

Gifts that keep on giving
Students share their best and worst Christmas gifts
Pages 6, 7

The final frenzy 1912

Students struggle with stress, as end of quarter approaches

Jamie Page
Staff Writer

With quarter finals rapidly approaching, students' stress levels are certain to go up considerably.

However, equipped with the right information and proper planning, students can reduce their stress during this time, better preparing themselves for the daunting exams to come.

When contemplating ways to relax, yoga or bubble baths come to mind for many, but relaxation is attainable in much simpler ways available to any student to avoid burning out.

One easy way to stay calm during final exams is to not overthink the task at hand. Overthinking is detrimental in that it creates anxiety in an otherwise tolerable situation.

"For me it's kind of more of a head thing that when the test's placed in front of me, I'll get anxious," Student Darlene Rose, 22, said. "It's not really as bad as I tell myself it is."

Julie French, the health services coordinator for Green River Community College (GRCC), has seen countless students suffering from stress and anxiety, especially around finals time.

"The No. 1 reason people visit a counselor is stress," French said. She pointed out that more

people come in during the time around finals than any other time throughout the quarter.

Making quick self-checks to watch for symptoms can help prevent stress from escalating to a harmful level.

"Headaches or colds are symptoms of stress," French said. "Not getting enough sleep is another symptom."

French had a few other suggestions to avoid stress.

"If they can plan ahead, that's one of the preventative things they can do," French said. "Make time for exercise to relieve stress, or just get up and move. If you pre-plan and organize yourself, you can fit in the time to exercise, which can help with sleep too. You want to be at your best during finals."

Rose also said that sleep is undeniably an important factor in preparing for a final exam.

"Definitely I would not say stay up the night before," Rose said.

If students find themselves stressed out and want to talk to somebody about it, they can visit Health Services or the Counseling Center in the Lindbloom Student Center, or call the Counseling Center at (253) 833-9111, ext. 2460 to make an appointment with a counselor.

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Sara Olson/
Photo
Illustration

Study tips for students

Avoid last-minute cramming

Trying to memorize all of the material the night before the exam is not a smart or effective way to study.

Plan out time for studying

Proactively setting aside time for studying assures that it doesn't get put aside, or forgotten.

Take breaks

It's not necessary to sit for hours on end spilling

over books. Make sure to take breaks, even if just for 5 minutes. During those breaks try to relax your eyes, body, and mind.

Study in a comfortable environment

Don't study somewhere you might find yourself falling asleep, but somewhere conducive to focus and learning. Do what works best for you.

A & E:

'The Golden Compass'
Movie ignites controversy across nation.
Page 11



Back:

On the mountain
The Current interviews radio DJ Marty Riemer.
Page 12



Campus - Pages 2-4
Opinion - Page 5
Feature - Pages 6-7
Sports - Pages 8-9
A & E - Pages 10-11

Club offered class to fight back against violence

Criminal Justice Club teaches self defense to students on campus

Tessa Cossand
Staff Writer

Every two and a half minutes, someone in America is a victim of assault.

One in six women and one in 33 men have experienced rape at some time in their lives, according to the National Violence Against Women Survey.

Even though most individuals are aware of facts such as these, they believe they are not personally at risk.

Fortunately, abuse can be avoided, but few have the skills or knowledge to be able to protect themselves from it.

According to the web site seattle.gov, college age women in particular, are at risk of being assaulted, and one out of four or five women experience completed or attempted rape.

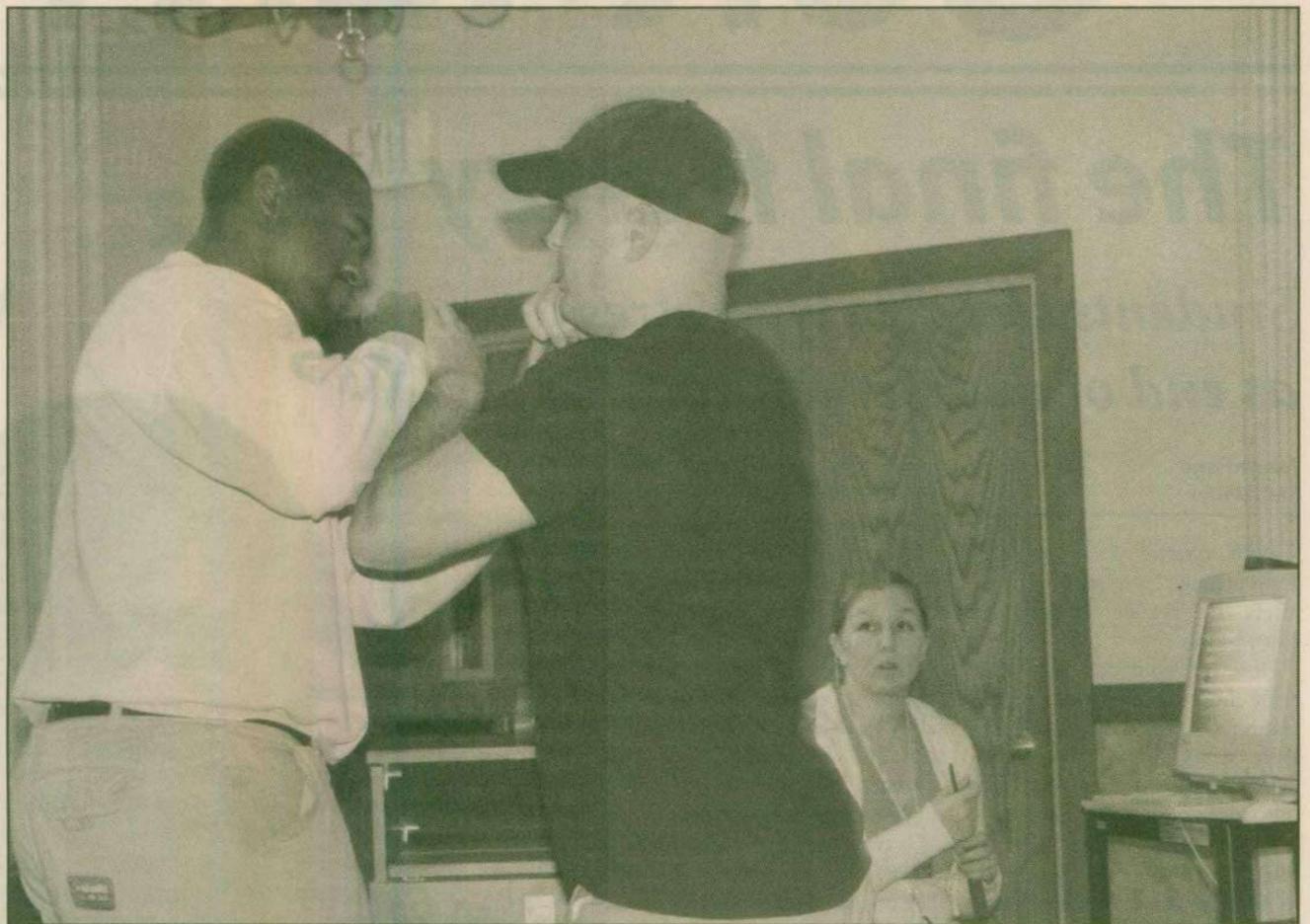
Abused men and women often have long lasting or permanent complications.

