



Literary Theft

Plagiarism has been labeled actual crime, yet it continues on college campuses



Campus hit by plagiarism on several levels

Amy Lipko
Staff Writer

Most people tend to think of students and lengthy reports when they think of plagiarism. But the real world holds a pressure to perform, and it can cloud any person's judgment and lead them straight into desperate situations.

Several hiring committees at Green River Community College (GRCC) recently have been exposed to such situations, and they want to warn students from making the same mistakes.

Recently, GRCC has faced, on more than one occasion, an essay application for employment that didn't come up to snuff. However, applicants weren't lacking in their writing or content abilities, they were lacking in their originality.

Donnie Hallstone, a 25-year veteran instructor with GRCC's mathematics department, and a member of several hiring committees said, "They [applicants] always have to have several essays written. One of the essays, one of the other members of the hiring committee was reading it and it just didn't sound like what the rest of the application sounded like to him."

Curious about the change in tone, the committee member decided to check online to see what he could find. Typing in the first few sentences the committee member and others were shocked.

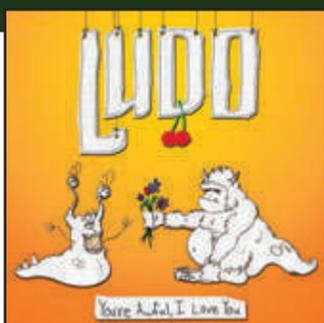
"It popped up," Hallstone said. "The whole essay was just taken

Plagiarism,
Continued on Page 3

A&E

CD Review

Ludo serves up hits with new album, "You're awful, I love you."
Page 10



Back

Weighing in
Students say media portrays negative body image.
Page 12



Campus - Pages 2-3
News - Page 4
Opinion - Page 5
Feature - Pages 6-7
Sports - Pages 8-9
A & E - Pages 10-11

Online classes available for busy students

Students can choose between online, on campus classes

Brittney Walker Higgins
Staff Writer

Formerly known as Distance Learning, GRCC offers an eLearning program where students can earn their entire associates degree online.

Many students opt to take a few of their required courses online, but how beneficial are they?

Online classes offer convenience and flexibility for students in a time crunch.

Students can decide when they are going to study and for how long.

Students also can schedule study time in between traditional classes or social events.

They offer the flexibility of "going to class" without having to be in an actual classroom setting, which is very appealing to some students.

"I like that you can set your own pace and how easily I could fit the class into my schedule since I didn't have to take time out of my day to drive all the way to Green River," student, Jackie Knight, 20, said.

With gas prices skyrocketing, earning credit in the convenience of one's own home could be a major plus. Tuition for online courses also often is less expensive.

Student Megan Wanless, 20, said, "I like not having a set class time, and I like being able to do my work independently."

Wanless has taken both psychology and humanities courses online.



Sara Olson/Photo Illustration

Although online classes allow students to make their own schedule for class work, some students believe that they learn the most in the traditional classroom setting.

Working independently and at your own pace is very important to students.

In traditional classroom settings, instructors may go over too much material in too little time for the students to fully comprehend.

While there are many benefits to the eLearning program, many students have found that internet courses are not for them.

Students who need personal attention and interaction from their instructors should not opt for an online course.

Often times, the online form of communication that students have with their professor and classmates is through e-mail, chat rooms, or discussion groups. Other than these forms of communication, eLearning students miss out on social interaction.

When working on an assignment, it could sometimes take a day or two to get a question answered by an instructor.

Students are expected to find their own resources for completing papers, assignments,

and exams. For some, this concept can be overwhelming.

Procrastination is the eLearner's down fall.

Online courses often have many deadlines, just like traditional courses.

Some students who are forgetful, or who have not mastered the art of time management, may find that they are putting off an entire weeks worth of assignments until the last possible moment.

"I did not receive as good of a grade in my online classes as I did in my traditional classes. I feel

that some students fall behind in an online class rather than a traditional class because it is easy to not complete assignments due to the fact that one can simply hide behind their computer and not have to face a teacher," Knight said.

While both Knight and Wanless enjoyed the convenience of the eLearning program, they prefer a traditional classroom setting.

It was in the traditional setting that they learned the most.

"I prefer traditional classroom settings. It's a much more 'natural' setting. A desk, chairs, teacher, and blackboard notify my brain that I am in a classroom setting where I should be listening attentively, taking notes, and working hard," Wanless said.

"I would always recommend a traditional classroom environment over online classes. I think you learn and retain the information much better, and there is more incentive to work harder and make the grade."

Crossword puzzle answers

Across

- 3 *Horton Hears a Who*
- 4 *Spring rolls*
- 6 *Daytona Beach*
- 10 *Prom*
- 12 *Daisies*
- 14 *The Real Cancun*

Down

- 1 *Cherry blossom festival*
- 2 *Daffodils*
- 5 *Tulips*
- 7 *Easter*
- 8 *April Showers*
- 9 *March April May*
- 11 *Spring Break*
- 13 *Cancun*

Special Feature

Healthy options more available to Spanish students

Asiesiukiewics presents part three of three letters from study abroad quarter in Spain



Angelica Asiesiukiewics

Hola again!

This letter is all about the United States vs. Spain on the subject of health. I know, it's a subject we want to get away from but can't. It's one of the most important things students need to think about, apart from education and having a great experience.

In the United States, college students all hear about "the freshman 15," where students will gain 15 pounds in their first year of college because they don't find time to eat healthy.

It is quite difficult to find time to focus on food when students need to focus on school. Most students fear this "initiation" into college.

However, students in Spain do not seem to have this problem. The reason: walking. They walk everywhere, to school, from school, to the store, to the clubs, everywhere.

And, they don't mind it at all, unless it's four in the morning and they had a few too many drinks. Overall, students and most other people's main mode of transportation is walking.

This is the most convenient method because cars are expensive, gas is expensive, and distances between places are very short.

Another difference between students' health in the United States and Spain is the type of food eaten.

Students in America mostly eat on campus when at a university. If they want to splurge, they will go to a nice restaurant

or a fast-food joint.

You will rarely find a college student in the United States cooking in their dorm. Mostly it's because there is no room or it is not allowed due to university regulations. In other words, students have to eat what is put before them at the mess hall.

In Spain, most students live in their own apartments or with their parents, so they can have home cooked meals everyday. Sure, they will splurge on McDonald's once in awhile, but there is a big difference between our double cheeseburgers and theirs.

It's all about food quality. In America, most meat products and vegetable products are packed full of chemicals that may make our steak and peas taste good, but slow down our metabolism and cause our bodies to produce more fat.

