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THE CURRENT

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Getting to know you: Robert Barger

By: Nicole Swapp

Graduating from Kentwood High School in 2008, Robert Barger decided to continue his education at Green River Community College. "Going straight from high school to a University seemed a little daunting to me, so I thought that refining my skills at a community college first would be better," said Barger.

He is finishing up his second year at the college, where he plans to then attend a 4-year college next fall. "In the fall I will be attending Saint Martin's University in Lacey, Washington," he said.

Barger plans on majoring in psychology with an emphasis in secondary education. "I want to be a teacher & coach at a high school, or possibly even a counselor," he added. "I love to learn so I don't mind the years of schooling ahead of me."

Why choose Green River to study?

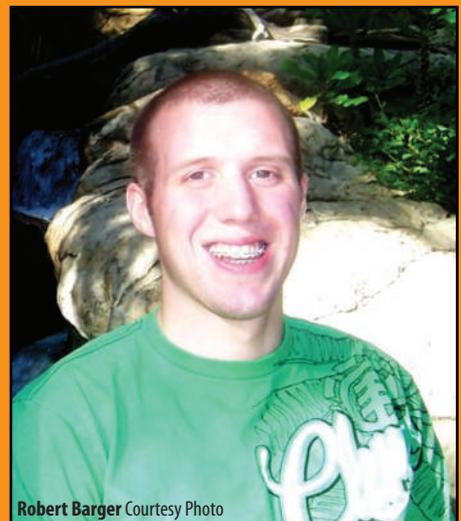
Green River has always had a great appeal to it because of its quiet atmosphere that enters once someone steps foot on campus.

"Well, I chose to attend Green River for a couple of reasons: one; at the time it seemed like a good transition into college life. Two; a couple of my friends had attended Green River or had taken running start there and they said it was pretty laid back and a good school to go to. Three; the environment of the school lured me in. I liked the fact that it was in a laid back setting and wasn't in the middle of a city somewhere," said Barger.

Not only does Barger love being on this campus but he also enjoys the wonderful faculty the college has to offer students. "In every class I have been in, the professor has been interesting in their own way. I've always felt welcome to ask for help or visit the professor to discuss any questions I had," he says. "It seems as though most of the professors genuinely care about your education and want to make sure you learn the content, not just get a grade and move on."

Having wonderful teachers and a great campus that makes people feel welcomed are two great aspects of a wonderful college, and Green River has them. "I would definitely recommend GRCC to anyone who wasn't sure what they were doing after high school. Attending the school really helped me develop my learning habits and helped me refine what skills I had," he comments.

"I like to think that I made the right option instead of jumping straight into a university and believe that taking two years at Green River will help me boat loads along the way."



Robert Barger Courtesy Photo



By: Mary Preson

Green River students kicked off the start of spring with a bang last week during the annual gator bash.

Formerly called springalooza, gator bash is an annual week-long event that has been around for eight years. "Gator bash is mostly just a way for the students to have fun and blow off some steam before finals," says Jamie Cho, special events coordinator for CLEO.

To help blow off steam, students participated in the car bash; an old car sat on a tarp in the commons and, for a small fee, students could beat the crap out of the car to help relieve stress from finals.

Just a one dollar was all it took to hit the car and five to break a window. The car had taken its fair share of damage by the end of the day.

At a safe distance away from the car bash, Cascade Regional Blood Services had a colorful van where generous gators could donate blood to help save the life of someone in need.

Local band, My Dear Disco, came to perform in the commons, with posters and cds to promote their band.

Just a little further away from the new style of rock of My Dear Disco was a homage to an older

THE CURRENT 2009-2010 Editorial Staff



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Spencer Fasel The Current



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style of rock.

Green River student and vendor, Dennis Bergman, had a stand dedicated to selling vinyl records and classic rock posters. "I started coming a couple years ago," she said. "Young people seem to be developing more of an interest for classic rock."

On Tuesday, students were able to get a laugh and maybe a little bit of payback with the "pie bash." Once a certain amount of money was earned for the fundraiser, students would be able to bash some of their favorite teachers in the face with pie.

As the week continued, there was another performance by a local band, My Hero, in the Lindbloom Student Center main dining area.

There was also a giant inflatable bounce house for students to jump around in the caf-

eteria.

Wednesday, there was a barbeque to raise money for scholarships just outside of the student center.

Thursday the sun decided to grace the commons with its presence. Students were able to keep cool with Jamba Juice and free ice cream sandwiches.

There were also stylish sunglasses, and Mary Kay make-up on sale in the entrance of the student center.

Ending the week, there was free popcorn in the Lindbloom Student Center. There were also henna tattoos for students who were feeling a little artsy.

All in all, Green River students showed that they know the proper way to welcome in the spring spirit.



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Spencer Fasel The Current



Spencer Fasel The Current

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Note from editor: this letter was sent as a response to Nicole Palmer's "Would you like some secondhand smoke with that?" (November 10, 2009), which can be found on our website, thecurrentonline.net, under the OpEd section.

Dear Editor,

I have to agree with Nicole Palmer on the state of law enforcement on campus. Green River really needs to start taking enforcement of state law more seriously.

I have several relatives who smoke and a few friends, and they all make sure that they are following the rules in regards to smoking in public areas. But not all smokers are as diligent about following the rules. Then again, most of us struggle with following at least one state law on occasion.

But according to RCW Chapter 70.160.070, Section 1: "Any person intentionally violating this chapter by smoking in a public place or place of employment, or any person removing, defacing, or destroying a sign required by this chapter, is subject to a civil fine of up to one hundred dollars. Any person passing by or through a public place while on a public sidewalk or public right-of-way has not intentionally violated this chapter."

This states clearly that although people who are smoking that pass within that 25 foot barrier while are not subject to the full force of the law, anyone who stops and smokes within that space is subject to \$100 fine. And that is for each time they are caught. As a non-smoking college student I am subject to this law or its penalties, but I'm still a poor college student and \$100 for everytime one lights up too close to an entrance of a public facility would be enough to deter me.

Some people I have noticed would be paying upwards of \$500 a day for illegal smoking within the barrier. I don't hate smokers, nor do I think that they are evil. They have made a lifestyle choice that I personally haven't, and, as with every lifestyle choice, they must take full responsibility for the consequences of that choice, even if it means that they have to stand off the beaten path to make sure they are being responsible.

In addition to that, it makes Green River look bad. Just imagine: "Your campus is so beautiful!" "Yeah, but they don't enforce the smoking ban at all so you can't get any fresh air!"

-Zachary Alvernaz

A letter from the new editor-in-chief

Hello merry folk and not so merry folk. The first letter from your new editor in chief has arrived.

Lame introductions aside... I assume most of our readers know who I am, since my gracious yet magnificent presence is hard to overlook, even when I'm not physically there. But for all of you who don't know me, here's me in a few words: 18 years and three days young, international student from Amsterdam, Netherlands, been here since fall '09, majoring in political science. I spend most of my days reading, writing, randomly yelling at inanimate objects, and looking at myself in the mirror.

I joined the paper fall quarter after another Dutch international student, who had been here the year before, told me about how fun it was. After a week and a story idea session, I came up with an idea for a column, "Trips on a Bus," which was to be my project that quarter. After hanging out in the newsroom for a while, and blowing everyone away with my baffling talent, I got offered the position of news editor for winter quarter, which would be open due to the departure of our beloved office pet, Justin Runquist.

After a successful winter quarter I was promoted to managing editor, meaning I was to manage five of the seven print sections, looking over the stories and laying out the pages. Here I got the first taste of the constant stress and pressure I will be under next year as Editor-in-Chief... But it's been a fun experience, with many milestones such as editing a grand total of 8,148 words in four hours (yes, I kept track), and creating something on Photoshop that didn't look like it was molested by a bunch of jungle creatures.

What I envision for next year is a more fun and attractive newspaper, almost like a magazine. I dislike it, but it's a fact that most of our readers aren't very interested in news and dry facts, as much as we try to make it attractive. I am, together with the new staff, already working on some ideas for next year that will hopefully improve both our print issues and website, but we'd like feedback from the community on what you'd like to see in the paper, too. Consider yourselves encouraged to send me a message and give your input at thecurrent.editor@mail.greenriver.edu.

To end on a more serious note, because I'm guessing this is something that at least some people want addressed, I will say a few words about the controversy that has surrounded the paper – and me in particular – the last half of this academic year. I know some of you might have problems with me, now nicknamed "the guy that wrote that satire," as the person ultimately in charge. Rest assured, I, as well as the paper, have learned from that experience, as unpleasant as it was. I feel we can go into the new year stronger because of it, with a sense of the boundaries of impropriety in this community, which will help us prevent making the same sort of mistake again.

Enjoy your summer breaks and you will be hearing more from us when we come back in the fall!

-- Remco Zwetsloot



EDITORIALS

The Current Editorial Board is made up of the following journalists: Nicole Swapp, Remco Zwetsloot, Stirling Radliff, Jean-Pierre Garcia, Ted Hanrahan, and Kelli Wyatt.

THE FAILURES OF THE ASGRCC ELECTION

Aboard the controversy surrounding the ASGRCC elections, we find a popular candidate, Chris Kruis, who, after the first election was over, was found ineligible due to a mix-up of election packets and an unfortunate GPA. Now, with Kruis out of the way, Joaquin Olivas, the runner-up (216 votes behind in the first election), is the only candidate running, completely unopposed. All hail, Second Place for President! Maybe...?

According to Dani Chang, the director of Student Life (see "ASGRCC declares presidential election invalid" at thecurrentonline.net), in order to become president, Olivas needs to have more Yes than No votes. If Olivas gets a majority of No's, then he will not be president and someone will be appointed to the position. That person would be Young Sunny Park, the elected Vice President; and she would pick the new Vice President with permission of 2/3 of the Senate.

Does this seem somewhat ridiculous?

Well, yes. Of all the clubs and special benefits on campus – being a member of CLEO (Community Leadership, Education & Outreach program), being an officer of a club, getting scholarships, and so forth – which all only require a minimum of a 2.0, in order to be a member of ASGRCC one must have a GPA of at least 3.0.

Because of this restriction, it limits the number of students who can run for ASGRCC president. There aren't many students who are politically active, let alone within the college, and to bar them from participating seems rather skewed.

A better idea, rather than setting a GPA standard for those who want to run in this mock of a democratic election, is to have people submit and publicize their GPA (and a more elaborate bio, perhaps) so as to give the student body more choices for what they want. Do they want person A with a GPA of 2.9, who is oddly proactive, socially charming, and tenable, or person B with a 3.0, only a 0.1 difference, who seems rather uninvolved and unqualified for this particular position?

In any event, the student body deserves more options. In order to offer them, there needs to be fewer restrictions on the so-called "democratic" elections, and more information on the people running.

We understand the difficult unprecedented situation Student Government is in, but there were solutions in which someone actually elected by a popular vote would be the most important person in ASGRCC.

The requirements for President could have been amended to a lower GPA after the outcome was made public and Kruis had won with more than decisive numbers. This would have certainly not been ideal, but the current situation isn't either, because this vote will most likely result in Olivas winning despite having a minority mandate in the actual elections.

Another solution, in our opinion the best one, would be to leave the rules intact and have someone with a majority mandate, Young Sunny Park, as President next year. The ASGRCC Constitution says "The Vice President of the ASGRCC shall become President in case the Office of President is vacated." This did not apply in this case because the winners hadn't been sworn in yet, so the Office of President hadn't been officially vacated. Had Student Government not held a special election and proceeded as usual, with only a Vice President being sworn in, she would've automatically become President.

It is, however, too late for such changes to be made – by the time this paper is printed the positions will already be filled and the people sworn in, so all we can do now is hope Student Government will make the changes necessary to prevent any further ambiguity, especially on important matters like this.

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 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.

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 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.

Theft policy: A person commits the offense of publication theft when he or she willfully or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over more than three copies of The Current that is distributed on campus [with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that edition of the publication]. A "publication" includes any periodical that is distributed on a complimentary or compensatory basis. In addition to the imposition of other campus disciplinary penalties, a person who violates this provision is responsible for compensating the publication for all reasonable costs incurred, including, where appropriate, the refund of advertising fees.

The Current editor-in-chief says her final goodbye

After a long stressful year, the editor moves on and welcomes a new editorial staff

By: Nicole Swapp

To even imagine saying goodbye to something that you love is just troubling. I love The Current. I love working on this newspaper, watching my editors grow not only as editors but also as people, and watching students around campus picking up an issue and reading it from cover to cover. It's an experience that I will never be able to relive.

When I first came back to Green River after taking a few years off from school, I went straight back into journalism. I came back working for The Current in spring quarter of 2009 as the advertising manager.

Before even working for The Current again, I had decided to change my major to Literature due to my amazing English teacher that quarter, Julie Moore. I knew that I wanted to major in Literature because I enjoy the challenge that Literature presents.

So fast forward to the end of spring quarter 2009; I decided to apply to be editor of The Current because I loved working for The Current and knew I would be able to handle the job of being editor.

Well, obviously, I received the position of editor in spring quarter. Excited is an understatement when trying to describe the feelings I had when I received a call from the adviser, John Knowlton, when he told me I would be the new editor.

It was such an honor to be selected, but at the same time I feared I wouldn't be able to complete the project at hand.

So after being selected, I began looking for editors; or rather they looked for me. I hired back Justin Runquist as the news and opinion editor, Jean-Pierre Garcia as the webmaster, and Sean Kramer as sports editor. I was then approached by Michelle Praast for the A&E position, Samantha Shockley for features, Lindsey Williams for campus, and Kelli Wyatt for satire and comics.

Once summer started we held many meetings. We all tried to come up with ideas of how we wanted The Current to look for the next school year. We bounced off many ideas from one another and just like that, our first issue came out on October 16, 2009.

Was it my favorite? At the time, yes. Everyone was really excited and pleased to look at the new paper. We changed everything.

Before the first issue even came out we had a change in the editorial staff. Michelle Praast decided to leave her position as A&E editor and I asked Jean-Pierre Garcia to take her place; he accepted graciously.

