

Body-piercing
Students take stab
at the stereotypes.
Pages 6 & 7



Student art brings life to campus

*Helen S. Smith Gallery features
student masterpieces this month*

Sara Olson and Alex Hoggard
Staff Writers

Artist William Dobell once said, "A sincere artist is not one who makes a faithful attempt to put on to canvas what is in front of him, but one who tries to create something which is, in itself, a living thing."

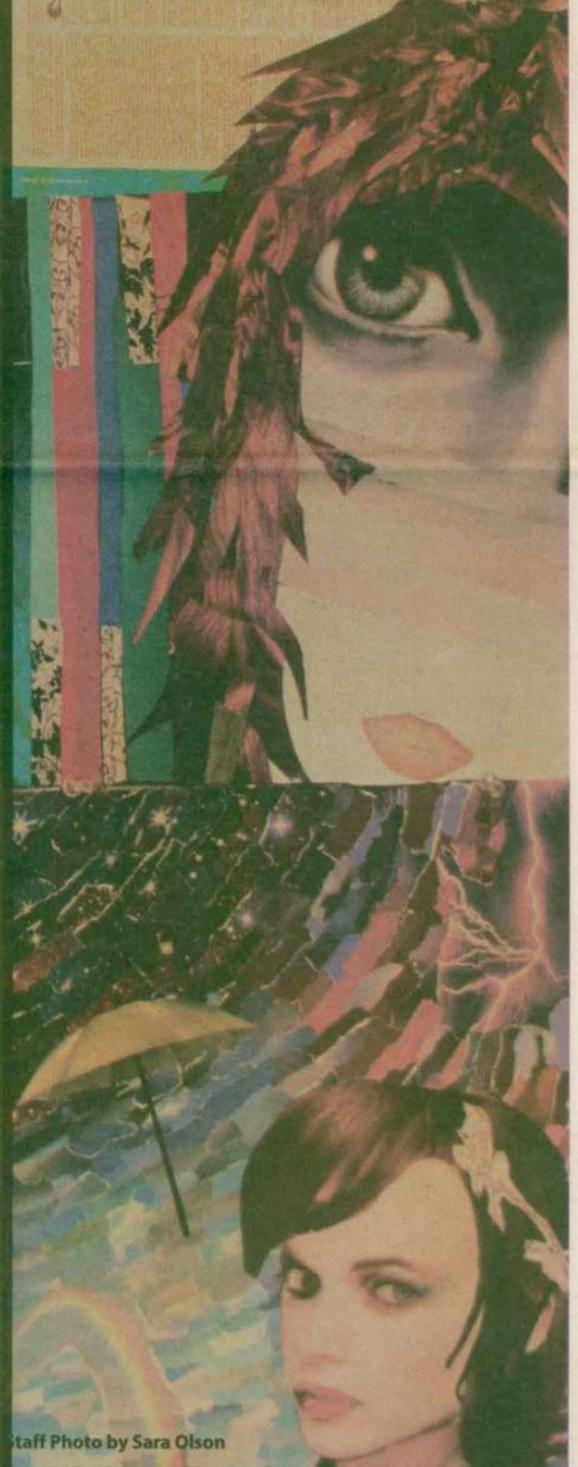
This month, the Helen S. Smith Gallery is full of life - created and formed by the hands of students. These pieces of art, presented by the art students' exhibition and mixed media classes, represent the future Picasso's of GRCC.

From the images that hang perfectly scattered on the walls or the abstract standing sculpture composed of various types of shoes, the artwork will leave people thirsting for more.

The exhibition features design color, advanced art, sculptures and chromatics. In each painting section, the colors and shapes jump out of the paper, dying to tell a story.

Fortunately, students, staff, and faculty have until May 27 to discover and determine the meaning of each masterpiece.

The art exhibit features collages from students in beginning design, Art 109, as well as several other drawing, painting, and design classes.



Staff Photo by Sara Olson

Sports

End of the road
Baseball, softball team
end season, short
of playoffs.
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Campus librarian
brings friendly face
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Cinco de Mayo provided learning experience

Green River's Latino Student Union uses holiday to teach about culture

Caitlin Williams
Staff Writer

This year, Green River's Latino Student Union (LSU) celebrated Cinco de Mayo, but with a more traditional theme.

The LSU put on a celebration in honor of Cinco de Mayo with the Mexican folk dance troupe, Bailadores de Bronce.

The celebration began at 7:30 p.m. and lasted about two hours.

During that time, six regional dances were performed.

All of these performances contained diverse music, costumes and dance styles.

Each dance had a history and cultural significance. The 32 dancers were diverse as well, coming from all corners of Mexico and the United States.

Some were born in the United States, and according to a small presentation that was made by one of the performers, not all the members actually speak Spanish.

"I feel very proud to be able to dance and share with people a little bit of our Mexican culture through our dances. It is always

very exciting to dance in front of an audience, whether it be a big or small audience. The adrenaline runs through your body as you see the audience clapping and enjoying the performance. The positive feedback we receive from the audience is what keeps us going," said Bailadores dancer, Nohemi Gardea.

The group seems to thrive on camaraderie, support from the audience, and a love of celebrating and learning about their culture.

The cafeteria in the Lindbloom Student Center was decorated with red, white and green, the colors on the Mexican flag.

Although no piñatas were present, there was a line of sombreros strung across the ceiling along with paper machete flowers.

Every table had a bouquet of balloons at the center, and the walls were adorned with bright posters.

About 200 people turned out to celebrate Cinco de Mayo at the college.

This is the first time a major celebration for this holiday has



Caitlin Williams/Staff Photo

Dancers graced the stage of the Lindbloom Student Center in the Cinco de Mayo celebration on campus.

taken place on campus.

According to Spanish teacher and LSU co-advisor Erin Fernandez Mommer, if this year is a success, the LSU will make the party an annual event.

"My favorite part [of LSU] is getting together with different students, learning more about my Latino culture, bringing new ideas to the table and having a fun time," LSU president, Angeli-

ca Gonzalez, said.

Gonzalez has been attending Green River since fall, 2006 and will be graduating this summer.

"I have seen a lot of growth and a lot more participation and student interest increase since fall 2006. I think next year will be an even better year for the club, especially because club interest has greatly increased this year and most of those members with strong interest will be here next year," Gonzalez said.

Contrary to popular belief, Cinco de Mayo is not actually the Mexican Independence Day that falls on Sept. 16.

Cinco de Mayo which is Spanish for the fifth of May actually commemorates the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

It was here that the French army of over 6,000 soldiers was defeated by 4,500 Mexican soldiers. With 462 dead and 300 injured French soldiers, and only 83 dead and 131 wounded Mexican soldiers, it was a significant victory.

According to Mommer, these soldiers, who were outnumbered and mostly of veteran status, defied the odds with their success, and Cinco de Mayo now is seen as "a victory for the little guy."

