

# The Current

Green River Community College

Poor start  
leaves Gators  
searching

Sports page 12

March 11, 2013 | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GREENRIVERCURRENT

VOLUME 47, ISSUE 8



## *A guide to spring break*

*for those  
hangin'  
around  
the Puget  
Sound*

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sports  
tournament is  
a win

Indonesian Student  
Organization holds  
annual sporting  
tournament at GRCC.

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Every story  
has a silver  
lining

Silver Linings Playbook,  
featuring Bradley Cooper  
and Jennifer Lawrence is a  
must see box-office hit!

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required?

People are falling in love  
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Losing  
'community'

Green River may begin  
adding four year programs,  
eliminating the word  
'community.'

## Stay Current

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## Also on the Inside

"The baseball season is a grind, and for a team with a healthy mix of both freshman and sophomores, it will take some time for this team to build chemistry."

Kidane Menker **Page 12**

# International sports tournament is a win

By: Febby Mulia  
Assistant Editor

A gym-full of Green River students gathered at the school gym last Friday to attend a sport tournament held by the Indonesian Student Organization.

ISO is one of GRCC's student clubs and they have been hosting two tournaments of this kind since 2010. The third ISO Sport Tournament is a three-day event held on March 1, 8, and 15 and welcomes all GRCC students.

"We try our best to strengthen the bond between international and domestic students," said Rafael Reyes, vice president of the ISO.

The tournament consists of two popular sports: 3-on-3 basketball and indoor soccer.

This year, 16 basketball teams and 9 soccer teams consisting of a mix of cultures took part in the heat of the competition. A handful of spectators also turned out on the day of the event, filling the seats in the gym with their cheers echoing around the room.

The sport tournament was fully student-organized by the mem-



Indonesian sports tournament had an outstanding turnout, with camaraderie among all the international students

bers of the ISO. Robyn Carter, faculty advisor for the ISO, was both amazed and proud of the efforts that the club members put in to carry out the event.

"I think this [improvement] is

because of how well organized the ISO is, from the president, Febby Irenika, all the way down to the volunteers, everyone works really hard," said Carter. "And the players who did come and

play showed a lot of really great athletic attitude and camaraderie towards each other."

With its success, this event can be something that GRCC students can look forward to in years

to come.

"Through feedback and experience, we have continually made improvements for the events," said Reyes, "and we plan to improve throughout the years."

## Easy to access Green River scholarships

By: Abbie Holmberg  
Staff Writer

Right now there are billions of dollars in scholarship opportunities for Green River students and applying can be as easy as clicking a button.

Green River Community College students should be preparing to finish applications for scholarships and grants now because deadlines are fast approaching. Most scholarships provided through the college and outside sources are due in the next few months.

Some scholarships are as simple as submitting a transcript, or writing a short essay. March, April and May are prime deadline months and every student should look into what scholarships they are eligible for.

All students need to do is look in any scholarship search engine. Most engines ask for your information and they will match you with all the scholarships you are eligible for. There are also scholarships specifically for Green

River students based on majors.

Green River Community College is offering 40 scholarships for students majoring in sciences, math, engineering, and technology. These are known as the S-STEMs and vary in the amount awarded.

These scholarships can be beneficial to any students in the fields of science and math.

Broader scholarships that students should look into are the Green River Community College Foundation Scholarships. These programs are offered to around 230 Green River students every year.

GRCC Foundation Scholarships are divided into five categories: program based, merit based, need based, general scholarships, and transfer scholarships. In order to apply you must create an account on [thewashboard.org](http://thewashboard.org).

With the rising cost of tuition, every penny counts, whether it's \$25 or \$25,000 students must take advantage of these opportunities and turn in scholarship applications before it's too late.

### Scholarships for YOU

S-STEM (Scholarships-Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)  
Due Date: **TBD**

GRCC Foundation Scholarships  
Due Date: **April 30th**

CEO Scholarship (Business/Entrepreneurship)  
Due Date: **July 1st**

Medical Goods, Inc. Minorority Nursing Student Scholarship  
Due Date: **July 1st**

Krill Oil-Educate Your Heart Scholarship  
Due Date: **July 5th**

B. Davis Scholarship, Student award Search Aid  
Due Date: **May 27th**



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TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

**Position:**  
Geology Instructor  
**Time at Green River:**  
7 years

# Kathryn Hoppe



Michelle Spencer | The Current

Kathryn Hoppe is genuinely passionate about geology and teaching.

**How did you first get into the field of geology?**

I've always loved being outdoors, and I've always had an interest in fossil animals. I had the chance to take a class in college where I could learn about fossils and get credit for taking field trips. What surprised me about that first geology class was how much it changed the way I see the world: it taught me how to construct the past by looking at different types of rocks and different landscape features. In some ways, learning about geology lets you travel through time; when I look at a landscape, I always think about how it came to be and how different it must have looked in the past.

**Have you studied dinosaurs extensively?**

The first thing I studied in graduate school was actually giant clams from the age of the dinosaurs. Most of my work, however, focused on reconstructing how extinct mammals (like mammoths and saber-toothed cats) responded to the massive climate changes that occurred about 11,000 years ago at the end of the last ice age. My goal was to use the past to help predict how modern animals will respond to the current changes in our climate.

**How do people react when they hear you studied dinosaurs?**

People are usually excited when they learn that I've studied fossils. A lot of people have questions about dinosaurs or other fossil animals; I love talking with people about what they know and what they've heard about. One of the great

things about fossils is that anyone can find them, and people have shared some great stories about rocks or fossil they have collected.

**Do you have any experiences in geology that help you as a teacher?**

Washington State is a great place to study geology, we have almost everything from

earthquakes to live volcanoes (although, alas, we don't have any dinosaurs). I've traveled all around the state and almost all around the country. I'm always taking pictures of local features, rocks and fossils, and I use these pictures to illustrate the material I talk about in class. I've also worked as a science journalist and written dinosaur books for kids. This means that I had a lot of training in how to explain complex ideas and how to tell engaging stories. I love the fact that I get to tell my students about the story revealed by the rock record.

