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# The Thunderword

The weekly voice of the students

Volume 39, Issue 15

Highline Community College

February 3, 2000

## Air crash claims Highline student

By Thunderword Staff

Meghann Hall was a positive person, friends, teammates and instructors said after her death this week.

The Highline sophomore, a standout on the softball team, was one of 88 people who died when an Alaska Airlines jet crashed Monday on a flight from Mexico.

The cause of the crash is under investigation. On campus, flags flew at half-staff and many mourned the loss of a good friend.

Hall was traveling with boyfriend Ryan Sparks and friend Rachel Janosik, a Horizon Air employee. All three are graduates of Enumclaw High School.

Fastpitch coach Cara Hoyt said she will remember Hall as a "great storyteller. She can take the most boring story and turn it into a three-minute comedy."

Hoyt said her greatest memory of Hall, the softball player, was in a playoff game last year against Big Bend. The team was down by one in the final inning with two runners on base. The winner would move on to the championship game. Hall was at the plate.

Assistant coach Heather Overman called out, "Show 'em who's boss, Meghann."

Hall belted a shot to center field and as she was rounding second base she looked to coach Hoyt for a signal. But Hoyt wasn't there. She was with the rest of the team at home plate, celebrating the victory.

Hall was one of only two returning players from last year's team. This would have been her year to shine.

"Meghann was a great athlete. She would have been one of the best pitchers in the conference," Hoyt said.

Hall was a second-year student at Highline and a graduate of Enumclaw High School.

It's unknown what kind of dedications will be made in

Hall's

memory but there will surely be something, college officials said.

"I'm sure the team will do something. Maybe a patch with her number, a sign on the field, or a tree planted, but we're not doing anything before discussing it with her parents," Highline Athletic Director John Dunn said.

Whatever the choice of memorial, Hall will be remembered all over campus. "Meghann was a free spirit," said athletic adviser Margo Buchan, fighting back tears. "When she came in to discuss her classes she always knew exactly what she wanted to take. We even had our share of arguments over some of the classes she wanted to take."

Hall was very outgoing and worked hard in all of her activities.

"She was very feisty and had a strong personality," said Buchan. "It is understandable why she was such a good ball player."

Hall hadn't chosen a major, Buchan said.

"She was unsure on which career she wanted so she was concentrating on completing her AA transfer degree," said Buchan.

"My heart goes out to the softball team. But most of all I feel for her family," said Buchan.

Hall lost her only brother about five years ago in a motorcycle accident, friends said.

"This incident absolutely makes me sick and I can't even begin to except the reality of what has happened," said Buchan.

"She drew people in with her positive energy," said Hoyt.



Hall



Photo by Petira Scholeva

Flags on campus were flown at half-staff in memory of sophomore Meghann Hall, who died in Monday's plane crash.

"Meghann was nicknamed 'Veronica' because she became another person on the field," said Hoyt.

"She was great player," said Hoyt. "She was dedicated to the game and the team."

"She was fun loving, care-free, and she loved coming to school and playing softball," said Dunn.

Men's basketball coach Jeff Albrecht had Hall in a couple of classes and saw her every day. "It's shocking," he said. "It makes you realize how important loved ones are to you. Every time I saw Meghann she was very, very happy."

Writing instructor Allison Green had Hall as a student in her Literature 131 course last Fall Quarter. Green remembers Hall as lively and fun. "She had a really wicked sense of humor. It's tragic what happened," Green said.

Green also remembered a fictional story Hall wrote for the class, in which she told of a middle-aged woman who feels unfulfilled with her present life, only to realize she already has everything. "It was very sweet," Green said.

Green echoed thoughts on Hall's death: "It's really hard to imagine her not being here."

Authorities begin searching for answers behind the crash

By Heather Baker  
and Talitha Vanzo  
Staff Reporters

An unmanned vehicle retrieved the voice recorder box from the underwater wreckage of Alaska Airlines Flight 261 on Wednesday.

The voice recorder may give investigators a clue about what happened when the MD-83 jetliner plunged into the Pacific Ocean near Los Angeles on Monday.

The accident killed all 88 people aboard. Ultimately bound for Seattle, the passengers included many people from this area, including Highline student Meghann Hall.

Earlier Wednesday, the Coast Guard has abandoned its search for survivors of the downed Alaska Airlines Flight 261.

"This is a search for human lives. The decision to stop searching is mine to make and it is a difficult one," said Coast Guard Vice Admiral Tom Collins on Wednesday.

The plane left Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and was headed to San Francisco. The pilots began reporting problems with their horizontal stabilizers, the small wings at the tail of the plane which control the nose pitch of the plane. The plane then began its descent into the choppy, cold waters of the Pacific on Monday afternoon.

The investigation is now focused on retrieving the data recorder from the plane, also known as a black box, said Paul Schiamp from the National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) in Washington, D.C.

See Crash, page 12





## Economic professor sells his theories

By Joy Thrall  
Staff Reporter

The U.S. economy could continue its current steady growth or slip back into recession, a University of Washington economist said here Wednesday.

Professor Charles Nelson spoke to a group of about 65 students about the history of the American economy and what it means to us today, and what it could possibly mean for us tomorrow.

The speech was part of Highline's Contemporary Voices lecture series. The series is held every Wednesday in Building 7 at 11 a.m.

Nelson thinks that it is important to teach students facts about the economy and that we should pay attention to economic trends.

Accompanying his speech was a powerpoint presentation that displayed various graphs that detailed trends in our country's recessions, economic growth, inflation, and the stock market, which is witnessing the largest economic expansion in history.

"The United States economy has delivered the most phenomenal record of economic growth in human history," Nelson said. Nelson also stated that The United States is an amazingly affluent society and that in may be something we as a nation take for granted.

Despite our affluence, not everyone is benefiting from our growing economy.

Nelson showed a graph of

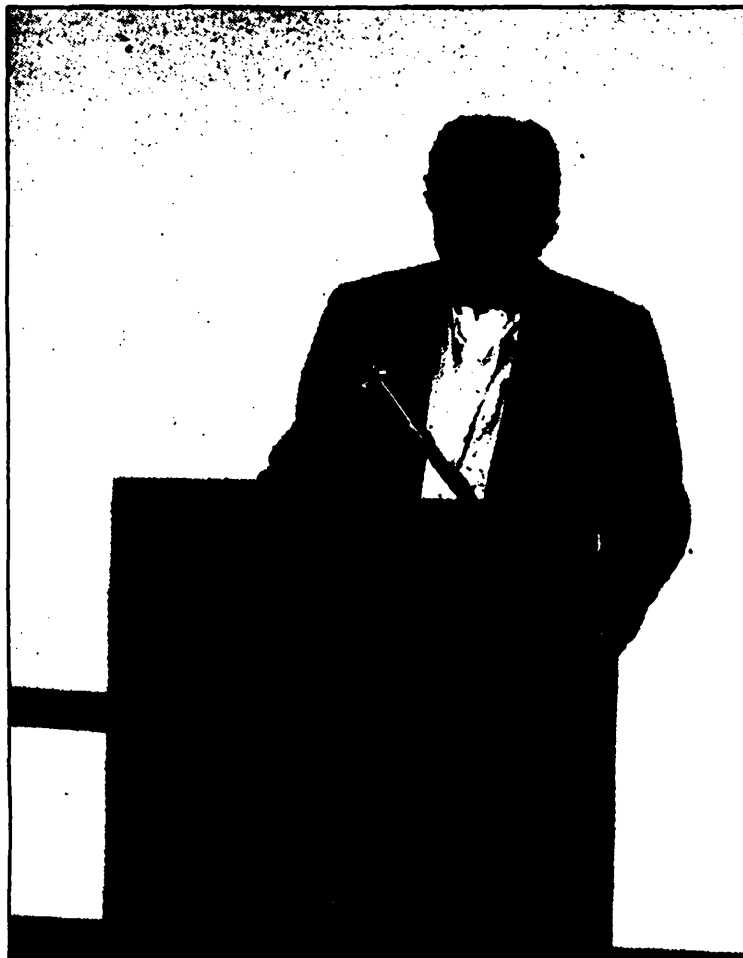


Photo by Connie Harshman

University of Washington economics professor Charles Nelson speaks to dozens of Highline students on what may happen next to the United States' economy.

the average industrial hourly wage over time.

Although the wage has risen tremendously, once inflation is factored in, the wage is actually declining.

Nelson examined the various factors that could cause this decline, including technology, globalization, and the decline of unions.

The big areas of economic gain are for professionals and those who provide services.

In these areas the gains have been nothing short of phenomenal.

Nelson pointed out that on Feb. 1, the United States set a new record for the longest lived expansion.

"We are clearly living in one

**"The United States economy has delivered the most phenomenal growth in human history."**

--Charles Nelson

of the most outstanding times in economic history," he said.

This hugely successful economic period has people asking "Is this a new era of economics?"

It has others, especially those on Wall Street, worried.

Because profits and recessions are strongly cyclical, many are worried that after 10 years of uninterrupted expansion, we are in for a major recession.

Nelson said such a recession could cause up to a 50 percent decline in the stock market.

Nelson said it could be that we have indeed reached a new economic era of prosperity and growth, or that we are headed for a recession.

Nelson said, however, that there's really no way of predicting which event will occur.

Next week's speaker will be Larry Blades from Highline's writing department.

Nelson was speaking as part of the Honors Colloquy which continues throughout the quarter.

