

The Highline Community College

HIGHLINE COLLEGE LIBRARY

ThunderWord

Volume XXXVIII

Issue 3

November 15, 1993



Cover Story

International
student's lives
at HCC

HCC News

Security tests
bike patrol
at night

Sports

HCC Volleyball
team remains
undefeated



Get the Real Deal.

Get Your Student Discount!

Order your IBM ValuePoint™ or ThinkPad® today. We want to make owning an IBM as easy, affordable and accessible as possible. That's why we're supplying you with an 800 number to order your IBM system. Be sure to ask if your student discount applies to your computer order. We're always looking for ways to help you save. So get the real deal with an IBM ValuePoint or ThinkPad today.

Call 1-800-426-4190



IBM 882-15

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Campus Security tests new bike patrol	Page 5
<i>Bill Downey and Aaron Shields patrol the grounds at night; riding their bikes</i>	
HCC instructor vacations in Vietnam	Page 6
<i>Sue Samson learns more about her student's Vietnamese culture</i>	
Cafeteria review	Page 7
<i>Staff writer reviews food at the Union Cafe and Tazzo Espresso</i>	
Refugees and international students	Page 10
<i>Classes at HCC help these students adapt to American culture</i>	
International students at HCC	Page 12
<i>International students share their views about living in America</i>	
Impressive HCC Volleyball team	Page 16
<i>Coach John Littleman leads volleyball team to another successful season</i>	
Opinions	Page 20
<i>Half of adults in America are semi-literate; Letters to the editor</i>	
Front cover photo, by Heather DeLauder, shows members of the International Student Organization.	

ThunderWord Staff

Ken Steffenson Editor in Chief	Chris Dalan Production Illustrator	Martha Espinosa Designer
Anne Meldrum Assistant Editor	Paul J Creelman Staff Writer	Annette Van Helden Designer
Heather DeLauder Photographer/Assignment Editor	John Cassias Business Manager	Bob Hughes Advisor
Highline Community College 2400 South 240th Street Des Moines, Washington 98198-9800 (206) 878-3710 ext. 291/292		

NEWS BRIEFS

Bldg. 9 occupants prepare to move back

Building 9 has almost finished renovations after being behind schedule for several months. Health Occupations is moving in on Nov. 16, Instruction is on Nov. 17, and Personnel and Continuing Education is moving on Nov. 22 and 23. Facilities and Operations have taken into account the "smell" of the new materials and has prepared to air out the building three times before work begins.

Two Vietnamese HCC students win awards

Minh Luan Nguyen and Bau Nguyen are Vietnamese immigrants who recently won \$600 each for books and supplies. The award

is for one academic year at Highline Community College from The Immigrant Education Foundation. The students were nominated by Claudia Espinosa and Michele Macmillan, who are English as a Second Language (ESL) instructors. The Immigrant Education Foundation is a non-profit organization that awards immigrants for being dedicated and talented students. "We nominated them because they have shown personal qualities, they are warm and good people," Espinosa said.

Registration opens in ThunderWord office

New registration space has been provided by the ThunderWord offices. For students with appointments, there is room in Building 10, room 105, and students can

register by check or credit card; cash will not be accepted. The office hours are 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., and students with appointments can use this as an alternative to Building 6. This space will be open from Nov. 15 to Dec. 1 and registration forms need to be filled out beforehand.

HCC Celebrates Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Highline Community College is celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. in two ways; first with a writing contest and secondly with a humanitarianism awards given in honor of King.

The writing contest topic is "Martin Luther King, Jr., His Ideals and His Life." The writing can be in poetry, short story, or essay form. It must be typed and double spaced. The first, second, and third place winners will receive prizes and will be invited to read their work at the Humanitarianism Award ceremony on Jan. 14. Entries are due on Dec. 3.

The humanitarian awards are given to a community person, faculty/staff, and a student. They are nominated by students, faculty/staff and administration. According to Sue Sien of Multicultural Services, the awards are given to people that are role models to their community.

If you are interested in the writing contest or would like to nominate someone for the humanitarianism award, contact the Multicultural office at extension 296 before Dec. 3.



From left to right: Bau Nguyen, Michele Macmillan, Claudia Espinosa, and Minh Luan Nguyen. Two HCC students from Vietnam win award.

HCC Security tests bike patrol



Above: Student-Officer Bill Downey and part-time Officer Aaron Shields patrol the grounds.
Right: Ed Rector, chief of Security

by Anne Meldrum

A night student walks down the sidewalk and — whoosh! — something sleek, fast and in uniform passes them. These blurred images racing around campus are the new Highline Community College campus security bike patrol.

Ed Rector, chief of Campus Security, said, "I'm trying it unofficially on my own."

This was originally the idea of Student-Officer Bill Downey. According to part-time Officer Aaron Shields, after some persuasion by him and Downey, Rector allowed them to go ahead and implement the bike patrol on a trial basis.

During Fall 1993, Downey was the only officer working the bike patrol. At first, Downey used his own mountain bike and patrolled only on Friday nights, when there were few students on campus. Then, at the beginning of this quarter, Shields joined Downey and now there is an officer on bike patrol almost every night.

Dawn Masewicz, an HCC night student, said she gets a little nervous at night and feels more comfortable with a bike patrol. "Any type of precautions are good," Masewicz said.

HCC Security has received at least five written comments supporting the idea. But when Downey patrols at night, a lot of people comment on how they like the idea of a bike patrol, and Downey said, "Someone is always saying something."

Rector's goals with the bike patrol are to have a faster response to calls and to interact more with the students.

Since the bike patrol is only on a trial basis, HCC isn't funding any of the officer's gear such as their bikes, helmets, and Gortex pants. It would cost approximately \$1000 to equip each man with these supplies. Campus security's budget comes out of the general college fund and parking fees from parking stickers and fines. In the future, Rector wants to convince the college to buy new police bikes and the gear and training needed to have an official bike patrol.

With budget cuts this school year and the looming threat of cuts in the future, Rector wants to get student support to persuade the college to fund the bike patrol.

The only problems with the bike patrol, so far, are the weather conditions and costs of training, gear, and maintenance.

The real question is whether there is anyone to carry on the program. Rector wants to continue to do the bike patrol next year, but Downey will be leaving, and Shields hasn't verified whether he will be here next year. In the meanwhile, Rector said, "If the people like the idea, and funding can be arranged, I think it would, personally, provide a safer environment for students."



Photos by Heather DeLauder

PROFILE

Sue Samson fulfills her dream

Vietnam trip enlightens instructor

by Ken Steffenson

Imagine almost 20 years of teaching students from an exotic, far-away land. Every day you hear details about a fascinating culture, and you become increasingly intrigued. A strong desire grows inside you — to see this country would both fulfill a dream and bring you closer to the foreign students you spend so much time with.

Sue Samson lived this scenario since 1975, when she began teaching English as a Second Language courses to Vietnamese immigrants and refugees at Highline Community College. She had wanted to visit Vietnam for a long time, and she finally got the chance last summer.

