

THE THUNDERWORD

JUNE 1, 2006

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PERIODICALS

Dangerous liaisons

Students differ on date rape

By ALICIA MENDEZ

STAFF REPORTER

Fast times at Highline College: The woman goes to a party with some friends, drinks too much, and wakes up the next morning to discover that she had sex with someone she thought she knew.

It's called date rape, and the law doesn't distinguish it from the crime of rape. But many Highline students say they don't think it's a big deal.

"I knew a girl that rented a hotel room, invited a bunch of guys over, and no girls, and brought alcohol and was date raped," student Joe Ambler said. "She invited it."

Some situations girls put themselves in, it's like they're almost asking for it," Rana Hadad said.

"These things happen. People get drunk and have sex. Girls shouldn't blow it out of proportion and call it rape, especially if they were friends with the guy. It makes it a bigger deal than it actually is," student Brandon West said. "My



Graphic by Marquis Faulcon

friend came to me about that kind of thing before. I told her not to blow it out of proportion; he normally wouldn't try to hurt her anyway."

Blaming the woman is a common theme for some students. Students say that a stereotypical life of a college student can include drinking, partying and sex. That can lead to trouble, they say.

"We all know a ton of girls that throw themselves around, you just know something is going to happen to them," Joe Ambler said.

"Half the time the girl is

throwing themselves on the guy at that point. What else is a guy supposed to think? You do lots of things when you're drunk that you normally wouldn't do. If the girl has sex and doesn't remember then that sucks, but it happens," student Derek Malone said.

But the law says that's no defense.

Any form of rape is a felony, and specifically date rape can be either a second-degree or third-degree felony, depending on the situation. Date rape specifics include the victim knowing the perpetrator, and/or not being

fully conscious, if conscious at all, due to any form of drug.

"It's rape. There's sexual misconduct. It depends on what happens in the crime as what it's going to be charged as. How much force used matters," said Shile, an advocate for Domestic Awareness Women's Network, who declined to give her last name.

"Any penetration, however so slight, could be considered rape," said Amy of the Rape Crisis Relief Center, who also declined to give her last name.

See Date, page 19

Two students elected

By AUSTIN MACKENZIE

STAFF REPORTER

Daniel Nordstrom and Paul Pittman are the first officers ever to be elected under Highline's new Student Government constitution.

The constitutional reform, voted in by students just a few weeks prior to the student government elections restructured the system, eliminating five of the seven existing positions and creating one new, unelected position to serve with the elected Student Government.

The new unelected position, the Speaker of the Caucuses, will be decided upon in the summer, and will oversee the new caucus system.

One-hundred sixty-two students voted in the May 24 and 25 elections, two votes of which were invalidated. Of the votes received, 60 were hand ballots and 102 were electronic votes.

Of the five candidates for president, Nordstrom won with 43 votes, 26.5 percent of the votes cast, defeating his opponents Gupreet Singh, Ian Davidson, Dmitry Kvasmyuk, and James Bermingham.

Davidson took second place

See Election, page 20

Highline's wonders



Photo by Keith Daigle

The class of 2007 has some stories to tell. Read their stories in the Inside Scoop, pages B1-B8.

College handles change, Bell says

By ALEX CAHAN

STAFF REPORTER

While several administrators are leaving Highline, there is no shortage in administration.

The loss of administrators is part of the overall reorganization of the school in order to cut costs and maintain a high level of service, the college's top official says.

"This kind of turnover happens all the time," said Dr. Priscilla Bell, president of Highline. "We have interim arrangements."

An interim arrangement is when someone leaves and the school utilizes other staff members to cover those duties, according to Dr. Bell.

"The reorganization was very purposefully done," said Dr. Bell. "The work has been moved and redistributed."

The reorganization allowed the administration to continue to provide an excellent education and help for the community despite the decrease in head count, she said.

Dr. Bell said the reorganization also allowed college of-

ficials to see what they could focus less on as well as what needed more emphasis.

Not all administrators who are leaving or have left were part of the reorganization. Several, including Becky Riverman, the former associate dean of enrollment, left for other schools and job opportunities. Riverman took up the same position at Renton Technical College.

"I personally support people in their efforts to find career advancement," said Dr. Bell.

