

Minimum wage under fire

Bill would include tips in servers' wages

By CHANDRA J. SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

State lawmakers have minimum wage reform on the menu for the restaurant industry, but local servers don't think House Bill 2838 would taste very good if it becomes law.

State law currently defines a wage as money paid for work done as part of employment, and any employee age 18 and over must be paid no less than minimum wage. As of Jan. 1, Washington's minimum wage rose to \$7.63 hourly, the highest in the nation. The state minimum wage is indexed, which means it rises each year with the cost of living.

HB 2838 aims to change the law specifically for tipped employees with the concept of tip credit. This concept means that anyone who receives tips would report that money as credit toward the wage the employer pays.

But the servers want to keep all of the tips they earn, not count them as a portion of wages.

The bill also goes on to propose that the minimum wage of tipped employees should stay where it is now at \$7.63. If a tipped employee is not procuring enough tips in the last 30 days to add up to minimum wage plus the cost of living, their employer would have to pay the employee the difference.

This also means that employees such as restaurant servers who are depending on tips as a main part of their income could be paid less than minimum wage once the state minimum wage rises again.

Dan Watson, a Highline student



Photo by Keith Daigle

Former Highline student Wes Van Duyn waiting tables at Red Lobster.

working toward transferring to a four-year university, is employed at Gamestop for minimum wage.

He thinks the bill is targeting "high schoolers, migrant workers, or people who don't know any better to create a huge, ever-widening gap between

social classes. There needs to be this gap. There needs to be janitors. That's how the world needs to work."

According to the bill's sponsor State Rep. Brian Sullivan, D-Mukilteo, this is about restaurant owners wanting to survive, not about targeting the single parents and college students who typically make up a restaurant's staff. He said it's about servers making too much money in tips while the restaurant industry is on the decline.

Sullivan has seen this firsthand when he owned and managed Riley's Pizza and Brewhouse in Mukilteo from 1990-2004, and he managed an Alfie's Pizza before that.

"I was putting in 80 hours a week. But then I see a waitress making more than me," he said.

But Sullivan still recognizes that tips are necessary.

"Restaurant servers are hard-working people, and their primary income really does come from tips," Sullivan said.

While he admits to helping a few servers who couldn't make their own rent when he owned the restaurant, Sullivan sides with the restaurant owners in the area who are dealing with taxes and regulations, high payroll and overhead costs, and a shrinking staff.

"You go into it thinking in 20 years you'll be able to take time off," he said. "It gets to the point where it doesn't make sense to stay in business. I would hate to see restaurant owner operators in Washington state doing all of their own labor."

"I really want laborers and restaurant owners to work to-

gether to find a solution to this," Sullivan said.

Anthony Anton, vice president of one such group of restaurateurs, the Washington Restaurant Association, also said wage compression is a part of the problem. This means that the smiling faces greeting and serving the customers are making the most money, while cooks and bussers in the back of the restaurant do not make tips at all.



Sullivan

Anton said the average server reports \$12.31 an hour in tips in addition to minimum wage. The Washington Restaurant Association gained this information by checking 500 operations

who report to the IRS. He explained that if a server waits on four tables an hour for just four hours, and each table leaves a \$4 tip, that server has poten-

See Wage, page 16

Budget bill increases student loan rates

By MICHELLE ERICKSEN
STAFF REPORTER

Student loans face the largest cut ever in the history of American politics.

A massive blow was dealt to student loans when the United States House of Representatives voted for its largest cut ever.

By a 216 to 214 vote, \$12 billion dollars were cut from student loans in a new budget bill approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on Feb 1.

Democrats voted against it, while Republicans largely voted for it.

The bill cuts include approximately \$12 billion by increasing parent loan interest rate from 7.9 percent to 8.5 percent.

The budget measure provides some new money for some students. The bill appropriates \$3.7 billion for students majoring in math, science and foreign language.

The bill also retains a 6.8 percent cap on student interest rates, which will protect students as interest rates continue to rise.

More than 109,000 students in the state of Washington are currently using student loans.

It takes \$12 billion out of the program and uses students and parents as revenue raisers, said Luke Swarthout, PIRG spokesman.

The bill, which was passed by the Senate last December, is now going through conference report. It then has to be voted on by the House and the Senate again before it goes up to the President.

"We are sort of waiting for the 'dust to settle' on this to really gauge the impact," said Highline's Director of the Financial Aid Office Steve Seeman. "The impact of the cuts will likely be

See Bill, page 16

INDEX

ARTS.....PAGES 5-9
CAMPUS LIFE.....PAGES 2-3
OPINION.....PAGE 4
NEWS.....PAGES 1, 14-15
SPORTS.....PAGES 10-13



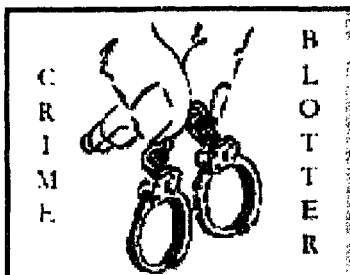
Explore the many faces of love

See stories, Pages 8-9



Wrestlers aim high at regionals

See story, Page 10



Males admonished for vandalizing

Two young males were banned from the Library for a year. On Feb. 2, a 16-year-old, and a 14-year-old boy were given admonishment papers for vandalizing and defecating in the library.

Student suffers from sprain

A student was injured in an aerobics class. Monday, Feb. 6 after she stepped on the side of an aerobics board and fell. She suffered a minor sprain and required no medical attention.

Leaf blower stolen from trailer

An unknown person stole a gas power leaf blower. The leaf blower was stolen from the grounds crew trailer while it was parked in the East Lot on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at around 3:00 p.m.

Gas-less van stops traffic in east lot

A Chevy van ran out of gas at the entrance to East Lot on Feb. 3 at 10:30 a.m. Traffic was rerouted to the outgoing side. The vehicle was moved at 10:45 a.m.

Lost property

A chemistry book was reported missing on Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

A Motorola cell phone with a silver and black case was reported missing on Feb. 3 at 6:45 p.m.

A folder with paper in it was lost in Building 3 room 103.

A green textile pencil bag was lost in the upper level of Building 8.

A block battery with two power cords was reported lost on Feb. 7 at 8:10 p.m.

Some CDs were lost in Building 27 on Feb. 7.

A black wallet with a bank card in it was reported lost on Feb. 7 at 9:30 p.m.

A black leather jacket was reported missing by a faculty member on Feb. 7 at 7:28 p.m.

-Compiled by M. Maras

CAMPUS LIFE

Rats are man's new best friend

BY MICHAELA PARFAIT
STAFF REPORTER

Many people see rats as vermin and test subjects of laboratories, but Tarisa Matsumoto-Maxfield, a writing instructor here at Highline, thinks otherwise.

At the Science Seminar held last week on Feb. 3, Matsumoto-Maxfield presented her view that rats have much in common with humans.

Matsumoto-Maxfield brought the three rats that live with her to the seminar, and she introduced Frank to the group. Frank was seen playing around on his owner's shoulder and crawling through her hair and



Photo by Alicia Mendez

Tarisa Matsumoto-Maxfield explains the lives of rats, while her pet rat Frank scurries around her neck.

clothes, popping out sometimes.

Matsumoto-Maxfield gave the audience a test, which displayed that the history of rats goes back to about 10,000 years. Did you know that there are over 300 different rat species? Theodore Roosevelt even owned a pet rat in the White House while he was in office.

Unfortunately, rats only live about two years and then they die because of pneumonia. Rats are similar to humans because if they lose a friend or mate, they will grieve, which could also cause them to

die. Matsumoto-Maxfield says that rats make great pets.

"Children that are 7 or 8 years old are the youngest who should have pets, because a 5-year-old might be out of control and not take proper care of it."

Rat cookies with a cute iced face of a rat were served at the seminar and everyone who attended seemed to enjoy them, because they were half gone before the seminar started.

If you would like to attend the next science seminar, Instructional Design Director Marc Lentini will be talking about emerging web technologies.

It will be held on Friday, Feb. 10, at 2:20 p.m.-3:10 p.m. in Building 3, room 102.



Help bridge gap with the BSU

The Black Student Union is having a panel discussion titled "Bridging the Gap between Africans and African-Americans," in honor of Black History Month.

There will be a panel of four to six members of African descent sharing their perceptions and views. They will also discuss stereotypes and misconceptions.

The ultimate goal is to offer positive solutions and increase students' understanding of the situation.

This will be held on Thursday, Feb. 16, from 1:30-3 p.m. in Building 7.

Food addicts find recovery

Food addicts in recovery Anonymous or FA is a program to help people overcome unhealthy eating habits. It is a program for people who have obsessive thoughts about food or have eating disorders.

This is a free event open to anyone interested.

It will be held March 4, at the University Christian Church, located at 4731 15th Ave. NE in Seattle. More information can be found at www.foodaddicts.org.

Test your table tennis skills

The table tennis club is holding a tournament for anyone who is interested.

Students, staff, and faculty are all invited. Only the first 48 people to sign up will get to participate.

This will be held from Friday Feb. 17 to Saturday, Feb. 18 in the Recreation Center of the Highline Student Union.

Registration begins at 10 a.m. on Feb. 17.

Math Center opens today

Not sure which math class to take? Stop by the Math Resource Center to get questions answered. Entry codes may be available to student with transcripts.

Advising will take place today in Building 26, room 319. This advising session will only be available today.

Students can use the Math Center's study spaces which have tables and white boards available. Many resources are available including: current textbooks and student solution manuals for all courses, videos and DVDs that accompany current textbooks, other textbooks that can be used as references and practice problems, and computers with tutorials for current textbooks.

Computers can also be used to work on math and science related projects. Information on science related scholarships will also be available.

The Math Center's Winter

Quarter hours are Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m.-noon.

The Math Center is located in Building 26, room 319.

All students enrolled at Highline have access to the resources.

For more information call 206-878-3710, ext. 4343.

Delve deeper into Waodani

Campus Crusade for Christ will be hosting a follow up discussion on the films *Beyond the Gates of Splendor* and *End of the Spear*.

Two weeks ago Campus Crusade for Christ invited students to watch the movie. These films were about the Waodani tribe in the Amazon Basin of Ecuador, and the five families that contacted and lived with them.

The follow up discussion will be held Thursday, Feb. 9, from 12-1 p.m. in the Mt. Skokomish Room on the first floor of the Highline Student Union.

Blend blogs and daily life

This week's Science Seminar will be Emerging Web Technologies.

Marc Lentini will go over the latest web technologies, such as social networking, i-podcasts, and blogs.

Lentini will further explain how they are used for business, education, and daily life.

This will be held on Friday, Feb. 10, from 2:20-3:10 p.m. in Building 3, room 102.

Jostens jostles juniors for jewelry

Highline will be overrun by screaming high school kids once again on Friday with the much-awaited return of the 8th annual Jostens Leadership Conference.

Approximately 1,600 little darlings from the area will be invading the Pavilion to scream uncontrollably over the prospect of graduation and jewelry.

This inexplicable day of excitement will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring guest speakers, lunch, various "spirit" competitions, awards, and more.

"It is a great event and we would appreciate your help in directing any lost high school students down to the Pavilion," said Jason Prevenost, director of Outreach Services.

Corrections

Kristen Jones was misidentified as Denay Boswell in a photo last week in the sports section.

In a story in last week's Thunderword, an article said the choir had gone to China, which is not true. The jazz band has gone to China.

The Ben Thomas Group will be performing with the choir in spring, however the college jazz band will not.

The Director's Master Class is part of the Winter Quarter concert entitled, "Broadway," not a separate class beginning this week.

The Thunderword corrects all mistakes; send your picks to tword@highline.edu.

Unconventional literature

Classes look at video games, graphic stories for interest

BY ROBERT FITZGERALD
STAFF REPORTER

Highline is offering college credit for reading comic books and playing video games.

Literature 220 — Popular Literature — offers classes featuring the graphic novel this quarter, and literature in video games this spring.

Tarisa Matsumoto-Maxfield is teaching the graphic novel class and says students are responding well so far.

Jeff Benner, who is currently taking the course, would agree. "It's a very engaged class. People talk a lot more often than usual — they have a lot to say." Benner suggests the course is thriving because of its student-orientated nature. "She let's us develop ideas on our own," he said.

Some of the students didn't know what it was to begin with, though, Matsumoto-Maxfield said.



Graphic by Melody Ericksen

Even Benner admits he considered dropping when he first discovered just what Lit 220 was. "It seemed like it wouldn't look as good on a transcript."

Eventually, Benner came around. "I was really surprised — I was interested. The medium is really exciting."

The class isn't as focused on the theory of literature, Matsumoto-Maxfield said, but on the meaning behind the books.

"A lot of graphic novels are written to provoke thought," she said. "They have the ability to be more open."

Students will have to prove their understanding of those thoughts in order to pass the class, however.

Tasks for the course include a journal, essay, book review, and group project.

