

What security is doing here to prevent the possibility of such a tragedy here at GRCC.

see page 4

The Green River Community College Student Newspaper Since 1965

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Biodiesel - The new alternative fuel source

As the energy crisis worsens, more and more people are looking for an alternative route to diesel fuel.

Taylor Gillan
News Editor

Recently there has been a lot of media attention given to the alternative fuel biodiesel. MTV, for their "Break the Addiction" campaign, has been airing shows promoting biodiesel, including an episode of "Pimp My Ride" with California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger as a guest, and "Pimp My (Biodiesel) Ride" featuring the West Philadelphia High School auto club and their award-winning biodiesel sports car.

Pop icons, such as Willie Nelson and Jack Johnson, have converted their tour buses to biodiesel. Several upcoming popular music tours are doing their part to utilize biodiesel as well, including the Warped Tour, Lollapalooza, Austin City Limits, All Good and Bonaroo.

So now the question many of us have: What is biodiesel, and how can I get on the alternative fuel wagon?

Biodiesel is a clean-burning and biodegradable fuel derived from natural and renewable resources such as soybeans, corn and used cooking oil. Biodiesel can be used in nearly any diesel engine with few or no modifications.

Typically, the engines that need modifications, usually limited to changing the filter more frequently, are those with 80,000 miles or more. Biodiesel can be purchased at local distributors or made at home. Home kits are a bit pricey, with small processors (240 gallons per batch) running from \$2,800 to \$7,000. The USDA offers grants for biodiesel production. Homemade biodiesel typically costs around \$0.75 per gallon.

There are 36 commercial locations offering biodiesel in Washington State. Unfortunately, there are no distributors in close proximity to GRCC. The closest locations are in Seattle, Tacoma, one location in Fife and one in Bellevue. Commercial soybean biodiesel costs about \$1.45-\$1.47 per gallon, and yellow (cooking oil) biodiesel costs around \$0.89-\$0.91 per gallon, according to the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Biodiesel burns 90% cleaner

than conventional diesel, called petro-diesel, by reducing the amount of unburned hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide in car emissions.

There are no sulfur dioxide emissions and barely any CO2 is produced. Biodiesel can increase nitrogen (NOx) emissions, but these emissions can be reduced by using different blends of biodiesel and petro-diesel.

Blends of biodiesel are denoted in a simple fashion, with a B standing for biodiesel and a number following it to indicate the percent of biodiesel blended with petro-diesel. B20, the most commonly used commercial blend, is a mix of 20 percent biodiesel and 80 percent petro-diesel.

There are several reasons for using blends of biodiesel, the most common being cold weather. B100 tends to coagulate in colder climates. Using a blend of biodiesel and petro-diesel helps keep the fuel in a liquid state in cold temperatures. In warmer months, B100 works fine. Other reasons include engine performance, primarily a concern in large industrial engines, and cost.

B100 diesel gets 11% fewer miles per gallon than petro-diesel, while B20 gets 2.2 percent fewer. Considering the soaring prices of petro-diesel and the environmental benefits, the trade off appears to be a good one. Biodiesel is also a better lubricant than petro-diesel, allowing the engine to last much longer. Performance and power for the two fuels are nearly the same.

One of the few drawbacks, other than possibly having to change filters more frequently, is the problem of bacteria. Because biodiesel is an oxygenated fuel, it permits the growth of bacteria.

This occurs mostly in larger cars where the larger fuel tanks allow air to sit in a half empty tank. This problem is easily solved by adding biocides, available at most biodiesel distributors. The biocides should be used about once a month and cost around \$30.00 per bottle.

Sales of biodiesel in the U.S. have risen from 500,000 gallons in 1999 to 25 million gallons in 2004, and sales are predicted to increase each year - an important

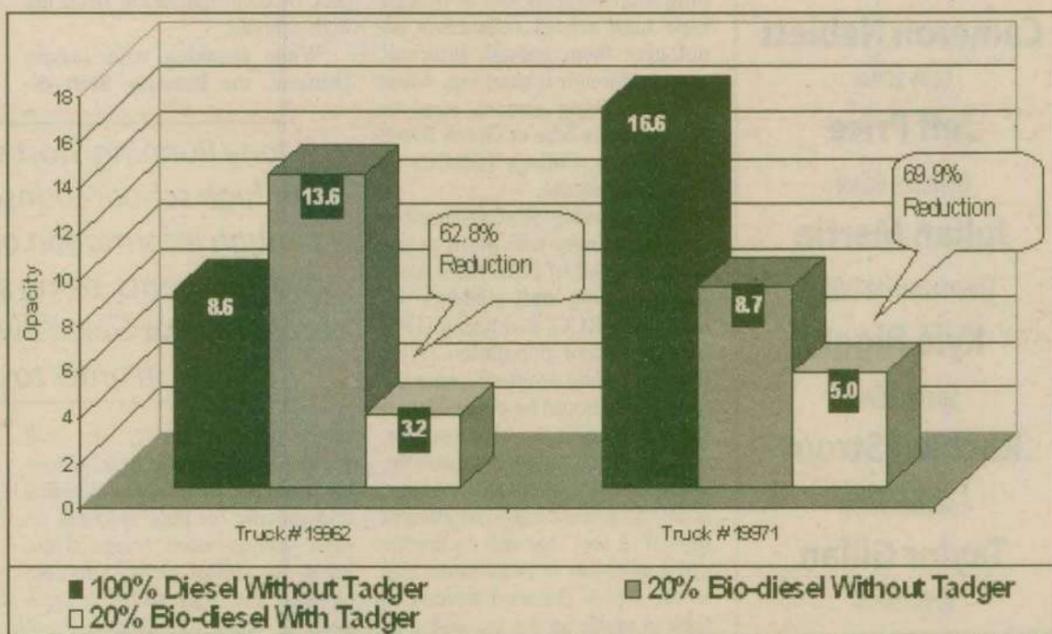


Photo courtesy of The Tadger Group
A graph showing the reduction of emissions in vehicles using biodiesel fuel compared to vehicles using normal diesel fuel.

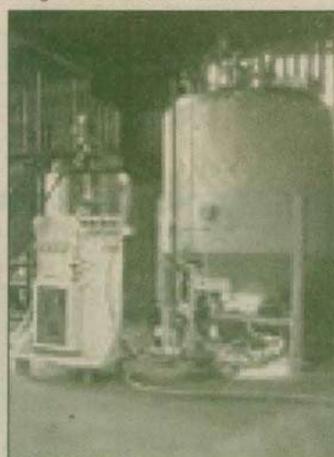


Photo courtesy of Blue House
A jar of biodiesel fuel next to one of the main ingredients used to make the fuel.

first step in curbing the U.S. contribution to global warming.

But there is still a long way to go. Currently, one-third of all global warming gases are produced by cars and traffic in the U.S. With the use of alternative fuels such as biodiesel, our country can drastically reduce the amount of air pollution and slow the global warming process.

Sources: www.ezbiodiesel.com; www.eia.doe.gov; www.think.mtv.com; www.stopglobalwarming.org



Photos courtesy of Blue House
Left: A biodiesel tank. Right: A bunch of soybeans, one of the main ingredients in the fuel.

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GRCC holds Human Rights Film Festival

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Spring sport teams continue to perform well. Plus, fastpitch records first win in two years.

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High school counselors need to better prepare students

Mariel Gothmann
Staff Reporter

Running Start, a program designed to help high school students finish their high school credits as well as gain college credits, is actually not as beneficial and simple as it seems. Many Running Start students feel as though their high school counselors do not give them enough information or enough instruction. Most students, being seniors, need to finish credits here at Green River Community College (GRCC) in order to graduate.

The Running Start program is becoming more and more popular. In the fall of 2006 there were 1,127 running start students enrolled at GRCC, making up 12% of the student population. With this expanding program, more information should be expanding at the high schools as well. However, most high schools don't teach the students much about the program at all. As a Running Start student myself, I feel that my counselor did a poor job in communicating to me which classes I needed to take to make up for my required

high school classes and how they all translate. When speaking with other Running Start students, I began to realize that many of them have the same issues with their high schools. Some are even struggling to graduate, because they ended up taking wrong classes or other situations due to lack of communication from the high schools.

When speaking with Jessica Gilmore, the Running Start di-

rector here at GRCC, she told me that some of the high school counselors are more detailed and specific for their students on their authorization forms while some are almost blank. She also showed me that some schools such as Kentridge High School

make a parent/student handbook, which gives an equivalency chart of all of the required high school classes and which college classes will suit them. In my opinion, and I think many other Running Start students would agree, this is be something that all high school counselors should be required to provide. Another thing that she showed was that some counselors provide students with credit check-off sheets in which the

complete those required credits. I was also able to get some advice and opinions from Gilmore. Some great advice that she gave for all Running Start students is to get things in writing. This is great advice for those of you who have counselors who are not helping enough. If your counselor doesn't write down enough information on your authorization form, then write down what he or she tells you to during your meeting.

When asked if Gilmore would recommend Running Start she replied "It depends on the student and their readiness. The student needs to know what they're getting themselves into. Coming here requires responsibility and maturity." She also added "One thing that we try to express to students at the orientation is that it is not going to be like high school. It truly is a college experience." Lastly, Gilmore would like students to know that if they need more information on the program to feel free to call and ask questions.

