The Highline Community College

ThunderWord

Volume XXXVIII

Issue 5

January 24, 1994



HCC News

Registrar Booker Watt to retire

HCC News

Financial aid available for many students

Sports

Basketball player Angie Frye loves the game

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DEADLINE YOU SHOULDN'T MISS:

This year's deadline for submissions to Arcturus will be February 4. If you have any reproducible artwork or written material that you'd like to submit, you need to give it to Bob Hughes (Bulding 5) by February 4.

— remember —

February 4

Arcturus

Highline College's award-winning arts publication

ThunderWord

A student publication of Highline Community College

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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.

ThunderWord

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Humanitarianism Award winners, left to right: Isaiah Tate, Jr.; Patricia Flores; and Edwin Morris.

Three people receive **Martin Luther King** Humanitarianism **Awards**

Highline Community College presented the fourth annual Dr. Martin Luther King Humanitarianism Awards at a ceremony held on Jan. 13 in the Artist/Lecture Center. Award recipients were chosen by the Martin Luther King Observance Committee, a group made up of students, faculty and chairwomen Siew Lai Lilley of Multicultural Student Services (MSS).

The three winners, and their award categories, were: Isaiah Tate, Jr., student; Edwin Morris, faculty/staff; and Patricia Flores, community person.

The winners were chosen because of their efforts to better the community and their belief in equality for all people.

The awards ceremony also featured the presentation of awards to three HCC students who entered an essay contest. These winners were: Tyson Vo, 1st place; Sean Rankin, 2nd place; and Brian Ripley, 3rd place.

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The mistress of ceremonies was Cerathel Burnett, director of MSS, and entertainment was provided by Rhonda Green, a singer from the Greater Revival Imani Temple Church of God in Christ.

Highline College Student Union officers change

At the end of Fall Quarter 1993, HCSU Legislative Vice President Clint York left HCC and vacated his student government position. The office was filled by Tim McCann, who moved up from his position as HCSU treasurer. The treasurer spot was then filled by Mark Schuh, who had been serving as a student-at-large. Schuh was voted into the treasurer position at the HCSU meeting held on January 10.

The job of treasurer was also amended into "Treasurer/Club Liaison." This change will give the numerous clubs at HCC a dedicated personal contact within the student

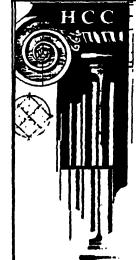
government organization.

The Highline College Student Union meets every Monday at 3 p.m. in the boardroom on the sixth floor of the HCC Library. All students, faculty and staff members are welcome to attend.

Disabled Student Services office moves

The Disabled Student Services (DSS) office recently moved into the Counseling Center, located upstairs in Building 6. The DSS office, previously located in the Tutoring Center in Building 19, serves the needs of Highline Community College students with physical and mental diszoilities and learning disorders.

Students who require assistance with handicap parking, registration assistance, classroom accommodations, or other special services, can visit the Disabled Student Services office in Building 6 or call them at 878-3710, extension 353.



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Occupational Programs - Interior Design

The Interior Design Program at Highline College will give you the skills necessary to work in the following:

- Department Stores
- Retail Interior Businesses
- Large Corporations
- Government Agencies

The Interior Design Program provides knowledge of design, color, textiles, furniture, lighting, historical background, work experience, presentations and drafting in both the studio setting and in the computer lab using computer assisted drafting and design (C.A.D.D.) software.

Contact: Donna Pratt, (206) 878-3710, ext. 470

Registrar retires after 22 years at HCC

by Jean Frazier-Lee

After 22 years of service and dedication to students at Highline Community College, HCC Registrar Booker Watt, 65, retires at the end of this month.

Watt considers his "open door concept" a success throughout his long career. "Whenever that door is open, they (students) don't need an appointment," said Watt, pointing at his office door.

Registration is a vast and complex department that includes enrollment, records, degree requirements, transcripts, evaluations, and monitoring and processing of foreign students.

"I'm fortunate to have such a good crew. We do what has to be done," Watt said. "The student comes first. Their success is priority. That's why we're here," Watt said. "Many students have come in here ready to hang it up. Some get here not committed or with obstacles to overcome. I listen to their problems — it shows that somebody cares and values them. This helps them to believe in themselves and be successful in their education. I enjoy helping students solve their problems and relieve some of their frustrations."