**When people hear about a dinosaur class they get really excited, is it a fun class?**

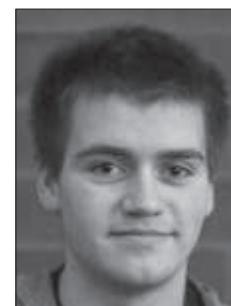
I hope that the class is fun and that people learn about science along the way. Dinosaurs have inspired some of the most creative ideas in science and some of the fiercest rivalries as well. The class talks about how different types of science have been applied to reconstructing dinosaurs and about how the personalities of the scientist involved have influenced the field.

**What would you tell a student who was interested in pursuing geology?**

There are lots of things you can do with a geology degree. If you're curious, come take a geology class. And get outside and explore the world around you as you go along.

# MAN ON THE STREET

If you could talk to yourself two years ago, what advice would you give?



Ian Mahaney

"I'd say not to hold yourself back, if you really put forth the effort then you be what you want to be, and you can do what you want to do and nothing will hold you back."



Criss Carlson

"My advice would be to study mathematics more intensely, because back then I hadn't a clue what was going on in mathematics."



Andrew Sagers

"Knowing what happened, I would go back and tell me to warn the people about the shootings that have happened in the past two years."



Jared Meboe

"I would tell myself to think of an answer to give you when you ask me this question in two years."

Save a tree!

Read The Current on [thecurrent.com](http://thecurrent.com)

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

## Stay Current

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[www.facebook.com/greenrivercurrent](http://www.facebook.com/greenrivercurrent)  
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## Also on the Inside

"Green River has not initiated the name selection process yet but  
is considering a simple dropping of 'community'"

Kayla Harmon Page 10



## Every story has a silver lining

### FILMFACTS

#### DIRECTOR



David  
Russel

movies  
directed  
**13**

#### RATED

# R

#### MAIN CAST



Bradley  
Cooper



Jennifer  
Lawrence



Robert  
De Niro

#### BUDGET

\$21,000,000

#### RUN TIME

122min.

By: Laylav Rasheed  
Staff Writer



#### THE GOOD

In *Silver Linings Playbook*, Pat Solitano Jr., diagnosed with bi-polar disorder, struggles to win his wife back after spending 6 months in a mental institution.

Instead he finds himself falling in love with Tiffany Maxwell, who also holds a fragile mental state. Both lovers, played by Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence, did a wonderful job of portraying true love in a very real life situation.

Director David O. Russell added loads of comic relief, such as capturing Pat Jr. throwing a Hemmingway novel out of the window and later waking up to his parents in the middle of the night to discuss his distaste for the book's ending.

The cinematography was outstanding as well as the choice in actors/actresses, plot and humor.

The message of the movie was rewarding, and that's what really earned the high rating.

#### THE BAD

The only issues spotted were in the director's choice of what information to include and exclude.

For a viewer, it may be hard to get a good grasp on the plot due to the subtle hints of what happened behind closed doors.

For example, a lot is hidden about Pat Jr.'s ex-wife and what happens with her after a violent incident that they were both involved in.

It would also have been nice to see more of Pat Jr.'s life prior to visiting the mental institute, just to get a good idea of who he was. Also, a lot of the characters that could have been further developed were kept flat and at times were seemingly props.

One can also argue that the plot was a bit predictable, most audience members were able to predict a lot of the mischievous behavior of Tiffany.

Overall, the defects listed may or may not have contributed to the high quality that this movie delivered.

#### THE VERDICT

In conclusion, this movie is a must see. It depicts an imperfect, yet beautiful, love story that exhibits a level of reality not seen in the typical cliché romantic comedies.

Within the film, the raw portrayal of life and sadness is artfully balanced with witty humor that takes the viewer and characters on an emotional roller coaster of highs and lows.

All of the actors and actresses, both major and minor, were mesmerizing in the ways in which they crafted a sincere sense of realism. Fans of Robert Di Nero will not be disappointed in the actor's surprising depiction of a more submissive role compared to his more aggressive roles in other films.

As far as romance movies go, this movie is definitely the best of 2013 thus far.



## Calling all nerds!

A recap of the Emerald City Comi-Con

By: Laura Gray  
Staff Writer

The 11th annual Emerald City Comicon was the largest one so far. The convention spanned four floors in the Washington State Convention Center in Seattle on the first weekend of March. Tickets were sold out for Saturday and Sunday as well as the three day passes. The line for picking up tickets on Friday wrapped around two levels of the convention center and took about an hour.

Comicon is a celebration of pop culture, namely geeky and nerdy pop culture. It contains everything from comic books and action figures to celebrities and artists. Artists and writers are willing to sign comic books. Sometimes, a small fee is required. Many of the artists were even willing to create a sketch for guests for usually around \$20 or less.

Along with artists, there are several vendors willing to sell comic books and any possible item based off said books to the attendees. Some of the items can be extremely rare or imported. Along with the comic book merchandise, there are anime and manga items as a trend. Much of this merchandise has been imported from Japan.

Many artists came and sold their own artwork. For a number of them, stands and conventions are how they become known. Artists are almost always running their own stands. They love when people come and complement their work and are willing to explain about what mediums they've used. Fans can even have

them sign their prints

There was a floor that was devoted to gaming, be it video or card games. This year, a Magic: The Gathering tournament was being held. The gaming floor attracted Buffy the Vampire Slayer actress Felicia Day to the Geek and Sundry booth to play Munchkin with some lucky guests.

A key point of Comicon for most fans are the celebrity guests. There are several celebrities that attended the Comicon. Fans are able to meet them for free or take a photograph and signature for a certain amount of money. Voice actors like Wil Wheaton were even doing signings for free. While it is certainly not true for all celebrities, a number of them are always very happy and excited when they hear from a fan.

Aside from all the guests, panels and booths arranged by the convention, another interesting part of Comicon is the costumes. People attending Comicon will go all out in their cosplay costumes. Many of these cosplayers roamed the convention. Cosplay adds to the already entertaining convention. It becomes more interesting for viewers when cosplayers role-play their character. Some of these costumes included the Power Rangers, Halo's Spartans II and III, and members from the X-Men group.

