

She's a Private dancer

By MARGO HORNER
 Staff Reporter

Alexis is a student at Highline during the day. Until recently, at night she took her clothes off for money.

There are three different kinds of strippers: the girls who do it for fun, the girls who do it for drugs and the girls who do it for money. Alexis did it for the money.

When a stripper performs on stage, she doesn't use her real name. Instead she goes by a chosen alias called a stage name. Alexis is this stripper's stage name, and to protect her privacy it is the only way she is referred to, even by the other employees at Déjà Vu.

Alexis is not your stereotypical stripper, and it is apparent as she sits across the table with her bouncy blond hair in a ponytail and a chubby checked, dimply grin.

"A lot of the strippers would come from broken homes... I don't come from the typical stripper family," said Alexis.

A pretty, healthy looking girl, Alexis speaks very articulately about her experiences. She seems well educated and clear-headed.

"I started just because I could... it was just for fun... just for kicks," said Alexis, through a mouth-full of fried rice. "I had a full-time job during the day."

It was Alexis's 18th birthday when she and her 22-year-old friend decided it would be fun to get dressed up and go to the strip club to celebrate her newfound adulthood. It was amateur night at the Déjà Vu in downtown Seattle.

"We went to Southcenter mall at the Rave and bought cute little matching bras and thongs," said Alexis. "It's unbelievably fun to dress up in those cute little outfits."

Alexis and her friend were both excited to perform. They were also nervous. "We did like two shots of tequila in the parking lot 'cause we were both so nervous," she said.

One night of rebellious fun

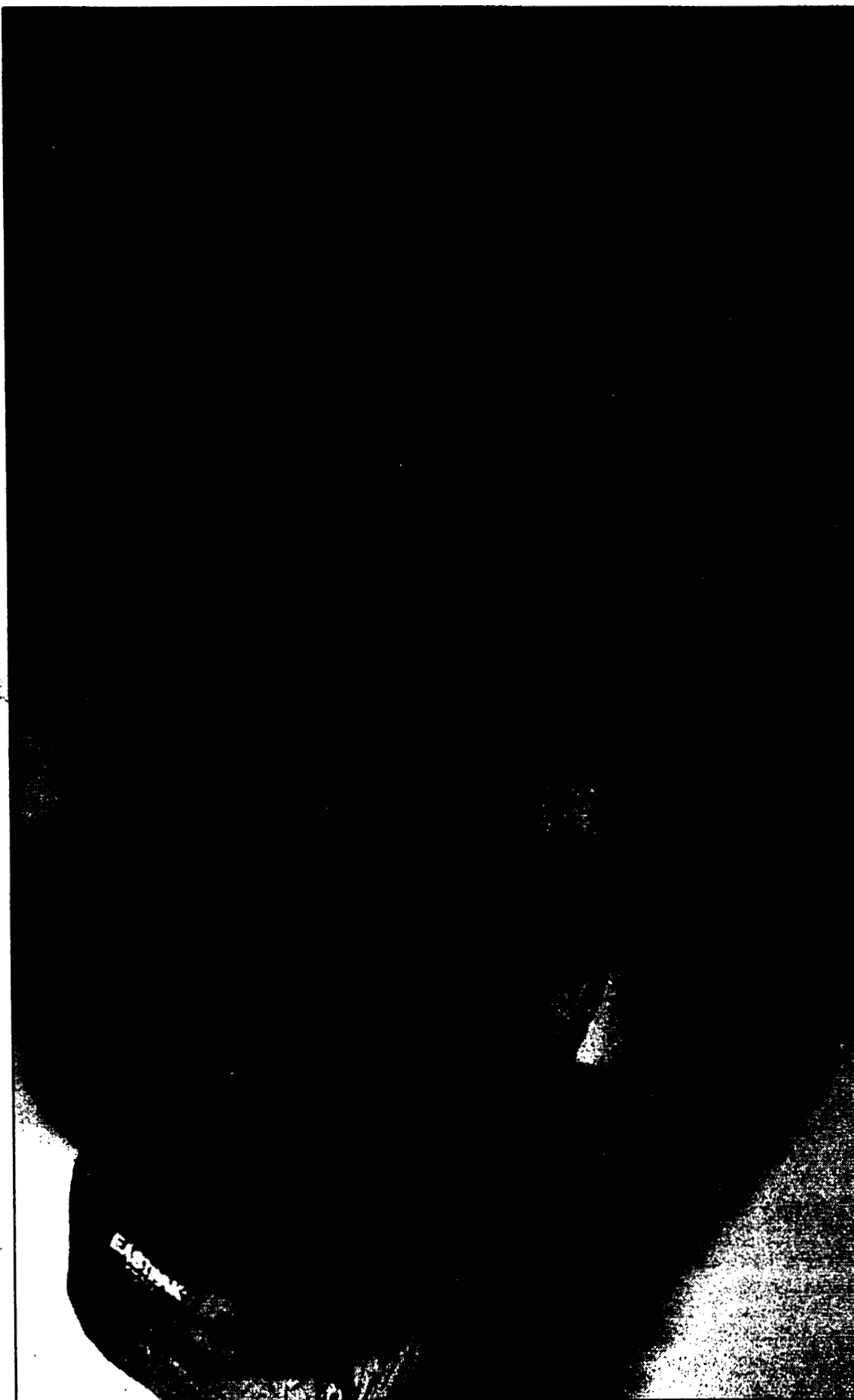


Photo illustration by Petra Sokolova

soon became more than Alexis had bargained for. "I won (amateur night is a contest) and the manager asked me if I wanted to

do it seriously," she said. "He offered to pay for my permits... and he said I could stay there rent free for a few days."

Starting out in the stripping

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Bomb scare at Dunkin Donuts

By MARGO HORNER
 Staff reporter

The Des Moines Police weren't after donuts on Wednesday morning. Instead, they and the Port of Seattle bomb squad were at the Dunkin Donuts near Highline disarming what they feared was a bomb.

For almost two hours cops, cones and flashing lights blocked off the entire intersection of Pacific Highway and Kent Des-Moines Road. Cars sat idling, pedestrians were stopped on the sidewalks and everybody held their breath. The only movement within a 200-foot radius of Dunkin Donuts was the bomb squad, carefully at work.

It seemed like a normal morning when, at 9:23 a.m., Jay Barbour, owner of the 24-hour Dunkin Donuts, arrived for work. Everything was following routine until a customer reported a mysterious box outside the front of the store, and called the police.

Barbour was unconcerned by the box. "It was sitting in front of the shop," he said. "I wasn't scared. I thought it was a battery or something, but the cop thought it was a big deal."

The box was deposited in the front of the store sometime after 5 a.m. "It wasn't there when I got here," he said.

Barbour didn't remember seeing any suspicious characters around the store that morning. Despite the fact that the Midway area is notorious for crime, he is not routinely bothered by it. "This is the first time," he said. "They don't come here... I didn't think it would be a bomb around here."

Despite the owner's lack of concern, local police evacuated

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Wrestlers head for national championships.
 - See page 8



"... or I'll tell them that Smurfs are attacking them."
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Crime Blotter for Feb. 7-14

Potholes

A Highline student was walking to her car in the east lot last Tuesday, Feb. 6, when she stepped in a pothole. The girl lost her balance and fell on her left side, straining muscles in her leg and arm. Highline Security Chief Richard Fisher does not have any plans to fix the pothole at this time.

Lust and liquor don't mix

A disturbed faculty member called Highline Security last Sunday at 4:40 p.m. He reported a suspicious and very intoxicated white male adult lurking around Building 27. The unwelcome man was gawking and making lewd comments to the girl volleyball players while they were practicing in the gym. The Des Moines Police Department was called to the scene. The man realized his mistake and departed from campus on his own will, before Des Moines Police arrived.

Suspicious man

It was the night before Valentine's, and all through the campus, not a creature was stirring, not even a... wait, who's that guy? It was 4:30 in the morning, near Building 16, when security spotted a male adult in sweats wandering campus. The man claimed he lived in Kent but, when he reached into his back-pack to get his ID it displayed a Tacoma address. The man compliantly departed the campus.

Steal my car

Either someone was very stupid, or they just didn't want their car anymore. An unsupervised 2-door Honda resided in the East lot this weekend. The security report on Saturday at 1:03 p.m. stated: It is still there, and it is still not stolen.

Compiled by Margo Horner

Colloquy communicates

By JENNIFER MARSHALL
Staff Reporter

Interpersonal communication is a key skill when you are looking for a job.

Dr. John Stewart, from the University of Washington Department of Speech Communication, spoke about interpersonal communication for Contemporary Voices on Wednesday in Building 7.

"Communication is vital to business organizations context," said Dr. Stewart.

Companies are looking for people who can communicate well with others, work in teams, and express their ideas clearly.

Companies need a bridge between their manufacturers and their buyers, said Dr. Stewart. They need someone who can communicate well with the people buying their product or dealing with the company.

"Interpersonal communication is not just with our families," said Dr. Stewart.

It is with everyone that you interact with.

There are four pieces of communication that are changing, according to Dr. Stewart.

The way people relate to each other, the setting in which we communicate the increasing interest in identity, and the resistance to science and technology.

"The context of speaking has changed from a formal setting to an informal setting," Dr. Stewart said. People are becoming more and more relaxed.



John Stewart

Also, people are becoming more interested in expressing their individual identity. "Identity is the way we tie into people," said Dr. Stewart.

Some people believe that technology can solve all of our problems but others strongly disagree, Dr. Stewart said. The people against this idea say that humans are not programs.

When you are engaged in interpersonal communication you are "not just getting your ideas out, you're figuring out who we are to each other," said Dr. Stewart.