The amount of work isn't a deterrent for current students, though.

The class's success is a result of the course's focus. It's a medium that students are familiar with and interests them, Benner said.

Student-oriented material is also the core element of the

next quarter's popular literature class.

Literature in Video Games, taught by instructor Angi Caster, will be offered this spring for the second time in Highline's history.

"The student response was phenomenal," Caster said. The class wasn't listed on any quarterly schedules, but Caster found it overflowing on its first day last year, allowing her to take liberties with the class format.

"This was the most-student centered course I've ever taught," said Caster. "I just fa-

cilitated the leap into the literary aspect."

Students were required to purchase the Bedford Guide to Literary Terms, from which they selected 10 literary elements that they would explore through the virtual world of video games.

Their thesis was to prove that video games were indeed literature, Caster said.

Caster's web site www.flightline.highline.edu/acaster features several power point projects that students constructed for credit last year.

Caster's student-focused approach to the class is a result of trying to teach the "millennial student," as Caster calls today's average college attendee.

"This student doesn't care about grades — they want only what they're interested in."

Today's students are much more responsive to customized education, Caster says. "One size doesn't fit all."

Highline's popular literature classes may seem like they cater to a specific student, but they offer something for anyone who is interested.

Jeff Benner, though once skeptic, now supports popular literature. "A lot of it deserves to be recognized," he said.

Highline alum uses education to help out his country

BY MICHELLE ERICKSEN
STAFF REPORTER

From Highline to Kabul, Farid Karzai finished his education and moved on to bigger and better things.

More than 50 students, staff and faculty turned up to listen to a speech given by Karzai, now a senior adviser to the Afghanistan Minister of Communication.

Karzai's family immigrated to the United States from Afghanistan in March 1993.

"I remember exactly the plane landed at 2:36 a.m.," Karzai said.

He has three brothers and two sisters. His brother Ehssan Karzai graduated from Highline in 2001.

Education was one of the reasons for the move, said Karzai. He had already completed high school in Afghanistan, and started off at Highline as an ESL (English as a second language) student.

He completed his associate of arts degree with a emphasis in political science in 2002. He went on to Seattle University

and graduated with a bachelor's degree in International Studies with a sub-major in political science in the 2004-05 school year.

Karzai is fluent in five languages: English, Pashto, Farsi, Urdu, and Russian. He is currently taking classes in elementary French.

"Education is the proven method that will help you realize your dreams," Karzai said.

Karzai wanted to use his knowledge in education to the benefit of Afghanistan.

He went to work for the government last year after finishing his degree. The man who is now president of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, is his cousin.

"I've had the taste of power, and the sense of people's despair," said Karzai.

Afghanistan has a stormy history, most recently recovering from a decade of Soviet occupation followed by civil war and the oppression of the Taliban movement.

"The country is far better off than anytime in the past 27 years," said Karzai. "I still will not hide that the country has



Photo by Jocie Olson

Farid Karzai speaks about government in Afghanistan problems."

The Russians got it wrong when they tried to win the hearts and minds of the Afghani people by building major cities, said Karzai.

"The 27-plus million people in Afghanistan don't live in major cities; they're illiterate and

independent," Karzai said.

All across Afghanistan million of boys and girls are in school, women in some cases have gained and in some cases regained their role in Afghan society, said Karzai.

The power of the individual vote is still new to the country,

Karzai said.

"Bad things are happening too, votes are being bought and in some cases sold," he said.

It's because of some individuals and the situation imposed on them, said Karzai.

Neighboring countries continue to disrupt the rebuilding process, he said.

"Corruption has become an accepted norm in the day-to-day government business," Karzai said.

Karzai has been married since August 1998 to his wife Rouria Karzai. They have three sons together.

Karzai is mulling over the next step in his career. He's been offered a promotion to a position at the Afghan embassy in Geneva, Switzerland.

"The ball is in my court now and because of my family situation I have to consider," Karzai said.

He urged Highline students to continue with their educations.

"Don't lose your line in Highline, stick with education -- you'll get to the end of the line," Karzai said.

Editorial

What to do as loans begin to dwindle

Student loans will now be more difficult to obtain and will carry a heavier interest rate. By a vote of 216 to 214, the House of Representatives has approved a bill that will cut \$12 billion from student loans and increase rates for those that remain.

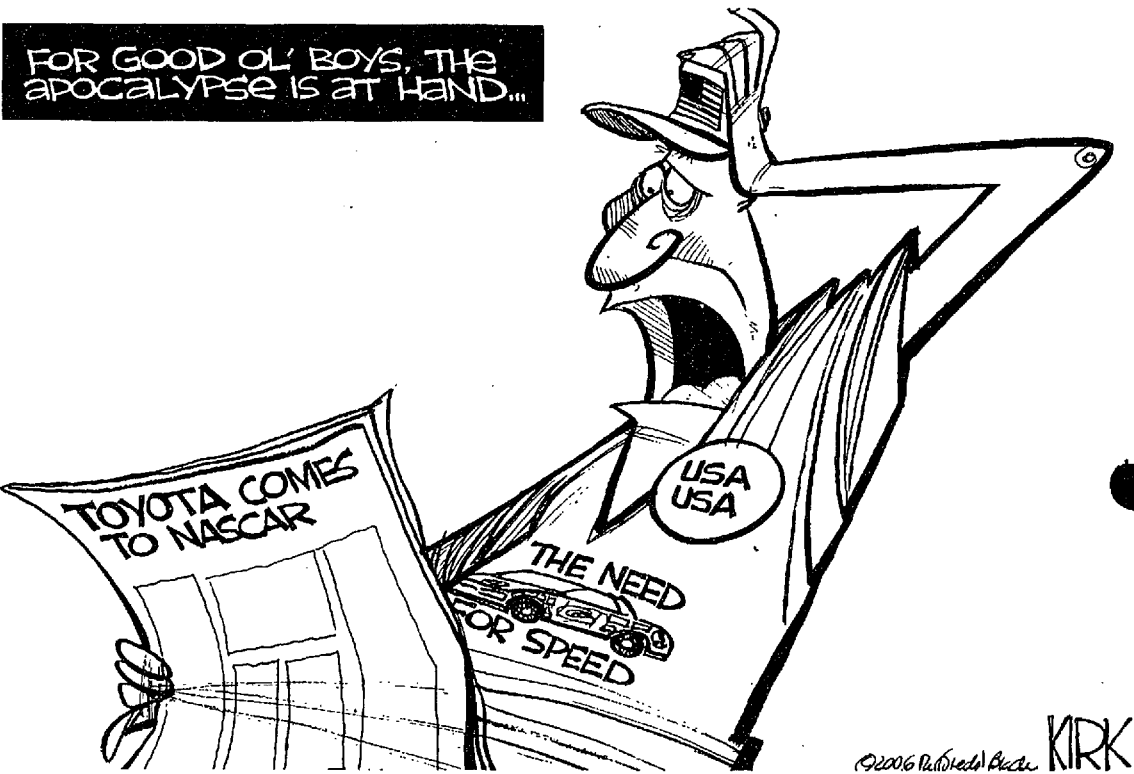
Because of this, those who rely upon student loans for their education are going to suffer.

This move is to ostensibly help balance the budget. That's not necessarily true. It's a drop in the bucket, a token attempt that will hurt students nationwide. Currently, the budget is at \$2.77 trillion, with a projected deficit of \$337 billion.

Cutting the budget deficit is a good thing for all kinds of reasons. No one is currently arguing that the United States should continue to spend like a preppy at an Abercrombie & Fitch sale. But this probably isn't the right place to cut.

If it's harder and more expensive to get student loans, fewer students will be able to afford college and fewer will therefore attend. That means fewer college graduates – fewer scientists and engineers, fewer artists and musicians, fewer educated teachers

FOR GOOD OL' BOYS, THE APOCALYPSE IS AT HAND...



Spending Valentine's day alone

Valentine's Day has come once again, and you suddenly find yourself confronted with a single, unloved, and unloving gender that you see. Who knows? You may just get lucky. But make sure your ego isn't shattered amongst you, exciting new possibilities are opened. Imagine sitting in the middle of the

Digging deep for art

Highline's Mak Zuljevic
ditches a graphics career
to take up acting



Photos by Alicia Mendez

By MICHELLE ERICKSEN
STAFF REPORTER

Mak Zuljevic has thrown away one artistic career only to take up another.

Zuljevic, 21, was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and lived in several different European countries before moving to the United States in 1998.

"If I had money I would travel all the time," Zuljevic said.

He's been an active member of the Drama Department, and is acting in the Winter Quarter production of *The Seagull*.

"I had to grow up in five different towns and cities across four countries," Zuljevic said. "That was a huge thing to overcome."

"Whenever you're a kid you naturally need space, space as in attention and space as in actual physical space you simply need that availability around you."

Zuljevic moved from Bosnia to Italy as a refugee, and finally to the United States, where his family settled.

"Nothing makes a kid grow older when they think they have to censor themselves in some way."

"If it wasn't for my mother's admirable strength and belief

in a better future I don't know if I'd even live to see this day," Zuljevic said. "If this article was a play she would be the playwright."

Zuljevic graduated from Foster High School before moving on to Highline.

He was originally interested in graphic design, and went to Cornish College of the Arts to get a bachelor's degree in that field after finishing his associate of arts degree.

"While at Highline, I worked for this exact newspaper, balancing my visual tyranny with age-old strict rules and guidelines," Zuljevic said. "It's where I realized that the audience, in this case the reader, must not suffer for your need to visually portray Armageddon day across every newspaper page."

Zuljevic only stayed at Cornish for a year.

"It was one year of hard work but even harder decision making," he said. "By the time the school accepted me, and by the time I was eager to start learning seriously under intense guidance, I met the stage."

It was his last quarter at Highline, and out of curiosity he registered for a beginning acting class.

"Everything that I've witnessed and felt throughout the quarter was strong enough to shake the fundamentals of three years of obsessive work in design," Zuljevic said.

Zuljevic, then 19, said it was a lot to deal with, because the two fields are so far apart from each other.

"My certainty in one (graphics) was so easily taken away and replaced with doubt, fear and a sinister desire to venture into something I could not do at the time and, even worse, could not perceive," he said.

"Thanks to my parents' fi-

nancial support and their incredible nervous strength I'm able to switch my studies and pursue acting," Zuljevic said.

The reason Zuljevic is still at Highline is because of the Drama Department.

"Highline is lucky to have such a strong drama department, with an admirable facility, large assortment of costumes, design shop and two individuals who are alone responsible for a very motivated and disciplined environment, Rick Lorig and Dr. Christiana Taylor," said Zuljevic.

"I'm lucky to have discovered acting at Highline under Dr. Christiana Taylor," he said.

Zuljevic prefers to play historical roles.

"I just like to portray historical events and historical figures, and people that are deceased," he said.

History was Zuljevic's favorite subject in school.

"In Italy you spend a whole year studying ancient Roman history. I always enjoyed history," Zuljevic said. "It was one of the few classes I got good grades in. I couldn't wait for class."

Other roles he would like to play are artists and painters. "I would love to play Van Gogh," Zuljevic said. "He was never able to give himself peace."

"I like acting. I hope that someday if I work hard enough I'll be successful," said Zuljevic.

Zuljevic has deep intense eyes, but a smile often curls up at the corner of his mouth.

"I was always attracted to acting when I was a kid, ever since I can remember the taste of milk," Zuljevic said. "I was always inclined towards expressive, creative forms.



Forms that stir emotions and evoke something inside us, something that's bigger than reality."

Preparing for every role and or monologue is different for Zuljevic.

It's just takes a lot of practice and preparation, he said. The only thing he does consistently is prepare his vocals.

Zuljevic says everyday experiences are insignificant compared to the endless emotional moments between exultation and despair.

"Perception slips out of our grip and we are lifted, dropped, pushed, and caressed by the endless and the unexplainable, Zuljevic said. "Knowing this I am inclined towards the extreme. It's not the vulgar, arrogant extreme which nowadays appeals to the younger rebellious generations but an extreme intensity

in communicating truth."

Right now Zuljevic is concentrating on getting accepted into a good college.

"I plan to see myself in a school a year from now, because if I don't it will mean another year of planning," he said.

He's been auditioning at several different colleges and just got back from a miserable audition at Julliard, New York.

"It was awful; I couldn't concentrate," Zuljevic said. "The attempt was naive, and the outcome realistic."

"It was a good slap in the face. Whatever the outcome, one has to feel it on his skin and learn. I will have three more auditions by the end of March," he said. Acting is different for everyone; it depends on what they are looking for, Zuljevic said.

"You have to make the audi-



Mak Zuljevic

Amber Johnson has reason to sing

By ERIC BREAKFIELD

STAFF REPORTER

Nationals is the war cry of 24-year-old Amber Johnson, who will be traveling to Austin, Texas to compete in the Music Teachers National Association competition next month.