### Crime blotter for week of Jan. 27-Feb. 3

#### Sitting high and dry

A car that was stolen on Jan. 25 was found by Federal Way Police on South 321st Street sitting in the middle of the road. The car had been trashed from top to bottom. All four tires were gone, the windows were smashed in and the wires were pulled out of the dash board. The police have not found the thieves yet.

#### Scratched front hood

A student parked their car in the east lot on Jan. 28. When the student returned to the car at 11 p.m., he found scratches on the front hood and windshield. The perpetrator has not been found.

#### Road block removed

A Pontiac was found blocking the entrance to the faculty parking lot on Feb. 2. Security had it towed away.

#### Hood emblem stolen

A student reported that the emblem from his car had been taken.

The student complained that this is the second time that this has happened to him.

He would like the college to pay for the emblem.

#### Questionable turn of mind

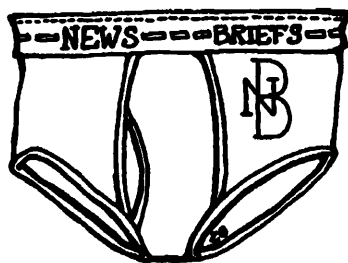
A possible hit and run in the east lot Jan. 23 left two inch dent in the driver's side door. No report filed.

#### Attack on car

When a student returned to her parked car in the south lot Jan. 14, they found the passenger side window had been smashed in.

At that time she could not find anything missing. Later on she reported that her purse had been stolen.

Compiled by  
Talitha Vanzo



### Blood drive on campus

There will be a Puget Sound Blood Drive in Building 2 on Feb. 4 from 12:15 to 3 p.m.

### University of Phoenix coming to campus

An adviser from the University of Phoenix will be here on our campus to answer questions about attending the school.

Team Highline is sponsoring the event. For more information contact their office at 206-878-3710 ext. 3903 or visit their office in the upper level of Building 8.

### Thunderword Correction

The story in last week's Thunderword incorrectly listed members of the Presidential

Drop in Feb. 23 in Building 6 from 10:20 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Screening and Interview Committees. It should have listed Ferhan Cook-Letic as a member of the Screening Committee, and Gerie Ventura as a member of the Interview Committee. Further, students on the Screening Committee will include Jacob Mertens and John Fox.

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Friday 8 a.m.-noon

## On-campus lighting to be improved

By John Taylor  
Staff Reporter

Highline officials have proclaimed: Let there be light.

Construction is scheduled to begin this summer on new light poles and sidewalks on campus. The process is planned to be completed just before Fall Quarter starts. Students and teachers with summer classes will have to work their way around the areas of construction in order to get to their classrooms.

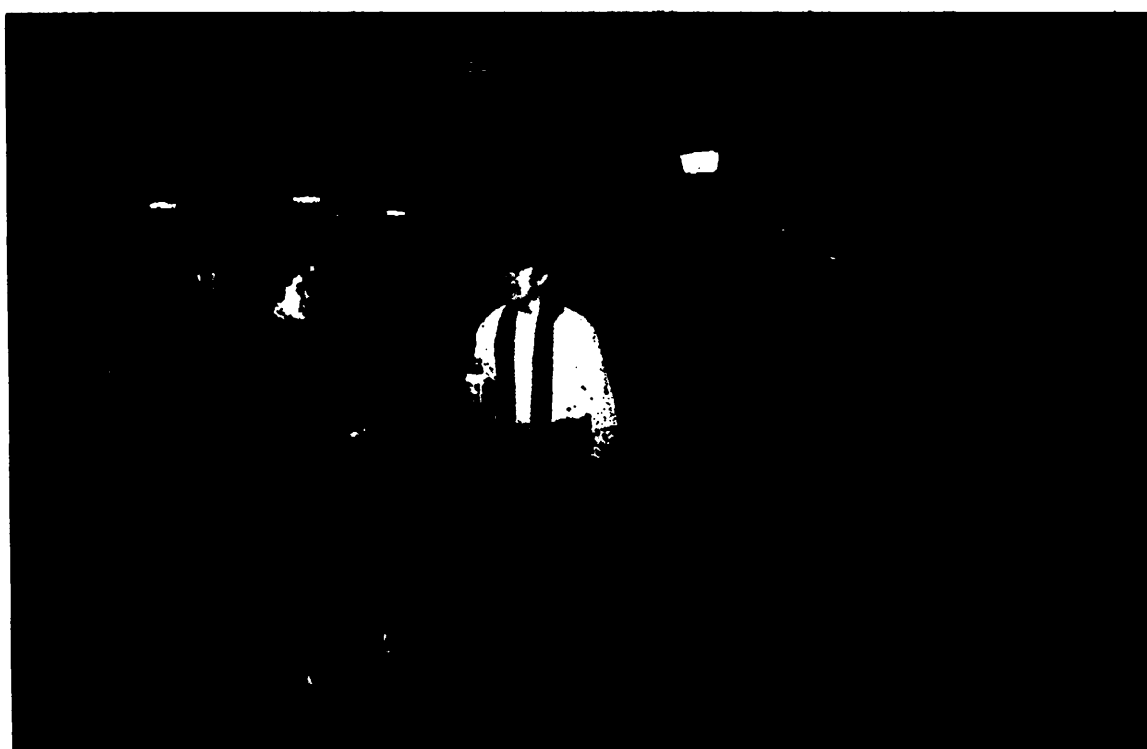
New light poles being installed is necessary because the current ones are 30 years old and are not cost efficient. The lights often do not come on at night, leaving parts of the campus dark for students. This leaves many students who take night classes uncomfortable walking to and from class.

"I think they need more lights. Lights are dim in some areas and I don't like it...it kinda freaks me out...being a female," said Meghan Boomhower, an evening student.

The ominous shadows the current lights cast have several students hurrying to their cars. Evening student Eric Kormandy agrees.

"Women ask me to walk with them to their car. I feel safe, but obviously some do not."

Kormandy feels that Winter Quarter is usually when it feels unsafe on campus, because of



Evening Students converse outside the poorly lit campus by Building 6.

how dark it gets at night.

"There is a high crime rate in South King County," said Pete Babington, director of facilities for Highline. "Having students go to class at night with no lighting on campus was not a very wise decision."

Sidewalks will also be widened. It is to accommodate emergency vehicles so they may get to building in the middle of campus.

The exact cost of both projects are currently unknown. Facilities gets money from the state every two years to do vari-

ous projects. Highline applied to the state two years ago for funding for these projects. It was received 18 months later.

Because state funds are paying for the construction, student tuition will not be affected.

There hasn't been an official approval for these projects from the administration yet, but there is a general agreement on campus that they need to be done.

Once the official approval is completed, a consultant will be hired to design the new sidewalks and light poles. The designing process is scheduled to

be completed in spring.

The consultant will determine what areas of the campus are in the most need of light, and which sidewalks will need to be widened.

Kormandy feels the area that needs more lighting is the pathways that lead to the parking lots.

Once the designs have been accepted, a public bid will take place to see which company does the construction. The lowest bidder will begin work on both projects soon after Spring Quarter ends.

Photo by Petra Sokolova

## Ex-gay man to speak on campus

By Ericka Wood  
Staff Reporter

A forum entitled Homosexuality: A Christian Response will be held this Friday at noon.

Rob Taylor, a converted homosexual, and current executive director of Metanoia Ministries, a Seattle based organization, will speak at this open forum in Building 26, room 213.

Taylor has spoken nationally about his life story for many years, and has been featured in the London Times, on MTV News and in Focus on the Family, a Christian publication.

Taylor was a practicing homosexual before becoming a Christian; he is now married to a woman.

The idea to bring Taylor to speak at Highline is the result of discussions Fall Quarter between the Campus Crusade for Christ club (a Christian student organization), and a former officer of the Rainbow Pride Club.

Rainbow Pride, an organization associated with the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community at Highline, is currently not associated with this event, but leadership within the club has shifted.

Campus Crusade members say they hope the presentation will be informative.

"Students had questions or wanted insight into the relationship which Christians and homosexuals have, or are supposed to have," said Shannon Proctor, Campus Crusade adviser. "The media gives a hateful portrayal but this will be a biblical based response, and therefore, a loving response."

Proctor has heard Taylor speak in the past and she believed that he would be a good source to answer some questions.

"This is just one more perspective to add to all of the different perspectives on this issue," said Proctor.

Some Campus Crusade members said they heard there would be opposition from Rainbow Pride members, but Rainbow Pride members said they didn't know much about the speech, and had nothing planned.

Rainbow Pride adviser Randy Fisher said he will be in attendance, and he says he tries "to go to these things with an open mind."

"Everyone can hear him and make their own decision," Proctor said.

## Lock all doors, activate alarm, and beware

By Bridgette Stevens  
Staff reporter

The car vandalism and theft problem at Highline has been an ongoing problem and officials are looking for solutions.

Any given area, where there is a large parking capacity, there seems to be a greater chance for theft or vandalism.

Car break-ins and vandalism to vehicles parked in parking lots at Highline doesn't appear to be more or less of a problem than any time before, but Highline officials warn that students should take precautions when parking their vehicles.

On Monday, Jan. 24, Vuthy Kin, a Highline freshman, returned to his car after his 7 a.m. class. Upon walking toward his vehicle, he noticed that a note was placed on his car with threatening scribe.

The note read: "hey ass hole if you drive or park your car here on campus again you will find your car f---up."

The note was signed "your fellow friend."

"My car was broken into before the quarter started," Kin said.

"Although nothing was taken from the cars it was aggravating that someone would vandalize my vehicle just for the thrill of it," said Kin.