Interpersonal communication is not shrinking. There are

many jobs that require you to have these skills. For example, you need communication for nursing, businesses, medicine, and dentists.

At the University of Washington there are some new programs that are being developed with a lot of opportunities in the interpersonal communication field, said Dr. Stewart.

"Communication is about contact and being connected," Stewart said.

The next scheduled speaker for Contemporary Voices is on Feb. 24 at 1:10 p.m. It will be held in Building 7 and the speaker is to be announced.

Straight As are not everything

By DEENA DENNIS
Staff Reporter

Scholarships Aren't for Straight A Students is a workshop coming up in February. The workshop is to help Highline students find money.

Working closely with the foundation program, Women's Programs' Krista Hall will be giving the workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 28 and Wednesday, March 7 from 2-4 p.m. The workshop will also be held on Monday, March 12 and Monday, March 19 from 4-6 p.m. All sessions will meet in Building 3, room 102.

"The basic role of the workshop is to give students information about how to fill out scholarships in a way that will make you a better candidate for the scholarship," Hall said.

The cost of the workshop will be \$10. The fee can be waived depending on the student's needs. "They can waive the fee but the fee is there to have students commit to attending," Hall said.

Information on a wide variety of scholarships will be available at the workshops. Eligibility requirements also vary.

For more information about the workshop, contact Krista Hall of the Women's Program at 206-878-3710, ext.3340.



County Health

The King County Board of Health is holding a meeting on Friday, February 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the King County Council Chambers.

Forms available

S&A budget forms are now available. Contact Leanna Albrecht at ext. 3255 for more information.

World stories

Team Highline, Women's Programs, and International Student Programs is looking for individuals to share their stories and experiences from around the world for International Women's Day on March 7.

If you or anybody else is interested contact the Team

Highline office at ext. 3537.

Info online

Highline is a part of the Public Schools Emergency Communication System. The system is to inform the public of emergency school announcements by posting information on a web site. The email address is www.schoolreport.org.

Correction

Cathy Pitts' name was misspelled in the February 8 issue of the Thunderword.

Calendar

The International Lunch Table will be held every Wednesday from 12-1 p.m. The purpose of the lunch table is to enhance global awareness and create a friendly atmosphere on campus.

The Department of Social

Got breaking news?
Call the Thunderword at
206-878-3710 ext. 3318.

and Health Services will have an employee on campus Tuesdays from 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. in the Women's Center in Building 6.

Student Government and International Club will hold a Cultural Café every other Tuesday upstairs in building 8 from 3-4 p.m.

The Drop-In Resume Clinic is available for students who need help with an existing resume, their first resume or general questions about career help at Highline. The Clinic will be held every Wednesday until

March 14 in building 8 from 11 a.m.- noon.

Arts Night at Highline will be held on Thursday, Feb. 22. The Bill Mair Retrospective, featuring the artwork of former Highline professor Bill Mair, will be held from 4-7:30 p.m. on the fourth floor of the library. Refreshments will be provided. The performance of Highline professor Dr. T.M. Sell's new play, *Pictures at an Inhibition*, will be at 7:30 p.m. in Building 7. Donations will be accepted at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Highline Foundation.

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Writing center helps students with words

BY JOSEPH CASTRO
Staff Reporter

Andy Twardus was stuck on his paper, experiencing hell, or what is more commonly known as writer's block. He heard his writing instructor, Angi Caster, talk about getting extra help in the Tutoring Center.

"I went to the Writing Center because I needed help developing ideas for my paper," said Twardus.

Like many students, Twardus does not enjoy writing. "I don't personally like writing but I know how important it is to use it; it will help you with resumes and later in the workplace," said Twardus.

"Improving your writing skills is beneficial for students

of any curriculum. The Writing Center is a great place to receive writing feedback from friendly consultants," said Brett Hackett, lead writing consultant.

All students who are currently enrolled are welcomed to the Writing Center.

"We have an old saying in our country, that two minds are always better than one," said student Farid Karzai, who consults with a philosophy writing associate.

A total of 18 tutors work for the Writing Center, 13 consultants and five associates. Consultants work in the Writing Center with all students, whereas writing associates work specifically in their own fields.

"As an employee, it is a great place to work; there are a lot of



Photo by Joe Walker

Kathryn Dixon, left, and Cassandra William work at the Writing Center.

rewards, personally," said Hackett.

Writing associates are available for geology, philosophy,

and having them come back and say, 'I got an A on my paper, I'm having such an easier time now, thank you very much,'" said Hackett.

Don't make the mistake of going to the Writing Center and expecting the tutors to edit or proofread your paper. The purpose of the Writing Center is to improve writing skills. The center's motto is to create better writers, not better papers.

Sign in for an appointment at the Tutoring Center in Building 19, Room 207. Hours are 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m.-noon Friday. Bring your current assignment and be prepared to ask questions. For more information about the Writing Center call 206-878-3710, ext. 3444.

BSU preaches unity, diversity

BY SELAM MENGSTAB
Staff Reporter

The members of the Black Student Union (BSU) say their club allows black students to demonstrate unity and focus on uplifting black youth.

Highline's BSU is looking at a positive transition this year. Starting off the New Year, the club restructured by electing new officers. D.J. Howard is the club's president with Ebony Taylor-Walker chosen as vice president.

The rest of the officers include Aaron Reader as secretary, Patrice Harris as treasurer, Lashonda Ellis in charge of publications, and Joey Phillips as historian.

This quarter the club is trying to maintain focus and to continue on next quarter without losing any of its current members, which is what happened after Fall Quarter.

"Every quarter fewer faces, new faces in, old faces out," said Howard.

"There was a time of transition in leadership. Leaders for Fall Quarter had to put their education first. They're still active in the club but in a different capacity. New officers have been elected and the club is looking forward," said Gum

Lai Ross, club adviser.

"The club is used to bring unity," Reader said. "There's not much togetherness among the students on campus. We need to show off our capabilities because a lot of the times black students are misunderstood," Reader said.

The Black Student Union at Highline meets weekly, Fridays at noon in Building 8. They discuss various topics that occur on and off campus regarding black youth. The club also plans on various ways to go help in the community.

BSU is planning several upcoming events, which include a performance by the Ofwanda Dancers who will dance traditional African dances. They will also hold a talent show as an end of the year project.

Most colleges in the nation have a similar organization. Highline's got its start on May 5, 1968. The organization was originally called the Afro American Society of Highline Community College.

"The purpose of this society shall be to encourage and promote student understanding of ethnic groups to cooperate with the administration and student body to the end that best serves the interests of the college and community," according to the constitution adopted then.

The group faced many obstacles in gaining approval to earn acceptance as a club.

Reporter Rebecca Dakin contributed to this story.

Snow for a day

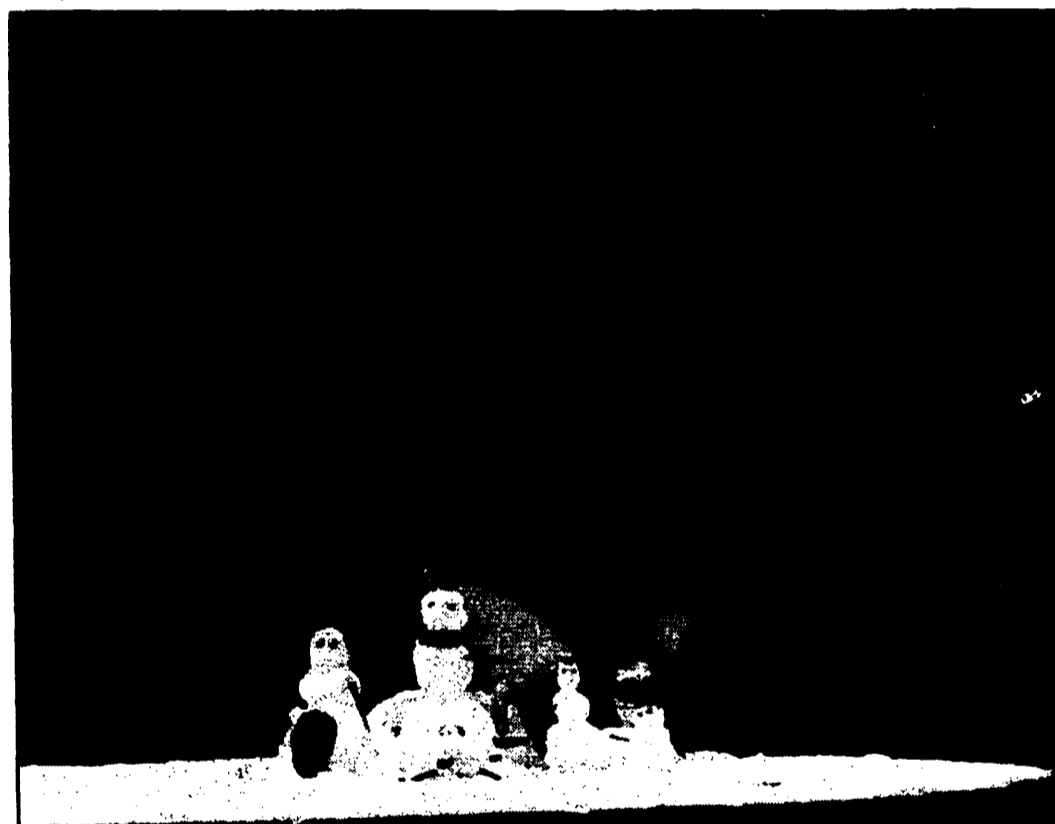


Photo by Connie Harshman

Megan Ponce makes little snowpeople from the light snowfall on February 8.

BSU in full swing for February

BY REBECCA DAKIN
Staff Reporter

Highline's Black Student Union Club is back in full swing with a whole list of events for February.

