

# THE CURRENT

*KGRG-1 Corner:  
Check out the second  
installment of KGRG-1's  
voice in the paper.*

## Putting the "Green" back in Green River

*GRCC students work to keep campus clean as 'keeping it green week' sweeps the Green River campus. Trees previously removed from campus sold with recycling in mind.*

**Eline Hutter**  
Staff Writer

During Spring Break lots of trees at the college campus were being cut down to make place for some new buildings. The arrival of spring is the perfect time to make the college campus look green again. Members of the Forestry Club were selling trees to plant at the empty spots on campus soon, while volunteering students and teachers cleaned up the college campus.

This all fitted in with the so-called 'keeping it green week' at GRCC. From April 20-24 it was all about going green. This week was in recognition of Earth Day, an international attempt to create awareness for the environment. Each year, lots of events are organized worldwide to promote things like recycling and energy-efficiency.

Earth Day was also what led the Forestry Club to selling trees in front of the student center on Monday and Friday. For only a dollar people could buy a tree. Although some buyers took their tree home, most of them donated money to have their tree planted on campus. All trees will be equipped with a nametag to remember the sponsors.

Brett McGinley was one of the tree-sellers on April 24. Around 1 p.m. he looked pretty satisfied with the result. "We sold more than 700 trees on and off the campus today, since 10 a.m.," he said. "I hope we'll totally sell about 750 today."

The money that has been collected with selling the trees will be used to go to the Society of American Foresters convention in Orlando next fall. Green River's Forestry Club has been winning awards at this conven-

tion for three years in a row now. McGinley hopes to continue this, and win for the fourth time.

But the most important goal was not to get money. The Forestry Club couldn't wait to re-plant all the trees that were being cut down lately. Trees have a very important function in reducing carbon dioxide. They naturally remove this greenhouse gas from the atmosphere while releasing oxygen, which is the main reason for the Forestry Club to plant them at the college.

The 'keeping it green week' was an idea of Khulan Tumurbat and Patrick Reeves, both working at the Student Programs. On their initiative, more than 20 volunteering students and teachers worked on a campus beautification on April 20.

It took them a long time to clean up all the litter that was hiding in the bushes. While wearing green shirts, they picked up litter for hours all around the campus.

Reeves was especially annoyed by all the cigarette butts they found. Both he and Tumurbat emphasized that it's unnecessary for students to throw their cigarettes in the bushes. "The ash trays are everywhere, it's crazy", said Reeves. "Smoking is a personal bad habit", added Tumurbat. "Just use the ash trays."

Tumurbat said she hopes to give students "a broader view of the damage we do to the environment." She and Reeves tried to promote recycling as well. But the most important message was still to use garbage bins in the first place. Being sponsored by Student Programs, they're planning to purchase trash cans with ash trays on the top. Hoping to not only make it greener, but also keep it green this time.



Eline Hutter/Staff Photo  
Pictured in photos:

Mouhcine Aitounejjar (Bottom Right), Minh Le Gno (Top Right), Martin Sit (Bottom Left) and Michele Christa (Bottom Center) help the effort to keep the GRCC campus clean.

### Back

### Center



#### Dear Mr. President:

Find out how you can help extend an invitation to President Obama to come to Green River Community College



#### Get in the picture:

GRCC's photography program shows up some pictures from one of the campus' popular programs.

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## GRCC Students work to clean up Green River

The 24-year-old Green River Clean Up is maintaining a beautiful impact on the environment with fun activities

**Kim Burberry**  
Staff Writer

May 2nd marks the 24th annual Green River Clean Up. Students at Green River Community College and volunteers around the area are coming together to clean up along the 12 mile Green River Gorge.

This year at the Green River Clean Up celebration will "ring out" for the oldest river clean up in Washington State history.

The celebration will also honor the man who began this project, Wolf Bauer. A man who has long been celebrating and living out his passion for the wildlife around him by preserving the land he encounters and informing others of what they can do to make a difference.

Earth day will be rounding the corner as The Green River Clean Up takes way at Flaming Geyser State Park.

There will be a variety of services and activities to check out including, kayaking, small boaters, hikers and ground crews needed. Entertainment and a B.B.Q will be available into the evening with local live music.

Green River Students are strongly encouraged to participate.

Lisa Parsons who began the Green River Coalition that will be a part of the clean up on May 2nd said, "Students bring lots of good energy to stuff like this."

Lisa Parsons began the Green River Coalition 9 years ago in order to combine efforts from local groups that had a passion and work ethic to clean and preserve their local environment.

Although Lisa Parsons feels lucky to live in such a place that radiates beauty from her backyard, she began to discover many

years ago that it was not taken care of and protected as well as it needed to be.

Parsons believes the reason that her local environment is so beautiful is because of how remote it is.

Unfortunately, that remoteness is also what makes it the peril to its own existence.

Not many people are aware of the beauty in their own backyard she explains, therefore when construction begins and people abuse the land others do not directly see or experience how it ultimately is damaging the beauty that's close to home.

When projects and events occur like the upcoming Green River Clean Up on May 2nd Parsons feels that it allows, "People to get excited about conserving [because] it gets a community to work together."

On May 2nd during the annual Green River Clean Up organizers would like to see boaters, kayakers, people in canoes, rafters and inflatable boaters experiencing the Green River Gorge from a fun and unique setting while spotting trash and cleaning up the shores of the Green River as they make their way down the river.

Those who are interested in making a unique trip down the river with an experienced guide will be able to at a small cost by taking a rafting trip.

The rafting experience includes donning a wetsuit, booties, a life jacket, and lunch on the river.

Those who are more interested in getting "down and dirty" while experiencing the beauty and helping preserve it can be a part of the ground crew.

Those who put away the mittens for gloves and are prepared with boots and proper clothing will be able to participate

in the physical part of the Green River Clean-up.

Due to trash also being caught in hard to reach places like blueberry bushes volunteers should consider bringing a rake or long stick to grab trash more effectively.

Registration begins at 9:00am at either Flaming Geyser State Park or Kanaskat-Palmer State Park.

Hikers and Bikers can also enjoy the event that day. Trail information and news will be shared.

Exciting new plans for a hiking trail that will go from Kanaskat State Park to

Flaming Geyser State Park will be see as well as Eric Carlson from the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance will lead bikers on the trail. Hikers can take a walk down memory lane as they hike with Don Mason to the whimsical and historic town of Franklin.

Students who are passionate about making a difference in their beautiful backyard and preserving the beautiful landscape that surrounds them and others can experience the transformation and communal unity on May 2nd for the 24th annual Green River Clean Up.

**GYT** GYT09.ORG

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## KGRG 1 Corner

THE ALTERNATIVE PAST

KGRG-1 Program Director Mark Burkhardt's next entry into the KGRG-1 Corner spreads "the gospel of Northwest music history"



**Mark Burkhardt**  
KGRG-1 P.D.

Earlier this week I received a package from Sub-Pop 20th anniversary festival. In it held the treasure of the past.

Few truly know this band; I myself heard of them but never investigated them. I could go on and write this entire article on the sheer orgasmic pleasure and the history of the bands that played, but I won't.

I recognized their songs but not as I knew them. "Jesus Wants Me For A Sunbeam" and "Molly's Lips" was performed by our very own Nirvana.

This time it was The Vaseline's performing and as they played "Son of a Gun" which Nirvana performed for MTV Unplugged, I realized how lucky I was to be there.

First, it was the Vaseline's debut performance in the United States. Second, I had uncovered a part of music history that I felt I should have already known which sparked a quest to spread the gospel of North West music history.

In spreading the gospel it gives me great pleasure to announce KGRG-FM is Celebrating 20 years of "Today's Rock".

I don't know if I could ever convey how important KGRG was to the South End. We weren't blessed enough to pick up Seattle's KCMU. KXRX and KISW only played the good stuff during specialty shows. KGRG was the only way for us to hear SeaWeed, Mother Love Bone, and Sound Gardens.

