

The Thunderwerd

The squeaky voice of the students

A really special issue

Highline Community College

April 1, 1999

Uniforms to be worn at Highline Colleges merge to save cash

By Ms. Chanel
Staff Reporter

Highline College will adopt a mandatory uniform policy for all students as early as Fall Quarter 1999, college officials say.

The decision follows rising complaints about unruly student behavior in classes. A number of professors have said that students are rude, disrespectful and even threatening.

"My class is a war zone," said one professor.

The decision came after a series of closed-door meetings between the Faculty Senate, Administrative Cabinet, and Instructional Cabinet.

"What we need on this campus is discipline," said one administrator. "Uniforms have been used at a lot of schools to boost morale and enforce discipline."

"It is no secret that poor classroom discipline, not to mention ineffective study habits, is directly linked to lack of school uniforms," said another administrator. "Study after study supports this position."

The Board of Trustees is expected to vote in support of the new policy at its meeting in early April.

A bookstore manager said they expect the uniforms to be available later in the quarter. "We'll have to move some of these Beanie Babies," he said. "Maybe we can get rid of some more books."

All students will be expected to purchase their uniform no later than week three of Fall Quarter. The uniform will consist of a blue pleated skirt and white blouse for female students, and short blue pants and white shirt for males. All students will wear ties.

Undecided is whether men will have to wear hats. Several members of the clothing committee favored hats for men because men with bad hair often say they are intimidated by men with good hair,



Photo by Wendy Rhodes

Two Highline students model the new uniforms that will be required next week.

which causes them to act out in class.

This only adds to the discipline problem.

Cost of a uniform will be \$45-\$65. College officials say this will in fact save money for students because they won't have to buy fancy school clothes costing many hundreds of dollars.

College officials say that by focusing on study instead of fashion, students' grades will rise and performance will improve. Students also will be less distracted by admiring well-dressed people

of the opposite sex.

"Most people don't look good in this outfit," said one administrator.

Students were understandably upset at the news. "They're just trying to take away our individuality," said student Smokey Trend. "Why can't I wear Abercrombie and Fitch like everybody else? That's what all my friends wear."

Members of student government said they were unsure of the new policy, and will have a meeting soon to discuss it.

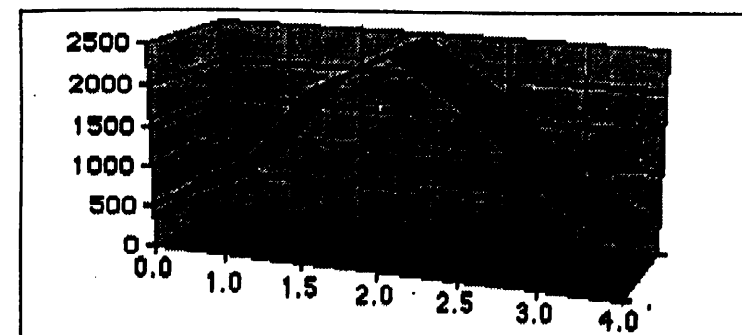
Half of Highline students are below average

By Richard Viagra
Staff Reporter

Some 50 percent of Highline students are below average, according to a recent study by the Better Community Colleges for America foundation.

The results come from standardized testing in math, English and music appreciation.

The results of the study, formulated from Winter Quarter's final exams, were revealed in a letter from BCCFA's president to the Thunderwerd on Monday. Highline faculty and staff, as well as Western Washington's other 15 community colleges say they will examine the results of the study and see what can be done to help the thousands of



below average students.

Henry Starr Livingston, BCCFA President of Operations, said the test results tell a story of an educational system in chaos.

"We believe it's our duty to make it public knowledge if the state and national academic standards are not being met," Livingston said.

Apparently some of the test-

ing was done without students' knowledge. BCCFA officials stood outside Highline's buildings while final exams took place. As students scattered from their classes, the "agents" (as Livingston dubs them) wearing black two-piece suits and Ray Ban sunglasses, burst into the classrooms cleverly posing as members of the Designated Grading Agency.

