



Sara Olson/Staff Photos

Jamie Sepulveda (above) and Rachel Becker (right) are recovering addicts who attend NA meetings regularly.



Drug addiction haunts people of every age

Recovering addicts offer hope to those suffering from addiction

Katie Barr
Staff Writer

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

This is the prayer said by many addicts. They recite the prayer twice at every NA meeting and throughout their daily lives.

Addiction is a disease that's tearing apart the country as a whole, as well as affecting the community.

Many young adults and teens experiment with drugs as a way of rebellion. In many

situations, this rebellion turns into self-medicating and grows into an addiction. Addiction affects people of all ages, races, genders, religions, and sexual identities.

Patty Kehoe, student counselor at Green River Community College (GRCC) said that drugs are an issue at GRCC. Kehoe said that she talks to about three or four students per week with drug problems.

Many people reach a breaking point and realize they need help with their addiction problem. There are many programs to help addicts, and as students, it would be convenient if such help was on campus.

"We try our best to form alcoholics anonymous meetings and try our best to connect them," Kehoe said.

Kehoe believes that it is very possible for an addict to stay clean and sober for long periods of time.

Some people say that marijuana isn't

addictive. However, there are active chemicals, which cause the effects of the high and kill brain cells. People can get addicted to the chemicals in marijuana.

Smoking marijuana doesn't have as bad of effects to the extent of the "harder" drugs, such as methamphetamines, but marijuana does cause extreme damage to the body, especially the brain. People can become mentally addicted to any drug, or any substance.

People start using for many reasons.

Jay Holmes has been clean since Dec. 16, 2006. He started drinking alcohol when he was only 8 years old. He said that he started using drugs because his "family used drugs," and used "to belong."

"My mom gave me methamphetamine the first time I used it. My dad drank with me," Holmes said.

Another addict, Rachel Becker, has been

clean since Sept. 6, 2007. She also started smoking weed because her family used drugs.

"My sister was using, and I wanted to be like her, so I did," Becker said.

Kathy Peterson, 43, has been clean since Nov. 6, 2005. She said that she started using because of peer pressure.

There are many reasons why addicts start using. When first starting, nobody ever expects to become an addict.

Amy Locke, 21, has been clean since June 6, 2006. She said that she started using because "the fact that it looked fun and got me high."

Dean Peterson, 42, started using because "I was told it made sex better."

There are very few reasons why people

Drug Addiction,
Continued on Pages 6 and 7

Student injured by car on crosswalk just beyond campus

Student hopes witnesses come forward

Sara Olson
Staff Writer

Just yards beyond the boundaries of campus, a Green River Community College (GRCC) student was hit by a car.

Around 6 p.m. on Oct. 9, student Nathan Trudeau, 21, was leaving the campus and heading to his car. When crossing the crosswalk, he was stopped in the middle lane as cars drove past him.

"I went to look over my left shoulder, and a car was bearing down on me," Trudeau said.

Trudeau said that he attempted to jump out of the way, but was too late and was hit, breaking his leg. Trudeau said that his injury has changed his life.

"It turned my life upside down. I had to withdraw from classes this quarter," Trudeau said.

Because the accident occurred beyond campus boundaries, campus safety was limited in its response.

"I think the initial involvement was that the safety officers were dispatched

to the incident when it occurred," John Ramsey, director of campus information, said. "They assisted primarily with helping detour traffic around the accident scene."

Now, Trudeau and his attorney Mike Myers are hoping that people who might have witnessed the accident will come forward, and that improvements will be made to better ensure safety at the crosswalk.

"It doesn't appear that the officer at the accident took any witness statements," Myers said. "We hope that the story could help identify persons who witnessed the accident."

Trudeau also would like to see more lighting at the crosswalks around the campus.

These changes mostly are in the hands of the county rather than GRCC.

"We would certainly work with King County to make sure that there is better lighting in place at the crosswalk," Ramsey said.

Trudeau and Myers would like students who may have witnessed the accident to come forward.

Myers can be reached at 206-398-1188, ext. 101 or at mmyers@myers-company.com.

Campus:



National Hunger Week
Food bank in need
of volunteers this time
of year.
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Sports:



Gators take first place
Golf team triumphs
to win Cardinal Classic.
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Food banks aren't just about the food donated

Despite rise of food donated, actual fall lies in number of volunteers needed to help out at food banks

Amy Lipko
Staff Writer

November 11-17 is National Hunger and Homeless awareness week.

The week, co-sponsored by the National Coalition for the Homeless and National Student Campaign against Hunger and Homelessness, was created in the hopes of bringing about the end of homelessness and hunger while bringing about awareness of both subjects.

Founded in 1982, the National Coalition for the homeless actually utilized people who have been homeless as well as activists and other people who believe in the goal that unites them – ending homelessness and hunger.

And while most students at GRCC are feeling the pinch of high gas prices, few people think about how the increasing cost of fuel could affect the local food banks.

Though \$3 is a lot to pay for gas, it creates a whole new issue for local food banks. Two large trucks are run by the Auburn Food Bank eight hours a day, seven days a week to pick up food donations around the community.

On the second Saturday of every month, the Auburn food bank delivers food to disabled adults and seniors who otherwise would have no way to receive food.

Although donations increase at Auburn Food Bank around this time of year, volunteers are scarce.

"It's winter; it's cold; people don't want to be out," Debbie Christian, executive director for the Auburn Food Bank, said. "My donations get larger in November and December, because people are thinking about helping others. But my volunteer

"It's winter; it's cold; people don't want to be out. My donations get larger in November and December, because people are thinking about helping others. But my volunteer base doesn't get any larger."

— Debbie Christian,
executive director
for Auburn Food Bank



Amy Lipko/ Staff Photos

Elizabeth Erickson and Sonia Shadrick help out at Auburn Food Bank.

base doesn't get any larger."

Trying to find people to cover the fifteen positions needed is difficult.

"That part gets really old sometimes," Christian said. "We need fifteen people a day, and we've been running off of about six."

While all food always is welcome at the bank, donations of hygiene products are one of the most necessary.

"Hygiene is a big deal. I know that's not considered food, but the clients are not able to give their food stamps for any of their hygiene or laundry soap or dish soap," Christian said.

Things that can make a difference are shampoo, conditioner, and deodorant, as well as laundry and dish soap.

The food bank accepts donations of anything that can be purchased at a grocery store.



Despite the lack of helpers, volunteer Sonia Shadrick, helps out at the Auburn Food Bank, packing and distributing food for needy families.

Currently seeing an average of 100 people a day keeps the Auburn Food Bank full of activity. About 40 percent of those seen at the bank represent families with children.

"We see a lot of single parent families where they're either not able to work because they are the only ones in the home, and the kids are too little to be in school yet," Christian said.

With an estimated 4,000 people a month utilizing the Auburn Food Bank, it would seem that the community is down on its luck. But Christian receives great satisfaction in helping others.

"Every one of them, before they walk out the door, they thank us for what we've done

for them today. And even though I know that grocery sack is not going to last more than three or four days at the very most for them, they are so incredibly grateful that it just makes everything we do worth it," Christian said.

Students now can help as well.

To assist the food bank, five barrels will be placed in the SMT, LSC, Holman Library, tech center, and science center to collect food through Nov. 16.

Donations can be non-perishable foods, non-glass items, paper products, and pet food. The Giving Barrel Food Drive is being sponsored by the student senate and the Classified Staff Training and Development Committee.

New classes available for students in winter quarter

Winter quarter gives students additional options on classes they can take

Tammy Guevara
Staff Writer

Choosing the right classes always is important for students. The registration for winter quarter will be opened on Nov. 13.

This is a chance to know some of the new classes and start considering.