When you heard "Hand of God" come across the airwaves you couldn't help but to blast it. Man that song is so freaking awesome when you hear it...loud.

Earlier this week KGRG-FM hosted Alumni week. Past KGRG DJs such as Big Daddy Nelson, Julie Pilate, Trent Edwards and DJ W NoName hosted shows. Local personalities Abbey Still from KNDD, and Charlie Harger from KOMO 1000 hosted air shifts. Closing out the week was La Revolution.

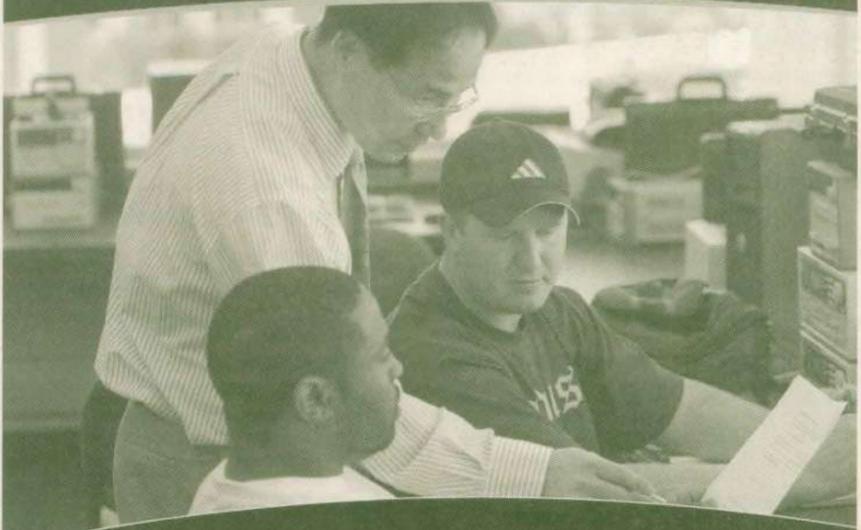
I have had the pleasure of working with husband and wife Pedro and Luciano as an intern, where they both are staff members on KZOKs "The Bob Rivers Show". All The mentioned DJs can be heard daily throughout the US and they all started at KGRG.

Everyone agrees you should know your history and The Alternative Past is no exception! Know your music past.

KGRG 20th anniversary show is May 9th at The Viaduct in Tacoma visit kgrg.com for more information and if interested in being a DJ on KGRG or KGRG1 stop by the station for a tour at LSC 200.

## School of Computing & Engineering Sciences

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## Cultural differences distinct student-teacher relationship among Chinese and local students

*Some instructors notice differences, some do not. Chinese students feel much the same way*

**Kai Po Yeung**  
Staff Writer

The U.S. and China always have always had many cultural differences. One of the biggest differences is their culture in the education system. At Green River Community college there are many Chinese students. Many can feel the difference between them and the local students from the U.S.

In China, students never address their instructors by their first names. They have to address them with a title, such as Miss or Mrs.. On the contrary, in the U.S, it is very common to call instructors by their first names. The Chinese have a traditional concept that students and instructors are in different levels. However, some American instructors don't want any distinction.

Linda Wilson-Hill, a Reading class instructor, has been teaching in GRCC for two years. She notices few differences between Chinese students and American students. "Chinese students are much more respectful but they are quiet. Sometimes it may hard to make a discussion going," said Wilson-Hill. She also said that Chinese students tend to separate their personal things and study, so it is hard to know them better.

In her two years as a teacher in GRCC, Wilson-Hill has been learning how to communicate with students. "I am trying hard to communicate with Chinese students, but communicate with Americans is easier, maybe I'll get used to

it," she said.

Moreover, she said that Chinese students think instructors know any answers they asked, but it is not true that instructors know everything. However, she has no problem with it because it makes her a better teacher.

Wilson-Hill also notices that American and Chinese students have different attitudes in studying. She said that Chinese students have more confidence in their study. "They are sure of themselves and they have a clear goal and plan," she said. American students have more options of different universities and types of school to choose from.

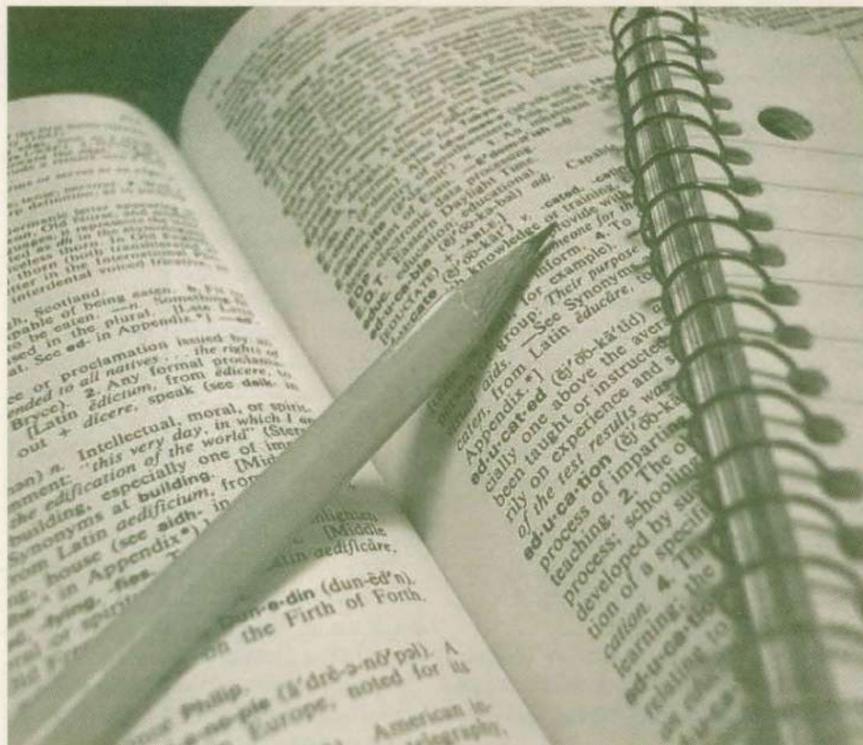
Another instructor, Ron Riley, a criminal justice teacher, said that a student is a student. He doesn't think that American and Chinese students have many differences. He loves all kind of students. "They both are wonderful," said Riley.

*In China, students never address their instructors by their first names.*

He said that both students are respectful but Chinese students are very respectful. One difference that he notices, however, is that Chinese students are more focus on their

study. Finally, Riley said that it depends on the cultural difference and everyone's own experience.

Wei Shen, a Chinese student, said that in China, the relationship between a student and instructors is just between student and teacher. In the U.S., however, he has one more relationship with the instructors, friendship. He can make fun or tell a joke



www.wordpress.com/Courtesy Photos

Chinese and American students develop different kinds of relationship with their instructors due to cultural differences. Chinese culture leaves a gap between teachers and students.

in class, something he can't do in China. Shen said that these differences resulted from the differences in Chinese and American education system, teaching style and economic problem. He said that in China, they just have one way to get into a university but there are many ways to get into a university in the U.S.

He also said that instructors in China and the U.S have different styles too. In China, teacher's aim is just for students to do well in on their exams, but in the

U.S, they aim for students to understand the subject. He also thinks that American instructors usually have higher education background than Chinese instructors. "Therefore, they may know how to deal with the relationship better," said Shen.

At last, he said that the economic problem also affect the relationship with instructors. In China the size of the classes is bigger than in the U.S. and it may decrease the chance to communicate with the instructor.

## Students face cultural barriers in diversity

*Students find challenges in intercultural communication*

**Shaodan Chen**  
Staff Writer

In this globalization era, there is an intimacy crisis. Globalization has made the world smaller and everyone more connected, but this doesn't mean that everybody in the world has been experiencing the same situation.

Make a visit to a classroom, the library or the cafeteria at the campus, students can see students sit together only with people from the same country to feel more comfortable. Stephi Long, an international student from Vietnam, said that one reason for this situation is the gap among students from different countries. "I feel that we have nothing in common," said Long. "We have different languages, different background, and we can make small talks, but then no one has the desire to dig more."