"Many Running Start students feel as though their high school counselors do not give them enough information or enough instruction. Most students, being seniors, need to finish credits here at Green River Community College in order to graduate."

rector here at GRCC, she told me that some of the high school counselors are more detailed and specific for their students on their authorization forms while some are almost blank. She also showed me that some schools such as Kentridge High School

counselor and student can take notes to show which classes will cover the high school credits. This also seems like something that all counselors should give to students, especially seniors who are approaching their graduation, and running out of time to com-

Letters to the editor

Dear Editor,

The Washington Community and Technical College Counselor Association sends its condolences and sympathy to the victims, survivors, and families at Virginia Tech. This tragic event, which has affected us all, has left us with heartache and many unanswered questions. While we may never have a satisfactory answer as to why the shootings occurred, we are committed to thinking critically about how we can prevent such a tragedy from occurring in our state.

The numbers of students on our campuses who have mental health illnesses and who take psychiatric medications are ever increasing. Nine out of ten university counseling center direc-

tors believe that in recent years, there has been an increase in the number of counseling center clients with severe psychological issues. Improved psychiatric medications, less stigma around mental health, increased stressors, and heightened awareness around mental health, are all contributing factors in why more students with mental health issues are arriving on campuses and seeking help as they pursue their academic goals.

Simultaneously, the number of counselor positions at Washington's community and technical colleges has not kept pace with the growing needs of our student population. In 1985 there was one counselor per 1086 students. In 2000 there was one counselor per 1604 students (Martin, 2004). In the face of unprecedented stu-

dent demands, community and technical college counselors are being asked to do more with less. Funding issues and institutional/societal ambivalence about serving students with personal issues likely contribute to the inadequate counselor staffing patterns at Washington's community and technical colleges.

While the counselors of Washington's community and technical colleges serve varied roles on our diverse campuses, our mutual ambitions are focused on student success. We believe that we can play a pivotal role in the prevention of further tragedies on our campuses. We are strategizing with our counseling community members to implement new and innovative measures that will more quickly and accurately identify

troubled students so that they can be offered support and assistance. Several colleges are implementing improved emergency communication systems, establishing trauma/crisis response teams, and increasing the availability of counselors for walk-in appointments, to name a few strategies. On many campuses very important discussions are taking place about how, as a collective group, we can more swiftly respond to student crises. We are optimistic that out of these discussions will come positive change, change that will in all ways move our students toward success.

Liz McKinney, Ph.D.
President of the WCTCCA

Dear Editor,

My name is Margarita Atanasova and I am the one of the candidates for vice president of the student government. When I read your endorsement of the candidates for president and vice president, I was disappointed about the things the Current wrote about me.

I understand that Current has

to recommend the best candidate in its editorials. But, at the same time, it has to accurately report on all of the things that I said during the candidate interviews.

But I don't feel like you accurately portrayed my views. For example, when I was asked how I would improve over the current vice president, Ca\$h Chen, you quoted me "I don't know if I can improve upon what Ca\$h is do-

ing" But after that I said that I can express my ideas.

Another example is when The Current wrote that I have no experience. I said that I don't have the experience that Megan Borjeson has. But as a member of the student senate I gained knowledge about the issues that are currently on campus. Also I have experience working with children where I developed valuable skills such

as communication and discipline.

As a member of the team for Carnival Cruise Line and Chartwells, I also learned to work with people from many different backgrounds. I think those qualities are also important for being good candidate.

Margarita Atanasova

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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 student publications to students, and therefore assumes no responsibility for the content of the publications. The College acknowledges the dual purpose of student publications as instructional tools and as vehicles for free inquiry and free expression in the academic community.

The views and opinions expressed in The Current do not necessarily reflect those of the College or the student body.

We encourage all students and staff to have their voices heard. The Current will publish Letters to the Editor provided they are signed and submitted in a timely manner. Letters should be e-mailed to thecurrent@greenriver.edu. We will not publish letters which demean any person because of race, gender, class or sexual orientation. We reserve the right to edit letters for conventions and taste.

Gang activity on campus rising, wreaking havoc on student life

Cameron Neblett
Staff Reporter

According to The Current sources, gang activity has been on the rise on campus, sparking fear in many students and leading some to skip classes. "I just couldn't take it anymore," said an anonymous student, "they kept running at me trying to scare me. They didn't attack me, but they drug trash around everywhere, and chased students all over campus. I stopped going to class because of it."

Indeed, students around campus echoed the same sentiments. While the gang activity has been a nuisance on campus for years, signs seem to indicate a recent upswing in gang-related activity.

"Before, they used to just run around solo, but lately they've been pairing up into larger groups. They're much more intimidating now," claimed

a staff member aware of the problem. "They used to seem kind of cool; some of them were even, you know, cute. But now, they're just a terror."

Campus security officials were dismissive about the issue. "While we realize that some students are disturbed, we hardly think they pose a danger. So far no one has been injured, and we do not believe there is an organized, coordinated activity behind it. The whole idea of squirrel gangs is ludicrous," stated John the Security Guy in a formal meeting on the topic.

Mr. X, the radical squirrel activist, provided a different take: "Messing with parking was just the first step in our plans. Now we're teaming up and taking it to the students directly. I'm not afraid of a little terrorist activity. This is guerrilla warfare and as long no one gets seriously hurt, I sleep well at night."

When pressed further about the top-

ic, Mr. X became evasive. "Hey, I'm not the squirrel in charge here. After how you sold out Chip, I'm not introducing you to anybody. I probably shouldn't even be talking to you."

Chip N. Nutlover, who was interviewed in an earlier article, was found dead last week. Hospital records show that his death was caused by an extreme allergic reaction. When asked about the reports, Mr. X stated: "Ain't no squirrel ever been allergic to peanuts. He was set up, and everyone knows it."

Both sides are uninterested in discussing the issue, leaving students trapped in the middle. Until the squirrels and campus officials sit down and talk, students will be forced to continue living in fear of the squirrel gangs on campus. Hopefully the two sides will resolve the issue before the squirrel gang activity escalates out of control.



Photo courtesy of Scary Squirrel
A member of one of the latest gangs gets ready for action.

Student writes article for The Current and gets published

Cameron Neblett
Staff Reporter

Sometimes, miracles do happen. For one lucky student, dreams of being published and becoming famous have finally come true. "I just can't believe it. I never thought this could happen to me."

After submitting an article to The Current for publication, the

article was accepted and printed in the paper. "It makes me feel like I'm famous. I've been walking around with the article taped to my chest and people keep looking at me and pointing me out to their friends. It's amazing," said John Doe, an alias devised by the student to remain anonymous and avoid the spotlight of fame.

After years of English courses from elementary school through

high school and even into college, Doe has finally found his payoff. When asked about his newfound riches, Doe was modest: "Well, they didn't pay me for it. But my mom sure was impressed."

Indeed, impressing mothers is a daily challenge for most students, and while many struggle to keep ahead of the mommy-pleasing cycle, Doe doesn't foresee any trouble in the near future.

"She shows the paper to all of her friends and co-workers. She's been doing that for a while now and I don't think she'll be done bragging soon."

Now that Doe has achieved his longtime goal, he looks to the future with bigger goals in mind. "I think I might try to write a novel now," Doe says. With the publicity garnered from his newspaper appearance, Doe's prospects are

high. This dream come true isn't restricted to Doe alone. All students are encouraged to write for the paper and submissions are accepted year round. Interested writers should submit their articles to thecurrent@greenriver.edu. As Doe says: "Sometimes, fame is just an e-mail away."

ASK THIS GUY!



Need advice? This guy's got it!

Advice Column By: The Staff Eccentric

"Judy's brother is three times as old as Michelle's younger sister, who is traveling 60 miles per hour east along the hypotenuse of a triangle. In five years, what will Dick Cheney's Social Security number be?"

- Just4MathVunderkid

At first glance this seems to be a complicated question, but if you attack it step by step it's really quite simple. To establish Judy's brother's age, we have to find Michelle's age. The only info we have regarding her is the speed at which she is traveling. Using Euler's Velocity Theorem, we find Michelle's age to be inversely proportionate to the speed at which she is traveling (remember, old people drive slower) and that a speed of 60 miles per hour corresponds to roughly 27 years old. (26.43 if you get specific, but we can round this off - remember Erdos's Age Reduction Postulate) Figuring from there, we can determine that Judy's brother is 81 (and would be driving about 33 miles per hour) which allows us to continue to the next step. Being a hypotenuse, we know that it is a right triangle, and can use Pythagoras's Theorem to determine the size of the other

sides.

However, because we are concerned about the effects of time, we use Poincaré's Temporal Conjecture to avoid determining length and calculate that over five years, Judy's brother will be 86. We can also determine that he is 15 years older than the Vice President and the triangle will have the same length. In five years, although his heart will surely have failed by then, a Fast Fourier Transform on the results of Gödel's Identifier Extraction Formula gives us a result of 520.141940, which reformatted identifies the VP's SSN as 520-14-1940.

I recommend you review your math textbook because this should have been covered in your math classes.

"Yesterday, I was with my boyfriend and he asked me about sex. I'm a running start student and still underage. My boyfriend 'Joe,' is a third-year student here. What should I do? Should I make him? Or wait until he graduates?" - EagerBeaver

Find someone else. By the way, do you know where The Current's offices are?

"In my fantasy baseball league, someone conned me into trading Alex Rodriguez for Richie Sexson. Now he's in first place and continually mocks me for accepting the trade. How do I get back at this asshole?"