For students who are interested in literature, the English Division offers an American ethnic literature class, English 224. This class will meet daily from 10 a.m.-10:50 a.m. In this class, students will read literary texts by Native Americans, African Americans, Latino and Latina, Asian Americans, and immigrant writers. Students will discuss and write about those texts.

The college also has one new class for art students, Music 104, music in world culture.

In this class, students will be introduced to music from many cultural backgrounds.

Students will learn about the role of musical practices in culture, and also musical traditions from around the world. The class will meet daily at 10 a.m.

High school completion students have one new choice. The culminating experience class, HSC 040, will meet the new state requirements for a high school senior project and a fifth year educational plan. This class will meet every Monday and Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. Students need to be eligible for English 081 and Reading 094.

For students who want to transfer to a four year university to study business, the GRCC campus in Kent offers a new Business program. In this program, students will study a group of courses that are required for transferring to a university.

This program will meet from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., everyday. It will take two years for students to finish and cover all the classes.

For students who start this program in winter quarter, they may need to add some classes that were held this fall. Some classes that will be taken on this program are finite math, survey of sociology, financial accounting, and aerobic walking.

Students can get more information on

this program from Mari Ragland, Kent campus director.

The Kent campus also offers several other new classes.

Business 121, Marketing Fundamentals Meets every Wednesdays from 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Early Childhood Education 190, CDA Course Content

Meets every Tuesday or Thursday from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Early Childhood Education 1942, Infant-Toddler Caregiving

Meets every Thursday from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Education 195, Guiding Behavior

Meets every Thursday from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Philosophy 120, Intro to Logic

Math 157, Calculus for Business and Social Science

Meets daily from 10 a.m.-10:50 a.m.

For credit or non-credit class, the Kent campus offers a new class, introduction to networking that is considered a communication class and information technology. The class is Com 046 and IT 130.

The campus also offers some new non-

credit classes.

COM 0935, Fundamentals of Digital Forensics, will meet every Monday and Wednesday from Jan. 14 to March 12 from 5:30 p.m.-9 p.m.

VC 0586, Medical Office Support Specialist, will meet every Tuesday and Thursday from Feb. 5 to March 13 from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

BE 083, From Supervising to Leading, meets every Monday and Wednesday from March 3-26 from 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

BE 0348, Lean Office, meets on Wednesday, Jan. 16 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

BE 0668, Achieving Online Marketing Results, meets on Wednesday, Feb. 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

New classes in winter quarter

English 224	Math 157
Music 104	COM 0935
HSC 040	VC 0586
Business 121	BE 083
ECE 190	BE 0348
Education 195	BE 0688
Philosophy 120	

Prices at pump continue to rise all over country

Increasing gas prices force students to rethink options

Jorge Mendoza
Staff Writer

Gas prices recently have increased again, setting all time highs around the state.

At Green River Community College (GRCC), students and staff now are wondering when there will be a decline to the exaggerated prices and what the best strategy to save gas money is.

For drivers, future predictions speculate a significant increase in gas prices for next year. Economists predict the cost of gas to reach up to \$4 a gallon. This in part is due to the elevated cost of oil and the refinement process.

In comparison to the past years, crude oil has become excessively expensive.

The cost of crude oil escalated to \$60 a barrel. In addition to the cost of crude oil is the refinement process.

The refinement process adds more than 50 percent to the average cost of the crude oil.

Student Kyle Hale, 22, thinks the increase of prices is due to the war overseas.

"This is all caused by the Iraq War. Ever since our intervention in the Middle East, the economy in the United States has plunged," Hale said.

Countries such as Iran, Iraq, and Nigeria which produce

most of the world's crude oil are increasingly unstable. Recent violence in Saudi Arabia and Iraq have raised fears about the interruption of oil delivery.

Iraqi exports have been subject to sabotage attacks on oil facilities, causing the United States to rely on the oil of other countries.

However, any attack on the oil facilities of Saudi Arabia and world oil markets greatly would be devastated, since it is the world's biggest oil producer, and by far, the biggest exporter.

Hale who is earning a business degree said, "I just hope this situation does not worsen for the sake of all drivers."

Currently, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has renovated their regulations by adding stricter laws to the oil exporting process.

This causes oil refinement to become more costly and less profitable for oil companies. Even with the high prices, some students believe the crisis will be over soon.

"This situation is not really as bad as publicized, because we have eventually become accustomed to the high gas prices. Yet, I wish they would decline," student Jill Mepski, 20, said. "I do not to understand politics all that well, but our current president has a great deal of fault in the matter."

The Bush administration hopes to pass an energy bill that could succor the nation's energy problem by encouraging the use of more sustainable fuels.

However, if the bill is passed, it



Sara Olson/Photo Illustration

Gas prices in Washington continue to rise, as they do all around the country. Experts predict that prices could reach \$4 a gallon for regular unleaded gas by the end of the year.

would take several years for the bill to take effect since it involves much expenditure.

Along with the energy bill, the Bush administration holds in control a series of deep salt caves on the coast of Texas and Louisiana which holds 700 million barrels of crude oil.

When asked about the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the Bush administration said that the oil only should be used in a national emergency.

With gas prices reaching 2.91 as the average in the Auburn area, many students and staff have asked for tips in saving gas

money while driving.

Student Mia Hatamoto, 20, said, "I would like to know how to save gas money because my car is not very efficient in gas mileage."

Some recommendations are that tires should be fully inflated to prevent the vehicle from "over exercising."

Regular unleaded is said to be the most economic fuel currently available.

Another option is to carpool or use the public transportation system in order to reach GRCC.

Student Jack Gyles, 19, said, "Public transportation has made

my commute to the college far easier than by car."

In addition, students and staff can check the best gas prices in the area at the college web site.

"I usually check the web site every time I have to fill my car tank to ensure I am buying the best price for gas," student Lindsey Motley, 20, said.

Gas prices have affected our daily lifestyles and will continue to do so as predictions estimate an increase in prices.

But with helpful tips students and staff can save gas money while driving.

Dean of student services to resign this month

Jorge Ramirez announced resignation due to recent triple bypass surgery

Bimla Thapa
Staff Writer

Jorge Ramirez, dean of student services, is resigning on Nov. 15 after being a part of the GRCC family tree for a little over two years.

"I think it is time to let someone else do it," Ramirez said about the 22 years he has been in the student services field.

However, the actual reason behind his resignation is his health, having undergone an open heart surgery in early July.

"Three of my arteries were

plugged up, according to the doctor," Ramirez said.

For those unfamiliar with the term "bypass," it is not a minor surgery that one recovers from easily. According to Ramirez, the triple bypass surgery implemented a lifetime of changes on him, instilling awareness on the importance of his health.

Ramirez currently is attending post surgery classes at

Regional Medical Center, where he has learned to take better care of his health and exercise under the doctor's supervision.

It also is one place where Ramirez is learning to deal with his emotional well-being.

"At the moment, my doctor has me advised against being distressed, and work is one way of adding to my distress," Ramirez said.

At this point, the plans on replacing Ramirez still are unsure. However, the student services department still is keeping their options open, with a possibility of recruiting a faculty

member from within campus to fill in his position temporarily before someone officially takes over.

"Right now Dr. Jansan is hoping to get some recommendation from the staff for a likely fill-in dean, or there might be no one till next year. Nothing is for sure," Ramirez said.

As for Ramirez, he is undecided on his future plans.

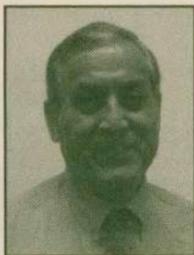
"Probably retire and play with my two grandsons till I get tired of them, though I doubt that will ever be the case," Ramirez said.

And when he is done "going crazy" at home after a while, Ramirez wants to continue working with students from all over again as a part time advisor.

Ramirez said that his best memories all involve students. He said that it warms him to know and see students he mentored through diversity services graduate, reflecting on the previous commencement ceremony.

