

THE THUNDERWORD

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PERIODICALS

Born in the wrong body

Student shares tale of sex change

By **MICHELLE ERICKSEN**
STAFF REPORTER

The woman you see on the outside is the one Isyss Viena always knew was on the inside.

She is a striking woman – her tall frame topped by deep, dark eyes and a smile that seems a little shy at first glance.

She wasn't always this way.

At the age of 17 Viena underwent a sex change surgery to become the woman she is today.

A transsexual by definition is one who wished to be considered by society as a member of the opposite sex or one who has undergone a sex change.

Viena was born in Pago Pago, American Samoa into a family of six children.

She knew she wasn't like other boys from the time she was in third grade.

"My teacher was the prettiest Samoan and Japanese lady, I always wanted to be just like her," she said.

She grew into a tall young person, but, she says, "I was a girly boy, walking around thinking I was a woman."

Viena said she always felt like she was a woman.

"I felt like I didn't belong, I didn't have transsexual friends when I was younger," Viena said.

She moved to Hawaii to attend school at the age of 16. A year later, Viena underwent a three-day sex change surgery to change her gender from male to female.

Viena never had any girlfriends before the sex change and not many boyfriends.

"My parents always kept me in the house," she said. "I wasn't allowed to go anywhere."

The surgery brought many changes to Viena's life.

"It was pain that you've never felt before," Viena said.

She made enough money by



Graphic by Marquis Faulcon

Isyss Viena said that her decision to have a sex change operation is one she had to make and one she does not regret.

escorting to pay for the surgery.

"I didn't sleep with any of my customers though," she said.

Before undergoing surgery Viena told her family of her decision.

"I told my mom on her birthday. Everything was bottled up inside me. I was tired of lying," she said.

"It's not that I wanted her to have a bad birthday, it just

seemed like the perfect opportunity."

Viena said it was hard for her to communicate with her mother via the telephone.

"It was really hard to get through to her because we didn't have eye contact...it was so sad," Viena said.

Her mother then handed the phone to Viena's grandmother,

who told her to either change her decision or no longer be a part of the family.

"I feel like people still don't understand. I wish people could see the pain I felt having no family," she said. "I cried myself to sleep sometimes."

See Isyss, page 16

S&A keeps cutting budget

By **SIMONE SNOW**
STAFF REPORTER

Highline's student programs are facing budget cuts.

Declining enrollment has meant less S&A fees for the Service and Activities Budget Committee, so not all student programs will be fully funded next year, committee officials say.

The S&A Budget Committee is in charge of distributing funds to Highline's 57 student programs such as The Thunderword, Team Highline, and athletics.

Every year, the S&A Budget Committee accepts requests from all the programs for a share in the budget for the following academic year.

This year, the Committee has asked all student programs to give up a portion of their requests, to provide for about \$80,000 worth of budget cuts.

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Coverage inside

- Soldier speaks of Iraq
- Racist history echos in modern music
- Society dictates gender roles
- Media representatives defend work

See stories, pages 11-13.

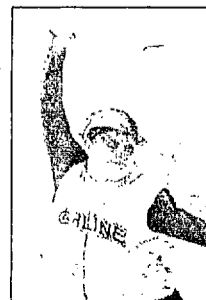
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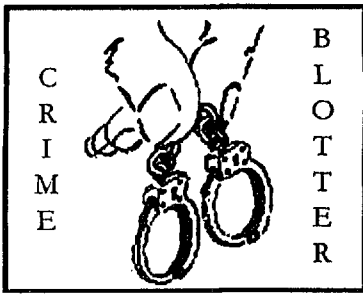
Highline to hit the big screen in upcoming film

See story, Page 5



Lady T-Birds have two victories over Green River CC

See story, Page 8



Students brawl outside bistro

A male Highline student was confronted by a female of about 20 years of age accusing him of throwing something at her in the Building 8 bistro on April 24.

Punches soon followed and the male ended up with his eye and lower lip injured and the female with a bloody nose. They tried to give her medical attention but she claimed she only fell.

She left campus and the male was questioned.

Man arrested after breaking in the HSU

Security received a call from the cafeteria supervisor that a man entered the recreation room by breaking the door lock on April 24.

He was given a verbal warning by security and he threatened physical harm and was arrested.

Students trapped in elevator in CWU

Eight students were stuck in the elevator for 30 minutes in the Central Washington University Building.

Finger smashed by dumbbells

A student worker was returning dumbbells to the weight rack and dropped them on her finger on April 21.

She was attended to by First Aid and her parents picked her up.

Student has seizure

A Highline student fell on the carpet floor from a seizure in Building 25 on April 19.

She declined medical attention and was escorted to the South parking lot where her guardians picked her up.

Library disturbance

The Librarian asked four girls and three males to be quiet who were being loud on April 19.

They were asked for ID and several of them left.

Highline student wins scholarship

By SIMONE SNOW
STAFF REPORTER

Highline student Tracy-Ying Zhang has been awarded a Jack Kent Cooke scholarship.

Zhang, 18, is one of the 38 recipients of the scholarship, out of more than 1,000 applicants.

A Jack Kent Cooke scholarship is given to two-year college students seeking to further their education at a four-year college or university. According to a Highline press release, they are granted to students who have exhibited "... academic excellence, financial need, will to succeed, leadership ability, service to others, and interest in or appreciation for the arts"

The scholarships total at a maximum of \$30,000 each, and are awarded by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation. The foundation was established in 2000, three years after the death of Jack Kent Cooke. After making millions through his holdings in the Chrysler Building, the Los Angeles Lakers, the Washing-

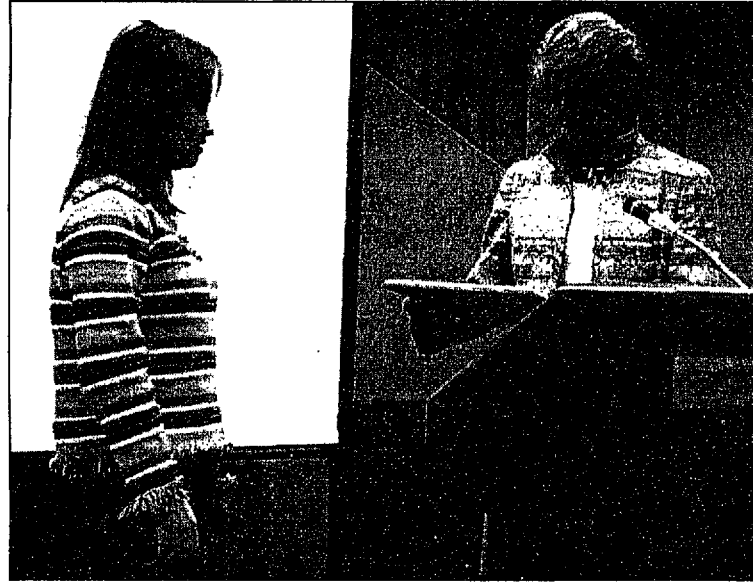


Photo by Austen Lavery

Student Tracy-Ying Zhang was awarded the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship by Dr. Priscilla Bell at last Wednesday's colloquy.

ton Redskins, several newspapers, and TV stations, Cooke left most of his estate to build the foundation in honor of those striving for success.

In a surprising announcement to Zhang on Wednesday, April 26 during the weekly Honors Colloquy, Highline President Dr. Priscilla Bell told Zhang of her success.

"I have something very special to announce," Dr. Bell said. "It's really something for Highline Community College to able to honor only one of 38 students."

Zhang, a Running Start student, plans on attending the University of Washington to study physics.

"I want to be a particle theo-

rist," Zhang said.

In the press release, Zhang elaborated on her enthusiasm for her chosen career saying "a career in physics promises constant learning, collaboration with brilliant minds, and the excitement of discovery."

Zhang's pleasure in her achievement is made even greater, as she came to the United States from China only a little over two years ago. She immediately soared to the top of her classes and earned honors, despite the language barrier and threat of deportation. To Zhang, it is like a dream come true.

"I've been looking forward to this for a long time," Zhang said.

Zhang said in hindsight, the difficulties applying for the scholarship were worth it.

"It was a very complicated application process," Zhang said. "I had to write a lot of essays, like seven. Probably my academic achievement, my SAT scores, and my essays helped a lot."

Business breakfast returns

By JUDY VUE
STAFF REPORTER

The Business Division of Highline will be hosting its second annual leadership breakfast on May 5.

The topic will be "Why the Fries Taste So Good," focusing on the book, Fast Food Nation, by Eric Schlosser. It will also be focusing on related topics of labor and employment, globalization and cultural awareness.

Featured panelists of the breakfast will be Dr. Eric Raman (Ph.D. and M.D. from Massachusetts Institute of Tech-

nology) and Lori Lively, educational consultant for Marlene's Organic Deli and Market.

Dr. Raman is an internist with Pacific Medical Center who has a pronounced interest in nutrition and dietary habits in addition to a business background.

Marlene's Organic Deli and Market was founded in April 1976 by Marlene Beadle who was the recipient of the Pioneer Award of the National Nutritional Foods Association in 2004.

The market and deli was named the "Store of the Year" by Health Food Business in 1993 and in 1998 was designat-

ed as one of the top ten health food stores for natural and organic products.

The breakfast will provide the chance for local business professionals to interact with each other and college students concerning issues of nutrition and the health food business as well as the medical related issues from dietary choices of today's society.

The breakfast will be held in Building 2 from 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Admission is free and breakfast will be complimentary. Everyone is welcome to come.

Buzz saw cuts seminar

This week's Science Seminar will be the Relationship Between Mountain, Building and Erosion. James Loetterle will talk about how the erosion of a mountain can actually make it larger.

Science Seminars are on Fridays from 2:20 - 3:15 p.m. in Building 3, room 102.

Bosnian director visits Highline

This is your opportunity to meet a Bosnian film director. Benjamin Filipovic will give a talk at Highline on his films

It will take place today at 4:30 p.m. in Building 3, Room 102.

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Co-Opportunity

COOPERATIVE EDUCATION

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Breeders Theater, South King County's professional theater company, has an opening for an intern/stage manager for its summer production. Rehearsals run through June with shows in July. This internship is for the highly-motivated person seeking exposure and hands-on experience in theater. The intern becomes an integral member of the team by working alongside the BT staff. The intern must demonstrate high energy and initiative and maintain sensitivity to the demands and complexities of the rehearsal and production process.

Interested? See the Co-op office in Building 9 for details!

Get real world experience while earning real college credit.

Myspace takes over

Popular website occupies students' time

By KRystal VELTMAN

STAFF REPORTER

On a recent Friday morning in the library, a total of 17 people were logged onto Myspace.

"You can't even get on a computer in the library for school purposes," student Lacey Kelly said.

Myspace is a website that allows people to create an on-line profile of themselves, including pictures, music that they enjoy, and any other information that the user wants to share.

People most commonly use Myspace to look for old friends, other singles that they can talk to, and networking.

"I use Myspace to look for new friends that live near me and to find old friends from high school that I haven't talked to for a while," student Joni Merritt said.

"I used Myspace as a dating service. I actually met somebody who I fell in love with, and we have been married for a little over a year now. I think Myspace is great," student Jamie Eder said.

With a Myspace account, members can update their page daily.

