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HIGHLINE COLLEGE

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# The Thunderword

volume 3, number 1

Highline Community College

## Pepsi takes over Highline in blue

By DICK DOWNER  
Staff Reporter

Highline will be changing its name next quarter to Pepsi Presents Highline Community College as college officials scramble to make up for declining state support.

"We get some money, and all the Pepsi Blue we can drink," said Bucky Dungeon, the college's director of revenue retention. "It's really a good deal for the students."

Students in recycling classes will be encouraged to turn in bottle caps for points, and Pepsi plans to include one free associate of arts degree in one specially marked bottle cap to be found in the campus pop machines.

"At first I was repulsed by the idea, but then I counted the zeros on the check," Dungeon said.

The college's efforts won't stop there, however. Beginning Fall Quarter, students will be required to do at least six hours



Photo by Zippy Quickflash

The sign in front of Highline reflects the college's new sponsorship. The Pavilion will also be changed and will now be referred to as "Pepsi Refreshment Pavilion."

of co-op credit with the Facilities Division, helping out with groundskeeping and maintenance.

"We've really got to convert

to a self-supporting model," Dungeon said. "Some of the larger students can help with moving concrete and digging out the foundation for the new

Child Care Center. Some of the smaller students we can send down the utility tunnels to tidy up."

As part of the new funding

plan, the Tutoring Center will be selling answers this quarter.

"Most of the students don't study anyway, so this will save the tutors a lot of time trying to explain things," said tutor Randolph Learned.

Tuition rates also will change as students begin to pay more depending on where they sit in class. Standard tuition will remain for the cheap seats in the back of the classroom, but front-row seats to a class will now cost students up to 15 percent more. Middle-section seats will cost 5-10 percent more, depending on the class.

"It's really a great deal for students," Dungeon said, again.

The college also will offer a reduced-price "Lecture six-pack" for students who don't plan to attend very often.

College administrators hope to take the extra tuition money to Las Vegas and watch it grow, under a program they are calling "tuition fruition."

"It's just a good deal all the way around," Dungeon said.

## Highline students to face new CASL test

By WALLY MONROE  
Staff Reporter

Community college students in Washington will have to pass a test beginning next year in order to graduate, according to a bill likely to gain approval in the state Legislature.

Modeled after the successful Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), the College Assessment of Student Learning (CASL) will test students on a broad range of knowledge.

"We need accountability," said the bill's sponsor, State Rep. Harry Meddler, R-Mabton. "If we're going to spend all this money on a bunch of tattoo-covered, dope-smoking college kids, we need accountability."

Students will be asked to

schedule their CASL sessions before June of the year in which they will be graduating. Students will need to pass the test before they receive their diplomas and before they are admitted to a four-year school.

Students will be assessed a \$35 test fee as part of the program.

"If we make the test really hard so that students have to take it multiple times, that could really raise a lot of money," said a co-sponsor of the legislation, State Sen. Fanny Motherwell, R-Camas. "Besides, we need to justify the expenditure with proof of results."

Motherwell said she visited a community college classroom last year and was appalled by what she saw.

"Students were just jumping

around and yelling, and the professor was jumping around like a wild bean. If there was learning there, I just didn't see it," she said. Motherwell said it might have been an aerobics class, but she couldn't be sure.

The CASL test is being developed by Educational Assessment Technology of Flat Falls, N.J. It aims to test a broad range of knowledge in a variety of subjects that students should have encountered while pursuing any version of the associate's degree.

Sample questions from the test:

1. Philosophy: You are a squirrel. You confronted with a moldy nut and food from the cafeteria. Describe the "sense of being" implied in each of your choices.

2. Biology: You will find a squirrel under your desk. Dissect, describe and write a paper on squirrel digestive habits.

3. Math: Three squirrels are running along a plane toward point X on the horizon G. If one squirrel starts at 3 p.m. yesterday, the second squirrel is distracted by the beauty of numbers and the third squirrel is in a jetpack, which will arrive at X last? Show your work.