Another student, who declined an interview, returned to her car after morning classes, only to find that someone had apparently scratched the hood of her car.

"Students should report all acts of vandalism and thefts to campus security," Chief of Security Richard Fisher said.

If anything happens to your vehicle while it is parked on campus, you should report the incident to security before you leave campus.

"If you leave campus without reporting the incident there is nothing security can do," said Kevin Gunderson, campus security officer.

Security officers patrol the campus parking lots as often as possible, but with the limited personnel available, it becomes a difficult task to catch everything.

"We do not discuss how often, or what times patrol rounds are made because this would defeat the purpose," Fisher said.

Officials encourage students to promptly report incidents or suspicious activities to the proper authorities by dialing ext. 3218 or 3219 from any main campus phone.

If there is no answer, and the situation is considered an emergency, dial 9-911 from the same phone or dial 911 from any public pay phone.

Some students wonder if only select few models of cars are being targeted for vandalism, and if some parking lots are safer than others are.

Officials say that there is no favored type of vehicle or lot of preference for thieves. All makes and models are targets

**"It was  
aggravating that  
someone would  
vandalize my  
vehicle just for  
the thrill of it."**

-- Vuthy Kin

for vandalism. The cars that have been broken into seem to have been targeted because of valuables left inside.

"If you own a later model Honda or Toyota it would be wise to purchase a Club. These cars are prone for theft," Fisher said.

Your car parts are worth more than the vehicle to thieves.

To lower risks of your car becoming a target, should remove valuables, and lock all doors.

## Editorials

## AA degree should have realistic requirements

The college needs to be careful not to add too many requirements for an associate of arts degree.

Some recent changes have been good. The Globalism and diversity requirement was needed, and will expose succeeding classes of students to the world beyond South King County.

But others haven't been as well thought out. Recently the Faculty Senate voted against adding a coordinated studies requirement. This is good news, because if this requirement would have passed every student would have had to enroll in Coordinated Studies class in order to graduate.

This requirement would have been ridiculous. Coordinated studies has not been proven as an essential element of education at the community college level. Most students are capable of synthesizing what they learn in various classes without a class in synthesis.

It is important to remember that this establishment is a community college, not a four-year college. Therefore why keep students here longer than they need be?

Adding more requirements for graduation may keep many students here longer than two years. Students may become impatient to graduate. This can cause frustration and students may feel that they are not moving on fast enough.

Having an AA degree is not going to get most people their dream career. Many people -- and most of those pursuing an associate of arts degree -- enroll in community college with hopes of transferring to a four-year school.

Adding harsh requirements for graduation, may cause unwanted results.

Let's take the proposed Capstone requirement which also was voted down by the Faculty Senate as an example. This requirement entails a student doing a major project, paper, internship that ties in with the student's major. The project would ultimately synthesize a student's learning experience.

Such a project is just too much work for a student at the community college level. Many students have full-time jobs, are parents, and some students may have to choose to use community college stepping stone to a four-year university. Moreover, a sophomore already at a university wouldn't be required to do such a project. This kind of work usually is required of college seniors, not sophomores.

If the requirements for graduating from this college become more intense, many students may choose to go straight to a four-year college. This won't help Highline's enrollment.

This is not saying that the curriculum should be Micky Mouse either. If a course transfers, it should be as challenging as if it were at a university. The problem is having too many courses required to graduate.

The college should be realistic when deciding what to expect from students. Gradually adding more requirements for graduation will just encourage more students to go elsewhere.

The decisions made by the Faculty Senate have been good. It is important that the requirements for graduation remain realistic.

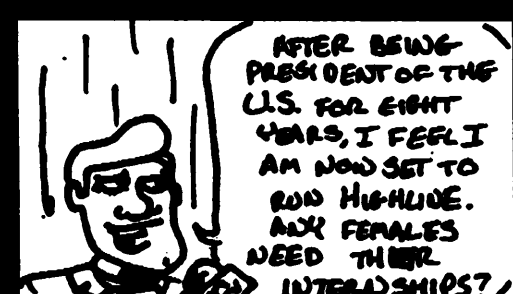
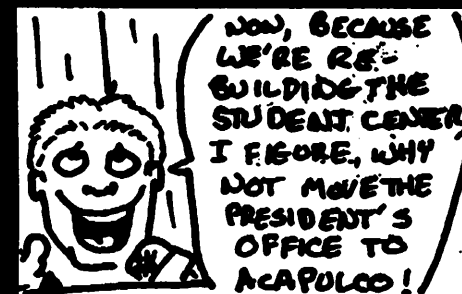
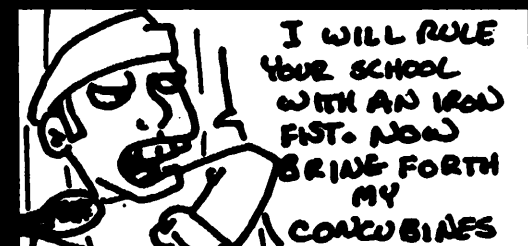
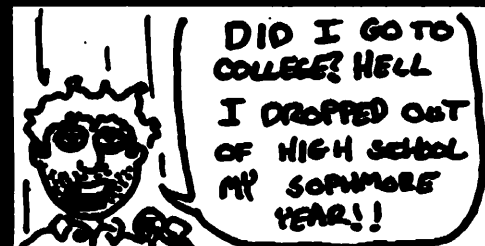
*Editorials represent the opinions of Thunderword editorial board, which includes Marta D. Pelayo, Heather Baker, Derek Roche, Teresa Moreau, Paris Hansen, K.M. Petersen, and Evan Keck.*

## Letters Policy

The Thunderword Opinion section presents a perspective on the news and the newsmakers of the Highline campus community. It offers analysis and background, debate and opinion, and is produced by the Thunderword staff.

- Letters should be no more than 300 words. They must include full names as well as signatures, addresses and telephone numbers for verification during daytime business hours. All letters are subject to editing for style and length.
- Mail letters and commentaries to: Letters to the Editor, The Thunderword, Highline Community College, mail stop 10-3, P.O. Box 98000, Des Moines, WA 98198. Submissions can also be dropped off in the Thunderword office room 106, Building 10.

## THINGS NOT TO SAY IF YOU WANT TO REPLACE ED COMMAND:



## Sad news makes us reflect

When I first heard that a plane headed for Seattle crashed near Los Angeles, I immediately worried about my brother, who often flies back and forth from L.A. to Seattle.

But it was only a fleeting moment of worry, because I knew that he wasn't on the plane.

He was safe and secure in his Lynnwood home, where I would be visiting him later this week.

So I can't even fathom the pain that the family of Meghann Hall is going through. Not to mention Highline's softball team, who lost a leader and dear friend on Monday.

Oftentimes when we hear about tragedies, they are in such distant locations, such as the recent floods in Venezuela, that they do not touch us in a very significant way.

We feel sympathy for their loss, but we quickly go on about

Marta's  
Moment

By Marta  
D. Pelayo



our lives.

Flight 261, however, hit too close to home to ignore. The news washed over campus on Tuesday like a cold, dull, gray flood.

Meghann was a friend to many on campus, as was evident by the Thunderword's interviews with many of Hall's former instructors, all of whom described her as lively, fun, and a joy to be around.

This was a difficult story to cover in the T-Word. We didn't want to be disrespectful to

those in mourning, but others would have regarded it as disrespectful to hide from the news.

So we attempted to paint an honest portrait of Meghann Hall. It seemed the best way to honor her memory and still tell the news.

When he hear about someone's death, we are usually reminded to appreciate the people in our lives more.

Meghann's death is proof that we don't have a guaranteed timeline on Earth, and we had better do the things we've always wanted to while we still have a chance.

As young adults, students frequently lose sight of this. And although it is easy to get caught up in this fast-paced world, now is a good time to take a step back and remember what's important.

*Marta D. Pelayo is Editor in Chief of the Thunderword.*

## The Thunderword

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## Music will always fuel many an argument

Arguing over music is akin to a debate over religion in the respect that a winner will never be pronounced. Unlike other art mediums (film, literature) where craftsmanship and expertise is cursed or commended, a music critic's sole guideline is his taste. *Citizen Kane*, for example, is a cinematic masterpiece by any standard. On the other hand, Garth Brooks' musical prowess is contestable.

### The Roche Motel



By Derek Roche

Case in Point: There are those who refuse to recognize rap as a form of music - straining to find validity in a genre that perhaps lacks a melodious distinction. Rap enthusiasts, however, believe rap to be a colorful combination of harmony, rhythm, and poetry, and that the artists, are indeed, musically inclined.

Many consider Kurt Cobain to be one of the greatest musicians to ever pick up an instrument. The fact that *Smells Like Teen Spirit* is hailed as brilliant by mainstream industry critics doesn't convince me in the least. The grunge pioneer plays within three cords, and vocally, hit his notes with the proficiency of a dying giraffe.

Sure the boy bands are studio manufactured, bubble gum pop quartets, but so were the groups of the Motown heyday, including the Temptations, Four Tops, and the Supremes - none of which, by the way, produced or wrote their own material. And yet a handful of their hits, which play perpetually on your mom's radio stations, are classics nonetheless.

Sinatra didn't scribe his songs. Neither does Barbara Streisand, or Nat King Cole. Elvis, you say? He couldn't write worth a lick, but is considered rock and roll royalty. The prevailing standard here seems to be technical capability. Funny Girl's and Blue eyes' voices are as near flawless as Jennifer Lopez's silhouette. But if gauging on a critic's parameters, they may not be anymore talented

See Motel, page 7

## College faculty speaks at reading

By Rachele Corella  
Staff Reporter

They spoke with eloquence, used vivid word pictures, and expressed themselves. They also happened to be Highline faculty members.