Gym renovation alters routine of students

Students' showering habits forced to change without locker rooms available

Karie Gill
Staff Writer

Working out at the college is a bit more complicated this quarter due to the upcoming renovations to the PE building.

Since May 1, the PE building is off limits to students.

This means no access to the gym, weight room or locker rooms. The project is scheduled to start in the next couple of weeks and should be done in time for fall quarter.

The renovations come after the 2005 - 2007 Facilities Survey "Building Condition Rating" found that it was out of compliance with safety codes and is not accessible to students with disabilities.

Because the building must be closed during this process, the weights all have been moved to OEB 9, an old physical therapy classroom.

Temporary "locker rooms" are available with shelves instead of actual lockers to store a student's belongings.

The changing space has shrunk also, with a small curtained off area to give students some privacy.

There are no locker rooms for the fit-

ness center though, so one must change in a bathroom along the way or walk across campus to use the temporary locker room in the new weight room.

Part of the renovations will include new locker rooms for both men and women. The current women's locker room is too small, so a bigger one will be built.

The men's locker room is going to get a tad smaller, but a meeting room is going to be located in the back of it.

New showers will be installed in both locker rooms. Instead of the circular multi-head showers now in place, there are going to be individual shower stalls complete with shower curtains for privacy.

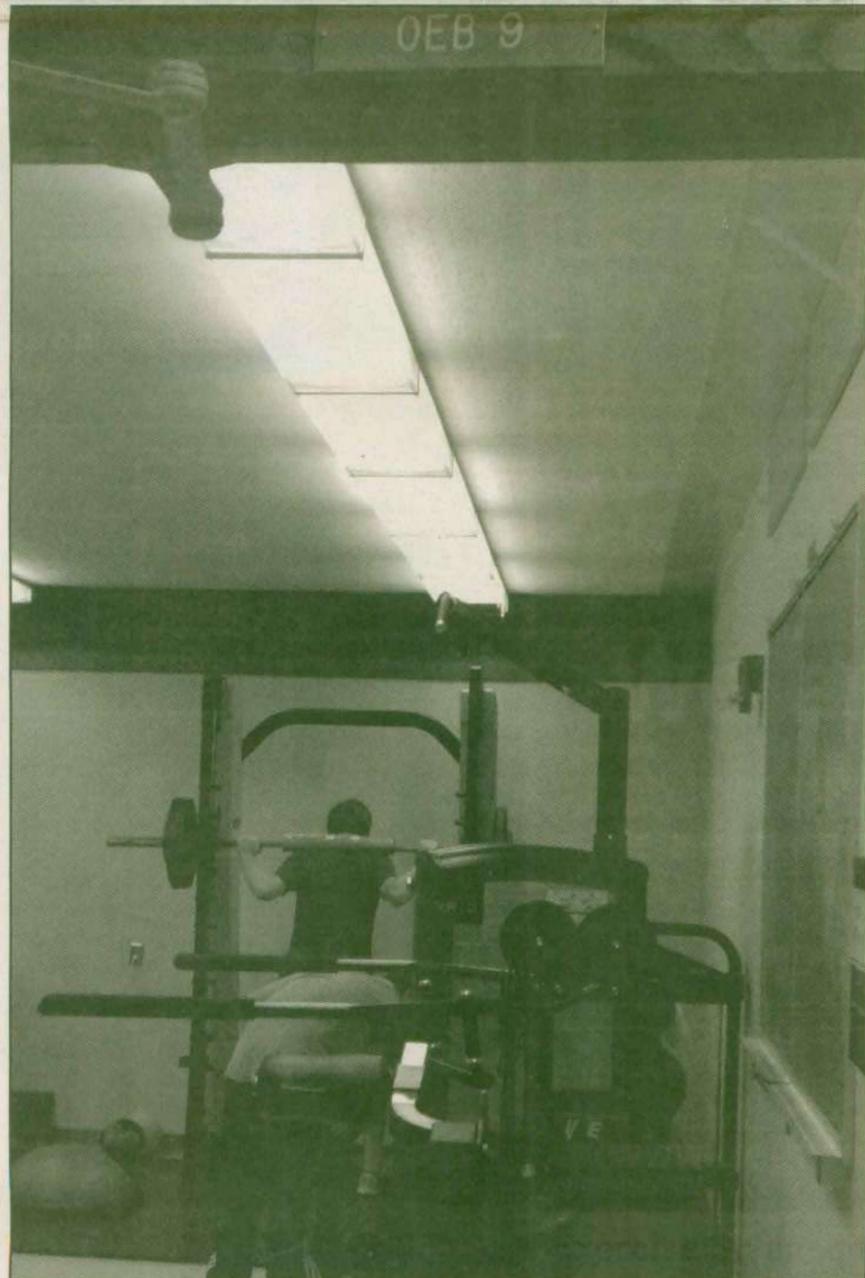
"People take more showers when they don't have anyone watching them" Tom Jackson, physical education instructor, said.

The building also will get all new heating and air conditioning, along with all new plumbing and electrical systems.

The weight room will be larger too with the old snack stand being taken out.

The cost of the project will come to about four million dollars. The funds are provided by the state specifically for the purpose of providing new buildings and renovating the older ones.

The original PE building was built in 1967 and with the renovations the college hopes to extend its life by 30 years.

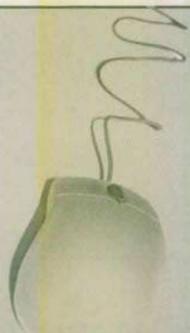


Katie Barr/Staff Photo

The weight room has been moved into a classroom in the OEB building since May 2, while renovations are made to the old gym.

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Weird & Wacky News

Tammie Tamara
Staff Writer

Man seeks unusual name change

The word nationalist is not enough to define this man. A man named Steve Kreuzer requests to change his name to "In God We Trust." He said that his potential new name will help him to remember that God helped him during tough times. He also is concerned by the removal of the phrase from the dollar bills.

Honeymoon ruined by jail time

One's idea of a honeymoon probably is not a night in jail. A couple was arrested at their wedding reception after a fight with the band. The bride was accused of throwing a set of conga drums and breaking a speaker. She was sentenced for six days. She also had to pay the band \$1,500. Her husband was accused of interfering with her arrest.

Student gets creative with prom invitation

A high school student decided to invite a girl to the prom by displaying "Will You Go To The Prom With Me? Yes or No?" on the hind quarters of the school's lacrosse team members. The 13 members were suspended from games and one day of school. The school considered their action as inappropriate.

Regulations set on students' eyebrows

Some school rules are ridiculous, but this one is an eyebrow raiser. A high school is making eyebrow shaving compulsory. The school is concerned that this is a way for gang members to recognize each other. Some students already have had vertical lines shaved from their eyebrows. Those students are forced to shave the vertical line. They are not allowed in school before they cooperate. Four students already have been sent home for not shaving their eyebrows.