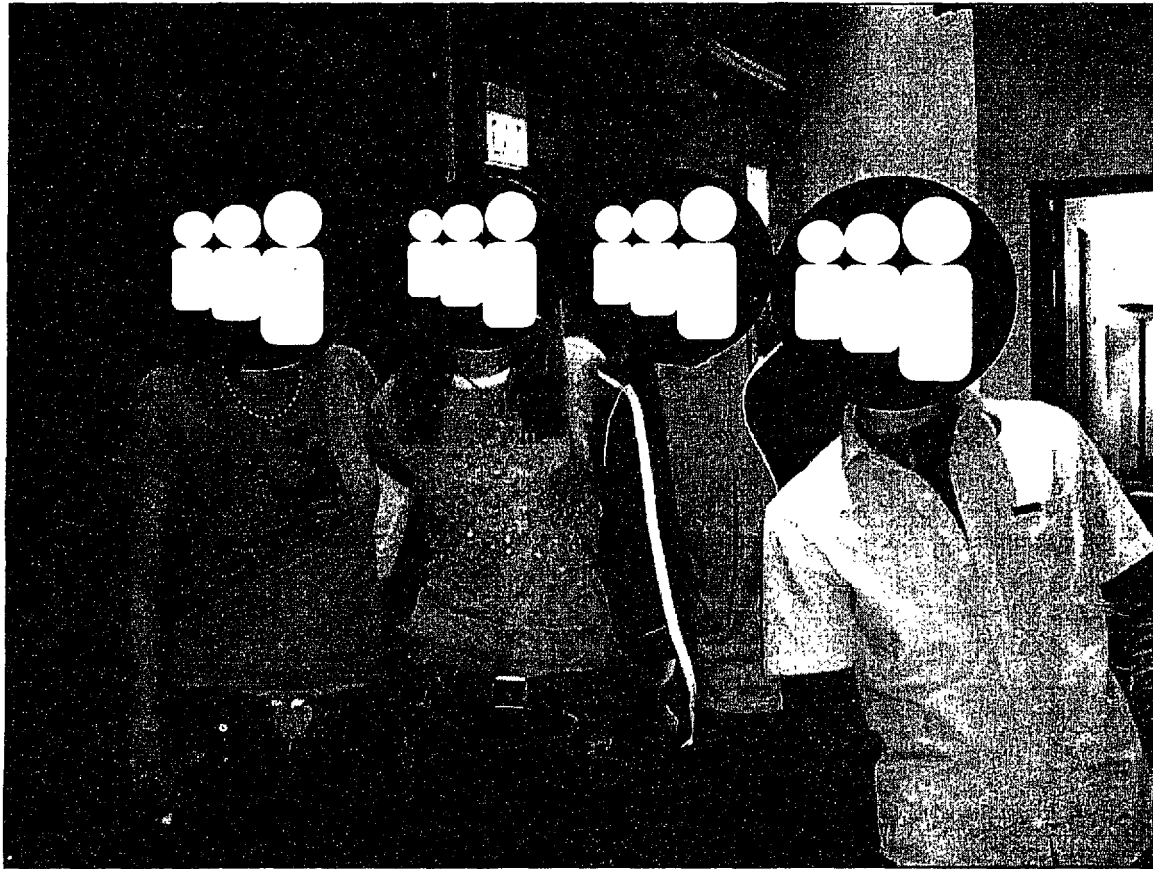
Members can send other members private messages, just like e-mail.

People can also leave comments on profile pages.

"It's so addicting. I sometimes skip class to go hang out in the library to read my comments on Myspace," student Jocelyn Pina said.

Members can make their profile page the way they want it.

"I use Myspace all the time.



Graphic by Marquis Faulcon

I use it in the morning before I go to school, and I use it during class. I just can't pull myself away from it. I love looking at all the pictures and listening to the music," student Nora Beard said.

Although a lot of young people use this site, older people use Myspace as well.

"Before I hire anybody, I check to see if they have one of these accounts. It lets me know who they really are instead of only meeting the fake person trying to get the job," said Norm Smith, owner of a local freight forwarding company.

Diane Dimakis, a parent of a Highline student said, "I get online everyday to see what my kids are doing. Basically just to

see what kind of trouble they are getting into."

Emerald Ridge High School Vice Principal Jeannine Medvedich said she gets on the internet to see what her students usually do on weekends.

"It's funny to see what they did over the weekend," Medvedich said, "When they come into the office when they get in trouble, I can ask them something really personal that they didn't think I would know. It makes the truth come out easier."

Myspace is popular in part because it's free, supported by advertising on every page.

"The reason I use Myspace is because it's easy, it's free, and it's fun for me," student

Virginia Brown said.

Student Ben Hawk loves the advertising on Myspace.

"There are so many cool games on here," Hawk said, "My favorite one is where you can make Bush lift more than Arnold."

Myspace is owned by News Corp, which also owns Fox television stations, Fox Movies, many different newspapers from around the world, Harper-Morrow Publishing, and many other businesses.

Mind games are being played by this media giant with the teens who use it. Youth believe that Myspace is a social tool, but what they're not seeing is how much data they're giving to the News Corp marketers about

their habits and cultural beliefs. This website is a helpful tool to marketers who want to understand the constantly shifting youth trends, said Danah Boyd in a weblog about Myspace.

In an article from BBC News, Alan Gould said that "With a significant amount of advertising dollars moving from traditional outlets to online, News Corp, like most media companies, is looking to boost its internet assets."

This is an online service, so it is necessary to be careful about what is posted. Anyone who has access to the internet can get on this site.

A report from USATODAY said that Myspace tries to educate its users about online safety. It also regularly monitors users' pages and removes photos that contain nudity and hate icons, although sexually explicit pictures sometimes get through, and profanity is the norm. If the site discovers that users are under 14, it will kick them off.

An NBC news report said that a former elementary school teacher who spent six months in jail for having sexual relations with a student was arrested again for violating contact probation by speaking with the 13-year-old student over Myspace.

However, despite the negative news regarding Myspace, it is ranked fifth for most visited websites according to alexa.com, a website ranking site traffic. It remains highly popular amongst students.

"Myspace is cool," said Tilt Tavita. "I go on Myspace to see my family, for my friends... it's addictive."

Constitution revolution will be put to vote

By Austin MacKenzie

STAFF REPORTER

The constitution that Student Government operates under will be brought to a vote by students this Wednesday to decide whether it will undergo drastic changes.

This constitutional reform, first proposed a few weeks ago, will eliminate all but two of the paid Student Government positions and create a caucus system amongst clubs and other involved students on campus.

This gives those not in Student Government a greater say in how Student Programs functions.

The vote will take place both online and on paper.

Students will access the voting system on a secure network either from their own computers or from a computer kiosk available in the Student Union.

Paper ballots will also be available at the kiosk.

Those wishing to vote online should go to bob.highline.edu/studentelection.

"It's a secure network, and

people are going to be able to access the ballots online," said Paul Kalchik, Student Government president.

The paper ballots are expected to be available in the Student Union.

Should this reform pass, Student Government election packets for the positions of president and vice-president are expected to come out in time for an election at the end of May.

However, if the reform does not pass, elections could be placed on hold indefinitely.

"If it doesn't pass, I don't know what we're going to do," said Kalchik.

"At that point we're going to have to go back to the drawing board."

"We're trying to eliminate student positions due to staff decreases within Student Programs and at the same time have more leadership opportunities available to students," said Kalchik. "With

this plan we can do it."

In addition to the proposed restructure of Student Government, Team Highline may see some changes as well.

If the new system passes, Team Highline may become integrated into the proposed caucus system, as well as have several students paid under contract instead of by the hour.

The votes are expected to be counted by May 4.

If the reform passes, Student Government packets should be released within the next week.



Kalchik

Editorial

College fails to seize another opportunity

A student reported recently that he was approached by a woman wandering through the East parking lot who was unable to find the college. Highline's campus, all 80 acres of it, appears invisible to those who haven't visited the college before.

Although the campus borders the edge of Highway 99, the average passerby would never know it. Building 99, which stands like a blue and gray beacon over the bustling stretch of highway, is sadly unmarked; it's just another faceless building that borders the teeming asphalt.

The fact that Building 99 is on the highway makes it a prime spot to put a simple and easy advertisement: a sign. However, Highline has been leasing the building since September of last year and it is still unmarked.

Administrative Executive Assistant Connie Johnson said that there have been plans to get a sign ever since Highline first acquired the building. However, other projects have taken priority. In fact, a sign wasn't ordered until three weeks ago, a full six months after the college first had an opportunity.

Johnson said that a temporary sign was never considered.

The unmarked building is just another example of the college's inability to market itself. It's understandable that other things can come up when running a college, but with enrollment declining, putting up a sign is just too easy of a solution to ignore.

While it won't solve every problem, it can at least be the first step in putting the college's name into the community. If a woman can wander through the parking lot without finding the campus, there is obviously something that the college needs to fix.

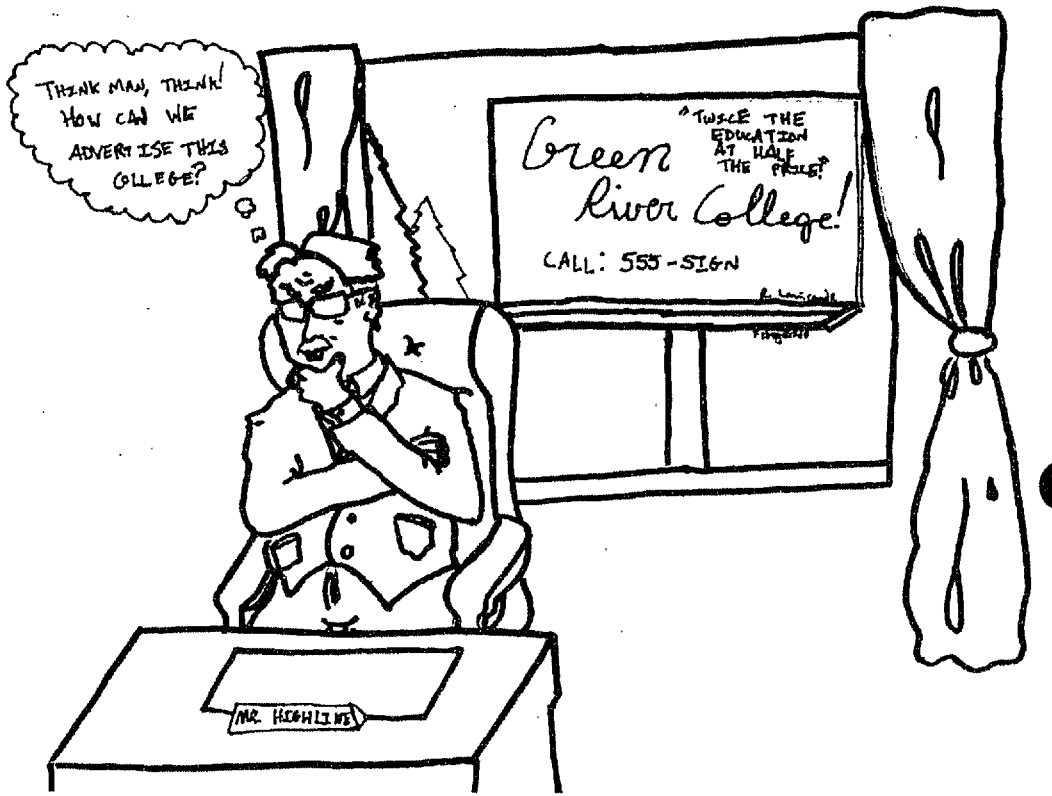
What is the point of spending \$10,000 to achieve brand equity if people can't even find the college? Again it seems like Highline is trying to do too much to solve simple problems, and is failing to seize opportunities in a timely fashion. A temporary sign would cost the college around \$200, but Highline must be losing more than that due to declining enrollment.

Highline is over-thinking its problems. Old school marketing is taking a back seat to more expensive ideas. The recently released TV commercial, for instance, is receiving a mixed reaction from students, and does little more than advertise the fact that the college exists — a sign could have served the same purpose at a much lower cost.

Instead of looking for a hip, fresh way to market itself, Highline needs to do things plain and simple. The trick to marketing isn't presenting something with glitter and whistles — it's presenting something in a timely fashion.

Write to us!

The Thunderword encourages letters to the editor and columns from the college community. E-mail your article to thunderword@highline.edu. Due to limited space, please limit your letter to 300 words or less.



On the road again . . . and again

On a recent Thursday morning I was more lost than I've ever been in my entire life. I had agreed to pick up the Thunderword from the printing press at the King County Daily Journal. After picking up the paper, I took a wrong turn, and found myself on an ambiguous street with nameless churches and deserted parking lots.