Students gathered in Building 7 on Feb. 2 to hear poetry and prose at the Team Highline-sponsored Faculty Speaks.

Four different Highline professors read their original works, each with their own distinct style and flavor.

Allison Green started off the show with an excerpt from her soon-to-be-published novel, *Half Moon Scar*.

The novel is about a lesbian who comes back to her hometown to re-encounter her old friends and face up to her past.

The scene read by Green was about Amy and Gavin when they were 10 years old and focused on the idea of Halloween costumes as a metaphor for concealed sexual identity and gender roles.

Her style of writing was very clear and straightforward, making the scene come to life.

Rosemary Adang was next up, with an article on censorship entitled "I'm Trying to Write for



Photo by Yong Ellis

Writing instructor Lonny Kaneko reads one of his poems at Faculty Speaks.

a Censored Press: A Cross-Cultural Dilemma." The article was about Adang's encounters with censorship while writing articles for the Chinese public.

"To not offend anyone is to

not say anything important," said Adang, whose piece denounced censorship without being insulting toward Chinese culture.

Mira Shimabukuro read a se-

ries of poems about her father's life. The poems were written from her father's point of view, and were unique in structure due to the fact that they were written in pidgin English.

The language was unfamiliar but served to accentuate her overall themes.

Shimabukuro finished off with a poem entitled *Finding a Draft*, which was written about the process of writing itself.

The imagery used in this poem was extremely effective and served to bring a clear conclusion to her presentation.

Last up was Lonny Kaneko, who read four poems that evidenced very sophisticated usage of the English language.

Kaneko used unconventional comparisons to make his metaphors hit home, making for an enjoyable listening experience. He finished with a poem about Bruce Lee, whom he knew personally.

The rhythm of the poem worked well to convey the mood of the subject.

The works presented at Faculty Speaks were, as a whole, extremely effective in giving Highline students a personal view of their professors as artists.

## 'Beirut' tells story of Lebanese upbringing

Film chronicles  
1975, when civil  
war sliced the  
Lebanese city

By Lora Curdy  
Staff Reporter

*West Beirut* is a dynamic film, a captivating slice of reality despite some shaky transitions.

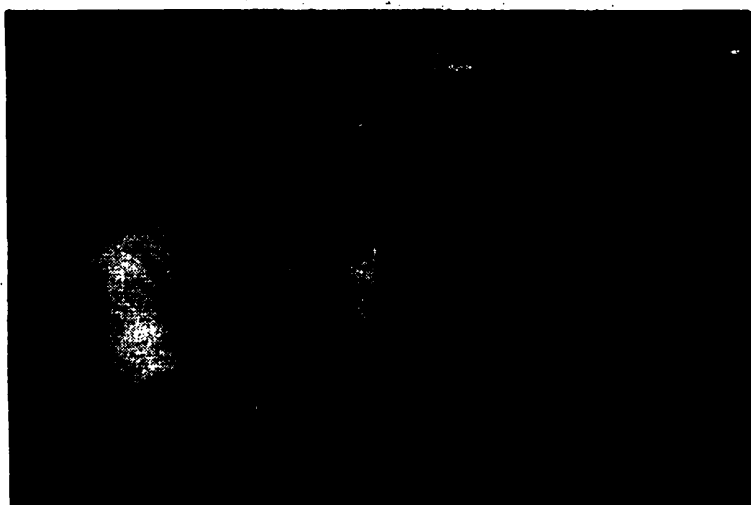
The writer/director of the film, Ziad Doueiri, based this story of teenagers growing up in Beirut, Lebanon around the life, times and experiences that he had growing up there.

In the director's notes of the film, Doueiri said that the film is 90 percent autobiographical.

*West Beirut* takes place in the year 1975, when the Lebanese civil war had split the city into two parts.

*West Beirut*, where the story mostly takes place, houses the Lebanese Muslims battling against East Beirut and the Christian militias.

Rather than focusing on the war, Doueiri focuses on the three main characters, and how they and their families respond



Cowboy Booking International

The Baker (Mahmoud Mabsout), May (Rola Al Amin), and Tarek (Rami Doueiri) discuss the baker's goods in *West Beirut*.

to the war.

Tarek (played by the director's younger brother, 16-year-old Rami Doueiri) is a wild teenager, who despite the dangerous setting explores all parts of Beirut in turmoil, and makes super-8 films of what he sees.

His sidekick is Omar (Mohamad Chamas), another Moslem teen.

The two characters create a convincing and charismatic relationship.

Rounding out the trio is May

(Rola Al Amin), a Christian in the movie who is a friend to both Omar and Tarek.

Though she is Christian, she is a neighbor of Tarek's in West Beirut, and spends much of her time with her two Muslim friends exploring the streets.

Tarek's mother Hala (Carmen Lebbo), and his father Riad (Joseph Bou Nassar) play a small part, but add an adult perspective on the war that gives a needed balance to the film.

The cinematography in the

movie is outstanding.

Ziad Doueiri, who has been an assistant cinematographer for some of Quentin Tarantino's films (*Reservoir Dogs*, *Pulp Fiction*, *Jackie Brown*), did some of the camerawork in this film, along with cinematographer Ricardo Jacques Gale (*Les Autres*, *Legal Tender*, *Eyes of the Serpent*, *The Nest*).

Some scenes are shot through a Super-8 camera, giving an unpolished, rough effect to the footage.

One scene in the movie that is filmed by the Super-8 is a riot in which Muslim demonstrators are protesting for their freedom.

It is soon interrupted when Rami and Omar find themselves captive amid a barrage of bullets from a Christian militia group; the scene becomes chaotic as the camera jumps up and down with Rami as he attempts to film the chaos.

This award-winning film is worth seeing.

Even if you don't like to read subtitles, after the first scene in the movie, you forget that they are there, and get lost in the film.

*West Beirut* will play for one week beginning Feb. 4 through Feb. 10 at the Varsity Theatre.

## Smockers

By Frank Lorenzo



## Cast fails to save weak film Arcturus gets ready for spring edition

By Justin Pritchard  
Staff Reporter

Racing to the box office is the new observational drama *Simpatico*, but once people get a load of it, even with its loaded cast, it may run out of gas.

Directed by Matthew Warchus who is best known for directing theatre plays such as *Art*, *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Henry the V*, *Simpatico* is a story about three friends.

Played by Nic Nolte (Vinnie), Jeff Bridges (Carter) and Sharon Stone (Rosie), the characters go through life bothered by guilty consciences stemming from a past get rich quick scheme they were involved in.

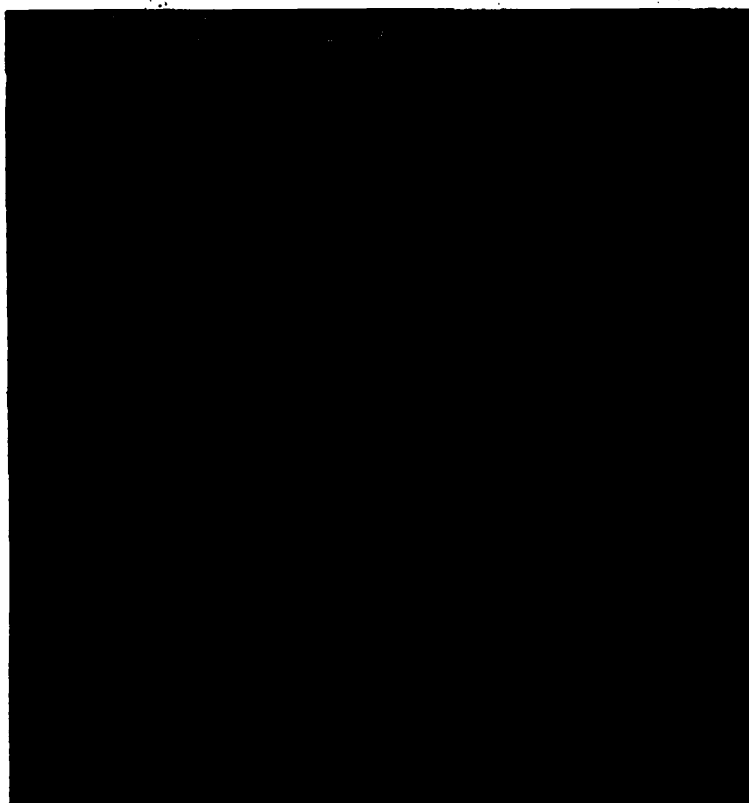
Warchus uses various flashbacks throughout the movie to demonstrate the closeness in their friendship, before it ultimately goes south.

The three friends were very much into racing when they decided to pull a racing scam that would make them rich. They eventually get caught by the racing commissioner, Ames, played humorously by Albert Finney.

To keep Finney from getting them into trouble, they blackmail him.

The rest of *Simpatico* has Nolte running around trying to get Stone and Bridges to confess that they blackmailed Finney, in hopes that he can get something out of it. In actuality, he is turning all their lives upside down.

Warchus says *Simpatico*'s theme is that "life doesn't have



**FineLine Features**  
Sharon Stone shares her deepest thoughts with a horse in *Simpatico*.

to be a race between winners and losers. It's about finding your own identity."

This is Warchus' first time directing a picture on the big screen. Warchus had his work cut out for him when he took on the challenge of directing such a complicated story. Originally a play by Sam Shepard, the transition in the adaptation becomes somewhat lost.

