



# The Current



Sports update, p. 7

Community College

Auburn, Washington, U.S.A.

Week of April 12-16, 1999

## Marijuana: The Invisible Drug

By Cameron Probert  
News Editor

During winter quarter there were two people arrested for marijuana possession on the Green River Community College campus.

These arrests are only a small percentage of an increasing number of students using marijuana, according to a University of Michigan study quoted on the DEA web site.

Sam Weylan (not his real name), a student at GRCC said that he has seen people smoking marijuana on five different occasions.

The University of Michigan study said that the reported use of marijuana by high school seniors was dropping from the late '70s until the early '90s.

Fred Creek, the Director of Security for GRCC, said that smoking marijuana is illegal and falls under the zero tolerance policy for drug use.

Weylan said that security is

overreacting to the threat of marijuana on campus.

"It's not like it's getting in the way of anyone's education," Weylan said.

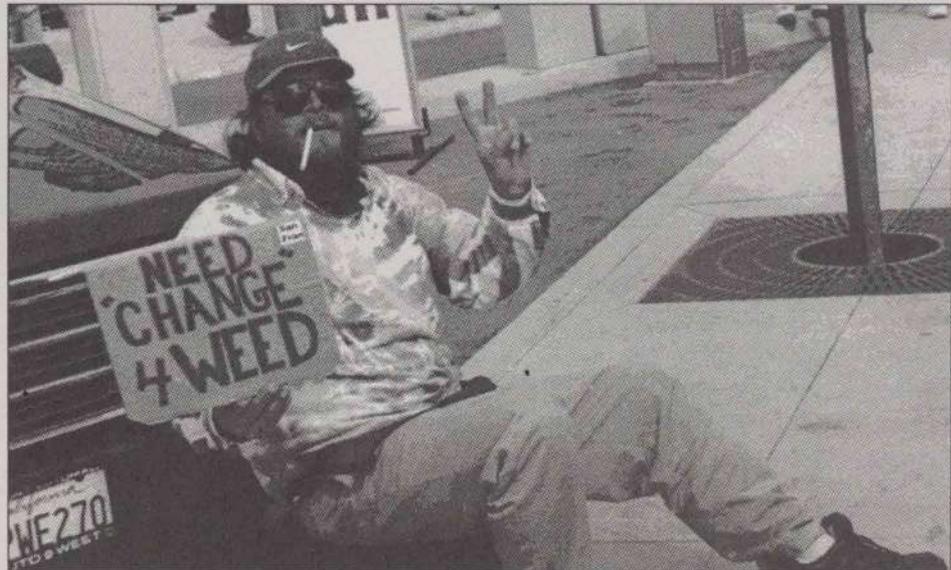
A 1994 U.S. Department of Justice report said that 14.6 percent of violent crimes during 1991 were committed by alcohol and cannabis users.

Weylan said that drugs, sex and money were the most common topics of conversation in the smoke shack, and that marijuana was just something that people talked about.

Creek said the use of drugs on campus is not visible, and that drugs have not caused violent disruptions in GRCC classrooms.

"It is not being viewed as a problem because we do not have any disruptions," Creek said.

The Justice Department report said crimes are committed for a variety of reasons, and that drugs are likely to be



A free-wheeling San Franciscan smokes marijuana as part of his lifestyle in California.

Photo by Johan Flink/Current

only one of the reasons.

Weylan said that people do not generally notice when someone is smoking pot, and that one of the arrests that occurred in the smoke shack has lessened the amount of marijuana smoked in public.

"People try to be incognito about it," Weylan said.

Weylan said the arrest of a running start student who was allegedly passing out marijuana cigarettes at the smoke shack has many people scared.

"No one wants to do it if

there is a chance of getting caught," Weylan said.

Creek said that someone had called, reporting the smell of marijuana smoke and security officers saw him holding a marijuana cigarette, and called King County Sheriff officials.

## Fatal Collision Update: New Developments

By Laci Qualls  
Design Editor

There have been many new developments following the fatal collision on Interstate 5 January 17, 1999 involving four Green River Community College students.

All four students were hospitalized. Two were treated and released within a day. The other two stayed for extended periods of time.

After spending seven days at

Harborview Medical Center, Vivan Gonarto died January 24, 1999 at 6:25 p.m. with her parents by her side. There was a small funeral service held in Seattle on January 28, 1999. Her parents then took her body back to Indonesia.

David Hanam, the other student hospitalized, was released from Harborview on March 9, 1999 to his parents who are currently living in Seattle. Hanam suffered major head injuries.

"After being released he still must receive outpatient treatment at Harborview," John Ramsey, the public information director at GRCC said in reference to Hanam.

"Sometimes he is able to connect with us," Vincent William, Hanam's friend, said.

"As of right now David is not an enrolled student on campus. It is not likely that he will come back to school this year," Ramsey said.

The driver of the car, a 17-year-

old student, was put in juvenile hall where he stayed for two months awaiting trial.

After being convicted of reckless driving his sentence included 100 hours of community service, and he is to be under surveillance.

Because of this sentence he must stay in the United States for one year. A curfew comes along with the surveillance.

He must be home by 9 p.m. on weekdays, and midnight on weekends.

"He can still go out though. The only way he's under surveillance is that sometimes (parole officers) call the house, and we have to give them information," William, a roommate of the driver, said. "Compared to Indonesia, the punishment here seems very lenient; there is no juvenile court. If this happened in Indonesia he would have to serve many years in jail," William said.

## State funding drops 15 percent

But Dr. Rutkowski remains optimistic

By Cameron Probert  
News Editor

State Funding for Green River Community College has dropped 15 percent between 1984 and 1995, because of an increased emphasis on prisons.

According to documents provided by the college president's office, state funding to higher education has only increases 0.5

percent during the last five years. The documents show an increase of 9 percent to corrections.

Richard Rutkowski, president of GRCC said, school state funding is not keeping pace with inflation.

Rutkowski said that the state pays \$23,000 to house one prisoner for one year, while the



Rutkowski

school receives \$3,400 per full-time student.

Rutkowski said that it is a "travesty and a tragedy" when students are unable to take the classes they need in the order they need them.

"According to the documents, student enrollment has increased in technical and community colleges despite decreases in state funding.

"My vision for GRCC is to find the resources to be the best institution we possibly can be," Rutkowski said.

## Beware of Melissa

By Jeff Cloutier  
Staff Reporter

Melissa is not a person, but a virus, a computer virus to be exact. Viruses can lead to many problems in a computer system. Much like a human virus, a computer virus makes your computer and possibly other computers sick. This is done by using program code to alter computer programs and hardware and how they function.