See Change, page 20

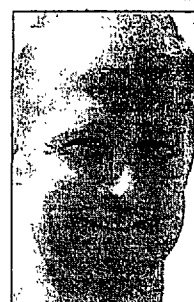
INDEX

ARTS.....PAGES 6-9
CAMPUS LIFE.....PAGES 2-3
OPINION.....PAGES 4-5
NEWS.....PAGES 1,12-20
SPORTS.....PAGES 10-11
SCOOP.....PAGES B1-B8



Get a taste of
Korean culture

See story,
Page A7



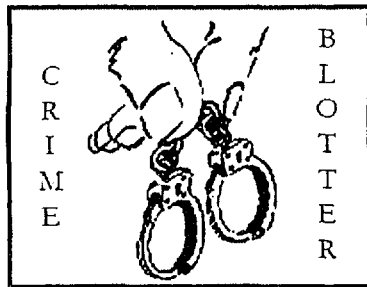
Carel to coach
cross country

See story,
Page A10

6/1/06

THE THUNDERWORD

CAMPUS LIFE



Fire lane blocked by illegal parkers

Numerous vehicles were parked around the Pavilion in the fire lane on May 24.

They were blocking anyone from being able to drive around.

Security notified these people who were in the gym and they came out and moved their cars.

The Roof, the roof, the roof isn't on fire

It was discovered on May 24 that there are problems with the precision alarm fire panel. It keeps showing that the fire alarm in Building 21 is going off, but it is not.

Dizzy student falls and takes a tumble

A Highline student felt dizzy and fell twice on May 25.

He fell once outside Building 30 and again inside the stairway on the second floor.

Student suffers mild injury to ankle

A Highline student injured his left ankle in the south parking lot on May 25.

Mother and son argue on campus

A mother and son were having an argument outside of Building 7 on May 26.

Security directed them to Educational Planning for guidance.

Cat found trapped inside building

A teacher called about a cat being trapped in Building 19 in a classroom on May 26.

The officer went and let the cat out of the class.

Man snoozes the day away on bench

There was a man sleeping on the bench outside the back door of Building 6 on May 28.

Security made sure he was OK and he departed.

-Compiled by R. Livingston

Highline colleague retires after 32 years

BY SIMONE SNOW

STAFF REPORTER

Virg Staiger is retiring from his position as director of Community and Government Relations. When he leaves in June, he will have completed 32-and-a-half years of working at Highline.

"I'm an old hand at Highline," Staiger said. "In fact, I've been at Highline longer than I have ever been anywhere."

Staiger was also a student at Highline, participating in journalism and serving as the Associate Student Body President in 1965 until he graduated in 1966.

"I was a student here the very first minute there were classes on Sept. 18, 1964," Staiger said.



Virg Staiger

"I was fortunate to become involved in journalism classes that directed me to my career in journalism and public relations, serving as a writer, chief photographer, and assistant editor of the Thunderword."

He served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War as a military journalist and photographer, a general's attaché, and in public affairs. He later went on to work at the Seattle Times and the Auburn School District as the coordinator of communications, before coming to work at Highline as the director of Public Information/Publications.

"I have worked hard to promote Highline in the community and on the campus during my years here," Staiger said. "I certainly hope the college is a better place because of my efforts and commitment."

For the future, Staiger hopes to finish a book he has been writing about Vietnam, and write a children's book currently in the outline stages.

He also plans to travel, be an activist for elderly and veterans' issues, and spend time with his family.

However, Staiger says he will miss Highline.

"It has been part of the daily routine for so long," Staiger said. "I will miss my colleagues, actually the friends who have been though a lot with me and my favorite college."

Still, Staiger says he remains thankful for all the opportunities Highline has granted him.

"I'm very proud to be a Highline Community College student and staff alum," Staiger said. "Most of all, I am very thankful of the support my family and all of the Highliners I've been privileged to be associated with over my time at Highline."



Pollution talk blowing this way

Learn the dirty truth about pollution at Highline's Science on the Sound.

Science on the Sound is a series of talks given by guest speakers and sponsored by Highline's Marine Science and Technology Center.

The next lecture is titled Air Quality Matters in Our Region and will be presented by Richard Stedman.

Stedman will identify different types of pollution and the effects it has on the environment and public health.

