

# THE CURRENT

**Not News?**

Find out what's not going on in the news on *The Current's* new Satire Page, Page 3.

## Local group organizes charity concert to provide Africa with clean water

# Rock For Reason

**Jennifer Horn**  
Staff Writer

"Anyone can change the world, it's your turn!" That is the motto of 17 year old Green River student, Cameron Murray. Working toward an Associates degree here at GRCC is not the only thing that Cameron is trying to do, he is also working on changing the world.

A young man with a very large goal, Murray is working to provide clean water to 125,000 people in Africa who are otherwise forced to drink water that is potentially full of harmful, even deadly, bacteria.

Murray has said that ever since he was very young he wanted to do his part to improve the world somehow and at the age of 16 he was moved to action.

Driven with the knowledge that 80 percent of all sickness in the world is attributable to unsafe water and sanitation, coupled with a passion to help others, Murray

decided to help the Mo People in Bamboi, Ghana in West Africa.

In order to build the wells that would give these people safe water, he needed to, of course, raise money. So Murray founded a not-for-profit organization he named Rock for Reason (RFR).

RFR organizes concerts featuring local bands, and people who come to the concert pay a \$5 cover charge.

Every single penny of each \$5 cover charge goes directly toward building wells. To date, RFR has raised roughly \$6000 but still has a long way to go to reach the goal of providing enough wells to accommodate 125,000 people who are in desperate need.

When Murray was asked if his ambitious goals ever seem insurmountable he confessed that they sometimes do, but the thought of children dying because they

don't have water keeps him inspired. He also credits his friends for supplying encouragement and offering their own time to make RFR work.

Even though Rock for Reason's main purpose is to build wells and provide water, a secondary benefit is also being pursued. "Rock for Reason is about giving young people, who don't have a purpose, a purpose," explains Murray, "RFR concerts get kids off the streets and into a good environment to listen to tight music and help people half way around the world." Rock for Reason is completely run by teens, with Murray being the oldest member.

He and his young co-volunteers prove that age doesn't have to be a factor in the positive difference people can make. And anyone can make a difference. If you want to help Rock for Reason and their mission:

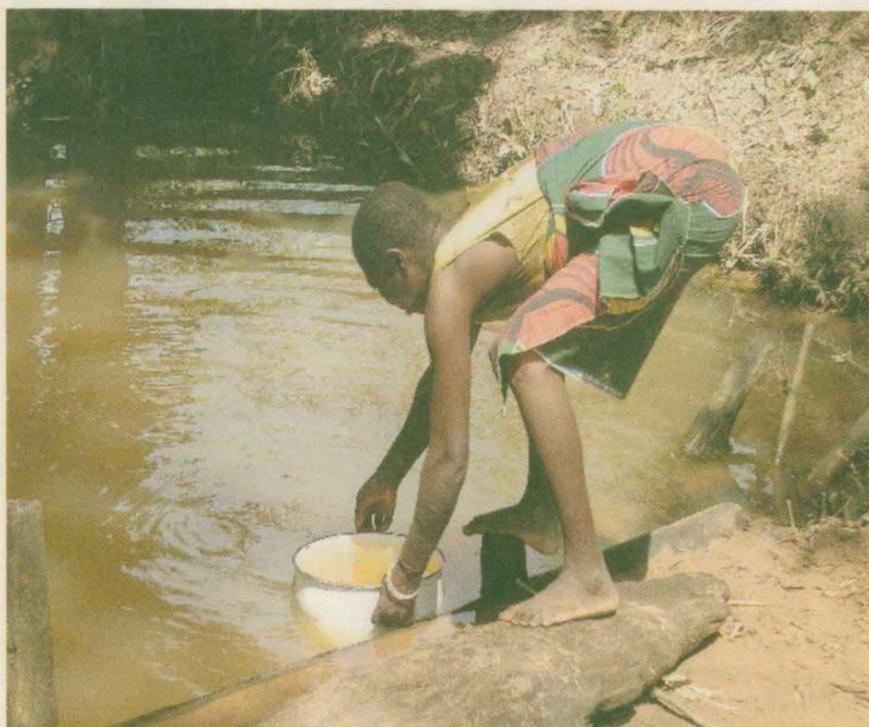
you can attend a concert, buy a t-shirt, make a donation, or donate some of your time.

Murray also advises that people can change the world by choosing a problem that bothers them the most, and deciding on their own ways to help fix that problem whether it be donating services, holding a benefit concert, event, or auction, or simply informing others that the problem exists.

The possibilities are endless and the impact is incredible. To learn more about Rock for Reason you can visit [www.rockforreason.com](http://www.rockforreason.com). They also have a MySpace Page. At both sites you will be able to find contact information, learn about upcoming concerts, buy merchandise, and more.

"Anyone can change the world, it's your turn!"

<http://www.myspace.com/rockforreason>



[www.gtresearchnews.gatech.edu](http://www.gtresearchnews.gatech.edu)/Courtesy Photo

## Water Facts

Though we use it constantly, we think very little about water and its place in our lives. Here are some water facts to ponder:

- More than half of Africa's people lack access to safe drinking water (UN)
- Of all the renewable water available in Africa each year, only 4 percent is used because most Africans lack the wells, canals, pumps, reservoirs and other irrigation systems (Africare)
- In developing countries, one person uses an average of ten liters of water per day. In the United States, one person uses an average of 75-80 gallons in the same time period (<http://www.epa.gov/>)
- In the past ten years, diarrhea has killed more children worldwide than all the people lost to armed conflict since World War II (Water Aid)
- Twelve million people die each year from lack of safe drinking water, including more than 3 million who die from waterborne diseases (WHO)
- Over 80 percent of the disease in developing countries is related to poor drinking water and sanitation (WHO)
- The average distance a woman in Africa and Asia walks to collect water is 6 km (3.75 miles) ([www.whrnet.org](http://www.whrnet.org))
- Medical research has documented cases of permanent damage to women's health as a result of carrying water, such as chronic fatigue, spinal and pelvic deformities, and effects on reproductive health including spontaneous abortion (<http://www.unhabitat.org>)

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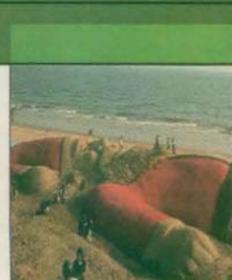
**Lend a hand**

Find out how and where to help the less fortunate during the holiday season  
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### Center

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Different Christmas Traditions in different countries.  
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## Jobs available on campus for international students

*There are several jobs available or occupied by international students on GRCC campus*

**Yuki Inoguchi**  
Staff Writer

During winter break, some students will work part-time jobs to earn money. However, because of the United States student visa laws, most international students can't have a job except for on campus. Campus is the only one place that they are permitted to work. Many people know that but some of them don't know how to apply.

According to the Office of Human Resources, if students went to Green River Community College's website, there is list of part-time jobs that are open for students. The first thing students have to do is download application form.

The application explains what the job is, necessary position competence, qualifications, and required materials. After filling out application form, students submit to the place that is on the application.

There is also different way to find a job. For example, International Programs announces some jobs in the IP office by E-Newsletter that is sent to every international student's e-mail account. It tells students the requirements for the position and the deadline for the application.

As a common requirement for jobs, students also need Social Security Number. Originally, it is a registration number to receive social security. For international students who don't have a family register, it is only a way to specify an individual. It can be used for various reasons: to open new bank account, to get driver's license, to get membership card, etc.

Melanie Kaneshiro who works for International Program mentioned about how to get Social Security Number. "When you find a job, and somebody wants to hire you, they will write a letter that you take to Social Security Office, and then Social Security Office will send you Social Security Card," said Kaneshiro,

"But you need to show proof that you have an employer before you can get Social Security Card."

Kaneshiro explained that it will up to two weeks to receive the card, and it can delay employment.

For now, two jobs are available to most international students.

One of them is Student Reception Assistant for the IP front desk. Students must fill out an application form that is in office of International Programs.

Another one is at the Student Help Desk in the Technology Center. To apply, students need to get application form in SMT 210. No recommendation is needed.

Unfortunately, there are no other available jobs for students right now. However, they may be available at different time. Students can wait until jobs are posted on web-site.

To work for the library, According to Catherine Robold who is supervisor in library, students must have customer service skills, have basic computer understanding, good attitude, and be able to file. Students also must help students, access the material in library, and provide

information.

To work for Students Program, supervisor Susan Evans said that students need some leadership experience.

In the Welcome Center, students should be familiar with computers, have customer service skills, but each job is different. As contents of jobs, supervisor Kae Hamilton said that students answer the phone call, send information by mail and e-mail, provide general information at the front desk, help students with online service, and to be tour guide for students.

The Book Store is familiar place for students. According to supervisor Gary Jones, qualifications and responsibilities are depends on jobs.

For students who live in Campus Corner Apartments (CCA), to be CCA Staff would save a lot of money. There is no payment, however, they can live in CCA rent free.

According to supervisor Debbie Daniels, the qualifications are minimum GPA of 2.75, must work for at least 3 quarters, to check students in/out CCA, good communication skills with students, and must be responsible.

## GRCC implements new safety alert system to help ensure safety on and off campus

*Green river to send alert text messages to notify students of potential threats around campus*

**Justin Runquist**  
Staff Writer

Green River has been working on implementing a new safety alert system since last summer.