- A-RodFanBoy

While I typically don't give sports advice, I'll make an exception for you. There is a simple way to improve your fantasy baseball statistics. Your first job will be to assassinate A-Rod. Once dead, A-Rod's stats will no longer improve and your enemy will be unable to trade him. Without his star talent, you can laugh at him for making the bad trade. Sure, you'll be laughing in jail, but you have to ask yourself: "How important is revenge to me?"

"My girlfriend refuses to return the oral favor. I go down on her, but she always refuses to assist me. How do I get her to be civil and polite?" - Headmaster

Now I know people have different issues about hygiene, and I tend to be fairly conservative myself. Some people don't take as much care of themselves as others, and perhaps you could be one of those people. Her refusal doesn't necessarily make her impolite, she may just have concerns that you aren't aware of. If it's important to you, you should sit down and talk with her about your concerns. Not everyone likes sharing toothbrushes; it doesn't mean that she dislikes you. Buying a new toothbrush probably wouldn't be a bad idea, though.

horoscopes

- Aries** - You will get into a fight with someone who you believe took your car keys. They are in your pocket.
- Taurus** - You will get into a fight with someone over something you know to be true. You're wrong.
- Gemini** - You will get into a fight with your long-lost twin when they suddenly appear in your bathroom. It's a mirror.
- Cancer** - You will get into a fight with someone you care intensely about. They don't even like you.
- Leo** - You will get into a fight with someone you are in charge of. You're the boss, screw them.
- Virgo** - You will get into a fight with someone over your well-thought out theories on life. You also won't get laid.
- Libra** - You will get into a fight over your political beliefs. You won't change their mind either.
- Scorpio** - You will get into a fight with someone who won't sleep with you. Don't worry, someone else will.
- Sagittarius** - You will get into a fight with someone, just because. Beware, they know martial arts.
- Capricorn** - You will not get into a fight. Attractive people will flock to you. Be polite to them; groupies have feelings too.
- Aquarius** - You will get into a fight with someone stupid. You might even win.
- Pisces** - You will get into a fight with someone who just doesn't get it. If you hit them in the face enough, they might realize it.

Compiled by Cameron Neblett

GRCC students concerned about smoking policies

Tess Pinkney
Staff Reporter

Washington state law I-901 prohibits smoking within 25 feet of building entrances, however walking around campus, one can see that this law has not had a very large impact on students. One student complains that "people are just smoking wherever there's an ashtray. For instance, at the bottom of the stairs in front of the LSC, I'm tired of having to walk through a cloud of smoke just to get in the building."

This is not to say that the administration is unaware of the situation. In the Facilities Master Plan for the college, administrators plan on building more designated smoking shelters for students. Five locations have been chosen for the shelters to be erected, and one such place will be in the commons where a heavily used shelter is currently located. The "Smoke Shack," as some students call it, will be renovated to provide a more comfortable area for student smokers.

The shelters will be covered to protect smokers from the ele-

ments, as well as having adequate seating for a fair amount of people. The enclosures will be open and have clear sightlines in order to maintain the safety and security of people using the facilities. According to current plans the shelters should be finished by mid-2009.

In the meantime, some students are wondering where to smoke. "I just don't know where the 25 feet is most times. It's not marked anywhere," one student smoker says. When asked if he knew where a designated smoking spot was other than the "Smoke Shack," he said that he only knew of one place, out in front of the Holman Library. "I don't like it though, it's trashy, and in the rain it's miserable." The site he's talking about is one of the few places where a "smoking area" sign is posted. "Besides," he continued, "there are ashtrays in front of nearly every building on campus. It looks like it'd be okay to smoke there."

Adam Lindbergh, a non-smoking student, claims that he's had trouble with smokers, especially when it is raining. "They just

smoke under the eaves, or in the hallways. They are obviously breaking both school policy and state law, but they never get reprimanded." When asked about the new smoking areas in the works, he replied that he hadn't heard of the new facilities, but that they would be a good idea. "I'm not saying that people can't smoke. Just not in my face."

The Policies and Procedures manual states: "Smoking in college buildings and in areas of the campus not specifically posted by the administration as open for smoking is not permitted. Violations of this section shall be cause for discipline." However the "discipline" in question is not addressed. Nor does it seem that many violators are being punished. The law was adopted on February 27, 1993, and revised on April 5, 2005 to fit the new state law.

Understandably, smoking is too prevalent for the administration or security to properly enforce this law. They simply cannot spend the entire day stopping people from smoking; it would require too many man-hours,

which would detract from overall campus security.

This issue has staunch supporters on both sides, ranging from those wanting to prohibit smoking on campus entirely to those who want complete freedom on where they can smoke. In the meantime it does not seem that either side will be completely happy with the

situation.

And as for the 25 feet law, an average step is about 20 inches, or 15 steps for every 25 feet. For the conscientious smoker it's a good way to figure out if the doorway is far enough away.



An ash tray near the Tech Center that is not 25 feet from the door. This leads to confusion as the ash tray states one can smoke by that ash tray even though state law prohibits it.

In light of recent tragedy, GRCC tightens security

Andreas Hill
Staff Reporter

In the aftermath of the tragic Virginia Tech shootings Green River Community College is taking action to improve security on campus. GRCC has developed Building Lockdown Security Procedures, and an electronic emergency alert system is under construction. The emergency alert system, including e-mail and text message service that all students and staff members could register for, is set to be in full effect as this issue is printed.

In addition to those actions, security staff has undergone special training for situations similar to the Virginia Tech incident, and the security crew has been reinforced. For how long the crew will be reinforced is yet not decided.

John Ramsey, director of Public Information, says that the most important thing that the school has to focus on right now is to improve its communication with students and staff.

With the new alert system, students have the individual option to register and sign up for it. Once they have done that, they can receive emergency alerts to their e-mail inbox or as a text message to their mobile phone.

A lot of the work for this notification system has already been done. "The system is already up and running, what we have to do now is to figure out how to get the students signed up for it, how are we going to facilitate this and make it as easy as possible to use," Says Ramsey.

For the last ten years Green River has had an Emergency Operations Center. The job of the EOC is to gather information about potential risks and prevent dangerous situations by conducting plans and procedures. The work deployed by the EOC after the Virginia Tech tragedy involved analyzing situations that could trigger a lockdown situation and developing plans for such an event.

Ramsey believes that the best thing to do as a student to prevent a tragedy like the one in Virginia is to be alert; alert to the situation you are in, alert to your classmates, and alert of your surroundings and the potential for something to happen. It is also vital that you are able to be contacted within a timely manner.

According to Ramsey, what happened at Virginia Tech could also happen at Green River. Our college is in many ways similar to Virginia Tech - both schools have on-campus housing, both schools have a big circulation of students during the day and we are both open campuses. But, without minimizing the terrible event in Virginia, Ramsey says that students should not be fearful. "We are just as prone to other things, an earthquake or an eruption of a volcano for example."

It is almost impossible to give any general advice for what to do in case of an emergency, because it is extremely situational. What GRCC will try to do is communicate with the students in order to give them the tools they need in order to make the right decisions in different kind of situations.

Local woman focuses her efforts on helping foster youth

Amanda Reed
Guest Reporter

Each and everyone of us has known a hero but may not have realized it. Heroes are all around us. They may not be Superman, the President or even a beautiful tabloid celebrity but they are heroes none the less.

Often the true heroes in this world are overlooked and go unannounced. I know this to be true because I live next door to an unsung hero. Beaten, abused, starved, deprived, mistreated and the list goes on. These are the very things that many kids across the nation experience each day.

Gale Cazinah, 53, a Kent resident, has been a mother to 58 foster children over a period of 19 years. She has devoted her life to helping kids from all around the area. She is a licensed foster parent.

Remarried and unable to have any more kids of her own, her desire to become a foster parent overwhelmed her. After further research, Cazinah knew this was something she needed to do. She has ultimately adopted six of the 58 foster kids that have been in her care.

"Certain kids just got under my skin and into my heart...and I just knew that I couldn't let them go. It was selfishness for me but it was also for the children because they have gotten so connected to us" Cazinah states.

Cazinah's home provides an in-the-door/out-the-door lifestyle that Cazinah loves and would never change. Although toys are scattered throughout the house and carpets may need vacuuming, Cazinah is willing to forego tidiness in order to spend time with the kids.

"I'm not going to be judged

on how clean my house is, but if I can help people along the way I think that's more important" Cazinah says.

Brandie Silkman 19, an adopted neighbor of Cazinah says, "I have known her my whole life. She genuinely creates a better life for the children she cares for. Heck! She adopts most of them."

Fostering children is far more complex than a simple definition could convey. Cazinah states, "I like being able to be there for the kids. Sometimes we get calls at one in the morning, and it's really hard to say no when you hear their stories. It can be chaotic, but it has its rewards."

Cazinah lives a fast-paced and ever-changing lifestyle. Kids show up in police cars, and some of the older kids have come in taxis in the middle of the night. With such a big heart it's just too hard for Cazinah to turn down any request.

Some of the older kids Cazinah has taken in have had serious behavioral or emotional issues such as runaways, fire starters and those that have been sexually

abused but I don't think that I could." Her kids admire their mom. Cazinah's big heart inspires all that know her.

The National Foster Parent Association states, "Persons who provide foster family care must have commitment, compassion and faith in the dignity and worth of children..."

One child in particular struck Cazinah's heart and illustrates the difficulty that goes along with fostering kids with medical conditions. A little boy was brought to her house in the middle of the night. This baby was extremely ill.

