

# The Current

Green River Community College



## Men's Basketball

Despite injuries and a missing team captain, Green River's Gators thrive out on the court.

**SPORTS** page 11

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**VOLUME 46, ISSUE 5**

# DON'T PANIC:

## THE TRANSFER STUDENT'S GUIDE TO TRANSFERRING

Looking to transfer to a university in the future?

Pages 6 & 7

*The Current has put together a quick guide to the art of transferring that could save you light-years of time.*

**CAMPUS** page 2

### Snowpocalypse: Green River during storm

A brief photo collage detailing Green River's campus during January's bizarre weather week.

**A&E** page 5

### Dancing her way to the stars

Leaving her family behind in Indonesia, Kanya Iwana studies here at Green River and makes a name for herself as a talented dancer and entertainer.

**OP-ED** page 9

### Unlike in prison, drop the SOPA

Congress wants to cut down on pirating and theivery on the internet: find out why you shouldn't trust it.

**NEWS** page 12

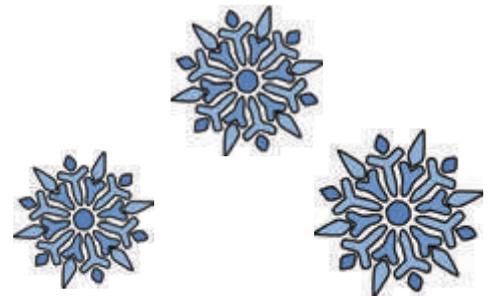
### KGRG is welcomed into iHeartRadio

KGRG becomes the first community college radio station to stream for a major radio syndicate.



Courtesy Photos by Walter Lowe

## Snowpocalypse



For more photos, visit:  
<http://picasaweb.google.com/bluechip40>

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# Teacher Spotlight: David Nelson

**Full name:** David Nelson  
**Position:** Mathematics Division Chair  
**Date of birth:** March 17, 1968  
**Years at Green River:** Eighteen, counting the five years as an adjunct



Bailey Jo Josie | The Current

## Why did you become a teacher?

My grandfather passed away when I was a sophomore in high school, [and] everyone said what a great teacher he was. That influenced me to follow in his footsteps. Although most of my friends were already turning to me for help in math, so some of my talent was starting to show.

## How did your grandfather influence you?

It was mostly the kind things former students said at his funeral – how he had been a positive influence on their lives. I want to be that for my students.

## Who is your favorite mathematician?

Descartes. Not necessarily because of his work, but because his name is fun to say.

## What is your philosophy on math and teaching math?

I believe that every student can learn math. It just takes practice.

## From your years of teaching, what's your favorite memory?

Shortly after I started teaching, I had an older student come back for a visit. She was very excited because she had just done her taxes by herself for the first time ever. This was back in the "old days" before we had Turbo Tax and eFile, and doing your taxes required quite a bit of calculation. I am proud that she gained the confidence and skills that allowed her to succeed.

My second favorite memory involves a well timed "That's what she said" comment from a SI leader that took me about 3 minutes to regain my composure enough to continue class.

## What was the "that's what she said" comment?

Sorry, it was not appropriate for a classroom setting, and it isn't something I want to see in print.

## What do you see yourself doing in the future?

I would like to teach some coordinated studies class at some point in my career. I'd also like to learn a little bit about Economics, Sociology, and Anthropology.

## What would you probably be doing right now if not for teaching?

I have no idea. Teaching has been my passion for my entire life.

## Past students of yours have said that you have written about yourself on RateMyProfessor.com, could you please elaborate on this?

In statistics we talk about ways of gathering data. One of those ways is through Voluntary Response Sampling, where the sample self-selects itself by calling in to a toll free number, or texting, or sending an email response. What happens is you tend to hear only from the people that feel very strongly about a topic. I pull up my profile on Rate My Professor, because it is a great example of Voluntary Response Sampling. The responses tend to be either "Greatest Teacher Ever" or

"Worst Teacher I've ever had." There isn't much in-between, because only the passionate tend to take time to go back and put in a rating.

Plus, Rate My Professor has no validation system. Anyone, even someone who has never taken a class from me, can go in and fill out a rating.

## What is the craziest thing you've ever done?

[I] entered (and won) the GRCC faculty/staff cheerleading competition.

The classified staff used to have a Spring Fling BBQ lunch, and they invited all campus employees to join in. There was usually some sort of crazy contest: Karaoke, Haiku, etc. One year they did a "Best Cheer" contest. We went to lunch with no thought of entering, but Rochelle Mitchell and I wrote up a cheer, then performed it for everyone. I think our extra cheerleader jumps and kicks pushed the judges to our side. I still have the mustard stained napkin in my desk drawer with the lyrics on it.

## What brought you to Green River?

Initially, it was a job opening [and I was] an adjunct looking for work where ever I could find it and I was living out in Federal Way. That's where my wife's parents lived, and that's where I lived at the time so it was closer to where we were.

## We heard from a student that you bring legos/toys into your classes to help with demonstration, is this true? What gave you the idea to do that?

Yes I do. The goal was to give a physical connotation to the mean of a set of numbers. The mean is the balance point of a distribution, so I wanted something you could balance, and could easily change around. Legos seemed like the perfect medium, and my son had a box of them he wasn't using much anymore.

## Where did you earn your degree?

I went to Washington State University, got a bachelor's degree in Math education and then got a Master's degree from Western Washington University.

## Why?

WSU was [close to home] and my dad took me to football games and I thought it was a neat place.

## Do you have any college memories?

I spent a lot of time at WSU and I made better friends there because I lived in the Residence Hall and I stayed up and stayed with [the people who lived there] and I [became] very active, I was Residence Hall President and Vice President and Secretary stuff that was campus wide; leadership things that I never thought that I would really do. At Western, it was pretty good, I lived off campus and I got married, so I wasn't looking for social relationships but I had fun with the other graduate students and I actually work with a couple of them here [at Green River].