Though Ramirez is looking forward to spending quality time with his two grandsons whom he said "require a lot of attention," he definitely is sad to realize that he will no longer be a part of the GRCC staff with whom he has related to.

"I just want to look back and say 'Thank You' - to tell the faculty members for being nice and making my time here pleasant," Ramirez said. "Thank you."



Jorge Ramirez

Auburn

Southern California fires destroy homes, possessions, lives

Students help victims by donations

Will Brown
Staff Writer

The fires in Southern California are a disaster in the lives of many who are losing things such as homes, personal possessions and what is said to be their life.

Jessica Reese, a student at

Green River Community College (GRCC), has family and friends trapped right next to the fires in California.

"I feel it's really sad," Reese said.

Being a former resident of California, Reese was not expecting the fiery storm that affected the area.

Reese's family has an outdoors business that is being affected by the fires. However, they are not

the only business that is being shut down as the wind is stopping all kinds of work, especially in the direct center of the storm.

Liticia Culler, a member of the GRCC student senate, also is aware of how the people are said to be feeling in California.

"I know there are a lot of people who are scared," Culler said. "The most important thing we can do is to help them rebuild their lives."

Many of the schools are being closed and no one is sure when they will be opened again.

Shauna Stadnik, ASGRCC president said, "There isn't much we can do to help the affected schooling systems, but if any of the Southern California students transfer to our colleges, a lot can be done from our side in terms of welcoming them and being aware of what sort of situation they just came out of."

GRCC students can play a role in showing support in helping the victims of the fire.

"We can't change what happened, but we sure can help," Stadnik said. "Many people are concerned about the fires, and many fear of what is going to happen to all the people that were the victims."

Students can help victims of the fire by making donations at Red Cross locations.

Web sites sell students papers ready to be turned in at school

Students can cheat by purchasing papers on the internet

Angelica Asiesiukiewicz
Staff Writer

The internet is a great research source for college students, but also contains web sites that provide ready-made essays that are considered plagiarism.

Although students might have a tough time with their assignments, teachers emphasize that plagiarizing material isn't the answer and the results can mean expulsion from school.

"While I sympathize with the students who are being asked too much to compete in the real world, I don't think that is any excuse to be dishonest," Leman Gupur, an instructor of international relations at Green River Community College (GRCC), said. "To me, cheating is unacceptable. Taking a short cut is disrespectful to others who work hard."

Many web sites online provide fully developed and well thought-out essays for students to purchase and use as their own.

All students have to do is enter in the subject of the essay they want, provide a credit card number, and print the finished product. It's that easy to get a good grade. The entire process might take only ten minutes.

However, plagiarized and bought papers can be hard to pass by a teacher.

"A plagiarized paper is usually very obvious," Gupur said.

There have been many advances in technology to provide teachers with computer programs to detect plagiarism in a student's paper. However, the IT center said that GRCC does not have such a program.

There are other ways to find out if a student has unaccredited information in the assignment.

"Most of the time, students don't realize that if they can Google, the instructor can Google too," Gupur said.

Immediate action is taken if a student plagiarizes. That student can receive a zero as a score on the assignment and class, and in all cases, a notification is sent to the proper authorities.

At that point, the administrative authorities will review the assignment and determine what further punishment should be distributed. Students who plagiarize are at risk of expulsion.

Most students aren't in favor of plagiarizing their papers. They would rather put in the effort and

gain something from their work.

"I think it is a shame that cheaters pay good money to go to college and educate themselves, then end up acting childish by crediting themselves for someone else's hard work," Laura Nelson, a second year student at GRCC, said.

Some students don't know that these web sites exist.

"I have never wanted to cheat, so I have never had a reason to search for web sites such as these," Nelson said.

Students who are having trouble crediting their quotes or sources in their assignments can get assistance from tutors in the Writing Center in the RLC building. The center is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Noon to 6 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Noon to 3 p.m. There is no appointment necessary. Also, the book "A Writer's Reference" by Diana Hacker is jam-packed with guidelines on how to use MLA and APA style of writing.



Sara Olson/Photo Illustration

A new form of cheating is available to students at just a click of the mouse. For a small price, students can purchase papers online.

Campus events

- The Giving Barrel Food Drive will continue through Nov. 16. Donations of food and pet items are being accepted and given to the Auburn Food Bank. There are donation sites located in the SMT, LSC, SC, LIB, and TC buildings.
- Massages for Relaxation will be taking place on Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Massages from a professional massage therapists will be given for a price of \$5 for seven minutes. This will take place in LSC, room 227.
- There will be an open house for the trades division on Nov. 14. For more information, contact Charles Lendeger at (253) 833-9111, ext. 4237.
- On Nov. 19, a group will be volunteering at the Auburn Senior Activity Center. From 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., volunteers will help set up for a Thanksgiving dinner. Students can sign up in the Student Programs Office.

Are you a parent and a student?



GRCC Head Start full day child care program has immediate openings for 3-5 year olds.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Low income (fees based on sliding scale)
- Child(ren) age 3-5 (3 as of 8/31/07)
- Attending Green River Community College (6 credits or more)

Program Includes:

- Activities that build self-esteem, social and physical skills
- Services for special needs children
- Nutritious meals and snacks
- Developmental screenings
- Dental, vision and hearing screenings

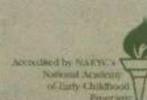
Located 1/4 mile north of GRCC at 31715 124th Ave. SE in Auburn

Call Rebekkah Gonder, Head Start Family Advocate, at (253) 939-7400 or visit www.greenriver.edu/childcare/

This licensed child care center is operated by Children's Home Society of Washington



CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY
Washington



Accredited by NAEYC's National Academy of Early Childhood Programs

Soldiers true victims war time torture

Soldiers forced to make career choice due to stance on torture



Commentary by Joseph Chouery

If you want a job in the Bush Administration you can't say torture is what it is.

It sickens me to think that our government can't come to the conclusion that water-boarding is a form of torture. This was brought to light on Oct. 18 after the attorney general nominee Michael Mukasey was hesitant in his answers regarding the alleged torture practice.

He avoided such questions by claiming it would be irresponsible to answer "when there are people who are using coercive techniques and who are being authorized to use coercive techniques."

After much persistence from congress, he finally said, "If it amounts to torture, it is not constitutional."

It is easy to see the approach that got us to this stage of "coercive techniques." In 2006, a bill called the Military Commissions Act eagerly was signed by President George Bush.

It reads, "The president has the authority for the United States to interpret the meaning and application of the Geneva Conventions and to promulgate higher standards and administrative regulations for violations of treaty obligations which are not grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions." [Act sec. 6(a)(3)(A)]

Basically, it says that the president can determine what violates the Geneva Convention. For instance he could promulgate that a nude human pyramided is not a violation.

I'm sure some people think it is a necessary evil in battling terrorism, but the detainees are not the only people to fall victim to this administrations arrogates. Soldiers are affected too, and unlike us, the only options that soldiers have are to obey orders.

If they choose to disobey orders, they are subjected to the uniform code of military justice.

In war time, the punishments can range from pushups to death depending on what the soldier refused to do. All soldiers realize they risk their wellbeing by not doing what they are told.

One decision negatively can affect their military carrier, and later on prohibit them from being hired by a private business.

This hurts. It hurts the prisoners, and it hurts our soldiers.

I know this because I have used "coercive techniques." I know what it feels like to put a burlap bag on someone's head in 110 degree heat, and what sleep deprivation consists of. I assure you it is not pleasant for the detainee or a soldier with a conscience.

These orders I followed with a feeling of dread. I finally challenged my command when they put me in needless danger by ordering me to collect trash in a grassy area. Normally this would not be a problem, but in Iraq, long grass means unexploded ordinances (bombs).