"You spend that much time with a group of people and you're really curious about the place that they live, and in seeing that place," Samson said.

This curiosity and the desire to learn more about the Vietnamese culture were among the reasons she made the trip. She felt that a first-hand look would give her a deeper understanding her Vietnamese students. "I think the big reason is just my connection with that country for so long, and with the people," she said.

Samson said she benefited from the experience in numerous ways. Many of her Vietnamese students had told her of the beauty of the country, but she was pleasantly surprised that it was even more

lot," Samson said.

"These were very emotional times for me; making this connection across so many miles and so many years," she said. Some families she visited even had scrapbooks containing photos of her — mementos sent from the relatives starting a new life in America.

"I really got a good sense of the large contrast between a country like that and a country like this," Samson said, "how they can feel homesick and lonesome for the markets, for instance. You see those large open-air markets where they do all their shopping, and everything is negotiable — there aren't any set prices."

Samson gained insights into the Vietnamese culture on her trip by traveling nearly 2500 miles round trip

on National Highway #1 — the only major road in the country. Between Saigon and the Imperial City of Hue she visited such spots as Hoi An, China Beach, the Mekong Delta town of My Tho, and the vacation paradise of Vung Tau on the South China Sea.

Samson said that her visit to Vietnam helps her to better understand the students she teaches, and left her with, above all, a desire to return and see more of the country.



Photo by Heather DeLauder

"There were very emotional times for me; making this connection across so many miles and so many years."

— Sue Samson

beautiful than she expected. She also learned a lot about the Vietnamese peoples' curiosity about America, and their strong desire to have the U.S. trade embargo lifted so they can move more quickly out of their third-world position.

But the most rewarding aspect of the visit was meeting the people there. "It was especially nice to look up the families of some of my former students. That meant a

REVIEW

Union Cafe has food for all tastes

by Paul J Creelman

Finally, an assignment I could sink my teeth into. I was given the opportunity to eat an excessive amount of food from the Union Cafe and then write about it. When my editor asked me to take the assignment, all I could do was nod my head enthusiastically, because I was busy washing down a triple cheeseburger with a 44-ounce cup of Dr. Pepper.

The Union Cafe has several different places offering several different kinds of food, and I've tried all of them. In fact, now I have to do a review of Highline Community College's weightlifting and exercise facilities just to work off my meals.

My first stop in the cafe was the grill, which serves foods that appeal to the high cholesterol crowd, of which I am a founding member. The grill offers both a breakfast menu, consisting of pancakes, hash browns, sausage and eggs, and a lunch menu, which includes burgers, french fries, fried cheese and such.

The grill usually begins serving lunch at about 10 a.m. and continues until the Union Cafe closes at 1:30 p.m. The grill area begins to resemble Wall Street on a busy day around noon, as the lunch crowd begins to order their lunch.

When ordering hamburgers or cheeseburgers, I suggest you cholesterol lovers buy a double or a triple. The pricing of the hamburgers is so out of whack that when you buy a cheeseburger (\$1.90) you are paying \$.90 for a slice of cheese and two pieces of bread. Additional patties are only \$1.00, so it's cost effective to invest in more. The hamburgers are

tasty, and there is a large assortment of condiments provided nearby.

As for the french fries, I recommend that you eat them as soon as you get them, or at least while they're still hot. They lose a lot of personality and palatability when they start to cool down.

The next stop on my food trek was the sandwich bar, which has been confusing me since the day it opened. Every day it seems the prices and rules have changed. While the prices have finally become standardized, the issue of what you can and can't get on your sandwich still remains a mystery to me.

For instance, one day, not too long ago, a "sub club" sandwich cost \$2.95 and consisted of every meat offered, as well as innumerable cheeses. A few days later, I was told that I could only get THREE meats of my choice, but still the cheeses were countless. This information came from the same woman who only days before was giving me the infinite amounts of meat. She told me it was never

that way. She told me that I could have the three meats of my choice, and add any more for \$.50 per meat. I realize that the problem wasn't the woman's fault, but I think better communication between the management and employees is needed in that department.

A few days later, I ordered a "sub club" which was now identified as "roast beef, turkey, and ham," for the new standardized price of \$3.15. I asked for

extra salami. I was told that it was impossible to do such a thing. I bought the sandwich, but I haven't been back to the sandwich bar since then.



Photo by Heather DeLauder

Tazza Espresso is open until 8:30 p.m., and is a popular campus hangout.

— Continued on page 18

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Campus Events

"Tis the Season"

Holiday Tree Trimming

This holiday celebration will also have refreshments and music.

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Date: Nov. 29

Place: Bldg. 8 in the Student Lounge

Free video: "Scrooged"

This movie is a screwball update of Charles Dicken's, "A Christmas Carol," starring Bill Murray and Karen Allen.

Times: 9 a.m., noon, 4:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m.

Date: Nov. 30

Place: Bldg. 8 Student Lounge

Enter a drawing to win free tickets to The Comedy Cafe III on Dec. 3.

Tickle Tune Typhoon Concert

A theatrical and musical presentation for children and parents. Time and dates: Dec. 2 at 7 p.m., and Dec. 3 at Noon and 2 p.m. Place: Bldg. 7 in Artist-Lecture Center

Cost: On Dec. 2 children 12 and under cost \$3, adults 13 and over cost \$5. On Dec. 3 everyone costs \$3.

General public tickets go on sale

at 10 a.m., Monday, Nov. 15. For more information contact Lucinda Black at 878-3710 ext. 537 or Jackie Krutz at 878-3710, ext. 461.

The Comedy Cafe III

An ongoing comedy series, featuring two comedians Derrick Cameron and Joe Vespaziani held in a "Nightclub" atmosphere. Mocktails (non-alcoholic drinks), coffee and soft drinks will be served.

Time: 8 p.m.

Date: Dec. 3

Place: Bldg. 8, Tazza Espresso

Cost: \$3 in advance, \$5 at the door. Tickets available at the Student Lounge Desk, Bldg. 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday in advance or at the door.

Ethnic Concert: The Suffering Gaels

The performers are an Irish band in the Pacific Northwest

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Date: Dec. 2

Place: Bldg. 8 in Student Lounge

All Campus Blood Drive

Their goal is to get 75 donors. Time: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and noon to 3 p.m.

Date: Dec. 1

Place: Plaza near Bldg. 8

Arts and Entertainment

Pictures with Santa Program

Come talk and have your picture taken with Santa.

Time: Noon to 1 p.m., 2 to 3 p.m. and 3 to 3:30 p.m.

Date: Dec. 3

Place: Bldg. 8 Union Bay Room or Bldg. 8 in the Student Lounge

Cost: The picture cost is T.B.A.

Holiday Open House

Free gift wrapping, music, and refreshments. 25% off all merchandise, excluding textbooks, calculators, and computer software.