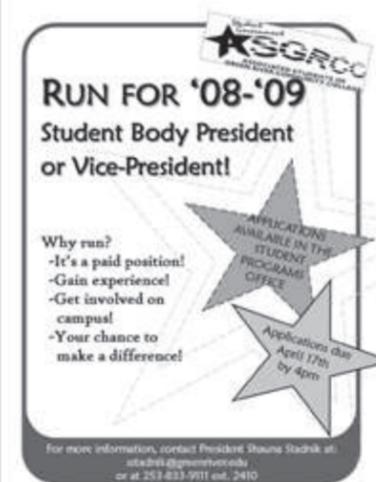
In Spain, there is a strict law against this. Cows are not fed hormones and vegetables are not grown in a laboratory, so everything is much healthier.

Overall, the students in Spain are much healthier simply because they have the resources at their fingertips to stay healthy.

Hopefully, more students in the United States will walk more or exercise more, and University kitchens will provide healthier meats and veggies. There is a large uproar from the public to eliminate the agribusiness practice of feeding steroids to animals.

However, until then, I suggest students watch what they eat, exercise more, and try to stay stress free to be healthier.

¡Hasta luego!



Campus Calendar

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Sex Signals; 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m.	3	4 Sonics vs. Houston Rockets; 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m.; Key Arena.	5 Men's baseball vs. Grays Harbor, 1 p.m. Aberdeen.
6 Men's baseball vs. Grays Harbor; 1 p.m.; Aberdeen.	7 Monday Mix: Dub Lounge Reggae; 12 p.m.-1:30 p.m.	8	9	10	11	12 Men's baseball vs. Lower Columbia, 1 p.m.; Auburn Mountainview High School.
13 Men's baseball vs. Pierce, 1 p.m.; Auburn Mountainview High School.	14 Native American Celebration; 4/14-4/19.	15	16	17	18	19 Men's baseball vs. Centralia, 1 p.m.; Lea Hill Park.
20 Men's baseball vs. Centralia, 1 p.m.; Centralia. Ice Skating: 12:30 p.m.-5 p.m.; Kent Valley Ice Centre.	21	22	23 Faculty In-Service Day; Classes cancelled.	24	25	26 Men's baseball vs. Tacoma, 1 p.m.; Lea Hill Park.
27 Men's baseball vs. Grays Harbor, 2 p.m.; Aberdeen.	28	29	30			

For more information on events, go to www.greenriver.edu/AboutGRCC and click on the Events Calendar

Not only students found guilty of plagiarism

Plagiarism,
Continued from Page 1

completely off a website that had what sounded like a pretty good statement on diversity. It was actually very well written but not that person's. That had never occurred to me that people would do that on an application for a college job."

This startling discovery isn't the first. Hallstone has participated in at least three other hiring committees where at least one applicant from each session had plagiarized, something that has somewhat disheartened Hallstone.

"I realize that if people that are applying for jobs – these are people with doctorates and masters degrees – if they're willing to cheat on applications, anybody would be willing to cheat. It's a sad situation," Hallstone said.

However, it's one that Green River is constantly trying to help students avoid making – both in school and out.

Green River's policy on plagiarism is quite clear – no tolerance. However, it's up to the instructor to call the shots.

"The instructor has that right to make that decision what the consequences are going to be," Hallstone said.

Hallstone's own policy is to make sure and talk to any student he suspects might be at fault.

"I write them a note saying, 'we need to talk about this,' and I typically don't give them credit for what the assignment is," he said. "Most students are contacted right away."

However, it can get tricky when trying to figure out what counts as your own thoughts, what is considered paraphrasing, and what's just flat out stealing.

Luckily, students on campus have a place to turn: the writing center.

Amanda Schaefer, a tutor at the writing

center, offered tips on how students can keep ahead of the game when a due date is looming.

"Ideally you should allow enough time that you can have a pretty complete draft at least 24 hours before their paper is due. It's definitely a process, and sometimes it's really helpful to step away from your paper and come back to it because you can see things you didn't see the first time, and you can approach it more objectively," Schaefer said.

There also is an online resource available that comes highly recommended by the writing center.

"One of the most valuable ones is Diana Hacker's website, www.DianaHacker.com. It has grammar exercises where, for example, students can go in there and do a whole section on commas and get immediate feedback on whether their answers are correct or incorrect," Schaefer said. "There's also a whole section on documentation where students can see sample papers in MLA and APA style."

Citation can be a catalyst that can lead to the panic of plagiarism.

Schaefer understands what students are dealing with.

"I think that is very difficult in knowing when you need to put something in quotation marks directly or when you try to paraphrase it that you've really left so much of the original word choice and structure in that it would constitute plagiarism," Schaefer said. "One thing students often don't understand is that even if it's paraphrased or summarized you still need to cite your source, even if it's not a direct quote. Sometimes, there are things that aren't as standard as a book or magazine article."

Online students soon will be able to seek the refuge of the writing center also.

"We are investigating plans to offer

online tutoring soon, ideally spring but it could possibly be as late as summer," Schaefer said. "It will give us the ability to serve evening students, distance learning students, and students at our Kent and Enumclaw campuses. So we have a way to help them and give them feedback as

well."

No matter where people choose to go, pressure always will follow. But Green River wants to help keep its students from feeling the crunch, and to remember, they're always watching.

Senators of the month

February

Our new Senator of the Month for February is Roy Chambers. He constantly voices his opinions at the senate meetings and participates outside of the meetings.

Along with that, he has led the Finance Committee all year and now is leading the committee through the 522 budget process.

March

This month, Senator Kyle Johnson has gone above and beyond. He is deserving of recognition for his great new idea, the "reaching out to students" survey. Senator Johnson is an active member of the senate, who is willing to speak up when no one else does. We're proud to have him on board.

Contributed by Shauna Stadnik, ASGRCC President

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Weird & Wacky News

Tammie Tamara
Staff Writer

Thief leaves phone number with victims

An alleged safe thief made an appointment for a robbery. Ruben Carate, 18, left his number with the workers at a muffler shop that he tried to rob. Since no one could open the safe, he asked to be called when the owner of the shop came back. Carate wasn't the only one who got a phone call that afternoon - so did the Chicago police. Carate was charged with attempted armed robbery and aggravated assault of a police officer.

Politics get trashy

Some people think that politics are trashy; little did they know that it is, literally. The new mayor of Australian outback town of Winton, Ed Warren, won his title after a random draw out of a trash can. After the local election was ended in a tie, the people needed another method to decide the winner. They decided to draw a name from a trash can. The choices were either that or flipping a coin. Queensland electoral law allows those methods to break a tie. A draw was used to choose the mayor in the city of Rockhampton eight years ago.

Corn flake bought for \$1,350

Two girls were lucky enough to find a corn flake shaped like the state of Illinois. They were smart enough to sell it too. The corn flake was sold on an online auction with a winning bid of \$1,350. The buyer was a collector of American items. He was planning to put the flake in a traveling museum along with Jack Ruby's hat and Marilyn Monroe's datebook.