'Gas holiday' suspected to be election bid rather than oil solution

Candidates, students debate over gas prices

Joe Chouery
Staff Writer

The John McCain proposed, Hillary Clinton tweaked, and Barack Obama opposed, "gas-tax holiday" is a leading media story with no substance for consumers but resonates well for voters.

First to introduce such a plan in this election cycle, McCain proposed that America should suspend the 18.4-cent federal gas-tax and the 24.4-cent diesel tax from Memorial Day to Labor Day. He claimed that doing this with a combination of stopping the supply to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve would reduce costs to the consumer.

While stopping the supply to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve would change the demand, the risk may not be worth the outcome.

Student Sharon Conrad said, "It is an artificial break."

If Conrad could chose how to lower prices, it would be a long-term approach in changing habits of oil consumption.

"Car pooling, walking more, limiting recreational activities that use gas," are her ideas.

Clinton supports the idea of the "gas-tax holiday," but she stipulated that an attachment that she called a "windfall profits tax" would be a must.

The windfall profits tax would force oil companies to make up the difference in lost tax revenue to the American people. The American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials said that Washington would lose about \$125

million in federal highway funds if the tax was suspended for the summer and had no compensation from oil companies.

Student Jerry Walsh, who leans toward Clintons thinking, is frustrated at the pump.

"They make too much damn profit," Walsh said, referring to the oil companies.

Obama, the candidate who opposes the plan all together, believes that there will be nothing to gain and billions of dollars to lose. He claimed that the whole proposal has no real value except that it serves as an election gimmick.

He claimed that the amount of savings that the American consumer would get would be the equivalent to a half tank of gas, or about \$30, and that is only if the oil companies do not fill in the price drop with a 18.4-cent hike of their own.

Mark Blaisdell, an economics instructor at the college did not rule out the possibility of the oil companies raising the prices. He said that there are not many options that an economy can do to manipulate supply and demand in a short amount of time.

"Demand will change when people's preferences change," Blaisdell said.

With as much debate that is revolving around this issue, voters might think that it is a hot button topic. What many voters do not know is that the proposal would have to get through the Senate, the House of Representatives, and our president.

Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader, and Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, said they would not let the gas-holiday proposal anywhere near the floor, and President Bush said he would veto any windfall tax on the oil companies.

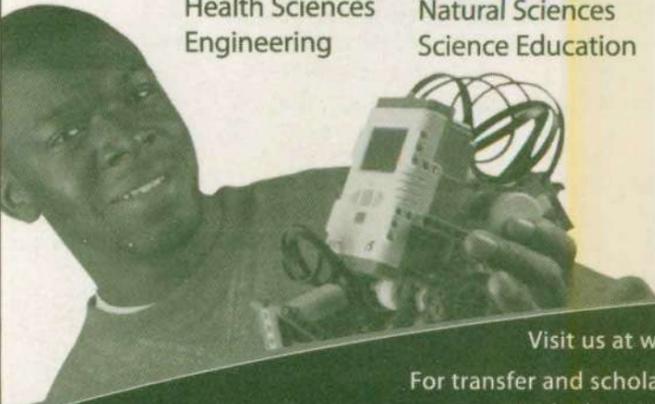
Since any gas holiday legislation is virtually dead, this leaves the public to square one, which is about \$4 a gallon.



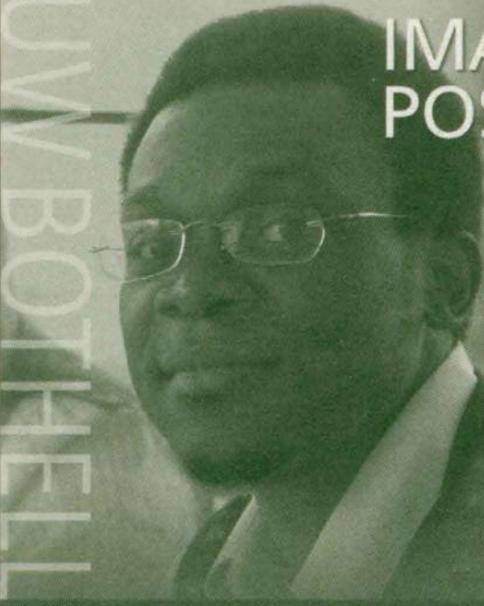
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Gas price problem can be solved by more responsible use

'Gas holiday' faulty solution to high prices



Commentary by Tyler Walton

For those of us who have to spend \$60 or \$80 every time we fill up a gas tank, the idea of a "gas holiday" in which one saves several cents a gallon might seem appealing.

The idea of this seasonal price break came from both John McCain and Hillary Clinton and would mean that over the three months of summer, federal gas tax would be removed from the price of gasoline.

This sounds like a good deal, but is it?

First of all, the federal tax on gasoline is only about 16 cents per gallon. Even for people who make habits of cross-country driving, this doesn't add up to more than about \$50.

Worse yet, this money is being taken away from much more important things.

Money from the federal gas tax is spent largely on transportation and the roads around here are bad enough already.

In addition, what does this gas tax solve? Nothing.

More than anything else, it's a stunt adopted by the presidential candidacy to try and gain support during an election season by saving a few citizens a few dollars.

Long term, it does nothing to aid in the actual reasons why gas prices are so high. What can we do to lower gas prices, one bit at a time?

It works well to think of it in terms of supply and demand, the most basic principle of economy. Lower the demand, and the price goes down.

Gasoline is not the only oil product Americans use. According to the Institute for Energy and Environmental

Research, approximately 40 percent of our nation's power comes from oil or gas power plants, and another 26 percent coming from natural gas. If you save energy, you're saving oil, and you're working towards lower prices.

Recycle plastics. All plastic is made out of petroleum, the same basic material from which gasoline comes from. If you recycle plastics, they get re-used, so new petroleum isn't needed, lowering the demand for oil, and you're working towards lower prices.

People often say to drive less, but as things are, a lot of people already drive as little as they can.

Trouble is, it's hard to in a society that requires transport, and frankly, Washington doesn't have the best public transit.

Instead of saying to drive less, I propose to drive smarter. Don't rev the engine; don't put the car at 5,000 RPM when accelerating after a light, coast downhill. Everything like that can make the fuel tank hold out longer, saving gas, and working to lower prices.

Point being, having a "gas holiday" does nothing to aid in any of this. In fact, by having a short-term lowering of the price, this increases demand, and means long-term increase in prices.

The only real solutions are to cut our dependence of oil or at least foreign oil.

Budget allotted towards alternate energy sources, particularly solar and wind power, have been greatly decreased over the last several years, according to research done by The New York Times.

Politicians run these things, as demonstrated by the fact that this "gas holiday" is being backed by presidential candidates. And, unfortunately, politicians tend to do what's popular more than what's right.

Politicians do, however, listen to their voters.

If people like you show that your priority is better energy management, send letters to members of congress or even your local city hall; you can make more impact.

Show them that your vote is what keeps them in office, and that your vote is reducing dependence on oil.