I felt tidying up because General Sanchez was visiting was not worth my life. The only thing going for me was a standing order given by a higher-up, "don't go into the grass."

My punishment was not official yet very real. I was put on the next poop burning detail.

We should not let our standing orders, The Geneva Convention, slip through our fingers. They're an asset to our soldiers.

If you truly support our troops, you'll hold President Bush and his administration accountable. Plastering your car with yellow ribbons won't help. Vigilance and a careful eye on our government only will help.

Editorial Policy

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

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.

Editorials

Seattle SuperSonics start season, but do people really care anymore?

"The Supes are back." The Seattle Super Sonics web site advertises the new season, portraying a team with new coaches and new players.

The Sonics' season now is in full swing, starting the process of answering all the questions that Seattle sports fans have been asking in the off season.

The Sonics craze gradually has waned over the past two years, as the team has slid into obscurity in the NBA. With their coaching staff and roster fluctuating, it is likely that many Washingtonians would be unable to name the current head coach.

The recent purchase of the team by a businessman from Oklahoma has brought the home of the Sonics in future years into uncertainty. Law suits and legal matters continue to prolong the resolution of this issue, but the lack of excitement for the team in general makes it seem as if some don't care whether the team stays or not.

And who would blame them? After losing to the Sacramento Kings in the 2004-2005 playoffs, the Sonics returned to the court only to produce a 35-47 record in the 2005-2006 season.

Any hope of improvement was denied when the team won only 31 games last season. The team no longer has players such as Shawn Kemp, Nate McMillan, Detlef Schrempf, and Gary Payton that the community can identify with. Instead, the team is composed of players, primarily unrecognized around the NBA.

The team was fortunate, however, to draft rookie Kevin Durant this season. Durant's talent and style may ignite the desire of fans to watch games this year, if only to witness pure basketball talent.

But it takes a team to win a championship. Although Cinderella stories aren't impossible, it seems unlikely that the glass slipper will fit the Sonics this year.

And, if the team continues to falter on the court, who knows what will happen.

Perhaps they will get their multi-million dollar stadium in Seattle, where the seats will remain as good as new, due to the lack of fans in them. Or maybe they will move to a different state, where they will have to start from scratch to gain the respect of a new town.

But once again, does anyone really care?

Entertainment world corrupting youth

Rapper and entertainment icon, T.I., recently has been under legal attack after being arrested for allegedly possessing machine guns and silencers.

This should come as no shock to America, and not because T.I. has been in legal trouble before. Americans now are accustomed to seeing the musicians and actors they love being arrested for a variety of offenses, ranging from violence to drug possession.

It no longer is a shock to society when they see their favorite artist's mug shot pop up in the media. Some entertainers now are just as recognizable in an orange jumpsuit as they are in an Armani suit.

Yet along with this familiarity has come a dulling of the contempt that should accompany the crimes that these entertainers are being accused of.

Most Americans most likely would not buy dinner for their neighbor if it was suspected that he held enough weapons to shoot up the neighborhood in his basement. Yet they still are eagerly ready to purchase T.I.'s latest albums.

As the youngest generation grows up, witnessing these icons, it should be society's greatest fear that they pick the wrong role models to follow.

The Current Staff

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



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The road to recovery

Recovering addicts know journey is rough, but necessary

Drug Addiction,
Continued from Page 1

quit using. Most people quit because they realize that their lives are unmanageable.

Peterson realized he was an addict by "the way I used."

"I could not function without it. It was the first thing in the morning and all day long. I put it before my family," Peterson said.

Crystal Smith realized she was an addict by "the things that happened to me when I used. The damage it caused, and I felt like I needed it."

Holmes remembered the feeling of being controlled by his addiction.

"I started to feel ashamed of my actions and could not stop," Holmes said.

Ken Muse knew he had a problem when he saw his addiction getting worse.

"I wanted to and used drugs every day. When my disease progressed, it turned to harder drugs," Muse said.

Smith believes the most important thing to do in order to have a successful recovery is "don't keep things to yourself. Get a

sponsor or have someone you trust and share. Don't let things eat you up inside."

Becker has helped herself to have a successful recovery by "changing my surroundings and believing in myself. When you think about things negatively, negative things will happen. A positive mind set is very important when changing any big thing in your life."

Joey Glaneman, 24, believes that attending meetings is important to recovery.

"Go to meetings and work the steps and give away what you have gotten from it," Glaneman said. "Take it one day at a time."

Smith always remembers "that someone, at least one person cares about me, and that I'm strong enough to get through it."

Muse said that he does not want to go back to the life he was living in addiction.

"Life was not worth living when I was in active addiction. My life gets better when I'm not using," Muse said.

Many people believe that they can self-medicate themselves to ease the pain of abuse through childhood, family issues,

or depression. Addicts in recovery have realized that drugs do not fix anything.

Becker knows that "the issue will still be there when you come down. When you're still using, it seems like drugs make it easier, but they only complicate your life."

Locke learned that "drugs make life miserable for an addict. It consumes our life. Life becomes dark, desolate and hopeless when you're out there using."

Holmes knows the consequences of using.

"You don't live life when you're on drugs; you lose your identity. Life is about overcoming obstacles and taking pride in getting through them. Drugs make you run from them," Holmes said.

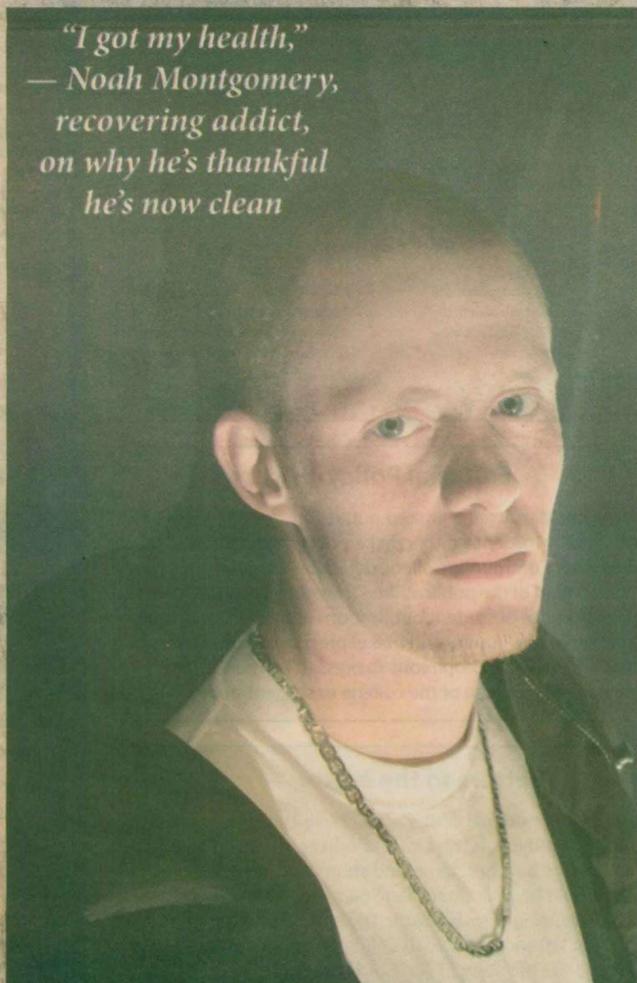
The sooner a person realizes that they have an addiction problem, the better it is and the sooner they can get help. There are many places people can get free help for addiction problems. For times and places of local meetings for addiction problems, go to www.skcn.org or talk to your counselor.

Reporter, Katie Barr, 17, is a student at GRCC and attends NA meetings.

