

The Current

Green River Community College



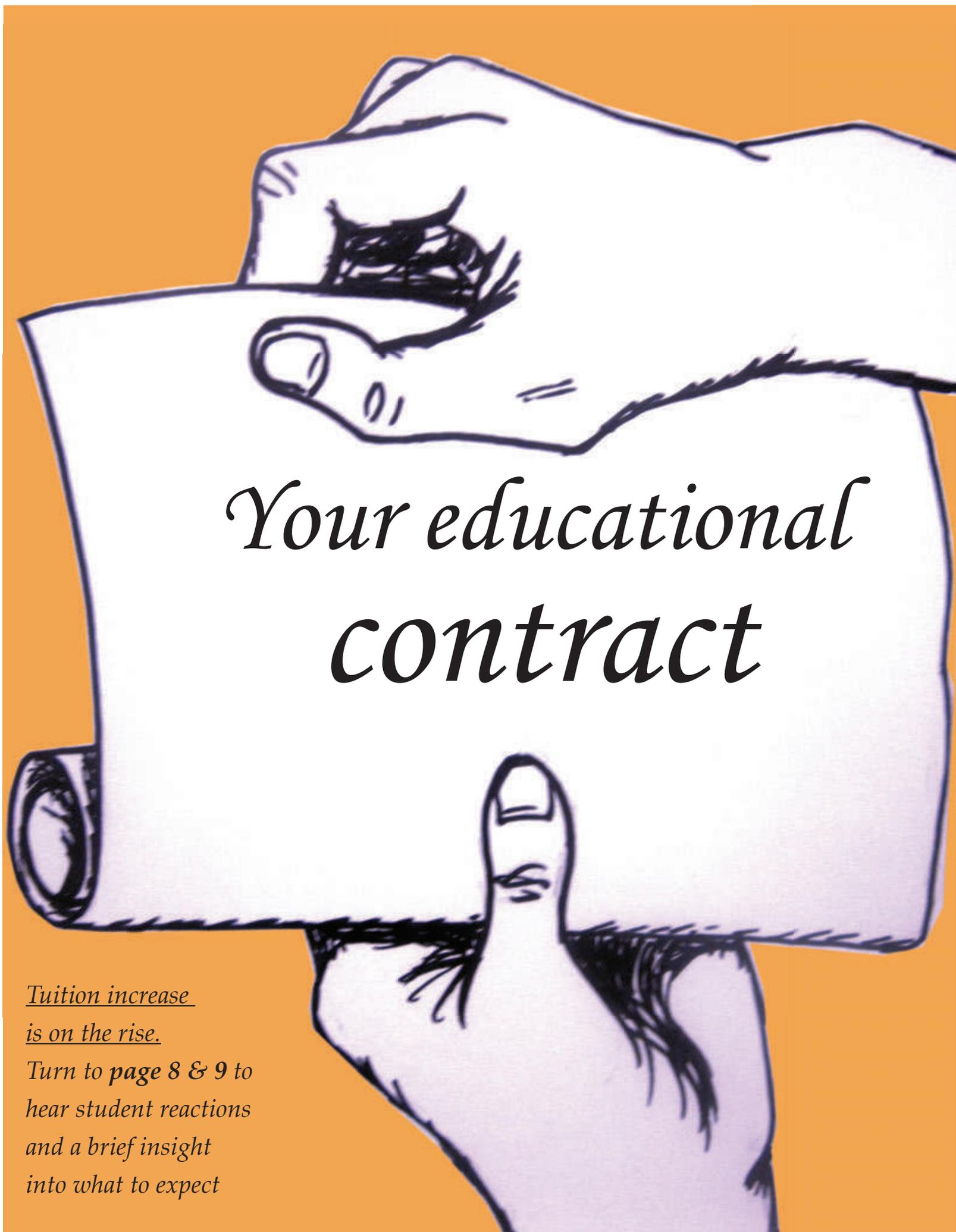
Gators fight hard, but go down

Just beginning to recover from a record losing streak, the Lady Gators keep fighting with a star freshman

Sports page 15

April 23, 2012 | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GREENRIVERCURRENT

VOLUME 46, ISSUE 9



Your educational contract

Tuition increase is on the rise.

Turn to **page 8 & 9** to hear student reactions and a brief insight into what to expect

CAMPUS page 4

Cherry Blossom Festival

An event hosted by the University of Washington promotes Japanese culture with fun and flair

A&E page 7

The blues is color blind

Unfair assessment of Jack White's perception of race in the blues misses the point of the music and the genre

NEWS page 11

John Ramsey resigns

Moving on to a job at Pacific Raceways, Ramsey reflects on a long and successful career at GRCC

OP-ED page 13

Running Start stigma

One student's perspective on Running Start: is there a bias against students still in high school?



Comicon Seattle

All photos:
Asha Johnson | The Current

Comicon Dance Party

May 4 @ 7 p.m.

Lindbloom Student Center

\$8 GRCC Students /

\$10 Non-students



Kid's Day 2012

By: Heidi Lyons
Staff Writer

The rays of sun shone down on the Auburn community as parents and children of all sorts gathered in the Lindbloom commons. Green River's annual Kid's Day Event kicked off on Saturday April 7 in celebration of spring and new beginnings.

Excitement flew through the fresh spring air. With a turnout of more than 300 people this year, each family had plenty of activities to participate in.

Kid's day is a traditional event held each year at Green River that is targeted at families and children around the community, rather than solely for Green River students.

"We have a lot of events around campus that target students when we're here," said Rosalina Castro, Special Events Coordinator at Green River, "[But] we want to think about families that are here as well."

A traditional yet competitive Easter Egg Hunt was the beginning of it all. The hunt divided the participating children into

multiple age groups and took place all throughout the campus. Despite the efforts from both parents and staff to calm the children, competition was high and the entire hunt finished up in just under 20 minutes.

Eager kids waited in lines to collect their candy prizes: a quick sugar fix to keep them going throughout all the rest of the day's activities.

Games, clowns, photos, face painting, and glitter tattoos were only some of the activities found within the walls of the commons.

Two separate clowns - an upgrade from last year's event - were present, entertaining small crowds with mind-boggling magic tricks and balloon making. It's all about the kids, as Castro herself admits she has a fear of clowns.

At one stand, bunnies hopped around a cage for the children to have a petting-zoo type experience. The little ones squealed with excitement

at the opportunity to pet something as soft and innocent as a real bunny.

The Easter Bunny himself even made an appearance, allowing children to hug, high five and even get a photograph with the mystical creature.

Free popcorn and snow cones kept everyone from starving. Green River student volunteers provided these items to parents and children upon request.

"It's fun, it's free, and we're just there to make their day!"



Heidi Lyons | The Current

Teacher Spotlight: Robin Bowles

Position: Drama Instructor

Date of birth: January 18, 1956

Time at Green River: Since Winter Quarter

Why did you become a teacher?

Well, I was an actor for years and year and years, but the problem with being an itinerant actor is that you go from place to place. You're not making a lot of money. Making enough to live off of, but not a ton. and you get tired, you want to settle down.

So in 2003... the college of Santa Fe called me up and asked me if I wanted to be a guest artist.

The department chair asked me if I would stay as an adjunct and I said 'Okay, I've got nothing else to do, right?' I had no idea I would love teaching so much. I loved being around the students and that energy.

What brought you into doing drama?

When I was eight years old in 1964, I went to Mary Poppins. I didn't know I wanted to be an actor, I just knew I should have been Michael Banks.

And I kept it a secret because, you know, I grew up in a logging town... so theater, acting and drama weren't part of our daily conversation.



When I saw "The Hostage" I thought 'This has got to be it.' I was too embarrassed to say it. And that's such a waste of time; being embarrassed about what you want to do.

My first major in college was botany. I did fine until I went 'Who made this stuff up?' So I finally decided 'Stop fighting this'.

I switched over to theatre and went to New York City



Cecilia Rose | The Current

Robin Bowles strongly believes in being active with the students while he teaches his drama classes.

to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Who was your biggest inspiration in life?

I had a teacher in high school who, to this day, had a huge impact on my life. His name was Brad Maxfield and he was the first person to encourage me just to say what I felt in effort to discover who I was and what I was.

He really gave me the courage to stand up and say "This is what I want to be. This is what I want to do. This is who I am. Take it or leave."

Can you describe your teaching style?

I can't grade on talent. Talent is very subjective, what you might think is good I might think is [crap]. But you can grade on effort.

I do encourage the students, but I also let them flounder frankly. I had a teacher who once said 'The best way to learn is by falling on your ass and the second best way is by watching someone else fall on their ass.' and I firmly believe in that.

I love my students; I don't necessarily have to be their friend, but I want to be kind of a colleague with them more than anything else.

You know, I want to be first among equals.

What's your pet peeve as a teacher?

There is nothing worse than a young actor that comes to you and says "This is my passion, it is all I can do. It's all I'm interested in." And I say to them "Then you'll be a very boring actor. Get outside yourself. Go take classes in history. Go take classes in literature. Go take classes in biology. Go take classes in anthropology. Take some foreign language."

So before you were teaching, what was your acting career like?

Professionally, I did about sixty shows. But that was over a career of twenty, twenty-five years. So that's really only a couple a year on average. When I was a new young actor, I was doing everything. I was going into every show I could get into. I wound up in a lot of crap. A whole lot of crap.

What was your worst experience in theatre?