4. Civics: Rewrite Federalist Papers 10 and 51 as though James Madison had been obsessed with rodents. What implications would that have for party politics today?

5. Sociology: If reality is socially constructed, why are you still taking this test?

6. Literature: Using only the letters of your name, write a

poem in iambic pentameter about why your suffering is greater than anyone else's.

7. Health: If you could be a deadly disease, which one would you choose and why?

8. World music: Write a brief concerto for log drums, bassoon and jaw harp. Be prepared to justify your choices.

9. Arts: Paint or sculpt a mural depicting squirrels, teenage angst and yesterday's lunch.

Highline students expressed dismay at the idea of the test.

"How I'm supposed to know that?" asked student Marvin Muddle. "Test this."

"It's not fair that we should be judged by what we know," said sophomore Cindy Strap. "Isn't college supposed to be about learning what we want to learn? This isn't fair."

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## Crime Blotter for April 1

### Student gets stuck in car

A student locked himself in his car yesterday, March 31, and in a panic called security from his cell phone.

Security reported and opened the car door for the young man who exclaimed, "Dude, I couldn't find my keys anywhere."

Security escorted the man to class to assure his nerves had calmed down.

### Man attacked by squirrel

A man was brutally attacked by a squirrel this past Saturday, March 29 at the bus stop in Highline's South lot. A witness reported that the man was making funny faces at the squirrel when it suddenly flew at his face and latched on to his ears, nibbling away at his flesh.

The witness dialed 911 from his cell phone, but severe damage was already done by the time help arrived. The victim was taken to the nursing program where he was treated for severe facial deformation.

### Student startled by life's impact

A student was shocked and dismayed this week when during a class, he recognized that time was passing.

"Dude, I'm so bummed," he said. "My life is just like dripping away."

Counselors was called and the student was removed from class. Security said no suspects have been identified in the incident.

Compiled by  
Mugsy Baloney

## Campus goes nuts for squirrels

By SHERRY PERRY  
Staff Reporter

Highline students who are accustomed to feeding the squirrels on campus will get a big surprise starting next quarter.

Highline administrators have decided that a \$25 fine will be given to any person on campus who is seen feeding the squirrels.

This new fine is in response to the over abundance of squirrels on campus.

"There's just a butt load of 'em," said one student.

The overpopulation of squirrels is not the only problem that students and staff face, the fact that they don't fear humans anymore is another problem.

A rash of squirrel "attacks" have been reported to security by students and staff alike.

The squirrels have apparently been coming up to humans and taking their food.

"Those little buggers are just mean," said one student who declined to have his name published.

Many students have reported that the little creatures, after having taken the food have scratched them.

Some students have even reported getting sick after being scratched by the squirrels.

"I felt kinda funny after," said a Highline student.

Because some students have gotten sick administrators have hired some veterinarians to come on campus to test the squirrels for any diseases.

The vets have been on cam-



A vicious squirrel eating a poor student's lunch. It may have been blueberry.  
Photo by Flash McMichaels

pus for a week now and have happily reported that the diseases that the squirrels have are not too harmful to humans.

"They have three disease, two of them we know of but the other we ... well just stay away from them," said Dr. Chip Hinkley, the head veterinarian. "The past week has been very

exciting for us."

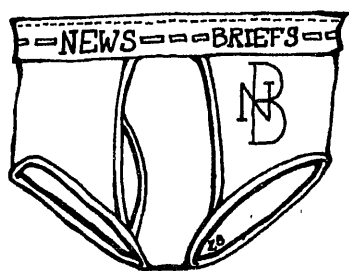
The new squirrel patrol team has been assembled, although no names have been released yet, the team consist of two vets and three former pest control personnel.

Although the patrol people's main job is to give fines if they see any squirrels hurting hu-

mans, the patrol people have the authority to catch the squirrels.

"We're gonna get um!" said one patrolman.

Even though the squirrels are cute and cuddly, the patrol people suggest the best way to avoid an attack is to just keep away from them.