Ty A. Nott, Highline's basketry professor for 22 years, accepts the notion of studies being administered, and even takes responsibility for the below par results, but believes the school must be properly notified beforehand.

"Forget writing and number mumbo jumbo. It may be that the students of today simply lack passion for the art of weaving. That's fine, I have to live with that, but I want to know if my students are being tested," said Knot.

"Was that a final?" asked one student. "What class was I in?"

Highline's math and English instructors said the problem was lack of coordinated studies.

"When students have to take

coordinated studies, they'll be more coordinated," said Highline non-traditional math professor Tad Waddle.

Another outside group, the Conservative Action Coalition Association, said that fully half of the nation's college students may be below average.

Coalition spokesman Marty Stonecrusher said the group's analysis blames students' below-average marks on Seattle's depressing, often demoralizing downpour, single-parent households and Tinky Winky, the gay Teletubbie.

College officials say they will apply for a grant to find ways to help the below-average students, and plan trips to South Africa and Hawaii for research.

Bookstore gets rid of textbooks

By Chanandler Bong
Staff Reporter

The Highline bookstore will no longer be selling textbooks, effective when the current supply runs out. They instead will be focusing on Beanie Babies, candy, inspirational book-marks and scented candles.

The bookstore management made this decision after both recent book thefts and decreasing demand. They say that the Book-bag burglar is taking money from the students, and in turn the college can't afford to order so many new books.

"This is a change that I think would benefit the whole college," said bookstore manager Tom Fell. "Many students have complained about their books being stolen, and we don't want to sell an item that is so readily stolen. We're here for the students."

Overall book sales have been dropping for years, and candy sales keep going up every month, according to bookstore reports. Beanie Babies have also broken sales records in the past week alone. Books, which sell slowly, take up space for hot selling items.

"We lose money every day," said Fell.

Books will be available on amazon.com, or through commercial bookstores.

"It's cool," said Jill Stampanella, a Highline student. "Now I have an excuse when my teachers want me to read. I can just say amazon.com hasn't delivered it yet."

Many students echo Stampanella's thinking, as they just don't have the desire to read the books anymore.

"Teachers should just put all the text on the Internet," said one student. "That way we can access it from home. I mean, if I am hungover, I might as well sit home and read than fall asleep in class."

Highline officials agree with this decision, and can't wait to buy up all the new Beanie Babies.

"I want to buy more candy and toys for my young children," said Highline President Edward Lead. "This way I will be able to do my Easter shopping right here at Highline."



Fell

Totem crushes crime fighting cart

High speed chase ends in loss for college

By Kate Kummings
Staff Reporter

A wild pursuit of a book-bag thief resulted in near-tragedy when the Crime Cart was crushed by Highline's totem pole.

It's unknown whether the suspect, who escaped, is connected to the string of book-bag thefts in the Highline Library.

A security officer driving the cart at the time of the accident was unharmed.

Security officers first noticed the suspect leaving the Library carrying what experts estimated as "a truckload" of bookbags on Monday.

A Security Officer gave chase in the Crime Cart, which tops out at about 12 miles per hour. "I was keeping up with him," said the officer. "He was fast for carrying all those book bags."