Being in the musical "Snoopy". It makes "You're a Good Man, Charlie, Brown" look like "Les Mis". I mean, it's really a bad bad bad musical and I couldn't get out. It took me three months to get out [of the play].

When I finally did [I said]

"I will never ever ever do a show just for money again." I always said if I had to sing "Where Has My Little Dog Gone" one more time, I was going to blow my head off.

And your best experience?

Probably my best work was Iago [in Merchant of Venice]. I really didn't think I had it in me to do that [role].

It was the first time I had really been forced to be aware of moment to moment acting. I just worry about each moment individually and then connect them all together. That was a great experience.

Who has been your biggest inspiration in your acting career?

Probably Jackie Solotar. She was at the American Academy. Her approach to acting was revolutionary for me. [It] was all about life experience.

Most of her acting assignments were to go to the Bronx Zoo and observe the animals. Research Vaudeville and create an act, [or] go to the Met and look at the paintings and bring one of those to live. By doing that, she was giving us life experiences that we didn't have before.

Man on Street



What is a goal you hope to accomplish by the end of Spring Quarter?

Raising my overall GPA above a 3.5. I'm really close so at least a 3.5. [It probably won't be a challenge] because I'm very close to it so it shouldn't be that hard to get the little bit more I need to.



Marsha Burnworth

Hopefully [I'll transfer to] the University of Washington. I have applied but I haven't heard back yet. [I chose UW] because my major is computer science, and their department is quite good. And if I transfer within the state, I'll save money.



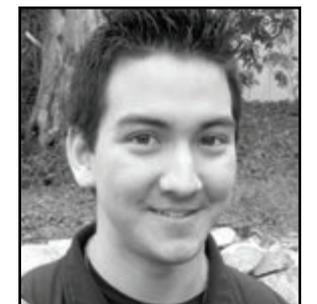
Terry Zhao

I would really like to raise my GPA to 3.5, at least not below a 2.5. That may be hard for me, because I'm taking 15 credits, which is just 3 classes, but it may be a bit hard.



Joshua Siregar

I just want to pass my classes in order to move on to the next level of classes so I will be done by the end of fall. I may take summer classes. It depends on whether they offer the class I need.



Daniel Crawford

Every other week, *The Current's* editors crawl out of their cave to ask the campus random questions.

Suggest a subject at:

thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Here is a selection of this issue's answers. For more, plus an archive of old questions, visit our website:

www.thecurrentonline.net.

A communal celebration of culture

Annual Cherry Blossom festival at UW encourages people of Washington to embrace the international diversity of our region

By: Imana Gunawan
Staff Writer

Wake up, Washington; spring is here. The sky is clearer, the weather is warmer and the streets are filled with extravagant colors.

To kick off spring time in the right way, Green River hosted a trip to the UW Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival on Saturday April 14.

The event was held as part of the "Festival at Seattle Center" event. This year-long event is a series of culture-related festivals aimed to celebrate Seattle's (as well as the surrounding area's) diverse international and ethnic community.

"It's diversity month in Seattle Center, so every single week from March all the way to May they have a special theme," said Samuel Huang, international student activity



One event at UW's Cherry Blossom Festival was calligraphy lessons.

programmer for Student Life, who organized the event, "like for this weekend it [was] for Japanese culture."

According to Huang, the event was initially planned to be held during Spring Break at the University of Washington.

"We didn't have a bus to go there," explained Huang. "So

we decided to change it". It happened to be pure luck that the day ended up on such a beautiful Saturday afternoon.

Even though the event title features a certain Japanese flower, this event doesn't focus solely on that, but rather the culture from which the flower came.

In Huang's opinion, this festival isn't exclusive for people who are Japanese or have knowledge of the Japanese culture; it is about trying something new and experiencing a taste of other cultures.

"[My job is] basically facing the international student population on campus, and this [event] will be fun for all the people on campus to experience some of the Japanese culture," said Huang.

Visitors of the festival were entertained all day by dance performances, music, costumes, martial arts, ceremonies and games.

"[There are even] these rice cakes that you can make your own there."

Since the Japanese culture is a diverse one – from kimonos to Harajuku, tea ceremonies to

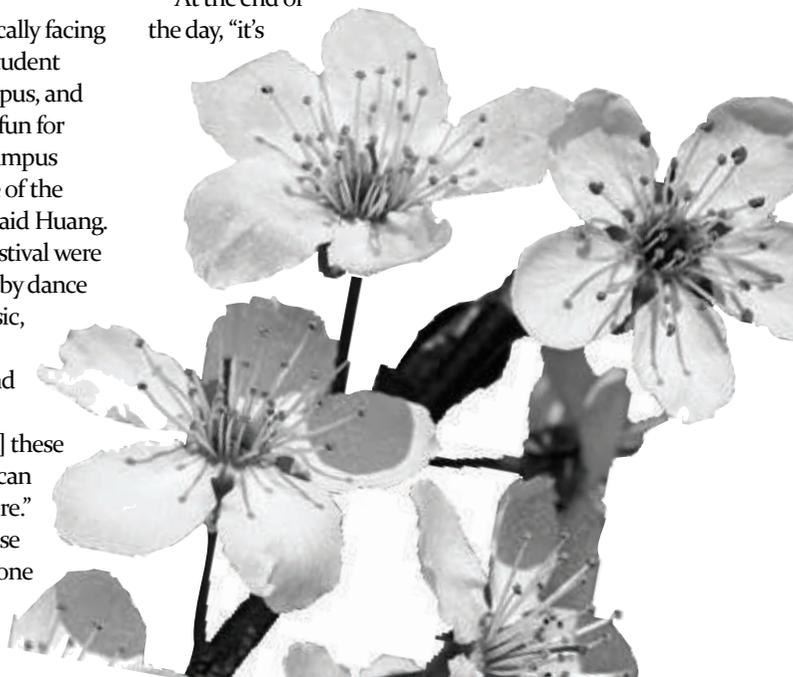
manga and anime – there is always more to learn.

"The Japanese people had a long history, so [this festival] combines the traditional culture with the modern culture," said Huang.

At the end of the day, "it's

about having fun and knowing what Japanese culture is like," said Huang.

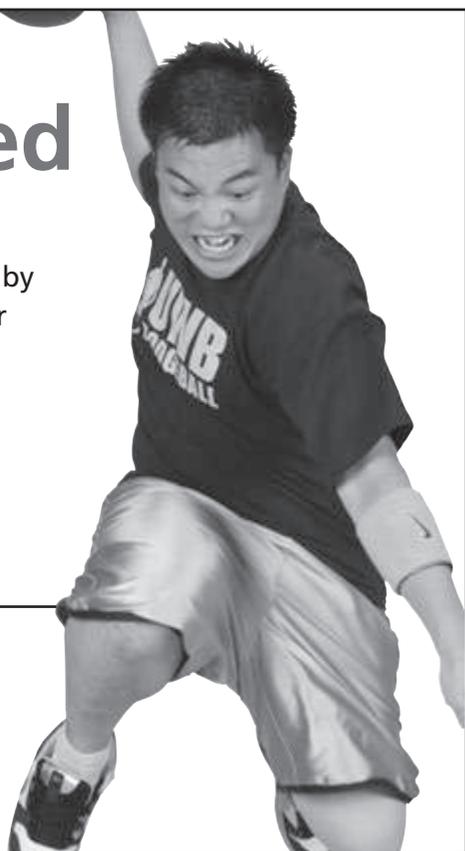
What better way to celebrate the vernal equinox than with cherry blossoms, yukatas and martial arts?



Get Focused on Student Life

After hitting the books, unwind by working out at the fitness center or joining a rec sports team. Dodgeball, anyone?

W



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Appointments will be accepted, but Walk-ins are welcome and encouraged. ALL STD Tests for Chlamydia (CT) and gonorrhea (GC) only will be paid for by a generous grant from *Someone You Know*. Learn more at ppgnw.org/gytnow

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This offer is valid at any Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest Health Center open on Monday, April 30, 2012 and good for one (1) free test for Chlamydia (CT) and gonorrhea (GC) only. This offer has no monetary value and may not be redeemed for cash. Positive Test results will be reported to the Department of Health. Medication, treatment, or Expedited Partner Therapy is not covered by this offer.

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Also on the Inside

"The failing efforts of the Governor and legislature to decrease the growing debt will likely become an important topic of debate..."

Eli Stredicke Page 13

A&E

A&E Editor: Jacob Jagodinski
ae.editor@mail.greenriver.edu

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Apr. 23,
2012

For the betterment of therapeutic education

Quarterly, the art department at Green River offers numerous art courses that move the mind beyond the typical schooling approach

By: Emma Wilder
Staff Writer

Some students attending Green River are looking to get in touch with their creative side.

Art courses at the college may be just the thing. Quite a few classes vary to meet different student's desires.

There are classes that lean more toward independent work, such as photography, painting and drawing.

In these classes, one can really get in touch with their inner-self by focusing on the task at hand, deciding what the best approach is while striving to meet their goal.

There are many logical reasons for taking an art course at Green River, some of which are: forming both the logical and creative sides of the brain, to satisfy needed credits for a degree, to further understand art, to gain skills, or as student Alex McQuarter muses, "To find out if you're good or not."

Ceramics would fit many students well. Students and teachers report that ceramics and pottery create a social atmosphere.

Students communicate with each other to help one another finish their task to the best of their ability.

