



Finishing touches placed on new welcome center



Sara Olson/Staff Photos

Above: Pat McCambridge hangs the restroom sign near the entrance of the new Zgolinski Welcome Center, dedicated on June 2. The building will be the first stop for incoming students and is expected to be fully functional at the beginning of fall quarter.

Left: McCambridge applies one of the final touches to the new building, which includes hanging the sign, dedicating the new building to Dan Zgolinski, a financial contributor to the center.

Zgolinski Welcome Center named in honor of man who recognized importance of higher learning

Alan Bloss
Staff Writer

A formal dedication ceremony took place on June 2 for the new Zgolinski Welcome Center. The multi-functional center is expected to help eliminate some of the frustrations that incoming students face.

"The location is going to combine enrollment services, assessment and testing, advising, some funding options, all really working together in a new team format that has not been tried before," Kae Hamilton, project manager, said. "We are very excited about what that is going to mean for improvement to service for students."

First year student Gabrielle Wilkerson said she is in favor of the idea.

"If you can get everything done all at once instead of having to go all over everywhere, that would be way better," Wilkerson said.

Timothy Anderson, program coordinator, believes the welcome

center will make transitioning to college less confusing for incoming students.

"If you're a new student on campus, it's hard to figure out where to go, where to start," Anderson said. "They won't be wandering the campus wondering 'where do I go?' Unfortunately, I have experienced at other campuses too that students get frustrated, they don't know where to go, and they just leave campus and never come back."

Not having staff members available to explain assessment test scores is another potential setback that students face.

"There's a time period in there where they might be shocked because maybe they didn't do as well as they could, and some people even think that there's no hope for them," Sam Ball, dean of capitol projects, said. "Here they'll set them up, have the students take the test and then as soon as they come out, someone will take them and help them understand what their test scores mean."

Increasing student retention isn't necessarily the main goal of the project, Hamilton said.

"By default that's going to increase retention," Hamilton said. "But really the goal is to make sure that students have made a connection to the campus."

The construction project consisted of a remodel of the existing 5,000 square foot Occupational Education Building, B plus a 4,900 square foot addition of new space on the south side. The center is open, as of June 3, and is expected to be fully operational by fall quarter.

The building is being named in honor of Kent resident Dan Zgolinski, a long time Green River supporter, who provided a major portion of funding for the \$1.6 million project.

"He has been a friend of the college for a number of years, providing scholarship money," Ball said. "He believed what the student community of Green River can do and has done over the years."

A WWII veteran and career employee with Sears, Zgolinski never had the opportunity to go to college himself.

"He's a brilliant guy, a very generous individual, but he found in his career that because he

didn't have a college degree that he would very often be training new employees who would then surpass him on the corporate ladder because they had a college degree and he didn't," Josh Gerstman, development director, said. "He didn't want to see anyone else have the same experience that he did. He kind of had this feeling that people should be able to have their own

limitless potential."

The dedication of the welcome center on June 2 was an opportunity to recognize Zgolinski's selflessness and vision, Green River president Rich Rutkowski said.

"His generosity will encourage hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Green River students each year to stay in school and earn a degree," Rutkowski said.

Cigarette butts become campus decoration

Smokers often fail to utilize ash trays

Shaelene Willers
Staff Writer

Designated smoking areas located around campus are a privilege for smokers, but smoking is a right as well. Due to the law passed in Nov. 2005, it's prohibited to smoke in public places or places of employment.

As a result, the campus provides locations for

smokers. These locations are accommodated with benches, ashtrays, and most are sheltered with trees.

Even with these designated locations, the littering of cigarette butts on campus is taking effect on some people on campus.

All over campus cigarette butts are being littered. In a way, this issue is stretching the right to smoke on campus; seeing as it's a public place.

Cigarette butts,
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Campus:

Honoring the victims
Students set up station to raise money for earthquake survivors.
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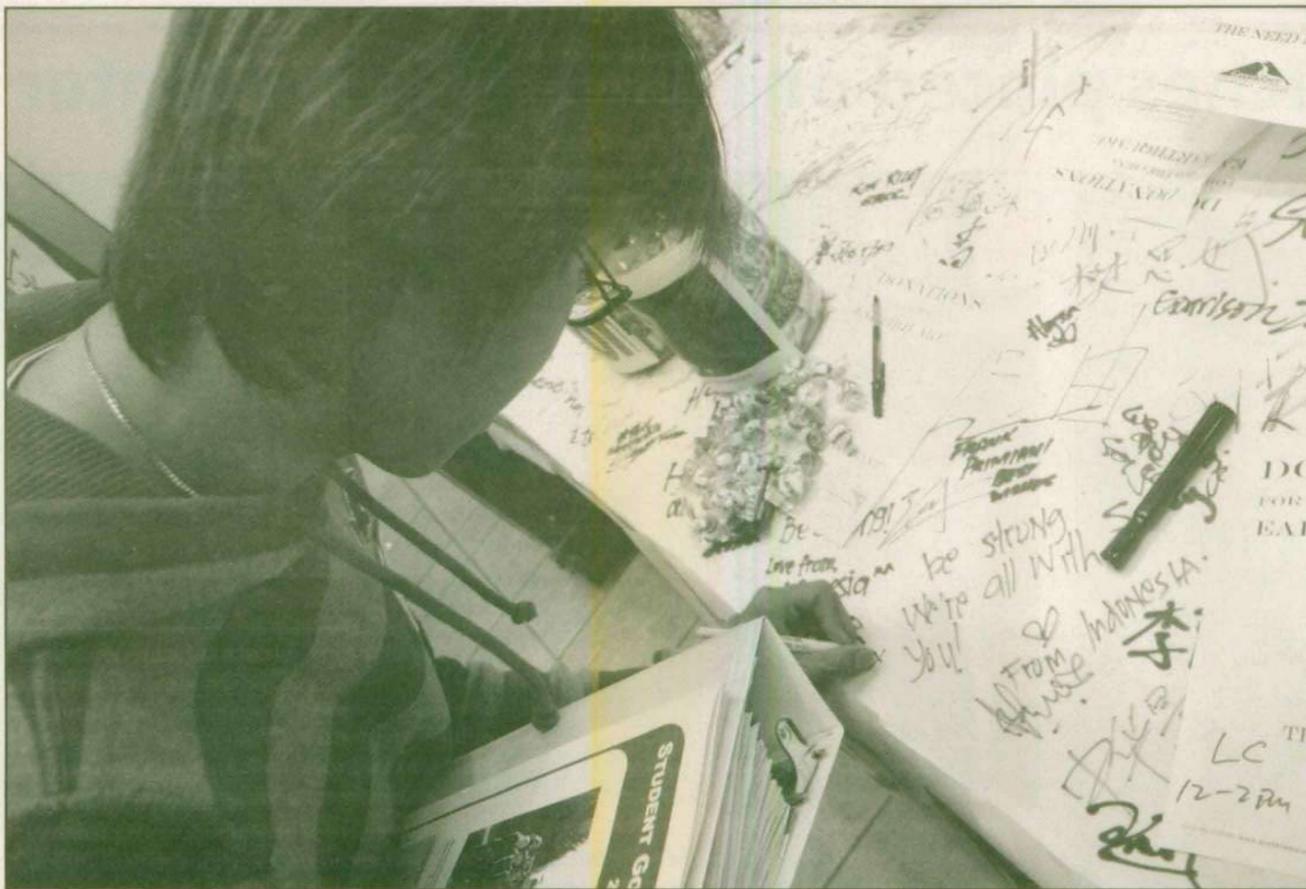
Campus

Carpentry project
Students travel to Mississippi to help Katrina victims.
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Students show support for earthquake victims



Sara Olson/Staff Photos

Student Eric Januar writes a message to earthquake victims in China on May 29. Several students turned out to send words of encouragement and donate money. All of the messages and money are going to be sent to China.

Student Celia Chen stood at a table along with other students, trying to raise money for earthquake victims.

Money raised for victims to be sent to China

Tammie Guavara
Staff Writer

An earthquake measuring 7.8 on the Richter scale hit China, resulting in a death toll exceeding 56,000 people. In addition, 25,000 people went missing and more than 292,000 people were injured.

Some Chinese students at Green River Community College set up a booth at the Cultural Fair on May 29. They collected donations along with students' signatures and messages for the victims of the quake. They also gave out candy to students as a symbol of sharing love.

Weiqi Zeng, one of the students who arranged the effort, said that they would donate the money to the World Vision organization.

"We'll give the money that we receive to the cashier, and they'll count the money," Zeng said. "Then the school will send it to the organization."

They are also going to send a picture of the tablecloth to China.

Celia Chen, 18, another student that

arranged this effort, said, "We want to let them know that we are really concerned about them."

There are roughly 10 students involved in this effort.

"We are doing this as Chinese and as human beings," Zeng said. He also said that they welcome anybody and everybody to join the effort.

The students are still waiting to hear from the school if they can continue the benefit for another few days. Meanwhile, the number of victims is increasing every day.

Chen says that one of the victims of the earthquake is her friend. "I can talk to my friend now," Chen said. "The phone and internet connections have run again. He was hurt a little, but he's doing pretty good." She said that his condition is continuing to get better.

Ji Sheng Li, 18, a Chinese student at GRCC, said that many people who survived lost their parents, children, or relatives. "They have to be strong, and I hope that they can live better," Li said.

The Chinese government is doing everything they can to help its people overcome the disaster. Li said that China has a com-

munity leader who goes to disaster areas.

"He helps the victims and the government to act," Li said.

The government has also sent its army forces to help. "I heard that the condition is better now because of the army," said Shu-Yun Pai, a Taiwanese student at GRCC.

The disaster has become a national grievances day. Chengcheng Li, 17, a student from China, said that on the day of the earthquake, the nation's people were hanging their flags at half-staff.