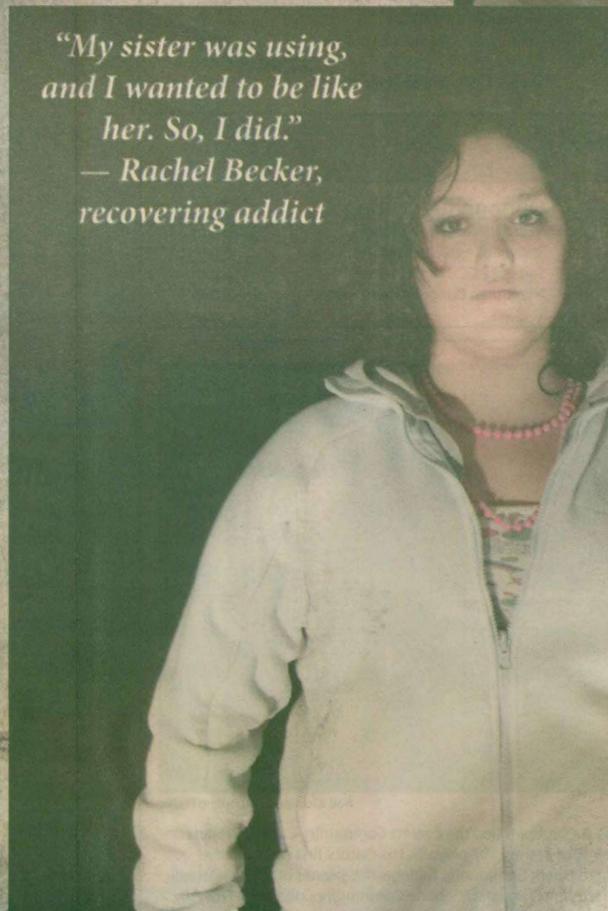
*"You don't live your life when you're on drugs. You lose your identity."
— Jay Holmes, recovering addict*



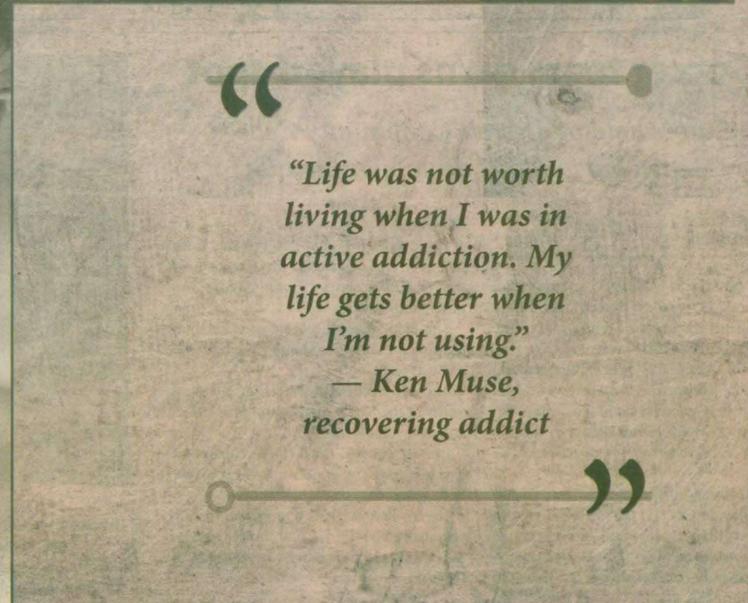
*"I got my health,"
— Noah Montgomery, recovering addict, on why he's thankful he's now clean*



*"My sister was using, and I wanted to be like her. So, I did."
— Rachel Becker, recovering addict*



*"Life was not worth living when I was in active addiction. My life gets better when I'm not using."
— Ken Muse, recovering addict*



*"Someone, at least one person cares about me, and that I'm strong enough to get through it."
— Crystal Smith, recovering addict*

Photos, clockwise from top: Jay Holmes, Rachel Becker, Noah Montgomery.

Photos by Sara Olson

Golf team captures trophy at Cardinal Classic

Team beats weather, competition to take home first place title

Greg Washington
Staff Writer

The Green River Community College women's golf team headed to Mt. Vernon, Wash. to hit the links at Avalon Golf Club for the Skagit Valley Cardinal Classic.

Coming into the tournament the women's team held a record of 7-1 overall and 4-0 in league play, positioning them tied at the top with Tacoma Community College in the West region of the NWAACC.

The Cardinal Classic brought teams together from all over the region to showcase their skills in hopes of bringing home the covenant championship.

After the first day of women's regulation play, three teams were left standing in the hunt for the title.

The Gators made a statement early by posting a first round total of 280, leaving them thirteen strokes ahead of their closest competition, Southwest Oregon Community College, and sixteen strokes ahead of Spokane Community College.



Bob Kickner/Courtesy photo

From left, Brynne Bettsworth, Jenna Rochelle, Jenna Bishop, and Megan Manning earned first place at the Skagit Valley Cardinal Classic.

"The conditions were very difficult to manage the first day. It was cold, rainy, windy, and the course was very soggy, which made it hard to adjust to the speeds of the greens," golfer, Jenna Bishop said.

Although Mother Nature managed to make the course play difficult the first day, each of the Gators managed to break 100, a feat that no other team managed to accomplish.

The second day of competition gave the field a better opportunity to score due to the fact that conditions were completely opposite to those of the first day.

"The second day was much better for scoring. There was no rain, and it wasn't as windy," Bishop said.

Spokane came out with a vengeance, hoping to make their presence known by posting the best second round team total of 276, annihilating their first round total by 20 strokes.

The Gators posted a 279, improving on their first day total by one stroke, while Southwest Oregon posted a 296, which left them in third place for the classic.

In the end, the Gators poise and confidence seemed to be too much for Spokane to handle. The two day total of 559 not only claimed the victory for the women's golf team, but gave them confidence as they head into the offseason.

"We played very well; we've all been working really hard on our approach to the game," Bishop said. "We've been working hard on our approach shots and our short game, which is probably why we're winning."

The women's golf team will not be competing again until the end of next March.

Gator Results

Women's Volleyball

Date	Results	Record
10/26	Green River d. Edmonds	11-13
10/26	Mt. Hood d. Green River	11-14
10/27	Skagit Valley d. Green River	11-15
10/27	Clackamas d. Green River	11-16
10/29	Green River d. Pierce	12-16
11/2	Tacoma d. Green River	12-17

Women's Soccer

Date	Results	Record
10/26	Spokane, 5 d. Green River, 0	4-11
10/27	Columbia Basin, 4 d. Green River, 0	4-12
10/31	Green River, 3, d. Skagit Valley, 1	5-12
11/3	Green River, 0 t. Everett, 0	5-12-1

Gator Schedules

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
11/17	Portland/Portland	3 p.m.
11/20	Olympic/Olympic	6 p.m.
11/28	Shoreline/Green River	6 p.m.
12/1	NW Indian College/Green River	3 p.m.
12/5	Olympic/Green River	6 p.m.
12/8	Skagit Valley/Green River	3 p.m.

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
11/29	North Idaho/North Idaho	8 p.m.
11/30	Snow College/North Idaho	5 p.m.
12/1	Salt Lake CC/North Idaho	5 p.m.
12/5	NW Indian College/Green River	8 p.m.

Soccer team earns playoff spot

Gators hold off Everett Community College, earn bid for 2007 championship title

Sara Olson
Staff Writer

The Gator women's soccer team managed to hold off Everett Community College, earning a tie and a spot in the first round of the playoffs.

The game was the Gators' second match against the Trojans this season. The first game, which took place on Sept. 25, went to the Gators by a score of 1-0 - the goal attributed to Jaime Lee Slaten.

Coming off of a win over Skagit Valley on Oct. 31, the Gators' hoped to carry their momentum into the game against Everett on Nov. 3. The match against the Trojans threatened to be the Gators' last, as a loss would have ended

the season.