It was 7 a.m.; I needed to be back around 7:15. "No worry," I thought. "My intuition will serve me well."

I followed my intuition and ended up in Renton. It wasn't clear to me how I'd gotten there, but I knew that the road I'd come on was not to be trusted. I made a turn and entered a maze of side streets. This is the point where I began to get angry. I was on a twisted, narrow country road, bordered by plain green fields and dull looking houses; it was on this backwater highway that I first realized that I was lost.

One empty road led to another and the streaming yellow divide blared past, mocking me.

The anger was rising inside, filling my lungs and throat, making my grip on the steering wheel tight and sweaty. I wanted to scream.

I arrived in Covington. I screamed. My voice was raw with fury, filling the empty car as I shouted obscenities. I wanted to thrash my head on the steering wheel until the windshield glistened with brains. I wanted to veer into the next oncoming semi so that my car would crumple and burn, me spitting and sizzling like a raw pork chop in the front seat.

I arrived at Green River, and I suddenly felt a connection with the notorious serial killer of that area, pondering that maybe his actions had been some misguided attack at the engineers who designed these cursed Northwestern roads.

I trembled with fury. The clock told me I was well over an hour late, and it was only by sheer luck that I found the freeway.

By the time I arrived at the school, I was a manic wreck. I imagined the angry chastisements of my coworkers and formed malicious comebacks in my head as I approached the newsroom.

What I found was a smiling group of friends, indifferent to my being late. 7:15 or 8:15, the paper still had to go out. I had let myself get so worked up over getting lost, I had completely lost sight of what it was I was doing. Slow, calming breaths filled my lungs, and together we distributed the paper.

Walking across the grounds, I soaked in the cool, quiet morning air, and realized that despite my gross odyssey, the world was still going on around me.

On my way to class, I saw a girl reading the paper, like she probably did every week, and I knew that my being lost didn't matter, that in the end, everything had turned out OK.

Robert was going to star on Lost, but couldn't find the set.

Comment



Robert Fitzgerald

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Raising roses presents thorny challenges

Clean up those rose beds for best results

BY RACHEL LUSBY

STAFF REPORTER

Caring for roses is no easy task, especially in the moist climate of the Pacific Northwest.

It is possible, though, to successfully grow rose bushes in this area.

It just takes a little extra effort.

"The marine climate here has excessive amounts of moisture and this makes fungal disorders run rampant," says Mark Jackson, a nursery specialist at Oriental Garden Center in Federal Way.

Also, many homeowners just don't usually understand the biology of the rose."

The moist air of this area promotes the growth of fungal diseases such as blackspot and mildew.

"Blackspot forms unsightly circular spots that weaken the leaves. Then the leaf drops and the fungus manifests in the soil," says Jackson.

If you find blackspot on any of your roses you need to immediately prune it away.

"Put the diseased prunings in a sealed bag and then throw it away in the garbage," says Jackson.

You should do the same if you find mildew or any viral disorders on your roses or below them in the plant bed.

Fungal spores and insect larvae fester in the plant litter and this makes it easy for them to spread to your plants and around your garden.

Roses need soil that drains



Photo by Rachel Lusby

Raising roses requires special care, such as pruning dead stems and cleaning away plant litter.

well but that is also well watered.

You need to make sure that you don't water directly on the plant, however, because this could encourage the growth of fungal and viral disorders.

You should always water around the base of the plant.

To help your roses bloom beautifully this summer, a few things need to be done.

Pruning should be done now to remove any winterkill.

This is the dead-looking, broken, or diseased portions of the bush.

This will encourage new growth and flowers in the summer time.

Be careful not to over-prune your roses, though. You should never prune away more than one-third of your rose bush.

Spraying this time of year

isn't necessary, but you should check your plants for insects such as aphids, cutworms, and rootweevils. Jackson calls this "scouting."

"Examine your roses with a hand lens for white aphids and other insects," says Jackson.

When your roses start to bloom you need to add fertilizer.

When choosing a fertilizer for your roses, Jackson suggests avoiding animal by-product.

Roses require a lot of time and effort, especially in this moist environment.

When your roses will bloom varies.

"It depends entirely on the weather," Jackson says.

If the weather is warm and bright then you're more likely to get blooms sooner than if the weather is cool and wet.

Rosy colors show rainbow of emotions

Roses are red, except when they're blue.

There really isn't such a thing as a blue rose but the flower does, however, come in a wide array of other colors

According to websites on roses, such as rkd.org, post-a-rose.com and innescentsfloral.com, each color symbolizes something different.

For generations the red rose has been a favorite among lovers.

It has come to symbolize love and passion.

Roses also come in yellow, white, orange, pink, lavender and combinations of those colors.

Yellow roses at one time actually stood for jealousy,

but have since come to mean friendship and loyalty.

They are a good gift to give among friends.

White is a color that symbolizes purity and innocence.

White roses are often found in weddings as decorations or in bouquets.

Orange is a vibrant color especially on a rose. Its meaning has to do with desire or enthusiasm.

Lavender or lilac colored roses are a symbol of love at first sight.

Pink is often thought of as a feminine color. With roses it somewhat reflects that belief. It represents grace but at the same time it could mean gratitude or fun and happiness.

Chinese sojourn leads to poetry for James

BY AUSTEN LAVERY

STAFF REPORTER

Highline adjunct professor Sibyl James has recently published her seventh book, *China Beats*, about her experiences in China.

James will read her book May 1 at 6 p.m. in the Mt. Constance room of the Student Union Building.

"I've been writing for more than 30 years," said James. "Writing is a good way to ex-

press what's happening in your life and in the world."

James has traveled throughout the world, visiting numerous nations and has lived in countries such as China, Mexico, Tunisia and Cote d'Ivoire.

"I have a sensational desire to travel," said James.

She has been traveling since the mid-'80s when she lived in China.

James appreciates teaching in foreign countries.

Teaching in other countries

does not cost a lot, she says. "I find inspiration in the experiences of other cultures.

"I try to bring those cultures to American audiences," James said.

China Beats explores James' journey in China while she spent a year living there.

She also taught American Literature during her stay.

James has been teaching since 1969, when she moved to Seattle from the Midwest.

James teaches Latin Ameri-

can Literature, Creative Writing and Writing 101 at Highline. She teaches night classes twice a week.

James has also taught in Mexico and received two Fulbright fellowships to Tunisia in 1989 and Cote d'Ivoire in 1999.

"I don't think I want to live abroad anymore, but I always want to travel," James said. James is keeping an eye out for places such as Peru, Brazil, Africa and India.

Just this spring break, James

visited Panama.

In all of her travels, James says that Cuba is her favorite. "I swear everyone is a musician there," she said.

"I also happen to like socialism and Fidel."

Along with the reading, James will present slides of her travel in China.

She may also be reading from one of her other books, *Ho Chi Minh's Motorbike*, which deals with her experiences throughout Vietnam.

4/27/06

THE THUNDERWORD

ARTS

Director bound to finish film

By KEITH DAIGLE

STAFF REPORTER

Highline has recently found itself caught up in human bondage.

Highline will be making its big screen debut sometime this summer in the indie psychological thriller *Human Bondage*.

The film is about four college friends who come together because of they are all psychology majors.

Highline's campus is used as the college campus in the film. There was also some filming at the Child Care Center, which was transformed into a psychiatrist's office.

The producer of the film Mabelle Allman also works at Highline as an international student adviser in the International Student Programs office. It was her idea to film part of the movie at Highline.

Filming in Washington was concluded last weekend, shooting at the college and at Discovery Park in Magnolia.

Director Bill Kelly is no stranger to the Northwest, growing up and going to film school in Portland.

"I took some classes at the Northwest Film Center, which is down in Portland. It is part of the Portland art Museum," said Kelly.

Beginning in 1998 he took classes there off and on for three years, taking time off to travel.

While Kelly was there he worked on his first films, creating a couple of shorts for classes there.

Human Bondage is Kelly's ninth film.

He is also working on *The Missed Detail*, a comedy, thriller, crime, noir film. It is about two-thirds through postproduction, coming along slowly as Kelly finds time to spend editing it.

Human Bondage and *The Missed Detail* will most likely be released at the same time sometime this summer.

Kelly is editing *The Missed Detail* by himself, however is



Director of *Human Bondage* Bill Kelly

planning to send *Bondage* to Arizona to be edited.

Kelly plans to distribute both of the films on the festival circuit and see what happens from there, hoping ultimately that they will be picked up by a major distributor.

In addition to directing *Bondage*, Kelly wrote the screenplay and stars in the film.

About doing so much him-

self, Kelly said simply "It is definitely a challenge."

However Kelly said that being as closely involved as he is gives him a unique perspective.

"Since I wrote the script myself, I kind of feel more connection to all the different characters. There is something of myself in each character," said Kelly.

Kelly has tried to immerse

himself in different arts.

"I love the visual image. I started out as a photographer, before I went back to film and video," Kelly said.

"I like the creative process. I do music as well, and those are both outlets for my emotions and for my thoughts."

Kelly has been playing guitar for 18 years, playing mostly blues and rock.

He is a songwriter for *Ungrateful Clown*, which is working on releasing an EP. Their sound is described as goth rock.

The E.P. for *Ungrateful Clown*, like the films Kelly is a part of, will be released independently.

His first passion is film and screenwriting, however.

"I've tried writing novels or short stories in literary form; it just doesn't work for me. It doesn't have that flow," Kelly said.

"Film is just very natural, organic to my process, my thinking. It's just very easy for me to do."

Author finds inspiration 'Sleeping Upside Down'

By AUSTEN LAVERY

STAFF REPORTER

Minneapolis Community and Technical College professor Kate Lynn Hibbard has worked as a waitress, golf course bartender, frozen pizza factory employee, secretary, and baking school program manager. She has also practiced massage therapy. And she still managed to find time to write.

Hibbard will present her book, *Sleeping Upside Down*, to a Highline audience May 4 at noon in the Mt. Constance room of the Student Union Building. Immediately following the reading, she will host a free poetry workshop from 1:15-2:30 p.m.

Hibbard has been writing for a long time, but every time she sits down to write it's as if she's starting over, she says. "Writing makes me feel more alive than just about anything else," Hibbard said.

"It is also the thing that makes me most aggravated."

Hibbard works with poetry most of the time and non-fiction from time to time.

Never have a poem in mind, says Hibbard.

"That is the death of poetry. You have to learn to let the poem find you. It's like trying to round up cats. They have to think they want to go where you're leading them."

"Everywhere and everyone and everything are potential subjects," Hibbard said. She takes everything in, absorbs it, and then later is able to use it.

"I don't believe in the idea of inspiration, to tell you the truth. I believe in paying attention."

Her attention has paid off, this is her first published book and she is thrilled that she now has a Library of Congress catalog number.

"It has been great fun to hold the actual, physical book in my hands, and to be able to connect with readers in person when they come to readings and ask me to sign the book," Hibbard said. "I don't think I'll ever get tired of that."

The one piece of advice Hibbard gives is to always keep writing. "It always surprises me when people say that they want to write, like someone has their arm tied behind their back. What is stopping them? Did someone hide all the pens?"

Become the first Highline Idol

By KAYDEE SMITH

STAFF REPORTER

Someone from Highline could be the next American Idol.

Shurvon Haynes, a member of Team Highline, arrived at the idea of having a Highline Idol, and so the competition is on for the month of May.

"We (Team Highline) want our students to be involved because a lot (of students) have skills. A lot of people want to be on American Idol and think 'Oh, I wish I had a chance,'" says Margarita Brynza, also a member of Team Highline.

The Highline Idol competition is going to be like the popular television show American Idol.

Highline's Idol competition is of course going to be smaller than American Idol, but Brynza says that it is a chance for a student right here at Highline to get started in the music industry by performing on May 31, in the Blend's Highline Idol.

The Blend is a bi-weekly

concert series of musicians provided by Team Highline.