## What are you working on?

I am devising a plan to take over the world. The first step is to determine a polynomial function that closely resembles the square root of X.

# Man on the Street



Every other week, *The Current's* editors crawl out of their cave to ask the campus random questions. Suggest a subject at: [thecurrent@greenriver.edu](mailto:thecurrent@greenriver.edu).

Here is a selection of this issue's answers. For more, plus an archive of old questions, visit our website: [www.thecurrentonline.net](http://www.thecurrentonline.net).

## How were you affected by the snow storms and are you prepared for another one?

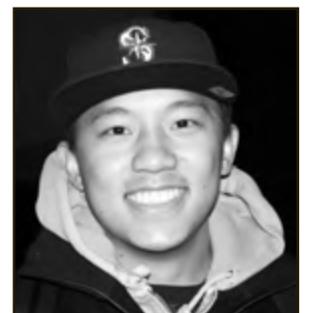
"Two days of power outages, a tree fell in our back yard and tons of humongous branches, lots of trees broken...yeah, fun times.

[We were] pretty much prepared - had the wood stove, we had water because we're city water and we used a camping stove to make some awesome pasta."



Jessica Olsen

"Actually, as of right now, I still don't power, nor do I have water and it really sucks; everyday I'm showering at my nephew's [house]. And since I don't have power, I can't do my homework and also my girlfriend lives in California so I can't skype with her and it's pretty tough."



Thunderstorm Vue

"The snow storm didn't really affect me that much, it was more of a fun thing. My friends made an igloo that was six feet tall and six feet wide. It wasn't really a bother to me since school is hectic and I enjoyed spending time with friends. It was a nice break."



Ericka Galindo

"I was not able to leave my house and a lot of [our] foods were spoiled and my little sister was getting a fever and we couldn't [take her to the doctor] so we just had to wait it out. [But] we stocked up on a bunch of water and a bought a generator and salt bags."



Jose Valencia

## Concert Calendar

Jan 31	<b>Pollens</b> @ Neumos (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$7)
Feb 3	<b>O.A.R.</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$30+)
	<b>In Flames</b> @ Showbox SODO (Doors open at 6:30 p.m. all ages, \$22+)
4	<b>Whose Live Anyway</b> @ Moore Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$35+)
7	<b>Wilco</b> @ Paramount Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$41.25+)
	<b>Maylene &amp; the Sons of Disaster</b> @ El Corazon (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$12)
9	<b>The Jayhawks</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$25+)
10	<b>MUTEMATH</b> @ ShowBox SODO (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$28)
	<b>Kyle Cease</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$15+)
11	<b>August Burns Red</b> @ El Corazon (Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$20+)
	<b>Brad Paisley</b> @ Tacoma Dome (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$33+)
13	<b>Gary Clark Jr.</b> @ The Crocodile (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$15+)
14	<b>Dr. Dog</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$20+)
17	<b>Presidents of the United States of America</b> @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$20+)
18	<b>Seattle Rock Orchestra performs MUSE</b> @ Moore Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$18+)
	<b>Bombay Bicycle Club</b> @ The Crocodile (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$20+)
25	<b>The Darkness</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$25+)

### MOVIE COMPARISON

## The Girl(s) with the Dragon Tattoo

By: Bailey Jo Josie  
Managing Editor

Seriously, Daniel Craig is a goddamn gem.

Granted, I haven't seen him in much (mainly "Casino Royale" and "Cowboys and Aliens") but when it came down to having to decide which version of "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" I liked best, you might be interested to know that Mr. Craig was the one who swayed my opinion.

In the American film version, he portrayed Mikael Blomkvist, a fallen Swedish journalist who is hired to find the murderer of a woman who had gone missing over 35 years earlier.

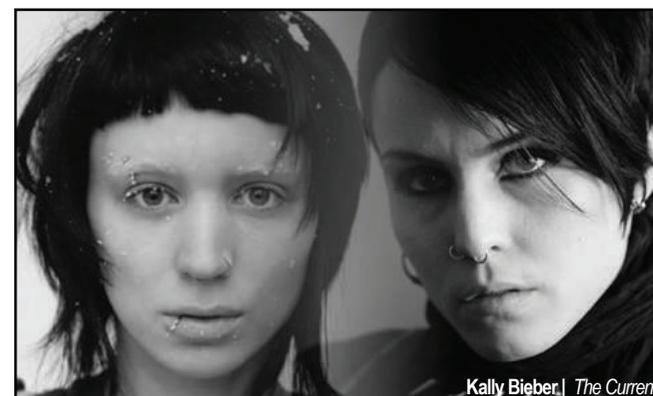
He enlists the help of Lisbeth Salander, a brilliant computer hacker, asocial goth child and perfect executioner of sweet, sweet revenge. Together, they work to unravel the gnarled,

SS poison that is the family of the missing woman and try to find out what really happened to her.

Through out both films, we are introduced to anti-heroine Lisbeth Salander as the quintessential brilliant lost girl; in the 2011 film, she is portrayed by Rooney Mara. In the Swedish version, Noomi Rapace. Both actresses deserve the praise they've received, but in all honesty, Mara nailed the role all-around.

Where Rapace took a punk attitude towards the role (meaning, that she looked the part with her studs, perfectly blackened eyeliner and animosity).

Mara transcended those clichés and embodied a woman who looked and acted the way she did because she had something to hide and wanted no one to try and be the seeker. She didn't have a chip on her



Rooney Mara (left) and Noomi Rapace have both played the complex and asocial protagonist in their own respective versions of "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo"; however, Mara's portrayal is superior.

shoulder, but a dormant rage that blocked out the world like a frozen eclipse, like the icy tint of her bleached eyebrows.

I believe that Daniel Craig as Mikael helped fuel this in Mara's performance; you're only as good as who you work with, right? Well, when one sees the chemistry between Lisbeth and Mikael in the Swedish movie, one would find

nothing; they had no spark. In the new movie, however, you immediately see a shift in Lisbeth's world when she's around him and his subtle attempts at humor seem to soften her edges.