The Emerald City Comicon is a fun filled experience that has something to interest anyone and bring out their inner nerd.

While this year's Comicon has ended, be on the lookout for the 2014 Emerald City Comicon coming next year on March 28-30.

## Makena's Cooking Corner

By: Makena Cayce

# Nutella Tart



Dominic Yoxtheimer | The Current

- 1 Premade Crust
- 1/4 cup hazelnuts, toasted and chopped coarse (optional)
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1/2 cup heavy cream (some times stores label this heavy whipping cream)
- 2 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped fine
- 1 1/4 cups Nutella

**1** (Optional) Cook the nuts and sugar together in a medium nonstick skillet over medium heat, stirring constantly until the nuts are golden and caramelized, about 1 minute. Remove the nuts from the skillet and set aside in a small bowl to cool.

**2** Bring the cream to a brief simmer in a small saucepan over medium-high heat. Once simmer is reached remove from heat. Off the heat, stir

in the chocolate and butter, cover the pan, and let stand until the chocolate is mostly melted, about 2 minutes. Gently stir the mixture until smooth, then stir in the Nutella.

**3** **Note:** Chocolate burns very easily. It does not take much heat to burn it. This is why the heavy cream is only brought to a brief simmer: so that it is hot enough to gently melt the chocolate but not so hot as to burn

it. Be sure that once removed from heat the pan is not re-heated again or you run the risk of melting it and ruining the tart.

**(Optional)** Sprinkle the cooled candied nuts over the bottom of the tart shell, breaking up and clumps.

**4** Pour the chocolate filling evenly (over nuts if they have been added) and refrigerate the tart until the filling is firm, about 2 hours.

## MUSIC MAVERICK



JEREMY SIREGAR

# The unsung game soundtracks

Silence is simply the absence of sound. We cannot measure silence nor can we add to it. Sound on the other hand, oh the wonders we can do with sound. Sound paints our lives with colors that we cannot fathom. One major overlooked contribution that sound has made is its extensive partnership with video games.

Video game music is as important as the game itself. It is more than just fillers and added noise just so the game isn't bland. It is an integrated part of the game as it creates a connection between gamers and the game. What gamer would not be familiar with the all-mighty Dovahkiin song from Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim? As soon as the music reaches my ears, I recall my Nordic viking standing on the peak of Throat of the World, highest mountain in Tamriel, ready to face the World Eater. Song of Dovahkiin created a personal connection between myself and the game.

However, not all video game music is as fortunate as Skyrim's Dovahkiin. Much of this music is lost and confused as just background sound. This list sheds some light on some underrated video game music that people have overlooked.

## 1 Persona 3: Paulownia Mall

Composer Shoji Meguro experimented with jazz/funk arrangements for this Shin Megami Tensei series. To my surprise, the jazz/funk rhythm creates a colorful background that relaxes players from the intense gameplay.

## 2 Radiata Stories: Song of Freedom Fighters

Radiata Stories' Song of Freedom Fighter is anything but subtle. Their funk/groove soundtrack defines the nature of the main characters in the game: Jack Russel's heroic awkwardness and Ridley Silverlake's arrogant compassion.

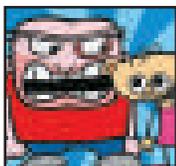
## 3 Shadow of the Colossus: In the Land of Happiness

Shadow of the Colossus' strong, vivid graphics weave together with the game's soundtrack effortlessly. "In the Land of Happiness" creates an emotional ending that leaves players in awe and disbelief that the game is finally over.

## The Current Picks

### APP

NewsToons



By: Dylan Whitcher

Mark Fiore is a political cartoonist and has been described by the Wall Street Journal as "the undisputed guru of the form". Now, Fiore has brought his witty political cartoons to the Apple App Store.

Downloadable for the price of \$.99, NewsToons provides not only hilarious satirical cartoons, but also includes in-depth news stories, providing insight on why each cartoon was created.

Never stay out of the political loop and show off these entertaining cartoons to family and friends for all to enjoy! This is the only satirical app iTunes offers so get it now!

### MOVIE

Watchmen



By: Dominic Yoxtheimer

Based off of the Hugo Award winning graphic novel, Watchmen takes a look into an alternate New York City in 1985.

New York City is a darker place where crime and lust are the only currency. The age of heroes had long been over. The few heroes that do remain have long abandoned their roles as heroes.

Their lives are eventless until a strange death of a retiree that uncovers a lot of questions but no answers.

This newly revived classic is sure to bring you a new perspective on America, and more importantly, humanity.

### BOOK

Airman



By: Logan Sychtysz

Conor Broekhart has but one simple dream: to fly.

Living with his family just off the coast of Ireland on the Saltee Islands, Conor grows up in the teachings of science and physics to learn all there is about flight. As time goes on, enemies begin to rise and plot to kill the king. As the plot unfolds, Broekhart was framed, branded as a traitor, and sent to Saltee jail.

On the prison island, there is only one way to escape: by flight. Dive into the world of Conor Broekhart as he endures the prison life, learns to fly, and seeks revenge on those who destroyed his life.

### MUSIC

The Reckoning



By: Thomas Petersen

In their latest album, "The Reckoning", the southern style rock band Needtobreathe captures an image of what they represent: dealing with the troubles in life.

Bringing a fresh taste to modern music by combining a banjo with a rock band, Needtobreathe has been making music since the early 2000's. The group of four, lead by brothers Bear and Bo Rinehart, has a unique mix of South Carolina country and alternative music.

"The Reckoning" includes songs that speak about the happiness and sorrows of our present generation.

# Things to do

The greater Seattle area hosts numerous concerts and shows to tide you over until classes start back up in spring quarter.