The Melissa virus is an e-mail specific virus, according to Info World Electric. The user gets an e-mail from a friend with the subject "Important message from (any name)." The attachment accompanying the e-mail is a document called "list.doc."

# The Natural Beauty of Campus Lurks Everywhere

By Matt Strako  
Staff Reporter

There is enough nature at Green River Community College for every student to enjoy this spring from the soft furry catkins of the pussy willow, to the towering mass of the douglas fir.

These are but two of the many different trees, shrubs, and foliage here on our beautiful campus. Here at Green River Community College we should be grateful to have such a wondrous variety of plants to enjoy as the beauty of spring is upon us. Many species of plants from all over the world are

here for us to admire as the skies grow clearer and the air becomes warm and soothing.

As April and May arrive we will see many beautiful trees begin to bloom before our very eyes. The pink dogwood, native to the eastern United States, averages 20 feet in height, and will begin to bloom its wondrous pink and rose colored flowers. Also, the salal, found from California to British Columbia, grows to be approximately 10 feet tall and bears white or pink bell like flowers and an edible black fruit.

Spring is not the only time of year to enjoy the beautiful colors of our school's large variety of plant life. The scarlet oak's bright leaves provide us with a sight to see in the fall. This tree is commonly used as a street or lawn tree and is native to the eastern United States.

One of the most unusual plants here on campus is the liverwort. It can be found by the pond and is unique itself. Unlike most plants, which use the process of pollination, the liverwort uses motile sperm such as humans and other animals do.

Many of us might be familiar with the common herb used in many herbal tonics, ginkgo biloba. Yes, this can be found at Green River, but is not native to the United States. This tree, which is native to China, grows to the height of 70 feet to 80 feet and is naturally pest and disease resistant. Another common herb that many are familiar with is St. johnswort. This is a hardy shrub, which can adapt to poor soil and drought. This is commonly used as a ground cover and is native to Southeast Asia.

When I asked Mike

McVay, a twelve-year Green River teacher, which trees need the most attention around the school he smiled and said, "The ones closest to the building." McVay said the maple tree has a life span of about 30 years, begins to rot from the inside out and could cause damage to the building. He said it is easier to cut down the trees than it is to repair the damage to the roof if they fall.

Therefore, when you come to school tomorrow, and next fall, be sure to admire the diverse plant life that is here for us to enjoy.

## Part-timers say they want higher salaries

Group lobbies in Olympia for parity

By Tony Tsay  
Staff Reporter

In Olympia, part-time community colleges have been lobbying for some time for equal pay.

Part-time community college professors earn

an average of \$17,325

a year if they teach

a full course load, in

comparison to

\$40,518

dollars a

year that a full-time instructor usually earns.

The average secondary schoolteacher earns \$39,440.

The average college staff has a three to one ratio of part time professors to full time professors.

From an administrator's viewpoint, the part-time teachers make perfect economic sense.

But it is the students that mostly suffer.

With such a high ratio of part-time professors to full-time professors the students do not benefit from a stable,

secure staff.

The colleges and lawmakers in Olympia are balancing the books at the expense of part-time professors, said Andrew Jeffery part time professor at Green River. Part time professor's woes also go beyond unequal

pay.

When a class is canceled, the instructor loses his job. In the capital, Governor Gary

Locke has proposed \$4 million from the state and \$4 million from tuition increases to raise the salary of part-timers or to hire more full time professors.

House Democrats also proposed a \$10 million dollar increase from general funds and \$4 million dollar increase from tuition increases.

Part-timers are hopeful because the figures keep going up.

But it is ultimately up to the lawmakers in Olympia and the college administrators to bring about a change.

**'The college is mistaking economic excellence for academic excellence.'**

-Andrew Jeffery

## GRCC gets science/math funding

By Charles Fleming  
Staff Reporter

The National Science Foundation has just announced that Green River Community College will obtain \$433,000 in funding over the course of the next two years to introduce Project TEACH (Teacher Education Alliance for Colleges and High Schools). This is the only major cooperative project of its kind in Washington state. Green River Community College is the only two-year college in the country this year to receive a Collaborative for Excellence in Teacher Preparation award from the National Science Foundation.

Project TEACH acts as a teacher preparation program that will connect high schools, colleges and university undergraduate programs. It is a significant regional project that involves the cooperation of Green River Community College, Central Washington University and five local school districts: Auburn, Enumclaw, Tahoma, Kent and Federal Way. In addition to the regional impact, Project TEACH will have national significance and lead other regions and other states in improving their teaching preparation programs, especially in the areas of mathematics and science. It serves as a duplicable model to demonstrate the role that community colleges can play in teacher preparation. The program creates a seamless path from high school through higher education studies and into the teaching profession. This kind of program at the community college level is extremely important as currently 40 percent to 49 percent of future teachers choose to begin their higher education at a community college.

Key aspects of the project include:

Creating a new three-quarter integrated science curriculum for elementary education majors and liberal arts majors.

Creating a paraprofessional certificate for those who work as kindergarten through 12th grade teacher's assistants

Creating a new two-year, pre-education degree that articulates with teacher preparation programs at four-year colleges and universities. The development of recruitment programs

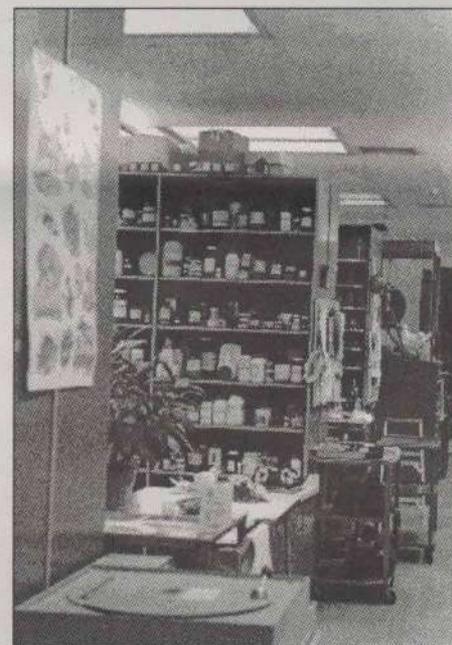


Photo by Margaret Rzymowska/Current  
The GRCC preparation room awaits new program funding for science purposes.

to target groups that have traditionally been underrepresented in the teaching field. Expansion of opportunities for students to work as volunteers and paid tutors in local schools as well as on the college campus.