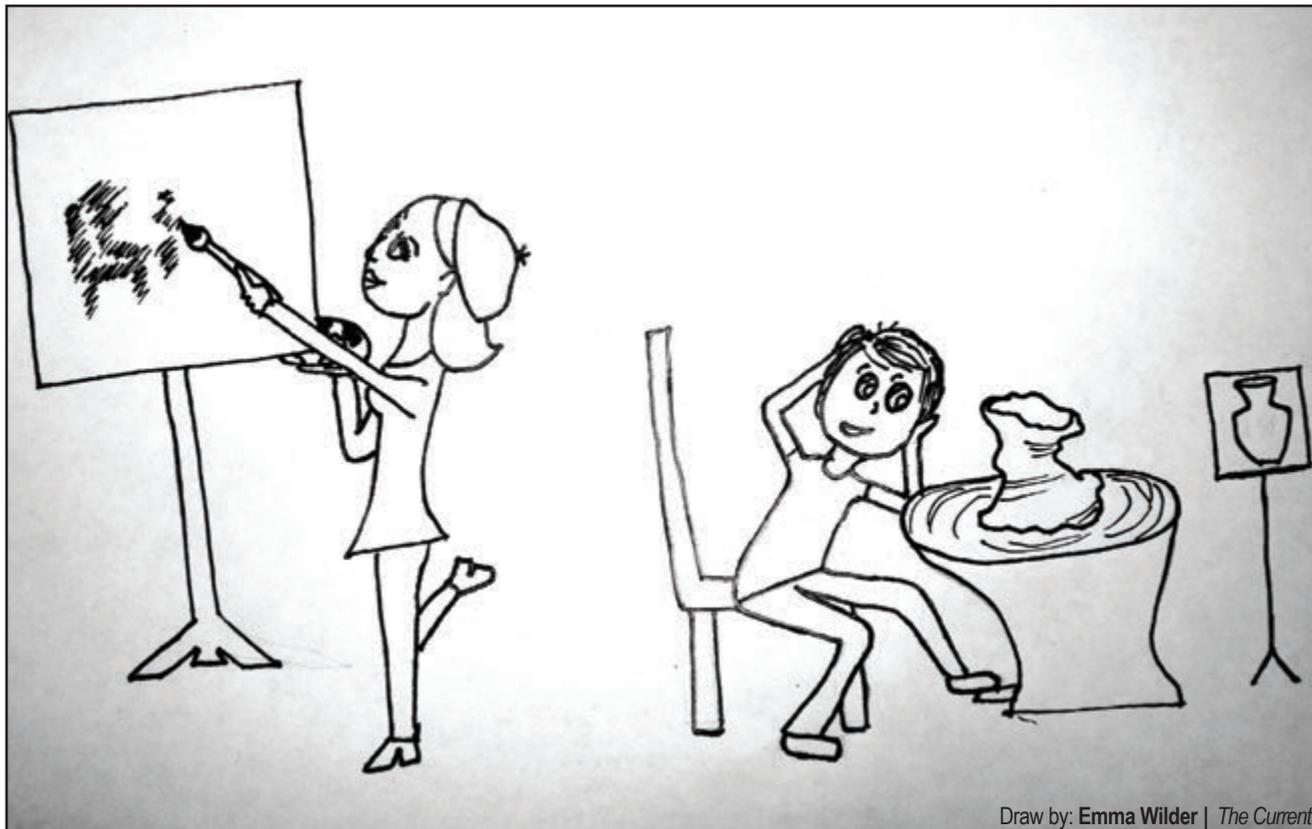
Currently, one ceramic student, Tom Weston, told that he loved his first quarter of ceramics so much that he absolutely had to return, claiming this course to be "therapeutic and relaxing."

Second of all, a student could take an art course for emotional and physical reasons, such as a passion for art, new experiences, and to feel a part of something.

In fact, Nicole SanMiguel was suggested by her advisor to take a ceramics course because it's good hand stimulation for the OTA (Occupational Therapy Assistant) program.

Many students enjoy and learn from the art courses that the college has to offer. Students have said that they love taking art at Green River because they have learned that art is actually "do-able."

Many young men and women believe that they "don't think they're good at art," or that "being good at art is impossible."



Draw by: Emma Wilder | The Current

What has been shown to many art students at Green River is that art is definitely attainable. Making creative and beautiful work, no matter how good or bad someone thinks they might be, is definitely "do-able" through art courses on campus. Students say that they have learned that drawing, painting, pottery, or the like, is brought to

an easy level where they feel that making wonderful pieces is not impossible or unattainable.

Just like students, teachers enjoy what they do as well.

Kathleen Casteel is known as an art teacher who is passionate about her job. She has also been known for being admired by her previous students.

Casteel teaches painting and drawing at the college because she simply loves to do it. She has learned that art "connects all of us together and we realize that we are not the center of the earth."

With a similar passion for art is Paul Metivier, a ceramics teacher with an identical love for creating; Metivier took a pottery class

and never looked back. "I got my hands in clay and I never stopped after that point," he said as he was holding clay in his hand.

Both Paul and Kathleen stated that they still love to learn from students every day and that they love to share what they know with their students.

Essentially, art at Green River is about passion.

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NIGIRI

creativity.

Draw for The Current!



Concert Calendar

Apr.	23	Capture the Flag @ El corazon (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$10)
	24	Esperanza Spalding @ Paramount Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$30+)
25		Coldplay @ Key Arena (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$92.47+)
		Justice @ Paramount Theater (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$64+)
26		Battle of the Bands @ Hells Kitchen (Doors open at 6 p.m. 21+, \$8)
		Wocka Flocka Flames @ ShowBox SoDo (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$62+)
28		Prokofiev and Shostakovich @ Seattle Symphony at Symphony Home (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$17+)
		Dance Theatre Spring Concert @ Broadway Performance Hall (Doors open at 6 p.m. all ages, \$10)
		Andre Nickatina @ ShowBox @ The Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$64+)
		The Twilight Zone: Live! @ ACT Theatre (Doors open at 8:30 p.m. all ages, \$15)
29		Lil B @ Neumos (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$64+)
		David Sedaris @ Benaroya Hall (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$25+)
		Middle Class rut @ El Corazon (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$12)
May	5	Van Halen @ Tacoma Dome (Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$45+)
		Tech Ngne @ Showbox SoDo (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$62.50+)
		Late Night Espectacular @ Seattle Center (Doors open at 11:30 p.m. 21+, \$25+)
		Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 2 @ Seattle Symphony at Symphony Home (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$29+)
		Brian Jonestown Massacre @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$18+)

MOVIE REVIEW

'Hunger Games' doesn't disappoint

By: Bailey Jo Josie
Managing Editor



In a cinematic world where the female protagonist is usually either swept off her feet by some dashing fellow, or is so useless as a character that she is used as a tear-jerking plot twist to make the audience sympathize with her man, it is extremely refreshing to witness an incredible fictionalized female character spring to life.

Katniss Everdeen, protagonist of "The Hunger Games," lives in District 12, a region of a post-apocalyptic North America. The story is set in a dystopian society where there is an annual event that features two selected teenagers of ages 12 to 18 from each district forcefully killing each other on live TV. This tournament is known as the Hunger Games.

As a character, Ever-

deen is brave, resourceful, smart, and highly skilled at archery. By facing such a horrifying reality with poise and strength, she's the kind of person young girls might aspire to be.

This film immediately calls upon the daunting revelation that even thousands of years after Rome fell, people still have the potential to be just as blood-thirsty as the spectators of the gladiators.

The fact that the Hunger Games are heavily televised makes the message hit closer to home, considering we are in the age of reality TV and wish nothing more than to see people at their most depraved. Who's to say that seeing teenagers brutally kill each other won't be our next form of entertainment?

And though it is based on a young adult novel (aka: annoying-things-teenage-fangirls-read), the story tackles issues that few will find within the pages of Gossip Girl; for poverty,



Courtesy Photo | chronicle.com
Effie (Elizabeth Banks), Haymitch (Woody Harrelson) and Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) give strong, unique performances in movie "The Hunger Games."

dystopian societies, starvation and revolution are the normal obstacles in this fictional world.

In terms of direction, the film is a winner. Helmed by Gary Ross, whose previous works are "Pleasantville" and "Seabiscuit," the movie is fast and action-packed (thanks to excellent timing that can sometimes slow a book adaptation down, along with terrifying violence). But there is also a beautiful, artistic quality thanks to the cinematography and use of music,

as seen in the opening sequence as Katniss hunts in the woods; she feels at peace, and so do we.

But what really makes 'Games' incredible is the raw talent of Jennifer Lawrence as Everdeen; whether she's fighting for her life or laying out flowers, she exudes a persistence and vulnerability that reveals how powerful she is.

Rated: PG-13
Director: Gary Ross
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson

The Current Picks

WEBSITE/APP

Hejibits.com



By: Sean Rockey

Originating as a humorous way to vent his frustration with his dim-witted roommates, John Kleckner created a web comic site called Hejibits.com, which has now definitely evolved far past that original purpose - but all the while maintaining the level of humor it started with initially.

Although the series originally focused on the hilarious, though often horrendously awkward misadventures of his roommate, the comic's focus has shifted to video games, holiday traditions, and even some good old-fashioned bad puns.

Updated every Monday, this is one web comic any fan of humor will love.

MOVIE

The New Guy



By: Kally Bieber

Geek, nerd, dweeb, loser: All describe Dizzy Harris, the average 'under the radar' high schooler who had never been on a date.

After realizing where his life was headed, Harris decided to make a change: new name, new school, new look, new attitude.

In this hilarious and upbeat tale, Dizzy Harris (now "Gil Harrison") goes through the typical high school drama.