The obvious link between the original play and the motion picture is the number of scenes that are strictly dialog. These conversations are set in small

stage settings, causing some of the potential action scenes to be lost in the original play format.

The only highlights were Stone's, Bridges' and Nolte's performances — taking on difficult roles and still looking good. Their ability to grasp the characters' true personalities was an excellent reflection on Warchus' directing as well.

My reaction to the film could possibly be best summed up by a line delivered by Jeff Bridge's character: "Maybe it's the smell or just the alfalfa." Indeed the film did stink.

By Au Nguyen  
Staff Reporter

This year's theme for Highline's literary magazine, *Arcturus*, possesses a Greek element. The theme is determined yearly by the students.

The name *Arcturus* refers to a star.

According to myth, *Arcturus* is the storyteller star and describes the story to other stars.

The literary magazine is an annual publication that contains short stories, poetry and artwork by Highline faculty, students, and alumni.

The first edition of *Arcturus* was published in 1977.

"The magazine is a student production," said Sharon Hashimoto. According to Hashimoto, the students select which pieces are published in the magazine, in addition to designing the cover and performing the print job of the magazine.

Works are submitted by Dec. 31 of the current school year. The submissions are read by an editing team, who then select which stories will be published.

Every piece that is submitted is critiqued by a panel of judges.

All the pieces are submitted as blind submissions, therefore, faculty submissions do not receive any priority.

"The author's name does not appear on the paper," says student editor Beth Outlaw. A

panel of eight critics read through and look at the submissions.

This quarter's student editors are: Sharleen Sablan, Christina Davis, Milissa Payne, Andy Fitzgerald, Jenifer Vogtsberger, Shayla Rankin, and Outlaw.

Each piece is rated on a point system and the points are then added up.

A minimum number of points determines if the piece gets published or not.

A majority of the submissions are short stories and *Arcturus* is still actively seeking photos and artwork.

When evaluating submissions, the judges particularly look for original, fresh, and complex ideas.

A strong thesis and a passion for quality work are also very useful.

The student editors must complete Creative Writing 155 as a prerequisite to *Arcturus* 200. The faculty adviser then makes sure the student has completed the necessary courses and provides an entry code.

This year's faculty advisers

See *Arcturus*, page 7



## Arcturus

continued from page 6

include Hashimoto, writing instructor; Gary Nelson, director of production illustration; and Dave Weber, print production coordinator.

The next issue of Arcturus will be released in May/June of 2000.

Faculty and students are invited to the opening where complimentary copies of the literary magazine will be distributed.

Photographs and artwork may still be submitted.

If you are interested in doing so, students are welcome to submit their respective works to Hashimoto in Building 5, room 212.

## Motel

continued from page 5

than, say, Marilyn Manson, who carries mediocre vocal range, but does, in fact, pen all his work?

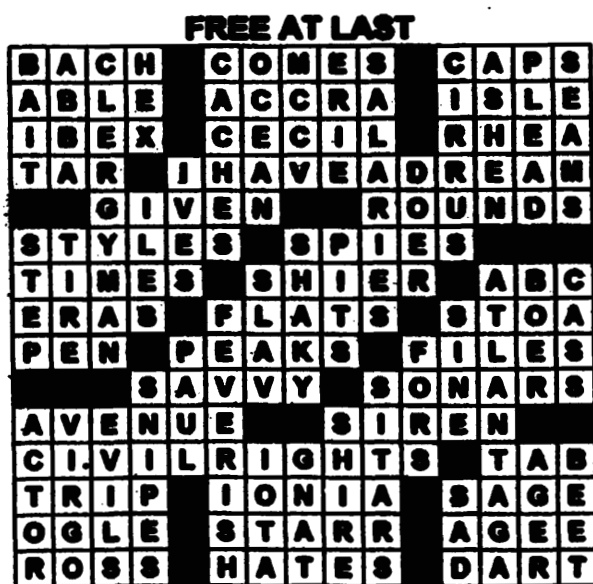
How about the incomparable Beatles? In truth, they were better writers than musicians. In their first year alone, the Fab Five released a mind blowing 29 singles, all written by one or more of the band members. But ask any seasoned instrumentalist (guitar, drums, bass) and they'll attest to the truism that

the Beatles played not much better than your average garage band. In fact, studio musicians were regularly called upon to dub instruments over their albums.

Let us compare child stars. Thirteen-year-old opera singer Charlotte Church, or teen pop sensation Britney Spears? Well, Church has the voice of an angel, and Spears has the body of your typical stripper named Angel. We all know who's sold more albums.

Derek's next a capella album features the hit Derek's Back (Everybody).

## Solution to last issue's crossword puzzle



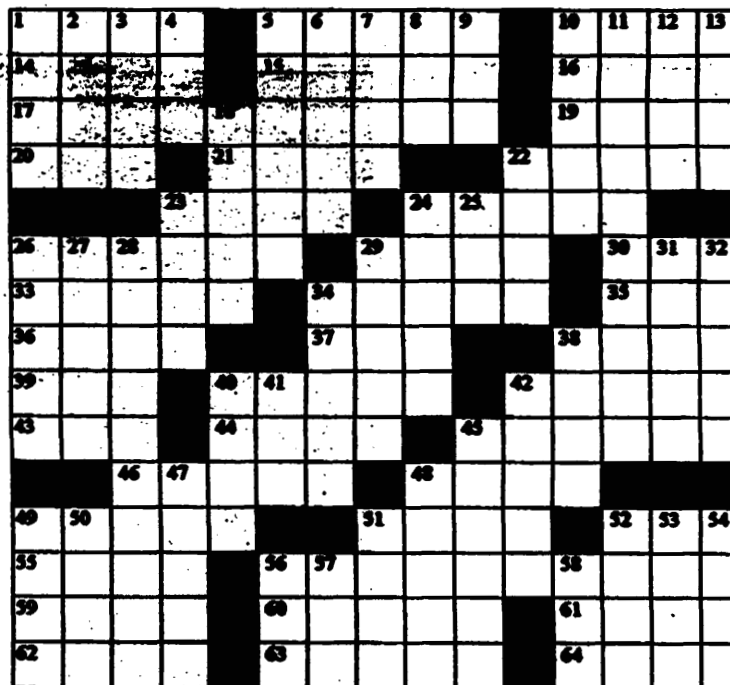
## Crossword 101

### "Winter Wonderland"

By Ed Canty

- ACROSS**
- Chicago players
  - Blue part
  - Conceal
  - Latin ingredient
  - Lesson
  - way (never)
  - Nor'easters, e.g.
  - Blow the horn
  - Unaided actor
  - Pub offering
  - Hocks
  - Asian nation
  - Pierre's wampum
  - Balance sheet items
  - Buzzards and Oyster
  - Statute
  - Talking birds: Var.
  - Bakery offerings
  - I.M., architect
  - British School
  - Vein deposits
  - Canned meat
  - Recent
  - Catch of the day
  - Reagan's AG
  - Mil. decoration
  - Sharp
  - Mediate
  - Tony's cousin
  - Dweeb
  - It's garments
  - Singer McEntire
  - bits
  - Prestigious theater award
  - Show replacement
  - Thaw
  - Norman Rockwell's need
  - Happy tune
  - Affirmative votes
  - Norman Vincent
  - Football players

- DOWN**
- Singer Johnny
  - Arm bone
  - Sail boat part



- Mend
- Picnic areas
- Some piano keys
- Pub misale
- After hrs. bank clerk
- Musical Paul
- Influential person
- Like the Rockies
- Shortly
- Spoils
- Brief quarrel
- Bridge term
- Sidney
- Feigned
- Reuben base
- Correct
- Web locations
- Winter transport
- Nobleman
- Stop
- Basketball official
- Centers
- Mail
- Winter foot wear
- Bee follower
- Virtuous
- Famous Calif. beach
- Borscht ingredients
- Spiral staircase center
- Italy's capital
- Comply
- Ms. Parks
- Minnesota player
- Join metals
- Table scraps
- Fall mo.
- Glasgow negative
- Bull fight cheer

### Quotable Quote

"The weather is like  
the government,  
always in the wrong."

...Jerome K. Jerome

By GFR Associates E-Mail: EDC9432@aol.com  
Mail: GFR, P.O. Box 461, Schenectady, NY 12301

## Thunderbird wrestlers head to regional competition

By Evan Keck  
Staff Reporter

The season for the wrestlers of Highline really begins this Saturday at the Region 18 tournament that will take place in Coos Bay, Ore.

Six teams will participate in the national qualifying tournament. Southwestern Oregon, Clackamas College, Ricks College, North Idaho, Yakima Valley and Highline make up the Northwest Region.

All the teams in attendance will give the T-Birds tough competition.

SWOCC has two strong wrestlers C.J. Campbell at 141, and Marc Borja, 149. Both are returning All-Americans and the coach is hoping for a place in nationals.

"We're going to shoot for third," said SWOCC Head Coach Tony Jones. "Realistically we won't touch the Idaho teams."

Clackamas has set a little higher goals for themselves. With a strong group of freshmen led by two experienced sophomores, the Cougars are hoping for five to six national qualifiers.

"NIC is awfully tough," said Clackamas coach Lloyd Martindale. "I think we're even with Ricks though."

Martindale did not want to make any predictions of the tournament partly because the competition is so tough. How-



Highline's Ryan Doerge works against Anthony Hamilton in practice this week. Photo by Petra Sokolova

ever he is confident that his team will perform well.