Having an intimate relationship is much easier when what people want to take in is familiar, something you already know and like. When it comes to differences, ranging from those that are mildly dissimilar to those that are completely foreign, or those you've been forbidden to even consider, the relation may no longer be so easy. That's the reason why most intimate relationships

in America, on campus, especially, are between Americans, the dear friends of the Chinese are still Chinese, and the roommates of Vietnamese are Vietnamese, even when there are numerous other options.

One obvious barrier is language. "Talking to a non-English speaker challenges Americans' patience," said Lin Yu, a Chinese students. "We are like children learning every word and we can't ask them to explain most of the time."

It seems really hard to break through this barrier. However, there are some international students who speak simple English but make many American friends. Communication is not only words, it includes body language.

However, some have experienced that exterior is not all that important. "There was a student sat next to me on my communication class. I've never seen people quieter than her," said Michael Davies, an American student majoring in communication. "She seemed like she had no nerve to talk to anybody. However, once I talked to her, through her shining eyes and big smile I feel how happy she was."

Exchange thoughts, share ideas and enjoy similarities and differences among the world.

# YARD SALE

## June 13, 2009

**9:30 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.**

**Outside the Campus Corner Apartments  
(Weather permitting - otherwise CCA Community Room)**

**Moving? Sell your unwanted items!**

Set Up Fees: **\$5 GRCC Students/table • \$8 Non-students/table**  
~ Set up fees go to the International Student Foundation Scholarships. ~

Open to all GRCC students, staff, faculty and community.  
Set up starts at 9 a.m.  
2 people maximum per table.  
Sign Up Deadline: June 5th

Questions? Contact Anh Ly:  
aly@greenriver.edu  
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If you require alternative media accommodations or special seating for events or performances for reasons of disability, please contact us two weeks prior to the event at ext. 2400.

## Somali pirates in speedboats begin targeting US ships

*Under dire economic circumstances, Somalia's gov't cannot police its seas against armed rebels*

**Lindsey Williams**  
Staff Writer

Somali pirates have started attacking US vessels in the Indian Ocean, taking supplies and ransoming hostages.

Students on campus were torn between empathy and anger in regards to the recent attacks on American vessels. Kathy Southworth, an RN major, said, "We all have problems in the world, I understand theirs are more severe than ours... They could change their country."

Laura Arias said, "They need to find a middle ground. They need to know that if it's impacting us, than it's our responsibility to get involved."

While the piracy has been going on for years, this is the first time that an American citizen has been kidnapped, forcing the US to become involved.

Marines were able to recover Captain Richard Phillips after his second attempt at escape, shooting three pirates and capturing a fourth.

After much political debate, the decision was made to prosecute the fourth pirate in the United States. He is currently facing the possibility of a life sentence if charged.

France plans to turn 11 pirates over to Kenya for trial following a treaty in regards to pirating in that area.

The largest debate for prosecuting the remaining pirate that kidnapped Phillips is his age. As there are no records in Somalia, prosecutors have had to estimate that he

is somewhere between 14 and 17. A large percentage of the pirates are teenagers and young adults.

There had already been 60 hijacked ships in 2008 alone, and Somaliland rebels currently have an estimated 200 people still being held hostage from various countries including China, Italy, Russia, Taiwan, Ukraine, and Indonesia.

In an attempt to make the seas safer for merchants, a coalition of warships from nations across the globe has been patrolling the area, but the pirates have continued their attacks regardless of marine enforcement. They use small speedboats and arms that are easy to avoid detection and strike at random when the opportunity presents itself.

There are some who argue that Somalia is a victim warranting empathy, rather than prosecution. They suggest that a solution to Somalia's internal problems could stop the piracy more effectively than criminal action against the estimated 1,000 pirates in the country.

Somalia's government does not have the capacity to police the entire area.

The economic situation in Somalia is dire at best, with their only main industry being fishing in the Indian Ocean. Other countries have been poaching in Somaliland territory, destroying the miniscule industry completely.

While this is devastating to the locals, the addition of hazardous waste being dumped in Somalia by large corporations



www.examiner.com/Courtesy Photo

Armed Somali pirates hold three passengers hostage on the French yacht *Tanit* off the coast of Somalia. One hostage was killed when French navy commandos stormed the boat in a rescue attempt on April 10.

has caused medical side effects in many Somaliland citizens. The healthcare system is not capable of dealing with these side effects, and people are dying.

To make matters worse, the lack of a common language, and the varying dialects from one tribe to another, have made communication among islanders come to a standstill. This factor has also created a problem with charging pirates in Kenya, as interpreters have been unable to translate the dialects.

The pirates have sworn vengeance for

the three deaths.

In an interview with Associated Press, Bduhlahi Lami, a pirate currently holding a Greek ship, said, "Every country will be treated the way it treats us. In the future, America will be the one mourning and crying... We will retaliate (for) the killings of our men."

Whether this situation will escalate into an all out war or not, merchants and activist groups will continue to debate the correct procedure until a solution to the problem is reached.

## Auburn's crumbling truck routes

*Mayor says Auburn lacks money to keep up its truck corridors*

**Kelli Wyatt**  
Staff Writer

Nothing can survive for long if you cut off its life support. However, after a series of voter-initiatives starting in the mid-80s, this is exactly what people are expecting of many Auburn truck corridors.

In the coming months, students may notice increased product prices if the cost of transporting goods rises.

The Auburn truck routes include West Valley Highway, East Valley Highway (Auburn Way) and both 15th St. North and South.

Truck routes require a much higher-quality pavement than normal arterial streets. One truck causes the same amount of wear as 6,500 cars.

Because of this, thicker pavement, deeper foundations and more structured shoulders are only a few of the higher requirements for truck transportation. The majority of Auburn's truck corridors are below 50 on the Pavement Condition Index, where 70 is satisfactory.

"We no longer have the money to keep a road surface at the high level that it takes to keep it a truck corridor," said Auburn Mayor Pete Lewis.

Sales tax used to bring money to the cities where merchandise was originally manufactured. However, the laws were changed and now sales tax money is given to the city in which the items are sold.

"The richer the community and the more stuff they buy, the more sales tax they get," Lewis continued. "We're a relatively poor community... We lost a ton."

Approximately 2.4 million dollars every year is lost, all of which was originally funding for road maintenance.

Areas around Auburn are feeling the stress of deteriorating roads as well. Sumner, for example, has already closed most

of its roads to trucks. Other cities in the Valley will be affected by Auburn's decision as well.

The deteriorating Auburn roads became an issue about three-and-a-half years ago, said Lewis. "We've been increasingly trying to bring it to the people's attention, that we would come to this day if we didn't get some assistance," he said.

Over the past 10 years, the Port of Seattle and the Port of Tacoma both have invested over \$2 billion in building competitive marine terminals. Auburn's decision is vital to their business because companies constantly use these corridors - over 100 freight businesses reside within 10 miles of the city.

The main question is where funding for maintenance of these roads could possibly come from.

"The truckers pay an enormous amount already, they shouldn't be fined," said Lewis. "We suggested having a door tax [on the warehouses], where for every door that's used they pay a tax, so that the trucks can come to their doors... The property tax rate for a warehouse is just about the lowest there is."

It was decided by Auburn officials, however, that with current economic conditions, taxing warehouses isn't something that can be considered lightly.

If funding can't be found, Lewis said, "It would mean that we wouldn't allow any pass-through. So that means, if somebody's got a company here, they can still bring their trucks in-and-out. But if it gets much worse, and we don't get any help, we're going to have to limit the size of the trucks - anybody's trucks - that can be on these routes."

The priority of the city is to keep the roads safe for the citizens. Although roads like Auburn Way won't be closed to normal traffic, the impact of any decision will be felt everywhere around Auburn.

**News**

When news breaks, be the first to know

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## A violation of inalienable rights

The immorality of capital punishment under the endowment of the right to live



Commentary by  
Stirling Radliff

Any action or event that results in the death of any human being is simply wrong. Capital punishment is no exception.