"It's exciting that I will be singing at a national level," Johnson said while a short grin began to sneak onto her face. She will be competing against six other finalists, each from a different part of the country, on March 12-15.

In order to participate in this national competition each singer must have 11 pieces prepared, be under the age of 30 and have qualified for the final at the two previous events of State and Divisional.

"It's exciting, but it's a little intimidating," Johnson went on. She will be taking her singing professor and coach, Dr. Sandra Glover, and a few members of her family along with her on the trip to Texas. Dr. Glover was also the person who told her that she should get involved in the acting program.

Since she first started her acting career here at Highline, Johnson has learned to incor-

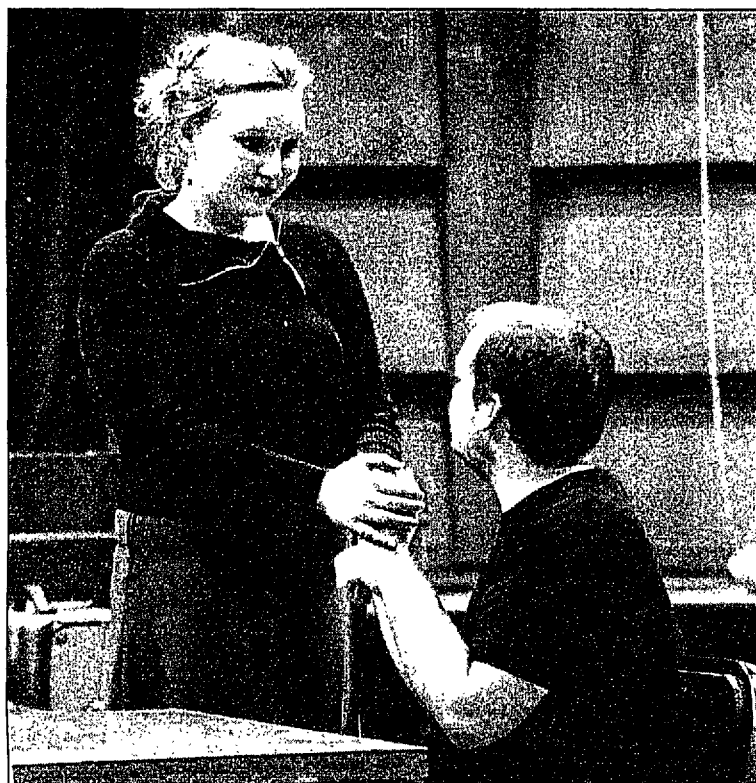


Photo by Jocie Olson

Amber Johnson, left, rehearses a scene from 'The Seagull,' the Winter Quarter Drama Department production.

porate the acting skills she now knows, with the vocal talent she has always had.

"Singing for me is very personal, it's like putting my soul out there," Johnson said.

To help fight the strong emotions that each song can raise, Johnson has developed a character to go along with each song she sings. This way she can

envelop herself into her character and pour more emotion into every song; this is what really makes her stand out as more than just another pretty voice.

Her ability to really understand and connect with each character is what has also made her so successful in the drama program here at Highline.

In this quarter's drama pro-

duction of *The Seagull*, Johnson will be playing the role of Irina.

"She is really interesting to play, her presence is huge," Johnson said. Johnson also said that her goal is to portray Irina as a real person and focus on the characteristics she has that are not so obvious on the surface.

"I want to show her as a person with real emotion, not just a shell," Johnson added.

Since this is her second year at Highline, Johnson will be performing this show with having already known half of the cast. She said she was happy to be working with many of the same people, but is just as excited about working with the new faces as well.

After school Johnson plans to use her vocal and acting talents to make a living. She has already interviewed with other vocational schools and remains optimistic while waiting for the results.

Johnson also says that her family's support has also meant a lot to her. "They have always been very supportive," she said. "They come to all of my concerts and shows."

Along with the current show at Highline and the national competition for Music Teachers Na-



Amber Johnson

tional Association, Johnson was nominated for the Irene Ryan Scholarship, run by the Kennedy Center, for her portrayal of Ruth in last fall's performance *Book of Days*. This competition is on Feb. 20 and she will be preparing two scenes, two contrasting scenes and a monologue.

Johnson will also need to learn a few more songs, as she is set to compete in the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition, in order to compete; Johnson will have to learn seven new pieces as this competition requires a performer to submit 18 songs. This contest is held every two years and is always open to the public, this year it will be hosted here at Highline on Feb. 26.

The Strokes release rockin' new album

By KEITH DAIGLE

STAFF REPORTER

From the ashes of *Room on Fire* emerges The Strokes third album, *First Impressions of Earth*.

Three years passed in-between *Fire* and *First Impressions*, and the first impression of

Impressions is that it was well worth the wait.

Coming from New York The Strokes have a sound that is as diverse and fast paced as their hometown.

They are an alternative rock band in the same family as other New York bands such as Interpol and The Bravery.

The CD starts off smooth with a catchy guitar riff, drums and bass following in sync while singer Julian Casablancas croons in the background. It has an up-tempo beat and a sound that is only a distortion pedal away from being grunge.

The song *You Only Live Once* is a gentle introduction to the rest of the album. It is a strong

song, definitely one of the best on the CD.

The Strokes walk the fine line between punk rock and emo, sometimes veering to one side or the other but never falling over.

Their sound is too refined to be hardcore punk, but it is not whiney enough to be emo, so it falls into rock genre limbo.

Juicebox explodes with hard driving guitars and Casablancas screaming "Why won't you come over here? We've got a city to love!"

The second song on the album, *Juicebox* runs where *Live Once* jogs. While they are very different the contrasts between the songs compliment each other.

The Strokes on *First Impressions* sound like an amped up version of Franz Ferdinand. Or, more correctly Franz Ferdinand is a watered down version of The Strokes, since The Strokes came first.

The electronica song *Ask Me Anything*, signals yet another change in musical styles on the

CD While remaining together by a common thread the album explores a variety of styles.

Having such varied style on a CD can be dangerous because you run the risk of creating a disjointed and unorganized CD that is hard to listen to. The Strokes stay close enough to home that the album stays cohesive from start to finish.

The Strokes for the most part owe their unique sound to having two guitar players in their ranks. Nick Valensi and Albert Hammond Jr. (the son of blues guitarist Albert Hammond) play guitar alongside Casablancas, bass player Kikolai Fraiture and drummer Fab Moretti.

The second guitar is most notable in *Heart in a Cage*. It adds an extra dimension to the music, fullness to their sound.

The Strokes choose subtly instead of aggression in their music; something that suits them well. Rather than hitting people over the head with their music, they choose to let it talk for itself.

Eric E. comes to rock Blend

By ALEX CAHAN

STAFF REPORTER

Eric E. was cooking in the Bistro on Wednesday. Eric E. played his guitar to one of the largest participatory crowds the Blend has seen.

"It was wonderful," said Krista Marie, one of the students in the audience. "He had a good voice and a large repertoire of songs. He took requests the whole time and it wasn't too loud."

Among the songs he performed were *Sitting on the Dock of the Bay* by Otis Redding to which he whistled at the end, *Knocking on Heaven's Door* by Bob Dylan, complete with harmonica, and he rapped MC Hammer's *Can't Touch This*. He also sang a Louis Armstrong number, with which he made trumpet noises with his mouth.

"I thought it was great," said Eric E. about the show. "The



Eric E. plays his guitar and takes audience requests.

main thing to me is that people have a good time - that I can see them smiling and see their reactions. The venue is great too - the couches and the comfy chairs - you guys are lucky to have it."

He said that he wouldn't mind visiting Highline as a regular stop, and would like to thank Team Highline for inviting him to play.

The next Blend artist is Deems Tsutakawa on Feb. 22, 2006. Tsutakawa plays jazz piano.

The Thunderword has an immediate opening for a graphic artist/designer. This is a paid, part-time, on-campus position. Please bring a resume and portfolio to 10-106 to apply. Or e-mail thunderword@highline.edu for more information.

Rational Numbers by Linda Thistle

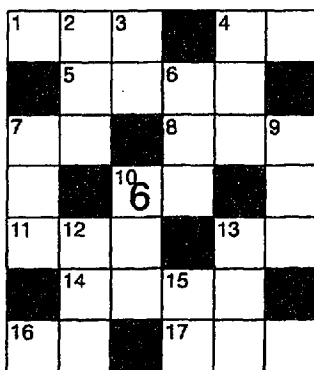
Using the clues, simple arithmetic, and a little logic, place a single digit (0 to 9) in each empty box in the diagram. To help you get started, one digit has been entered in the diagram.

ACROSS

1. 17-Across minus 16-Across
4. 10-Across minus 15-Down
5. One-half of 14-Across
7. Consecutive digits in descending order
8. Consecutive digits in descending order
10. Three times 16-Across
11. 12-Down plus 13-Down
13. Consecutive digits in ascending order
14. Four different even digits
16. Ten more than 13-Across
17. One-third of 7-Down

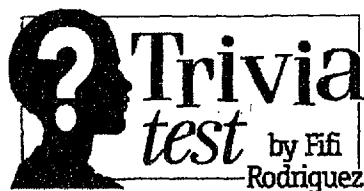
DOWN

2. Same digit repeated
3. The last digit is four times the first digit



4. Sixty more than 17-Across
6. 10-Down minus 8-Across
7. The last digit is the sum of the other digits
9. Two times 1-Across
10. Consecutive digits in ascending order
12. Six hundred more than 9-Down
13. Five times 4-Across
15. Digits of 3-Down reversed

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1. ASTRONOMY: What is the name of the nearest star to Earth after the Sun?
2. HISTORY: Where is San Juan Hill, site of the famous Rough Riders' charge?
3. TELEVISION: In what year did TV's Perry Mason debut?
4. MILITARY: Which U.S. jet fighter was nicknamed "Voodoo"?
5. LITERATURE: What was Sancho Panza's job with Don Quixote?
6. COMICS: How many years did Buck Rogers spend in suspended animation?
7. POP CULTURE: What

soft drink was dubbed "the Uncola"?

8. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the amusement park called Tivoli Gardens?

9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is David Cornwell's pen name?

10. FIRSTS: What was Margaret Gorman's famous first title?

1. Proxima Centauri
2. Cuba
3. 1957
4. F-101
5. Squire
6. 500
7. Tup
8. Copenhagen
9. John Le Carré
10. First Miss America

Answers

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Arts Calendar

The Jeni Flemming Acoustic Trio will be performing at the Kent-Meridian High School Performing Arts Center (10020 SE 256th St., Kent), Friday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$13 for students and seniors. Tickets are on sale at the Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave. N., Kent, or by phone with a Visa or Mastercard during business hours at 253-856-5050.

The Missoula Children's Theatre is auditioning actors ages 5-18 for a production of *Robin Hood*. Open auditions will be held on Monday, March 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Glenridge Elementary. Children must be at auditions at 4 p.m. and stay the entire two hour period. Rehearsals March 6 -11 and present two public

performances. The play will be March 11, 3 and 7 p.m. at Glenridge Elementary School, 19405 120th Ave. SE, Renton. Tickets are \$5 for adults and children and are available at the Kent Commons, 525 Fourth Ave. N. For more information, pcall 253-856-5050.

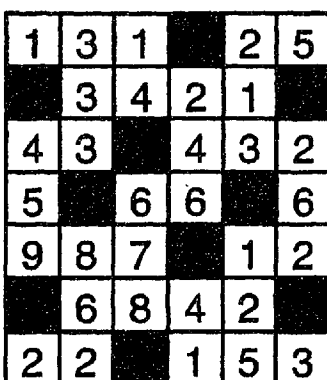
•Taproot Theatre Company offers University Night on Feb. 9 for J.B. Priestley's compelling mystery, *An Inspector Calls*. University students receive a \$10 ticket with a valid student ID. For tickets contact the box office at 206-781-9707. The performance begins at 7:30pm at Taproot Theatre, 204 N. 85th St. in Seattle. *An Inspector Calls* was first

•Did you ever think that graphic novels could help your poetry? Craig McKenny thinks so. He will be giving a seminar on using comics and graphic narratives to jump start your

poetry. "Visualize Your Poetry: A New Way of Thinking About Comic Art" is a presentation that will teach you how to use graphic novels to enhance your poetry. It will take place from 6-8 p.m. on Thursday Feb. 9 in Building 21 room 203. The admittance fee is \$10.