However, with solid goalkeeping from freshman Arlana Byers, the Gators held the Trojans scoreless through the entire ninety minutes of play.

The Trojans also displayed good defense, limiting the Gators' offense throughout the game as well.

The tie solidified the Gators second place finish in the North Division of NWAACC and a playoff berth.

Everett finished third in the North and also will have the opportunity to compete in the playoffs.

Green River's first opponents in the playoffs will be Clark Community College, the third place finishers in the South Division.



Bob Kickner/Contributing Photo

The Gator women's soccer team tied the Everett Community College Trojans on Nov. 3, earning their spot in the 2007 playoffs. The Gators' first match in the playoffs will be against Clark Community College. The winner of that game will compete in the quarterfinals against Highline Community College on Nov. 10.

Sonics hope to slam dunk with young talent

Kevin Durant could save Seattle from disappointing season

Baris Cirak
Staff Writer

With a disappointing season passed, the Seattle SuperSonics are looking for a better season with a younger but possibly more talented squad.

The possible move of the team to Oklahoma City seems to be the biggest issue to solve in order to establish a good run to the playoffs.

The biggest issue that the franchise should solve in order to accomplish new things is the possible move of the team.

After being bought by a business man from Oklahoma, the Sonics are said to be moving when their lease is over with the KeyArena, the smallest arena in the NBA.

Lawsuits still are going on for renewing KeyArena or building a new arena in Bellevue or Renton.

"It is important for players to have been informed clearly," Tim Malroy, Green River Community College's basketball coach and the assistant athletic director of the college, said. "Are they going to move or not? With having so many questions in their minds, they wouldn't be successful, for

sure. They have a good team, and if they solve problems that exist off the court, it is possible for them to achieve their goals on the court."

On the 2007 NBA Draft night on June 28, the Seattle Sonics selected Kevin Durant, a freshman from University of Texas, using their first round draft pick.

After getting Durant, several trades happened around the NBA in the same night.

One of those included the Sonics, getting forward Wally Szczerbiak and combo guard Delonte West and draft rights of fifth overall choice Jeff Green, a sophomore from Georgetown.

The Sonics sent one of their franchise players, Ray Allen and 31st overall pick, Glen "The Big Baby" Davis to the Celtics.

Losing the other franchise player Rashard Lewis, who had been an unrestricted free agent, rejected Sonics' offer and signed with the Orlando Magic which forced the Sonics to go into a rebuilding stage.

Durant, one of the biggest potentials of the NBA, and the other rookie, Green, are possibly the new faces of the franchise.

On the sideline, there are a few changes too. P.J. Carlesimo has been assigned for the head coach of the team, who was coaching for the Seton Hall University,



www.kevindurantonline.com/Courtesy photo

Kevin Durant (No. 35) was the Seattle SuperSonics' first draft pick this season after being successful in the NCAA, playing for the Texas Longhorns. He could become the new franchise player for the Sonics.

taking them to the national championship game, from 1992 to 1994.

Unlike any other rebuilding teams, the Sonics are looking forward to catch the playoff train with the seventh or eighth spot, as they have a deep bench and the second-pick player, Durant.

Playing rookie Durant, 6'9", in the 2-guard position will give Sonics a good physical advantage.

Having Collison, Petro, Swift, Sene, and Kurt Thomas in the backcourt, the representatives of the Emerald City are not likely to have a big scoring option but a good defensive block.

Seattle was left with the Durant choice when Portland Trail Blazers selected Greg Oden, the rookie center from the Ohio State Buckeyes, with the first pick overall, who is sidelined for a

year with the knee injury.

Durant was the best player that could make the instant effect, and the Sonics are lucky to be left with him instead of Oden.

With having the second pick overall on their roster, the Seattle Sonics will try to put an end mark to their last two years, that ended in early April without going to the playoffs.

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Friday | April 28, 2006

THE CURRENT

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How much do they really make?

see inside | S-9

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Planning for June ceremony now under way

Over 2,000 expected at commencement

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

Some artists hurting reputation through crime



Sara Olson/Photo Illustration

Music artists, from left, T.I., Fred Durst, Foxy Brown, and Taboo from The Black Eyed Peas, have had run-ins with the law last year, putting a negative view on the music industry.

T.I.'s legal trouble sets trend for music industry

Alex Hoggard
Staff Writer

Rapper, T.I. fits the role of businessman, song writer, fashion icon, Hollywood a lister, CEO of Grand Hustle records, father and, the King of the South.

T.I. has a lot to live up to, but recently he might not just be known for all the great things he has accomplished not only for himself or his Atlanta, Ga.

community.

T.I. was arrested on federal gun charges just a couple hours before his performance on the BET Hip Hop Awards on Oct. 13. T.I. was the show's top nominee and was up for nine different awards, including album of the year and lyricist of the year.

However, the show had to go on without the King of the South.

T.I., who's real name is Clifford Harris, was in custody after a federal sting caught up with him. Harris's bodyguard, turned informant, was to deliver three machine guns and two silencers to the rapper.

Documents state that Harris

provided the informant with \$12,000 to purchase the weapons.

However, T.I. has been in trouble before he was in the entertainment limelight. T.I. grew up in Atlanta and began selling crack at a young age, unlike the list of other artists that waited to be in front of the lime light to start breaking the laws and racking up criminal charges.

Lil Kim spent up to a year in jail for not "snitching" as it's called in the rap culture. R&B sensation R. Kelly is still fighting his child pornography case.

This new age of rebellion has even reached pop stars, including

Britney Spears, who just lost custody of her two young boys after having numerous drunk driving and child endangerment charges.

Despite his run-in with the law, T.I. has played a role in his community and took the lead to help the devastated victims of Hurricane Katrina, personally donating \$50,000 to the relief.

Some might say that Harris has paid all his dues of his wrong doing during his adolescence and that the negative publicity is just a personal target on someone who wasn't supposed to make it pass the hood.

Recording artist Akon told

MTV news that "it's obvious that [T.I.] was set up."

What ever the case may be, T.I. is the one looking at charges and possible jail time for something that possibly could have been avoided.

Some fans seem to think that the police acted too fast and that the guns could have belonged to his security teams, which are licensed to carry firearms.

"The police always make things such a bigger deal than what it really is. It's only because T.I. is famous and black that they're showing so much attention to him," student Tangie Greene, said.

New Mac system gives company edge in industry

Features will win over people who favor PCs

Randy Wohlhueter
Staff Writer

Apple Computers recently released its next operating system, OS X 10.5 Leopard.

Leopard is the fifth version of the OS X 10 series from Apple, and it appears to be a worthy addition to the family. Leopard combines over 300 upgrades and new features from its predecessors.

This new operating system is out to rival Microsoft's Vista operating system. While Apple only has an eight percent share of the computers around the world, Leopard only will help to boost the sales of Apple computers.

Leopard has a bunch of amazing and original new features that are sure to win over those that are anti-Mac.

With Leopard, users can purchase a single use copy of the new operating system for \$129, or for the Mac loving family, they can opt for the family pack that allows up to five computers to install the same copy

of Leopard for \$199.

The new features in Leopard focus on organization and time saving. Some of the exciting features include "Spaces," "Stacks," "Time Machine," "Quick Look and Boot Camp."

With "Spaces," users do not have to deal with a lot of open windows that clutter up the desktop. "Spaces" allow users to place different objects on different screens that can be switched back and forth with relative ease.

With the use of "Spaces," it is like adding up to 16 additional desktop screens. Each "Spaces" window is the same size as the original desktop window, allowing for maximum workable space to complete any sized project.

"Stacks" is another organization feature that helps to reduce the clutter that can build up on one's desktop. "Stacks" is a feature that is placed on your desktop toolbar.

"Stacks" minimizes windows to a single stack that can be opened and closed with mini preview images of each item from within the stack.

