

# The Current

Green River Community College



Tip of the hat to  
12-5-4

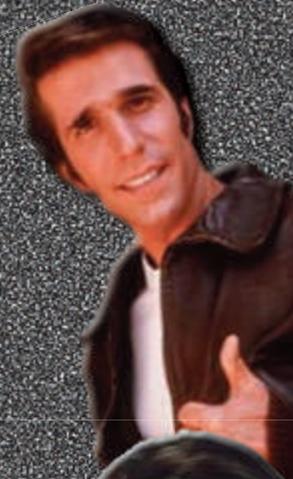
Women's soccer concludes a great season with a high record and even higher expectations for next season.

**SPORTS** page 14

December 2, 2011 | WWW.THECURRENTONLINE.NET

**VOLUME 46, ISSUE 4**

## Sitcoms Through Time



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A look at  
American sitcoms  
'back in the day'  
and today

Get a kick  
start into your  
holiday marathons

**CAMPUS** page 4

### 'Gender: What?' explains all

Inside look into a recent group discussion where Queer & Allie and others speak to students about transgender issues.

**A&E** page 7

### Choir concert is a ringer

Green River's choir classes perform a merry holiday concert for family and friends. See who makes a guest appearance and how exactly they got to the stage.

**NEWS** page 10

### March on Montlake

Planned months before Occupy Wall Street, students attend protests and speeches on National Take Action Day.

**OP-ED** page 13

### Helping the needy now comes with a catch

Find out which family-friendly charity discriminates against homosexuals.

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The Current on Facebook and Twitter:

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"You are being tracked by the government. Even now, you  
exist as a record in various government databases."

Josh Davidson, Page 6

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All Photos: Jean-Pierre Garcia | The Current

# March on Montlake

## Model United Nations: Local team gets a kick start

A group of seven Green River students venture off to the Northwest Model United Nations conference as a newly formed team.

By: Koen Walks  
Staff writer

Energy, security, and human trafficking. Resolve these problems, the same issues diplomats have argued over for ages, with finals due the following week.

That is exactly what seven GRCC students did Nov. 18-20 at a Model United Nations (MUN) conference in downtown Seattle.

The MUN is a simulation of the real United Nations for college students. For three days, each student was assigned a country to represent as different policies were discussed and position papers were drafted for collaborative resolutions on current issues.

The end goal was to pass these working resolutions to the dais, a neutral board that moderated the entire conference and ensured

proper codes of conduct were followed.

Before the conference even started, participants wrote a position paper to describe the perspective of current events for their country.

During the summer of 2010, Gabriella Linardi, a GRCC political science major, attended a MUN conference in New York. This later inspired her to create her own team of representatives at Green River.

Though the team is made fully of Green River students, Linardi opted out of making the team an official club because of the hassle involved with getting ratified, she said.

This MUN team is comprised of GRCC students from around the world, providing a diverse perspective. The team consists of one American student, a Taiwanese student, four Indonesian students and a Kazakh student.

GRCC represented Spain, Kuwait, Mongolia and the Dominican Republic. The representatives attended the General Assembly, the Human

positions to mirror their country in order for them to effectively write a strong position paper. Salisbury has more of a monitoring role, instead



Rights Council and the Arms Trade Treaty.

Bart Salisbury, a political science professor at Green River, helped clarify student

of being a faculty advisor because this MUN group isn't an official club.

The regional NWMUN conference also had students

from Oregon, Idaho and California.

Some of resolutions proved ironic. Typically the resolutions are less realistic or cohesive than they would be in the actual United Nations.

For example, students representing America and China worked together to form a nuclear energy agreement. Although this would be ideal, it's not a realistic partnership for this day in age.

Conflict in the real world regarding environmental concerns of how nuclear energy and security should be used and prior pretenses were irrelevant to the students involved. History and grudges did not affect the solutions that countries were trying to present.

Another issue brought up occurred in the human rights council. Bagas Yoga Danara, a member of our local MUN

team, discussed human trafficking.

By the end of the conference, awards were doled out based on the performance and resolution to each issue discussed.

Although none of the delegates of the GRCC team received awards, Linardi was happy with the performance of the team.

"We are commended by the secretary general of the NW-MUN as great new comers, [and] I think we did a great job in the General Assembly since our working paper got passed," said Linardi.

Danara described the performance in the human rights council as a first-rate "first-timer performance".

(Students who are interested can join the MUN team by contacting Gabriella Linardi at [glinardi@mail.greenriver.edu](mailto:glinardi@mail.greenriver.edu))

# Teacher Spotlight: Sandy Johanson

**Full name:** Sandra Redd Johanson  
**Position:** Philosophy Teacher  
**Date of birth:** January 4th, 1953  
**Years at Green River:** 20 years

## How would you describe yourself as a teacher?

I don't really have the point of view that a professor's job is to impart knowledge to students.

The job of a professor is not to profess. 'Here's my knowledge, let me pass it around to you.' I want students to develop their own critical thinking skills to understand what they've read and to talk about it and bring it out themselves and talk about it in their own way.

The other thing that's really important to me, as a teacher, is that I'm always teaching in ways so that it's relevant to a student's life.

## Why did you become a teacher?

I like to help people understand things. I love figuring out ways to try to help people understand, so I think I have a natural inclination to love to teach.

And then when I first encountered Philosophy in college I was just so blown away by the subject. Then the two things combined, the love of Philosophy and my love of teaching combined together.

## What is your favorite memory at GRCC?

Last year's existentialism class. I had this class of students that just loved everything that we were talking about. It was just fun to go into class every day and dive into material. I didn't have to try and get them interested.

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

Hitchhiking down the California coast. When I was very poor and car-less... I was in Northern California and I needed to get to Southern California. I didn't have money. I didn't have a ride so I thought 'I'll just hitchhike.' I got a ride for a long way with a truck driver. So that was perfect because he was very nice.



Kally Bieber | The Current

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

I see myself teaching here. When I retire, I see myself doing some kind of volunteer work, but I still think I'll teach part time, because I just can't imagine not being a teacher.

## What would you be doing right now if you weren't teaching?

I might be doing some kind of social work with adolescent age people, because I think I'm drawn to the ages between 18 and 23. Before I did this job I was doing college development and public relations, which was really not what I wanted to be doing. It wasn't where my heart was.

## What did you want to be when you were a kid?

From early on I really wanted to be a teacher. I read every fairy tale, but I never thought it was possible for me to be a princess.

## Who is your biggest inspiration?

I immediately think of Mahatma Gandhi, because I so admire his strength of character, yet his ability to instill peace and be a per-

son of peace himself.

So he's someone I really admire in History.

## Would you consider yourself part of the peace movement because of your admiration for Gandhi?

I think I'm a little more cynical than that. I think I'm just more cynical about what can be achieved.

## How would you make everyone's life more peaceful?

I think part of what makes someone's life peaceful is if they don't get too involved in controversy and conflict. That's the thing about Mahatma Gandhi, he was such a person of peace and yet he put himself in the midst of conflict and controversy all the time.

## What are you working on other than school?

The year before last I went through Breast Cancer treatment. And that was a huge thing for me to have had very serious breast cancer.

So I'm trying to be healthy: trying to exercise regularly, trying to eat right and all the ways you're supposed to live your life to

prevent cancer.

## What kind of support did you have during the Breast Cancer?

One of the most amazing things about having been diagnosed with Breast Cancer is that the support and love from people on this campus was phenomenal, amazing.

People brought me food twice a week. People came with me to my treatments. People wrote me notes. People sent me baskets. People sent me gift certificates.

Nothing makes the experience worth it, but that just was a great outcome of that experience; to feel so valued and cherished.

## Is there a subject in Philosophy that you love most?

It's changed over the years. Right now what I really love is existentialism, which I'm teaching next quarter (and Gender studies and philosophy).

## Who would you say is your favorite speaker?

At the risk of being really trite, I really admire Martin Luther King Junior's speeches.

And I admire him as well, but his speeches were so full of pathos, energy, truth and genuine feeling. He was able to communicate so much in so few words. I love that about his speeches.

## Do you do anything other than teaching at GRCC?

I chair a committee called the learning committee. One of my passions is to teach in and to promote other faculty teaching and learning committees. I chair that committee. It helps faculty plan them and helps make them happen here on campus. The other committee I chair is a committee that oversees the gender studies certificate here on this campus.

Find the complete interview and many other Teacher Spotlights at our website:  
[www.thecurrentonline.net/campus](http://www.thecurrentonline.net/campus)

# 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).

## Would you donate to a non-profit organization if it had views you don't agree with?

It would depend on what the dirty laundry is; but probably not--Especially if it's something bad. I normally don't do a lot of donations myself. I used to in the past, but now I'm tight on money right now, they ask to spare a buck, honestly I'm just trying to save a buck if anything for this holiday season.