In the end, Daniel Craig makes the movie, because he helps make Rooney Mara's Lisbeth come to life so that even we in the audience feel she is barely getting by.

## The Current Picks

### WEBSITE/APP

Hellogiggles.com



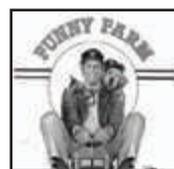
By: Bailey Jo Josie

Designed as the "ultimate entertainment destination for smart, independent and creative females", Hellogiggles.com is a great distraction from a world that's deprived of rainbow-dipped nostalgia cartoons and witty posts that usually deal with how to pass one's time or how to live life as a sexy gypsy living out of her knitted duffel bag.

The website is set up so that many different writers (usually bloggers and friends of the creators) can post through out the day. The site has a facebook, twitter, and tumblr account which will constantly bog down your news feeds and dashboards, but it's so worth it.

### MOVIE

Funny Farm



By: Ryan Comer

Watching people fail shouldn't be funny. Yet, watching Andy Farmer fail miserably in "Funny Farm" makes it one of the most enjoyable movies I've ever seen.

Farmer (Chevy Chase), who recently quit his cushy job in New York to move to the countryside of Vermont with his wife Elizabeth (Madolyn Smith) in hopes of writing a best-selling novel, encounters every problem imaginable.

As dreams are shattered, tempers flare and relationships are damaged, you're left to wonder, "What else could go wrong? Because whatever it is, I want to see."

### BOOK

On the Road



By: Genry Seipert

Jack Kerouac, the famous author and counter culture icon of American literature, wrote "On the Road" in the earlier stages of his life.

One of his first works, the novel is largely autobiographical and based on the spontaneous road trips of Kerouac and his friends across mid-century America.

Today, "On the Road" is considered one of the defining works of the postwar "Beat Generation", which was often inspired by jazz, poetry, and drug experiences – and the novel reflects these ideals.

"On the Road" almost reflects a more modern of "Odyssey" by Homer and is a great read for anyone.

### MUSIC

Into the Trees



By: Jacob Jagodinski

The sound of numerous cellos tickles the ear as Zoë Keating demonstrates true artistry in her most contemporary album, "Into the Trees".

Keating, unlike most cellist artists, fuses together a mixture of melodies, all dissimilar and separately formed, in order to create a luxurious tune.

Though the age has come of moronic Grammy winners and plastered pop stars, no other album allows for one to escape from the ubiquity of popular music and into the nature of sound than Keating's one-of-a-kind masterpiece album, "Into the Trees".

# Dancing her way to the stars... after class

Green River student, Kanya Iwana, following her dream to the ends of the Earth; by moving schools, moving countries and moving to the beat.

By: Dilichi Chiedu & Kally Bieber

The crowd files in as she places the last pin in her hair. Her stomach turns with each deep breath; nerves are overwhelming. She closes her eyes for one last breath and stands up from the vanity mirror. "Kanya Iwana up on deck" the announcer calls. Her eyes open. She floats to the stage, knowing this is where she needs to be. The curtain opens, the lights turn on, all attention is deservedly on her.

For many young adults the greatest challenge is to find a stable and enjoyable career. Kanya Iwana is not the average young adult. Iwana is a 17-year-old girl who knows exactly what she wants and is going straight for it.

Iwana was born in Indonesia, where she first began Ballet at the age of three.

"I took ballet until I was 12," Iwana explained, "Then I quit and came back and continued with contemporary, hip hop and jazz dance." She saw the opportunities that The United States offered for a dancing career, and felt a change was needed for her success. Iwana, finally mustering up enough courage

school and home in Indonesia, came to America to pursue her dreams to dance.

"It might be a little bit irresponsible." She admits, "but, on the bright side, I am going back to school." Her parents were shocked at the idea, but after they saw how serious she was about her aspiration to dance, they agreed, letting her decide her own path.

It's no surprise that Iwana gravitates toward the arts, as her father is a musician himself. He showed great support in her passion.

"[My dad] has always believed that it's about wanting to do what you want; not wanting to do what your parents want. I know it sounds crazy, but my parents are very supportive," she said. "Though they may not agree with all of the choices I've made, they've always supported me."

Leaving her family to fly across the world became a tough, but manageable struggle as she and her mom have an exceptionally close relationship. Not only her family, she left all of her friends behind as well. She must constantly remind herself why she's here.

"This is my passion," said Iwana "It's simple as that."

Other than the slight sense of home-sickness, Iwana was able to adapt to life away from her parents and old friends rather smoothly. This easy adaptability was probably on account of her attendance of a global trade school back in

Indonesia. These types of schools purposely incorporate other cultures, which gave Iwana to get a pretty good feel on how life might be in the states.

After comparing several different schools and locations, Iwana decided the Pacific Northwest would be best for her.

"Green River fit exactly what I was looking for." She explains. Green River's dance team, Dance Connections, is where currently she expresses herself. The dance group has helped her focus on both her strengths and weaknesses. Iwana claims that one of her weaknesses would be her technique.

"If you want to major in dance, you have to know all the little technical things; and I'm not sure I could do that. That's why I plan to minor in dance." From an outsider's view, what Iwana lacks technically, she makes up with her grace and stage presence.

Contrary to her lack of confidence in her own technique, the structure of dance fascinates her. "I love choreography. I think there's some sort of art in it," Said Iwana. "It's like making poetry... it just flows."

Iwana, like many others driven by the arts, isn't easily swayed from her ambitions because of her other responsibilities at home and school. Each day she finds new reasons to keep working hard, such as the impact she believes dance has on people.

"I love dance because you're on stage telling a story in which you want the crowd to feel your emotions, and walk away from the performance with something special," said Iwana. "It's like acting with no words."