The program is now fully functional. The next step is getting the word out.

Over the summer, Campus Safety shopped around through several different safety alert systems that would serve to warn faculty and students about emergencies that might directly affect the campus.

The aptly named Green River Safety Alerts will warn people of such emergencies as inclement weather, school fires, and the event of a gunman on campus. It is designed to send out instant messages via email and text message to warn people of such emergencies. In addition, the school is also looking to put more phones in the school's new buildings.

These new phones would be digital phones, which would pick up on these messages as well. They would not require people answer their phones to receive the messages though. Instead, they would automatically play over speaker phone.

After investigating several service providers, Green River decided to go with a fairly new company named e2Campus for our new Safety Alerts.

"They had the product that seemed to work best for us," said Green River's Director of Public Information John Ramsey.

The alerts should make the campus much safer than ever before, but according to Ramsey, there is still one problem.

*"The school is planning a lock down drill in conjunction with this program for the summer of 2009."*

"The word has been out a lot more to employees than it has to students."

People have to sign up online to receive the safety alerts, and currently, only about 400 among faculty and students have signed up.

According to Ramsey, the large majority of them are faculty members though.

That means that only a very small minority of the GRCC student body have signed up to receive safety alerts.

This disparity has developed because the program has been well presented to staff, but introducing it to students has been a different story.

Residents of the Campus Corner Apartments have been presented with the new program.

Other than that though, little has been done.

Campus Safety is working with C.L.E.O. to devise a plan for marketing the new program in the next quarter, but at this point, no permanent plans have been put into play to inform more students about it.

Ramsey said the goal is to have 2,000 people sign up by the end of the year.

"Our account limit right now is 2,000 people," said Ramsey, "We pay based on the number of licenses.

Green River can purchase more licenses in addition to the original 2,000.

In its long history, Green River has never had a gunman on campus and has never had to lock down, but the risk of such an occurrence is very real.

For that reason, the school is planning a lock down drill in conjunction with this program for the summer of 2009.

Other Washington colleges, such as Central Washington University, and Western Washington University, as well as other colleges around the nation have invested in the same or similar programs.

## Language Barrier draws some students together on Green River campus

*Contrasting languages draw some together at GRCC*

**Jean-Pierre Garcia**  
Staff Writer

It's 6 p.m. and after another long day on campus it is finally time to go home.

The faint orange glow from a nearby street lamp casts an outline of a King County Metro Bus.

The doors are locked which barring shut out students to shiver among fall's leaves.

In the shade of a lamppost an 18-year-old Vietnamese student sits patiently, while her friend talks on the phone in their shared native tongue.

Seated is Y Nhu Tran. She turns her head and looks with an inquisitive gaze.

While hesitant at first, she loosens up to questions about languages.

Tran, a native Vietnamese speaker, and an English learner, is also familiar with Korean.

Tran found out about Green River in Vietnam where IESL "is very famous." She is a level five IESL student after a single year at Green River.

When asked about her experience learning a language she says that her first few months here were difficult, but it became easier with time.

"At first I didn't know what the teachers were telling me," says Tran with her with a nervous smile.

To an untrained ear, people who talk in their native tongues seem to speak at an overwhelming pace.

Tran said that a lot of students say that Vietnamese speak quickly. She argues that Americans are the ones talking fast.

Her friend now finished with her conversation joins in and makes comparisons between English and other languages.

Shyly, Tran buries her face in her friend's arm for encouragement, but then turns to face two newcomers that she recognizes.

The rest of the group is asked about the comparing speeds in Vietnamese and English. The consensus is that it depends on the person.

So why did Tran decide to study English?

She is hopeful that it will help her pursue a career in the field of health here in

the U.S.

Tran admits that there are a few traditionalists who cling only to their native tongue.

However, it helps to be bilingual in the workplace. Employees who know more than their native language garnish higher pay.

The door to the dormant bus hisses open to let the huddled group aboard.

Slouched perpendicular to Tran is a 22-year-old American student named Jim Weather donning a black hoodie with the Mother Guadalupe emblazoned in white across his torso.

He has a tattoo with Chinese characters etched into his forearm. It reads "hope."

Weather has studied Mandarin Chinese last quarter and the previous year. He warns anyone wanting to learn Chinese that it is extremely difficult.

He found the ancient lettering particularly challenging.

"It will make your head explode," Weather says with a smirk and raised eyebrows.

Earlier Tran admitted that Korean lettering was more difficult than Roman letters.

However, amidst the sudden stops and bumps in the road, Weather says that learning mandarin is helpful on a campus where 392 students claim to be Asian/Pacific Islander, according to campuscorner.com.

What does he use his knowledge of languages for?

Flirting and teasing.

In fact, he suddenly turns to Tran and speaks to her after she had pressed him to greet her in Chinese.

After doing so she blushes as he explains that he had just told her that she was very pretty.

Weather says that he enjoys Asian culture and would like to visit the continent someday.

With a group of friends who are globally connected, Weather says he has learned many things on the go.

In Vietnamese, he knows a couple phrases but did not wish to repeat them.

Editor's note: This page does not contain news. The events described on this page are fictional, and not intended to offend, but rather to entertain. The descriptions, opinions, and stories on this page do not reflect the opinions of The Current, its collective staff, but are those of the writers.

## Seattle's chapter of Red Sox Nation exposed as terrorist front

Covert investigator Jimmy Chowder unravels the blanket of secrecy surrounding Red Sox Nation in Seattle

Casey Greer  
Staff Writer

Red Sox Nation, once thought of as a harmless 'fan club' of the Boston Red Sox, has been exposed as a front for a terrorist organization.

The news comes as a result of Operation: Sodo Safety, an operation by Major League Baseball's little known Department of Home Team Security (DOHTS), and the failed undercover work of an operative who disclosed information to the media under the alias he used while infiltrating Red Sox Nation, Jimmy Chowder.

Major League Baseball started the covert organization in 1992 in an effort to prevent teams from being contracted.

Chowder's findings indicate that Red Sox Nation had entered cities across the country, recruiting members, and that their plans include the invasion of the minds of home town baseball fans.

Seattle was an ideal target for 'The Nation,' as Chowder calls them, as the city's sports economy was already suffering after being ravaged by the potential, and subsequent loss of the Seattle Supersonics.

DOHTS became suspicious of the Seattle chapter of Red Sox Nation in 1997, when the Red Sox sent Heathcliff Slocumb to Seattle in exchange for Derek Lowe and Jason Varitek. Slocumb promptly bombed in Seattle, while Lowe and Varitek had illustrious Red Sox careers.

The trade was apparently retaliation for the 1996 trade which sent a dud, Darren Bragg, to Boston in exchange for future All-Star Jamie Moyer.

After over a half-decade of peace, suspicion rose again in late 2004, as member-

ship of Red Sox Nation nearly quadrupled in Seattle, after the Red Sox won their first World Series in nearly 90 years.

By the time the 2004 baseball season began, Chowder had risen in Red Sox Nation, becoming the "Director of Citizenship," in charge of screening new members.

New members were required to undergo an aptitude test that pertained to general MLB history and their fan hood of the Red Sox. Chowder found the results of these aptitude tests particularly alarming.

While 81 percent of new members claimed to be "Life Long Sox Fans," 63 percent of new members, when asked where former All-Star Red Sox shortstop Nomar Garciaparra began his professional career, believed Garciaparra had begun his career with the Chicago Cubs.

Garciaparra was traded to the Cubs on July 31, 2004.

When asked about 3-time Cy Young Award Winner Pedro Martinez, who had the worst season of his career to that point in 2004, an astounding 71 percent of voters described him as "Average at best" in terms of ability.

A multiple-choice question ended the test, "Who is the best pitcher in Red Sox history?" the question said. With options of Roger Clemens, Pedro Martinez, Cy Young, Tim Wakefield, Derek Lowe, and Keith Foulk, 87 percent chose either Foulke, Lowe, or Wakefield, who all played major roles in the Red Sox two recent championships.

However, such absurd answers didn't dissuade Red Sox Nation from granting membership.

"I'd compare it to the recruitment of young men into militant groups across the

world," said Chowder, "Young, ignorant, impressionable minds are 'The Nation's' breeding ground."

Chowder also notes that new member orientation consisted entirely of watching "The Departed" and "Fever Pitch" as a means of gaining an understanding of Boston and the Red Sox's deep and meaningful history.

DOHTS cited an increased attendance at Mariners games against the Red Sox in 2005 as the cause of suspicion of a more urgent situation. The Mariners went 69-93 in 2005, but nearly sold out a three-game series against the Red Sox in mid-May.

In 1993, when the Mariners went 82-80, the Mariners struggled to fill the Kingdome to one-third capacity for a mid-April series against the Red Sox, and only filled the stadium to half capacity in a game started by Roger Clemens.

Chowder even implied that the Kingdome's destruction was an attack by militant members of Red Sox Nation.

From late-2005 until the Red Sox's 2007 World Series Championship, Seattle's chapter of Red Sox Nation saw an alarming decrease in membership.

Chowder says that administrators within 'The Nation' blamed decreasing membership on the recruitment efforts of similar extremist groups which operate under the guide of the Chicago White Sox and St. Louis Cardinals.