Editorial Policy

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

Letters to the editor

We encourage all students and staff to have their voices heard. The Current will publish **letters to the editor**, provided they are signed, include the author's name, and submitted in a timely manner. Letters should be no longer than 500 words. Letters should be sent to thecurrent@greenriver.edu. The editor reserves the right to reject or edit letters on the basis of length, libel, or propriety. All letters become the property of The Current.

Editorials

Body art should not define people

Imagine walking into a party where everyone is dressed up formally. As the party is going on, in walks someone who also has a formal dress on, but is being stared at because of tattoos and piercings that decorate their body.

They are being judged by their appearance because they don't follow the norm to express their creativity.

Body piercing and tattoos are nothing but a form of expression; it is a way for individuals to convey their passion, ideas, feelings, and anything else they feel at the time. Those who have body piercing or tattoos are doing what is pleasing to them, finding a way to put across their creativity. With all this said, it seems like they are walking targets for those who don't believe in the same form of expression.

So many people are judged on their appearance, especially those with body art and piercings. It's as if nothing else matters except for how and what they look like.

Many people miss out on people with potential and good quality skills because they don't care about anything else except for a piercing in a person's nose or tattoo on their ankle. While they are caught up on surface things, they do not notice that they could have been the head of their class, graduated with honors, and had a 4.0 GPA all through college.

With people being caught up in what someone has on their arm, how many piercing they have, how many tattoos they have, and where these tattoos and piercing are, they are missing out on the actual person. Before people decide to judge the next person who has a piercing or tattoo, they should see what that person is about.

People should be careful with their web page

The function of internet has changed through the years, serving as a communication and information source.

However, it also can be used as a resume, but not necessarily an impressive one. People get fired, bad marks, and basically get their life ruined by what they put on the web, particularly on social networks such as Facebook and Myspace.

Although it is unfortunate, people claim that it is unfair and not legitimate. Those people are putting their personal profiles on the web consciously. They should be fully aware that when it is on the web it is accessible to the public. That public has the right to use that information to judge a person. It's not nice, but that's just how society works.

Putting one's own pictures that can give the wrong idea probably is not the best idea. It is like saying, "I'm live a crazy, unpredictable, and often scandalous life" in a job interview. After all, people use their personal judgments all the time when interviewing a potential employee.

When it comes to a personal relationship, they can't really blame others for their assumption about people based on the pictures. If the only way to know people better is through their MySpace page, they can't blame them to think they are an alcoholic if all they know about them is the pictures of the person drinking.

People are responsible for their own good names. Unfortunately, some people think that the web is another world where they can do whatever they want. They are hoping that it won't affect them in real life. The problem is, the web might be another world, but the citizens are pretty much the same.

The Current Staff

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



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Taking a stab at stereotypes

Students argue that body piercings are acceptable forms of self-expression

Katie Barr
Staff Writer

Clothing isn't the only way to stand out these days. College students and young adults are getting pierced throughout the country, creating a new form of self-expression.

From the ears, to the bellybutton, to unmentionable places, nothing is off limits to be pierced. However, some debate the appropriateness of certain piercings, claiming that there is a certain sense of unprofessionalism that accompanies the look.

"There are parts of your body that shouldn't be pierced. Anything below the belt wasn't made to be pierced," student Tyler Hance, 20, said.

However, some cling to the belief that one's body is their own, meaning anything goes when it comes to piercings.

"There's no part of you that shouldn't be pierced," student Tommy Donlin, 18, said. "It's what you want."

Piercings have been around for thousands of years in many cultures,

servicing many purposes. Nose piercings were first recorded in the Middle East about 4,000 years ago. They originally were used as a wedding gift from the husband to the wife, and the size of the ring represented the wealth of the family.

Ancient Aztecs first used tongue piercings in rituals. The tongue was pierced to draw blood to please the gods and also to create an altered state of consciousness so that the priest or shaman could communicate with the gods.

Donlin has had his tongue pierced since he was 13.

"It was a new addition to my other piercings, and I think it looks cool," Donlin said.

Donlin has several other piercings, all of which he's done himself.

Although piercings are becoming more common in American society, not everyone thinks tongue piercings look cool as Donlin does.

"Tongue piercings look like they lack class, and they look gaudy," student

Anthony Portera, 19, said.

Portera also questions some of the motives that go along with getting pierced.

"The people who get piercings just because other do and for no other reasons, it's like a penguin trying to fit in with a flock of sheep; it's just stupid. It should be worn as an expression of one's self," Portera said.

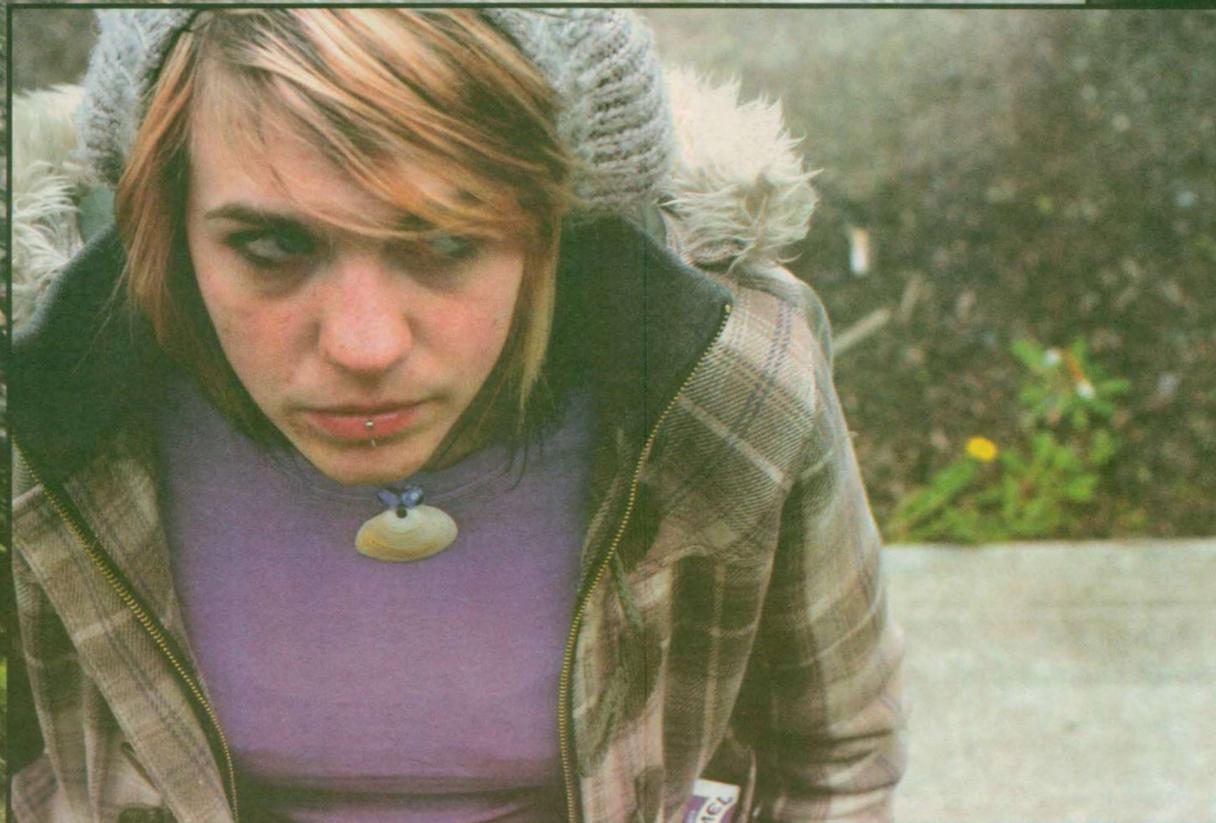
Tattoos also have become more prevalent in society and receive the same amount of criticism as piercings.