Time: 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Date: Dec. 1 and Dec. 2

Place: Bldg. 6 in the Bookstore

Lectures and Workshops

Women's Brown Bag Series: "Women and the Media-Still Killing us Softly"

This workshop will be a presentation and discussion on media images of women, and the effect they have on their daily lives. It includes viewing the highly acclaimed film "Still Killing us Softly." Lucy Colfin, MA (Political Science) is speaking.

Time: Noon to 1 p.m.

Date: Nov. 15

Place: Bldg. 22, Rm. 105

A.A. Degree Transfer Workshop

Learn how to graduate and transfer with the A.A. degree. Time: 1 p.m.

Date: Nov. 18

Place: Bldg. 6 in the Counseling Center.

For more information, call ext. 353

WHAT'S HAPPENING

HCC Library Workshops

Each workshop is followed by a self-paced exercise which gives hands-on experience using the skills discussed. Workshops are available on a sign-up basis in the library.

Times and dates: Nov. 17 at 9 a.m. for periodicals, Nov. 18 at 10 a.m. and Nov. 24 at 11 a.m. for computer resources, and Nov. 22 at 11 a.m. for reference sources. Contact Dana Franks or Mary Ellen Bartholomew at ext. 232 for more information.

Sports

Volleyball NWACC Championships at Highline

Date: Nov. 18 - 20
Place: Bldg. 28, the Pavillion
Contact Fred Harrison at ext. 454

HCC Women's Basketball

All games are scheduled at 6 p.m. and at Highline unless otherwise listed.

The games listed below are non-league games.

Nov. 26 against Grays Harbor
Nov. 27 against South Puget Sound @ Olympia
Dec. 1 against Pierce @ Lakewood
Dec. 4 against Tacoma

HCC Men's Basketball

All games are scheduled at 8 p.m. and at Highline unless otherwise listed. The games listed below are all pre-season games.

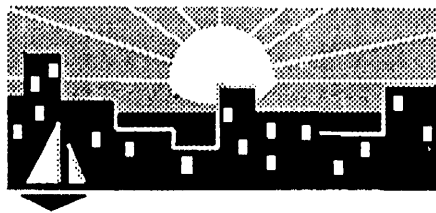
Nov. 26 against Green River
Nov. 27 against South Puget Sound @ South Puget

Dec. 1 against Pierce @ Lakewood
Dec. 4 against Tacoma

HCC Men's Wrestling

All tournaments are all-day events unless otherwise listed.

Nov. 19 against Pacific Lutheran University @ Puyallup at 7 p.m.
Nov. 26, Lassen College Duals @ Susanville
Nov. 27, Lassen College Tournament @ Susanville
Dec. 3 against Clackamas @ Oregon City at 6 p.m.
Dec. 4, Pacific Open Tournament @ Forest Grove



Community Events

Arts and Entertainment

Professional Puppet Show and Dramatic Storytelling

Nathan Kumar Scott, a professional puppeteer and dramatic storyteller, tells his stories about India and Indonesia.

Time: 2 p.m.
Date: Nov. 19

Place: Federal Way Regional Library, 32400 1st Way S.

For more information call the Federal Way Center at 878-9757.

Walt Disney's "World On Ice"

Come see Mickey's great adventure. This show is presented by AT&T.

Times and dates: Dec. 2-3 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 4 at Noon and 3:30 p.m., Dec. 5 at 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Place: The Tacoma Dome, 2727 E. D St.

Tickets are available at Ticketmaster. For more information about tickets contact Beth Haavik at 272-2388.

20th Annual Model Railroad Show

Participants can set their own train designs on computer. Kids can ride a miniature electrically powered "steam style" train for \$.50.

Date: Nov. 26 - 28
Place: Pacific Science Center, 200 Second Ave. N.

For more information, call general information 443-2001.

"The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" and other stories by Dr. Seuss

Seuss' collection of works including such favorites as, "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas," "Green Eggs and Ham," and "Fox in Socks."

Time: Thur. through Sat. 8 p.m. Sat. matinees at 2 p.m.

Date: Nov. 26 through Dec. 18

Place: The New Mercury Theater, 206 Third Ave. S. 2nd Floor.

Cost: Suggested donation of \$10
For reservations and information call 625-9677.

PEOPLE

Refugees, international students

by Heather DeLauder

Highline Community College has 110 international students and many refugees and immigrants who help fill the classrooms here. With them they bring knowledge of their cultures and an eagerness to learn about the American culture and the English language.

Each group is regulated by different rules and must go through various steps to get to America. Refugees and immigrants do not have to go through a formal registration process for their classes. "They do not know how to fill out the registration forms," Claudia Espinosa, an instructor who teaches English as a Second Language (ESL) at HCC, said.

As a result, it is hard to determine how many refugees and immigrants are on campus at HCC because there are no records kept.

Refugees come to America seeking political asylum, because of undue hardship in their countries. Before they come to the United States they live in refugee camps where they have temporary asylum. Espinosa said the most common place for temporary asylum is Thailand, where they can live for up to three years.

According to Sue Samson, an instructor who also teaches ESL at HCC, the first refugees came to the college in 1975 and are still continuing to come to the United States. Many of the refugees and immigrants come to HCC to learn

the English language, but they do not have the funds to pay for their schooling. HCC offers non-credit ESL courses for these students free of charge. In order for the student to become enrolled in the classes they must be a refugee or immigrant and sign up in the Developmental Studies Center.

"There is such a demand for these classes," Espinosa said. Many of the students want to take ESL classes at night because they work during the day, but there are waiting lists for both day and night classes.

All of the students are at a different learning level, which makes it very difficult for the instructors to teach them. "Some students are not literate in our alphabet; there are various degrees in which English is learned in other countries," Espinosa said. She said there may

several different languages in one class, because many different countries are represented. The only way the instructors can communicate with students is with English, Espinosa said. The students tend to do a lot of group work, which helps them communicate but it can also be very confusing because of all of the different accents. But the classes can be a lot of fun because of the diversity of the students, Espinosa said.

"Sometimes it is really difficult to understand these students because we do not have one person that actually deals with them. It is just the teachers in this building that help these students with their first step processes," Samson said.

There are a few volunteers that help the instructors in the classes, but usually only one per class. "We are very lucky to have volunteers in the classrooms. They do not get paid for what they do—it is strictly volunteer," Espinosa said.

Classes are not just to teach the refugee and immigrant students how to speak English, but they are structured around topics on American culture. The students learn how to take care of their money, fill out a traffic accident report, get a job, and many other activities that prepare them for life in the United States.

These students are able to work on and off campus. According to Espinosa, students do not have to know English to get a job, and many refugees and immigrants that get



tsstrive to learn American culture

jobs are paid minimum wage. According to Espinosa, the jobs are usually unskilled labor and the students do not gain any knowledge from working. They also qualify for welfare for the first eight months that they are here, and after a year they become Washington residents. They can qualify for financial aid before or after they become a resident. According to Samson, many of them wait a year after they have been here before applying for financial aid for residency purposes. Once they become a resident then they do not have to use the financial aid money for non-resident tuition. Many of them, after going through the non-credit classes, continue their education at HCC, and others get jobs.