Credentials Evaluator Joanne Jordan witnessed Watt's impact on students when she saw a student who, after the graduation ceremony, sought after Watt and said, "I would not be here tonight if not



Booker Watt is retiring at the end of January after 22 years of service at HCC.

for you." Jordan heard the student remind Watt of the first time he came to him. The student said he couldn't afford school and didn't believe he could make it in college until Watt helped him with encouragement, financial aid information, and took time to help him get into classes. Jordan said, "He bends over backwards for a student's success" and added "He went out of his way" many times by personally calling four-year institutions on behalf of students with transfer problems, arranging for whatever the student needed.

International student Maria Boukalis said she "really appreciated him always being there to help when difficulties arose getting classes."

Once a high school dropout, Watt said he made a promise to his grand-father to complete his education if

the grandfather signed permission for Watt to enlist in the Army at age seventeen. Watt completed his G.E.D. and college courses at various places during the 24 years that the Army sent him around the globe. Watt said it took fifteen years to get his bachelor's degree in business with a minor in education. Watt's 1969 commencement in Tokyo fulfilled the promise to his grandfather.

Watt said his challenges while at HCC included, "a lot of changes in graduation requirement," and his work as a liaison with four-year colleges and universities.

Watt said most difficulties in his career dealt with budget cuts that "hurt" HCC's ability to offer all the courses students need. The evening program, with many part-time staff, is the hardest hit.

"I'm tired," is Watt's reason for retirement. "I've been working since I was 13 years old." Watt said he started with a shoe-shine kit and a paper route.

Future plans, Watt said, include more United Way volunteer work on a committee that serves as a liaison for various non-profit agencies, and work with community tutoring programs where he can continue to help students.

Watt's interim replacement, according to HCC Director of Personnel Sue Williamson, is Loreen Miller, who is on loan from Tacoma Community College. Miller will work four days per week at HCC.

by Kristin Marquardt

Area blood banks need donations

February is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month

The Puget Sound Blood Center serves seven million people who live in the area. The Puget Sound Blood Center is in need of 600 donations a day to help approximately 50,000 patients a year.

blood a person must be at least 18 years of age. Students 16 and 17 years old may donate with parental consent. Donors also need to be at least 110 pounds and in relatively good health. Donors may give blood every 56 days — the time it takes for the body to replenich the donated pint.

All the different parts of the blood can be used for different problems. Three or four people can be helped with one pint of blood.

Donating blood takes approximately

45 minutes. During this time the person will be biles for about 300 of their daily donations. screened about their lifestyles and about the background of their family. The person is screened to protect people from receiving infected blood. "The screening is 99.9% accurate," said Jennifer Rickards, media relations personnel for the Puget Sound Blood Center.

A person donates blood at a local blood center.

After the blood is donated it is screened for several diseases. Some of the ones tested for include Hepatitis B and C, Syphilis, HTLV1 and HIV. If infected blood is found, the donor of the blood will receive a letter asking them to come and discuss the results at the center. Blood that tests positive for HIV is tested three times to make sure that the test is accurate. Last year there was only two or three incidences of infected blood. Most of the people who may be at risk are

screened out of the program before they give blood. Although five blood banks are located within the

Puget Sound area only about six percent of the population is donating blood. "This is a small percentage Donations of all blood types are needed. To give because most people are going to need at least one blood transfusion

during their lifetime,"

said Rickards. The

blood bank also has

three blood mobiles

and trucks which carry two portable

stations. The mobiles and portable set-up

trucks go around to

different places all

over the area to re-

ceive blood dona-

tions. They usually

take them to places

with which they are

partners. Partners of

the blood bank are

various organiza-

tions, businesses and schools. The blood

bank relies on the set-

ups and blood mo-



Photo coursey of Puget Sound Blood Center

In this area the inventory looks good, but national averages are down -- especially in areas where natural disasters have occurred in the previous year. February is National Volunteer Blood Donor Month. Highline Community College, partner with the blood bank, is having their quarterly blood drive sponsored by the Puget Sound Center. The blood mobile will be located on the west side of Building 8 on Feb. 1 and 2, 1993 at 9:00-11:30 a.m. and noon-3:00 p.m. The goal is to receive 100 donations during the two days.