Those organizations were quickly disbanded as their membership spikes, in 2005 and 2006 respectively, were not sustained.

In 2007, Red Sox Nation returned to power in Seattle in conjunction with the team's success, and many citizens are worry that they'll eventually take over and erase the traditions of Seattle sports.

"I'm already without the Sonics, I'll already be struggling from January to April,

I don't know how I'll protect myself if Red Sox Nation mounts an attack in April," said concerned Seattle resident Jeff Stevenson, "I'm scared of today- of tomorrow- I'm just scared."

Chowder's operation was ended when his cover was blown. Chowder acknowledges that it was his mistake which caused the blown cover.

"I wore a vintage No. 9 jersey to a board meeting with 'The Nation,' I figured the founding members of Seattle's chapter would know who Ted Williams was," said Chowder, "I was confronted, and it was determined at that point that I 'knew too much.' I barely escaped without physical harm."

Ted Williams is one of the historically great Red Sox players, and widely considered to be the "Father of modern hitting." Williams was a 19-time All Star, a two-time MVP, and won six batting titles.

Major League Baseball has been able to thwart several attempts at sports terrorism. After nearly four decades of tyrannical rule, George Steinbrenner has been relieved of his duties as the leader of the "Evil Empire."

For nearly a decade the Baltimore Orioles spent millions of dollars on weapons which they paraded through their lineup and pitching rotation, but the weapons have yet to manifest themselves into anything material.

It is undetermined if Erik Bedard has been sent from the Orioles as a spy of some sort, but he'll be detained on the disabled list indefinitely.

Major League Baseball encourages people across the country to report any odd behavior to their local authorities, such as: change in wardrobe to fit "nation standards," reading of Red Sox propaganda, or anything that may lead to poor decisions of fanhood.

## The apparent extinction of Atheism

Churches show extinction of atheism across the U.S.

Michael Espinosa  
Staff Writer

In a survey conducted among over 150 youth groups throughout the country, it was found that 100% of those surveyed believe in God.

According to this research, it has become apparent that the concept of atheism has been run out of existence.

"Atheism is nothing more than that of folklore, it's nothing to be taken seriously" said Michael Angelo, a professor of Theology at Texas University.

"It depicts the idea that there is no god, which is an absolutely absurd claim to begin with," he said.

"What's atheism? Isn't that just an urban legend?" asked Jeffery Littleman, an 8-year old of the Go for God Youth Group from Wichita, Kansas.

In the explanation provided by Dr. Angelo, Littleman replied, "That's the most bizarre thing I have ever heard in my life!"

"I believe an atheist is a creature that is half human, half lizard, with the lizard part on top. They stand about 6 feet tall and live in our sewer systems and come out at night to feast on the leftovers of Jack in the Box and Applebee's. I mean, no one else is going to eat it," said 17-year-old Kimberly Foster from Oklahoma City.

When looking at the survey, it was found that all of those surveyed believed in the

Christian God. Upon hearing this news, Pastor Jeremy Rivers said "It's about time! Finally, almighty God has been shown to be the way!"

With no other religions being around, school board directors have finally been allowed to teach creationism in schools.

It's so nice to hear the Kansas School Board's decision to teach this true theory when it was such an unpopular stance to make. Now who's laughing, Pastafarians?!

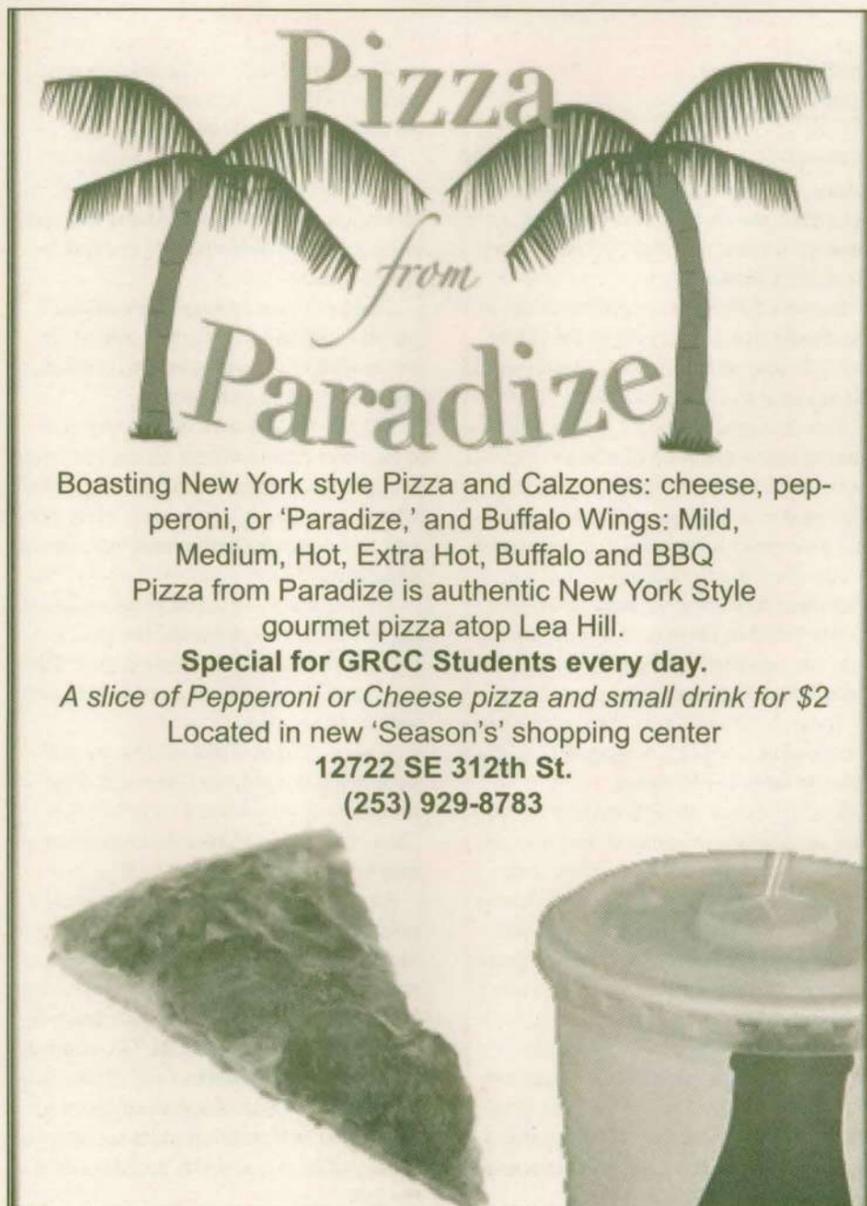
Also, the scientific community has abolished Darwin's theory of evolution, citing "It was just a cruel joke gone horribly wrong!"

Charles Darwin, the creator of this theory, was found to be a very accomplished satirist from the 19th century.

Many people in the science community have continued his tradition of devising gag theories that supposedly prove that all of God's miracles were natural process. Of the many names the most prominent is Richard Dawkins, a "biologist" from Britain.

Now, we can all sleep soundly tonight, knowing that all that Christianity has finally been scientifically proven to be the prevailing religion in the whole world.

An anonymous Cardinal at the Vatican said, "The Eucharist has been made with the actual descendants of Jesus Christ... not that any actually exist of course. Today shall be forever known as Jesus Day, a day dedicated to the birth, life, and death of Jesus, and how he's prevailed over all the other deities."



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## GRCC improves recycling on campus

*New bins allow for more recycling and lessen the school's garbage bill*

**Justin Runquist**  
Staff Writer

Reduce, reuse, recycle; that's the Environmental Protection Agency's motto, and now Green River is taking a giant step forward to do just that.

Over winter break, GRCC will be getting new commingle recycling bins. These bins will allow people to indiscriminately throw all sorts materials into one container.

Capital Projects Documentation Manager Terry Stanford says that this is part of a broader effort to make our school more environmentally friendly.

He also says that the new bins will noticeably diminish the amount of trash the school produces, which will save the school money, cutting down Green River's garbage bill.

It is still unclear just how much the school will save with these new bins, but since garbage bills are charged by tonnage and the new recycling bins will cut down their weight, the school should save money in this area.

So, exactly what can go in these new commingle bins?

They will be able to hold all sorts of material, including: phone books, milk cartons, paper boxes, shredded paper, cardboard, mixed paper, paper bags, glass bottles, magazines, plastic bottles, aluminum cans, other metal cans, and more.

Until now, there has been no school-wide organized effort to recycle alumi-

num cans, and glass or plastic bottles, so large portions of such materials have been wastefully displaced in garbage cans. Now, with the addition of commingle bins, people will have a way to recycle such materials from anywhere on campus.

According to Stanford, there will be 37 commingle bins in various locations around campus inside and outside of buildings. Green River will, however, keep using its paper recycling bins in addition to these new bins, and they will remain for paper use only.

Despite the fact that the new the commingle bins will allow for such a broad variety of recycled materials, Stanford says that he and the school would actually like to discourage people from recycling paper in them.

The reason for this is that the school has been using a separate pick up service, which benefits the mentally challenged, for recycling paper and they want to keep using this service.