"There was no entertainment on TV, and all Chinese-based websites were black and white for three days," Li said.

Other than that, entertainers all over China are making shows and movies to raise money for the victims.

Pai said, "I know that hundreds of entertainers, not only in China, are making shows where people can donate money."

Jackie Chan, a well-known Hong Kong action actor, is planning to make a movie about the earthquake and donate the profit to the victims. Relief efforts are being made all over the world. People and organizations are sending money, food, and medicine to the victims.

"I know that many people in China are

trying to donate for the victims," Li said. "We are very thankful for the help."

Li also said that people should help each other. "It doesn't matter from what nation you are, it's a good thing to help each other," Li said.

Countries, especially those that are closest to China, such as Taiwan, Hong Kong, etc. are doing what they can to help. Chen said that she appreciated the effort. "It's my country, and I'm really thankful for all the help."

Pai said that her parents are raising money for the victims. "About ten years ago, Taiwan had a big earthquake and China helped us," Pai said. "I think now we should do whatever we can to help them."

Students from other countries also are showing their concern. Kelsy Fdeaka, a first year student at GRCC, said that she's sad to hear about the earthquake.

"I've thought about it, and I have no idea what I'd do," she said. "I can't imagine what must be going through their head."

Li said that China has gone through a lot of trouble this month. "There was a snow storm earlier this year, a riot, the Tibetan's issue, and now the earthquake," she said.

People hope that China can survive through this disaster.

"I hope they don't have to go through it again," Fdeaka said.

Li said that she felt comforted by the support many people feel for the nation.

"I feel warm when people talk about it," she said. "I talked to my friends from many countries and they all felt sorry, and I felt supported."

Littering cigarette butts could cost students money

Cigarette butts,
Continued from Page 1

"People will flick their cigarette butt if there's not an ashtray around," Darryl Hendrawan said.

Student Christopher Mensah thinks the problem is in the lack of ash trays around.

"There's not enough cigarette trays around, so you see people just toss it because they are too lazy, or they are in a hurry to class and don't think about it," Mensah said.

It is even possible that the littering of cigarette butts could have a greater impact on students.

"Littering cigarette butts impacts tuition costs, because I have to hire more people to help clean up. There are accommodating

locations for smokers, and if they don't use them, it's creating health concerns," Tom Weisweaver, who works in the Campus Facilities Department, said. "My message is to use designated smoking areas and put your cigarette butts out in a tray."

Student Erik Utz also believes that non smokers need to be respectful of the smoking areas.

"Smokers who litter are disrespectful because we are given a right to enjoy a life choice, and we should do it without affecting other people, but non smokers are disrespectful to because they infringe in the designated areas," Utz said. "If you don't want to be around it, walk around. If this is the area I'm given to smoke, I have my rights but they stop when it is affecting someone else. That's why if there's no

ashtray I put it in my pocket."

Smoking on campus definitely has been seen from both points of view. Smoking is a right but if pushed too far can affect others who do not make the choice to smoke.

"I make a choice to smoke, but littering is disrespecting the circle," student Ryan Palmer said. "But really it goes both ways, because non smokers make comments about smoking on campus and that's disrespectful too. It would be nice to have at least one more smoking circle."

If students around the campus choose to just litter cigarette butts, they are taking advantage of the right given to smokers.

If these actions continue, the trails of green river could become less sanitary or less comfortable for nonsmokers.

"I really hate when I'm walking on

campus, and someone lights one up right by me, and I get a face full of smoke," student Brandice Tranholt said.

Every year diseases caused by smoking or second hand smoke kill hundreds of thousands of people.

"Smoking on campus, as most already know, doesn't help our health because of second hand smoke. Smokers should care about the people around them because one day someone close to you may die from the effects of smoking," student Po-Yin Lo said.

Student Mollie King thinks that the environment would be better off if smokers would utilize the cigarette trays.

"People should be able to throw their own trash away; it just makes for a cleaner environment," King said.

Carpentry students help Katrina victims

GRCC Carpentry class sends students to help reconstruct lingering Katrina Damage

Alan Bloss
Staff Writer

Devastated by Hurricane Katrina, a small Mississippi town recently was given a helping hand by eight carpentry students and their instructor.

The town of Pass Christian, where the group spent a week doing volunteer work, "was just wiped out," faculty member Glen Martin said. "We saw total destruction. It basically was a ghost town."

The 2005 hurricane produced a 28 foot tidal wave that left a path of destruction which stretched six miles inland.

"It was just a mess," Martin said. "It was just nothing, just piles and piles of wood and debris."

Student Derek Tofstad heard about the opportunity to help people in need and decided to volunteer for the trip.

"I thought it would be a great experience helping people out like that," Tofstad said. "Everybody went down and did all the cleanup right after the storm but not a lot of people went back to start rebuilding."

"The Pass," as it is known locally saw their population go from about 6,500 before Katrina to less than 2,000 today.

"The ones that left are the moms and dads and sons and daughters," Martin said. "Unless something is done right away, those families are probably not coming back, which is kind of sad."

In an effort to prevent damage from future storms, the majority of houses in the area are being constructed on eight to ten

foot pillars that are buried in concrete in the ground.

"They put them all on pillars so if the water comes again, it just goes underneath," student Brittan Ranstrom said. "They don't do that kind of construction up here, so it's new for us."

For their only day off, the group traveled two hours east to New Orleans, where they arrived via the city's 9th Ward neighborhood.

"It was very shocking and even appalling," Martin said. "It is like time has stood still. Instead of any signs of reconstruction, all we saw were boarded up, abandoned houses, or people trying to live in what was once their home."

Amidst all the devastation, the group found one man determined to help his fellow citizens in any way he could.

"My friend Larry, he's like 75 years old,

and his story is he had enough insurance money that he could rebuild his home," Martin said. "He had money left over so he and his wife decided 'hey, we are going to help the community.' So they went out and spent \$30,000 of their own money, bought a tractor, and he goes around and he just volunteers his tractor to help out in whatever way, shape he can."

This is typical of people staying in the town, Martin said.

"They've really helped each other out, and they're going to stay there and rebuild, but they are in need of more volunteers," Martin said. "I'd like to see that maybe student clubs, even staff or faculty might want

"It is like time has stood still. Instead of any signs of reconstruction, all we saw were boarded up, abandoned houses, or people trying to live in what was once their home."

—Glen Martin,
carpentry instructor



Glen Martin/Courtesy Photo

Carpentry students from Green River help rebuild homes in Mississippi. The town of Pass Christian, has been left in destruction since Hurricane Katrina.

to go down and help out. And let Green River be known that we've kind of adopted this community."

"That's my dream," Martin said. "We'll see what happens."

White River Amphitheater to host Graduation

Gym renovation forces relocation of graduation to White River Amphitheater

Alan Bloss
Staff Writer

The time and place of the graduation ceremony for Green River Community College's class of 2008 has been set: 7 p.m., June 12 at the White River Amphitheater.

It is the first time Green River has decided to hold the commencement ceremony outside of the college.

"The gymnasium remodel wouldn't allow the ceremony to be held there," said John Ramsey, director of public information. "The White River Amphitheater was the perfect place because it's undercover, big, and close-by."

Ramsey estimated that about 3,500 students would participate in the ceremonies.

The unlimited space provided by the amphitheater allows an unrestricted number of guests per graduate.

Tickets and parking are free, and students should not be shy about inviting their families and friends, he said.

Ramsey explained that no rehearsal of the commencement ceremony has been planned at the amphitheater.

However, two informal meetings have been scheduled at the Lindbloom Student

Center, main dining room.

Those one-hour meetings are slated for 3 p.m., June 10 and 12 p.m., June 11. Graduates are highly encouraged to attend.

Caps, gowns and tassels are available at the Paper Tree Bookstore. Students can purchase them as soon as they receive their graduation cards. However, the college advises that students shouldn't buy them later than June 2, in case the gown isn't at the right size and should be changed.

Parking lots will be accessible and free for the graduates and guests. Signs and attendants will help to direct anyone to the nearest available parking spots.

The brochure received by the graduates states that a bus service is also available for 75 students on a first-come, first-served basis.

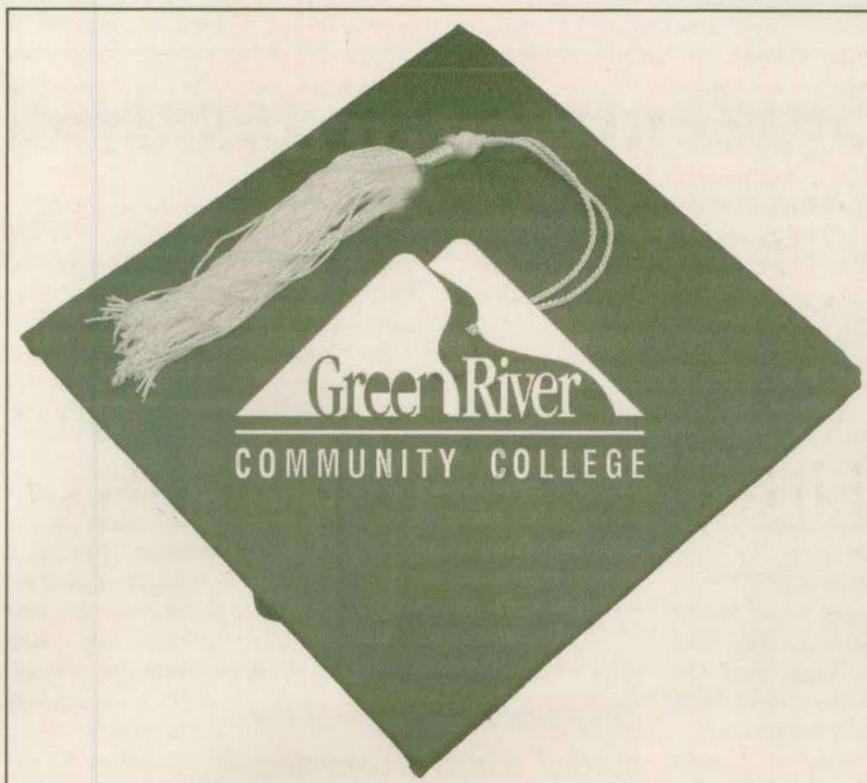
The deadline to reserve a bus ticket is June 10. A student ID is required.