### It's the end of the world

A new coordinated study offered this quarter was left out of the Spring Quarterly, but is now available for enrollment.

The new class consists of Dr. Eric Baer's Geological Catastrophes and Dr. Bob Baugher's Death and Dying classes. The class is called, "You're all going to die," and is scheduled for Monday-Friday from 5 to 6 a.m. in Building 26, room 666.

### College closes after 41 years

Due to severe budget cuts, Highline has been forced to close and remain closed until the operating budget is back up to par, it was announced at last night's emergency board meeting.

The board voted in favor of renting the college out to the Ringling Brothers Circus until the funds are replaced.

The last day of class and Highline as we know it will be Friday, April 4.

### New seminar on seminar

There will be a new seminar offered in the first week of

Spring Quarter.

The seminar will be on how to successfully attend a seminar. It will be offered for two days today and tomorrow in Building 29, room 211.

### Will you go to prom with me?

Because of the huge demand and to keep the Running Start students coming to Highline, the college will be hosting a prom night for the younger crowd.

To replicate the joy of a real high school prom, it will be held in Building 8 from 8 to 10 p.m. Friday. The theme of the prom will be "Needin' speedin' & breedin'."

Promoters are still looking for volunteer chaperones.

### Sports cards on sale

The Spazz Club will start selling scratch and sniff sports cards. First up is the Edgar Martinez shoe card, followed by the Gary Payton gym bag.

### Wrong building demolished

Contractors who had been hired to knock down the old Student Center instead took out Building 9 over Spring Break.

Building 9 residents were surprised to find their offices had been turned into a pile of rubble by the contractor on Monday.

Offices have been reassigned to the Omni Building for now.

## Tuneful 'Rambo' set for summer

BY RAQUELL RIPPER  
Staff Reporter

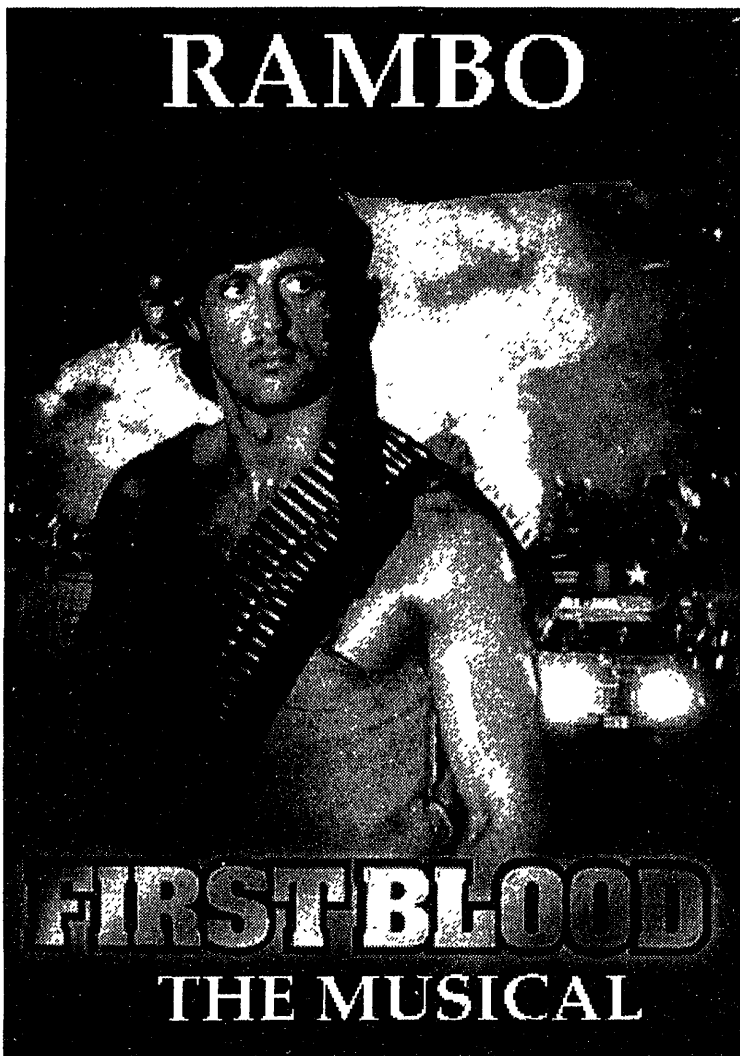
He's "the lone soldier" and his distracting tale will be brought to life in the summer college production of *Rambo, the Musical*.