In the end he defeats stereotypes, stops bullying and ultimately gets to kiss the girl.

With stars like Zoey DeSchanel and Eliza Dushku, it's got to be a gem.

BOOK

Captain Bluebear



By: Jacob Jagodinski

To unravel the mysteries that lie within this earth, it takes the will of one's enormously anomalous imagination.

This is the imagination of Walter Moers, or better known, the creator of Captain Bluebear.

Captain Bluebear is a peculiar Bluebear. Strangely enough, Bluebears have twenty-seven lives. Captain Bluebear travels through life pondering upon the supposedly pseudo tales of the lands through adventures like no other.

Moers' tale, "The 13 1/2 Lives of Captain Bluebear," is a prolific novel that stretches human novelty.

MUSIC

Exuma



By: Gentry Seipert

When listening to Exuma's self-titled release, prepare to have your mind blown. Exuma, otherwise known as Tony McKay and his seven-piece band, released "Exuma" in 1970.

This passionate exploration of McKay's native tribal rhythms are heavily influenced to his upbringing in the Bahamas, yet the voyage as a whole is simply too restless to be classified.

A strong mixture of carnival, junkanoo, calypso, tribal, and ballad, each song has a unique flavor. "Exuma, The Obeah Man" and "You Don't Know What's Goin' On" stand out on a truly under-appreciated album.

First Person Shooters for Dummies

Has the First Person Shooter Genre changed? Or is it the same as it has been?

By: Jeremy Siregar
Staff Writer

Maze Wars or Spasim are the legends of first person shooter games. They were released in 1974, becoming the predecessors of today's first person shooter (FPS) video games. These granddaddies have affected the evolution of today's FPS.

The FPS genre pitches the player in a first person perspective. The player experiences the game through the eyes of the character. The earliest form of an FPS was Maze Wars. Originally, it was written by Steve Colley as a 3D program for an early class of minicomputer that was designed for NASA. The design changed when Colley was inspired

by a digital maze in which the player could explore in a first person's view.

In the 1990's, FPSes evolved into games like Doom. Doom held the basic features of a decent FPS. The character was armed with a weapon, ammunition count and health count.

Doom's features were further advanced by Half-Life, a game that set the bar graphically.

Half-Life has presented an astonishing world in which the graphical standards displayed height differences, non-perpendicular walls, advanced texture coloring, and changing light degrees. Even though Half-Life was a successful game, it was not the reason why the FPS genre became

colossal.

Adam Fix, game reviewer for 89.9 KGRG's The Early Bird Show stated, "Half-Life was a very successful game, but its popularity stayed within the gaming community. It never got so big that people outside started taking notice."

On November 15, 2001, Halo: Combat Evolved was released as an Xbox launch title. Ever kid with an Xbox had Halo, thus breaking through the walls of FPS gaming. The game was so outstanding that it continued its legacy with five more games, the latest installment being Halo: Reach.

Perhaps the most recent and most noticeable FPS game since Halo has been

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3.

When asked what makes a good FPS game, Fix answered, "Intensity, especially in the Call of Duty series. What it lacks in strategy, it makes up in sure trauma, intensity and speed."

The FPS has significantly changed in terms of graphics, game play, and features. Today, FPS games are less surreal than their predecessors. But has the genre really changed? Graphics and game play are noticeable changes, but the essence of the genre is still the same.

"If it has changed in anyway, it has gotten bigger." Said Fix. "FPS is more popular and making more money within the gaming industry than ever."

The blues is color blind



WHEN THE MUSIC'S OVER Bailey Jo Josie

A few months ago I was listening to some music on YouTube and came across a video from "It Might Get Loud," an incredible documentary about the evolution of rock-n-roll and the blues as seen through the eyes, ears and elegant fingers of Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin, The Edge from U2, and Jack White of The White Stripes.

Each guitarist is asked a simple question: what is your favorite song? Jack White replies by putting on an old record, which we come to find is "Grinnin' In Your Face" by Son House, an influential early blues singer.

The audio reveals no music, only an older black gentleman singing and clapping. White tells how it changed his whole perception of music (as evidenced by the simplistic blues style he uses when composing his songs with The White Stripes).

The video I watched was centered around this, and randomly, I decided to check out the comments.

Lo' and behold, there were some really nasty ones along with upbeat ones, but there was one particular comment that happened to catch my eye.

It read exactly like this: "He tries too hard to be black, hes like worse than a wigger."

Needless to say, I was a bit agitated; this person was insulting Jack White simply because his favorite song was performed by a black man. Plus, his grammar was awful.

Some called him stupid and one person told him to drink bleach -- who could blame them? Everything he posted was just so wrong on so many levels.

First off, the statement implied that White only liked the Son House song simply because it was sung by a black

man, which is completely disrespectful considering all that he has contributed to music in the last 15 years, from producing country legend Loretta Lynn's Grammy winning comeback album to appearing on a special rock segment of The Colbert Report. White is a man who cares about music -- not skin color -- and to say anything different is asinine.

Not to mention what a slap in the face it is to the memory of Son House and his music. By saying that White is a "wigger" and tries too hard to be black completely undermines the sheer power and reach of not only Son House's music, but the blues itself.

The blues is the foundation of rock-n-roll, the template for which every guitar driven genre since

"This person was insulting Jack White simply because his favorite song was performed by a black man."

has modeled itself after. It's touched many lives and -- in a sense -- changed the world. The blues is a beautiful thing that should be shared with everyone.

To make matters more outrageous, this person says in another comment that the kind of music we listen to defines who we are and proceeds tells everyone how awesome he is just because he listens to a great progressive bass player, Les Claypool.

I then let him know that, judging by Les Claypool's style of playing the bass, he too must be a "wigger" since his tone and sound has roots in funk, a genre that is rooted directly to black culture. And I'm happy to say that my words reached him -- he actually replied back and admitted he was wrong and I was right.

I did what nobody else on YouTube could do and it felt great, because nobody should be pigeonholed by what they listen to, only celebrated for the fact that they listen to music that reaches everyone.

A helpful guide to a broad selection

Green River's Holman Library offers a huge range of magazines that test timeless fads.

By: Samira Ibrahim
Staff Writer

Everyone knows that the Green River library has books. Most people know it has CDs and DVDs, but not many people know that it has magazines as well. Although the selection is slowly diminishing, there are still some very popular magazines on shelves.

One magazine that the library offers is The National Geographic, the official journal of the National Geographic Society. If interested in geography, archaeology, and natural science, this is definitely the right magazine. The magazine focuses on world culture and history, while still keeping every issue fresh since 1888.

Health magazines are a favorite amongst women, for they focus on women's health. This magazine's topics consist of easy recipes, relationship advice, stress management, fashion and beauty tips.

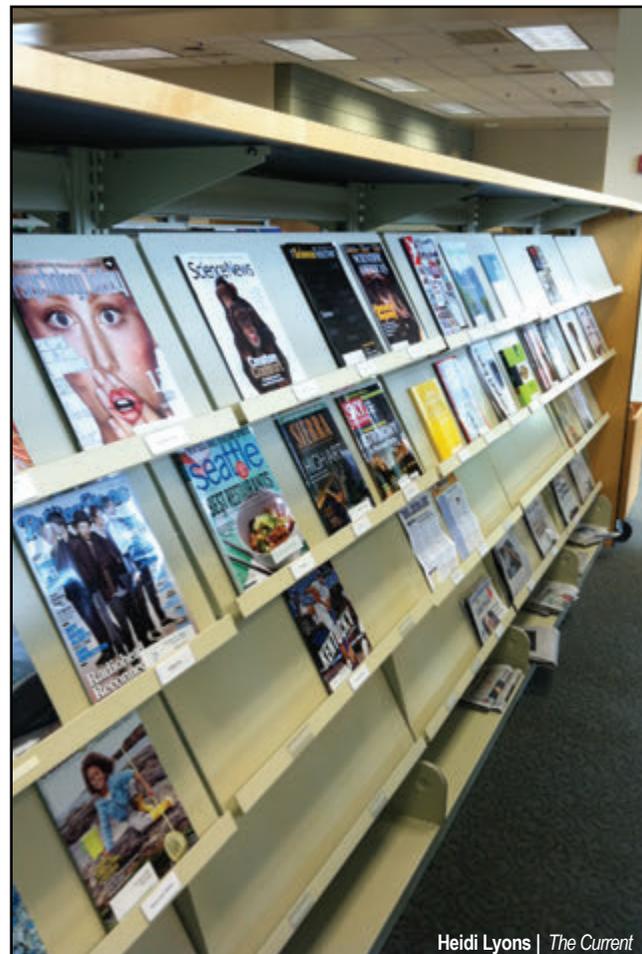
Known for its annual Sportsman of the Year award and its annual Swimsuit Issue, Sports Illustrated is one of the best. With 23 million readers a

week, Sports Illustrated is definitely known as one of the United States' most popular magazines. Some regular segments featured in each issue are: "Who's Hot, Who's Not", "Inside the...", "Faces in the Crowd", and "The Point After". Sports Illustrated can also be found in the library.

Green River librarian, Katy Dichter, enjoys, "The New Yorker." Dichter stated, "I would recommend The New Yorker magazine. It's amazingly written and I think everyone should read it. It's informative and readable at the same time."

While all of those magazines and more can be found monthly in the magazine section, the selection is still very limited and is continuing to shrink. Now, a lot more magazines can be found online by using a website called EBSCOhost Publications. The selection is not only bigger, but it is also more up to date.