Project TEACH will also work with the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to organize efforts to meet increasing demands for kindergarten through 12th grade teachers in the region and to help meet the newly adopted Essential Learning's standard for science and mathematics.

"We are really excited to start this project," Keith Clay, community college co-director and physics instructor, said. "We did not get all the funding we were looking for. We didn't get funding for in-service programs for teachers or information library dispersal system. We are looking for a private donor."

Clay also said that there is a positive outlook for the next two years when the funding will be awarded again.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Do you have something on your mind? Voice your opinion, get published, and make a change by dropping your letter to the editor by The Current mail box in STA. Letters should be approximately 250 words in length and will be edited for grammar and punctuation.*

Dear Editor,

During my three years at Green River Community College I have witnessed many improvements at our beautiful campus, namely, the Holman Library. Compared with the old library, which is now known as the RLC building, I think Green River students have stepped into a higher level of technology than other community colleges. The rapid change in technology, as I have witnessed, is unbelievable. Internet access is the key to the wider window of opportunity that challenges the high-tech world. However, I would like to make some suggestions to bring GRCC closer to what I call "the college of high tech."

Since most GRCC students have online access, I think it would be nice if The Paper Tree Bookstore went online. Perhaps then, we could also exercise our rights as customers. By accessing the bookstore online, we would know the exact prices of the textbooks and could possibly search for those books on other online providers. If we decide to make a purchase, we could order those books online and get passwords to pick them up at the bookstore or maybe even have them delivered to our homes, for a slight fee, of course. This would allow us to exercise our rights as customers. At the same time, we would be getting the best and most affordable deals by surfing online.

My second suggestion is directed toward the GRCC graduation board. As a returning student, I feel it would be nice if we could rent those graduation gowns and hats instead of purchasing them. It is so costly to buy a graduation gown that is used for only one ceremony.

I hope my suggestions only serve to strengthen the great community college powerhouse Green River Community College has become.

Jimmy S. Lie

GRCC alumni and returning student

## The Law, Not Kevorkian's Act, Needs Amendment

*This editorial reflects the collective opinion of The Current editorial board*

Not much attention was paid to the most recent trial of suicide doctor, Jack Kevorkian. Why should there have been? After three acquittals and one hung jury, most people assumed that, although the country viewed the suicide doctor's actions as controversial, citizens were unwilling to declare Kevorkian's mercy killings unlawful or warranting of severe legal punishment.

However, on March 26, Kevorkian was read an unfamiliar message by a Michigan jury convicting the doctor of second-degree murder and delivery of a controlled substance for his euthanizing of Thomas Youk, a Lou Gehrig's disease patient.

Are we to believe that this verdict represents a changed opinion of the country as a whole, or is it a calling to reform the antiquated assisted suicide law? It is the belief of this editorial board that, while the actions of Kevorkian are unarguably in conflict with the current law, perhaps it is the law that needs amendment, not Kevorkian's actions.

You, as did this editorial board, may find yourself asking why Kevorkian was convicted of the murder of Youk after several acquittals of similar charges.

Perhaps it was Kevorkian's arguable decision to admit his tape of Youk's euthanizing to television show "60 Minutes," or maybe it was Judge Jessica Cooper's refusal to allow Kevorkian to enter the testimony of Youk's widow and brother into the courtroom. Regardless of the numerous trivialities that could be held accountable for this unexpected ruling, the fact of the matter is that the jury ruled on what the court dictated as the bottom line:

Did Dr. Jack Kevorkian aid in the killing of Thomas Youk? As it would have been hard to argue Kevorkian's involvement in the death, the ruling of the jury is understandable.

However, perhaps the fury should have been debating whether a conviction of euthanasia ought to result in prison time or death, or further, should euthanasia be considered murder of any degree?

It is time to remove the line that separates law and ethics in many of our courtrooms. We fail to see how stripping Kevorkian of his quality of life and sentencing him to a painful prison term is in anyway a lesson to anyone. Retribution is fine when a victim feels he or she has been wronged. However, in the eyes of Youk, Kevorkian's actions were merely commendable, compassionate and kind.

Throughout history people have had to make extreme sacrifices to change a faulty rule or law. Let us hope an appeal by Kevorkian serves to amend the legal system to represent the true views of this country, or at the very least allow the freedom which we so highly regard to be acknowledged in a court of law.

## Community College Road — Not a Dead End

By Chelsea Henderson  
Editorial Page Editor

In English class our teachers reiterated the importance of Henry David Thoreau's ever-so-elegant suggestion that we take less traveled paths, for supposedly, these overlooked routes make all the difference when it comes to fully experiencing life.

However, sometime during the English lessons, our teachers seem to have lost sight of Thoreau's meaningful message as they encouraged everyone to head down the same four-year institutional path. The community college detour was rarely mentioned, and when discussed, portrayed as an alternative for those who appeared to be academically challenged. The idea that a community college education ranks a distant second to university schooling leads us all to believe that greater opportunities are offered at four-year schools. Run-ins with renowned professors, seminars of intriguing and current topics, exciting field trips, hands on research, and an environment filled with enthusiastic

scholars supposedly exist as a few of the many benefits of being educated at a university. In short, we have all been conditioned to expect that four-year schools provide students with a top-notch education and \$12,000 worth of experiences that could not be garnered at any community college.

My pursuit of this ultimate scholastic experience landed me and my parents' pocketbook at Washington State University last fall. Having lived the university life for nearly six months, I feel safe in asserting that, yes, university life does afford one with opportunities not offered at two-year or vocational schools. Where else is one able to experience the joy of being awakened by a new roommate and two strange men she chose to invite into the room for a three-in-the-morning "juice" party? Does a community college student learn how to effectively deal with the new next door neighbor who special orders the Disney Channel directly to her room and leaves Donald, Mickey and Goofy blasting

*Are we also to believe that we will be left stranded on the high road by future employers looking to hire only students with four years of puke-puddle sidestepping practice?*

24 hours a day? Where on the community college campus can one hone the skill of telling apart 30 identically dressed fraternity boys? And, how exactly are we to learn the art of gracefully sidestepping puddles of puke on Sunday morning runs through a two-year college campus?

Now, one may be asking why in the world I would choose to give up all these great opportunities to finish the second half of my year at a "lowly" community college. Perhaps I am mistaken, but somewhere in the midst of my time in the wheat fields paying an extra \$10,000 a year for experiences that seemed more like educational distractions failed to strike me as the smart thing to do. After making the switch, I find myself wondering how saving \$20,000 and being allowed to sleep

through the night could ever have been depicted as the choice for the not-so-intelligent students.