Guests are expected as soon as 5 p.m. The seating won't be assigned, but 8,100 chairs will be available in the covered area.

Graduates have to report no later than 6 p.m. at the River Lodge, an outbuilding next to the amphitheater, where they will receive all the instructions regarding the ceremony, pick-up their graduation cards,

"There will be some surprises, so you better hang around."

—John Ramsey



Sara Olson/ Photo Illustration

and get dressed-up.

The processional line-up will start promptly at 6.30 p.m.

For those who desire to keep a souvenir of this moment with a portrait, Darel Roa Photography will receive you at the White River Amphitheater, on appointment.

A brochure can be downloaded at

<http://www.greenriver.edu/commencement/2008>.

Families and friends are welcome to join the graduates and staff of Green River at the reception which will immediately follow the ceremony.

"There will be some surprises, so you better hang around," Ramsey said.

Christa Bell brings 'Coochie Magik' to campus

'Coochie Magik' educates, entertains, empowers women.

Sean Kramer
Staff Writer

Misogyny is a topic that people generally would like to avoid, brush under the rug, or pretend like it's not there.

However, when Christa Bell came to Green River she came to educate and to open up a new perspective for students and faculty alike on this and other uncomfortable topics. To some it was controversial, to some it was empowering, to others it might have even been comedy, but to most it was CoochieMagik.

Bell was invited onto campus on May 21 to host a writing workshop, speak to students, and perform her one woman show "CoochieMagik: A SpokenWord Musical Comedy."

For GRCC the hope was that Bell would provide an educational opportunity for students to look at an uncomfortable and controversial topic from a different point of view.

"When we look at different issues on campus, it's important to bring different voices, such as how women in the mass media, Christa provides another voice," Colleen Neubert, director of women's programs, said about Bell. "She talks about misogyny in a way everybody can relate to. What she does is bring another perspective of 'let's own it,' sort of reclaiming who they are as women."

Neubert also stressed the importance of students being able to push their comfort zones, because it opens up the ability to see different perspectives, which most students had to do during Bell's workshop and performance.

The message Bell tried to teach was simple. Everything in this world, every building erected, every book written, every influential leader, everything, it all came from one place: the "coochie."

She finds it funny, or wrong, that while men can be proud and flaunt their "pack-

age" that women for many millennium have been even taught that their "coochies" are shameful. Bell's message that, instead the "coochie" is something sacred and holy, and the "second chakra," is instead a place of empowerment and pride for women.

During the afternoon workshop, she challenged every student and faculty member in attendance, even the men, to conjure up their creativity and in a poetic fashion write an autobiography of their "coochies," and asked those who were brave enough to share their work.

Students and faculty turned out in bunches for the evening performance in the Glacier Room, for a night of fun, education, and entertainment.

For over an hour, Bell entertained with a strong performance of spoken word, music, sound and comedy while telling her message of female empowerment in an entertaining and attention grabbing fashion.

She performed two of her favorite and famous pieces, "1001 Holy Names For The Coochie" and "If You Don't Cum, Don't Nobody Cum" and enlightened those in attendance about her enlightening philosophy of "She-ism."

Her philosophy of "She-ism," was for women to show appreciation of their bodies and how beautiful and holy they really are, as well as acknowledge the power of the orgasm, and how it can be compared to everything else going on in their everyday lives.

As well as keeping those in attendance involved with overwhelming crowd participation which included a question and answer session, somebody would be hard pressed to find a single person in attendance that wasn't into the performance.

"I could not have asked for a more inspiring and enlightening performance. And, I was thrilled to see so many students," Jennifer Whetham, who was the faculty member involved in the event, said.



www.christabellonline.com/Courtesy Photo

Christa Bell came to campus to talk about "Coochie Magik," at topic that grants insight into the beauty of the female body.

"I really hope it would cause them to think critically about sex. So much that's portrayed to us about sex is superficial."

Lyra Seymour was one of the students that attended and participated in one of Bell's activities of asking women if they

have ever chanted or prayed to their names.

"She seems like a beautiful energetic woman," Seymour said. "I loved it. Coochie is freakin' awesome."

Students asked, received school e-mail addresses

E-mail created to bring students more information

Chin Chow
Contributing Writer

Free student e-mail accounts now are available for Green River Community College (GRCC) students.

The students who have not gotten their student e-mail address can do so by going to <http://www.greenriver.edu/studentemail>. In order to set up the address, they have to input their last name, date of birth, and student ID.

The main objective of the student e-mail is to help the students keep up-to-date on GRCC information and events as well as communicate with faculty, staff and other GRCC students.

"I use this tool to send Excel files to my students so that they can keep track of their grades, which is convenient," Rob Jonas, mathematics instructor, said. "It is

my grade machine."

"I can also send my students announcements, handouts or any change I make," he added.

The student e-mail home page of GRCC says, "You requested it, and we listened."

According to this web site, GRCC e-mail account is sponsored by the Associate Students of Green River Community College (ASGRCC).

The new college e-mail addresses aren't widely known by students because officials chose a "soft-launch rollout," pending a

larger marketing effort in the fall, said Kim Peterson, director of technology development.

But they decided to move ahead with the program now so students can purchase various software packages with substantial discounts. The purchases are only valid with an .edu address.

"I don't really use it so often, but it is nice to have one," student Kenneth Jacob Borrouso said. "It is a convenient

and effective way to communicate with instructors and students."

However, some students have opposite opinions.

"I got my student e-mail address, but I never use it because I don't like the address," Martin Sit, a student from Hong Kong, said. "Now I don't even remember that address."

"There is nothing special about the student e-mail; the interface looks just like the one of hotmail," Sit said. "I would rather use my hotmail e-mail address."

In order to let students know about these accounts, GRCC made an announcement on its home page. In addition, new students receive the information through their GRCC Welcome Packets, orientation workshops and in the E-Newsletter sent to students by e-mail.

On the other hand, some students don't even know about the student e-mail.

"I didn't know that the college offers this service until you told me," Sean Li, 17, said.

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Weird & Wacky News

Tammie Tamara
Staff Writer

Perfect prize for a die-hard fan

The Grand Prairie AirHogs minor league baseball team is giving a prize that the winner won't be able to enjoy. It will give a free funeral to a fan that includes a casket, headstone, services, and a plot. The funeral packet that will be given is valued at \$10,000. It is a part of their promotion line, "All Hogs Go to Heaven." The gift has no expiration date so the winner is not in a hurry.

Jackass in the drunk tank

Everybody has equal treatment under the law. By everybody, people don't usually include animals. Apparently, Mexico does. A donkey was arrested at a local jail after it bit and kicked two men. The owner has to pay for the victims' medical bills for the donkey to be released. The jail normally holds people for drunkenness and public disturbances. The owner is trying to arrange to pay the bills, at around \$420.

Parents leave son in airport

It's like a new version of "Home Alone." In a hurry to catch a plane, a family left a 23-month-old boy in the Vancouver airport. All the adults who were with the toddler each thought that he was with another adult. They found out about this only after the airport contacted them during transit. The parents returned to Canada with their tickets covered by the airline, Air Canada.

Street covered in cookies

Most people love cookies as much as they hate traffic jams. A truck contained with 14 tons of double-stuffed Oreos overturned. It spilled all the Oreos that were still wrapped into the roadway. The truck driver fell asleep and slammed the truck into the median. The accident still is under investigation, although no charges have been filed.

Allergies put damper on spring, summer seasons

Foreign students discover allergies in United States

Jiyeon Choo
Staff Writer

Spring is a beautiful season. It gets warmer so many flowers are blooming, and the new leaves sprout up. However, some people say it is a horrible season for them because of allergies.

They usually get itchy eyes, itchy throat, and lots of sniffles in their nose. Some people sneeze a lot during this time. Some international students say they particularly suffer from allergies because when they came to America, they encountered a different environment than the environments of their countries.

"I sneeze a lot and have runny and blocked nose. Because of sneezing, I get a headache sometimes," student, Burmaa Myagmarjav, 20, said. "I wasn't allergic to anything when I was in my country, but I have an allergy now."

There is lots of things that make people suffer from allergies during the spring time. There are lots of dust outside, flowers, other plants, and pollution. Students at the college spend more time outside when the weather becomes nice, so they have more

chances to be affected by those things and to get sick because of allergies.

To avoid outdoor allergies, Julie French of the Health and Wellness Staff in the college suggested two things to do before people go outside of their house.

"You can go for a walk, but avoid early in the morning and dusk because plants let out their pollens in the morning and after 5 p.m.," French said. "Wash your hands and face before you go outside and wear a mask."

Some people might think that being inside makes them safe from allergies. However, that often is not true. Dust and pollen can remain on the body or clothes, which can make people have allergy symptoms.

"As soon as you come home, wash your hands and your face. Wash your hair. Pollen and dust can remain on hair," French said. "Take off your clothes and put on fresh clothes. Wash dirty clothes with unscented detergent."

When people who suffer from allergies stay at home, there are several things for them to do other than keeping themselves clean.

They have to keep their

house clean and keep their windows closed and use an air conditioner.