English take stand against alcohol tax

Britain's Treasury possibly could raise the taxes for cars and cigarettes as much they would like to. When it comes to alcohol, however, the people have a lot to say. People are campaigning to ban Alistair Darling, Britain's Treasury Chief, from the pubs. The tax on alcohol has been raised 6 percent above inflation. It's still scheduled to rise by another 2 percent above inflation each year for the next 4 years. A treasury spokesman said that Darling wanted to raise money to fight child poverty and help families and the aged.

Scooters become newest drug-mobile

Sometimes the simplest idea might be the most brilliant. Drugs dealers started to use scooters and pose as disabled people to carry their drugs. Cops say that the dealers believe that cars can be tracked easier. Some of them, however, weren't that smart to stay unnoticed. A scooter in South London, England, was covered in jewelry so it looked cooler. The police found A-class drugs hidden inside. These scooters run with a top speed of 4 MPH.

Transgender reveals pregnancy

Photos recently started appearing all over the news and internet of what appeared to be a pregnant male. Thomas Beatie, 34, announced the pregnancy, causing several to raise their eyebrows in shock. However, Beatie, who legally is a man used to be a woman and has undergone hormone treatment to change him into a male, kept his female reproductive organs.

He and his wife announced the pregnancy to a gay magazine and now are scheduled to appear on Oprah and People Magazine.

'Spitzer Scandal' opens door for political honesty

Governor resigns, sets stage prompts confessions from successor

Casey Greer
Staff Writer

Eliot Spitzer, the now former governor of New York, was linked to a prostitution ring leading to his retirement from office.

Spitzer became popular for his vows to unearth and right the wrongs of Wall Street.

Spitzer was caught via wiretap after investigators gained contact with a prostitute working with the Emperor's Club VIP. Spitzer confirmed plans for the woman to travel from New York to Washington D.C. where Spitzer had a hotel booked.

Spitzer, with his wife at his side, held a press conference March 10, explaining his misdeeds and his betrayal of his wife, his family, but did not resign. His resignation would come two days later, with his wife again at his side.

Known as Client 9, it has been widely reported that Spitzer spent thousands of dollars at a time on prostitutes from Emperors Club VIP.

As Attorney General in 2004, Spitzer prosecuted at least two prostitution rings as the head of New York's organized crime task force.

Perhaps in an extended display of remorse, Spitzer made it clear that he took full responsibility for his actions.

"Over the course of my public life, I've insisted, I believe correctly, that people regardless of their position or power take responsibility for their conduct. I can and will ask no less of myself," Spitzer said in a press conference.

In New York, Spitzer worked with junior

Senator Hillary Clinton. In a fashion similar to the Monica Lewinski scandal, involving the former First Lady's husband Bill Clinton, Spitzer's misdeeds have spawned both shock and satire across the country.

Student Sarah Wilson questioned the former governor's already tattered credibility.

"If he's doing something like that, who knows what else he was involved with?" Wilson said.

In addition to his resignation, Spitzer could face criminal charges as a result of the prostitution scandal.

For days after Spitzer's original press conference, publications, television stations and radio programs discussed and continue to discuss the "Spitzer Scandal."

From Jon Stewart to Conan O'Brien, hosts of late night comedy are lining up to take jabs at Spitzer's already shattered public image. On March 11, David Letterman's "Top 10 List" was devoted to Spitzer's potential excuses.

Though the Spitzer Scandal has certainly created a negative image of New York Politics, upon his resignation a somewhat redeeming event occurred.

David Paterson, Spitzer's Lieutenant Governor became the first African American governor in the history of New York.

Paterson is the fourth African American governor in United States history and also the first legally blind governor in United States history.

However, with progress apparently comes penalty. One day after assuming the governor position, Paterson opened some windows into his life for America to look into.

Paterson and his wife admitted to extramarital affairs, including one with a state employee.

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More bridge tolls won't solve transportation issues

Washingtonians already weary of high taxes



Commentary by
Tessa Cosand

Just a few months ago, Governor Christine Gregoire wanted to implement a new form of taxation on Washington State residents. She saw taxation as a plausible way to raise money to replace the aging Highway 520 Bridge.

Even though her previous proposition was rejected, she once again is pushing for a new fee based proposal for those commuting across the Highway 520 Bridge. Gregoire's new offer would toll those commuting across the bridge, rather than create a new form of taxation.

Washington State citizens turned down her previous offer perhaps because we already are burdened by taxes.

Washington residents already pay a mile-per-gallon tax, a vehicle registration tax, emission taxes, and a handful of other taxes.

Washingtonians did not want to be forced to pay more taxes when they already are burdened by everyday living expenses.

This would not be the first time the public has been required to pay a fee other than taxes when using major transportation systems.

In 1963, commuters paid a toll to cross the 520 bridge until it was paid off in 1979. Even though this tax scheme worked, we have an annual rising tax budget already in place and do not need a permanent toll system.

An example of a failed attempt to ease congestion and pay for rising transportation costs are the toll systems already in place in many of the major cities on the East Coast. These cities continue to have high taxation for transportation, yet their congestion and

financial problems have not gone away.

Although, I applaud the governor for taking leadership to replace the deteriorating bridge, I reject the idea that we should use permanent tolls as a means to pay for poor transportation management.

Gregoire's latest proposal would force those commuting on the current 520 bridge to pay a toll that would range from \$6 to \$7 during peak hours. Once the new 520 Bridge is constructed however, commuters could pay up to \$10 during peak hours.

It seems logical to pay a toll on the 520 bridge until the bridge is completed. Lawmakers however, are trying to pass a bill that would make tolling on major transportation systems permanent.

Opponents of the measure see a flaw to the governor's proposal. Gregoire and democratic officials want the bridge to have four general purpose and two HOV lanes. They ignore the fact however, that with only six total lanes there is no room for expansion, which will be needed in the future.

Lawmakers are not just considering tolling on the Highway 520 Bridge. Tolls may also be enforced on Interstate 90 Bridge across Lake Washington, as well as on Highway 167, from Auburn to Renton.

This leads me to question if this is the beginning of a state-wide toll system. I see no fault in a temporary toll system to pay for specific transportation projects.

However, Washington state residents should not have to pay for a permanent toll system when they are already over burdened by high taxes.

Ironically, our state has one of the highest gas taxes in the nation. The gas tax was originally created to fix many of these transportation needs, but has done little to help our transportation problems.

Furthermore, how can we, the tax payers, be guaranteed that the revenue generated from tolling systems will be used exclusively for transportation projects?

If Gregoire's plan is carried out, will it have the same outcome as many other tax plans that just ended up in the general fund?

Editorials

Spitzer blew it, now let it go

A story of an affair always is attractive to people. People buzz when it's done by average people that they know, but they buzz even more when it's done by a public figure like Eliot Spitzer, the former governor of New York.