Everyone has different goals, and it should have been emphasized by our good old high school English teachers that, for some people, community college is the most direct and uncluttered path to our destinations.

Is a future doctor to be thought incompetent because he or she chose to pay a fraction of the price for two of his or her many years of school?

Are we also to believe that we will be left stranded on the high road by future employers looking to hire only students with four years of puke-puddle sidestepping practice?

I think not.

# Having a smokin' time on campus



## Students find a bond amid all the smoke

Story and Photos by Jared McGlinchey  
Staff Photographer

A habitual curse has fallen over the campus of Green River Community College. A curse brought on by the students themselves. This hypnosis of the brain has inflamed this campus with smoke.

Everywhere a person walks, there are smokers. Like a platoon of Phillip Morris soldiers, the smokers walk up and down campus littering the sidewalks and pillaging their own lungs. What has caused this plague of toxins to pollute our fresh Green River air?

The cause of this sickness is different for every smoker. Some say that they started smoking as a way to socially interact with friends. As it is for athletes, scholars, musicians, and stoners, smokers have their own social clique.

A friendly face is always behind a cigarette.

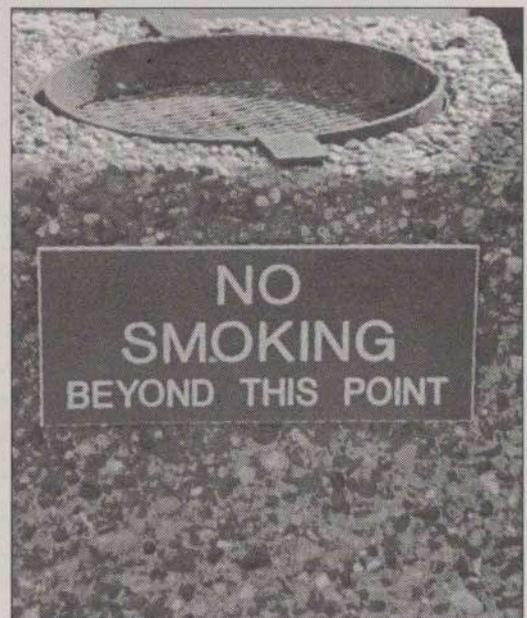
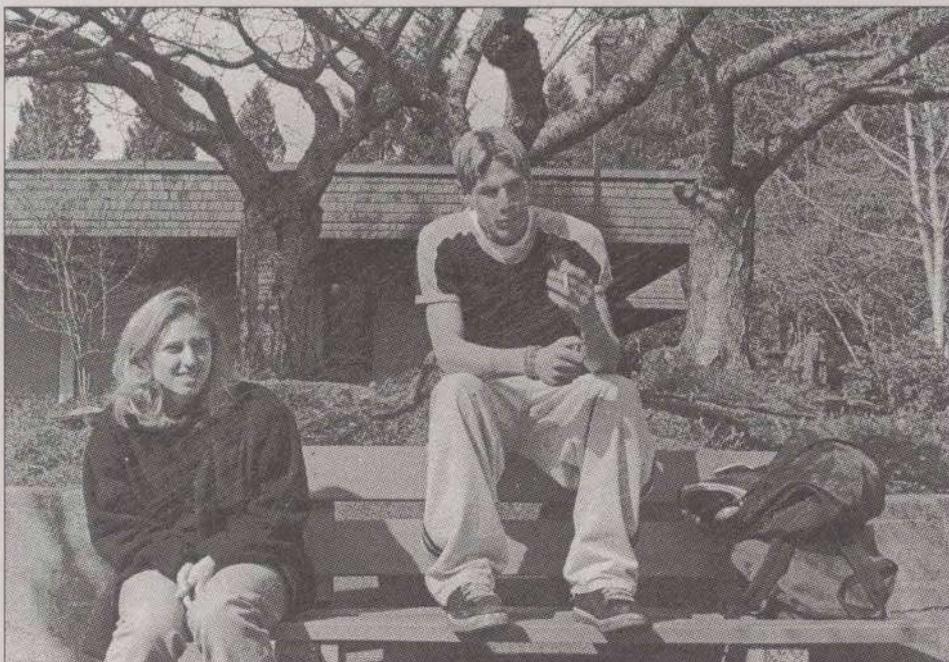
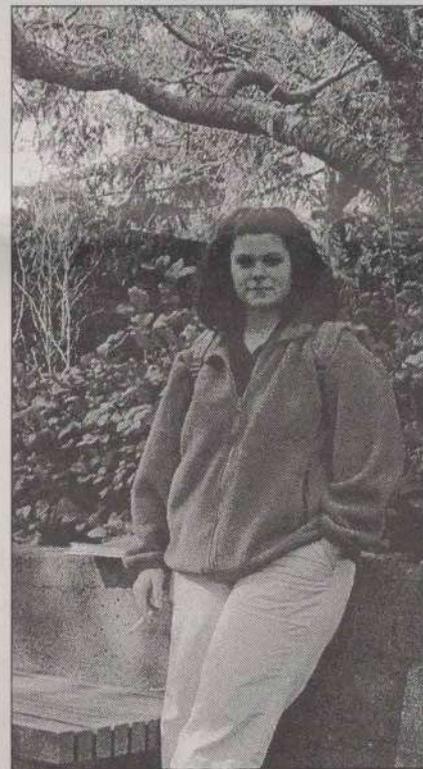
So smokers have a bond they can always share. Another direct cause of this plague, is that some smokers start smoking only when they enjoy the occasional cocktail.

From this cocktail starts a habitual action, hence, always smoking when they drink. As they established this habit, they also established others.

All of a sudden, addiction sets in and it is the beginning of the end. The plague sets in and infects another gator.

How can one break this terrible curse that has fallen over our campus? Unfortunately, the only ones that can erase this plague are the smokers themselves.

One can only be supportive of the smokers and let them enjoy their break between classes and understand that they are in fact infected with a disease that can only be cured with determination.



# Faculty art auction supports good cause

By **Graham Keavney**  
Staff Reporter

Members of the Green River Community College faculty will be giving an art auction April 24 in the Helen S. Smith Gallery to raise money for the GRCC art department.

Approximately 90 different art pieces of all forms, made and donated by 13 different staff members, along with 40 to 60 student pieces will be on display from March 29 until the auction on April 24.

The preview for the show will be held from noon until 7:30 p.m., followed by the auction at 8 p.m.

The auction will consist of a live part and a silent part. The live part

will have approximately 60 pieces and the silent part will have 40 to 50 pieces.

