

THE CURRENTPOLITAN



TIMELINE

A History of Love, Sex & Romance

Feces, "hysterical paroxysms" and a 5-year-old mother. It's all there.

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Empowerment Through Nudity

Lacey Steward shares her experience

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Top 5 movies, restaurants, music, and more!

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All illustrations by Bailey Jo Josie and Kelli Wyatt

Grammy winner visits Green River campus to perform and teach workshop

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Should we really be complaining about Washington tuition rates?

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One student dies in car crash near campus, other in hospital

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Campus



Also inside: "For better or (for the most part in this movie) for worse, family is forever."

Bailey Jo Josie, page 7



www.thecurrentonline.net

On Friday Feb. 4, a Lunar New Year (an important traditional holiday in Eastern Asia) celebration was hosted in the Lindbloom Student Center. Here are some photos of the event, a full slideshow can be found on our website.

All photos by Matthew Montoya

Sun, spiders and other stories from down under

This is the second of four installments that will be published in *The Current* this quarter. Text by Bruce Haulman, history instructor and a supervisor on the trip. All quotes are from students on the trip. A full account can be found on our website: www.thecurrentonline.net

This is a day-by-day account of students in the Australia-New Zealand Study Abroad Program. The group left Seattle on Jan. 4 for Melbourne, Australia where we will be for four weeks with one week to travel before leaving for Auckland, New Zealand, where we will be for four weeks with one week to travel. We return home on March 12, in time for spring term.

This is the eleventh year of the Green River Australia-New Zealand Study Abroad Program. Nearly 300 students have participated in the program and have returned with a new appreciation for these two island nations on the other side of the world.

Saturday Jan. 22

Saturday evening the group went to a Victoria Bushranger vs New South Wales Blues Twenty20 Cricket match. Twenty20 is a shorter version of cricket with just 20 overs (an over consists of 6 bowls or pitches), instead of the 50 overs in a one-day match, or the test match, which lasts five days!



Ashley Henry - "Note to self: If you are a female at a cricket match, do not walk down section 13 by yourself into a sea of Aussies. I will leave it at that."
Stuart Kruidenier - "Gotta give it up for the Melbourne cricket fans, 'You are a wanker' is by far the coolest sport chant I've been involved in."

Johanna Siler - "Haha, so many people get kicked out, so much swearing and oh so much beer..."

Sat/Sun Jan. 22/23



This weekend seven students also traveled to Sydney.

Olivia Branham - "This weekend we took a ferry to Watson's Bay and had fish and chips, saw the Opera House up close from the Harbor, and we had lunch under the Sydney Harbor Bridge. This was an endearing and incredible experience I will never forget!"
Jessica Myers - "Last day in Sydney, chillin' at the beach. Then a 12 hour bus ride, then a train ride, then a presentation, and then I'll finally be able to relax again. Phew!"

Wednesday Jan. 26

Shannon Beach - "The number of people in Federation Square was insane. People were running around with flag capes and the people on the tram were all singing the Australian anthem. Our 4th of July is nothing compared to Australia Day."

Erin O'Doherty - "Australia Day was one of the most fun days so far. We all got dressed up in Australian flags, shirts and tattoos. Then we went to downtown Melbourne where we listened to music and watched fireworks. There were thousands of people downtown, all celebrating their Australia pride."



Thursday Feb. 3



Cyclone Yasi hit the coast at Innesfall south of Cairns at midnight Feb. 2. The very powerful storm had winds of 180 mph and torrential rains. Four students were at the Stockland emergency shelter with 2,000 other evacuees - power was cut at midnight and the shelter was hot, humid and crowded, but safe from the storm. Thursday morning a baby was born at the shelter!

Friday Feb. 4

Alan Carroll - "Just survived one of the worst cyclones in Australian history. It's been a pretty interesting couple of days!"

Kaitlyn Abrams - "We had to do some growing up fast. All of us had to take the initiative and lead in some scary situations but we've bonded a lot and actually met some great people. Not everyone can say that they've survived a category five cyclone, right? And given the circumstances, I think we couldn't have done better for ourselves. We haven't eaten a good meal in days, so later we're going to go out to see if anything's open. By the way, these hostel beds, while hard compared to others, are absolutely delicious compared to the ground. It definitely gives you a different perspective on everything, when you've experienced what the absolute worst can be like."



Campus



Editor: Jean-Pierre Garcia
campus.editor@mail.greenriver.edu

Teacher Spotlight: Cindy Small

Full name: Cindy Small

Position: Art instructor

Date of birth: March 9, 1956

Year at Green River: 10 years of full time, 7 or so years of part time.

Why did you become a teacher?

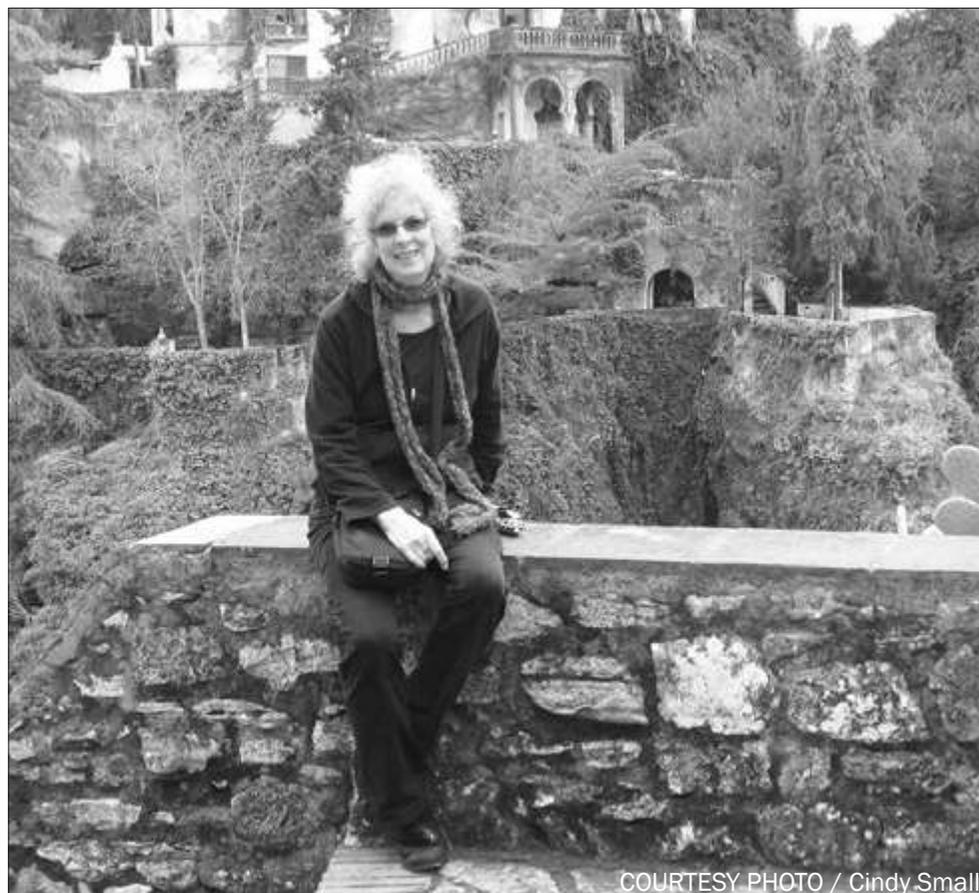
Even when I was a kid, I played school during summer break. I would force my brother to be my student, and make him do all sorts of school work. Not so much fun for him, but a lot of fun for me. I liked being able to show someone how to do something. I liked that interaction. My oldest sister was a teacher, and education was very important in my family. I think it just seemed like a very natural progression.

Why art?

I have to answer this practically the same way as the previous question. As long as I can remember I really enjoyed making things with my hands. I don't follow instructions well, so anything like model building, or sewing, did not work well with me. If I tried to do a project that had specific instructions, I ended up just looking at a picture of the finished product, and go from there. Of course it never looked like the picture, but I had a lot more fun in the process, and usually liked what I came up with better.

At an early age, I started getting positive attention for my drawings, and little constructions. My dad was a carpenter and also a hobbyist, so he really appreciated that part of me. We even took a stained glass class together, which he did much better in than me (because of that instruction/measuring thing). I kept up taking art classes through high school and college, trying all kinds of media. I don't know if there is an art class I haven't taken. To this day I like to try new things just to see what I can do.

I get a lot of contentment



COURTESY PHOTO / Cindy Small

from expressing myself through my art. And it's a beautiful way to connect to all kinds of people.

Describe yourself as a teacher:

I'm enthusiastic. I have a wacky sense of humor. I respect the role art has in every culture on earth and am completely fascinated by that expression. I'm honored to be in a place where I may make a difference in helping someone find their creative voice. I have some serious skills. And I continue to be a student myself, which makes me, I think, a compassionate teacher.

What do you see yourself doing in the future?

I will work on my art until I am physically unable, and I really hope it's death that causes that inability and not some sort of illness. I also have really gotten into a yoga practice which has had some incredible impact on my drawing focus. I hope to continue that, and maybe teach yoga at some point.

And of course travel! I love to experience new places and cultures. Plus I

love going to Mexico, specifically interior colonial towns. It's fun to think that maybe I could live there sometime.