<b>Mar. 23</b>	<i>Cirque du Soleil</i> @ Marymoor Park, Redmond 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. \$12.50
	<i>Vegetarian Food Festival</i> @ Seattle Exhibition Hall 10:00 a.m. \$8.00
<b>24</b>	<i>Burke: Dinos &amp; Other Fossils</i> @ Burke Museum - Seattle 11:00 a.m. FREE
<b>25</b>	<i>Citizens</i> @ Nuemos - Seattle 8:00 p.m. \$12.00
<b>27</b>	<i>Demetri Martin</i> @ Showbox at the Market, Seattle 7:30 p.m. \$35
<b>28</b>	<i>Dirtyphonics: Irrelevance Tour</i> @ Showbox at the Market, Seattle 7:30 p.m. \$26.50
<b>29</b>	<i>Phoenix</i> @ Paramount Theater - Seattle 8:00 p.m. \$35
<b>30</b>	<i>Mudhoney</i> @ Nuemos - Seattle 8:00 p.m. \$15.00
	<i>Lotus</i> @ Showbox at the Market - Seattle 9:00 p.m. \$19.50 - \$22.00
<b>31</b>	<i>Anthrax</i> @ Showbox SODO - Seattle 6:00 p.m. \$31.50 - \$35.00
	<i>Until This Sunrise</i> @ El Corazon - Seattle 6:30 p.m. \$8.00

# Don't have plans for *spring break* You do now.

## Places to go

Websites will substitute directions when venues are not in Auburn.

**Serves food & drinks**

**Serves alcohol**

**Live music**

**Great for dancing**

**Great for relaxing**

**Age 18 and older**

**Age 21 and older**

**Cheap (under \$15)** \$

**Moderate (\$15 - \$35)** \$\$

**Expensive (over \$35)** \$\$\$

Price ranges represent what is to be expected, but will not always apply to every event or product.

**Trapper's Sushi** \$\$

Offering an all-you-can-eat lunch and dinner service, Trapper's is guaranteed to fill you up with quality sushi. Watch your food be prepared right in front of you, or sit back at a table and have it brought out. Either way, you won't leave dissatisfied.

[www.trappersushi.net](http://www.trappersushi.net)

**Sun Break Cafe** \$\$

A half scramble with smoked turkey, jack cheese, broccoli ... sounds pretty good, right? If that sounds like something you'd enjoy, you'll find it here. This cafe has a breakfast forte, an array of options and pie! Expect friendly service, even on the extremely busy week-ends. Sun Break always puts their customers first.

22 A Southwest - Across from the train station.

**Foundation Nightclub** \$\$

The ever-growing USC Events has "reimagined nightlife" with a crystal clear sound-system and Earth-shattering bass. Hosting world-renowned DJs on a regular basis, this venue offers a great place to dance, drink, and socialize.

[foundation-nightclub.com](http://foundation-nightclub.com)

**The Showbox** **Varies greatly**

With two locations, one at Pike Place Market and the other in the SODO District, The Showbox is

Seattle's premiere concert venue. Having hosted musicians such as MGMT, Kanye West and Dave Matthews, this concert scene is both historical and relevant.

[www.showboxonline.com](http://www.showboxonline.com)

**Zola's Cafe** \$

Coffee, food, music, art and comfy couches are all pinnacle parts of what makes Zola's one of the best cafes in Auburn. Whether you're looking for a place to do homework, for a vegan-friendly snack or just for a place to put your feet up, this gem provides the perfect atmosphere for just that.

402 East Main Street Suite 120, across the street from the Auburn Police Station.

**Banyan Tree** \$\$

Kent Station's very own Banyan Tree serves Thai food that is made of the best (and often local) ingredients. You'll walk in and feel as though you're eating at a 5-star restaurant without your wallet feeling the same.

[banyantreerestaurant.com](http://banyantreerestaurant.com)

**Louie G's** \$\$

Pizza and music, two of college students' favorite things. Now, take both of those things and put them into one venue. If you're looking for a place to both stuff and melt and face, head down to Louie G's in Fife.

[www.louiegpspizza.com](http://www.louiegpspizza.com)

**Washington Park Arboretum** Free

Jointly managed by the City of Seattle and the University of Washington, the Arboretum is home for numerous plants that cannot be found anywhere else in the area. Spanning an impressive 230 acres off of the shores of Lake Washington, this botanical garden offers great trails for biking and walking that are all open to the public.

[www.washington.edu](http://www.washington.edu)  
Search: arboretum

**Experience Music Project** \$\$

Being both a visual and audible sensory experience, Seattle's EMP puts you in a world filled with many

of entertainment's greats. You'll find tributes to Jimi Hendrix and walk down the hall to find yourself in the world of Avatar's Pandora. After you've seen the numerous exhibits, you can finish off the day playing an instrument of your choice and being a rock star.

[empmuseum.org](http://empmuseum.org)

**Paramount Theater** \$\$\$

For 77 years, this historical theater has attracted entertainers from all around the world to perform. From musicians such as Nirvana and Pink Floyd to comedians such as Chris Tucker, the Paramount's stage has supported the weight of many historical acts, and continues to do so today.

[stgpresents.org/paramount](http://stgpresents.org/paramount)

**Club Volume** \$

Located in the heart of Seattle, Club Volume provides a place for people under the age of 21 to dance to local and nationally known DJs.

[www.volumeseattle.com](http://www.volumeseattle.com)

**Swannies** \$\$

If you're looking to eat some good food, and then spit it out laughing, this comedy club is perfect for you. Hosting a variety of comedians, both locally and nationally known, the stage of Swannies is a great place to catch some laughs. Open-mics are offered every Monday, and **ALL AGES** are only allowed in from Sunday through Thursday.

[comedyunderground.com](http://comedyunderground.com)

**The Station Bistro** \$

"May all who enter as guests, leave as friends," is the motto of this local bistro, and can be found written right on their wall. Both affordable and elegant, this is a great place for a college student to dine. The menu is filled with many diverse meal options and their bar is loaded with great drink options. With excellent coffee served for the morning and what is claimed to be the best happy hour in Auburn for the night, The Station Bistro is appropriate and welcoming for every age group.