Alex Kohls

I would because you're still helping people. I mean everyone has their own opinion. Giving to the needy that's what Christmas is all about, right? So what if the organizations did something I didn't like? They're still helping someone then it makes perfect sense to me to give to the families that need it.



Brenda Fung

I would, but if they were discriminating against people for their donations, then I would go through another donation that would give to everybody. If it was personal preferences that did not affect how they would use the donations than I would still do it.



Maria Huynh

I would still donate to the Salvation Army. Just because they are homophobic doesn't mean that what they're doing as a whole is wrong. If they're still helping people then they're still doing what they said they were going to do.



William Davidson

## Nerd's the word



### Let's Talk

Jean-Pierre Garcia

The thing is just standing there-- yellow arms on it's hips, white whiskers tufting out of it's small black body, red eyebrows peaked in an arch. This small creature lives in an imaginary zoo made up by a young boy in Dr. Seuss' "If I Ran the Zoo". It's a nerd, and it's not typically what people would first think of when they picture a nerd.

Most images for a nerd reflect in the view of someone adjusting their two-inch thick glasses while sporting a pocket protector and a calculator watch.. This idea was established later in the 50s, and went against the "All American" type of personalities, like the jocks and greasers - the cool kids.

However, that definition is at least 60 years out of date. The dictionary even contradicts itself, having two very different definitions.

Dictionary.com defines 'Nerd' as:

1. a stupid, irritating, ineffectual, or unattractive person.
2. an intelligent but single-minded person obsessed with a nonsocial hobby or pursuit.

However, urbandictionary.com has a closer description to how I feel about it:

"An individual persecuted for superior skills or intellect, most often by people who fear and envy him."

The general misunderstanding comes from how saturated the word has become, how people have come to apply it to their own lives. It almost has a life of its own, growing and adapting to the environment in which it's used.

Nerds have been embraced - even glorified - for several years now. The term has broadened from the initial stereotype, and evolved to the point where it's fanatic. Namely, the near obsessive attitudes people take when

learning about something they're interested in, like a sports nerd consuming the latest statistics for players.

It's not what you know, but how you use it. When it gets to the point when you're the only one able to understand the complexity or depth of a specific topic, it limits the ability for others to participate. Once you step beyond another person's understanding, you limit possible connections with them. This inevitably leaves you alienating yourself from another person or group, which limits the likelihood of fresh thoughts and perspectives to be presented to you - this makes it easy for others to reject, tease, and exclude you.

But why? The term "nerd" has shifted over time to something more inclusive and more celebrated. So why is there still persecu-

***"Most images for a nerd reflect in the view of someone adjusting their two-inch thick glasses while sporting a pocket protector and a calculator watch."***

Jean-Pierre Garcia

tion against people who just want to geek out on their most favorite subject matter? It's simple: the word may have evolved to something more socially acceptable, but the fact of the matter is that people react against things they perceive as arrogant, which is a common trait amongst those who tend to focus on one or few subjects of interest; it is taken as "you only want to talk about this one thing that I know nothing about - you obviously want to exclude me."

A lesson can be learned here. To put it simply, if we all took into consideration that what we say and do affects other people, be they nerd or fanatic or whatever.

In the end, if we treat everyone like they are something to learn more about, than we can evolve into something better, the same way that "nerd" evolved into something cool.

## 'Gender: What?' explains all

Green River's Queer and Allies hosts 'Gender: What?', a group discussion covering the questions and misconceptions of gender identity; going deeper than basic definitions

By: Makena Cayce  
Staff writer

There's a stranger staring at you in the mirror; this stranger has a familiar look of hopelessness wrought on their face.

It is the feeling of living trapped in a body that doesn't fit; a body disconnected from identity is often experienced by transgender people. It's called gender dysphoria.

In response to the Transgender Day of Remembrance, the Queer and Allies (Q&A) club at Green River Community College (GRCC), hosted 'Gender: What?', a Transgender 101 discussion for the community.

It began as a question and answer segment where four panelists discussed gender, but in the end, the group talked about their personal experiences with gender identity.

Shaan Wade, Q&A president and organizer of the event, shared how changing his name and applying for a new license is an example of what can make transitioning difficult.

Panelist, Elayne Wylie-Weichers, is an out and open male-to-female transgender individual. Born as a male in 1972, Wylie-Weichers' first attempt to transition from male-to-female started in 1996 Los Angeles when she was in college. Her transition involved laser hair removal, hormone treatments and Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS).

It took her ten years to follow through with the transition, but there was one point during her transition where she felt gender queer - that she had no gender.

Those who desire to become transgendered can pay up to \$100,000 for an SRS in order to align their identity and gender assignment. For a cisgender person - one whose body reflects who they are - it will cost them \$0 to feel like

themselves.

"I didn't feel like I belonged in that female gender yet, but I definitely didn't feel [like a] man. So, if somebody pressed me for what my gender was at that moment, it was me. I'm me," said Wylie-Weichers.

Another speaker, Angela Osbourne, has many transgender people in her life. Her wife (named Maya), brother and step father are transgender. Things changed when the person she was dating wanted to transition from male to female:

"I confronted her: do you want to be female or are you just cross dressing? I need to know. She came back to me about a week later and she says, 'I need the full deal and I need it soon.

I can't do this anymore."

Shortly afterward, Osbourne moved out.

After two months, Osbourne realized she cared for Maya too much to walk away. Their commitment to each other is shown by their marriage.

Other stories not only pointed out experience, but also problems that many take for granted.

When you fill out paperwork, there are two boxes you can check: one for male and one for female. There's a culturally defined idea that there are only two genders: male and female. It's called gender binary.

What about the people that identify outside of one box or the other? How about "secret option c"? This option, although very

real, is not always acknowledged.

Maintaining this norm is problematic with 24 possible genders. This can get complicated after defining people only by their appearance. Misunderstandings occur when assumptions are made.

At first there were mixed receptions to the honest stories, open discussion and straightforward answers at 'Gender: What?'. But the audience listened intently, and left thoughtfully.

Some attendees weren't quite sure what to think, but the opportunity to hear these stories was a unique experience for everyone. The individuals involved challenged the gender binary and defined their own identity.



Asha Johnson | The Current  
Guest photo editing by Ari Saltarelli

Student model, Ari Saltarelli, poses as a female experiencing "gender dysphoria", where one struggles with defining their gender identity when their appearance and body do not match up to how they perceive themselves, while looking in a mirror; trapped inside a different body.

## Stay Current

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## Also on the Inside

"If you're going to be unfairly treating to one group that goes against your religion, you have to be unfair to them all,"

Sean Rockey Page 13

# A&E

A&E Editor: Bailey Jo Josie  
[ae.editor@mail.greenriver.edu](mailto:ae.editor@mail.greenriver.edu)