What was (were) your childhood dream(s)?

Nothing all that specific. I think from an early age I knew life was way too short. Seriously. I remember turning 10 and thinking that pretty soon I would be a teenager, then I'd be 20, then middle age, then it's over.

I have always been very aware of time. I knew I wanted a creative life with lots of good friends and a strong connection to my family. I wanted music, theatre, and dance to be a part of my life somehow. And I wanted to live in a place that inspired me.

You were on leave last year, what did you do?

I worked in my studio; I took workshops in drawing and painting; I had a studio open house; I taught a Saturday drawing class; I travelled to Spain; I had an artist residency in Talk-ee-na, Alaska and one on Guemes Island, WA; and I published a mini-book of

sketches.

What are you currently working on?

When I started my leave last year, I made a commitment to begin each day with a little drawing. The mini-book I published is of that work. I have found that that practice has had a huge impact on my art and my life. I begin each day thinking of myself as an artist by making a quick sketch of something I'm looking at, or something from my imagination. After I came back to work this past fall, I continued this practice. I am now at Sketch #600.

I've also been working on a new series of paintings and weird little objects which I'll be showing at Green River in April. At this point, the show is titled "The Wonder Wall." It's roughly based on my personal journey into defining what faith means.

You can find the complete Cindy Small and other Teacher Spotlights at:
www.thecurrentonline.net/campus

Man on the street



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

Here is a selection of this issue's answers. For more, plus an archive of old questions, visit our website: www.thecurrentonline.net.

What does your ideal Valentine's Day look like?

I don't think an ideal Valentine's Day exists because everything is based on your perception. Sure you can do special things. If you spent a Valentine's Day on a yacht it will be a little bit more memorable than spending it at home, but I think what matters is who you spend it with.

- Eric Choy



Valentine's Day to me should be a day of love - just being with someone you are happy with. It doesn't matter if you're doing anything or not. I'd probably drive to Mt. Rainier though. A sweet valentine's day would be driving up there and just spending a day there.

- Thomas Roberts



I like going to movies, video games. Yeah, kicking ass and taking names. Xbox tournaments as long as I win. No pity victories. Don't let me win. I would love to play Left for Dead and kill zombies. Nothing says I love you like killing zombies.

- Bri Brooks



Frisbee all day doesn't seem appropriate, heart shaped Frisbees wouldn't work... going to dinner and giving her a cactus. She wanted a cactus. It's something fun. I'm giving her something she wants, something different. Trying to be original. Stand out.

- Thomas Olson



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 3-5 ACTIVITY CREDITS

Campus



Editor: Jean-Pierre Garcia
 campus.editor@mail.greenriver.edu

College applies for grant to create a Humanities Center

By: Jean-Pierre Garcia
 Campus Editor

Last month, Green River applied for a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant of \$141,000.

With the grant, the college is hoping to build an online Humanities Cultural Center and offer several courses through the Natural Resources and Humanities departments in an outdoor classroom format. Members of the two departments spent over a year working toward the 'Challenge Grant for Two-Year Colleges' proposal.

The Humanities Cultural Center:

"The center will be a web-based clearinghouse for information about Hu-

manities-related activities, curricula and events," Matthew Swenson, development specialist in the foundation office, said.

The college intends for the center to be a "bridge between previously disconnected departments," said Swenson. The first partnership would be between the Humanities and Natural Resources departments. It would consist mostly of "paired courses," according to the grant proposal - courses that would combine classes from both fields into one, interdisciplinary class.

If it proves to be a success, there would be similar collaboration between the Humanities and other professional-technical programs, such as the Aviation and Welding depart-

ments, as well.

Outside of campus, the proposal received support from the White River Valley Museum and the Auburn Cultural Center. The museum hopes to participate through shared exhibits, student internships and other joint activities.

The Outdoor Classroom:

An outdoor classroom was proposed as a part of the Natural Resources and Humanities collaboration. It is just what it sounds like: a 'classroom' outside in the open air.

If the plans go through it will be located on a level clearing near the trails on the north side of campus, around where the SMT and P-6 and P-7 parking lots are situated. There will be room for about 75 students

and room for students with assistive technology.

The classroom would facilitate some of the aforementioned interdisciplinary courses. "The outdoor classroom is a vehicle to bring together two different channels of thinking," said Hank Galmish, chair of the English Division and a big supporter of the project.

"Humanity students may know the aesthetic sense of a tree, but not the biological sense - how it works," Galmish said he "marveled at the wealth of knowledge" he gained when he toured the campus grounds with Dick Hopkins, Natural Resources instructor.

The outdoor classroom would cost \$28,000, on top of the \$11,000 the Natural Resources faculty and students have pledged to

donate in the form of materials and labor.

The NEH grant has a matching requirement - for every dollar from the NEH, the school must invest two, which have to come from nonfederal donations. This means, to match the \$141,000 grant that was applied for, Green River must fundraise \$282,000 (within six years). The total project is projected to cost around \$493,000, so the college would continue fundraising even after NEH funding would end.

"We're aware of the possible budget cuts facing Green River," said Joyce Hammer, dean of transfer education. "But if we get the grant, it will allow for us to enrich the area of the humanities, something

that the college may not have been able to finance otherwise."

Whether the college will get the grant is still up in the air.

"A grant of this nature takes time in all of its stages," said Hammer, who was a contributor to the proposal. "It's very pie-in-the-sky right now."

A recent proposal from Republicans in Congress to completely eliminate the NEH in order to reduce federal spending has made this especially true. The House is also expected to vote on a measure that will roll back non-security funding soon.

The grant winners will be announced in June.

Gentry Seipert contributed reporting.



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A & E

Also inside: "It is rare to find a woman with the strength I had that day"

Lacey Steward, page 10



COMICS

By: Whitney Gerard



By: Bailey Jo Josie & Alexander Bevier



By: Jiagin Song

By: Bailey Jo Josie



When a student was stabbed on campus...



...our followers were the first to find out.

facebook.com/greenrivercurrent

SUDOKU

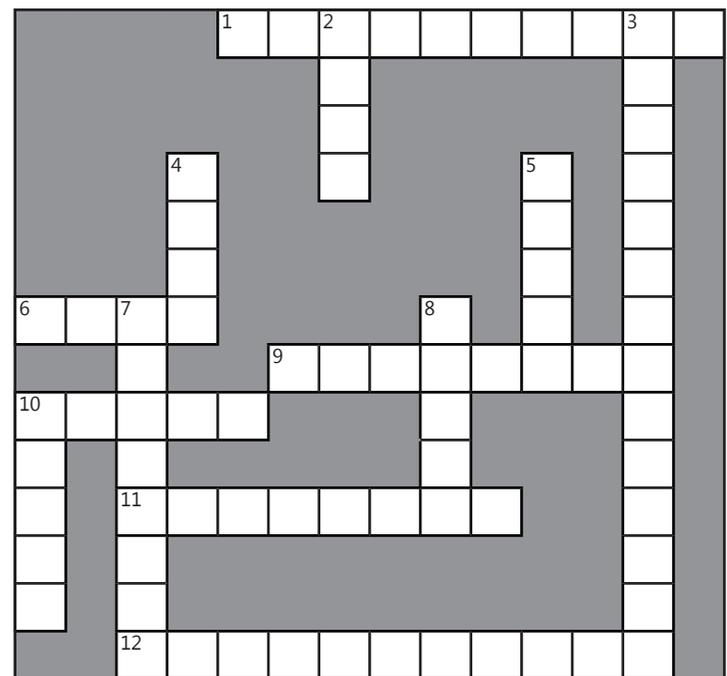
Medium

Hard

		4			3		8	
			9			2		1
			8	1		3		7
	3					8		
8	1	2		4		7	6	5
		5					2	
4		3		7	6			
2		7			5			
	5		2			4		

9				6				5
		3		1				4
	7		5		9	8		2
3	2		9					
		7		8		9		
					5		7	1
6		4	4		7		8	
2				5		3		
	5			9				6

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 The word "valentine" means ____
- 6 Frilly trim
- 9 St. Valentine was ____ for performing marriage ceremonies
- 10 ____-shaped-box
- 11 If guys don't give their girlfriends flowers and chocolates, they get sent to the ____
- 12 ____ other

Down

- 2 The Greek name for Cupid, the God of Love
- 3 Shakespeare's star-crossed lovers
- 4 "Be ____"
- 5 Love-ly cherub
- 7 Emperor ____ II ordered the death of St. Valentine
- 8 Cupid's mother
- 10 English king who declared February a holiday in 1537 for the first time was ____ VIII.

TRIVIAL TRIVIA

- 1. What percent of U.S. women send themselves flowers on Valentine's?
 - a. 10%
 - b. 15%
 - c. 20%
- 2. Wearing wedding rings on the fourth finger of the left hand dates back to ancient _____.
 - a. Greece
 - b. Egypt
 - c. China
- 3. About what percentage of pet owners give their pets a Valentine's gift?
 - a. 3%
 - b. 8%
 - c. 14%
- 4. Chocolate manufacturers currently use what percent of the world's almonds?
 - a. 20%
 - b. 30%
 - c. 40%
- 5. Humorous valentines in the 19th century were called _____.
 - a. Vinegar Valentines
 - b. Vulgar Valentines
 - c. Vacuous Valentines
- 6. The Kama Sutra was written around _____.
 - a. 1500 CE
 - b. 800 CE
 - c. 300 BCE

Answers:

1.b, 2.b, 3.a, 4.c, 5.a, 6.c



Struggling with love

Romance in games is seldom effective because there are three people involved: the player, the player's character, and the character's intended paramour. Somewhere along in that awkward polygonal three-way, someone's going to get uncomfortable.