However, tattoos also are considered another form of self-expression, making a person even more unique.

"I like that tattoos and piercings further customize your body," student John Willey said.

Portera believes that there shouldn't be a limit on how many tattoos or piercings a person gets.

"It's their own way of expressing their art; so its like having an artist stop painting because he painted too much," Portera said. "There's no point to have a limit, except for social acceptance."



Above: Student Tommy Donlin, 18, has several piercings and thinks that no place is off-limits to be pierced.

Left: "I got it pierced because I thought it looked pretty damn cool," Lyra Seymour, 22, said about her lip piercing. Seymour wants to get a hoop pierced in her nose next.

Staff photos by Sara Olson



Gators wrap up seasons short of playoffs



Sara Olson/Staff Photos

Pierce infielder, Garrett Cochran loses the ball and misses the tag against freshman Gator Kyle Baskett. Green River faced off against the Raiders on May 7, the first game

of a three-game series. The Raiders defeated the Gators in all three of the games, ending Green River's drive for the NWAACC championship.

Softball team ends difficult season, baseball team loses critical games

Sean Kramer
Staff Writer

The Green River Gator baseball and fastpitch teams closed out their 2008 seasons last week, with the men fighting for a playoff spot, and the women just trying to end their season with a sweep of a familiar foe.

On the men's side of things, Green River squared off against NWAACC West rival Pierce, both tied for third place in the standings and fighting for the last playoff spot.

James Douglas took the mound for the Gators and struggled early as Pierce took an early 5-0 lead. The Gators battled back as a Kyle Baskett two run home run helped the Gators trim the lead down to one.

The rally would fall short when Pierce's Josh Serrick knocked out a three run home run to put Pierce up 8-4, which would be the final score.

The remainder of the three-game series took place on May 10, with the Gators still fighting for a playoff spot.

Jacob Pettit took the mound in the second game of the series, hoping to bring the team back, following the previous loss. Despite his five strike outs, he was unable to limit the Raiders' offense, leading to a 5-4 loss.

The third game proved to be even more of a pitchers' duel, as Jason Read took the mound for the Gators, and Austin Giglio leading the Raiders.

Despite both teams being matched at four hits and two errors a piece, Pierce delivered and scored the only run of the ball game.

The two losses for Green River officially ended their drive for the playoffs.

The team did finish the season strong, however, defeating Centralia in a two-game series on May 12, by scores of 12-4 and 6-1.

The Gator women hosted Grays Harbor, whom they swept earlier in the season, for their final two games in the season.

Freshman Natasha Novak took the mound for the first game of the double header and was dominant the whole way

through.

Novak pitched all seven innings and gave up only one run, which scored on an error in the fifth inning en route to a 3-1 Gator victory.

The Gators got their scoring from sophomore standout Kaylee Powell, who knocked home an RBI double in the second inning to put the Gators on top 1-0, and later hit a two run homer to right field in the third for all three of the Gator runs.

Game two of the double header was started by Allison Stewart, who ran into trouble early.

Giving up two runs in the first and two more in the third, the Gators found themselves in an early 4-1 hole.

The Gators would come back in the third inning. With nobody out and two runners on base, Kaylee Powell once again would deliver, slamming a pitch over the right field fence for a three run home run and tying the game at 4-4.

Shawn Bateman pitched well in relief for three innings, as the game went into extra innings.

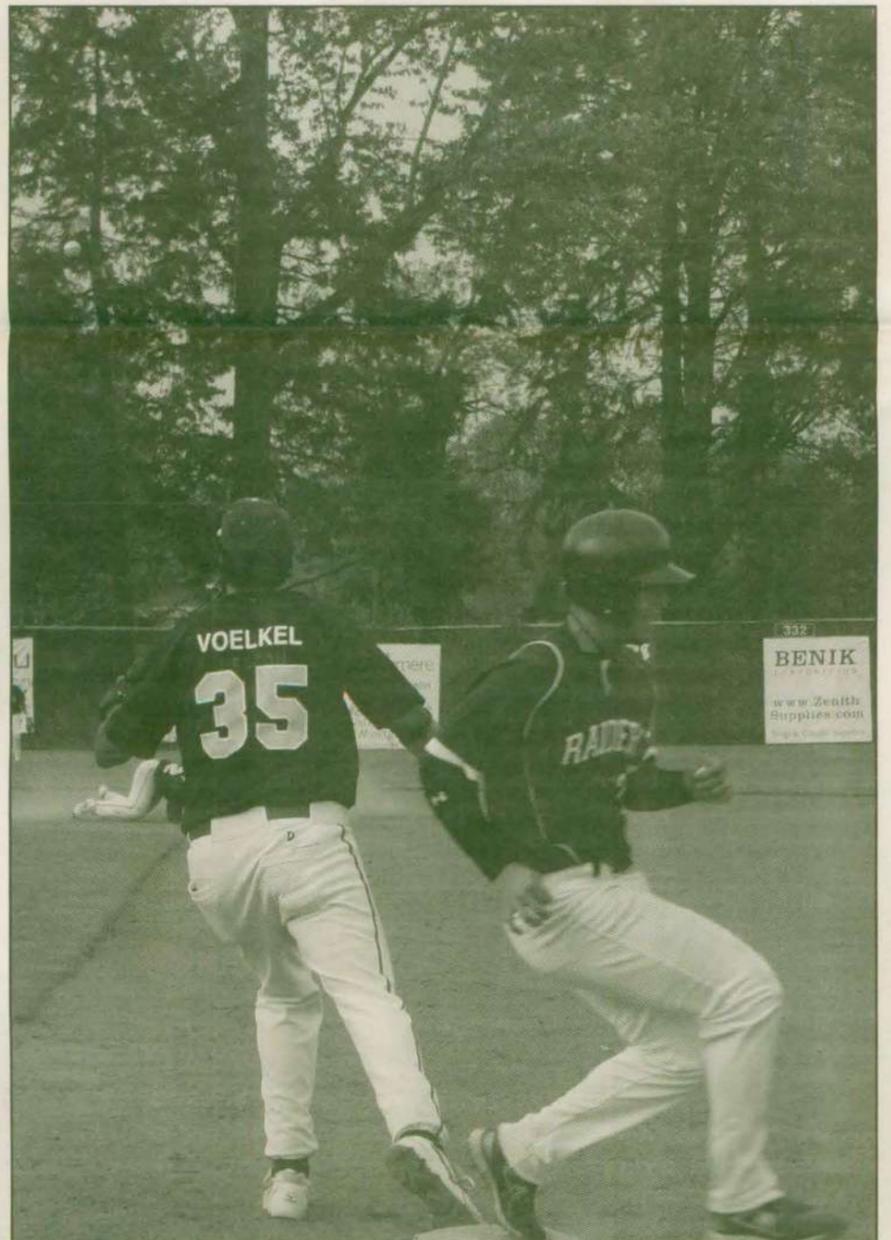
However, the Gators got into trouble in the eighth, giving up the go ahead run to Grays Harbor on a throwing error, ultimately dropping the game 5-4 and ending the season with a split.