Moving on from fall to winter quarter we had quite a few more changes. I promoted Lindsey Williams to managing editor. To replace Lindsey I promoted Ted Hanrahan to campus editor.

We decided to split the class in half for winter quarter; half working on the website and the other half working for print. Half way through the quarter they would switch. The plan worked very well in our minds, but in practice it had quite a few flaws.



With the start of winter quarter I also had the start of new editors. Remco Zwetsloot, who has been selected to replace me next year, became

"I am sad to leave; I've dedicated so many of my nights, my social life, and personal life to this newspaper."

news editor along with Stirling Radliff who became OpEd editor, as Justin Runquist transferred to WSU. I also brought on Andrew Honea to take over sports as Sean Kramer stepped down to focus on his academics.

As many people already know, winter quarter was really tough for not just the school but the editorial team as well. The controversy over the satire article really hurt my staff, deeply. We were all fighting and felt like we had no one to turn to.

By the end of winter quarter I didn't know what to expect going forth. So much had changed for us since winter quarter and the most important thing to me was getting my staff back on track with me and the newspaper.

Starting spring quarter I promoted Remco Zwetsloot to managing editor to help assist me

in layout and design on the newspaper along with copy editing. To take his place I hired Mary Dusek to fill the position of news editor. Mary has taken on a position that not many people enjoy and has made it spectacular!

All in all, this newspaper is my life. And I am quite serious about that, actually. I feel like I am married to this school, or better yet, SMT-134 (our office).

I am sad to leave; I've dedicated so many of my nights, my social life, and personal life to this newspaper. I consider it my child that I just don't want to let grow up, but I know my time has come to leave.

I am very excited to see where this newspaper will be one year from today with Remco Zwetsloot as editor. I am confident that he will continue to push this newspaper to its great potential and have a strong staff along the way.

So, to my editors, my dear dear editors, I love you all. I know that we all have our fights, the weird Facebook games we play on each other, and even the games we all love to play (Apples to Apples, Curses, etc.) I am going to miss you. You all have done such an amazing job this year and I couldn't have asked for a better staff to work with.

Thank you for making this year so enjoyable for me; you all are quite amazing. I am going to miss our snuggie parties in my office, girl-a-topia (aka unicorn-a-topia), Pizza Thursdays, and late hide-and-go-seek editing nights.

Working with this staff has taught me that everything isn't always going to happen the way you planned, so just deal with it. I can honestly say that I don't know how my life is going to be without The Current.

What you didn't know about the new Editor-in-Chief

By: Tyler Kion

In case many of you didn't know, The Current newspaper recently had a public snafu with an article that was not, as some put it, "P.C.". This gained the newspaper quite some publicity nonetheless and also the author of said inappropriate article.

Remco Zwetsloot is your typical Green River student, or so it seems. He is a foreign student from Amsterdam here to study at Green River Community College for his "gap year" between secondary education and university. You may know him from classes or from our college's paper, The Current. For the past year he has been the managing editor for the paper and has recently earned the editor-in-chief position for next year's publications. But what you didn't know is that Remco is a robot.

NOT FUNNY

Recent information has come through supporting the evidence that Dutch scientists have actually developed a highly technologically accelerated mechanism using organic robotic technology.

According to robotnext.com 'organic robots' are "the first amorphous non-silicon biological robot, plasmobot, using plasmodium, the vegetative stage of the slime mold Physarum polycephalum, a commonly occurring mold." It was confirmed that Holland scientists have sent their new project Remco to America to observe our society and to research life outside of the Netherlands, and especially in the hostile environments of North America.

Having known him for only a quarter, he's pretty normal, except, one day I heard that he doesn't like the Fox cartoon comedy Family Guy. The staff at The Current figured this to be a sick rumor, but later we found a few comments of his on facebook berating this highly-funny, critically acclaimed show. It was at that point that it was more than obvious; Remco is not human.

In the 1960's, there was a show on television that some of you might remember being broadcasted, for others, your parents would remember: Lost in Space about the Robinson family that left Earth from overpopulation to colonize Alpha Centauri. "Their 1997 mission (official Jupiter 2 launch date of October 16, 1997) is immediately sabotaged by Dr. Zachary Smith, who slips aboard the spaceship Jupiter 2 and reprograms the robot to destroy the ship and crew. Smith is trapped aboard, saving himself by prematurely reviving the crew from suspended animation. They save the ship, but consequent damage leaves them lost in space" says Wikipedia.

From that television show a line of (then) toy robots, modeled after that from Lost in Space, were produced making their way under many Christmas trees. The company that made that robot was REMCO, whose slogan was "Every boy wants a REMCO toy... and so do girls." According to Wikipedia, the name REMCO comes from the two words "remote control".

The Remco Zwetsloot model that you may have seen or heard about was Dutch scientist's 2008 project. So far he has another year to go here at Green River. So if you do see him after you have read this, just act normal.

However, don't get too close, the Dutch have informed us that their 2008 projects were not approved for emotional activation and the Remco Zwetsloot model was one of the unfortunate projects that interact without any human emotion.

A hypocritical catch-all organization for the disgruntled - don't fall for it

I knew little about the Tea Party other than what was provided by a smattering of controversial media coverage, so I decided to seek some information for myself direct from the source. According to teapartypatriots.org, their mission is to "secure public policy consistent with our three core values of Fiscal Responsibility, Constitutionally, Limited Government and Free Markets."

The original Boston Tea Party, a well known moment of American revolutionary patriotism, was a protest against a governmental monopoly on tea and taxation without representation by the British government.

During the protest, Americans dressed as Native Americans and dumped tea from British ships into the Boston harbor. The Tea Party movement tries to convey that very patriotic, underdog, grass roots, radical political reformist image that comes to mind when thinking of the Boston Tea Party.

I was left empty handed when looking for content that matched this image. The front page of the Tea Party Patriots site contains "news" articles with titles such as, "Don't Kid Yourself, Obama Wants Nothing Less Than To Destroy America!" The article shows an image of Obama holding a book titled, "The Post American World."

The article is sure to explain that "Post America" means "After America!" and point out that the book "was written by a fellow Muslim." The book is actually about a globally competitive world where America is not a super power but one of many participants, not the end of America, in

fact promoting the free market anti-monopolistic ideals supposedly purported by the Tea Party.

This slanderous and racist article has nothing to do with fiscal responsibility, and is actually supposed to be against site policy: "Individuals posting on TPP [Tea Party Patriots] online groups and blogs are expected to ... refrain from profanity, slander and personal attacks. TPP does not condone and will not tolerate discrimination of any kind." Still, this article was on the front page.

In fact, nine of the fifteen front page news entries on the site negatively mention Obama. As a tax exempt 501(c) (4) nonprofit, also known as a social welfare organization, this is a direct misuse of their tax exempt status. The IRS states that a "social welfare organization may engage in some political activities, so long as that is not its primary activity".

The group needs tax exempt status for its donations, a 10 dollar a month donation, which is required for official membership of the "1st Brigade," is aggressively promoted by a full page ad upon entering the site for the first time.

A tax is defined as "A fee or dues levied on the members of an organization to meet its expenses." Ironically, according to Tea Party Patriots this tax "will help provide Tea Party Patriots with the necessary resources to be able to continue to fight for liberty and the constitution." This tax being the very thing they protest.

Then again, despite having a mission statement that seems to point toward the idea that it's an organization focused on economic reform, I've found that this issue is only one of

many right wing problems that get thrown into the Tea Party bag. In fact, all right wing issues are thrown into the bag.

Although there is an actual organization, there are hundreds of groups that go under the name "Tea Party." They participate in activities as diverse as bashing Obama to shouting about immigrants.

"I feel that the Tea Party groups are generally misinformed and misled by biased news agencies," commented Brett Mitchell, a Green River student. When asked about the Tea Party's goals he stated, "They don't have a goal in the sense of anything that they want to accomplish. Rather their belief is that the government is in some way trying to wrong them. Their goal then is to try and stop the government from doing anything. Their goal is to resist change, in that sense."

This mix mash collective of anything-right-wing-goes leaves the Tea Party less of a party and more of an identifiable movement which every dissatisfied right-winger across the country can declare his or her own, and use to release some pent up rage under the guise of economic ideals. I hope our students can see through the façade.



A Tea Party protest in Cincinnati, OH, in March 2009. The movement has only gained clout since then.

As you step into your future...

By: Phil Ray Jack, English instructor

The end of the school year gives us an opportunity to reflect on the challenges we faced and the things that we have accomplished. Many of you are graduating. Several of you had tremendous obstacles to overcome before you even began, and your goal was simply to come back to school.

Once you were here, you discovered that your journey was just beginning. Others planned to come to college and thought you had everything figured out, but when you got here, you discovered that college is a lot different than high school. And many of you completed high school while you were here, some as Running Start students and others working for your GED.

An Instructor's final word of advice to this year's graduates

Those of us who have worked with you have seen you struggle with obstacles. We have watched you juggle two or three jobs and your families so that you could stay in school. We've watched you wince as we've challenged you in the classrooms, knowing that you have what it takes to succeed but that success is never easy if it's worthwhile. We've seen you grow from someone who thought they were going to find all of the answers into someone who realized that the true value of education often lies in knowing which questions to ask. We have tried to prepare you for a world that is constantly changing, and we hope that if there is only one lesson you've learned, it's that when you quit learning, you quit progressing.

You have each faced your own challenges, and you worked hard to achieve the goals you had set for yourself. Now is the time to pat yourself on the back and take pride in what you have accomplished.

Of course, your journeys are not ending here. You will be continuing your education or entering the workforce, and you won't truly appreciate all that you have accomplished here until

you have had a chance to apply some of your lessons to real life.

In many instances, your challenges have been our challenges. Some of us have struggled with you to find the resources you need to stay in school. Others have guided you to the classes you needed, while still others have fought to make sure those classes would be offered. When you have needed a little extra support, you have been able to find it in the tutoring centers or with Green River's counselors and the staff in Student Services.

As you move into your futures, I hope that you will also remember those who have worked with you here at Green River. And there have been a lot who have supported you, from the people who made sure the classrooms were clean and safe to those you turned to for guidance. You have enjoyed the support of librarians and counselors, tutors and advisors, as well as those of us who have worked with you in the classrooms. It takes a lot of people to keep an institution like Green River running effectively, many of whom you never even see.

Unfortunately, there are a lot of critics who are questioning the value of the work we do. Some refer to your instructors as "sages on the stage" and claim that what we do is ineffective. They believe that we can, and should, be replaced through technology.

Others will make the claim that too much money has been poured into the system without yielding quality results, and in spite of the fact that higher education has been horribly underfunded for at least twenty years, they insist that more must be cut.

So, as you move on to the next step in your lives, I would ask that you remember those who have helped you along the way. Get involved in the discussions, and let people know how much you value your college experience and the education you've received. Help us to help those who will follow you. We have helped you to understand that your futures are truly in your own hands; now I want you to understand that, in many ways, your school's future is also in your hands.

News

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The ASGRCC elections

Presidential election declared invalid

By: Remco Zwetsloot

Due to a misinterpretation of the laws on eligibility, the candidate that won the first election, Chris Kruis, will not be ASGRCC President next year.

Kruis, who won by a margin of 216 votes (Kruis: 652, Olivas: 436), did not meet the 3.0 GPA requirement that was needed to become president, but because of a mix-up with the rules he entered the race anyway. The confusion was caused by an outdated elections packet, according to Dani Chang, director of student life.

The election packet used in the election still contained rules from the 2008-2009 academic year, even though the rules had been updated this year. The outdated election packet was interpreted by staff and ASGRCC senators as saying that a 3.0 was not required until the start of the term, but the By-Laws said something different:

Election packet: "To petition for office and be elected, candidates must carry a cumulative grade point average of 3.0, be enrolled in and complete at least 12 credits per quarter, and have accumulated at least 45 college credits by the end of Spring Quarter after the elections are held, or have completed one year of IESL instruction from any accredited institution, as per Enrollment Services standards, prior to the start of Summer Quarter. Any questions on IESL equivalency can be answered by referencing the IESL Equivalency Document, available in Student Programs"

By-Laws: "Candidates for the elected offices of ASGRCC President and Vice President must currently have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 upon applying for the position." (In 2008-2009 they said "...must currently have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and maintain it while in office.")

Since the Presidential elections have been declared invalid and there is currently no one to take the president's spot next year, special elections will be held on June 1 and June 2. The only student allowed to run will be Joaquin Olivas, who lost the first election.

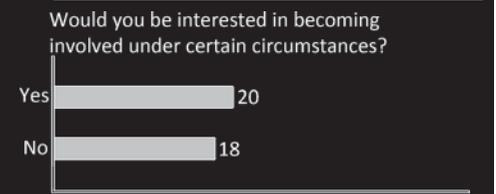
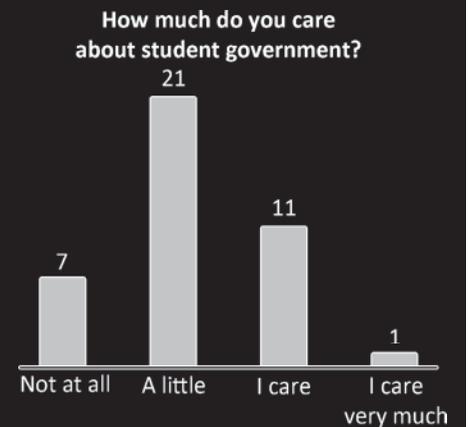
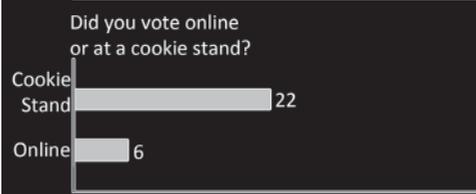
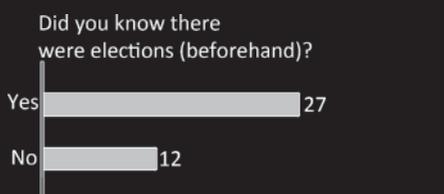
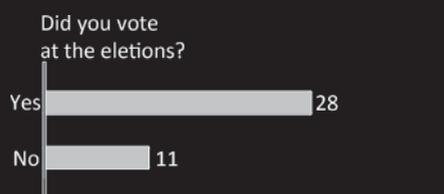
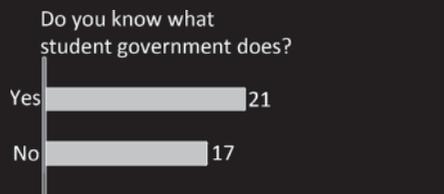
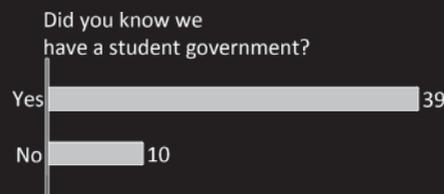
"We figured if anyone wanted to be President they would have signed up the first time," explains Chang. Since there is only one person running, the only options students will have are 'yes' or 'no', with Olivas needing a majority of yes votes to be elected.