Currently, her plan is to major in musical theatre, but knowing that nothing

in the world is sure, her backup is to teach younger dancers and opening up her own dance studio.

She's never



settled for less than she knows she's capable of. As of now, her main goal is to create her own Broadway production. Iwana has a lot of drive and aspiration. Although some things bring her down, she must remind herself to "follow your heart. Do what you love. Though it sounds cliché, you don't want to grow old and have regrets."

Contributions made by: Anna Yang & Asha Johnson

# Welcome new gamers



## Game Prose Alexander Bevier

I've been playing video games for a long time. In fact, my mother bought me a Nintendo Game Boy to bribe me into potty training. This kept me from pooping my pants, but also started my lifelong love of games. You, however, probably have a vastly different experience with games.

Gaming is a relatively young medium. People have only been making video games for roughly 50 years. By creating a player-driven narrative experience, they have the potential to become the most emotionally gripping medium ever and it can be important to understand and appreciate the Entertainment Medium of the 21st Century. It's certainly more fun than learning the metric system.

One of the hardest things about learning how to play games is learning how a controller works. Modern controllers are 17-button monstrosities and most games will want you to be intimate with what each button does within an hour of playtime. It's a challenge to get acquainted with a controller, but you will begin to know the purpose of each button in time. Knowing where the "A" button is on an Xbox 360 controller will open your life to a world of new experiences.

If you don't have a console to play games on, don't worry. If you're starting out, don't think you need to rush out to the store to buy an Xbox 360 or PlayStation 3. Ask your friends if you can come over and watch them play something. Maybe even try it yourself after a while. Or, use a machine you already have to play a game. iPhones, Androids, Macs and PCs have more games than any console does, and you'll be able to have a quality experience without too much trouble. Try checking out Plants Vs. Zombies. It's a vibrant and

entertaining game that's available on every platform I've already mentioned.

It's often best to start playing a game that's got a fantastic story, a strong central character, and doesn't penalize you for dying too much. You're going to have to learn new rules for each game, and you'll need as much help as possible. This is why I'd recommend something like 2008's Prince of Persia or Super Mario Galaxy for gaming neophytes. The former has a great story and is extremely forgiving, while the latter has a Technicolor charm and style combined with a soundtrack that will stick with you forever.

One genre that I'd recommend you don't start with is the first-person shooter. This genre features the game's

*"In fact, my mother bought me a Nintendo Game Boy to bribe me into potty training."*

Alexander Bevier

camera being the view of the player's character and it takes a lot of practice to figure out that the left joystick moves the character while the right one moves the camera. This practice is a lot harder when your character is getting shot in the head every twenty seconds. They're some of the most popular games on the market, but I'd approach titles like Halo and Call of Duty with caution.

After playing through those games, try some others that look good. Borrow a game that you think you'd find interesting. I'd personally tell you to check out Batman: Arkham Asylum, and the Uncharted series. Both games have a great atmosphere, story, and are a joy to play.

Each game I mentioned isn't just for gaming virgins. Any experienced gamer should find plenty to love in them too. Soon, you'll be able to discuss what makes games special. It'd be nice to know I'm not the only singer in GRCC's gaming choir.

# DON'T PANIC: THE TRANSFER STUDENT'S GUIDE TO TRANSFERRING

Here it is, the perfect time to start your transfer process. Problem is: Where to start?  
Here is an easy guide to transferring without a sweat. Follow these easy steps for college happiness.

## Tip #1

FAFSA Priority Deadline for 2012-2013 is February 15.

## Where to begin?

### Community College Credits

- Double check transferrable credits
- Courses may need to be repeated
- Figure out what grades are needed for each course
- Find out the GPA needed to transfer
- Call admissions office
- Talk to transfer advisor
- Talk to an advisor at your community college

### Visiting Colleges

#### Scheduling

- Visit before applications are due
- Go during the school year
- Some colleges even have virtual tours of the school

#### Picking the Perfect Time to Visit

- Mondays through Thursdays are the best days to visit
- Classes are in session
- Late summer or early September before senior year
- Spring of Junior Year
- Spring Break

## Choosing A School

### Benefits of Larger Colleges

- Many varieties of majors
- Large libraries
- Well-funded sports programs
- State of the art classrooms
- Larger colleges, means larger amounts of people in each class

### Benefits of Smaller Colleges

- More Hands-on learning
- Individually designed majors
- More personal relationship with advisor
- Better feel of community
- Can get to know the professors
- Professors may know you're interests better

## Tip #3

Check for "Transfer student only" scholarships and apply for them specifically.

## Tip #2

Remember that nothing is ever set in stone. Keep your options open.

## After Acceptance

- Colleges invite new students to visit the school
- Before May 1st. This is when they expect a reply of whether or not you want to go the school
- Allows you to make decisions between all of the colleges that have accepted you
- Very short time period that you can visit between acceptance and replying

## Living on Campus

### Dorms

- *Same-Sex Dorms*
  - Could possibly come with a restriction to have someone of the opposite sex over
- *Substance-free dorms*
  - No smoking, drinking or drug use
  - No having to deal with roommate doing any of these things
- *Special-interest/Theme housing*
  - roommates who share your interests
- *Singles*
  - Bedroom with just you
  - Rare for a first year student
  - May be a little expensive
- *Doubles*
  - One roommate
- *Suites*
  - Two bedrooms and one common room
  - Fairly decent option

## Staff

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## EDITORIAL

## A step in the right direction

**Editorial Board:** David Caldwell, Asha Johnson, Ari Saltarelli, Bailey Jo Josie

Same-sex marriage in Washington is finally on the fast-track to legalization. Governor Gregoire recently announced her support of a same-sex marriage bill. A majority of House and Senate support, along with several high-profile corporate endorsements including those of Starbucks and Google indicate a likelihood of the bill passing.