The first event was on Wednesday in Building 7, where speakers shared aspects of their life stories in honor of Black History Month.

The three speakers were Jean Harris, anthropology teacher, Angi Caster, writing and literature instructor, and Susan Rich, who teaches cultural, gen-

der, and global studies, writing and literature.

Other events include:

•Friday, Feb. 16 "Spoken Word is more powerful than written" Poetry Reading. Students, staff, and faculty will share their poetry. Building 8, Union Bay Room, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

•Friday night, Feb 16. The 4 Corners of Hip Hop "Contest Event"-Building 8 upstairs, 7 p.m.-midnight.

•Wednesday, Feb 21. Continuation of "In Honor of Black History"-storytelling. Con-

firmed speakers include George Stokes. Building 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

•Friday, Feb. 23: African Dancers will be performing, alternative presenters: Step Dancing. Building 8, Union Bay Room, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

•Wednesday, Feb. 28. The members of Black Student Union will be performing skits and storytelling. Building 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

For further information on upcoming BSU events, contact Gum Lai Ross at 206-878-3710, ext. 3184.

editorial

Napster under fire;
CD burning up in flames

The seemingly heaven-sent Internet has now come with a price to pay. A debate that has been going on for quite a while over the legality of downloading of images and music via the Internet is coming to a head. The battle over Napster, a forum for music exchange via file sharing, is still raging on many fronts.

There are those who believe that Napster is detrimental to artists and infringes on copyright laws, essentially stealing their creations. Others enjoy the convenience of Napster in allowing them access to such a wide database of music. Another benefit is to sample the record before you spend the money on it.

The ethics and legality of Napster have been questioned, and will now be judged in federal court. Whether the court finds Napster to be illegal or not, the idea and technology are out there. Other file sharing web sites have already cropped up in Napster's wake, and many more will probably ensue.

An idea like file sharing is not one that can be eliminated. There are many reasons why the artists and record companies should give up on fighting Napster and find a way to make the file sharing phenomenon work for them, or see that it is working for them already.

Quite simply, the people who are on Napster are seeking music. These are the same diehard fans who will buy every album that an artist puts out in their lifetime, as well as most of the commemorative greatest hits collections compiled after their death. These are the people outfitted in both the band T-shirt and the hat. If the band sold undergarments boldly emblazoned with their name, these fans would stand in line overnight in order to get a pair. These are not the people that an artist or a record label wants to alienate.

File sharing is also a great opportunity to grab the attention of a wider audience. This can cause an artist's popularity to increase, thereby causing an increase in the marketability of the artist. In fact, it can be seen as slightly similar to a little invention called the radio. Turn it on, listen to music, pay nothing.

Record companies went through the same panic when eight-tracks were replaced by cassette tapes. The fear was that people now had the technology to record the songs they loved directly off the radio or their friends would buy the tape and let 14 people record it. So the record companies were losing out on essentially 15 individual sales.

Again in the late 1990s, the technology was developed to make it possible for the general public to record entire CDs onto a blank CD. Again, the fear was that record sales would decline and the music industry would take a huge hit to the pocket book. But that was not the case. The music industry remains one of the most highly profitable industries in the world.

Artists will not suffer financially from the proliferation of Napster and its cohorts, as they might like you to believe. We will not be seeing 'N Sync on street corners holding up cardboard "Will work for food" signs at any time in the near future.

The issue here is that there is a lot of money on the line. Whether it is an amount large enough to put artists out of work is the question. An enormous amount of money is generated by music. While it is conceivable that some money may be lost, is the change so significant that it's worth this kind of fight?

The fact is that the record companies and artists need to recognize that at least for now, Napster is reality. It will do no good to fight a battle that cannot be won and anger fans in the process.

Record executives needn't worry too much. In a couple of years, another crisis will come up that will require them to fly into a panic about their huge salaries taking a small cut.

the opinion page

Editorials are the opinion of the management of the newspaper which includes the Editorial board members Evan Keck, Rachele Corella, Rachele Flynn, Bryan Sharick, Sam Abraham, A.K. Cords, Petra Sokolova, and Joe Walker. Columns represent the opinions of the individual authors. Letters to the editor represent the opinions of the readers.

Letters to the editor are welcome. Letters should be no more than 300 words long, and are subject to editing for style and length. The Thunderword invites contributions of all types from the campus community. Please send submissions to Thunderword@hcc.ctc.edu or deliver to Building 10, room 106.



Don't be afraid of life, embrace it

Life is a funny thing. It is so fleeting and at the same time it seems to go on forever. More accurately, the good times in life pass us by in seconds, but the bad times seem to linger and seem like they will never end.

When you think about it life is a series of moments, some we create and some we are victims of. Most of them are over quickly, and we are left with the memory. But how this memory affects the rest of our life is the point.

It's funny how contradictory our views and approaches to life can be. When you are happy you want to hold on to that moment as long as possible. But when you are sad the advice is not to dwell on it, move past and forget about it.

Sometimes it is not so easy to just get over it. Sometimes it takes being unbelievably sad, depressed and lonely. Maybe the best thing for some people to do is to be alone and cry and feel every ounce of pain that is flowing through them.

The natural reaction to pain or sadness is to flinch, or withdraw or cry. But many people think it unnatural to show a



negative emotion. In my opinion it is as natural a thing to cry when you are sad, as it is to smile when you are happy. In order to embrace every aspect of life you must embrace the emotion that goes along with it.

It is too easy to cut one's self off from the world, at least the feeling part of it. It can be too safe to make ones heart stop feeling the pain, but at the same time you may stop feeling to happiness. But what is even more difficult is to let a light shine into the dark places of a heart that was dark and cold for so long.

The times that challenge us in life are the times that we should remember and be fully aware of as they are happening. The good times are a reward and a reprieve from the bad ones.

Not to say in the least that when bad things happen they are a punishment, that's just life. If we didn't have the bad we wouldn't be able to recognize the good.

Most of us search for an explanation for the wrong that is done to us or for the bad fortune that lands on us. We look for a person to blame or blame ourselves.

We get angry and sometimes we push away the people that are there to help. All of those are natural reactions to tragic and stressful events.

But to hold on to that anger, and find that isolation more comforting than friendship is not natural. In fact that can be more detrimental than the loss you've experienced. It's important to remember that as human beings we are not built to be alone, we need companionship and understanding.

We miss so much by just trudging through this sea that we call life, never looking up to acknowledge the people and events that shape that life.

Sometimes it's easier to live without, than to lose the thing that you wanted so badly.

the thunderword

Because the cheapest things in life are free.

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Magic Man

By CONNIE HARSHMAN
Staff Reporter

An aspiring hypnotist and magician, Joe Boars is not a boring person. Boars is a sophomore majoring in clinical psychology and hopes leave Highline at the end of Winter Quarter.

Born in Seattle 26 years ago, he moved to Carnation at the age of 7. At 19 he decided to join the Marine Corps and went to boot camp at Camp Pendleton in Southern California. It was when he was stationed in Hawaii that he discovered how to do magic.

"I am pretty much self-taught," he said.

To begin his journey of becoming an amateur magician, Boars took the logical step of buying books and watching other magicians on television. It was when he started talking to other magicians and learning how the tricks were done that he started to formulate his own ideas and creating his own style.

After a three-year tour in Hawaii, he was sent to Okinawa, Japan and it was there where he learned how to do hypnosis.

"There was a magician in my unit and he had been doing magic and hypnosis for 10 years and he took me under his wing and taught me his tricks of the trade," he said.

It was at this time, Boars realized he wanted to become the greatest stage hypnotist to ever live.



Highline student and aspiring magician Joe Boars levitates a dollar bill

While Boars won't talk about his how he performs his magic tricks, he is open and eager to talk about the process of stage-hypnosis.

"The only thing it really is, is a focusing of your own mind, the person is always in control. When you see people do funny things up on stage, they are just so focused and in a dream state that they feel like they can do anything, but they are still bound by their morals and ethics," he said.

He says that there is no such thing as hypnosis with a hypnotist, all the hypnotist is, is a person who shows the volunteer how to do self-hypnosis.

"There are many types of inductions. The one I use the most is the progressive relaxation technique and that progressively relaxes

parts of your body," he said.

Boars described it as a basic countdown to being totally relaxed and under hypnotic suggestion.

His skits will vary like movie ratings, from a G rating to R and then he has really wild shows that can get crazy.

"Sometimes I'll tell them to become exotic dancers or I'll tell them Smurfs are attacking them, or there is an alien under their chair that they can talk to and they'll pull it up and start

see hypnotist page 7

Acting instructor Box doing what she loves

By CAMBRIA BANDY
Staff Reporter



Dawn Box

Dawn Box is a character on and off the stage.

She conducts her Acting 121 class at times almost like a yoga session, students circled on the stage practicing breathing and body-loosening exercises that would make the casual passerby gawk in wonder. Quirky scenes and activities meant to propel unsuspecting acting students from their comfort zones, coupled with insightful direction, make Box's acting class the place to go to improve skills and be entertained.

Stepping in as a new drama instructor and winter play director at Highline, Box is enjoying working with the acting students here.

Despite growing up in Pueblo, Colo., Box considers herself a native Seattleite. "I first got into acting when I was about 7 or 8," Box reminisces, "I went to a show and I just thought it was really funny. I used to want to be a ballerina dancer, I just didn't have the patience or the focus to do ballet, especially at age 8."

"So I got into acting. I did this play, and I really liked it, I had a great time," She added.

A theater history major at the University of Washington, Box is now an active part of the Empty Space Theatre in Seattle. She re-connected with local friends involved there after a short time of living as an actress in New York, and was excited to take part in the company that encompasses a large variety of plays and actors.