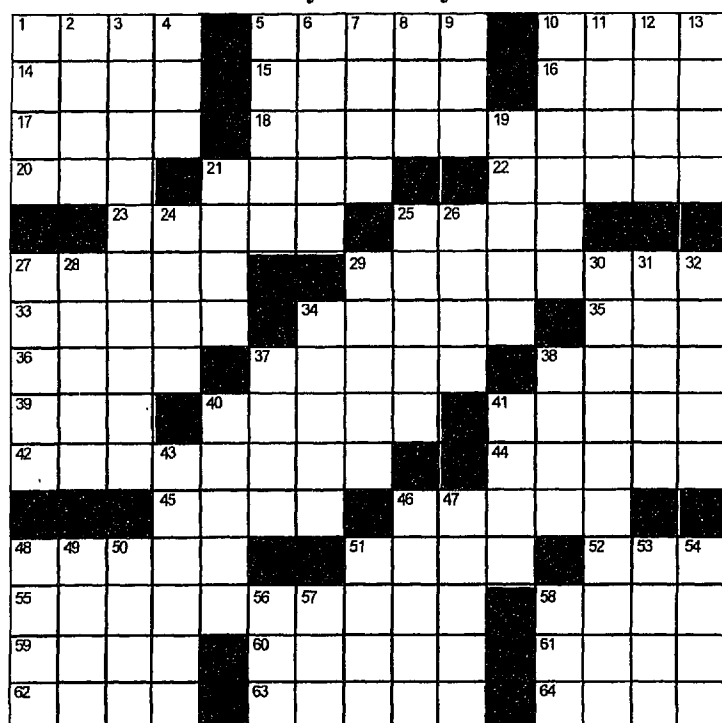
Rational Numbers

answers



Crossword 101

By Ed Canty



ASAP

Across

- 1 High-pitched flute
- 5 Corpulent
- 10 Villains
- 14 Periods of time
- 15 Talent
- 16 Small buffalo
- 17 Throw away
- 18 Sprinter, e.g.
- 20 Farm dweller
- 21 Lease
- 22 Ornamental headdress
- 23 Baseball hot corner
- 25 Precipitation
- 27 Electronic communication
- 29 Compelled to eat
- 33 Ointment
- 34 Peruvian worker
- 35 Bass, for one
- 36 Small child: Var.
- 37 Zooms
- 38 Response request
- 39 Matchless
- 40 Sidekicks
- 41 Proportion
- 42 Soak through
- 44 Nautical command
- 45 Donation's to the poor
- 46 Uses a crowbar
- 48 Extremely angry
- 51 Umpire's call
- 52 Written record
- 55 Basketball strategy: Pl.
- 58 Circus performer
- 59 Complimentary
- 60 Concur
- 61 Inca empire locale
- 62 2006, e.g.
- 63 Garden workers
- 64 Church area

Down

- 1 Greek cheese
- 2 Press
- 3 Pitchman's forte
- 4 Road curve
- 5 Bid

- 6 Flavorless
- 7 Follows Big or Down
- 8 Dog's command
- 9 Make a mistake
- 10 Dog
- 11 O'Neill's Christie
- 12 Fireball
- 13 ___ Lee
- 19 New York city
- 21 Shake up
- 24 Busy place
- 25 Bellows
- 26 Fortifies
- 27 To bar: Legal
- 28 Pine Tree State
- 29 Blaze
- 30 Dead to the world
- 31 *Don't Be Cruel* singer
- 32 Bus stop
- 34 Clods
- 37 Counterfeit
- 38 Praise enthusiastically
- 40 31 D was one
- 41 Amtrak asset
- 43 Type of substance

- 46 Card game
- 47 Shell games
- 48 Uncertain
- 49 Uncommon
- 50 On the Atlantic
- 51 Hack's customer
- 53 Boat implements
- 54 Elmer's, for one
- 56 Cheerleader's cry
- 57 Inflated feeling of pride
- 58 Baden-Baden, for one

Quotable Quote

To a quick question,
give a slow answer.

... Italian Proverb

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Last week's solution

SAY IT AGAIN



Valentine's Day memories

BY MARK MARAS

STAFF REPORTER

From the sweet to the sharp end of Cupid's arrow, students reflect on memorable Valentine's Days of years past and what the holiday means to them.

Some students say thoughtfulness and surprises top the list of sweetest Valentine's Days.

"My mother was sick on Valentine's Day... I was at home taking care of her, so I couldn't go out with my boyfriend that night. He told me he was fine with it, but that night he surprised me with a bouquet of folded roses and thoughtful gifts. He also brought my mom Tylenol and cough drops," said Mo McFly.

Other students fall for good, old-fashioned romance.

Some students remember celebrating the holiday with a night on the town. "For Valentine's Day, I rented for my girlfriend and I a PT Cruiser limo. That night we

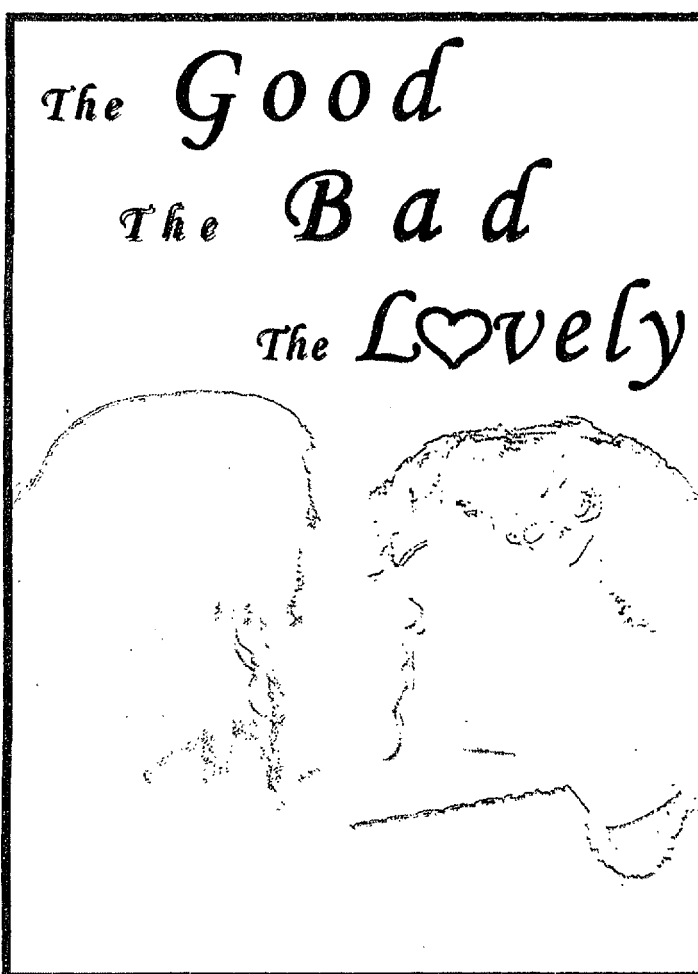
went out to dinner and we saw a movie," said Zach Tyge.

For others, a memorable Valentine does not have to be expensive, as long as it's from the heart.

"My boyfriend came home with no source of income and was recently unemployed. On Valentine's Day, he surprised me with a gift from his heart, which was making tissue paper flowers and giving them to me," Mellisa Cart said. "What I learned from that day was that love doesn't cost a thing."

Some couples confuse Valentine's Day with April Fools' Day.

"My boyfriend and I broke up on Valentine's Day and then he came back to my house and brought me six dozen roses and



a teddy bear. What I found out from him later on that day was that he planned on breaking up with me so he could surprise me with the presents," said Jessica Jackson.

The best Valentine's Days

can be remembered long after Feb. 14.

On the other hand, some students would rather not remember that day.

"My boyfriend dumped me on Valentine's Day - the day I found out that he got my best friend pregnant," said Erin King.

Other times, the Valentine itself gets swapped.

"There's a guy that I liked and he said he had a present for me, and my best friend got the present instead," said Julie Timlick.

Or the Valentine isn't really a

Valentine.

"On Valentine's Day, my boyfriend gave me a gold necklace and a gold ring.

I didn't expect him to give me a present as expensive as

that. Two weeks later, he asked for the necklace and ring back because he did not buy them himself. Instead, they belonged to his sister," said Pamela Gonzales.

Some students are alone on Valentine's Day by choice.

"I usually spend my Valentine Day's alone. I don't really have anything," said Chris Rivera.

Other students find themselves unexpectedly alone the holiday.

Valentine's Day evokes a spectrum of emotions from love to hate.

According to Kerri Jesse: "Valentine's Day sucks."

"I think Valentine's Day is a sad excuse to express your love for just one day when people should say 'I Love You' every day of the year, not just on one day," according to Danica Byers.

Some students agree that you don't always need the love of a girlfriend/boyfriend on Valentine's Day to feel special.

"It's important to keep your friends close as well as your significant other, because (your friend) can make you feel just as loved as anyone else," said Justine Noel.

Tips for maintaining a healthy relationship

BY SIMONE SNOW

STAFF REPORTER

Highline students Steve Scheide, 20, and Tealah Hill, 19, have been together for eight and a half months and say they have established a solid romantic relationship.

Sitting close together, shoulder to shoulder and exchanging affectionate glances, Scheide and Hill sat down to talk about their success.

"There's very much a comfort level," said Scheide. "We have a keen sense of honesty with each other. ... I can't and don't want to keep things from her."

According to Highline psychology professor Ruth Frickle following the research of Dr. John Gottman- an ideal relationship like the one Scheide and Hill share has a sense of commitment and trust that develops over time to form a healthy and stable bond.

"A healthy relationship is one which allows both people to grow," Frickle said.

Since people are constantly growing and changing, there is always something new to observe in them.

Therefore, it is crucial to the success of a relationship to monitor these changes.

"You need to keep up to date with your partner," Frickle said. From learning their hopes and dreams to remembering to put the cap back on the toothpaste, every action of thoughtfulness towards your partner is vital to maintaining a strong relationship.

"What matters are the little things that acknowledge what is important to your partner," Frickle said.

What also matters is taking care to avoid commonly made mistakes.

Many people, especially women, tend to start serious discussions with an angry and irritated tone.

Frickle called this a "harsh start up." It causes the other person to immediately become agitated and defensive.

On the other hand, men tend to resist and have great difficulty accepting suggestions from their partner out of fear of losing their power or status within the relationship.

"Men sometimes feel like they're 'being whipped' and pull away," Frickle said.

The conflicts resulting from these negative tendencies can be divided into two groups of solvable and perpetual conflicts.

Solvable conflicts have a solution and are quickly resolved.



Photo By Jocie Olson

Highline students Steve Scheide and Tealah Hill.

Making up only one-third of all conflicts, they tend to be minor disputes over things such as whose turn it is to take out the garbage or forgetting to put the toilet seat down.

Perpetual conflicts are more major battles that have the serious potential to break up a relationship.

These conflicts can seem insurmountable and tend to be over big issues like the division of labor, communication, and money.

Despite these unfavorable odds, Frickle says there are other factors to consider that greatly enhance a romantic relationship.

"In the happiest and longest-lasting relationships, there is a five to one positive to negative interaction ratio," Frickle said.

To counter one negative experience or disagreement, it takes five positive interactions big or small in order to keep both partners content and thriving within the relationship.

It is important, however, to avoid relationships filled with what Highline behavioral science/ psychology professor Michele Manber calls "intermittent reinforcement."

"Girls especially have a tendency to do this," said Manber.

"They stay in relationships where sometimes they're treat-

ed well, and sometime they're not. They stay for those few good moments. Sometime you get rewarded, sometimes you don't."

These types of relationships are very unequal and unhealthy. They can often lead to depression and problems with self-esteem.

"Slot machines don't pay off each time," Manber said. "You just never know when those good moments will be."

Manber then went on to describe what she considers crucial to a healthy relationship according to the research of Dr. Robert Sternberg.

"It's a triangle theory of emotional intimacy, physical arousal, and a cognitive commitment," Manber said.

While the importance of each element varies from person to person, the absence of one or more is not healthy.

Being only one of hundreds if not thousands of Highline students in love, Hill and Scheide say they are happy that have managed to overcome their problems and maintain their relationship.

"How many people get to wake up everyday and kiss their best friend?" Scheide asked.

"We always want to be together," Hill said.

Speed dating is love in fast forward

Even a short guy needs love. Team Highline's speed dating session brought all kinds of people together.

While I feared my vertical impairment would be a problem it turned out that I had nothing to worry about.

Speed Dating is dating on steroids. It allows you to cram a month of Friday nights into one afternoon.

The guys move from table to table, spending several minutes with each woman before moving on.