The National Research Council stated that victims of assault exhibit a variety of psychological symptoms that are similar to those who have experienced other types of trauma, such as natural disasters or war trauma.

Those who have been sexually assaulted suffer from chronic pain disorders such as headaches, facial pain and back pain. They also experience chronic pelvic pain, premenstrual syndrome, and gastrointestinal disorders.

On Dec. 3, The Criminal Justice Club at Green River Community College (GRCC) offered a self defense class that taught both men and women the skills needed to defend themselves from physical abuse.

The instructor, Sam Sorensen demonstrated to students how to handle different types of danger levels, along with how to use the body as a weapon of defense, how to be aware of situations, and how to be safe in everyday life.



Sara Olson/Staff photos

Instructor, Sam Sorensen (right), teaches Keron Ricketts how to defend against someone who attacks from the front. Sorensen led the entire self defense demonstration on Dec. 3, covering numerous topics, such as weapons, danger levels, and defense tactics.

The class setting offered a safe environment for students to learn these skills.

Samantha Fletcher, president of the criminal justice club, promoted the event and stated that the class is useful in the real world and works for all types of people.

This class also provided a perfect introduction for students unfamiliar with the Criminal Justice Club.

By providing seminars such as the Self Defense class, the Criminal Justice Club fulfilled its purpose to provide hands on experience in the criminal justice field and to give vital information that is not offered in a traditional classroom.

The club strives to inform individuals on how to protect themselves from predators and encourages each student to be aware of their surroundings.

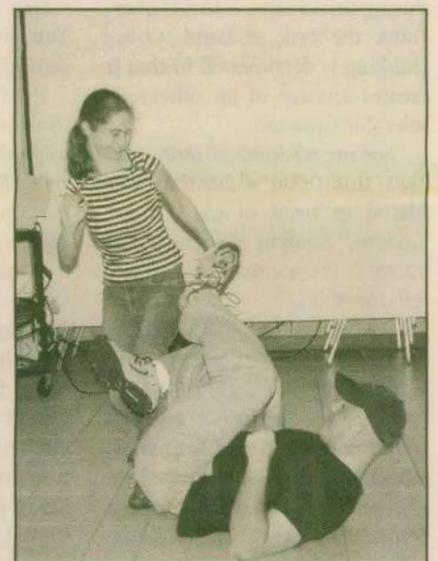
The club meets the first and third Monday of every month. The next meeting will be held on Jan. 7 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

“Every two and a half minutes, someone in America is a victim of assault.”

Safety tips*

- Awareness is the key.
- Develop a survival mind set.
- Trust your instincts.
- Your first priority is escape.
- Almost anything can be a weapon.
- When attacked, attack back.

*Information from www.selfdefense.com



Sorensen instructs this Theresa Mahoonie how to overcome an attacker after being knocked to the ground.

Comment boxes absent from campus

Campus provides no place for student suggestions

Sopheap Kun
Contributing Writer

The mysterious suggestion box on GRCC campus is not easy to be seen or found and may not even exist.

Some students and employees of GRCC do not know where the hiding suggestion box is, and they doubt its existence.

“I don’t see any,” said Blanche E. Dy, an international student from the Philippines.

Dychea Yeun, a graduated Cambodian student in automotive technology said, “Actually I have not seen that suggestion box.”

Chung Hiu Sum, sophomore student in design major from Hong Kong, has never seen any suggestion box either.

“It is a good question,” said Hank

Bottroff, assistant director of public information when asked whether he knew of a suggestion box at GRCC. “I do not know.”

Bottroff suggested asking Amy Warren, assistant executive director of student service. Warren could not be reached for comments.

“There is one at the library,” said Ellen Ward, library technician, who works in the Holman Library. She added that it was not a box; it was just a binder with a suggestion form that students can fill in.

She, personally, has never seen any suggestion box on campus and she was not sure if there are any.

Marji MacKenzie, librarian at the Information Center, could not find the library’s folder when asked for it.

A search of the college’s web site, found two web pages that allow students or anyone to make suggestions or comments. However, they are not for suggestion or feedback in general, but for the college’s

web site and library.

“I think they are important because they are a form of communication between the school and students besides counseling and appointments,” Dy said. “I want to tell the college my opinions and suggestions.”

Ward said it is a good idea to have suggestion boxes in all departments or maybe just one main suggestion box in Lindbloom Student Center.

Employees of GRCC previously have said they want to have a suggestion box for themselves.

“We need a suggestion box for both employees and students” is one of the comments noted in a 2001 survey of college employees.

Dy suggested that there should be five suggestions boxes in the college campus: LSC, the library, the Math Learning Center, the Performing Arts Center, and the Physical Education Building.

Senator of the month

The Student Senate voted its Senator of the Month of October, Jibril Leigh.