There is one more place in the Holman library where there is an amazing collection of magazines: the periodicals section. This section contains almost every magazine Green River has ever had. There



Heidi Lyons | The Current

The Holman Library's magazine section covers many interests, ranging from fashion and food to psychology and medicine.

are issues that date back to the 1990's. Take a blast to the past and explore the periodicals.

If ever in the Holman library, consider checking out the magazine collec-

tion. Whether searching the periodicals, the online data base, EBSCO host Publications, or through the magazine section, there is something that fits everyone.

Your educational contract

"I got a scholarship through AmeriCorps and that's how I've been paying for the past two quarters. It was actually American Conservation Corps; I worked there for a year and then afterwards I got a \$5,000 scholarship[...] Scholarships are my only help right now, but if I can't get scholarships, I'll take out a loan."

- Sarra Tekola

"It sucks, and I know I'm going to be there next year when I transfer [and] I know community college is fine for me, but after that is what I'm worried about. I'm not going to transfer anywhere out of state, that's for sure. Basically the only option is Western [Washington University]."

- Alexis Beaman

Washington's funds for higher education are dropping. Governor Gregoire has made the decision to reduce state funding to both two and four-year colleges. This means students will have to pay more for the services their college provides.

"I work two jobs and I know a lot of people who work two jobs," said student Maggie Bollinger-Smith. "I know my brother is getting his master's degree right now and that kid just doesn't sleep; all he does is work. And he's even had to take out some student loans. I'm getting my Ph.D, that's something that I'm doing, so I will be one of those persons who just, all there is is just working and in debt. That's just the way it is if you want to get an education."

According to Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board, community college tuition rates is estimated to increase 12 percent next academic year. In the current economic state, Washington legislature has been able to reduce the budget from higher education because there is no law requiring them to fund it, unlike elementary through high schools. Higher education funds get cut because the legislature legally can't cut other programs.

"I honestly haven't felt it that much, my dad pays my tuition out of pocket," said Alexis Beaman. "I know he isn't happy about tuition prices but I don't think he's noticed that it has actually gone up. Especially since I've been taking a decreasing number of credits ever since I stopped doing Running Start and started paying for things."

To combat the rise in tuition, there are many options. Scholarships are always popular. Microsoft has recently announced a partnership with the state legislature to create an opportunity scholarship.

"As budgets tighten across the nation, it is essential for the state to take new steps that ensure a student's opportunity to attend college is a function of commitment and hard work rather than the size of a family's checkbook," said Brad Smith, who chairs the opportunity scholarship program's board of directors, writes the Redmond Reporter.

Student loans are also popular. There's the Pell-grant, which is a given from the state based on their personal need for money. The government also offers subsidized and unsubsidized loans.

Unsubsidized loans start charging interest when they're taken out and the former starts once a student has graduated.

Starting January 2012, interest rates now increased at a fixed rate. This is intended to help students pay off their loans once they graduate and have a job.

"Taking out a loan sucks," said Sarra Tekola. "But it will probably be my only option because it's only going to get worse, and by taking time away from school - 1) I might fall in love with the idea of making money and not go back and 2) it's only going to make it worse, so yeah. I mean, I already know I'm not going into a field for money, I'm going into a field that I love, um which, potentially as a scientist, I'm going to beg for money, you know, for the rest of my life. I think that for right now since I am going into that field, I should get good at begging for money through scholarships."

Other options are the GET program. GET is a tax-free savings account where people slowly start saving for higher education. Money in the GET account gains interest based on the increasing tuition rates, ensuring that there should be enough funds to go to any school.

Really, the best advice is to realize that tuition will increase. Plan ahead. Statistics show that people don't drop out of college because of tuition rises. They put up with the 12 percent rise because finishing school is paramount.

"It scares me," said Bollinger-Smith. "Getting my Ph.D is my dream and I want to do that more than anything, but truthfully, that may not be an option for me. Fortunately my family, financially, has done a lot better this year but that also has several drawbacks and implications for me, I'm not going to get as much financial aid so how am I going to make up the difference?"

Don't ask me, I don't know yet. I'll cross that bridge when I get there, but it's scary. It scares me to think that education is becoming less and less plausible [and] I'm obviously not the only person in this situation with a broke family, going to a school that's also kind of broke and still trying to pay for everything."

So I think the worst part about a student loan is, sure it's cool that you can defer the payments until after you graduate but come on! you graduate with thousands and thousands of dollars in debt, and that's just a fact; we're all going to be working the rest of our lives to pay off our student debt that we got so we could get a good-paying job, because you need this education and then you get this good-paying job so you can spend your whole life paying off the education you got.

- Maggie Bollinger-Smith

x _____

The Undercurrent

GRCC Foundation Scholarships applications due April 30

By: Shane Lange
Staff Writer

Green River Community College's Foundation scholarships applications are due at the end of the month, April 30 at 4 p.m. The foundation requires applicants turn in an application along with an essay and letter of recommendation. 200 scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 are awarded to students based on a criteria centered on an applicant's focus of study, financial need and merit.

Martha Gatzke, the development specialist of the foundation, made it clear that if you need money for school, you should apply for these scholarships since there is such a broad spectrum of criteria.

"The budget has just come out from the state legislature," she said. "We haven't got all the details yet, but we're pretty sure that tuition is going to go up."

For the 2011-2012 school year, 470 people applied for the scholarship. This year, they are expecting the turnout to be larger since this is the first year that the application has been available online.

To apply visit the foundation's website at www.grccfoundation.com. Questions about the scholarships should be directed to Beth Gatzke. She can be reached at (253) 288-3420 or email at bgatzke@greenriver.edu.

Planning for commencement begins

By: Sean Rockey
Copy Editor

The 2012 Commencement webpage has gone live as of the morning of April 2; thus marking the beginning of graduation season.

On the site, one can find information covering a multitude of subjects related to the ceremony on June 15, be it parking information, disability accommodations, cap or gown pick-up times.

The event also features a Facebook page called "GRCC Commencement 2012," containing important dates, up-to-the-minute information and the ability to have your questions answered.

The Commencement Ceremony site can be located on the Green River home-page under the "Student Services" tab.

Two Green River students named All-Washington Academics

By: Sean Rockey
Copy Editor

Two Green River students, Heidi Pettit and Ping "Leo" Yang were selected to be honored as a part of the All-Washington Academic Team ceremony located at South Puget Sound Community College on March 26.

Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire was at the event, marking the final time she would be able to speak to the All-Washington Academic Team.

"You represent the real power of our community and technical colleges," Gregoire told the students.

The event also marks the first time in 21-years that all 34 community and technical colleges in the state sponsored students to be members; bringing 66 students total.

HireWorks Center helps students through recession

HireWorks offers resources to give students competitive edge in job search

By: Olivia Mok
News Editor

With Washington's unemployment rate at 9.1 percent, a fierce battle awaits students as they search for jobs. However, there are resources available on campus to help.

While alumni and students on campus are struggling with financial stress, the HireWorks Job Search Training and Resource Center has been providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to enter the work force.

"We are a center that helps people learn what works to get you hired," said Steve Laing, new manager of the HireWorks Center. Similar to an employment service center, HireWorks offers assistance throughout the entire job search process, inspiring potential workers to fulfill their career goals.

Laing points out the importance of the HireWorks Center -- which enhances students' resumes by highlighting their skills and abilities, helps to write effective cover and thank you letters, provides guidance and advising on interview preparations and develop job search strategies.

Prior to coming to Green River, Laing was a manager of a career service center at a four-year university in Alaska. He was responsible for career development, career exploration, academic advising and job fair coordination at the school.

Along with his experience, he believes that the HireWorks Center satisfies the need for individuals who want to change occupation by providing one-on-one enhancement services, given the bleak economical outlook and the large population of adult students on campus.



Thomas Sørenes | The Current

Green River students and friends walk through the college's annual Job Fair, an event put on by HireWorks.

Apart from the assortment of resources offered by the HireWorks Center to students, the Gator Jobs -- or Green River's job search database -- renders local and regional employers access to qualified college students.

In collaboration with four other colleges including Highline Community College, Renton Technical College, Pierce College and Tacoma Community College, almost 3500 students are registered with Gator Jobs and are able to gain online access to company profiles and job vacancies with nearly 2000 employers from the Puget Sound region.

Laing also encouraged students to network and visit with faculty and people off campus.

"Less than 80 percent of the jobs out there are ever advertised," he said "And so to really find out more opportunities, you need to be out talking to people."

Another job-hunting resource is the Cooperative Education Internship Program, a specialized two-year program provided by the HireWorks Center for students to gain job experience before heading out to the work force.

"It is a partnership between the college, the student, the faculty and me," said Karen Brasch, a student employment specialist who coordinates cooperative education internships.

Brasch also works with local businesses and receives all sorts of requests and advice from potential employers.

"They keep the faculty aware of what the industry is demanding," said Brasch, who reveals that their partnership is enhancing the HireWorks Center in helping job-seekers to target their skills to specific employers.

Despite the resources provided for all campus

students, only 586 students have had scheduled one or more individual appointments since the center's opening to February 2012, according to the sign-in data of the HireWorks Center.

"A lot of people don't take the job search seriously, and don't commit enough time to it. It's really time-consuming," said Laing. "People don't realize that looking for a job can be -- and is probably -- one of the most difficult jobs an individual is ever going to have."