The Blend performers play in the Bistro from 10:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. usually every other week. Todd Zimberg will perform next on May 10, and Chocolate has been confirmed for May 24.

The final Blend performance on May 31, is going to be a concert by four separate musicians, each named one of the first Highline Idols. The final four, who are considered the winners of the competition, will perform on May 31.

The competition has started and any student who wants to compete can still sign-up. Students are welcome to invite family and friends to come watch the final competition on May 31; however, only a registered Highline student can sign-up to compete.

Students can sign-up to compete in the Highline Idol competition by contacting either Brynza or Shurvon Haynes at 206-878-3740 ext. 3537, or that their following e-mail address-

es: mbrynza@highline.edu, and shaynes@highline.edu.

The last day to sign-up for the competition will be May 12.

Auditions for the judges will be on May 17. "It can be signing or instrumental. If we have someone good at the saxophone, great. If we have someone good at rap, great," says Brynza.

The names of the judges had not been confirmed at press time.

Brynza thinks the judges will most likely be consisted of: one member of Team Highline, one member of the Student Government, and one Highline musical professor.

"We're going to pick the ones students will prefer (listening to) and who hold the stage," says Brynza.

The four winners, chosen by the judges on May 17, will perform on May 31 in the Bistro from 10:30 a.m. till 12:30 p.m. Each of the final four performers will have thirty minutes to perform, and each of the four performers will receive a monetary prize.

Playwrights festival returns to Burien

The Burien Live Theater welcomes seven plays from seven Washington playwrights in the 2006 Bill & Peggy Hunt Playwright Festival.

The festival runs on four consecutive weekends.

The shows open May 5, with a

performance of "They Shall Inherit the Earth." This story is written by Phil Wozniak of Olympia.

The show will run May 5-7 before it will then give way to the comedy "Good Works," and the musical "Take it outside" which will both run May 12-14.

All Friday and Saturday shows begin at 8 p.m. Sunday shows are matinees and begin at 2 p.m.

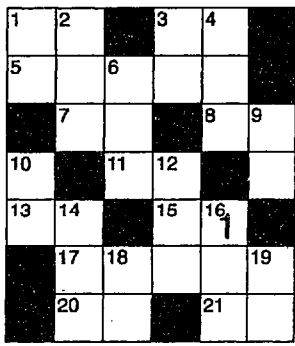
Tickets can be reserved by calling 206-242-5180 and directions are available at the Theater's website, www.geocities.com/burien-livetheatre/.

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THEN CONSIDER BECOMING A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR THE THUNDERWORD. COME INTO BUILDING 10 ROOM 106, OR CALL 206-878-3710 EXT. 3317

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

- One-seventh of 4-Down
- 8-Across minus 21-Across
- Digits of 10-Down and 12-Down scrambled
- One more than 21-Across
- Same digit repeated
- Seven more than 15-Across
- One-half of 11-Across
- The first digit is four times the last digit
- One-half of 5-Across
- The first digit is three times the last digit
- Two times 20-Across

DOWN

- Digits of 11-Across reversed

- Ten more than 16-Down
- Digits of 1-Across reversed
- Consecutive digits in ascending order
- Consecutive digits in ascending order
- 15-Across plus 19-Down
- One-third of 2-Down
- Two times 14-Down
- Digits of 6-Down rearranged
- Two times 9-Down
- One-fourth of 1-Down reversed
- 1-Down minus 10-Down

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Inexpensive

Across

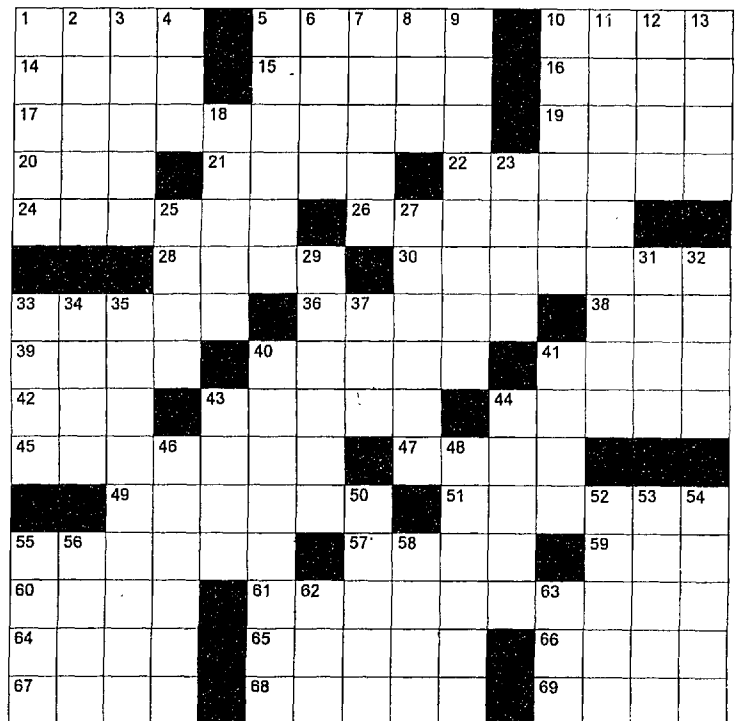
- Like W's office
- Old Testament patriarch: Var
- Hairstyle
- Card catalogue, e.g.
- Bucks
- Broadway piece
- Brawl
- Nuisance
- Always to Longfellow
- Felt regret
- Passageways
- Decomposed
- Mr. Adams
- Campus acronym
- Architect's concern
- Small and delicate
- Overly eager speed
- Bustle
- Bug
- Cliff dwelling
- Keats' outputs
- Caesar's greeting
- Sends by telegraph
- Madrid houses
- Word before restrictions
- Spill the beans
- Rotates rapidly
- Survived
- Polynesian island
- Homeowner's pride
- Matchless
- Owned by us
- Like some pros
- Lope
- Suspicious
- Calendar period
- Cuts
- Industrial exhibits, for short
- Strays

Down

- Proposal
- Songbird
- Warning signal
- Filmmaker Spike

Crossword 101

By Ed Canty



- Measure
- Diameter of a gun barrel
- Highways
- Laundry detergent
- Iditarod participant
- Macs
- Sponges
- Optimistic
- Chooses
- Refrigerant
- Grease
- Cut-back
- Help
- Actress Ladd
- Thought
- Gain antonym
- Mild exclamation
- Jacob's son
- Charity shot
- Exist
- BB gun
- Durable trees
- Hold back
- Bell sound
- 1960's dance craze: Pl
- Forever
- Slumber
- Printer need
- Cross the threshold
- Secretaries
- Bambini
- Halo
- Aviation: Prefix
- My Fair Lady's Harrison
- Barnyard resident

Quotable Quote

At my lemonade stand I used to give the first glass away free and charge five dollars for the second glass. The refill contained the antidote.

Emo Phillips

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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- MUSIC: What does the musical notation "lento" mean?
- MYTHOLOGY: How many labors was Hercules forced to perform?
- ANATOMY: What is the name of the biggest human muscle?
- ENTERTAINERS: Which member of the "Rat Pack" starred as secret agent Matt Helm in a series of movies in the 1960s?
- PHILOSOPHY: Who was a major figure in the Transcendentalist movement of the 19th century?
- LITERATURE: Who published "The Martian Chronicles" in 1950?
- HISTORY: Pol Pot was

the brutal leader of which nation in the 1970s?

8. WORLD WAR I: Who was commander of the American military forces during the first world war?
9. REVOLUTIONARY WAR: What colony was American patriot Patrick Henry from?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the former name of Jakarta, Indonesia?

- Answers
1. Slow
 2. 12 labors
 3. Gluteus maximus
 4. Dean Martin
 5. Ralph Waldo Emerson
 6. Ray Bradbury
 7. Cambodia
 8. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing
 9. Virginia
 10. Batavia

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The United Latino Association at Highline will be sponsoring free salsa lessons Friday afternoons through May 5. The lessons are from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union.

The Agua Verde Café, presents Jardines de Profundo, works on paper by artist Esteban Silva. The artist reception is Sunday, May 7 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The café is located in Seattle on 1303 NE Boat Street and its number is 206-545-8570.

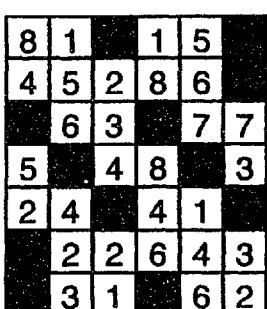
Arts Calendar

Mixed media artist Theresa McLean will be the featured artist at the Kent Art Gallery for the month of April. The gallery is located on 220 4th Ave. in Kent City Hall. It is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. except on holidays. Admission to the gallery is free. For more information contact the Kent Arts Commission at 253-856-5050 or go to their website <http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/>.

The Rainier Symphony Orchestra presents "Symphony Pops!" May 20-21. The symphony will

be performing with The Bottom Line Duo at the Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center on May 20 at 7:30 p.m. and the Foster High School Performing Arts Center on May 21 at 3 p.m. Ticket prices are \$17 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students.

Rational Numbers answers



Last week's solution

CUSHIONED ITEMS



Wishing Well®



HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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Baker has a passion for Highline

By EMIL JACOBSON

STAFF REPORTER

Josh Baker has had quite the year. He got a teaching position, an assistant coach position, and the NWAACC championship title in the 2005 basketball season.

Baker, at the age of 28, started at Highline last spring as an assistant basketball coach, a health teacher, and a weight training instructor.

Baker grew up in Renton, and then moved to Utah for his schooling.

Baker studied for his undergraduate degree at Utah Community College, and then finished with a master's degree in physical education at Brigham Young University (BYU) in 2005.

Baker teaches part time in both the off season and the fall, while he coaches basketball.

Baker described the victory last season as incredible, and fun.

"It was like a story book for me," Baker said. "All those lessons we taught were learned, and it makes it worth it."

Baker wants to help students deal with their personal lives and issues through coaching basketball.

"I use coaching as a magni-



Photos by Alicia Mendez

Josh Baker teaches physical education and is the assistant coach of the Highline men's basketball team.

fyng glass for the class room to help them (the students) be better people," Baker said.

"I like to teach lessons."

It would seem Baker was successful.

The basketball team has lots of strength, as seen in their run to the championship.

"The team members work hard, and they are committed to each other," Baker said.

The team works hard through the off season, lifting weights and working out three times a week.

During this time, Baker teaches health classes and weight training courses.

Baker works full time as a teacher, trying to make an impact.

"I enjoy the exchange with the students, and the (class room) situation," Baker said.

"I care about the students, and that makes a big difference."

Baker has already made quite an impact on Highline.

Baker says that Head Coach Che Dawson is a good coach.

"Coach Dawson is confident enough to give his assistants a voice, and listen to them," Baker said.

"Dawson gave value to his assistants, even a first year (assistant)."

He also has large aspirations



Josh Baker

for next season, when his team will try to defend their title..

"We want to be the champions again and of course be good enough to beat any team, any night," Baker said.

Baker also has high aspirations for his career.

"I want to be a great teacher and help my students grow," Baker said.

Baker wants to say at the college level.

"At the community college level, a teacher doesn't have to be a sergeant," Baker said.

He is willing to entertain any idea about coaching or teaching elsewhere, but he is fond of his current position.

"I love Highline," Baker said.

Fastpitch closer to playoffs after wins

By ERIK BREAKFIELD

STAFF REPORTER

The Highline fastpitch team came away with two close wins over Green River on Tuesday April 25, after two blowout losses to South Puget Sound, finishing with a record of 2-2 on the week.

South Puget Sound is driven by league leaders in every offensive and defensive category, the team has an overall record of 24-8.

The Green River games were both going Highline's way with some quality hitting and non-flashy but effective glove work, until the last innings of each game.