The Crime Cart chased the suspect across campus, before

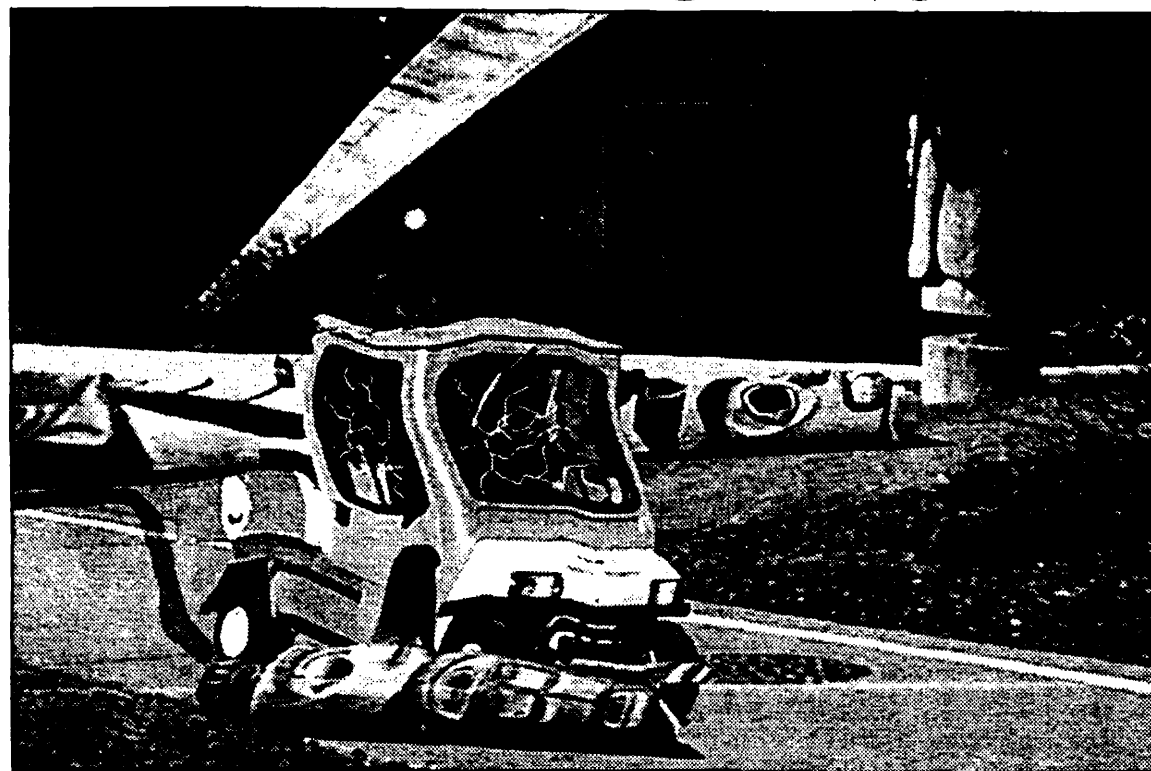


Photo by Hector Pablo-Martinez

Both the totem pole and cart were destroyed when a high speed chase ended in a collision.

the suspect took a sharp left turn at Building 6, and the cart lost control, plowing into the totem pole. The suspect apparently escaped through Building 6.

Highline Security Officers were shocked and saddened at the loss of the Crime Cart. "Ev-

ery time I close my eyes I see it, I don't know if I'll ever be the same," said one security officer.

"As time goes on the pain and shock of this tragedy will dull but the memories will live on," said another.

Faculty of the art department

say they would like Security to re-enact the incident so they can videotape it for entry into a performance art contest. They also hope to decorate the damaged cart for use in a traveling recruiting show that will be held in several area high schools.

Burglar takes very novel approach

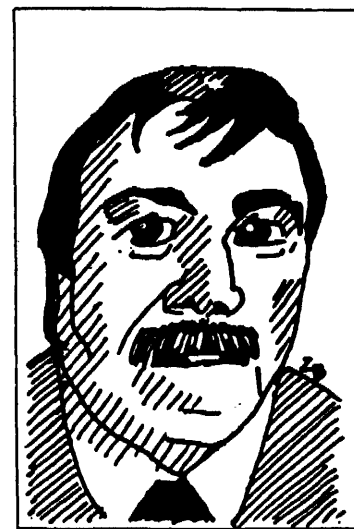
Book-bag Burglar evades security again

By Wally Monroe
Staff Reporter

The Book-bag Burglar has struck again, taking four more book bags during finals week.