"That's what always inter-

ested me in theater," Box remarks. "The idea of choosing what plays I want to produce and really making it happen. So the whole idea is this play wouldn't happen if I wasn't involved. The idea that my friends and I are putting this play on, we're making it happen, we're creating something from the ground up."

Box, a member of the Theatre of Puget Sound, came to Highline in response to a job opening for a teaching position, and also a directing position.

"So I applied and I was really excited because I really wanted to teach at the college level," she said.

Box is going to be at Highline for only Winter Quarter, highlighting her stay with the production of the musical comedy "Man Equals Man" which begins on March 1 with a preview on Feb. 23.

Box is making Highline a stop on the road to accomplishing her larger dreams. "my ultimate dream would be to build the theater company up so that it becomes a somewhat viable source of income, then I could just do it all the time," she said.

Dating game wins over crowd in Building 8

By SARAH EDWARDS
Staff Reporter

Raise your hand if you were dateless on the most romantic day of the year. Well, at least three couples won't be raising their hands. They were matched with a mate at the Dating Game.

Usually a crowded hangout for students, upstairs in Building 8 was transformed into matchmaking central yesterday.

A black stage illuminated by white icicle lights and a small string of red lights sat against the west wall of the room.

Sitting on the stage were three black chairs with plump, red, heart-shaped balloons attached to them. These chairs sat separated, by a folding shade, from a fourth chair.

The excited conversation of the audience was hushed when Kit Timeus, Team Highline member in charge of the event, started the Dating Game.

The Dating Game is exactly like its television predecessor *The Dating Game* and much like MTV's spin off *Singled Out*, in which a bachelor or bachelorette asks questions of three suitors who he or she are not allowed to see.

Contestants were asked questions about their favorite movies, what color would best describe them and why, and some were even asked to show off their best dance moves.

In the first round, one of the female contestants was asked what candy she would be and why. With blushing cheeks she

responded "I'd be M & Ms, because I wouldn't melt in your mouth I'd melt in your arms."

During the second round, two male contestants were asked to sing a love song to the single girl they were trying to impress. Both men proved to be tone deaf, and neither could remember the exact words to a couple of well-known songs.

When asked what his major was, one of the male contestants in the third round said "Pimpology 101." Oddly enough he was the winner of that round.

Unfortunately, there was time for only three rounds, as opposed to the four rounds that were predicted to take place. The Dating Game "went really well, better than I expected," said Timeus.



PHOTO BY PETRA SOKOLOVA

A match made in Highline, the couple from round two of Thursday's Dating Game embrace.

Court rules against Napster

BY AARON WILLIAMS
Staff Reporter

The on-line MP3 trading forum known as Napster may be on the verge of a shutdown.

On Monday the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against Napster's effort to stay online and promote peer-to-peer file sharing. The court said that what Napster was doing was promoting copyright infringement and that they needed more information before they could make a final ruling.

"Napster is not shut down, but under this decision it could be," said Napster in an official release on their web site.

The court ruling came shortly after Napster announced that it was going to become a subscription-based service. The plan is to use the money from the subscription to pay record companies and artists royalties for the use of their songs.

"We've been developing a Napster service that offers additional benefits to members of the community and, importantly, makes payments to artist," said Napster founder Shawn Fanning in a formal statement to Napster users.

Napster hoped that this plan would stop pending copyright infringement lawsuits, but thus far only a few major record labels have dropped their suits.

But to all those users out there who are afraid Napster will be shut down, or just don't want to pay when it does go to a pay service, never fear because there are alternatives. Lots of other peer-to-peer file sharing sites that allow the user to download MP3s are still operating, including Audiognome, BearShare, Aimster, Toadnode, Filetopia, MyNapster (which is different than Napster), iMesh, and CuteMX.

These sites were found in just a couple minutes of searching and there are still dozens more out there. For the most part these service providers are slower and less user-friendly than Napster. But with the high volume of users that may be kicked off of Napster, or will just refuse to pay for their services, these sites are sure to get better.

Hank Barry, CEO of Napster added that even if Napster is shut down, they will do whatever they can within limits to provide its 50 million users access to music.

Innovative gallery displays lesser-known artists

BY PETRA SOKOLOVA
Staff Reporter

If a picture is worth a thousand words, this place is a really good novel. Hidden beneath a viaduct by Seattle's Pioneer Square, fully reflecting the downtown atmosphere, lies FotoCircle, a gallery that's a must-see for any art fan.

Its mission is to provide the Seattle area with non-commercial art.

Established in 1994, with an emphasis more on its philosophy and dedication than on spaces and material resources, FotoCircle honors the true idea of art. As a non-profit gallery, it offers to the public exposure of the lesser known and emerging artists.

Monthly exhibits, annual events, fundraisers and the overall general run of the gallery are organized by its seven members, ranging in age from 35 to 60. All members are in some way involved in the arts, but it's not necessarily their daily job.

"We represent a diverse group of backgrounds and opinions; we don't always necessarily agree with each other, but we



One of the photos on display at the FotoCircle gallery.

get along good. I think when you have a passion like this, it brings people together," said Karen Howard, one of the members.

Another 14 or 15 volunteers help out with the gallery sitings.

In the simple hierarchy, the difference between a member-volunteer and a casual volunteer is made by the length of their commitment. This creates the biggest threat to FotoCircle's future, which is finding volun-

teers who are willing to spend a number of hours of their spare time as personnel.

As for the privileges of the long-term members, they also act as the committee who chooses the work that will occupy this small innovative gallery each month.

"We've had a wide range of art here. But generally we are looking for non-commercial, photo-based, exploring art," said Laura Hulscher, one of the seven-member committee, who

is also the lecture coordinator. Background, education or location of the artists do not apply when the decision is made, but the artists are required to send in a resume and about 10-20 slides of their work.

One of the events that FotoCircle annually puts together is called Pushpin. As a non-profit organization, FotoCircle naturally faces the difficulty of finding adequate financing, and Pushpin is one of the ways the gallery can collect some money. At the event, people are able to purchase pushpins for \$10 to hang one piece of unframed art.

Now in its sixth season, Pushpin not only serves as a fundraiser, but offers a rare collection of various art creations. With a wide range of media, ideas, and forms, Pushpin brings together a diversity of raw talent.

All aspiring artists, photographers and art fans are encouraged to come visit this amazing gallery, but be careful, you may never want to leave.

Any further information on FotoCircle can be found at their website at www.fotocircle.org.

'Half Life' add-on proves successful

BY JOON SIM
Staff Reporter

Fans of the smash hit computer game *Half Life* have something to cheer about with the release of *Counter Strike*. *Counter Strike* is an add-on version of *Half Life*, but it is more popular than the original game.

Counter Strike uses intense action and advanced technology to create a frighteningly realistic world where players need to think smart in order to survive.

The counter terrorist and the terrorist lead the game, and your objective is to kill your enemies before they kill you first. While it is very gory and violent, the game has many addictive qualities that outweigh the negatives.

In Federal Way, at the Game Revolution, people can use computers with Internet connection, and *Counter Strike*'s popularity is still booming. About 95 percent of the players play *Counter Strike* through the local network and on the net.

All the players concentrate on the game, and try to survive. These players are not playing just for fun, they are playing the game with greed for victory. They have their own team names, and try to get more

people to join in their groups.

A leader of the Legend team, Keun Park said, "The word Legend was just running around my head, so I chose it as my ID. I'm getting better and better on *Counter Strike*, and some of my friends wanted to make a team with my ID."

Counter Strike is a multi-player game that allows you to play with up to 20 people at the same time on a network. Unlike other games, you can have your own team, talk to each member, and make a plan.

Widespread stages are laid out in 3D on the screen. The stages consist of a castle, train station, warehouse, and office building, etc. You can only see a hand and a gun on the screen, so you feel like you are walking

or running with a gun.

You control movement with a keyboard and adjust your aim with a mouse. The best idea is to check every corner on the stage so as to not be killed by enemies. You should do everything you can to keep your character and team alive.

The most important strategy to use when playing *Counter Strike* is to team up. You need

to stick together with your team and protect yourself and your friends from the enemy.

Counter Strike is much like war in the real world, laid out with intense action and reality. It's a suggested download for all gamers.

You can download the add-on, *Counter Strike* at www.counter-strike.net, if you already have *Half Life*.

Learn to play piano for fun or for college credit.

Call Nancy at 206-878-3710, ext. 3343.

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Don't believe everything you hear about DEATH and TAXES!

HCC Accounting students have blown that myth wide open.

FREE Income Tax help for 1040A and EZ filers is available starting this week.

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 14-15
Wednesdays 3/14 and 4/11

Time: 1:20- 5:00 p.m.

Where: Building 3, room 102

Be sure to bring:

- all W-2 & 1099 forms
- last year's tax return
- two pieces of I.D.

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Shakespeare comes to life at Seattle Repertory Theatre

BY CONNIE HARSHMAN
Staff Reporter

The Seattle Repertory Theatre does right in their production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Sharon Ott, the director, takes Shakespeare's famous comedy and sets it in modern society.

For the classically illiterate people, the premise of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is about four young lovers who escape to a mystical forest and get caught in the middle of a battle between the king and queen of the fairies and a mischievous fairy named Puck, the result being an odd romantic pairing that makes for an unforgettable night.

While the acting and blocking were great, what stood out in the play were the elaborate scenic and costume designs.

Paul Tazewell did a fabulous job creating and designing costumes for the entire cast. Lysander, played by Matthew Troyer, and Demetrius, played by Jeffries Thaiss, the two men who fight for the love of Hermia, wore elegant and contrasting costumes.

To represent Demetrius's strait-laced and pampered persona, he wore a very elegant business suite that cried out money, while Lysander looks like the kid from the wrong side of the tracks with a black leather jacket, pants and pierced ears.