Many public figures have become the victims of these rumors from the late Lady Diana to the former President Bill Clinton. In the case of Eliot Spitzer, however, there are certain characteristics that make the case different.

The investigation of this case started with a suspicion of money laundering due to his huge spending. This investigation leads to the disclosure of his involvement in a prostitution ring. This conduct is considered a crime. It's not acceptable according to both moral and law.

The man himself was known to be really passionate when it comes to such cases. He had prosecuted at least two prostitution rings during his career as head of the state's organized crime task force. This sudden change of behavior contradicts his stance all along, and people started to question his views.

Nevertheless, politicians are chosen by their personal attitudes. Private matters do count in consideration of whether or not someone is worthy. That the former governor has crossed his own standard that he upheld strongly against other people is unacceptable - let alone his violation against the law.

In all fairness, he was smart enough to acknowledge his wrongdoing and not worsen his situation. Also, it is important to remember that he has done a lot during his career. It's unfair to brush aside all those over the one case.

Spitzer now has resigned. His case is processed by the federal government. He has taken the consequences of his action, so let this case rest.

Plagiarism always will be unacceptable crime

It's not uncommon for people, in the midst of the chaos that is their lives, to view assignments and jobs as obstacles.

When they need to take care of bills, clean their house, spend time with friends and family, they often can't find time to finish their responsibilities. And, it has become evident that with school and work, they are not always viewed as a priority.

And let's face it, when it comes to writing for school, job applications, or college entrance essays, there are many who would do most anything to get out of it.

However, plagiarism has been and always will be a crime. Plagiarism.com defines the copying or stealing of someone else's ideas or words as committing 'literary theft.'

What's sad is that with advanced technology, it has become easier and easier to copy and take credit for someone else's work. People can google a paper from the internet, copy the whole essay from an unknown writer in someone's blog, or just take a quote from someone's personal message on their facebook.

Plagiarism now is a common occurrence in everyday life, yet there should be no satisfaction in getting credit for work that is not one's own.

However, one hope remains in the fight against plagiarism, and this hope often is ignored by the criminals that commit the crime.

Although the advanced technology today make plagiarism easier, it also makes it easier to get caught.

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.

The Current Staff

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



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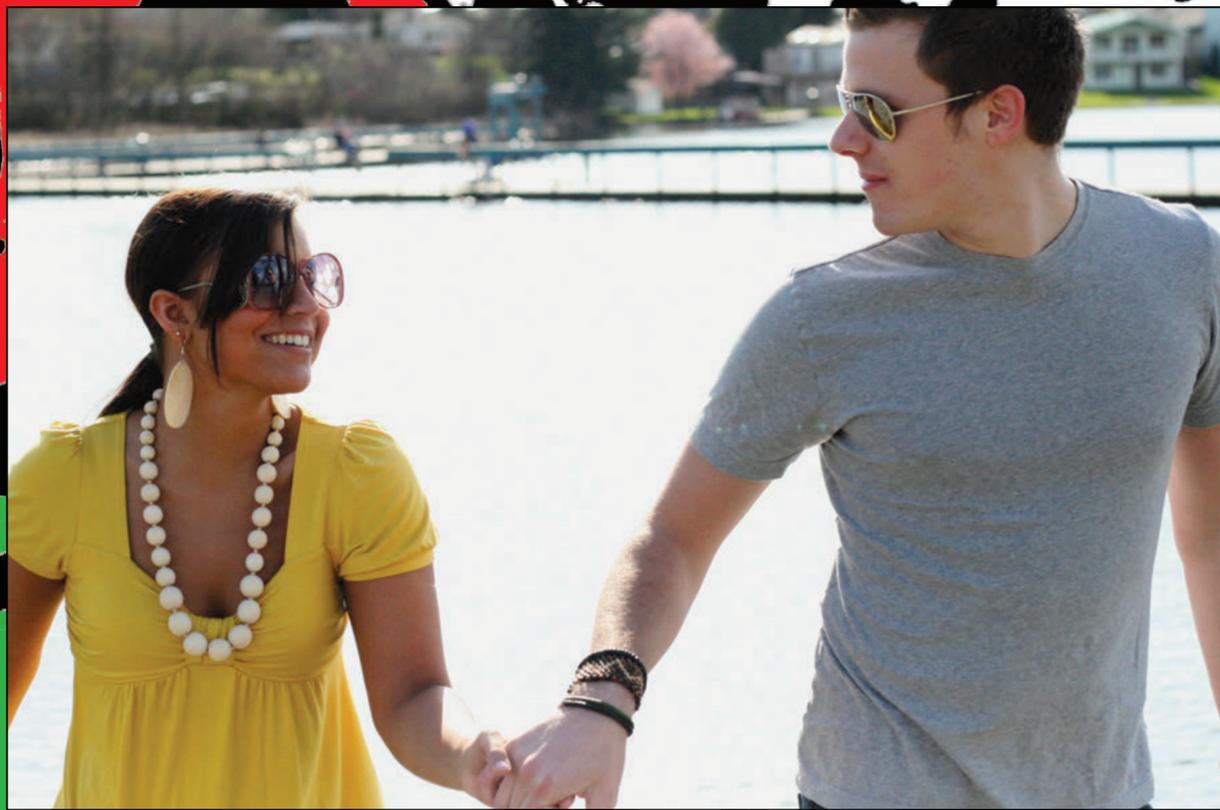


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Guys, be on the lookout for aviators, bracelets, or leather wrist bands. Girls, over-sized shades and chunky beaded jewelry are the hot accessories for spring.



A funky patterned mini dress paired with a bold colored belt, cinched at the waist, will give girls a fun and sophisticated look, perfect for a night out on the town.



A sheer tunic for girls and a classic cotton tee for boys are must haves for spring '08.

Spring into fashion

This season, it's all about color

Brittney Walker Higgins
Staff Writer

Students patiently are awaiting the sunshine and hoping for a chance to hang their winter coats up for good. And, this spring, it's all about creativity and color. The key to dressing well is developing your own sense of personal style and with these pointers; you will be looking fabulous for the season in no time.

For college students on a budget, it is important to buy pieces that you can mix and match. Concentrate on finding three great tops and three great bottoms that you know will last throughout the entire season.

Girls should make sure to include a sheer tunic this spring and guys, a classic polo that can be paired with almost anything is a must.

For girls who want to glam it up for a night venturing out onto the Seattle scene, look for bold modernized patterns on short dresses. If you're not so comfortable showing that much skin, have no fear; leggings and tights are a must-have for spring '08. Pair some tights with your mini dress.

Try a pair of cropped ankle-length leggings or tights. Throw on your favorite stiletto or a cute n' comfy pair of ballet flats and you're out-on-the-town outfit is complete.

For men who are looking to go out for the evening, a classic cotton button-down shirt will never go out of style. There are many patterns to choose from this spring. Try a crisp dress shirt in a bold color. Also, pay close attention to detail. Embroidery and fancy buttons are in this season.