"At six weeks he weighed less than he did when he was born," Cazinah recalls. "Doctors discovered that his mother only gave him water, and he had only a couple days to live."

Cazinah has a selfless character that seizes every opportunity to help. Cazinah's lifestyle is very rewarding with little glory or recognition. She offers stability and love in these children's lives that would otherwise not be provided. She deals with the dif-

"I'm not going to be judged on how clean my house is, but if I can help people along the way I think that's more important," says Gale Cazinah of Kent

ficulty and sadness of nurturing a child for six months and then having to say goodbye, hoping that the love she gave will someday be remembered.

For a fortunate few, she becomes their adopted mom. The song sung from a hero's heart should always be heard.

I wish I could do what she does

International student, Abdella Beshir, new to GRCC, shares cultural travel experiences

Andreas Hill
Staff Reporter

Beshir Abdella, a Green River student for 2 weeks, was born in Eritrea and raised in Sweden. At the age of one, Abdella started his journey throughout the world - A journey that has not always been easy.

Abdella was born in the small town of Keren, Eritrea. When Beshir was one year old his family moved to Saudi Arabia. His father was a well educated man and Saudi Arabia could offer a good job and a future far better than what would have been given them in Eritrea.

At this time Eritrea, led by a dictator, was at war against Ethiopia - A war that had been fought for Eritrea's independency for over 30 years.

Unfortunatly, education for non Saudi-citizens was expensive and hard to find in Saudi Arabia. So with his child's future in mind

Abdella's father quit his lucrative job in Saudi and decided to take his family to Sweden.

In Sweden his father's top business education was no good, simply because it was not Swedish. Therefor he had to take the same education all over again, just to discover that it did not matter if you were highly educated if your skin had the wrong colour.

Even though Abdella's father had to settle for a job that he was overqualified for, they decided to stay in Sweden and that is where Abdella grew up.

After living most of his life in Sweden Abdella says there is no doubt where he belongs. "Sure, I got some relatives back in Eritrea, but Sweden is my home country and I would not want to go back there," Says Abdella.

To his family Abdella still speaks Tigre, one of many native languages spoken in Eritrea. In addition, he naturally speaks

Swedish and English. But Abdella does not brag about being trilingual, not with a mother who is fluent in an impressive seven languages.

Even though Abdella has lived in Sweden since he was 2 years old and identifies himself as nothing but Swedish he can still sometimes feel that he is beeing treated differently because of the colour of his skin.

"Sometimes when I am on the subway, people rather stand up then sit next to me, just because I am black," he says. Abdella tells me that when travelling with Swedish friends he is the one that always gets stuck in the passport control.

"Coming to London last summer after the terrorist bombings was a hustle", Abdella recalls. "Even though I got a Swedish passport it says Eritrea as place of birth and that makes the passport controllers ask questions and check my passport more

carefully."

That's not the only problem Abdella has had with his passport and heritage. When Abdella went to renew his Swedish passport last year the authority refused to put Eritrea as place of birth, instead it now says Etiopia. The reason? They did not know that Eritrea was a declared state.

After being ruled by the British as well as the Italians, as a colony, Ethiopia and Eritrea formed a federation in 1952. However, ten year later Ethiopia annexed Eritrea and that was the beginning of a terrible war that lasted for 30 years. The Eritrean rebels won the war and in 1993 Eritrea was declared independency. Obviously, this was something that the Swedish passport authorities did not know.

Sadly, there has been struggle going on between Eritrea and other neighboring countries long after that. The dictatorship governing Eritrea has a harsh com-

pulsory national service and several of Abdella's uncles have been killed during the war.

Abdella also tells me about a friend of the family who was executed because he stood up against the dictatorship and expressed his opinions. "Even if I wanted to go back, I could not. My father is afraid something could happend to me because of his political involvment", Abdellaysays about the risks of expressing your opinion in Eritrea. His father is politically involved and has even held speeches to the UN.

Future plans for Abdella? "I'll see what happens after this quarter. Maybe I'll finish a degree here in the states and then move to London, but I dont worry too much about the future." Beshirs says with a smile.

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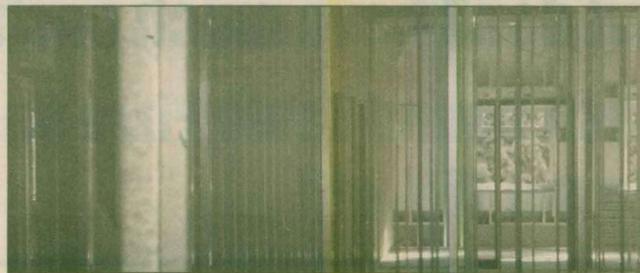
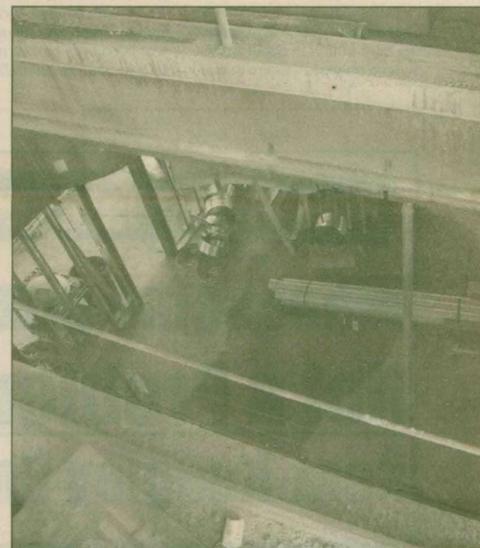
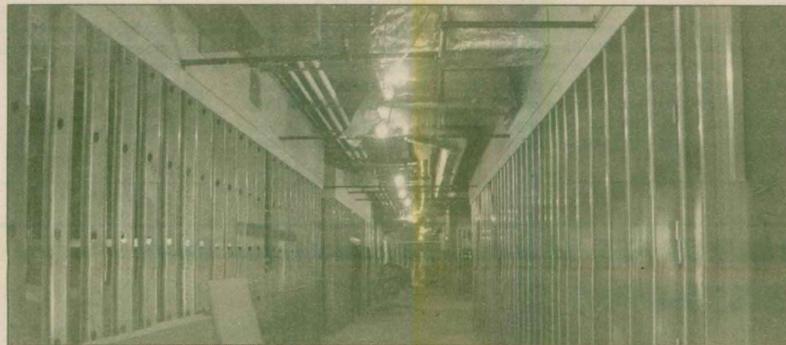
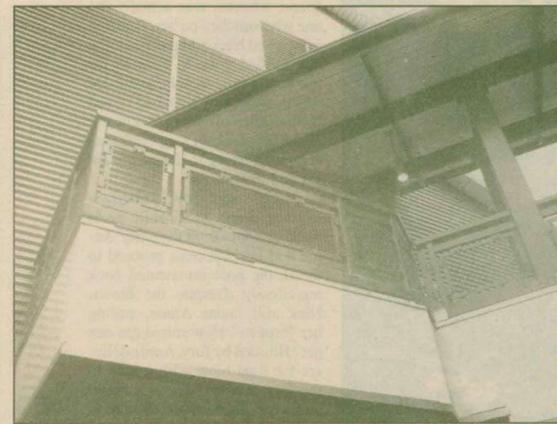
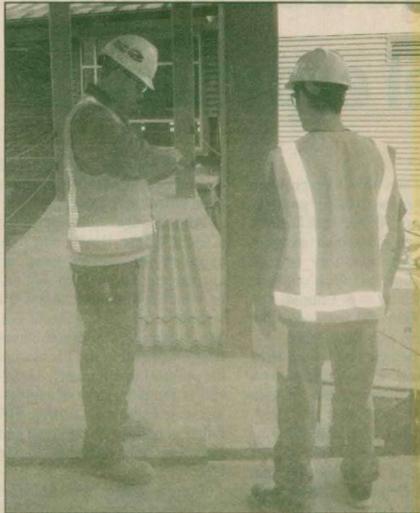
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ONE YEAR AGO

The New Science Center

A photographic look into the progress of the building

NOW



Photos by Mark Donas (One Year Ago) and Ryan Gaudinier (Now)

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Jamie Kennedy's latest comedic attempt fails to entertain with predictable and unrealistic plot

Matt Cannon
Staff Reporter

In "Kickin' it Old Skool", a kid named Justin, played by comedian Jamie Kennedy, attempts to win a talent show and a girl's heart at the same time by beating his rival, Kip, in a "dance battle".

When he and his crew take on Kip's crew, Justin botches a move and lands himself in a coma for twenty years. Justin wakes from the coma twenty years later, but because he slept through twenty years of his life, Justin is still living in the 1980's.

Jennifer, the girl he had tried to win over at the talent show twenty years earlier is now engaged to his nemesis, Kip, but Justin isn't finished trying to win her over.

She eventually leaves Kip for Justin, as Justin also reunites his break-dancing crew from twenty years earlier, the Funky Fresh Boyz. The crew then attempts to win over a crowd at a huge break-dancing tournament, hosted by none other than Kip.

After Justin doesn't land the move and ends up in a coma, it becomes very easy to predict what happens from that point on. He sees a flyer for a tournament, and proceeds to get the Funky Fresh Boyz back together. The movie had its twists, and there was some irony when Justin found out that Jennifer and Kip were engaged. But with

only a few exceptions, the plot was very predictable.