If Olivas gets more no than yes votes, the person who was elected vice-president, Young Sunny Park, will be granted president and she will have to appoint her desired vice-president with consent of two thirds of senate.

With an extremely low level of involvement and interest from the student body and the short notice the special elections were organized on, the student life office has arranged for the library and tech center computers to change their landing pages to the voting page, which will hopefully increase the amounts of votes cast. Voting this election will be done online, whereas it was in the last election (often with a cookie as a reward).

The election's results will be announced at noon on June 3 during a Senate meeting, which will take place in the Rainier room (second floor Lindbloom Student Center).

In the wake of the elections, which had a record amount of votes but also a record amount of criticism, *The Current* set out to investigate how much the students really care, and whether the high turn-out from students really was just the consequence of free candy and cookies. We polled 49 students, 10 of which didn't know we even had a student government and consequentially didn't fill out the rest of the questionnaire. Now, without further ado, we'll let the numbers speak for themselves.



Student Government apologizes

Dear Gator Student Body,

Members of the ASGRCC Student Government acknowledge and take responsibility for misinterpretation of ASGRCC By-Law Article II, Section I, Subsection 1 which rendered the results of the 2010-2011 Presidential Election invalid.

For that, we would like to officially apologize to the candidates and student body.

It turns out, the issue stems from a grammatical error. We reference a section of the By-Laws (meaning rules for Student Government) regarding requirements for a student to run for office and the original wording in that section was unclear and left room for multiple interpretations, only one of which was correct.

Last year, the wording was changed to make each requirement clear and distinct. In updating this year's Elections packet (info and guidelines given to each candidate), the new updates were not transcribed, and so remained ambiguous. Therefore, the incorrect interpretation was used in the election process.

The issue was brought to the attention of Senate, after elections were completed. The consequences of that mistake were too much to ignore, and as a Senate, we took immediate action.

We have to adhere to our By-Laws. Why? Because they guide Student Government.

Why? Because we created them! Students in years past created and continued this set of rules with one goal in mind: to protect the genuine value of student voices and uphold the quality of those representing them. These By-Laws are not random restrictions designed to limit the creativity or power of the Senate or students.

Updating, modifying, and fine-tuning the By-Laws is its own monster. It's a continuous process to where an entire committee is devoted in Senate (By-Laws Committee). The Elections misinterpretation has unearthed some additional sections of the By-Laws that need revision. Admittedly, this particular situation has not happened in the past. There is not a formal process for it. We are having to set precedents with the decisions we make.

As a senate, we decided to enact a special online only election with the remaining qualifying candidate. Every student had the opportunity to use their voice and vote again. The decision remains in your hands.

We hope you trust we take seriously the pride and importance of being Green River Student representatives. We have brainstormed, debated, weighed, considered, decided and acted according to our shared goals of representing all GRCC students.

- ASGRCC Student Government

"Before I applied for the position I had asked both Dani Chang [director of Student Life] and Susan Evans [Student Life Program Coordinator], along with a couple students who I trust in the student government. I said straight forward: I have a 2.75, can I still run for the position? The answer from all of them was yes."

Chris Kruis

"If Joaquin does get elected, where does that leave me?"

Kerry Kralovic The Current

Delays expected in Summer quarter due to 124th Ave improvements

By: Mary Dusek

The Green River Community College (GRCC) main campus in Auburn is currently undergoing a major construction project with Salish Hall, and has more building planned for the 2010-11 school year as well. However, the largest improvement – and burden – is the work on 124th Avenue.

For those who remember streets in other ways than by their names, 124th Avenue is the road perpendicular to campus, on which Campus Corner Apartments (CCA), the city playground, GRCC's tennis courts and the Family of Grace Lutheran Church reside.

The improvements will be made between 316th and 320th street, for the purpose of "[improving] traffic flow and pedestrian safety," according to Sam Ball, dean of instruction and capital projects.

"I park in a neighborhood on 124th and walk from there," said Justin Callender, a freshman at GRCC. On whether or not he feels safe walking on the road, he replied, "sometimes I feel safe, but a lot of people fly by and speed like crazy."

By the start of fall quarter, students can expect a wider street and an extended left turn lane leading to the campus from the north – or the freeway, for the directionally-challenged. In addition to more street space, sidewalks

will be added to the west side of the road to increase the safety of those students who walk to school.

Callender was previously unaware of the future roadside improvements. "Sounds good to me! I would feel a lot safer," he replied when he heard of the news.

Unfortunately for summer quarter students, Green River's latest construction project will cause occasional traffic delays, which could mean the difference between being five minutes early or being five minutes late. But, Ball explained, there will be no complete road closures.

Strangely, only one side of 124th Avenue will be given attention throughout this project. Ball noted that there are "no funds to pay for those much-needed improvements on the east side."

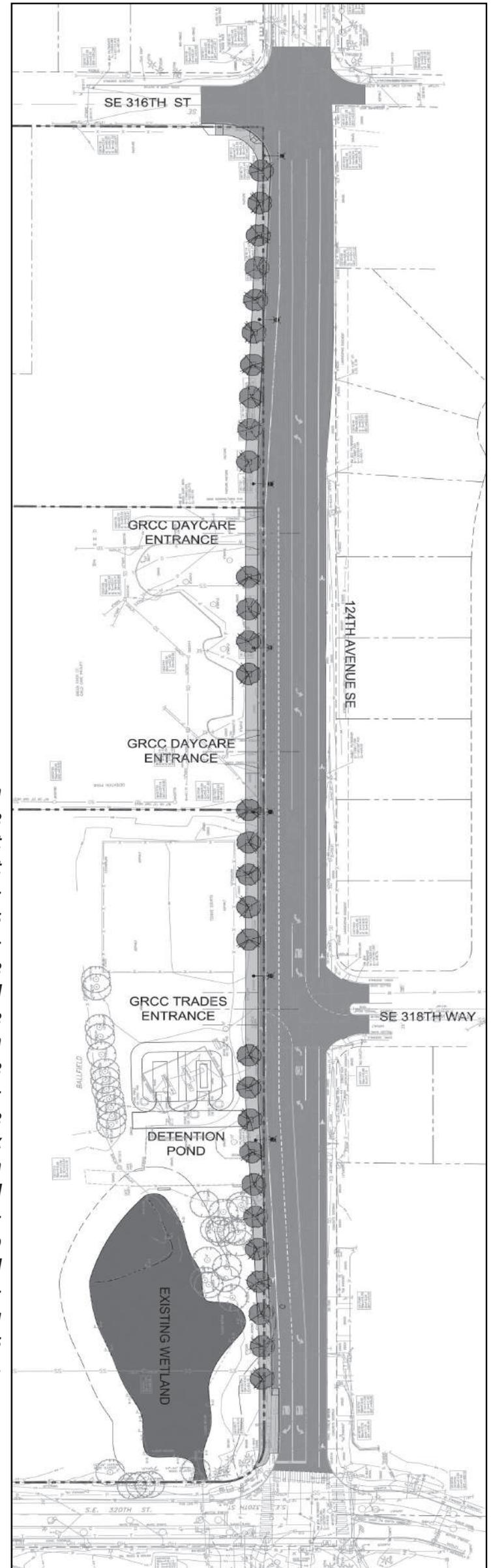
GRCC will be funding the entire endeavor. Ball estimates that the whole project will cost the college between three and four-million dollars from the capital budget. The project's budget was approved at the Board of Trustees meeting on May 24.

Callender was shocked when he found out the amount of funds that is going into this job. He said, "I think with that money instead they should be trying to expand parking to some degree. It's obvious that parking is a problem and should be more of a priority." The reason

he has to walk along 124th Avenue in the first place is because he can't find parking on campus.

"I believe [the traffic] is a big problem, especially in the mornings," said local resident and Running Start student, McKenzie Maynard. She believes the future improvements are a good idea for Green River. "It will help with the traffic going to the college."

The construction work should be completed before students return to campus in September. Drivers should be aware of the extra turn lane to avoid any unnecessary confusion in that first week of fall quarter.



The map shown illustrates the future plans for the street outside of GRCC. It also depicts the impending new trades and industry building and daycare center, which will be built along the west side of 124th Avenue in 2013. The small circles alongside the prospective sidewalk mark the spots in which blooming trees will be planted. Ball expects these trees to beautify the city and campus area, especially in the spring when the flowers are in full-bloom.

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Merriam-Webster Dictionary definition of satire:

1 : a literary work holding up human vices and follies to ridicule or scorn

2 : trenchant wit, irony, or sarcasm used to expose and discredit vice or folly

Green River officials opt to sacrifice books for plasma screens

By: Kelli Wyatt & Jessi Cheney

Starting at the end of Spring Quarter, demolition of the Holman Library will make way for a new library of information, Green River officials said Monday.

The new building will be funded by REGAL Cinemas, which some debate stands for "Real Good Actual Learning" Cinemas, and will be named similarly so - the Regal Cinemas Library.

The change is spurred by a recent study, conducted in April by the Society Against Cruel and Unusual Methods of Education (SACUME), in alliance with the Foundation of Learning, which proved that textbooks, through-and-through, do nothing to aid students in learning.

Many students at Green River were appalled to hear that the Holman Library was going to be torn down.

"I sleep in there between classes!" protested one student.

Upon hearing that the replacement would be a cinema, the same student nodded approvingly.

"What'll happen to the books?" asked second-year student, Chris Marathon. "Where will we find primary sources for our research papers?"

SACUME's study observed nearly 100 students, giving them identical course material in

"Eventually there will be . . . other spiffy things that'll make our students smarter."

both movie format and textbook format.

During the study, each student was observed for two months. For the first month, they strictly used the textbook and were given an exam at the end of the month to determine out how much information they had retained. The second month students were given the same information through DVDs. 78 percent of the students did better on the second month.

"The results were staggering," said one re-

searcher, Jordon DeBras.

According to DeBras, students have a short attention span and learn better when spoon-fed information via "the boob-tube."

Head of the Education Department of Green River, Diane Schuster, caught wind of these results and plummeted a fist into her desk immediately. She then picked up the phone and called some important people.

"The plan is to completely tear down the Holman Library," Schuster smiled. "Eventually there will be four grand-sized theater lecture rooms, and a bunch of other spiffy things that'll make our students smarter."

In addition, students will now be required to check out or purchase DVDs which will cover the material for each course. Such DVDs will be made available in the Regal Cinemas Library.

"I've been vouching for this for ages," sighed History of the Movies professor, Ryan McNorrisson. "It's about time somebody's listened to me!"

Some students - granted, a very small percentage - are complaining about losing their books.

"I like my books," whined Marathon.

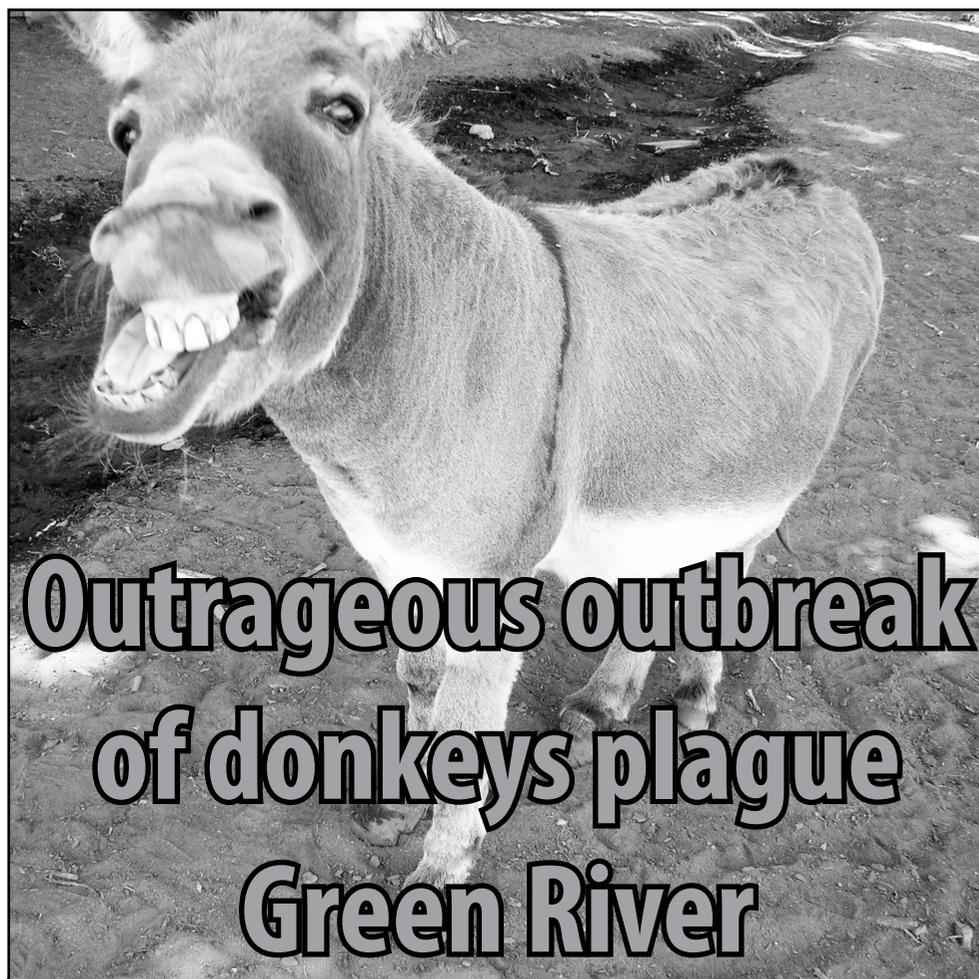
Other students - a much, much larger and happier percentage - are rather content with the school board's decision to replace the library with the cinema.