Pair your button-down shirt with a pair of dark denim tailored jeans. Remember that wearing your jeans extremely baggy is

on its way out. Super tight jeans also are a fashion mistake. Be sure to find a happy "relaxed-fit" medium and you will be looking classy and ready to go.

As far as shoes are concerned, flip flops will never go out of spring style. They are perfect for both guys and girls on the go. Flip flops can take you from a lunch date to the beach in zero seconds flat.

Ladies, show off those pretty pedicured toes. Pinks and corals are in for spring.

Accessories are the key to spicing up any look. A simple cotton tee and jeans, when paired with the right belt, jewelry, shoes, and bag, can take you from casual to glamorous.

For girls, chunky beaded jewelry and bangles in an assortment of colors are in for spring. And, we mustn't forget about patent leather belts cinched at the waist. This will create a dramatic and elongated empire waist, which is flattering for almost every figure.

An accessory for both men and women that can stand the test of time is a fabulous watch. A watch can effortlessly take you from day to night in style and get you there on time.

Stores like Target, Forever 21, and Nordstrom's Rack have awesome affordable accessories that can update the look of any outfit.

This spring, stock your closet with beautiful, flattering pieces that you can just pull out, put on, and go. When shopping for the warmer weather that awaits us, keep these pointers in mind.

Soon enough, the campus will be full of the bright colors and funky patterns of spring 2008.

Brittney Walker Higgins is an employee at Plato's Closet in Tukwilla.

Photos and design by Sara Olson

Recruitment continues to be key factor in winning season

Athletes can compete on several different levels

Baris Cirak
Staff Writer

The most important part of acquiring players at the collegiate level in the collegiate athletic offseason is recruitment.

High school players from the region, state, and country often have achieved enough in high school to play for a university or four year college and are being scouted and recruited by those schools.

Recruitment usually is done by the scouts, assistant coaches, or the head coaches.

From the perspective of a community college, the recruiting process is harder than at a four year college because the best players in the country generally choose NCAA sanctioned universities.

However, Gator women's volleyball coach, Kyle Densley, has an opposing view.

"I believe it is possible for any of my athletes that I sign to play Division I if they put the work, effort, and attitude into how they train. The game is 80 percent mental, 20 percent physical; the only difference being, the dream and desire to achieve," Densley said. "My feelings are that junior college is a better stepping stone and experience, than struggling for a year or two to get playing time at a Division I school."

Having a good history of sports along with an attractive campus, or having players, coaches, and staff that players know is crucial to the recruiting process. Players that are not good enough to play in

the NCAA under a scholarship generally choose to go to community college to showcase their abilities for NCAA schools.

The Gator volleyball team has several players who intend to play at the NCAA level. For example, sophomore outside hitter Taryn Baker has been accepted to play at Tennessee State University.

Another sophomore, Tricia Mowatt is going to Central Washington University. Rebecca Fister, a sophomore setter, has offers from about a half dozen universities, but remains undecided on which to attend.

The recruiting process has three steps: Sourcing, screening/selection, and onboarding.

The sourcing process generally is completed by the scouts, whose profession is to hunt for players and recommend them to schools.

Players on the team also aid the sourcing process, because they often know younger players from their high school team. Also, good coaches make

good impressions around the region, and sometimes coaches will be recommended to play under a good coach. Densley is one of those good coaches.

"Players of mine speak highly of me to their younger (former) teammates, who in turn contact me about their interest in playing for me," Densley, said about one of his different styles of recruitment.

Coaches also use the internet and word of mouth to network among NCAA schools as well as smaller schools.

Just like anything else in life, making the right choice is fundamental in college sports.

"I believe it is possible for any of my athletes that I sign to play Division I if they put the work, effort, and attitude into how they train."

*—Kyle Densley,
Gator women's volleyball head coach*

Gator Profiles Baseball players, Shane Colbert and Ryan Voelkel



Name: Shane Colbert
Position: Infield

Q: What is your favorite food?

A: Steak.

Q: Who is your favorite musical artist?

A: Linkin Park

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: "Grandma's Boy."

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?

A: Payton Manning.

Q: If you weren't a baseball player, what would you be?

A: A golfer.

Q: What is one thing you want to improve on this season?

A: Hitting line drives.

Q: What do you do to get pumped up for a game?

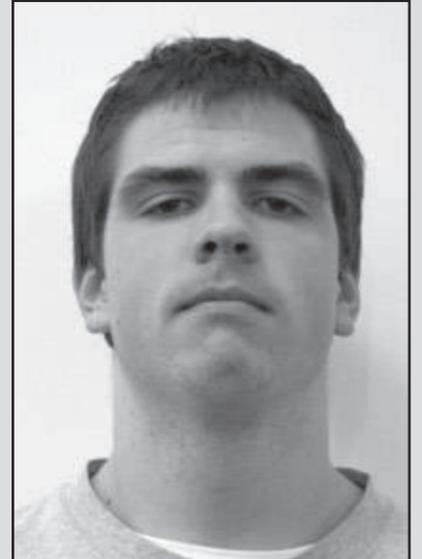
A: Show up.

Q: What is your favorite part of playing for the Gators?

A: The atmosphere.

Q: Do you have any words of advice for young baseball players?

A: Listen to your coaches..



Name: Ryan Voelkel
Position: First base

Q: Who is your favorite musical artist?

A: Lil' Wayne.

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: "Count of Monte Cristo."

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?

A: Yuniesky Betancourt.

Q: If you weren't a baseball player, what would you be?

A: A doctor.

Q: What is one thing you want to improve on this season?

A: My defense and speed.

Q: What do you do to get pumped up for a game?

A: I listen to my iPod on random.

Q: What is your favorite part of playing for the Gators?

A: Knowing that other teams don't like us and the camaraderie.

Q: Do you have any words of advice for young baseball players?

A: Play every game like it's your last and have fun, because that's why we do it.

Softball schedule

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
4/4	Highline/Des Moines	TBA
4/5	Centralia/Green River	1 p.m.
4/8	Pierce/Tacoma	2 p.m.
4/11	Grays Harbor/Green River	2 p.m.
4/12	South Puget Sound/Green River	1 p.m.
4/15	Highline/Green River	2 p.m.
4/19-4/20	NWAACC Crossover/Pasco	TBA

Baseball schedule

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
4/5	Grays Harbor/Aberdeen	1 p.m.
4/6	Grays Harbor/Green River	2 p.m.
4/12	Lower Columbia/Green River	1 p.m.
4/13	Pierce/Green River	1 p.m.
4/19	Centralia/Green River	1 p.m.
4/20	Centralia/Centralia	1 p.m.
4/26	Tacoma/Green River	1 p.m.
4/27	Grays Harbor/Aberdeen	1 p.m.
5/3	Lower Columbia/Longview	1 p.m.
5/4	Lower Columbia/Green River	1 p.m.
5/7	Pierce/Green River	3 p.m.
5/10	Pierce/S. Tacoma	1 p.m.
5/11	Centralia/Centralia	1 p.m.