The Gator softball team closed out 2008 with seven wins, which is their best win total since 2005, after winning only one game the last two seasons combined.

Looking forward, the Gators have high hopes in 2009 in Coach Scott Dillinger's second year.

The team loses only three players and already is hot on the recruiting trail with six players committed to playing at Green River next year, and a couple more girls Dillinger is hoping to sign on to Green River as well.

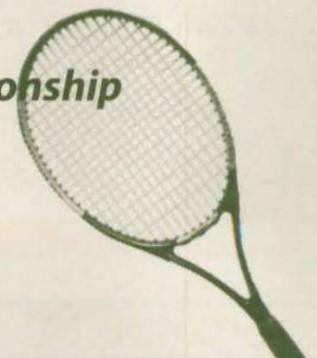
One of the three sophomores, Powell, likely will return to the Gators next season in a coaching capacity according to Dillinger, because of wanting to stay home instead of playing at a four-year school out of state.



Gator first baseman, Ryan Voelkel awaits a throw, as a Raider player is safe at first. The Raiders won all three games against Green River, by scores of 8-4, 5-4, and 1-0.

Tennis teams head for NWAACC championship

Both the men's and women's tennis teams will compete for the NWAACC trophy over May 15-18. The tournament will be recapped in Issue 14.



Face Off

Caleb Campbell avoids possible combat via NFL

Seventh round draft pick drives controversy among fans

Never has a seventh round safety had such a polarizing effect on football fans.

Caleb Campbell, a safety from the Army, was drafted in the seventh round by the Detroit Lions. The way

NFL player will be effective recruiter for army



Column by
Casey Greer

Caleb Campbell being given the privilege to play for the Detroit Lions during his time serving active duty for the Army is a decision which will spawn no losers.

For Campbell to be drafted by the Lions is perhaps the only fitting destination for the safety-turned-linebacker to land.

Matt Millen, the Lions general manager, has a son who graduated with Campbell from West Point. Rod Marinelli, the Lions head coach is a veteran, having his college football playing career split by the Vietnam War.

Millen's son, Marcus, played football with Campbell, and the two are described as friends.

An easy comparison can be drawn to the Los Angeles Dodgers drafting of Mike Piazza.

Even though Marcus and Campbell are friends and were teammates, this should not be viewed as a charity pick.

As baseball's folklore indicates, Piazza was taken with the last pick of the 1988 draft because then Dodger's coach Tommy LaSorda was a family friend of Piazza's.

Marcus Millen will serve his full active duty and is as likely to see combat as any other soldier.

Campbell, a large safety will make a great fit at outside linebacker in Marinelli's "cover 2" defense, which predicated itself on rangy linebackers who are good in coverage.

Though the rule that allowed Campbell to play in the NFL is new, allowing elite athletes to leave the military without

Campbell's career in the NFL will be viewed likely will be strongly influenced by the name Pat Tillman.

Campbell is enlisted in the Army, played college football, and was drafted in the seventh round by a bad NFL team, all things that Tillman did.

While their stories have similar settings, they nearly are polar opposites, in terms of their career choices.

Tillman played football at Arizona State, a well known "party school." Campbell played football at West Point.

fulfilling their contracts is not.

David Robinson, a former officer in the Navy, as well as a former star center in the NBA, was excused from three of his five years of active duty after graduating from the Naval Academy. Robinson, as Campbell is sure to be, was used in recruiting ads and literature regularly.

Bryce Fisher, a former Seahawk, and graduate of the Air Force academy in the class of 1999, had several concessions made for him following his drafting. Fisher, like Campbell was drafted in the seventh round.

Fisher exchanged his remaining active duty for two years of active duty, and nine years of reserve duty.

A recent military ad shows several people in high paying careers giving credit to the military for allowing them to reach their goals. Many of them, based on appearance, are in an age range that would indicate that their time in the military allowed them to avoid combat.

Campbell, who will spend the rest of his military recruiting once a week, will likely benefit the military as well.

Calling Campbell a tool for recruiting is an uncomfortable analogy, but he's bound to increase enrollment in the areas he recruits in.

Who is the average 17-year-old going to be more likely to be persuaded by? A 25-year old recruiter with a degree in IT, or a professional athlete?

It may be politically incorrect to assume that the youth of America is that impressionable, but had David Robinson come to my high school when I was 17, I'd probably be finishing my active duty in the next couple months, and possibly be better for it.

Campbell represents a controversial topic, but it should be remembered that he is not controversial. Campbell will play in the NFL, some will be angry, some will enjoy watching their former classmate, and regardless of opinion, this isn't his fault.

Campbell not worth more than other active soldiers



Guest Column by
Joe Chouery

For the past three to four years, the Army has put out statistics claiming that they are indeed meeting sustainable recruitment numbers, but the American public has witnessed soldiers being forced into multiple rotations to Iraq and Afghanistan.

So now all of a sudden we need Caleb Campbell, a new recruit out of West Point not in the field but at a recruiting station?

Arguably sustaining a sizable force in the Middle East has been the most essential mission for our armed forces since our invasion. Keeping this in mind, what makes a West Point graduate more effective in a recruiter station than assigned to a deployable unit?

Was he a used car salesman before he used your tax money to get himself through school? The purpose of West Point is not creating recruiters, nor was it established to create football players.

Call me a romantic, but the purpose of West Point is to create battle ready officers capable of making superior decisions that will enable the army to perform any given mission.

Combat veterans who have served in

Tillman played linebacker in college, and switched to safety after being drafted. Campbell played safety in college, and will be used as a linebacker by the Lions. Tillman, who had earned over \$2 million in his career, turned down a contract for three years, and \$3.6 million and enlisted in the military.

Campbell, under a new military rule, will be able to pursue a lucrative NFL career, while still enlisted in the military.

Iraq pay for their own education because the GI bill is not adequate in covering all college expenses, but not Campbell.