Bernie Bleha, art instructor and chairman on the fine arts division at GRCC, said that the show has been in the works for two years.

"We're already getting ready for the auction in 2001," Bleha said.

Bleha has been chairman of the fine arts division at GRCC since December 13, 1967 and has brought the program a long way. Prior to him being appointed to the chair by the president of the college, there was no fine arts division. At the start, the program was small with just a few classes and has become a full-blown operation, Bleha said.

The arts department averages seven art shows per year. Usually, there is one student show, one faculty show and five shows featuring regional or national artists. And, this year, there is also the auction.

There has not been a faculty art auction at GRCC since 1972, due to lack of interest. That year, the auction brought in approximately \$7,000. This year it is expected to bring in more, Bleha said.

Patrick Navin, a photography teacher at GRCC, will be displaying photos that are unusual for his style. He normally does black and white photography, but in the auction he will be showing full-color landscapes.

"It's something that people haven't

seen much from me," Navin said.

Navin said that he is glad to see that the money will be put back into the art department's scholarship fund. He also said that he hopes for a good turnout, so an auction can be done every three to five years.

The auction is being hosted by Stokes Auction Group, Inc., and cosponsored by the art department, the fine arts division, and the Green River Community College Foundation. It will be held in the Helen S. Smith Gallery on the GRCC campus inside the Holman Library.

The auction is open to the general public, as well as students.

## Kids get squirrely in campus Easter hunt

By **Berta Lopez**  
Staff Reporter

The hunt started at 10 a.m. The weather was cloudy with sprinkles of rain.

This year's Easter Egg Hunt was held indoors in the Lindbloom Student Center. Usually, when weather permitted, the hunt was held outside. The squirrels would collect eggs for themselves as the kids were waiting for the hunt.

Only the 7 to 8-year-olds had their hunt outside. The kids were all excited and ready to hunt for the golden eggs and there was no sign of squirrels.

There were two prizes awarded for each age group.

The age groups were: up to 2 years old, 3 to 4 years old, 5 to 6 years old, 7 to 8 years old and 9 to 12 years old.

Green River has been sponsoring this event for more than 20 years.

## Employment Expo '99 features area employers with job opportunities

By **Journal Staff**

Students are invited to attend Employment Expo '99, sponsored by the GRCC Student Employment Office.

This year, there will be approximately 30 employers represented, including:

Federal Express; UPS; RPS; KeyBank; Wells Fargo Bank; Federal Aviation Administration; Auburn Parks and Recreation; AmeriCorp; Nordstrom; Sears; Bon Marche; Amazon.com; Horizon Air; and KinderCare, to mention just a few.

The event will be held in the LSC main dining room from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, April 22.

These employers will answer questions regarding training, employment opportunities and their special employment processes.

Some of the employers will have applications readily available for students.

They are recruiting for career opportunities plus current part-time, full-time, temporary and summer positions.

For more information, please contact the GRCC Student Employment office at (253)833-9111, x2450.

## Native American Week festival honors special, sacred cultures

By **Cindy Hutchings**  
Staff Reporter

There will be a pow-wow on April 24 in the Green River Community College gym to kick off Native American Week activities on campus. The grand entry will be at 1 p.m. There will be a dinner break at 5 p.m., and the second grand entry will be at 7 p.m.

At the pow-wow there will be traditional American Indian drumming, singing, dancing and food. There will also be vendors selling American Indian artwork.

A pow-wow begins with the grand entry in which veterans carry the United States flag, the Canadian flag and the American Indian staff, while an honor song for the flags and the veterans is sung. All the dancers assembled for the pow-wow follow the flags and dance together in a rich display of color and regalia. An elder says an invocation, then the dancing begins.

A pow-wow is an American Indian social dance where people from all tribes come together to support each other in their traditional way of life. The families gathered at the pow-wow teach their children the culture by encouraging them to dance. Sometimes, even a baby dressed in regalia will be moving around on the dance floor in a baby walker. Each pow-wow has a tiny tot dance where the youngest children dance to a children's honor song and each child receives a dollar for dancing.

There are many categories of dancers arranged by style and age. For men and boys, there are the men's traditional, fancy and grass dancers. For women and girls, there are the women's

traditional, fancy shawl, and jingle dress dancers. In a contest pow-wow, the dancers compete for prize money. In all pow-wows, the dancing is an act of prayer. During the intertribal dances, all people can dance, with or without regalia.

More than 15 years ago, when Bill Heyne was the Native American Student Association Advisor, GRCC held pow-wows regularly. This year's pow-wow has received strong backing from Alex Roberts, director of Student Programs, and from Roland Vieira, the Native American Student Association advisor and biology professor on campus. The GRCC pow-wow also received support from Edmonds Community College and Everett Community College.

Inez Osias will be one of the traditional women dancers at this year's pow-wow. Osias is a Snohomish/Snoqualmie Indian, enrolled with the Tulalip tribe, and is from Seattle. She works with the elders and youth in education and social services. She has raised her family and has worked in careers in accounting, real estate and office management. Throughout this time she felt something was missing in her life. She began attending pow-wows in the 1990s.

"I was brought home to the sacred circle, to my spiritual home, in the pow-wow circle," Osias said.

She had been removed from "The People" (American Indians) when she was living in the city and working in her former careers. In the pow-wows she reconnected with who she was.

"I found people with a strong hold of who they are, and through their friendly faces,

handshakes, and nods I felt they had welcomed me home," Osias said. "I felt I wasn't alone in that crowd. I was accepted there, as I am. My first feelings—felt good."

From her experiences, Osias learned that she could influence her family. She returned to college 20 years after high school. Her mother has since returned to college 40 years after high school and her daughter is continuing her education.

"I have learned I can influence people, so I do positive things. My cousins on the (reservation) wanted to follow in my footsteps when I was bodybuilding. Maybe now they'll follow me into the pow-wow circle. I like to be a positive role model and help people find themselves in sobriety and in the circle where we celebrate life in a good way with our Creator," Osias said.

Osias recently started dancing in her regalia, which has been coming together with some time. She has been given parts of her regalia from many people. Her regalia are of Sioux, Rocky Boy and Navajo traditional styles. The scarf she wears is Japanese.

Another American Indian person, who is a traditional dancer and will be attending the GRCC pow-wow, has been attending pow-wows off and on during his life. About three years ago he got back into it when his brother encouraged him.

"When I was putting my regalia back together, it came to me, I talked to Creator, and said, 'This is the only thing I don't have,' and everything started coming: my bustle, roach. People gave me material. My moccasins are from Wind River," he said.