The most visually beautiful scenes were in the forest where the story gets a more supernatural and surreal theme. Hugh Landwehr, the set designer, was clever for creating a believable forest Brent Harris gave a brilliant performance in dual roles



Oberon (Harris) instructs Puck (Donohue) to find an aphrodisiac in the forest.

as Oberon, the King of the fairies and Theseus, the Duke of Athens.

His costumes rivaled his performance. As Theseus, he wore a simple but very elegant tuxedo, but it was his costume for Oberon that stood out the most.

Harris has a chiseled face and a superman build that was accentuated by a tight body suit

with a breast plate that puffs out his chest and a long feathered, sequined cape.

Suzanne Bouchard portrays Hippolyta with the elegance of Grace Kelly puts the sexiness of Michelle Pfeiffer into Titania.

The performance that stood out was Dan Donohue's portrayal of Puck, King Oberon's fairy servant. He gave off the

faint resemblance of the Mad Hatter from Alice in Wonderland on acid. His costume consisted of a big purple top hat with purple body suit and jacket with one sleeve and half white and purple hair.

Tickets to *A Midsummer Night's Dream* range from \$15 to \$29 on Wednesdays through Sundays; \$15 to \$39 for regular performances Sunday, Tuesday through Thursdays and Matinees. \$15 to \$42 for regular performances on Friday and Saturdays.

Anyone under 25 may purchase tickets for \$10 for every performance of every production and discounted tickets for groups of 20 or more may be purchased by calling 206-443-2210, ext. 1046.

For ticket reservations call the Seattle Repertory Theatre box office at 206-443-2222 or visit the web site at www.seattlerep.org.

hypnotist

continued from page 6

talking to it in an alien language," Boars said.

Some examples of Boars' wild shows involve exotic dancers, he won't let them take their clothes off, and he will let the guys take of their shirts, but won't let the women. "That is usually bad taste," he said.

Boars has a new skit, called Superman, that will be integrated into his performances.

The skit involves a dummy doll as well as some volunteers acting as Lex Luther and Superman. When the villain music comes on, the villain will grab the doll and run around the stage. And when the hero music comes on, Superman will chase the villain.

Boars' most vivid memory of performing stage hypnosis is when he hypnotized a handful of marines and told them they were exotic dancers. He describes it as one of the funniest experiences of his stage career,

they put one guy in the middle of the room and formed a circle around him and started stripping.

"It is one of the underlining things in my personality. When I help some one else it heals something inside of me," he said. "Hypnosis can help people stop smoking, lose weight, lose phobias and relive certain types of pain."

Boars is going to school at Highline until his stage career takes off.

"I am just beginning to promote myself as a stage hypnotist. I am putting my package together and in a month or two I hope to be submitting my package to clubs and casinos," he said.

If his career does suddenly take an interesting turn, Boars hopes to first tour around Washington and if he gets popular enough and business starts booming, then he will set out on tour and essentially conquer the rest of the United States.

"I want to have so many gigs that I don't have to support myself in any other way," Boars said.

Solution to last week's puzzle

SEEING RED

R	A	R	E	S	T	A	N	S	R	E	S	T
A	L	E	X	T	E	N	O	R	E	R	I	E
S	O	D	S	R	E	D	R	O	O	F	I	N
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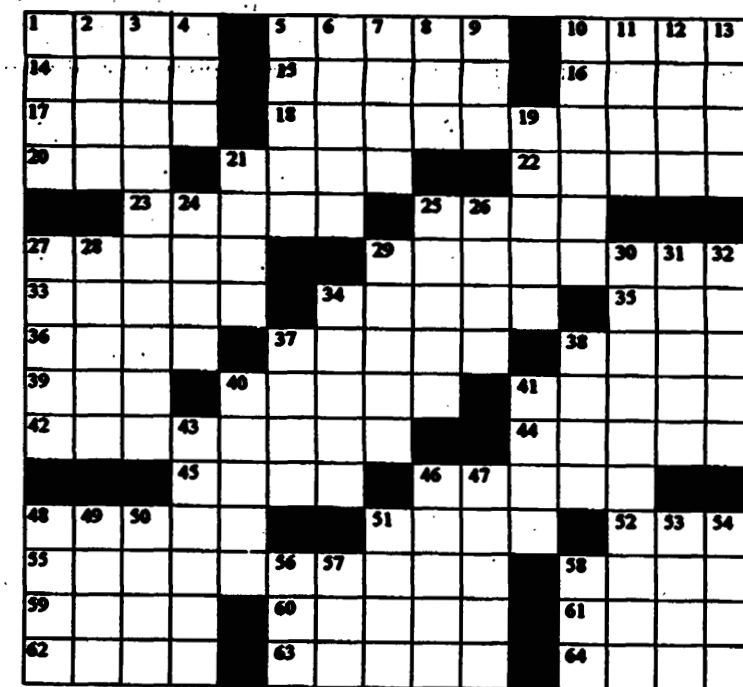
Crossword 101

"Harebrained"

By Ed Canty

- ACROSS**
- Cola starter
 - Syrian President
 - Theatrical party
 - Word before bomb
 - Pine Tree State
 - Used on 17 Across
 - Bread
 - Beginner's hill
 - Winter time in NYC
 - Optical device
 - Yeats and Frost
 - Verdi forte
 - Connect
 - North Vietnamese capital
 - Puree
 - Choir members
 - Monica of tennis
 - Genetic initials
 - Crowd sound
 - Remains usable
 - Mr. Armstrong
 - beta kappa
 - RC and others
 - Vice
 - Rescues
 - Farm measure
 - Frosts
 - Warsaw waltz
 - Zagreb native
 - Hawaiian goose
 - Wager
 - Good luck token
 - Can do
 - Wicked
 - Political follower
 - Actress Kudrow
 - Profound
 - Non-malignant tumor
 - List component

- DOWN**
- Ann or May
 - Elevator man
 - Peter
 - Doctors' org.
 - " waves of grain"
 - Steam room
 - Religious transgressions
 - Arbor, MI
 - Susan of "L.A. Law"
 - Ant group
 - Medicinal plant
 - Tribe
 - Digits
 - Moles
 - Luuu accessories
 - Flat broke
 - Jerks
 - Wallet stuffers
 - Ireland's symbols
 - Luuu greeting
 - Plateaus
 - Uncle Remus character
 - Aromatic herb
 - Festivities
 - Garage events
 - Theater seating
 - Adam's apple locale
 - Arizona bushes
 - Mountain go between
 - Capable of life
 - Showy flower
 - Ready to be drawn
 - Precedes neck or cut
 - Musician Shankar
 - Japanese sashes
 - Christmas carol
 - In addition
 - Sports group
 - Dance genre
 - To and
 - Heavyweight great



Quotable Quote

"The time to stop talking is when the other person nods his head affirmatively but says nothing."

... Anonymous

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

Cross Country needs money

BY BRYAN SHARICK
Staff Reporter

It's the time of year again for the Services and Activities Budget committee to decide who will get what money and how much. Something that has a large question mark in front of it is the T-Bird cross country team.

With Highline having the only cross country team on the West Side of the mountains, besides Bellevue's brand spanking new team, it would be a thoroughly bad idea to get rid of the program.



Since that Highline has an established cross country team Highline should be getting the cream of the crop for runners on the West Side of the state. The team has also improved from '99 when Highline finished eighth at the NWAACC to '00 when the team finished fifth. Keeping the cross country team not only strengthens the college athletically, but it would also bring more students to Highline.

One idea that has been tossed around is to make the cross country team a club. Now this sounds all fine and dandy until you realize that if the team is a club, then it cannot run in the NWAACC Championships. This would be hard for the runners to swallow after training all year.

If the college made cross country a club, then fewer distance runners would come here to go to school because there wouldn't be a cross country team and it would ultimately lead to the demise of the track and field program. The track program depends on the cross country program for distance runners.

Distance runners don't go out for track because they like to run around in circles until they're dizzy. As much as the runners like that dizzy-high, distance runners run track to stay in shape for cross country.

Also the administration has to hire a coach who doesn't mind working a part-time job for little pay. The only other requirement is that the new coach has to be willing to also hang around for a year or two.

Bryan can run cross country, but only by car.

BY EVAN KECK
Staff Reporter

At Highline, heavyweight wrestler Anthony Hamilton is a big guy. But stepping off the plane in Rochester, Minn. he is now just another wrestler.

The NJCAA men's national wrestling championships brings in some of the best wrestlers in the country at the community and junior college level.

At the tournament, many wrestlers are a champion of some sort. Hamilton is a returning All-American, placing seventh in the tournament last year. He will face other All-Americans, regional champions and national ranked opponents. There are a total of nine regions in the country so, there could be up to nine regional champions in each weight class. Only the top three of each weight class in each region will make it to the national tournament.

The entire experience at nationals is a huge event for each competitor, from the time you step off the plane until you are on your way home.

"It's like a dream," said heavyweight Anthony Hamilton. "You're like shocked. Everything is on a level that's higher."

The action is non-stop; almost every match on every mat has a state champion or national contender. Many of the winners of the tournament can be offered scholarships to four-year universities.

"It's kind of crazy. Everybody's good," Hamilton said. College scouts newspapers and magazines such as USA Wrestling are all there looking for the brightest stars to be immortalized.

Highline is sending off seven of its best wrestlers to compete for a national title.

With such high competition many of the wrestlers are just hoping for a good showing.

"I'm petty content with what I've done this season," said Ben Barkley, who is competing at 157 pounds. "(If I lose early), it's not like I'm going to be broken up about it."

Others, like Shad Lierley, know what to expect from the tournament and know what level the competition is. "Every match is like a state finals match," said the 141-pounder.