The lecture will take place on June 3 from noon to 1 p.m. It will be held in the MaST center located at 28203 Redondo Beach Drive South Des Moines

Can Races: The Science of Rolling Objects presented by Richard Bankhead.

Science Seminar is on Friday, June 2 from 2:20-3:10 p.m. in Building 3, room 102.

For more information contact Woody Moses at 206-878-3710, ext. 3649 or at wmoses@highline.edu.

Study break will be provided

Take a break from studying for finals.

The Inter-cultural Center is hosting a study break for students to relax, spend time with their friends, and eat food.

Pizza and drinks will be provided at no cost.

The break will be held today, June 1 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Inter-cultural Center, located on the lower level of Building 6.

Last chance for faculty luncheon

Today is the last day to make

Work individually or in small groups

Math Resource Center
A friendly, supportive learning environment.

The MRC offers a variety of supplemental math learning resources which include math videos, computer tutorials, access to current textbooks, special interest math books, supplemental texts, advising materials, and math related workshops.

Building 26, room 319-H
Spring quarter hours:
Mon-Thurs, 9am - 4pm
Fri, 9am - noon
For information call
(206) 878-3710, ext. 4343

Dance to the Sound



Photo courtesy of Amanda Lewis

Students Tiffany Carter and Shurvon Haynes dance the night away while cruising the Puget Sound during Team Highline's Boat Cruise on Friday, May 19.

reservations for the staff and faculty only Spring Luncheon.

The luncheon is Thursday, June 8.

The cost is \$8.50, and you can give your money and make your reservations with Sandy

Moser in Building 1.

Tickets for the luncheon will not be sold at the door.

For more information contact Sandy Moser at 206-878-3710, ext. 3200, or at her email, smoser@highline.edu.

Science seminar rolling to an end

The weekly science seminar is rolling into Highline.

This week the topic is Soup

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Extraordinary woman is no ordinary winner

By ANGELA NELSON

STAFF REPORTER

Lynne Boettcher, Project Support Specialist for Workforce Training, proudly displays her 2006 Extraordinary/Ordinary Awards on top of a gray file cabinet in the corner of her office.

Boettcher now helps individuals recover from losing their jobs and gives them resources to start over.

She says her journey started when she was laid off from her job of 24 years.

"I worked in Levitz for 24 years putting up the displays. One day they asked me into the office and said they were doing some cutbacks. They gave two options: either I could be completely laid off, or I could receive part-time hours plus no benefits," Boettcher said.

Dealing with the grief of losing her job, she soon started to weigh her options, and going back to school was one.

Boettcher said she looked around at many campuses, from Idaho to Spokane.

She chose Highline because she was more familiar with the campus, due to the fact that her son's commencement was held here years before.

"My son's graduated from Mount Rainier High School, and their graduation was held here on the Highline campus, so I was a little familiar with the campus. You kind of go by what you feel sweet and comfortable with, and it just felt right when I first set foot here. I liked the diversity of age groups and cultures," said Boettcher.

Many individuals encouraged her to get into interior design.

They felt it might be some-



Photo by Michelle Ericksen

Lynn Boettcher was given the Extraordinary/Ordinary Award.

thing she would be good at, due to the fact she worked doing displays for Levitz all those years.

She felt differently about it though and thought, because of her age, it would not be the best choice for her.

Besides doing display work, customer service was another skill included in her resume.

After doing a complete personality questionnaire at Highline, she found the Human Services Program was best suited for her.

She graduated with honors

from the program in 2000, and was part of the Phi Theta Kappa Society.

Being laid off was not the only obstacles she had to overcome.

She had to deal with the disease of alcoholism.

Boettcher started drinking at the age of 14 years old, and says she was the only teenager out of her group of friends that carried a metal cup.

"When I was 16 my friends and I would go up in the hills and drink. We always had paper

cups that would get soggy and tear apart after a while. I eventually just started carrying around a metal cup, so I wouldn't have that problem," Boettcher said.

Even though there were many examples around her on what alcoholism can do to your body, she continued to drink.

Boettcher kept telling herself she knew who she was, and that alcohol was not a problem that affected her everyday life.