The plot behind "Kickin' it Old Skool" was also very unrealistic. It is unlikely that all the people from Justin's childhood would still be in the same city twenty years later. Kip's engagement to Jennifer twenty years after she had picked Justin over Kip was very ironic, and built up Kip and Justin's rivalry even more.

The rivalry between Kip and Justin was a sort of good-guy bad-guy rivalry, while Kip was made out to be a self-centered jerk that tries to buy Jennifer's love. Justin, on the other hand, was a kind, innocent guy that genuinely wins Jennifer over. In an overwhelming number of movies, the plot contains this good-guy bad-guy rivalry, and after seeing it so many times, it gets worn-out.

In parts of the movie I did smirk a bit, but for the most part the humor in the movie didn't appeal to me. There was an attempt to make the film a comedy, but it didn't seem that funny to me. It had its moments, but for the most part, I wasn't very interested in the plot or humor of the movie.

Having said all this, though the plot was very unrealistic and predictable, the audience watching the film seemed to be very entertained for most of the movie. I didn't think the movie was particularly hilarious, but some in the audience felt otherwise.

The Invisible fades into obscurity



In *The Invisible*, Nick Powell, played by Justin Chatwin, and Annie Newton, played by Margarita Levieva attempt to find a way to bring Nick back to the realm of the living.

Prasan Gurung
Staff Reporter

For anyone out there planning to catch "The Invisible", my advice is don't.

As captivating and thrilling as the trailers might seem, the movie fails to live up to the hype it generated. Although the movie has a unique story line, it was excruciating having to sit through a movie flawed by mediocre acting, and lacking a star presence.

The *Invisible* is about an ace high school student, Nick (played by Justin Chatwin), who has a penchant for language and writing. By selling essays in French, he saves up for a trip to London to attend a writing conference without telling his mom. His mother,

played by Marcia Gay Harden, is a career-driven, affectionless woman who disapproves of her son's writing obsession. Not surprisingly, their relationship is strained, partly due to the death of Nick's father to whom Nick was closely attached.

Pete (Chris Marquette), Nick's friend, has several fallouts with Annie (Margarita Levieva), considered to be a black sheep. Annie bashes up Nick in a fistfight, resulting in both of them trying to keep out each other's way. However, an unexpected twist of fate brings them together when Annie, with two sidekicks, corners Pete believing that Pete gave out a tip to a robbery case involving Annie.

Unable to sustain the pain in-

flicted upon him by Annie, Pete cries out that Nick was the one who told on her, oblivious to the difficulties it will cause Nick. It is then revealed that Annie's boyfriend, Marcus, was actually the one who snitched on her. Pete had mentioned Nick's name assuming that he had gone to London for the conference as scheduled. He was unaware that Nick had stayed behind after his mom found out about his plans. In fact, Nick was at a party, trying to drown his anger and frustration.

Annie somehow manages to track down Nick while he is walking home from the party. Annie and her sidekicks proceed to thrash the poor intoxicated Nick mercilessly. Despite the blows, Nick still taunts Annie, calling her "broken". How stupid can one get? Blinded by fury, Annie delivers the final blow with a kick to the face leaving Nick in a realm neither of the dead nor the living. At this point, the movie gets anticlimactic and becomes predictable.

The rest of the movie focuses on Nick's struggle to come back to the living world. Realizing that Annie is the only one to whom Nick is visible and audible, he tries to seek her help. This big irony, however, doesn't rub well with the audience, as it makes the movie even more predictable.

On the bright side however, the directing of the movie was pretty good. Bright and realistic scenes filmed in locations at Seattle, including the Public Market, helped me get through the movie.

All I can say is that if anyone is hell-bent on watching "The Invisible", brace yourself for regrets. If you are tight on money, save it. "The Invisible" is sadly, not worth the ticket price.

Local band, Cavalier, ranges from metal to jazz for upcoming first album

Paige McDaniel
Staff Reporter

Darkening the doors of a storage shed, Auburns very own Cavalier began with writing lines of melody, and tales of ex-girlfriends. Taking influences ranging across the spectrum, members of the local band describe their journey into the local music scene.

"We started this band half-way through college," says lead vocalist Stephen Lloyd, 21. "My artist degree was a waste of \$45,000, so we decided to have some fun instead."

Each of the members, excluding drummer Sam Franklin, each graduated from college with an AA degree.

"We could have not gone to college and put out a few more albums, and I would have been better off," stated Lloyd.

Sam Franklin, who seems to be making more money than his fellow band members working for a "major grocery store chain", says simply:

"Do what you want in life, and if it happens to require an education, then go get it."

The style of Cavalier takes the affectionate sounds of acoustic guitar, full range vocals, technical bass lines and percussion, and energetic guitar riffs to create a "good blend between pop and indie." With bass player Chris "Chocolate Bear" Almeida's background in jazz choir, guitarist Jake Gosselin's knack in hardcore metal and acoustic, and Lloyd's love of punk-pop, the group never cease to incorporate a variety of musical tastes in each of their songs.

"You don't need distortion on every one of your guitar riffs. Every other band I've been with has done this, but now that I'm with Cavalier and we all know each other, we can do whatever we want," Lloyd explains.

Sam Franklin adds that "black eyeliner and swinging your guitar over your shoulders" is also not necessary.

Their confident attitude is illustrated in the bands EP "Your Honest Answer"- an album full of awkward moments, creative piano, and an overlying beautiful vocal outlet. Featuring songs like "No One's Watching," a lyrical dance based on Lloyd's last rela-

tionship.

"I was hinting that I was going to break up with this girl for a month, and when we were out dancing, it was just really awkward. In the song, everything is related to dancing; the beginning lines state 'Our pulses left us long ago, but cadence is taking over.'"

This song, along with many others on the EP, closely examines heartbreak and faded memories that help make up the relatable character of Cavalier.

The band will be heading to Philadelphia on June 6 to begin recording their first full length album. Though many of the songs still remain on receipts, notebooks, and random pieces of paper, the 14 song requirement is proving a stretch for the band members.

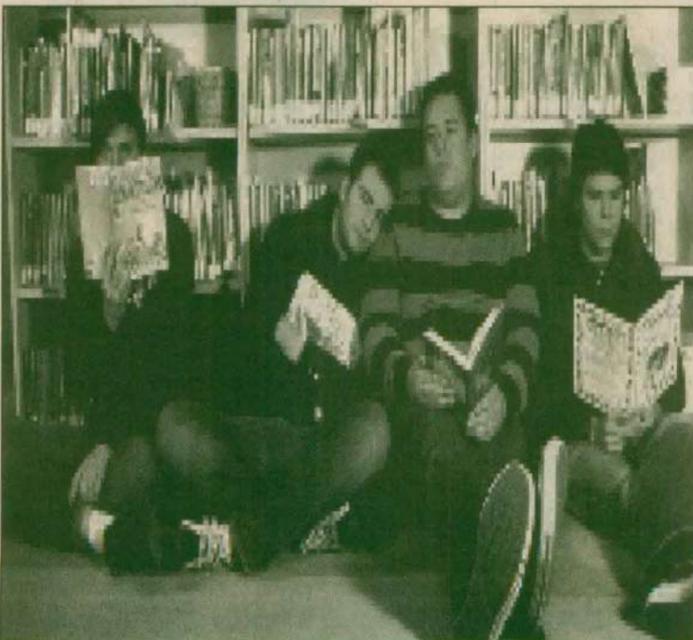
"We're kinda cramming right now," shrieks Lloyd and Franklin.

Each of the band members will be quitting or taking the longest leave of absence possible in order to record the album. But when it really comes down to it, Stephen Lloyd claims:

"You don't have to listen to us or sing along. You don't have to

do anything. We're doing whatever we want with the album, and whatever we want with our lives. Do what you want, because you are not going to be happy if you don't."

Cavalier's EP is available on MySpace at www.myspace.com/cavalier, iTunes, and smartpunk.com.



Chris Almeida, Sam Franklin, Jacob Gosselin, and Stephen Lloyd of Cavalier take some time to relax with a good book.

By the power of Greyskull, here comes the fuzz

With Hot Fuzz, the creative duo behind Shaun of the Dead returns, this time with the ultimate action



Photo Courtesy of Yahoo! Movies

Sergeant Nicholas Angel, Simon Pegg, and PC Danny Butterman, Nick Frost, fly into action in Hot Fuzz.

Julian Martin
Entertainment Editor

Hot Fuzz makes no excuse for its use of over the top action scenes, random violence, and memorable one-liners that would seem an attempt to rival any big budget action film.

Fortunately, the movie does not

come across as merely another carbon copy, but rather simultaneously succeeds in both satirizing nearly every famous cop movie and in bringing forth a film that is a strange and beautiful combination of witty dialogue and unexpected gore.

While the above mentioned descriptions seem reminiscent of those made famous by director Quinton

Tarantino, Hot Fuzz is instead the creation of Director Edgar Wright. Wright and actor/writer Simon Pegg have attempted to not only spoof the likes of Tarantino, Michael Bay, and Jerry Bruckheimer, but to pay homage to the great action directors with a comedy filled with car chases, explosions, and references to everything from Point Blank to Bad

Boys. Hot Fuzz marks the second film bringing together the comedic genius of Wright, Pegg, and actor Nick Frost, after the recent romantic comedy and zombie film Shaun of the Dead.

The film opens with a brief history of London Police Officer Nicholas Angel (Pegg) who we find

the best of the action movie genre. Angel spends the remainder of the film trying to adjust to the town of Sandford and Butterman and along with the help of his new partner tries to uncover the truth behind the seemingly too-perfect town.