Gators struggle in early season

Baseball team unable to deliver victories despite big bats

Sara Olson
Staff Writer

The bats may be back, but the victories aren't yet for the Gator baseball team.

In preseason play, Green River earned a 7-9 record and hoped to improved on that in league play.

The Gators played the second game of their regular season play on March 31, facing off against division competitors Tacoma Community College. Green River managed to provide offense, but came up short on the win.

Sluggers, Brady Van Hoof and Ryan Voelkel, came out with their bats, each contributing a home run to the Gator's nine hits. Van Hoof also went 4 for 5.

It wasn't enough as the Titans won by a score of 8-7, the loss going to sophomore

pitcher James Douglas.

However, the March 31 game was an improvement from the Gator's first game of the season against the Titans on March 30.

Green River supplied only four hits, losing by a score of 4-0.

The softball team also has gotten off to a slow start this season. As of March 31, the team stood 0-4 in preseason play, including one forfeit.

Both teams can be seen in action throughout April and May, as they seek to turn things around and drive toward a championship trophy.

For more information on individual and team statistics for the Gators, visit www.cybersports.org or www.greenriver.edu/athletics

Alexander's time with Seahawks has run out

Acquisition of Jim Mora, Jr. signals end of career with Seattle for running back



Column by
Casey Greer

Shaun Alexander's time in Seattle has neared its end.

The writing was on the wall as the 2008 offseason began, but the signings of T.J. Duckett and Julius Jones have all but sealed the former MVP's fate.

Alexander is the most productive running back in Seahawks' history. He's been nothing but a model citizen away from the field, which is a breath of fresh air in today's NFL.

Unfortunately for Alexander, charity work doesn't equate to first downs or championships.

Alexander has been deservingly criticized the past two seasons, with his effort being questioned by the local and national media on a weekly basis.

Alexander was a running back for the Alabama Crimson Tide, whose slogan is "Roll Tide." Unfortunately, in the past few years the former 'Bama back has been doggin' it and has adopted a new slogan; "Roll - over."

The most poignant criticism

described his running style as "running for space to fall down in."

Alexander's struggles have been well documented in the past two seasons - struggles which coincided with the departure of Steve Hutchinson, Alexander approaching the over-the-hill benchmark for running backs of 30 years old, and a series of injuries. However, Alexander's effort between the 20's has been questioned since early in his career.

Alexander apologists have described him with a bevy of clichés, championed by his "nose for the endzone." In the past two years, those same apologists have been rewarded with 12 total touchdowns, down from 48 in the previous two seasons.

So, if that "nose for the endzone" was congested, it certainly was not stuffed with goal line chalk.

Perhaps the most disconcerting aspect of Alexander's career, even previous to the past two seasons, are his level of comfort and a sense of entitlement that

have emanated as his career progressed.

Despite being highly productive, Alexander was criticized early in his career for giving only partial effort outside of the redzone.

Alexander also has been essentially fazed out of the passing game, despite catching 101 balls in his first two full seasons as a starter, which indicates a deeper lack of effort.

In the ultimate team sport, a sport where every man on the field has an affect on each play, Alexander has placed a greater premium on paychecks and personal achievement than overall team success.

Alexander has been given a lot of false praise during his prime, known as a player who performed well in the lime light.

Alexander has had some of his biggest games on Sunday and Monday Night Football.

However, that notion hasn't transferred to the postseason, where the lights have dimmed on Alexander's performance, averaging a pedestrian 3.3 yards per carry in his nine postseason games to this point.

After winning in the final

regular season game of 2004, a game clinched the NFC West for the Seahawks; Alexander claimed to have been stabbed in the back.

Matt Hasselbeck got the call on the Seahawks final offensive play, a one yard touchdown run. The touchdown put the Seahawks ahead for good against the Atlanta Falcons.

Alexander finished the season one yard short of the NFL rushing title.

As Alexander approached that offseason, when he was scheduled to be a free agent, he warned the Seahawks that they'd have to "come correct" to retain his services.

Despite his warnings, the Seahawks tendered Alexander the franchise tag, effectively forcing Alexander to remain in Seattle under a one year contract.

The following season, Alexander won the MVP running primarily behind two of the greatest offensive linemen of their era, Walter Jones and Steve Hutchinson. Alexander signed a long-term deal after the 2005 season, a deal which Alexander's camp grossly misrepresented as a victory for their client.

While Alexander's total salary was on par with contracts signed by perceived elite running backs

in a dwindling market, the amount of actual guaranteed money in the contract has laid the foundation for Alexander's imminent release.

"Unfortunately for Alexander, charity work doesn't equate to first downs or championships."

If Alexander is released or traded, the Seahawks will incur a salary cap penalty on his remaining signing bonus, which is guaranteed, but

prorated over the first five years of the contract in terms of its effect on the salary cap.

If his departure occurs prior to June 1, the Seahawks will save less than \$1M, but will have the choice to prorate the cap hit from the remaining bonus over the next two seasons if he's released or traded after June 1. Next year they would save at least \$3M.

Much of the Seahawks decision should rest on their plans for Jim Mora, Jr. The recent running back acquisitions indicate that Alexander merely is a warm body on the depth chart. If the Seahawks release him, they will incur the cap hit this season, and Mora will begin his tenure with a nearly clean slate in terms of salary cap.

Regardless of the timing of Alexander's eventual departure, I say good riddance.

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Over 2,000 expected at commencement

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

They're not awful, but listeners will love Ludo

Author shares stories of love lost and found in book

Sara Olson
Staff Writer

Singing contradictions and whistling catchy melodies have been perfected by the new band Ludo.

The band out of St. Louis, Mo. released their new album, "You're Awful, I Love You," this March and will have listeners tapping their toes to their snappy rock songs.

The five-man band is somewhat happier version of My Chemical Romance, singing songs about streetlights and those girls you hate to love.

Their first single, "Love Me Dead," has been featured on rock radio and is likeable at first listen. Despite the lyrics that are as frustrating as its topic, the song that features a singing, whistling, and clapping is hard to hate.

As listeners easily sing along, they will

find themselves getting caught by strange lyrics such as, "You're hideous and sexy," and "You have the mark of the beast, you're born of a jackal, I love you."