110 2nd St. SW #125, next to Auburn Station

# Life hacks

As much as some of us want to do everything under the sun while classes aren't in session, there will be days that we'll do absolutely nothing ... and like it. While you're sitting at home, you can take a few shortcuts to make your lazy day much better.

### Cleaning your microwave

Microwaves can get messy, especially when you don't clean them regularly. If this sounds like your microwave, just microwave a bowl of water to remove all of that nasty caked-on food.

### Pumping up the bass

Don't have a subwoofer with your computer speakers? Tape some bread over them. The pores of the bread will absorb the higher frequency and amplify the lower frequencies.

### Ironing a shirt

Nobody wants to go out with a wrinkly shirt. If you don't have time to iron your shirt, or you don't own an iron at all, hang it above your stove and boil pans of water under it. The steam will remove the wrinkles. This also allows you to do something else while you uniron your shirt.

### Opening a bag of chips

Sometimes, those pesky chip bags just won't open. If you run into this situation, grab a couple of coins and place them between your fingers while you tear the package. The quarters will act as scissors and tearing open your bag of chips should be a breeze.

Credit: r/lifehacks on reddit.com

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## Corrections

As much as we like to think we are, journalists are not perfect. Because of this, we welcome our readers to let us know when we make mistakes in our paper.

If you find that we've spelled someone's name wrong or stated our facts incorrectly, please contact us at:

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## EDITORIAL

## Coding for kids

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President Barack Obama stated during a Google+ Hangout session that he is in support of requiring coding to be taught in the K-12 system.

"I think it makes sense, I really do," Obama said when prompted with the question regarding learning coding before college.

"I want to make sure that [young people] know how to produce stuff using computers and not just consume stuff."

Frankly, it's surprising that we haven't already started implementing coding into our pre-college curriculum.

Being able to code gives anyone an advantage in the job market due to coding's growing relevance.

Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook's founder, said, "the whole limit in the system is that there aren't enough people who are trained and have [coding] skills today."

With businesses scrounging for engineers, being able to code in this day-and-age seems to be nothing but beneficial.

Whether it is in C++ or HTML, learning to code will make graduates more applicable to more jobs, and will ultimately further our society technologically.

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## A word from the chief

Dylan Whitcher  
Editor-in-Chief

## Sweet humble pie

Every once in a while you're forced to eat humble pie.

Over the last weekend in February, the editors and I traveled south to San Francisco where the annual Associated Collegiate Press Conference was held. We came into the conference with highest of expectations, and I myself was rather confident we would place in the top 10 for the best-of-show category for a two year newspaper.

The ACP is spread over four days, Thursday-Sunday; editors roam from seminar to seminar over the first three days, picking the brains of advisors and professionals around the states.

As the first three days concluded rather quickly, it was time to see where our paper stacked up compared to the other two-year papers from across the country. A representative rattled off the names of the winners, starting with 10th place. As he neared closer to first place, my heartbeat increased. And when the first place name uttered out of his mouth didn't include our name, I surprisingly wasn't that disappointed.

The experience reminded me that life isn't about trophies, it's about the journey. Sometimes, you need to force down that humble pie, and just be thankful you're eating at all.

That's what  
HE said! SHE said**Benjamin Biernacki:***"Mo' money, mo' problems."**- The Notorious B.I.G.***Shane Lange:***"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years."**- Abraham Lincoln***Jeremy Siregar:***"Saying goodbye doesn't mean anything. It's the time we spend together that matters."**- Trey Parker***Michelle Spencer***"I am no bird; and no net ensnares me: I am a free human being with an independent will."**- Charlotte Bronte***Dylan Whitcher***"Never lend your car to anyone to whom you have given birth."**- Erma Bombeck***Makena Cayce:***"The trouble with some women is they get all uptight about nothing - and then they marry him."**- Cher***Editorial Policy**

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

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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.

**Letters to the Editor**

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).

Note: The quotations featured here in no way represent The Current or the student body's opinion, but rather that of the individual editors.

# Romantic relationship required?

## The importance of individualism should not be overlooked



Commentary by:  
**Spencer Rock**

It's a classic American tale: two people are best friends, then one of them gets a boyfriend or a girlfriend. Soon they start hanging out with their significant other more than their friend. The friend feels lonely without their best friend. What's the solution? Find a boyfriend or girlfriend of course! This is one of many different scenarios that can happen to just about anyone. The social pressure to be in a relationship is over-whelming. It seems like everywhere you look there's someone who's hooking up with someone else and they look so happy and cute together. Then they break up and it's heart wrenching for them until a couple of weeks or months or years later they find someone else to fill the hole in their heart.

There's this ideal spreading around that the only way to find happiness is through having a significant other and anyone who doesn't have one is supposed to be lonely or unhappy. "You complete me" ringing any (wedding) bells? I have found this to be false. I believe that the only way to truly be happy with someone else is to be happy with yourself. I can't even count how many times I've seen a couple break up and then get with someone else and don't take the time to work on themselves. They just know that they were happy in a relationship and that they are unhappy out of one so the only solution must be to get back in a relationship.

Independence seems to be a lost notion these days.

The irony of it all is that people who do this have very little to offer in a relationship. When a person is on their own they learn so much about themselves which causes a much more positive outlook on who they are and what they are capable of. These are the things necessary for a relationship to prosper; strong self-awareness allows someone else to truly care about you for who you choose to be. Those who rush into relationships

show a huge amount of insecurity with their abilities when all they have to rely on is themselves.

A friend of mine recently asked me how I have remained single. My answer to that question is quite simple really: I choose to be. I've been single for about a year and a half now and I can honestly say that I am as happy and confident as I have ever been. It brings me great joy to say that I am this way without the help of a girlfriend. I've chosen this lifestyle because I don't want to be in a relationship with just anyone.

Once you establish values in yourself it makes it easier to find out who you're compatible with because the values you have in yourself become appealing when you see them in someone else. This lifestyle choice displays an independent individual who is open to the thought of a relationship, but not controlled by it. This has allowed me to make friends and grow as a human being and know that if I choose to be in a relationship, it's because I want to be in one and not because I need support in order to find happiness.

