

#### People Talk

"Teachers' main priority should be to educate. I'd cross the picket line."  
-John Mc Kindley

#### PEOPLE TALK

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## THUNDER WORD

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## HCC Board of Trustees to seek an injunction

Heidi Vangesen-Morman

Staff Writer

Highline Community College Board of Trustees voted unanimously to ask the attorney general to seek an injunction Thursday morning.

The board's decision was made as part of a "Crisis Action Plan" created by the trustees and the administration to outline the actions they would take should the strike become imminent. The board delegated further responsibilities regarding the injunction to President Ed Command. State law requires the board to file the injunction or any other court order through the attorney general's office.

Tom Nixon, chairperson for the board, said he understands the frustrations leading to the strike and supports the motives behind it. However, state law forbids community college teachers to strike, he said. "A similar situation would be a poor person robbing a 7-Eleven. You can understand their frustration but you could not condone it,"

Nixon said.

According to Nixon, the board has a duty to keep classes going. Legally, the college must remain open for the primary purpose of offering effective educational services to its students. Nixon added that although everyone is affected, there is not a 100 percent compliance with the strike.

Nixon serves as chairman from July 1, 1990, until June 30, 1991. The governor "hires and fires" Nixon and the other trustees, who primarily are responsible to the governor.

**"We expect to have classes..."**

-Tom Nixon

Command said the college will be open Monday as scheduled. "We expect to have classes and all other operations functioning as near to normal as possible if a strike becomes a reality," he indicated.

## HCEA votes five days

Becky Bonus  
Sports Editor

When students show up for classes on Monday, they can expect to find that perhaps half of their instructors won't be on campus to teach. Some of them will be picketing, some going to Olympia, some communicating to faculty, the media, and the community.

Members of the Highline Community College Educational Association voted last quarter to support a strike in an attempt to persuade the legislature to increase educational funding. HCEA members voted a second time on Wednesday. According to Linda Baker, secretary of the HCEA, 90 ballots were turned in from approximately 100 union members who were eligible to

vote. Out of this number, 65 voted in favor of the strike while 25 voted against. Of the 65 who okayed the strike, 17 voted for a two-day strike while 48 chose five days with a daily assessment.

Picketers will be out at six different campus locations starting at 6:30 a.m. on Monday. Shifts will be set up for those who choose to show their support by carrying signs until noon each day. There will be a bus going to Olympia at 10:00 a.m. An evening shift for picketers will start at 5:30 p.m. Tony Wilson is the picket captain and will be able to help anyone who is interested in being involved.

The HCEA wants students to know that teachers don't want to strike but that they do feel the students deserve a quality education and people of the com-

munity do deserve an opportunity to attend a community college.

Nancy Lennstrom, president of HCEA, said the union is asking that no one "give the people here a bad time, that is rule number one." She stressed that this is an informational strike simply to inform the public about the current educational dilemma.

The HCEA has been asking instructors who are teaching or coming on campus Monday not to penalize the students who choose to support the strike and not cross the picket line.

Dr. Ed Command, president of HCC, said that he supports what the union is trying to do and will attend the rally on Friday in Olympia. But, "We do not support the strike because it is illegal," he said.