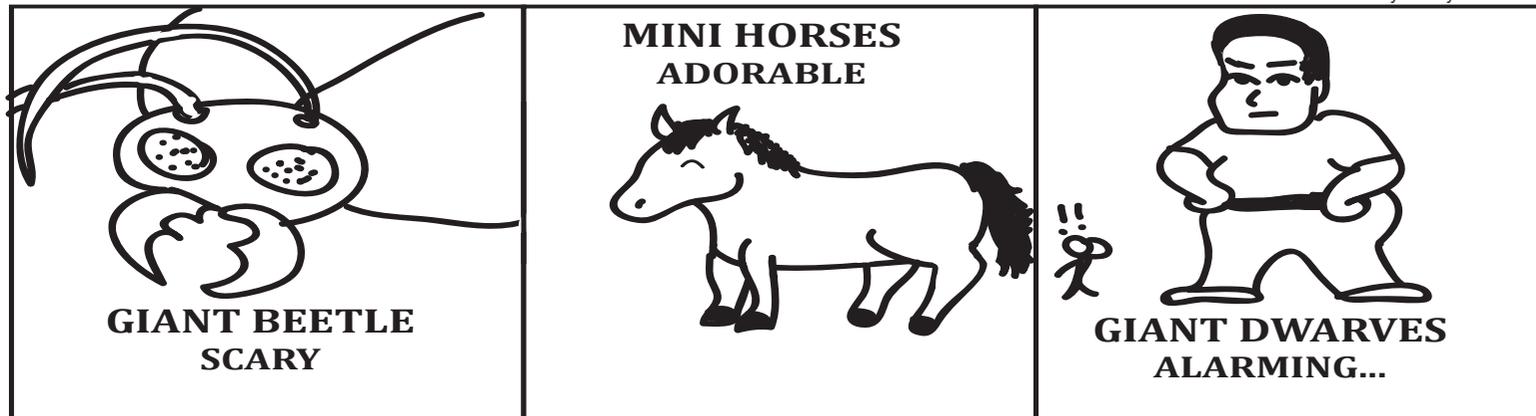
# 5

Dec. 2,  
2011

By Alexander Bevier & Bailey Jo Josie



By Bailey Jo Josie



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# Concert Calendar

Dec. 3	<b>Keb Mo</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. 21+, \$38.50+)
4	<b>Dan Deacon</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$13+)
5	<b>Sting (December 5 &amp; 6)</b> @ Paramount Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$43.50+)
8	<b>Florence + The Machine</b> @ WaMu Theater (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$53+)
	<b>Pickwick &amp; Campfire OK</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$10+)
9	<b>Baths</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$13+)
	<b>Zeds Dead w/ The Wolfpack</b> @ Showbox at the Market (Show starts at 8 p.m. all ages, \$20+)
10	<b>Norm MacDonald</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$35+)
11	<b>Other Lives</b> @ Tractor Tavern (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$10+)
14	<b>Tori Amos</b> @ Paramount Theatre (Show starts at 7 p.m. all ages, \$49+)
17	<b>The Moondoggies</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$15)
	<b>Dinosaur Jr. w/ interview by Henry Rollins</b> @ ShowBox at the Market (Doors open at 7 p.m. 21+, \$22.50+)
19	<b>Prince</b> @ Tacoma Dome (Show starts at 8 p.m. all ages, \$20-\$200+)
22	<b>Brian Setzer's Rockabilly Riot!</b> @ Showbox at the Market (Show starts at 7 p.m. all ages, \$35+)
26	<b>Woody Allen</b> @ Paramount Theatre (Show starts at 6:30 p.m. all ages, \$45.75+)
28	<b>The Outlaws (Tribute to Waylon Jennings)</b> @ Tractor Tavern (Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$6)
Jan. 13	<b>Uhh Yeah Dude</b> @ Neptune Theatre (Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$15)
25	<b>Wu-Tang Clan</b> @ The Showbox SODO (Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$35+)

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Note to society: time's a wasting

By: Joyce Lee and  
Bailey Jo Josie



Directed by Andrew Niccol, "In Time" brings the movie industry to another level, due to its original and creative plotline and message about society.

"In Time" takes place in the future where people stop aging when they turn 25, and after that, they have only a year left to live. In this future world, you have to earn time, and humans live off of time - very similar to a ticking time-bomb; when their clock runs out, they die. However, they can gain more of it very easily and there are people who are over 100 years old.

It is interesting to see time as the currency, employees are paid with hours and minutes. One cop-out in the film, however, is that time can be transferred to another person by a simple handshake.

This film is great because

it brings out an important message- time is everything. By making time like money, it shows how little we the viewers have in our real lives.

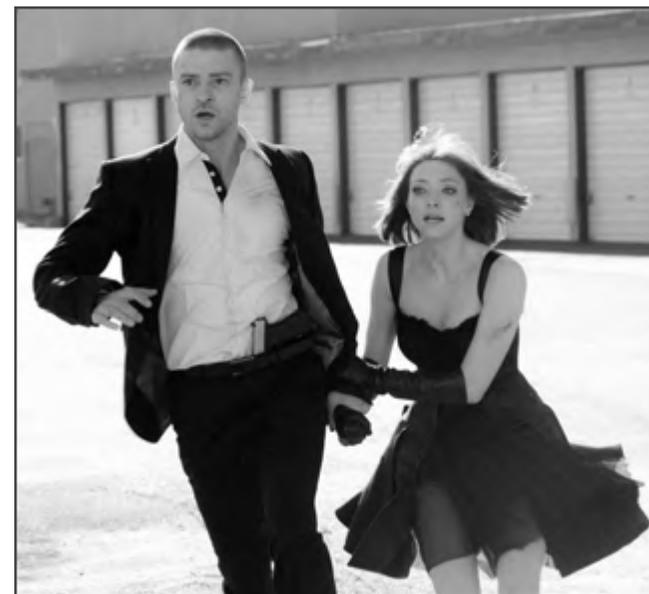
In the movie, everyone treasures every second they have in their hands and do whatever they can gain more hours and minutes.

The social issue the movie brings up is income inequality. It is easy to see how different social classes - the rich have decades of time that they take for granted and waste while the poor borrow, buy, beg, and steal in order to live one more day.

Like other utopia/distopia movies, "In Time" does well to make us, the viewer, take a good hard look at our lives.

However, it is not a perfect movie, since the acting isn't exactly up to par. The cast is made up of young stars like Justin Timberlake and Olivia Wilde, but they should have searched a little harder for better actors.

Especially Amanda Seyfried, who plays Sylvia Weis, a rich girl who helps



Justin Timberlake's Will Sala and Amanda Seyfried's Sylvia Weis are a beautiful pair physically on the screen, however, their lack of chemistry brings about a low-point of an otherwise great movie.

Timberlake's character, Will Salas. Her facial expressions are sluggish throughout the movie and she's a bit boring.

Salas is made out to be a poor man's superhero, fighting the injustice of his era, but Timberlake's performance doesn't fit the character very well. He seems to just be playing himself, and with a movie as monumental as this,

it really brings the film down a bit.

Overall, though, it is still a great movie, and people should go see it for its unique plot points and reflection of society and mankind.

**Rated:** PG-13  
**Director:** Andrew Niccol  
**Starring:** Justin Timberlake, Amanda Seyfried, Olivia Wilde

## The Current Picks

### WEBSITE/APP

GovTrack.us



By: Josh Davidson

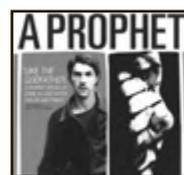
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### MOVIE

A Prophet



By: Gentry Seipert

There are many quintessential "bum to boss" films, such as Coppola's "The Godfather" and De Palma's "Scarface". However, they lack the same sentiment and tone that French director, Jacques Audiard's film, "A Prophet" possesses.

Malik El Djebena is a teenager of muslim descent who has landed in a rough French prison where a powerful Corsican mobster offers him protection if he kills an influential Muslim - he goes through with the task and rises through the ranks of the Corsican mafia.

The film is galvanic cinema that is quickly becoming a cult classic.

### BOOK

The Wild Things



By: Jean-Pierre Garcia

If you didn't quite understand why Max floods his sister's room in the 2009 movie "Where the Wild Things Are", Dave Eggers' novel "The Wild Things" will clear it up.

Max's family life, only a small part in the movie, took up half the book and the reader is left with a better understanding of why the main character escapes to an island of mystery and rumpuses.

Max may run, but problems follow, even after he exhausts all of his best ideas with monsters as wild as he.

In the end he was able to go home like we all hope when we feel small. He learns it's ok to make mistakes too big for him to handle.

### MUSIC

B.R.M.C.



By: Bailey Jo Josie

Armed to the teeth with guitar tones that hum like hyper-sexual hornets, cardiac bass lines, and deeply poignant lyrics, Black Rebel Motorcycle Club's self-titled debut is perfect.

From the opening track, "Love Burns", to "Whatever Happened to My Rock n Roll?" the listener is thrust into garage rock, neo-psychedelia, and blues rock that possesses the soul.

You don't just listen to the music, no - you FEEL it vibrate through your skin and veins as if you were caught in a Stride gum commercial and every pore in your body were experiencing first love or lust.

# Choir concert is a **ringer**

With a little help from a skateboarding Santa Claus and GRCC's talented choir students

By: Rachel Sant  
Staff Writer

Green River's Choir program really welcomed in the yuletide this year with their "Ring in the Holidays" concert on November 26 and 27.

Concert Choir and the Jazz Voices gave the audience an excellent show, combining wonderful music with great talent and uplifting spirits.

The Concert Choir opened the show with "Ring in the Holidays", aiming towards giving the large room a cheerful, upbeat atmosphere.

This choir chose to make their part of the concert one to remember by adding extra fun to featured pieces,

among their many songs, including the warm and gentle Christmas pieces, "Et in Terra Pax," and the mysterious Hannukah song, "Lamp Burning in the Night" that combined many interesting melodies and harmonies.

"Sing Noel to the Baby" was the first special piece, a duet that featured Angela Cho and Logan Houser.

They also performed "Zat You, Santa Claus?" with a surprise appearance by the big-man in-red himself on a skateboard. And, as an extra treat, The Dream Ensemble came forward to perform a piece of their own choice, "Dream of Thee."

Closing out with an

audience favorite "African Alleluia", the Concert Choir performed with great confidence and clarity, reflecting all the work they have had since September.

The Jazz Voices entered with style in the second half of the concert, singing a fast paced song called "This Song Is You" as they came on stage. Along with the crowd favorite, "I Need Thee Every Hour" and the choir tradition "Reflect on His Words," the Jazz Voice chose to do a mix of both holiday and non-holiday music.