Mix Tape

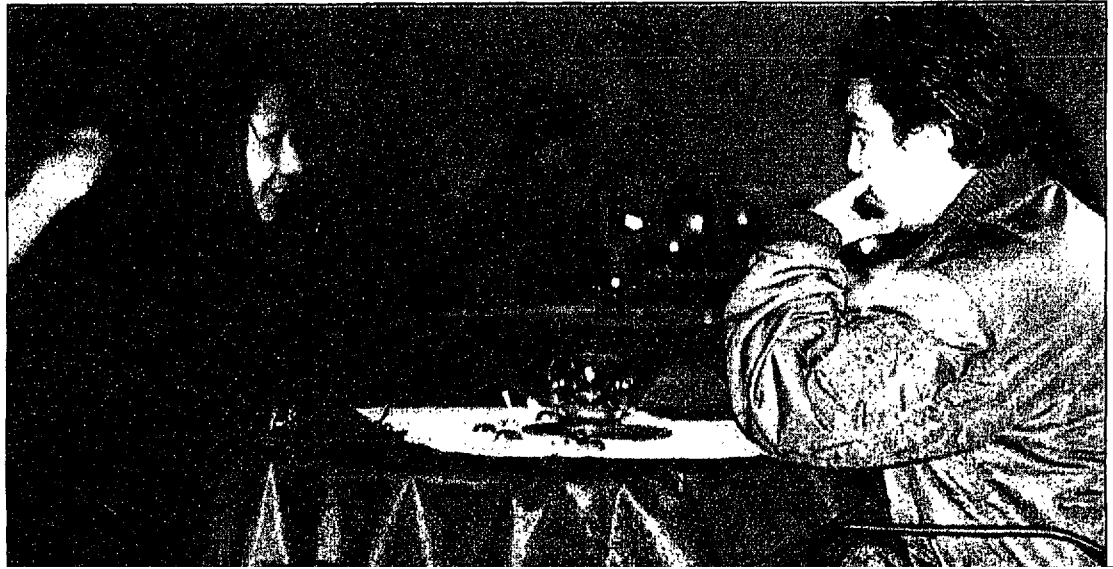


The food was definitely a plus though.

The guys all took a seat across from their first "date" and the speed dating had begun.

I sat down at my first table, shook hands with the woman in front me. Having no idea what to say, I started from the beginning, "Hi, my name is Keith," deciding to wait and see where it went from there.

One of the most awkward things in the world has to be making intelligent conversation with



2/9/06

THE THUNDERWORD

T-Bird wrestlers head to regionals

By TREVOR KULVI

STAFF REPORTER

The only thing standing in the way between the Highline wrestling team and the NJCAA National meet is the Region 18 Tournament. Last year Highline hosted the tournament, and now has passed the torch on. This year's host is Southwestern Oregon down in Coos Bay, Ore. The regional meet decides whether or not a wrestler will be participating in the two-day NJCAA national meet in Rochester, Minn. on Feb. 24-25.

The favorite to win the region are the Cardinals of North Idaho.

The six-team field consists of North Idaho, Highline, Southwestern Oregon, Lassen, Clackamas, and Yakima Valley.

Highline will be taking the entire team with them to the regional meet.

"All the guys have a good chance at qualifying," said Assistant Coach John Clemens. "We're optimistic about the possibilities."

"North Idaho would definitely be the team to beat," said Head Coach Scott Norton. "No one can touch them and they will walk through the region."

Representing Highline will be Deshaun Willis at the 125-pound class, Paul Kline in the 133-pound class, Tanner McCoy at the 141-pound class, and Justin Studer in the 149-pound class.

The coaches will decide whether it will be Micheal McKey or Keaton Kelly who

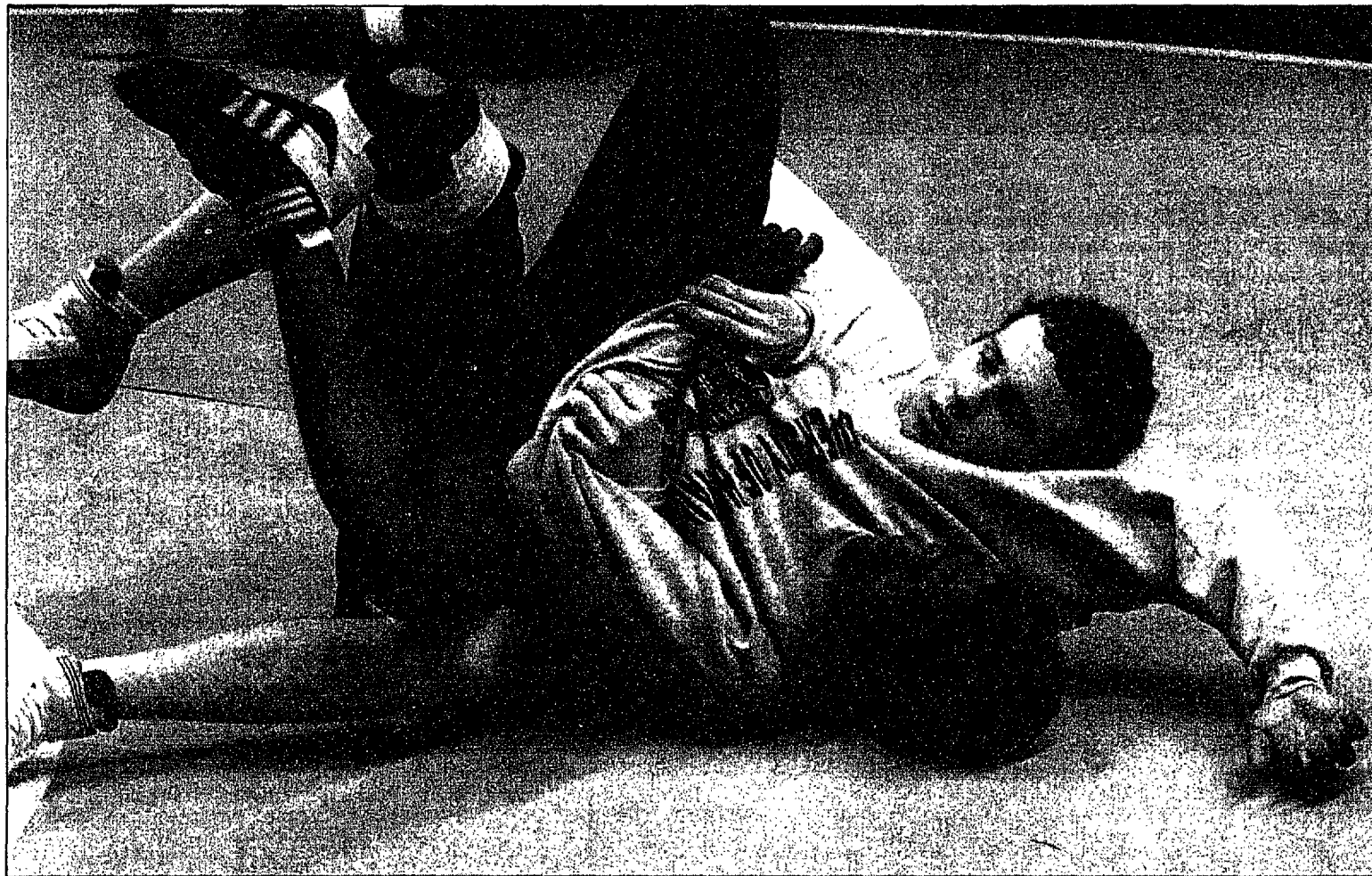


Photo by Austen Lavery

Highline's Paul Kline, back, and DeShaun Willis, front, practice for the Regional meet to be held at Southwestern Oregon Saturday Feb. 11.

will represent Highline in the 157-pound class.

Representing Highline in the 165-pound class is Norman Ore. Lionel Orgi will be in the 174-pound class.

In the 184-pound class will be Brad Padgett, while Roy Chambers will be in the 197-weight class, and Raymond Pouncey will be in the 285-pound class.

The one thing that North Idaho has on everyone else in the region is experience at the national level.

North Idaho returns several All-Americans to their squad, including Charles Boyko who is the No. 1 ranked wrestler in the nation at the 141-pound class.

In order for a wrestler to qualify for the national meet, he must place in the top four in his weight class or be awarded one of nine wild-card entries.

"It's tough to say right now, we could take eight or nine guys or none to nationals," said Norton.

"It's hard to tell, but North

Idaho is the favorite," said Joe Arminas, head wrestling coach for Lassen College. "It all comes down to a lot of variables involving the team."

One thing that is on every coach's mind is keeping their team intact.

"To have 10 solid weight classes is key down the stretch," said Arminas. "Another thing that has to bother coaches is keeping their guys healthy and eligible as well."

While North Idaho is the fa-

vorite to win the region again, there are several teams who figure to finish high in the standings as well.

"Clackamas, Southwestern Oregon, and Lassen should battle it out and all are in the race for second place," said Arminas. "Highline has a good squad and could possibly get up into the top five teams."

The regional tournament will be held this Saturday, Feb. 11 in the SWOCC gymnasium with prelim rounds to begin the day.

Plans for T-Bird mascot begin to take flight

By TREVOR KULVI

STAFF REPORTER

It looks like Highline will be getting a mascot for all athletic events and all school functions.

The funding to purchase a costume for the mascot was approved by Student Government on Tuesday Feb. 7 pending an approval by a committee consisted of members from Highline.

One main concern about the whole thing was how much it is going to cost.

Originally the cost was going to be about \$4,000, but since the costume was going to be used on numerous occasions and the graphics department came up with its own sketch of what they wanted the costume to look like, the price went up.

Right now the approval allows Highline to spend up to \$6,500 for the costume design.

The issue of a costume had been brought up before in the past at earlier meetings, but was put on hold while research was being done to find out what the meaning of Thunderbird actually is.

A key issue that was brought up about the mascot was the fact that Thunderbirds was actually a good mascot to have or was it a sacred symbol to the Native American tribes here in Washington.

Paul Kalchick, president of Student Government, did some research

to seek input from Native American groups on the proposed design and to find out what the

Thunderbird actually is.

"The Thunderbird is a mystical bird that once lived in the Olympic Mountains," said Kalchick. "It was also a big bird that would swoop down and bring a killer whale back to its nesting grounds to eat. Both the killer whale and Thunderbird were said to have formed the Olympic Mountain range and valley because the whale was trying to get back to the ocean and the thunderbird would always be trying to bring it back."

With the funding approved, the timetable of getting the costume ready is still up in the air.

The time table was originally set for four to six weeks, but it will be a bit longer now because it will need approval by a committee

appointed by Kalchick.

Once the costume arrives, it will be used all around campus for events in the athletic department and Spring Fair.

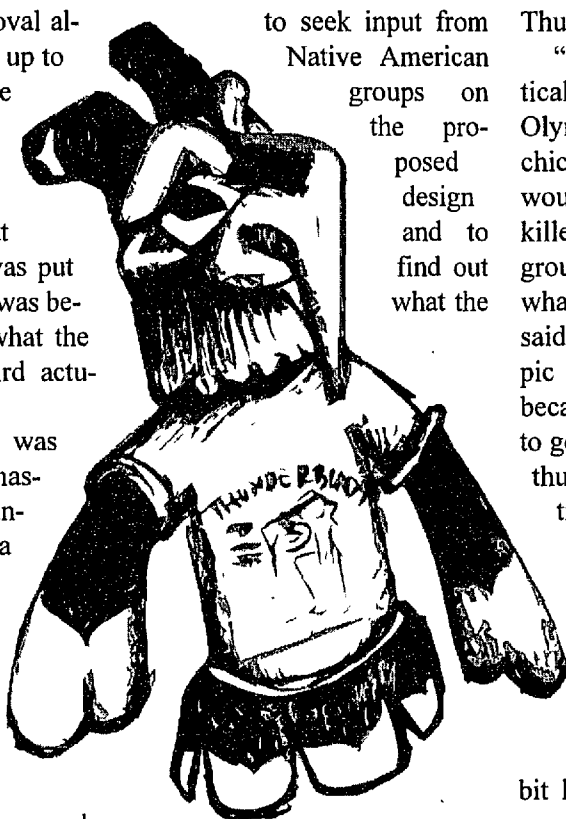
Although the costume was approved, it will not be here in time for the rematch with Green River in basketball on March 4.

Highline will be sending the design to the Street Characters company for the purchase of the costume.

According to Street Characters, their list is an extensive one and is growing all the time.

By getting the costume from Street Characters, Highline is assured it will not have to replace it for a long time.

Street Characters has been known to give its clients a training video and a manual on how to keep the costume in shape.



Women now in a three-way tie for first

By STEVE PIROTTE

STAFF REPORTER

The women's basketball team is ready to start planning for the playoffs after a 71-57 win against Tacoma and a 66-51 win over Green River.

The T-Birds are in a three way tie for first place in the NWAACC Western Division with an 8-1 record.

They share the lead with Centralia, who they play on Wednesday, Feb. 15, and Lower Columbia.

"I'm not really thinking about the Centralia game yet, I'm just trying to get through these two games," Head Coach Amber Rowe said.

"Unless we lose every game from here on out, we're probably going to go to the playoffs," Coach Rowe said. "But the players understand that that's not enough. We want to have a banner."

Against Green River, Highline led almost the entire game. The loss put Green River at 3-5 in league. Highline was led by Christine Kim with 19 points.

"Christine has been playing well lately," Rowe said. "Her all around game is better and she has picked up her scoring to where it should be."

The T-Birds were hurt before the game against Tacoma by the loss of two players. Olenithia Dishmon rolled her ankle in practice and Grace Dobson was sick.