# Choir sings jazzy songs

By Melina Elder  
Staff Reporter

If you happen to like music, you might have attended the annual Local Jazz Festival which was held on campus March 20. This is the biggest event of the year for the Green River Community College jazz choir, *Rendezvous*. This year they had 1,200 people in attendance at their event. The festival headlined the New York Voices, a popular jazz group, and 29 high school choirs.

So, what should we be expecting from Green River's musically talented student body these days? This quarter the jazz choir will be performing two to three times on campus, which is more than usual. There are no dates set for these performances, but be expecting something toward the end of May and early June. *Rendezvous* is also going to begin touring at the end of April, making stops at high schools and eventually performing at a college jazz festival in Eugene, Ore. *Rendezvous* cut their first CD last spring. They are expected to begin recording again this spring.

At next year's 30th anniversary jazz festival, which will be the next big concert event for the jazz choir, they are expecting some big names at the performance. Michael Finestine is expected to perform there. Even

Rosemary Clooney might be in attendance. Rosemary Clooney is George Clooney's aunt, and it is said that she has an amazing voice.

The jazz choir is a yearlong commitment. Auditions for the choir are in the fall and 16 students are selected to become part of the jazz choir. The jazz choir is a lot of hard work and takes a lot of self-discipline.

"It's a lot of hard work but it is really rewarding...especially if it is what you are into," Paul, a jazz choir member, said.

They have six hours of rehearsal time per week and have additional practice out of class.

The Green River concert choir has one performance per quarter, this quarter it will be June 2, in the Performing Arts Theater.

"Anyone who wants to show up can just sing, with no musical background at all," Ron Bayer, one of the two musical directors on campus, said.

Bayer said that there could be anywhere from 30 to 50 people who join the concert choir.

If you are thinking about joining the jazz choir or concert choir, Bayer encourages it.

"I would always like to see students participate. I think it is a wonderful

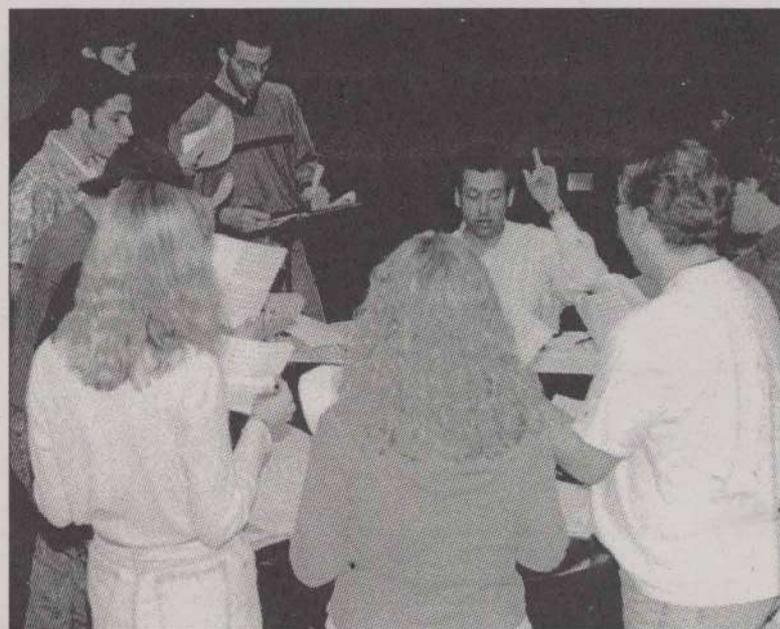
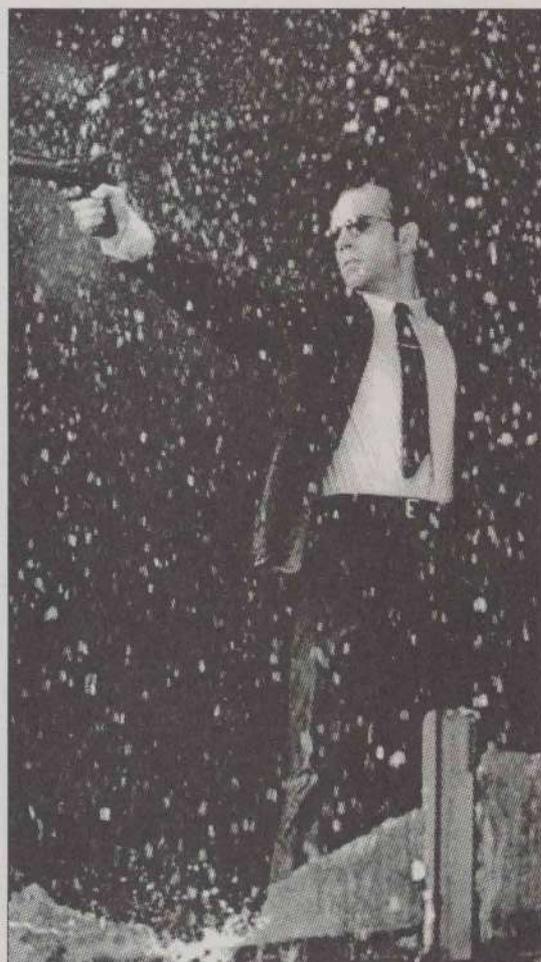


Photo by Seth McMahill/Current  
GRCC instructor Ron Bayer leads the jazz choir in a rehearsal.

opportunity for them to relax," Bayer said. "We would like to see more people involved, because I think it is a neat experience for students. I think too often that students get hung up on, 'do I need to know this to do my job when I get out,' and don't realize college is also about a little experimentation, to see what's out there. And I am still a firm believer in what the heck is wrong with having a little fun!"

So, if you are musically talented, curious, or want to have some fun, maybe the jazz choir or concert choir is for you.

But, if you just enjoy listening to good music, check out the jazz choir or concert choir sometime at one of their performances. With all that these two groups are involved in, it would be hard to miss these two great choirs.



Keanu Reeves stars in 'The Matrix'.

Press release photo

## Movie Review:

# The Matrix

Starring Keanu Reeves and Laurence Fishborne.

Running Time: About 2-1/2 hours.

Rating: R, for violence

By Christina Jackson  
Staff Reporter

For the unfortunate moviegoer who does not, and can not, appreciate Keanu Reeves, or his acting, have no fear. Just say "I can and will get over it." "The Matrix" is a very good reason to overcome your petty dislike of Reeves.

Neil (Reeves) and Morpheus (Laurence Fishborne) discover "true reality" while being fairly normal, overcoming their personal obstacles in a courageous and hip way.