Some of the more notable pieces such as "Let it Snow" and "Headlock" both featured specific students from

the Jazz Voices with incredible talent, while other songs such as "Nature Boy" and "Caroling, Caroling" worked with the entire groups dynamics.

As one final surprise performance in the very end, Choir Director, Kelly Eisenhower herself sang "Chestnuts Roasting Over An Open Fire" as a solo.

The concert was full a variety, making it fun for both parents and community members alike. Professional and entertaining, this concert sent its audience home humming and singing many of the songs performed that night and ready for the upcoming holiday season.

## How many bows do I really need?



**Game Prose**  
Alexander Bevier

Video games may have the best sequels in any entertainment medium. Beyond the traditional sequel- the kind where players return to their beloved characters and see what they're up to after saving the world; there's the iterative sequel. These are where players are playing a completely unique game, but the mechanics and overall themes are similar. There are no returning characters, but it plays similarly to the last game in the series.

"The Legend of Zelda" is still going strong after 25 years of both narrative and iterative sequels. In every game in the series, the protagonist, Link, has to travel through a fantasy world, slaying enemies and collecting items to save the titular Princess Zelda from the clutches of Ganondorf.

He's been kidnapping her for 25 years but Link has always managed to stop him. Peace lasts in the kingdom until the next game comes out, and has for 18 games.

Earlier this year, I was thinking about the newest game in the series, "The Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword" (which was released earlier this month), and what could be added to the series for me to be interested in playing it. The game's story always changes, but the important, thematic beats haven't differed for years. If it's going to be the same game I've played before, why buy it again?

In order to figure out why I still play Zelda games, I spent three weeks of what gamers call "study" and everyone else calls "wasting time," playing through every Zelda game I owned. I beat Ganondorf, found bows, and collected several thousand health-boosting

Heart Containers with more repetition than The Beatles' Revolution 9.

My resolve (after spending hundreds of hours running around as Link) was, "I think I want to play more Zelda." I set out to find the problems with iteration and realized I really like Zelda.

There are two reasons I can see why I spend roughly \$50 every four years for a game I (essentially) already own. The first reason is because getting a new Zelda is a great reason to buy a new console. The only reason I wanted a Wii, for example, was to play "Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess." I'm going to compare the last Zelda with the new Zelda. And--in turn--I'm going to compare the last console to

*"My resolve (after spending hundreds of hours running around as Link) was, 'I think I want to play more Zelda.'"*

Alexander Bevier

the new console. It's best to play a similar game on a different machine to see how the experiences compare.

Still, the best reason is because Zelda is a game designed for young audiences, and new 8-year old kids show up every year eager to pick up a controller. Pokemon games have always been created for the age 8-13 demographic and each sequel is equipped to teach new gamers how to catch their first Pikachu. It sort-of follows NBC's "If you haven't seen it, it's new to you" philosophy.

Still, The real reason why I keep playing these games is because they're a lot of fun. Nintendo has made a science out of churning out these games, and they're always some of the best adventures anyone can have from their living room. And, if it wasn't fun, Nintendo's gotta start reiterating.

## KGRG hosts local bands

A night of music and comedy in the Lindbloom Student Center

By: Koen Valks  
Staff Writer

On November 9, KGRG, Green River's radio station, presented an all ages concert in the Lindbloom Center featuring local bands Leadership by Assault, Fistful of Britney and Jobe Himself.

There were about thirty people in total at the concert, which is interesting considering the concert only being announced a week before.

I myself was pretty surprised by how spiritless the crowd was; throughout the entire concert the audience was pretty dull and motionless. Unfortunately, Leadership by Assault had the task of warming up an audience that had already decided they were bored before the concert even started.

They didn't start out very strong, having a couple flaws; they're lucky they had their drummer, Van Wolfe, since he was very consistent. Hearing more of their songs, the lyrics came across like screaming instead of actual singing. During their fourth

song, "Dinosaur", vocalist Marissa Banghart tried to get the audience into it, which didn't really achieve anything, but was a nice effort nonetheless. Of the performance, Banghart later commented, "I honestly think we could have done a lot better".

The next performance was by a band called Fistful of Britney. From the moment they stepped on stage, I could tell that they were experienced performers and they left a good impression. They had consistency which continued throughout their entire set, which was very good.

Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to keep some people in the crowd from leaving, who missed out on seeing the "surprise guest", a comedy act by a moving garbage can, known as Robo the robot comedian.

The robot didn't deliver much though, since its jokes were very dull, and many were about gold, because his outfit was gold: "What is your favorite James Bond Movie?"



Koen Valks | The Current

One of the highlights of the night was Robo, the robot comedian; not for his jokes, but for the sheer absurdity of a joke-telling golden robot.

"I like Goldfinger, The man with the Golden Gun, and Goldeneye."

But people still laughed, especially when a heckler began shouting out random things and words that made Robo give funny responses.

Robo ended the act by falling off the stage, which got the biggest laugh.

The last performance was a three-piece band called Jobe Himself, who were definitely the best act of the night. They were Nicholas

Byrd, Mike Estill, and Terry Sanders on guitar, vocals, bass and drums.

I was pleasantly surprised by their performance, they played consistently well, which wasn't the case with the other bands.

The disappointment of the night was definitely the crowd. After the hard work KGRG had put into putting on the show and getting the bands, they could have at least acted like they were enjoying themselves.

# Sitcoms Through Time

By: Alexander Bevier

A look at American sitcoms 'back in the day' and today

Designed by: Asha Johnson & Kally Bieber

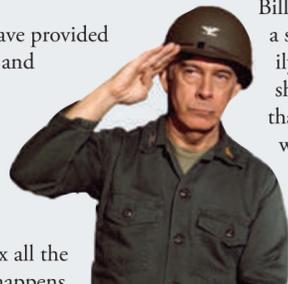
Americans have grown up with T.V. and the stories told on them. Sitcoms have been giving people the best laughs that can be squeezed within 20 minutes. The greatest of these tell stories that discuss the same problems the viewers themselves are struggling with.

These shows have provided laughs, comfort, and friendship when people needed them. These familiar sitcoms are revisited on syndication, DVD and Netflix all the time. If anyone happens to miss an episode, each sitcom is its own contained narrative and quickly catches them up to the story thus far.

"M\*A\*S\*H"'s final episode is still the most-watched program in the history of TV. "Friends" ratings increased 17% after the September 11 attacks, and it wasn't because Rachel finally got together with Ross. The characters and situations keep us watching sitcoms. The battles they fight in the shows, however, are what make us love them.

## The Family's Always Together

Family Sitcoms began once the Baby Boomer generation learned how to laugh, and "Leave it to Beaver" showed everyone what the perfect Nuclear Family (the father/mother/sister/brother ideal of the 1950s) could be. Later shows would take this concept and explore it as society



changed.

When divorced rates increased in the 60s, "The Brady Bunch" showed the world that family dynamics were still safe - even with step-parents (and Anne B. Davis as Alice).

The Cosby Show emerged in 1984 when Bill Cosby was given free reign to create a show for NBC. He took the family sitcom, refined it, and created a show around the touching moments that families have. The Cosby Show would later become the reference point for all family sitcoms to follow.

Other twists on the family sitcom came from "Full House" (a family raised by a dad and his two guy friends), and "All in the Family" (a family with the household's head being a bigoted racist).

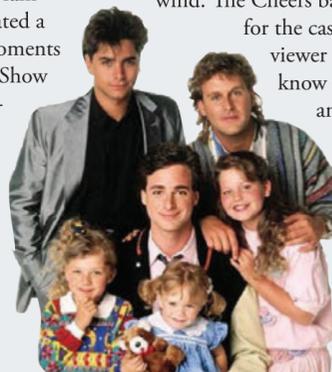
## The Day Job and What They Did Afterward

The work-force sitcom was about showcasing the antics that happen between coworkers. These shows were successful because a workplace is the perfect environment to take a variety of people and force them to stick around each other, day in and day out. It's perfect fodder for television, but the American dream of becoming something special lies deep in the working man.

"Taxi" was about the staff of the Sunshine Cab Company and their attempts to get out of their middle class lives. One character, played by Tony Danza, was always trying to find a way to become a successful boxer. Unfortunately, his dream never came true. He later lost his boxing license,

but the crew at Sunshine was always happy to welcome him back. The American dream may be dead, but there will always be a place where everybody knows your name.

Once "Taxi" made its mark on television in the late 70s/early 80s, "Cheers" took the working man and put him in a bar to unwind. The Cheers bar became a home for the cast, along with every viewer that wanted to know when Ted Danson and Shelly Long would finally start dating. It was a hangout show, but it's the hangout that happened after a hard day, and you wanted to go where everybody knows you. Still, once work



is done, your friends will be there, and "Friends" almost excluded jobs completely. This show was about 90s era characters in their late thirties, struggling with romance and employment. This show became one of the most important shows of all time in its 10 year run, both in and out of the United States.