Hamilton recalls the spectacle last year. The first day 12 to 16 mats were running. There were 24 to 28 guys in each weight class. A wrestler had anywhere from two matches to eight depending if he won early

Champions to clash in Minnesota



CARLOS ADAMY 133

Carlos Adamy is a freshman from Moses Lake High School. He was a state finalist two times and a state champion once. Adamy placed second in the Region IV tournament.



SHAD LIERLEY 141

Lierley is a returning sophomore from Chuglak, Alaska. Lierley was a state champion and a state finalist four times. He is also a NJCAA National Qualifier as well as an Academic All-American. Lierley placed second in Region IV tournament.



STEVE GRIMM 149

Grimm is a freshman from Port Townsend. He was a state place winner and a league champion while in high school. Grimm finished fourth in the Region IV tournament.



BEN BARKLEY 157

Barkley is a freshman from Orting. While he was there he was the state champion twice. Barkley placed second in the Region IV tournament.



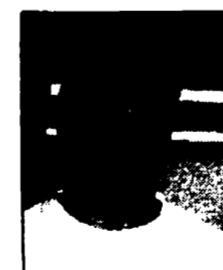
ANDY OLSON 174

Olson is a returning sophomore from Lake Stevens High School. He is a state champion and also one of the captains of the team. Olson got second place in the Region IV tournament.



TREVOR SMITH 197

Smith is a freshman from Longview where he won a high school state championship. He posted a 17-10 record this season. Smith placed third at the Region IV tournament.



ANTHONY HAMILTON HEAVYWEIGHT

Hamilton is a returning All-American placing seventh at the national tournament last year. He is also an Academic All-American. Hamilton is heading into the tournament with a third place finish at the Region IV qualifying tournament. Record 20-13.

or lost.

The second day, if you made it, is considered the elite eight. On Saturday, if you win one match, you will receive All-American status. Just to make it to Saturday is hard enough.

In the finals, the gala really exploded. The All-Americans were given a parade into the

coliseum. The finalists were driven out to the mats by Minnesota Vikings cheerleaders with spotlights following their every move.

"It's really, really fun," said Hamilton. "Even if you don't do well, it's fun."

The T-Birds have never had a national champion, but this year

looks like Highline's best chance in years.

"We have potential finalists, we haven't had that in a few years," said Head Coach Todd Owens. "We have some kids that are going to place. It's a scary deal. It's the biggest tournament they have been in. They can't have that fear."

Johnson puts the 'fan' in fanatic

Johnson never misses a Thunderbird athletics event

By LERIN FARRISON
Staff Reporter

It doesn't matter what sport you attend, home or away, if you take a look up in the stands, 90 percent of the time Connie Johnson will be there cheering for Highline.

Johnson attends a lot of games and matches, not just because she is the assistant athletic director here at Highline, but

she also is a huge fan of the Thunderbirds.

"Knowing the players personally and watching how hard they work, makes me want to be there and cheer them on," Johnson said.

Johnson stays very busy everyday. Outside of Highline she is a parent to her teenage daughter Kristen.

"Kristen is my Number one priority," Johnson said.

She also is working on her bachelor's degree in business as a part-time student at Central Washington University's SeaTac center.

Here at Highline, Johnson is the administrative assistant for Vice President of Administration Dr. Laura Saunders and is currently the assistant athletic director for the college.



Johnson has been involved with Highline since 1986. Starting out as a student, Johnson's goal was to earn her associate of arts degree. After receiving her A.A., Johnson began to work on campus as an office assistant in the Center for Learning Connections.

"Knowing the players personally and watching how hard they work, makes me want to be there and cheer them on,"

-CONNIE JOHNSON

The following year, Johnson became secretary for the project manager of the Title III Grant, a federal program that funded a number of improvements on campus.

After five years in that role, she went to work for Saunders.

Before becoming the assistant athletic director, Johnson

volunteered her time to help out at basketball games, working the front door along with helping out at the golf tournaments. And last year Johnson got the opportunity to be the assistant coach for the women's basketball team, which she enjoyed very much.

Along with all of the other duties Johnson has to cover in her days, she also is the designer for Highline athletic web page. "I'm not very creative, so it gives me a chance to use some of my limited creativity," Johnson said.

In the future, Johnson would like to continue to work on a college campus environment or with people, and feels very comfortable here at Highline.

"Highline Community College is my life," Johnson said.

Women's T-Birds run off 11th league win in a row

By BRYAN SHARICK
Staff Reporter

The Lady T-Birds picked-up two more league wins last week. The T-Birds put the Green River Gators to sleep 104-50 and then sunk the South Puget Sound Clippers 71-60. After last week, Highline's overall record is 21-2 and their league record is 11-0.

The Thunderbirds also had a game Wednesday, Feb. 14 against Pierce, but the results were unavailable at press time.

The game started off last week with the Thunderbirds winning the opening tip and then proceeding to hold the Gators scoreless for the first six minutes of the game.

"Our shooting was on, but our defense wasn't strong," said Chandra Rathke.

At the intermission, Highline cruised into the locker room with a comfortable 50-22 lead.

"In the second half, we need to get out on the shooters a little bit. They have some kids who can shoot if they're open," said Head Coach Dennis Olson.

Chandra Rathke was the leading scorer at half with 12 points in a little more than 11 minutes of play.

"Hopefully we'll keep up the good shooting unlike last week when we had a let down against Tacoma," said Olson.

The T-Birds also shot 44.7 percent from the floor in the first half.

The Lady T-Birds came out after the break on fire again shooting 47.8 percent in the second half.

The Gators tried to fight their way back out of the hole they'd dug themselves, but they were



Photo by Joe Walker

Nikki White goes up for a jumper while Kristin Zompetti guards her at a T-Birds practice.

just in too deep.

Rathke Lead the way for the Thunderbirds with 24 points on 11 of 18 shooting from the field.

"Our shooting was on, but

our defense wasn't strong," said Rathke.

Lisa Milne also had 16 points, eight rebounds, and seven assists for a well-rounded

game.

"We made our shots, but we played kind of raggedy at the end," said Milne.

Cal-Jean Lloyd had another

double-double with 15 points and 11 rebounds in nearly 26 minutes.

"I think the game went well. We played Green River before and I think we did a better job. We just have to work hard and work as a team," said Pye.

The game against the Clippers started out with the Thunderbirds stumbling in the first half to give South Puget Sound a 39-31 half time lead. The Clippers seemed to play above their potential while the T-Birds didn't play the caliber game T-Birds fans have been accustomed to seeing.

"We struggled a bit in the first half," said Olson.

"Even though we were down by eight we were still pretty confident at half time," said sophomore Kristin Zompetti.

In the second half, though, the T-Birds picked up the slack by outscoring the Clippers 40-21.

"We picked up our defense in the second half," said Olson.

The Lady T-Birds again shot well, hitting 45.8 percent, while the Clippers could only manage 30.4 percent.

"We earned that win," said Pye.

In the game there were two double-doubles for the T-Birds. Cal-Jean Lloyd had 15 points and 13 rebounds while Lauryn Jones had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The leading scorer was Lisa Milne with 19 points. Milne also shot four of nine from downtown.

The Thunderbirds next games are in Thunderdome on Saturday, Feb. 17 against Lower Columbia and Centralia Wednesday, Feb. 21.

scoreboard T-Bird men eye second place in West

Women's Basketball

League	Season	W	L	W	L
North Division					
Whatcom	9 1	16	6		
Peninsula	9 2	14	9		
Skagit Valley	8 3	13	8		
Everett	7 4	11	12		
Shoreline	6 4	10	10		
Edmonds	5 6	5	16		
Bellevue	3 8	4	16		
Seattle	1 9	3	17		
Olympic	0 11	2	19		

Eastern Division

Wenatchee	8 0	22	3		
Big Bend	5 3	13	10		
Walla Walla	4 3	15	7		
Columbia Basin	4 4	13	10		
Yakima Valley	3 4	16	7		
Spokane	3 5	13	11		
Blue Mountain	0 8	1	22		

Western Division

HIGHLINE	11 0	21	2		
Clark	10 1	20	3		
Centralia	8 2	14	5		
SP Sound	6 5	13	9		
Tacoma	6 5	14	7		
Grays Harbor	2 8	7	15		
L. Columbia	3 8	8	14		
Pierce	2 9	4	18		
Green River	0 10	1	20		

Southern Division

Chemeketa	9 1	18	5		
Clackamas	8 2	19	6		
Umpqua	6 2	17	6		
SW Oregon	6 4	11	13		
Linn-Benton	5 5	16	8		
Lane	2 8	12	13		
Mt. Hood	1 9	5	19		
Portland	1 9	6	18		

Men's Basketball

League	Season	W	L	W	L
North Division					
Edmonds	9 2	20	3		
Shoreline	7 3	12	9		
Whatcom	6 4	15	6		
Seattle	6 4	14	8		
Skagit Valley	6 5	9	13		
Bellevue	5 6	11	12		
Olympic	4 7	8	15		
Peninsula	3 8	8	15		
Everett	2 9	3	18		

Eastern Division

Yakima Valley	7 0	16	5		
Walla Walla	5 2	16	7		
Big Bend	5 3	17	6		
Columbia Basin	5 3	13	11		
Wenatchee	3 5	7	14		
Spokane	2 6	11	12		
Blue Mountain	0 8	12	12		

Western Division

Tacoma	11 0	23	1		
HIGHLINE	8 3	17	6		
L. Columbia	7 3	16	7		
Pierce	6 5	12	10		
Clark	6 5	13	10		
Grays Harbor	5 6	13	9		
Centralia	2 8	5	15		
SP Sound	2 9	4	17		
Green River	1 9	1	17		

Southern Division

Lane	9 1	18	6		
Clackamas	8 2	21	3		
Chemeketa	7 3	15	8		
Umpqua	5 5	10	13		
Mt. Hood	5 5	11	13		
Linn-Benton	2 8	3	20		
SW Oregon	2 8	7	16		
Portland	2 8	6	18		

By ROB SCHEIDER
Staff Reporter

After winning both of their games in a decisive fashion last week, the Highline men's basketball team is now sitting solidly in second place in the Western Division.