"These are our future Americans," Espinosa said. "It is hard on many of the students because once they are here they will never see their country again, and many of them have left behind family members."

On the other hand, international students come to HCC for an education, but unlike refugees and immigrants they are not in this country to stay. According to Booker Watt, registrar for HCC, the international students decide to study here because many of them cannot get into colleges or universities in their own countries. Other countries have a limited number of schools, so it is hard for the students to get into the them.

International students that are

accepted at HCC have gone through a long registration process, and some qualify while others do not.

The international student must first request registration forms from HCC.

"We do not actively recruit international students to go to Highline," Watt said. This is because there are not enough people at HCC to help out with international students, he said.

The student must be proficient in written English before he or she can be considered, and must pass the TOEFL test, which is a test given to students to measure their proficiency in the English language. International students must also provide a financial statement giving proof that they can cover the total cost of tuition. International students pay \$1475 per quarter for tuition.

There are additional

fees that each international student must be responsible for, such as housing, food, transportation, and any other necessary items that they may need. These students do not qualify for financial aid.

When the students arrive in America they are given a visa. The visas expire in two to three years, and the student must take a minimum of twelve credits per quarter.

International students are also restricted from working off campus for their first year here. Watt said that after a year they must have a verifiable reason to work off campus.

Watt said every international student is required in their first year at HCC to take a one-credit Human Services class. The class is designed to teach international students how to use the library access, health care and manage checking accounts.

Watt also discusses immigration rules and many other survival tips. These are things that students need to know to survive in America, according to Watt.

International students must also go through Health Services when they are accepted to HCC. This is to verify health records and perform physicals.

All of these students have something in common. They are all here at HCC to get an education and learn about the American culture.

"They are so motivated, happy to be here, and appreciative towards Americans," Espinosa said.



COVER STORY

International students bring cultural and ethnic diversity to Highline

by Paul J Creelman

Highline Community College's newly formed International Student Organization (ISO) is not only a club for foreign students here at HCC, but is open to students of all ethnic backgrounds. Magdy Tawfik, ISO president, said that he welcomes any students, American or otherwise, to the club's meetings on Wednesdays between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. in Building 7.

Tawfik said that the ISO has three main goals. He said he would like to see the group grow together, and become like a family, helping to build unity between the students of all nations. He also wants the members to be helpful to each other as they adapt to American culture. Finally, Tawfik wants to eventually open an ISO office, where the ISO's governing body can perform the tasks necessary to keep the organization active and growing. Recently, some members of the organization representing several nations around the world were interviewed. Several of them said in one way or another that they miss

their friends and family back home. Maybe if the club is able to achieve its goals, the students will grow to feel more at home in the United States, and will miss their homelands less.

Future plans of the ISO include selling T-shirts to raise funds, and printing pamphlets that explain the different cultures represented by the organization.

Magdy Tawfik

Magdy came to the United States from Egypt just as two of his three brothers had done before him. Originally he had visited, but later he desired to stay, so he applied for a student visa and filled out an I-20 form. An I-20 is a form that expresses the applicant's consent to allow the immigration office to research the person's history in their homeland, to ensure that the applicant has no previous criminal history.

Magdy lived in Kuwait when the Iraqi army invaded on Aug. 2, 1990. He said that he heard the news early in the morning, but thought it was a joke.

"I couldn't believe it, I heard the news in the morning, about 5 a.m.," Magdy said, "at 7 a.m. I found the army everywhere in Kuwait, but still I didn't believe it."

Magdy said that he thought the military people were Kuwaiti, but

"I found the army everywhere in Kuwait, but still I didn't believe it."

-- Magdy Tawfik

as the day pressed on, he couldn't read or hear any news of the invasion. Finally, on the second day, they picked up the British Broadcasting Corp.'s newscast announcing that Iraq had indeed invaded Kuwait.

"All our relatives and friends sat in our house and spent about two months there," said Magdy. After two months, the Iraqi's opened their border, and his family snuck out, for the most part unharmed.

Magdy said what scared him the most were the stories about Iraqi soldiers making night raids in the city, raping and killing people.

Magdy said he misses his family the most, and the Egyptian culture that he grew up in. He also misses being able to speak the Arabic language, as well as Egyptian holidays and the basic way of life. Magdy also said that one of the



Magdy Tawfik

Photo by Heather DeLauder

hardest things to accept in America is the openness between men and women, which is a sharp contrast to his homeland.

When he arrived in America, Magdy went to school in California, where he wanted to study to become a doctor. But after realizing how much time and money is involved in that pursuit, Magdy changed his major to business and computer science. While in California, Magdy worked with organizations similar to the one at HCC. He recently moved to Wash-

"I learn many other countries' cultures from my friends."

— Ai Iiyama

ington, where he attended Green River Community College for a quarter, and finally settled down at HCC.

He said that he hopes to get a group of as many students representing as many cultures as possible together, and listen to what they have to say, and try to meet their needs.

Magdy hopes to leave behind a legacy of support for other international students, to make their lives and the transition from their own cultures to an American one a little easier.

Ai Iiyama



Photo by Paul J. Creelman

Ai Iiyama

Ai Iiyama has already graduated from a Japanese junior college, but now has come to the United States to pursue an education in the field of air transportation. She chose to do this in the United States because there are less courses of that nature offered at the junior

college level in her homeland. She selected HCC because it offers one of the most complete air transportation programs in the region.

Ai finds school in America easier than in Japan, but admits that she occasionally has a struggle with the language barrier. Before coming to HCC, Ai attended an English language school in Seattle to help her with her communications skills. While she was there, she met many people from different cultural backgrounds, and began to "trade" teaching her language in for learning others. At the school, while she was learning English, she was also trading Japanese for Spanish with another student.

Because some of her relatives live nearby, Ai says that there isn't too much that she misses about Japan, except some of the Japanese cuisine.

"I learn many other countries' cultures from my friends," said Ai of the International Students Organization. She said that she likes the program, because it also helps

"The requirement was to be an 'A' student."

— Krin Kirijas

her to understand American culture.

After graduation, Ai hopes to get a job in the airline industry, either in the United States or in Japan.

Krin Kirijas

Krin, a Macedonian, was quick to give thanks to her host parents,



Photo by Heather DeLauder

Krin Kirijas

Frank and Gloria Jovanovich during her interview. She has been living in the United States now for more than a year and a half, and considering the civil wars and turmoil in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is near Macedonia, it's not surprising to hear her say that

she would like to stay and live in the relatively peaceful United States.

The 18-year-old came to America to study interior design, a subject which she said is in short supply in her homeland. She also said that her parents, concerned for her safety in that turbulent region, were more than willing to send her to our nation to study.

In order to reach the United States, Krin and her family had

"I came to the conclusion it (high school in America) was pretty much a joke."

— Nicky Brockman

several obligations to fulfill. She had to pass an English comprehension test and fill out several applications as well.