"I have a long history of what alcohol can do to a person. I lost my mother, father, grandfather, and uncle to it. Alcohol is very patient, baffling, and powerful. I was with my father in the hospital the night he died of cirrhosis. After he passed away I went straight to the bar with friends. Drinking was a way to let me deal with all the grief. I told all my friends that I was in control and that it could never happen to me," Boettcher said.

She once had such an extreme hangover doctors kept her in the hospital to run tests, due to the fact doctors thought she was having seizures.

She was soon medicated and sent home.

The following Monday, after drinking after work, she was arrested for drinking and driving, hitting .27 on the breathalyzer.

Boettcher says she doesn't know what would have happened if she hadn't been pulled over by police in 1986.

She had been drinking that night and was driving on the wrong side of Military Road.

"I remember I was driving and listening to my favorite song, Why Not Me by the Judges. I was driving on the wrong side of the road and went through a busy intersection without being hit. Police spotted me and pulled me over. With

all of that happening it made me start to think why not me? I believe that was a sign from God, and it is amazing that I wasn't killed," Boettcher said.

With such a near death experience and now a criminal charge, Boettcher felt it was time to change.

The mother of six wanted to be able to see her grandchildren grow and not let alcoholism take over her life, as it had done to her parents.

She soon got into a treatment program so she could help herself and find out about hereditary alcoholism.

With the help of supportive family, friends, and church group, she was able to make it through her 28 days of treatment.

"Denial is a big part of the disease and while I was in the treatment center, they talked about how it was a disease that takes over your mind and body. Your mind tells you everything is ok, while your body continues to suffer," Boettcher said.

Even though she says it was kind of a shock to win one of the Extraordinary/Ordinary Women's Awards, it reassured her of a lot of things. "It was a very big surprise to me and I realized all the people that had touched me throughout my journey. What is so important to me is that I came through those same doors years earlier, and now I get the chance to help those in a similar situation. It's hard to empathize with someone's situation if you have never been in their shoes," Boettcher said.

"After receiving the award, I felt that I was exactly where I need to be, and no doubts of where I want to be. I'm also proud to say I can celebrate 20 years sober this September."

Study Abroad gives students a world-class education

By KRYSTAL VELTMAN

STAFF REPORTER

Highline students can get out of town, and get college credit almost every quarter. You could go to Spain. You could go to France. You could go to Italy. You could go to Costa Rica.

Highline offers Study Abroad almost every quarter. Here, students are offered the opportunity to study their subjects and get college credit in another country. The destinations that Highline's Study Abroad program is planning to go to are Costa Rica, Salaman-

ca, Spain, Florence, and Paris. During the Study Abroad program, students are set loose into the local culture and are taught the local language.

"The classes vary each year for most of the programs. Highline is part of a consortium of community colleges that administers these study abroad programs.

Teachers from participating colleges around Washington can submit a course idea and the consortium chooses one or two for each program. However, all programs usually offer local language and culture courses taught by local teachers as well," said

Amee Moon, the campus adviser in the International Student Programs.

For Winter Quarter 2007 Highline is sending students to Costa Rica and Salamanca, Spain.

For Spring Quarter 2007, Highline is sending students to Florence.

Here, students live with six other students and jump right into life on their own in Italy. Classes such as Italian Life and Culture, Introduction to Drawing, and Art History are offered in this program.

Ellen Hoffmann, a teacher at Highline, taught Art History in

Florence three years ago.

Hoffmann said that she loved the experience she got from going and would love to go back and teach for the study abroad program again.

Hoffmann said that she developed connections with the students, as they were fellow travelers instead of students, and they met as a group weekly at a local snack bar called the Lido for dinner and wine.

Hoffmann said that she will never forget when they were looking at Donatello's David one of the students said "I thought Donatello was a Ninja Turtle," in an art museum in

Florence.

For Summer Quarter 2007, Highline is sending students to Paris. Students live with Parisian families and take French courses throughout their stay.

The costs of this program varies depending on how many students go. Salamanca, Spain is an estimated \$5,185. Florence is an estimated \$4,770. Paris is an estimated \$3,295. Costa Rica is an estimated \$5,190.

These fees excludes airfare, tuition, passport, visa, and personal expenses.

For more information about study abroad, go to the Highline website.