The Gators rallied to get big runs in late innings, fueled by some good hits and a few Highline mental and physical errors. The T-Birds were able to come up with the stops they needed however and managed to keep the Gators winless on the season. With a modest record of 5-11 in league play, the fastpitch team still has a chance to make



Photo by Lindsey Farah

Highline's pitcher Keresa Steichen puts some muscle into a pitch in the game against Green River. The T-Birds swept the Gators in two games.

a top four spot and a birth to the playoffs.

This Saturday April 29, the T-Birds will face Grays Harbor, who currently sits in the fourth place spot with a record of 6-8, after they will have to take on South Puget Sound again on Tuesday.

A win over Grays Harbor would put the team in a tie for fourth and give them a decent shot for the NWAACC playoffs, two wins and they would be sitting pretty.

There is no doubt that Highline fastpitch will control its own destiny from here to the end of the season. Whether they make playoffs will depend on how well they play all the way up to their last game on May 12. They still have two games scheduled against Grays Harbor and another near-guaranteed win against Green River.

If the T-Birds bring their A game each day, there is no doubt they will have a fighting chance in the heated race for the post-season.

Track runners improve times

Hubbard and Jackson succeed against competition

By JOHN THOMSON

STAFF REPORTER

Kenjamine Jackson and Bruce Hubbard went down to Oregon to compete in a national invitational and performed very well against the tough competition.

Jackson and Hubbard were the only two athletes invited from Highline.

Jackson placed 10th in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.82, which ties him for first in NWAACC with Hubbard. Hubbard also competed in the 100 and placed 13th with a time of 10.96.

The first place winner of the event, Johnie Drake, who is a senior from Central Michigan University, finished with a time of 10.36. Jackson was the only freshman invited to this event. Hubbard and Jackson were the only athletes from a community college in the 100.

Hubbard placed ninth in the 200-meter dash B-section with a time of 22.40. Jackson placed 11th with a time of 22.52.

The only other student from a community college in the 200-meter was Nathan Ingrao from Lane Community College, who finished with a time of 21.86. The first place finisher in the 200 was Antoine Echols, a se-

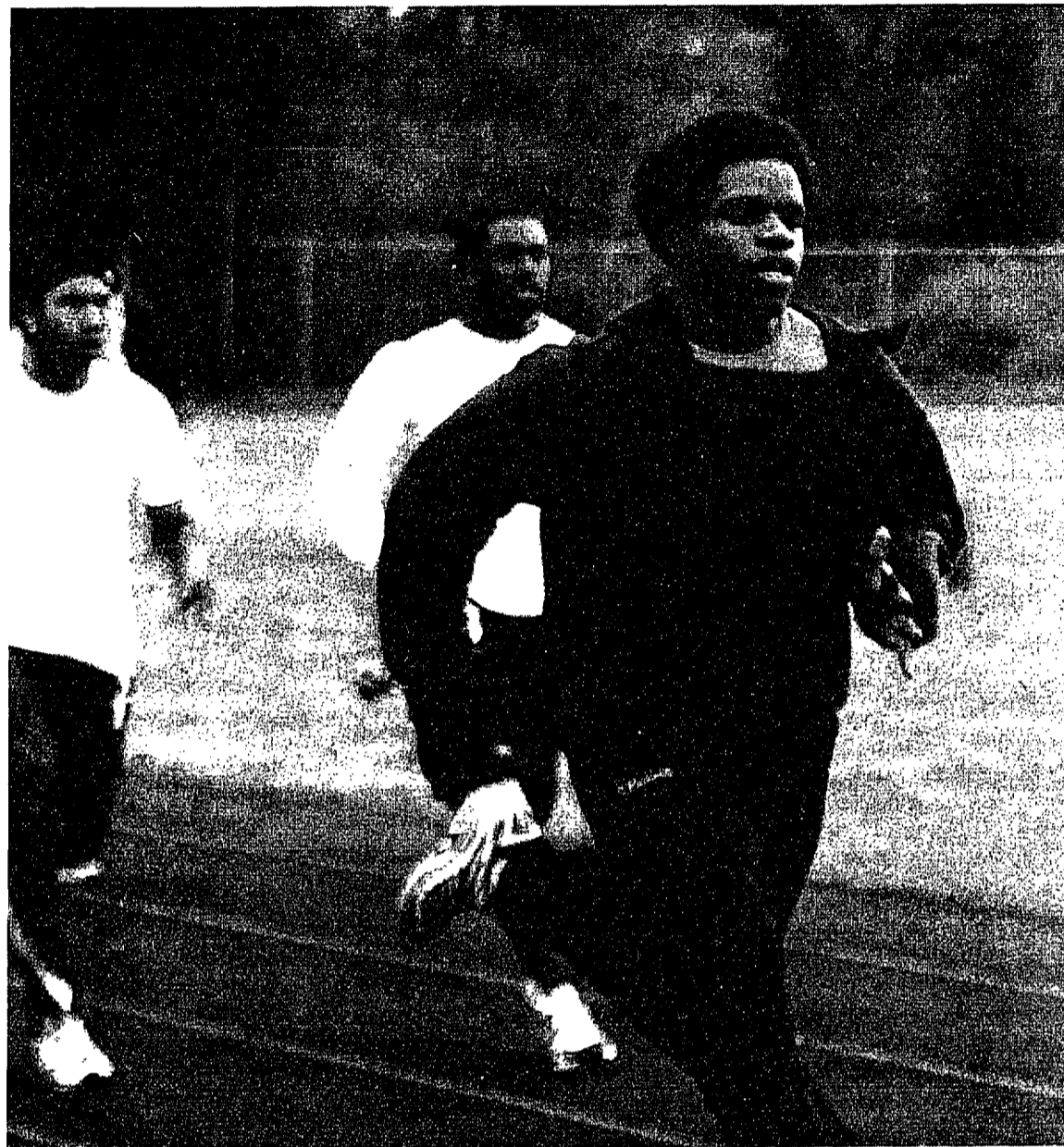


Photo by Austen Lavery

Kenjamine Jackson warms up at practice by running laps around Highline's track. Jackson was one of two community college athletes invited to compete in the Oregon National Invite. He beat teammate Bruce Hubbard to place 10th in the 100 meters.

nior from Boise State, who finished with a time of 21.18.

"Bruce and Kenjamine both did great in this meet," said Head Coach Amber Rowe. "It's a lot of pressure on them when they're up against some big schools."

Jackson and Hubbard were

competing against several universities, including University of Washington, Oregon State, Boise State and Central Washington.

"Both of them dropped time; Bruce in the 200 and Kenjamine in the 100," added Coach Rowe.

Hubbard dropped from a 22.75 to a 22.40. Jackson dropped from a 10.87 to a 10.82.

The Thunderbirds will compete in the Western Washington Twilight at Western Washington University in Bellingham on Friday, April 28.

By TREVOR KULVI

STAFF REPORTER

The Highline women's track team had outstanding performances at the Oregon Invite on Saturday, April 22.

Representing the women's team was the duo of freshmen Sheree Barbour and Brittany Smith. Barbour participated in the 800-meter run while Smith competed in the long jump, triple jump, and 200-meter dash.

Barbour competed in the B Section of the 800, which was in the morning. She won her heat with a time of 2:20.92, which placed her eighth overall in the field. That time increases Barbour's lead in the 800 standings for the league.

Smith had an excellent showing in her events. In the 200, Smith finished 15th in the B section with a time of 27.32.

Smith also qualified for the A section in the triple jump, and the B section of the long jump.

In the long jump, Smith placed second overall in her section with a jump of 17 feet ½ inch. The jump was over a four-inch improvement from her last jump at the Spike Arlt Invite on April 15. Lakeesha Cadogan of Clark won the section with a jump of 17 feet 4 inches.

Smith placed seventh in the triple jump with a jump of 37 feet 6.75 inches, which made her the top community college athlete in the league and also gave her the league lead in the event.

Up next for the women's track team is the Western Washington Twilight on Friday, April 28 at the campus track at Western Washington University.

Eating right is the first step to getting healthy

A balanced diet is like the colors of the rainbow.

Nutrition experts say it's like the rainbow because it includes many colors, such as fruits and vegetables, grains, protein and even a little fat.

Highline students, however, are resorting to junk food as their main course, instead of eating fruit and vegetables.

The easiest way to satisfy a college student is to get fries, donuts, and others fatty foods in the Highline Student Union Building.

Instead of grabbing fruits and vegetables, students grab what smells the best to them.

"What you eat effects the way you act towards others, it also affects your energy levels

in the long term," said Highline Assistant Basketball Coach Josh Baker.

Eating healthy foods and exercising should be the agenda for every student.

Unfortunately most students have busy schedules and just pick up the easiest thing possible they can purchase.

Some choices may be better than others.

"Instead of eating a Big Mac, I eat teriyaki because it is fresh and fuels the body with more energy compared to the Big Mac," said

Highline student Brandt May.

Nutrition is very important, for your body and mind.

Students such as Michael Brownell watch what they eat to not only stay in shape but to look good as well.

"I look at the people in my family that don't watch what they eat, I am terrified that I might end up like them," Brownell said.

Eating healthy may be more expensive, but it is better for your body now in the present and future.

Baker suggests that students eat snacks throughout the day

instead of having three main meals. This way your metabolism will be higher.

He suggests such snacks as fruit, vegetables, yogurt, and tortilla chips.

Homemade sandwiches such as peanut butter and jelly or ham and cheese are actually a really good fuel for the body and the mind.

"Students should have a small snack every three to four hours or your metabolism goes down and you may gain weight," said Baker.

He also suggest to students not to go on diets -- just add better foods to their dietary ways.

"If you want to lose weight you have to either burn more calories or consume less calo-

ries," said Baker.

Increasing activity is also a way to burn calories, but it's important

Going on diets may help while you are on them.

As soon as you are off them, your body will turn back to its own ways.

Not eating right can harm your body.

"Effects of not eating right results in having low energy levels, headaches, and being sick often," said Baker.

The key to nutrition is being cautious of what you are eating. "Eat right to keep your body tight," said Highline track runner Brian Dotson.

Lindsey is the thinnest woman in her own room.

Fit with Farah



Lindsey Farah



Photo by Roman Klimenko

The women in an over 55 co-ed softball league come to practice every week at the Des Moines field house. There are about 10 regulars and their coach, Gary Looney.

You're never too old to have fun

Over 55 women find time to play softball every week

These girls got game.

On a cold Friday morning, most people would be inclined to stay inside and prepare for the weekend.

However, if you were to walk by the Des Moines Field House, you would see a collection of 10-15 women over the age of 50 playing softball, rain or shine.

"Everybody here is active all year long," says Connie, who organized the Friday practice.

"People who try to come play one sport end up getting injured."

Connie, (who did not want to disclose her last name) has been playing baseball or softball since she was a little kid.

Connie is the leader of the team. Not only did she organize the practices, she keeps everybody active during practice by starting the warmups.

After joining an over-55 co-ed league, she found that the men expected very little of her. Not only that, other women in the league were intimidated by the men, and some were afraid to play.

Connie decided that she and other women needed the opportunity to play on their own, without the presence of men.

She proceeded to send a letter around to the other women in the league, recruiting for an all-women practice. She just

needed a coach.

Connie found her solution in Gary Looney, an ex-college player who has a love of baseball. Looney is very personable and definitely happy to be practicing.

"He's a great coach," said Connie.

"He has infinite patience and we are very fortunate to have him."

Looney played college and semi-pro in California and now works for AFLAC.

He had originally signed up to play on a co-ed team in Des Moines, but found out he was a couple years short of the 55 year age requirement.

Connie asked him if he would like to coach her and some other women and he jumped at the opportunity.

"The men on the co-ed teams were angry with the women for not knowing the game," Looney said.

"Connie called me up and asked if I would coach one session, and we just ended up doing it every week after that."

The practices have attracted women from all over, including Des Moines, Maple Valley, Seattle, and Auburn.

"I just love playing ball," said Looney.

"But they deserve all the credit. They come out here ev-

From the field



STEVE PIROTTE



Photo by Roman Klimenko

Gary Looney pitches as women take batting practice. The women meet every Friday at the Des Moines Field House

ery week and work hard to get better."