They hosted Green River on Feb. 7, stomping them 86-62.

They traveled to Olympia to play South Puget Sound Feb. 10 and dashed past the Clippers 98-75 after starting slow.

Highline traveled to Lake-wood to take on Pierce Feb. 14, but results were not available at press time.

Lower Columbia is just one spot behind Highline in the Western standings, but Highline can pull away and gain some breathing room with a victory this weekend.

"If we win out, then we'll get the second seed," said Head Coach Jeff Albrecht.

Highline's defense was solid against Green River holding them to a mere 62 points overall. On offense, the T-Birds were unselfish dishing out 32 assists while attacking the Gators weakness by going inside with the ball. The bench played a big role in the win. They came in and increased the lead while dominating the game.

"We continued to move the ball offensively," said Albrecht. The game was never close

but Highline's bench came in during the second half and stepped it up, increasing the lead by 10 points. Most notable was Nick McLean who scored nine points in just under 11 minutes. Leading the T-Birds were starting center Jason Reed who scored 19 points and hauled down 10 boards and Yusef Aziz who had 17 points.

This win was nice after the heart-wrenching loss to Tacoma last week.

"Any time you drop one, it's always good to win the next one," said center Adam Aziz. With this win comes the knowledge that they can play to their potential and win big games.

"We just have to play above the level of our competition and we'll come out on top," said center David King.

Three days later, they traveled to Olympia to take on South Puget Sound and after a slow start they got in a groove and finished strongly against the Clippers. "After the first half went by we regrouped and finished strong," said Adam Aziz. The T-Birds were only up by nine points at half but came out, but came out and played better in the second half.

"We took care of the ball and started sharing which led to easy baskets," said Albrecht. "We came out flat, but we came back with a good run."

The leading scorers in the rout were Yusef Aziz with 28 points and Darnell Lyons with



Photo by Joe Walker

Yusef Aziz goes up for a bucket against the Gators.

26: Jason Reed had a big game with 16 points and 10 rebounds and Adam Aziz added nine boards of his own.

With just five games remaining in the regular season the Thunderbirds are optimistic. "We're trying to win out and

take the second seed," said Adam Aziz.

The Thunderbirds host Lower Columbia this Saturday, Feb. 17 in a rematch that could be interesting after losing to them earlier this season. The tip-off, as always, is at 8 p.m.

Highline freshman is deadly from three-point-range

By CAL-JEAN LLOYD
Staff Reporter

It may have been cold outside of Highline's gymnasium, but young freshmen Austin Nicholson was on fire from the three point line inside the gym.

The Thunderdome was filled with all of the energy and excitement that comes with a close basketball game. The score is very close in what is supposed to be a nail-biter all the way to the end. No one is truly sure who's going to win this one. Someone on the men's basketball team had an answer to this question.

Within a four to five minute time span, a very calm and composed Nicholson hit three out of four three-pointers to help put his team up for good in the second half. If the Highline men's basketball team continues to recruit top freshmen like Nicholson, they're planning having a good program for a long time.

Nicholson was recruited for good reason. He graduated in 2000 from Lindbergh High and



Austin Nicholson

played a positive role in the success of his team.

Academically, however, Nicholson is working harder than he's ever had to before. "Classes are harder and I have to do a lot more schoolwork and

homework than I had to do in high school," said Nicholson.

Nicholson's decision to come to Highline was heavily influenced by the coaching staff and the team reputation. "Coach Albrecht had a lot to do with my decision. He told me to come and watch a game and that it would be a great move for me to

come to Highline, so I did," he said. "I also already knew about Highline's top quality program."

If there was ever a regret about Nicholson's decision to come to Highline, all were washed away at the game against Clark, as his third three-pointer went through the net and cheers went up in the crowd.

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Taxes can be easy for you

By JOY ROTHWELL
Staff Reporter

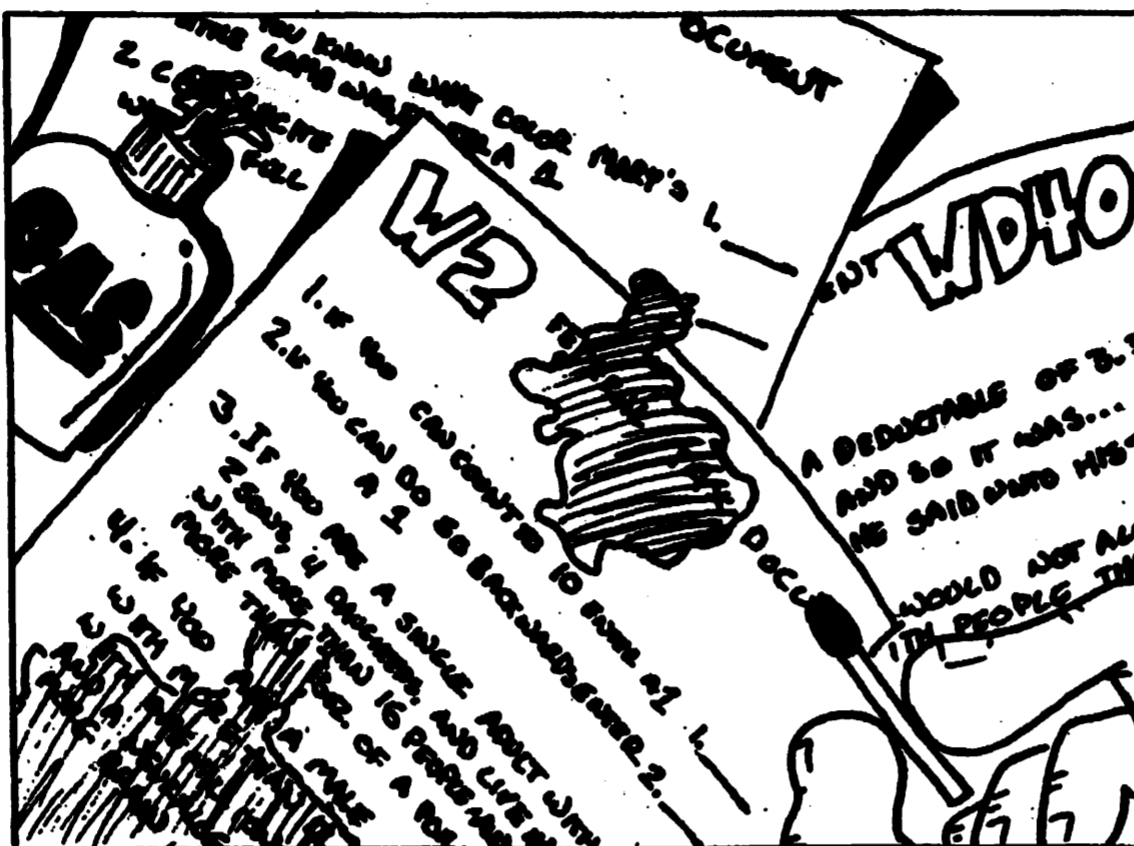
Believe it or not, the IRS can be your friend. You still have to file taxes, but you may be able to receive tax credit for going to Highline.

The Hope Credit can be worth as much as \$1,500 per eligible student per year. In order to qualify, you must pay post-secondary tuition and fees yourself and not be convicted of a felony drug offense. Most students at Highline should at least qualify for the latter.

Anyone paying for student loans may want to check the Publication 970 as well. You may be able to deduct up to \$2,000 in the interest you've paid and you do not need to itemize your deductions on your tax return.

The tax return form you will most likely use is the 1040EZ. This form is for people with simple tax returns, who are filing as single or married, and claim no dependents. You also must have a taxable income of less than \$50,000 and have no more taxable interest than \$400.00. The majority of students qualify for the 1040EZ.

In addition to knowing how the IRS can help you, there are ways to help make the process



Graphic by Sam Abraham

of filing your taxes a relatively painless experience. Shawn George, Internal Revenue Service Media Relations Specialist, pointed out common blunders people make.

"The No. 1 mistake is putting the wrong social security number on the form," George said.

Another mistake often made occurs in figuring earned in-

come tax credit incorrectly.

Last, but not least, remember to sign your name before you mail in the return.

"People should go over their form before turning it in," George said.

If you're wanting some extra cash, it's a good idea to get this chore done and out of the way. The sooner you file your taxes,

the sooner your refund will come in the mail.

"By filing electronically, you can get your refund in 10 days to two weeks," George said.

If you still need to get your hands on a tax form, you can go to your local library, get one off of the IRS web page, or call the IRS at 1-800-TAX FORM (829-3676).

Tax break gives hope to students

By DIEGO REVELO
Staff Reporter

Students at Highline can take advantage of the Hope Credit tax breaks to get some money back from the government.

"Thanks to the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, middle income taxpayers can take advantage of the two year credit for college expenses," explains Gary Klott from Taxplanet.com.

The Hope Credit is a tax relief calculated by the amount of money that a student spends on tuition and fees excluding book and other fees, such as parking.

With the Hope Credit you can report up to \$2,000 of tuition expenses that allow you or your parents to get up \$1,500 back per student enrolled in their first two years of college.

"The Hope Credit are among the most valuable of the new tax breaks created by 1997 law," says Klott.

For households whose parents claim jointly, and report over \$100,000 in income, the Hope Credit is not available. Unmarried people who claim \$50,000 or more are also excluded from this tax break.