## Faculty risk civil disobedience

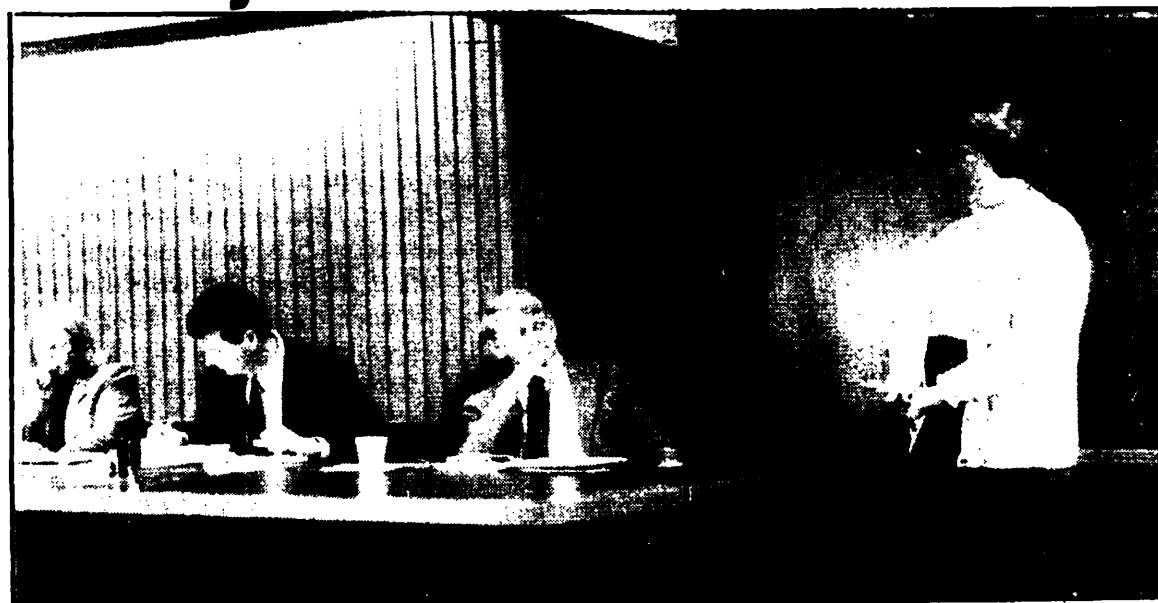


Photo by Don Schultz

Nancy Lennstrom, HCEA President, explains Highline faculty's reasons for threatening a strike in a meeting of the Board of Trustees last week.

strike could impose penalties on several Highline faculty, including Nancy Lennstrom, president of the Highline College Education Association.

But punishment for those who are participating and trying to improve the quality of education in this state is worth the sacrifice, Lennstrom said.

"We understand that with civil disobedience comes punishment, and we are willing to take the responsibility for our actions," Lennstrom said. Many HCC teachers, including Christiana Taylor, agree.

"Civil disobedience is appropriate when nothing else is working," Taylor, director of drama, said.

Others like Bill Hoffman, who teaches writing, agree on the cause but disagree on the tactics. He suggested teachers

go into the classroom but not teach.

"When we withdraw ourselves from the classroom, the emphasis is out of the classroom," Hoffman said. "When the issue here is the quality of education, it is easier to make it in the classroom than out," he said.

"There has been absolutely no moving at all towards increasing the level of education in this state," HCEA Vice-President Allan Walton said. "We will fight this kind of battle every year if something is not done."

Walton is asking students to join faculty in Olympia for a protest rally Friday at 2 p.m. and Saturday at 8:30 a.m. He added that students would have to follow the two full buses in their own automobiles.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Fake magazine solicitors have hit our campus

Magazine solicitors have hit the campus of Highline Community College, said Jack Chapman, head of Security.

The alleged salespersons have been roaming around campus for the last several days, one apparently disrupting some students, according to Chapman.

A similar incident was reported in The Daily Orange of Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York. A group of salespersons, who claimed to be representatives of the Torque Power Sales Co., Houston, Texas, went around to students on campus and in residence halls and made pitches for subscriptions to top magazines like Newsweek and Sports Illustrated. The persistence of the salespersons resulted in students paying \$1 or \$2 along with a check for \$25. The students were promised a sweatshirt for subscribing.

According to Syracuse University security officials, two of the salespersons were arrested in the residence halls for criminal trespassing. Meanwhile, the magazines that were promised never have been delivered.

Chapman urges anyone who is solicited by unknown persons on campus to report it to Highline Security located in Bldg. 6.

### Police are even invited to this pot sale

The Highline Community College Arts and Humanities Department is sponsoring a "Pot sale where even the cops are welcome." The sale is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 9, under the covered walkway near Bldg. 6. There will be a variety of pottery from both students and instructors. The public is welcome. For more information call ext. 445.

HIGHLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# THUNDER WORD

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## Students should mask themselves in protest

Jeremy Surbrook  
Staff Writer

I am between a rock and a hard place. I support the strike, but I cannot afford to miss school for a week. Many students find themselves in the same predicament as I do.

But, I feel that I have come upon a fair compromise.

During the week of the strike I will wear a mask as I go to my classes. This will show support for the striking teachers by symbolizing that I am not here.

If you feel the same way, I urge you to do the same thing. The mask can be a ski-mask, a western outlaw-type bandana, a veil, or anything else which conceals your face.

And a homemade button or sign or tattoo or anything else that says "FORCED TO ATTEND" will also help to make the message clear.

I feel that this is a fair compromise in which we can go to our classes and meet our responsibilities, as well as show the legislature and our teachers that we support the strike and want more funding for our college.

## Editorial Policy

If you wish to write an editorial or letter to the editor, please include your name, address and phone number so we can contact you for verification.

Editorials should be no longer than 300 words in length. We reserve the right to edit length, punctuation and grammar. Bring your editorials to Bldg. 10, room 105.

## Mixed feelings about strike

Tim Davison  
Opinion Editor  
Steve Stearns  
Editor Assistant

People take college teachers for granted. They are, without a doubt, one of our most necessary assets. Certain people reading this may say, "Yeah, but we pay their salaries." You're right, we do pay them; but if nobody wanted to teach us, we'd all be working 50 hours a week at Vern's Concrete Mixing and Bowl-O-Rama, with no more intelligence than a cow.

The issue here is better education for all. Though one of the reasons the teachers are striking, in part, is for salary increases, it cannot be argued that they don't deserve it. What they would like to see is an increase in funding per student to better enrich a student's education. After all, a community college is essentially meant for the students. If it weren't for community colleges, some of us might never make it to a larger state university. And if we wanted a less personal and more robotic learning experience we would all be attending classes with 150 other students and hearing feedback from instructors only after you get your big red "F" on your latest philosophy paper with the comment, "You're capable of more than this." Some of us appreciate the level of personal attention we receive here at Highline because it presents a more friendly atmosphere in which to learn.

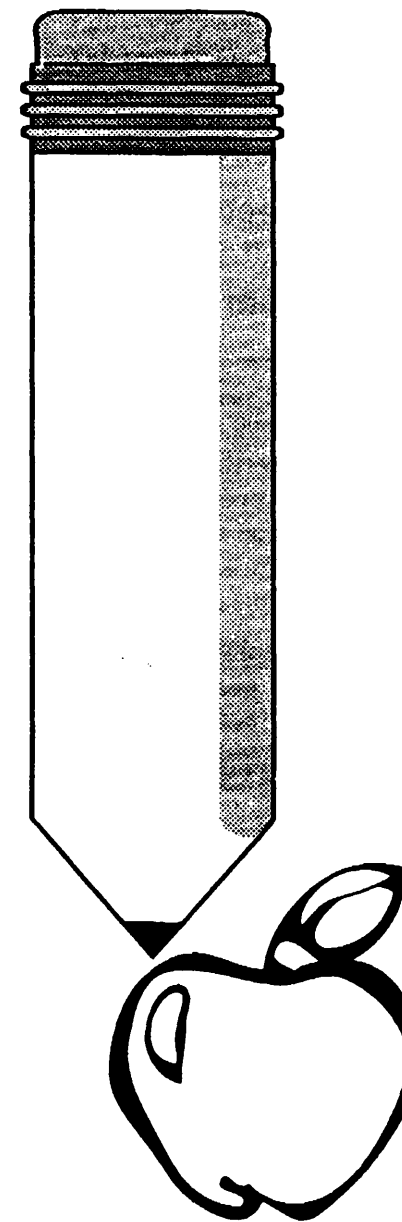
Also, if education is such a low priority in this country, why does any real good job require a college degree of some kind? Our professors have chosen to take a path of greater expansion of mind, instead of bowing to the almighty dollar. They devote their lives to increasing our knowledge, while they themselves also get pleasure in knowing there are less ignorant people in the world. They also do occasionally like to eat.