# Airport security isn't looking too sharp



Commentary by:  
**Jeremy Siregar**

If I were a terrorist, Alaska Airline flight 309 would have never made it to the ground.

During the last day of my trip to a journalism conference in San Francisco, I realized a horrifying truth: I had accidentally brought my six inch pocket knife in my backpack. A knife of that size is more than capable of incapacitating or killing a person. A six inch knife can easily puncture through the jugular. Within 30 seconds, the victim will die from excessive bleeding. If concealed and utilized properly, a hijacker could easily take over a plane. Passengers of flight 309 were extremely fortunate that the possessor of the knife was, in this case, an innocent young student.

The Transfer Security Administration had two chances to prevent me from carrying this pocket knife: the first at Sea-Tac Airport and the other at San Francisco International Airport. Somehow, TSA had missed both chances and

failed to prevent a potential weapon from boarding a commercial airline.

According to TSA's official website, around one million and eight hundred thousand passengers pass through a United States' airport everyday. One million and eight hundred thousand passengers that placed their trust in TSA to keep their travels safe. The fact that a college student was able to (accidentally) carry a weapon without any real attempt to conceal it brings into question TSA's reputation and efficiency. Especially in a post 9/11 world.

TSA was originally formed as a response to the 9/11 incident. Since their establishment, there are a number of improvements that they have implemented. Hardened cockpit doors and crew self defense training increase in-flight security. The Secure Flight program ensures that all checked baggages are screened for dangerous items. Their most prominent improvement though is their new technology. By using Advanced Imaging Technology, TSA is able to detect metallic items for potential threats without any physical contact. So how did TSA fail to detect a potential weapon during security checkpoints?

When I uncovered my pocket knife from my bag, I realized that it was buried under a pile of other devices. An iPod, a pack of triple A batteries and an old broken computer mouse were sit-

ting on top of the knife. It seems that the screening machine picked up the image of the pocket knife, but the officer watching the screen couldn't tell apart which item was which. Human error, the most common type of error to occur. According to Boeing Technical Fellow on Maintenance Human Factor, Dr. William Rankin, approximately eighty percent of airplane incidents were caused by human error. This probable chance of an incident occurring on airplanes creates a problem for students at Green River Community College.

According to Green River's International Programs website, Green River houses over one thousand international students. At one point, these students will have to take hours of flight back home to their country. They too place their trust in TSA. What happens if a security officer overlooked another inconspicuously placed knife? TSA has been working on technological advancements while their focus should really be placed on training their officers.

Risk is the absence of security. TSA fights every day to ensure the security of airline passengers, and for this we should be thankful. However, until the day TSA finally decides to extensively train their officers, there will always be a risk to air travel.

# STATE OF THE UNION



Commentary by:

*Matthew Dalos*

The 21st century has seen many changes in geopolitics, but no change is more significant than the way superpowers fight each other. Prior to the 1990's we saw huge empires fighting in bloody wars against each other, colonizing what peoples they could and existing in a constant state of war.

This came to a head during the Cold War, when we saw two superpowers, the US and the USSR, control the entire world. They used smaller nations as extensions of themselves and perfected war to the point of eliminating the enemy with the push of a button. But when the USSR fell and the US was the only superpower left, the old way of doing business became obsolete. Open war between empires became unprofitable, unwinnable, and unpopular. But empires are always at war. Global conflict has shifted from the battlefield to the marketplace and the minds of the people, with second world nations as the frontlines.

The concept of second world nations evolved during the Cold War, where the US and USSR fought proxy wars to avoid direct confrontation. We no longer see American counter-insurgents toppling regimes or Russia blatantly supplying rebels with weapons and training to overthrow their leaders. Instead the wars are far more covert and underground, done in a way so that the other side has to look hard to see where the battle lines are drawn. After all, the best way to win a war is to keep your enemy from knowing about it.

For example, China is allied economically with Iran who is closely allied with Syria. These nations support Hezbollah, a militant group that harrases Israel, which is an ally of the US.

America and Europe would like to see the rebels win the war in Syria because it would be another allied and democratic nation in the Middle East and would cease to cause problems, and potentially be a good ally and trading partner. China on the other hand wants the rebellion crushed, leaving the current leader in power. Not only would China's allies enjoy this greatly, but also China would have a friendly port on the Mediterranean and could get lucrative trading and resource deals that would help China gain an edge over the US.

This same story plays out in other countries all over the world. Generally, countries that are too unstable to be considered first world nations yet valuable enough to not be third world nations fall in to the second world category. Observing the strength of influence of the three superpowers will tell you who is winning the shadow wars around the globe. Ultimately though, we need to think and act smarter in our relations with the second world, otherwise China and Europe will steal them from our influence and use them against us.

the  
**Undercurrent**  
news briefs*"Rejoice, and Sing", an evening of vocal music*

On Wednesday, March 13, the Concert Choir as well as the Jazz Voices will be performing a concert known as "Rejoice, and Sing!" With tickets being only six dollars for students and seven dollars for public, this is a great and relatively inexpensive way to come out and support the music programs that this school has to offer. These students have worked hard and are ready to be heard. So come support your fellow peers as they themselves rejoice and sing.

*Overnight Snow Camping on Mount Rainier*

At 9 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, students will have the opportunity to go snow cave camping on Mount Rainier. Buses leave Saturday morning and will not return until March 17 at 4 p.m. This trip offers the chance to go have fun in the snow and to experience a form of camping that few really get to do. This trip costs \$30 for students and \$40 for non-students. These costs cover lunch, dinner, breakfast, snacks and transportation. Sign up in the Student Life office today!

*Campus Talks help all students as well as public*

Campus Talks are held every Tuesday and Thursday in the St. Helens Room in the Lindbloom Student Center at 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. All students and non-students are more than welcome to attend this free event. The purpose of these events is to help experience cross-cultural engagements. Students from around the world can learn more about Green River and America while the domestic students here can learn about the cultures and lifestyles of the international students.