Editorial

The year in review

As Spring Quarter draws to an end, Highline finds itself walking away from a year that was not without trials. Highline has struggled with low enrollment this year, and has had to deal with a myriad of issues that have contributed to the problem.

After two years of waiting, the new Highline logo was finally revealed, but many considered the event to be anticlimactic. The logo was part of Highline's pursuit of brand equity, but the \$15,000 spent seemed like it could have accomplished more if put into other venues.

Building 99, which is Highline's only visible structure from the highway, still stands without a sign, and it's impossible to say how many potential students pass by the college every day without knowing of its location. Highline's overall lack of advertisement (save for one late night commercial) is somewhat unsettling, and could be a major factor in Highline's dip in enrollment.

The impact made by that low enrollment was felt most this quarter when Highline saw its Service and Activities budget taking shape. The S&A budget is composed by students, faculty, and staff, and allots funding to various programs throughout the school.

The deficit was felt as many programs did not receive the funding that they had requested; several programs actually lost money.

For the most part, however, the S&A committee was careful and thoughtful, and the new budget reflected this. A few questionable items received boosts in funding despite the deficit (namely leadership development and a new Club Resource Center), but the budget was responsible overall.

Despite the difficult tribulations that the college encountered this year, however, many programs still occurred and had a positive impact on the community. Unity Week was an undeniable success, as the events sported high numbers of attendees and generated much buzz. The week was also fiscally conservative, which highlights what the college can do, even in rough times.

Overall, Highline supported diverse and numerous events this year that the students took advantage of, and everyone hopes to see a similar trend in programs next year.

Highline has done respectably well despite everything it has faced this year. However, there is still more to be done.

The low enrollment issue will not simply dissipate — Highline needs to make sure that it continuously and effectively markets itself next year, and shouldn't be afraid to use some basic methods, such as signage.

Also, as Student Programs begins its shift to becoming the Center for Leadership (the new program will place emphasis on creating leaders before it creates programs), it needs to remain fastidious in its work. It would be very easy for the new program to fall short amidst such a drastic change.

Next year could be an excellent year for Highline, but it isn't going to happen without effort. Everyone involved needs to take part and share the responsibility in getting Highline's name into the community and creating a school that people are going to want to come to. If enough work is put into those two things, then Highline is going to have a stellar run through 2007.



Leadership Center is on its way

Student Programs is becoming the Center for Leadership Development next year, and the result may possibly yield fewer events.

Associate Dean of Student Programs Jonathan Brown spoke on the new system at a Leadership Luncheon last Tuesday, where selected students were invited to hear about the changes.

Brown said the name change from Student Programs to the Center for Leadership and Service signifies a change in philosophy.

Instead of having programs as a first priority, the new center's main goal is producing leaders, Brown said.

Programs are expected to result in the aftermath.

Brown marched up and down the room among the 45 attendees, and at one point Brown did a demonstration called "Big Vision," where he brandished a rubber band that represented his goals.

Brown then went to stretch the rubber band to show how there is tension between goals

and reality, but his tool snapped halfway through his presentation.

After recovering from this demonstration, Brown moved onto his main point, highlighting how after leaders are established, those individuals will naturally go on to create programs.

The new program has the best intentions, and it shows that the people upstairs do care about what students are doing and want to help them do it. However, you just can't manufacture leadership.

Leaders aren't made through recruitment and job training; leaders are people who stand up and take control of projects or put new ideas in motion. Student Programs operated under this philosophy, and, with a respectable list of events that took place this year, it would be incorrect to say it didn't work.

Trying to fabricate leaders to take care of future projects is ambitious but may not work. Sending an individual to

a leadership retreat where they bang on a drum isn't going to teach them how to handle stress or make things happen.

The issue that is being addressed is the right one: student involvement should be the first priority. However, this change in philosophy is looking at the problem backwards, and won't necessarily incorporate more people, but may simply predetermine who is considered to be a leader.

If the new program doesn't work out this year, however, it is possible that Highline students will rise from the ashes and take the responsibility; the campus community enjoys its events and will hopefully step forward (if needed) next year.

Brown and his team have all of the right intentions, but it seems like they're trying to reinvent the wheel. Student Programs has its flaws, but it isn't to the point where it should be thrown out. In this new approach those involved need to be careful about stretching the program — no one wants to see it snap in their faces.