Yakima Valley has struggled most of the season but will have one or two tough competitors. Yakima is coached by Jeff Morrow and his wrestlers will not lie down.

North Idaho and Ricks College are co-favorites to win regionals and place in nationals. North Idaho has had a lot of success this season, shutting out Highline the last time they met.

"We need to qualify as many as possible," said NIC Coach Pat Whitcomb. "We have to make sure there are no mistakes."

A lot of teams are worried about facing the power house.

"The team is wrestling the best they've done all season," said Whitcomb.

Ricks College, under Coach Bob Christensen, is ranked second in the nation and is looking forward to the tournament.

The Vikings beat NIC for the second time in school history and the fourth home loss in NIC history by a score of 27-8.

The team is stacked and looking for a national title.

Highline is prepared to go head to head with whoever steps on the mat.

Several T-Birds will be seeded in the top three.

"Every guy has a chance," said Assistant Coach John Clemens. "Anyone who is going

has the potential to go to nationals. They give it their best shot. I like the way they support each other."

Shawn Thayer will make the trip to battle for a spot in the national tournament at the 125 pound classification.

Joben Nuesse, 133, who has had a successful season this year could be looking from the podium Saturday night.

Shad Lierly, 141, is competing in what all the coaches agree as the premium weight class of the region. Most coaches believe Lierly has a good chance of placing.

At 149, Jason King will fight for national tournament opportunity.

Joe Castro had a good year at 157 and hopes to continue through the weekend.

Brian Wiehle at 165 has been plagued with injuries all season and now that he is healthy he is looking for a national championship.

Jeremiah Barney will go to the tournament at 174.

Jamey Verderico will tough out the rest of the year with a torn ligament in his shoulder at 184 pounds.

Brian Loska at 197 will also be in the spotlight on Saturday. He was ranked fifth in the nation by USA Wrestling Magazine for his stellar performance this season.

Anthony Hamilton is hoping to make his presence felt at the heavy weight division.

## Thunderbirds win close game against Green River Gators

By Jahmal Corner  
Staff Reporter

And the Oscar goes to... the Highline women's basketball team, for the role they played as a mediocre team in the first half of the season.

Directed by Head Coach Dennis Olson, they began with a 4-6 overall record and have since won nine of 10 league games, most recently including Tacoma and Green River.

It is no mistake that the T-Birds have turned on the burners since the start of their league contests.

Kristin Zompetti explains that they're now as locked in as one of her own three-pointers.

"I don't think we were all that focused in the beginning," she said. "Now we have to be, everything counts."

The home meeting against Tacoma on Jan. 26 sure did, though it didn't seem that Tacoma knew. Highline began the game with a 26-6 spurt. They lead 53-20 after two quarters.

The most excitement of the evening came at halftime, when



Photo by Paris Hansen

Thunderbird Erin Johnson reaches for possession of the ball during the tip-off at Saturday's game against Green River.

the Federal Way Boys & Girls Clubs' white and blue team faced off, and a 4-foot guard excited the crowd with an array of moves uncommon with his age.

Highline then returned to the floor and methodically put the nails in the coffin for an 88-57 win. Cal-Jean Lloyd led the way with 19 points, Chandra Rathke added 17, and Kristin Zompetti fired 14, including four three-pointers.

Sometimes it's difficult for a team so accustomed to blowouts, to handle the pressure and unfamiliarity of close games. Chandra Rathke doesn't feel that's the case with this team.

"I think it's actually better when we win big," she said. "It adds to our confidence."

Little did she know her theory would be tested in the very next game, when the T-Birds took on Green River, a team Olson calls "one of the three best in the division."

Battling a team of this caliber in their building is like paddling upstream; the odds are against you. The dead stare following Highline's entrance, and the

crowd noise accompanying Green River's all pointed to one undeniable fact - Highline was finally in for a game.

It was a nail-biter all the way through, a true test of the Thunderbirds' spirit.

Thanks to some late free throw shooting, and a little luck, the Thunderbirds escaped with a win, 65-64.

Usually a difficult coach to please, Olson found satisfaction in this victory.

"The kids are definitely learning to pull together," he said. "We didn't play particularly well, but it's great to win when you don't play your best ball."

Freshman Tianna Pye keeps her eyes on the big prize. "We are successful because everyone on this team is a contributor," she said. "With that style, we can go all the way!"

Results from Wednesday's home game versus South Puget Sound was unavailable at press time. The T-Birds host Pierce on Saturday, Feb. 5, and visit Lower Columbia, Monday, Feb. 7.



## T-Birds lose game to tie for first place with Tacoma

By K.M. Petersen  
Staff Reporter

After leading the NWAACC's Western Region and being ranked atop the top eight coaches' poll, Highline fell hard in a home loss against Tacoma, before rebounding on the road against Green River.

The loss drops the Thunderbirds to a tie for first place with Tacoma, and also drops them from first to third, behind Peninsula and Tacoma, in the poll.

Highline came out against the Titans in possibly the best situation possible, holding a one game lead over Tacoma, who they beat on the road to open the league season.

Motivation was surely not hard to come by, as Tacoma has quickly developed into a rival for the Thunderbirds, and a victory at home would give the team a two game lead in the division which, barring a complete flop down the stretch, would virtually lock up the league crown.

The Thunderbirds appeared up to the task in the game's opening moments, playing strong to a 6-1 lead in the game's first three minutes.

Highline maintained the lead throughout the opening stanza, thanks to key three pointers by point guards Mikael Moore and Wes Newton, until Tacoma fought their way to a slim half-time lead.

In the second half, the Titans' defensive pressure was tough, as only sophomores Bruce Williams and Tom Hubbard were able to score for the Thunderbirds in the half's first seven minutes.

Then, as Highline would manage to fight back, Tacoma would go on short runs, until a 12-0 run over four minutes put the T-Birds away, with a final score of 74-61.

"They just outplayed us," Williams said. "We came ready

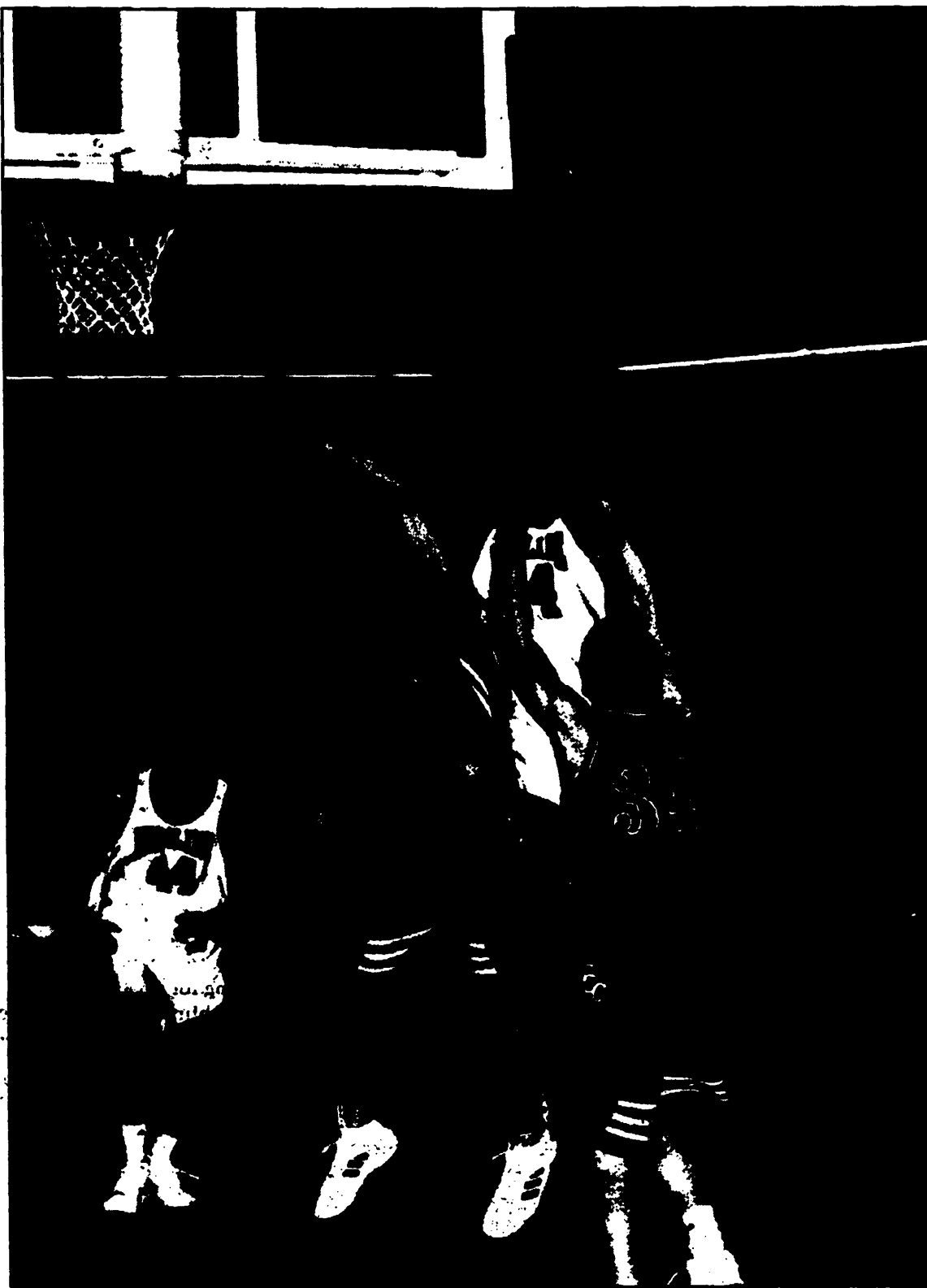


Photo by Petra Sokolova

Yusef Aziz tries for two points against Tacoma while Jesse Rossmeyer gets ready for a possible rebound.

to play, physically, but we didn't come ready to play mentally, and as soon as we got behind, we gave up on the physical aspect; we didn't play hard at all,

and it was just an embarrassing loss."