Campus Security is baffled and students are in an uproar over the crime wave washing over Highline's library.

The burglar is now suspected of stealing dozens of book bags over the last several weeks of Winter Quarter. Library officials say they don't know what to do about the spree, which has



Police sketch of the suspect

left students without books.

"Like, I never even read that book," said one student who lost

a bag during finals week. "What am I going to do now?"

Reference Librarian Buzz Stancheon said it's just another reason why students should do more work on the Internet.

"That's the problem with books," said Stancheon. "They're not interactive; they just don't engage students."

Library officials have said that if enough books are stolen, they may have room for more computers.

Meanwhile, Campus Security officials have released a composite sketch of a possible suspect, based on reports from students who said they've seen an older gentleman carrying five and six book bags at a time.

"He appears to be about 60,

"We think he's got arms, and he could be dangerous."

--Highline Security

but he could be much older," said a security officer. "We think he's got arms, and he could be dangerous."

"This is bammer," said one student victim.

In another development, a number of people on campus wish Jack Bermingham a very happy birthday.

Crime Blotter

Burglar strikes again

The Book-bag Burglar has rampaged campus this week stealing dozens of students' backpacks. Highline security is investigating possible leads.

Fluffy falls from perch

A Highline student was surprised to discover a dead squirrel while walking to class. The squirrel, known on campus as Fluffy, apparently fell to his death from a tree. This is the second squirrel death in recent weeks. This incident occurred

March 29.

Thief steals necessary ingredients

A french fry, pickle and packet of ketchup were reportedly stolen from a student's lunch tray in the cafeteria. The student tearfully admitted he had turned his back for just a few seconds when he turned back around to find the items missing. The theft was recorded on March 30.

Nudist prophet shares his blessings

An unidentified student streaked through Building 8, yelling "I am God." The student

was naked except for a yellow beret cap and knee length gym socks. The streaking happened on March 31.

Students claw over cat

Two students were involved in a physical altercation after arguing over who would get to pet Stubby first. The altercation happened near Building 10 on April 1. Fortunately Stubby was not injured in the scuffle.

Student waters lawn, keeps dust down

A Highline student was cited for indecent exposure after be-

ing caught urinating on the softball field before a recent practice. He said he "really, really had to go." This incident occurred on March 30.

Prof reveals Chris Columbus' discovery

An unidentified white haired science professor was reprimanded after causing a riot in his astronomy class this past week. According to sources, he told students that the earth wasn't ever flat. This happened on March 31.

Compiled by
Ruff Writter

Meeting to be held to improve meetings

By Dick Downer
Staff Reporter

Student Government will conduct a meeting next week, members announced this week. "These meetings are really important," said Vice President for Meetings Mandy Mirth. "It's important that people meet each other."

Student Government has been meeting throughout the school year.

The Committee on Meetings also has been meeting, and the Committee of the Whole has a pre-meeting planning meeting before each meeting so as to expedite the process.

Next week's meeting will include a report on last week's meeting; a workshop on "Effective Meetings" led by a group of faculty; a report on the "Meeting 2000" task force; an open planning session for the following week's meeting; and new business. A post-meeting analysis by the executive committee will follow.

Mirth said she soon will be forming a committee to accept nominations for Student Government's coveted "Meeting Master" award, which is given to the student who best facilitates the conduct of meetings on campus.

Lauryn Hill coming to Highline Friday

By Tiger Rodriguez
Staff Reporter

Five-time grammy winner Lauryn Hill will be performing on campus tomorrow, Team Highline announced today.

Team Highline, which organizes events for Highline, is especially proud to host what will surely be Highline's most popular event.

Team Highline member Alex Harris feels that the concert should greatly improve Team Highline's reputation, particularly after recent events received little attention from students.