When Neil and Morpheus find each other, Morpheus gives Neil the option to choose whether or not he wants to know what the matrix is. The catch is that knowing does not consist of a simple, painless explanation. Knowing what the matrix is provokes a fair amount of pain. Morpheus tells Neil that no one can tell you what the matrix is. You have to experience it for yourself.

"The Matrix" includes action packed scenes with incredible special effects and sound effects, including some very sexy actors, the usual amount of property damage and a plot that leaves every viewer shivering.

I was surprised to discover that an action movie is capable of more than just a good show. Now, I can't say that every action movie is a series of cheesy one-liners without even the pretense of a plot.

The karate style fighting scenes make you wonder when Jackie Chan will make a guest appearance, and ponder if he didn't help choreograph some of the moves.

Whether or not Neil and Morpheus save the day is best left until viewers learn for themselves. If you are one of the optimists who believe that one day Hollywood will spurt out a movie where the good guys lose, hold the dream, I won't try to take it away from you.

An interesting surprise in "The Matrix" is that it isn't completely about the good guys winning or losing.

The movie bases itself on how stylishly they do it. Since most action movies are targeted for teen-age male mentality, "The Matrix" proves the exception to the rule. The target audience is still the same, but both sexes, and every age group will enjoy this movie. My mom raved about it just as much as I did.

"The Matrix" reaches a large audience, but because of its high tech theme, I can't recommend it to physical education majors. They may not be able to appreciate the complexity of "The Matrix." Computer enthusiasts and "Star Wars" fans are better suited for "The Matrix." They have imaginations that are more active and a better tolerance for longer movies. So, if you consider yourself so inclined, "The Matrix" is an excellent choice.

# Review: 'Mod Squad' good for a laugh

Time for checklist, soda, candy and popcorn for show

By Sarah Dillon  
Staff Reporter

Ok, let's make a check list. I have my soda, candy and popcorn.

Tonight I came with my boyfriend. He knows I have been dying to see "The Mod Squad."

Since this is opening night, I thought there would be a good turnout, but I am a little surprised this place is not just crammed with people.

Oh well, at least I won't have to worry about sitting behind someone who owns a really huge head.

The lights dim and a hush falls over the crowd. It's about to begin.

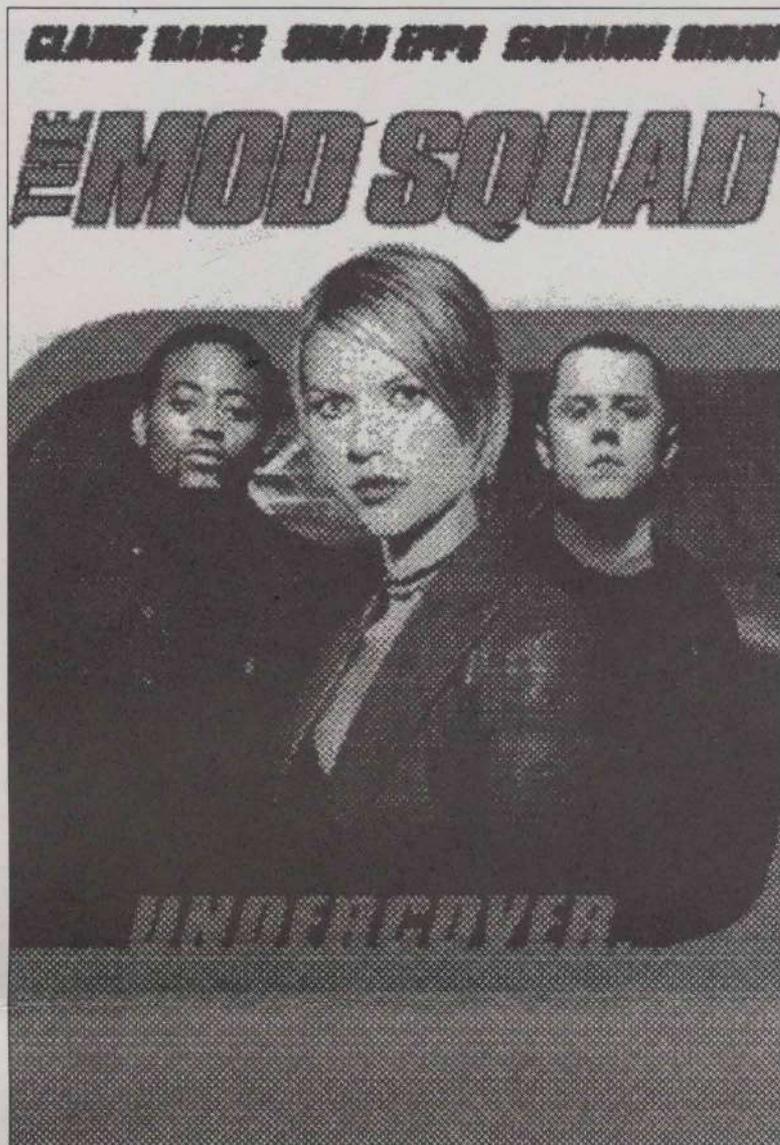
I thoroughly had a good time laughing that night. The comedy wasn't too deep, but the humor was so in your face, you had to let loose a few chuckles.

In the beginning, I felt like I was thrown in. I had to figure out what was going on.

The upside to this type of tactic made by the director, Scott Silver, is that it is not a normal "9-5" beginning. It was different and a good net for people's attention.

There were plenty of plot twists, which kept my mind working into figuring out who to trust and who to dump the blame on.

The action was pretty basic: kick 'em, beat 'em up, shoot



*It's a movie for either buddies or a date night. Just get in there, relax and enjoy the show.*

'em down kinda thing. Nothing out of the ordinary. However, if you ask me, I always enjoy a good ass-kicking movie every now and then.

Throughout the movie, I got to

know Julie (Claire Daines), Pete (Giovanni Ribisi), and Linc (Omar Epps).

I saw a different side to them other than just their street smart, on the defense attitude.

At first they seemed like punks to me, but later I began to see their pain and how they had been hurt by the ones they loved. It was no "Titanic," but a little heart touching.

I don't know about anybody else, but the ending of a movie has to be good.

I don't care if I am on the edge of my seat the entire night, if the ending sucks, I'll walk away feeling like I just wasted \$7.25, not including the outrageous amount spent on candy and soda.

I would say I had a pretty good, though average feeling after "The Mod Squad."