French recommended students hang sheer fabric on the window to prevent dust and pollen coming into their rooms. Also, French warned about putting fresh flowers or things that have strong smells inside of the house.

"I wasn't allergic to anything when I was in my country, but I have an allergy now."

—Burmaa Myagmarjav, student

Some students complain that allergies really bother them in class.

Jieun Baek, 19, said, "My throat and eyes itch in class, so it is hard to concentrate on

what instructors say." There are several suggestions from French for students who have trouble with allergies in the class.

"Before you go to your class, wash your hands and face. Try not to touch your face and not to rub your eyes until you go back home and wash your hands," French said. "Have tissues and medicine with you."

Some students might think what French suggests is too hard to do since they are busy during the quarter. However, French's suggestions will make allergy sufferers feel better and stay healthier.



The student government voted Shauna Stadnik, ASGRCC President was named senator of the year for 2007-2008.



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McCain's flip-flops prove his inadequacy for presidency

'Maverick' has changed position more than once



Commentary by Joe Chouery

Will the real John McCain please stand up? Maverick, straight shooter, centered, and hogwash are all ways you can describe Senator John McCain, but only one of those names has any real truth.

The senator has a knight of the round table image that disgusts me every time that it is beamed into my living room at the rate that only high-speed cable could provide. Instead of literally delivering McCain candy sprinkled doughnuts and going to BBQs at his wife's house, journalists should be accurately covering his shady past.

As Barack Obama undoubtedly moves forward with his campaign, Republicans would like to make the case that McCain has many more years of experience. While I cannot question the amount of years that the old man has served, I can question his antics on how he handled those many, many, many years of politicking.

Flip-flopping is what McCain is really good at. Just ask his first wife whom he was married to before he dumped her for his beer tycoon second wife.

I am sure many would think that is a bit below the belt, but you have to admit it is kind of strange to find true love only six months after a divorce. Personally, I think it has more to do with what drives all his decisions: the money.

When it comes to money, McCain is like a tree that bends toward sunlight. If you

wave enough of it around him, you will own him. That is why there are so many lobbyists working for him.

One lobbyist McCain would like to move past is Charles Keating. Campaign reformer McCain has only supported such legislation after he was caught with his hand in the cookie jar.

Before McCain was "The Maverick," he was a member of the "Keating five." Now all of a sudden the so-called straight shooter has changed his mind. Apparently having hundreds of lobbyists running your campaign is not bad thing.

If the flip-flopping was limited to just his marriage and his money, it would not surprise many people, but he continues to flip-flop with his commitment to the troops.

The media proclaimed war hero voted to limit VA spending for veterans every year from 2004-2007. He also tried to stipulate that only veterans serving 12 years would receive

any extra money for college.

I'm sorry, but if McCain thinks that we should vote for him because he is a veteran, maybe he should act like one and not leave a soldier behind.

He flipped with the issue of abortion, flopped on the Bush Tax Cuts, and flipped with ethanol. And to my utter shock, he now thinks water boarding is not torture.

The one area where McCain does not flip-flop on is the war in Iraq. While his position stays the same, his political spin is a little warped. In 2002, he said, "We will win this conflict. We will win it easily."

But he more recently said that he knew "the war was probably going to be long and hard and tough." He also followed it up by saying that he was sorry for those who voted for the war believing it would be "some kind of easy task."

Maybe they didn't know what they were voting for. Well Senator McCain, this voter knows whom he is voting for, and it is not you.

"Maverick, straight shooter, centered, and hogwash are all ways you can describe Senator John McCain, but only one of those names is the real truth."

"If the flip-flopping was limited to just his marriage and his money, it would not surprise many people."

Editorial Policy

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

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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 thecurrent@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.

Disposing of cigarette butts correctly is not too much to ask

Littering only gives other smokers bad name



Commentary by Tyler Walton

Littering. Does anyone like it, or the people that do it? It's an all-too-common taint upon the very green appearance of our college. Yet, the very worst perpetration of littering on not only our campus, but our country, and indeed the entire world goes altogether unnoticed.

Sound like a sensational claim? It's not, actually: the single most littered items in the United States and the world itself are cigarette butts. If you're reading this outside, take a look around you, there's probably more than a dozen on the ground within sight.

Despite the fact that ashtrays can be found all over campus in great abundance, the number of smokers that use them is disappointingly low. You see far more of the burnt stubs on the ground than in the trays.

Why does this go unnoticed? Because no one says anything, simply put. People see cigarettes being thrown to the ground and extinguished under a heel, and they say nothing. Usually, they don't even think about it, neither the smoker nor the observer.

Likewise, they don't think about the number of fires caused by discarded cigarettes every year, the number of people (not to mention wildlife and property) that die in those fires.

They don't think about the sheer

number of cigarette butts on the ground around them; on the pavement, in the bushes, everywhere but the actual ashtrays, or that it only takes a couple of days for them to accumulate again after GRCC staff cleanses the entire campus of litter.

They don't think about how many decades it's going to take for them to decompose, that the filters are made of a cellulose acetate that is very toxic to wildlife, and does not naturally break down without damaging the plants, soil, and water it's left on.

Thinking about it now? Good.

It is a smoker's right to smoke. A very simple freedom, even if it isn't really in their best interest. However, the right to litter is not among those simple freedoms, and an unfortunately large proportion of smokers seem to think it is whenever they drop their cigarettes to the ground.

For them to do so makes all of them look bad, even those that dutifully put each and every cigarette into a tray. It makes them all look like they don't care, even though some do.

Why don't these smokers simply put their butts in an ash tray? There's hardly a lack of them at the college. There's almost always an ashtray (or two!) next to the benches by the walkways, by picnic tables, at the corners of buildings, most everywhere.

Admittedly, they are not always conveniently located, but even so, is walking twenty feet truly a justifiable reason to just toss it onto the ground?

This is a very simple thing to solve, at least on a campus level. When you see someone flick a smoldering butt to the ground, don't let them leave it there. Call them on it, make them pick it up.

In the end, it is your campus that is being sullied by this behavior. Only you can put an end to it.

The Current Staff

The Current is a public forum for student expression at Green River Community College, since 1965.



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Fire it up

It's that wonderful time again, when stepping out of the house requires donning sunglasses, skipping the jacket, and enjoying the smell of food on the grill permeating the air. Ladies and gents, fire up those grills. BBQ season is back.

BBQ Baked Beans

½-1 lb. ground beef	¼ cup brown sugar
¼ lb. bacon, cut in pieces	1 tbs. liquid smoke
1 cup chopped onions	3 tbs. white vinegar
1 large can of pork and beans	1 tsp. salt
1 can kidney beans drained	Dash of pepper
1 can lima beans	Red pepper flakes (optional)
1 cup ketchup	

1. Brown the beef in skillet
2. Add bacon and onions and cook until brown
3. Drain off all fat
4. Add bacon, onions, beef, and all ingredients in slow cooker
5. Stir together well
6. Cover and cook on low for 4-6 hours.

Hawaiian Chicken Sandwiches

Quantity depends on party size	Sliced Provolone
Chicken breast	Sliced Pineapple
Yoshida's Teriyaki Sauce	Whole Wheat buns

1. Marinate Chicken in teriyaki sauce for an hour or over night.
2. Barbecue on medium heat until chicken is done.
3. Add slice of provolone cheese and slice of pineapple until cheese is melted.
4. Serve with condiments on whole wheat bun.

How are students spending their summer vacation?

"I plan to take a trip to New Mexico to visit niece and nephew for the first time. Then hopefully find a job to get money so I can come back in the fall."

—Shawn Burns

"I plan to work and save up for nursing school in the fall. Also go on as many weekend trips as possible. Of course no classes, it's finally summer."

—Shannon McCowen

"I'm going to be working, getting some sun, and take an online History class."

—Nathan Demonnin

"This summer I'm heading back to Hawaii to party hard, hit the beaches and do a lot of surfing."

—Keoni Camacho

I plan to completely relax this summer. I've been waiting awhile to be able to do just what I want. I'd love to work on my music, read books, and just hang out with friends whenever I want. Besides that I don't have any huge plans, but then again, you never know what's going to happen."

—Sasha Beggs

"I'm going to take some trips, and begin my radiological program."

—Chris Samara

Gathered by Alfred Ocampo

Cherry Jubilee Salad

1 quart pie cherries (2 cans)	1 cup milk
1 large banana (sliced)	1 cup sugar
1 cup coconut	3 tbs. flour
1 cup mini marshmallows	

1. In one bowl, mix together cherries, banana, coconut, and marshmallows.
2. In separate bowl, mix together milk, sugar, and flour.
3. Combine ingredients and stir thoroughly.
4. Cook on stove until thick. Be careful not to scorch.
5. Allow to cool before serving.

For dessert, S'mores at the campfire, using Hershey's chocolate, graham crackers, and giant marshmallows, make a yummy treat.

Golf team ends season third in NWAACC

Player gets personal best at championships

Sara Olson
Staff Writer

The final pin has been replaced in its cup, and the clubs have been put back in their bags, left to rest until next year.

For the Gator women's golf team, next season will be one in which they look to continue their success and improve on their third place finish at the NWAACC championship this year.

The four-woman team attended the tournament that took place on May 18 and 19 in Spokane, Wash.

Jennifer Von Doehren, Gator head coach, anticipated great things from her team this year and overall was pleased with their performance throughout the season.

"This is the strongest team that I've ever had," Von Doehren said.

Freshman Jenna Rochelle particularly was impressive throughout at the season and more specifically at the NWAACC championship.

Rochelle tied for fourth overall out of all the competitors, scoring 78 in her first round on day one and 85 on day two.

Brynne Bettesworth also put forth her best performance of the season at the tournament. After scoring an 89 on day one, Bettesworth dropped eight strokes for an 81 in her second round.