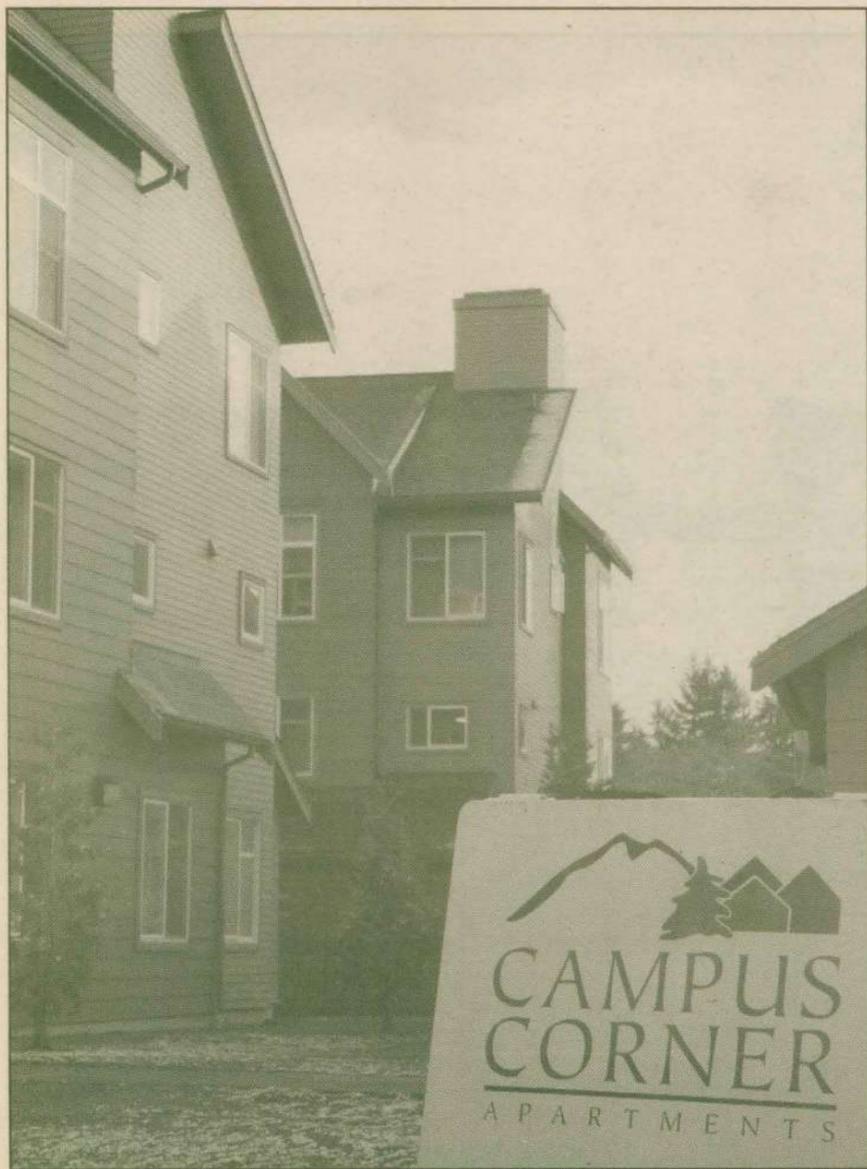


Jibril Leigh

Snezhana (Shauna) Stadnik, ASGRCC student body president, described him as “an asset to have on the executive team. Not only does he keep the stress level down but he’s never afraid to speak his opinions, going far and beyond to help the new senators adjust to the senate policies and procedures.”

Leigh is a civil engineering major and will be graduating in the spring of next year.

Students plan for Christmas far from home



Sara Olson/Staff Photo

The Campus Corner Apartments at Green River Community College are the home to many international students who will not be able to go home for Christmas.

Many international students living at campus apartments forced to abide by CCA policies for holiday parties

Bimla Thapa
Staff Writer

With the festive season in the air, many of the Green River Community College (GRCC) students cannot wait to go home for Christmas.

While these students look forward to celebrating the festive occasion with their families, there are a number of students who will either not be going anywhere or currently are undecided about what their Christmas plans are going to be.

This is the case especially for the international students at GRCC, who aren't going back home to be with their loved ones.

"Christmas is most likely going to be just another day," Alvin Khoo, a student who lives in the Campus Corner Apartments (CCA), said.

Student James Chow said that he won't know his holiday plans until just days before Christmas.

"We'll know it when it is about 2 to 3 days from Christmas. Right now, we don't know yet," Chow, who is a second quarter student from Hong Kong, said.

Khoo and Chow also said that CCA's strict policies on parties and social gatherings could limit their holiday festivities, saying that often times it is a little difficult for students residing in the apartment complex to "fully enjoy our Christmas if we decide to just chill with our friends in our apartments."

The strict policies however, do not deprive the students from holding a party.

"As long as we keep it tame and do not

disturb the neighboring students, I guess we'll be able to hold parties," Yukako Miyaki, an eighth quarter international student from Japan who has been living in the CCA for a little over a year, said.

Campus safety policy does not actually tighten security during such holidays.

Fred Creek, campus safety director, said, "The policy will maintain the same throughout these special occasions. It always has. In fact, despite the festivity, it is quietest around here during seasonal holidays. All in all, nothing much changes about our policies; it still stays the same."

However, not all international students are unsure about their Christmas plans.

International student from Nepal, Terisa Sunwar has her holiday plans covered.

"I'm playing Secret Santa with my friends, so I guess I'm going to be a little tied up with searching for the perfect gift for my friend," Sunwar said.

Aware of the policies CCA has, Sunwar and her friends decided to have the party elsewhere.

"We'll be having a Christmas party over at my friend's apartment, not in CCA though. Nothing wild, just a casual eating and sitting around and playing games kind of party," Sunwar said.

Everyone has their way and idea of celebrating Christmas but like Sunwar said, "It doesn't really matter how or what you do on Christmas. All that matters is that you are with someone who cares about you as much you do about them, which is what makes Christmas day so special amongst all."

Study abroad experience turns tragic for UW student

Student on trial for murder in Italy

Angelica Asiesiukiewicz
Staff Writer

Amanda Marie Knox, a student at the University of Washington, was jailed in Rome on Nov. 6 as a suspect in the murder of her UK roommate, Meredith Kercher.

Kercher was found dead from a stab wound to the back of her neck in her apartment in Perugia, Italy on Nov. 2. Along with Knox was jailed Italian, Raffaele Sollecito, her then boyfriend of two weeks, who said that both he and Knox are innocent.

The Seattle Times reporters quoted Sollecito as saying that Knox "lives life as if it is a dream; she's out of touch with reality; she is not able to tell dream from reality."

Sollecito also was quoted as saying, "The Amanda I knew is an Amanda who takes life lightheartedly. Her only thought is a quest for pleasure at any moment, but from here to even just imagining that she is a murderer, it becomes impossible."

The case still is in progress while both Knox and Sollecito are awaiting trial.

Knox was in Italy on a study abroad opportunity offered at the University of Washington



www.cbsnews.com/Courtesy photo

University of Washington student, Amanda Marie Knox, is awaiting trial for the murder of her roommate in Italy.

(UW). Her stay was to last one academic year and she would live in an apartment with a roommate while attending the local college. However, her experience was cut short.

UW administrators say that each student that studies abroad is lectured on safety precautions to take while abroad, and that the Knox case was no exception.

Each student closely is screened in order to participate in the opportunity to live in a foreign country.

However, what happens when they are abroad is solely their responsibility. Allegedly, Knox did not fully adhere to the rules

and ended up in prison for it. She has said that she cannot fully recall what happened that night.

Green River Community College (GRCC) also offers a study abroad program. Students can travel to Spain, England, Australia/New Zealand, Italy, or Costa Rica for one academic quarter.

Directors at the American Institute of Foreign Study (AIFS), which runs the program to Spain for GRCC, emphasize safety as their No. 1 rule and priority. Each student is lectured before departure on what to do in case of emergency and how to properly act while in a foreign country.

All students must sign a code of conduct. Any student who fails to adhere to the rules will be sent home immediately.

"We'd hate to send someone home, but if they misbehave, we have no choice," Tori Monkman, an AIFS administrator, said. "We hope that none of our students feel the need to break the rules just because they are in a foreign country."

AIFS administrators have full contact with all students when they are in their home stays and at the local college. They monitor most of the student activity. However, what students do on the weekends and at night is up to them.

"We aren't their parents, and they are adults," Monkman said.

Cindy Card, study abroad coordinator at GRCC, also emphasized the need for discipline and responsibility when studying abroad.

"Students should always use common sense about safety when traveling abroad, just as they do here. However, they are in a different and unfamiliar country, and it is easy to get caught up with distractions and even more important to think about personal safety," Card said.