Lucinda Black, of the HCC Events Board, said HCC has a partnership with the Puget Sound Blood Center to help them with their blood donations because they have shortages of volunteers and donors, and it's really hard to meet the supply and demand.

January 24, 1994

New unsubsidized Stafford Loans have brought more people into the office

Understaffed Financial Aid Office faced with increasing workload

by Marlin Bowman

A computer-generated note hangs in the office of Michael Grubiak, vice president for students at Highline Community College. It reads, "Notice to higher education personnel: Due to recent budget cuts we regret to inform you that the light at the end of the tunnel will be shut off until further notice."

Though the staff in the financial aid office might have reason to illustrate the note, you wouldn't know it by walking into their office. Director R. Jeffrey Abrahamson has gone on a leave of absence, and the office is shorthanded. Their work load increases daily, and they still greet, with a smile, everyone who comes through their door.

Grubiak, who oversees the financial aid office, said he has appointed Assistant Financial Aid Director Betty Muncton to be acting director. Steve Seeman, who has been fiscal technician, is elevated to assistant financial aid director. Grubiak said there will be another person hired to fill Seeman's previous job. Many positions around campus had been left unfilled pending the outcome of State Initiatives 601 and 602. "Now we're beginning to start hiring. We stalled by choice, pending the outcome of the election," said Grubiak.

Sue Williamson, director of Personnel at HCC, said, "We're beginning to process requests to fill vacancies. We have three positions in the screening process now. I have been advertising them, and there are two positions almost ready to advertise. We are gearing up to do a lot of recruiting."

Grubiak said that when the third position in the financial aid office is filled, the office could probably use another half-time employee just to stay even. But he said he doesn't expect it in the foreseeable future. The funds are not there.

Grubiak said he has been advised to plan for a biennial "college efficiency cut" in college funds next year of one percent. He is not sure it will happen, but if it does, it will mean a total cut of two percent since it is the second year of the biennium. The new fiscal



Work-study student Thuyvan Tran helps in the Financial Aid Office.

year begins on July 1, 1994.

"A lot of offices are understaffed," Muncton said about the staffing shortfall in her office.

Muncton cited the reasons for an increasing workload. First, there is the economy. More people are applying, according to Muncton. Secondly, the new unsubsidized Stafford Loans have brought more people into the office. Everyone is entitled to the loan if they are registered and making progress in school, she said.

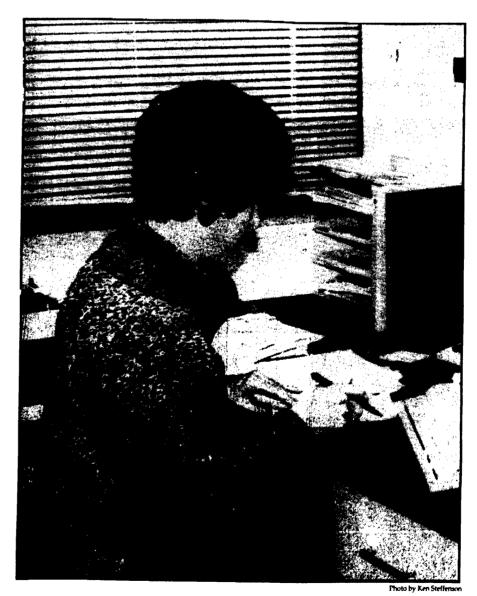
Muncton said it helped this summer that the financial aid office closed early on Wednesdays and Thursdays and all day on Fridays. She said the staff was able to process more paper work with the office closed. Muncton said she set deadlines for files to be completed and the staff stuck to the deadlines.

Grubiak said, "We are public servants here. Public servant means public service." He praised the financial aid staff for efficiency and their ability to maintain a quality program during its staff shortage.