Game Prose

Alexander Bevier



Rolling Stones when they said "I can't get no satisfaction."

It's not that everyone in the industry hasn't tried.

The problem could be the writing that forces you to get into a relationship right before you impale mutant Nazis. It could be because there's an uncanny valley keeping the two characters from seeming like they're looking at each other. It could also be because the de-

Final Fantasy VIII worked as hard as it could to tell an emotional love story, and I believed every moment of it in fifth grade. Today, I realize the subplot was in the game purely to attract future Twilight fans who owned a PlayStation.

Although developers haven't cracked the romance code yet, games still provide a portal for intimacy. People get married when they meet over World of Warcraft and Everquest all the time. After all, over half of the game is about interaction, so it's likely someone will eventually strike your fancy.

Even with all of the failed attempts at romance the industry has, I still adoringly remember the two characters in Final Fantasy VIII professing their love while a 1998 pop song plays in the background. I was a little brokenhearted to realize my love interest in Mass Effect became a bitch in the sequel. Games with romantic subplots are often long-form and take over 50 hours to complete; it's hard not to become emotionally attached to these characters, even if they're as interesting as bricks.

The gaming industry is making progress, however. The Persona series has managed to recreate teen romance unbelievably well. The team is even creating a new game, Catherine, about a young man's panic in a love triangle.

But, then again, I'm talking about romance in video games. No wonder I'm single.

Why the gaming industry hasn't cracked the romance code - yet.

sired paramour is a completely uninteresting character.

Still, there are times when things come together and players show emotion for the characters they're trying to woo. In Mass Effect, players find themselves spending over 30 hours talking to and building relationships with the crew of their spaceship. During this time, you can slowly work toward building a romantic relationship with several crew members. Xbox players also get an achievement for unlocking the PG sex scene.

Games are the art of making one live a virtual experience. Developers work hard to place players in a character's shoes and show them a different way to view the world. As the Beatles once said, "all you need is love" - which is what the industry is now trying to make a truism in their world as well. Why is love so hard to communicate in games? It seems that developers spend more time listening to the

A visit from a Grammy-winning jazz artist

By: Mallory Litzinger
Staff Writer

A man, dressed casually in dark denim jeans and a suit jacket, who only moments before was chatting to a group of students as if they were his oldest acquaintances, is standing off to the side of the Bleha Performing Arts Center. He is suddenly announced, and steps into the spotlight.

His name is Peter Eldridge, a double Grammy winner with the jazz group the New York Voices, a solo artist with four albums, a jazz instructor and a music producer. He currently devotes most of his time to teaching workshops in between touring for his new album, 'Mad Heaven,' which will be released this month.

Eldridge was here for a reason - on Jan. 29, Green River hosted its Vocal Jazz Festival, featuring performances by Kentridge, Auburn High, Auburn Riverside and Green River's jazz choirs. After viewing the event, he would treat those in attendance to a performance of his own and teach a workshop for the students.

The crowd hushes as Eldridge plays the first note on his piano and his haunting voice fills the room, with back-up provided by Matthew Aronoff, the stand-up bassist accompanying Eldridge on his Mad Heaven tour. The lights are dimmed, the atmosphere is welcoming and friendly. Eldridge jokes with the crowd, and every few songs asks permission to continue. "Hi, uh... you guys okay?" As if anyone would tell him anything but.

At one point he turns, picks up a discarded box, and proclaims quite proudly, "I'm now going to beat the living daylights out of this box." He does just that. Dropping the piano for an entire song, Eldridge beats the box with brush sticks, and all the while Aronoff never misses a

beat. Eyes closed, both of them swaying to their music, Eldridge sings a song about a "Full-grown man on the playground."

After going through a wide assortment of his songs, including 'Postcards and Messages,' and 'That Which Can't Be Explained (Ming's Lullaby),' he has one last surprise for the audience, and one member in particular, in store - Eldridge invites Green River music instructor and organizer of the event Kelly Eisenhour on stage for a duet. And, although the two have never practiced together, they perform a cover of 'My Little Red Top' as if there's nothing to it.

"This is typical of jazz, if you are a professional jazz musician you just know what to do," said



Matthew Montoya / THE CURRENT

Eldridge on stage, giving advice to high school jazz choir students.

Eisenhour. "[It] was a lot of fun, and I'm glad he asked me."

"It's a privilege to be able to bring someone here to Green River who is of that caliber."

Next to fun, she also wanted the performance to inspire students. "I hope to open the door for new music in their lives that is artistic and thoughtful."

It seems to have done the trick. After the show was over, Green River choir member Arienna Chamberlain, who also worked one-on-one with Eldridge during the workshops, was excited. "[It was] very awe-inspiring because he's very musical and professional. It's nice to see someone that is where I want to be."

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› Take a tour of campus

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A&E Review & Preview

Calendar

Concerts:

- Feb 12 **Cake**
@ Moore Theatre
(Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$37.50)
- Sebadoh**
@ Neumos
(Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$15+)
- The Radio Dept.**
@ The Crocodile
(Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$24)
- Feb 13 **The Material**
@ El Corazón
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$10+)
- Feb 14 **Sinatra at the Sands**
@ The Triple Door
(Doors open at 7 p.m. 21+, \$60+)
- Feb 16 **Ke\$ha**
@ ShowBox SODO
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, SOLD OUT)
- Feb 17 **Tommy Emmanuel**
@ Moore Theatre
(Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$33)
- Godspeed You! Black Emperor**
@ ShowBox SODO
(Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$20)
- Yo La Tengo**
@ ShowBox at the Market
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$18+)
- Feb 18 **The Decemberists**
@ Paramount Theatre
(Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$32+)
- The Presidents of the United States of America**
@ ShowBox at the Market
(Also Feb. 19. Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$20+)
- Ryan Bingham**
@ Neumos
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$20+)
- Feb 20 **The Presidents of the United States of America**
@ ShowBox at the Market
(Doors open at 7 p.m. all ages, \$20+)
- Young the Giant**
@ Tractor Tavern
(Doors open at 8 p.m. all ages, \$10+)
- Feb 23 **John Popper and the Duskray Troubadours**
@ Neumos
(Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$20+)
- Feb 25 **Hellogoodbye**
@ El Corazón
(Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$15)
- Deerhoof**
@ Neumos
(Doors open at 8 p.m. 21+, \$15+)
- Feb 26 **Eric Clapton**
@ Key Arena
(Doors open at 7:30 p.m. all ages, \$65+)

Movies

- Feb 11 **Gnomeo and Juliet - G**
Just Go With It - PG13
The Eagle - PG13
- Feb 18 **I Am Number Four - PG13**
Unknown - PG13
- Mar 4 **Rango - PG**

Beyond the bells and whistles

By: Bailey Jo Josie
A&E Editor



'The Fighter' is a movie about metamorphosis; before your very eyes, you see Amy Adams, who is best known for her cutesy role as Giselle in 'Enchanted,' transform into not only a tough bartender who isn't afraid to throw down with her boyfriend's sisters - all seven of them. You watch as Mark Wahlberg, as real-life protagonist Micky Ward, goes from "stepping stone" to welterweight champion.

You feel as if you really are watching a triumph and not some same old sports film of underdogs and montages. This reveals another transformation that the film embodies:

you feel your expectations change as you notice this film is about more than macho athletic ability. You begin to see it is something special and something unique - something to behold.

The movie takes place in Lowell, Massachusetts, in the early 90's. Former boxer and current crack addict Dicky Eklund, played by the forever fascinating Christian Bale, is training his younger brother Micky to be a boxing champion.

The movie detours from the usual boxing film formula. Rather than a movie just about fighting and winning, it's about family; an overbearing, nepotistic mother (Melissa Leo), Micky's fiery love interest Charlene Fleming (Adams) and seven of the



Micky (Wahlberg) and his brother (Bale) in the ring.

most grotesquely hilarious flock of sheep/sisters since 'My Big Fat Greek Wedding's' bevy of cousins and aunts.

Director David O. Russell does what few directors of the biopic genre can pull off - he makes a biographic film about a hometown hero seem almost like a true documentary. He goes light on the bells and whistles and

heavy on the pure emotion that comes with a movie that depicts drug addiction and the trouble it can give people, even when it is virtually ignored.

It is a movie of accomplishments, with its enriched cast of talented actors, its direct and realistic dialogue and the message that, for better or (for the most part in this movie) for worse, family is forever.

The Current Picks

Movie:

Thelma and Louise



Thelma and Louise, a 1991 drama about an oppressed housewife and her headstrong friend, gives new meaning to the phrase "get a life."

The two decide to go to a relative's lake house for the weekend. They run into trouble when a man tries to rape Thelma (Geena Davis). Louise (Susan Sarandon) shoots and kills him, beginning a tumultuous run from the police. Even with a depressing ending, 'Thelma and Louise' takes viewers on an amusing emotional rollercoaster, and makes no secret of its feminist implications. A film for anyone craving some freedom, it has lighthearted humor as well as deep significance.