We, in American, have certain inalienable rights, brilliantly illustrated for us by Thomas Jefferson, during the Revolutionary War, before he became our nation's third President.

"[A]ll men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inherent and inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness..."

It seems to me, that our nation has forgotten what life is worth. It is by the right of being, that we may live and thrive.

There are some who say they disapprove of their tax money going to useless, irrelevant, hostile, broken murderers, criminals. They'd rather have them killed.

Money ought not to matter when the value a man's life is in question, even considering his crimes. Man is worth more than a piece of paper or coin, which itself has only artificial "worth."

In the case where money is brought to the forefront, there lies a system of collaborative workings to save dollars, in which money becomes more important to society than people.

A simple truth concerning the world as it radiates in the spew of its finances, is that human life does actually have a price - a price which grows as the populous grows, and it eventually becomes too expensive to take care of those who can't take care of themselves under the law.

Whenever a murderer is prosecuted, his or her state of mental health must also be taken into account.

If a criminal cannot control his or herself, and/or does not understand the innate and equal value of human life, there

is obviously something wrong with that individual. Not necessarily the actions he made, but the mind-state from which he can't alleviate.

If you put one uncontrollable murderer in jail with another inmate, the odds are he's going to kill his fellow inmate.

In order to avoid this problem, a quick solution would be to sedate him and tie him down so he doesn't have the chance to kill or harm anyone else, then put him into a mental institution with the medical capacity to deal with whatever break or disorder he may have which led to his uncontrollable crime. To kill him would be an unnecessary evil.

I don't believe there is any justification for taking away life, regardless of the actions and events which took place in the person's life.

When an individual has killed somebody, the individual should be punished under the law, but not to the extent of exacting his crime in any way, similar or not. As it is often said, to do what a criminal did is to be one.

If the criminal's victim deserved to live, as all people do, then the criminal does as well. People have a "value" which is equal to any other, where events do not affect that "value." This value is neutral. Thus, even after his crime, the criminal has the same right to live as he did before.

Further, to kill a murderer is an irrational emotional reaction. It is an act of vengeance, and shouldn't have an authoritative implementation when concerning life.

After a crime has been committed, there is nothing that can redeem the criminal from these actions.

What can be easily established is that forcing death, or committing an action which results in any other person's death is morally wrong.

The point at which someone loses his or her life is the point at which the person or persons who allowed the murder to take place ought to be held responsible, and ought to consider their own moral judgments. They ought to discover whether what they believe is in the best interest of humanity and our mortal civilization.

## Editorials

### Few can remember what happened on the first of May

Hardly anyone remembers what happened May first a couple years ago, the international workers day.

However, the 2006 protests and boycotts in response to the 2005 Sensenbrenner bill focusing on immigration could be vitally important throughout the month of May. Dubbed "A day without immigrants", millions of protestors filled up to 70 metropolitan streets across the nation. Downtown Los Angeles alone closed 1/3 of its businesses on this May-day boycott. Inconclusive estimates of closures and student absences make it difficult to determine the significance the march had on the economy.

Obama plans to begin public discussion on immigration policy reform this month in an effort to address this divisive issue and balance fulfilling pledges made during the 2008 campaign with the current economic environment. It's not an issue that can continue to be unresolved. Regardless of his actions, there will be controversy, and the possibilities ought to be confronted throughout the campus.

### 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.

### Letters to the editor

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

## Letters to the editor

Email letters to [thecurrent@greenriver.edu](mailto:thecurrent@greenriver.edu)

### I Love College?

This letter is in response to the article "I love college, what a concept" from the April 17, 2009 edition of The Current.

In the article, the reporter talks about the song "I Love College" by Asher Roth and Roth's "love of partying and beer." I have heard the song many times on the radio, and despite the catchy beats, I find myself disgusted that people continue to glorify this negative stereotype of all college students loving to party.

I'm not trying to attack Asher Roth's right to sing about whatever he wants, but every time this song comes on the radio, I turn it off because I cannot stand to hear college students continue to be negatively stereotyped.

The song makes it seem that every college student parties, but that is not the case. I don't party and I don't see what's so fun about it. Sure, it offers a temporary escape from reality, but it causes people in the community to lose respect for college students.

My cousin was a partier. He drove one time while intoxicated, then crashed his car, and died on the scene. He was only 19 years old.

I refuse to party for this reason, and it makes me sad anytime I hear a song that glorifies behavior that caused my cousin to die.

I'm not trying to preach to anyone, I'm just saying that I wish that people would write positive music. If people wouldn't glorify songs about topics such as these, college students might have a better reputation in society.

All songs like "I Love College" do is make the stereotype worse and ensure that it continues. I don't know about everyone else, but I sure hope that this stereotype comes to an end someday.

Jaclyn Shorter  
GRCC Student

### Bringing Sonics back would have created jobs

As a student at Green River Community College and a Sonics fan, I think Governor Christine Gregoire and the entire Washington State Legislature are a disgrace!

Olympia has made so many poor decisions in the last four years, cutting back on funds for education, while raising tuition prices and laying off staff.

They have also made cut backs to social services, like DSHS. I'm a disabled student and I'm disgruntled over the bad attitudes of our voters and government in this state.

In regard to the Sonics, I was a fan of the team since I was an infant and remember 1979 when they won it all! It was a great time for Seattle in those days when we were an up-and-coming city.

Today it's just a total disgrace with a government that doesn't bother to serve the wishes of the fans at all!

The Sonics meant jobs near the Seattle Center area and not having them here caused lots of businesses to close, all thanks to the ignorance of the people in our government.

Governor Gregoire and everyone else in the State Legislature, you should be ashamed of yourselves for your bad behavior toward the citizens of this state. I think it's time for all of you to resign!

Patrick Hirang  
GRCC Student

## The Current Staff

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



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# Get in the Picture

GRCC Students show off their photography skills in one of the college's most popular programs. Students are given tools for life, occupation or the pursuit of an expressive hobby.

**Samantha Shockley**  
Staff Writer

Find, focus, take. Now-a-days it's easy to capture the moment, drive down to the local grocery store, pick up a disposable camera and voilà, the perfect picture. But photography isn't just about a pretty picture, it's about expression, and creating an artistic view. The Green River Photography Art Program is a way students can express themselves in an original way.

"It's a creative outlet, the only thing I can do that's completely visual," Chris Allen, a 22-year-old Black and White Photo 103 student at Green River explains. Even though it's just a hobby, it's what keeps him at the college.

Photography is taking a lead in student lives, whether it's preparing them for a future career, or just for fun. There are roughly 325 students in the program. Since there are classes offered online, and on campus, it's easy to get involved.

"There's a great staff here, everyone's very knowledgeable and very helpful," remarks Zach Kolden, the Instructional Support Technician who works directly with the students in the lab.

"Knowing that you have the support you need, makes it easy to feel comfortable here," agreed Allen and Bowman.

Each level has a different purpose; 101 develops skills such as how to operate a 35mm camera, manage time, take an artistic photograph, create negatives. While

102 and 103 refine and build, helping the students find their own artistic view and unique style.

The art building is always full. Whether students are developing photos in the dark room, asking for help, editing their photos on computers, or simply attending class -- the excitement is present.

"The dark room is huge!" Sarah Carson, a Photo 104 student declares enthusiastically. The dark room is the place where students work to develop their pictures.

In this case the bigger the better because of the constant amount of students in the room.

While offering a certificate of photography, there are also contests that teachers advise students to enter, such as the Espial Journal so students can turn in their artwork.

The journal is a place where students can submit their pictures and, if selected, their photos are published. It's just another way GRCC helps its students get ahead.

"I love expressing myself through pictures, just capturing life," 19-year-old Jocelyn Bowman explains. She is aspiring to be a professional photographer and Green River's Art Program has helped her make that decision.

"Everybody here is really passionate about photography, it's an awesome experience," says Chris Allen.