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Financial Aid:

The Big Picture



Pat Richard is a familiar person to students receiving financial aid. She has helped many HCC students through the financial aid process.

by Marlin Bowman

paign, President
Clinton said investing in
his college loan and national service program
would be "the best money
we will ever spend." But
when he assumed office,
he found out that campaign promises are not automatically funded. There
was little money to make
his investment in education a reality.

Nevertheless, he has implemented changes that will have farreaching effects. Next year, students in a limited number of colleges will be able to borrow money from the government with no bank involved. Loan repayments may be a percentage of a student's income rather than a set amount. Some loans will be paid back by community service work rather than with money. Loans will be available to everyone in college, regardless of income.

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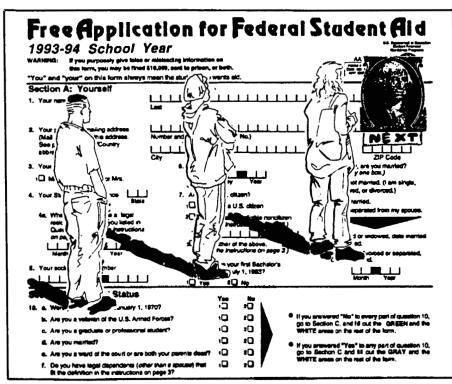
Though plagued by bureaucratic problems, the student aid program functions fairly well. There is money available for eligible students who wade through the application forms. And there are ways for students to improve their views, fine tunes and repasses the chances of receiving educational funds from the government.

Derek Bok, former president of Harvard University, once said, "If try ignorance."

Student financial aid began with the GI Bill. For winning World War II, America's soldiers were rewarded with a college education, and the GI Bill revitalized American higher education.

The Federal Aid to Students Program was established in 1965 as part of President Lyndon Johnson's "Great Society." It has helped millions of Americans obtain a higher education.

The Higher Education Act (HEA), which authorizes student Since she is single and on her own, financial aid, comes up for re-authorization periodically. It was most recently re-authorized in 1992, according to Betty Muncton, acting financial aid director at Highline Community College. Congress re-



bill. "There are changes every year ... It's hard for us to keep up," Muncton said.

The program has some problems, you think education is expensive, according to Muncton. She said Congress authorizes but sometimes doesn't provide funds, and the state of Washington is also guilty.

Applicants for financial aid at HCC sometimes face problems. D. Gross, a student in her second quarter at HCC, has been unable to obtain financial aid until now because she made too much money. She was required to fill out a "special circumstances" form because she previously worked 70 to 80 hours a week as a waitress, but now has cut back to between 20 and 30 hours. she needs help to continue as a fulltime student.

Diallo Redd is a second-year student at HCC. He has yet to receive financial aid even though he doesn't live with his parents. His parents

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make too much money, but they don't help with his education. He said, "The forms are not fair. It has to do with parents. It's not fair for an independent person living on their own." Redd said there should be money in the program for independent people.

Changes in the system should make it easier for middle-class Americans to obtain an education. In a new program, more middleincome families can qualify for financial aid.

Previously, the governmentbacked Stafford Loan Program has been limited to lower-income stu-

Now, an unsubsidized version of the program is available without an income limit. With subsidized Stafford loans, the government pays interest while the student is in college. In the unsubsidized version, the student is liable for all interest payments.

Congress has also made it easier

to qualify by eliminating one's home as a countable asset. In the past, equity in a home disqualified middle-income students.

There are also changes in Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS). The old program contained a \$4,000 annual limit. There is now no limit. PLUS loans are available through banks to any family found credit worthy.

Muncton said that 35 to 40 percent of full-time students at HCC are on financial aid.

Pell grants, named for their creator, Sen. Claiborne Pell, D-R.I., are basic, according to Muncton. There are more HCC students on this program than on any other. Muncton said she expects it to be reduced in the 1994-95 school year from a \$2,300 maximum annual grant per student to \$2,250.

The next grant considered for an HCC student, besides the Pell grant, is the State Need Grant. This year, additional funds have been allocated for this grant, and the finan-

cial aid office is still awarding grants to eligible students.

After that, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG) and tuition waivers are considered.

Federal work-study is an option for a limited number of students.

"If it wasn't for financial aid, I'd probably be on welfare for the rest of my life. That's not something I'm looking forward to."