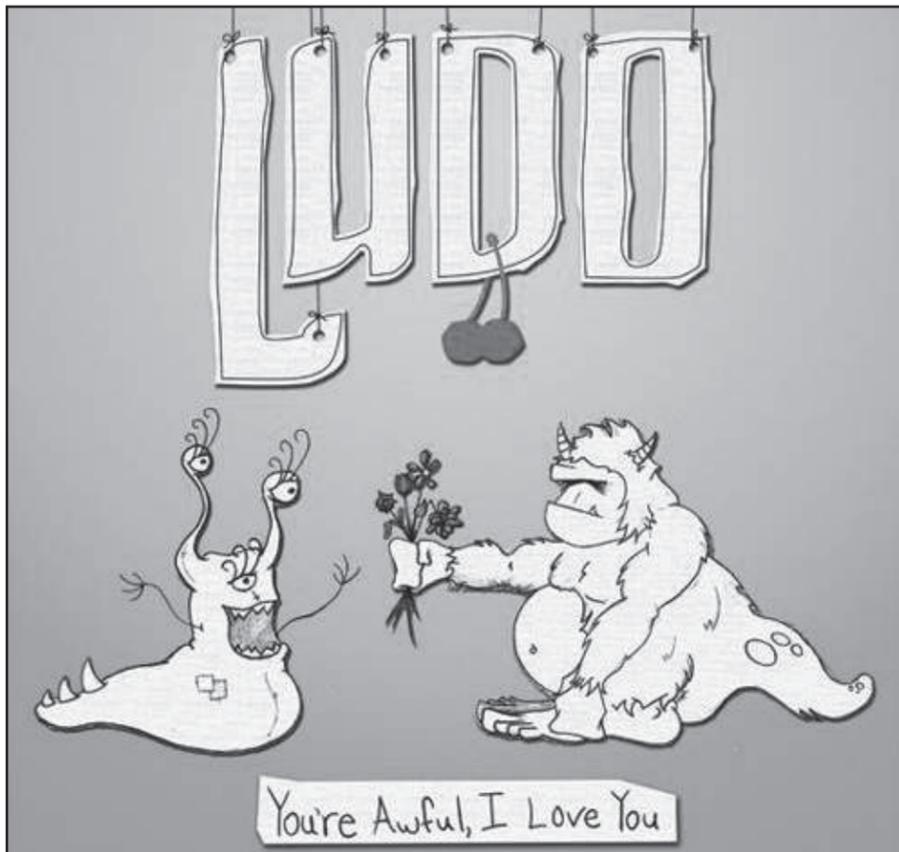
"Drunken Lament," is hard to dislike as well, as the band has mastered a rock sound that listeners don't have to acquire a taste for. And, with sweet lullaby melodies from songs such as, "Please" and "Streetlights," Ludo covers all the elements necessary for a hit album.

"You're Awful, I Love You," is the band's first album with Island Records and was produced by Maroon 5 producer, Matt Wallace.

The album has proven to be just as catchy as Maroon 5, showing that is capable of radio longevity. And, like Maroon 5, "Love Me Dead" is capable of staying in someone's head for the rest of the day as "Makes Me Wonder" does after the first five seconds.

Overall, Ludo has set a standard for itself with their new album, which hopefully only will be followed by more of the same good music.

Ludo's new album, "You're Awful, I Love You," provides a perfect mix of sweet serenades and catchy hooks.



www.myspace.com/ludorock/Courtesy Photo

'Eat, Pray, Love' perfect book for every woman

Author shares stories of love lost and found in book

Colleen Morgan
Staff Writer

New York Times best seller, "Eat Pray Love," is a splendidly written story that most women can relate to.

"Eat Pray Love" is a true story written by Elizabeth Gilbert sharing her struggle to find happiness. She has to decide whether

the rules of society are what she really wants her life to be like.

Gilbert lived the typical suburban life, but hit the breaking point when she decided that having children wasn't for her. Her husband wanted them, and Elizabeth decided to ask for a divorce.

During and after the messy divorce, Gilbert struggled with depression, and decided that she wanted to travel to three different places in the course of a year. Her destinations of choice were Italy, India, and Indonesia.

This is where her clever title comes into play. Gilbert discovered the wonderful food in Italy where she ate, studied yoga

with a Guru in India where she prayed, and found true love in Indonesia on the island of Bali.

This inspiring journey is a must read for every woman of every age. This book shows that how society tends to put people in roles that leave them unnoticed. It's natural to play the part whether it's mother, father, daughter, son, brother, or wife.

However, how can one possibly know if that is the right life for them unless they think about it and decide?

This is where Gilbert's struggle is highlighted. Choosing between what society says is right for her and choosing what she thinks is best for her. Based on the

book, this was probably one of the hardest decisions she ever had to make. However, once she made it, her journey began.

New York Times Jennifer Egan is quoted as saying, "If a more likable writer than Gilbert is currently in print, I haven't found him or her...Gilbert's prose is fueled by a mix of intelligence, wit and colloquial exuberance that is close to irresistible, and makes the reader only too glad to join the posse of friends and devotees who have the pleasure of listening in."

This book is unquestionably worth the read.

