first team all-state performer from Alaska who was instrumental in helping his alma matter take the 4A state title last season.

While the starting rotation and perhaps some of the first guys off the bench are somewhat of a certainty for the coaching staff, things could always change throughout the course of pre-season scrimmages and practices.

"You can't predict how guys will react when the lights come on. You're hoping through the course of scrimmages and the Pre-season when there's people there and more structure that somebody rises a little bit, and surprises you," Malroy said of what he's looking for in the early going.

The Gators kicked off their season on December 2nd against Olympic and will play two more pre-season games before heading to Bellevue for a crossover tournament on the 18th. As the season unfolds, while the Gators will be looking to make sure they are doing what needs to be done to improve on the court, the problems that derailed last season are still fresh in the minds of the players who are looking to make sure 2010 lives up to its promise. Chemistry is a big reason for that.

"I think the big thing is we're closer as a team, this year than last year, we're a lot closer with everybody hanging out with each other," said Jake Wilcox, who also emphasized buckling down on guys to make sure they get the grades. "That was the thing last year, was grades."

"This year we've all just been hanging out and doing everything together. We haven't really done anything apart," Taylor Cliett said, also pointing out the closeness of this team compared to last season's.

Altogether, the goal is simple for the 2009-10 version of the Gators of the hardwood. Make the NWAACC playoffs. To get to where the program wants to be, the Gators must finish at least fourth in the NWAACC West. Malroy wants the team to be in a position to be able to lock down a third of fourth place spot in the West going into their final two or three games.

Malroy thinks that this year's team has that in them, and more.

"That should be a realistic goal this year, if not more. It's not that we couldn't do much better than that, I do think we could. But because we haven't been there yet, I want to get to that step first before I start talking about other things. I would not be surprised if this team does very very well," added Malroy.

Men's basketball is in for a great season, and who knows, maybe they'll get first this year!

Honea's House

By: Andrew Honea

College Football is getting old!

As another college football season comes to a close, I find myself extremely disappointed with the stereotypical end to the regular season. For yet another year, Tim Tebow has ran all over the SEC, and the rest of the nation, breaking lots of touchdown records along the way. One of these records included the career rushing touchdown record, set by Herschel Walker of the Georgia Bulldogs. But there is light ahead for the other teams in the SEC.

After the SEC Championship (and likely the National Championship game) Tim Tebow's illustrious college career will be over, and the SEC (or at least the eastern side of the conference) will be open for many other teams, including the Georgia Bulldogs, who will also have a new quarterback with fifth year senior Joe Cox graduating. 2010 is set to be an exciting year in the SEC.

Another big story is TCU and Boise State University finishing the season undefeated, and they will likely not play in the National Championship game. If by chance, Texas loses the Big 12 Championship game, either TCU or Boise State will get to play in the National Championship game. Despite the outcome of the game, their will be an undefeated college football team disappointed and complaining that they didn't "get the shot they earned".

A big surprise on the season was Georgia Tech finishing the regular season with two losses. Part of the shock was that many believed they should've finished the season with just one loss. Thanks to their 6 point loss to the University of Georgia during rivalry week, Georgia Tech will lose their number 7 national ranking, and the respect of a lot of other football teams. Georgia Tech can still finish their season on a positive note. They are set to battle Clemson in the ACC championship game, and with a win will compete in a BCS game for the first time since 1966.

The big game that everyone is obviously looking forward to is the national championship game, which will likely be the impressive match up between the University of Florida, led by Tim Tebow, and the University of Texas, led by Colt McCoy. The big question is which of these undefeated teams will finish the season with the flawless record they have maintained all season long. As a fan, I'd like to say Colt McCoy has what it takes to run all over Florida and bring the National Championship trophy to Texas, but sadly I don't believe that. I have seen Tim Tebow play football and anyone who doesn't think he has what it takes to win the National Championship should lose their right to watch college football.

Professional athletes still receiving special treatment

Case of Donte Stallworth is only one example of preferential treatment from the law

By: Mike Gunderson

It seems that every year, we hear of professional athletes getting into all sorts of trouble with the law. Sometimes it is something small such as a minor traffic violation and they get busted with a little weed, or they pass out at a stop light because they are too high.

Yet, sometimes the violations are major such as a domestic assault charge, or carrying illegal firearms in the waistband of your sweatpants (nice job Plaxico!). Regardless of the infraction, many times high profile athletes receive special treatment when it comes to their escapades.

There are many reasons that high profile athletes are given special treatment. The fact that they are in the spotlight may be one. Perhaps they involve themselves in so much community work and give back that this is taken into account come sentence time. Yet, there is one big reason that many times allows for athletes to get out of trouble: Money.

In the case of Donte Stallworth, former wide receiver for the Cleveland Browns, money was the reason he did not serve more than 30 days in prison for killing a man while driving under the influence of alcohol.

According to the AP, in the early morning hours of March 14, 2009, a 2005 Bentley coupe driven by Stallworth struck and killed a pedestrian in Miami Beach, Florida. The man killed, Ma-

rio Reyes, 59, was on his way home from work. Stallworth's BAC shortly after the accident was reportedly 0.12, over the legal limit. Reyes was reportedly not crossing the street within the crosswalk.

Stallworth was handed a 30 day jail sentence (he served 24 on good behavior), 1000 hours of community service, 2 years under house arrest, and 8 years of probation while also receiving a life time suspension of his Florida state driver's license.

This sentence was handed down after Stallworth came to an undisclosed financial agreement with the Reyes family.