Robert is leading his own revolution.

Comment



Robert Fitzgerald

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"Here at the Thunderword we're all about evil."

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Immigration reform could ruin U.S.'s flavor

Our government, George W. Bush in particular, wants a reform for all the illegal Mexican immigrants who have come to this country. There are many reasons why they have come: better standards of living, more job opportunities with better pay, excellent education, and a better life for their families, especially for their young children.

Of course we have laws that prohibit immigrants from coming to this country without proper documentation, but that doesn't seem to be a significant enough deterrent to keep them out.

I do not have any problems with them coming here in search of opportunity and advancement. There are plenty of jobs to go around. Those who say the Mexicans steal jobs away from "legal" citizens of America haven't looked hard enough for work. I have noticed a variety of jobs listed in all types of papers, not to mention the thousands of

jobs listed all over the Internet.

No offense to Mexicans, but how many Americans are willing to perform strenuous jobs for long hours and for such a small pay? I don't see anyone who will pass up a \$10-\$30 an hour career to make minimum wage, or less, to work in a field, a dish room, kitchen, or any other manual labor position.

If they were all to leave, you may have to become accustomed

to sitting at dirty tables at your favorite restaurant, paying even more for produce, and purchasing textile items at outrageous prices, because most Americans won't work for such low wages. Americans are lazy — not all of them, but the ones who complain about illegal immigrants don't seem to want such menial jobs.

One thing that bothers me about this is the extreme focus on Mexicans. Why such the concern? How often do we hear



of Mexican terrorists blowing up our buildings? Why are we not worried about any other nationality? They want all the focus on the US-Mexican border, but aren't worried about the US-Canadian border. Shouldn't this extreme concern be more directed to our airports' and seaports' safety? Mexicans should be the least of our concerns.

Our government is being hypocritical toward Mexicans. Do they forget our American history? Back in the 1400s when Columbus "discovered"

America, they seem to have overlooked the fact that people were already living here.

In the 1600s the Pilgrims left England to venture out to a new land to find a better life, make a new beginning, and get away from English rule to become independent. They came to "America" and learned the ways of the land taught to them by the Natives who were already established here. In exchange, they forced the Natives to speak English instead of their own language, took land from

them for a price that a modern business man would laugh at, while raping and killing those who wouldn't conform.

The Natives fought hard to retain their culture, and to keep their own land to live the way they had lived. What did our Forefathers give them? A small piece of land they call a reservation. Hardly a fair trade.

As Americans we have choices, freedom of speech, and access to an excellent education system. If this is indeed the melting pot of the world, then why have we begun to filter out some of the ingredients that add so much flavor to this delectable dish? Have we become so ignorant to our history that we are blind and selfish to the meaning of what America is supposed to be? We should worry more about filtering out the "toxic" ingredients of hate and terrorism, instead of throwing out the main ingredients that make this melting pot of a country a delightful and diverse mixture.

Laura Hyatt is a student at Highline.

Babysitting: \$10 a day and screaming

I sacrificed eight hours of my life on Saturday to look after another woman's 1-year-old son. Why I agreed to do it I still can't figure out.

The mother dropped her son off at my house at 9 a.m., bringing with her a mountain of baby supplies. As soon as she had unloaded what I was convinced was every baby item in her home onto my living room floor, she brandished a piece of paper at me listing every activity her son was to partake in that day.

At 10 he needed to play, at noon he needed to nap, at 2 he needed

to be fed. As the schedule kept ranging on and on, I began to wonder why it was that I agreed to baby-sit in the first place.

Later I followed him as he crawled around the house in awe of his surroundings as part of his playtime. He stopped to gape at a squirrel outside the window, stare at a lamp in the corner, and gleefully slap the buttons of the TV remote against his tiny palm. It wasn't until I became his favorite thing to slap that I got concerned.

As I cowered from this little boy out of pain and fear, I began to wonder where exactly on the schedule was this? At 11:30 the babysitter becomes a punching bag was nowhere to be found on the list of activities.

However, my least favorite activity was getting the boy to sleep. I spent 30 minutes listening to him wail in tones and pitches I didn't even know existed, until I finally cracked and called the mother.