Spring Fling

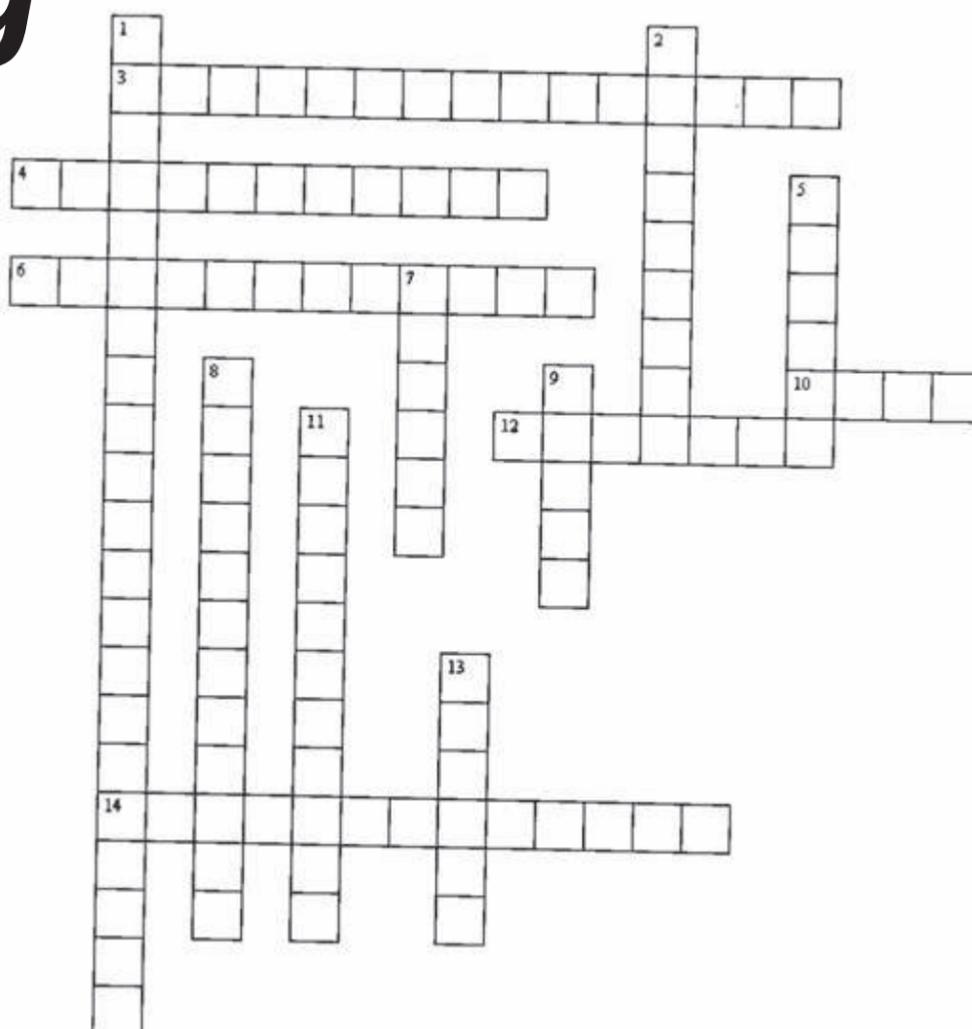
Across

- 3 A spring release Dr. Seuss recreation, in theaters now.
- 4 Small stuffed cylindrical Asian cuisine.
- 6 Beach destination for college students in the sunny south of Florida.
- 10 Formal high school dance held in the spring.
- 12 Small, white and yellow, sunflower-like flora.
- 14 Reality movie about college students on spring break.

Down

- 1 Reknown springtime celebration originated in Asia.
- 2 Sunshine-yellow flowers planted as a bulb.
- 5 Colorful springtime flowers planted as a bulb.
- 7 An oversized bunny is expected on this spring holiday.
- 8 _____ bring May flowers.
- 9 Spring months.
- 11 College students' favorite place to party.
- 13 Popular spring break hot spot in Mexico.

Answers on page 2



'Panic' comes back with new sound, album

Band delivers hits that may strike some as 'Pretty. Odd.'

Sara Olson
Staff Writer

Panic has struck the nation once again. With their snappy songs and myriad of sounds, Panic At the Disco, formerly known as Panic! At the Disco, is back with their second album, "Pretty. Odd."

The band scratched all previous work on the latest album in July, 2007, and rewrote all the songs, hoping to present the best version of their sound.

"Pretty. Odd." definitely is a different sound for the band, showing a huge contrast between the darker and more explicit songs on their first album, "A Fever You Can't Sweat Out."

The new album presents a more subdued and positive Panic At the Disco, sans makeup and creepy circus costumes, not to mention the exclamation point after the "panic" in their name.

All is not gone of the original "Panic" image, however, as the band sports animal costumes in the music video for their first single, "Nine in the Afternoon." And, fans who love the makeup still will detect occasional eyeliner and shadow on the boys.

The new single, "Nine in the Afternoon," released on Jan. 28, was a good first showing, but somewhat misleading sample of the band's new album. The song is



www.punkrawknews.net/Courtesy Photo

Panic at the Disco has proven its staying power with new album, "Pretty. Odd." The band's second album shows a much lighter and positive side to the band, unlike its first album, "A Fever You Just Can't Seat Out."

recognizable as a typical "Panic" song, with Brendon Urie's signature vocals sounding only just enough different from Patrick Stump of Fall Out Boy.

However, after listening to "Pretty. Odd.," fans will be surprised by the soulful

serenades and songs that sound straight out of a vintage film. "Folkin' Around," a two-minute track on the new album, especially will catch listeners off guard, as the opening bars sound straight out of a country square dance.

The song "When the Day Met the Night," also shows a different side of "Panic," as the it earns descriptors, such as lovely and sweet.

Despite the new vibe and slightly different image that accompanies "Pretty. Odd.," the band has managed to do something other rock bands often fail at. They've created

something new, while remaining true to their fan base.

Listeners will not feel as if they're merely listening to the sequel to the first album. Instead, fans will be satisfied when they hear the already famous group expand their horizons and tap into an uncharted area for the band.

The sound is new and unexpected, but it won't disappoint. The album is different for the band, but not different enough make fans fall out of love with them. It only will show listeners different reasons to love "Panic" more.

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El Corazon:
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Weighing in

Students say media paints negative view of body image

Katie Barr
Staff Writer

For years, the media has created an unhealthy view on body image by flocking over celebrities' bodies, making a public ordeal when a celebrity gains two pounds and pushing them into the limelight constantly.

"Everyone has a perfect body, and what isn't perfect, they airbrush out," student Lonnie Hunter said about the media's influence on beauty.

However, in reality, millions struggle with eating disorders, ranging from anorexia and bulimia to binge eating. And, some say that the media shares in the responsibility of the prevalence of such disorders.

"The average model is anywhere from 5'8" to 6'2" and weigh anywhere from 100- 115 pounds, and they're plastered all over magazines and over the televisions, everywhere you look," student Jennifer Willey said.

Willey thinks that the media puts emphasis on the need for people to conform to the perfect body type.

With so much pressure on society to achieve a perfect body, some would go to great lengths to conform to that body type. But, with the standards of

what a perfect body type is, is it possible?

Willey and others have felt pressured to diet in order to fit into media's representation of the perfect body.

And, with surgery, Botox, and liposuction, some believe that the "perfect" body is attainable.

However, some believe that just because it's attainable, it isn't always desirable.

"You see pictures of models that are tiny, too tiny. They just show the ones that are skin and bones. I don't know very many women that are that skinny," student Ashley Tomlinson said. "I think the perfect body is what you think it is, so, yes, it is possible."

Student Mike Fish also thinks that the media's depiction of the perfect woman isn't necessarily correct.

"I don't feel that I limit myself to just a generalized choice. It has to do more with the individual girl and how she looks," Fish said. "Just because a girl's petite doesn't mean that I would think she's attractive. I also wouldn't automatically think that a curvy woman was not attractive based on her body type."

Tomlinson doesn't think that achieving the perfect body is necessary.

"I don't think it's that important because I don't think that's what people look at when they see people," Tomlinson said.

However, some people still feel pressured by the media's exploitation of body image.

"It's important for me to stay healthy and look good because health and appearance are important to me," Hunter said.

With so much pressure on the inconceivable image of the perfect body the media conveys, some wonder what that pressure does if it's not reached.

"It's definitely not important for you to have a perfect body, but for you to be healthy and comfortable with yourself," Willey said.

Men also are affected by the media's pressure to have a perfect body.

Fish said, "I do feel that in order to be comfortable with myself I need to continue to work out and be fit."

However, Fish said that the obsession with weight and image that has developed in both sexes doesn't bring out the beauty of the individual.

"Constant worrying of self-image is an annoying trait that most of the girls I know suffer from. Most of them are very attractive already," Fish said.