"We feel this should erase all memory of the 'pool party' debacle," Harris said, referring to the poorly attended fall event.

Hill wasn't the first major recording artist Team Highline attempted to book, Harris said. "We tried to get Tupac Shakur, but his agent never returned our calls."

Attempts to book a popular opening act also failed, so the Team Highline Choir will open the event, scheduled for 7 p.m. on Friday, April 2.

In a telephone interview, Hill's publicist, George "Goldie" Jones, said, "Ms. Hill agreed



Lauryn Hill

to do the show before her album

was released. Had she known that she would soon win all those Grammys, she would never have committed to perform at a community college, especially not one underneath an airport."

The concert will be held in the lower level of Building 8, and will be free to all Highline students, faculty, and staff. Team Highline does request that students keep a vow of secrecy in order to keep outsiders from crashing the show. "We don't want a stampede. The stage needs to be kept intact for next week's Zookeepers' concert," Harris said.

Mysterious death shocks students

Highline stalwart dies under suspect circumstances

By Chanandler Bong
Staff Reporter

A squirrel was found dead yesterday morning after a fall from a nearby tree.

No suspects have yet been identified, but officials are positive that foul play was involved. He died of blunt trauma to the head, said Medical Examiner Kana Bull.

"He had to have been murdered," said Highline student Todd Hummard. "Squirrels just don't fall from trees."

Highline security office had little to say about the incident,

but also agreed that they suspect there was an intent to kill.

"This is a tragedy," said Officer Smiley. "This case is our No. 1 priority."

The squirrel, affectionately known as Sammy by students, faculty and staff, spent most of his time jumping around branches, but most remember him as the squirrel that stares.

"Everywhere I went, I saw him," said student Phil Spears. "I even fed him some days."

Others commented on his run through the cafeteria with the Cheesy Poof and Sammy's courage around humans.

"He was the kind of squirrel that would make you wonder what he was thinking," said another student. "I wish I could know who snuffed him."

Officials have released the time of death, which is thought to be around 2:15 a.m. Because



This surveillance photo shows Sammy in a playful moment.

of the few people on campus at that time, no witnesses have stepped forward. Night Security Officer Lestat found Sammy around 2:20 a.m., but it was too

late.

Services will be held today at 1:30 p.m. Mourners should meet by the woods between the tennis courts and the south lot.

Beanies hold more than joy inside, say cops

By Ruff Wridner
Staff Reporter

Illegal narcotics, including black tar heroine and cocaine, have been found in Beanie Babies sold by Highline's bookstore.

The drugs were discovered after an anonymous student accidentally punctured their giraffe Beanie Baby with a pencil. White powder, later identified as cocaine, began to pour out from the hole.

Des Moines Police will be working alongside Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) officers to investigate any leads that may surface.

"This is no laughing matter, illegal narcotics are dangerous and deadly," said FBI officer Moses Diggler.

All 118 Beanie Babies stocked in Highline's bookstore had to be dismantled and checked for illegal substances. 28 of the Babies, mostly gi-



Photo by Wendy Rhodes

This innocent-looking collection of Beanie Babies hold a dangerous secret: illegal drugs.

raffes, contained drugs. Specially trained police dogs were brought on campus to identify the narcotics.

New shipments of Beanie Babies are delivered to Highline's bookstore every week, said bookstore manager

Tom Fell. Due to the regularity of shipments it may be hard to track where the drugs originated, he said.

"We have never seen drugs smuggled in this way, unfortunately it may be a new trend," said Des Moines Police Officer Dean Ropper.

All members of Highline's bookstore staff have been cleared as suspects. The truck driver, who delivered the Beanie Babies, is still wanted for questioning by Des Moines Police.

The FBI is still unsure whether or not the drugs were meant to go to Highline.

"Whoever is responsible for this crime should be aware they will be found, and will suffer the full extent of the law if convicted," said FBI officer Gordy Rosenberg.