Card also said that prior to departure, administrators discuss personal safety issues with students. She said that it is important for students to use

common sense when traveling around the country they're visiting.

"Students are encouraged to partner with another student or small groups when they go out at night or travel out of the area. Just like anyone here at home, it is unwise to wander the streets alone at night, and the same precautions would apply to going off with strangers," Card said.

When students study abroad, there are resources available where the students are traveling.

"We have staff on-site at all our locations to help students. We also have 24-hour emergency phone numbers that our students can call in case of an emergency," Card said.

Students who study abroad are advised to respect the country they are in and adhere to all rules set by the organization and college they are with. Otherwise, administrators fear that the results might be disastrous.

Starting next issue, The Current will present the first of a three issue series by reporter Angelica Asiesiukiewicz, who will be studying abroad in Spain. The series will report the differences between American and Spanish college students.

Photo Safe system becomes norm in Auburn

New system seeks to hold drivers accountable

Katie Barr
Staff Writer

The new cameras at intersections are impossible to not notice, as is the flash that goes off when a red light is ran.

The new cameras are meant to protect drivers and ensure that traffic laws are followed. The Photo Safe System is set up throughout Downtown Auburn.

Some drivers, such as Andrew Parsons believe that the Photo Safe System is an "invasion of personal property."

Aubrey Melhaff feels differently about Photo Safe. She thinks it is a good idea because "drivers think twice when they know there's a camera up there."

Police officer Andrew Gould supports the Photo Safe System because according to him, it "acts as a deterrent to drivers, and they're more likely to heed traffic laws."

He knows that the system is effective because "most residents in Auburn are aware of cameras and drive more cautiously."

A study was conducted by Insurance Institute for Highway Safety and found that running red lights, and other traffic controls, is the most common cause of urban crashes.

Also discovered by the same study, crashes involving signal violations are the most likely to cause injuries compared to all other types of urban crashes.

Photo Safe Systems, both speed cameras and red light cameras,

can help police enforce traffic laws in dense urban areas where traffic pursuits and stops can be dangerous to officers, as well as to other drivers and pedestrians.

Auburn was the first Washington state city to implement a digital photo and red light enforcement program.

The Photo Safe System begins photographing when the light turns red and photographs vehicles as they approach the signal, enter the intersection, and pass through the intersection.

Auburn police officers then view the images using the internet based monitoring system, Redflex WEBops, and electronically generate citations that are sent in the mail to the vehicle owner.

Photo Safe Systems are not only able to catch drivers that run red lights, but drivers that speed in school zones as well.

The school zone cameras will photograph cars that are violating the school zone speed limit of 20 mph during school hours.

The fine for school zone violations is \$200 for each state statute. Auburn now has Photo Safe Systems at three major intersections, one middle school, and two elementary schools.

The Photo Safe System is very accurate and only sends tickets to the driver when the motorist deliberately enters an intersection after the signal light has turned red.

If the driver is already in the intersection when the signal changes to red, while waiting to turn for example, are not running red lights and are not ticketed.

In other communities, the Photo Safe System improves the occurrences of running red lights by 40 percent on average.



Jamie Page/Staff Photo

The Photo Safe system has been implemented at intersections all over Auburn. The system was created to catch drivers who break the law by speeding or running red lights.

Deadline for sending gifts overseas approaching

Soldiers appreciate practical Christmas gifts

Jorge Mendoza
Staff Writer

As the Christmas season progresses, the deadline for holiday gifts to soldiers in Iraq approaches.

Christmas Day rapidly is drawing near, and while many may be occupied with gift shopping, few may recognize how rapidly the time limit for gifts sent to soldiers in the Middle East is expiring.

Along with the deadline are the types of items permitted and the ones most necessitated by soldiers.

The U.S. Postal Service is expecting to deliver 20 million pounds of mail to military installations all over the world during this holiday season. Such mail is expected to increase by 400 percent over the average weekly volume in Iraq alone.

Due to this, the postal service is asking individuals to start sending their holiday gifts as soon as possible and no later than Dec. 8, in order to ensure the arrival of the packages.

In addition, the Postal Service requires senders to include the full name, address, and unit of the receiver.

Josh Dreier, 26, is an Iraq War veteran

who comprehends the situations soldiers are currently experiencing.

Dreier knows what kinds of things soldiers need and appreciate this time of year.

"It all depends about where you are at, but I know one of the things I would have liked is a foot care kit," Dreier said. "Out there we have to constantly march and in gear that is not breathable."

Dreier also said that soldiers appreciate gifts that make life a little more enjoyable.

"Other items that I would recommend are hand sanitizer, baby wipes, toothpaste, photos, and an iPod," Dreier said. "You know most of these things are hygienic but that is truly what they need out in the war zone."

In truth, prices for shipments can vary according to dates. An important thing to know is that shipping companies raise prices for different parts of the world.

Many online retailers offer competitive shipping costs along with gift wrapped presents and gift receipts.

In order to ensure the satisfaction of the sender and receiver, packages should be completely insured. The box containing the gifts should be strong enough to sustain the trip.

Inside the box, items should be covered in Styrofoam, bubble wrap, or newspaper. Perishable items such as cookies and candy

should be placed in leak proof containers.

Batteries should be placed next to the items. A return address label should be placed inside the package.

Other items such as packaging products, including tape, envelopes, padded bags, corrugated boxes, mailing tubes, and cushioning material can be purchased from the post office.

Some locations also offer decorative boxes and expander packs that are good for mailing gifts. Along with regular mailing, online mailing can save money.

Senders conveniently can mail their packages sent domestically or internationally from their home or business by accessing Click-N-Ship at www.usps.com, and then request free carrier pickup.

The Current is just a click away

The Current now can be viewed online at
www.greenriver.edu/thecurrent

Society wastes time over-analyzing movies

'The Golden Compass' should be viewed as movie and nothing more



Commentary by Tammie Tamara

The movie "Golden Compass," an adaptation from the book, "His Dark Material," by Philip Pullman, is talked about all over the world because of the controversy that surrounds it.

Some people want to ban the movie because it's considered promoting hatred towards God and the Catholic Church.

This is not the first time such controversies have surrounded a movie or book, especially the ones that are targeted for children.

Harry Potter, Spongebob Squarepants, Teletubbies, and Pokemon all have gone through the same rejections. Many part of society accused them of being tools of evil, promoting homosexuality or exploiting sexuality.

"Golden Compass" will be released on Dec. 7. The Catholic Church believes that the story is an attempt to contaminate children's minds with atheistic thoughts and teaching them to kill God. Moreover, the movie has been seen as an action against the Catholic Church.

I haven't seen the movie. Neither have I read the book. It just frustrates me how we often overanalyze a work in a negative way. People keep trying to find signs, symbols, or anything that can prove their worries that a movie or book will give a bad influence to society.

Unfortunately, most of the time, we see what we want to see. The Church sees the tools of Satan in almost every story, and anti-gays see the homosexual's symbols everywhere; most of the time where there is none.