One of the greatest features Apple has developed and launched with Leopard is

"Time Machine."

"Time Machine" is a program designed to automatically back up every single file on a person's computer in an up-to-date manor.

All that is required is an additional hard drive - preferably an external hard drive, and users can begin to save everything on their computer.

If a user creates a file, and later on down the road that person loses it or wants an original copy, all that is needed is "Time Machine," and users can go back to the date the document was last saved and retrieve the entire file with ease.

Like most students, there are countless amounts of saved files and documents that can pile up all over their computers. With "Quick Look," all that is needed is a right-click on a file, and it opens up a full sized preview without having to open up the files program, thus saving loading and searching time while trying to find the correct file.

"Quick Look" will play full-length songs and videos without the use of media players like iTunes and QuickTime.

The final stand out feature that Leopard brings to the table is "Boot Camp."

With "Boot Camp," users of a Mac computer that runs off Intel processors can run both Windows and Macintosh operating systems.

"Boot Camp" is a program that partitions your Mac hard drive and creates a windows section that allows for full and complete booting up of any Windows based operating system.

This is the most stand out feature that is sure to bring in a larger amount of interest with computer users. Having access to both types of operating systems means users can run virtually any program they could ever need, regardless if it is Windows based or Mac based.

With all of these great new and amazing advances in computer technology, it is easy to see why Apple is continuing to grow as a mainstream computer company.

Although most non-Mac users only know Apple for their infamous iPods, Leopard is exactly what the company needed to bring its presence out even more than just a music player company.

Leopard is an excellent buy for the already current Mac user, or for those that have always wanted to experience Mac computers.

Local radio stations sponsor holiday concerts

Music artists scheduled to serenade Northwest this holiday season

Katie Barr
Staff Writer

As the holiday season approaches, so do concert events of the year. Many people already are buying their tickets for the events and getting ready for the holidays.

There's a concert for a person with any taste of music.

For those who favor rap, pop or hip hop, Kiss 106.1's Jingle Bell Bash (JBB) is the concert event for them. Featured at the concert are Jonas Brothers, Sean Kingston, Colbie Caillat, Ehpikh, and Timbaland with special guests.

Most fans know the Jonas Brothers' music by their hit song, "Mandy." The boys are three brothers from N.J. They recently put out a follow up album; self titled "Jonas Brothers."

Sean Kingston is the artist behind the hit song, "Beautiful Girls." Kingston only is 17 and is from Miami. Kingston is the grandson of legendary producer Jack Ruby. Kingston writes all of his own music without any negativity or curse words that might offend people.

Colbie Caillat has an interesting story on just how she's become a signed singer and songwriter. Most people have a Myspace account, but the thought of becoming famous through Myspace is only possible through

the imagination. Caillat was the No. 1 unsigned artist on Myspace for four consecutive months. A popular song of Caillat's is "Bubbly."

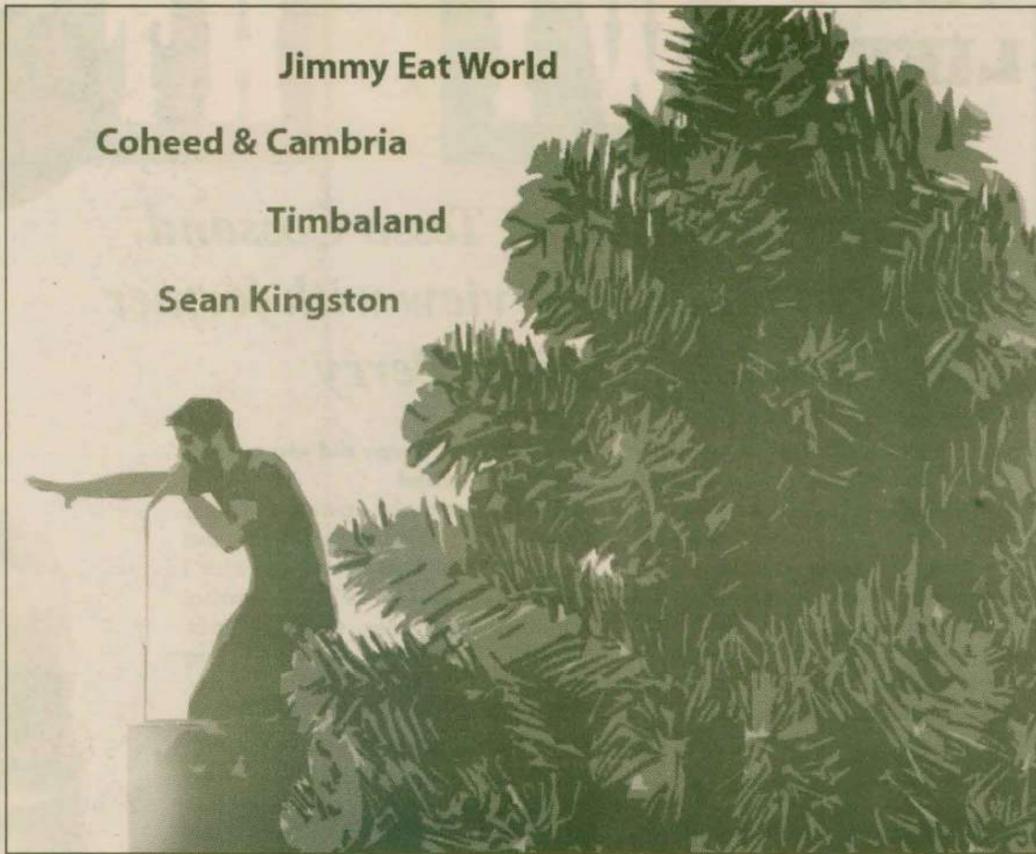
Ehpikh is a band most people haven't heard of. The band started out by an accidental prank. The radio station, Kiss 106.1 reported that Justin was going to be in Seattle and performing. The fans automatically thought of Justin Timberlake, not Justin Barnes, one of the two members of Ehpikh.

Staff member Jubal Flagg was suspended for the accident and the confusion caused to Justin Timberlake fans. Band members Justin Barnes and Jacob Esparza still put on a performance, creating their band Ehpikh.

Timbaland is one of the most original artists of today. Timbaland also produced an unbelievable amount of hit songs. He stands out with his genre-breaking music. Timbaland also will perform with special guests, Keri Hilson, OneRepublic and Sebastian.

Tickets for Jingle Bell Bash now are on sale at Ticketmaster. Tickets are \$55 and up to \$106, depending on the seating. JBB is Tuesday, Dec. 4 at the Tacoma Dome.

For those who prefer rock or alternative, 107.7 The End's Deck the Halls Ball is the concert event to go to. Featured artists at



Sara Olson/Photo Illustration

Local radio stations, Kiss 106.1 and 107.7 The End, both are putting on holiday concerts. Deck the Halls Ball will feature artists such as Jimmy Eat World, Coheed and Cambria, and Modest Mouse. Jingle Bell Bash will host artists, including Sean Kingston, Timbaland, OneRepublic, and The Jonas Brothers.

the concert are Modest Mouse, Jimmy Eat World, Coheed and Cambria, She Wants Revenge, Spoon, and The Kooks.

Modest Mouse creates a unique genre of music. The songs frequenting the radio stations by Modest Mouse are "Gravity Rides Everything" and "A Different City."

Jimmy Eat World has been creating hit songs since the '90s,

such as "Hear You Me," "A Praise Chorus," and "Your House."

Coheed and Cambria are from N.Y. Coheed and Cambria creates a very rare genre of music heard on the radio stations today. Some songs playing on the radio by them are "The Camper Velourium I: Faint of Heart," "Three Evils (Embodied in Love and Shadow)" and also "In Keeping Secrets of Silent Earth 3."