Photo by Austen Lavery

Highline's Christine Kim splits the Green River defense with help from Stefania Green.

The T-Birds won anyway by 14 points, but Rowe said the final score was not accurate.

"It was closer than the final score. We led by 20 at one point, but they were able to cut it back to six. There was definitely a scary moment until we went on a late run."

The T-Birds finally improved their shooting, a problem all season long. After shooting badly for the first half of the

season, the team is now more consistent.

"Over the last three games our shooting percentage has been 35, 35, and 42 percent," Rowe said. "We're shooting better progressively as a team, but we're also shooting less three's and getting to the basket more."

However, the team did not play as sharp on defense as they have in the past.

"For the first time all season we turned the ball over more than the other team," Rowe said. "We played frenzied the whole game. We turned the ball over on interior passes a lot. We are seeing good passes, we're just not making them."

One player who has been playing particularly good defense is Natalie Schmidt.

"I put her on their best scorer every game and she still contrib-

utes offensively," Rowe said of the freshman guard, who also had 10 points and seven rebounds.

Offensively, the team was led by Marissa Cain with 29 points.

"She did what she should be doing," Rowe said. "We were able to get her the ball in good positions. It helped that she was 2-2 from three point range."

Highline played last placed Pierce last night with results unavailable at press time.

Pierce has not done so well this year as they entered the game with a record of 0-9 in league play and an overall record of 1-19.

The Pierce game is of particular importance to Coach Rowe.

Last year the T-Birds blew a 15 point lead against last placed Pierce and lost the division by one game.

"I am going to make sure that does not happen again," Rowe said. "I plan to give each girl a goal. I bought a water bottle and we'll award it to the player who has the best game."

The team next plays on Saturday, Feb. 11 at home to Grays Harbor. In the teams' first meeting Highline won 78-52.

In last years matchups with Grays Harbor, Highline swept the season series.

Highline won the first game 79-46 at Grays Harbor then took the rematch 97-65 on Valentine's Day at home.

Cain succeeds through hard work and motivation

By ALICIA MENDEZ

STAFF REPORTER

Standing at an intimidating 5-foot-10-inches Marissa Cain dominates.

Marissa Cain, 19 years old, of the Highline Thunderbirds women's basketball team, owns her position as post.

Last season, Cain was first-team all-league and the leading scorer for the women's team.

Despite missing three games this year, Cain is still her teams second leading scorer, averaging 11 points per game with a total of 209 points on the season.

Cain reluctantly began playing when she was 9 years old.

"My mom made me do it," Cain said.

Cain spent her young years watching her brothers Mark, David and Jordan play basketball and it never caught her eye, even though her mother would constantly tell her that she was

going to play basketball whether she wanted to or not.

"I'd always have to go watch my brothers and I would just be bored," Cain said.

As rapid as she wrote off basketball, she just as quickly fell in love.

The year Cain began playing was the year the seed of passion was planted.

Cain's drive was influenced by NBA center Shaquille O'Neil, the player she tries to model her game after.

"He is the type of player that works hard and he's not in it for the glory," Cain said. "He's a smart player, a team player and he dominates."

Once basketball was in her system no one could stop her. Cain invested weeks, days, and hours into basketball.

"In high school I used to go to the YMCA every day and shoot all day long," Cain said.

Cain said on the Saturday

nights when she was not allowed to go out with friends, she would immediately flee to the gym to practice shooting.

Cain's high school career was spent at Bellarmine Prep where her senior year she was first team and earned the All Narrows League title, voted on by the league's coaches.

Going to an elite high school such as Bellarmine, along with enlisting in basketball tournaments and camps, contributed to Cain's maturing skills.

"My mom's worked real hard to give me opportunities to play," Cain said. "I grew in my basketball skills because my mom was willing to put out money for it."

Cain hopes to further her basketball career at a four-year college.

"I've always had this dream of playing division one basketball," Cain said.

Ideally, Cain said she would



Marissa Cain

enjoy playing Division I basketball in Portland.

"I love the city of Portland, so it would be fun," Cain said.

However Cain said she does not want to play professional basketball.

"It's already starting to wear on my body. I would really like to have a career," Cain said.

Cain chose Highline as a starting point for her academic

career, and has not yet declared a major.

After high school, Cain was drawn to Highline's basketball program.

"I really liked the coaches," Cain said. "I would come to open gym to play and I really liked the girls that were coming."

Cain earned a starting position her first year at Highline.

Cain said thanks to her coaches she has learned a lot and improved her game.

"Coach (Amber) Rowe taught me a lot about keeping my head cool and not letting a lot of outside things, like a referee, interfere with my game," Cain said.

When Cain came to Highline she already had a passion instilled in her for basketball. She said Coach Karen Nadeau encourages her to always be

See Cain, page 13

Highline bounces back against Gators and Titans

By GAVIN JOHNSON

STAFF REPORTER

The T-Birds men's basketball team beat Green River and Tacoma last week in two hard-fought battles.

Highline took on the Gators at the Thunderdome last Wednesday defeating them, 79-73.

"Going into this game I stressed getting back to the basics. We needed to focus on fundamentals and personal accountability," said Head Coach Che Dawson.

Being tied for first in the West Division gave the team some confidence going into this game.

The T-Birds started off hot around the perimeter and at one point hit four in a row from behind the arch. The T-Birds finished the game with an impressive 48 percent from behind the 3-point line.

Going into the locker room ahead at halftime 39-30, the T-Birds were feeling too comfortable with their nine-point lead.

Green River carried their momentum from the first half into the second half as they went on a 8-3 run to open the second period.

"In the second half their guys were hot, so we had to switch up our defense to keep them off balance," said Coach Dawson.

Green River pulled with in two at 48-46 five minutes into the second half. The Gators con-

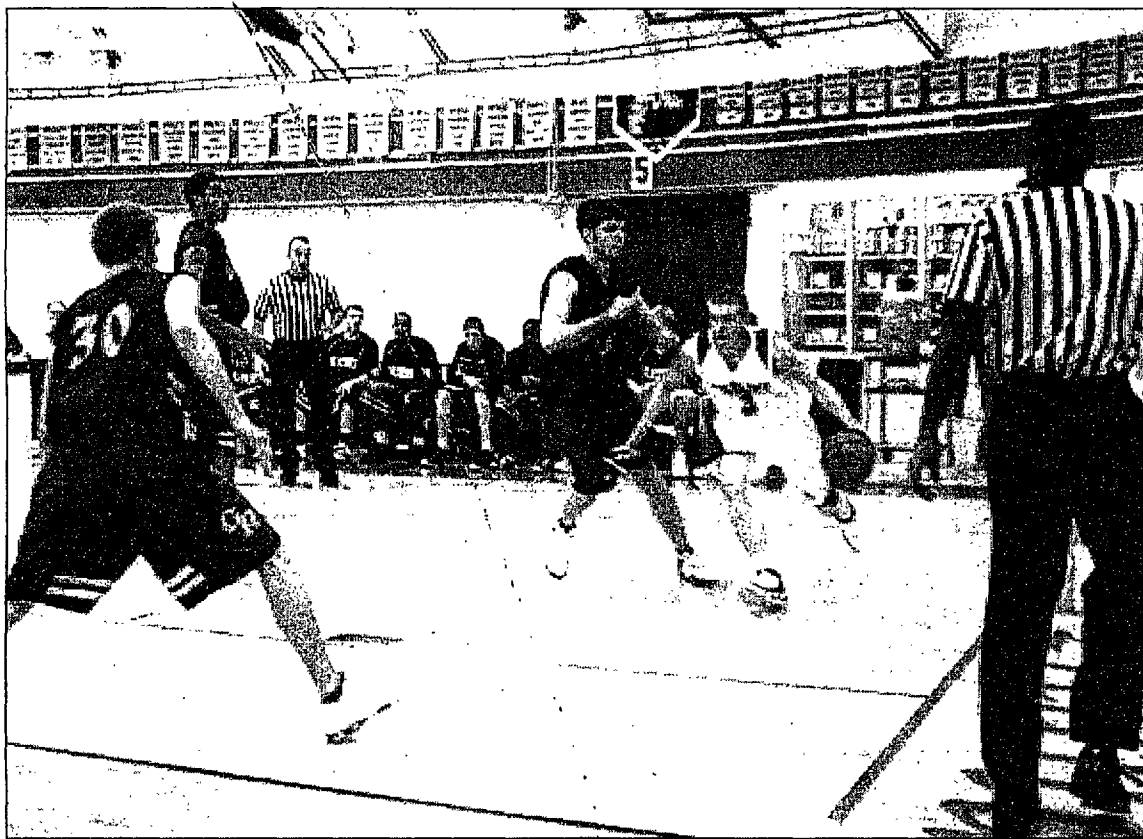


Photo by Alicia Mendez

Highline's Jaxin Skyward drives along the baseline past a Gator defender with another defender closing in.

tinued to chip away and gained their first lead midway through the second half 57-55.

From that point on the game turned into a shootout.

Highline's Derrick Webb went down and drilled a three and Green River's Zack Madren answered with a three of his own. The teams continued to go back and forth with neither team showing any sign of backing down.

Toward the end of the game the T-Birds pulled off some key rebounds, and clutch free throws

by Mike Dorr to pull ahead for good.

Key players of the game were Dorr with 20 points, Derrick Webb with 15 points, Nathan Jackson with 13 points, and Matt Mgebroff with 11 rebounds.

This game closed the first half of the season and clinched a tie for the Valley Cup between the Highline Thunderbirds and the Green River Gators.

Highline started off the second half of the season similar to the way they started and ended

the first half.

The T-Birds pulled off an intense win against the Tacoma Titans on Saturday with a final score of 69-68.

Playing at Tacoma was a challenge, because there is a big rivalry between these two teams and it was the Titans head coach, A.C. Mosley Jr.'s first game back from suspension.

"This was a huge win to start off on a good note for the rest of the season. Our men are really starting to gel together and appreciate one another," said

Coach Dawson.

Highline's defense managed to shutout Tacoma's key player, Chris Chase, with zero field goals during Saturday's game.

Throughout the game there were a high number of defensive fouls against the T-Birds which gave the Titans a lot of looks from the free throw line. Tacoma ended up shooting a near flawless 17-21 from the line.

Offensively the T-Birds once again had an outstanding performance from outside the arch.

Their overall versatility on the court threw the Titans off, and the confusion helped Highline pull away at the end.

With 1.4 seconds left on the clock the Titans had an opportunity to make a game winning shot for the win but failed to do so, resulting in a close win for Highline.

Key players of the game were Morris Anderson with 14 points, Jaxin Skyward with 14 points, Webb with 10 points, 7 rebounds.

Results from Wednesday's game against Pierce were unavailable at press time. The Highline Thunderbirds' next two games will be Saturday, Feb. 11 at home against Grays Harbor at 3 p.m. and Wednesday, Feb. 15 at Centralia 8 p.m.

"The playoffs are in our hands; now it's our job to make it happen," said Coach Dawson.

Fans show their support for T-Birds and Valley Cup

The inaugural Valley Cup game, pitting Highline against Green River, was a success.

Bench



Jamie Grossmann

Last Wednesday, both the men's and women's basketball teams took part in what should become an annual event both at Highline and Green River.

The stands were filled with

a mixture of staff, faculty, and students and the Valley Cup stayed here as both the men's and women's teams were victorious.

The building of a rivalry that is more beneficial than it is harmful is never an easy thing to do.

However, if the first matchup of the rivalry between the T-Birds and Gators showed us anything, it is that there is definitely fan support for both schools.

Staff, faculty, and students were encouraged to wear throw-back jerseys and paint their faces. Green River brought 30-plus students and their Gator mascot to cheer on their team.

Highline staff and faculty were encouraged to take in the festivities with a private section reserved for them at the north end of the Pavilion.

Tables were placed end to end and seated 25-30 staff and faculty members.