The women warm up by throwing the ball around and hitting grounders. When Looney shows up they move on to batting practice with Looney pitching.

Watching them practice it is clear that these women have been playing for a while.

They had few complaints about playing in the thick mud of the infield and standing in a swamp for batting practice.

This is why I declined the offer to play, even though there were several attempts to sway my decision.

The most surprising part of the practice was when the women stepped up to the plate for batting practice.

These "old women" showed some great power, with Looney coaching them the whole way.

"There has been real improvement since we started the practices," said Connie. "Everybody's confidence is up and our technique is much better. But the best part for me is the camaraderie I feel about my teammates. We really feel close, even though we play on different teams throughout the league."

Looney is happy about the

chance to help others play baseball.

"For these women it's an opportunity to do something they haven't done in 10 or 20 years. I just love to see them out here trying their hardest."

The team has only been around for six months, so they do not quite have enough for a full game.

However, Connie expects that to change.

"Once the league starts up again we'll recruit more women. Eventually we'll have enough women to play a full game, and hopefully we'll make a league of our own."

View of nation set by media

A group of international students said the United States was different than what they thought it would be based upon what they saw on movies.

As part of Unity through Diversity week, five students - Naweza Katabana from Zaire, Olga An from Uzbekistan, Ly Mai Ha from Vietnam, Hui Kyong Ra from South Korea, and Ainalem Gebreananya from Ethiopia - were asked to talk about their previous perceptions of the United States based upon what they saw and heard from television and movies.

"I remember that the Backstreet Boys were real popular a few years ago, and all the girls were crazy about the Backstreet Boys," said An.

"Before I came here I thought James Bond was the coolest thing ever. I really believed everyone had access to pens that could explode," said Gebreananya.

The amount of news about Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, and Tom Cruise compared to the lack of news regarding international matters was somewhat off putting, panelists said.

However, the basic freedoms such as speech, the democratic government, and the national diversity were popular amongst the students, and they said they were glad to be in this country.

Blackface racism still exists today

By ROBERT FITZGERALD
STAFF REPORTER

The shadow of Blackface still lingers over today's music, said a pair of Highline professors in a presentation Wednesday.

Blackface, which is racist minstrel music, was one of the topics discussed in the presentation led by Daryl Brice and Ben Thomas. The presentation, titled Hip-Hip and Blackface, was part of Highline's Unity through Diversity Week.

Thomas was the first to speak.

"Minstrelsy is pretty much the first American art form," he said.

"There hadn't been any cultural idea that had taken over the world and represented America [before Blackface]."

Thomas put up a picture of an early Blackface performer. The man's face was caked in black makeup. Shabby hobo clothes draped down to his feet, which were stuck into clown shoes. The figure in the photograph glared at the camera with a banjo in hand.

"It's your stereotypical cartoon image done with makeup," Thomas said. Blackface became popular in the 1830s when a performer by the name of Daddy Rice used the image to create a variety show.

Thomas said that while the

form has transcended its crude origins, the same style of entertainment is still present in today's society. "David Letterman is modern day minstrel music."

Blackface wasn't racist to begin with, Thomas said. The image was used to attack white rich people, and imitated cakewalks. He said the idea was to have white people acting like black people who were acting like white people.

However, the message behind Blackface changed quickly. "It became a very, very racist form of music." Thomas said that when the music became racist it also became popular.

Thomas emphasized the draw behind Blackface. The music offered three images of blacks: the musician, the docile servant, and the "dandy," or gangster.

He compared these to the images of blacks offered in the early 20th century, which were reduced to the musician and the gangster.

Today those two stereotypes have fused. "There's one message," Thomas said. "There is one image for you to get." The gangster is now the only image of blacks offered by mainstream music.

After Thomas had finished speaking, Brice took the stage. Brice was met with cheers and applause; he told everyone that



Photo by Roman Klimenko

Ben Thomas says that when the music became racist, it also became popular.

participation was going to be necessary for his segment.

Brice began by singing the theme from the Fresh Prince of Bel Air. The audience laughed and sang along, but when Brice began reciting lyrics to a Public Enemy song, the audience fell silent. The song had a completely different message — no one knew the words.

The Fresh Prince of Bel Air offers two stereotypes of blacks, Brice said. Will is "street smart and school dumb," while his cousin, Carlton, is the opposite. "Think about it," Brice said, and asked the audience to think about who was cool in the show and got all the benefits.

There is a stereotype at work in mainstream media, Brice said. "We have people reproducing these images because they're getting paid. It doesn't

make it right."

Brice also said that there is a double consciousness in African Americans today. "You see yourself through the eyes of the oppressor." Rap has gone from saying something to perpetuating a stereotype.

"It [didn't use to be] disassociated — it wasn't watered down. People used to say something," Brice said.

Thomas took the stage again in closing, and emphasized the connection between Blackface and rap. Instead of being the docile servant, the black man has become the frightening gangster in today's media, Thomas said. The underlying message is that slavery is good and freedom is bad.

"[Rap] is a modern form of Blackface," he said. "Blackface doesn't have to be makeup."

Dr. Ball wants more socially conscious hip-hop

By ALICIA MENDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

Hip hop is not merely about sex, drugs, and big pimpin'.

An audience of 400 gathered on Monday, April 24 to listen to Dr. Jared Ball speak about Hip Hop as mass media as a part of Unity Week.

Dr. Ball earned his doctorate at the University of Maryland at College Park in journalism and media studies and is a professor at the University of Maryland and Frostburg State University in African American and media studies.

The mixtape is the root of all hip hop accelerating into higher markets, Dr. Ball said. A mixtape began as a way for hip hop artists in the late '70s and early '80s to get their music to the underground hip hop audience. An artist would record tracks, the DJ would spin over the track, and a mixtape was made.

"Hip hop developed when

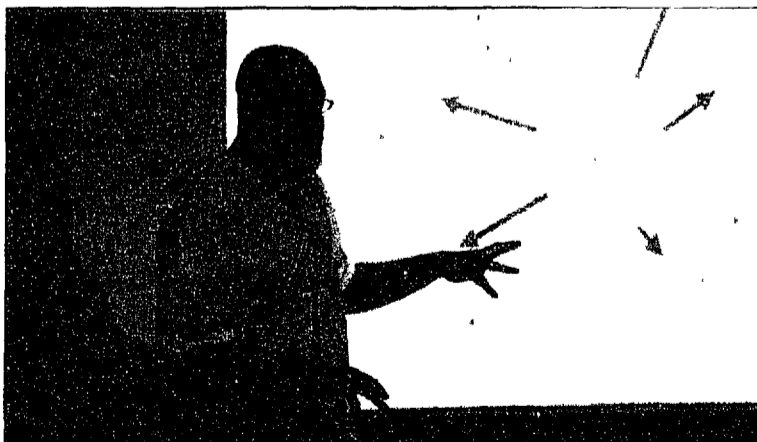


Photo by Rachel Lusby

Dr. Ball talks about how the media will showcase what it can sell.

the industry didn't care about rap music," Dr. Ball said.

According to Dr. Ball's definition, media intentionally organizes mechanisms of social control.

"We are told what will be popular and made to feel apart of that process when in reality we are simply responding to stimuli," Dr. Ball said.

Dr. Ball said media is con-

densing hip hop music to specific genres such as songs that speak about drugs, sex, and hos.

"Common hip hop is meant to justify black poverty," Dr. Ball said.

There is no diversity among hip hop because the media does not want to sell an artist who raps about politics and social injustice, Dr. Ball said.

However media will sell what it can market.

The majority of people who invest into these media markets are the minority, said Dr. Ball.

"The only true minority is the elite white male," Dr. Ball said.

For example, BET (black entertainment television) is owned by a white man, who hired an African American CEO, said Dr. Ball.

Main stream music the consumer supports is music that is intentionally played over and over so that it will cause the consumer to eventually enjoy

the product.

Dr. Ball produces underground hip hop artists, or music outside of the mainstream industry, that rap about social issues.

Dr. Ball said he wishes people to strive to be more socially engaged in the music they listen to, and corporations they support.

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Society sets expectations for gender roles

By CANDACE BOHONIK
STAFF REPORTER

We learn from an early age what is expected of us because of our gender. These expectations are more deeply imprinted throughout our lives due to strong mass media influence, a Highline professor said Wednesday.

Coming to the "learning edge of your comfort zone" was the challenge posed by Patricia McDonald, Highline Education Department instructor.

The lecture titled *What Makes a Boy? What Makes a Girl?* was presented April 26

in the Mt. Constance Room at Highline Student Union. In support of Unity Week's theme, *Interrogating American Popular Culture: What's Real in the "Reel" World*, the lecture encouraged students to consider the impact of mass media on the understanding of gender roles and also as a way to get to know themselves.

"We need to pay attention to what we say to little kids," McDonald said.

Typically, little girls learn they receive attention because of their appearance rather than for attributes of intelligence or athletic ability.

If boys are made to feel less masculine because their interests are outside of the typical male parameters of cars or sports, they may feel compelled to show their masculinity in other ways "that look like violence."

"Little children have to play to learn how to structure their world," McDonald said. She stressed that the messages we got growing up put us into gender stereotypes. "There are consequences if you step outside of these socially-constructed boxes."

"If an alien came down from space and watched TV for a



week, what would it think about men and women?" McDonald asked.

The audience supplied an-

swers related to gender roles as depicted on television in both shows and commercials.

There were also examples of magazine covers, ads and articles. McDonald urged students to think critically and be reflective.

"Are magazines perpetuating the problem?" she asked. "Look at where you spend your money. Your money is your vote."

McDonald's philosophy is that she will be a better teacher if she knows herself, her students, and her practices. "I want to make sure I don't perpetuate these messages because it's OK to step out of the box."

Soldier shares personal war experience

By JOCIE OLSON
STAFF REPORTER

The media's representation of Iraq and the War on Terrorism is different from what soldiers experience everyday Staff Sgt. Terrell Carrington said here Tuesday.

"Iraq is bigger than what it is portrayed on television," he said.

Staff Sgt. Carrington served in the United States Army for more than seven years, including 23 months in Iraq.

He was here as part of Highline's Unity Week.

"I watched the news downplay what I have done," Staff Sgt. Carrington said.

What you don't see on the news is what the soldiers do, said Carrington.

Carrington talked about when the President comes to Iraq he goes to the places where it is cool and comfortable.

"The media gives you what they want and what they can give you," he said.

Carrington talked about the ups and downs of joining the military to students.