Replacing those unsightly shelves of heavy, unsightly books in the library will be a wide array of bean bag and lounge chairs; placed before all of these commodities will be a medium-sized plasma TV, complete with DVD players.

"We're hoping the new program will raise the overall GPA of our students here."

"We're hoping the new program will raise the overall GPA of our students here," commented hopeful new President of GRCC, David Sours.

The new Regal Library will be completed over the summer, and the future of education is here. "But, books..." whined Marathon.



A recent outbreak of deranged donkeys has plagued our beautiful school of Green River Community College.

Students have complained about... Aw, forget it.

This isn't a real article. Sure, it's on the satire page, so it's not real news anyway... But I bet you're just gonna keep reading it anyway.

Think of it as a column.

But it's not a column.

It's actually an ad.

Not just an ad

It's more than that.

You can help us.

All you smiling, beautiful people.

Like this ass.

But honestly.

If you're interested in writing for us, *The Current*, contact us: thecurrent@greenriver.edu

We could use your help.

Maybe you'd like to do something like this?

Look up.

I'm sure you haven't quite gotten distracted by its tongue yet.

Text is much more important than silly photos.

Cheers.

Hangover epidemic takes new death toll Hundreds presumed "dead" after student Loko pong tournament

By: Josh Robbins

Green River Community College sits in the wake of one of its greatest tragedies. On Thursday, officials reported a skyrocketing death toll of 436 students and counting, which threatens to devour the campus as a whole. Although none of the students are considered legally dead, vomiting, the inability to wake up on time and a total lack of response to stimuli has given these victims the title of walking dead, or Loko-zombies.

It all started when the Green River Beer Pong Championship (GRBPC) of 2010 had its funding cut for more conventional sports. Given a budget of only 50 dollars, they had to find a way to fill those cups, as to not disappoint the many eager teams that had been training year round. The former president, now deceased, came upon the idea that that while 50 dollars could get you maybe... two 30 racks, it could also get you a seemingly unlimited amount of 4-lokos, the hot and heavy brew popular among the youth and less well to do, but especially less well to do youth with only two dollars and a twinkle in their eyes.

The aftermath was devastating.

At the opening ceremonies of the tournament, tradition seemed to not have left the organization. The President of GRBPC usually chugs three beers, but this was replaced by chugging three 4-lokos. Afterward the President started to seem sickly, confused, even trying to bite an event organizer who got too close to him, and soon retreated from the event. By the end of the night they were only halfway through the brackets when everyone seemed to contract similar symptoms, becoming sluggish, unable to finish their opponent's cups, overly aggressive and with a seeming white haze over their eyes that gave a semblance of mindless emptiness.

How can you make sure that you are safe from this growing infection? Take some time to assess your risk factors:

- Are you a student?
- Have you recently purchased a 4-loko with intent to consume?
- Do you have something to do tomorrow (possibly early), but decide it's worth it to party tonight anyway?
- Is your budget around \$50?

Then you, too, may have already fallen under the sway of this brain-devouring sickness. Be wary as the seeming innocence of one alcoholic beverage is under ridden by its high toxicity, and can fool even the most veteran alcohol enthusiast. It only takes 24 hours to take effect, making it hard for doctors to stop the process before the victim turns.

On Friday the scene was one of disarray, as mindless living dead students crept through classrooms, seemingly enthralled with a droning request for "brains." Many paramedics, who were rushed to the scene to try to cap the pandemic that threatens to spread to the general population of Auburn, have speculated that their mumbles and moans might be the only way they can communicate the pain surging inside their skulls. Truly, a horrible fate for any party-going student who chose to take a chance.

R • I • C • H RUTKOWSKI

By: Nicole Swapp

Filling the shoes of a man who has left a giant size to fill is a tough task. President Rich Rutkowski has done just that, however.

Replacing Rutkowski in July will be Dr. Eileen Ely. "She has big shoes to fill," says John Ramsey, director of public information. "She's very excited to be coming here."

Arriving at the college in 1974, Rutkowski was a standout employee to the college. "[He] came into the college as the Dean of Business Affairs," said Mel Lindbloom, Green River's founding college president. Right away Rutkowski jumped into one of the most difficult positions of the college.

"Rich was always great working with many teachers and staff," continues Lindbloom. "He would make many recommendations to the Board of Trustees and myself on what the college should be focusing on."

After Lindbloom retired in 1982, Rutkowski applied to be the president but was not selected as a candidate by the Board of Trustees. Two years later he was called in by the Board as they asked him to temporarily take on the leadership role as president of Green River.

Rutkowski has made Green River what it is today. With the current budget problem, Rutkowski does whatever it takes to keep as many employees employed at the college. "I think a lot of that you can trace back to Rich," commented Ramsey. "He has made it a priority to value the people. I think it shows over the last couple of years we've done what we can do to avoid layoffs."

"I think he has been very supportive of faculty and instruction staff," said John Bush, a psychology instructor who has worked at Green River for 40 years.

As most people would say after meeting Rutkowski; they couldn't have asked for a better college

president. Rutkowski has worked very well with the state legislature working on getting the college new buildings and funding for future projects like the 124th street improvements. "He has the ability of working with both sides of legislators," adds Lindbloom.

Rutkowski has also been in full support of the college; no matter the time of day. "He has been a 24-hour president for the college," Ramsey exclaims. "The college operates around the clock as well; so it's always been great that he does too."

Green River has been very lucky in the fact that there have only been three college presidents to work

here. "It's very cool because at most institutions most college presidents last for maybe five or so years," said Ramey.

"I think it's been great for the institution to only have three [college presidents]. I think what you find at Green River is there are a lot of employees that

have been here for a long time, and that's due in part because the leaders have been here for a long time too," says Ramsey.

Another leader on campus, Executive Vice President April Jensen, reflected on a funny story of her and Rutkowski. "When I was here for two years, there was some strife between the faculty and administration. I couldn't improve on the relationship like I wanted," he said. "When I was talking to Rich about it he pointed at me and said 'listen. This has been going on for over 20 years and you're not going to fix it over night,'" she added laughing.

All in all, Rutkowski will be a cherished figure on campus for years to come. "He has done an outstanding job [as president]," said Lindbloom.

"I think he has done an excellent job of being president," Bush adds. "He has managed us through three very difficult times."

"Rich is by far the best president I have ever had," comments Jensen.

"It's very cool because at most institutions, most college presidents last for maybe five or so years."

- John Ramsey, director of public information



“Enjoy your fishing and your free time, you earned it.

- Mel Lindbloom. Green River's first president

Thank you for trying to make an analytical person out of me. And go have more fun.

- April Jensen. Executive Vice President

“I've really enjoyed working with him and I hope he stays involved with the college.

- John Bush, Psychology Faculty

Great decision maker; great leader. I couldn't have asked for a better person to work for.

- John Ramsey. Director of Public Information

As he walks into his office with ease and sits down, a cup of coffee and water in each hand, the thought of losing Rich Rutkowski, Green River's President for 26 years, isn't easy to fathom. His gentle smile and intelligent eyes are personable and overflow with love for the school he has dedicated his life to for so long.

Rutkowski's favorite part of the year is the Commencement Ceremony every June. Ironically, the thing he struggled with the most when he first started as President was speeches and public speaking; his commencement and welcome back speeches to the staff and gave him stage fright every fall.

The staff came up with a solution – or they thought they did. A videotape with Rutkowski giving the welcome speech was recorded, in many, many tries, and played at the welcome gathering. It turned out to be a disaster.

"They had a different idea after that though, a much better idea," he grinned, "they sent me to executive communications school."

While many students, and even faculty, haven't personally seen or gotten to know the President, not one can say they haven't profited from his contributions to the college. Rutkowski has always tried his hardest, and most times succeeded, in bringing the best to Green River. The idea of saying goodbye to a man who has brought so much to the community, campus, students, and faculty, brings sadness to all of our hearts.



Growing up

"I grew up in the projects," Rutkowski explains of his home city Lackawanna, NY, just south of Buffalo, which was right next to Lake Erie. "I never knew Lake Erie was there," he recalled, "you were literally in the shadow of the 14 smoke stacks that extended for miles," and everything was clear.

As a teenager he attended St. Francis High School where he graduated at the top of his class. "I was a crack-a student." His mother helped push him with the continuous drilling of her motto: "education, education, education," since that was in her mind the only way to get out of Lackawanna.

As a teenager, he had affection for math, science, and language, but eventually settled on engineering as his major. Out of the smokestacks of Lackawanna, Rutkowski attended Canisius College, a small private college in Buffalo. He received a 4-year full ride scholarship, which was extremely important

because his family couldn't afford to send him to college.

After two years, though, he transferred to the University of Detroit (UD). "My mother thought I was nuts," Rutkowski chuckled. "I was giving up 2 years of a full ride," but he wanted to pursue a career in engineering, and the University of Detroit was the college for that.

To pay for college Rutkowski enrolled in the co-op program – working a job the school would arrange for one quarter, then a quarter of school, then a quarter of work, etcetera. He chose to work at Martin Marietta, just south of Denver, Colorado. Martin Marietta was, and still is, the leading producer of aggregates in the United States.

Rutkowski worked there with three other classmates, each doing something different within the company depending on their area of study at the university.

None of them owned a car, so to travel all the way to Colorado, they came up with a plan: they would



transport a rental car. "Can you imagine four people with all their belongings in a Pontiac GTO?" Rutkowski grinned.

"What I learned [at Martin Marietta] was all the various facets of the com-

pany," he explains, about working at the bottom of the chain to working in the failure analysis program. "Ultimately, what I learned was... I didn't want to be an engineer."

Rich Rutkowski Goodbye, Mr. President

Pre-Green River

After earning a BA in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Detroit in 1965 and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Michigan, he took a job in the Controller's Office at Boeing as a financial analyst.

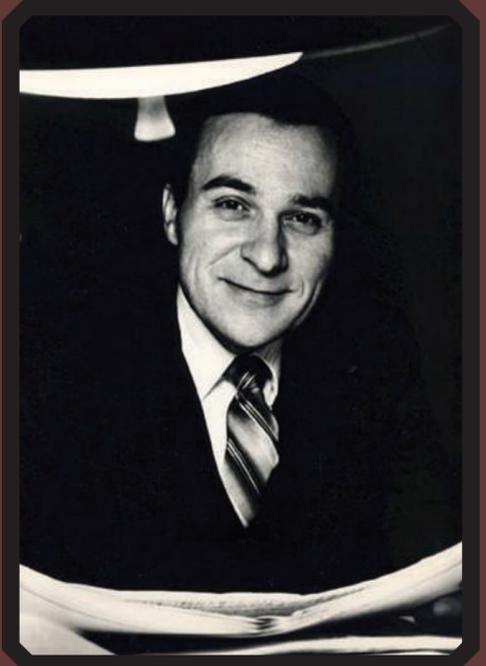
This was what originally brought him to Washington, but soon he realized this wasn't what he wanted to do for the rest of his life.

After a few years at Boeing, Rutkowski and a co-worker decided that, while they didn't have it all too bad, they wanted to do something different.

"I had a great job," he explained, "But at that point in time I decided that Boeing was just too big for me and it just didn't fit."

They set up an income tax preparation consultant business. "We grew from two offices the first year, to six the second year, and 30 the third."

Despite the company's success, his partner took a job in New York, and Rutkowski was left to sell the business after a few years. "We beat H & R black to the punch! But we didn't have any staying power."



Green River

After the business, he worked briefly at Highline Community College as a controller, and then finally settled at Green River as Dean of Business Affairs in 1974.

"I got to work for [Melvin] Lindbloom for 10 years," referring to the first President. "At that time everyone was in the Holman library; the library was in the library, the business offices were in the library, the bookstore was in the library, even classrooms were in the library," he recalled smilingly.

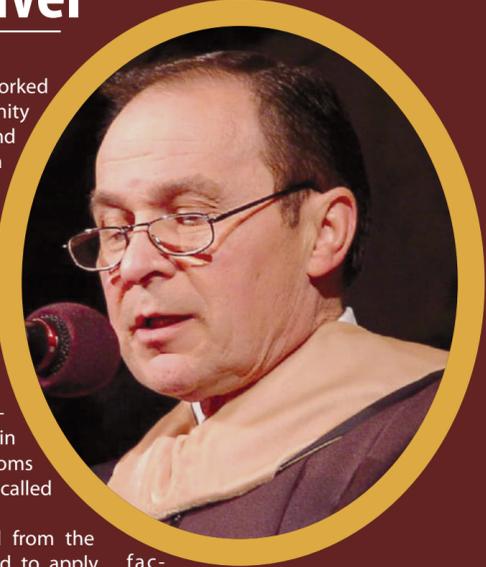
After Lindbloom retired from the college, Rutkowski decided to apply for the position of President, but he wasn't taken very seriously. "I wasn't even a candidate for the Board of Trustees."

The Board decided to hire Jim Chadborne. Although he had hoped for the position, Rutkowski wasn't disappointed by the decision the Board made because he loved his job and was perfectly content with being the business manager.

Chadborne and Rutkowski became good working associates and worked quite well together, and when things went sideways for Chadborne in 1983, the Board of Trustees called Rutkowski into their office to ask if he would take the job on an interim basis.