To approach such a handsome prospect, job searchers are committed to target their education and work experience to specific employers and occupations. By coaching students to do a summary of qualifications and highlighting the skills they've developed, the HireWorks Center helps build up students' confidence and abilities for fulfilling the needs of the current industry.

Executive director of public information announces resignation

John Ramsey, after working with Green River for 23 years, leaves to pursue a career in motor sports

By: Niclas Bergh
Staff Writer

John Ramsey, executive director of public information at Green River, is feeling the need to try something new after serving 23 years on campus.

When he was offered a job combining his profession with his personal interest in motor sports, Ramsey decided to explore the career opportunity and has taken a job at Pacific Raceways as their director of marketing and drag strip manager; though he still works on campus one day a week until mid-June to finish off several projects.

Ramsey's history at the college goes further back than his first day of employment. From 1974-76, Ramsey was a journalism student under instructor Ed Eaton.

"I learned so much from him. Ed really helped me with my career," Ramsey said.

A little over a decade later, Ramsey came back to the school as the radio broadcasting instructor, returning the favor.

"I liked the classroom experience -- having students there and teaching them in the lab," he said. Ramsey has always appreciated the opportunity to work with different kinds of students.

He became the executive director of public information in 1993. His job responsibilities ranged from being the voice for/supporting Green River in the aspects of media, public relations and communications -- to legislature and emergency management.

One of his remarkable contributions to the college has been overhauling KGRG, the campus' radio station. By facilitating the purchase of the AM radio station and working on associated legislative issues in the last several years, Ramsey placed KGRG

a step closer to becoming a competitive radio station

This work has recently been paid off, as KGRG was selected to be a part of the first 14 college radio stations on Clear Channel's worldwide streaming engine, iHeartRadio.

Extending beyond his responsibilities as executive

as an effective spokesman for the college and helping to establish the Emergency Operations Center.

"People like [former college president] Rich Rutkowski, [Special Assistant in International Program] Mike McIntyre and [current college president] Eileen Ely gave me a lot of varied responsibilities

executive director of college relations will be responsible for carrying out similar duties as the executive director of public information.

"The changes that are being made really bring the position more in line with what it is like at other colleges," said Ramsey, who believes that rearranging will help organize and divide workloads in spite of the time it takes for such changes.

Assistant Director Katie Rose will continue doing legislative work and maintaining public and government relations. Meanwhile, she will be busy taking on some of Ramsey's obligations, such as coordinating graduation and working with Student Resources to make sure transitions are smooth.

"I'm looking forward to any changes coming to the Public Information Office and working with the new executive director," said Rose.

"I think that once we get rolling, we'll be able to make some great things happen for Green River."

Until a new executive is hired, all departments will report to Vice Pres. of Human Resources Lesley Hogan.

Looking back at his time at Green River, Ramsey notes the importance of seizing the opportunity to work with a wide variety of people.

"Skills that I learned in the classroom and on the job at Green River will transfer nicely to my new job at Pacific Raceways," said Ramsey.

Having been a student, an instructor and an administrator, Ramsey has nothing but kind words to say about Green River.

"I've had a very long career there and I appreciated every second of every day that I worked there," he said. "It's always going to be home to me. It's been my home for a long time."

"Skills that I learned in the classroom and on the job at Green River will transfer nicely to my new job at Pacific Raceways."

John Ramsey, former executive director of public information

director of public information, Ramsey also worked on strategic planning and the development of Green River's transportation program. He has also been credited with coordinating the graduation ceremony, serving on the Enrollment Committee, acting

and opportunities," said Ramsey. "For which I am forever grateful."

Following Ramsey's departure from the college, the Public Information Office will be adopting several changes along with the removal of his position. However, the new

The PaperTree - a valuable part of campus

Manager Gary Jones explains the various efforts PaperTree bookstore goes to for the Green River students' benefit

By: Kyuyoung Cho & Olivia Mok

A newly established convenience store in the PaperTree bookstore now provides simple groceries for the student housing in response to poor transportation, making it easier for students without a vehicles.

The PaperTree is an institutionally owned bookstore which serves

members of the college as a campus retailer, supplying items that range from textbooks and refreshments to movie rentals and UPS delivery, to mention only a few.

With its primary role in providing textbooks, staff orders textbooks that are needed for the coming quarter, according to instructors' decisions. However, what concerns students the most are the noticeable inflating costs of textbooks.

"Textbook prices are high," said Gary Jones, manager of the PaperTree Bookstore. "That's been dictated by publisher's cost," he says, voicing his concerns on textbook rip-offs.

"If we buy the book for \$100, we are going to sell it at \$134," said Jones. Still, with all the costs to cover for staff and campus services like the radio station KGRG and remodeling, Jones said it's been tough when it comes to making

decisions for textbooks prices.

"We do everything to keep the price down as possible as we can," he said. "That's why we do buybacks [and] gift card buy backs, because it helps to reduce the cost of books."

With the buyback systems, students are able to get 50 percent cash back of the new price, regardless of a new or a used textbook. An alternative is also provided for students to get a bookstore gift card with 60 percent value.

For students who find difficulty affording even a used textbook, textbook rental services will come to be a decent option.

Since February 2012, the bookstore has also adapted a more comprehensive convenience store with various new products.

"We've got big bags of rice, ketchup, mustard, bread, peanut butter and jelly," said Jones. "We lined up stuff we thought that [would] help

students over in student housing"

The PaperTree's online system is another highlight in which students are able to order books online, avoiding large lines in the beginning of the quarter.

Other than providing course materials and necessities, PaperTree is also a potential employer on campus for work-study students, in which students gain cashier experience.

APRIL/MAY HOLIDAYS

Apr 23 - Lover's Day

Apr 24 - Pig in a Blanket Day

Apr 25 - World Penguin Day

Apr 26 - Hug an Australian Day

Apr 27 - Tell A Story Day

Apr 28 - Kiss Your Mate Day

Apr 29 - National Greener Day

Apr 30 - False Confession Day

May 1 - May Day

May 2 - Brothers and Sisters Day

May 3 - Lumpy Rug Day

May 4 - International Tuba Day

May 5 - Cinco De Mayo

May 6 - No Diet Day

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EDITORIAL

General orientation will maximize success

A more thorough orientation would benefit all new students

Editorial Board: David Caldwell, Asha Johnson, Sean Rockey, Jacob Jagodinski, Bailey Jo Josie, Kally Bieber, Olivia Mok, Dylan Witcher, Thomas Sørenes

Ignorance of the resources available at a college campus is an unnecessary misfortune. Students do not attend without any goals in mind, and it is upsetting when someone finds out they have wasted money on a class that was not actually required, or does not count for the credits they assumed it did. As our school works to encourage opportunity and growth for its biggest population groupings, Running Start and international students, there is a tendency for domestic students to get muddled in an environment they aren't accustomed to navigating. The Current believes that measures should be taken to help every student adjust to the fresh and often challenging standards of college. The hands-on solution would be a customized, focused orientation similar to that available to international and Running Start students available to all incoming students.

The system for introducing international students to Green River is currently the most accommodating program in terms of its dedication to informing students about the various resources and options available. This is meant to address the unfamiliarity they may have with Ameri-

can culture, yet it provides an excellent example of how to prepare any student for college.

Many international students chart out the entire course plan for their stay at Green River at the start, contrasting with the many students who pick classes immediately before or during registration. The three-day orientation also includes tours of the campus and an emphasis on counseling and advising — free services available to students that remain unknown and unused by many who might benefit. Prior to arriving, emails are sent out to every prospective international student. These students establish contact with advisors before entering the country. Encouraging correspondence such as this for every new student will ensure a positive and productive experience at Green River. Doing so has the additional benefit of getting students comfortable with everyday, college-level interaction, which will prove useful in their future.

At present, incoming students go through a Student Orientation, Advising and Registration --SOAR-- session, available online or in-person, which is mandatory for those attending more

than 1 quarter or without previous college credit. SOAR serves as a primer for students and establishes information on programs of study, Compass scores and how to register.

While all of this information is necessary for students, SOAR is somewhat bare-bones compared to the Running Start orientation, which is based on SOAR but includes tailored content to help those used to high school with operating in a college setting. As Green River is the first educational institution since high school for many students, it should be argued that elements of the Running Start orientation can apply to all students and deserve to be included in SOAR.

Steering students toward an interactive and engaging college experience will lead to an increased number of success stories for the college. The present orientation system is adequate, but with an increased focus on involvement and college resource awareness, all Green River students can sidestep common costly mistakes. Working to help all students recognize and utilize resources will ease the problems of poor planning and the frustration that comes with it.

Editorial Policy

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

body.

Theft Policy

A person commits the offense of publication theft when he or she willfully or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over more than three copies of The Current that is distributed on campus (with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that edition of the publication). A "publication" includes any periodical that is distributed on a complimentary or compensatory basis. In addition to the imposition of other campus disciplinary penalties, a person who violates

this provision is responsible for compensating the publication for all reasonable costs incurred, including, where appropriate, the refund of advertising fees.

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The Current encourages all its readers to be involved and will publish letters. Anonymous letters are not accepted and the editor reserves the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of length, libel, or propriety. All letters become property of The Current. Send letters to thecurrent@greenriver.edu.

Spring brings hope and worry

**The Chief**
Asha Johnson

For most students, spring signifies the nearing of summer freedom, a time to wear sun dresses and shorts, or the last chance of the school year to improve their grades. However, for The Current it is a time to worry about the upcoming months.