Work is also in progress to get commingle bins for the Campus Corner Apartments. Stanford said that he hopes to accomplish this very soon. This would be significant progress for the CCA, which currently have no recycling at all.

Stanford has also been working with GRCC's kitchen staff to organize a new system of organic recycling for food waste and food-littered paper products here on campus.

More details need to be worked out pertaining to cost and how much waste might be produced, but this could start as soon as the beginning of January.

## Obama plans to aid higher education

*Proposals prompt questions among Green River students*

**Jean-Pierre Garcia**  
Staff Writer

Green River students reflect on Obama's promise of college affordability.

Two proposals he has made are the creation of the American Opportunity Tax Credit and a simplification of the application process for financial aid.

Two strangers, 17-year-old running start student Lisa Volostnora and 48-year-old Debbie Herndon discuss the propositions with optimism.

They stated that they weren't opposed to putting in 100 hours of community service in exchange for \$4,000 towards their college education as the American Opportunity Tax Credit offers.

"100 hours isn't a lot. I could do that in four weeks" said Volostnora

Herndon agreed about the possibility. "It isn't too much to ask when you are giving back to a community."

A bespectacled Herndon compared Obama's plan to \$4,725 from AmeriCorps, an organization that awards money to those enlisted full time.

She thought that if Obama worked with AmeriCorps there would be a boost in recruitment to the 75,000 opportunities already offered.

The only problem is that the \$4,000 mentioned in the refundable tax credit covers the first \$4,000 of a college education. Volostnora and Herndon are both in their second year.

The tax credit would then cover two thirds tuition in public colleges and/or universities and make community college

tuition completely free.

This could mean that Volostnora could continue her tuition free community college experience once outside of the running start program. That is, if she didn't already plan on transferring to the University of Washington and if and when the plan will be enacted.

Stephen Bradley, a 23-year-old independent businessman, thought the proposition was not enough.

He also found it ironic that Obama, a man who claimed to support science in education, would take \$10 million from NASA to fund the \$18 billion per year plan.

He was also unsure if the American Opportunity tax credit would be put in effect. He said that the plan was created two years ago, before the economic crisis.

With Obama yet to nominate a cabinet member for education, college affordability may not be high on the priority list.

However, Bradley was curious as to how the President-elect would adapt his domestic policies from the vague plan of attack it was during the campaign.

What about the elimination of the financial aid application?

In regards to replacing the financial aid application with a check box on tax forms, Bradley an independent businessman and Herndon a financial aid student, disagreed.

Bradley was wary of the fact that there would be so much information provided in a single place, and was uncertain of the purpose it would serve.

Herndon thought that it would make things less of a hassle. Her only misgiving was that there ought to be extra care to minimize or eliminate loopholes so that those who need it can get it.

## Obama picks key cabinet members

**Justin Runquist**  
Staff Writer

President-elect Barack Obama formally announced key members of his national security team on Monday. The most prestigious among them: Senator Hilary Rodham Clinton.

Rumors flittered through the waves of the media like dead leaves in the fall before Monday as to whether Clinton would want a spot in Obama's cabinet.

Sure enough, as Obama selected her among many qualified candidates for Secretary of State, to be the nation's top diplomat next to the president himself, she graciously accepted the appointment.

Approaching the lectern to make a statement following the announcement, Clinton said to Obama, "I am proud to join you on what will be a difficult and exciting adventure in this new century."

The new national security team will face a myriad of delicate foreign policy matters leftover from the Bush era.

From the continuing wars in both Iraq and Afghanistan to potentially growing conflicts in India, Pakistan, Iran, and Russia, the new security team will have a plethora of difficult decisions to make.

This selection goes along with Obama's decision to keep current Defense Secretary Robert Gates in office.

It is rumored that Gates will only stay around long enough to manage the phased withdrawal of troops from Iraq. That is mere speculation at this point though, as there has been no confirmation from Obama on this idea.

Both Gates and Clinton paint a contrast with Obama on some key foreign policy matters, such as the Iraq War.

Obama voted against it to begin with, and has detested it ever since; while Clinton voted for the war, and Gates has been running U.S. involvement in the war for the past two years.

Some criticize these two selections, questioning whether their inconsistent views with Obama may lead to conflict within his administration.

To that, Obama says that he wants to encourage debate within his cabinet to establish an open-mindedness that gets lost when, "Everybody agrees with everything and there's no discussion and there are no dissenting views."

The president-elect still plans on instating a timeline for the withdrawal, and in his announcement, he made it clear that it is his hope to pull out combat brigades within 16 months.

However, he also did say that he will heed suggestions from Gates and other members of his national security team. Thus, the projected 16-month timeframe may be subject to change.

Among other members, Obama announced that he has selected retired Marine General James Jones to be his national security advisor; Eric H. Holder Jr., a former deputy attorney general will be his new attorney general; Governor of Arizona Janet Napolitano will fill the role of secretary of homeland security; and Susan Rice, a former assistant secretary of state, will be the new U.S. ambassador to the UN.

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## Prop 8 is a step backwards in civil rights

*Proponents' use of biblical scripture to support proposition undermines America's secular nature*



Commentary by  
Michael Espinosa

California's Proposition 8 set the gay community back many steps in its quest for equality.

As California's new constitution will read "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California" or, better put, as the ballot stated "Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry."

That is what this proposition did; it eliminated the right for gay couples to marry, taking what little equality gay Americans had, and throwing it back into obscurity.

Many prominent politicians, such as John McCain, Sarah Palin, Joe Biden, and even Barack Obama, oppose the right of these people to marry.

If someone is against gay marriage, the question must arise: "Why?" It could easily be defended that the Bible says, in Leviticus 18:22, "Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable."

To this, one must be directed to the book of Matthew, as many Christian sources call it "the Golden Rule."

As it says in Matthew 7:12, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets."

It may be more familiar to your lexicon if

I word as such, "Do unto others." For the people who voted for this proposition, or who oppose gay marriage to any extent, how would it feel to be told that you are not allowed to be married to the person you love so dearly?

How would it feel to be told that you can't see your soul mate on his or her deathbed in their final hours on Earth because you are not "immediate family?"

Something else to point out: in a secular society, like America, why should people be bound by a religion's view?

Contrary to some beliefs, America is not a Christian nation, nor was it founded by Christians. It was founded upon the freedom of religion or lack thereof, and we should not favor one religion's view more than any others.

Typically, when one looks at an issue, there is a secular sequence of reasoning to favor or oppose it. This writer has yet to hear one reason, non-biblical, to oppose gay marriage.

That said, who is to say that marriage solely belongs to Christianity, and that that doctrine can determine who can and cannot be allowed in?

Many point to "civil unions" as an appropriate substitute for "marriage." Quotes are used in the preceding sentence because they are merely names.

To take a popular phrase that has been ridiculed by the common media: "You can put lipstick on a pig, but it is still a pig."

To the argument that gay marriage redefines marriage, attention must be drawn to *Loving v. Virginia* of 1967.

In this Supreme Court case, Mildred and Richard Loving married in 1958 in the District of Columbia. The catch is

that Mildred was a Native American and Richard was white. Sadly, in Virginia, interracial marriage was banned at the time.

Fortunately, the court ruled in favor of *Loving*, and announced that laws against interracial marriage were racist, and had been enacted to perpetuate white supremacy.

How does this relate to the gay marriage dispute?

If the Supreme Court had not redefined marriage in 1967 to include interracial couples, where would we be? This was a major turning point in the civil rights movement.

It's also important to note, that President-elect Obama's parents are an interracial couple.

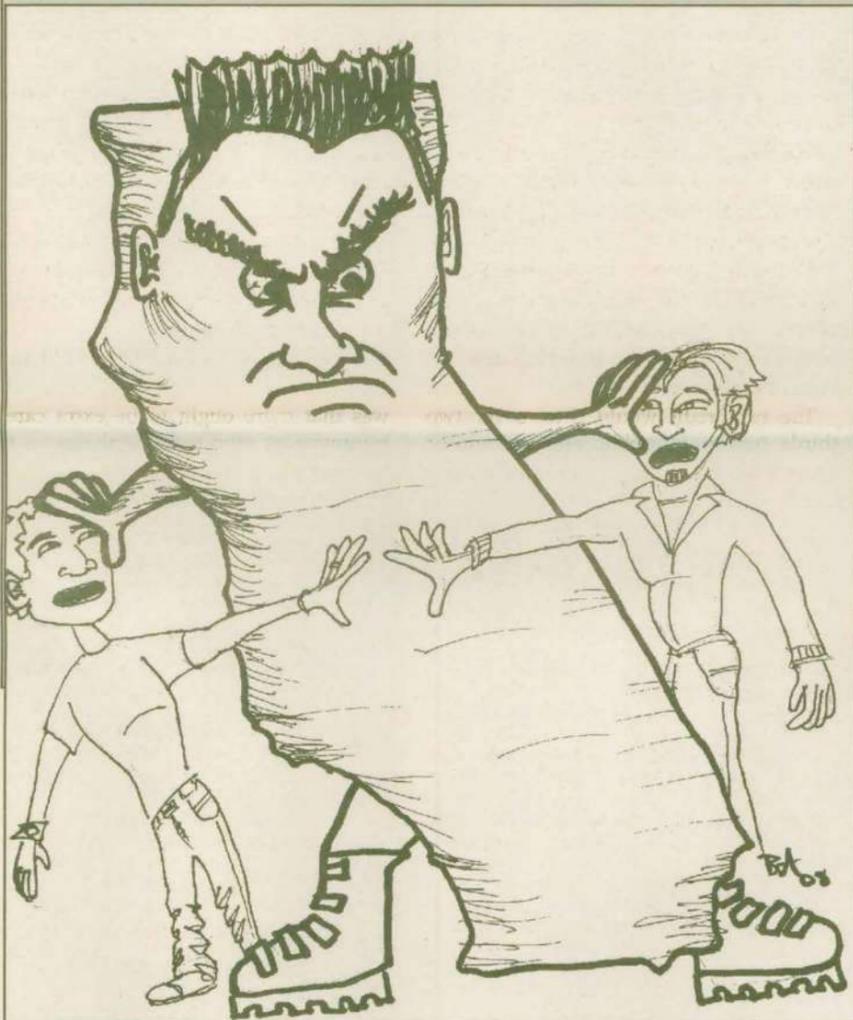
As Keith Olbermann pointed out, "The parents of the President-elect of the United States couldn't have married in nearly one third of the states of the country their son grew up to lead."