"It was a game that hopefully humbled us," Head Coach Jeff Albrecht said. "It was a

game that will actually allow us to get refocused for the stretch run of the season."

Williams led Highline with 16 points, Yusef Aziz scored 10

points with 14 rebounds, and Darnell Lyons scored five points with seven rebounds and five blocks.

Following the game, the Thunderbirds travelled to Auburn to take on another local rival, the Green River Gators.

Highline played reasonably well on the way to a halftime lead of 44-36. In the second half, Green River actually took the lead, thanks to some hot shooting on a 20-5 run over five minutes, with seven minutes remaining.

Highline shook it off, however, with a 16-2 run of their own to put the game away.

"One thing that made me happy is that when we got down late in the game, we still showed composure and came back," Williams said. "That was a pretty positive win because we were tested late in the game, we weren't winning, and we responded in the right way, and we ended up pulling it out."

Williams led the way for the T-Birds with 25 points, five rebounds, five assists, and three steals, Yusef Aziz had 21 points, 11 rebounds, five assists, and three steals, and Hubbard scored 16 points to go with eight rebounds.

Strong performances also came from Moore, with 11 points, six assists, and nine rebounds, Adam Aziz, with four points and 11 rebounds, and Jesse Rossmeyer with six points and seven rebounds.

The team is now focusing on the stretch run toward the playoffs. "We only have six more league games, and every game counts, so we're getting a little more serious at this time of year," Albrecht said.

Results from Wednesday night's game against South Puget Sound were unavailable at press time.

Next home game is Saturday, Feb. 5 against Pierce who the T-Birds beat in earlier league play.

## Men's coach Albrecht says Thunderbirds have a shot

By Patrick Allcorn  
Staff Reporter

Jeff Albrecht has been a part of the Highline men's basketball coaching staff and a physical education instructor for four years.

Albrecht, originally from Issaquah, attended college at Eastern Washington University for one year and Central Washington University for his last three.

He played on both schools' basketball teams and later became an assistant coach for CWU.

At the beginning of his colle-



Albrecht

Albrecht said.

The change in career choices can be attributed to a group of young children that Albrecht coached while playing at CWU.

"I realized I liked working with people. I coached little

giate career, becoming a coach was not his plan.

"When I started, I wanted to be a stockbroker but I soon changed to education,

kids while at Central and I really enjoyed it," said Albrecht.

After three years of playing for CWU, Albrecht was offered an assistant coaching job at the school, which he accepted.

He remained there for three years before arriving at Highline four years ago as an assistant. After two years he was promoted to head coach, where he's been for two seasons.

Albrecht has a very modest coaching style.

"I believe the players win games. Coaches just put players in a position to win," he said.

Though the Thunderbirds are 18-3, Albrecht thinks they need

a lot of improvement to challenge for a championship.

"We have a shot. We need to get a lot better though. We need to improve on team defense and get better at executing on offense. We need to improve on setting and using screens as well as reversing the ball," he said.

Albrecht, 30, has two courses left to achieve his masters degree in curriculum and instruction.

He's not sure if that will help him become a full-time instructor at Highline but he says, "It couldn't hurt."

Albrecht likes the people at Highline and it is near his Tuk-

wila home so another job with near the same financial perks wouldn't stand a chance. But Albrecht also has a family to provide for.

"If something came along that would be better for my family, financially, I'd have to take it," said Albrecht, the father of two (Taylor, 5 and Elizabeth, 1).

Albrecht's wife, Leanna, also works at Highline as program coordinator for Student Programs and Athletics.

"It would be nice to coach an individual for three or four years, but here I have an opportunity to be a part of more kids' lives in a positive way," he said.

## Scoreboard

## Women's B-ball

## Upcoming Games

(games start at 8 p.m.)

Feb. 5 vs Pierce  
Feb. 7 @ Lo. Columbia  
Feb. 9 @ Centralia  
Feb. 12 vs Clark  
Feb. 19 @ Grays Harbor

## Standings

Western	Lea	Sea
Clark	9-1	17-5
Highline	9-1	13-7
Green River	6-3	10-10
S. P. Sound	6-4	15-5
Centralia	4-4	12-8
Lo. Columbia	3-6	4-15

Pierce	3-7	8-12
Tacoma	2-8	9-12
Grays Harbor	1-9	5-17

Northern	Lea	Sea
Skagit Valley	9-0	18-1
Peninsula	8-1	14-7
Whatcom	6-3	10-10
Everett	6-3	12-10
Shoreline	4-4	6-12
Bellevue	4-5	4-14
Olympic	2-7	2-16
Edmonds	1-8	2-16
Seattle	0-9	0-17

Eastern	Lea	Sea
Wenatchee	6-1	22-2
Spokane	6-1	20-2
Yakima Valley	5-2	13-8
Walla Walla	4-3	12-9
Big Bend	2-5	10-11
Columbia Basin	1-5	6-12

Blue Mountain 0-7 7-15

Southern	Lea	Sea
Chemeketa	8-0	21-1
Umpqua	7-1	20-1
SW Oregon	6-2	13-10
Clackamas	5-3	13-10
Mt. Hood	3-5	9-13
Lane	2-6	7-13
Linn-Benton	1-7	7-14
Portland	0-8	2-19

## Men's B-ball

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Green River	3-6	6-14
Grays Harbor	2-8	4-15
Pierce	1-9	7-15

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Peninsula	8-1	19-3
Olympic	7-2	12-8
Edmonds	6-3	14-8
Skagit Valley	4-5	12-9
Bellevue	4-5	7-14
Shoreline	3-5	4-15

Everett	3-6	10-12
Whatcom	3-6	9-11
Seattle	2-7	7-13

Eastern	Lea	Sea
Spokane	5-2	11-9
Wenatchee	5-2	18-5
Yakima Valley	5-2	12-9
Walla Walla	3-4	12-10
Big Bend	3-4	13-9
Columbia Basin	2-4	9-12
Blue Mountain	1-6	9-13

Southern	Lea	Sea
S.W. Oregon	8-0	14-6
Lane	6-2	14-5
Chemeketa	5-3	14-8
Clackamas	5-3	14-8
Linn-Benton	3-5	4-16
Mt. Hood	3-5	10-13
Umpqua	2-6	7-13
Portland	0-8	1-19

## League leading scorer brings jokes and tough play to team

By Pete Wilson  
Staff Reporter

When a joke breaks out on the women's basketball team, Cal-Jean Lloyd is more than likely at the source.

Lloyd is the humorist of this year's team off the court, but when on the court she is all business.

"I like to joke and be sarcastic," said Lloyd. "But on the court, ice might as well be running through my veins because there are no friends on the court. There are four other ladies I am playing with and everyone else is my enemy."

When you are producing an average of 21.4 points and 11 rebounds a game and are the league's leading scorer, ice in the veins is no exaggeration.

Lloyd was born and raised in Tacoma and has been playing basketball since she was 8 years old.

"I was always bigger than most girls were and many people constantly told me that I should play basketball," said Lloyd. "With my mom being very supportive, I kind of taught myself how to play the game."

When Lloyd graduated from Mt. Tahoma High School in June 1999, her first intentions didn't consist of coming to Highline to play ball. Lloyd received a full-ride scholarship to Southern University in Louisiana. After signing a letter of intent and heading off to school she discovered that S.U. was not the school for her.

"The basketball at Southern wasn't the problem. The problem was that being the black woman that I am from Washington kept me from being treated



Photo by Connie Harshman

Cal-Jean Lloyd makes a free throw during a recent Thunderbird home game.

with respect," said Lloyd. "I experienced a lot of prejudice within my own race that helped me realize that I wanted to attend school closer to home."

Because she signed a letter of intent for a Division I school, it prohibited her from playing ball

for any other divisional ranked school.

But it did not keep her from playing at the community college level.

Since Lloyd attended open-gym sessions as a junior in high school with ex-T-Bird basket-

ball player Shawana McElroy, she knew that Highline would be a great place to play.

"I met Coach [Dennis] Olson at an open-gym session when I was still in high school," said Lloyd. "He made it clear that there would always be a place here for me."

Now with Lloyd at Highline, having an all-star season, the question of her making the right decision doesn't seem to go away.

"A lot of people think that leaving Southern wasn't the right decision, but not me," said Lloyd. "Playing at Highline gives me a chance to keep working hard and helps other Northwest schools know who I am and that I can play."

"I like to consider myself as a Charles Barkley kind of player," she said. "I like to bang it on the inside with the big girls to muscle my way for the rebound."

Although at 5 feet, 9 inches, she is giving up some height to many opponents, she makes up for it in other areas of her game.

"Because of my lack of height, I use my quickness to take it strong to the hole," said Lloyd. "Then I will either use my post-up move to get the score or get the rebound and put it back up."

Lloyd currently is earning a 3.5 GPA and is setting her goals on being a health teacher at the high school level.

Lloyd is unsure on her plans for next year.

She may decide to go back to a four-year school and has her sights set on Central Washington University.