The budget cut proposed by the State Legislature is unacceptable to any community college student. It would mean larger class sizes, a poorer selection of available courses, and another increase in tuition. Instead of taking money out of the education budget to put into state programs such as welfare, we could educate a few more people and maybe keep somebody off the streets or another unwed mother off of food stamps by increasing the allure of our colleges.

As for those teachers who

don't want to walk: that's your choice, but please understand the reasons your colleagues are striking and be kind to them.

The teachers of this state are going out on a limb for Washington's future and they deserve our support. Sure the strike is going to be a temporary inconvenience for many parents who rely on daycare for their children. Sure it's going to be hard. But this country has gone to excess too many times in the past 10 years, squandering the future for the sake of those in the present. Don't let this happen with your education. Support the strike.



Marc Broderick  
Staff Writer

With the impending strike looming over Highline like a blustering mass of confusion, allow me to play the devil's (or politician's) advocate and frolic in the shadowy light of skepticism.

You must realize that it's anything but a glorified position to take an opposing stand to what has generally become a quest for improvement in education. But, I feel it necessary to question the true motives lurking behind any possibility of strike.

It's a hard-hitting fact that across this great state of ours, under the proposed budgeting, community colleges are being financially slapped across the face. This is nothing new.

Cutbacks have become a common occurrence for community colleges over the past 10 years. So why wait until now to fight back?

One possibility might be that educators are coming off a two-year period in which they received pay raises in excess of 10 percent, whereas now they will receive salary increases of only 4 percent this year, 3.5 percent next year. This leads me to believe that if the teachers had been offered a larger salary increase they might have been content to let other pressing educational concerns simmer on the back burner.

The teachers that are striking seem confidently self-justified in their actions, though I find this difficult to substantiate when the educators of this state do not stand united on this matter. According to the Washington Education Association, as of April 17 only four of the 27 community colleges in Washington state had voted to strike. These schools were Bellevue Community College, Spokane Community College, Skagit Valley College, and Highline. Furthermore, I have neither seen nor heard any affirmation from the community that reinforces or justifies a strike.

The consensus among those teachers planning to strike is the reassurance that this whole ignominious ordeal is being staged for my benefit and that of the other students. I beg to differ. Students are the ones being inconvenienced. No one came to us and asked what we thought should be done. We were not offered the opportunity to vote on whether or not a strike should be implemented. Yet, we are the most greatly affected by a strike. We are the ones losing out on our education.

I cannot deny the alarming rate in which state spending has been detracted from the commitment to better education. Over the past 10 years educational funding has dropped from 50 percent of the state's budget down to 45 percent. However, blame cannot be placed on the shoulders of the legislature. We are the ones who, until now, have sat idly by allowing this to happen.

Maybe it is long overdue for something to be done about the deteriorating state of our educational system. Maybe it's too late. We may soon find out. At any rate, I side with what Dan Youmans of Gov. Booth Gardner's office said. "We just think this is the wrong tactic at the wrong time for the right cause," Youmans said.

Do you support  
the pending teachers'  
strike and what are you  
going to do about it?



Carrie Rios

"I think they need to strike. I think maybe they should have done this in the fall, because obviously too many things are crucial at this point in students' lives this far in the game: graduation, transitions to universities and moving plans."



David Park

"I think the legislators have to stop paying lip service and put their money where their mouths are. What ever happened to the governor's education emphasis?"



Sandra Clevenger

"I think that the legislators need to pay attention to the schools as far as class sizes and funding for programs. I'm obviously not coming if classes are cancelled."

# People Talk



Kirk Campbell

"I don't think it will do any good. The legislature knows they are only going to strike for a week. This is my last quarter here, so I still plan to go to class."



John Mc Kindley

"Teachers' main priority should be to educate. I'd cross the picket line. I'd bitch at them all the way across."



Claud Mann,  
Television Production  
instructor

"I can see their objectives; it seems it has gotten worse.... I respect them. I won't cross the picket line."