He got a free ride totally paid for without the risk of death. That is the risk that cash strapped combat veterans got when they joined. Plus, Campbell does not have to complete his military contract.

That is the same contract that every other soldier signed and has their lives bound to.

The Army would like to give the impression that they effectively could use his fame in a safe cozy recruiter station, but what about that soldier who was bumped from that place of duty and will end up in Iraq.

Recruiting stations are dream jobs for many soldiers. A soldier with a family would give his right arm for a chance to

"A soldier with a family would give his right arm for a chance to be in the stable environment in which a recruiting assignment would provide, and soldiers who physically have given their right arms do not believe their arms are worth any less then a football player's."

be in the stable environment in which a recruiting assignment would provide, and soldiers who physically have given their right arms do not believe their arms are worth any less then a football player's.

The actual reason that the Army keeps Campbell out of harms way is not because they think

he is better or more deserving.

The Army might use the excuse that it gives morale to the soldiers, but that would be a farce. The real reason that the Army is willing to create a needless controversy is because they do not want Campbell to die.

If he gets blown up, the American people would be reminded of the inconvenient truth. The Army believes that if they keep the war out of our sight it will be out of our minds. The real travesty is they are probably right.

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New album releases hit or miss for veteran artists

The Hush Sound, Augustana add to impressive resume with new albums

Sara Olson
Staff Writer

The Hush Sound "Goodbye Blues"

A new album has hit stores that is unlike any other CD on the market today.

The Hush Sound has accomplished the near impossible, releasing its third album, "Goodbye Blues," a CD that is unduplicated by any other band.

The band's throw-back beats and soulful sounds are hard to ignore and will please people of all ages, parents included.

Lead singer, Greta Salpeter's, voice is flawless and soothing as she serenades listeners with jazzy songs and smooth melodies. Guitar player, Bob Morris, also sings on a few of the songs, but much fewer than he has on previous albums.

However, the magic really happens when the two sing together, creating harmonies that are sensationally pure.

Clay Aiken "On My Way Here"

Oh Clay Aiken. The idol that charmed his way into American

living rooms, proving that talent is more than just a winning smile.

However, now, Aiken is the bud of numerous jokes, provoked by his uncountable hair changes and orange tan. Performing in the Broadway production of "Spamalot" didn't exactly help.

Aiken released his latest album "On My Way Here" on May 6, and unfortunately, it's as corny as Aiken is. His vocals still are strong, but his reputation of late makes it hard to take anything he does seriously.

Augustana "Can't Love, Can't Hurt"

"Can't Love, Can't Hurt," the latest release from band Augustana is an album that listeners can't help but love.

The band succeeded with their previous release "Star and Boulevards" in wooing fans and being one of the most easy-listening albums of the year.

With their new CD, the band succeeds again in what it does best, offering nine new songs that will have listeners hitting replay on their stereo. The band's vocals are nothing new or unique, but the melodies are sweet and pure, proving to be enough for fans to



Sara Olson/Staff Illustration

Although several albums were released on May 6, only a few hit the mark. Gavin Degraw's self-titled second album failed to impress, and Clay Aiken's latest release was difficult to take seriously.

fall in love with.

Gavin Degraw "Gavin Degraw"

Nearly three years ago, Gavin Degraw convinced the youth of America to not be afraid of being

whoever they want to be.

Now, he's back with his second album. However, the self-titled CD is sounding oddly similar to "Chariot." His first single, "In Love With a Girl," is enjoyable pop music that the radio loves, but is quick to get old.

However, there's no doubt that Degraw's musicianship remains true, as most of the songs feature him playing the piano or guitar. All the songs also are written by him, a feat not incredibly common in the music industry today.

Employers checking Myspace, Facebook

Background checks could include social networks

Brittney Walker Higgins
Staff Writer

Students all over the country are loosing out on employment opportunities due to content posted on their Myspace and Facebook accounts.

Facebook and Myspace, both extremely popular online social networks, are widely used by college students. Myspace boasts over 95 million members.

Student Jessica Gardner said, "I don't know anyone my age who doesn't have a Myspace account."

Companies and job recruiters are conducting background checks on possible job candidates via the internet.

Many college students are guilty of posting material online that does not necessarily portray them in the most professional light.

Risque photos of excessive drinking, recreational drug use, and those of a sexual nature are frequently posted. Some teens and young adults are glorifying this sort of behavior on their web pages.

Many students were

surprised and upset to learn that corporations conducted background checks online.

"Just because someone is photographed drinking doesn't mean that they're an alcoholic or that they can't do a good job at work," student Emily Radoll said. "I get that it's our fault for posting the pictures, but most college kids I know go to parties and that doesn't make us bad people."

Students mistakenly believe that their web pages are relatively private. Some believe that this sort of online screening is invading their personal space.

Students need to understand that any material that they are posting on the internet is out for the world to view.

"I don't think people think that adults are out there looking at our Myspace pages. I wouldn't want my future boss looking at my Myspace or Facebook without me knowing," Gardner said. "This makes me think twice about what I choose to post."

In order to avoid losing out on future career opportunities, it's suggested that students should start being more selective about how they are portraying themselves to the public eye.

Those who are choosing to post controversial material should take full advantage of Myspace and Facebook's privacy settings.

I won't need anyone's help. I can do it on my own.

With that degree, it's gonna give me more opportunity so I can make more money. I'm already working with human resources—how to deal with people, codes of conduct, loyalty, ethics, the hiring process, paperwork....

A job is just a job. A career is something that you worked for. I feel better as a person now. I feel more accomplished.