The tables remained full

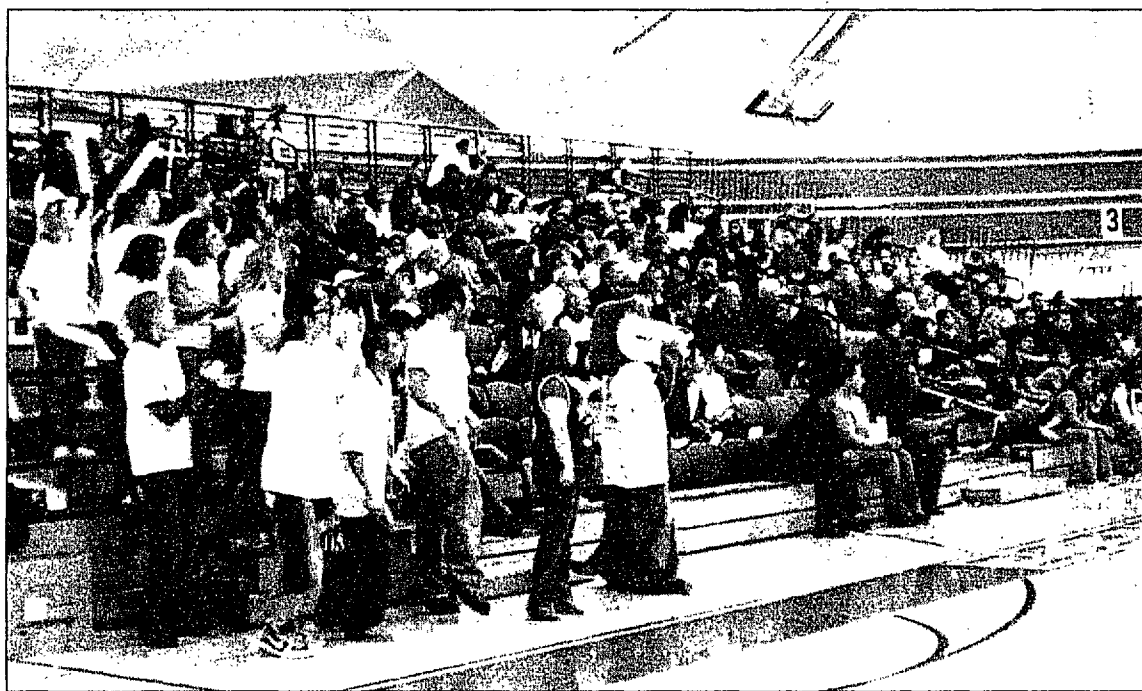


Photo by Alicia Mendez

Highline fans, far right, waiting patiently to cheer as Green River takes advantage of one of the few bright moments for the Gators.

throughout the majority of both games and at one time it appeared that Speech Professor Laura Manning tried to start the wave.

It fizzled out before it reached the other end, where Econom-

ics Professor Bruce Roberts and others were sitting.

The fans who attended the women's game witnessed the Lady T-Birds put together an early 17-point lead and hold on for a 66-51 victory.

"The women were very excited and happy about the couple of student athletes who were loud during our game,"

See Valley Cup, page 13

Cain

Continued from page 11
enthusiastic about playing.

"Coach K has taught me every game is a blessing that you get to play and it's not going to last forever, so give everything you have," Cain said.

Cain said being tall is a disadvantage to her defensive game however, Coach Damien Crump has helped her overcome it.

"Crump has helped us with keeping really low. He's really cracked down this year," Cain said.

Along with keeping really low, defensively, Cain admits she has one big problem.

"I foul. I have this thing where I don't like to be beat at all, so I foul them," Cain said.

Her fierce attitude on the court also helps Cain.

"I'm big and I'm intimidating. I adjust people's shots," Cain said. "I take up a lot of space, and I'm not easily moved."

Not only is Cain intimidating defensively, offensively she takes charge.

"My best shot is a shot when I'm not even thinking about," Cain said. "When I'm shooting like it's second nature, that's my best shot."

However, Cain does not always follow her instincts. She said she sometimes holds back on the court because she does not want to be a ball hog.

Cain said she admires all her teammates because they bring something different to the court; it is just a matter of putting it all together.

"When we play as a team we

are a very good team. There are moments when we are like 'wow, if we could play like this for 40 minutes, we'd be unstoppable,'" Cain said.

Cain hopes the team will earn league and NWAACC titles.

During this season, Cain has had two ankle injuries that have held her back from playing in as many games as she could. Her injuries have only fanned her flame for basketball.

"My goal is to finish out the rest of the season injury free and playing my game," Cain said.

Cain is particularly interested in playing her game against Centralia.

"I'm looking forward to playing Centralia. They are the only people that beat us in the league so far," Cain said. "I plan to finish the season playing the best I am capable of playing."

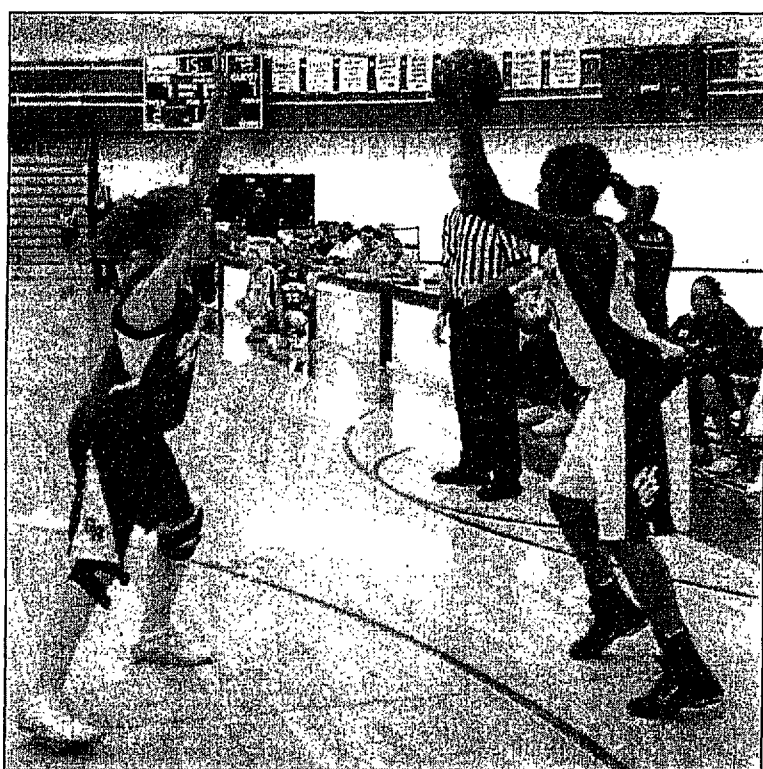


Photo by Austen Lavery

Marissa Cain looking to make something happen with a pass inside.

Valley Cup

Continued from page 12

said Amber Rowe, Highline women's coach. "It only took four of them to quiet 40 of them (Green River fans). They were a big help."

In addition Emmanuel and Aaron Nistran and Brian Dotson showed their support by painting their chests in support of the Lady T-Birds.

A good majority of the fans stayed and new fans arrived for the men's game.

The T-Bird men held off a late Gator charge for the 79-73 victory.

The fans saw an exciting finish as the lead changed hands twice before the final buzzer rang. The intensity of the T-Bird

men made it apparent that they were feeding off the crowd.

"There is no doubt that the athletes really enjoyed the support and loud, lively atmosphere," said Che Dawson, Highline men's coach. "We are willing to do anything we can to keep this momentum going."

Coach Dawson is looking to start a new student group that would be in a similar mold as that of the Cameron Crazies of Duke University.

"I would really like to start up a student group called the 'Thunder'," said Dawson. "Get them jerseys and a license to sit in a reserved area at all the home games and be loud and obnoxious, but respectful of course."

To see the stands full of fans supporting our male and female athletes was both humbling and

exciting.

Being a former athlete I appreciate both what the fans bring to the game and what it feels like to play in front of a large crowd.

I say humbling because playing in front of a crowd of friends, instructors, and strangers is what these athletes have been working towards.

There is a moment when you step onto the field of play and take a look around. You look for friends, family and any familiar faces. It is that moment that you

feel a sense of accomplishment, then you hear the crowd and as the noise grows louder you know that it is showtime.

A large crowd can pump up the athletes and make it so that they want to give a little more effort. As with the 12th man at Seahawks games it helps to get the blood pumping and makes athletes feel as though they have a fellow player on the field.

As a fan it gives a chance to release energy, yell and cheer for friends, classmates, or just because you enjoy the sport.

The fans at the game did just that. They yelled and cheered for their team, some twirled towels or shirts above their heads in an attempt to rile up the rest of the crowd. Throughout the crowd remained in control and without incident.

For at least one night, Highline athletics were able to ride the energy and enthusiasm created by their fans and use that against their opponents to gain victory.

Jamie wants the crowd to give him a "J".

Scoreboard

Women's Basketball

	Leag.	Ovrl.
NORTH		
Olympic	6-3	13-6
Bellevue	6-3	12-8
Everett	6-3	13-9
Shoreline	6-3	14-7
Skagit Valley	5-3	13-5
Seattle	4-5	8-14
Whatcom	4-5	10-10
Peninsula	3-6	9-11
Edmonds	0-9	0-18

Men's basketball

	Leag.	Ovrl.
NORTH		
Peninsula	9-0	15-4
Bellevue	8-1	17-4
Shoreline	7-2	15-6
Olympic	5-4	13-8
Whatcom	4-5	11-9
Skagit Valley	2-6	5-13
Edmonds	2-7	9-10
Everett	2-7	11-10
Seattle	1-8	5-15

	Leag.	Ovrl.
WEST		
Centralia	8-1	19-3
Highline	8-1	15-7
Lo. Columbia	8-1	13-6
S. Puget Sound	5-4	8-12
Tacoma	4-5	6-10
Green River	3-5	5-14
Clark	3-6	7-15
Grays Harbor	1-8	2-17
Pirece	0-9	1-19

Scores

Centralia 68, Grays Harbor 46
Lower Columbia 83, Clark 43
Highline 71, Tacoma 57
Highline 66, Green River 51
Lower Col. 63, Centralia 61

	Leag.	Ovrl.
WEST		
Lo. Columbia	8-1	21-1
Highline	8-1	15-4
Grays Harbor	7-2	15-6
Centralia	5-4	8-13
Pierce	4-5	10-11
Green River	3-5	7-12
Tacoma	3-6	4-16
S. Puget Sound	1-8	6-13
Clark	1-8	3-17

Scores

Grays Harbor 78, Centralia 73
Lower Columbia 81, Clark 58
Highline 69, Tacoma 68
Highline 79, Green River 73
Lo. Columbia 78, Centralia 58

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Photo by Jocie Olson

Corrine Powell, right, helps Denise Rushbrook with her taxes.

Walk in with a W-2, walk out e-filed

By CHANDRA SMITH

STAFF REPORTER

Taxpayers can now file their 2005 tax return electronically at no charge, thanks to 10 accounting students and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.

The accounting students are from Highline, University of Washington-Tacoma, and Central Washington University in a collaborative effort to help the public with their taxes.

They will be available each Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 1:10-3:15 p.m. in Building 30 room 311 through April 6.

To participate in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, the accounting students met every Saturday in January for eight-hour long sessions to learn the ins and outs of the income tax return.

The courses were followed by an IRS-issued test that the students had to pass by 70 percent to be eligible to volunteer.

Now, the students are taking what they learned from the course and applying it to as many tax returns as they can.

For Corrine Powell, a Central Washington University accounting student, the chance to join the program is a win-win situation.

"It's an IRS-sponsored tax course," Corrine Powell said. "We get the training for free, but we don't charge for our services."

"The course is a great deal because at H&R Block it can cost a few hundred dollars," she said.

This is Powell's first year in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. She wants to become a

tax accountant, and volunteers to offer community service.

Another first-year volunteer and Highline student, Lucas Knutzen, wishes to gain experience from the tax assistance program. His goal is a four-year degree in accounting.

"My sister got me into it," he said. Knutzen's sister sparked his interest in the program after she helped with taxes last year at Western Washington University.

The reason students such as Jeremy Plank are volunteering is for something other than a resume item. Plank, a Highline graduate, now attends the University of Washington-Tacoma.

"I am getting credit through UWT's accounting program," he said.

Highline's Accounting Department professor Geoff Turck is facilitating the volunteer tax services.

"I did this when I was in college," Turck said. "Nothing on my resume was highlighted or circled except for Volunteer Income Tax Assistance."

Jim DeLisa, another Accounting Department professor, has been participating in the program for more than seven years at Highline. He contributes by answering questions the accounting students have.

"(I do it) to be a part of the accounting department activities," he said.

The volunteers in the program encourage taxpayers to come prepared with any tax forms received in the mail, such as the W-2, 1098-T, and 1099, as well as the social security numbers of family members, social security statements, and last year's tax return if applicable.

Some tips that can help you with your troubles with taxes

By CHANDRA SMITH

STAFF REPORTER

Student taxpayers should be aware of new tax laws and resources before filing 2005 tax returns. As employers are required to mail W-2 forms detailing taxable wages by Jan. 31, the time to be thinking about filing is now.

You will most likely need to file a return if you

- had taxes withheld from your earnings last year and are expecting a refund

- owe taxes
- made \$400 or more during self-employment

- earned at least \$108.28 while employed at a church or organization.

In addition, certain scholarships and fellowships are considered taxable income.

The IRS has compiled information tailored specifically to student taxpayers. The information may be accessed at www.irs.gov/individuals/students.

Most of the changes that affect students for the 2005 tax year are designed to offer greater deductions and tax credits. Tax credits are generally refundable, while deductions reduce the amount of tax paid to the IRS.

"...The exemption amounts, the standard deduction amount, and the Earned Income Credit as well as the tax rate schedules for 2005 should be of definite interest to students," IRS spokeswoman Judy Monahan said.