As of right now, 38 states have banned gay marriage. That is 76% of the country.

In Washington State, it is illegal for gays to marry.

From the Washington State Legislature, SJR 8219, "Marriage in Washington state shall consist solely of two persons, a male and a female. The uniting of two persons other than a male and a female in any marital relationship is not valid in this state, and, although valid in another jurisdiction, is not recognized as valid in this state."

Who are we to deny gays the right to find and celebrate love? When will Americans finally treat gay couples like people; people with the same rights straights have?



Cartoon by Brendan Andrews

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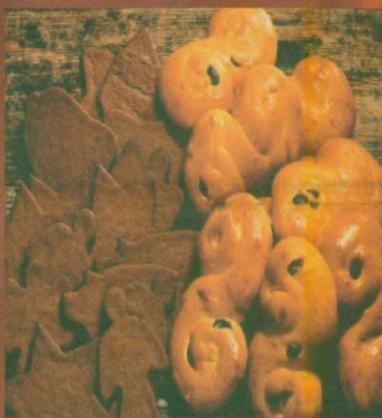
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# CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

by Jenna Fernandez and Lizz Atkins

Wearing different clothes and having different names, many countries know and love Santa Claus! In America, we know Santa for wearing his bright Red Suit with a long red cap and shiny black boots! People in England see him wearing the exact outfit, but calling him "Father Christmas". In France, Santa wears a big red robe, wooden shoes, and a white fur hat. He is named "Pere Noel". Switzerland sees Claus wearing clothing similar to a bishop's, the long white robe and pointy hat. They call him Saint Nicholas. Every Country views Christmas differently, whether it is the traditions they have, or simply the outfit Santa wears. Here are some Holiday traditions we may not know about!

## God Jul - Swedish



[www.sweden.se/Courtesy photo](http://www.sweden.se/Courtesy photo)

Freshman international student, Maria Latmoki shared the main Christmas traditions of Sweden. Including: What people eat, How they dress, what they leave out for Santa on Christmas eve, and what they watch on TV.

"On Christmas eve the most traditional Swedish food item to leave out for Santa is cooked oatmeal" Says Latmoki. When the families awaken on Christmas morning Swedish people traditionally get dressed up in red and green to embody the Christmas spirit, while only children open their presents, and adults traditionally open theirs in the afternoon and or evening. For lunch the Swedish meal consists of only meat, this includes pig's feet, Swedish meat, and the Swedish Christmas ham.

"One really weird Christmas tradition is that most everyone watches the Donald Duck Christmas Special at 3:15 PM. Children are the only people that really enjoy it." Later in the night, around midnight traditional Swedes go to church where candles are lit and priests speak about Jesus, doing this gives people peaceful thoughts to end their Christmas holiday.

## Sung Tan Chuk Ha - Korean



[www.cache.daylife.com/Courtesy photo](http://www.cache.daylife.com/Courtesy photo)

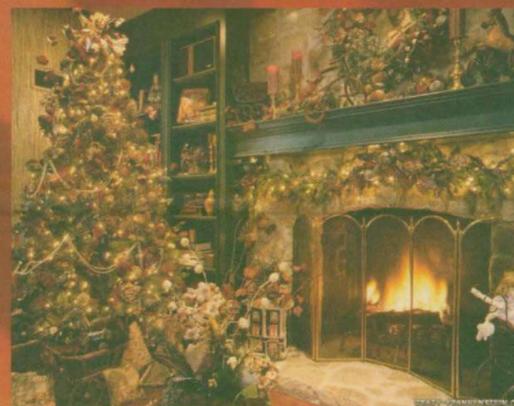
*Korea is a new country* in Eastern Asia, but many Korean traditions have grown that have contributed to the celebration of Christmas in Korea.

The majority of Christmas traditions are that of European traditions. Christmas Day mass is one of the many activities Korean participants do, this is on Christmas day, a church service to celebrate together and fellowship.

"My family always goes to the night Eve service and the Christmas mass service because they are so different. The night service we have candle lighting and sing Christmas songs. The Christmas day is spent talking to friends and family and receiving presents." Student Binh Vu says.

There are a handful of traditions that America and Korea share, like giving out Christmas cards to friends, Christmas Caroling, Public decorations, Exchanging gifts, and Setting up a Christmas tree.

## Vrolijk Kerstfeest - Netherlands



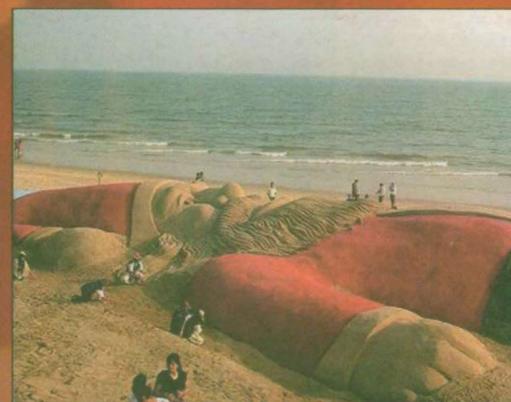
[www.crazy-frankenstein.com/Courtesy photo](http://www.crazy-frankenstein.com/Courtesy photo)

We all know that Christmas is the most popular form of celebration in the United States, but have you ever looked at the history of Christmas? Santa Claus came about to the US in the 1860's. Santa was given his name by the Dutch word Sintaklaas. The majority of bright-eyed

American children spend their Christmas Eve's (December 24th) watching movies with their families and eating a large dinner to assure that they will sleep soundly. At night, most parents make their children go to sleep early so that Santa won't skip their house because they are awake! Santa comes through the chimney and drops off the toys, and usually snags the milk and cookies the children set out for him.

The main dishes for American Christmas's are Turkey, Chicken, Ham, gingerbread, pumpkin pie, fruit cake, and other amazing foods. "My favorite food from Christmas is the home made stuffing!" Green River Student Melissa Cohl states, "We have it on Thanksgiving too!" Christmas is a huge event in America!

## Shub Naya Baras - India



[www.newsimg.bbc.co.uk/Courtesy photo](http://www.newsimg.bbc.co.uk/Courtesy photo)

Christmas in India is celebrated in a much diverse manner than in the South West. Those who live in the plains generally decorate their mango and banana trees outside to show their public décor. Another decoration is a small clay oil lamp in which some place on their roofs as a form of decoration only for Christmas.

Goa is the most famous location to celebrate Christmas in India, the services have lit candles and mass quantities of poinsettias. Celebrated wholeheartedly, parties and dancing are an integral part of celebrating the Christmas season.

Each different area has a distinctly diverse way of making the yuletide gay. In far North Eastern Mizoram, Christmas is geared towards the community, there is a ton of community feasting, called Lengkhawn Zai, (with roots in pre Christian era).

In this region, the Christmas carols are quiet, more tranquil songs, signifying spiritual joy more so than the activity side. Goa is known for their distinct form of celebrating Christmas, a very large number of people from the country as well as abroad, make a beeline to this little coastal state to celebrate their Christmas holidays in style.

## GRCC athletics are more than wins and losses

Two of Green River's most successful coaches weigh in on what rivalries, academics and success means to their teams

**Andrew Honea**  
Staff writer

The success of an athletic program can explain a lot. To some, a winning team is defined by its win to loss ratio. To others, the number of championships in a team's resume gives an idea of how talented a team is.

A team's success can even be as simple as being measured by how much effort they put forth toward their goal.

But despite how good a team is, they can't always wonder just about the talent they have in their own program.

A team's opponent can possibly tell a lot about the outcome of just about any contest. No matter what sport is involved, to the public their will always be the "good teams" and "bad teams."

The "Dynasty Teams" such as Major League Baseball's New York Yankees, Professional Football's New England Patriots, and the NBA's San Antonio Spurs, makes one wonder how a successful team affects the level of play of an "underdog" in sports.

One man that knows a lot about being part of a "Dynasty" is Green River Community College Women's Basketball Coach, Dennis Olson. Olson, a former Auburn High School basketball coach, has a history of being on the winning side of things.