But gay marriage permanently becoming legal is not a sure thing. Memories remain of the infamous 2008 California Proposition 8 battle, wherein voters chose to overturn a court decision to recognize same-sex marriage. In fact, no state has ever put same-sex marriages up to voters and kept it; in 2009 voters from Maine chose to vote against a 6-month old court decision to allow it. Such a reversal would not be unexpected in Washington, and already there are calls from pro-family and religious officials for a ballot referendum which would overturn the bill.

Like many states, Washington is broke and constantly facing deep cuts to important programs, like education. At a time when the state budget is constantly under pressure, legal same-sex marriage holds particular economic advantages. The wedding industry is a substantial economic powerhouse, and in Washington alone it is estimated that legal same-sex marriage

would result in 3.9 to 5.7 million dollars in wedding-related tax revenue.

Money will play a key role if the referendum makes it on the ballot. Funding plays an important role every voting cycle. Much attention was given to Costco when they spent 22 million dollars promoting last year's successful Initiative 1183 liquor privatization campaign. A referendum on same-sex marriage is likely to garner far larger amounts of money on both sides of the issue.

It is peculiar that a social issue which will affect a minority of people repeatedly gets left to the voting of the general public and the wallets of those who wish to stop it. The majority imposing its will upon a minority in order to handicap the minority's ability to function as equals is hardly a shining example of democracy. This type of dilemma is one of the foremost reasons the American judicial system holds the power it does.

Were American courts unable to reject majority opinion in the name of justice, civil rights would not have progressed as quickly as they did over the last century. Landmark decisions such as *Brown v Board of Education* and the 1964 Civil Rights Act were controversial and flew in the face of popular opinion at the time, but still proved defining pieces of American history which helped pave the road for greater equality.

No heterosexual marriage or family is placed in legitimate danger from legalized same-sex marriage. States which allow same-sex marriages have not witnessed the breakdown of values opponents cried of. The "Institution of Marriage" supposedly under attack by gay marriage is a man-made social construct, which is not weakened but rather reinforced with support for homosexual love. The strength of family is decided by the character strength of those in the family, not proper adherence to mother/father gender roles. Adoptive and Foster families with two moms or dads are a rarity, but it is impossible to deny the effort they put into raising kids as equal to that of any straight couple.

Our nation has come too far in the name of equal rights to paradoxically establish second-class citizenship for people emotionally identical to any person legally allowed to marry. Washington currently allows civil unions, a separate-but-equal "marriage-like" status which places in the upper echelon of national tolerance but is no longer enough. The battle for marriage equality across the nation will be fierce, and it would benefit every American to support legislation seeking to end discrimination towards minorities and supports the notion that the United States is indeed a country based on the freedom of individuals.

## A Playboy lesson

The Chief  
Asha Johnson

Playboy Magazine is the kind of reading material most would only expect to find underneath the beds of horny teenage boys looking for the midnight thrill they've yet to obtain from any real women. So if you – as a hypothetical journalist – came across an issue lying around your boss' work office, should you be disgusted or intrigued? I'll give you a hint; pick the second one.

As you might have guessed, I was introduced to my first Playboy earlier this week. Previously I had only thought of Playboy as a nude-y magazine with naked women describing their "perfect date".

As I skimmed through the year-old issue, I wasn't wrong; there were indeed a great deal of naked women provocatively posing next to their flirty bios. But as my friend excitedly tried to get me to skip ahead the jaw-dropping double truck (the large story located in the crease-line of a magazine), my attention was focused on the large amount of good articles the publication had. It was like looking at a Rolling Stone Maga-

zine, but instead of pullout posters featuring timeless bands, the pullout posters featured naked Bunnies.

The interesting thing is that supposedly Playboy has always been a respectable (in terms of writing, at least) publication. A year after their first issue in 1953, Playboy was the first to serialize the critically acclaimed novel "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury within the first year it was published. Throughout their early years they've also printed fiction pieces from many famous writers, including Michael Crichton, author of "Jurassic Park"; and Kurt Vonnegut, author of "Slaughterhouse Five".

Not to mention in the early '80s, Playboy housed the occasional article written by one of the pioneers to the industry changing notion of New Journalism, Hunter S. Thompson.

See, the point isn't that you should go subscribe to Playboy because you can learn more than just what airbrushed photos look like; it's that biases are bad and they prevent people from expanding their knowledge. If I had opened my mind a little sooner, I could have used Playboy as resource for excellent journalism. The worst thing a student can do to themselves is allow biases to be imposed upon them, because choosing to close your mind to life's possibilities will only hinder you, not protect you.

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

## CAMPUS TALK

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# Replacing one hostile war with another

Obama faces challenges involving ending war in Iraq, possibly warring with Iran, and getting re-elected



Commentary by:  
**David Caldwell**

President Barack Obama appears to be quite pleased with himself for following George W. Bush's agreement to remove our military force from Iraq. While it certainly will be an effective re-election campaign bullet-point, I would hope few people are foolish enough to believe that our Mesopotamian meddling is truly coming to an end. Already the drums of war can be heard beating throughout America, as Iran's highly-publicized nuclear program is increasingly focused on by a world

growing tired of inevitable US military interventions.

In the wake of the Iraq conflict's closure, Obama's administration's rigid, preparatory measures against Iran are troubling to watch unfold. The United States has been slowly escalating its economic sanctions against Iran since Obama took office in 2009, culminating in a bill he signed on New Year's Eve 2011 which threatens penalties against foreign companies that deal with Iran's Central Bank.

Iran is not innocent through all of this. Its nuclear program has been closely watched and hyped up for almost a decade by the Israeli and American governments, whose claims of a looming threat were somewhat legitimized in 2011 upon completion of Iran's first nuclear power plant.

Regardless of intent, Iran's uranium enrichment activities have repeatedly violated the International Atomic Energy Agency's Non-Proliferation Treaty, which the country agreed to and now refuses compliance.