Many students will spend at least eight hours working on photography outside of class, and some spend up to ten hours

a week. Because the classes are either two or three days a week, students must dedicate their own time to the class by taking pictures, editing them, and developing them. However, most find it worth every minute.

"Our goal is to help the students learn skills that they can apply to a four-year university, or even commercially," Kolden says.

There are no expectations when a student walks into the Photo 101 Program, just that they will be willing to learn.

It's in the advanced classes that students are expected to know safety procedures, how the machines work, differences in print requirements, and how to take care of the equipment.

Even though there are many students that are just in photography as a hobby, there are many that will use these skills their entire lives. Whether used commercially, as a career, or just for fun, the photography program is advancing in importance. The innovation skills taught in photography can be applied to all aspects of life.

"Here I've been able to try new things, experiment, and be creative. Photography is the only way I can express myself," points out Bowman.

By giving students a 21st century look with digital and black and white photography, the Green River Photography Art Program is taking a lead in the classroom, and in student lives.



Photo by Sara Carson



Photo by Amanda Aldous



Photo by Alyssa Wilcox



Photo by Jake Ketchum



Photos by Charissa Lind



Photo by James Ferguson

## Gator baseball gearing up for big weekend showdown

*Green River to face rival Lower Columbia to decide first place in NWAACC West*

**Brad Colyer**  
Staff writer

With an upcoming four game series with division leader Lower Columbia on tap for this weekend, the Green River baseball team has a chance to overtake the Red Devils in the NWAACC West standings. The Gators currently sit in second place with a 13-3 league record, just two and a half games behind Lower Columbia's 16-1 pace.

The two teams met April 14 on the Devils' home field in Longview. The Gators suffered a 10-0 setback to snap the teams' seven game win streak, but manager Matt Acker is confident the Gators can make up for that game and put themselves in good position for the upcoming postseason.

"I'm excited for Lower Columbia. Last time we had some missed opportunities, but these guys get over things quickly," Acker said. "If we're going to win the division, we need to split [the two games] on the road and win both at home. We haven't lost at home, and we're not going to. We have a big advantage at home. We just have to take care of business. It's simple... Win and we're in."

If the team plays like it did in the last two

weeks, they shouldn't have any problems come playoff time.

The Gators played Grays Harbor five times in that span, and didn't leave any doubt as to who the better team was.

The team got it done on both the home and visiting ends of the series, taking all five games by a combined score of 60-7.

While the offense led the way with over ten runs a game, the pitching staff was also spectacular, led by freshman Jake Shadle's one hit shutout on Sunday.

"Everything was working and it felt good," Shadle said.

While the Gators have been best known for their offensive output the last few years, this year's pitching staff deserves a lot of credit for the team's start. Shadle, who has a 1.72 ERA, has combined with fellow freshmen David Macey (1.90 ERA) to go 10-2 this year. The staff as a whole has an astonishing

2.2 ERA. "All we have to do is score three runs a game and we win," said Acker. "And that's not a problem for us."

Sophomore Zach Miller leads the NWAACC with 7 saves. "When he gets in

*"We haven't lost at home, and we're not going to. We have a big advantage at home.. We just have to take care of business. It's simple... Win and we're in."*  
- Head coach  
**Matt Acker**



Denny Brooks/Courtesy Photo

Washington State transfer Zach Miller comes in to close a game for the Gators against the Blue Mountain Timberwolves. He leads the NWAACC in saves with seven.

the game, it's over," Acker added.

The team's explosive offense has been powered by some record-breaking performances this season. Sophomore Kyle Baskett has been instrumental in the team's success, batting leadoff and hitting .385 on the year.

His 31 steals have already broken Green River's school record for stolen bases, and with nine games left he is looking to break the NWAACC record for steals of 40.

Sophomore Cody Brooks has also been on a season-long tear, hitting .417 with 22

RBI's on the year.

Acker also made mention of first baseman Aaron Johnson, who according to his coach has been "a monster," hitting .333 with 14 doubles, 4 home runs, and a team leading 29 RBI's.

As long as the Gators' bats stay hot and the pitchers are able to cool off opposing hitters, the Gators should be able to go far into the playoffs.

"I'm excited about the postseason," Acker said. "This group will play until the end of the season if they want to."

## Lady Gator fastpitch has one goal...To be Portland-bound

*Despite battling early adversity Green River is on track to earn first playoff berth since 2005 season*

**Sean Kramer**  
Sports Editor

Around this time two ago years when Gator fastpitch hit the field they were just trying to win a single game.

Fast forward to 2009, during Scott Dillinger's second year at the helm of the program, the aspirations are higher.

Clinging to third place in the NWAACC West more than half way into the league schedule the Gators are looking to earn their first berth to the NWAACC Championships for the first time in five years, but they still have their work to do.

Adversity was the name of the game early on for the Gators, however, as they faced some of the same problems they did last year during Dillinger's first go around at Green River, which was filling a roster.

Dillinger had a class of 16 ready to come in this spring as well as one returnee from last year's squad, but numbers dwindled in the winter and he was left scrambling to make sure he had even nine players.

"It's a typical Community College issue," said coach Dillinger. "We came in with 13 to fall ball and we lost three to grades by Winter quarter."

All of a sudden a promising season looked like it could have been a disaster.

"When we came in in the fall I thought we'd compete for NWAACCs. So I was just hoping it all wouldn't fall apart when we lost girls to grades," he said.

A couple of additions coming into the Spring proved invaluable to the Gators.

Caitlyn Duggan, who was recruited to Highline in the fall, transferred to Green River before the season and is now the ace of the pitching staff. "We could beat

anybody in the NWAACC with Caitlyn pitching," coach Dillinger said of his talent freshman pitcher.

Another key addition was Mari Jo Fraser, a 37-year old freshman with years of experience in baseball and fastpitch, and currently leading the team in hitting.

Sophomore Allison Stewart returning was big for the program as well. She plays three different positions on the field, including pitcher.

The result, was that the team didn't fall apart, and in fact is on pace to their best season in five years. As of Saturday April 25's sweep of Grays Harbor the Gators hold third place by a game over South Puget Sound sitting at 7-9 during league play, however one of their losses was a game that had to be forfeited.

Meaning, all the Gators have to do to earn a playoff berth is hold on to that third place position.

The strategy closing out league play for the gators is to put emphasis on the games against South Puget Sound and Grays Harbor, because those are the teams trying to grab Green River's third place spot. Wins over South Puget Sound and Grays Harbor would guarantee the Gators a trip to Portland for the playoffs.

"We know we're gonna get from them now. We know what we've got now. Bottom line is we just have to take care of business," Dillinger said. "The NWAACC Championships are so close I can taste it."

Players echoed the same sentiments.

"We've lost a lot of players due to different circumstances and that's been a let down," said Megan Larsen, a utility player from Enumclaw. "But I think if we keep practicing hard and know where our goals are then I know we can reach them."

"I feel like we could be better, sometimes it's hard when we only have nine players due to injuries," said Sarah King, a pitcher and infielder from Kentlake High school. "But I'm proud of the games we have won."

"We started a little shaky, it was a little hard at first because not everybody got along," said Melissa Bernasconi, an outfielder and first basemen from Enumclaw. "Now everybody gets along great, it's important to keep up the good vibes because that's what the team feeds of of."

If the Gators are able to finish up the season strong and make the playoffs it would be an impressive feat for second year coach Scott Dillinger, and a big step towards what he's trying to do at Green River in turning around a program that had won only one game the two years prior to his arrival on campus.

"Given where we were two years ago to say we're now in the NWAACC championships is something," he said. "Our goal is to improve and let the high school circles see we're hitting the recruiting trails. People see that and respect that."

*"The NWAACC Championships are so close I can taste it."*  
- Head coach Scott  
**Dillinger**

## Mariners celebrate 10-year anniversary at Safeco Field

*From the All-Star game to the return of Griffey, Safeco has provided plenty of memories the last decade*

**Commentary by Andrew Honea**  
Staff Writer

As the Seattle Mariners embark on a new season the 2009 season, it is a very important year for the team. 2009 marks the 10-year Anniversary of the opening of the club's current facility, Safeco Field.