By: Alyssa Ryan

Book:

Neither Here Nor There



'Neither Here Nor There' is one of many hilarious travelogues written by author and journalist Bill Bryson.

On this particular journey, he ventures into Europe to re-live the backpacking trip he went on in 1972 and '73, albeit in a more luxurious fashion this time. The book is written in his usual dry style and generates more than the occasional chuckle, with stories like the one about the Lithuanian army, which came back one man stronger (up from 80 to 81 men) on its last military escapade because they made a friend.

For those that are interested in traveling in Europe, or simply like humor, this is a must-read.

By: Remco Zwetsloot

Music:

Odd Blood



Yeasayer's second album, "Odd Blood," begins with clanking sounds reminiscent of those found in a mine. The rigid rhythm builds to a droning and almost demonic voice.

Regardless of the heavy intro, 'Odd Blood' is predominantly full of pop-inspired rhythms, and the songs are generally more memorable than their first album, 'All Hour Cymbals,' sporting catchier melodies and harmonies, and generally less ambience.

You'll undoubtedly find yourself singing along to the chorus - but Yeasayer stays true to their identity and provides plenty of their typical peculiar musical interludes that leave you begging for more.

By: Kelli Wyatt

www.thecurrentonline.net

A History of Sex, Love and Romance

How the butterflies in our stomachs have evolved over the years.

Women in Egypt begin using crocodile feces mixed with honey as a form of contraception. They switched to elephant drop-pings when they realized it didn't work.

The earliest sex toys found by anthropologists date back to around 500 BCE and were made of stone.

The Roman god Bacchus was celebrated by some with huge sex orgies during festivals called Bacchanalia. When the festivals were outlawed, 7,000 people were arrested.



~2,000 BCE

~1,000

~500

~430

186 CE

1382

Use of condoms has been traced back to ancient Egypt, where linen sheaths were used to prevent disease. In the 1700s, condoms were briefly constructed out of animal intestines.

The earliest art containing images depicting intercourse dates from around 430 BCE. They were drawn on pottery.

The year the term "sex" was coined.

A British publisher releases a book called 'The Young Man's Valentine Writer,' which contained sentimental prose guys could copy. Cards started being mass produced around this time.

In Macbeth, Shakespeare observes that alcohol "provokes the desire, but it takes away the performance."

1605



1829

1797

~1650

A physician claimed 25 percent of all women suffered from a disease called hysteria. At the time, it was treated with vaginal massages, but since physicians thought it took too long for women to achieve "hysterical paroxysm" this way they started using hydrotherapy, the spraying of water to massage the clitoris, and a clockwork-driven vibrator was invented.

Graham crackers were invented by Presbyterian minister Sylvester Graham to suppress masturbation, or, as he called it, "self-abuse."

Some 17th century British women used "cockle bread" to entice potential lovers. Cockle bread was made of dough that a woman kneaded and then pressed against her vulva before it was baked.

1859

Up until this year a Victorian-era woman could be sent to prison for denying her husband sex.



1896

1884

The May Irwin Kiss was one of the first films shown publicly; it showed a man and a woman kissing. In its day it was deemed pornographic and vulgar.

French President Francois Faure expired in a bordello during the act of copulation. According to popular myth, this so terrified his lady of the evening that her vagina constricted intractably, necessitating the surgical removal of the dead man's member.

1899



Mo Ka Wang, a Chi Kung master in Hong Kong, lifts over 250 pounds of weight two feet off the ground with his erect penis.

The year the film "Deep Throat" was released. It is the most successful X-rated movie of all time - it earned over \$100 million.

1973

1972

1939

The American Psychiatric Association removes homosexuality from the list of mental illnesses and categorizes it as an orientation.

On May 14 of this year, the youngest mother ever, Lina Medina, then 5 years and 7 months old, gave birth to a son. She had her first period when she was 2.5 years old and had mature sexual organs at the time of her pregnancy.

1998

Viagra was invented by chemists working at the pharmaceutical company Pfizer. During the first three months it was on the market, 69 people died from it.

The Guilin Latex Company made the biggest condom ever - it was 260 feet tall and 330 feet wide. It was put on a hotel in China.

According to a study conducted by Optenet last year, 37 percent of all websites contain pornographic material. In 2003 it was 12 percent.

2003

2010

Back In The Day: Sexual Slang and Synonyms

Breasts:

Diddeys, bubbies, dugs, kettledrums, bushel bubby

To fornicate:

To dock, to dab, to knock, to wap, to prig, to tup, to join giblets

Lewd woman:

Bob tail, wagtail, trollop, dirty puzzle, abess, Athanasian wench, quicunque vult, biter, cockish, convenient

Private parts (F):

Bite, cock lane, commodity, dumb glutton, hat, lady laycock, madge, muff, quim, crankum crankum, notch

Private parts (M):

Gaying instrument, pugtail, Nebuchadnezzar, tool, Thomas, whore pipe

Prostitute:

Tart, bawd, laced mutton, toffer, buttock

Testicles:

Tallywags/tarrywags, twiddle-diddles, whirlygigs

Wife:

Lawful blanket, trouble and strife

This is simply a list of historical slang terms, mostly from the Victorian age, and is not meant to offend, insult or otherwise agitate anyone.

How to turn your Valentine's day Upside Down!

Not sure what to do for that special someone? Overwhelmed with options? Calm down, there's no need to panic - we are here with suggestions!

Top 5 Movies

5. **Dan in Real Life**
Steve Carrel as a single parent in love with his brother's girlfriend is an easy excuse to get emotional.
4. **40-Year-Old Virgin**
It starts by putting sex on a pedestal, but ends with the realization that sex can wait if true love is willing to wait too.
3. **Love and Other Drugs**
The twists and turns are so frequent it feels as if you are Jake Gyllenhaal and Anne Hathaway.
2. **Once**
The perfect romantic movie for music lovers as it shows the struggles and fears of falling in love.
1. **It's Complicated**
A fun, romantic movie. A little sappy, but so is Valentine's Day - if you do it right, at least.

Top 5 Presents

5. **Chocolates and Flowers**
While it's not the most original gift, it's still appreciated. Just make sure you plan it well.
4. **A Good Book**
If your other half is a bookworm, this gift will be perfect. But if the book is too perfect, they might ditch you for reading the day away.
3. **Anything Homemade**
This could range from poems to cakes - it's completely up to you.
2. **Mixed CD**
Homemade love songs and poems can be too much, so why not just steal someone else's words?
1. **Full-Body Massage**
They're free, and are usually appreciated more than material things - as long as you do it right.

Top 5 Songs

5. **Living in the Sunlight, Loving in the Moonlight**
Courtesy Tiny Tim, this is truly an appropriate song for any intimate setting.
4. **PDA (We Just Don't Care)**
John Legend's smooth, catchy song is perfect for getting into the Valentine's Day mood.
3. **You're My Best Friend**
Queen got it right when they sang you have to like someone first to really love them.
2. **Sway**
Sure it's cliché, but that's because it's true - this song, sang by Michael Buble, is the epitome of romance and excitement.
1. **Crash Into Me**
Sang by Dave Matthews, this song tells the story of young love and is sure to melt any heart.

Top 5 Restaurants

5. **The Melting Pot**
Just skip dinner and order only the chocolate fondue dessert.
4. **Joey's**
A truly classy place, with attractive service. Tends to lean on the expensive side, however.
3. **Johnny Rockets**
Nothing special on its own, but if you can pre-plan, the staff may be willing to help you put together a nice candle-lit dinner.
2. **Home Cooking Instead**
Assuming one of the two of you is a good cook, you might as well save money, eat in, and spend time together preparing the meal.
1. **Shari's**
Breakfast for dinner and cheeky waitresses, what more do you need for a romantic date?



Although the perfect day is unobtainable as perfection only exists as a concept, a good Valentine's Day might consist of a timeline of events similar to this: Upon waking it would be a bright and sunny day. Actually it seems that when it's rainy outside, the coziness of being inside increases proportionally with the decrease of coziness outside. In fact I'd prefer a rainy day due to the optimal coziness. Anyway, my girlfriend and I would wake up and look outside, and upon seeing the weather we would be content with staying indoors, chatting, working on things, eating, cuddling, and snuggling.

By: Josh Davidson

Aside from the incredibly witty method on display to the left of this text, I suppose you could turn my Valentine's Day upside down in a number of ways. If you are not strong enough to lift me up by one arm - and although I'd be interested in testing this out, I'm guessing my girlfriend isn't - you could try using two, or, if that still won't work, simply deposit me legs-up on any given object (preferably a cushioned one, though) if you wish. If, for some strange reason, all that doesn't work either, a nice dinner and a massage, and perhaps a movie of the romantic sort - and yes, I am aware that I am extremely high-maintenance - would tickle my fancy plenty.

By: Kelli Wyatt

To be honest, I generally find extravagant things to be rather intimidating and they tend to make me feel uncomfortable. (Then again, I've never experienced something "extravagant.") Regardless, my ideal Valentine's Day would be spent relaxing with my boyfriend, without external distractions. We don't necessarily have to go out and do anything - unless he can think of something fantastic. If anything, the best day would include going out for dinner (or cooking something at home), then returning to one of our houses and watching movies until late and falling asleep on the couch. Too bad Valentine's Day falls on a Monday this year.