Unfortunately, parts of the movie seemed predictable. Some of the

"Fortunately...the movie succeeds in both satirizing nearly every famous cop movie and in bringing forth a film that is a strange and beautiful combination of witty dialogue and unexpected gore"

is so involved in his career that he has managed to achieve an arrest record 400% higher than the rest of his colleagues. As such, everyone at the force feels he's embarrassing the rest of the officers by making them look bad.

Angel is then promoted, and sent off to the middle-of-nowhere town of Sandford, in which the only problem appears to be how to keep the community's annual "Village of the Year" award. Angel is quickly paired up with local Officer Danny Butterman (Frost) who seems to be a fan of anything action oriented, hilariously uttering such phrases as "By the power of Greyskull", and ironically proceeding to educate Angel in

random gore felt a bit too much as if the trio had never left the set of Shaun of the Dead, and the ending seemed to add less to the film and appeared more as a last tribute to action films.

The mix of Pegg and Frost, and exceptional action sequences, combined with a plot so ridiculously hilarious it could only be believably pulled off in such a parody far outweigh the film's faults, and makes for Hot Fuzz to be an unforgettably entertaining film.

Student Programs organizes Human Rights Film Festival

Films focus on variety of issues, from Chinese clothing sweatshops to poverty in Ethiopia

Cameron Neblett
Copy Editor

Student Programs is organizing a weeklong human rights film festival on campus, featuring films that address issues affecting all humankind. The festival will include giveaways at the showings, giving students not only a chance to relax, but also a chance to walk away with a free gift.

The film festival was inspired by and modeled off of longstanding festivals, including the UN Human Rights Film Festival and Western Washington University's Human Rights Film Festival. These festivals have been successful in bringing awareness to human rights issues around the globe, and the organizers of our festival hope to spread that awareness here as well.

The festival will begin on Monday, May 14 with the showing of Black Gold. Black Gold, described as "a film about the injustices of coffee production and consumption," focuses on coffee workers in Ethiopia and the poverty in which they live. Organizer Chelsea Fletcher says the film was chosen because "we don't even realize the devastating effects that this simple item can have on people a world away from us. It's

shocking to see that people can't afford to feed themselves [...] because coffee buyers are not giving fair payment for fair work."

Throughout the film fair trade coffee will be served. There will also be a giveaway of ten one-pound bags of coffee donated by Grounds for Change, a Poulsbo-based company. All of the provided coffee comes from the farming co-op featured in the film.

On Tuesday, May 15, there will be a showing of Rain in a Dry Land, a film about Somali immigrants to America due to the Somali Civil War. Fletcher chose the film because "we ought to see just what people go through physically and emotionally to have a better life for themselves and their families."

Wednesday, May 16 will feature Not the Numbers Game, a film about women in developing countries trying to solve development and population growth issues. Fletcher selected the BBC special for the festival because "population growth and the desire for affluence are affecting everything from global carbon emissions to community building in poorer countries. It's something we all need to be aware of."

Rosita will be the film featured on Thursday, May 17. The

2005 film is about a one-year-old Nicaraguan girl who becomes pregnant after being raped. In the film, her parents seek an abortion to save her life, and run into legal obstacles and moral objections, eventually gaining international attention. Fletcher wanted to show the film because "abortion is not just an American issue, it's a human issue."

The final film of the festival, China Blue, will be shown on Friday, May 18. The film looks at clothing manufacturing in Chinese sweatshops, and approaches the topic from the perspective of the workers. The film was selected by Fletcher to get people "to just think about what someone went through to make [their clothing]."

Human Rights Film Festival t-shirts will be given away Tuesday through Friday. All of the films will be shown in the SOB room, downstairs in the LSC, from noon to 1:30. People may bring their lunches, admission is free, and everyone is welcome to join. Teachers interested in showing the film Black Gold should contact Chelsea Fletcher or Dani Chang in Student Programs for more information.

KGRG Presents: The Music of the Month

Friday 05/04
El Corazon
Reverend Horton Heat
Murder By Death
Redneck Girlfriend
\$20 adv. (Ticketswest)
\$25 door
All ages bar, with ID
6 p.m.
21+ show at 10 p.m.

Saturday 05/05
The Fenix
Mastadon
Against Me!
Planes Mistaken for Stars
Cursive
\$22 adv. (Ticketswest)
\$25 door
All ages bar, with ID
6 p.m.

Friday 05/04
Hell's Kitchen
River City Rebels
Teenage Harlets
Durango 95
The Freakouts
\$7 door
All ages bar, with ID
6 p.m.

Saturday 05/05
Harambee
Sirens Sister
Kane Hodder
Slowly We Survive
Top Heavy
\$10 door
All ages bar, with ID
7:30 p.m.

Thursday 05/24
Studio Seven
Iron Cross
Teenage Harlets
Crucial Change
Shock Troops
Plastic Gangsters
\$12 door
All ages bar, with ID
7:30 p.m.

Student programs gearing up for spring

Andreas Hill
Staff Reporter

River rafting, Film festival, Casino Cruise and Spring Fest - Those are a just a few of the events offered to you by the Students Programs this spring. This spring quarter is the busiest quarter in at least eight years for the Students programs staff, which means a wide variety of activities for you to get involved in.

All the activities arranged by the Student Programs is open for anybody, student or non-student. Some are free and some means opening up your wallet. However, part of the Student Programs work is paid by tuition fees. Therefore, student prices are always discounted.

Next weeks starts with your vote in the Student Body

elections that take place Monday through Wednesday. What could possibly be better than rounding off a week of serious decisions with a classic drive-in movie or getting a straight flush on a cruise ship?

The always-popular drive-in movie is shown in Enumclaw Friday May.11 and the day after is the day for those who feel lucky, or just hungry for some cruise ship partying. On the Lake Union Casino Cruise, a drink and snack buffet will be provided as you spin the roulette wheel and dance to whatever the DJ is spinning.

This weekend is also a great opportunity for those who wish to do something good for society. Join the Volunteer Auburn Clean Sweep or sign up for the Postal Workers food drive May.12.

May continues with the

Human Rights Film Festival Week between May.14 and 18. Every day from noon-1.30 p.m. there will be a film about issues affecting all human kind showing for free in the Lindbloom Student Center.

On the evening of May.18, the same venue will transform into a Hawaiian music orgy. Come and experience the third annual Sounds of Hawaii featuring Melveen Leed, Ho'okena and a local Hula Halau. As long as you bring your student id you will be in Hawaii for free, at least in your mind.

This rain should eventually stop and that lovely hot thing called sun will show itself a lot more frequently. I am talking about spring, and that means Springfest. During Springfest, arranged May.21 - 25, you can enjoy all kinds of music, games

and shows in the commons from noon to 1.p.m every day. So bring your lunch outside and kick back to the tunes of spring.

As spring turns into summer, the rapid waters of the Wenatchee River will still be refreshingly chilly. This is where your exhausted brain will get some distraction from studying for finals. May.2 is the date for the annual and always appreciated White Water Rafting trip. Spaces for this, and other, events are limited so make sure you sign up in time.

For a full event calendar, or more information about the above-mentioned events, visit www.eventcal.net/grcc_events_calendar or stop by at the Student Programs office on the second floor of the Lindbloom Student Center.

GRCC celebrates Green Week

Will Brown
Staff Reporter

Green Week is an event that has occurred for the past three years at Green River. The purpose of Green week is to express the importance of protecting the environment that we all live in. There were activities held each day of the week showcasing different ways of what we all can do to help protect the environment.

Amanda Brown, the student body president and student body vice president Chung-Ting Chen, better known as "Cash", led the Green Week program.

"Monday was the kick off of the week" said Amanda. Who

told of how a group of volunteers helped to restore campus a little. First, participants tore up sticker bushes, the kind that blackberry's grow on, and cleaned up the area preventing an excessive amount of invasive bushes. After that was finished, replacement, non-invasive plants were planted to facilitate healthier plant growth.

Tuesday the event called the "trashathon" was held. Volunteers walked around campus picking up trash off the ground to help clean up the littering problem, and making campus a more positive environment.

Wednesday there was a lecture held focused on global warming, an issue the world challenged with. Tim Schultz, professor in

the geography department at GRCC, was the one who gave the speech at 12:00 pm.

To entice more participation, a free movie was held on Thursday. as the film showed was former Vice President of the United States, Al Gore's film "An Inconvenient Truth". The movie was shown from 12:00-1:30 pm. The film was to bring focus again to global warming.

Friday was "Recycling Awareness Day", a day set aside for the importance of recycling, and what recycling can do for our world.

Many activities that day were held outside. Keri Weinbrecht gave her own thoughts on the activities she

participated in. "I think they are very well planned out, and it's very helpful for the students." A positive statement from one of the positive attitudes of those who spent their time helping with the activities.

The activities were very well planned out under the leadership of Amanda and "Cash." Most activities played out as planned. As expected this event started out slow. But like other great events it ended with more attention. But the attention is still less than hoped. All students need to, and would benefit from, an understanding of the issues covered by this event. what. The world depends on what people are able to make with it.

Blood Drive held on campus

Amanda Argyle
Staff Reporter

On March 25 there were over 60 people who took time out of their schedules at GRCC to donate blood in the Lindbloom Student Center.

Those who want to donate blood always have to go through a pre-approval process before they're able to donate.