Although just 10 years old, Safeco field has already been established as home to an abundance of memories that will not soon be forgotten by the supportive Mariner fan base.

Safeco field's journey first began in July of 1999, when the Mariners made their long anticipated move out of the far from luxurious Kingdome.

In its inaugural season, Safeco was the host to such events as famous M's Coach Lou Piniella becoming the 14th manager in MLB history to have 1000 career hits and wins, and Rookie Freddy Garcia earning 17 wins, a Mariner franchise record for a rookie. To round out the historical season the face of the Mariners Ken Griffey Junior was awarded his 9th career gold-glove and 7th silver slugger award, and former Mariner Alex Rodriguez was awarded his 3rd career Silver Slugger.

2000 brought more success to Safeco as it was able to host its first post-season game ever. The Mariners were able to sweep the Chicago White Sox in the NLDS, and were lucky enough to compete for the American League Championship. Unfortunately, the team's impressive run was brought to an end when they finally lost to the New

York Yankees in 6 games. Along with the successful season, A-Rod was awarded his 4th Silver Slugger Award and First baseman John Olerud was awarded a Gold Glove, and Ken Griffey Junior was dealt in a trade with the Cincinnati Reds.

2001 brought the debut of once unknown Japanese outfielder Ichiro Suzuki. This was the year many Mariner fans like to refer to as "Sweet 116", when Seattle won a record 116 games during the season. Along with

this successful team, came the opportunity for Safeco Field to host its first ever All-Star game, in which 8 M's were named to the All-Star Team. A team that named Freddy Garcia as its eventual winning pitcher, and former rookie of the year Kazuhiro Sasaki as its closer. To cap it all off, Cal Ripken Jr. went deep during his first at bat to for a highlight during his 2001 farewell tour to baseball. Unfortunately Jamie Moyer wasn't named to the team, but he did become just the second Mariner to complete a 20-win season. After winning its 3rd AL West Title and being home to the American League's Manager and Executive of the year, the Bronx Bombers once again brought the MVP Ichiro Suzuki and the M's impressive run to an end in the ALCS.

2002 would prove to be another successful year, but not quite as plentiful as the previous two. The M's won 93 games,

bringing their total to 300 wins for the previous 3 seasons. History was made when Mike Cameron and Bret Boone became the first duo ever to jack back to back homeruns twice in one inning. Cameron would eventually hit two additional

round-trippers, becoming the 13th player in MLB history to finish a game with 4 homeruns. To add on to a season of memories for Seattle, John Olerud, Bret Boone, and Ichiro Suzuki were all awarded Gold Gloves to end the season.

In 2003, the Mariners won another 93 games, but missed the playoffs by coming up 2 games short of winning the AL Wildcard. The season wasn't a total letdown, as the Mariners became the first team since 1966 to have an entire 5-man rotation start the whole season together as a group. One of the five starters, Jamie Moyer, was voted to the All-Star game for the first time in his career.

2004 would prove to be one of the most disappointing seasons in years past. One of the lone highlights of the year would be Ichiro Suzuki breaking the single season record for hits, which led up to his first AL batting title. 2004 was also a very emotional year, because it was the last year that Edgar Martinez would ever find himself playing in a Mariners uniform.

2005 was a year that would end up just as disappointing as 2004 as the Mariners ended up with a 69-93 record. Just like recent years, the Mariners season didn't end on a complete negative note. Ichiro became the first player in MLB history to begin his career with 5 consecutive 200-hit seasons.

The 2005 season also brought the debut of Felix Hernandez, a man who has now solidified his spot as the ace of the Mariners pitching staff.

In 2006, King Felix had his first full season as a starting pitcher and finished the season sixth in strikeouts with 176. Without surprise, Ichiro also finished his season on a positive note by posting his sixth consecutive 200-hit season.

2007 brought the much anticipated return of Ken Griffey Junior to Safeco. In his first return to Seattle since his 2000 trade to the Reds, Griffey was able to hit a homerun. 2007 brought the Mariners back to there winning ways with a 88-74 record, although they didn't make the playoffs. 2008 brought much of the same story with a descent record for the M's and no true high point to the season.

The M's History has been full of ups and downs the past 10 years but with the return of "The Kid", 2009 proves to be a much anticipated year for Seattle fans. With an opening day win, and a home-opener extra inning thriller under their belts, Griffey and the Mariners are ready to take anything that may be thrown at them so Safeco fans, stay prepared because another decade of memories is just beginning.

*The M's History has been full of ups and downs... but with the return of "The Kid", 2009 proves to be a much anticipated year for Seattle fans*



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## Summer, here we come: feel and look great in the heat

Get the cutest summer styles, the perfect sunkissed glow, and be sure to join the best gym for your buck

**Michelle Praast**  
Staff Writer

Summer is everyone's favorite time of the year...School's out, relaxation is in clear sight, and fresh lemonade is being consumed by the gallons! But, now is the time to get your body ready for that teeny weeny yellow polka dot bikini!

There are so many different aspects of preparing for the hottest and most enjoyable season. There are so many clothing items to choose from, finding decent tanning rates is a must, snagging stylish stunner shades, and deciding where is the best place to get a good workout in.

Lets start on the clothing... where to begin...one of the hottest shops is located in the Supermall, and is called Ally Cat.

It has all you need for a complete summer outfit along with mounds and mounds of accessories like long sparkling necklaces of gold and silver shaped hearts or birds. There are also huge, bug-eye sunglasses found at the front of the store with the bright jewelry. The best part about Ally Cat is everything in there is at a very low price. The shirts are usually \$12 and under, and as for the pants, their price range averages from \$18-25.

"It has been my favorite store to shop at for years. It's kind of funny that everyone now is just starting to get into it," says Green River student, Brittany

*"There are so many clothing items to choose from, finding decent tanning rates is a must, snagging stylish stunner shades, and deciding where is the best place to get a good workout in."*

Wilkes, ironically wearing an outfit from Ally Cat, which included faded, torn jean shorts with a bright green tank top that has a big black belt around the waist, for a more creative look.

Another store with similar styles and prices to Ally Cat is Forever 21, and is located at the South Center mall and is three stories tall.

There are a couple of different stores that are located in the same mall, but are a little bit more on the spendy side. There is Pacsun that has tons of cute belts and really bright and colorful festive shirts.

"That is the only place where I can find jeans," admits another Green River student, Sarah Lahae. They have so many different styles of jeans, shorts, and even some skirts. The sizes fit just right for most.

Zumiez is the same type of store, except with a tad more options to choose from with their wide range of name-brand hats and a huge assortment of shoes. They also carry some snazzy belts as well.

A store that is pretty uncommon in most local areas, but popular nonetheless, is Urban Outfitters! This store has a retro flar about it; very creative designs and bright, cheery colors. It has a wide variety to choose from to set any college kid up for a fantastic summer. You could find Urban Outfitters in Seattle and at Alderwood mall. It is probably the best place to

shop if you like to mix and match.

Now on to how to achieve that perfect sunkissed glow. The best tanning for this summer, without spending too much, is Seattle Sun Tan. It's the old Desert Sun, they just changed their name. You can get a membership and get unlimited regular tans and level two beds for only \$25 a month.

Finding a place to workout is not exactly the hardest thing to do, but finding the time to go workout may be a little difficult for some. Some places close too early for those who have to work all day and want to hit the gym in the late night hours. LA Fitness is open until midnight on weekdays and opens up bright and early each morning at 5:00am. It feels so good to get some anxiety out on the cardio machines!

This particular gym is not too expensive and is definitely worth the money you spend on a membership, which is about \$30 a month. "I love this gym! I just switched from MV Fitness in Maple Valley and it (LA Fitness) is just so huge and has so many more weight machines to pump some iron for the ladies," says Daniel Hawken who was breaking a sweat on the bench press. Miekos, 24 hour fitness, and MV Fitness are other decent gyms as well, but do not have as many options. They may not be as spacious as others, but they do just as much good for you as other fitness empires.