Spring is the last quarter of the year that the current Editor-in-Chief (or I, in this case) will serve, and therefore it is time to look for a shining pupil to take their place for the following year.

classroom of students awaiting guidance and direction from you, when you really feel that you'd better be blended into the audience that sits in front of you. If I could only accomplish one thing this year, it would be to do my best to prepare the new EIC for the realities of this job.

Now, it's definitely less likely that someone with as little experience as I had would rise to power so quickly, but when a majority of the staff is graduation that spring, the pickings get slim real quick.

I would never trade my time here, or retract my application for EIC, but I feel that many more doors would have been opened up to me if someone had taken special interest and time into preparing me.

The news world can be

"I feel that many more doors would have opened up to me if someone had taken[...] time into preparing me."

The problem that accompanies my job is that I not only have to find someone to replace me and then train them, but I have to do this all while performing my many other responsibilities as EIC, along without flunking my finals come June.

I must say that time management has been the quality I've most improved on over this past year, but that also means that at one point in time it was my weakest quality. Even though I wasn't raised by parents who led the best example in punctuality, I felt that wasn't what made time management difficult for me. It was difficult because I had not been thoroughly trained before the beginning of my term.

I cannot explain how awful the feeling is to walk into a full (okay, semi-full)

fast and judgmental and for that I want to make sure that the new EIC is ready and excited for the challenges, not terrified. This means teaching more than just the basics of InDesign (the program we use to create the paper), and emphasizing things like time management or equally dividing responsibilities among the staff. I will not sugar coat any of the hardships of this job, but I won't let those hardships outshine the ultimate gain that makes all the time, effort and sleepless nights worth it.

Being a good leader does not end with your days' responsibilities, but carries on forever with those you manage to influence. Though the end is near, my work is not finished until that bright, new student does not need me anymore. That day will be a proud one.

Running Start stigma

One student speaks about judgement of RS students



Commentary by:
Jaspreet Deol

Green River is full of opportunities. One of these is the Running Start program. Running Start programs allow Washington high school students in eleventh and twelfth grade to study at any state college. Running Start is the best way to get ahead, and you can save a lot of money if you do it. The opportunity provided by the program doesn't come without challenges, however.

"It's my second quarter here. A lot of people who know I'm a running start student always look down upon me," says Sibley Ortiz, a Running Start student from Kentwood High

School. "In my English class I heard non-Running Start students bad mouthing Running Start students by saying Running Start students are dumb, they are annoying and they think they're all that; immature and rude."

Ortiz's best memory at Green River has been her first day. Though she was nervous and didn't know anyone, the college was a blank slate for her education.

"I think the only students that should do Running Start are the ones that actually want to get ahead in life and not fool around... It is difficult. I study more often than I ever had done in high school. I don't procrastinate anymore" Ortiz said.

Ortiz feels teaching styles between high school teachers and college teachers are very different, which can create a stigma for high school students in the eyes of college-level instructors.

"Their teaching style is very different indeed," she said. "In high school teachers try their best to make students pass their class by giving extra credit. In college, teachers don't really give you as many chances to improve your grade."

Adapting to a new atmosphere can be difficult. Ortiz feels that while she has had to endure the shift to college, Running Start at Green River is overall enjoyable and is grateful to be studying here.

Though there are some professors and students in college who look down upon those in the Running Start program, not all judge them by their age or high school level experience, but by individual effort. Ortiz hopes that other Running Start students will realize they should work equally as hard as regular students, because she thinks they deserve to be here as much as anyone.

State's debt shaping race

Debt solutions will influence the upcoming election



Commentary by:
Eli Stredicke

The Washington State budget has been an issue for Governor Christine Gregoire ever since she assumed her position. She has been in office since 2005 and spending rose \$8 billion in the first term of her office alone. Washington's debt has risen from \$53 billion in 2005 to an estimated \$76 billion in 2011. This enormous liability makes budget negotiations even more tedious and disheartening.

New budget plans are in the works, hoping to close the gap between state spending and income. Massive debt has been the topic of a recent 30 day confer-

ence in the legislature, which ended on April 10 without a consensus.

Under the original plan, funding for education would decrease by \$74 million. These funding cuts would affect K-12 students as well as college students. The school budget at Green River is already tight and it will be difficult to stretch our funds even farther, but may be an unfortunate but necessary evil.

The failing efforts of the Governor and legislature to decrease the growing debt will likely become an important topic of debate among the new governmental candidates, as well as the amount of funding needed for education.

The front runners for the race for Governor in Washington are Democrat Jay Inslee and Republican Rob McKenna. Inslee supports an increase in governmental funding for education, as well as a statewide evalu-

ation program on teachers and principals. He also supports investments in higher education.

Rob McKenna too supports increases in educational funding.

According to McKenna's website, he believes that "we need to prioritize those new funds toward our kids' futures through our K-12 system as well as our colleges and universities."

Inslee seems to have a more specific policy than McKenna, however both candidates claim that they will support increases in spending for schooling. It will be interesting to see how they will actually attempt to pull it off.

Inslee does not have a specific plan on his website for balancing the state budget. However, he does not support the proposed cuts from the recent 30 day session and says that an alternate way of reducing the deficit needs to be found.

Oh yes. We've been waiting for you.



Let your voice be heard.
Get your letter published.

thecurrent@greenriver.edu

Be Seen

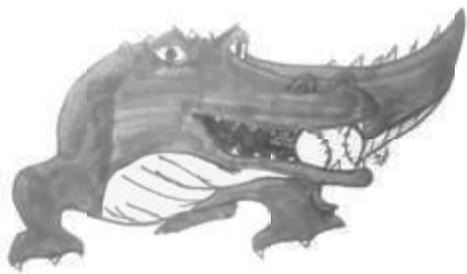


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Calendar

MEN'S BASEBALL	
Apr 28	Grays Harbor @ Aberdeen, 1 & 4 p.m.
Apr 29	Grays Harbor @ Auburn HS, 1 & 4 p.m.
May 5	Pierce @ Auburn HS, 1 & 4 p.m.
May 6	Pierce @ Lakewood, 1 & 4 p.m.
May 19-20	West Region Playoffs @ TBA, TBA
May 24-28	NWAACC Tournament @ Longview, TBA
WOMEN'S FASTPITCH	
Apr 27	Pierce @ Service Playfield in Auburn, 1:30 & 3:30 p.m.
May 1	Grays Harbor @ Aberdeen, 2 & 4 p.m.
May 4	Centralia @ Service Playfield in Auburn, 1:30 & 3:30 p.m.
May 5	Highline @ Game Farm Park, 11 & 1 p.m.
May 8	Pierce @ Heritage Rec, 4 & 6 p.m.
May 18-21	NWAACC Tournament @ Delta Park in Portland, TBA

Go to www.greenriver.edu/athletics for home game locations.



Standings

MEN'S BASEBALL					
West Region	W	L	Pct.	GB	Streak
Pierce	12	0	1.000	-	12W
Tacoma	6	2	0.750	4	2L
Lower Columbia	5	3	0.625	5	3W
Clark	6	6	0.500	6	1L
Centralia	5	7	0.417	7	5L
Grays Harbor	1	7	0.125	9	1W
Green River	1	11	0.083	11	3L
WOMEN'S FASTPITCH					
West Region	W	L	Pct.	GB	Streak
Highline	9	1	0.900	-	5W
Pierce	6	3	0.667	2.5	1W
Grays Harbor	7	5	0.583	3	2L
Centralia	4	7	0.364	5.5	2W
Green River	1	11	0.083	9	6L

Find full league standings, stats and more at www.nwaacc.org

GOLF

Gators continue to impress

Division One talent and solid work ethic gives the team a competitive edge

By: Febby Mulia
Staff Writer

Both of Green River's golf teams are off to a great season.

Mike Smith is the head coach for both the men's and women's golf teams and is excited about the progression of his players.

"The team is practicing and working hard, so it's great seeing it pay off," he said. "I feel if they kept their composure, we should place at every event."

In preparation for the upcoming Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges Championship--the NWAACC-- held at McCormick Woods and Gold Mountain this year on May 20-21, the members are working to reach their full potential.

With a practice schedule of six to seven days a week, four days with the coach and two to three days on their own, the team is really

improving their game.

While things seem to be going very well for both teams, working on the little things like small changes to their swings and adjusting to new courses will be helpful.

Smith's idea is to train his players to build on certain

powering opposing teams, especially Spokane. Smith feels Spokane will give the most competition.

Division One is the highest level of intercollegiate athletics sanctioned by the NCAA. Broc Johnson, David Kang and Christian Barnes are a few of the players on

improvement from the beginning of the year," said Smith.

"Working with them is what I look forward to doing, it's different then anything I've done before. As a group, travelling, playing golf, and getting through certain obstacles, you begin to care a lot about what they're all working so hard to accomplish."

As a coach, Smith has certain expectations towards the players individually, and as a group.

"I'm expecting them to work hard to get better and once they see that their game has come around, be happy and excited about what they've accomplished," Smith said.

Of course, to have fun is not his only expectation; he still expects them to win some tournaments.

The next NWAACC event will be held at Glendale Country Club in Bellevue on April 29 and 30.

"The team is practicing and working hard, so it's great seeing it pay off. ...We should place at every event."

Mike Smith, golf coach

swinging techniques, but let each of the players have their own distinct swing.

"Most golfers don't realize that if you play YOUR swing and know where to place the ball, golf can be pretty simple," said Smith.

Keeping an exceptional overall progression is the key if they plan on over-

the men's squad that have the ability to play on that level.