Although the tournament and title were taken by Columbia Basin Community College, the Gators took the third place title by a long shot, with a total score of 503. Southwest Oregon Community College trailed by 18 strokes, finishing in fourth.

Although, they didn't take the first place trophy, Von Doehren was satisfied with the Gators' performance.

"I had one of my players play her personal best and help the team out tremendously," Von Doehren said. "It would be nice to



Jennifer Von Doehren/Courtesy

The Gator women's golf team, consisting of (from left to right) Jenna Bishop, Brynne Bettesworth, Megan Manning, and Jenna Rochelle, received the third place trophy at the NWAACC Championship tournament.

win, but unfortunately we could not put the scores together. I was proud of the third place finish."

With the 2007-2008 season now in the past, the Gators already are planning and anticipating next fall's team. Three of the four members of the team will be returning, and Von Doehren already has some recruits lined up to play.

"Three out of the four are returning, and two are coming in," Von Doehren said. "I

look for a very strong team next year."

Von Doehren expects that the team's strengths displayed this season will carry over to next fall.

"There are a very close knit group of girls, and they play to each other's strengths. They help each other tremendously," Von Doehren said. "They have a lot of respect for the game and a lot of respect for each other."

The men's golf team didn't fair quite

as well as the women, finishing eighth out of the twelve teams competing at the NWAACC championships, only one stroke ahead of Tacoma Community College.

Eric Tronvig displayed one of the lowest scores of day one, finishing with a 73 in his first round. However, the next day, he scored an 81, causing him to tie for 27th overall.

Title taken from Gators at NWAACC Championships

Gator Men dethroned as champions, Bellevue steals show at women's tournament

Sara Olson
Staff Writer

A two-year title was taken away from the Green River Gator men's tennis team at the NWAACC championships.

Heading to the tournament, with their eyes set on securing the first place trophy for the third year in a row, the Gators battled the rest of NWAACC.

However, the team faltered to Spokane Community College, who ended their reign with a close fight to the finish.

Green River was evenly matched against Spokane in the singles matches, with three going to the Sasquatch, and three going to the Gators.

However, Spokane dominated on the doubles, taking all three matches.

In the end, the Sasquatch were on top by 10 points, with Green River trailing closely behind, and

Shoreline Community College a distant third place.

Despite the intensity of the men's tennis championships, the women's tournament was much more lopsided.

Bellevue Community College ran off with the title of NWAACC champion. Skagit Valley Community College took second place, 33 points behind, and Green River finished third.

The Gators did have some individual victories, however, as Gators Yuki Nakamura and Ribeka Hirokawa defeated two Bellevue players in singles matches.

Nakamura actually won first place overall in singles.

Nakamura and Hirokawa also teamed up in doubles to hand a loss to a Skagit Valley team.

Tennis will commence once again next spring, where both teams will attempt to bring a trophy back to Green River.

NWAACC Championship Tennis Results

Men's Team Results

Spokane 136pts, Green River 126pts, Shoreline 44pts, Skagit Valley 31pts, Treasure Valley 24pts

Men's Singles

- Champion Mike Shelton, Spokane def. William Herbert, Green River 7-5, 6-4
- #2 Travis Johnson, Green River def. Doug Truitt, Spokane 6-1, 6-3
- #3 Mike McIntosh, Spokane def. Conner Ayris, Green River 1-6, 6-4, 6-4
- #4 Bernardo Nogales, Green River def. Andrew Persen, Spokane 6-2, 2-6, 7-5
- #5 James Ravotti, Green River def. Stephen Gant, Spokane 6-3, 2-6, 6-2
- #6 Cameron Rassmussen, Spokane def. Angelito Daquiz, Green River 6-1, 6-3

Men's Doubles

- Champions Doug Truitt & Mike McIntosh, Spokane def. William Herbert & Travis Johnson, Green River 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2
- #2 Mike Shelton & Andrew Persen, Spokane def. Conner Ayris & Bernardo Nogales, Green River 6-1, 6-2
- #3 Cameron Rassmussen & Stephen Gant, Spokane def. Angelito Daquiz & Brook Fitzsimmons, Green River 6-3, 6-1

Women's Team Results

Bellevue 120pts, Skagit Valley 87pts, Green River 78pts, Shoreline 48pts, Spokane 25pts,

Women's Singles

- Women's Singles (top six)
- Champion Yuki Nakamura, Green River def. Ciara Schultz, Bellevue 6-2, 6-1
- #2 Courtney Groszhans, Bellevue def. Kelsey Richardson, Green River 6-7 (7-9), 6-1, 6-4
- #3 Azusa Takahashi, Skagit Valley def. Heather Steigelmeyer, Spokane 6-0, 6-1
- #4 Ribeka Hirokawa, Green River def. Hanna Jordt, Bellevue 5-7, 7-5, 6-4
- #5 Rika Matsumoto, Bellevue def. Starla Seal, Skagit Valley 6-4, 2-6, 6-2
- #6 Lauren Heino, Bellevue def. Holly Olson, Skagit Valley 6-1, 6-0

Bill Bavasi's time as general manager is up

NFL player will be effective recruiter for army



Column by
Casey Greer

Bill Bavasi's deserves to be fired, now.

That is far from a new or unique opinion, but baseball's "gas prices" have gotten high, and unfortunately the Mariners general manager is a huge fan of old school gas guzzling hot rods.

I feel that it is unfair to judge trades and signings in hindsight, because even the greatest general managers and talent evaluators are not equipped with crystal balls to view the future.

Through the beginning of Bavasi's career as a GM of the Mariners, he seemingly took a look at a Heathcliff Slocumb baseball card before pulling any triggers.

Slocumb, whose career was non-descript as a Mariner, was the prize in a trade that sent Derek Lowe and Jason Varitek to the Boston Red Sox.

Bavasi finally made a daring trade in 2008, the six player Erik Bedard trade, which I wrote an entire column about earlier in the year. Even if Adam Jones is the second coming of Willie Mays, the trade made sense.

Bavasi's career began with a few bangs, signing Adrian Beltre and Richie Sexson, as he entered his second year with the team.

Though Beltre never matched his 2004, near MVP winning season, he's been on par with upper-echelon third basemen in the MLB. At the time he signed, he was young by baseball standards and entering his prime.

I personally hated the signing of Richie Sexson from day one. He was the second best first baseman available, behind Carlos Delgado.

Though Sexson was two years younger than Delgado and a better fielder, Delgado was a far more accomplished hitter and would have served as the left handed power bat that the Mariners have needed since the departure of Ken Griffey, Jr.

Delgado signed a deal nearly identical to Sexson's, the same length and only \$2 million more.

There is a trend in baseball, centered on a set of statistics called sabermetrics. Sabermetrics were at one time relegated to basements and meetings among players of the original fantasy sport, rotisserie baseball.

Billy Beane, the general manager of the Oakland A's, is one of the foremost respected "Sabermetrics GMs," as chronicled by the book "Moneyball" by Michael M. Lewis. "Moneyball," I'll add, is an incredible read for hardcore baseball fans.

Sabermetrics GMs have experienced a lot of success, primarily Theo Epstein, the GM of the Boston Red Sox.

By changing the entire philosophy of a team's personnel decisions and signing players who have a value greater than their

desired salary, Epstein has been able to build a champion by making personnel decisions based on this philosophy.

Bavasi has done an incredibly poor job making personnel moves with good value. However, he had seemingly turned the corner on that in 2008 also.

After letting Jose Guillen skip town to Kansas City and trading Adam Jones, the Mariners had a hole in right field.

The Mariners signed Brad Wilkerson, who can play all three outfield positions and first base, and walks a lot, the heart and soul of Billy Beane's philosophy in "Moneyball."

Wilkerson signed for 1/9th of what Guillen signed for in Kansas City.

Wilkerson struggled to begin the season, batting below the .200 and struggling to hit for power.

However, in the seven games Wilkerson played, leading up to his eventual release, Wilkerson batted .421, had an OBP of .476, and hit three doubles.

Wilkerson was cut, along with Greg Norton, in favor of Youngsters Vladimir Balentien and Jeff Clement.

Clement has since been sent back to the minors. With the struggles of Jose Vidro and Richie Sexson, paired with Sexson's suspension, Wilkerson could have gotten some valuable playing time for the Mariners.

Wilkerson, ironically, signed with the Toronto Blue Jays, led by J.P. Ricciardi, former Billy Beane protégé.

Bavasi's signings have not been riddled with extreme failure, but not extreme

success either.

The reality is that Bavasi's trades are what make him worthy of firing, having made several very poor trades.

Besides the Bedard trade, Bavasi's trades have sent Freddy Garcia, Jamie Moyer, Chris Snelling, Emiliano Fruto, Carlos Guillen, Randy Winn, Rafael Soriano, Asdrubal Cabrera, and Shin-Soo Choo to other teams.

Due to the Mariners struggles during Bavasi's time in Seattle, most of the players traded have been veterans, and only four of the players the Mariners got in those are even still in the Mariners organization.

Most of those trades were viewed as lateral moves or worse the day they happened, and have since proven extremely ineffective.

Bavasi, via contract size, has chosen to build his team around a slap hitting, overvalued, overrated leadoff hitter, in the person of Ichiro, but that could be another column for another time.

Somewhere, deep in southern California, Paul DePodesta is sitting at a desk as an assistant of the San Diego Padre's front office. When Billy Beane accepted the Boston Red Sox GM job for a day in 2003, it was Paul DePodesta who negotiated with Beane on Beane's then former team's compensation.

DePodesta has been seemingly "blackballed" from baseball, since struggling with the Dodgers. However, DePodesta was only given two years to rebuild the then struggling Dodgers.