"I had to fill out applications, and the requirements were to be an 'A' student," said Krin. She was also required to have enough money to pay for air fare and tuition once she got to the United States.

There were also some requirements for her parents to meet, including not being involved with any criminal activity.

While this may seem humorous or even unimportant to an American, the abundant crime in the United States is a recurring concern of this student.

She also said that she finds America to be a very busy place in comparison to Macedonia.

Krin says that while school in the United States seems much easier, with more subjects offered, and with the relatively peaceful life here, she still misses her homeland, especially her family and friends. She also misses her frequent visits to nearby Greece.

Krin thinks that the International Students Organization is a good thing for the foreign students, making it easier for them to adjust.

instead.

He is presently deciding between a career in Engineering or as a lawyer, and would like to get an international certification so that he can work either in the United States or back home in Korea.

Byung said that one of the hardest parts of adapting to American culture is that Americans see things from a different perspective. This can lead to a feeling of alienation, and sometimes it makes him miss

his homeland and his family.

Byung said that he likes the ISO because it helps people to communicate with and understand Americans, and helps them to better understand the American way of life.



Nicky Brockman

Photo by Heather DeLauder

Byung Keun Chae

Byung wanted to come to the United States from his home in Korea because he had heard the United States provides greater opportunities for study, as well as

freedom in what a person can learn.

Byung said he had many interviews to go through, as well as a national test to take before he could reach American shores for an education. He graduated from an American high school and first tried to

attend Bellevue Community College when he got to Washington, but it was full, so he came to HCC



Byung Keun Chae

Photo by Heather DeLauder

Nicky Brockman

Nicky's story is slightly different than most of the other students interviewed. She has lived in the United States for 12 years. She said that she met her American husband in her homeland of Belgium, and they were married in Hong Kong, followed by a honeymoon in Indonesia, helping to make her a truly "international" student.

Nicky said that she finds the American college system better than the one in Belgium. There is no credit system in Belgium. A person just takes two or four years of classes, and they either pass or fail at the end. If a person drops

out halfway through, they lose credit for all of the previous studies. Her opinion of high school in America is slightly different, however. "I came to the conclusion it was pretty much a joke," she said. She feels that American high school students don't bother to study, because they don't really need to.

Nicky is also outspoken about the United States in general, having lived here for several years. She said that at first she had a hard time adapting, but has since come to better understand what she refers to as the "superficiality" of American society. Nicky wishes to

she misses her sister Nadine the most, but also misses Belgian food, tea rooms, and the beaches.

Nicky works for a microcomputer information firm, and hopes to incorporate her knowledge of languages and foreign cultures into that industry.

"I would like to get rid of my accent," Nicky said, who explained that her accent sometimes makes her feel alienated in the American culture.

Nicky feels similarly about the ISO. She said that at times she feels even more foreign while she's with the group than when she's in a strictly "American" crowd.

With time, the desired "family" atmosphere outlined by Magdy Tawfik may be able to help Nicky overcome that feeling of alienation.

Masayuki Otsubo

Masayuki became interested in the United States and the English language because of frequent contact with Americans back in his homeland, Japan. He decided that he wanted to speak more En-

glish, and the best way to pursue that would be to come to the United States.

He said he sent three applications to colleges in the United States and was accepted by all three. He said he chose HCC because he feels that the campus is set in an attractive countryside, and seems to be in touch with nature. He also liked the people at HCC, finding them "relaxed."

Comparing American school to school in Japan is not an easy thing, because Masayuki said that college in the United States is much different than in Japan. For instance, he said that it is much harder to get into Japanese college, but one must study much harder in the U.S. schools.

Masayuki said that when he got to the United States he had to take a test to see how much of the English language he comprehended. "It measures how you understand English," he said.

Masayuki says that he misses his family back home, and that when he graduates, he hopes to become a teacher, either teaching Japanese in the United States or teaching English in Japan.

Masayuki says that the ISO helps him share his background with people of other cultures, and gives him the oppor-



Masayuki Otsubo Photo by Heather DeLauder

"I would like to get rid of my accent."

— Nicky Brockman

obtain dual citizenship, but that is unlikely. She thinks it is wrong for the United States to ask for her complete loyalty, and thereby renounce her homeland. She questions how loyal she would truly seem. "It would be a doubled responsibility, not a halfed one. They think it would be a halfed one. They should really determine it on an individual basis," she said.

Nicky said she can speak four languages, and can partially understand two others. She said that



Tahany Morsy Photo by Heather DeLauder

— Continued on page 18

SPORTS

Undefeated HCC Volleyball team in the running for conference title

by Paul J Creelman

It's not easy trying to be the best at what you do. Just ask any of the Highline Community College women's volleyball players, and they'll tell you. So far, the team hasn't lost a match in the regular season. They have participated in some tournaments against other schools, but haven't fared quite as well.

Megan Blacksher said that the team needs to remain consistent in their play as the season begins to wrap up. On the subject of competition she said, "In the league it's pretty much the same, because we've played everyone already, but outside of the league it's tougher competition. The way we play in tournaments it looks like we're probably fourth."

Coach John Littleman said that the tournaments are a way of gauging where the team stands on a championship level.

"They need to be aware of where they stack up," said Littleman, "And then it's a challenge to them — if they stack up well, then they need to consistently play at that level. If they find that they're not playing well enough, they need to step up and accept that challenge to improve."

Suzie Hansen, team co-captain said, "We're trying to practice at a



Becky Weizmann slams the competition

Photo by Heather DeLauder

been a few "lapses," the team continues to win.

Littleman wants his team to persevere and continue with the drive to hold their first place position.

Natasha Tschopp, a second year player, said that the skills

"We're trying to practice at a higher level so we can stay intense for longer periods of time."

— Suzie Hansen

of this year's team seem higher than last year, mainly because most of the players from last year have returned.

The Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges women's volleyball championships will be held at HCC on November 18, 19, and 20, giving the team a home court advantage. The players would like to see as many fans as possible show up to the event. Admission to the championships will be discounted to students with school identification. Prices for the entire tournament are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors. Per session prices are \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors, and \$2 for children under 12 years of age.

higher level so we can stay intense for longer periods of time."

"It's the middle of the season; we've been practicing real hard," said Littleman after a recent victory over Shoreline Community College. "They're mentally a little bit fatigued, a little frustrated. They're probably finding out they're behind in their classes, and their boyfriend doesn't like them anymore, and all those other things that happen."

The team continues to practice and play hard, and even though there have

SPORTS BRIEFS

Halftime hoop-shoot contest in the works for men's basketball games

A halftime hoop-shoot contest is being planned for the Highline Community College men's basketball games this season. Coach John Dunn wants to start a contest in which selected students attending the men's basketball games will have the opportunity to shoot a basket from half court with free tuition on the line.

The contest was designed to help increase student attendance of Thunderbirds men's basketball games, but still has to be cleared through the proper authorities.