Michelle Oquendo '08
Technical Management

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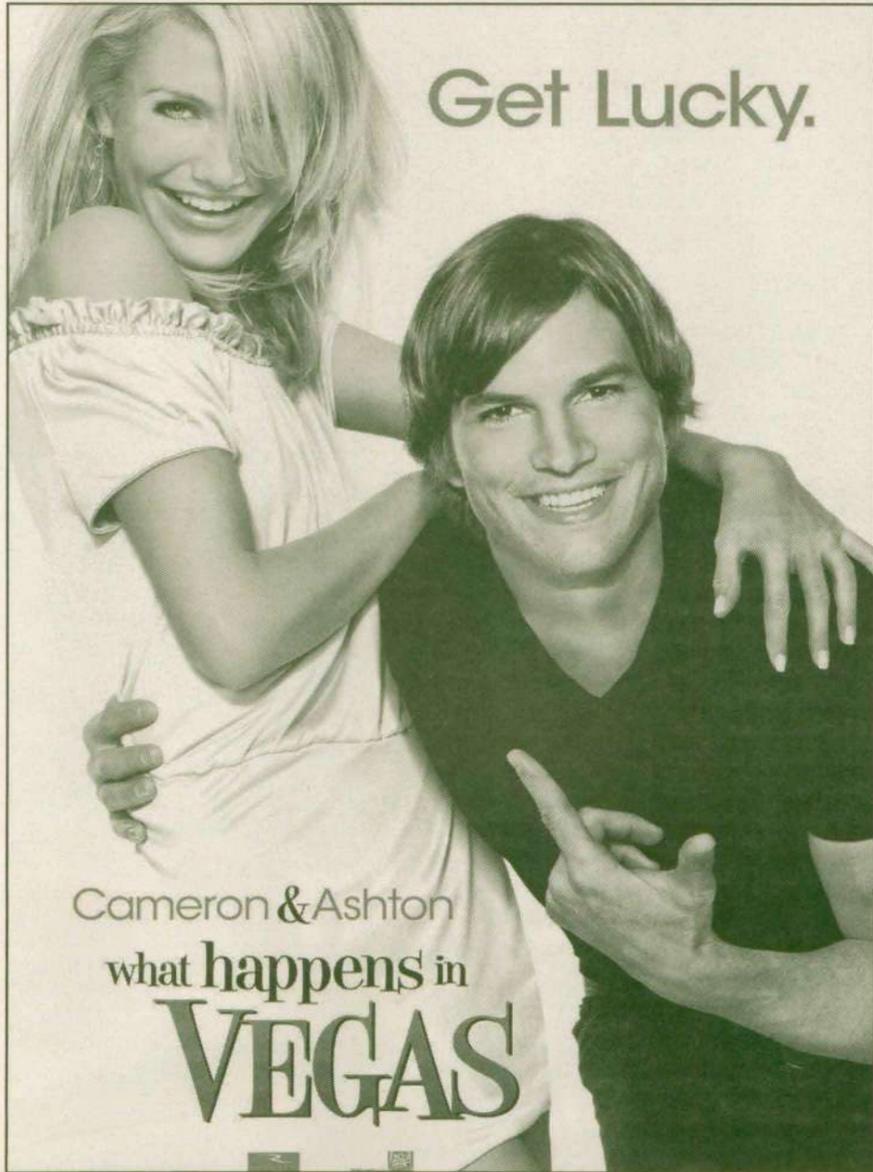
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'What Happens in Vegas' should stay there



Cast proves to be only redeeming quality

Matthew Janes
Staff Writer

"What Happens in Vegas" definitely is a one-time date movie.

For the most part, there isn't anything about the movie that would encourage viewers to return for a second viewing or even to buy it when released to DVD.

This incredibly predictable and unsurprising film manages to take a very new idea and throw it into the world of clichés, destroying its chance to make a mark as an original romantic comedy.

It all starts out with two people in New York who for their own reasons decide to take a trip to Vegas to unwind.

Jack (Ashton Kutcher) is fired from his job by his own father for being lazy, and to a lesser extent for not being able to outshoot his old man at basketball. This leads him to confide in his best friend Steve (Rob Corddry), who is a complete failure as a lawyer, which leads them on their trip to Sin City.

Joy (Cameron Diaz) plans a big surprise birthday party for her fiancé at his apartment only to be dumped by him before he knows anyone is there.

Just like Jack, Joy goes straight to her best friend Tipper (Lake Bell), who has an odd obsession with "junk-punching" men, and they decide to make their way to Vegas.

After an accidental double-booking which places the two parties in the same

hotel room, Jack dares Joy to go for drinks with him, and the two wake up from a drunken haze to find that they are now unhappily married.

The "happy couple" immediately agree to get an annulment and go their separate ways when Jack scores a three million dollar jackpot on a slot machine while using one of Joy's quarters.

Jack and Joy return to New York and take the matter to court to decide who would get the money after the annulment, only to find that they were given to the most conservative judge that they could have possibly gotten.

Judge Whopper (Dennis Miller), angry at Jack and Joy's generation for their destruction of the sanctity of marriage, sentences them to six months of marriage with an honest effort to make it work.

This is where the movie loses its originality and falls into the overplayed "guy hates girl, girl hates guy, but they fall for each other in the end anyway" story line. In looking at this movie as a whole, it was simply the cast that saved it from being a failure.

The movie itself offered very little that was new in the world of romantic comedy, but each role was delivered effectively and convincingly. The movie opens with a variety of fast paced, flashy scenes that grab viewers attention. But just as suddenly, it falls into the pace of every other romantic comedy out there.

While this movie probably isn't the best choice in theaters at this time, it does have its redeeming moments and plenty of memorable scenes – just nothing to truly separate it from the pack.

Ashton Kutcher and Cameron Diaz star in the romantic comedy, "What Happens in Vegas." However, the movie surrounds a cliché and predictable plot.

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The Essence of Ellen

Ellen Royal-Ward, breaks mold of stereotypical librarian

Caitlin Williams
Staff Writer

Upon walking into the traditional library, one classically is greeted by a bitter, shushing librarian. But not at the Holman Library, where this once typical and expected experience is but an irritating cliché.

One reason why is Ellen Royal-Ward, who has spent the last four years as a library technician at the college. Ward has worked as one of 17 vital components of that complex and well-oiled machine that is a library.

Not one to shy away from a challenge, Royal-Ward never misses the opportunity to strike up a discussion with a student or instructor when a book is brought to her desk.

If she has read it, she immediately and effortlessly will ignite an intelligent and

engaging conversation about the material.

Royal-Ward's demeanor instantly is friendly and comforting to both students and staff, regardless of the reason that they come to be before her desk.

"I am a firm believer that honesty and kindness can make a huge difference in the world," Royal-Ward said.

Royal-Ward was born in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1961 and later attended South High School in Torrance, Calif.

She left high school early in her senior year to begin attending the local community college, opting for a GED rather than diploma.

Marriage, and the birth of her daughter Stella, in 1979, followed by divorce cut that schooling short. She later met and married Gregg Ward, her husband of 21 years.

The three later moved to

Washington in 1989. Ten years after her first child was born she had a son, Keenan, followed two and a half years later by a second son, Conner. It was important to Royal-Ward that she be able to stay home with her children while they were young.

"Life is about struggle," Royal-Ward said. "Things don't end; struggles and goals don't end."

As someone who appears poised, educated and thoughtful, one would not expect a story like this to come from the soft-spoken Royal-Ward.

When asked what she would want people to know about her, she responds by saying that she would want people to know that she is proud of where her path has taken her.

"You never know what's in someone's past, and I guess I like people finding out the surprises about me," she said.

Her story is an unconventional

and surprising one, but she genuinely learned from her experiences.

While employed at Green River, Royal-Ward not only has worked, but has attended classes and was able to earn her AA degree in 2006.

She plans to go back to school for her bachelor's degree once her youngest son graduates from Kent Lake High School.

When asked what she was most proud of, Royal-Ward said that she had made a life for herself and her family, and that she is working to further her education.

In an office full of family photos and humorous posters starring both the classic and the progressive librarian, sits an exact model of the latter. She knows struggle and through that has gained wisdom and insight into the core of life's most important aspects.

Photo Illustration
by Sara Olson