A military recruiter's targeted audience is between the ages of 18-25. Therefore they spend

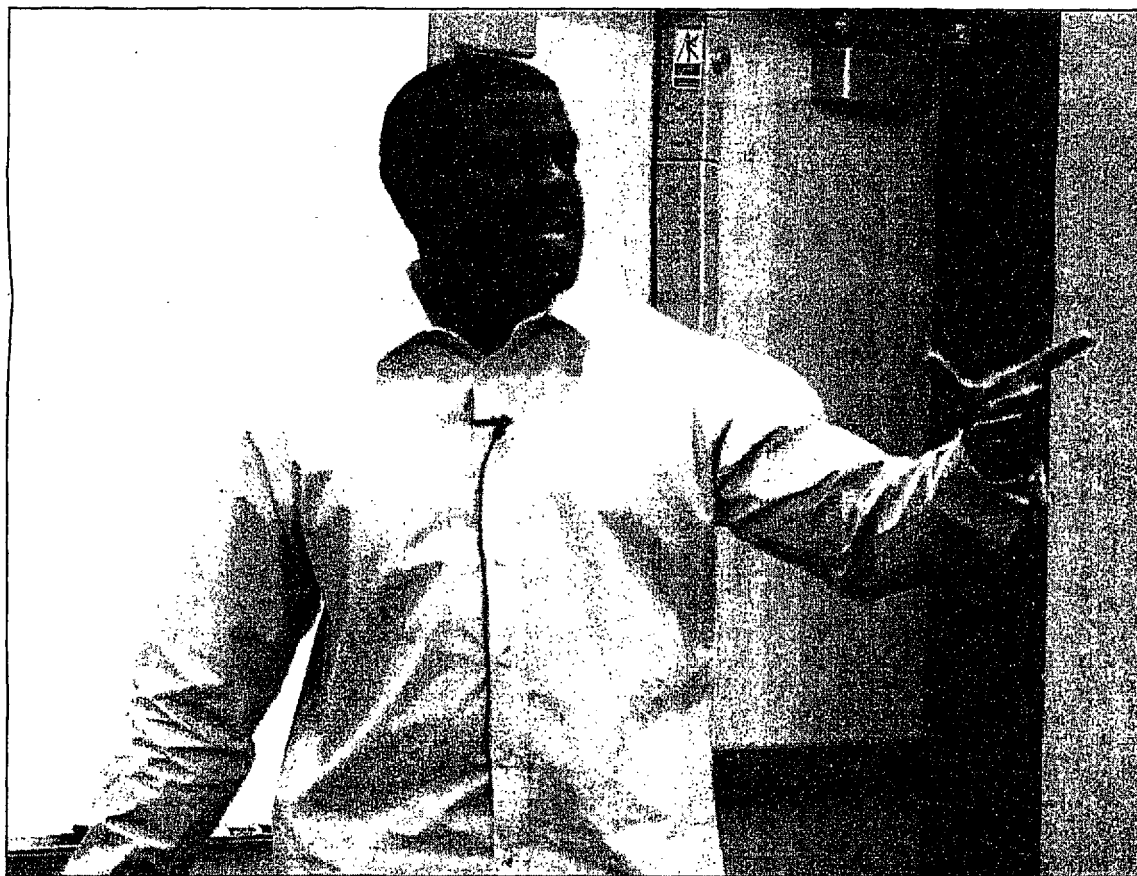


Photo by Alicia Mendez

Sgt. Terrell Carrington reveals his experiences in Iraq

most of their time recruiting at high schools, malls, and shopping centers.

"You see all the perks about being in the military. That was cool until I got to Iraq,"

He talked how the recruiters told him that he could jump out

of an airplane and have a chance to see the world, but they didn't give him details on boot camp.

"From 1998 until 2001 was a party," Carrington said. During that time he traveled to Thailand, London, Turkey, Japan, Hawaii, Korea, and Egypt.

By the age of 20 Carrington became a sergeant.

"I had great leadership," he said.

For the last 31 months that he was in the military 23 of those Carrington spent in Iraq.

Six months after Carrington

got married he was called to Iraq. They assured him that he would be home in eight months.

While in Iraq he got a letter from his wife telling him that he was a father.

Included with the letter were divorce papers.

"I went from ready to go home to I don't care," Carrington said.

After he returned home he could not sleep for six months.

"I would wake up at 2 in the morning sweating," he said.

When his son would stay at his house he would stand outside his bedroom at 3 in the morning listening for helicopters.

"When do I sleep?" he asked.

While he was in Iraq he lost seven of his soldiers and when he got back he went and saw the parents of four of the soldiers.

When they would ask what happened he would simply tell them that he didn't do all that he could to make sure that they came home.

One mother actually told him that she should have never let her daughter go.

His soldiers meant a lot to him and he has pictures of them his house like they were his family.

"I don't regret my military career," Carrington said.

Journalists meet to discuss their role in society

By JOCIE OLSON
STAFF REPORTER

A panel of journalists justified what they do as being the public's watchdog.

They were at Highline as party of Unity Week.

"We are the public's voice," said Kirsten Kendrick, a reporter and KPLU public radio host.

"The role of the press is to be a committed watchdog. If

we don't do it who will?" said Patricia Foote, assistant managing editor for administration, Seattle Times.

Americans need to show that they think what the press does is valuable by reading newspapers and watching the news, said Alex Johnson, senior producer for MSNBC.com.

"Invest the time to go beyond the headline. Take the time to listen and to read," Kendrick

said.

"You don't have to care about everything but care about something. Hold us accountable," Foote said.

The best way to hold the press accountable is to write letters to the editors said Kendrick. "Develop relationships with the reporter," Foote said.

"An important thing for journalists is to have the courage of your convictions," said John-

son. "The folks on both sides of the political perspectives who speak the loudest are very small groups.

"If your reporting leads you to something you believe in have the courage to write it."

One issue that the press deals with is the public charging them with being liberal.

"We really are inherent anti-authority," Johnson said.

"It is always an attempt to get

the other side," Kendrick said.

Most journalists start a story with an assumption which can sometimes cause them to not look at certain angles.

Foote also said that is why having a diverse newsroom is valuable, because you will have co-workers who will help you challenge your assumptions.

"My job is to make the newsroom be as diverse as a community," Foote said.

Round table tackles voting issues

BY AUSTIN MACKENZIE
STAFF REPORTER

There wasn't nearly as much voter fraud in the last gubernatorial election as people might think, Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed said at Wednesday's roundtable.

Reed, as well as State Rep. Dave Upthegrove, D-Des Moines, were on campus Wednesday to take part in a roundtable with Highline students.

Reed's visit was part of a tour of college campuses all over Washington state in order to increase voting among college students.

The goal of his tour is to find out why college students feel so disenfranchised and to try to bring them into the system.

The main topic of the discussion was voting, and the goal was to encourage more students to take part in the voting process.

The round table was held in the Mount Cyprus room of the Student Union, where over 30 people were in attendance.

"The irony," Reed said in his opening statement, "is that the generation that has the most at stake in the government is yours, and yet you vote the least. Inversely, the generation that has the least at stake in the government is the generation that votes the most."

Before he took questions, Reed also explained some of the measures being taken to make voting easier.

"For those of you who are Latinos or Latinas, most of our pamphlets are in Spanish as well. We even have pamphlets in Mandarin Chinese."

Reed also mentioned a coalition of Korean voters that have been working hard to translate all of the voter pamphlets and information into Korean as well.

"There's quite a bit being done, but it's never quite enough and we're always trying to make the effort."

Reed addressed several questions that students had about the voting and election system. On the subject of the Electoral College, Reed said "In the presidential election, each state has several electoral college members based on population. The intent was to make sure that candidates were reaching out to everybody."

"The Electoral College cannot be dissolved without an amendment. And there have been times when the popular vote has actually gone against the Electoral College."

"However, without the



Photo by Keith Daigle

Secretary of State Sam Reed, Paul Kalchik and State Representative Dave Upthegrove during the round table discussion on Wednesday. Students discussed several issues about voting and the voting system during the meeting.

Electoral College, candidates wouldn't have to reach out to smaller states."

Reed was also asked about the unfairness of people whose states always vote against them and how they weren't getting represented. Reed replied that the system had always been that the votes were given to the candidate who had won the state, and that the system had always worked.

On the subject of convicted felons voting, Reed said, "It's a matter of the Legislature or the state. In most states the price you pay for being convicted is the loss of the right to vote. Usually when the person has served their time, they regain their right to vote."

"The Washington Legislature also requires the payment of all court fees, restitutions to the victims, and community service. There are some complaints that this unfairly targets the poorer convicts who can't afford to pay the court fees."

"I have concerns when one out of four black men in this state are unable to vote. I think it's unfair that if you have access to money you can vote again, but if you don't you can't," Upthegrove added.

"There's a large coalition of legislators tackling this issue," Reed said.

"What I want to see is someone who's committed a crime rehabilitated."

The next question was about whether the government could be trusted, especially after the Florida situation and the gubernatorial vote. Reed answered that after the events of the gubernatorial election, steps were being taken to examine the system and correct the problems that were found.

"One of the things they did was give me the power to go in and review some of the election offices," Reed said.

"They need to know how many ballots they received and balance that against the how many ballots were accepted and rejected. But that wasn't happening."

"We're shifting to a vote-by-mail system," Reed said.

"Simplifying it by having everyone vote by mail is going to streamline the election process."

"Another lesson out of Florida," Upthegrove added, "was how close the election was and how important it is to vote."

The question of what the big deal about requiring identification was also raised.

"One thing that came out of the gubernatorial election was that the system was getting too loose," Reed said.

"The Legislature decided it would be a good idea at the polls to require ID. We think it gave a sense of security."

Reed also addressed the complaints many had had about the requirement of identification at the polls.

"It was so routine in this day and age that most people didn't care one way or another."

There was also some concern over the story the Seattle Times ran about the 100 dead voters, and what was being done about that.

"As it turned out," Reed said, "19 ballots were cast by someone else for someone who was

deceased. In each case, it was the spouse who did it. In fact, in one case, the wife had died two years before the election, and her dying wish was that her husband vote for George W. Bush for her. He had felt so guilty about it that he was prepared to call the election office and report the fraud himself if it came down to one vote."

"As of Jan. 1, there is a statewide voter database that is run against the state death records. We're also able to run it against death records from other states for our own citizens who have died out of state for some reason or another."

"It's never going to be perfect," Reed said, "but we're making good progress in that area."

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Davis promises communication

By ALEX CAHAN

STAFF REPORTER

Interim Vice President of Administration Marion Davis wants to increase communication between students and administration.

Also the current director of financial services, Davis is one of four candidates for the position of vice president of administration, filling the position left vacant by Dr. Laura Saunders when she left in October 2005.

"One of the key things that I want more opportunity to do is to listen to what students want," said Davis at a campus forum in Building 2 Wednesday morning.

She went on to say that at a community college, there are only about two or three years to spend with the students. So if she is named vice president of administration, she wants to listen to their concerns, and then set up an infrastructure to maintain a continued solution after those particular students had left.

The vice president of administration is in charge of the bookstore, security, construc-



Photo by Keith Daigle

Marion Davis spoke to an audience in Building 2 Wednesday

tion, human resources, business office, administrative technology, and contracts and leases.

Davis is the only candidate from Highline. The other candidates are Kurt Buttleman, vice president of administrative services for South Seattle Community College; Farhad Javaheripour, vice president for administration at Santa Fe Com-

munity College; and Larry Yok, director of human services at Group Health.

Before coming to Highline, Davis held a variety of jobs ranging from an accountant for a radio station to several positions within various school districts. It was her time with school districts that really got her started.

"That is where things I cared about - education and learning - came together with something I was good at - crunching numbers and solving problems," said Davis.

It was while working for a school district that Davis had the opportunity to take control and make changes to systems that needed it.

"I think the largest change I've made in my past is changing the financial system for the Federal Way School District. It was kind of unconventional, and we were renegades, but now there are seven school districts using that model, and Federal Way was the first," said Davis.

Family is also really important to her, and the people she works with are like a family to her as well, she said.

Davis is an advocate of re-

spect and ethics as well.

"We should all be treated with respect. We should all care about each other, and we all need to do our duties. We have a task to do and we have to find a way to do that task," said Davis.

Several questions were asked by audience members regarding her personal views regarding ethics and what she felt they were.

"It is knowing what is right and doing what is right even when it's difficult," she said in response to what a definition of ethics could be.

Davis said she would have the courage to approach Highline President Dr. Bell if she felt Dr. Bell was doing something unethical.

"As I always say, do not allow someone in authority to tell you to do something that you feel is not right," said Davis.

In regards to her leadership style, Davis said that hers has grown and matured over the years.

"I am very much a hands-on person," said Davis. "I see myself as more of a coach than as a supervisor."

Key to her leadership style is

Upcoming campus forums for VP candidates

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- Farhad Javaheripour
May 2 - 9:45 - 10:45
- Larry Yok
May 4 - 9:45 - 10:45

Tentatively held in Bldg. 7

"hanging through the hard stuff with an undying commitment" and "trying to find solutions to fix so that we don't have to fix it again."

Davis said she would be able to maintain a healthy attitude about the job, and in the event that she doesn't get it, she will still support and guide whoever takes the job.

Overall, Davis has high hopes for Highline.

"I do believe we are going in the right direction in looking at what our community needs and what we can do to serve them. Some of the challenges we have faced are helping us move forward."