I begged and pleaded with her to let me deviate from the schedule by letting him play a little longer and end his suffering, not to mention mine. She simply assured me it was entirely normal and instructed me



to leave him be. An hour later, he drifted to sleep for a full 20 minutes before continuing his screaming. Finally the mother came back to collect her son — 45 minutes late.

As I watched her packing up her son's playpen, looking like she was getting ready to go back to her prison cell, I just couldn't help but ponder the question of why I and so many others like me willing subject ourselves to the agony of babysitting. It's unpleasant, nerve-racking, and for all my trouble, the mother just shoved \$10 at me. Despite being a nice thing to do for her, it just wasn't worth it.

Then, as she was leaving, she asked me if I was free to babysit on Monday.

I looked at the little boy who had resumed his expression of feigned innocence, but I just flashed a wry smile and shook my head. I wasn't falling for it again.

Simone has separation issues.

Highline much better than high school

For most people, high school sucks.

Fortunately, I was able to get out of that mess by doing the Running Start program, where I can take classes at a community college and have them count towards high school as well.

Now at the end of this quarter, I am graduating Highline with a general AA two weeks before I graduate from high school.

This has been no easy task. As any student here knows, taking a full load every quarter requires dedication, stamina, and a healthy amount of sarcasm. I have had to give up spending time with friends of mine between halls and at lunch, and toward the end of senior year, things like Prom are much less appealing.

Friends of mine have reacted to my going to college in different ways. There are those who claim that my transfer credits are less appealing to universities than their Advanced Placement credits, and there are those who stayed, saw how I was doing, and wish they had done it too.

I have no regrets from doing this. The benefits outweigh the

sacrifices. The only change I'd make to my experience was to take more science classes.

Perhaps the greatest part about doing this is leaving behind the unnecessary drama that accompanies fourth period. I got the opportunity to work and study with people old enough to be my parents and grandparents, who didn't have time for drama.

The life experiences gained from going to a community college

have provided me with an education that many people only get after years of living. Concerns that were once large to me as a child are now small to me as an adult. Who cares about who dates who or what the latest styles are? There is work to be done, and things to accomplish.

I am 18 years old; I have a legitimate college degree from a well-established school.

I am a college junior at a time when kids my age are more concerned with the frat parties they get to go to in fall.

I didn't take the easy way out and that has made all the difference.

Alex is his own high school sweetheart.

Comment



Laura Hyatt

Comment



Simone Snow

Comment



Alex Cahan

Cheers, not tears for Highline Idol

By BRETT MILLS

STAFF REPORTER

Like American Idol, Highline Idol had auditions and finalists. Unlike American Idol, no one was sent home crying afterwards.

Team Highline put on Highline Idol at The Bistro yesterday.

The performers included Jennifer Graybill, Ryan Asa, Tiffany Carter, George Davis, Tye Witfield, and Steven Hulet.

The Bistro was packed with Highline students enjoying the performances and many of the students were dancing around or singing the songs with the performers.

During the performances many of the performers collaborated with each other.

All the performers come from different backgrounds and have different goals.

For one day, they all had one thing in common: Highline Idol.

Jennifer Graybill is a musician from a big family.

"I have friends in Team Highline and they advertised it [Highline Idol] and I decided to do it," said Graybill. "There were 10 or 15 people who came to the audition and they chose the top four groups."

Graybill has been playing



Photo by Keith Daigle

Highline students Jennifer Graybill and Ryan Asa played in this week's Highline Idol show.

piano for 12 years and taking vocal instruction for five years. Currently her vocal instructor is Dr. Sandra Glover here at Highline.

Highline Idol was Asa's first official show.

He started playing music with a trumpet about three years ago and then moved on to piano and guitar and has even thrown in a little bit of accordion along the way.

"Jennifer said that they [Highline Idol] were holding auditions to play at The Bistro

and I've always wanted to play there," said Asa.

This quarter Asa has been taking a voice class with Dr. Glover and that has helped him a lot with stage fright.

He wouldn't have done Highline Idol if it weren't for the voice class and Jennifer Graybill.

"I didn't know it was a competition until the day of," said Asa.

"When I found out it ultimately made me step it up."

"I loved it [singing in front of

the crowd]. It made me realize this is what I want to do," said Tiffany Carter.

George Davis said that they had started playing music in church at a young age.

"Music has always been a part of my life," he said.