"The reason we've put this play off until summer is because we really needed time to work on it," said guest director Summer Winters. "It's truly a deep, complex saga, taking place during war time. I think now everyone can really relate to the Rambo story."

Auditions were held early in fall quarter, and practice has been secretly in the works for about one year.

"We really didn't want to give the play away," actor George Thespi said. "We've been rehearsing for so long now, but it takes time to get down Sylvester Stalone. Especially in such a tragic story."

Thespi was cast as John Rambo and has been working out for the part.



"As soon as I heard I got the role I went to 24-Hour Fitness and applied at once," Thespi said. "Since then I've gained 40 pounds of muscle and can bench 280. I really feel this will be my breakout role."

Adding to the complexity of the play is creating the saga as a musical.

"Music really reflects the struggle that Rambo went through when he returned home from war and realized nobody appreciated him," Winters said. "Through music we can create a deeper and more sentimental approach. When he runs there will be music, when he jumps there will be music. When he reaches an emotional breakdown, there will be music."

This addition has high intentions.

"It's going to make the audience weep," actor Perpetua Major said. "It's going to touch everyone watching it. It's nothing short of a true masterpiece."

Major was cast as Rambo's war buddy, and preparing for the role she has been practicing a

few things in particular.

"I almost have the facial tick down," Major said.

The set crew is already hard at work, creating settings to fit the show's many locales.

"It's almost done," guest set designer Claude Hammer said.

"We are trying to round up all the injured students at Highline to make for a more realistic set."

The props are equally impressive.



Butch

"We actually use real live knives in the play," said actor Tricia Butch. "I couldn't wait to be part of a

play that allowed deadly weaponry. It's really, really cool. I love knives."

Rambo used knives as a survival tool in *First Blood*, the original Rambo epic. He used the knife to make a coat out of a canvas tarp.

"And you can bet when we re-enact that part, there will be music," Winters said.

## Local rapper to join Music Department

BY JOHNNY ROYALE  
Staff Reporter

Two new yet familiar faces will be showing themselves around Building 4 next quarter.

Master vocalist and new Highline professor Melody Singh and her first private instruction student, Seattle's own Sir Mix a Lot, will be working together on a new image for Lot.

"We're pleased and privileged to have names of such renown coming to our department," said Highline Music Professor Janice Doultry of the new additions.

A not so recent or short lull in Lot's musical career ignited the artist's interest in more classic forms of musical interpretation.

"My shorty was tired of illing on rizoalities from *Baby Got Back*, and she was like, 'baby gotta get back on track,'" Lot said.

Lot admits that part of his inspiration for the move comes from the triad of options left to hip-hop stars today; go money, go hate, or go roots.

The choice was simple, said Lot.

"I've done the money thing, back when the dice I was rolling doubles with were clinking off



my gold rings," said Lot. "Hate never appealed to me either. Hate is stale, you'll either be

dead or in jail."

While Lot was researching his roots to see what direction to take, he found an interesting branch in his family tree.

"I was surfing on family-tree.com and found a connection that was the bomb. I always wondered why I was in love with manicotti, when the screen showed my uncle was Pavarotti."

"The choice was obvious, I needed show no tact, opera was the next impact," Lot continued.

The meaning has not been missed by the enthusiastic Melody Singh. "He (Lot) is very excited to be entering into this genre of music," Singh said.

She is an extremely accomplished artist in her own right, having performed with such groups as the Lawrence Welk Orchestra, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, and, yes, Pavarotti himself.

"I was amazed to learn that the two shared blood," Singh said. "But, upon our first meet-

ing, the connection was obvious. He has a true talent for operatic vocalism."