By: Bailey Jo Josie

To say the least, I'm a pretty low-key person - out of all the dinner dates I've gone on with my boyfriend in the past three years we've probably only been to a nice sit-down restaurant two or three times. This isn't to say I don't like doing romantic things; I enjoy them, just like any other girl does. But romance doesn't have to be extravagant - it just needs to be sincere. To truly turn my day upside down, all my boyfriend would really need to do is surprise me with a smoothie, help me with my chores, and then we could hike all day and go to an awesome concert, maybe BRMC or Ryan Bingham. This year we aren't buying gifts, but we're definitely buying time for each other.

By: Josh Davidson

While alcohol can increase social interaction, it also inhibits vasopressin, a hormone associated with bonding and monogamy. Vasopressin is also an anti-diuretic, explaining an increase in bathroom trips as a result of drinking (which might interrupt a romantic moment!).

Better Loving Through Chemistry

Like any feeling, love exists as a set of chemical reactions in the brain. Make your Valentine's Day great by using the various brain tools below.

Yohimbine

Natural stimulant and aphrodisiac from the African Yohimbe tree. It is sold as a supplement over the counter.

Chocolate

Common Valentine's gift for good reason. Chocolate contains theobromine, which causes mild stimulation that can be associated with increased libido.

Oxytocin

Hormone released by the brain during bonding. When administered through nasal spray, it can increase feelings of trust and bonding. Warning: It also has been shown increase feelings of jealousy. It can be purchased online.

Tyrosine

Precursor to the neurotransmitters dopamine and norepinephrine. Both are associated with the experience of desire, passion, and love. Sold over the counter as a supplement.

Red clothing

It's not a mistake that red is associated with love. Studies have shown that wearing red raises one's attractiveness in the eyes of the opposite sex.

Avoid foods high in cholesterol

Cholesterol coats the walls of blood vessels in the brain and body, lessening energy and stimulation.

Avoid foods with tryptophan

Tryptophan is a precursor to serotonin, a neurotransmitter that has been shown to decrease libido. Google "foods with tryptophan" for a list of foods to avoid.

Avoid nicotine

Nicotine can cause the release of serotonin, which has been shown to decrease libido.

Perhaps avoid alcohol

While alcohol can increase social interaction, it also inhibits vasopressin, a hormone associated with bonding and monogamy. Vasopressin is also an anti-diuretic, explaining an increase in bathroom trips as a result of drinking (which might interrupt a romantic moment!).

By: Josh Davidson

Empowerment Through Nudity

BY: LACEY STEWARD

Agreeing to get naked in front of a camera did not make me nervous in the least bit. I had seen the photographer's photos and found them tasteful and elegant. The photographer, Melissa "Meli" Macourek, had a breathy, high-pitched voice that was so enduring and trusting that I found myself not even questioning her intentions. Her confidence in her own strong yet curvaceous body let me know she was proud of her project and assured me I was in good hands. My confidence was so high that I went braless to her Tacoma studio, partly to keep my skin from showing lines in the photos. Meli and I talked for an entire hour and everything felt right. That is, until she asked me to take off my clothes.

I guess I had momentarily forgotten I was in her pilates/photo studio for a reason; the long interview was used to rid me of any stress I had. According to Meli, stress always shows up in the photos: "The

insecurity will show, especially in your shoulders." So what had happened to my excitement when it was time to shed my clothing?

"Coming here, being willing to trust me and to trust yourself to do this ... is a ginormous process," Meli said. "You have to process seeing your naked form and dealing with those belief systems and mind chatter about it, and then be able to give that form to others as a gift."

The "Full Embodiment" project, which you can find on Meli's LiveJournal account (<http://fullembodiment.livejournal.com/>), started about a year ago when she started to feel physically and mentally ill from trying to keep her weight down to a "miserable" 120 pounds.

Meli's mother wanted her to stay skinny her whole life, but even after her mother passed away in 2006, an inner critic - "my mom's voice" - was persistent in Meli's head. She decided to start slowly gaining weight until she went to a normal, healthy

140 pounds. "I took some nude photos of myself just to process looking at them and it was really challenging. They were beautiful, but they did not look at me."

After looking around for other photos and bodies like her own and finding nothing, Meli asked a few friends to be naked for the camera. That small group has now expanded to friends of friends, girlfriends, mothers, wives, sisters, and sometimes even complete strangers, like me.

After listening to Meli's story and passion, I gained back some form of courage and decided it was time to get naked. I took my jeans off, and - since I went commando - she was now able to see what only my mother and one lucky man have been able to see. I took another deep breath and took off my shirt as fast as I could to keep myself from hesitating.

In the corner of her small studio space was a photographic backdrop made of curtains, sheets and little white Christmas lights. There was a small ottoman covered in a sheer white fabric for me to position myself on, and as I walked over to take a seat, I found myself almost relaxed in my body.

Maybe it was because Meli wasn't ogling me like most people do when they witness the naked form, or maybe it was looking at her shelves of books

on the female body, pilates and sexual education that calmed me, but I started to feel so trusting that in about 30 seconds, I felt completely relaxed. A little too relaxed, perhaps - she had to tell me to stop looking at the camera, since it was important to keep my face hidden. "Some of these women are accountants, famous artists, teachers; we want to give these women a chance to show their female form without losing their jobs."

Meli also comforted me by explaining that the process only takes about 15 minutes: "It helps because that fear of the unknown can keep people from trusting me. It's that fear of the unknown, and that is also why I promise to take the photos off of the website as soon as someone asks me to."

Leaving the studio, I felt a new comfort with my body. It is rare to find a woman with the strength I had that day, especially in a culture where seeing skin is still considered "naughty" and skinniness is considered a necessity for beauty.

It is an empowering experience, being vulnerable to that sort of exposure online. I can only hope my photos touch women around the world like Meli's work already has, and that they give them the guts to be just as daring and proud of their exquisite bodies as I am of mine.

Craigslist & Star Trek for this Love Wreck

You're two weeks into the second month of the year and you find yourself lonesome. It's mid-Monday, and you've already masturbated three times. There's nothing good on TV. It is a sad situation indeed.

For some reason, a priest decided to illegally perform weddings and give some lady heart-shaped cards while he was in prison. It was a kind act, but Geoffrey Chaucer decided to use it to get laid and the fad caught on. This is why poets shouldn't ever be listened to - they make men buy women chocolate.

On this day, the most romantic of holidays, single women everywhere hold Single Awareness Day parties; the abbreviation is, appropriately, SAD. Some men join in the party too, but that's because the depressed environment of solitude begs for company.

You'd go to a SAD party, but it's Monday, and Garfield the

It's Valentine's Day. Professional nerd Alexander Bevier finds himself alone with nothing to do. So what is a geek to do on the day of love and - for the fortunate, at least - copious amounts of intercourse? How does he/she keep up his/her spirits?

Cat wouldn't do anything today, even on the off chance he'd get laid. Instead, you opt to wander around the Craigslist personals and dating sites.

Now, there's an unofficial format for writing for Craigslist. If you're a woman, your article will include your weight - immediately followed by noting you're hoping to lose some - how many kids you have (after the father left when you were 20), and that you're looking for someone "chill" to hang out with and maybe more. Women also want people with jobs and cars. Apparently that shows productivity or something.

After looking at effectively the same personal ad five times

over, you move onto the dating sites. After some of the obvious ones, you meander to Google and type in "geek dating." You, a humble nerd, wouldn't mind talking to a girl well-versed in Tolkien or at least Sakaguchi.

While on the geek dating site, you input several specifications (location, age, etc). The first hit is a girl you went out with in high school. It's too cruelly funny to stay on the website.

With the internet housing nothing for your romantic future, you decide to watch the most romantic show in the history of television: 'Star Trek: The Next Generation.' After a few episodes on the second disc, you realize that Wesley Crusher -

the boy genius played by nerdy actor Wil Wheaton - was a pint-sized player on the Starship Enterprise. He could've gotten it on with anyone aboard the ship - including Patrick Stewart.

Strangely motivated by the pimp-daddy that is Wil Wheaton, you decide that this will be your final single Valentine's Day. Ideas run through your head about how to start dating. Maybe fold notes in dollar bills and give them to the cute girl who sits next to you in class. Maybe sing to her atop the highest window; maybe carve both your names in a tree. Heck, it worked in Robin Hood.

You go to bed motivated for the future. Girlfriends can't be that hard to get; it seems like everyone has one nowadays, and you're much more charming than all of those guys - even Keith. And tomorrow is pizza day in the cafeteria. You close your eyes, and dream of what boobs must look like.

Can You Match It?