Alumni basketball games to be played at HCC

HCC alumni basketball players will be back to play for the college again. On Nov. 26, at 1 p.m. and again at 3 p.m. former T-bird greats who played as long ago as the mid-70s will get another opportunity to show their stuff on the courts. Admission is free to HCC students with school identification.

HCC to host volleyball championship

The Northwest Athletic Association of Community

Colleges women's volleyball championships will be played at HCC November 18, 19 and 20. Admission to the three day event will be discounted for students with school identification. Prices for the entire tournament will be \$15 for adults, and \$10 for students and seniors. Per session prices will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and seniors, and \$2 for children under 12 years of age. There will be two sessions per day.

HCC cheersquad helps to build audience enthusiasm

The HCC cheersquad's purpose is to create spirit and enthusiasm

in the crowds at T-bird home games. Without a travel budget, the team is unable to attend away games unless they pay their own way. The dedicated students pay for their own uniforms, and provide for their own transportation to cheer competitions.

Men's soccer wraps up season with disappointing record

The 1993 T-bird men's soccer team just finished up a disappointing season. The team's final record was 2-8-2. Their final game was against Shoreline Community College on Nov. 10. Coach Dan Flint was quick to give praise to his players, saying, "We had good kids, just not a good year." Flint said that he lost last year's lead scorer to ineligibility, but some of this year's team played hard to make up the difference. Flint said he'll be spending the off season recruiting players for next season.

Men's cross country finishes sixth

HCC men's cross country team finished their 1993 season last week. They finished in sixth place at the NWAACC championships, held at Lake Sacajawea Park, in Longview, Wash.

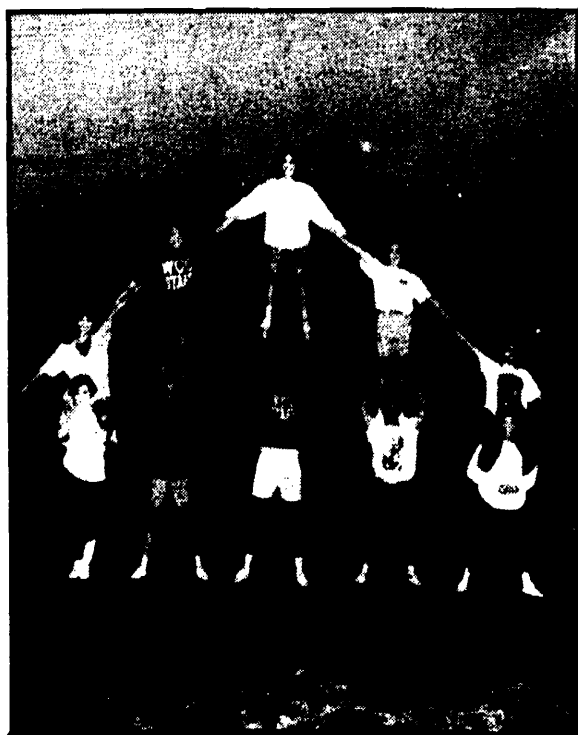


Photo by Heather DeLauder

The HCC cheersquad works on a tough formation.

International

— Continued from page 15

tunity to communicate with people from other lands.

Tahany Morsy

Tahany isn't like most of the other international students. She has a Master's Degree in Philosophy from an Egyptian university, as well as years of experience as a social worker. Tahany is also a mother of five (one of whom is Magdy Tawfik), and a grandmother. She was working for the largest hospital in Kuwait when the Iraqi army invaded.

Unlike Magdy, Tahany knew right away that the invasion was for real.

Tahany said that the first emotion she felt when she got the news was sadness, and not fear. She was saddened that the tense situation

in the middle east would deteriorate to the point that Iraq would attack its neighbor.

Tahany said that one of the first things she noticed about the Iraqi soldiers was their lack of desire to be there. She said that they were asking for food and water, and rides to get around — basically that they were forced to do their job. She also believes that many of the stories of atrocities that we heard here in America were exaggerated. Her family lived in relative seclusion for two months after the invasion, and after the border opened they left.

"To drive almost 13 hours continuously with (short breaks) and go through your enemies," said Tahany, "we were afraid they would deal with us badly."

Tahany said she had visited the United States every summer since 1978. She prefers the laid-back style of the American school sys-

tem to that of Egypt, where a person takes eight or nine classes during a term which can last as long as nine months. Then, at the end of the term, a student must take a cumulative test.

Tahany now enjoys an American residency, while visiting Egypt annually to visit her family.

She likes to volunteer her time to help with social work, and feels the ISO program is very helpful for foreign students.

Tahany is proud of her youngest son Magdy, and the things he is accomplishing at HCC. She thinks he'll be a good leader, because he listens to other people's ideas and suggestions. Because of his recent added responsibilities, she is concerned about his studies, as well.

What does Tahany like the most about the U.S.? "The way the people live in freedom," she said, "Thinking, talking, doing whatever they want to do."

Food

— Continued from page 7

The cafeteria also sells pizzas, and features a salad bar and a soup bar. The salad bar seems a bit simple at times, but serves its purpose. The soup bar provides several choices of

hot broth and chili for colder days. Both are worth the money.

Rounding out the meal selections provided by the Union Cafe is their daily "a la carte" meal, usually with vegetarian provisions.

Also located in the cafeteria building is Tazza Espresso, which provides pastries, pretzels, soup and chili, as well as the obvious (hyper-cafeinated) drinks. Unfortunately Tazza cannot serve most of their food items until after the Union Cafe closes.

Tazza's black bean and turkey chili may sound like an odd item, but it's truly excellent. It comes with a cornbread muffin, and you can request cayenne peppers to really add some kick.

Now as for Taco Bell ... well, it's

been almost eight weeks since it was supposed to open. As much time as this is taking, I can only wonder what culinary delights will be provided by the Bell. It will likely be standard Taco Bell fare, but will probably come with a slightly higher price tag.

Finally, if you don't have the time, money or patience for the many hot food items in the cafeteria, there is always an assortment of fruit juices, Coke and Pepsi products, cold sandwiches and an array of Hostess snack cakes.

No matter what you want to fulfill your needs, you'll probably find it at the Union Cafe or Tazza Espresso for a reasonable price. If nothing else, the cashiers are a pleasant lot, so you can just stop by and say "Hi."

**Please
recycle
this
magazine**

CAMPUS COMMENTARY

Q: Do you think HCC should actively be recruiting international students?

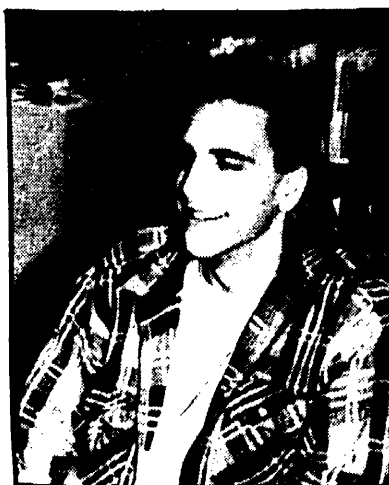


"I really think this country should pay more attention to our own students. I think that foreign students are getting more aid from the U.S. government than you and I as citizens."