-Victoria Burke

Muncton said there are generally more students who request workstudy than can be placed in jobs.

The new Federal Direct Loan Program is being phased in nation-wide beginning in 1994-95. Muncton said this program is required to take five percent of the total student loan load. This percentage will increase every year thereafter, until schools will handle up to 50 percent of fed-

eral loans directly by 1997.

Schools participating initially had to meet a certain criteria. Muncton said HCC didn't meet the criteria. One of the requirements is that the school must participate in the Perkins Loan program. HCC does not. The only school in the state of Washington participating in this program is the University of Washington.

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Muncton said she doesn't know if HCC will ever be a participant in the Federal Direct Loan Program. She said the Financial Aid Directors put together an analysis and gave it to the state. "If the program goes smoothly and it cuts costs, a majority of the schools in the country will participate. Everyone is waiting to see what happens at the University of Washington," Muncton said.

Muncton said the Community Service Program of repayment has passed in Congress, but it doesn't apply to loans now out. It is so new that Muncton said she doesn't know how to implement it yet. She said a lot of what was proposed and passed will not begin until 1994-95.

Though it has been suggested that financial aid application forms be simplified, something along the lines of a 1040EZ income-tax form, filling in the federal form still entails reading 12 pages of instructions to answer 47 questions. Several questions require detailed information from tax forms months before the tax deadline.

But when complete tax information isn't available, students should rely on "educated guesstimates." Schools like to flag their potential grant recipients early and it is important to get into the system as



Occupational Programs - Dental Assistant

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The Dental Assistant Program at Highline College will give you the skills necessary to work with a dentist as either a chairside assistant or an office receptionist.

Highline's Dental Assistant Program has been fully accredited through the American Dental Association since 1979.

For more information contact: Carol Cologerou (206) 878-3710, ext. 471

soon as possible.

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There is a six-question section on parental marital status and other household information in the federal form which is most important in determining your need. A determining factor in granting monies is family size. Many potential college students are passed up because of confusion over who is "family" when there has been separation, divorce or death.

A number which is most imporbution," (EFC). The EFC is calculated by one of several national how much money a family is expected to contribute based on family income and the value of savings accounts, real estate and stocks, etc. This information is forwarded to the college where it is further processed to determine the amount of aid a student will receive.

The federal formula requires that students contribute 35 percent of their assets toward college, but the family is only required to contribute 12 percent.

A better financial aid package may be awarded if the student is over 24 years old and not declared as a dependent on the parents' taxes.

Parents who have a substantial part of their savings in qualified retirement plans will help students receive better grants than those who have the same amount in plain savings accounts. Equity in retirement accounts is not counted as an asset for financial aid. Savings accounts are counted.

If a student's financial aid package is not enough, the student

should see one of HCC's financial aid counselors. They can review and increase awards if they believe the financial eligibility statement does not represent the student's ability to pay. Though there is no assurance that a student will receive more help, it is worth the time to find out.

Students who wish to reduce the interest rates on their Stafford Loans are advised to borrow from a bank that will sell the loan to Student tant in determining how much Loan Marketing Association, betmoney a student may receive is ter known as Sallie Mae. This busicalled the "expected family contri-ness buys student loans from banks and repackages them for sale to investors. Sallie Mae has announced form-processing centers. It shows that students who pay back their first 48 loan payments on time will receive a cut in their interest rate of two percentage points.

The Great Rewards program, as Sallie Mae calls it, will give stu-

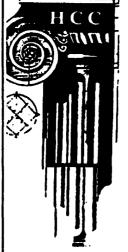
dents a break, give Sallie Mae a competitive advantage, and, hopefully, will lower the rate of late payments and default.

Redd said, "The financial aid office really helped me a lot. They answered all of my questions, worked with me and was patient. They're the ones who told me what to do. They were very helpful." Redd is now living with his retired father who is on Social Security and a veteran's pension. This made Redd eligible for financial aid.

Victoria Burke has been a student at HCC since summer, 1992. She is a welfare mom and has been on financial aid since then. Burke is satisfied with the financial aid package she receives. "If it wasn't for financial aid, I'd probably be on welfare for the rest of my life. That's not something I'm looking forward to," Burke said.