I was shocked when I first read a discussion about Spongebob Squarepants.

It said that Spongebob's eyes and nose resembled male genitalia; therefore it's dangerous for children. I stared at the Spongebob's picture right next to the

article and thought for hours how they could get to that conclusion.

Even after I read that discussion, I still only saw two eyes and a nose, let alone the children. There's also a discussion about Spongebob's sexuality. Many think that Spongebob is a homosexual because Spongebob has been seen holding hands with his friend, Patrick the starfish. For all I know, they are just trying to teach friendship to the children.

Furthermore, I understand that the author of "The Dark Material," Philip Pullman, sends his message more explicitly. According to reviews, in the story, God is pictured vulnerable, and the Catholic Church is pictured as the antagonist.

I agree that many people might be offended by that. However, I still believe in freedom of expression. If we have to limit a freedom of expression because someone might be offended, we can never express anything.

Any words we say, any thoughts we have are potentially offending others.

However, expressing one's beliefs is different from promoting hatred. It's the author's right to express that he doesn't believe in God or that he believes that God is vulnerable and mortal. What's not right is if he expresses that we

have to hate and discriminate others who believe in God.

In addition, banning this movie and book itself is discrimination. We see stories about Christianity and religious values all the time.

As a democratic country, we respect every belief, including atheism.

When we are able to teach our Children about religion, why can't they know that atheism as a belief exists?

It is terrible how we see other's values as a mistake. It's terrible how some people think that having a homosexual character in a cartoon is dangerous when we have heterosexual characters all the time.

Everything has potential harms, especially those that are targeted for children. Every work has free space for interpretation. Adults have their own filtration, but children don't.

That's why parental advisory for children is important. Yes, we have to protect our children. Discriminating values that are not the same with ours is not protecting. It teaches them that when we're different, we're enemies, and our world can't afford more of that.

"Discriminating values that are not the same with ours is not protecting. It teaches them that when we're different, we're enemies. Our world can't afford more of that."

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. 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.

Photo Safe system serves in keeping streets safe

New system does not violate privacy of drivers, but protects them



Commentary by Katie Barr

The new Photo Safe System is spreading throughout Auburn quickly, and I feel safer knowing that the drivers that endanger the lives of themselves and other motorists on the road by running red lights are being held accountable.

There are both pros and cons about the new Photo Safe System, but I think that the pros outweigh the cons in this situation.

The new Photo Safe System is improving the safety of Auburn for the motorists, pedestrians and passengers. There's never any reason that makes it okay to run a red light.

Red lights and traffic laws are there

to keep us safe and make driving less dangerous.

To the people that think the Photo Safe System is an invasion of privacy, I don't understand that. The camera only photographs pictures of your car and your license plate as you break the law.

If you don't want your privacy invaded by pictures being taken of your car, then don't break the law.

Without the Photo Safe System, a car could run a red light, bash into the driver's side of your car and just keep on driving.

Without Photo Safe, there wouldn't be anyone to hold accountable for the damages.

The Photo Safe System is an excellent improvement for our community and does not violate Washington state privacy laws.

Washington law states that driving on the public roads is a regulated activity, not a right.

The Photo Safe cameras photograph your vehicle, not the driver's face.

Photo Safe keeps the irresponsible drivers that run red lights accountable for their reckless driving, and the damage they could've caused.

"Without Photo Safe, there wouldn't be anyone to hold accountable for the damages."

Editorial Policy

The Current considers itself 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.

The Current Staff

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



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The Current office is located in SMT 134 and can be contacted by phone at (253) 833-9111, ext. 2375.



Gifts that keep on giving

During the holiday season, some say it's better to give than receive. But sometimes receiving the wrong gift can cause an uncomfortably silent night. Green River students share some gift experiences that had some folks dreaming of a white Christmas and left others saying bah humbug.

By Amy Lipko

The Naughty List

The Worst:

"My worst gift is this year. I have a court date on the 24th of December for a \$700 traffic ticket. I have a court date at 8:30 in the morning on Christmas Eve."

—Jared Phillips

"I collect artistic pottery. Someone gave me a planter with ugly brass feet that were permanently attached. I went through Burlington Coat Factory a few weeks later and saw the same thing there for \$7. It's at Goodwill now."

—Grant Reynolds

"My great-grandma got me a deluxe Lisa Frank school pack with pink penguins and happy seals and everything. I don't know if she knew I was a boy at that point."

—Keanan Morgan

"I got an I.O.U. once. It was from my brother. When he was first out of high school, he was broke. It was good for one day at Gameworks.

He's 28 now - no day at Gameworks."

—Jesse Merryman

The Nice List

The Best:

"My best friend visited me from Idaho last year. He's like my best friend. He showed up at the airport and then called me. It was a surprise."

—Sarah Rohr

"I was 3 or 4, and I got full body footy pajamas. They were Buzz Lightyear. It was the best day of my life. I even wore them to school."

—Ben Abbott

"A week long trip to Whistler to go mountain biking, from my parents."

—Ian Fishel

"My Power Rangers shaving kit when I was 6-years-old, and I would shave every morning."

—Cameron Murray

Gators display near perfection in preseason

Women's basketball team earns 4-0 preseason record

Baris Cirak
Staff Writer

With less than a month left until the NWAACC basketball season starts, Green River Community College (GRCC) Gators women's basketball team has started out strong with a 4-0 preseason record.

After a disappointing season in winter '07, in which the team couldn't go to the state championship with a 6-20 record, the athletic division of the college decided not to go further with the former coach Rochelle Mitchell and hired the new head coach Dennis Olson.

Olson coached Auburn High School girls' basketball team for 19 seasons before he retired four years ago. Now he is ready to give what he has to the Gators.

He was named the Girls' Basketball Coach of the Century in Washington State by the Seattle Times in 2000. He also showed his capability of coaching college level basketball with the Highline Community College Thunderbirds between 1998-2003.

The Gators have only four sophomore players this season, Megan Borjesson who is the captain of the team, Jeanette Norin, Cenetra McMillan, and Samantha Harrison.

The team is playing small ball, showing good rhythm, except in rebounding.

Rebounding has been the worst issue in the team during this preseason, even with a perfect record of 4-0.

The only game the Gators have outnumbered the opponent in rebounding is the game against the Northwest Indian College (NWIC) on Dec. 1, which the Gators won 77-31. However, the opposing team had only one substitute throughout the game.

Good field goal shooting (47.8%) and dominance in the rebounds led Gators to their fourth straight win.

All players in the team had significant amount of playing time against NWIC, except the early injured Whitney Valenta, who also is a volleyball player in fall quarter.

Dominique Pusher, the star player of the NWIC Eagles, took 43 shots, one of the most shot attempts against GRCC Gators, and made just 13 of them which was one of the leading factors why they lost by such a large margin.

The Gators hope that people will come out to watch them play this season.