With a career record at Auburn of 402-66, how could someone not be just a little bit confident going into every game?

"We went in to every game expecting to win," Olson said. "Not very many teams could be that confident when they played us. At Auburn, teams got nervous playing us." Olson hasn't changed his game plan much after making the transition to College. "It's very similar," he said. "I've always had great success so why change my plan?"

"It is an athlete's nature to try to respond to a challenge," said Matt Acker, Green River's baseball coach. "On the flip side players can become complacent at times playing opponents that aren't as strong. As a coach I want to see my players calming themselves against the top teams and increasing intensity against 'weaker' teams. As Dr. Wilturner would say 'The Zone.'"

Another factor that can greatly affect the level of play a team performs at is rivalry. We all know the great rivalries: Yankees vs. Mets, Cubs vs. White Sox, and Ohio State vs. Michigan.

At the Community College level, the intensity may not be as high for the fans when regarding to rivalries but for an athlete, rivalry is everything. Rivalry games are the games that every athlete looks forward to every year. To some, it may even be more important than a championship game because it is about something greater than a trophy; it's about pride.

"My players may get up a little more when they're playing Highline opposed to when they're playing Tacoma," coach Olsen said about rivalries. "I think you could probably call Highline one of our bigger rivals."

According to Olson, his team really stepped up last year. He feels the year was a success considering all the injuries and academic troubles his team faced throughout the season.

"Players who were able to play the whole season really stepped up," he said. "Personally, I felt it was a good year, even though we missed the playoffs." The Gators missed making the playoffs by just one game in the 07-08 campaign.

One of the biggest factors in a program's ability to compete and stay on an elite competitive level are the facilities and the budget that a particular school or program



Denny Brooks/courtesy photo

The Gators huddle up at the 2007 NWAACC Tournament. The Gators are no strangers to the playoffs, but that's not all that matters to head baseball coach Matt Acker.

has at its disposal.

"Each baseball program in the NWAACC has a different situation. Budgets and facilities vary dramatically. I try not to get hung up on what some may have and what we don't," said coach Acker. "I do my best to figure out how to get the things that we need to succeed. We all have different situations. Comparing us just can't be done."

Acker also emphasized the fact that the Athletic Department's goal is to put students first, and he makes it a personal goal to make his players succeed off the field.

"Looking from the outside at program it is usually judged on the win/lose," he said. "But that isn't everything to me. I want to see progression in each individual. On the field, in the classroom and around the community...something we can be proud of here, students come first."

A team's drive can be pushed to the limit

by many different factors. Whether it's the team they're playing against or the title they're playing for, all athletes have their own drive. It all comes down to the mindset an athlete enters the contest with.

"Even keel is the best bet. Cool, calm, collect. You do the work in practice, play during the game," said coach Acker of the mindset he likes his players to have. "The game should be routine at game time, just reactions. You can take any of those canned phrases. Every sport is different; football plays at a higher intensity than baseball. Us at the Community College level play different that the four year schools and minor league. But the temperament is similar, stay calm, don't think, just play."

Is this a successful route for a team to go? It could depend on the coach or the player using it but one thing is clear. If a team goes in with a winning attitude and plays their hardest, they can never truthfully be referred to as unsuccessful.

## Gators wrap up season at NWAACC Championships

Gators take 7th at NWACC Championships after winning west division title

**Sean Kramer**  
Sports editor

The Lady Gator Volleyball team concluded their season at the NWAACC Championships in Gresham, Oregon, which took place between November 20-22, by taking home seventh place, after finishing tied for first in the NWAACC western region.

The Gators kicked off the tournament with a 3-2 victory over Southwest Oregon (25-13, 25-21, 14-25, 23-25, 15-5) but fell the next day to Edmonds 0-3 (25-21, 25-21, 25-19) forcing them into the losers bracket.

The Gators bounced back by defeating Spokane 2-0 (25-23, 25-23) to become one of eight teams to make it to the final day.

However, the Gators fell short to Clackamas 0-2 (25-16, 25-18) on the final day of tournament play.

Despite only finishing seventh, there was little disappointment.

"They played their hearts out," said Head coach Kyle Densley. "They played their best volleyball. The NWAACC is very tough. I personally believe any teams that makes it to the third day is one of the elite. Any of the eight teams...could've won it."

Coming into the season the Gators were coming off of a disappointing 2007 campaign in Densley's second season at Green River in which the team finished 14-20 overall and had an early exit from the NWAACC Tournament.

"Last year we underachieved," said Densley. "Last year's team might have been the most talented team I've had, but didn't gel as a team. Because of that they underachieved."

The difference coming into 2008, Densley said, was chemistry.

"What changed is they played more as a team," he said. "Not as a bunch of individuals."

The Gators got results because of it. "I was thrilled with the outcome," he said of the season the Gators were able to put together in 2008. "We won our second regional championship in three years."

A quick turnaround was no surprise to Densley, who had to build his program at Green River from scratch when he took over in 2006.

Despite taking over for a division champion, he had no returning players and put together a full roster in five months which ended up winning the NWAACC

West region.

The Gators finished Densley's third season at Green River at 26-18, a 12 win improvement over the year before. Sophomore Brianna Gregory also took home Co-MVP of the NWAACC West.

Next year he expects more of the same success.

*"They played their hearts out...they played their best volleyball"*

- Kyle Densley

"I'm looking at my team and what I can do to improve, success breeds success,"

he said. "I have a lot of talented kids coming in."

Samantha Potts and Ashley Parries are among the returning players in which big things are expected from next year in an NWAACC that Densley is sure is going to be tougher, noting Highline specifically because of returning players.

Since Densley took the reigns of the program, every outgoing player in the program has gone on to play at four year schools on scholarships, something he takes great pride in.

The team will kick back into action in the spring in what will be one last go for the outgoing Sophomores before the NWAACC season starts up in the fall with the incoming Freshman.

### NWAACC Tournament results

11/20	vs. Southwest Oregon	W	3-2	(25-13, 25-21, 14-25, 23-25, 15-5)
11/21	vs. Edmonds	L	0-3	(25-21, 25-21, 25-19)
11/22	vs. Spokane	W	2-0	(25-23, 25-23)
	vs. Clackamas	L	0-2	(25-16, 25-18)

# Optimism springs eternal as 2008 comes to a close

*There's reason for optimism after worst year in Seattle sports*



Column by  
Casey Greer

For a Seattle sports fan, and any sports fan that has gone through a year similar to this, the best thing about the year is that it comes to an end. Less than a month away from the end of 2008, there are reasons to be optimistic about 2009.

While the Seahawks and Mariners struggles have certainly added to the downpour on 2008, the Sonics departure has been the black cloud and majority of the rainfall in a storm of misfortune.

At the time it happened, it seemed like a reasonable possibility that the city would get a new basketball team, however, state budget cut-backs and national economic struggles have proven to be salt in an already open, bleeding wound.

The most recent example similar to Seattle's 2008 was Cleveland's 1996. The mid-west city lost perhaps its most loved team, the Browns, when greedy owner Art Modell moved the team to Baltimore. Browns fans would have to sit and watch as the Baltimore Ravens won a Super Bowl in 2000, while there Browns, who resumed operation in 1999, with all their traditions in tact and exclusive, were struggling to rebuild a once storied franchise.

The Sonics, however, will have to share their traditions with Clay Bennett's Oklahoma City Thunder. That is, if in fact Seattle is able to re-acquire an NBA

franchise.

Also, for those three years without a football team, Cleveland was able to watch a three-time AL Central champion Indians team on the baseball field. Even the traditionally unsuccessful, pre-Lebron James Cleveland Cavaliers posted two winning seasons and a playoff appearance.

Seattle fans, however, have been greeted with a 101-loss Mariners team, one which fired their manager and general manager.

University of Washington's football team is likely to go 0-12, which would bring Tyrone Willingham's four-year UW career to an end with an 11-37 record.

Even the Seahawks, who have been the city's banner franchise for the past half-decade, are on pace for their worst season since 1992, when the team went 2-14.

All of this while the city's once-storied basketball franchise is playing home games in Oklahoma City.

In "Bull Durham," a baseball movie made in 1988, Joe Riggins, the manager of the Durham Bulls has a tirade after a Bulls loss. After the tirade, he asks one of his assistants what the team's record is.

"8-16," replies the assistant.

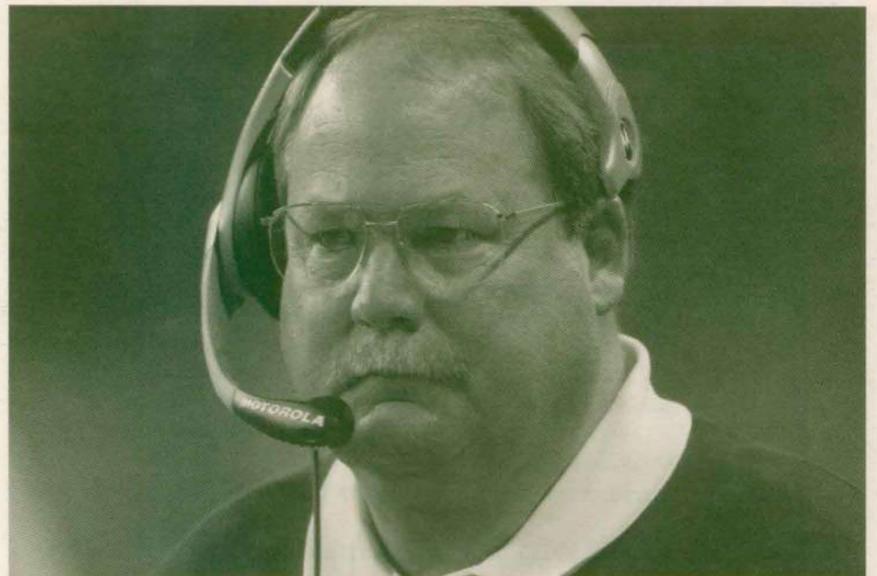
"How'd we ever win eight?" says Riggins.