The women's team is abundant with talent as well.

"On the women's squad, we have Brittany Thurber who is shooting excellent in the mid 70's more often than before, which is a huge

WOMEN'S FASTPITCH

Cold offense leads to loss

Despite high offensive numbers from top player, Gators struggle to score

By: Thomas Petersen
Staff Writer

With fastpitch league play under way, the Lady Gators have come out of the gates stumbling, losing 9 of their first 10 league games.

League play began on the road for the Gators on April 6 with two games against Pierce Community College.

Freshman Jen Sweet had the hottest bat during the first game, but the Gators failed to score enough runs to pull out a win.

Scoring only two runs in the fifth inning, Green River's fastpitch team lost to Pierce 2-10. Green River suffered a repeating loss of 2 to 10 in the series finale.

On April 9, the Lady Gators brought their strug-

gling offense home as they hosted Grays Harbor. Green River lost the first game 1-14, after a 10-run fifth inning and lost the second game 1-16.

Despite the struggling offense, freshman standout Kihani Palmer is leading the team in most of the offensive categories with a batting average of .581 to go along with her team high of 15 RBIs (runs batted in).

"She's doing very well right now," said head coach Danielle McKay. "She's a very strong player and definitely a good anchor for the team."

The Lady Gators would need Palmer's leadership in the next series as they traveled to once again play Grays Harbor, the same

team that bested Green River by a combined score of 2-30 the previous day.

The trend of losing to Grays Harbor continued with a demoralizing 1-9 defeat. However, Green River proved they could play with anybody in the series finale. The Gators beat Grays Harbor by a score of 10-8.

Despite starting the season off in horrendous fashion, McKay remains positive and says the team is doing the same.

"We'll play our best ball later in the season," she said. McKay adding that she was absolutely confident that her team can rally and make the playoffs, especially with the wide variety of players they have, with Palmer leading the charge.



Kihani Palmer smirks as she prepares for her opponent to bat

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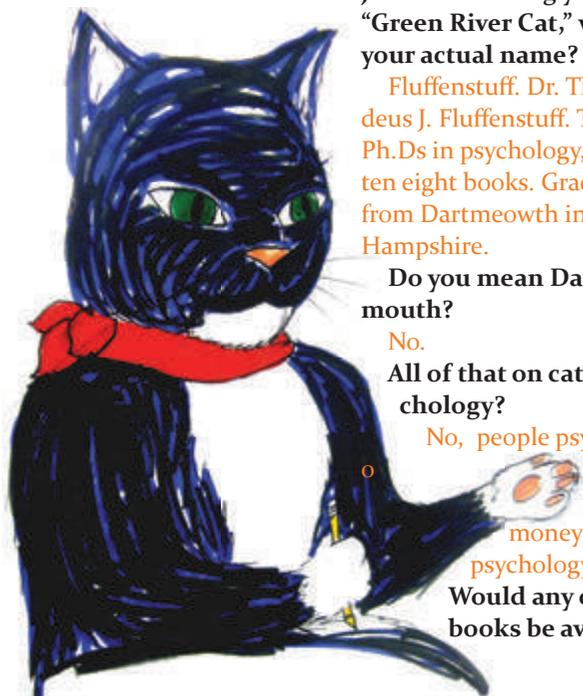
Also on the Inside

*"I love my students; I don't necessarily have to be their friend, but
I want to be kind of a colleague with them..."*

Robin Bowles Page 3

Curiosity: A one-on-one with the 'Green River Cat'

Special guest, Mr. T sits down for an interview with none other than the orange tabby cat you may have seen around campus



Nice of you to stop in. Well, first off, seeing as up until now everyone's just been calling you the "Green River Cat," what's your actual name?

Fluffenstuff. Dr. Thaddeus J. Fluffenstuff. Twelve Ph.Ds in psychology, written eight books. Graduated from Dartmouth in New Hampshire.

Do you mean Dartmouth?

No.

All of that on cat psychology?

No, people psychology.

No money in cat psychology.

Would any of your books be available

in the school's library?

I said I wrote books; I didn't say they were published. You try writing legibly when you have no thumbs and the pen is designed for someone ten times your size. Keyboards are out as well, seeing as my digits don't have enough force to press the keys and the whole paw would hit multiple letters. I now understand why that "Keyboard Cat" is so popular; he is a prodigy among our kind.

And how long have you been wandering about our campus?

I've been lounging around here ever since early last summer, but it seems like none of you people no-

ticed me until September. Truly a shame, I was offering free counseling every Thursday until August.

Alright, Mr. Fluffenstuff... Your Ph.Ds clearly imply that you've graduated college, so what are you doing still wandering around our campus?

The squirrels.

No further elaboration? Not here to possibly further your education using the multitude of resources available on our fine establishment? Maybe study college student's behavior as a part of a research project?

No. The squirrels.

So, are you studying their behavioral patterns, maybe seeing if there's

a correlation between their thought processes and those of humans, or something like that?

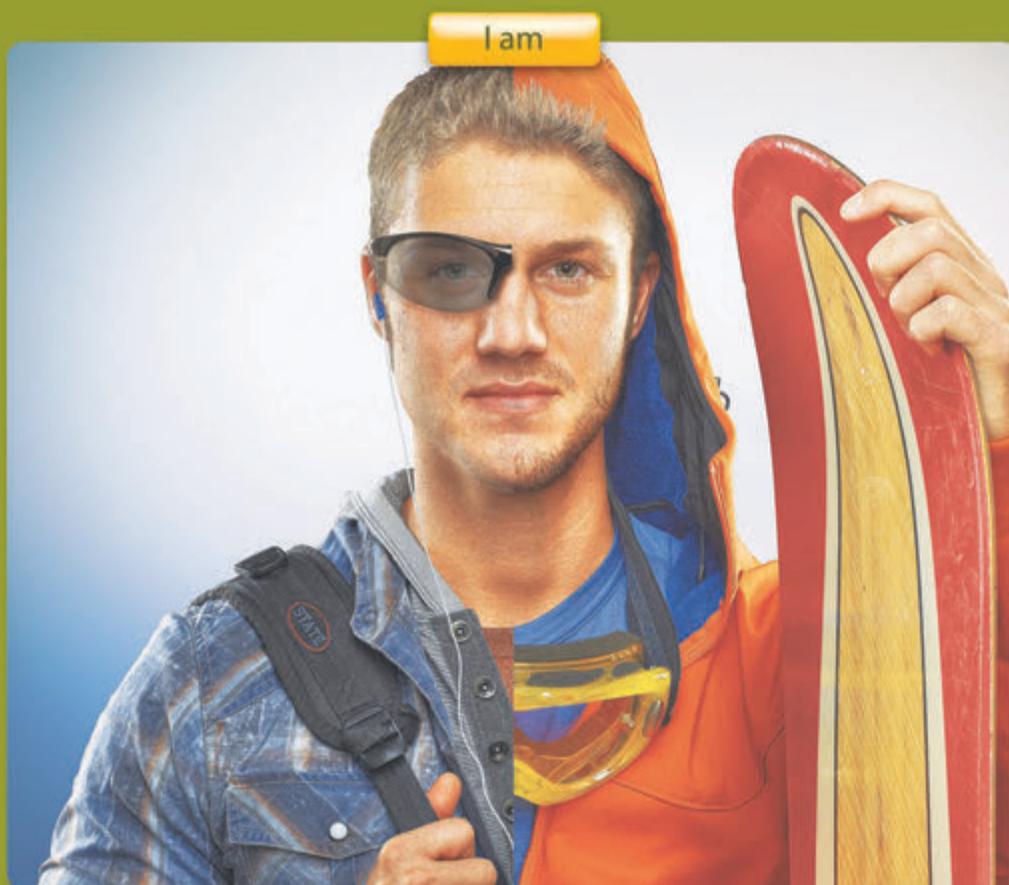
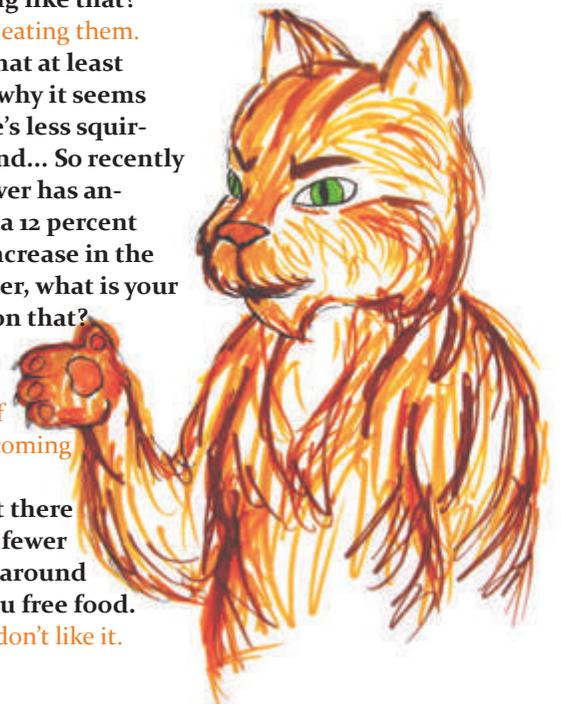
No, I'm eating them.

Well, that at least explains why it seems like there's less squirrels around... So recently Green River has announced a 12 percent tuition increase in the fall quarter, what is your opinion on that?

Does it affect the number of squirrels coming here?

No, but there might be fewer students around to give you free food.

Then I don't like it.



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