Donors must be at least 17 years of age, weigh 110 pounds in healthy condition, and not have donated blood in the past eight weeks, among other guidelines. First they have to fill out a questionnaire checking medical history, and provide identification. Then when they're done they get called back to a private section to see if they are able to actually donate. This is done with a quick, confidential physical. If they are not able to donate then they have to leave, and those who are able to donate go to a gurney.

The process takes about ten minutes. A person usually has donated about a pint of blood each time they donate.

After people are done donating then they're able to sit down to have a drink of juice or water and a little snack before leaving. They are given a form and a number to call in case they decide after that their blood is unsafe to donate.

Many people who donate blood feel really good after they do it because they know that three lives (per pint of blood) will be saved just because of them.

Ashley Campbell, one of the people who donated on Wednesday said, "I like knowing that three lives have been saved." She has donated at least four times already. But on Wednesday she had to have both arms done because "the blood didn't flow fast enough in my right arm." Campbell also said that, when the time comes to donate blood again, she would probably donate again.

Even though some people are afraid of needles, they should donate blood anyway because it's for a great cause. They would feel really good about how they're able to help save three people lives. Those who have already donated should encourage their friends to do it too.

In the end there are many people who end up being able to continue living because of those willing to donate. If people didn't donate blood, many would lose their lives. According to American Red Cross, every two seconds an American will need a blood. On a final note, even if you weren't able to donate blood this time there will always be the next blood drive and many more after that so that you can have a chance to experience such a rewarding feeling.



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Upcoming Events

Rock Your Right to Vote '07
May 7 - 9
Vote for your student body officers

Save the Cheerleader? Save Yourself
May 8
12pm - 1 pm
LSC Ranier Room
A workshop teaching life skills

Volunteer at the Auburn Senior Activity Center
May 10
1 pm - 3:30 pm
Sign up in the Student Programs Office.
Meet at the bus circle at 1:00

Faculty In Service Day- No Classes
May 11

Lap Swim at Auburn Pool
May 11 & 18
11 am - 2pm
Meet at the flag pole in the bus circle.
GRCC students-\$1.00 and non-GRCC students-\$4.00.

Spring Gator Hop Dance
May 11
7 pm
LSC, Main Dining Room. \$5 GRCC students / \$7 Non-Students. Casual dress.
Ticket at Student Programs.

Volunteer for Auburn Clean Sweep
May 12
7 am
Planting laurels in downtown Auburn. Pancake Breakfast provided. Sign up in the Student Programs Office.

Casino Cruise
May 12
10 pm
A cruise on Lake Union. Dress is semi-formal. GRCC student-\$25, Non-GRCC student-\$35, Couple-\$45 Sign up in Student Programs

Mother's Day
May 13

Mariners vs New York Yankees
May 13
11:30 am
Safeco Field. Tickets in Student Programs. Transportation provided.
\$30/students, \$40/non students

Human Rights Film Festival
May 14 - 18

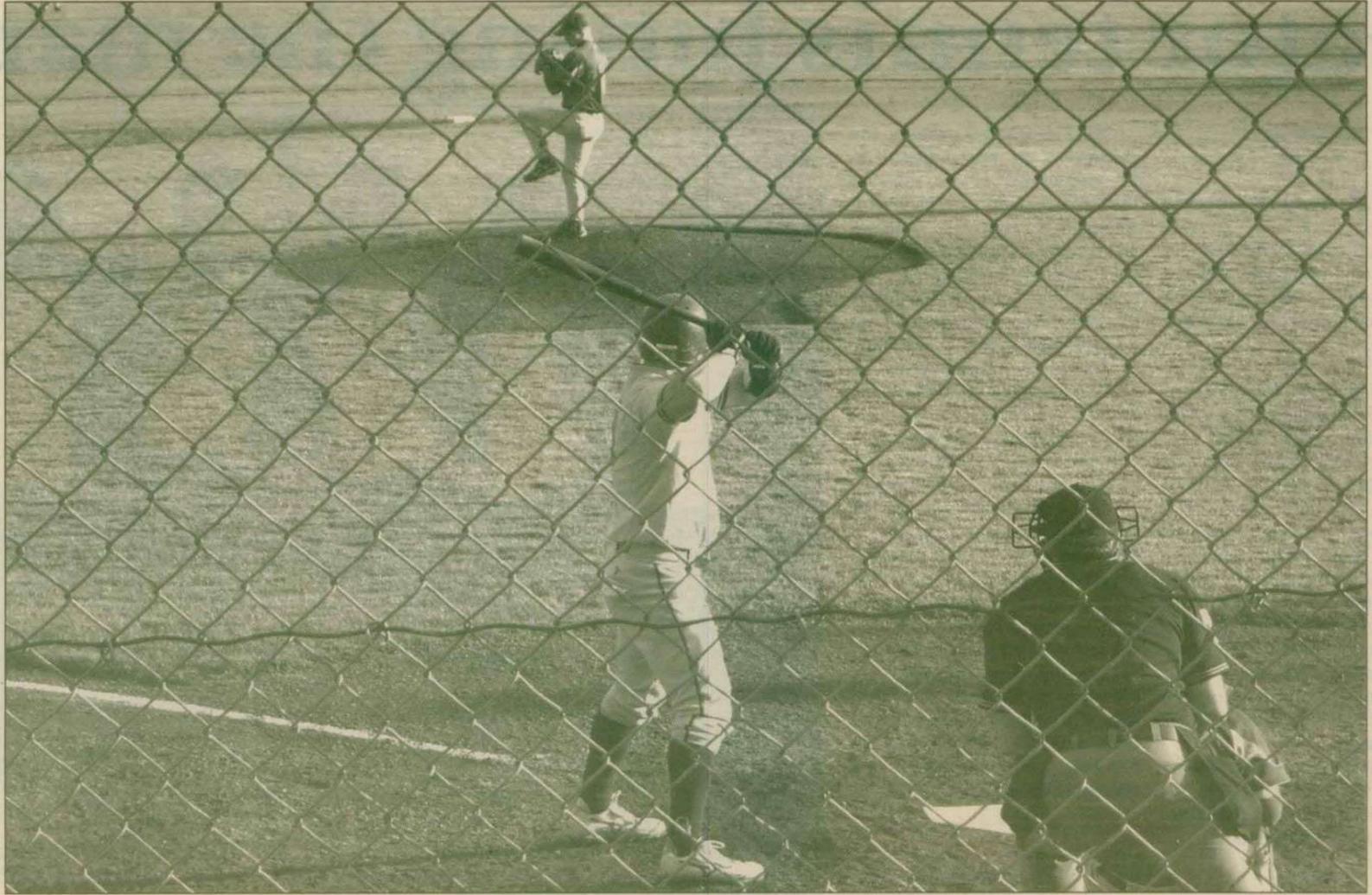
Spring Fest
May 16-25
12 pm - 1 pm

Sounds of Hawaii Concert
May 18
7:30 pm
featuring Melveen Leed and Ho'okena.
LSC Dining Area \$20 reserved/GRCC free with student id

Volunteer at Auburn Pregnancy Aid
May 25
8:30 am 11:30 am
Help straighten up the shop. Meet in the bus circle at 8:30. Sign up in the Student Programs Office

Night To Shine: Talent Contest
May 25
6:30 pm

Memorial Day
May 28
Campus closed



Greg Washington/THE CURRENT

A Green River student on the baseball team is set to take a pitch from a pitcher from Centralia Community College.

Gator baseball season in full 'swing'

Greg Washington
Staff Reporter

The Gator baseball team took the field on Sunday against the Chokers of Grays Harbor. There wasn't a cloud in the sky and playing conditions were optimal as the Gators kept hope of remaining in sole possession of second place in the

west division of the NWACC.

Just as in previous games of the season the Gators showed quite a bit of discipline at the plate allowing the Chokers pitching staff to do majority of the work for them. The Gators scored one run in the bottom half of the first, then never allowed the Chokers to come within one run of the Gators.

The Gators went into the bottom of the second with a 1-0 lead. Josh Landers of Grays Harbor showed poor control of his off speed pitches resulting in four hit batsmen of the ten that came to plate. The Gators took advantage of the poor pitching performance and scored four of their five runs in which only one was earned. Joash

Brodin continued to show post season form going 2 for 2 with a double and an RBI.

Following game 1 of the double header the Gators continued to show dominance over Grays Harbor in a 7-6 win.

Overall the Gators are 24-12 and 12-5 in the west division of the NWACC. Leaving the Gators

in great position to earn a number two seed in the NWACC Championships held on the 26th and 27th of May. The Gators are likely to play Mt. Hood, the number one seed in South division. The Gators next home contest is May 5 as they take on Pierce College.

Gator fastpitch keeps pushing through

Janae Fueston
Staff Reporter

After the preseason games, the Gators were looking to get a win on the board. Unfortunately, this didn't turn out to be the fairy tale that they were hoping for.

The Gators have faced off against some tough competition so far this season. Coming into this year they ladies knew it was going to be a difficult path but they were just going to have to make the best of it. Facing tough competition like South Puget Sound and Pierce was not going to make the road any smoother.

Even though the softball team has started off on a bumpy road the hopes are still up for the lady Gators as they push toward that elusive first win. Starting off the season they faced off against Grays Harbor who gave the Gators a run for their money as the Gators ended up losing that game 9-16. The games following after that didn't look any better, facing off against Pierce 0-12, and Highline

0-11. After not being able to score a run in either of the two games the Gators bounced back and put up a good solid run against Centralia, but their four runs could not compare with Centralia's 12. After the opening four games that ended in defeat it left the lady Gators striving to one day get their first win.