Afraid the next President might see him as a rival, Rutkowski proposed he would be evaluated at the end of his interim term to see if he could stay on permanently. If the evaluation had a negative result the new President wouldn't see him as a threat, and, he cheekily explained "if the result was positive, then..."

The evaluation would be fully confidential between him and the Board. However, it would include people campus wide. A third party would come in and interview a total of 45 people from



faculty, classified administrators, student government, and community members.

By December the board had made their decision. "They called me when I was up at Whistler with my family and they asked if I would like the job," he recalled, "and I said, okay I'll take it!"

"I figured I could do it, that's what inspired me. And it happened that I stayed, one year after the next after the next," he laughed.

Just like that, small town Rich Rutkowski had started what was to be the longest presidential tenure at Green River so far. "There are so many great things that have transpired over these 27 years," Rutkowski reflects, "I really came to appreciate the situation each year at graduation."

"It's just a delightful experience to be a part of the celebrations that occur, the accomplishments. Having a part, even if it's a distant relationship, to the success of students is the greatest."

While some were surprised to hear of the buoyant GRCC President retiring, he laughingly explained it was time. "You'll know it when you get there."

The Future

He's not just going to fall off the radar however, "There are other things I want to do as well, one of the things I'd like to do is spend more time at photography and photo editing," he grins. It's a passion of his that he would like to pursue now that he'll have more time to do so.

"The hardest part undoubtedly will be losing Carmen and Tanya's assistance," Rutkowski says, referring to his two secretaries. "They always keep me organized and on schedule."

But it's not just the business aspect that the President will miss. "Not being

part of the action, so to speak. There are a lot of good things going on here. But things change."

So what now? Rutkowski will most likely be living the retired man's dream. "I'd like to spend a little time on my boat, a little Ranger Tug," he said with a boyish smirk, and he didn't rule out taking some photography classes at Green River.

With joyous eyes he told us what he'd like to tell every student: "Follow your dreams. Everyone has a story, everyone has passion - follow your dreams." He followed his, and it led him to this campus where he experienced years full of laughter, success, and happiness.

Rich Rutkowski's life mapped out



5. After his college career, Rutkowski took a management job at Boeing in Seattle. After a few years he realized it wasn't for him, and, together with a co-worker, he set up an income tax preparation business in Tukwila. After a few years of success the business was sold, and Rutkowski took a job at Highline Community College.

6. After a few years as controller at Highline, he finally settled at Green River as Dean of Business Affairs in 1974. After ten years in that position, one failed presidential 'run' and two departing Presidents, he got chosen for the office in 1984, now 26 years ago.

4. Every other semester, Rich and three classmates drove a GTO Pontiac 50 hours straight all the way to Denver, Colorado, to work for Martin Marietta. In the end, what he learned there was "I didn't want to be an engineer."

3. At the university of Detroit he continued his engineering studies, but he had lost his scholarship. To pay for his studies he joined the co-op program, working for Martin Marietta every other semester.

2. Buffalo, NY, where he went to Canisius College to study engineering on a full scholarship. After two years of studying he moved on to the University of Detroit.

1. Lackawanna, NY, where he grew up in the shadow of 14 plants, graduating from St. Francis high school as a crack A student.

Teacher Spotlight: Hank Galmish



Tyler Kion The Current

By: Tyler Kion

Once upon a time, and a very good time it was, there sat a brilliant man. He sank comfortably into his old squeaky chair, in his much cluttered office. His office was not like any other office for it was filled with stacks of books and littered with pictures and many miniature sculpted figurines. Strategically placed between these are hand-made busts he had sculpted into his personal literary saints; Robert Frost, Poe, Shakespeare, the Green Man, and Mother Ireland who keep him company. He is Hank Galmish.

How did you get into literature?

Ever since he was a little boy, he liked books. He said that his dad really loved books as well and on birthdays, instead of toys, his father would always give him

books. When Galmish was about seven years old he was given an illustrated edition of Robert L. Stevenson's, *Treasure Island*; he fell in love with it just after reading the first couple pages.

"I just absorbed the book. I used to take it to bed with me and put it under my pillow," he says. "I really discovered [then] there was a huge world out there, just in the world of books." He hasn't stopped reading since.

After graduating college with an English degree, Galmish wasn't sure what to do. He spent a few years working 'different' kinds of jobs, never straying far from books. Then decided to go back to school to get a job teaching.

He went to the University of Colorado, where he got a job in the language lab working as a tutor. This experience landed him a teaching job at a college out in Kentucky.

He went on to say that he wanted to "go back West". He then applied to Green River and has yet to leave.

Do you have any heroes?

He started off with his father, being a real-living hero of his. According to Galmish, he was a very kind, steady, and very loving man. "My father sacrificed a great deal of pleasure and his own comfort for his family, and that still means a great deal to me," he says, "it never meant much to me when I was younger, but the older I get the more I realize that takes an awful lot."

In terms of a historical hero, he's fascinated by the same type of model; someone who's willing to go out of their way to help others who are less fortunate or can share out of their own plentitude.

He recently read a book about Saint Damien or Damien the Leper, who traveled to live with a leper community on Molokai and ended up contracting Leprosy (now called Hansen's disease) and was buried there with the people.

"It's a very moving and heroic story," he adds.

The other type of hero he's impressed with is straight out of the literary world. James Joyce, according to Galmish was "somebody who was able to use his language to actually evoke and create a sense of passion, beauty, and meaning in someone else's life with the use of [his] words... or the ability to enrich enormously somebody else's life."

To him that is a remarkable gift to see people do this with "great diligence and great energy and dedication, to take their talent and to use it to enrich the world."

Why teaching?

"Why not?" he says with a chuckle. He got into teaching because of the people that have deeply impacted him. He said he had teachers in undergraduate school that, to this day he still thinks about; one specifically whose name was Dr. John Ward. "He was the classic absent

minded professor." He says Ward would come into the class alive with the love of literature; that all you had to do was be around him and you would get excited by it too. "A lot of what was said I didn't know what he was talking about," he laughs. "But that didn't matter, the contagion came across."

After attending a year at a private college Galmish became homesick Ward was gracious enough to invite him, along with some other students over. "There were about ten or fifteen of us who didn't have any place to go. He invited us over for Thanksgiving and I'll always remember that."

"After we had dinner we all sat around and he started discussing literature, asking about books, asking us what we read." He went on to say, "here's a teacher who's giving out of his fullness, there's so much in him that he wants to share and he's getting paid to do that. I thought 'that's a great life.' That's a life that I could really be attracted to."

Galmish was deeply moved by this and holds onto that memory saying "that's what a teacher is; y'ou try to fill yourself up, because of your hunger to learn, but you have so much it just kind of splashes around all over the place. And other people want that contagion; they want to be caught by that desire to learn."

Twenty out of his 30 years of experience were spent teaching at Green River. He teaches writing courses, literature courses, currently he teaches poetry and in the fall he will teach Irish Literature and mythology.

He loves the classroom and interacting with students. He says there are very good people here and loves to be around them. He comes alive in the classroom; "I'm livelier inside the classroom than I am outside. And as long as that continues, I feel good about teaching."

Student Life organizes trip to Hawaii over summer

By: Kristine Gwinn

After a year of tough classes, excruciating homework, and a bottomless pit of test, a Hawaiian get-away does sound ideal. The folks at the Student Life office on Green River Community College's main campus think so too. They have a yearly trip to Hawaii that starts at the end of the eight week summer session of classes.

During this six day trip; students get six days and five nights with round-trip airfare and

hotel stay included in the cost.

"It's a little expensive, but if you save a mere \$72 a month you can make it happen," says Kevin Wilson, a former GRCC student that went on the trip last year. "However, you do need to bring money for food and anything else you want to do," he explains

The resort is called Castle Ocean Resort. It's a block away from Waikiki Beach, one of the most eminent beaches on the island of Oahu; Hawaii's third largest island. Located less than two miles from Diamond Head Crater State Park, the Honolulu Zoo, and within walking distance of more than 17 restaurants, this hotel is an ideal place to stay as a tourist.

"You don't need to rent a car because there's a ton of stuff to do right near the hotel," notes Billie Littleton, a student looking forward to taking the trip next year.

If money is an issue there are several things students can do for free. Snorkeling at Queen's Beach, the surf museum, and the Hawaii music hall of fame.

The Waikiki Shopping Plaza puts on free Hawaiian dance and music shows on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The US Army Museum and the USS Arizona Memorial to Pearl Harbor are free as well.

"There is definitely no shortage of things to do," continues Wilson, "if nothing else, just finds a spot

on the beach and people watch." There is also a tour that takes you through all the hotel lobbies in the area.

Whether you feel you need a break or not this would be a great opportunity for a nice getaway.

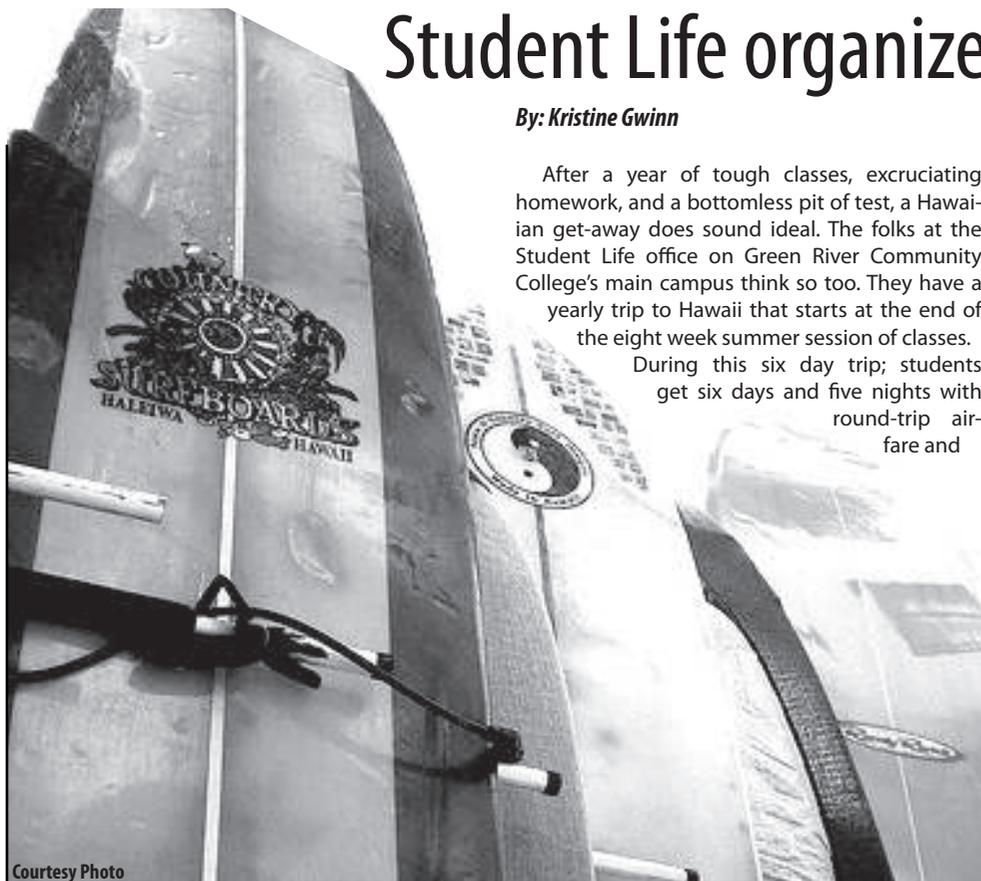
"It's a chance to see a part of the country I would not otherwise get to see," says Littleton, "A lot of students don't feel that they have the ability to travel, especially when the only money that they have goes towards school and if they have any money left over it goes towards food or housing."

The trip to Hawaii has been going on for several years, giving a multitude of students the ability to take a very well-deserved break after school is finished.

"The chance for relaxation after a stressful year is a much needed respite," admits Wilson, "I would say a good majority of students don't realize just how important that relaxation is to your mental health. Without the chance to relax, the average person will slowly go insane. Imagine what students are going through." Seriously, imagination is not needed as finals creep towards GRCC.

"The relaxation and sunshine are a welcoming factor and the idea of being able to do whatever you want is extremely appealing," concludes Littleton.

Hawaii, here stressed-out-students-of-GRCC come!



Courtesy Photo

A little humor never hurt anyone

By: Jordan Cowart

Everybody loves a good joke, but what is a joke, is it hilarity in itself? Perhaps it's an emotion on how one expresses the sentence, or maybe a mix of both? Despite what jokes may be, for many have their own definition, they can come in numerous different forms and be really funny.

Everyone needs a good laugh in his or her life once in a while, right? For even comedians need to laugh at their own jokes before others can laugh with them. The word funny expresses so many different emotions.

For example, picture a polar bear at the zoo who is taking a swim by the big window so everyone can point and take pictures. When all of the sudden the polar bear takes a 14 gallon diarrhetic crap in the water by poor little Jeremy's face, who is standing confused and shouting for his mom by the window watching this troubled bear work through is jet propulsion problem. This makes it funny, but just because it's funny doesn't necessarily make it comedy.

Being able to take what we said above and change it around a bit makes it comedy.

If we take the same aspect of the polar bear problem and change the environment and make it someone else's problem we can make it even funnier. For instance, lets now picture a teacher you really hated or was maybe just really strange and through mid-sentence in one of their lectures they passed out and had a diarrhetic crap and for some reason it went through his/her pants and got some of the classmates, this ladies and gentleman is what makes something funny, comedy.

With a good ground base level of a comedy club you could even go as far as animation comedy. According to TV.com, the animated series Family Guy seems to be the most popular show in the comedy world for best animated series in what they like to call sick, twisted, politically incorrect and freakin' sweet!

Giggity. Imagine comedic cartoonist making animated satire for the school online newspaper. A lot of students may watch those.

Remember when ever getting into any comedic level with in yourself if it's not funny, then you're not funny. As Dani from youtubes

the gradual report would say, "until next time my little lemon drops, stay happy, stay fresh, and stay funny."