By: Kayla Harmon  
Staff Writer

**Losing 'community'**

Green River Community College has just begun contemplating the expansion of its academic program, prompting the school to possibly take on a new name.

Though students have many ideas in mind about what new 4-year degree programs will be offered, an IT program is the only one confirmed to be in discussion. "Nothing is concrete yet, as it's still just in the discussion phase," said Vickie Sheehan, executive director of college relations & special assistant to the president.

The college has just entered into the process with the state board, and according to Sheehan, so far "it's been going positively."

Green River has not initiated the name selection process yet but is considering a simple dropping of "community" and adopting the new name Green River College, however, all of these changes won't be seen until a few years down the road. Once things begin to actualize the school intends to reach out to faculty, students and the community alike.

**Despite economy, "Sushi Kuine" still thrives**

By: Sophia Wei  
Staff Writer

"Sushi Kuine," a local Japanese sushi restaurant located in Kent has grabbed a lot of food enthusiasts' stomachs.

The name of the restaurant, "Sushi Kuine," came from the owner of the restaurant, Kazuyuki Ishiwata.

"When I first opened the restaurant, I came up with Sushi Express, Samurai Sushi, and Kazu

Sushi and lots of different names, but none of them feel right, until my friend mentioned the word 'Kuine,'" said Ishiwata.

Ishiwata continues to explain that the word kuine has a simple meaning; "It means eat."

"The word kuine is a very strong word if you know the Japanese culture," explained Ishiwata.

What Kazuyuki Ishiwata brings to his customer is not only the delicious sushi and professional sushi making skill, but also the

authentic Japanese culture.

"It feels like home every time I come here to have sushi" said Min-min Wah, a former Green River student.

"There are a lot of people who would not come back after they leave the place, so I'm really happy to see you coming back and visit after you transferred" said Ishiwata after hearing Min-min Wah's words.

Ishiwata is very considerate to all his customers and has a strong

insistence upon the quality of the delicacy.

"For the thirteen years, the menu hasn't been changed. Even the price of the fish had raised in the past thirteen years, the price on the menu hasn't changed much," said Ishiwata.

When looking at Ishiwata preparing his sushi the food and experience doesn't only strike the taste buds, but also strikes the hearts of the people who visit the restaurant.

**World News: A new Pope to be elected**

By: Emily Braun  
Staff Writer

Following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, the conclave to elect a new pope has begun.

The last pope to resign was Gregory XII in 1415, who stepped down during a conflict in which several men claimed to be the leader of the Catholic Church.

Out of the 203 cardinals from around the world, only 115 will be eligible to partake in the voting.

Out of those 115, only 113 will gather in the Sistine Chapel to

elect the new pope.

One of the missing cardinals is Julius Darmaatmadja who won't be able to attend the election due to health problems.

The other, Cardinal Keith O'Brien, resigned after allegations of inappropriate behavior – which he has since confessed to.

During the process of electing a new Pope, the cardinals are kept in private away from any influence from the outside world.

"When you go into the conclave it's very strange; you're cut off, you can't bring a telephone and

you are guarded," said Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, who participated in the conclave that elected Pope Benedict XVI

During his time as pope, John Paul II altered the way in which a pope is elected, changing the rule to a simple majority.

Benedict XVI reverted back to the old system, so this time a rough two-thirds majority is required for a pope to be elected.

The cardinals vote until the majority is reached. The process can take quite a while even to the point where there have even been

deaths of cardinals from waiting.

The only notice the outside world has about the events inside the conclave happens after a vote, when the ballots are burned. If the smoke is black, onlookers know that a decision has not been reached. If the smoke is white, the public knows that a new pope has been chosen and will soon be announced.

Whatever decision the conclave reaches, there's no doubt that Catholics from every corner of the world will be eagerly awaiting the news.

**FEATURE**

# Beyond the outfield

After the death of their fathers, Collins and Kimmell find solace on baseball field



The Gonzaga Men's Basketball Program made history by becoming the first team from the State of Washington to be ranked number one in the country. The Zags, as of March 7, are 29-2 overall and undefeated in conference play. Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, being number one may be a curse rather than a blessing. There have been five number one teams this year, the most ever since the 2003-04 season. Gonzaga controls their destiny and if they can win the WCC tournament they will most likely be the number one overall seed in the upcoming NCAA Tournament, commonly known as March Madness. The Zags will be one of the favorites to make the final four, something they have never done in school history.

By: Dylan Whitcher  
 Editor-in-Chief

"Usually after every game, I talk to him or call him ... but now, I have nobody to talk to."

For returning sophomore Eric Kimmell, playing catch with his dad is now just a cherished memory, after his father passed away while on his anniversary dinner with his wife.

"From the autopsy they found out he had fluid in his lungs and an enlarged heart which caused death due to heart failure," Kimmell said. "The death was completely unexpected."

The farthest thing from Kimmell's mind was the game of baseball, but a decision had to be made fast; with the season about to begin, his coaches needed to know if he would return to play ball.

"I want to play," Kimmell said. But wanting to play is the easy part; the hard part is being able to play. With her husband gone, a now widowed wife is having an understandably hard time adjusting to life without the person she loves. Kimmell, a student-athlete, is not just going to school for an education, he loves the game of baseball and has since he was a child. But now, his focus has been solely on supporting his mother and siblings. "The plan is to play, but I'm not sure 100 percent," Kimmell said. "I need to help my mom out financially anyway I can."

Kimmell isn't alone in his solace.

Teammate Blake Collins lost his dad as well in early September after a four-year-long battle



Sophomores Blake Collins and Eric Kimmell have bonded through their similar tragedies.

with cancer. After multiple chemotherapy sessions the cancerous cells kept finding their way back into Collins' dad's body, and after a valiant effort there wasn't much left to do. "He just wanted to be comfortable," Collins said.

"We took care of him and he died in his sleep."

*"I rode off this year, I wasn't coming back ... I was going to take a year off and work."*

Collins too had a decision to make, either play the game he loved since childhood or help his mom, all while grieving over the loss of his father. And for Collins the answer wasn't so clear.