Highline officials are shocked by this heinous breach of justice, said assistant secretary Joan Richmond.

"We feel violated and will not tolerate any more incidents similar to this to occur on our campus," she said.

Highline baseball sets the pace

HCC golf up to par

By **Zwei Elf**
Staff Reporter

Highline finished No. 1 in the Baker Blast spring break tournament which makes them the team to beat.

The Thunderbirds came out swinging against Napa Valley. Right fielder Brock Russell lead off with a triple and it just got better from there. The Highline squad sent seven batters to the plate in the first inning.

"We just felt really good going into the game," said Catcher Fisher Lawrence.

Shortstop Joe Potter and center fielder Pedro Veliz both hit home runs in the fourth inning. Potter brought in three runs with his blast.

Last seasons Northern Division MVP pitcher Jeremy Samsonite Jr. was in peak form against the Blue Devils.

"Samsonite is going to be very big for us this year. He will lead us to a division title," said Head Coach Mac Foster.

Highline defeated Napa Valley by a score of 12-2.

The Thunderbirds next victim was the Crusaders from Sedro Woolley. Sedro Woolley's All Star second basemen Harold Walters was out of the game with a sprained rotator cuff. The game remained score-



Photo by Wendy Rhodes

Brock Russell in last week's final game against Edmonds in Bellingham at the Baker Blast.

less into the fifth inning until third basemen Albert Rodriguez hit a grand slam home run bringing in Veliz, Russell, and left fielder Gabriel Hansen. The game ended with a score of 4-0.

"We were not on today in hitting except for Al, but our defense was really good," said Hansen.

Twin brothers Elliot and Evan Rhodes both took turns at the Crusaders and came away giving up only four hits and five walks between the two.

"Evan and Elliot kept the

walks low that helped," said Foster.

"I just felt on today, I only gave up one walk and two hits. Fish was calling a good game," said Elliot Rhodes.

The T-Birds ran into a little bit of trouble against Walla Walla. The Wildcats jumped ahead by three in the second inning the first time the Thunderbirds had been behind in the tournament.

"I knew that we just needed to settle down everyone seemed nervous," said first basemen Logan Bruce.

The Thunderbirds finally found a groove in the sixth inning down by five, with two doubles by Bruce and Lawrence, a triple by Rodriguez and a Potter home run put The T-Birds up by two.

The Wildcats regained the lead in the eighth with a sacrifice fly to left.

Then Highline with two outs and the bases loaded and second basemen Devin Smith up to bat, the Wildcats pitcher walked home the winning run making the final score 9-8 in favor of the T-Birds

"That was a tough game, they were a good team," said Bruce.

The Thunderbirds started off strong in the final game against Edmonds and just got stronger. Evan Rhodes the starting pitcher gave up only two hits in the first six innings.

The Highline squad looked like a team that had been playing together for a longtime said Assistant Coach Tanner Lucas.

The T-Birds beat Edmonds by a score of 15-1 winning the tournament and setting a pace for the rest of the season.

"It was nice to win it all. It was a real confidence booster. We have really come together as a team," said Lawrence. "We're unstoppable."

By **Zwei Elf**
Staff Reporter

The Thunderbirds golf teams hit the fairways last weekend taking first against Lane and Skagit Valley.

Sophomores Jason Dunn and Fred Harris from the men's team both shot a remarkable 67 and Freshmen Jeffrey Albout had the top tournament score of 62. They are comparing him to the pro George Nickels, he is just that good said Coach E.N. Sell. Jarod Prenevost shot a 70 to round out the top four.

"We played awesome. I hope we can keep golfing this well. Umpqua and Yakima Valley are going to be tough," said Dunn.

The women's team did just as well. Freshman Sherry Anderson shot a 69 along with a 71 from sophomore Jennifer Oakley. Sophomores Kara Holt and Tracy Bermingham rounded out the top four with a 73.

"I am happy with the way I have been putting lately, but I am still working on my chipping," said Anderson.