"We want Green River Community College family, our community, friends, teachers, everyone to come see us. Their support makes me feel better and more willing to play for the Gators," Borjesson, 19, said.

The Gators have shown perfection thus far, and they are shooting to capture the title at the end of the season. All they need now from the community is to support them.



Sara Olson/Staff photo

Freshman guard, Kanela Strickland, goes up for a shot during the Gators' Dec. 1 game against Northwest Indian College. The Gators won by a score of 77-31.

Gator Profiles: Gators Samantha Harrison and Megan Borjesson



Name: Samantha Harrison
Position: Post-forward
Height: 5'11"
High School: Kentridge

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: Pasta.

Q: Who's your favorite musical artist?

A: Mercy Me.

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: "Moulin Rouge."

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?

A: Lofa Tatupu.

Q: If you weren't a basketball player, what would you be?

A: A volleyball player.

Q: What is your favorite part of playing for the Gators?

A: Being able to be on the team.

Q: What do you do to get pumped up for a game?

A: I mentally prepare myself.

Q: What is one thing you want to improve on this season?

A: Dribbling and dominating the post.

Q: Do you have any words of advice for young basketball players?

A: Give your 100 percent to the game and never give up.



Name: Megan Borjesson
Position: Guard-forward
Height: 5'8"
High School: White River

Q: What's your favorite food?

A: Pancakes with sweet strawberries and whip cream; bacon.

Q: What's your favorite movie?

A: "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days."

Q: Who is your favorite athlete?

A: My boyfriend, Leif Hansen, a foot player at PLU.

Q: If you weren't a basketball player, what would you be?

A: Basketball photographer and videotaper.

Q: What is your favorite part of playing for the Gators?

A: Being a part of the Green River family.

Q: What do you do to get pumped up for a game?

A: Dance.

Q: What is one thing you want to improve on this season?

A: Communication on the court.

Q: Do you have any words of advice for young basketball players?

A: Don't forget that anything in life that is worth doing doesn't come easy.

Gator Results

Men's Basketball

Date	Results	Record
11/30	Snow College, 86 d. Green River, 77	1-3
12/1	Salt Lake City, 93 d. Green River, 44	1-4

Women's Basketball

Date	Results	Record
11/28	Green River, 66 d. Shoreline, 62	3-0
12.1	Green River, 77 d. NW Indian College, 31	4-0

Gator Schedules

Men's Basketball

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
12/8	Seattle/Seattle	7 p.m.
12/14, 15, 16	Lane CC Crossover/Eugene	TBA

Women's Basketball

Date	Opponent/Location	Time
12/8	Skagit Valley/Green River	3 p.m.
12/14, 15, 16	Mt. Hood Crossover Tournament/Portland	TBA

Gators hosts auction to raise funds for teams

Baseball head coach heads up auction, raising money for Gator athletics

Will Brown
Staff Writer

The Gator Athletics Holiday Auction and Dinner was held on Dec. 1 at Green River Community College. The auction was held to raise money for all the athletics on campus.

The event began with a silent auction that was planned to give people the chance to walk around and write down bids, followed by a sit down served meal. The event finished with a main auction to finalize the evening.

"This auction is an opportunity for us to take center stage in the community," Bob Kickner, Gator athletic director said.

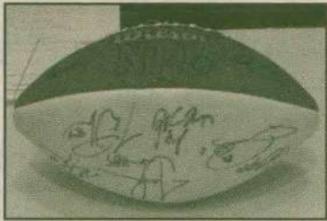
The event was led by the GRCC baseball team, headed by Head Coach Matt Acker.

"It was done when I was at St. Martin's," Acker said. "I think the number of people will be decent. I hope to get 300 plus."

Acker was a participant in two similar events at St. Martin's University in Olympia, but this is the first time he has been in charge of it.

He said that the players were nervous doing something brand new and doing things such as "dressing up."

Acker also said that "the



A football, signed by some of the Seattle Seahawks was auctioned off at the event.

little paranoia should turn into excitement."

With all the athletic sports being represented in this event, Kickner said, "It's providing an opportunity for the entire athletic department to come together and be represented."

Each team had their own group of items to auction off at the event, and the money that they received for their sales was given to that sport.

"The way I set everything up is they earn what they get," Acker said.

Many things were auctioned off, such as wine and seafood baskets, gift cards, and fine dining.

Acker also said that they auctioned off items signed by two members of the Seattle Seahawks.

"We've got signed footballs by (Matt) Hasselback and (Marcus)



Baris Cirak/Staff Photos

Guests at the Gator fund raiser look over items that are up for bid during the silent auction portion of the event. The fund raiser was held to earn money for Gator athletics.

Trufant," Acker said.

Trufant's mother and father, Lloyd and Constance Trufant, were guests at the auction, with the intent to help raise money. They were able to see their son's helmet and football sold.

Matt Fields, a former Gator baseball player, now playing for the Tampa Bay Devil Rays farm

team, the Columbus Cat Fish, also attended the event.

Fields signed two baseball game bats for the highest bidder.

Entering into the fund raiser, there was some concern whether the auction would be successful, however, Kickner said, "I think we're cautiously optimistic."

Overall, Kickner was pleased

with the teamwork and leadership shown by the Gator athletes and coaches, particularly Acker.

"He has proven himself to be an amazing fund raiser," Kickner said.

With the money raised, the event proved to be a team victory.

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Friday | April 28, 2006
THE CURRENT

The Green River Community College Student Newspaper Since 1955

Instructor
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How much do they
really make?
see inside | 8-9

FREE | 1 page | 2006

Planning for
June ceremony
now under way

Over 2,000 expected
at commencement

Legislator tours, speaks on campus
Uptugrove to support new construction at Green River

Chris Brown adds actor to growing resume



www.top40.about.com/Courtesy Photo

"Exclusive" is R&B artist, Chris Brown's, latest album.

Musician stars in film, following recent album release

Alex Hoggard
Staff Writer

So many people try to compare him to great artists, such as Usher or Michael Jackson. In reality there is no comparison. Chris Brown is the new R&B prince of this generation.

A No. 1 album, "Exclusive" and a Box Office hit "This Christmas," shows that Chris Brown has definitely had a good year. It's easy to forget that he's just that boy from Tappahannock, Va.

Brown has been a success from his earliest singles "Run It" to "Gimmie That." Each single is a little stronger and that much more mature, which is proven after hearing his latest CD "Exclusive."

It has a grown and sexy feel to it, but still includes a couple of club bangers to represent his original style. "Exclusive" is what these young growing girls have been waiting to hear from him.

Brown has stepped over certain lines to deliver this CD, with songs like "Take you down," with a sexy saxophone playing in the background, and Brown stating

"In every scene you can spot where Brown is, even if his not speaking."



www.sonypictures.com/Courtesy Photo

Musician Chris Brown joins ensemble cast in "This Christmas," which opened on Nov. 21. This is Brown's second lead role in a movie, after starring in "Stomp the Yard," which was released last January. Brown also recently released his latest album "Exclusive."