Courtesy Photo

Students start prepping for graduation

With summer just around the corner, many Green River students are excited to move onto a different school

By: Renelyn Cruz & Samantha Shockley

Green River Community College will be having a graduating ceremony on June 11, 2010 at the Showare Center in Kent. This is one of the proudest moments for GRCC students as definite sense of accomplishment, and a prelude to success overcomes all who attend.

Even though no birds are singing and the sunshine isn't gleaming down, and Snow White is nowhere to be seen, a certain buzz around campus is beginning to come forth. With finals just around the corner, and the commencement ceremony just seconds away it seems students are wrapping everything up before summer comes.

It's obvious why so many students are excited for the summer months, not only for the fun filled vacation, or the eight week summer courses to cram those necessary classes in, but because for some, graduation is what's on the mind.

De Naja Handy, a 21 years old GRCC student is graduating this year. She has gone to the college since September of 2007. Still having much more to accomplish, she is happy to have come so far.

So it's not all bubbles and smiles about the ceremony, the students must also bid farewell to the much beloved Green River. A bitter-sweet adieu for many who have come to love the campus and the staff.

"It's been 3 years. It's time for me to move on, so I'm being optimistic about what path I could take," explains Handy.

For Handy it's been her mother and sister who have helped and inspired her to work her hardest. "I'll be one of the first one graduating from college in my immediate family," expressed Handy.

Through hard work and self motivation she herself turned out to be an inspiration, "I want

something that says more than just flipping burgers or going to the Gap and work in retail. I want something that actually shows that I've worked hard to get where I'm at, so I can feel like I have accomplished much behind me," she describes.

Even after all that she has accomplished in the last three years, she understands that there are still obstacles ahead that she has to undergo.

Many students are more than happy to be graduating, some may go on to start the career they've been prepping for, while others, like Christian Munoz, are heading to further their education even more.

Munoz, 19 years old, is also a graduating student who is ecstatic about being one step closer to attaining his B.A., he will also be the first in his family to do so. His future plans consist of pursuing a major in English at the University of Washington.

When graduation from any type of education system it's hard not to mention motivation, for during the long sleepless nights, stimulation is all that students need. For Munoz his mother was his biggest inspiration. After an almost fatal accident to his head at the age of six, he had lost most of his ability to do everyday things, "I had to start over, which meant that I had to relearn how to talk, walk, read, write, and draw," Munoz illustrates.

His mother changed his fear of having to repeat the first grade because of the accident, "She took it upon herself to teach me. My mother always made me look deep inside myself to never give up despite the odds," he portrays.

It's a huge accomplishment for any and everyone who has taken the responsibility to attend, and attain higher education. This year GRCC will celebrate again the accomplishments of its students.

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Now that's one excited student on graduation day!

Courtesy Photo

Life before America

By: Samantha Shockley

Most don't realize how much they have until they see what someone else has gone through to get to where they are. Alejandra Antonio, a 24-year-old Green River student, came all the way from Puebla, Mexico to further her education in hopes of a better life.

Coming from a poor family, Antonio's mother raised three children by herself. "My mother has a different mind," Alejandra Antonio expressed. "[Back home] they have a different manner of thinking, women don't have to go to school, but my mother said if I wanted to have a better life I must to go school."

For Alejandra her mother was her inspiration, "When I was living with [my mother] she was working very hard to move ahead. Just watching her I saw how she's a wonderful woman," Alejandra smiled a little sadly as she thought of her mother in Mexico.

The venture to Washington was not a short one, but with the help of a friend she made it, "I came with nothing, but I did not make it by myself," she explains. "My friend helped me, I'm very thankful for him."

For three years Alejandra Antonio has made a life for herself. While in Mexico the traditional family lives together, it's been a transition from living with extended family, to renting a room and living by herself. However, she's made it her home, "It's a nice place, I like it," she grinned.

It was a little hard to adapt of course, as it is for anyone moving to a completely different country with drastically different cultures. Besides the living situation and the food, transportation was

brought to light in identifying the differences of the cultures.

"Driving!" Alejandra exclaimed, a giggle escaping her. "I did not know how to drive, it was very different in the beginning." Beaming she continues, "I know how to drive now."

Now, not only does Alejandra attend Green River as an ESOL student, she also has a job, "I work at a hotel as a desk clerk," she explains her happiness knowing that she can take care of herself. "I have a job, I can afford the basic things, paying the rent and buying food." There isn't a struggle with money as much as there was for her in Mexico.

While she is driving herself to succeed, the passion spurred from her mother. "She taught me," she paused, "if I want something I have to work very hard to reach my goals. I want her to be proud of me. I want to do my best for her."

The optimistic student misses her mother the most, but she knows that she couldn't go back now, "This is home," she stated matter-of-factly.

So much has become a part of her life that she didn't have in Mexico. She has become immersed in the culture and loves learning, "I think my mind is hungry!" she giggles. Not only does she love English, she also is interested in math and other cultures.

Every student and teacher can learn from this simple story of a girl who yearned for more, and is making something of herself every day, "I would like to learn something about everything!" she smiles the most friendly smile.

Alejandra Antonio describes herself in the most simple, powerful form, "I like to learn, I like to go to school, and I am open-minded."



Kerry Kralovic The Current

Student Alejandra Antonio smiles after her interview with The Current about her life story and home before Green River.

The DREAM TEAM supports future Green River gators

By: Brittany Benard

Many students each year are accepted into four year schools and community colleges around the nation, coming one step closer to fulfilling their dreams of making it big! Green River Community College has developed a team that reaches out to students in high school, sending a message of hope.

"The purpose of the Dream Team is to connect Green River student leaders with local high school students who may have considered a college education as just a dream; something that is unattainable due to finances, familial expectations, or other barriers," explains Tonya McCabe, Tenured Faculty Business Division. Their goal is to not only develop relationships of trust with these students, but also show them ways to achieve their dream of attaining a college degree, McCabe expresses.

Right now, the focus of the Dream Team is set on one high school in particular, Kent Meridian because they showed the willingness and desire to work with the students from Green River.

The team was started at request of April Jensen, Executive Vice President and Rich Rutkowski, GRCC President, and was modeled after the Dream Project at the University of Washington.

"The Dream Team started out as a class with a cohort of students in fall quarter and has grown into an official GRCC club," McCabe adds.

The focus of GRCC is similar to that of the University of Washington; it differs in the sense of its broadness. The team was developed because President Rutkowski noticed

the importance of explaining to students why it was significant to go to college.

"Then we help them figure out how to go-financial aid, registration, housing," elucidates McCabe. Most schools focus heavily on going to college, without any explanation as to why or how. There are many reasons for and against going to college, and reasons very for each individual.

"Yeah I've heard of the Dream Project at the UW. I didn't know we had one here though, but I think it's great!" Adam Whalen, 28, a GRCC student excitedly states. "There are so many barriers that sometimes it just really does seem impossible to get to college, and nowadays you need it to get by," he adds.

With the crash of the economy, times are tough and people are trying to make ends meet anyway that they know how; finances do get in the way. With the average college tuition going up 634 dollars this year than last, it's daunting for students to contemplate affording college.

"I do believe that there should be more programs like this to help high school students, because so many get so burnt out and decide that they just don't want to continue their education but they really do need to," urges Jason Crossett, 25, GRCC student. "It's a neat concept!" he exclaims.

"If there was one thing I could say to high school students [or even those in younger grades] I would say, 'Hold on to your dream and know that education is power – the power to grow, the power to provide, and the power to change your life.' I would encourage them to seek guidance and assistance as they navigate the process of obtaining a college education," welcomes McCabe.

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	9				8	6		7
	4	2					8	1
6			9	5			4	
		6		6			3	5
4	1		5	3				
	8		7		2	1		
	5	4			5	8		9
					7	2		
8			2		4	5		

Level: Challenging

				5	3			
9		5	4		7			1
	3		2		1			
	5					3		8
4		2	3			6		9
						2	1	
		6					9	4
			9					3
2			7	1				

The countdown to 'Avengers'

By: Neil Solano

Marvel comics, the company that created superheroes including Spiderman, X-Men, and The Hulk, successfully catapults America's favorite superheroes to the big screen.

Unfortunately, Marvel's promotional methods consist primarily of stirring the public with restless hype for the Avengers movie in 2012. Comic fans might look forward to new introductions of the additional superheroes that lead up to the Avenger storyline, but the hype is overwhelming.

The latest Marvel film released to theatres, Iron Man 2, had a small surprise for viewers at the end of the credits. The quick two-minute clip established the next Marvel film - Thor will be joining the reel marvel heroes.

This trend of leaking a preview of Marvel's next film project is typical for each block buster. Before Iron Man 2, the second Hulk movie had a clip at the end hinting a larger future Avenger franchise.

The question that everyone is asking is: who will it include?

Steve Carda, a Green River student, comic fanatic and owner of many Avenger Comics, explain his concerns about how the film will play.

"The last thing I want is another Spiderman 3" he says. "I don't want the film to introduce a bunch of new characters, both heroes and villains, and then kill them off at the end," Carda said.

And with a strict 2012 deadline, how will the company manage to somehow in-

clude all the characters in previous movies?

Carda echoed this concern about the possibility to release films capturing especially capturing Captain America and Thor.

Despite the concern, whenever Marvel dishes out another multi-million dollar film, the public doesn't hesitate to flock to theatres wanting to watch it. No matter how many times a friend, magazine or a review show warn people about an upcoming Marvel stink bomb people still buy movie tickets to watch it from beginning to end. Ah yes, the power of Marvel.

Recently converting herself to a comic freak thanks to Iron Man, Green River student Kim Nyu-Lin tells us how even if the trailer, plot or actors look horrible, she will undeniably watch every film.

"You can't listen to what others say" she points out. "So what if the film turns out to be a flop, it's a stepping stone for Marvel and I want to witness it."

With every new Marvel blockbuster that comes out, we're a step closer to the big 2012 finale - Avengers. But, even though this may be exciting to many comic book fans, isn't the hype a little much?



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Electrical curveball delays KGRG's Summer Riot Concert

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia

Summer Riot, KGRG's eleven band kick-off to summer, was set to be hosted on June 19 for the first time in five years.

But after a year of preparing the revival of one of KGRG's most ambitious concerts, the KGRG staff is in the process of rescheduling or relocating their music fest due to a planned campus-wide blackout.

The project required doubling staff, support and stages to match the hoard of musicians at the event and within the station. Campus Safety was originally expected to be called in to lend a hand to KGRG AM and FM student volunteers.

However, with an electrical curveball, the station is considering different venues off campus and event staffing is difficult to determine. The enormity of the situation being diverted was stifling as the construction news reached the station June 1.

Staff were still determined, stating that the concert might be postponed a week or relocated.

Capital Projects wasn't planning to pull the plug on KGRG, and CP manager Mike Bingisser was extremely grateful for KGRG's cooperation.

This was the only window available for construction crews to safely feed power to Salish Hall, currently under construction, while simultaneously affecting the smallest amount of events possible.

A day devoted to playing each band, promos, and set up for the 1-10 pm music fest combined with event set-up; lighting, catering, directions, and staff detail are given fervent effort for noble reason.

Bringing the bands to the stage provides a platform for local bands to launch. The concert is also a thank you to the bands that have continually worked with KGRG, and by bringing the listeners and bands together, KGRG hopes to propel the up and coming bands to bigger things.

There is hope that someday there will be a band that has hit the big time and, remembers getting their start with 89.9 FM, will thank the station on their label. To some this might seem like an unrealistic dream, but after receiving an autographed guitar from Nerfherder, and Nirvana's LSC stage appearance twenty years ago it doesn't seem all too crazy.

Some of the musicians playing at the concert are 17 years old and at the start of their musi-

cal lives, which KGRG hopes to contribute to by bringing the bands and their 14,000 listeners together.

"Maybe we're not a big station, but we still mean something to them," Elise Manning, KGRG Music Director said.



Summer Riot is KGRG's way to connect the south Puget Sound music scene. The station could, and hopes to be a bigger part of big concerts like Sasquatch, Warped and Bumbershoot. As evidenced by KGRG representatives at this year's Warped Tour there will be on-air giveaways.

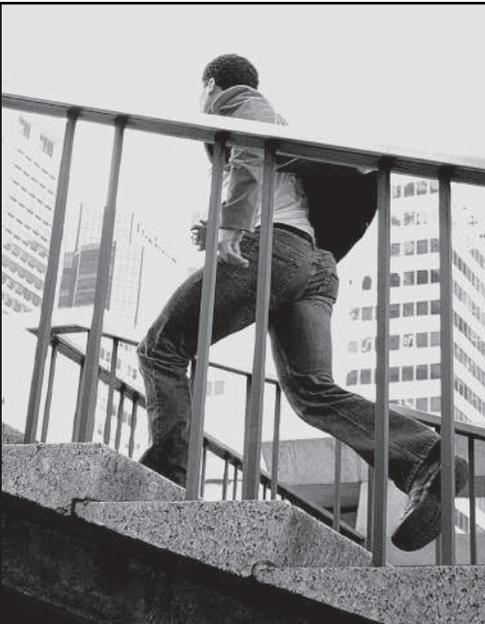
Tying multiple music tastes together in one show is another statement for KGRG. This mirrors KGRG listeners who vary in taste which was also well represented by staff. Not to be caught unaware, Manning was emphatic about staff roots.

"We listened to KGRG before we started working for KGRG," Manning said.

Windowpane Four piece band from Seattle

- Peratus*
5 year old Seattle punk
Culling the Weak
- Progressive/death metal out of Seattle
Inamorata
Hardcore/indie from Burien
Motopony
- Indie group from Seattle/Tacoma
Autonomadic
7 year old Seattle punk
Twisting Fate
- Seattle rock/metal/hardcore
Bleach Black
- Auburn hardcore/metal
Thank, You Darling
- Folk/acoustic from Kent
Spoken Word Technology
- Trio from KGRG's Broken Bottle Brigade
Hexxus
Tacoma alternative/indie rock

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Taking time for a break

A GRCC student looks on as another student executes the first shot during a round of pool in LSC.