The Earned Income Tax Credit allows low-income taxpayers such as college students

"...The exemption amounts, the standard deduction amount, and the Earned Income Credit as well as the tax rate schedules for 2005 should be of definite interest to students."

- Judy Monahan,
IRS spokeswoman

to gain a credit on their tax forms.

For instance, a 25-year-old student who has no children and cannot be claimed as a dependent with an income of \$8,000 may be eligible for a \$280 Earned Income Tax Credit if they file as an individual.

Other tax breaks students may want to take advantage of include the Hope and Lifetime Learning Credits. The Hope Credit can be claimed only the first two years of college for a total of \$1,500, and the taxpayer must be enrolled at least half-time for an undergraduate degree.

The Lifetime Learning Credit offers up to \$2,000 per return for students attending one or more educational courses.

Both credits cannot be claimed the same year.

If you need specific 1098-T tax form information to apply for the Hope Credit, you may visit Highline's Online Student

Services website and click on Hope Scholarship. The website offers a personalized listing of charges paid last year that qualify for the tax credit when you enter your student ID and password information.

Students who are repaying on student loans might want to claim a Student Loan Interest Deduction this tax season. You can deduct up to \$2,500 in interest paid on the loan each year.

Other changes for the 2005 tax year improve existing IRS services.

The 2005 Tax Rate Schedule posted on the IRS website makes it easy to estimate how much you must pay in taxes or if you may be eligible for a refund. Students who made up to \$7,300 in taxable income in 2005 must pay 10 percent of that amount.

Meanwhile, the tax of students whose taxable income was in the bracket of \$7,300 to \$29,700 last year is \$730, plus 15 percent of how much they made over the amount of \$7,300.

Students may use a tax service or file their own tax returns. Most taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less may use Free File, a no-charge service on the IRS website that files returns electronically.

The deadline to file tax returns is April 15.

For more information, meet with a tax consultant, visit the IRS on the web at www.irs.gov, or call 800-829-1040 to speak with an IRS representative by telephone.

W.A.V.E. Scholarship Washington Award for Vocational Excellence

The W.A.V.E. scholarship is awarded to students for outstanding achievement in vocational-technical education. Every year, the W.A.V.E. program gives scholarships for six quarters (four semesters) of tuition and fees at two and four-year colleges, universities and technical schools in Washington State. Three W.A.V.E. recipients are chosen from each legislative district by the selection committee. Any student currently enrolled in a vocational program by June 30, 2006, is eligible to apply.

Application forms and guidelines are available from Rickitia Reid in Building 9, (206) 878-3710, ext. 3301, or visit the W.A.V.E. homepage at: www.wtb.wa.gov

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Night classes may run later

By ROBERT FITZGERALD
STAFF REPORTER

Night students at Highline may be up late this spring.

Evening classes may go as late as 10 p.m. next quarter. Highline's Instructional Cabinet will be deciding within the next two to three weeks whether to enact a new policy, which would push night classes later in the evening, said Dean of Instruction Jeff Wagnitz.

Classes now starting at 4:30 p.m. will begin at 5:15 and go until 7:30 p.m.; classes beginning at 7 p.m. will be pushed to a 7:40 and go as late as 9:50 p.m.

Classes won't go past 10 p.m. though, said Wagnitz. "Ten is a psychological barrier."

Despite all of the discussion, Wagnitz pointed out that the plan may not even go into effect. "This is a proposal. We may not change the times at all."

The proposed change aims to bring in more night students for future quarters. "Our 4:30



Photo by Alicia Mendez

Chris Knipp studying in his night class, History 112. Night classes could start later in spring.

classes are not very numerous or well enrolled," said Wagnitz. "We're worried it's too early for working people."

Working people may be af-

ected negatively by the new change though, said student Jasmyne Bosley. "That's too late. It's hard for a person to get up the next morning and go to

work again."

Bosley, who is currently taking Chemistry 122 Tuesday and Thursday evenings, said that if she had been offered the later

class this quarter, she may not have taken it. "I would have tried to work something else out," she said.

Math Professor Joe Wilcox believes that students such as Bosley should be considered in the Instructional Cabinet's decision.

"I think the people who really matter are the students," he said. Wilcox alluded to possible conflicts with having a later start time, such as rush hour traffic.

Wilcox also stressed that students' schedules should be considered in the decision, not necessarily teachers'. "It probably wouldn't impact me a lot," he said. "I usually stick around my office after my [evening] class."

Students' schedules, he said, may not be as flexible.

"A lot of our evening students work full time or have families," he said.

For student Alan Doyle, family is what will be keeping him out of the changed evening classes next quarter. "It's too late," he said. "I have kids."

Freshmen now admitted to UW branches

By ROSIE MEEKER
STAFF REPORTER

The University of Washington branch campuses at Bothell and Tacoma will start admitting freshmen and sophomores next fall.

However, officials at those colleges say that won't limit the number of students who transfer there from community colleges.

The UW's Tacoma and Bothell branches have the primary focus of serving transfers, upperclassmen, and graduate students, said Elaine Kraft, director of public relations and communications at University of Washington - Bothell.

"The addition of freshmen represents a significant change for a campus that has traditionally served only transfer and graduate students," University of Washington Interim Chancellor Steven G. Olswang said in a press release.

The University of Washington branch campuses originally were created to accept transfer students from community colleges, after a state board proposed them in 1986, responding to the state's growing population and high enrollment at existing four-year schools. The schools opened in 1990.

In 1990, when the University

of Washington-Bothell was first opened for students, only 155 juniors and seniors were enrolled.

In 2005 1,620 students were enrolled, with 830 of those students attending full time.

Beginning in fall 2006, University of Washington-Bothell and UW-Tacoma each will have openings for 125 freshmen and sophomores, which will be new enrollments in addition to transfer students.

The state Legislature said in January that though the number

of students on campus will be going up, the number of transfers accepted will not go down.

UW-Bothell officials say that 52 percent of slots will be reserved for transfer students.

Kraft said that the two schools offer a variety of majors for all students, including business, interdisciplinary arts and sciences, computer sciences and software, environmental sciences and teacher certification, and graduate programs such as a master's degree in business administration.

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Minimum wage bills pile up in Olympia

BY CHANDRA J. SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Wage

Continued from page 1

Several minimum wage reform bills have been introduced to the Legislature this year. As some work is outsourced to other states, Washington lawmakers hope to improve the state economy by retaining low-income service jobs.

The minimum wage has been under the spotlight since the approval of Initiative 688 in 1998. I-688 raised the state minimum wage to \$5.70 in 1999, and again to \$6.50 in 2000. In addition, the initiative allowed for the state minimum wage to be reviewed annually for a cost of living increase.

Washington's minimum wage rate is currently \$7.63 as of Jan. 1. The national minimum wage is \$5.15. Washington has the highest minimum wage in the nation, while Kansas has the lowest at \$2.65.

House Bills 1788-1790, sponsored last year by State Rep. Cary Condotta, R-East Wenatchee, would change how the minimum wage cost-of-living increase is calculate; limit wages hikes in years of low employment; and put a cap on the minimum wage of 125 percent of the national average, or \$7.35, whichever is higher.

Senate Bill 6734 calls for minimum wage to be indefinitely frozen at the current rate instead of rising with the cost of living. The bill, sponsored by State Sen. Linda Evans Parlette, R-Wenatchee, was introduced Jan. 19.

SB 6734 also suggests that the Washington State Institute for Public Policy should conduct a study to examine what happens when the state minimum wage is increased.

The study would take a close look at topics such as the average amount of time an employee is with one employer while being paid minimum wage, comparing the effects of minimum wage increases in other states, the relationship between minimum wage and the unemployment rate in certain industries, and the rate public benefits are used by low-income workers.

Last year, a similar bill, Substitute SB 5551 passed in the Senate but not the House. The study was never commissioned.

Sen. Parlette said the bill she is sponsoring exists "to call attention to the issue. Minimum wage was never meant to be a sustainable income."

"We need to stop talking about anecdotes and found out what's real," she said. "The proper way is through a study."

tially made \$16/hour on top of minimum wage, and that is just too much.

According to the restaurateurs, servers have experienced a 39 percent increase in wages since 1998. Cooks' wages only went up by 20 percent. "We're losing outstanding cooks," Anton said.

The association's study claims that Washington restaurants only make a profit of 1.8 percent, as compared to the national average of 5.6 percent, he said.

"1.8 is a miserably low number. It's the lowest in the country," Anton said. Restaurants can't survive on that, he said.

Linda Sartnurak says restaurant servers can't survive on a reduced minimum wage.

Sartnurak, who once worked at the restaurant atop the Space Needle, became a founding member of the No Tip Penalty Task Force after getting laid off as a pilot for American Airlines and has testified before the state Legislature on behalf of restaurant servers. The task force has set up an informational website and hands out flyers to notify the community of the minimum wage bills the Washington Restaurant Association is pushing.

"Instead of using initiatives, the Washington Restaurant Association is working directly with the senators trying to scoot these bills past, figuring nobody will notice," she said. "People aren't aware of what's going on in Olympia if the information isn't in the newspaper. When you go out to eat, ask the server 'Are you aware of this?' and no one has a clue."

She also said the Washington Restaurant Association's statistics may not be accurate.

"The methodology is flawed. They are getting information by telephone from the restaurants instead of looking at the actual documents," Sartnurak said.

Sartnurak said the restaurant industry is actually improving, and the reason why most Mom-and-Pop restaurants don't stick around past four years is because they don't have enough capital to start out with or they'll quit for reasons other than the yearly increase in minimum wage.

"Sometimes they want to retire, or find that it's too much work. Prices go up for them as much as everybody," she said.

But she's more worried about the servers because the bill could

Hoo goes there?



Photo by Alicia Mendez

A snowy owl was perched on Building 29, most of the day on Feb. 7. There have been numerous snowy owl spottings in Seattle. They feed on various varmints.

mean as much as a 25 percent pay cut for some, and poverty-level income for households where both of the breadwinners are restaurant servers. She said if passed, bills like 2838 will only create an atmosphere of animosity for a restaurant's employees and its patrons.

"If you cut the wages of some of the employees and not others, you're cutting your own throat," she said.

At any rate, both sides of the issue seem to admit that the servers can't cut tips out altogether. Yet the customers have a choice in who they want to tip, and as the cost of living goes up they aren't tipping more, they're tipping less.

"Tipping is voluntary," Sartnurak said. "It's still under control of the patron."

No one knows that more than servers such as Cary Huerta, a Highline student working toward an associate degree to transfer to a four-year college. Both he and his girlfriend work at Anthony's Restaurant at SeaTac Airport, and they will have to rely on the customer more than ever to make ends meet if the bill passes.

"It's hard work being a server. You can't have a bad day. You always have to smile. So you try and get the most of your hours and take care of your customers, because they're really the bread and butter of what you get paid," Huerta said.

But Wes Van Duyn, a former Highline student who graduated

last year, said HB 2838 would negatively affect the restaurant servers.

"It would completely mess around with my income. It would mean less money on the tax return," he said.

Van Duyn made almost \$30,000 in wages and tips before taxes last year as a server at Red Lobster in Federal Way. He makes minimum wage plus a range of \$40-\$100 nightly in tips.

"Sometimes business is slow. There's nothing you can do about it," he said.

The dollar amount servers such as Van Duyn make in tips also depends on how much everyone orders at the dinner table. That means if a customer is just there for the shrimp cocktail, they are less likely to tip as much as a group of people ordering dinner, drinks and dessert.

"Customers usually tip 15-20 percent of the bill," he said. "Some people don't tip. Some people are just cheap like that."

Some customers dine and dash without paying, leaving the server with the whole bill.

Restaurants usually seat the most people on the weekends, but the problem is not all servers have a chance to be scheduled on the days that would yield the highest tips.

Critics of tip credit such as Sartnurak say not only restaurant servers but tipped employees such as baristas, valet parking attendants, hairstylists, gen-

eral hotel staff and other low-income earners could end up on welfare if this bill becomes law.

State Rep. Brian Sullivan and Washington Restaurant Association vice president Anthony Anton both said they are working to get better health care benefits for all restaurant employees.

Sullivan said tip credit is not currently on the legislative agenda but a group of restaurant owners may get together later on this year to discuss what can be done.

Until then, HB 2838, a steaming plate of slow-roasted meager earnings on a sesame seed bun, sits under the hot lamp of state Legislature waiting to be served.

Bill

Continued from page 1

shared by students and the loan industry. How much is still up in the air."

The long term impact is still undetermined, but the impact will be felt by students who borrow after July 1, 2006, said Seeman.

"Interestingly, the loan limits for first, and second, year students will actually increase while the aggregate amounts (total they can borrow for an undergraduate degree will stay the same)," Seeman said. "This will likely allow students at Highline to borrow more while here but again, the cost of borrowing will increase."