"this ain't my first time." The other single "Damage," is one for all those pretty young girls that have had their heart broken because of that cheating boyfriend.

This CD is so diverse that you can play it when you're hot and heavy, hurting, or just ready to get up and go wall to wall.

Brown has taken on both worlds of acting and singing and it's apparent that he can handle both and still dominate the scene.

Brown first stepped into acting

in the movie "Stomp the Yard." He played a minor character that died not too long after the beginning, but he still left an impact.

In the movie "This Christmas," Brown had no problem sticking out from a cast of great and respectable actors and actresses, such as Loretta Devine, Laz Alonso, and Mekhi Phifer.

In every scene you can spot where Brown is, even if his not speaking.

"This Christmas" really put a spin on the typical white Christmas movie.

Having a house full of lies, secrets, hurt, and even a run-in with the mob, shows that the Whitfields might just not have a merry Christmas after all.

Brown plays the baby of the family who still lives at home and has something he's dying to share with his family.

Brown wants to become a professional singer like his father.

"In reality, there is no comparison. Chris Brown is the new R&B prince of this generation."

The only problem is his father walked out on the family years ago to the same dream.

As each of their secrets and lies slip out, the harder it becomes for Brown to tell his, creating a struggle between his dreams or the love for his family.

Chris Brown has shown that he is definitely claiming his spot not only in the music world, but in the acting world too.

Brown really is in no comparison to any other artist for the simple fact he does everything with a little Tappahannock twist to it.

Chris Brown is only a talent that can get better and better with time.

Story of Santa began years ago with simple saint

'Old Saint Nick' for some is symbol of Christmas season

Randy Wohlhueter
Staff Writer

As the weather begins to get colder and fall quarter starts coming to an end, it's no surprise that the Christmas holiday is right around the corner.

Even as college students, the joy of waking up Christmas morning and sharing gifts and company with those they care about is still something they look forward to.

It just cannot be a Christmas holiday without Santa Claus. Santa is the worldwide figure that represents the Christmas and winter holiday to those young and old.

The story and belief of Santa Claus has been traced back as far as 240 A.D. The man known as Santa Claus was originally known as Saint Nicholas.

Saint Nicholas was a fourth century Christian Bishop that was known for his generous gifts to the poor, children, and his daughters.

After much time had passed since Saint Nicholas' existence, the pre-modern representation of the noble gift-giver was known by the name of Father Christmas in the European cultures.

As the American colonies and states began to take shape, they adopted the story and named their gift-giver Santa Claus.

The name Santa Claus was created in North America after the mispronunciation of the Dutch "Sinterklaas," thus Santa

Claus' name was born. One of the biggest myths behind the creation of Santa Claus came from Coca-Cola advertisements.

The Cola Company hired an artist named Haddon Sundblom to depict him for the company's holiday marketing campaign.

This was one of the greatest representations of Santa, and a lot of other companies and story tellers followed the similar image of Santa in their works.

The one thing that Coca-Cola did do was help develop the mainstream colors of Santa. Since Coca-Colas colors are red and white, they used these colors in the outfit for their Santa helping to develop the image of Santa that is well known around the world.

Santa Claus is one of the biggest attractions at local shopping

centers every Christmas. Santa began showing up in major stores, shopping malls, and walking around big city streets to help generate business and to help

raise money for local charities.

The Salvation Army would dress up unemployed men in Santa outfits and have them walk around the streets of New York City to help raise money to pay for their meals for needy families.

Santa Claus is still an icon to people, even as they grow older. The idea that Santa was going to come to a child's house

on Christmas Eve was such an exciting thrill that it made it hard for some to fall asleep.

Student Ryan Kramer, 20, said, "Santa coming was such an excitement that I could only sleep for about 15 minutes on Christmas Eve."

For those interested in getting their picture taken with

Santa this holiday season, Santa is making an appearance at the Auburn Supermall. Santa will be at the mall until December 24 before he heads off to the North Pole and prepares to visit all of the good little boys and girls.

"Santa coming was such an excitement that I could only sleep for about 15 minutes on Christmas Eve."

—Ryan Kramer

'Golden Compass' ignites debate

New film threatens Christian faith, Catholic church

Tammie Tamara
Staff Writer

One more movie from the fantasy genre that's adapted from a well known book, "The Golden Compass," will be released on December 7. The story is an adaptation from an award winning book, "His Dark Material Trilogy" by the British author, Philip Pullman.

The story is about an 11-year-old girl, Lyra, who is trapped in a world that's similar to the real world, but different in many aspects. In this world, everyone has a daemon, which is an animal formed manifestation of his or her soul.

Throughout the story, Lyra learns that many children are kidnapped, who she attempts to save.

Her adventure involves a powerful talking bear, Gyptians, witches, and an instrument called an altheometer of which the title, "The Golden Compass," refers to.

The book itself was a big controversy especially among some Christian groups. Pullman's book is considered dangerous for children because some fear that it teaches children the atheist value, and it also portrays the Catholic Church as the antagonist.

Green River Community College's students have many different opinions regarding this issue.

Zachary Cottrell, a first year student finds that the movie is too extreme. Cottrell said that throughout the years, the Catholic Church has always been very protective about their views.

Rachel Duff Banks, 18, said,

"The little girl killed God. I'm not going to read it."

Bill Donohue, the Catholic League President, called for a boycott towards the book. Some schools in the United States and Canada are starting to remove the books from their libraries.

Talia Heier, a psychology student, said that the Catholic Church has done a lot of censorship. She believes that censorship shouldn't exist.

"We should have a censorship within us," Heier said.

As the movie is produced, the controversy increases. According to the director, Chris Weitz, on an interview with MTV, the story in the adaptation is softened in order to minimize the controversy.

Donohue said, "The protest is this: it's being done at Christmas time, and when parents don't find the film troubling, they're going to buy the books for their kids as Christmas gifts."

Melissa Newman, 18, said that as a Christian, she doesn't want to read the book, but it's a personal choice.

"It has explicit ideas that I don't like, but it depends on the reader," Newman said.