While the financial agreement to the family will certainly be very helpful and is almost certainly a large sum of money, it doesn't negate the fact that a man is now dead because of irresponsible behavior and driving under the influence of alcohol.

Had it been a normal person, someone who is not a high profile celebrity or athlete, that person would have been guaranteed to serve more than 24 days in prison. It would have been something more to the tune of years rather than days.

With so much emphasis by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell to hold the NFL and its players to a higher standard, why has Goodell not stepped in and handed down a harsher penalty to Stallworth, as he has been suspended for one



Courtesy Photo/ blogs.suntimes.com

season?

Goodell was quick to fine Chad Ochocinco \$20,000 dollars recently for jokingly trying to buy a referee's review call for \$1. The NFL issued a statement after the Ochocinco incident, stating "We will not allow any player to disrupt the integrity or reputation of the NFL."

It seems to me that the NFL needs to take a deeper look into its reputation and integrity. Having controversial players among the ranks of the NFL has been an ongoing problem. Yet, as successful as the NFL is it is hard to criticize the steps they have taken to make the league entertaining.

Super Bowl Contenders and Pretenders down the stretch

Who has what it takes to make a run to Miami for Super Bowl XLIV?

By: Cleveland Woods

NFL- super bowl predictions. Who's going and who's not?

Huge controversy is going around with high hopes of the Indianapolis Colts and the New Orleans Saints having the super bowl positions on lock. Although both of these teams are undefeated, this is an NFL where anything can happen.

Recently, the Colts came back and beat New England after being down 31-14. The Colts came back to win it by the final score of 35-34.

As for the Saints, they here down by 17 against the Carolina Panthers and came back after halftime and marched down to victory road 30-20, so both teams are obviously tough enough for a Super Bowl berth.

But underestimating the other opponents out there when it comes down to crunch time leads to upsets.

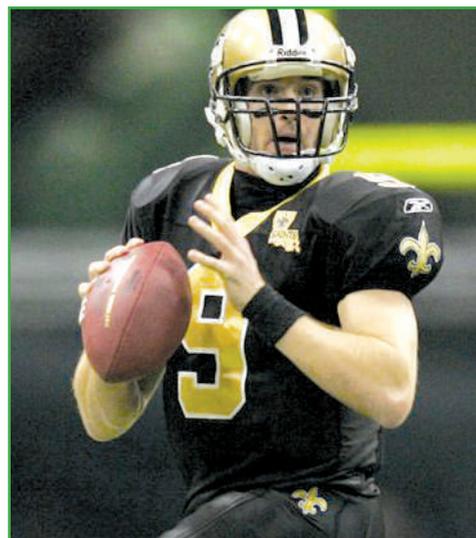
Look at the Cincinnati Bengals, who swept the defending champion Steelers in their division. This is a team that no one expected to have that kind of success.

You have to admit around this time in the season, this is when the NFL gets exciting. This is when the unthinkable comes in to play and the mouth dropping, eye popping shocks also come in to play.

Last season, the Arizona Cardinals shocked the world with their appearance in Super Bowl 43, although not an all time favorite.

But the way things are looking now, the four team that could go to the super bowl are the New England Patriots (yuck), Cincinnati Bengals, Pittsburgh Steelers, and the San Diego chargers.

As for the NFC, The Atlanta Falcons could make it to the second round of the playoffs, but



Could Peyton Manning and Drew Brees lock up in Miami for high scoring Super Bowl 44?

probably not the Super bowl.

As for the Dallas Cowboys, season after season they start off strong but when it comes down to crunch time they choke, so if the Cowboys can avoid choking that's the fifth team on the list to make it to the super bowl.

If the Minnesota Vikings keep playing how they have been playing, they might be the team to shock the world.

Obviously, the clear front runner for the AFC is the Indianapolis Colts, led by Peyton Manning, but some might be unsure if the undefeated Colts can reach that point in the season, with all the close wins they have been accumulating.

They are without a doubt a talented club but without the correct strategy, any team can be brought down, especially in the intense post



Courtesy Photos/nfl.com

season environment.

The NFC is another story completely. Obviously, most people would like to assume the Saints are going to finish the season with a perfect record, sweep through the play-offs with ease, and take home they're super bowl trophy, but many teams could stand in their way.

The most likely being the Minnesota Vikings, led by Quarterback Brett Favre and Running back Adrian Peterson. Despite the outcome, the post season will be sure to end with lots of big plays and fireworks for one lucky and talented team.

This is the NFL, where anything can happen and miracles to Hail Mary prayers can be answered.



Gator Scoreboard

Volleyball

Finished 7-24

(4-8 league play)

Sophomore

Samantha Potts 2nd team All

NWAACC West

Sophomore

Ashley Parries Honorable mention

All NWAACC West

Both will participate in the

Sophomore All-Star game on Dec.

5th at Big Bend CC

Women's Soccer

Finished 3-10-1

Carli McCrabb second all time in

Green River history in goals scored

with 17 career goals, including 10

this season.

Men's Basketball

*Dec. 2 vs Olympic

Dec. 5 vs Spokane

Dec. 15 vs Northwest Indian

Bellevue Crossover

Dec. 18 vs Bellevue

Dec. 19 v. Big Bend/Lane

Dec. 20 - Trophy Round

* denotes Season Opener

Women's Basketball

1-0

*Nov. 28 vs Shoreline - W

Dec. 2 vs Clackamas

Bellevue Preseason

Tournament

Dec. 5 vs Big Bend or

Mt. Hood

Dec. 6 - Bellevue final round

Dec. 12 vs Northwest Indian

Dec. 29 vs. Olympic

* denotes Season Opener