My request to fire Bill Bavasi isn't simply "out with the old, in with the new." It's more like "out with the '69 Nova, and in with the 2004 Toyota Prius."

"Bavasi has done an incredibly poor job making personnel moves with good value."

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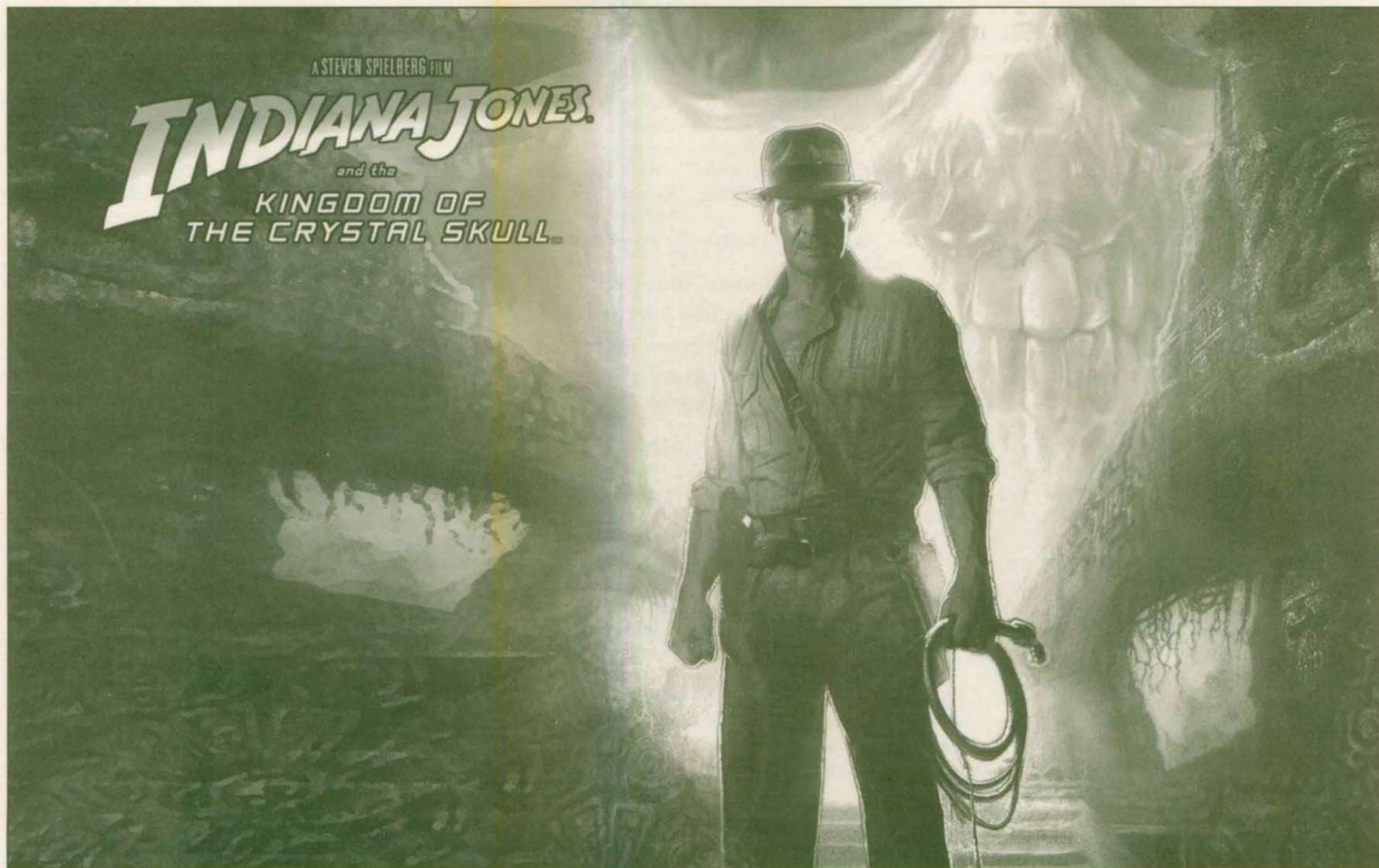
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Instructor
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How much do they
really make?
see inside | 8-9

Planning for
June ceremony
now under way
Over 2,000 expected
at commencement

Legislator tours, speaks on campus
Upthegrove to support new construction at Green River

He's old, he's gray, but he's still the same Indy



www.flat-life.com/Courtesy Photo

Indiana Jones is back in his latest adventure, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull." The film opened over Memorial Day Weekend with millions eager to

witness the probable finale of the series. The film stars Harrison Ford, Karen Allen, and new to the Indiana family, Shia LaBeouf, as Mutt Williams.

Same old Indiana Jones brings same old fun

Matt Janes
Staff Writer

The most important thing to know when going into the theater for "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" is that you are not entering a flashy modern movie.

Although it has been 19 years since the release of "The Last Crusade," director Steven Spielberg and producer George Lucas elected to maintain the "Indiana Jones style."

The special effects of the movie aren't the story; they supplement the story. For the most part, this movie is plot and character driven, even using aspects of the previous movies in the series to make progress.

The biggest concern when watching an

addition to a series after nearly 20 years is that it will be laden with jokes about how old the characters have gotten.

In the opening scene of the movie, it definitely appears that this will become a problem, but after a joke or two the issue is left behind. Everyone knows that Harrison Ford is in his 60's; they don't need to be told that through countless jokes, and the writers fortunately understood that.

The most amazing part about the movie is that even 20 years later, Ford is able to bring the same exact Indiana Jones that generations have come to love back to life.

If it weren't for the visible signs of age, you would likely forget that there is almost a two decade gap between the last two films.

The visible excitement in his eyes, the gruff sarcasm, the boyish sense of humor, it's all there.

The supporting cast of the film was equally impressive. Mutt Williams (Shia

LaBeouf) ventures alongside Jones in a manner that brings back memories of "The Last Crusade" in which Sean Connery played Jones' father.

The entertaining combination of age and youth often causes a difference of opinion and style between the two, and never fails to bring a laugh when it is supposed to.

After "Raiders of the Lost Ark" and "The Last Crusade," viewers get a refreshing break from the fight against the Nazis as the Russian KGB steps into play the part of the villain.

Led by one of Stalin's leading scientists, Irina Spalko (Cate Blanchett), a band of Soviets follow, manipulate, and cooperate with Jones on an action packed adventure through the jungles of Peru in an attempt to return the crystal skull to its resting place in a lost city of gold.

Probably the most exciting member of the supporting cast is Marion Ravenwood (Karen Allen). After "Raiders of the Lost

Ark" twenty-seven years ago, Marion disappears and is never heard of again, until now.

The one and only true love of Indiana Jones makes her triumphant return for the finale with a surprise of her own.

Aside from a moment at the end where Mutt nearly dons the classic Indiana Jones fedora, "Crystal Skull" leaves no questions unanswered. It is safe to say that after this adventure, Indiana Jones is hanging up his whip and settling down once and for all.

Whether Mutt continues the adventure in his stead is unknown and is a mistake that loyal fans will have to hope the producers don't make.

Overall, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" is the perfect ending to the series. Without missing a beat, the world of Indiana Jones returns with a vigor unchanged by time and delivers a final salute to its past.

Mariah Carey, Nick Cannon start new relationship trend

Age difference between couples growing

Alex Hoggard
Staff Writer

When people look at the stars walking the red carpet at awards shows or even when cameras catch them on the streets of Hollywood, the first thing they usually look at is the person on their arm.

And lately, it seems like the new fresh thing in Hollywood is to have a young hot 20-something-year-old man on your arm. This new frenzy of older women staying young with men half their ages is something that has even the hottest diva wanting to try.

Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon are the new and sexier Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher of 2008. Carey recently met Cannon on the set of her new video "Bye Bye" in March. Cannon played the love interest that was played on and off camera.

The couple's top secret wedding was in the beautiful Bahamas where only a hand full of friends attended. So from the video shoot to the wedding, this hot couple is wasting no time.

Both Cannon and Carey have placed the other ones name on them permanently – yes a tattoo. Cannon's has his going across the back from shoulder to shoulder and Carey has hers on the neck.

"I think the whole thing is wack," student Miles Sanchez, 18, said. "But look at her. I

would get tatted too if I was Nick."

It's hard to believe that the funny guy that started out on Nickelodeon is compatible with the 38-year-old songstress that comes off kind of like a prude at times.

The couple said they are both eternally 12 years old. That's a lot to be said there.

"I don't want to grow up too fast; I want to do stupid kid things together," student Jenny Gates said.

So the chemistry must be there for this couple.

The 12-year-old minded couple has even been talking about making this abrupt romance even more serious with talk about children.

When the couple was asked about children, they stated it was the whole reason for getting married. Carey and

Cannon, both previously engaged before, are not holding anything back with this one.

What ever the reason for their love is, most think that's between the newlyweds. Age is nothing but a number when it comes to this love.

"I find that the more confident and experienced a man is, the more comfortable I feel around him. That's probably the same the other way to," student Sheila Campbell said.

Whatever the case may be, both Nick Cannon and Mariah Carey seem to be happier than ever. Love has more than one definition, and it seems the Cannons have found theirs.

'Sex and the City' is back on the big screen

New film reunites friends, fashion, fun of famous television show

Karie Gill
Staff Writer

Four women. Six seasons. Countless cosmos. One fabulous movie.

"Sex and the City" made its debut Thursday night at midnight to female fans everywhere, and by Monday morning had grossed \$55.7 million.

A movie filled with laughter and tears, it was an almost perfect sequel to the television show's series finale four years ago.

The movie spans a year in the life of Carrie and her three friends: Samantha, Charlotte, and Miranda, keeping with the theme of finding love, losing love, and how friends can get you through anything.