When Friends stopped running, "The Office" brought everybody back to work in Scranton, PA. The staff barely likes each other, but they get the job done despite every bout of incompetence and downsizing; emulating the crashing economy and recession of the '00s.



## Working Woman

"I Love Lucy" starred a plucky young housewife with aspirations of being a star. Every episode, Lucy Ricardo would have adventures with her best friend, and would end up with a hilarious story that Ricky would have to bail them out of. Sure, he was making sure his crazy wife doesn't stray too far for the kitchen, but Lucy served as a symbol for the coming feminist movement.

Mary Tyler Moore took the reigns Lucy laid down and became a strong working woman. Moore was given freedom to create any kind of show she wanted after her successful run playing Dick Van Dyke's wife on his show. The show wasn't about trying to find love, but about living in the seventies with a group of friends or roommates. She wasn't looking for love, and no one was trying to marry her off; making her a strong symbol for feminists around the world.

"The Mary Tyler Moore Show" gave way to the independent (and often angry) "Murphy Brown". Brown, played by Candace Bergen, was a character that had her shares of scars (the pilot already has her playing a recovering alcoholic), and would end up having an unplanned pregnancy during the 10-season run. Brown never took anything from anyone, and is the apex of the strong woman archetype.



## Yesterday, Today

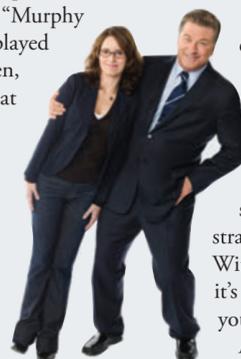
Today, the strong woman is able to cut back and show how hard it is being the boss. Liz Lemon on "30 Rock" spends every ounce of energy she has trying to make TGS, the show she manages on the show, happen. After a long day, all she wants is a nap. After the hard work she's pulled off, anyone deserves one.

In light of all the American progress, sitcoms have never been afraid to look back at the country that once was. Happy Days took viewers back to Ron Howard growing up in the '60s; showing the world that the life of a teenager has never changed.

Still, one of the best nostalgic shows was The Wonder Years. Kevin Arnold's adventure into puberty during the rapid-changing '70s—as narrated by an older version of himself—told stories about the first time he realized his parents were actual people, about his first crush, and even how he learned to respect math teachers. In its best episodes, Wonder Years brought tears to our eyes.

All stories develop to entertain and inform the people watching them. In the hands of the best writers, they will challenge viewers to see the world differently. New sitcoms are now coming straight to Netflix or YouTube. With winter break on the way, it's the perfect time to revisit your favorite characters.

Are you ready to tune in?



## Bet you didn't know...

▶ Lucille Ball was never allowed to say she was pregnant on I Love Lucy. Instead, she had to say that she was "expecting." Lucy and Ricky also slept in separate beds on the show.

▶ The Brady kids on The Brady Bunch had many scenes involving the comedic drama of six children in one bathroom. However, the network never let them have a toilet. Apparently nobody in that house poops.

▶ The Brady's never had a toilet, but Archie Bunker on "All in the Family" wasn't afraid to go to the bathroom. Bunker's "Flush heard around the world" was the first sign that TV characters digested food.

▶ Happy Days was a beloved show, but after around the fifth season, the writers started running out of ideas for new episodes. One ridiculous episode featured the cast in Hawaii and Fonzie, played by Henry Winkler, jumping over a shark in waterskis. This new phrase, "jumping the shark" now is a TV term for when a show has no ideas where to go. Winkler later paid homage to the term in an episode of "Arrested Development" where he trips over an inflatable shark.

▶ Murphy Brown was criticized in 1992 by presidential candidate Dan Quayle panned her for her alleged damage to family values. Brown on the show, being a TV anchor, used footage from the speech in an episode about nontraditional families. When Candace Bergen, the actress who played Brown, won an Emmy that year, she made sure to thank Quayle himself.



## Stay Current

Stay in touch with the community by following  
The Current on Facebook and Twitter:[www.facebook.com/greenrivercurrent](http://www.facebook.com/greenrivercurrent)  
[www.twitter.com/thecurrentnet](http://www.twitter.com/thecurrentnet)

## Also on the Inside

"This is by far the best [soccer] team in  
Green River's history."

Bob Kickner Page 14

## The Undercurrent

## Possible tobacco ban on campus

By: Olivia Mok  
Assistant News Editor

A total ban of tobacco use on campus has been proposed and furiously debated in the past several weeks. The Green River Safety Committee proposed the policy in response to problems associated with smoking on campus.

"We believe there's an overwhelming support on campus for [a] tobacco ban," said John Ramsey, chair of the Safety Committee. "We've heard it for years from people."

Last year, student government ran a survey where more than 70 percent of respondents demanded a total tobacco ban on campus due to the resulting health and environmental issues.

Still, some smokers voiced out in an open forum that it's a matter of human rights in which this ban could be going against. Additionally, a small amount of email responses to the committee preferred a modified ban with either smoking shelters or a designated area for smokers.

"We are still in the process of collecting feedbacks," Ramsey said. Under pressure from both sides, final decisions would be made according to the consulted opinions from student government and various groups.

Any change of policy would happen during spring and be effective in summer.

## Obama sends Thanksgiving wishes

By: Alexander Bevier  
Senior Writer

In President Obama's weekly address, he wished the American people a happy Thanksgiving.

"We're especially grateful for the men and women serving their country overseas," he said. "... The American people are thinking of you today." He also thanked those serving in soup kitchens and shelters, and mentions that this giving spirit is what keeps The United States special.

The President also brought up the challenge of being thankful these hard times, but reminds everyone "if we support each other ... we too will overcome the challenges of our time."

The entire video is available on the White House's website.

## International GRCC alumnus wins national journalism award

By: Bailey Jo Josie  
Managing Editor

Remco Zwetsloot, The Current's previous Editor-in-Chief, recently won second place for the Reporter of the Year award for a two-year college by the Associated Collegiate Press, a national organization that honors college reporters and those involved in collegiate journalism programs.

Zwetsloot is no stranger to press awards, having earned The Current first place in General Excellence by the Washington Community College Journalism Association this last May, along with various other awards and honorable mentions, and a medal.

A former international student from Holland, Zwetsloot currently lives in Middelburg, Netherlands where he is studying political science and works for the student newspaper at Roosevelt Academy.



In the same vein of the Occupy Movements, people congregate at Montlake Bridge to celebrate National Take Action Day.

Above:  
Jamal Moxey takes over the "people's mic", speaking out against the 1% and firing up the crowd: "We are the foundation of this country, and we should be treated as such."

## March on Montlake

Green River students join the 99% and others as they peacefully took to the streets for protests on the Montlake Bridge

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia  
Campus Editor

On the national day of action, there were just a few students and a guy with the non-profit association "Working Washington" gathered around a van.

The goal: to peacefully shut down the Montlake Bridge in Seattle as a demonstration against budget cuts; highlighting the needs of the working class that requires new ways to create job growth, while showing the desperate need of a renewed infrastructure.

Working Washington focuses on bringing low-income voters into the election booths and connecting people to political action.

The group was invited to Green River by Vik Bahl, a Teach-In coordinator, and Renata Bryant, a current student at GRCC, in hopes that they'd be able to mentor students hoping to organize and act rather

than ferment in anger.

Shortly after the second teach-in, film showings, and guest lecture by Dr. Cornel West, seven students were invited in return to participate in March on Montlake.

The March on Montlake was set into motion three months prior to Occupy Wall Street, and was a collaborative effort organized between fifty different groups, including Occupy Seattle.

Sarra Tekola, Renata Bryant, Charles Emmanuel, R.J. Williams got on board with Vince Trotter, a "Working Washington" representative.

"Try not to get arrested," Trotter said, while explaining the difference between planned and unplanned civil disobedience. One ends in handcuffs, the other leads to pepper spray.

The students left the car and were joined by nurses, Occupy Wall Street-ers,

grad students, 80 year-old Yale graduates, anarchists, potheads, drag queens, bicyclists, and moms.

There were signs everywhere focusing on 'Jobs not Cuts', 'We are the 99%' and countless others.

To kick-start the march, there were five speakers, each representing different people behind the protest. One was a blue collar construction worker, another was a nurse, two were students, and lastly, a reverend. Talks revolved around innovation, cuts, infrastructure "the Washington way", and "how things aren't as awesome as we hoped".

But what brought the rally to an outcry was an 18 year-old high school drop-out's call to action. In an impromptu speech, Bellevue College communications major, Jamal Moxey, spoke: "Let's put this pool of energy into a rushing river of action to change the propositions that are being

made against us as citizens. We the 99% are angry at the 1%, for belittling us as human beings and taking us for granted. We are the foundation of this country, and we should be treated as such. Let's move. Let's keep rumbling the ground underneath the 1%."