As a response to sanctions from the US, they have threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, entrance to the Persian Gulf and perhaps the most economically important passage of water on the planet. Almost immediately following Iran's warning, US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta condemned any such action as a "red line."

Central to the pressures on Iran is Israel, longtime stronghold of Western democracy in the Middle East and unparalleled ally of the United States. Israel's current investment in stopping Iran by any means necessary is

evident. Several of Iran's civilian scientists involved with the nuclear program have been assassinated in the last few years, including a drive-by killing on January 11th.

The US denies any involvement in these murders, yet Israel will neither confirm nor deny responsibility; Israeli officials have gone on-record referring to the killings as "revenge" and suggesting that they will continue until the Iranians abandon the nuclear program entirely.

It remains to be seen how far the United States is willing to go in strong-arming Iran's interests. Iran represents a far greater military force than Saddam Hussein's Iraq did, yet there is little question that the US military would be able to dominate any open conflict. As Iraq has taught us, that does not

equate to anything easy or simple.

2012 is an election year, and the international tension currently building up is beginning to cast a shadow only second to the economy. Republicans in the GOP primary race have exhibited great ire for Iran's actions, and there is little doubt of their intent in protecting Israel at any cost.

It is almost unthinkable that our current president would willingly ignite a fresh conflict during election season. However, if a second term is secured and reelection ceases to be the issue it currently is, Obama will feel increased pressure to act on Iran from pro-Israel political bodies such as the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee, which has been a constant influence in his administration's Middle

Eastern policies.

Regardless of who leads the country one year from now, military intervention will remain on the table, which to every American who watched Iraq unfold should raise serious alarms.

Another ground war in the Middle East will cost the US incalculable amounts of money, as well as tear apart the international reputation we have been working to rebuild in the years since Iraq. Oil prices would skyrocket, and make today's high prices seem an unattainable bargain. Iran and America are equally stubborn in their handling of this situation, and diplomacy must be brought back to avoid conflict. A new war is not an option, but rather a worst-case scenario that would haunt a generation already fatigued by military conflict.

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## Unlike in prison, drop the SOPA

Why SOPA could do more harm to the Internet than good.



Commentary by:  
**Sean Rockey**

Let's face it: you've pirated, I've pirated, and I'm pretty sure that the CEOs at most major companies have pirated. It's fast, it's easy and - best of all - it's free. That said, taking copyrighted media or information is a blatantly illegal act in the United States. The only problem is, how do you enforce United States laws on websites that aren't formed in the United States, like the Sweden-based "Pirate Bay"? The recent "Stop Online Piracy Act" (SOPA) was trying to answer that.

Essentially, by SOPA's criteria, this would affect the Internet on two fronts. First, if a website was deemed to be giving data illegally, all U.S. based search engines [i.e. Google] would refuse to give those sites as search results.

Second, major payment processors and advertising companies [i.e. PayPal] would refuse to allow funds to be transmitted to them.

Both plans seem pretty simple. Block off major access to the site, and refuse them any funds from the U.S. How could they go wrong?

In a lot of ways, actually. Let's start off with what SOPA defines as a bad website. In the paperwork, a website can be blocked if "it facilitates copyright infringement." That's it. It's so horribly vague that it can be used for almost any site ever. Take YouTube, for example. Over five million users upload videos every day, some of it being copyrighted music or video game game play. BAM; Youtube is taken down. What about e-mail? Surely someone has sent an illegal file once or twice over e-mail. BAM; Most major e-mail sites are taken down. Vagueness in a law is a great thing, isn't it?

Not only that, but SOPA clearly states that U.S. based search engines and payment processors are required to

have a system that allows outside parties to report a site "that is dedicated to the theft of U.S. property." The only problem with that is that reporting a site would take around 10 seconds and can be done anonymously, and trying to fight a possibly false allegation can take weeks and possibly thousands of dollars. In a nutshell, one could easily use SOPA to block anything they wanted.

Now, SOPA may have been pulled by the House Judiciary Committee on January 20, but that doesn't mean that it's the end of all censorship-related bills, or this very bill for that matter. It's only a matter of time until musicians and actors get flustered again, and the general public will have to bat away another poorly worded proposal. When the next attempt at censorship rears its ugly head, please do your part to stop it. Post something on Facebook, send an e-mail to a representative, tweet against it, anything.

That is, unless all of those sites get blocked before you get the chance.

## Calendar

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	
Bellevue Tournament, Everett WA	
Dec 2	Bellevue - Green River, 8 p.m.
Dec 3	Mt. Hood/Big Bend - Green River, 3 or 7 p.m.
Dec 4	Final Round, TBA
Dec 11	Green River - Chemeketa, 2 p.m.
Dec 15	Green River - Big Bend, 6 p.m.
Jan 4	Highline - Green River, 6 p.m.
Jan 7	Green River - Centralia, 3 p.m.
Jan 9	Green River - South Puget Sound, 6 p.m.
Jan 11	Clark - Green River, 6 p.m.
Jan 18	Lower Columbia - Green River, 6 p.m.
Jan 21	Green River - Pierce, 3 p.m.
Jan 25	Green River - Grays Harbor, 6 p.m.
MEN'S BASKETBALL	
Spokane/No Idaho Invite	
Dec 2	North Idaho College - Green River, 7:30 p.m.
Dec 3	Yakima Valley/Salish Kootenai - Green River, 3 or 5 p.m.
Dec 4	Final Round, TBA
Dec 13	Green River - NW Indian, 5 p.m.
Seattle Crossover	
Dec 16	Walla Walla - Green River, 6 p.m.
Dec 17	Seattle or Umpqua - Green River, 4 p.m. or 8 p.m.
Dec 18	Final Round, TBA
Dec 21	Green River - North Seattle, 7 p.m.
Jan 4	Highline - Green River, 8 p.m.
Jan 7	Green River - Centralia, 5 p.m.
Jan 9	Green River - South Puget Sound, 8 p.m.
Jan 11	Clark - Green River, 8 p.m.
Jan 18	Lower Columbia - Green River, 8 p.m.
Jan 21	Green River - Pierce, 5 p.m.
Jan 25	Green River - Grays Harbor, 8 p.m.