Jowell Moser

"It will hurt the students in the long run, such as grades will be affected and lost days, but I still support the strikers."



Eric Ferrell

"I'll back them up by not showing up to classes."



Debra Loynes

"I would like to see smaller classrooms so the students can get more one-on-one attention."



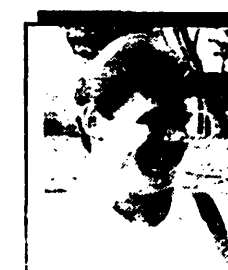
Jonathan Turner

"I think as many students as can should go to Olympia and show their support. The education budget cuts affect me as much as the teachers. I see them as fighting for my cause too."



Gary Nelson,  
Production Illustration  
instructor

"I think the strike is a good thing. It brings in the media to help communicate the situation that the college finds itself in."



Marshall Hendrix

"I support the strike. I will give all the assistance that I can, including manning the picket line with them."

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### Photographers:

Alden Anderson  
Tom Stahl  
Dan Schultz

### Page Designer:

Rose Sikorra



Kellie Fagan

"I don't think they should go along the lines of not giving us credit or not remembering us. I don't like their tactics personally."



Randy Rios

"I'm graduating in the spring. I hope I can graduate on time, but I also think a strike is the only way anything will get done about the money situation."



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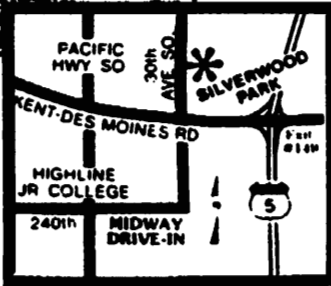
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## To the students of Highline Community College:

April 15  
As you may know, the Highline Community Education Association, the Faculty Union, has voted to support the multi-local strike against the state legislature. For Highline College faculty, the strike is scheduled to begin Monday, April 22. The Washington Education Association has made it clear the legislature can avoid a strike, or stop it any time, if there is significant progress in addressing the problems facing both Higher Education and K-12 today.

We do not want to strike. We do think that you, our students, deserve a quality education. We also think the citizens of our community deserve a chance to attend our community college, and should be able to register for classes they need, so that two-year education doesn't end up taking three or four years.

We also feel our faculty deserve decent salaries. We make no apology for this. And right now, we don't have them.

Those are the reasons we are planning to strike. We believe that students, faculty, and citizens deserve better!

The facts are these:  
\* There are 25,000 fewer people enrolled in Washington community colleges today than there were 10 years ago. One recent analyst indicated 75,000 people had been adversely affected by lack of enrollment opportunities in our state.

\* The quality of your education is directly influenced (in part) by the level of funding per full time student. This year Washington is 39th in the nation in this category with a funding level of \$3,900 per student, and in recent years we have been as bad as 46th. The legislature is proposing to make some modest increases in enrollments (3,000-6,000), but these new student positions will

be funded at well below our already low rate — probably between \$2,200 and \$2,600. For students, this means larger classes, less equipment (labs, computers, etc.), fewer services. It means you get a cut-rate education.

\* The salaries of your instructors are, on the average, 10 percent below those for teachers in kindergarten through 12th grade, with comparable education and experience. Most of your instructors would make at least \$3,000 more teaching in K-12, many as much as \$7,000 more. Many of your instructors are "living on the edge," in spite of their excellent qualifications and many years of experience.

In spite of this dismal record of funding for community colleges, the state legislature at this time is proposing to place an additional \$30-\$70 million in the state's "rainy day" fund, which already contains \$250 million. That money would go a long way toward solving the funding problems for community colleges.

We know that a strike will inconvenience many of you. We feel that the damage done by a decade of neglect and no prospect of changing that is many times more serious. And many of your faculty are willing to put themselves on the line and risk substantial loss of pay, in order to try to stop the mistreatment of students and faculty by the legislature.

We ask that you understand we do this because we care about our students. We ask for your support. Please join us, and support your instructors in doing so.

We are all in this together.

Highline College Education Association

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