Bolstered by the "people's mic" (short for microphone) and the unfurled declaration scroll, people climbed objects in protest, and the Green River students helped achieve the initial goal, which was the 99% and the majority want to be taken seriously, and want what is right.

They were chanting in the very thick of it and they helped shut down the bridge, protesting cuts to education. As their chants were echoing from the bridge throughout the car-ride back, the students talked animatedly about how to change things for the better.



Asha Johnson | The Current

Signs are posted up all around the Financial Aid office in the upper floor of the Lindbloom Student Center to inform students that they're now open only three days a week, instead of the original five, so they can attempt to catch up on the overload of financial aid requests.

## Financial aid on rocky ground

Green River Financial Aid reduces their hours in order to keep up with high demands.

By: Asha Johnson  
Editor-in-Chief

Green River's Financial Aid department is swamped. With over 10,000 applicants requesting aid this Fall quarter (2,000 applicants under last year's total) the department has been forced to close their office on Tuesdays and Thursdays in order to have more time processing. Winter quarter's applicants are still being counted.

The financial aid department has nine employees. Each employee has several jobs besides processing requests, but many have had to focus purely on firing the staggering amount of requests. The department will do its best to answer their phones on the days it's closed.

"Everybody has jobs on top of awarding, but on top

of that awarding and the other job, their also working counter and phones, because our traffic is too heavy," said Mary Edington, director of the financial aid department.

Financial aid requests are filed by hand. The college cannot afford computers

**"It's not just [that] you go in and write a check, which is what people think we do. It's the file processing, the reviewing, the data entry, the reporting; all of that..."**

Mary Edington, director of financial aid

to automate the process. Employees have to look at each student's transcripts as well as their FAFSA papers to make sure they are eligible for need-based grants. Afterwards, they have to calculate how much money they can receive. The entire process takes approximately

40 separate steps.

"People don't understand that it takes that amount of time," said Edington. "It's not just [that] you go in and write a check, which is what people think we do. It's the file processing, the reviewing, the data entry, the reporting; all of those are

part of that process."

What can students do to make the process faster? The first thing to do is apply in January--nine months before the next academic year. Applying as early as possible guarantees students the highest possible amount of money.

Students are also encouraged to check their student email regularly. Instead of letters or phone calls, the financial aid department uses the GRCC student email addresses to contact them because everyone is required to have one. If the financial aid department requests for more information for a file and the student doesn't respond, they can potentially be dropped and the next applicant would then be reviewed for availability.

"We're making progress; we're making big bounds on those days we're closed," Edington said. "... If we don't get the awards done on time, it affects enrollment, because students don't have the money to come. It's a problem. ...They've agreed to give us the days to close so we can make sure to try and get caught up and have it ready for winter quarter."

## Budget Update

John Ramsey reveals GR budget situation

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia  
Campus Editor

In a public statement last week, Governor Gregoire proposed a referendum that would raise the sales tax by half a cent for spring voters.

According to John Ramsey, Green River's public information officer, the buyback could potentially cover the Governor's proposed 13 percent cut to community and technical colleges which was also released in the same statement.

For Ramsey, this could be a sigh of relief -- If it becomes a reality.

"Let's face it, the best scenario would be if we weren't cuts at all, but that's probably unrealistic," Ramsey said.

Gregoire's offer of 2.6-2.8\$ million (13 percent) in cuts to education are made in hopes of addressing the two billion dollar deficit in state budget forecasts. This contrasts with her early estimates of 23 percent.

The final word may vary, depending on conclusions drawn by the House of Representatives and the Senate. There was a special session of the legislature held this past week, where the state legislature started discussing the proposals on November 28.

"The size of the hole remains the same. It's still, when you get right down to it, a two billion dollar problem," Ramsey said.

Green River has restructured within staff, operating on the premise of doing "more with less, not less with less." But there is concern that if double digit cuts to education continue,

how can colleges cope?

So far, International Programs is the main driver to how GRCC has coped with persistent cuts. There are about 1500 international students on campus that roughly total to 13 percent of the student population.

"You can't continue to grow international programs at 10, 15, 20 percent a year. At some point you reach the point of saturation," Ramsey said. "Until now, domestic students are

**"The size of the hole remains the same. It's still, when you get down to it, a two billion dollar problem."**

John Ramsey

served and I don't think domestic students have gone waiting. We have open door access."

This quarter few classes were cancelled, in fact some classes were added. Though classes are run with fewer students. Enrollments are down 550 people (five percent) from last year, which was one of our peak years.

In a final word, Ramsey said that the college needed to be diversified in their assets. Over-reliance on certain pools of funds leave the school open to risks.

Alternate ideas on how to manage the budget include a second look at contract training, bolstering the grant department, among others that remain undiscovered or are not yet ready to be revealed.

### DECEMBER HOLIDAYS

Dec 1 - Eat A Red Apple Day

Dec 3 - National Roof Over Your Head Day

Dec 5 - Wear Brown Shoes Day

Dec 7 - Letter Writing Day

Dec 8 - Take It In The Ear Day

Dec 12 - National Ding-a-ling Day

Dec 13 - Violin Day

Dec 16 - National Chocolate

Covered Anything Day

Dec 17 - National Maple Syrup Day

Dec 19 - Look For An Evergreen Day

Dec 20 - Go Caroling Day

Dec 21 - Humbug Day

Dec 23 - Festivus (For the rest of us!)

Dec 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

Dec 28 - Card Playing Day

Dec 30 - National Bi-Carbonate

of Soda Day

Dec 31 - Make Up Your Mind Day

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## EDITORIAL

# Student loans: they won't bite, as long as you're careful

**Editorial Board:** Asha Johnson, Alexander Bevier, Jean-Pierre Garcia, Ryan Comer

Student loan debt is, for the first time in history, higher than credit card debt. Students in the United States owe more than \$1 trillion, and there doesn't seem to be a perfect solution to decreasing it. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York claims that over \$100 billion was borrowed during the 2010/11 school year alone.

Fortunately, going to a community college saves a significant amount of money during the first two years of college. It's far less challenging to avoid taking out massive student loans in this time, but is it worth borrowing a large sum of money in order to be a full-time student at a four-year university?

President Obama recently announced that annual student loan debt payments would decrease 5% next year, but that's not stopping students from trying to get through college without the federal student aid. According to the Associated Press, some students are taking classes part time, living with their parents and going to less expensive schools to avoid debt.

This may save students money, but studies have shown that delaying education dramatically increases the chances of students dropping out and failing to graduate. Allegedly 60

percent of full-time students receive their bachelors degrees while 25 percent of part-time students do within eight years, according to the Institute for Higher Education Policy and Excelencia in Education, a nonprofit advocacy group.

Other alternatives to dealing with student loan debt is completely getting rid of it. Forgive Student Loan Debt is a non-profit organization that is working to get congress to simply remove all student loan debt. The creator, Robert Applebaum, believes this will stimulate the economy.

"Forgiving student loan debt would have an immediate stimulating effect on the economy. Responsible people who did nothing other than pursue a higher education would have hundreds, if not thousands of extra dollars per month to spend, fueling the economy now," writes Applebaum in his proposal.

Presidential candidate, Ron Paul, has other intentions. Last October he announced his plan to remove the federal student financial aid program. This coincides with his intention to remove \$1 trillion worth of government programs.

"I could work my way through college and medical school because it wasn't so expensive," Paul said. The schools he went to (Duke

University and Gettysburg College) cost over \$40,000 annually in tuition today while a Duke undergraduate degree cost \$1,475 when he graduated.

It's important to look at the school your attending and their student loan programs/ job potential. Some for-profit universities (like Kaplan and DeVry) were under investigation by congress last year. Approximately 43 percent of student loans came from these schools despite promising jobs to graduates. The jobs offered didn't offer salaries high enough to cover the school's expensive tuition.

Most state schools don't cost as much as schools like DeVry, but it's important to be aware of how fast it will take to repay loans. Additionally, very few people want student loan programs completely cut. In today's economy, few could manage to pay for school without the help of government aid. Still, it's important not to take out too much money. Loans are confusing and it's easy to default on them. Make sure you know what you're doing before you go it.

We also don't recommend you delay school. The sooner you get your bachelors, the sooner you can get a job and start paying the loans back. Go, get the degree, and start living.

# From kittens to lions, and the journalist within

**The Chief**  
Asha Johnson

*"Twas the weekend before deadline, and all though the newsroom, not an Editor stirred, nor a writer loomed. The list of unfinished stories hung up with regret, in hopes that someone would finish the set."*

This grim setting is how our production week began: it was a holiday weekend, two Editors (including myself) were very sick, three had work all weekend, and – minus one or two short things – not a single story had been turned in on time. Knowing that this situation was just a few days ago makes me wonder how this issue was finished at all.