## Scoreboard

MEN'S BASKETBALL (2-1)	
Nov 25	Green River vs. Skagit Valley (74-65)
Nov 26	Green River vs. Walla Walla (61-90)
Nov 27	Green River vs. Wenatchee Valley (78-68)
WOMEN'S SOCCER (12-5-4)	
Oct 8	Green River vs. Skagit Valley (8-0)
Oct 12	Green River vs. Shoreline (3-0)
Oct 15	Edmonds vs. Green River (1-3)
Oct 19	Everett vs. Green River (0-4)
Oct 22	Green River vs. Bellingham (2-0)
Oct 26	Green River vs. Skagit Valley (6-0)
Oct 29	Green River vs. Shoreline (1-0)
Nov 2	Green River vs. Edmonds (0-0)
Nov 5	Green River vs. Everett (2-1)
Nov 9	NWAACC Playoffs, Green River vs. Yakima (2-0)
Nov 12	NWAACC Quarterfinals, Green River vs. Clackamas (0-1)
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL (1-3)	
Nov 18	Green River vs. Everett (58-73)
Nov 19	Green River vs. Tacoma (48-83)
Nov 26	Green River vs. Whatcom (39-70)
Nov 27	Green River vs. NW Indian (75-67)

Find full league standings, stats and more at [www.nwaacc.org](http://www.nwaacc.org)

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Willis injured, out for now

With their team captain out due to injuries, Green River's men's basketball manages to keep respectable record.

By: Dylan Whitcher  
Staff Writer

With just a dozen games remaining before the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) playoffs, the Gators (9-8, 3-3 NWAACC) find themselves one game back from a three-way tie for third place in the western division.

Sophomore team captain Devin Willis suffered a high ankle sprain in the third game of the season and was sidelined for eight games.

"He rolled his ankle pretty badly," said head coach Tim Malroy, who added that Willis prob-

ably could have come back sooner if not for a history of foot injuries that made him cautious. Without Willis, Green River lost a mid-range game crucial to the team's success.

"Most of the shots seen now are either three pointers, lay-ups or dunks, but Willis' mid-range game really helps us out a lot," Malroy said.

Most importantly, the Gators lost their leader.

"Devin is our captain, our go-to guy and definitely our best player," sophomore Derek Eilertson said. "When he went down, there was a big piece of our puzzle that was missing."

Impressively, the Gators managed to post a

respectable 4-4 record in Willis' absence. The play of Eilertson and sophomore Chris Plooy has been a huge reason for Green River's ability to stay afloat. Eilertson and Plooy are averaging a combined 30.9 points per game so far this season.

At a home game against South Puget Sound Community College, on Jan.

9 Eilertson seemingly single-handedly willed the Gators to victory. Despite Willis on the floor, Eilertson made key shot after key shot, scoring a season-high 32 on 11-of-16 shooting -- including five three-pointers -- to help Green River earn a 85-82 victory.

That night, Eilertson's

play proved the Gators are well balanced even without Willis.

Consistent scoring has been a problem for the Gators. In Green River's eight victories, the Gators have averaged an impressive 80 points per game. However, that number dips to 65 points per game in the seven losses.

Willis' leadership both on and off the court should be a great boost for the team as it looks to make a playoff push in the final 10 games, but the Gators will need consistent scoring from their bench in order to make the NWAACC playoffs and avenge their previous season when they fell short by just a single game.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

## Top player Phillips back for more

After a leave of absence to focus on academics, Cecilly Phillips returns to Green River's Women's basketball to help the team ante in their average 26 turnovers per game.

By: Amy Brons  
Staff Writer

Top player Cecilly Phillips has returned, but the Green River women's basketball team continues to struggle.

Phillips, last year's Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) leading scorer, returned in mid-December after missing the first month of the season because of academic issues.

Unfortunately for the Gators, there hasn't been much of a difference in the win column. Green River started the season 1-6 without Phillips, but is just 3-11 currently.

"Our team is handling

it fine," sophomore point guard McKenna Swanson said. "We're only five games into our season."

The main problems plaguing the Gators is lack of focus and consistency.

freshman Keryn Knight have put together solid games, but neither has emerged as a consistent threat.

Still, the girls remain confident in themselves

*"We are trying to work ourselves and our teammates harder so in practice we are playing at game speed."*

McKenna Swanson, sophomore, point guard

In 13 games so far, Green River is averaging 26 turnovers per game. The Gators have been over 30 turnovers in a game three times and under 20 once.

The Gators also don't have a consistent scoring tendency. Swanson and

and what they're capable of. Swanson is certain that a tougher practice schedule will lead to more wins.

"We are trying to work ourselves and our teammates harder so in practice we are playing at game speed," Swanson

said. "Hopefully that will translate in games."

Even though the season has been rough for Green River, the Gators are still within just two games of fourth place in the west region. Green River needs to finish at least in that place to qualify for the playoffs.

"I definitely believe that making the playoffs is possible," Swanson said. "All the teams in our league play about the same level. There is a ton more basketball to play."

A decrease in turnovers per game shows the team is becoming more focused. After the first seven games, the Gators averaged 28 turnovers per game. In the six games since, that number is down to 22.



## The Undercurrent

### Temporary increase in sales tax

By: Olivia Mok  
News Editor

Gov. Chris Gregoire proposed a half-cent sales tax hike over the next three years in compensate for a \$2 billion budget shortfall on Nov 21. This proposal could bring in an estimated revenue of \$494 million a year.

Entering her final year in office, Gregoire asked to put a referendum on the March ballot for the first state sales tax increase in 28 years, in which the majority of the profits would go toward education, and a smaller part toward social security and service.