Though the softball team still hasn't been able to put a win on the board even after playing twelve league games, winning wasn't the main goal for this season. Though it would be nice for the team the focus has been on other factors. The overall goal for the lady's softball season was to have each individual player improve their skills. It was also important for the team to remain injury free while having a good time. So far even though they haven't won the Gators have reached their other goals which are just important as winning if not more important.

With a great coach behind the Gators back there's no doubt that the team will walk away from this season without one of their goals accom-

plished. Coach Gary Jones has been coaching the softball team at GRCC for six years now and has definitely had some experience in the past. Before arriving at GRCC coach Jones was involved with organized Fastpitch for over 10 years. Coach Jones is experienced in running successful programs and at GRCC this doesn't look to be any different.

Along with the coach's experience and the captains experience there is no doubt that the softball team has the ability to bounce back from the tough start and make an impact on the way their season could end.

There is strong leadership on this team and many fine players. If each of the players comes together for their remaining eight games then they have the ability to walk away with more than one of their goals accomplished.

The lady Gator's next home Game is Friday May 4 here at Lea Hill Park. The next game that follows is an away game on May 5 at Highline.

Fastpitch update: Lady Gators snap skid!

Bob Kickner
GRCC Athletic Director

The monkey is off the back. The streak is over. Gators Win! Gators Win!

On Friday, Head Softball Coach Gary Jones saw his team win its first game of the 2007 season when they defeated Centralia College 11-3 in the second game of a doubleheader. Not since May 14, 2005 have the Gators tasted victory. They last defeated Olympic College in the 2005 regular season finale before heading off to the NWAACC Championship tournament where the streak began. However on Friday, the Gators disposed of the demons on their 67th try after jumping out to a fast start that would not be relinquished. Freshman Valarie Plummer was the pitcher of record for the Gators.

A moment that should have been the cause for a celebration was fleeting however as the game ended under unfortunate circumstances when a Centralia outfielder failed to catch a line drive by Gator shortstop Maiko Iwaki. The ball hit the player squarely on the forehead. After walking off under her own power, the Trailblazers were unable to field a complete team forcing the umpires to conclude the contest with Gators earning the win.

Now the Gators will look to double their victory total this week when they host Pierce College on Tuesday and Grays Harbor on Friday.

Gator tennis hitting the mark

Kelly Brons
Staff Reporter

The team of talent is continuing to rise.

The golf team, both boys and girls is continuing the season with reasons to watch the talent being lifted both individually and as a team.

Cory Goin, Chaz Burns, Tyler Dost and Stephen Bassham are the players on the boys team that have been top scorers in the competitive events in both game and tournaments. Courtney Campell, M Janus, Joni Gibson and Paige Gifford were the high scorers on the girls team. Paige Gifford is also the athlete that has been finishing number 1 and events such as Grays Harbor West League match, Green River West League match, and the Bigfoot Classic with Tyler Dost also tying for first in the Grays Harbor West League match.

The Columbia Basin invitational is the next event that the talent will shine on April 29th-30th in Pasco Washington.

Paige Gifford is leading the storm that she was projected to be leading in personal honors, just like previously anticipated. Thoughts of where she will end up stands out as the past 4 events have ended with her playing a top score. Courtney Campell so far this season has added on to the achievements finishing like Paige as a top scorer in most events.

Tyler Dost and Chad Burns are leading the charge on the boys team that is being very spread out with talent led by obvious leadership in the honor of champions.

Individual play has distracted the fans of the team talent. Talent that is building for the future and is performing that right now. The mental part of the game is deeper than a lot can understand, and the team is not only competing in the mind set of challenge, they are striving. Success is a word that only champions can perform with, and the champions in the NWAAC golf competition, are students here at GRCC.



The Gator women's tennis team poses for a picture.

Photo courtesy of NWAAC.

Golf teams continues their successful season

Will Brown
Staff Reporter

Both the men and women golf teams are continuing to find success this season.

Cory Goin, Chaz Burns, Tyler Dost and Stephen Bassham are the top golfers on the mens team and they have been top scorers in all the competitive events for Green River. Courtney Campbell, Joni

Gibson and Paige Gifford are the high scorers on the girls team.

Gifford is having an especially good year winning events such as the Grays Harbor West League match, the Green River West League match, and the Bigfoot Classic. Dost also tied for first in the Grays Harbor West League match for the men.

Gifford is leading the storm and she was projected to win

some postseason awards for her play. She has won the last four events she has competed in, and is looking forward to the end of season where a strong finish will be expected.

Campbell has also had a strong season for the women's team, scoring in the top couple of players at most matches. She is averaging the second lowest score on the team after Gifford.

Dost and Burns are leading the charge on the boys team that is very spread out with talent.

The two golf teams have two events this season. On May 6-7, both teams will play at Bandon Dunes in the SWOCC Invitational. Finally, on May 20-21, both teams will play in the NWAAC tournament at Washington National.

The NWAAC tournament is

by far and away the most important event of the year as all the best players in the league will be there competing for the title of best player in the league.

The Gator golf teams hope to continue gaining steam for the playoffs where they should be able to finish out the year strongly.

An in-depth look at intramural sports

Raj Gurung
Staff Reporter

Do you know about the Intramural sports in the college? Well if you don't, intramural sports are non-varsity sports that are offered to the students, staffs and faculty member of the college.

The intramurals sports are from every Monday through Thursday from 12p.m - 1p.m and 12p.m -2p.m on Fridays. All one has to do in order to participate is to just bring yourself to the gym in a proper outfit and join the game for that day. There is absolutely no signing ups needed.

These intramurals sports are coordinated by one of the members from the CLEO team, Birga 'Raj' Gurung. He was appointed as the Intramurals coordinator for this year. "In my opinion, Intramurals gives the students, staffs, and faculty member the least amount of exercise that they should be getting in a daily basis. Furthermore, you are also able to meet new people, who share the same interests as you", Raj, said on the benefits of Intramurals.

The intramurals sports offered in this college are basketball on Mondays, volleyball and pickle ball on Tuesdays, Dodge ball on Wednesday, Badminton on Thursdays and Indoor Soccer on Fridays. According to Raj, the purpose of the Intramurals sports program is to create an environment where each and every member of the college can participate in casual

yet competitive non-varsity sports.

Beside the daily intramurals sports, there are also competitions during random days of the quarter. For example, in the past, there have had been Indoor Soccer, Dodge ball, Badminton, and Volleyball tournaments. Turnouts for these tournaments were certainly good and all the participants enjoyed it, as said by the intramurals coordinator. In this quarter, he coordinated the 3-on-3 Basketball tournament and is going to have an Indoor Soccer Tournament later during the quarter.

Josh Aumick, one of the regular participants said, "The Intramurals is a good way to be active in college. You do not need to take any PE classes for the sports that are already in the Intramurals. Furthermore, the varieties of sports are a good bunch and the hours for the Intramurals are perfect!"

"The Intramural sports program is certainly becoming popular as time goes and I am definitely having fun yet challenging time coordinating these events and at certain times, I personally participate in these events and believe me, it is very, very exciting!"

An obvious enthusiastic response from Raj. With features like these offered in school, it would be a crying shame not to make full advantage of it. For more information on how intramurals work and when certain sports are carried out, contact Raj at 253-833-9111, ext. 2400.

Intramural softball get the nod

Intramural softball becomes latest GRCC sport

Prasan Gurung
Staff Reporter

GRCC has upped its intramurals ante with the inclusion of softball as an intramurals sport.

Already boasting a wide array of popular sports in its intramurals schedule including badminton and indoor soccer among others, GRCC has gone one step further by having one of America's favorite and beloved pastimes in its intramurals fixtures for students to play and enjoy.

For those of you who are new to softball, it is a form of baseball played on a smaller diamond with a larger but softer ball. Students from Japan, China, Canada and even Australia might be familiar with the sport as softball is a traditionally popular sport in these countries, not forgetting the US.

Intramurals softball takes place every Friday at the softball field across from the Campus Corner Apartments, which is also home to the Gators women softball team. It will be played from 3.30pm to 6pm. Every Friday, intramurals enthusiasts will get to enjoy a double dose of fun as there will be indoor soccer for an hour at 1pm in the main gym.

For those of you who are interested in playing intramural softball, all you have to do is to bring yourself to the softball field

every Friday. The good news is that one need not be a seasoned player or possess any experience of softball to participate as intramural sports are all about fun and letting your hair down. Students complaining about stressful college life can finally have a good reason to haul themselves from bed every morning as intramurals are conducted each day of the school week.

Batting a softball can be some sort of a stress reliever to some but I cannot assure the masses that it will do them any good unless they take the initiative to try out softball. Take me for example. Though I am more comfortable and competent kicking a soccer ball, I would also much rather try my hand at softball, a sport alien to me, as I am sure that there are countless out there like me who are curious enough to be unable to contain their spontaneity.

Equipment will also be provided, but for those who are a tad bit uncomfortable using equipment other than theirs, feel free to bring along your own softball gear. Experienced players might also want to share their knowledge about the game. Intramural softball serves as a perfect platform for softball lovers who are at different skill levels to interact and appreciate the game.

So come on down and get your groove on. Who knows, there might be a hidden talent waiting to be unearthed. Rain or shine, I hope I will meet you there.