Although, anyone who's been involved with theater knows the golden rule: the show must go on. For a newspaper, the philosophy is very much the same. If one person gets stuck in traffic and isn't able to make the event they're assigned to cover, someone else must go – or be ready soon to cover another event

to fill its spot. And with a very short staffed team, it's even more crucial that each person is present when needed, and doing their job right.

This can no doubt be stressful and seemingly ridiculous at times, but hot-damn do the flies drop fast. When you're on a newspaper and you continually fail to do your job, or do your job correctly, someone better will step in, and you will be politely asked to keep out of everyone's way.

Journalists are some of the most dedicated and hard-working individuals I have ever met. We have to be fearless and strong willed, but understanding and patient at the same time. You must have excellent communication skills because – at least if you stick with it – you will talk to anyone and everyone at one point or another. And above all, to be a journalist, you must be humble; willing to eat dirt, learn, eat dirt again, and finally be able to come back better than ever before.

The Current staff may be a feeble litter of kittens at the moment, but by the end of the year only a powerful pack of lions will remain. You know, we'll just have award winning stories oozing from our mouths, rather than zebra blood.

**Theft Policy**

A person commits the offense of publication theft when he or she willfully or knowingly obtains or exerts unauthorized control over more than three copies of The Current that is distributed on campus (with the intent to prevent other individuals from reading that edition of the publication). A "publication" includes any periodical that is distributed on a complimentary or compensatory basis. In addition to the imposition of other campus disciplinary penalties, a person who violates this provision is responsible for compensating the publication for all reasonable costs incurred, including, where appropriate, the refund of advertising fees.

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

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# Helping the needy now comes with a catch

Think before you give money to the sweet ol' Santa Claus ringing that bell - it could be Fred Phelps in disguise



Commentary by:  
**Sean Rockey**

They're always ringing bells above red buckets, feeding the homeless, and generally helping out anyone who is down on their luck.

The Salvation Army: Normally described in a fashion that more befits a definition of some Superman and Santa Claus hybrid. With all that said, you might want to think twice about giving them your spare change.

You might not realize, but due to the fact that the Salvation Army is a Christian charity, it has a notorious history of discrimination

against the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender [LGBT] community; denying them services, underpaying such employees, and even going so far as refusing donations from any such person.

Even though their website states that "the services of The Salvation Army are available to all who qualify, without regard to sexual orientation", they have been known to outright refuse service to LGBT people unless they renounce their sexuality, end their relationships and/or consider Christ to be their one and only savior.

Not only that, but they've actively lobbied for laws or amendments that would infringe on the LGBT community's civil rights, which means that - technically speaking - donations are paying for those lobbyists.

According to the Bilirico

Project in 2001, the Salvation Army lobbied to the Bush Administration to change where they appropriate grants and tax deductions in order to deny funding to any states that included LGBT non-discrimination laws.

Not only that, but in 2004 they threatened to close all

aren't sharing your cardboard box with someone of the same sex.

Now, I think that this is a little odd here. Not because of how horrible it is that they are blatantly discriminating against those of a different sexual orientation, but because it's unfair to

**“So, to put it bluntly, the Salvation Army is willing to help you... as long as you aren't sharing your cardboard box with someone of the same sex.”**

**Sean Rockey**

of their soup kitchens in New York City to protest the city's decision that all vendors and charities had to adhere to all civil rights laws.

So, to put it bluntly, The Salvation Army is willing to help you... as long as you

all the other beliefs other than Evangelical Christianity. Don't get me wrong, discrimination against any group is terrible in this day and age; but if you're going to be unfairly treating to one group that goes against

your religion, you have to be unfair to them all. No giving one group specialized treatment, that's just rude to the others.

That's why I think that the Salvation Army, out of the interest of fairness, should ban charity to members to all religions: Buddhism, Shintoism, Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Judaism, Rastafarianism, Pastafarianism, you name it. Oh, and they can only give, like, half a bowl of soup to anybody who is a part of a different branch of Christianity. You can't be going soft just because they sort of adhere to your beliefs.

Well, either that, or they could... I don't know... Stop discriminating against the LGBT community. Make it equal that way. Where's the fun in that, though?

Seeing as I doubt either will be implemented in the

near future, you could always donate to the many other great charities that are out there this holiday season.

There's Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity, for those who still want to help the homeless without being a bigot. If you want to help those who need medical relief, you can always donate to the Red Cross or to Doctors Without Borders (both of which give emergency aid and disaster relief to whichever nation needs it). Those may be the big charities, but I'm sure there are a lot more causes that could definitely help out the people of the world without shutting out one part of it.

So, this season, if you're going to donate to a charity, please make it one that's good for all of us. After all, 'tis the season to be jolly, and "gay" is a synonym.



## 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 than 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."

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## Sexual education for dummies

A slightly different perspective on the regular "Sex-Ed" class



Commentary by:  
**Bagas Danara**

Do you remember your first sex education class? Do you remember the laughs and jokes that come from the boys in the back row, or the grimace on the girl's face who sat with their cheeks red and backs straight in silence? I do, and I must say that every second I spent in that class was a living hell of confusion and embarrassment.

It's true; sex education gives comprehensive information on the topic that most people are afraid or embarrassed to talk about, but the way these classes are instructed can sometimes be ineffective because students are left confused and sometimes even ashamed of their own changing bodies.

The first problem with the

method to teaching sexual education is that most of the time the class is meant to educate the students under the assumption that they don't know anything on sex beforehand.

The job is not to teach them about something new, but to straighten out the facts of sex that they may have misunderstood, so they can have a new and more thorough understanding.

It would be better if instructors asked students what they know about sex first, and then proceed to answer them with the correct information.

Speaking of instructors, we have come to our second problem. Should sex really be taught in a class with an academic setting?

Nothing is more awkward than having to sit with your best friends and your crush in a class where you have to talk about your first wet dream. Enough said.

It would be much more convenient to inform students about sex on a one

on one basis, for example by using counselors or even collaborating with parents. Students and people in general will be more likely to open up in this kind of situation, and it would save the traumatizing and shameful moments of one's life. Students will actually learn more things too about their options on sex personally, either to be celibate or safe, instead of just staring at the penis figure shown before them.

I agree that a class in sexual education does give good information and an outlet for students to ask and tell about their sexual confusion, but the method should be changed so that these students can understand more on this topic that they would have to face in their adulthood, not be hindered by the fact that they are so embarrassed, and what being asexual pertains to. What does asexual mean? You should have listened in Sex-Ed instead of laughing and feeling awkward!

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## Also on the Inside

*"They were chanting in the very thick of it and they  
helped shut down the bridge..."*

Jean-Pierre Garcia Page 10

## 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, TBADec 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, TBADec 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, TBADec 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)

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

## Tip of the hat to 12-5-4

After an impressive season, Green River's women's soccer return from playoffs

By: Chris Beck  
Staff Writer

Throughout the season, the Green River women's soccer team showed the ability to push itself to victories under difficult circumstances.

Against Clackamas in the quarterfinals of the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) playoffs though, that wasn't strong enough.

Despite an impressive performance by sophomore goalkeeper, Leslie Cannon, in place of injured freshman, Cassy Duschel, Clackamas scored in the final minute of double overtime to snap a 0-0 tie and knock the Gators out of the playoffs.

"It was a game that was worthy of a playoff atmosphere," Athletic Director, Bob Kickner, said. "Great effort and a lot of heart, but just ran out of time."

Clackamas, the No. 1 seed from the NWAACC South Division, secured the game when Jasmine Garcia found Yasmina Coto in the 109th minute. With the victory, Clackamas advanced to the semifinals where they lost to eventual runner-up Peninsula 1-0.

Before the game against Clackamas, Green River had either won or tied six consecutive games, outscoring its opponents by a combined score of 13-1 in that stretch. The Gators finished the season with 12 wins overall, good for second place in the NWAACC.



Courtesy Photo | Tamara Snow

From their game against Everett on Nov. 5, Julie Heltne (#19) heads a corner kick into the goal in the 88th minute of the game, which broke the tie and the team brought home a victory, 2-1. Heltne is a Norwegian International student who recently was selected to be Green River's November 2011 Student of the Month.

"This is by far the best [soccer] team in Green River's history, but they did leave room on the table," Kickner said.

Disappointment aside, Kickner is hopeful about the team's future. According to him, the bitter playoff loss will hopefully drive returning players like Duschel, Karly Dedmon, Alex Mueller, and Julie Heltne to strive to continue the run of success next year. Heltne recorded a team-high eight goals for the season while Dedmon and Mueller scored six and five.

"We have a lot of mo-

mentum and hopefully the returners will keep us at the same level," Kickner said.