-philia/-isms

- Axillism _____
- Dacryphilia _____
- Dendrophilia _____
- Emetophilia _____
- Endytophilia _____
- Formicophilia _____
- Gerontophilia _____
- Lactophilia _____
- Maiesiophilia _____
- Mysophilia _____
- Narratophilia _____
- Nasophilia _____
- Siderodromophilia _____
- Somnophilia _____
- Stigmatophilia _____
- Trichophilia _____

- A. arousal from sight, touch, licking or sucking of a partner's nose
- B. attraction to pregnant women
- C. arousal from vomit
- D. arousal from trees
- E. attraction to sleeping or unconscious people
- F. arousal from dirtiness, soiled or decaying things
- G. arousal from being crawled upon or nibbled by small insects
- H. act of using the armpit for sex
- I. desire to be clothed during sex
- J. arousal from hair
- K. arousal from obscene words
- L. arousal from crying
- M. arousal from elderly people
- N. arousal from body piercings and tattoos
- O. arousal from riding in trains
- P. arousal from breast milk

-phobias

- Eurotophobia _____
- Genophobia _____
- Malaxophobia _____
- Medomalacuphobia _____
- Medorthophobia _____
- Menophobia _____

- A. fear of sex
- B. fear of masturbation
- C. fear of female genitalia
- D. fear of love play
- E. fear of an erect penis
- F. fear of losing an erection

Answers:

C, A, D, E, F, B
-phobia
H, J, D, C, G, M, P, B, E, K, A, O, E, N, J
-philia/-ism

News

Also inside: "Just survived one of the worst cyclones in Australian history. It's been pretty interesting!"

Alan Carroll, page 2



Safety Rides program imposes boundaries

By: Kelli Wyatt
Managing Editor

Formal boundaries for the Campus Safety Rides program were recently put in place to deal with the increase in demand.

The boundaries, which went into effect Feb. 1, reach north to SE 310th St, west to 112th Ave SE, south to SE 327th St, and east to the Gentry Walk Apartments.

The rides were first organized in November 2007 after multiple students were robbed walking home at night. "They are designed to provide a safe environment for students who walk from home to school," said Director of Campus Safety, Fred Creek.

"And [they are] also for CCA residents to go down

to the Circle K or the grocery store, or even to the Subway, pizzeria, or teriyaki shop."

Since its creation, when 288 students were served in the first month, the program has seen its popularity increase tremendously - in November 2010, a total of 2,557 students got rides, amounting up to about 85 rides per day.

Because of this "we had to build some parameters so that we can still generate good customer service," said Creek.

The new boundaries will be followed strictly, according to Creek. Students who live outside of the boundaries will be dropped off at the boundary, from where they can then walk the remainder of the way. With a single



vehicle providing the rides throughout the night, the boundaries are expected to help make the service more efficient. According to Creek, the wait time is almost never longer than 15 minutes.

Rides are available from dusk to 11 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday and from dusk to 2 a.m. on Fri-

day and Saturday.

In addition to formal boundaries, the safety program will also see a change in its organization. Student employees will be hired to receive safety ride requests, and they will then direct the driver to the student, coordinate the pickups and record all information.

State Statistics

Last month, the state's Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) released its annual report outlining key facts and figures about Washington State's higher education system. Here's are some of them:

As of Fall Quarter 2009, there are **269,000** students enrolled at Washington community colleges.

At the end of 2008, Washington ranked **#1** out of all fifty states in undergraduate degree completion, with 25% of students enrolled in four year programs earning a bachelor's degree. The state was ranked **#9** just two years later.

52% of community college students are over **25**, and 9% are over the age of **50**.

The average community college student receives around **\$5,800** in financial aid per year. In total, the state spends around **\$369,000,000** on financial aid.

About **64%** of 2009 high school graduates began attending college within a year of graduation.

Washington State's public colleges and universities employ over **55,000** people.

By: Zach Murray

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Is college education no longer as useful? The Undercurrent

By: Zach Murray
Staff Writer

A lot of students don't gain many, if any, useful skills in their first two years of college.

That is the conclusion Richard Arum and Josipa Rocksa, sociology professors from University of Virginia and New York University, reached in their book 'Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses.'

The book, and its accompanying study, released late last month, emphasizes what it sees as the lack of any real challenge to students who are coming to college fresh out of high school. The authors took test scores from varying points in thousands of students' early college careers, from pre-college up until graduation, to find out how students are really doing.

They concluded that 45 percent of students "did not demonstrate any significant improvement in learning" during the first two years of college, and neither did 36 percent in four years - the time it usually takes to get a

Bachelor's degree.

The two report that one third of students say they do not receive more than 40 pages of reading a week, and 50 percent do not take a class that requires more than 20 pages of writing per quarter. The authors say that this indicates a drop in the challenge of post secondary education, and may be a large contributing factor to the United States' falling international rankings in education.

The book 'Academically Adrift' says 45 percent of students "did not demonstrate any significant improvement in learning" during the first two years of college.

The authors argue that colleges should pay less attention to "social engagement" and that there should be more focus on the academic aspect of a college. "It's a question of what outcome you want," Arum said.

"If the outcome is student retention and student satisfaction, then engagement is a great strategy. If, however, you want to improve learning and enhance the academic sub-

stance of what you are up to, it is not necessarily a good strategy."

They also found that liberal arts majors score the highest in terms of critical thinking, complex reasoning and writing skills, while those studying business, education, social works and education score lowest.

The report was based on scores from a fairly large college test called the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA), an

exam that is administered around the country to college students by the Council for Aid to Education (CAE).

Not everyone was surprised by the findings. "Especially in the first two years of college, it's entirely possible for students to effectively sneak through the system and take the classes they know are the easiest," said Tim Scharks, geography instructor.

"I think it's very common that most students know what's easy and know what's hard. It's a little depressing in a way, but not that surprising."

Many disagree with this assessment of the beginning years of higher education. "I was working at the newspaper here my first two years, and that really lead me into what I wanted to do," said John Ramsey, director of public information.

"I thought they kind of formed the rest of my years," he said, pointing out that, while academically the first two years of college are important and for many people are the only two years of higher education they will receive, they also serve as formative years where students decide what they want to do with the rest of their education career.

'Academically Adrift' joins an ever expanding collection of critique on the education system in the nation, but it doesn't seem to have generated much attention outside of academic circles so far, so what kind or whether it will have an effect at all is unclear.

GR journal Espial accepting submissions

Espial, Green River's literary arts journal, is accepting submissions from students, faculty and staff for this year's edition.

Submissions are due on March 15. They can be poetry, short stories, paintings, photos, ceramics, metal work, collages, drawings or pottery. Submission guidelines can be found on Espial's website: <http://espiallitmag.doodlekit.com/home/submissions>.

The journal is currently in its eighth year. Every spring, students enrolled in 'Art 150: Literary Arts Journal Design' and 'English 239: Espial Workshop' produce the edition.

Espial won the Magazine of the Year award from the Washington Community College Humanities Association for its 2010 edition on Oct. 15.

By: Remco Zwetsloot

New traffic rules proposed in legislature

Washington State Senator Randi Becker (R) introduced legislation late last month that would place lower caps on monetary penalties resulting from automated ticketing. The bill also contained a proposal that would require standardized timing for all yellow lights in Washington. It would also make it illegal for traffic cameras to photograph the faces of drivers.

Becker cited both concerned motorists in her district and rumors that the current system could be abused by some of Washington's cities for financial purposes as the cause for her proposal.

The laws currently in place allows cities and towns to set the timing on all of the yellow lights, so long as they meet minimum federal timing requirements, which has resulted in varying periods of time between green and red lights in cities around the state.

It is thus possible for a town to shorten the yellow light times at intersections with automated red light cameras, resulting in more tickets being handed out to unsuspecting drivers who may misjudge the yellow light, and increased traffic violation revenue for the town.

While this tactic is not legal in Washington and no area has been caught using such measures, its possibility is still a concern to many of Washington's drivers.

By: Zach Murray

'11-'12 Student budget being put together

Members of Student Government and Green River program directors met on Feb. 7 to develop a recommended 522 budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

The \$1.4 million budget - the same amount as this year - consists entirely of student fees, and is intended for student services and activities such as the athletics department and co-curricular activities.

Representatives of the Math Learning Center, Writing Center, Academic Support Center and Speaking Center were present to request funding for their programs. They all asked for at least \$3,000, mainly to help pay for more faculty and space or to offset the general fund cuts they are anticipating.

On Feb. 16, 6 to 8 p.m., and March 1, 3 to 5 p.m., the finance committee of the student senate will meet to finalize the budget proposal, which will go to the full senate for a vote later this year. All the hearings are open to the public.

By: Lacey Steward

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OpEd

Also inside: "This is a great group of girls - I couldn't have started with a better group."

Tim Riles, page 15



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Wikipedia - not the devil

Editorial Board: Remco Zwetsloot, Kelli Wyatt, Josh Davidson, Bailey Jo Josie, Jean-Pierre Garcia, Alyssa Ryan, Lacey Steward, Kerry Kralovic

It's time to end the rampant misconceptions surrounding the popular collaboratively created encyclopedia known as Wikipedia, and whether it's a citable source of information. It is a qualified source for generalized information - and can be cited as such - but, like any legitimate encyclopedia, it should never be used as a primary source.

The real problem is not whether Wikipedia is a credible source, but the deficit in student's (and at times, teacher's) understanding of the different types of sources, the con-

ceptions surrounding Wikipedia, and some are wielded as arguments for the banning of it as a citable source. One argument is that Wikipedia lacks professional editing, so its quality is too low to be confidently cited. Another is that, because author credentials and biases are unknown, it's not trustworthy enough to be a source. Even more anxiety-inducing is the argument that Wikipedia's information literally comes from anyone, including vandals purposely spreading misinformation, meaning the site can't be trusted at all.