"Anderson will make it to nationals if she keeps playing the way that she is. Anderson and Oakley are doing great," said Assistant Coach Terrie Aloe.

T-Birds are the champions

By **Regina Philippe**
Staff Reporter

The Thunderbirds won it big at the State Bowling Championship in Roy, Wash. at Thunderma Lanes.

Roy had a hard time trying to house all of the 275 players and spectators who turned out for the big game against the Seattle University Chieftains.

The Thunderbirds showed promise at the first and second set with Ivan Polo bowling a 230 and a 257. Polo was up against the Chieftains' Jesse "Twinkle Toes" Hilfiger who bowled a 259 and a 243 last year, but only bowled a 199 and a 222 at this year's tournament.

The player who showed that Highline produces good athletes was Mohammed Humbowler Trestrike who bowled a 294 and a 300 in the ninth and 10th sets.

"I believe that we will go far and if we practice our butts off we will make it to the nationals," said coach Iwan Nawin. "With Trestrike on the team we have a good chance."

Trestrike played on the International Bowling Team in South Africa before he came to Highline this year as part of the college's international initiative. Austria Powers, the only



Polo

woman on the team, who bowls an average of 245, bowled a 205 and a 257 on the third and fourth sets.

The least favored player on the Thunderbirds, Nicholas Nautica, surprised everyone by bowling a 204 and a 240 in the fifth and sixth sets when his average is at 165.

Playing the seventh and eighth sets was Herman Manville with a 266 and a 199 which was the lowest score there.

The Chieftains showed a good game by not making a big deal out of their first ever loss. They only had a small riot in the town square after the tournament,

turning over their coaches' cars.

"We are No. 1 and we should have won, not those Thunderbirds. The Chieftains will wreak havoc on all the Thunderbirds," said SU bowler Abbie Fitch.

The Thunderbirds were surprised by this action from a small town college where they wear uniforms.

"We only want what is rightfully ours and that is the State Bowling Title and that really big trophy that goes with it," said one Chieftains fan as he lit a Highline shirt on fire.

The people in the town of Roy are appalled at such a display of adolescence by adults.

"They go to college for goodness sake," said Hannibal Elector, the town butcher. "When I was in college we only threw wild parties and got our fraternity suspended just five times. We knew discipline."

Overall the game was a success for the Thunderbirds despite the riot over the fact that they beat the unbeatable Chieftains.

The Thunderbirds are expected to play Huge Heffner's Rabbits at the National Playbowl April 26 in Capeside North Carolina.

Won't you help?

Help a needy college student for the price of a bag of pants.



This is Earl Francis "Pablo" Smith. He is one of many Highline students in need of your help. Pablo

is forced to eat in the cafeteria once sometimes twice daily, and is often forced to take the long trek from Midway to his only glimmer of hope in the day, his classes.

Pablo, like all the other students, needs your help, with as little as 52 cents a day you can bring joy and happiness back to these students' lives.

The Thunderword

Check the date.

Editor in Chief.....	Gay Manley
Managing Editor.....	Tina Thimble
Graphics Editor.....	The Artist
Sports Editor.....	Sporty Spice
Advertising Manager.....	Wanda Bigbucks
Arts Editor.....	Art Kraft
Business Manager.....	Cheat Bunco
Opinion Editor.....	Ed Anger
Copy Editor.....	Tom Typo
Photo Editor.....	Diggler McLense
Adviser.....	Farley Vapid

Reporters.....Joe Absent, Bob Mistake, Jenny Late, Terry Typo, Miss Piggy, Piglet, Hector Pablo Martinez, Foamy Spice, Gender Bender, Sal Minella, Ira Keogh, Fisher Price, Eberhard Faber, Danny Partridge, Marsha Brady, Art Deco, Dawson Creek, Sarah Michelle Gellar, Sebastian Valmont, Richard Viagra.