Kerry Kralovic The Current

Kurt and Warhol exhibits on display at Seattle Art Museum

By: Bailey Jo Josie

Touring Pike's Place Market, walking along the beach in Alki, and hitting up Safeco field for a Mariner's game are each typical Summer pastimes in Seattle.

These places are a given, but this summer another attraction joins that list: tributes to one of Seattle's most endearing icons, and personal photographs and Polaroid of perhaps the most eccentric pop artists of the last 50 years.

These icons are Kurt Cobain and Andy Warhol, and their exhibits are at the Seattle Art Museum (SAM) until September 6th, 2010.

The exhibits will be available for the same amount of time and they are both on the fourth floor, but the similarities end there.

The Warhol exhibit, titled "love fear pleasure lust pain glamour death: Andy Warhol Media Works", shows Warhol's photographs and films. These include Polaroid portraits, photo booth strips, screen tests, self portraits, and candid photographs sewn together.

The artist statements and brochures about the exhibit it explain that the photographs were meant as Warhol's sketchbook of sorts; a way for him to further work with his fascination of celebrity, image, and fame.

Some of the pictures are stunningly bold, like his Polaroid tests of several transvestites in profile. Others reveal what and who Warhol surrounded himself with. The photo booth strips reveal uncovered muse, Edie Sedgwick, and other Warhol Factory characters.

The screen tests are silent films of his actor and celebrity friends, like recently deceased Dennis Hopper, as they staring down the camera. The films show desire and vulnerability.

The best part of the Warhol exhibit is the interaction at the end of the exhibit. There is an old fashioned photo booth visitors are encouraged to use and clip their pictures to the wall opposite the machine. The photos cover a Warhol quote that reads:

"I don't think art should be for the select few, I think it should be for the mass of American



Advertisement for the Kurt Cobain, imaginatively named 'Kurt', exhibit inside the Museum.

people."

Next to Warhol Media Works is the Kurt Cobain exhibit, simply referred to as "Kurt". For Nirvana fans, some of the images are familiar, like the montage of photographs that show Cobain falling back into Dave Grohl's drum set, with Fender Mustang guitar in hand and strategically placed holes in his jeans. Other pieces will be a pleasant surprise.

Even though Cobain himself was an artist, both in 3-D form and on paper, none of the pieces in the exhibit are his own creations. Each piece is a local artist's effort to showcase the impact Cobain had on the Northwest, culture Generation X youth and beyond.

Though the Kurt exhibit shows breathtaking works of art that showcase his life and even his death, some hardcore Nirvana fans may be

disappointed by that fact that the only song that's played is "Smells Like Teen Spirit". Indeed, "Smells like Teen Spirit" was the single to launch Nirvana's career but in essence, it didn't capture Cobain; he adamantly hated the song.

"In Bloom" or "Serve the Servants" would have probably had been more appropriate, but this a minor detail, one which certainly doesn't spoil the fun one has when they visit the exhibit.

Admission into the Seattle Art Museum are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and for military with ID, \$9 students with ID and youth 13-17, free for children 12 and under and free for SAM members.

The first Thursday of every month is free for all. For more information, go to the SAM website at seattleartmuseum.org or call the box office at 206-654-3121.

Revolutionary game developer explores the human essence with cubes and narratives

By: Alexander Bevier

Corvus Elrod is a game designer and semionaut who explores and create games while communicating stories through game mechanics; the rules defining how a player interacts within a game's playspace.

Elrod is a staple at many gaming events and conferences such as the Penny Arcade Expo in Seattle and the Game Developers Conference. He can often be found moderating panels at such events discussing story-telling and narrative in videogames.

He wore a plaid sport coat, a fedora and a QR Code pin on his lapel to LOGIN 2010 where he moderated a panel about the challenges of independent game development. On his feet, he wore purple Chuck Taylor high-tops with "semionaut" written on the sides. The word Semionaut stems from the words "Semiotics"; the study of symbols, and "Naut"; explorer.

Unlike a semiotician, who studies how the mind reacts to symbols, a Semionaut looks to find symbols and create emotional responses from them. Elrod sees games mechanics as symbols.

"I'm interested in exploring what people's responses are and showing that by consciously creating game mechanics to communicate a meaning, we can [have] more powerful story-telling experiences in videogames," he says.

As a story-teller in both improvisational theater and Role-playing games, he is both a confident and compelling speaker.

Elrod's personal history derives from improvised street theater. When performing, he only has roughly thirty seconds of passing audience attention. He learned that by implementing game mechanics into his performance the audience would react stronger.

One game that Elrod is working on is a narrative-focused pen-and-paper game system called The Honeycomb Engine. The core concepts of the game is story-telling and narrative above mathematics and battle-strategy.

Other games, like Dungeons and Dragons have their characters limited to a two-page sheet with stats and abilities defining how players can access the game.

Honeycomb's character sheet, however, features six pictures representing human attributes such as persistence, poise, and design. Players put exertion tokens on certain pictures to show skill in those areas. The rest of the game's mechanics comes from the story and universe the players decide on.

Another project of Elrod's is a gaming collaboration with Charles Berube, creator of the Wasabi Project, called Addicube.

Addicube is a game about little cube-like characters eating and developing traits of differently-colored algae they have consumed. The

varying amount of algae the characters eat change the addicube's personality, color, and overall appearance.

If a player's addicube eats too many red cubes, it will become angered. If the player eats too many green cubes, it will become gremvious. The goal for players is to maintain a balanced diet in order to keep their Addicube's personality stable. "I'm really curious to see how people interact", he says, "Are they going to be protective of their cubes? Are they going to make all their Addicubes angered? What are people going to do to try and figure out this system?"

Addicube is also an experiment in the game design process. Every part of the creation of the game will be posted online. Everything will be viewable; from the budget to the game's source code.

Many games that are created are never discussed or examined outside of the final project. By recording and posting every step in Addicube's design process, Elrod and Berube hope to both learn from and teach their community.

Elrod's blog can be found at <http://corvus.zakelro.com/>.



Corvus Elrod, game developer and semionaut

Enlarging your gaming world

By: Alexander Bevier

It's amazing when you realize that the world you live in is much larger than you once believed. Infants only know the places they are guided to by their mother and father until they are able to walk, for instance. As they develop, they learn that life contains things much more exciting than eating, sleeping, and pooping. At LOGIN 2010, I learned how much larger my world, the world of gaming, really was.

LOGIN is a business conference for game developers focusing on online and social games. Knowing several attendees I admire were going to be speaking, I volunteered to help with the event and get in for free. The main topic that everyone was talking about was developing browser-based MMOs and social games; both of the are admittedly not something I find myself playing. This, however, made me realize something else entirely. I'm not the core gaming demographic; my mother is.



Social games (like FarmVille) are designed to be played in short bursts over a long period of time. Players only need five minutes of time to plant crops and touch-up their farms; then they wait several hours before coming back to harvest the crops. If they don't harvest their crops, they will die. This is the only negative thing that happens in FarmVille. After the crops have withered, players can hoe the land once again and gain experience points. The rewards in the game keep players playing.

FarmVille is a very long game. It takes people months to get enough money and FarmVille bucks in order to buy larger farms. Players can elect to purchase more FarmVille bucks in order to hasten progress in the game. This method is called microtransactions and it is why Zynga, the makers of FarmVille, are freaking rich.

LOGIN 2010 showed me the power of both social games and games from before my time. I met programmers who were coding on the APPLE II. After hearing countless praise by Brenda Brathwaite and John Romero (who both spent the weekend calling me "that guy"), I'm now spending most of my gaming time playing Wizardry; released in 1983. I'm also looking at games on Facebook.

If anyone is a fan of video games, they must broaden their horizons. There's a world beyond home consoles and World of Warcraft. There are thousands of developers working on incredibly innovative games on a small budget. Many of these games are more polished than most retail titles; and they don't cost sixty dollars. Beyond video games, play board games with friends. Get a group together to play Settlers of Catan or Carcassonne every month. People need to explore and appreciate games in order to be well-rounded human beings. Games are a paramount component of happiness.

This will be my last column for The Current, but I will keep on writing about games in any available space. I have both a personal blog and several sites where I write mainstream gaming news. It's s shameless bump, but find me at www.alexanderbevier.tumblr.com.

Lady Gators wrap up their 2010 season

With many team members returning, hopes - and expectations - for the 2011 season are high.

By: Curtis Rogers

Coming off their first playoff appearance since 2005, the Lady Gators began the 2010 fastpitch season with a sense of optimism and hopes of returning to the playoffs. Despite the big expectations, the Lady Gators were off to a sluggish start as they won just seven of their first 14 games. Regardless, as the weather got better, so did the Lady Gators as they finished fourth in the West and were able to clinch a berth in the NWAACC playoffs for the second consecutive season.

Unfortunately for the Lady Gators, their dreams of an NWAACC championship were dashed in the first round of the playoffs as they were defeated by the South division champion Lady Cougars of Clackamas Community College by the final score of 3-2. Despite the loss the Lady Gators were able to give the eventual third place team a run for their money. The loss by the Lady Gators in the first round didn't diminish what they were all able to accomplish on the diamond this season.

The Lady Gators finished the season with six players voted as all-stars of the west division of the NWAACC, including two players on the first team. Sophomore pitcher Caitlyn Duggan was voted on to the first team as well as sophomore infielder Carrie Crookshank. With six all stars the Lady Gators finished behind only the first place Lady Pirates of Pierce College for the most all-stars in the division. The other four Lady Gator all-stars were infielder Tarah Pierce, catcher Roxann Schwarz, pitcher Alexa Derrick, and first baseman/pitcher Kayla Evans.

During the regular season, the Lady Gators were led on the mound by Duggan. The sophomore led the Lady Gators in wins, ERA (earned run average), and strikeouts. Another key performer for the Lady Gators was freshman pitcher/first baseman Kayla Evans. Evans, the cleanup hitter, was a force offensively as she led the team in homeruns as well as delivering timely hits all season long. She also delivered quality innings on the mound as one of the Lady Gators' best pitchers. Another one of the key players for the Lady Gators was Freshman Alexa Derrick. The former SPSL MVP had a solid first season with the Lady Gators as she asserted herself as one of the top pitchers in the NWAACC.

Even with the early playoff exit, many analysts have called the Lady Gators' fastpitch season a success. After having not made the playoffs for three straight seasons, Green River has now turned in back-to-back playoff berths. Coach Dillinger and his staff will be looking to keep the positive momentum going toward next season. With seven freshmen currently on the roster, the Lady Gators will be relying heavily on their veteran players, and with such an experienced roster, they should expect to be near the top of the NWAACC west standings heading into the 2011 season.

Men's baseball ends 2010 season

Despite loss at Western Regionals on May 22, team is pleased with progress

By: Ryan Cleland

As the 2010 Green River Community College baseball season comes to a close, the Gators didn't get as far as hoped, ending the season with a loss at the Western Regionals, and a record of 21-18.

With the next year not so far away, the Gators are ready to make it even further than they did this year.

Initially, the Gators were off to a hot start. They were able to carry their fire into the middle of the season, and had prospects of holding strong until the end; regardless of their loss at Regionals, the Green River baseball team had a solid season.

With a glimmer of next year's season in sight, the Green River Gators will be looking to capitalize on what they did well this season. The team hopes to land some new talent, including skilled individuals such as Cody Hebner and Da-

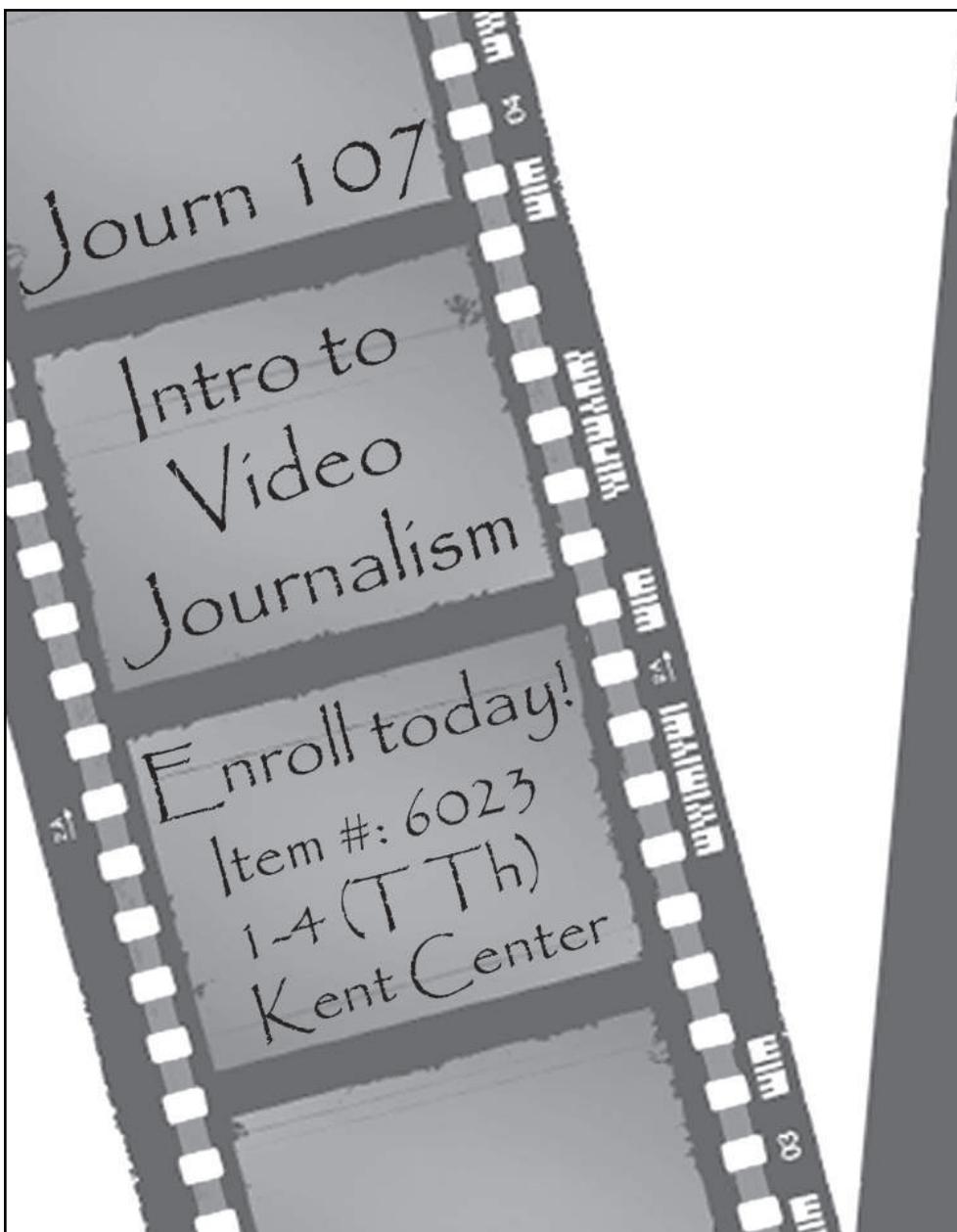
mon Porter, who will help the Gators push past top dogs such as Tacoma and Lower Columbia in their West Division.