Named after the Hawaiian word "wikiwiki" which means "quick," Wikipedia is just that - a place to get a quick and broad base of knowledge on a given topic. Then again, all encyclopedias are supposed to be for this purpose. What sets Wikipedia apart is that new and relevant information is added as soon as events occur, not next year when a new issue is released like a traditional encyclopedia. The information can be added by anyone in the world; this is where the confusion starts.

There are many mis-

conceptions surrounding Wikipedia, and some are wielded as arguments for the banning of it as a citable source. One argument is that Wikipedia lacks professional editing, so its quality is too low to be confidently cited. Another is that, because author credentials and biases are unknown, it's not trustworthy enough to be a source. Even more anxiety-inducing is the argument that Wikipedia's information literally comes from anyone, including vandals purposely spreading misinformation, meaning the site can't be trusted at all.

The history department of Middlebury College in Vermont went so far as to ban Wikipedia citation. Don Wyatt, a chair of the department, explained the

Continued on page 14

The Editor

By: Remco Zwetsloot

An issue that was supposed to be our first fun one - I finally gave in to the great demand for something not-so-serious and immature, though it still gives me great pains - turned into a sad one on Wednesday, Feb. 2.

I didn't find out until 10.30 - my alarm didn't go off and I didn't have time to do my usual newssite rounds that morning - what had happened: two international students had crashed into a telephone pole that night and one of them died. This came, of course, as rather much of a shock, and it wasn't until a friend pointed it two minutes later that I realized I'd probably be writing a story about it later that day. It has been the most unpleasant thing I have had to do this year.

Though we have generally gotten positive feedback on the story, I do want to mention some things. Not everyone thought we should have mentioned their names in the article, especially the woman's, who had not been officially identified. This is a completely valid opinion and I understand where it is coming from, but after the college had sent out an e-mail mentioning the names to all international students we regarded the information as public and reasoned that people would find out regardless of whether we printed them or not. Another problem is the clashing feeling of this story with our issue in general. We had been planning for a Valentine's Day/Cosmopolitan theme for quite some time and could not replace it this close to the deadline, though we all think it's not the most appropriate theme after such a sad event. I hope it won't cause anyone to think we do not care - there was simply no way to work around it in the time frame we had. I hope everyone will feel the treatment of the story (page 16) is appropriate for what has happened, even if the issue in general might not be.

That's what he said | she said

Alyssa Ryan:

Be careful of health books, you may die of a misprint.
- Mark Twain

Jean-Pierre Garcia:

Changing your mind is one of the best ways of finding out whether or not you still have one.
- Taylor Mali

Remco Zwetsloot:

My first rule of consumerism is never to buy anything you can't make your children carry.
- Bill Bryson

Julia McDonough:

Feathered spears go straighter for longer.
- Richard Ferro

Lacey Steward:

Clinton lied. A man might forget where he parks or where he lives, but he never forgets oral sex, no matter how bad it is.
- Barbara Bush

Kerry Kralovic:

Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get.
- Ingrid Bergman

Bailey Jo Josie:

Nobody can make you feel inferior without your consent.
- Eleanor Roosevelt

Kelli Wyatt:

Once in his life, every man is entitled to fall madly in love with a gorgeous redhead.
- Lucille Ball

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

OpEd

Editor: Alyssa Ryan
 oped.editor@mail.greenriver.edu



In Washington, education worth paying for

By: Alyssa Ryan
 OpEd Editor

You wake up at 6 a.m. to register for classes but still only manage to get into half of them. Disappointed, you walk into your kitchen and start preparing your Top Ramen breakfast. You stare into space, bored, as you were unable to pay this month's cable bill - tuition is due soon and you're out of money.

Yes, college students, your struggles are known. But, as complaints about tuition and class fees are thrown around more and more, it may be time to consider whether such crit-

icism has any merit, and to ask ourselves if we actually have it so bad after all.

Community colleges offer a respectable education at a lesser price and higher convenience. Tuition at community colleges is already much cheaper than four year institutions. According to a Higher Education Coordinating Board report, a 2009-2010 full-time academic year at the University of Washington (UW) cost \$7,587 for in-state students - at Green River, the cost was only roughly 38 percent of that, \$2,925.

On the community college level itself, Wash-

ington community college students don't have much to complain about either, at least relatively speaking. The same report says community and technical college tuition in Washington was \$104 below the national average - \$3,029 - in 2009-2010. The state ranked 26th nationwide in tuition rates at the time.

And despite this relatively low price, Washington community colleges - and especially Green River - rank among the best in the nation. In a study of more than 650 community colleges, the Washington Monthly, a magazine based in D.C.,

ranked Green River 29. Of all 33 Washington community and technical colleges, only Tacoma Community College (17) and Skagit Valley College (19) were above the college on the list. And only Minnesota and North Carolina had more colleges in the top 30 than Washington.

Combine all of this information and you come to the conclusion that we at Green River - and most Washington community college students, for that matter - are getting a solid education for a relatively low price.

Our state's tuition is below the national aver-

age but we still have three schools in the top 50. New Hampshire is the state with the highest cost tuition for community colleges - \$6,262 annually - but none of its schools rank in the top 50. New York ranks seventh as far as tuition goes at \$4,057, which is 139 percent of Washington's, and has three schools in the top 50 (number 22, 40, 44).

However, none of this really helps struggling Washington students. Others might have it worse, one could say, but I'm still in debt and still cannot pay my bills. This is a fair point, and steps must

certainly be taken to ensure community colleges remain accessible to low-income students. But we cannot expect others to bear the burden for us in these tough times; other programs in the state are seeing much more drastic cuts to their budget, and students should not and cannot avoid picking up at least a part of the tab.

In complaining about the rising cost of education, students often forget why they're paying at all: to assure your education is actually worth investing in. And, at least in Washington, for the moment, it looks like it still is.

Editorial: Wikipedia - not the devil

Continued from preceding page...

decision, "As educators, we are in the business of reducing the dissemination of misinformation. Even though Wikipedia may have some value, particularly from the value of leading students to citable sources, it is not itself an appropriate source for citation." But in this case, Wyatt and all those that say the same thing are the ones spreading misinformation.

First, vandalism has been shown to be reverted virtually instantly, unnoticed vandalism being the exception. "Vandalism and inaccuracies are often reverted within a matter of minutes," write Aniket Kitur and Robert E. Kraut of Carnegie Mellon University in their study 'Harnessing the Wisdom of Crowds in Wikipedia: Quality through Coordination.' They reference several studies that have shown this effect. There are some widely circulated anecdotal cases of vandalism that went unchecked, but these are rare exceptions. The potential for vandalism is ir-

relevant because in most cases it is reverted quickly, if not instantly.

Assuming the information is not vandalized, the argument still seems to hold: author credentials and biases are unknown, making the information on Wikipedia not credible.

This argument comes from a misconception about sources, which treats Wikipedia as if it were a primary or secondary source. Wikipedia defines itself as a "tertiary source," which is classified by the University of Maryland's guide on sources as a "distillation and collection of primary and secondary sources." In fact, it goes on to list encyclopedias as a form of tertiary source. A tertiary source is just a combined summary of many primary and secondary sources on a topic, each of which can be individually verified.

Tertiary sources can be cited in the context that they are being used to give general summarized information on a topic, which would then be verified and supported with secondary and primary sources. Whether it's Wikipedia or the Britannica, a tertiary

source should never be the only source on a paper or used in place of a primary or secondary source. The misconception about sources in this argument makes it inapplicable.

Now we know Wikipedia's information is not vandalized, should be fact checked, and must only be used as a tertiary source backed up with other sources. There's still the idea that without the professional writers and editors of a traditional encyclopedia, Wikipedia is a low quality source unfit for citation.

This has been repeatedly shown to be untrue. A study by Nature magazine asked experts to measure the quality of a Wikipedia article and its equivalent Britannica article, without knowing which came from where. The 42 reviews found eight major errors, four from both of the encyclopedias, making neither better at avoiding major errors, and in the case of minor errors Wikipedia being only slightly higher with 162 minor errors to Britannica's 123.

Another study by Thomas Chesney of Nottingham

University titled, 'An empirical examination of Wikipedia's credibility,' found that experts actually rate Wikipedia's articles accuracy higher than non-experts do.

There are even more, according to George Mason University historian Roy Rosenzweig's paper, 'Can History Be Open Source?', published in the Journal of American History, which said Wikipedia's history articles are as good as, and in some cases better, than Encyclopedia Britannica. The joke's on Wyatt and his history department, in this case.

Teachers with anti-Wikipedia policies need to realize that Wikipedia is as legitimate a source, like any traditional encyclopedia. It's verifiable, high quality, more up-to-date than other any encyclopedia on the planet, and it's a great tertiary source. A good place to start in fixing Wikipedia's reputation as a source is the clarification of citation types and appropriate use of different citation types in different contexts. If your teacher won't let you cite Wikipedia, ask why and be armed with the facts - your sources cited, of course.

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Sports

Also inside: "It's a privilege to be able to bring someone here to Green River who is of that caliber."