So, you better get a head start now so you can look good and feel great for this spectacular summer ahead! So, slip on your running shoes...Look out summer, here we come!



Annelise Pinorine (left) and Ashley Dennison (right) are two friendly ladies that work at Seattle Sun Tan at Kent Station. Pinorini recommends Seattle Sun Tan because of the relaxing setting and fair prices.

## Your favorite sugar filled, carbonated drinks on trial

**Jennifer Han**  
Staff Writer

These days, many people drink soft drinks such as Coke and Diet Coke. More than 25 percent of beverages consumed in the United State are soft drinks.

While soft drinks make many people happy and relieve their thirst, there is a down side: they promote obesity and serious addiction.

Many Americans choose to guzzle Coke when they chow down on their meal. Fructose (fruit sugar) in Coke will actually increase a person's appetite.

Andrew Song, a 20-year-old man, was addicted to Coke. Song used to drink 1.5 Liters of regular Coke everyday.

Some of his friends called him a 'Coke addict' and he said, "I had to drink Coke especially when I eat a hamburger." However, he does not drink Coke anymore because he found it had a bad influence on him. Song gained weight and he felt his teeth getting worse.

Soda's acidity is surprisingly worse for teeth than the solid sugar found in candy. The bones and teeth of the human body are made up of Calcium. It is known that Calcium erodes by acids, and the Coke is acidic. Coke which contains carbonic acid causes dental erosion.

A zero calorie soda might sounds nice and much better for you but it is not true. Diet Coke has zero fat but it is more acidic than regular Coke.

Although Diet Coke may not lead people to become overweight, it can easily corrode their teeth. A study, in conjunction with Boston University, found that diet soda, with its sugar-free and often calorie-free formulas,

might still contribute to an increase of metabolic risk factors in middle-age adults.

Ga Eun Kwon is a 20-year-old Green River student who was addict to Diet Coke. First, she used to drink regular Coke but she changed to Diet Coke because it has no calories.

She said, "I think Diet Coke makes me more addicted than regular Coke." Kwon can not abide drinking Diet Coke when she feels thirsty. She usually has at least two cans of Diet Coke a day and she said she feels happy when she drinks soda. However, these days she tries to stop drinking Diet Coke.

One day, Kwon saw an article from the internet news that talked about problems of Diet Coke. According to the news article, women who drink carbonated beverages a lot would have higher incidence of kidney disease than men. Drinking soda may increase risk of developing kidney stones by 15 percent.

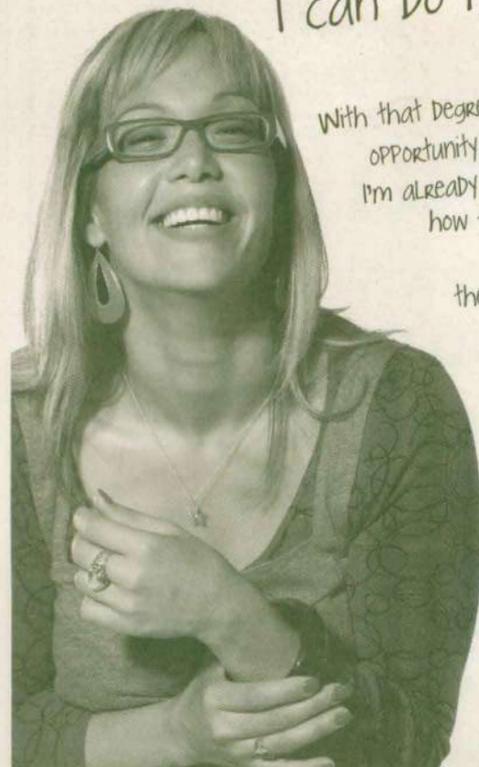
Studies published in the "American Journal of Clinical Nutrition" found that soda, diet or otherwise, is not any better for you or your body.

A Swedish study completed in June 2005 found that sweetened food of various kinds, including soft drinks, led to an increased rate of pancreatic cancer in patients who had no previous diagnosis of cancer or history of diabetes.

Do you still want to drink Coke or Diet Coke, or any sugary carbonated beverage?

It is very hard for heavy soda drinkers to stop drinking soda but they should really stop drinking carbonated beverages all together if they can!

If you are thirsty, and feel the need to reach for your favorite pop, think twice and drink water, juice, or smoothies instead.



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*Michelle Oquendo '08*

Michelle Oquendo '08

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# Striped pajamas: page turner, inspiring film

*Two young boys make an unlikely friendship during the Holocaust*

**Kate Jorgenson**  
Staff Writer

Remembering historical happenings through books and movies are the values of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

World War II and the events of the Holocaust are interesting enough to read about from the perspective of an adult; but to experience it firsthand as a child must have been astonishing and devastating.

"The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" is a fabulous book and surprisingly, an even better movie. The story is about two children's separate experiences during WWII and the events of the Holocaust, leading up to the concentration camps.

The author of the book is Irish writer John Boyne. Boyne published this book in 2006; shortly after publication it won numerous awards around the world.

He makes this book a short read, but each and every word kept me on the edge of my seat. The genre is young adult realistic fiction. The language and word choice is very understandable; the book is told from the perspective of the protagonist, Bruno.

Bruno is a naïve boy who has no idea

what or why he and his family move to this lonely, unforeseen place in Poland; deserted from the world, except for the people he can see from his bedroom window. Questions fly through Bruno's mind. What happens in this place? Why are there so many people on the other side of the fence?

The movie is an adventure of a military family, it is a must see film. This Miramax Film was directed by Mark Herman and some of the key actors included: Asa Butterfield as Bruno, Jack Scanion as Shmuel, Amber Beattie played Gretel, the sister of Bruno, David Thewlis as Bruno's father and the commandant, Vera Farmiga as Bruno's mother. The movie was filmed in Hungary.

According to the official website of this book and movie it states, "...a fable intended to provide a unique perspective on the effects of prejudice, hatred and violence on innocent people, particularly children, during wartime." Also, when filming this illuminating story the production team and Boyne worked together, "...every attempt to explore the dark heart of the Nazi era in the effort to enlighten new generations so that they neither forget nor repeat what happened is not only valid but also necessary" the website also states. The combination of the storyline from the book and the film

provide a historical fiction tale.

When I was first introduced to this story of "The boy in the Striped Pajamas" I had no idea what it was about; I didn't even know it was a book as well. Watching the movie I paid more attention to the details and events of the movie than most movies, I kept wanting more and more to happen. Watching the movie through the children's eyes was the best part because being somewhat naïve to the idea of Germans verses Jewish lifestyles differs quite a bit, especially from the lifestyle I live as an American. Then I began to read the book and couldn't put it down; what does that tell you?

In brief, this story summarized of both the movie and the book is about two boys. Bruno is the son of a German officer in Hitler's armed forces. The other boy, Shmuel is a Jewish captive living in a concentration camp.

When Bruno moves to this new home in Poland because his father became the Nazi Commandant for the nearby concentration camp; Bruno, like any eight-year-old boy decides to go exploring. Behind the family's new house, was a wooded forest, to which led to the concentration camp. That is where Bruno found his new friend, Shmuel, a little Jewish boy about Bruno's age. Bruno and Shmuel befriended each other, although

there was a fence that separated them; they would play ball, cards, and checkers through the fence; Bruno constantly would bring delicious food to Shmuel.

Do Bruno and Shmuel ever get caught spending time together? What happens when Bruno wants to see the adventure on the other side of the fence?

After another one of the boys meetings at the fence, they decided on an adventure for the following day. "Both boys went home in high spirits that afternoon. Bruno imagined a great adventure ahead and finally an opportunity to see what was really on the other side of the fence before he went back to Berlin—not to mention getting a little serious exploration as well—and Shmuel saw a chance to get someone to help him in the search for his papa. All in all, it seemed like a very sensible plan and a good way to say goodbye" the book said on page 199.