Despite the proposed tax boost, the governor outlined more than 160 budget cuts to deal with the soaring government expenditure. The cuts included shortening the K-12 school year by four days, reducing funding for higher education by \$160 million and eliminating both the Disability Lifeline Program and the Basic Health Plan.

If the proposal is approved, the state would be tied with five other states for the second-highest state sales tax, following California.

### Apple's iBooks 2 changes industry

By: Alexander Bevier  
Senior Writer

Apple's recently released iBooks 2 has already sold 350,000 textbooks to iPad users. The company announced iBooks 2 mid-January, stating it will revolutionize the textbook industry by selling directly to students without the need for a publishing company.

"...[The] iPad is rapidly being adopted by schools across the U.S. and around the world," said Philip Schiller, Apple's senior vice president of Worldwide Marketing. "Now with iBooks 2 for iPad, students have a more dynamic, engaging and truly interactive way to read and learn, using the device they already love."

iBooks 2 allows the cost of textbooks to drop as low as \$15 a book. iBooks is currently available for free.

### NDAA raises concern among voters

By: Olivia Mok  
News Editor

President Obama, after announcing a veto threat over the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), signed the revised bill on December 31, 2011. The law included provisions that would allow the military to imprison most terrorist indefinitely, without a trial.

"I have signed this bill despite having serious reservations with certain provisions that regulate the detention, interrogation and prosecution of suspected terrorists," said the President. He also added that another major reason for signing the bill is to avoid racial cuts the troops need to face in coming years, bringing in approximately \$622 billion military spending through 2012.

Yet, Civil liberties groups like the American Civil Liberties Union worry that troops might use the law to infringe on executive and legislative powers, or even abused the law to target American citizens, instead of protect them.

Some, like the senator of Minnesota, Al Franken, believes that the NDAA is a pitfall of civil liberties with the potential to deprive citizens' basic right to an impartial trial.

## iHeartRadio welcomes KGRG

Green River's own KGRG will join iHeartRadio, a music streaming engine, and is the only community college radio program to do so.

By: Rachel Sant  
Senior Writer

Green River's KGRG is to be a part of the first fourteen college radio stations on Clear Channel's worldwide streaming engine, iHeartRadio.

Clear Channel, owner of Kiss 106.1, recognized KGRG for their 23-year reputation as a pioneering radio station for the Seattle-Tacoma Metro market and spoke to them before the holidays about taking part in their new program.

According to KGRG's general manager Tom Krause, Clear Channel's iHeartRadio is currently competing with Pandora Radio. This newer online player is free and has the same function of customizable stations that it's rival does; however, it is also capable of streaming pre-existing stations as well, including acclaimed commu-

nity college or university radio stations.

After KGRG was notified of this offer from Clear Channel, Krause excitedly talked about his overwhelming realization of what this will mean for the station once they turn to worldwide listenership.

"We were honored, obviously pleased," said Krause.

KGRG will be able to stream "Today's Rock" all over the world. The release date for the new college stations has yet to be revealed.

Since getting on the air waves in December of 1974, KGRG has had its reputation built up over time by the many students that have dedicated themselves to the

changes with the exception of installing some new equipment and appointing a new web manager. The radio will maintain its same schedule and its normal level of operation, comparable to that of a commercial radio station.

For the members of KGRG, this is huge. With the freedom to now broadcast worldwide, these individuals will be able to obtain the extra experience necessary for professional work in the field of radio. This is also a great chance for the world to hear what KGRG – as well as other colleges – is capable of.

"We have a lot of great DJs and a lot of great students. Our training program is top notch and we are all very excited to share that with the world," Mikolas said, "KGRG FM is ready for the world and we hope the world is ready for KGRG FM."

*"Our training program is top notch and we are all very excited to share that with the world."*

Matt Mikolas, program director

Out of the fourteen colleges selected as a part of iHeartRadio, KGRG is one of the only two schools west of the Mississippi River. It is the only community college chosen to be part of this tremendous honor. Soon,

program. These students are now being presented with an opportunity never before available to Green River.

According the KGRG's Program Director Matt Mikolas, the station will not need to undergo any production

#### FEBRUARY HOLIDAYS

- 1/30 - National Corn Chip Day
- 1/31 - National Pop Corn Day
- 2/1 - Serpent Day
- 2/2 - Purification Day
- 2/3 - Cordova Ice Worm Day
- 2/4 - Create A Vacuum Day
- 2/5 - Disaster Day
- 2/6 - Lame Duck
- 2/7 - Charles Dickens Day
- 2/8 - Kite Flying Day
- 2/9 - Toothache Day
- 2/10 - Umbrella Day
- 2/11 - White T-Shirt Day
- 2/12 - Plum Pudding Day
- 2/13 - Dream Your Sweet Day
- 2/14 - Ferris Wheel Day
- 2/15 - Gum Drop Day
- 2/16 - Do A Grouch A Favor Day
- 2/17 - Champion Crab Races Day



### Personalized support meets affordability, flexibility, and seamless transfer at state-endorsed online university.

Ken Kinloch's associate's degree and university certificate only got him so far in his career in the technology field. When it was clear he needed his bachelor's degree in Information Security, Ken looked to the state's only nonprofit, competency-based, accredited online university.

At WGU Washington, Ken advances through his program by demonstrating competency in degree subject matter rather by logging hours in a classroom. He balances school and a full-

time job thanks to the one-on-one support of his faculty mentor, Mariah (pictured above). And as a graduate of a Washington community college, Ken transferred his credits seamlessly into his WGU Washington program.

"As a nonprofit, the cost was right," Ken says of the flat-rate tuition, less than \$6,000 a year for most programs. "Well within my budget. And the program also includes industry certifications. I can apply the skills I'm learning on the job."

#### Washington community college graduates who transfer to WGU Washington will receive:

- Application fee waiver (a \$65 savings)
- 5% tuition discount
- A chance to apply for a \$2,000 scholarship



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