"Sex and the City" picks up three years later with Carrie Bradshaw still in New York and finally with Mr. Big (John James Preston) Although predictable, it ends with the happy ending every chick flick calls for.

The full cast returned reuniting Sarah Jessica Parker (Carrie), Kim Cattrall (Samantha), Kristen Davis (Charlotte), Cynthia Nixon (Miranda Hobbs) and Chris Noth (Mr. Big), with the addition of Jennifer Hudson to play Carrie's assistant Louise.

As a follow up to a series that has women from many generations hooked, the movie had a lot to live up to. Overall satisfying to watch, it was considerably longer than it needed to be, drawing out many scenes and characters that were unnecessary.

Carrie's assistant Louise played a minimal role in the overall story, but for some reason had a big part in the film. Jennifer Hudson does a terrific job acting the part, so all the complaints are with the writers for including the character.

The movie also focuses on the life of Samantha and Miranda much more than



www.sexandthecitymovie.com/Courtesy Photo

"Sex and the City," the movie hit theaters this May, breaking box office records. The film takes over where the television show left off, reuniting Carrie, Samantha, Miranda, and Charlotte, as they embark on their adventures in life, love, and fashion.

their happily married friend Charlotte.

This could be because she has less fuss than the other three, but still, no life is without drama, so why not include some of Charlotte's?

"Sex and the City's" "R" rating is appropriate, but should possibly be upgraded to a NC-17. Though not as many sex scenes were shown, the ones that did make it to the final cut are definitely more graphic than the ones in the TV show.

Unfortunately for some fans, the editing wasn't quiet up to par either. Who knows what the editors were thinking, but the sound boom wasn't edited out of many shots, ruining many serious scenes

between Carrie and Big.

However, looking past the boom and extended scenes, this movie captures the overall essence of the series: great fashion and never-ending friendship.

There are no surprises when it comes to the girls. They are still closer than ever, even if they have gone on to focusing more on their lives than the love lives of each other.

The characters are still very much how everyone remembers them: Carrie is still witty and unsure about love; Samantha is still sex queen of America; Charlotte is optimistic as ever, with Miranda and her opposing pessimist views never far away.

The fashion is every girl's dream as well, with Manolo Blahnik shoes practically coming out the seams. Some of the outfits are outrageous as usual, but even some classics make an appearance, such as the famed tutu dress from the show's opening scenes.

A Mercedes-Benz fashion week and a Vogue spread are included to highlight Carrie's fashion status.

Overall, the movie is the perfect girls' night out movie, especially for those who have bonded over the show and want an excuse to reminisce. So leave the men at home, grab a few gal pals and make a date with four fabulous women.

Second-hand theater perfect place for students

Students save money at Galaxy Theater in Federal Way

Karie Gill
Staff Writer

With prices for everything rising across the board – gas being the most drastic – a poor college student may begin to wonder how he is going to afford simply going to the movies this summer.

The answer to this movie going conundrum: the \$2 theatre in Federal Way. At the box office these days, a Friday night movie for two can cost as much as \$20 for tickets and probably another \$10-\$15 for snacks.

At the \$2 theatre – also known as Gateway Movies 8 – a Friday night movie for two costs \$4 for tickets with concessions starting 50-75 cents cheaper than other theaters.

Planning date night for a Tuesday is even better with tickets for only \$1 each.

The catch to this amazing deal is that the movies playing have already come and gone from the other theatres in the area.

Gateway is a "second run" theatre, which means they get movies on average 2 to 3

months after they have debuted, though sometimes this is shorter if the movie is a box-office bomb or longer if it is a huge hit.

This can be an advantage for those who miss that must-see movie during finals week or just can't find the time between work and school to make it to the theater. One can always count on Gateway to be playing it sooner or later.

Going to the \$2 theatre also is a great way to spend less cash on that "so-so" movie you wanted to see, but didn't want to shell out the money for. Most people will wait until the movie comes out on DVD to see it, but even then the theater is cheaper than the \$4 it cost to rent, and people still get the movie theatre experience.

One might also wonder about the quality of the theater itself. While you still get the occasional sticky floor and obnoxiously loud patron sitting close by, the seats are comfy and recline, and the staff seems to always be cheerful and willing to help.

This summer, Gateway is planning to start a midnight horror show on weekends. The staff picked a bunch of horror flicks and will run them Friday nights at midnight for those looking for a scare.

Gateway also is going to start bringing concessions into the theater, so one will no longer have to miss part of the movie if the popcorn runs low or if the sudden craving



Karie Gill/Staff Photo

The Gateway Movie theater in Federal Way plays films that no longer are in mainstream movie theaters for a fraction of the price.

for Sour Patch Kids comes on.

To keep with the theater's family oriented feel, another event they are looking into is a summer movie camp for kids. This would give kids a fun daytime activity and parents a little break during summer vacation.

The Gateway movie theater became the \$2 theatre in July 2007 after being bought by Starplex Cinemas. Starplex has second run theatres all over the country and picked this location because it is close to I-5 and the Federal Way Commons.

Murder mystery, Greek play adaptation hit stage

Theater department presents *Mouse Trap*, *Lysistrata*

Katie Barr
Staff Writer

The cast of "Mousetrap" sit in a circle listening to Judy Taylor tell them where to improve, what they did wrong, and how to come into their characters. The cast soaks in all the constructive criticism, and ask questions.

"Mousetrap" is an intense, heart-touching murder-mystery that takes place in the 1950s in England.

Jill Langham, 17, plays Mollie Ralston, one of the main characters in "Mousetrap."

"Mousetrap is just intense. There's a lot of drama and underlying humor. It shows a lot about human nature and stuff," Langham said. "When you're watching it, you're just filled with tension and excitement. It's definitely worth going to see."

Liz Kramer, 19, plays Mrs. Boyle in the play.

"It's a murder mystery, and there's so many characters that are mysterious; it's just fun," Kramer said.

The play is a who-done-it murder mystery with everyone snowed in, stuck in the middle of the chaos. It's sure to be exciting and to keep viewers guessing who the murderer is.

The other half of this double feature is "Lysistrata." Gary Taylor adapted this play from the ancient Greek play by Aristophanes. The play is about the wives of soldiers fighting in a war, boycotting sex to persuade them to stop the war.

Chailee Friant, 19, plays the lead character during the weekend of the June 6-7 showing. Friant thinks that, "Lysistrata" is, "really funny and edgy. It's not boring like a lot of plays, and it's current for what's going on



Students Andrew Creech and Sarah Krauter rehearse a scene in the play, "Mouse Trap." The play is murder mystery that takes place in England in the 1950s.

in the world today, because we're in a war right now."

"A guy gets kicked in the balls, and there's a strip scene for a guy and a girl. There's something for everybody."

—Stephanie Wetherbee

Stephanie Wetherbee, 21, plays the lead on the weekend of May 30-31. Wetherbee thinks that "Lysistrata" is a play for everyone.

"A guy gets kicked in the balls, and there's a strip scene for a guy and a girl. There's something for

everybody," Wetherbee said. Cole Franklin, 19, plays Stavros in

"Lysistrata."

"It's entertaining, and it's funny to see the role reversal of women boycotting sex. It shows that the power of love is greater than the power of war," Franklin said.

"The ending is psychedelically amazing, and if you're looking for a good laugh, watch 'Lysistrata.' As much as it's a distorted view, it shows a tactic women have used for ages that really works," Shawn Burns, age 20, said.

The double feature will show for two consecutive weekends beginning May 30. Show times are 7:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday evenings.



Gary Taylor/Courtesy Photos

Chailee Friant and Shawn Burns star in the "Lysistrata," an adaptation of a Greek play by Aristophanes.

Student diet starting to represent fast food nation

'Freshman 15' still haunts college lifestyle

Brittney Walker Higgins
Staff Writer

College students often have trouble balancing school, work, their busy social lives, and the new found freedom of being on their own.

Young adults all over the country are susceptible to gaining the dreaded "Freshman 15," due to lack of information on what a proper diet is.

Green River students all across campus are polluting their bodies with foods that lack the nutritional value that they need to function at optimum health.

The first step to a proper diet is to eat regular, well-balanced meals. Lack of time and accessibility are heavily contributing to American's reliance on fast

food for fuel.

"I eat fast food five times a week," student Titus Butcher said.

College students are consuming fast food because it's exactly that, fast.

When rushed for time, there always is some fast food establishment to make a pit stop at in between class. It's also cheap and lets be honest, for the most part pretty tasty.

On the other hand, these unhealthy choices are increasing student's risk of becoming overweight, or obese.

Eating these foods also increases students' risk of contracting heart disease or type two diabetes.

Student Landon Cunningham is aware of this.

"At most, I eat fast food once a week. I avoid it like the plague," Cunningham said.

Unlike many students who don't eat breakfast, Cunningham starts off his mornings with grape nuts, a banana with peanut butter, and a glass of orange

juice.

Consistently eating a breakfast full of fiber, calcium, and complex carbohydrates is a fantastic way to keep your energy up until lunch time. This allows for higher levels of concentration in the classroom.

The Food and Drug

Administration recommends that college students consume eight glasses of water per day, or at least half of their body weight in ounces.

Student Travis Voss-Curry admits to not drinking nearly enough water throughout the day.

Vending machines housing sugary juices and sodas can be found in almost every building on campus. Students on the run have no choice but to drink in empty calories.

Pop is full of sodium, sugar, and caffeine, which can cause dehydration. Students should opt for 100 percent fruit juices instead.

Better yet, they should carry their own

water bottle daily in order to stay properly hydrated.

The campus cafeteria is full of healthy food choices, but it also is full of temptations. Pizza, burgers, chips, and cookies are among the culprits contributing

to the problem.

Anything in moderation is okay, but making a burger and fries an everyday lunch is going to hurt in the long run. An expanding midsection will be proof.