The Gators started the playoffs strong, defeating Yakima Valley 2-0 in the opening round for the first postseason win in program history. Mueller scored the first goal of the game at the four minute mark while Lynze Utz delivered the final blow in the 27th minute.

Green River entered its contest against Yakima Valley on a high after defeating North Division-leader Everett 2-1. Dedmon put through the

game-winner in that contest in the 88th minute.

To show how special this season was for the Gators, a record five girls were invited to the NWAACC All-Star Game. Cheyenne Gautney, Rayssa Lira, Haylie Cannon, Grace Thompson and Duschel were all nominated. Along with being nominated for the second straight year, Gautney was also named the division's most valuable player. Haylie Cannon, along with her twin sister Leslie, were also named to the NWAACC All-Academic list with Utz as well.

## NWAACC tournament scores

## NOV. 9 (Round 1)

Spokane vs. Edmonds (5-1)  
Green River vs. Yakima Valley  
(2-0)  
Lane vs. Bellevue (1-0)  
Clark vs. Highline (1-0)

## NOV. 12 (Quarterfinals)

Peninsula vs. Spokane (1-0)  
Walla Walla vs. Clark (6-0)  
Everett vs. Lane (2-1)  
Clackamas vs. Green River  
(1-0)

## NOV. 19 (Semifinals)

Walla vs. Everett (3-1)  
Peninsula vs. Clackamas (1-0)

## NOV. 20 (Championship)

Walla Walla vs. Peninsula (1-0)

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**

# Gator women struggle to remain competitive

With their best player out of the game until January, the fate of Green River's women's basketball team is hazy: can they keep up their optimistic drive and bring the season on the right track to victory?

By: Ryan Comer  
Sports Editor

Green River women's basketball coach, Tim Riles, was impressed last year with his team's ability to show significant improvement as the season went along.

If the Gators are serious about making the Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges (NWAACC) playoffs this year, a similar amount of improvement looks to be necessary.

Despite high aspirations to start the season, Green River has stumbled out of the gates with three losses in its first four games. And to make matters worse for the Gators, the games

have been largely uncompetitive. Participating in the Everett Tournament to kick the season off, Green River lost to Tacoma 83-48.

Last weekend, the Gators continued their struggles with a 70-39 loss to Whatcom.

Each loss has been troubling, but the Tacoma setback was particularly surprising for Riles as the Titans are a league opponent.

"[Tacoma] is a rivalry of ours so I certainly expected us to be up for it," Riles said. "They know a lot of the girls on that team, played high school with girls on that team, and so I anticipated us really, really getting after it."

One major hurdle the Gators knew they'd be up against this season was a lack of size, but against Tacoma, Riles said that was not an issue.

"It really hurts me to say this, but they wanted it more than we did," Riles said. "They played with more enthusiasm and they just out hustled us. Completely out hustled us. We had opportunities to hustle and get possessions and we let them beat us."

Aside from a lack of effort, the Gators have been plagued with a multitude of other issues. In Green River's three losses, the team has shot a woeful 29.7 percent from the field. Three-point shooting, which was projected

to be a strength of theirs, has been a disaster with the Gators shooting just 27.9 percent from beyond the arc in those contests.

Comparatively, Green River's opponents have had no such issues. Everett, Tacoma and Whatcom combined to shoot 45.5 percent from the field and 44.4 percent from beyond the arc.

Despite the sluggish start, Riles remains confident that things can be turned around.

One major reason for his optimism is the fact that last year's NWAACC-leading scorer, Cecilly Phillips, will be able to play come mid-December. Phillips averaged 18.2 points per game as a fresh-

man last season, but because of academic issues was forced to sit out the early part of this season.

Riles hopes that other players will step up with her, so that when she returns the team will be much steadier.

"Other people have to rise to the occasion, which is why it's good for us right now," Riles said. "If we can get these other girls better and these other girls to rise to the occasion, when we get Cecilly back, we're going to be a much better team."

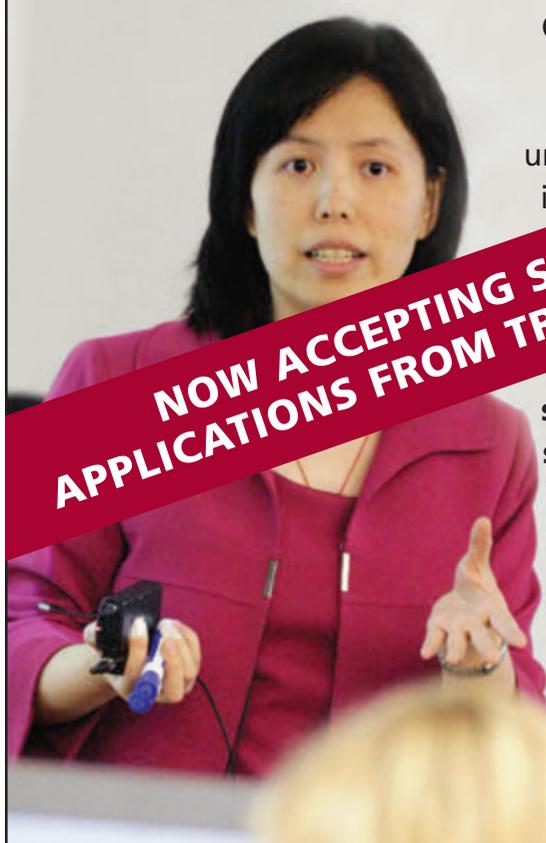
Although the first few games have been a disappointment by pretty much any standard, Riles did see some positives. Sophomore Brittany Ken-

nedy scored a team-high 17 points against Everett, while McKenna Swanson and Natosha Lyonais also reached double figures.

Against Tacoma, Swanson notched a team-high 11 points, despite suffering from a bloody nose.

Green River continues its early-season road trip tonight as part of the Bellevue Tournament. The first game will be tonight, December 2, against Bellevue with the second coming tomorrow against either Mt. Hood or Big Bend. The Gators close out the non-league portion of their schedule with a pair of home contests against Chemeketa and Big Bend on December 11 and December 15, respectively.

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**D**r. Cornel West is many things: an influential activist, a professor at Princeton University, an author, an intellectual social commentator, a musician, co-host of his own NPR program – a speaker at Green River had not been one of them.

However, on November 18, he added this minor note to his substantial resumé when he visited Green River for the Artist & Speakers Series.

Prior to his visit to Green River, West had stopped by Occupy Seattle to address the crowds and express his ongoing solidarity and support of the grass roots movement taking place across America.

West isn't a famous intellectual who strolls by to pat protesters on the back before retreating to his Ivy League office; he lives it. He was arrested twice in October, once on the steps of the Supreme Court protesting against Goldman-Sachs and corporate influence in politics, and once during an Occupy Wall Street march.

Opening introductions for Dr. West were given by two of Green River's very own students: De Anna Dixon, Artist & Speaker Series Coordinator for the Community Leadership, Education, & Outreach (CLEO) and Trayvon Webster, Peer Navigator, IESL tutor, and member of the brotherhood, Alpha Si Omega.

Both are well known and respected leaders among their peers on cam-

pus, and were given credit for their part in spearheading the event.

The first statements from Dr. West were of humility and appreciation for Dixon, Webster, GRCC, the community, and the numerous others who had helped put the event together:

"It's very important for me to begin on a note of gratitude. I always thought that I should have been dead years ago anyway. So I'm grateful to stand here today with a smile on my face, and try to say something that unsettles you tonight - because that's what education's all about isn't it?"

West was, and is, consistently filled to the brim with sincere and earnest charisma.

"We're going to have a good time," said Dr. West. "We're going to take our time, make our time...I'm in no rush."

And Dr. West truly meant what he said. The program ran for a little more than three hours, and just about half of that time was dedicated to a question and answer for students and members of the community to deal

out their inquiries.

While his speech was engrossing, eloquent, and provocative, the questionnaire is where Dr. West truly shined - inviting those with questions to step right up to the microphone and ask.

He was warm. He was inviting. Afterwards he took more than half an hour to hug people, shake hands, and take photos. He refers to everyone as "brother" or "sister." There was not much to dislike about Brother West.

His overall message was a positive one - stressing the values of no material worth, such as family, an education, and most importantly – a message of love for the socially oppressed, the disadvantaged, and discouraged.

"There's too much worry about bling, bling," said Dr. West. "When we need to let freedom ring, ring."

After describing the materialism of America, Dr. West brought this message to a pinnacle:

"When living in a material society, what does it mean to be human to you," West openly asked the audience.

"Don't tell me about your job; tell me about your calling. Don't tell me about your career; tell me about your vocation. Have you had the courage to find your voice?"



**"Let freedom ring, ring"**

**A visit from Dr. Cornel West**

By Gentry Seipert