"The Boy in the Striped Pajamas" is a story of hardships and friendships, it's brilliant and breathtaking. Whether you decide to consume yourself in the novel or watch the awe-inspiring movie, it is a worthwhile tale and an ending you would never imagine! This masterpiece is worth your time to read and watch.

So, go check out a copy at the library, or head to a movie store near you and let your mind run wild!

## Broadening horizons through Anime

*Learn about Japanese culture while giving back to the community*

**Randall Miller**  
Staff Writer

For students, both foreign and domestic, who love anime, there is a new club on the college campus called Anime Club. Nicole Symer, Vice-President, stated in their Mission Statement that "We will use the anime as a tool to teach and improve on our Japanese language skills." Symer also explained, "as a whole we pledge to support and give back to our community to promote love and peace!"

According to Symer, she mentioned that through anime they plan to expand on how Japanese culture is understood by immersing every member in a wide variety of anime related genres.

They will accomplish this by going through specific genres such as sports, music, detective, science fiction, futuristic and robotic, and increase their member's way of thinking so they see the bigger picture and beyond.

One of the club's goals is to bring anime back to its original authenticity, and to stop "Americanizing" Japanese anime all together, they will be showing only real Japanese anime (no americanized versions). During their meetings they will discuss the anime they watched and will talk about things they noticed. They will then discuss certain elements and influences of that anime, and choose have a "word of the day".

Symer and Hazuki Ito started Anime club for the massive Japanese students as well as other students who are enrolled in the college to gather around and talk about anime and Japanese culture. It's also interesting to hear about particular members' experiences they have had while living in Japan.

Symer stated that the members can benefit from the knowledge of being in anime club. Symer's response was "it can go both ways," by placing a person in another's shoes, they would have a better



Above is Anime club President Hazuki Ito (left) and Vice President Nicole Symer (right) flaunt their club folder on their Myspace. You can learn more about the club by visiting their profile at <http://www.myspace.com/animeclubatgrec>.

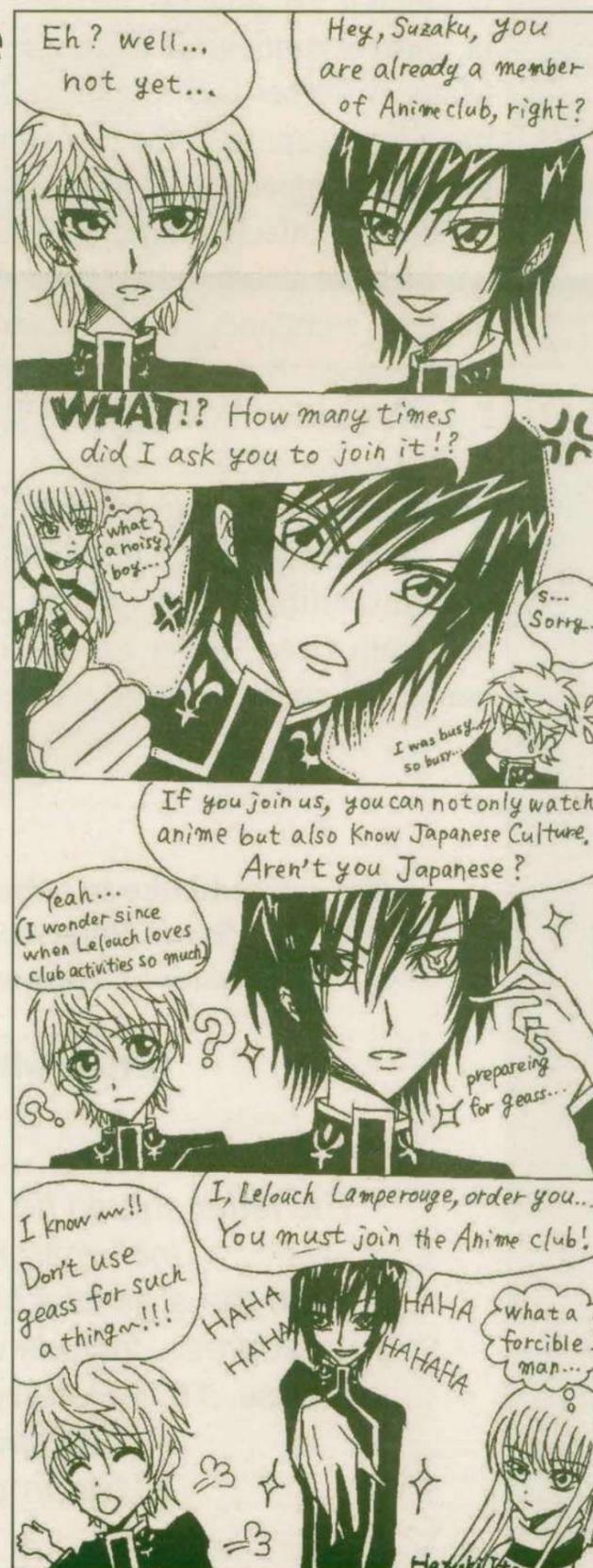
True to the Japanese style, the manga to the right is to be read from right to left. Illustration by: Hazuki Ito.

understanding of Japanese culture. This could also benefit anyone who plans to turn this into a career opportunity. The club meets in SS8 on Fridays at 3:00 - 4:00. Newcomers are always welcome.

Also the club plans to go to the Seattle Peace Park in honor of Sadako Sasaki, one of many victims of the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima during the closing days of World War 2. Sadako sadly died of leukemia at the age of 12. Paper cranes are going to be made on the Day of Peace Day, also an open session will be held for everyone to learn how to make paper cranes so they can contribute to the cause.

So anyone who loves anime, manga, or Japanese culture there is a place where you and everyone with similar interests can gather and socialize. Most of all, have fun talking about what you cherish and love.

JOIN THE ANIME CLUB!



# Dear Mr. President,

## Green River Community College's campaign to bring President Obama to the Green River Campus...and they need your help

By Samantha Shockley  
Staff Writer

Green River's TRIO is forming a letter campaign inviting President Obama to come to the college and lecture. They are asking for help from students and staff alike. Many may dream about what they would say to the president if they had the chance to meet him, for Green River students, that dream may come true.

"I think that it would be pretty awesome if the president came to Green River, especially since it's a small area," said Emily Valdivia, current student at the community college. Many share her enthusiasm and say that if the president were to come to the school it would be a great experience.

"If we collected letters from students we would have a better chance for either the president or someone from his administration to come speak. But we want the President!" said Joanne Martin, director of TRIO.

TRIO is a federal program that gives academic support to first-generation students who are economically challenged, and students with disabilities. Their goal is to organize letters from Green River asking the president to come and speak, a place where there are real

people, in a real academic arena. TRIO's goal is to get everyone involved.

The idea came from Annalee Dunn, the Program Coordinator of TRIO. Once the idea sprung up, it was invited with enthusiasm. TRIO is all about education opportunity, and TRIO thinks that a great way to get people involved and excited about education is if their own president comes up to tell students.

Many people will be working to put the letters together in a way that they can be read quickly. "We want the letters to go directly to Obama," Martin said. "And student voices are going to be the most powerful part of this campaign."

According to TRIO, the letters are to be submitted between May 4th and the 22nd to the TRIO Student Support Services in the Lindbloom Center. The letters should ask the president to come to GRCC and why they think want him here. Identity of the student is necessary, along with status, whether a student, staff, or administrator, and intended career or major. Lastly, include why having him speak at GRCC is important to the nation, the college and yourself.

**If you would like to submit a letter of invitation for President Obama to come to Green River Community College please submit your letter to:  
TRIO Student Support Services in the Lindbloom Center, LC 273 between  
May 4 and May 22.**

**Letters will be screened for the following guidelines:**

- *Be between 250-500 words*
- *The letter should be typed on standard 8.5 by 11 inch white paper; use 1 inch margins, signed with blue or black ink by you.*
- *Use the style of a business letter. Include the date, your full name and your address. Include the address of the President in the letter ( The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500). The proper greeting is "Dear Mr. President."*
- *Use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.*