Having finished third twice in the last three seasons, the Gators have no doubt in their minds that they can make a strong push and force themselves to the top next year. Behind the core pitchers Jake Shadle and David Mac-ey, the Gators are loaded with players ready to make some noise.

Returning stars such as Zack Gagnon, Tyler Conklin, Connor Cook and Corwin Patis will give the line-up the necessary power to dominate the hardcore teams looking to stop the Gators from getting to the promise land for 2011.

Overall, the Gators are pleased with the progress they have made and young talent they have found. Coach Matt Acker has done an excellent job coaching the athletes in the right direction and will continue to do so as more keep coming to play ball with the fighting Gators.

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Seattle Sounders FC season in retrospect

By: Sean Kramer

Soccercity, USA.

You can try to locate it on a map, but you won't have much luck.

Instead, you'd have to rely on the select few soccer fans in this country to tell you, and they'd either emphatically (or begrudgingly) direct you toward Seattle.

It could be because of last season, when Sounders FC set the bar when it came to international friendlies and the fanfare that they attracted, drawing over 120,000 fans combined in their two matches against European powerhouses Chelsea and FC Barcelona.

There was only one thing that went wrong: Sounders fans went home disappointed as the soccer team was embarrassed by an aggregate count of 6-0 for the two games.

So, while this year's list of international games may not be as flashy, expectations were pretty much the same.

On May 26, Sounders FC hosted South American giant Boca Juniors. Hailing from Argentina, Boca Juniors has a history of dominance, which includes 18 official international titles, along with three club world titles. Of course, not as big of a name to the average soccer fan in this country who might awe at the name of a Manchester United or AC Milan, fans around the city still got out for this one.

What didn't change since the last two international contests was the fan interest. 40,000 packed Qwest Field for a chance to see one of the best clubs in the world.

The one thing that was significantly different from the exciting friendlies from last year: the results. And maybe the electric alternative jerseys they decided to rock as well.

Sounders FC, which had been struggling to find the back of the net during the first few months of MLS action, suddenly found their groove as the team pounded away for three impressive goals.

Roger Levesque got the scoring started right before halftime on a Fredy Montero freekick, in which Goalkeeper took a lucky rebound back toward an unprotected net when Levesque, the

man that the rabid Emerald City Supporters call "The King," chest-bumped it in and put the home team in an unlikely lead.

In the 64th minute, Pat Noonan sealed the upset with fancy footwork in the box and a left footed strike over Boca goalkeeper Javier Garcia that sent Qwest Field into a frenzy.

The upset was sealed. But, that still wasn't good enough for the club that was attempting to represent and make a statement regarding the quality of soccer in this country, both with their play on the pitch, and their representation in the stands.

Michael Seamon, in his first ever game action with Sounders FC, blasted a shot ten yards outside of the box in the 70th minute, which bounced toward Garcia's left and into the net.

Sounders FC: three. South American and World Superpower: nil.

The way that Seattle dominated, you would've thought they were the ones with multiple international championships. Seattle controlled the ball the entire game, and completely limited the chances that Boca Juniors had to score, easily securing a shutout, even with the decorated Kasey Keller on the bench in the second half.

Of course, Boca has some excuses. Many of their players are away with Argentina on World Cup preparation, as well as have gotten hit with injuries. Had Seattle faced the A team, results could have been very different.

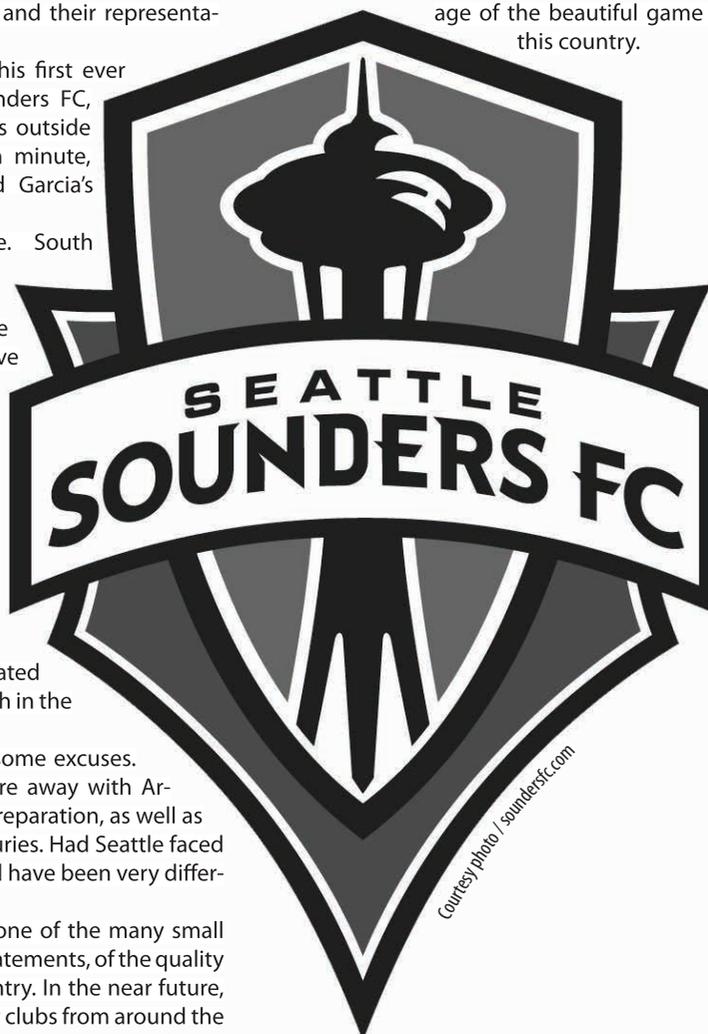
Still, this match was one of the many small dents, the many small statements, of the quality of the game in this country. In the near future, all 16 MLS clubs will host clubs from around the world, with hopes of playing competitively.

The culmination will be on July 28, when the MLS All-Stars will face Manchester United.

In the Pacific Northwest, Sounders FC will get a few more cracks at international competition, hosting the Scottish Premier League runner ups, Celtic FC on July 18.

Shortly after, Sounders FC will begin play in the CONCACAF Champions league, joining three other MLS teams, in a tournament featuring the best clubs in North America.

The hope is to continue improving the image of the beautiful game in this country.



Courtesy photo / soundersfc.com

NBA championship season may rekindle classic rivalry

Another year has passed, and one thing holds this NBA season from being complete. That one thing is the opportunity that every player of every team works for as hard as they can all year long. What am I talking about?

The NBA finals of course. Year after year, we see a champion crowned. Sometimes we see more of an underdog or an unexpected champion crowned, but most times, we see a team that is constantly dominant taking the crown, yet somehow, it never gets old.

Honea's House

This year, a classic rivalry will be renewed just two years after a great championship series. The Los Angeles Lakers and the Boston Celtics will get the chance to prove if they can get what they worked all year for, or if every victory and drop of sweat was wasted by choking in the finals.

In 2008, the Celtics did something that anyone with a common knowledge of basketball expected them to do: they went to the NBA finals and they won.

Along with the always dangerous Paul Pierce, Boston added forward Kevin Garnett, from the Minnesota Timberwolves and guard Ray Allen from the Seattle SuperSonics (now the Oklahoma City Thunder). Along with the talented Rajon Rondo, the Celtics were expected to do nothing less than take a championship back to Boston.

Obviously, the variety of talent with Boston made them seem unstoppable, but when the championship series began, one of the few dominant teams in the NBA was blocking their way, trying to take the championship trophy home with them. This team was a team that has no lack of championships, and for good reason. This team is expected to reach the NBA finals just about every year. This team is the Los Angeles Lakers, led by the always dangerous Kobe Bryant.

The rivalry built up an abundance of hype, due to the legendary nature of the matchup, but ultimately ended in favor of the Boston Celtics. Despite the talent on the Lakers roster, the hype that was built up all year long for the Celtics proved to be too much.

Many things in this playoff series stood out, but one major occurrence had to be the injured Paul Pierce of the Celtics coming up big in the finals. The Celtics were able to take any doubts that people had about them, and crush them by defeating the Lakers.

Well, two years have passed since that memorable series, and since then the Lakers have gained another championship of their own.

Just a year after suffering defeat, they matched up with the Orlando Magic and took the trophy back to Los Angeles. But now, both these teams have new faces and old faces and will be fighting just as hard to win the NBA Championship. The Celtics have an almost identical roster, but Rajon Rondo has grown as a player more than anyone could believe in a year.

Luckily, the Lakers have an equal amount of talent. With Kobe's selfish play in the past and a defensive weapon in Ron Artest, this series should yet again prove to be one for the ages. Only time will tell if history will repeat itself or if the Lakers can change history by defeating "The Big 3," and the rest of the Boston Celtics.

Athlete spotlight: Zack Gagnon - men's baseball

By: Daniel Duffy

Baseball has been around forever; this is the game that many called the American pastime because this is where the game of Baseball was truly born.

Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle and Hank Aaron are known as the God Fathers of this prestigious game. Without this sport - in the mind of Zack Gagnon - there would be nothing else to do.

Former Auburn Riverside High School student Gagnon loves the game of baseball.

"I have been playing baseball ever since I could hold a ball," Gagnon stated.

"My dad got me started and [he] has been a huge inspiration my whole life of baseball. I come from a baseball family and grew up watching my dad play baseball, and my grandpa plays to this day. My dad showed me the way and I ran with it."

Gagnon plays for Green River Community College and is the third baseman for the Gators. When asked why he chose Green River as his new home, he explained.

"I chose to come here because Matt Acker is a very good coach and knows the game inside-and-out, and I knew he would be the coach for

me to get me ready for my future in baseball. Also, Green River is a very hardworking team, and I like that kind of atmosphere on the field."

Gagnon has had multiple people inspire his career.

"Baseball has been a huge part of my life since I can remember. As a kid, I dreamed about playing professional baseball. Watching the pros play always inspires me to get better and work harder. I set a goal for myself to play at the highest level of baseball I possibly can. I want to fulfill my goals."

As of right now, Gagnon has no plans of what school he will be attending after Green River Community College. Only time will tell of his plans later on in his baseball career.

For now, Gagnon is still a Gator. Off the field Gagnon enjoys working on cars and hitting up the gym. His favorite class at Green River is welding, and his favorite teacher is Scott Schreiber. Gagnon loves to watch the New York Yankees. The thing that intrigues him the most about this team is how solid they are all around.

To Gagnon and the rest of the Gators baseball team, thank you for a great season this year. We can't wait until next spring for the process starts all over again.



Courtesy Photo

By: Evan Hicks & Remco Zwetsloot

The Green River Community College (GRCC) Board of Trustees decided Dr. Eileen Ely would replace Rich Rutkowski. According to John Ramsey, director of public information, Rutkowski will still be here to help Ely get situated and comfortable when she starts work on July 1.

Dr Ely said she is very excited about coming to GRCC, "I grew up in the Seattle and Covington area, so I have lots of family that I will enjoy seeing."

Ely graduated from Kent Meridian High School in 1969. Soon after she was married with two kids, and became a stay at home mom, which she says "is the best job in the world." Once her children were old enough she decided to continue her education.

Ely attended ITT Technical Institute in Seattle where she obtained an Associate of Applied Science in Accounting and Computer Science degree. After a short stop at Renton Technical College she transferred to Southern Illinois University in Carbonale where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Workforce Education and Development; she received her Master of Science degree in Higher Education with a community college focus from Iowa State University, and finally got her Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin, participating in the Community College Leadership Program.

Ely then moved to Nebraska where she would take on the role of president for Western Nebraska Community College



(WNCC).

With being president comes great responsibility, and nothing was more difficult for her than dealing with WNCC's budget

problems.

According to Ely, some of her greatest achievements at WNCC were constructing 140 new resident halls, adding 40,000

square feet to the technology center, and running 80 educational programs. She will miss WNCC because of the "great students, great board members, and a great community," but is looking forward to working for Green River.

"I'm really impressed by what Green River has to offer, like their international student program and technology," said Ely. "I want to come home."

"I have big shoes to fill, but I am excited to be working with the Board and the entire Green River family. I can't wait to get back in the community and get started at Green River," she adds.

The enthusiasm is mutual.

"The Board of Trustees is excited to announce Dr. Ely as the next president of Green River Community College," said Larry Brown, chair of the GRCC Board of Trustees, when he announced the decision on May 24.

"She brings the demonstrated skill set to move our college into the future. With the process completed, now all stakeholders can rally to support the success of our new president."

"Dr. Ely is a great fit for the college," said Linda Sprenger, a member of the presidential search committee, which was in charge of finding the final four candidates. "She will be able to come in and hit the ground running."

Friday, May 28, Dr. Ely signed the three year contract. She will receive a salary of \$200,000 a year, \$22,067 more than Rutkowski, who earned \$178,933 annually.

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