Kelly Eisenhour, page 6



Team's 'huge improvement' likely not enough to make play-offs

By: Remco Zwetsloot
Editor-in-Chief

An air of disappointment came over the Green River gymnasium when the buzzer announced the end of the game - it had just become virtually impossible for the women's basketball team to make the play-offs.

After the 50-74 loss to Highline, the team would have to beat the number 3, Clark, number 4, Pierce and the unbeaten division leader, Lower Columbia, if they want to clinch a spot in the final four. And even in the unlikely event that happens, the Gators would still be dependent on results in other league games.

Still, the team's coach Tim Riles, who is in his first year, said he wouldn't do it any differently if he could. "I love this team."

"This is a great group of girls - I couldn't have started with a better group."

Riles joined the staff relatively late last year (in April) which made it hard to recruit a lot of local talent for this season. Of the current squad of nine, four players come from either the soccer or the volleyball team, and a big part of the team doesn't have much, if any, experience in basketball.

"Some of us just really need to work on our skills," said Cecilly Phillips, the team's top scorer. "A lot of these girls are pretty new. We're close, we just need

to work harder."

Phillips, 19, is the only out-of-state student on the team - she is from Blooming Grove, Texas - and is attending Green River on a basketball scholarship. She has scored the most points in all but four of the 16 games the Gators have played this season.

Another factor that weighed down the team, according to Riles, was height. The Gators only have three girls above 5'8 in height, whereas their opponents often have much more than that - Highline, for example, has seven players above 5'8 and two in the six-foot range, in which the Gators have nobody.

It showed during the game; whereas the



Kerry Kralovic / THE CURRENT

Cecilly Phillips scores in the Gators' match against Grays Harbor on Feb. 2. Phillips, who is at Green River on a basketball scholarship, was the top scorer in all but four of the team's 16 games. She will play for the team again next year.

amount of offensive plays was not hugely in Highline's favor, they were able to successfully complete a much higher percentage of them.

Despite these problems, Riles said, the team has taken leaps forward in terms of quality. "We've gotten a lot better. We've improved at every facet of the game."

According to Athletic

Director Bob Kickner there has been a "huge improvement" compared to the previous years - last year's team, for example, finished the season with a 2-14 league record and had a coach quit in the middle of a season. "And there is still time to go," he adds.

Though it is unlikely the team will achieve the goal they set for them-

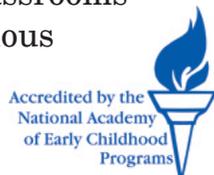
selves - making the play-offs - preparations have already started for next year. According to Riles, five new recruits were in the crowd during the Highline game, and the team will have five returners next year, including star player Phillips.

Julia McDonough and Megan Carter contributed reporting

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The League

1. Lower Columbia
12 - 0 17 - 4
2. Highline
10 - 1 14 - 7
3. Clark
8 - 4 10 - 10
4. Pierce
6 - 5 8 - 11
5. Tacoma
6 - 5 8 - 11
6. Centralia
4 - 8 4 - 15
7. **Green River**
4 - 8 6 - 12
8. Grays Harbor
2 - 10 3 - 16
9. S. Puget Sound
Forfeited league

The Team

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| #10 Cami Luberski | W |
| #12 McKenna Swanson | G |
| #13 Emily Jameson | W |
| #20 Sarah Beckler | W |
| #22 Rayssa Lira | G |
| #23 Cecilly Phillips | W |
| #24 Cali Kaltschmidt | P |
| #40 Brittany Kennedy | G |
| #50 Natosha Lyonais | R |

Calendar

Women's basketball

- Feb 16 Clark - Green River, 6 p.m.
Feb 23 Pierce - Green River, 6 p.m.

Men's basketball

- Feb 12 South Puget Sound - Green River, 5 p.m.
Feb 16 Clark - Green River, 8 p.m.
Feb 23 Pierce - Green River, 8 p.m.

Scoreboard

Women's basketball

- Jan 29 Lower Columbia 79 - 63 Green River
Feb 2 Green River 60 - 53 Grays Harbor
Feb 5 Tacoma 64 - 51 Green River
Feb 7 Green River 59 - 54 Centralia
Feb 9 Green River 50 - 74 Highline

Men's basketball

- Jan 29 Lower Columbia 69 - 73 Green River
Feb 2 Green River 63 - 57 Grays Harbor
Feb 5 Tacoma 80 - 56 Green River
Feb 7 Green River 53 - 49 Centralia
Feb 9 Green River 55 - 58 Highline

You can find full league results, team figures, standings and more at www.nwaacc.org/basketball

Car crash kills one student, other in hospital

By: Remco Zwetsloot
Editor-in-Chief

One college student died and another was severely injured when the car they were riding in smashed into a telephone pole near campus around 1 a.m. on Feb. 2.

The girl who died was a Chinese international student named Chengjing "Julie" Tan. The other student, Ying "Tim" Xie, who was driving the car, survived the crash because Craig Cook, a nearby resident, pulled him from the vehicle. Shortly after Xie was saved the fire intensified and Cook was unable to get Tan out of the car.

Xie underwent surgery at Harborview Medical Center the same day and was then transported to intensive care, a hospital spokesperson said. His left foot was amputated and he has several broken bones in his legs. Doctors told the college they believe he will be able to walk after extensive recovery and physical therapy if no unexpected complications occur. Xie is expected to remain in the hospital for about a month.

A memorial service was held for Tan at the Grace Community Church in Auburn on Thursday Feb. 10. The service was held later than usual because Tan's parents originally did not have passports and the college had left it up to them to decide what to do for her.

According to Cook's wife, Colleen, the two were in bed when the crash happened. They looked outside and, seeing the car, Cook put on his shoes and rushed to the scene, jumping over his backyard fence. "It's a good thing he jumped the fence," said Colleen. "If he had gone around through the door he would not have made it in time."

When Cook got there, the car had started to catch on fire. "He (Xie) was

yelling for help," said Cook. He managed to get Xie out of the vehicle before the fire spread. By the time he carried Xie to a safe distance, the fire had grown larger, and Cook was unable to rescue the woman.

The crash happened on 320th Street, within half a mile of the Green River main campus. Julie Trainor, who lives down the street from the accident, witnessed the scene. "My daughter and I were up at the time of the explosion, and her whole room glowed red."

"We heard it happen. We got up and looked out the window, and instantly you could see the bright fire and then there was continuing popping and exploding noises. It was obvious that the electrical pole had been hit."

Trainor saw Cook, too. "I saw he was extremely close to the situation. He pulled out one of the victims. The other victim didn't make it. That was very sad."

She said the road, which has a 35 mile-per-hour speed limit, has always been dangerous. "People speed on this road. We've probably had four major accidents since I've lived here. And then

"We got up and looked out the window, and instantly you could see the bright fire and then there was continuing popping and exploding noises. It was obvious the pole had been hit."

- Julie Trainor, resident who witnessed the scene

there's these fender benders and bumping into fences and so forth."

"Last night the police department told me that they (occupants of the vehicle) were going over 100 miles per hour."

According to Auburn Police Commander Mike Hirman, though, the speed of the car has not yet been determined, but that it was clear speed "was a factor."



Remco Zwetsloot / THE CURRENT

A memorial was set up for Tan, the student who died, in the IVD building. Students and instructors left flowers and wrote cards for the family.

It is unknown whether alcohol played a role in the crash, but samples of both Tan and Xie's blood have been sent to a laboratory for toxicology screenings, he said. The results are expected to arrive in the coming weeks. If the investigation

holds of them on Feb. 3, more than a day after the accident.

In an e-mail written by Ross Jennings, vice president of the office, International Programs (IP) asked friends not to visit Xie in the hospital. "He is in surgery, and will need special care for at least four days. During that time, no one is allowed to see him." The day after the e-mail, Xie's parents gave a few of his closer friends permission to visit.

IP has set up a memorial for Tan in its office building, IVD, where students can sign cards for Tan's family and bring flowers and pictures.

The e-mail concluded: "Finally, let us learn from this tragedy how important good driving habits are. Please drive carefully, learn to drive from a driving school, get a license, and get insurance. We want you to be healthy and safe. We love you."

Josh Davidson and Jean-Pierre Garcia contributed reporting.

From International Programs: Tragedy can have 'silver lining'

In the early morning of February 2, two GRCC students from China were involved in a terrible car accident on SE 320th near the college. A Good Samaritan neighbor heard the crash and raced to the scene. He was able to rescue the driver, Ying "Tim" Xie, but the car quickly caught fire and the passenger, Chengjing "Julie" Tan, could not be saved. The driver was taken to a hospital, where he remains in fair condition. The Chinese consulate in San Francisco and the college's International Programs are assisting the students' families to make the necessary arrangements.

The injury or untimely loss of anyone, regardless of nationality or circum-

stances, cause great pain to family, friends and others who know them. We all matter to somebody, most of us to many more than we probably realize. Although scant solace to the bereaved, this tragedy will have a small silver lining if it motivates us to take better care of ourselves, and of others, not just to prevent the next tragedy but to make things better for as many people as possible. All of us throughout the world are in the same leaky boat. The more we care about each other, and about ourselves, the better our common boat will float.

- Ross Jennings, vice president of International Programs



Kerry Kralovic / THE CURRENT

People left flowers and stuffed animals at the scene of the crash. A week after the accident, the fence was still down and the pavement scorched from the fire.