The first piece that Mix a Lot will perform will be his operatic interpretation of his classic, *The Posse on Broadway*.

"I'm looking to bring street credibility to opera. It's something they've never seen before," Lot said. "I kind of hope to be the Happy Gilmore of the Seattle Opera scene. I want people bumping at the Benaroya."

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## Ohno to play hockey at Highline

By MICHAEL ARCHER  
Staff Reporter

Olympic Gold Medal speed-skater Apollo Anton Ohno is coming to Highline as part of the Thunderbirds hockey team.

Head Coach Michael "Rinky" Dinkins has signed Ohno as his first recruit to the T-Birds hockey team.

Ohno was somewhat surprised when he found out that he was coming to play for the Highline Thunderbirds and not the Seattle Thunderbirds.

"You mean I have to pay them? I thought they were going to pay me. All the coach said when he contacted me was that he was from the Thunderbirds. I just assumed it was the Seattle team. I don't even know where Highline is," Ohno said.

The team will play in the Pavilion during winter quarter on the days when the basketball team does not have a home game. The Pavilion will be flooded over and then frozen the night prior to every home game.

Coach Dinkins said that this might prove to be a problem because of difficulty in keeping the temperature down.

"I am not sure how this is going to work but I think that the people at Highline will be



Highline hockey player Apollo Ohno skates during the 2002 Winter Olympics.

able to get the job done," Dinkins said.

Coach Dinkins has been involved with hockey since he was a little boy.

Though his playing career as a goal keeper was cut short by a freak accident when he was run over by a Zamboni.

"Every time that thing comes on the ice I get scared to death. After the accident the players on the opposing teams would make

the sound of the Zamboni as they were coming toward me. I was giving up 10 to 15 goals per game cause I was so scared," Dinkins said.

Since he was no longer able to get on the ice due to his paralyzing fear, Dinkins decided to turn his focus to coaching. In 1993 he took an assistant coaching position with Dawson of the Northern Canada Hockey League. After the head coach

left in 1996, Dinkins was elevated to the head spot. In his six years at Dawson he compiled an amazing record of 297 wins and 63 losses, in the process leading the Dawson Creek to four NCHL championships.

"I had a great time up there but I decided that I needed a change. Dawson is right up by the border of Alaska. It gets really cold up there and I don't really like the cold weather all

that much," Dinkins said.

Dinkins has some reservations about Ohno as a hockey player.

"We know that he can skate fast but I want to see if he is tough enough out on the ice. He has those matinee idol looks that he might not want to mess up by playing college level hockey," Dinkins said.

Ohno said that after talking to his father, he realizes that he should get an education.

"I need to go to college because after this skating thing I am going to have to have something to fall back on. Besides that I think it would be fun to play hockey. I have always wanted to hit someone when I am skating and now I will get the chance to do it. Hopefully this Highline place has some nice women also," Ohno said.

Dinkins has been spotted at local ice skating rinks looking for potential players.

"I need to find my players. I have a certain idea of the type of player that I want on my team and most of the guys here at Highline have too many teeth," Dinkins said.

It has not yet been decided against who or when the T-Birds will open up play because they are currently the only hockey program in the NWAACC.