It's impossible, as a Seattle sports fan, not to identify with that scene. The Seahawks have lost their last five games, only a few weeks removed from still having the power to control their own destiny to a sixth, albeit ugly, straight playoff appearance.

However, from crap grows flowers, or something more poetic.

Mariners fans will likely get to see an entire year of Brandon Morrow in the starting rotation, and perhaps Ryan Rowland-Smith also.

The Mariners have the second overall pick in the June amateur draft. If the



www.seahawkblue.com/Courtesy Photo

Nationals feel he's too expensive, the M's could have a chance to draft Stephen Strasburg, a pitcher from San Diego State University, who is perhaps the best pitching prospect to come out of a four-year college since Roger Clemens.

Making that pick will be the team's new general manager Jack Zduriencik, whose name was just copied and pasted, but was also the first non-GM to win Baseball America's Executive of the Year award, as the Brewers assistant general manager.

While the Seahawks will be losing Mike Holmgren, or so fans still believe, it appears that Jim Mora could be losing favor with the team as their secondary struggles. While this seems like a negative, it could allow Mora to fulfill his dream to become the Huskies head coach, and allow the Seahawks to move in a different, more creative direction.

Also, because of the way his contract is structured and his shaky health status; it's

almost a certainty that Nate Burleson will be released in the offseason.

Like the Mariners, the Seahawks will probably have a very high pick in the draft, and a draft class that could include Sam Bradford, Tim Tebow, Mark Sanchez, Taylor Mays, Knowshon Moreno, Michael Crabtree, Michael Oher, Terrence Cody and Malcolm Jenkins, all at positions the Seahawks could be looking to re-tool, add depth to, prepare for the future at, or replace, is not an encouraging proposition, but one to salivate over.

As mentioned before, the most important, most sure-fire thing to look forward to as 2008 comes to an end, is just that. Barring some major developments in NASA's ability to control the space-time continuum, 2008 will come to an end.

While it does, everyone have a good, safe holiday season. I'm personally asking Santa Clause for a BCS disaster, so that in the coming years he'll give me a playoff.

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## Metallica rocks sell-out crowd at Key Arena

Legendary heavy metal band Metallica proves they still have it, wow Key Arena crowd

**Kelcie Fingarson**  
Staff Writer

Chills down your spine, ears wanting more, and lyrics forever imprinted in your mind. Heavy metal riffs, with a dash of classical guitar, and topped with the unmistakable growl of lead singer James Hetfield gives you the unforgettable experience that is Metallica.

Mobs of youngsters and oldies alike filled the Key Arena to see a true adrenaline rush of pure rock music. Black Metallica shirts were on the backs of many, as well as a hot dog and Pepsi in each hand.

An opening band with as much intensity and "out of this world" energy as Lamb of God made sure not to disappoint.

After the boys of "LOG" poured their hearts and souls all over the stage, the anticipation was mounting for the headline act. It seemed like an eternity, hearts were pumping faster and anxiousness seethed throughout the arena.

The sound level of screams and cheering was brought to an all time high when each band member of all mighty Metallica grazed the stage. It was as if God had arrived, it seemed as if fans truly worship these guys; but not without worthy cause. Lyrically and musically the passion exploded like an erupting volcano.

The rock stars made sure to satisfy fans

new and old by playing a large spectrum of hits.

Many songs from their new album "Death Magnetic" were performed, but overall it was an array of older melodies such as "Enter Sandman" and "One". Dark lighting, a fire-breathing stage, as well as green, purple and red lasers added to the already jaw dropping concert.

Hetfield was once quoted as saying "We do this basically for ourselves. People appreciate it, which is cool, but I think they appreciate that we're doing it for ourselves. We're doing it our way, and how people like it is not up to us. We like it."

Metallica's style and sound has gradually evolved over the years. In the early albums, such as Kill Em' All and Master of Puppets, their music was a very fast and aggressive thrash metal style.

Over the years, they have expanded their expressive range. For example, their S&M album was recorded live with the San Francisco Symphony.

Over the years, some harsh critics and "hard-core" fans have not responded positively to the spectrum of changes, but Metallica remains true to itself.

In response, Hetfield has once stated that "We can do whatever the f--k we want, really. We've got carte blanche. I mean, when we did 'Fade to Black,' that was our first ballad and it really blew a few minds

*"It was as if God had arrived, it seemed as if fans truly worship these guys; but not without worthy cause. Lyrically and musically the passion exploded like an erupting volcano."*



www.metrotimes.com/Courtesy Photo

Metallica's new album 'Death Magnetic' is their ninth studio album. The album is their second without Lars Ulrich. 'Death Magnetic' sold 490,000 copies its first three days.

out there. People wrote us off then; 'F--k them! It's over. It's no longer speed metal.' Okay, fine. You can feel that way. But f--k you too."

Fans at the show didn't seem to mind one bit whether they played a "lighter waving" slow tune or a "head banging" fast paced song. No matter what was played, the love and admiration for the band stayed strong. The Key Arena felt like one big Metallica

loving family, no one wanted the night to end. But with a final performance that had the whole crowd losing their voices and jumping like psychos to catch one of the hundreds of picks, or one of the few drumsticks made me realize that this band will be a legend forever. James Hetfield left the stage screaming, "Metallica LOVES Seattle!"

## Quantum of Solace a hit

In 22nd Bond movie, Marc Forster and Daniel Craig resume 007's thrilling legacy

**Jenna Fernandez**  
Staff Writer

James bond has hit theatres yet again with one of the most profitable movies so far.

In the 22nd Bond Film, Quantum of Solace, Bond does not play his usual role. It is rather a thoughtful and romantic epilogue. In the last Bond movie, Casino Royale, the ending was connected with the very beginning of Quantum of Solace.

The film starts intensely with a high speed car race, finding

Bond in a different type of pursuit than normal. The plot has proven to be one of the most action-packed, intense Bond films yet.

Daniel Craig captures the James Bond we all know and love through his heroic lifestyle and behind the scenes cases. Whatever 007's motives are, he has his eyes on the prize the entire movie.

Though this film does not have the ever famous "Bond girl" in it, James does have a lover, Vesper Lynd.

As many have, she ends up giving up more than she bargained for as a result of her love for the action hero.

Dispatched to Haiti, Bond becomes suspected as an assassin.

Through a turn of events, he meets a beautiful Bolivian lady, Camille. Camille has a huge burn mark on her back and will stop at nothing to get back at the man who



www.007.com/Courtesy Photo

'Quantum of Solace' is Daniel Craig's second movie as James Bond

put it there.

The beauty teams up with Bond, and by in large makes her mark on Dominic Green, the man that killed her mother.

The "Finding Neverland" director Marc Forster keeps the movie thrilling and keeps the audience on the edge of their seat.

This movie was filmed all around the globe, with scenes set in Haiti, Panama, and Chile.

Delivering warm emotions along with frenzied commotion, Quantum of Solace lands its place at second in the box office, bringing in a whopping \$30 million.

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# Much awaited 'Twilight' draws fans, critics

Movie adaptation of 'Twilight,' popular book series a hot topic from Forks to Florida

**Kelsie Doughty**  
Staff Writer

Twilight does that thing all great love stories do. It speaks to the heart.

It's a journey filled with moments of passion, despair and blood thirst. He's 117 years old, albino and definitely not your average Joe. She comes from a broken family, likes sweaters, ballet and being alone. What could these two possibly have in common? Love, and that seems to be enough. The movie had moments that had audience members on the edge of their seats, craving for more.

Stephanie Meyers has caught the attention of readers all over America. There are 4 books total to the series (in order): Twilight, New Moon, Eclipse and Breaking Dawn.

The first three books have spent around 143 weeks on the New York Times best-seller list. When Eclipse was released last August, it bumped the final Harry Potter book out of the top spot on some lists even though it came out only 2 1/2 weeks later. Meyer's books are very dark; her books are about life, not death, and love not lust.

It's not everyday that you come across a series of books that is told to be better than the fascinating Harry Potter. USA today actually is quoted as saying "move over Harry Potter."

It starts with an otherworldly love triangle: human teenager Bella Swan, her hunky vampire boyfriend Edward Cullen and Jacob Black, the werewolf who also loves her.

Ella moves From Phoenix to a small town in Washington where she feels like a complete outsider at her new high school but is automatically drawn to a mysterious

boy and his family, Edward Cullen. It turns out Edward and his family are a coven of vampires and Edward has been 17 since 1918. Edward and the Cullen's aren't exactly ordinary vampires: they have given up human blood on moral grounds, and they feed on wild animals instead, which they hunt for at night.