"Right now it is not the plan to stay at Highline next year, but anything can happen," said Lloyd. "After this year I just want to be ready to move the next level if my time comes."

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# Taxes do not have to be difficult

Deductibles, Hope Scholarship and 1040EZ. What does it all mean?

By Matthew Ussery  
Staff Reporter

There are many ways for college students to relieve the tax-season stress as April 15 draws near.

Because college students always want more money, tax credits can be very helpful.

The Hope Scholarship, for example, is available to most Highline students.

If you are in your first or second year of college, then you are probably eligible for a deduction of up to \$1,500.

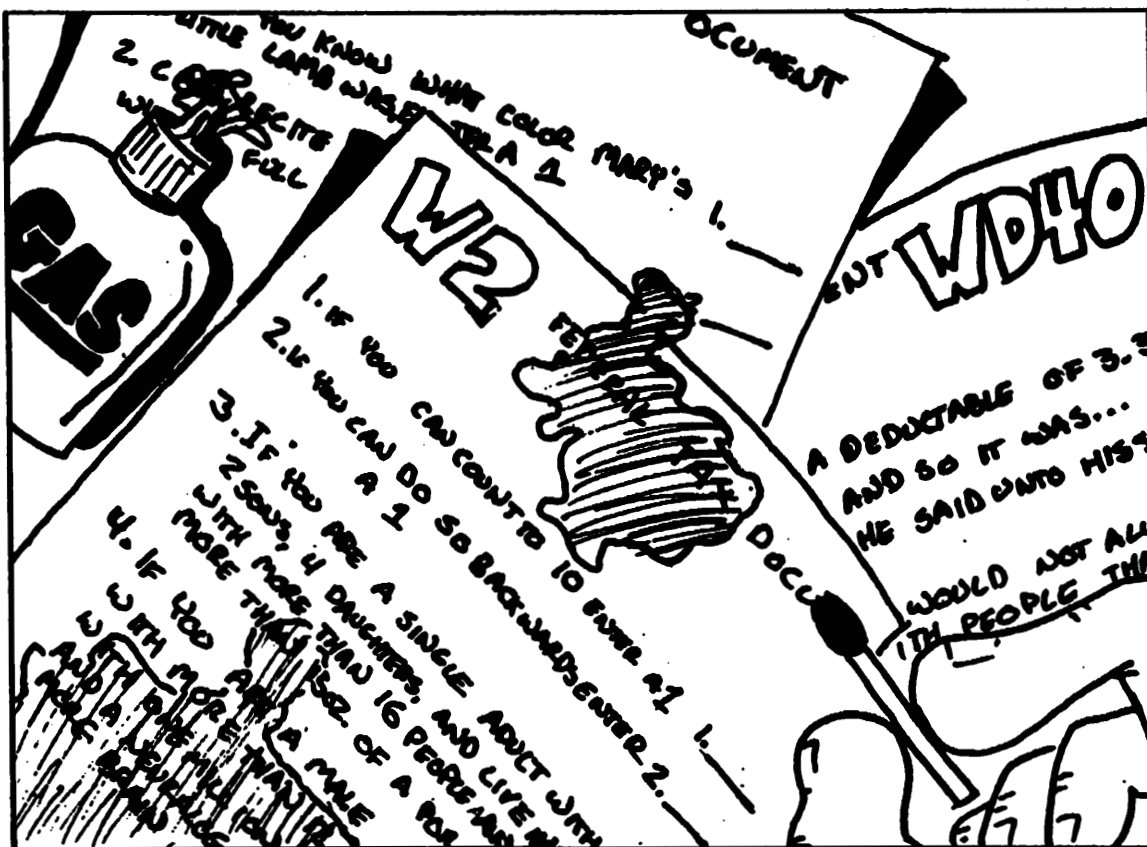
As long as you don't earn \$40,000 per year (\$80,000 if you're married), then you are eligible.

The Lifetime tax credit, however, gives a larger deduction than the Hope Scholarship.

As long as you aren't receiving the Hope tax credit, then you can receive up to \$5,000 in deductions.

The same income ceiling applies to this tax break as the Hope Scholarship.

In addition to these, "If someone is going to college to maintain or improve their skills, then it is fully deductible," said Marc Hutchinson, a partner in Bashey & Co., a Bellevue ac-



Graphic by Sam Abraham

counting firm.

Although some cases are complicated, it is not too difficult to file your own returns.

"Generally speaking, they are very easy," said Hutchinson.

He further explained that a student's taxes get more complicated if they have an educational trust fund or are living with their parents.

Students in such circumstances should check with their parents because deductions can be made for parents and students.

It is necessary, however, to

be careful because some deductions can't be made by both the student and his or her parents.

If you don't understand or don't want to spend the time figuring out the rules, help is available on campus. Starting Tuesday, Feb. 8, a group of Highline students will be filing electronically the 1040A and 1040EZ tax forms for anyone who shows up.

This program, coordinated by the IRS, is free for Highline students, faculty, and the public.

The students have received training from the IRS and can

help most students. If, however, a student's taxes are unusually complicated, then he or she should go to a tax specialist.

"We are not professionals, but we can help Highline students," said Highline Professor Cathy Pitts.

"I think that it's a wonderful service," said Pitts.

For more information on this service, call Pitts at 206-878-3710, ext. 3495.

If you can't get all of your forms done in time then you can file an extension for a stay of execution.

## Advisers help students pave a path to success

By Rachele Corella  
Staff Reporter

This quarter's Advising Week will offer students a chance to make plans with their advisers for Spring Quarter classes as well as overall educational plans, college officials say.

Faculty members will be setting aside extra hours to see students who choose to seek advising on Feb. 7-11.

According to Siew Lai Lilley, interim director of Educational Planning, this is an important opportunity for students to get to know their advisers.

"It's important for students to get connected to someone who can give them good advice about their future," Lilley said. Advisers can offer tips on transferring, answer questions, and give general guidance.

Students are usually assigned an adviser who specializes in the student's area of interest. This is a very important aspect of advising, Lilley said. "Instructors are very knowledgeable and familiar with their field," she said. "They can really help students."

Students who have changed educational focus may feel that advising will no longer be helpful to them. Switching advisers, however, is as easy as a change in the computer.

"I think a lot of people have never met with an adviser and are trying to get things done on their own," said Kat Chappell, a Highline student who is going for an Option B associate of arts degree. "But it's important to find a faculty member who you have a rapport with."

"Student who don't know what their future plans are should definitely see their advisers," said Highline student Jennifer Byrne.

## Hope scholarship available for qualified students

By Alana Slayton  
Staff Reporter

Accessing information for the Hope Scholarship can be a lot easier than you think. In fact, receiving a significant credit toward your 1999 tax return could be just a few clicks away.

"Students need to know how to take advantage of the \$1,500 credit available to them for qualifying and related expenditures," says Ron Perez, Highline Business Controller.

The Clinton Administration made the Hope Scholarship a part of its 1997 education/tax-cut package, promising to make the first two years of college the new standard for U.S. students.

Though it really isn't a scholarship, more like a tax credit, it can assist those paying higher education costs for their first and second years of undergraduate studies.

You have to actually have income and pay taxes to qualify.

To be eligible you must have been enrolled at least half-time

in a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational program. It is only good for the classes paid for within the 1999 tax year.

So if you paid for Winter Quarter classes before Jan. 1, 1999 that quarter would not count toward your 1999 tuition costs.

The form and verification for the tax credit can be accessed through the college via the Internet, or on the computer kiosks in Buildings 6 and 8 on campus.

From your home computer, the information can be found at [www.Highline.ctc.edu/Registration/records.htm](http://www.Highline.ctc.edu/Registration/records.htm).

Looking in the student records and transcript, your 1098-T form can be found under the "Hope Scholarship Information" heading. This form tells your course and payment details. It helps determine whether the tuition and fees paid qualify for the Hope credit.

The only information you need to access this information is your student identification

**"Students need to know how to take advantage of the \$1,500 credit available to them."**

--Perez

number and your personal identification number.

Not only is your tuition information available on the Internet, all of the IRS paperwork can be found and printed at your convenience, located via their web page, [www.IRS.ustreas.gov](http://www.IRS.ustreas.gov). All details needed to use the Hope credit can be located in the Tax Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Higher Education. Form 8863- Education Credit, which accompanies Tax Publication 970, can also be located and printed out at the IRS web page.

College employees legally cannot provide tax advice concerning the Hope Scholarship, however, there will be free tax assistance here at Highline this month.

"Starting Feb. 8, in Building 3, there will be Highline students trained and certified in assisting students and/or community members in preparing and filing their income tax," Perez said.

Contact Cathy Pitts at 206-878-3170, ext. 3495, for more details.

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## continued from page 1

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At home last night (Tuesday, Feb. 1) I opened my AOL 101 class notebook and in the inside cover were tests that I used to refer to students who were in class the day I first told them: back. Backstage was on the top. I pulled it out of the sleeve and, looking at the writing and her signature, I ran my hand on it. I was in the class the day I told them: back. And good-looking people participant standing in front of the class as we talked about gender, height, body type, hair color and style/clothing, etc. Later during interactive exercises her easy and welcoming smile gave others the opportunity to practice confidence. After class she stayed and gave practitioners the direct instruction about the

**By Au Nguyen**  
*Staff Reporter*

In Vietnamese culture, it is believed that the Tet period determines your fortunes and mis-

This year's festivities include singing performances, a raffle, drawing for a CD burner, and a cultural fashion show.

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