I don't want to blab it away...but everyone dies who is supposed to and the good guys get to walk away feeling like heroes. On a scale from 1-5, I'd give this movie a 2½-3. I had a good time.

Last week, I made an effort to find out the opinions of what some Green River students thought about "The Mod Squad."

Paul Latvala said it had good ideas, but the plot could have been better.

He said Giovanni and Daines were pretty cool and it is worth seeing.

Mike Gibson said it was an all right movie with a lot of action. He said it could have used a better story line and it was cheesy.

Well, there you go. So far, you've gotten neutral responses, nothing too bad or good.

It's a movie for either buddies or a date night. Just get in there, relax and enjoy the show.

# Review: '10 Things I Hate About You' - and a movie

By Kara Banville  
Staff Reporter

Getting close to the weekend and still don't have any plans? Dinner and a movie are always a safe bet.

Instead of the usual Red Robin or Olive Garden, try taking a little venture down to Coco Joe's in Sumner. Coco Joe's appears slightly beaten from the outside, but once inside the restaurant, you feel like you are in a completely different world. Tiki huts and coconuts surround you. Your choices in food vary from lobster and shrimp to nachos and hamburgers. There is something for everyone and you are always guaranteed a lei!

"10 Things I Hate About You" is the story of two sisters, one being the most popular and wanted

girl in school and the other being an anti-social female misfit who is all for being herself. Throughout the movie the sisters clash on subjects brought before them, almost like a typical sister relationship.

The end draws near and the older, wiser sister shares an old secret with her popular, little sister. It is a complete shock to the audience and with the time that remains the sisters become closer.

Locally set, this movie has some beautiful scenes of Seattle and Tacoma. Mostly positive comments have been heard about this movie so I advise that if you are looking for something to do and see this weekend, Coco Joe's and "10 Things I Hate About You" is my suggestion.

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# Weather hampers baseball practice

But team still going strong this quarter

By David Kancianich  
Staff Reporter

This spring, the Green River Gators baseball team has already had to spend much of their practice time and game time in the gymnasium due to rain and cold weather.

"It really killed us to be inside," pitcher Kerry Millikin said. "Outfielders can't get used to playing in the outfield...hitters can't see what they need to adjust to."

The weather conditions forcing the players indoors for workouts meant that there was no weather conditioning for the players. Practicing inside gave the players a feel for a hard floor, warm, sweaty workout. Now that the season has started, none of the players have a feel for the cold, wet weather that Washington brings.

"The other teams have had to put up with the same conditions that we have...yet our field conditions are worse than any other (league) team," first baseman Tom Garden said.

Pitchers are the ones who are the greatest affected by the weather. Rain forces the pitchers

to work off plastic pitching mounds in the gym. These mounds are nothing like the real dirt mounds found on the team's field. This makes the pitchers legs adapt to the hard plastic instead of the soft, dirt mound on the field.

Pitchers have more to worry about than their legs adjusting to the different weather. Their arms are what must be most accustomed to the weather.

"Weather conditions affect your arm in a big way," Millikin said. "If a pitcher's arm isn't ready to pitch in a gym, he can still pitch by warming up, but if he's not ready to pitch outside in the cold, he's not allowed to pitch; even if he has warmed up."

Among the big problems that the players have, the home field is the biggest problem.

The field isn't owned by GRCC, therefore, the team can't do anything to alter the appearance of the field or buy anything, like a tarp, to cover the infield and keep it from getting soaked from the rain that comes down almost every day now.

So far, in the regular season, the weather has been bad, but not bad enough to keep the Gators from playing games at other fields.



Tom Garden shows what he can do at bat against Lower Columbia College on Saturday.

Photo by Ryan Dacey/Current

## Lady Gators earn more respect

By Victor Rodriguez  
Staff Reporter

Although last season was a disappointing one, the lady Gators fastpitch are out to earn some respect. With head coach Lawrence Shaull returning, he will have a core of bright, young talent to begin the new season.

With only one returning player from last season, Heather Zimmerman (Utility, Decatur) the success of the team will rely on a lot of newcomers. Among the new players who hope to improve this year's squad are Annamarie Thornton (P/Utility,

Lincoln) and Angela Blocki (Inf., Decatur) who both enjoyed success on this year's volleyball team.

Along with Zimmerman, Thornton and Blocki, others hoping to help rebuild the program are Pauline Rodriguez (Utility, Kentwood), Crystal Hill (Ca., Hibritin, N.C.), Kelly Buss (Utility, Kent-Meridian), and Sarah Rook (Utility, Auburn).

"I think that we have a lot of good things ahead for us," Rodriguez said. "We work together well and are learning to

play together as a team."

"Although the beginning of the season has forced us to be a little more mentally tough, we are consistently building on every game and for next season," Thornton said. "We hope to have a solid season, not a perfect one, but one to build on."

With all the new talent that has been brought in, the lady Gators have much to be excited about for this season and beyond. You can catch the lady Gators in action April 6, at home, at 3 p.m.

## New hope in sight for Mariners in '99

By Vernon Van Valin  
Staff Reporter

The Seattle Mariners seem to be getting the nod from an array of respected ball players this season.

"When you get enough veteran ball players together like this who are devoted to their team and all have the same goal, only good things can come," Nolan Ryan said.

Ryan said the bullpen does not look half-bad this year. The Mariners are introducing a host of fresh talent this year to go with the veteran core.

Joe Carter, former Toronto Blue Jay and two-time World Series champ turned broadcaster, could not help but comment on the promising team.

"I've always been impressed with this team," Carter said. "How many times can a guy hit 56 home runs and get overlooked, like (Ken) Griffey last year? They've got Alex Rodriguez, Edgar (Martinez). And the spring they've had? They've got a few young guys, but when you have a veteran ball club playing like that in spring training, it's a positive note."

The bullpen still needs to improve. Until then, they will be overlooked.

Spring training has proven successful for the ball club. The team, going 20-12 in the spring showed that Lou Piniella has a few tricks up his sleeve. Although, in '94, they went 21-9 and in '98, they went 18-14, both were followed by losing seasons.

If there was one thing the Mariners wanted from spring training, it was developing their young arms.

"You know they've got talent, but you never know how they'll perform here," Woody Woodward, Mariner's general manager, said. "It's a very positive thing, the impression a lot of these pitchers have made, but you never know until you run them out there in a season. It takes a lot of patience."

## Meet The Current Staff

The Current is an independent student newspaper of Green River Community College. The staff are solely responsible for its contents. Letters to the editor and other contributions can be submitted to: Editors, The Current, ST-A Building, Green River Community College, Auburn WA 98092.

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