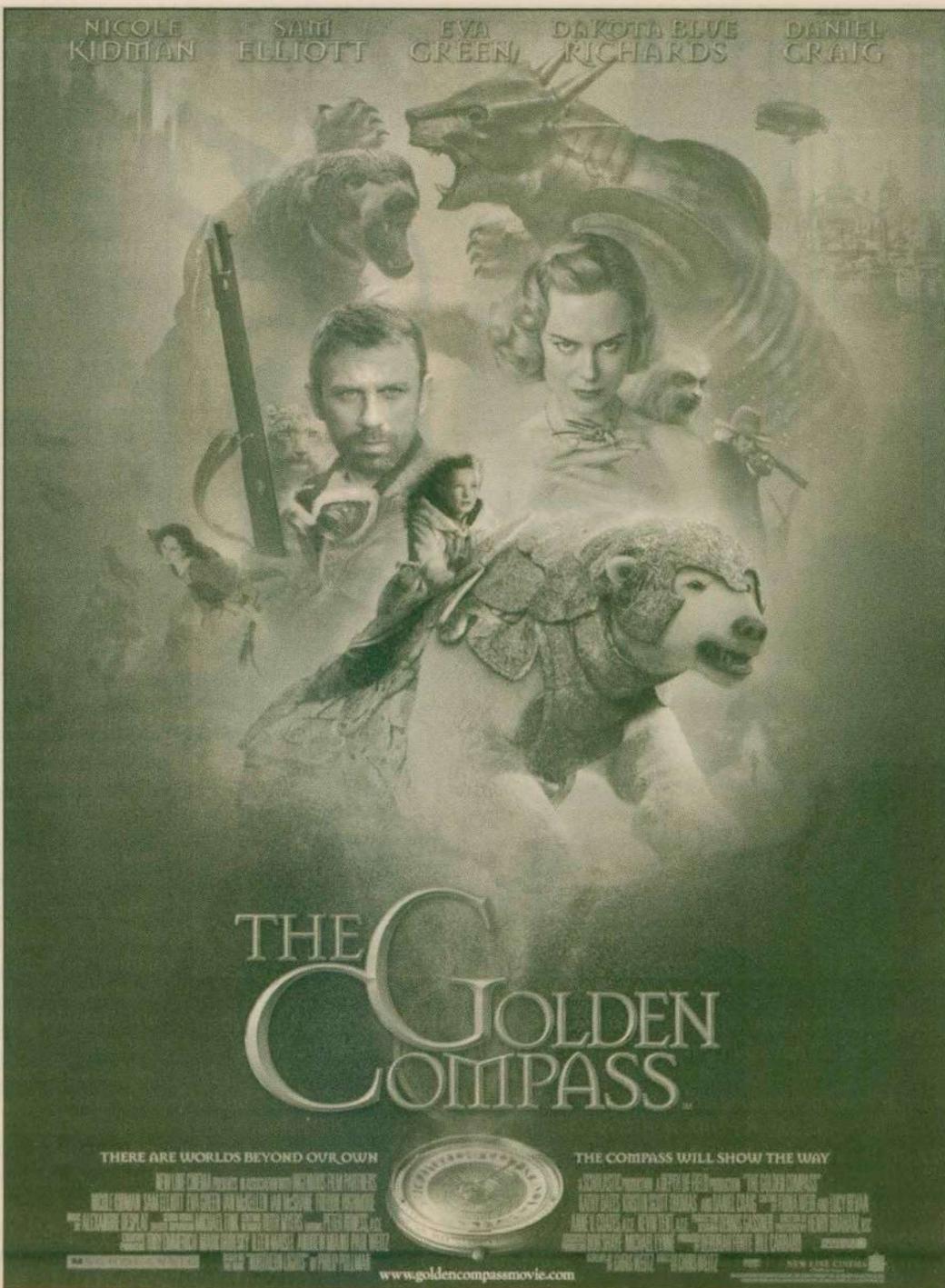
The book and the movie are targeted for children. Many argue that it's dangerous because children aren't ready to be exposed to such view yet, and they don't have the ability to choose.

Cottrell said that children have to be exposed to these views so they can learn to choose for themselves.

"There has to be a balance," Cottrell said.

Some people believe that the controversy will only make more people want to watch and read the story.

"The controversy makes it a forbidden fruit," Cottrell said.



www.fotos.subefotos.com/Courtesy Photo

"The Golden Compass" opens in theaters on Dec. 7. The film, starring Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig, and Ian McKellen, has sparked controversy across the nation, with its alleged anti-Catholic church message.

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Audition Call!

The Hi-Liners are holding auditions for Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" January 11th, 12th & 14th

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Marty Riemer currently hosts the morning show on 103.7, The Mountain, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. on weekdays. Riemer worked at Green River Community College's radio station, KGRG, when he was 13, serving as a DJ after school and on weekends. He also has his masters in electrical engineering.

Photos by Sara Olson

On top of the mountain

The Current reporter, Sara Olson, sat down for an interview with former KGRG DJ, Marty Riemer

Many years ago, a 13-year-old boy convinced the Green River Community College's radio station, KGRG, to give him a job.

For a while, he worked after school and weekends at the station, until he was busted for driving a college van around town without a license. Now, Mart Riemer is a successful radio DJ and host of the morning show on 103.7, The Mountain.

When did you know that you wanted to be a radio DJ?

When I was 12 or 13, my parents were going to the ocean, and they ditched me with a friend who was a DJ. I hung out with him in the studio for maybe only an hour, but I didn't want to leave, and I knew that this was my dream job.

Did you consider any other careers?

I have a Masters in electrical engineering. It wasn't that I considered anything else; I just didn't think I could make a living as a radio DJ. It just paid for school. I actually took an electrical engineering job, and worked that for about nine months, but I realized my passion was in radio.

What is your most memorable interview?

The one I always say is Joe Strummer from The Clash, because he has now passed on, and he died within 6 months of talking to me. But, it wasn't because of me. I guess I expected him to be a punk, because it was punk rock, but he couldn't have been sweeter. He was the coolest guy.

Who would be your dream interview?

Probably Bruce Springsteen, although I don't know if it would be my dream interview. I would just like to meet Bruce Springsteen. It is hard to ask someone who hasn't been asked these things 1,000 times before. I just want to see how little he is, because he's huge in my mind.

That's another thing. Musicians are notoriously small. Rarely they're as big as you've imagined them. All of them are like 5'7" and 85 pounds, and they're just really tiny boned.

What is your favorite part of being a radio DJ?

In radio they call it the "theater of the mind," the fact that what is going on in the studio is hidden from the audience, and the audience really imagines it how they want to. I love that about radio. It's like books and movies. Books are always better, because you can imagine anything how you want it.

They can think I look any way they want to. They can think the studio looks any way they want to. I love that. I love the fact that the images people have in their heads is entirely different. And, as a DJ, you can feed that.

How have you changed since working at KGRG?

I am far more disciplined on the air than I was on the air back then.

I'm probably a lot more sober too. That was the big thing. We'd get high and go on the air; we'd get drunk and go on the air.

However, the basic thrill I get about being in a radio studio is still there. I also think I have a few more listeners now.

Sometimes I ask myself, "Has there ever been a time when I've

had no one listening," because you never know. And I think that if there was a time, it was probably back when I was working at the college.

Are there any radio DJs that you admire?

That is

another big thing that has changed. When I started out, I had so many heroes that I was trying to attain their level of success on the air. Over the years, I've had fewer and fewer people that I look to for inspiration.

Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

I'm really happy where I am right now. I like what I do. The hours really blow. I wish I didn't have to get up so early to do it. I own a video production company, so I would like to do more with that.

"In radio they call it the 'theater of the mind,' the fact that what is going on in the studio is hidden from the audience, and the audience really imagines it how they want to. I love that about radio."