## Highline surf team tries to heat things up

By RAN DATHERS  
Staff Reporter

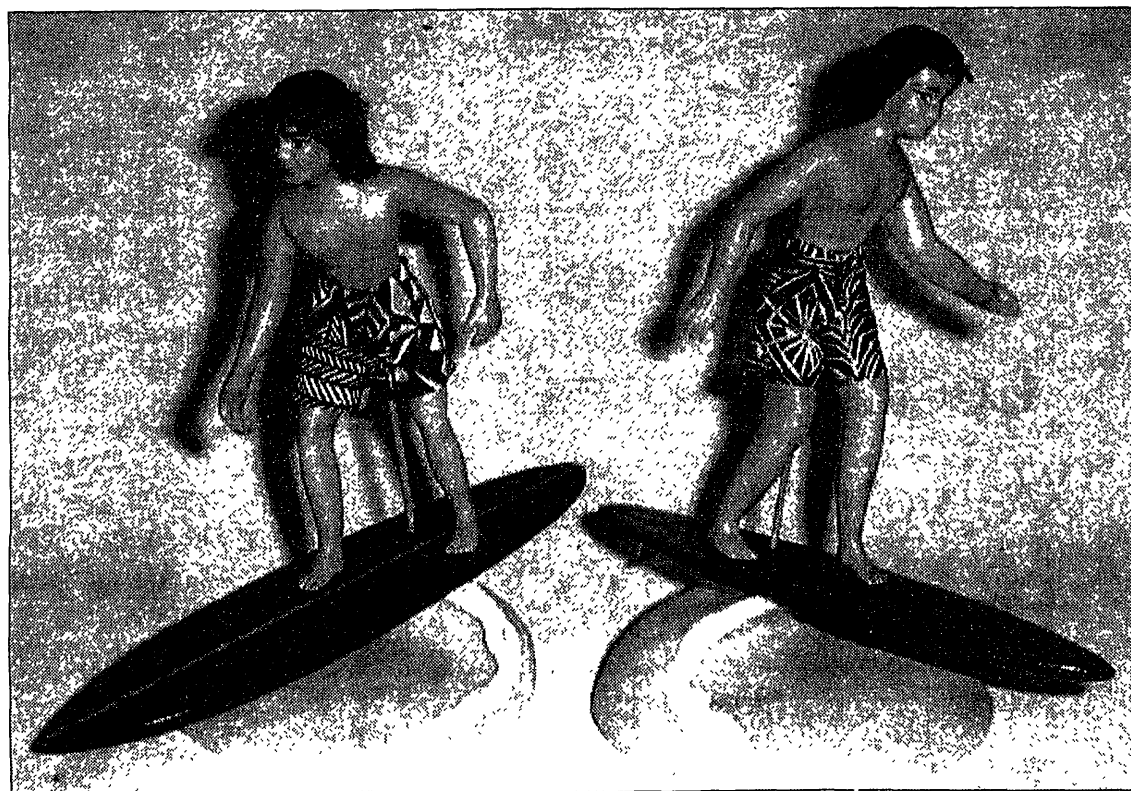
The Highline surf team is strapping on their wet suits, waxing down their boards, and hitting the waves to kick off their spring season.

However, the chances of it being a turnaround season for the T-Birds look doubtful.

"We don't get much for actual waves," said Team Captain Johnny Tsunami. "But we usually pile in the Woody and leave school early to get to the beach anyway. You know, like they do in the Beach Boy's songs."

Tsunami also admits that none of the team has actually stood up on a surfboard successfully, and that unless the temperature is at least 70 degrees, they are nowhere near the water.

"Have you ever been in the water around here?" said Tsunami in his defense. "That's the real reason all the fish are dying dude. If it's too cold for a fish, it's too cold for me."



Plastic models of the Highline surf team are available in the bookstore.

Because of the cool temperatures as of late, recent practices have been spent at Tsunami's home watching classic surfer

flicks *The Endless Summer* and *Point Break*.

The team usually piles back in the Woody from there, and

heads to the tanning booth.

"I think that looking good is just as much a priority as surfing good," said surfer Ima

Wannabe. "And I don't see the harm in that."

Wannabe suffered a severe tanning booth burn last season, and was unable to compete the entire season. He tells everyone that he redshirted.

German foreign exchange students and twin brothers Hans and Frank Flippinburgers, round off the team at an even four. But the Duestch duo has a few obstacles to overcome before they make into the water as well.

"Shark eat German," was the only thing Hans was able to mumble out of pure terror that the topic was even brought up.

Frank, the elder of the two brothers, shares the same terror of the water as his brother, only over a different creature.

This phobia came over him after watching a special on the Discovery Channel regarding the mysterious giant squid.

Still, the T-Birds get their regular season started on March 25. This tournament is of course, weather permitting.