Lafer calls for unionization, awareness

By AUSTIN MACKENZIE

STAFF REPORTER

The upper class has been getting richer and the lower class has been getting poorer for the past 30 years said Dr. Gordon Lafer at Wednesday's Honor's Colloquy.

Dr. Lafer showed several statistics to augment his presentation. The first statistics showed an increase in overall wealth for all American economic groups for the 25 years following World War II, accounting for inflation. The statistics further showed that the poorest economic groups were having the greatest increase in wealth.

The second set of statistics was for the 25 years following the first statistics he presented. They showed a complete reversal of the wealth increase. The richer economic groups saw a great increase in their wealth, while the poorer economic groups showed a far less robust gain, some of the lowest groups even losing money overall.

"This situation is continuing," Dr. Lafer said.

"In America, non-supervisory workers make up about 80 percent of the workforce. The wages of non-supervisors are decreasing, while the wages of supervisors are increasing."

According to Dr. Lafer, peo-

ple are working the equivalent of one month more in terms of hours than they worked in the past. This is, he said, the result of changes in the political landscape, the introduction of new laws, and the decline of unions.

"In many ways, the democracy we live in ends when we walk in the door to work," Dr. Lafer said.

Because businesses are able to dictate how we speak, how we act, and how we dress, Dr. Lafer believes that our freedom is taken from us whenever we go to work.

"If you live in a democracy when you are asleep, live most of your time awake in a system like feudalism, what are you really living in? What you actually do at work is stifle yourself."

While Dr. Lafer proposed unions as a way to solve these issues, he also was careful to say that not all unions were good.

"There are good and bad unions, corrupt unions, unions with leaders who I think should be in jail."

Dr. Lafer also spoke about how many political situations that began around the Reagan era have shaped the problems we now have in our labor market.

"It's a political decision not to have laws about temp workers. It's a political decision not

to require businesses to give health care."

Dr. Lafer focused on a lot of the jobs that young people normally work in. He placed a special emphasis on the fast food industry.

"One of the problems for fast food managers is younger workers don't respond to the same incentives older workers do," Dr. Lafer said.

These new ways include things such as the requirement for specific, scripted responses, surveillance, and even the architecture of restaurants, which is designed to keep everybody visible so that the pressure is always on them.

He also touched upon the emotional and psychological issues that working under such conditions create.

"For most people it is very hard to project cheerfulness while inwardly feeling bitterness or sadness," he said. "Flight attendants will come off of a 12-hour shift in which they were required to be cheerful, try to wind down after the day, and have trouble distinguishing how they really were feeling."

"Our payoff," Dr. Lafer said, "is when we get to be the consumer."

"It's a kind of sadomasochist cycle; we get the thrills of being a consumer and try to get

through our own jobs by being mentally asleep."

Dr. Lafer also touched upon the issue of how companies use racism and sexism to control their employees.

"Companies believe that women and girls are brought up to be more deferential, that they will put up with more, and that they can be used more."

Dr. Lafer talked about how unionization helps workers in terms of both pay and work conditions.

"On average nationally,

unionized workers make 30 percent more than non-unionized workers who are working in the same jobs. When you take into account the medical care and benefits they get, it's actually closer to 50 percent."

Despite what many people believe, labor unions are just as important now as they were when they were first forming, Dr. Lafer said.

"Changes will only come about through conflict. Great victories are only won through conflict."

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Gas prices not the worst they've been

By ALICIA MENDEZ
STAFF REPORTER

The price of oil is not at record high, a panel of Highline professors said last week.

"I think it's important that we come together once a year to talk about this because as you all know, since the demise of the whaling industry in the 19th century we've been living in total darkness," Dr. T.M. Sell, Seattle Times economics columnist and political science instructor, said with a chuckle, from himself and his colleagues.

Oil prices are rising in the United States. The more oil we burn the more we add to rising global warming problems, panelists said.

During last Friday's Science Seminar, five Highline instructors gathered to discuss the world's oil consumption and the problems it causes.

Michael Campbell, Bob Maplestone, Sell, Carla Whittington, and Woody Moses all participated in the discussion.

Liquid oil is a finite resource,

or a source that has the potential to run out.

"It is what we call non-renewable," said Woody Moses, biology instructor and Science Seminar coordinator.

Worldwide about 85 billion barrels are distributed and used, and 20 billion of those the United States uses. Oil prices are at a staggering \$75 per barrel.

The panel discussed Hubbert's Peak, named for geologist M.K. Hubbert, who predicted that U.S. oil production would peak around 1970.

Geology professor Carla Whittington said, that using Hubbert's model, other analysts have predicted that world oil production could reach its peak sometime this decade.

"You don't know it (maximum peak) until after it happens," Whittington said, noting that an individual oil well's production can drop off dramatically after it peaks.

"The problem with oil production is increasing demand," Whittington said.

The demand for oil is going

have a program history of under spending, and therefore not fully utilizing their supplied budget."

Several programs have already voluntarily reduced the amount of money they were asking for. Brown has high hopes that more will come forward, but it may not solve the problem.

"Without volunteers, and perhaps even with them, the S&A Budget Committee may be forced to propose cuts to the programs they fund without the expressed offer from the program manager," Brown said. "I don't foresee this as a huge problem though"

Another challenge the committee is facing is maintaining the quality of student programs while being forced to cut down on quantity.

"As budget authority for several student program budgets, I have to admit that we are in a downsizing mode," Brown said. "We are restructuring our office and offerings to provide more access to leadership programs for a broader spectrum of students within a smaller workforce. It is a challenge, but a challenge we are embracing."

As a last resort, the committee is prepared to use some of their \$500,000 in savings to help resolve the deficit.

"We're considering all our options," said Kiana Hayes, S&A Budget Committee chairwoman. "We're trying to see what we're working with so hopefully we don't have to dip into our savings."



Photo by Alicia Mendez

From left: T.M. Sell, Carla Whittington, and Bob Maplestone

up by 2 percent each year, and as countries become more industrialized, like India and China, the more oil they require.

To keep up with demand you have to get more oil from drilling, in order to keep up with production and demand Whittington said.

Supply and demand also affects engineers, who could potentially create alternatives from burning oil.

"We can produce a plant that has very small admission problems if we apply ourselves to it and put the right amount of money into that division," Maplestone said.

If gas prices were stable then companies and government

would be more likely to invest in engineers creating these products, Maplestone said.

Currently markets are already making alternatives to address increasing gas prices, and global warming.

"Markets are really good at creating substitutes," Dr. Sell said.

Dr. Sell also addressed Hubbert's model, and continued to disagree with his colleagues.

Various applications of Hubbert's model show world peak production years ranging from 2021 to 2112, with a mean of 2037, Dr. Sell said.

As well, the model does not include oil that is not liquid such as oil sands and shale oil, Dr.

Sell said.

"Oil prices are not at a record high...you have to adjust for inflation," Dr. Sell said.

When prices are adjusted, in 1979 the price per barrel was \$97.50, much less than the price per barrel today.

The higher the price for oil, the more likely people are to search for alternatives, such as a hybrid car.

A Smart Car, which can only be purchased in Canada, and Europe, and very few places in America, contribute much less carbon dioxide to the air.

"It's [buying a smart car] the single easiest way to make a contribution in reducing my energy costs," said Michael Campbell anthropology and behavioral science instructor.

Americans use 25 million SUVs on the road, which is a big contribution to pollution and global warming, Maplestone said.

Another alternative is producing bio fuel, or fuel formed from corn or other plants, Moses said. Gas prices are continuing to rise and global warming is continuing to heat our planet and a solution should be found.

The alternatives being developed take time and involve planning out new ways now, Whittington said.

S&A

continued from page 1

"Annually, the S&A budget revenue is projected as a percentage of [student tuition]," said Jonathan Brown, associate dean for Student Programs. "Our HCC decreased enrollment that led to layoffs of campus employees, also leads to a reduced S&A projection for the coming year."

The S&A projections for the coming year totals at \$2,118,399. Requests only total at \$1,315,783, but demand outweighs supply when other costs, such as the \$87,336 allocated to the contingency fund and the \$300,000 that goes to the Student Union, are factored into the budget.

"Given the scope and size of our S&A budget, our deficit is relatively small, about 5.5 percent," Brown said. "This should be pretty manageable given that this year we had a large contingency reserve fund which will actually allow for some selected program growth this next year."

However, the contingency fund alone is not enough to cover the deficit.

"We are hoping that our budget managers will help us isolate program budget reductions in areas that will have negligible impact on student offerings," Brown said. "We are particularly looking at programs that

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4/27/06

THE THUNDERWORD

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"My friends were like family to me," she said. "I'm closer to my friends than to some of my sisters. My friends were the only family I had then."

Viena and her grandmother reconciled before her death.

"My grandmother was sick when I told them too. I felt like she held on a little longer to make things right between us," she said.

Viena's grandmother died recently. Viena was the only one in her family who did not attend the funeral in Samoa.

Coming from a Christian family, Viena didn't understand her mother's issue with her sexuality.

"My family is a Christian family I always felt 'how could they not accept me for who I am?'" she said. "They were the typical Christian family and they didn't accept me for who I was."

Viena said her mother had lots of homosexual friends.

"It's different for people when it happens to their kids,"

she said.

Viena moved to Seattle, and started attending Highline last Fall Quarter.

One of the reasons Viena moved to Washington was to get away.

"I wanted a change, I was too dependant on my friends," she said. "I wanted to move to California but I wasn't stable enough to live there."

Viena has dated a lot in Washington; she said that she always tells her partners that she is a transsexual.

"Half of them (her dates) were good, half were bad," she said. "I don't like to lead them on; I don't want to get killed."

"There were a few transsexuals that got killed in Hawaii because they didn't tell their partners," she said. "Most of their partners were from the mainland."

Viena said she's learned a lot from the men she's been with.

"I don't have to date a bunch of assholes to get a good man," she said.

"Ultimate happiness for me is having a kid.

"I fantasize about what women take advantage of, the fact they can get a boyfriend like



that, their periods, that they can give birth," Viena said. "Marriage is a precious subject for me. It's so hard for a transsexual to find a good partner."

She has sometimes faced hostility because of who she is though she doesn't talk about it much.

She's applied for jobs that she's had lots of experience for, yet she hasn't gotten a job.

"I'm not sure if it's because I'm a transsexual or if it's some-

thing else,"

Viena said. "I haven't faced any discrimination from professors (at Highline) though."

She isn't always treated well by some people who find out who she is, but she neither dwells on it nor talks about it very much.

Viena has faced many acceptance issues from heterosexual communities as well as homosexual ones.

There is not a big transsexual population in Washington, and transsexuals view themselves differently from homosexuals.

One of Viena's passions is dancing and clubbing.

"When we go to the gay clubs, I don't feel like I belong there. (There) are no transsexuals there," she said. "The gay guys were looking at us like

'what are we doing here?'"

The only people comfortable with them at the club were lesbians and girls that were there, she said.

"We don't feel part of the homosexual group," Viena said. "People here are used to gay guys, not transsexuals."

According to Viena, transsexuals are not homosexuals.

"I'm not a typical transsexual," said Viena.

Viena is a bisexual transsexual; she said that once a person has the sex change operation they tend to be heterosexual.

Currently Viena is focusing on college and is working towards a bachelor's degree in entomology and toxicology, which she hopes to find a career in.

"In high school I always liked reading about forensics. When I was in elementary school I wanted to be an archeologist," Viena said.

"Being in Seattle, I've experienced so much here I just want to move around and learn this and that," Viena said.

Viena eventually wants to work and live in California.

She is moving back to Hawaii this summer where she plans to attend university.

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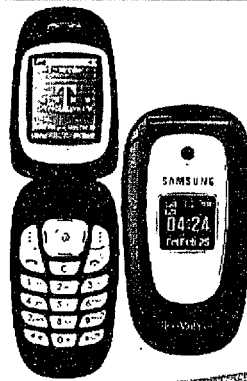
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