The complete story actually takes place in Forks, Washington, a place of rain and little sunshine.

Reading the book will explain why it is set in Forks.

Edward Cullen is the epitome of what every young girl longs for: charming, sweet and endearing. Unfortunately, while Twilight draws in a new cult of avid fanatics, true readers will never feel the same emotions that captivated them page to page in Stephanie Meyers saga.

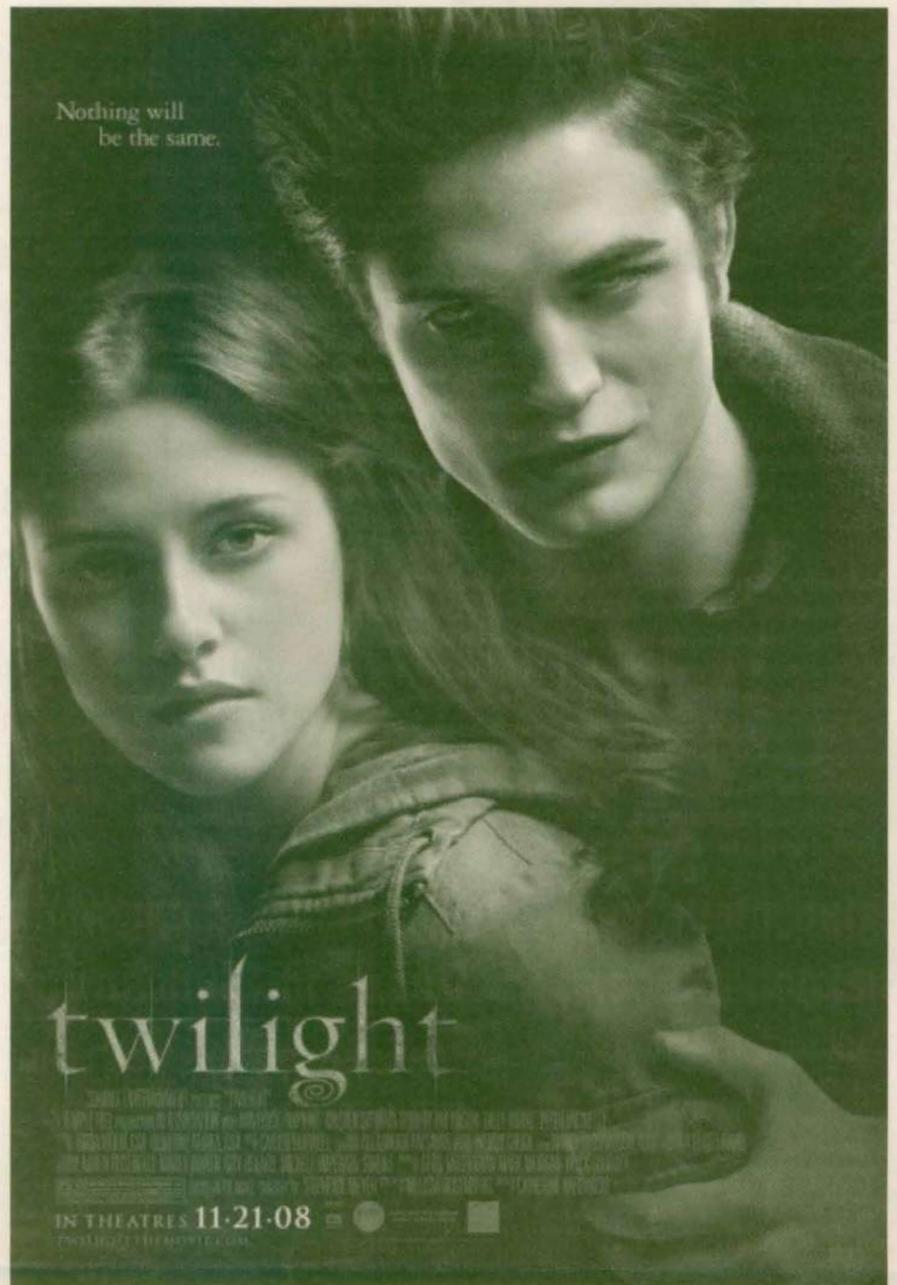
It's understandable why so many details were withheld; how much can you possibly fit in a 2 hour span? Just about as much as the filmmakers already did, for that reason complaints are unnecessary. It's impossible to fit almost 500 pages worth of details into such a short time period.

It was just a few years ago that the Harry Potter series was receiving similar criticism and how did that turn out? A box office success.

Twilight will continue to draw in many movie goers with its romantic storyline and crazy love affair.

However, like all great books brought to film, the actors never had a real chance to match the author's original intent and what your imagination creates.

So before criticism is made keep in mind the story has not yet concluded, rather it's all unfinished business.



cinematic.com/Courtesy Photo

'Twilight' opened Nov. 21, 2008 earning \$69.6 million in its first weekend in theaters

## Need a friend? Paris is available

Paris Hilton's new reality show a hit, 'My New BFF' full of drama, laughs and cat fights

**Jenna Fernandez**  
Staff Writer

Paris Hilton, once again, has her own reality TV show.

After Hilton and Nichole Richie's television show "The Simple Life" ended, the heiress began planning for this show.

Hilton features her hit single, "My New BFF" as the opening song to the show, a great way to begin your viewing pleasure.

Produced by Ryan Seacrest, the MTV show has hit the small screen with a boom.

"My New BFF" is a search to find a new best friend for Hilton.

The show consists of sixteen girls and two guys competing in ridiculous challenges to win the affection of the celebrity.

Some of the challenges that the competitors take part in are finding cute guys, dancing for Paris, keeping secrets, not keeping rumors going, and other

absurdities.

Some ask how Paris could possibly be best friends with someone she has spent limited amounts of time with.

The answer remains unclear, but Hilton states that "I can tell who my new best friend will be just by looking at them."

In the forming of the show, Hilton purchased an eleven bedroom, mountainside mansion to host the contestants in.

This house is more than just a temporary home, it's a place where many fights are happening, many tears have been shed, and many rumors are being spread.

Although the mansion had so many bedrooms, Hilton wanted the crew to bond, thus putting three people per room.

As if that didn't add to the drama, rumors were spread by Paris herself, in attempt to get the cat fights rolling.

And having a contestant like Onch (a male cross-dressing make-up designer) made everything so much better!

Despite all of this downsizing of Hilton's work, we must give her some credit for the

*"Some of the challenges that the competitors take part in are finding cute guys, dancing for Paris, keeping secrets, not keeping rumors going, and other absurdities."*



www.lautanindonesia.com/Courtesy Photo

'My New BFF' started with 18 contestants trying to become Paris Hilton's new best friend. She 'TTYN's' a contest each week.

efforts and creativity she put into some of the interrogations.

For Example, Hilton blindfolded the contestants and had a creepy mob-looking man ask them every question possible; from if their boobs are real to if they just farted. All the while, Paris was listening with boyfriend Benji Madden, laughing as silently as possible.

The competitors were also given makeovers. Paris, along with Traver Rains and Richie Rich did everything from dye their hair to whiten their teeth.

After the make-overs, Paris stated that her crew was red carpet ready.

Unfortunately, five contestants were eliminated the first show, as well as one for every elimination following.

When a contestant is eliminated, Hilton simply says "TTYN"...Talk to you never.

As anyone can see, Hilton's new show "My New BFF" is a tad ridiculous.

However, we did learn some valuable words of wisdom from the heiress such as "Never leave a party last," and, "Working it is a skill it takes time and effort to perfect."

Also, the timeless, "Best friends should trust each other's opinions."

Regardless of what we think of the show, Hilton says that there will definitely be a season two.

After all, who can resist the guilty pleasure that is Paris Hilton?

# The holiday season a chance to extend your helping hand

by Lindsay Gordon

What is your most memorable childhood Christmas gift? Is it a remote control car? The latest edition of Barbie? Or maybe a giant yellow Tonka truck? Whatever it was, it warmed your heart and brought a twinkle to your eye. It was what made Christmas special. But this season there will be a child that will not receive a gift that warms his heart, let alone receive a warm jacket. Tough economic times require parents to spend only what is necessary, causing children to have empty Christmas wishes. It doesn't have to be this way though, you can help! There are many ways to give back, these are just a few:

## Starbucks

### Canned Food Drive

- Bring canned foods to the Starbucks Coffee store in Covington, WA
- Address: 27116 168th Place SE 101 Covington, Wash. 98042
- For more information, call: 253-630-5125

## Fred Meyer

### The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign

- Give money to Salvation Army volunteers at the entrance of Fred Meyer
- Your money will buy Christmas gifts for underprivileged children
- Nearest Location to GRCC: 801 Auburn Way N Auburn, Wash. 98002
- For more information, visit: [http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/www\\_usn\\_2.nsf](http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/usn/www_usn_2.nsf)

## Sleep Country USA

### Santa Toy Drive

- Bring any new, unwrapped toy to a Sleep Country USA store
- Nearest Location to GRCC: 7327 SE 270th Pl # 105-107 Covington, Wash. 98042
- Visit their website at: <http://www.sleepcountry.com> for more information