"I rode off this year, I wasn't

coming back ... I was going to take a year off and work."

However after coaches and teammates convinced Collins to comeback as at least an assistant coach, he couldn't refuse.

At his first day at practice,

Collins couldn't do it anymore. He decided if he was going to comeback it would

be only as a player, "I'm too competitive for that," Collins said. "Baseball is my rope, when things get tough, baseball is something to grab onto, to get me through anything."

So play he did.

With the season just underway, both players had to face their unfortunate realities, to play without their idols, the men they have looked up to their entire lives.

For Collins, his dad was at every game during his baseball career and at every game he stood at the same place.

"He always stood by the outfield fence in left field, every game, without my mom by him or anyone." And sometimes the oldest habits never die. "I found myself looking down the line, looking for him," Collins said, his eyes teary after reminiscing.

For Kimmell, in a life full of chaos, the baseball diamond is a safe haven. Both Collins and Kimmell agreed, "[Baseball] is my escape for everything."

New York Yankees reliever and future Hall of Famer, Mariano Rivera is calling it quits after this upcoming season. Rivera, 43, has played his entire 18 year career with the Yankees and is a 12 time all-star, five-time World Series champion and one time World Series MVP. He was supposed to retire after last season but after tearing his ACL in mid-May he missed the entire year and vowed to give it one more go. Rivera leads MLB in saves all time with 608, and counting.

The Seattle Mariners and Felix Hernandez have agreed on a new contract, making King Felix the highest paid pitcher in baseball history. The deal is worth \$175 million dollars and spans over seven years, making Hernandez a Mariner through the 2019 season. The deal was originally reported sooner, but after concerns of Hernandez's elbow arose, the deal was temporarily put on ice. Just a few days later all issues were put to rest and Hernandez inked his \$175 million dollar prize. Oh it's good to be king.



*Write a letter to the editor*  
[thecurrent@greenriver.edu](mailto:thecurrent@greenriver.edu)

# Poor start leaves Gators searching

By: Kidane Menker  
Staff Writer

The Green River Baseball team got off to a not-so-great start, losing their first four games of the preseason by a combined score of 41-11 in Yakima, Wash.

In the first game of the year, the Gators hung with Everett and after only allowing a first inning run, the Trojans' bats were silenced. That is until Everett's offense erupted, scoring eight runs in the sixth inning, resulting in a lopsided 9-0 loss for the Gators. Sophomore pitcher Nick Keller pitched five solid innings but with Green River only being able to muster up three hits, his effort was for not.

Later that day Green River went toe-toe with Yakima Valley and, once again, pitched themselves into a winnable situation after only allowing two runs through four innings of play.

However, with no run support, Green River's bullpen struggled, allowing six runs in the fifth and two runs in the sixth. With no offensive answer the Gators suffered their second defeat in just one day, 10-1.

The next day, Green River battled Vancouver Island and was in position to win, however up by 3-1 entering the ninth and decisive inning; two errors hampered the Gators, resulting in a heartbreaking 5-3 loss. In his first appearance as a Gator, 6-foot-4 inch freshman Christian Meister pitched six beautiful innings, striking out six and only walking two. However another Gator pitching effort was spoiled, not because of bad offense, but this time poor fielding stripped Meister of a win.

In the final game of the weekend Green River battled Yakima Valley and while the result was the same for the Gators, it was their offense that exploded,



Dominic Yoxtheimer | The Current

After losing their first four games, Green River is hard at work to clean up their mistakes

scoring a weekend high seven runs. But with a tired pitching staff, seven runs were not nearly enough as Yakima crushed Green River's pitching, scoring 17 runs on 14 hits.

Despite scoring seven runs in the final game of the weekend, the Gators still averaged

two more errors than runs. The baseball season is a grind, and for a team with a healthy mix of both freshman and sophomores, it will take some time for this team to build chemistry.

However, if you look past the win-loss record, Green River had some key freshman step

up at the plate. Auburn native, Justin Burns led the team in batting average, hitting .600 for the weekend, Spencer Scott hit .500 and Anthony Thompson hit .444, all three are freshman and all three will be huge for the Gators in order for their offensive numbers to improve.

## Gator golf preps for NWAACC tournament

By: Keyana Angove  
Staff Writer

After a so-so fall season, the Green River Golf Program is hard at work, priming themselves for a hopefully spectacular spring.

The Gators competed in three tournaments in early October, winning only one.

While winning a tournament sounds great, for Green River anything less than a championship is failure. For a program that found individual success last season with Broc Johnson earning first place in the NWAACC Championships, the time is now to begin focusing on team success. And with both the men's and women's teams respectively placing in the top five, head coach Glen Beatty is ready to win the whole thing.

"Our team goals are nothing short of a league championship for both men and women. If everyone continues to work hard there is no doubt they will battle it out with the best in the league," Beatty said.

This year, defending champion Johnson will bear a rather large target on his back, but he has wisely taken ample advantage of the offseason to improve his game.

"During the offseason I practiced quite a bit to make sure my game

doesn't get too rusty [and to] make sure I do a lot of short game work during the winter," Johnson said. "I think that's most important."

It will take more than just Johnson for the team's championship goals to ever come to fruition and returning sophomore Kevin McCrossin is hoping to become Johnson's right-hand-man in helping lead the team to a championship.

Despite not being able to practice much due to the recent basketball season, McCrossin is in phenomenal shape and knows that the team needs to build on the progress they have made so far.

"Now that the expectation is there we gotta back it up," McCrossin said.

On the women's side, sophomore Madeleine Ottosson wants more consistency in this year's squad. The women did good last year, but there is always room for improvement and Ottosson has used her offseason wisely by going to the Green River Fitness Center regularly; trying to stay in the best shape possible. She will not let anyone outwork her as her quest for an individual championship continues this spring.

Both the men and the women will compete in the second NWAACC tournament of the season, which will be held at Washington National Golf Course in Auburn, from April 7-8.

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