Student can try packing a healthy lunch instead. A healthy sandwich, whole wheat crackers, and an apple should suffice.

Getting at least 20 minutes of physical activity everyday also is an important factor in avoiding weight gain during the college years.

Students who begin eating breakfast daily, drinking enough water, and watching their caloric intake are going to see positive changes in the way that they look and feel.

"I eat fast food five times a week."
—Titus Butcher, student

"At most, I eat fast food once a week. I avoid it like the plague."
—Landon Cunningham, student

Downpour succeeds in new music genre

Unique pop, metal sound is causing fans to fall in love with new Northwest band

Jennifer Willey
Staff Writer

For a band with roots so close to Seattle, where it's cloudy an average of 226 days per year, Downpour is a fittingly-named new band on the scene.

Brent Nelson, 19, Andrew Creech, 19, Cory Frashfski, 20, Dane Nelson, 21, and Mike Briscoe, 19, have formed Downpour, a catchy pop/metal band from Covington, Wash.

"There's just something appealing to us about combining the two genres that generally hate each other. That kind of duality opens up endless unique and untouched possibilities. We're not just talking about some heavy guitar and a catchy chorus;

we're talking blast beats to dance beats, dual guitar solos, hand clapping, foot tapping, and elegant piano over thunderous double bass. No screaming though. We try to save our voices for those sing along choruses," the band said.

With Nelson on drums, Creech on the keyboard, Frashfski on bass, Dane Nelson on rhythm guitar/ vocals, and Briscoe with lead guitar, Downpour has become a solid group that has fun rocking out together.

Freshfski said that the band members found each other by fate.

"We found people with talent, commitment, and class, and people with good hygiene. Good hygiene is very important," Nelson said.

The members got started on their musical careers early in life. Creech joined an after-school music class in fourth grade and learned how to play the recorder, the piano, the clarinet, and currently is learning to play the guitar. Frashfski learned

to play the trumpet in fifth grade. Dane got Brent, who can play the bass and the drums, interested in the band idea.

Dane has always had a love for music, and learned to play the drums through lessons, as well as learning to play the bass

"We found people with talent, commitment, and class, and people with good hygiene. Good hygiene is very important."

—Dane Nelson, drummer

Minors don't have to miss out on night life

Many all-ages clubs available around the area

Sylarina Powell
Staff Writer

Some students might think because they have not reached the exciting age of 21, that there is nothing to do. They sit around with their friends, complaining and wishing that they were old enough to go hit the club and go to the bar.

Although they may have to wait to drink, they don't have to wait to go out and have a good time. The Pacific Northwest nightlife is full of exciting, fun places for those of under 21.

One of the newer clubs around is The Loft Nightclub in Tacoma. Sunday nights students can dress to impress and head on out to the streets of Tacoma.

Right off the freeway, people are wrapped around the corner waiting to get in side, where there is good music and of course the dance floor.

While going up stairs is not permitted (sorry only 21 and older), minors still can enjoy the newest music and a great place to show everyone their latest moves on the dance floor.

Students also can enjoy fun in the city in Downtown Seattle at the Wild Palms. As people walk down the stairs, they will notice a nice lounge area, but that will be the last thing on their mind.

The DJ makes sure to play the latest music so that people can dance all night long. Whether he is playing "Love in the Club," by Usher or "Get silly," by V.I.C., people will hear it all.

If that doesn't sound interesting, then maybe the different theme parties will catch people's eye. Parties like "Bikini Jam," are ways to get people to dress in

fun outfits, come out and party like it's 80 degrees outside.

If people want to see more of Seattle, then they should check out One-Three-One. This night club is down the street from the Seattle Center and the EMP Museum.

From the club, people can see the beautiful space needle as they enter or exit from the club.

Saturday nights can be spent dancing to the latest rap and R&B music that is out. While the dance floor is where everyone is at, the best place to be is in the party cage.

At many clubs, dancers might be in the cage, but at this club anyone can be the dancer everyone pays attention too. Sorry Fella's, but the cage is for ladies only.

If people enjoy the nightlife at One-Three-One and want more, then they can come back on Sunday and get in line for Level Five.

Down the street from One-Three-One, this club has it all. Once again minors can't go upstairs (21 and older), but who cares to go up stairs when the club has two different dance floors playing different kind of music.

In one area people can get on the dance floor, have the spotlight on them, and enjoy whatever type of music they like. With the DJ on the dance floor, it's hard not to persuade him to play what people want to dance too.

If being crowded on the dance floor isn't your style, then slip into the next room where there is room to dance freely without having to bump into the next person. For people that like more attention and want the spotlight on them, this is the perfect room.

If students find themselves sitting around, complaining with their friends, they should remember that there are places to go.



Katie Barr/Staff Photo

Clockwise from top left: Dane Nelson, Andrew Creech, Mike Briscoe, Cory Frashfski, and Brent Nelson make up the Northwest pop/metal band, Downpour.

and the piano.

The band has been together since Jan., 2007 and has played a total of 4 shows so far. The band said that the most memorable show they've played is either their most recent where they played "Walk on the Wire" or when they won the Battle of the Bands. Someday they hope to sell out a show at the Gorge.

Other bands that sound similar to Downpour are Lost Prophets, Jimmy Eat World, and In Flames. Dane writes the music for the band, whose songs are about the struggles of life and other things people can relate to.

The music uses symbolism and plays on

words that force the listeners to actually think about the lyrics. The band's main motivation is their general love of music, and the want to produce something original and fresh that a lot of different people can enjoy.

As many young musicians do, the band has found inspiration in more established musicians. These include: Raymond Herrera, John Mayer, Luis Johnson, Daniel John of The Silver Chairs, and the band In Flames.

Downpour should have a new CD out in summer called "In Media Res." The CD is self recorded and also self produced.

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Stop by the Career & Advising Center for more details.

HAPPY HOUR

Reviews of eight bars near all three GRCC campuses

by Joe Chouery and Casey Greer

Jack's Tavern

2425 Auburn Way North

Jack's tavern offers pool tables, inexpensive drinks, and famous burgers. The early crowd is older, but a college aged crowd arrives as the night goes on.

Service: Below Average

Price: Good

Beer Variety: Average

Atmosphere: Below Average

BB McGraw's

440 16th St NE, Auburn, WA

BB McGraw's offers an environment generally filled with near-college age patrons, a decent beer selection, pool tables and a dance floor.

Service: Average

Price: Average

Beer Variety: Average

Atmosphere: Average

Spunky Monkey

2425 Auburn Way N, Auburn, WA

The Spunky Monkey is a unique bar, offering darts, a beer garden, a pool table, and a jungle theme accompanied by karaoke.

Service: Above Average

Price: Average

Beer Variety: Below Average

Atmosphere: Good

Sports Page

2802 Auburn Way N

Sports Page is a good sports bar. From the sign which resembles the logo for The Sporting News, to the door handle made from a baseball bat. Several pool tables, darts, and a large beer garden also highlight this Sports fan's oasis.

Service: Average

Price: Average

Beer Variety: Below Average

Atmosphere: Good

The Ram

512 Ramsay Way Suite 103

The Ram is conveniently located in the Kent Station shopping center, right next to several restaurants and AMC Kent Station movie theater, which is one of the nicest theaters in the Puget Sound Area. The Ram is also within walking distance of Green River's Kent Campus.

Service: Average

Price: Below Average

Beer Variety: Excellent

Atmosphere: Above Average

Yella Beak

23525 SE 436th St

The Yella Beak, located in Enumclaw only a few miles from GRCC's Enumclaw campus offers a crowded, lively environment. With a pool table, a dance floor, a DJ, and a wide variety of music genres, the Yella Beak offers a lively party atmosphere.

Service: Average

Price: Below Average

Beer Variety: Average

Atmosphere: Above Average

Iron Horse Casino

333 15th St NE, Auburn, WA

Iron Horse Casino caters to many interests. Attractions include gambling, a restaurant, two small bars, a diner, lounge, and pool tables. The highlights of Iron Horse: \$1 domestics all day, and half price appetizers during Seattle sporting events.

Service: Below Average

Price: Excellent

Beer Variety: Below Average

Atmosphere: Average

The Pit

124 2nd St SE Auburn, WA 98002

Every journey has a beginning and an end, and if your quest is to find the best bar in Auburn, you will end at The Pit. When walking into The Pit, a Green River student will immediately realize that this is no ordinary hole in the wall watering trough that Auburn provides its citizens. A student might get the impression that Auburn is a big fishing community, considering that midday patrons at local pubs look like they could all be stars from Discovery Channel's hit show 'The Deadliest Catch.' Most students do not want a gnarled old woman as a bartender, old men giving them the evil eye while they eat, or want the feeling that they may have just acquired hepatitis with that last sip of beer. Needless to say, The Pit was an oasis in a proverbial desert when compared to the bars in its immediate vicinity, which weren't worth reviewing.

The Pit offers none of those things, but it does offer students a hip environment, friendly wait staff, great food and drink, and good prices. The Pit is not only a bar but it is also a restaurant. This makes the quality and variety of food better than what you would find down the street at one of the other sports bars. The selection of beer is decent, but what is great about the beer is that it comes in three sizes: big, bigger, and "Big Ass." The name Big Ass is no exaggeration. The mug is the same size as the mugs used at Munich's Oktoberfest. This 35 oz. beer is not for the unseasoned drinker. To order one of these, you need a strong liking for brew and a stronger wrist. As if good food and beer was not enough, happy hour consists of lower prices and free pizza. That's right, free pizza. What more could a cash strapped college student ask for then free pizza? Hands down, The Pit is Auburn's bar.

Service: Excellent

Price: Above Average

Beer Variety: Good

Atmosphere: Excellent