Well-known songs by She Wants Revenge are, "Monologue," "Tear You Apart," and "Someone Must Get Hurt."

Popular songs by Spoon are, "The Delicate Place," "Merchants of Soul," and "I Turn My Camera On."

Deck The Halls Ball is on Dec. 6 at Comcast Arena in Everett. Tickets will be available soon from TicketMaster.

Kiss 106.1's

Jingle Bell Bash

Featuring Jonas Brothers, Sean Kingston, Colbie Caillat, Ehpikh, and Timbaland with special guests.

Dec. 4 at the Tacoma Dome

The End, 107.7's

Deck the Halls Ball

Featuring Modest Mouse, Jimmy Eat World, She Wants Revenge, Spoon, The Kooks, and Coheed and Cambria.

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THE LIFE of

D W I G H T

The Current reporter, Tessa Cossand, sat down for an interview with former GRCC student, Dwight Perry

"Sideline Chatter," a column in The Seattle Times keeps readers laughing with its clever wit and irreverent look at sports. The author, former Green River Community College student, Dwight Perry, is a sports journalist for The Seattle Times.

Q: What classes did you take at Green River Community College?

A: I took a lot of communications and writing classes.

Q: What was your favorite part of being in the journalism program at Green River?

A: Being exposed to new ideas and things like that. When I was there, Ed Eaton was talking about cable television and the future of the media. We had no internet in those days. One part of me was saying "Yeah right." You heard about things that were coming that you basically didn't believe until you saw them. Cable television was one of those things.

Q: What other careers did you consider besides journalism?

A: I almost went into drafting at Boeing. I don't think I would have enjoyed it that much. If I could do anything, which I could and can do, I would be a song writer. I think a song writer would be great. Somebody like Quincy Jones would be my ideal.

Q: What inspired you to be a journalist?

A: Did you ever play the Milton Bradley Game of "Life"? In that board game, they had a doctor, lawyer, and a journalist. I didn't like blood, so I didn't want to be a doctor, and I didn't like to argue all that much, so I didn't want to be a lawyer.

Q: What is your favorite sport?

A: I would say college football would be my No. 1. Baseball

is No. 2. College football is so much different than any other sport, because you have marching bands, crazy fans, and

"Did you ever play the Milton Bradley Game of 'Life'? In that board game, they had a doctor, lawyer, and a journalist. I didn't like blood, so I didn't want to be a doctor, and I didn't like to argue all that much, so I didn't want to be a lawyer."

students. People have a connection to a school. Any sport with a packed house is a good sport. The worst thing you can do is go to a stadium where there are 2,000 people in a 70,000 seat stadium. College football is great because you usually have large crowds."

Q: Did you ever play any sports in high school or while you attended Green River?

A: In high school, I was like 5'2 and a 119 pounds. I somehow avoided the wrestling coach because they were always looking for someone at the bottom of the weight class. I wrestled in junior high and that was enough. Wrestling might be one of the toughest sports. It's very intense for around six minutes, and you have someone hanging on you. It wasn't my cup of tea. I did play a lot of sandlot football and basketball.

Q: Who was the most memorable sports figure that you have interviewed?

A: If you're asking the most memorable person I've met, Buck O'Neil would be one. Last week they gave him a Lifetime Achievement award for baseball. He was the first black coach in Major League history. He didn't play baseball because of racial segregation. Buck O'Neil and John Knocks were the greatest human beings of any two athletes or sports figures I've interviewed.

Q: What player or sports related figure do you admire the most?

A: Buck O'Neil. He was one of the founders

of the Negro Hall of Fame. He was the classic of classic guys for having lived the life he lived with segregation. He was probably the best ambassador baseball ever had. Locals Steve Largent and Jamie Moyer are among my favorite athletes. I admire people who do more than play sports and who see themselves as a tools to do something for their community.

Q: How have you changed since attending GRCC?

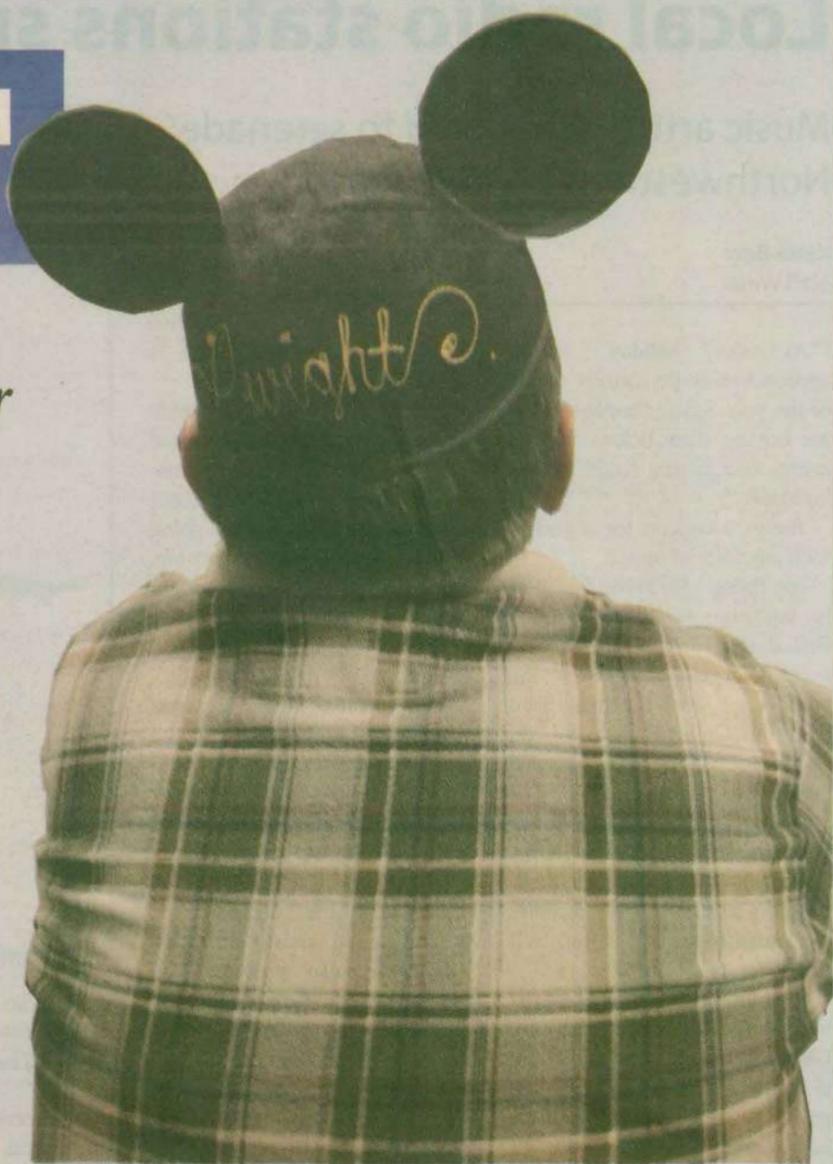
A: Hopefully, I've grown up. I try not to. I still like what I'm doing, but I see it more as a business prospective.

Q: You write with a great deal of wit. Where do you get your sense of humor?

A: I don't know. The best humor is when you take two unrelated things and relate them. I guess I just see the world from a different point of view than other people. I get to be the smart ass at church. This paper takes itself seriously, so my column is kind of outside of the paper's character. I get to be the class clown.

Q: Where do you want to go from here?

A: I'll probably work until I die. I'm raising a 3 year-old grandson, so my retirement is out of the question. In the perfect world, I'd be doing more writing than desk work. In the perfect world, I'd win the lottery and just write my column from home.



Dwight Perry has been writing for The Seattle Times since 1999. Prior to 1999, he was assistant sports editor at The Seattle Post Intelligencer.

Next issue:
The Current will interview another former GRCC student.