— Deborah Deissler
HCC Student

"Yes, I think HCC should actively recruit international students. It promotes good will within our community."

— Mike Gruberg
Program Assistant



"I think HCC should recruit lots of international students because that way it's going to help the American students learn about different cultures, and I think that's important."

— Rosslyn Afande
International Student from Kenya

OPINIONS

Illiteracy and America's future

A recent Department of Education study showed that nearly half of Americans are semi-literate. Should we care?

by Ken Steffenson

A great deal of controversy and concern has been raised by a Department of Education (DOE) study released last September. Recent articles in newspapers and magazines have painted a dire picture of America based on the study's findings which show that nearly half of adults in our country are "semi-literate."

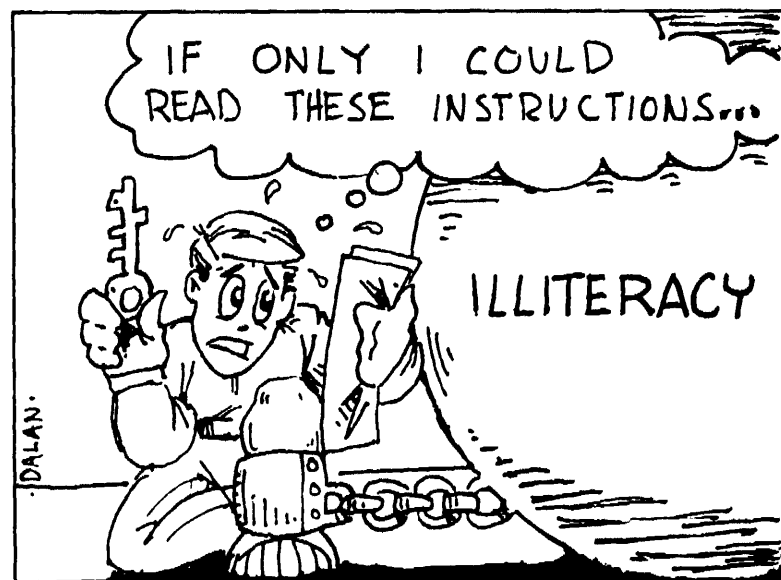
The major flaw of these types of studies is that the yardstick used to measure literacy in America is never the same length twice. The definitions of literacy, illiteracy, and semi-literacy for that matter, are ever changing. This is to be expected, since technology and other advances force every new generation to have new knowledge and learn new skills.

In fact, the currently accepted definition of literacy does not just consider reading and writing, but is a five-part list of the "basic skills" which scholars feel all adults should master to function effectively in our advanced society. In addition to reading and writing, it is thought that adults should have some ability in math, the ability to communicate clearly, and possess problem solving skills.

Since the definition of literacy is dependant not only on the time, but also on the place (a semi-literate American might be considered highly literate or grossly illiterate in another country), need we worry about the issue? Perhaps a lot of people rationalize this way:

So what if these 90 million semi-literate adults endure a life of part-time, low wage jobs. Someone has to do these jobs.

So what if these people are more likely to be on welfare.



Programs like welfare were created to aid less-advantaged people, so these programs are OK.

So what if they are uninformed voters because they can't understand the political issues of the day. Hopefully (and probably) they don't vote at all, because if they do they will probably make bad choices.

So what if college instructors must lower

their teaching approach so that everyone in their classes can grasp what they're talking about. At least everyone in the classes can follow what is going on.

So what if parents can't read a story to their children. Television quite nicely fills that void.

But there is another line of thinking to consider.

What if the reason these people are semi-literate is in some way the fault of our society? If the blame belongs on the breakdown of the nuclear family, or on economic conditions which force both parents to work, or on deficiencies in our educational system, then the low-wage jobs are certainly not by choice. These people just can't qualify for the more technical jobs which are becoming increasingly common in America and the world.

And if these people were at a higher literacy level, we would save significant money through reduced numbers on welfare. Maybe it would cost less to fund adult literacy programs than it does to support welfare recipients.

And if everyone were more knowledgeable about political issues, perhaps our voter turnout percentages would be more respectable. Maybe we would even have more respectable people in office.

— Continued on page 22

LETTERS

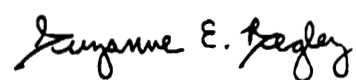
Students respond to instructor's letter

To the editor,

I am writing in response to another letter to the editor concerning the parking problem here at HCC. This is not to say that the problem with parking is not a legitimate one, nor that Ms. Taylor's solutions were not plausible ones, but I, as well as a number of my peers, were deeply offended by the note of snide superiority as expressed in the letter.

It would seem to me that Ms. Taylor feels that the students here at HCC are not her equals as they have not "jumped some more hoops and paid some more dues." I would like to point out that the college education process is neither a circus nor a Girl Scout troop. I would also like to add that while many of the students here do not yet have a degree, they are here for one reason and one reason only — to improve their lives in some way. Everyone attending this school has a goal of some sort, and their efforts should be applauded, as opposed to being heckled.

Finally, on the subject of paying dues, I would like to add that many people here have lived through a lot of pain, and have seen a lot of hardship. It appears to me that Ms. Taylor believes that the only "dues" worth recognizing are letters at the end of someone's name signifying a degree. However, many of the students here have lived through some things that put a three-ring circus to shame, and while these "dues" may not have been paid in a currency that Ms. Taylor recognizes as viable, they have been paid nonetheless.



Suzanne E. Begley
HCC Student

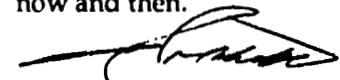
To the editor,

A few days ago, while reading the "ThunderWord" magazine, one subject caught my eye. Although I did not think much of it, the same subject, to my surprise, was brought up in a few of my classes and discussed fecetiously. Of course, I am talking about the "parking problems" article (letter) writting by a faculty member.