SEEKING

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Highline offers a complete program in Respiratory Care training accredited through the American Medical Association. The two-year program prepares graduates for examination and registration by the National Board for Respiratory Care.

The placement rate of Highline respiratory care graduates has been excellent

For more information contact: Robert Hirnle (206) 878-3710, ext. 471

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Campus Events

Arts and Entertainment

- ◆ "Contrast"

 The works of Pert Markovich,
 a Ukranian artist, and poems
 by Joseph are on display.

 Date: The month of January
 Time: Library Hours
 Place: HCC Library
- Women's Programs Lunchtime Film Series
 All movies begin at noon.
 This event is co-sponsored by the HCC Events Board.
 "Antonia and Jane"
 Date: Jan. 25

"Who Remembers Mama" Date: Feb. 1

"Long Walk Home" Date: Feb. 8

- Free video: Groundhog Day
 Date: Feb. 1
 Contact Ray Morris at ext. 537
 for show times.
- Comedy Cafe
 Featuring comedians Rod
 Long and David Goldman
 Date: Feb. 4
 Time: 8 p.m.
 Place: Bldg. 8, Tazzo Espresso
 Cost: \$3 in advance and \$5 at
 the door

Lectures and Workshops

Know your Rights

This is the first workshop on getting the most from the welfare office. This is just one workshop in a three-series program called Making It Work. This program is sponsored by Women's Programs and Janetta Nartey, Facilitator of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition is speaking. Date: Feb. 10 Time: 1 p.m. Place: Bldg. 21, room 206 Cost: Free

Pre-registration is necessary.

- Academic Planning workshop:
 The A.A. Transfer
 Date: Jan. 27
 Time: 1 p.m.
 Place: Bldg. 6, room 202
 Cost: Free
 Register in the Counseling
 Center in Bldg. 6.
- * Career Planning Workshop:
 Outlook 2000
 Date: Jan. 31
 Time: 1 p.m.
 Place: TBA
 Cost: Free
 Pre-register in the Career
 Center.
 - Made Resume
 The speaker is Chris
 Panganiban, B.A.
 Date: Feb. 8
 Time: Noon
 Cost: Free
 Pre-register in the Career
 Center.

• Career Planning: The Tailor

Support Group for
Women in Transition
The Women's Programs
organized this support group
for women returning to
school.

Date: Jan. 12 to Mar. 9 Time: 12 p.m.

Place: Bldg. 21, room 106 Cost: Free Pre-registration is required.

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Sports

- + HCC Women's Basketball
 All games start at 6 p.m.
 Jan. 26: HCC at Edmonds
 Feb. 2: Everett at HCC
 Feb. 5: Shoreline at HCC
 Feb. 9: HCC at Bellevue
 Feb. 12: HCC at Olympic
- ♦ HCC Men's Basketball All games at 8 p.m. Jan. 26: HCC at Edmonds Feb. 2: Everett at HCC Feb. 5: Shoreline at HCC Feb. 9: HCC at Bellevue Feb. 12: HCC at Olympic

General Information

- ◆ All Campus Blood Drive
 The goal is to obtain 100
 donors
 Dates: Feb. 1 and Feb. 2
 Times: 9 a.m. to 11: 30 a.m.
 and noon to 3 p.m.
- St. Valentine's Day Flower and Balloon Sale
 Date: Feb. 9
 Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 Place: Bldg. 8, The Student Lounge
 Cost: TBA

January 24, 1994

Lady T-Bird loves



by Anne Meldrum

To play basketball you need determination, motivation, and — according to Angie Frye — a love for the game.

Frye is a starting forward, post and co-captain for the 1993-94 Highline Community College women's basketball team. She started playing basketball for a Christian Youth Organization when she was in first grade.

Frye's family is very supportive of her efforts to play basketball. According to Frye, her father and stepfather both pressured her into



Angie Frye goes up for a shot against her teammate Tammy Arntzen.

playing the game. "He's (her stepfather) played a major part in me becoming a basketball player."

Although Frye was pressured by family members to play the game, she still has a great love for basketball and hopes to keep on playing "until I'm in a wheelchair."

"I don't have a lot of things I'm good at, and basketball is something I can be good at," Frye said.