If students receive tax-free scholarships for tuition, they have to subtract the amount of the scholarship from the total of the eligible expenses.

Klott said that students only need to be part-time to qualify. Students who attend only one quarter are still able to get money back for tuition spent for that quarter's eligible expense.

The information that students need was mailed out to them Jan. 26. Students should have gotten form 1098-T containing their Hope Scholarship information for calendar year 2000. Students can find out the amount that they are able to claim by going to the Highline web site or using the Kiosk machines located in Buildings 6 and 8 to access their information. Or call 206-878-3710, ext. 3326 for more information.

"Students will also need form 8863 to file their tax along with 1040 or 1040A to do their taxes," said Robert Smith from H&R Block in Federal Way. Smith also advises that students should not use telefile (the IRS' new file-by-phone system) to file for Hope Scholarship since there is no way to claim the tax break.

More information is available in Tax Publication 970, Tax Benefits for Higher Education, which will spell out students' options.

S&A committee concludes first round

By ED JOHNSON
Staff Reporter

Highline's cross country team wants to keep running, but the athletic director says it will take more money.

The first rounds of presentations for the Student and Activities Budget Committee have concluded. In meetings on Monday, Feb. 12 and Wednesday, Feb. 14, six different groups pleaded their case for funds in 2001.

Two more presentation sessions have been scheduled for March 5 and 7. The committee will hammer out a budget sometime in May.

S&A funds come from activity fees all Highline students pay as part of tuition.

The cross country team petitioned the S&A Budget Committee for funds to run the team separately from the track program. Currently the budget to run the cross country team comes from the track budget. Led by runner Shawn Thayer, the cross country team presented its position on why the committee should provide some \$6,000 in funds.

"We can't be a good team if we are not able to compete,"

said Thayer.

If the cross country team does not get the funds, their program may be cut altogether.

The budget is currently funding both men's and women's track and men's and women's cross country.

"As it is structurally we cannot support four teams," said Athletic Director John Dunn.

Head Coach Whit Baker presented his case for the track budget on Wednesday.

"We cannot possibly see either the track and cross country teams succeed if part of the track budget has to fund cross country," Baker said.

Baker, along with the cross country team, believes that the two budgets should be separate.

Dunn also went before the committee to request a total of \$173,082. The money goes for everything from volleyball and basketball to athletic grants, supplements, uniforms, and championship travel. Although most of the sports budgets are the same as last year, Dunn also requested \$10,000 for work grants that previously came from other college funds.

The Thunderword requested more funds for 2001 to cover the minimum wage increase and

operating costs. Evan Keck, editor-in-chief of the paper, led the presentation.

Fred Capestany, the Multicultural Student program adviser, asked the Budget Committee for \$7,900 for clubs and organizations, up from \$5,500 last year.

The Ethnic and Cultural programs request was presented by Chandra Brown of Team Highline. The funds would go to support activities during Martin Luther King Jr. week and Unity through Diversity Week.

Erin Blakeney, student programs adviser, asked for money to help produce student handbooks. The estimated price for the 1,500 books runs about \$6,000. They go to freshman students in the fall.

In Wednesday's presentations, Blakeney spoke before the committee to ask for \$123,257 for student programs administrative expenses. The money covers salaries and benefits for three student programs staffers. The request is up more than \$5,000 from last year, as a result of staff members moving up the college's salary scale.

A increase in funds was requested to support on-campus help in graphics support. The

sooner your refund will come in the mail.

"By filing electronically, you can get your refund in 10 days to two weeks," George said.

If you still need to get your hands on a tax form, you can go to your local library, get one off of the IRS web page, or call the IRS at 1-800-TAX FORM (829-3676).

bomb

continued from page 1

the area and investigated the "suspicious package." It was an old, metal military ammo box and after it was X-rayed, the police were still suspicious.

"We don't know if there is a bomb," said John O'Leary, operations commander for the Des Moines Police. "We couldn't tell exactly what was in there."

The Port of Seattle Bomb Squad used an Andros-6 robot to disarm the bomb. There was an eerie silence for a normally busy intersection as everyone stood around on the streets, or sat in their cars waiting. Suddenly there was a loud "crack" like a gunshot, startling the quiet air.

The bystanders didn't know what the noise was. "They shot it with a gun at the end of the robot, it was pretty cool," said



Photo by Joe Walker

Bomb squad members work look over the results of the robot's work.

Tim, one of the bystanders. "That was just the water cannon discharge," said O'Leary of

the Des Moines Police. "The water cannon disarmed the suspected bomb and made it

safe for investigators to look inside the box. What they found inside the

box was only tools. It appeared as though someone had been using it as a toolbox.

When all was safe, the police removed the roadblocks and allowed the busy intersection to come back to life. The Andros-6 robot was rolled back into the dark, square bomb squad truck.

The cops and firefighters all gathered around leisurely, laughing and joking in a relieved manner, as if smiling would loosen the tense muscles in their faces after such a scare.

As all was dying down and the city vehicles were driving away, a police car began to turn out onto the street, with someone's briefcase and cell-phone sitting on the top of the car.

Police officers in uniforms and city officials in suits all began to yell and run, chasing the car down the street to catch the belongings, bringing a slightly comical end to a potentially serious event.

dancer

continued from page 1

business can be expensive. Strippers must first get a license before they can work. The license costs \$150.

To strip at Déjà Vu you must also pay rent daily for using their stage and their couches, which ranges from \$50 to \$90, depending on the shift you work.

For Alexis, winning amateur night was an invitation to a little girl's dream of glamour and fame. "It was entertaining," she said. "To be up on stage and have all those guys scream and want you, it was a total power trip." She giggles at the memory of it.

Alexis received special attention from people outside of the club also. "I could get into any bar just because I was a stripper," she said.

People could tell she was a stripper because of what she wore, who she was with and the way she presented herself. "You change the way you walk, the way you talk," said Alexis.

A stripper will commonly carry herself with a more graceful and sexy poise, appearing confident, swaying her hips when she walks. Strippers often wear high heels. On stage they may be seen wearing only heels, in public they wear heels too. "I love wearing heels, they're fun," said Alexis.

Stripping isn't just about fun and games; it's also about money. "Having the power was what made me stay," said Alexis. "The most I ever made in one night was a little over \$1,200 or \$1,300, but average take-home (after rent was paid) was \$500-\$700."

"I told guys that I used my money for tuition," said Alexis. "It really went to a lot of clothes, stereo stuff, fancy dinners, drugs, etc. Anything I could spend money on," she said.

For some girls the money from stripping wasn't enough. Prostitution was common at the club. "Girls would go home with guys," said Alexis. "If anybody saw you leave with someone then it was prostitution, which it was."

Guys will pay a lot of money too. "I've had guys offer me like \$500," she said.

Not all of the guys just sit back in awe; sometimes the guys will be violent with the strippers. "Then you get the really drunk, belligerent guys who really think you want them," said Alexis. "Then the bouncer has to take them outside and beat them up."

The bouncers just don't beat up any drunk guy, "He would have to do something to really threaten my safety," she said.

Alexis had an encounter with one of these guys. While she was dancing he reached up and grabbed her crotch area. "His finger actually went inside me," said Alexis, for the first time looking down at her lap in shame.

When Alexis screamed, the guy called her a dirty whore and refused to pay her for the dance. He told the bouncer that "she was asking for it" and that "she wanted him to."

After numerous threats and warnings, the guy still refused to pay. The bouncer had to take him outside and beat him to a pulp and "teach him a lesson," she said. "It was entertaining. I went outside too."

Living the nightlife, being desired and being pampered was all good fun and games in

the beginning. "It was awesome for like a month and a half," said Alexis.

The glamorous facade eventually faded into a harsh reality for Alexis. "It just wasn't fun anymore," she said. "Along with the fact that my family disapproved and disowned me, my boyfriend hated it... It really cuts down on your self-esteem."

Being thin is vital when you're a stripper. "My eating disorder went through the roof when I was there. I only weighed like 98 pounds," said Alexis. "You didn't want to eat because it would make your stomach pooch, and then you'd do drugs so that you wouldn't want to eat."

Even for the girls who started stripping just for fun, the environment they were in would eventually bring them to drugs. "Everybody drank," she said. "And drugs were everywhere... everywhere."

In the back room people were doing lines of cocaine and smoking pot. In the bathroom stalls people would shoot up heroin.

"There was this one girl there who did so much heroin she had to wear those big long gloves that go up to your elbow to hide the track marks," said Alexis. "Though Alexis had previously experimented with drugs, she had never picked up the habit until she started stripping. "They (drugs) were more accessible there, and it was more fun to do them with all those bouncy girls," she said.

Ecstasy was a popular drug choice among the strippers. "A lot of E, a lot of E!" said Alexis, raising her eyebrows to emphasize the point.

"I was dropping like seven to 11 pills a night. There was one night that I took like 17 - I think that's the night I actually went

to the hospital."

Strippers weren't the only ones getting loaded. The girls realized that drunk guys will tip better, but alcohol isn't allowed in clubs according to law. To compensate the strippers would keep gallons of alcohol in the back room and sneak it into guys' drinks. "You'd spend maybe \$30, but you'd make like \$150 back because of it," said Alexis.

Today Alexis is no longer stripping. "It was fun until I got into drugs."

"It just got to the point where I had lost so much because of that job," said Alexis with a

sigh.

"I did my time at rehab, and I did try to kill myself because of it," she said with the withdrawn, tired tone of an old widow.

Alexis learned perhaps too much about life for an 18-year-old girl. "I lost a lot of confidence in men, I just don't trust 'em," she confessed. "I saw married men go home with girls."

Despite all that she experienced, Alexis doesn't deny the possibility of doing it again one day. "How could you not miss like \$500?" she asks.

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