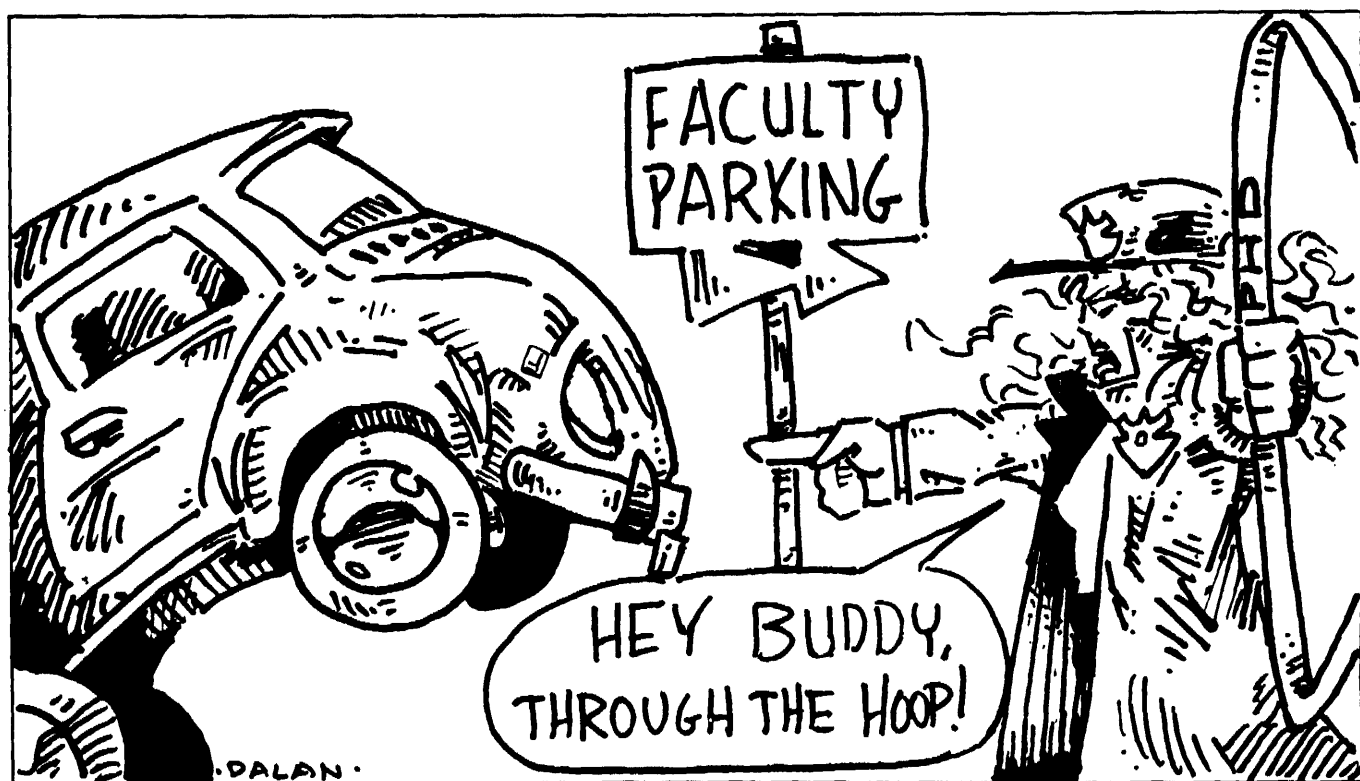
I have been attending Highline for almost a year now. I have been fortunate enough to meet and get acquainted with quite a few of the faculty. I do have the most respect for all, but as I continue reading this article, my first instinct suggested that this letter must have been written in the heat of the moment of anger. Otherwise, anybody would realize that campus problems which involve a multitude of people and a limited budget cannot be an easy issue to resolve. I have to admit that since that day, walking on campus has been a bit uneasy for this "unworthy" student, knowing the fact that such an accomplished, high-caliber scholar walks down these paths everyday and enlightens our campus with her obvious charm and intelligence.

There was also the matter of payee and payor mentioned; that is, we as students as "payors" cannot possible be considered of the "same rank and importance." It is evident that if it were not for us "payors" that chose to take time off from the struggles in the real world and continue with our education, the above-mentioned "payee" would have to spend some of her time in the unemployment line and get a much needed dose of reality.

As I am sitting here addressing my opinnion about this issue, I just hope I do not have to get by this lady to get my A.A., but I stongly feel that some of us human beings need to be remended that we have to come back down to earth every now and then.



Bob Mohebbi
HCC Student



Illiteracy

— Continued from page 20

And if college instructors must gear their teaching to the lowest common denominator, doesn't that mean those students who need a more intellectual, advanced approach are suffering — held back in their education by those less literate?

And, since children are greatly influenced by watching the actions of their parents, those children who are read to will grow up with a stronger desire to read. More parents who are literate will lead to fewer children becoming members of the semi-literate ranks.

All of these factors make it harder for the future of the United States. We will have trouble competing with other nations unless we address this problem now.

It is easy (and all too common) to blame "society" or government for problems such as illiteracy, but the steps we must take to eliminate this situation begin at home, with the family.

So read to your kids. Read to yourself. Support adult literacy programs, which luckily receive most of

their funding from the federal government, and not from the increasingly backwards-thinking states.

Reading, writing, and education in general must be made interesting to children AND adults. This is not a job for government agencies. This is a job for people. This is a job for all of us.

The ThunderWord welcomes letters to the editor. Please include signature, name, address, and phone number for verification purposes.

The editorial staff of the ThunderWord reserves the right to edit length, grammar and punctuation.

Bring letters to the ThunderWord office, Building 10, room 105, or mail to the ThunderWord, Highline Community College, P.O. Box 98000, Des Moines, Wash., 98198.

The ThunderWord also encourages readers to submit news tips and story ideas to the staff by calling 878-3710 ext. 291.

The opinions expressed in the Opinions pages do not necessarily reflect those of the ThunderWord editorial staff, advisor, or Highline Community College.

Pick up the ThunderWord's policy letter regarding paid advertisements, public service announcements, and story suggestions in Building 10, room 105.

I Wear Them
SEATBELTS
 Everybody's Wearing Them
 WASHINGTON TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION



CONSCIOUS CHOICES COUNSELING

Couples, Families, and Individuals

Now Forming:

Male/Female Dialogue Group

and

Women's Empowerment Group

Call: Nancy Paul, M.A.

874-6528

*** Please check Highline catalog (Continuing Education) for Saturday Workshops ***

*Isn't it time
 to make your
 advertising
 pay?*

This advertisement could be selling your product or service to the thousands of diverse students at *Highline Community College*.

Highline students range from age 18 to over 60 and come from every walk of life.

To place your ad, call the *ThunderWord* business manager at (206) 878-3710 Ext. 292

Holiday Open House

25% off all Merchandise

Excluding textbooks, calculators & computer software

Free gift wrapping, music & refreshments

December 1 & 2 from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Bookstore in Bldg. 6 - Lower Level

Lose Weight

with an "All Natural Herbal Based" weight loss and energy program

- 30-day guarantee
- Increase energy level
- Controls appetite

Call today 271-8206

HORIZON COMPUTER SERVICES
 226-0485

RESUMES starting at \$20

Word Processing \$5 per page

Desktop Publishing: Flyers, bulletins, newsletters (price negotiable).

College Transfer Day



Admissions representatives from most four-year colleges and universities in Washington will be here to talk to Highline students and faculty.

When: Tuesday, November 16, 1993

Time: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Place: Bldg. 6



**The Émeraude Dress
Boutique**

(206) 941-1225
2012 S. 320th • Federal Way
South of AMC Theatre North in
the Center Plaza Shopping Center

A Fashionable Boutique
For The Woman and Teenager

Throughout
the
store
a
multitude
of
styles



Exclusive
eveningwear

Exquisite
Holiday
Jewelry



Petite
and
Missey
Sizes