The members of the basketball team know how much Frye loves talking about everything associated with basketball.

Mary Artz, the head coach of the HCC women's team, said "She's very excited about the game. She loves to talk about basketball."

According to Artz, she "heavily" recruited Frye when she was attending Kennedy High School. Artz also said that last year Frye was the first player to come off the bench and start. Off the court, Artz said that Frye is "a good student, responsible, dependable, and reliable."

Not only does Frye love basketball she also performs well on the floor. According to Assistant coach Richard Anthony, "On the floor she is very explosive and offers a good punch." Anthony went on to say, "She has the ability to step by the defense and lay it up."

Frye's teammates also think of her as an asset to the team. Tami

Bohl, Frye's friend and fellow teammate, said that Frye is a hard worker and is strong-willed. "She helps me on and off the court," Bohl said. "She's great to be around."

Frye has had a number of injuries to overcome this season, including tendinitis in her wrist and shoulder and a bruised knee. Despite these injuries Frye still managed to be the leading scorer among the player of the team. Bohl said, "She has overcome injuries to play and still does well."

Frye feels very comfortable with this year's team. She feels that the team really works well together. "We're grouped as a team. We're one big team," she said. Frye added that her coach has helped her a lot in her second year as a player. "I think Mary has matured me as a player," Frye said.

Frye said that she looks up to professional NBA player, Charles Barkley. "He's not my role model, But he's my mentor. I like the way he plays," Frye said.

In the future, Frye hopes to stay close to basketball and "become the first woman globe-trotter." She hopes to coach teams like the one she started out on. Frye also said that "If I could play till I'm dead, I would."

Artz summed it up when she said, "She's really all-in-all a positive young lady."

Network TV finally starts showing condom ads

by Ken Steffenson

Watching television used to be a family affair. I remember Sunday evenings in particular. In the late 1960s my entire family would gather around the TV —popcorn within easy reach — and watch the shows we all enjoyed. At that time my young mind believed that "The Wonderful World of Disney" and "Bonanza" had been on since the beginning of time, and would be on forever.

The fear of kids' minds being negatively influenced by TV shows, or by commercials, was not nearly as strong as it is today. But obviously television is a powerful medium, and everything that is aired — at whatever time — will be seen by children.

So the new public service announcements being aired on the big three networks (and FOX) will be watched by children. And that is all right. It has always seemed strange that violence is such an accepted thing on television, but that sexual situations are taboo. The message this sends to young viewers is that killing is a more natural, accepted part of society than sex is. It is about time the networks reversed their ban on condom ads and the use of the word "condom."

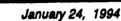
Television is one of the causes of society becoming so much more open. Easily available information means children need to know the truths about many unpleasant things. And they need this information at younger ages

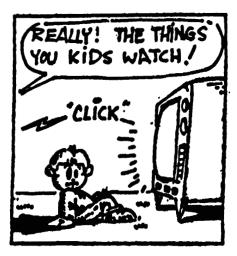
than ever before. Sure, this is more pressure on young minds—to have to deal with drugs, violence, and AIDS—but knowledge will help them deal with these issues. Because television glamorizes everything, it is not the ideal place for these truths to come from. It is at best a starting point. People—especially parents—must finish the ich

People have been having recreational sex for a very long time, and they will continue to do so. People are wrong if they think showing condom ads which promote safe sex will encourage a significant number of young people to have any kind of sex. These are the people who believe that the best way to stop a problem is to sweep it under the rug. If we don't talk about ways to fight AIDS, the problem will not get worse, right? Wrong. The people afraid of or embarrassed by these ads don't want their children coming to them with sensitive questions. But when asked those questions about sex, parents who answer truthfully are helping themselves and their children.

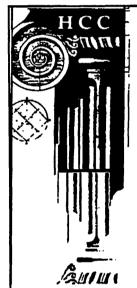
Jocelyn Elders, the new U.S. surgeon general, has been an outspoken advocate of the networks giving up their ban on condom advertising since she was Arkansas' health director. Elders has surely considered the effects these ads will likely have on kids — she is after all a pediatrician. If her voice had anything to do with this recent change, then thanks and praise should go her way.











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