"Shurvon [Haynes] told me about it [Highline Idol]," said Carter. "We went to the audition and killed."

Carter said she plans on pursuing music and taking it on the road.

Witfield has been singing for

about 15 years and started singing in church. For her, music is more of a hobby.

She is a spiritual motivational speaker. She said that her music normally implements her speaking.

"I heard about it [Highline Idol] through the Thunderword," said Witfield.

"I figured this is my last semester and I thought I should take advantage of everything, at least have fun."

"It was awesome [performing] just receiving the love from everyone and knowing that people had the desire to hear what you're singing," said Witfield.

This was the first time that Emmanuel Arhu had ever sung as a performance, he usually break-dances.

"Tiffany was the one who encouraged me to do this [perform at Highline Idol]," said Arhu.

He has been playing piano for six years. Music is a hobby for Arhu.

"Music is something that's a part of me," he said. "I can't do without it."

Arhu also said that performing was awesome and that he had fun.

The fluid laid back concert was so relaxed that it ended with an open-mic session that gave audience members the chance to come up on stage and perform.

Arcturus shines once again with new edition

By KRYSTAL VELTMAN

STAFF REPORTER

After two quarters of hard work, the editors of Arcturus hope that you like the magazine as much as they do.

Arcturus is an annual publication with contributions from Highline students, alumni, faculty, and staff.

Arcturus features a wide range of written works such as poetry, fiction, and nonfiction as well as photography and artwork.

The 2006 edition debuts on campus this week. Arcturus is completely produced by Highline students.

The editors decided what went into the magazine by rating the work.

Everything is done here at Highline, from the work put into the magazine to the actual printing of it, said Professor Sharon Hashimoto, who is also the magazine's adviser.

The editing of Arcturus is conducted by students with guidance from their advisers in

the Writing 260 class.

The editors meet twice a week in class to discuss everything from what submissions go into the magazine to the logos on their t-shirts.

For the 2006 magazine the editors were Elizabeth Comeaux, Leanne Paperfuss, Jacob Smith, and Bradley Gains.

"This year's magazine's theme is Nature and Technology," said Comeaux.

Making this magazine was hard work, but it opened up doors for everyone in the class, and made the students get more involved with all the programs here at Highline, said Comeaux.

"I made them go all over campus," Hashimoto said. "This class requires you to be more involved with Highline."

"My favorite part of making this magazine was the interaction with the other students in the class," Editor Jacob Smith said. "I loved debating which pieces were the best."

"I went to the art department to talk with Bill Ingalls-Cox



Photo by Jocie Olson

Graphic design students assemble the Arcturus magazine in the Highline printing lab.

about Arcturus," Comeaux said.

"Bill said that in the past Arcturus's art has been lame. So this year we worked really hard to boost up the art to make this magazine an award winner."

"It's so neat, because all we started with was a handful of submissions," Comeaux said, "and now we have an actual magazine. It's just really cool because we've worked so

hard to put this together. I hope people like what we have included."

This year about 250 submissions were sent into Arcturus.

This year's magazine will have about 75 to 80 pages of art and written work.

It can be found in the Highline Bookstore today, June 1, for about \$5, said the editors.

"It was really hard to choose from all the submissions that were sent in," said Editor Elizabeth Comeaux. "I wanted to put everything in, but there wasn't enough space."

There will be two readings of Arcturus on today, one at noon and the other at 6:30 p.m. in Building 7.

At the reading there will be complimentary magazines and snacks. Everyone is invited to attend.

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-- THE THUNDERWORD

6/1/06

THE THUNDERWORD

East Asia arrives in the Northwest

By SIMONE SNOW

STAFF REPORTER

Korea is coming to Federal Way.

Han Woo-Ri, meaning we are one, is a celebration of Korean arts, culture, and sports. The events, ranging from a Tae Kwon Do tournament to a fashion show of traditional Korean costumes, are set up to bring Korea to the Northwest on June 9-11.

"The purpose of the festival is to celebrate Korean arts and sports," said Sue Park, director of the Han Woo-Ri. "It's a chance to experience Korea without having to hop on a plane and travel across the Pacific Ocean."

Park's interest in Korean culture comes from her own background. Her parents are both Korean. Her father, Michael Park, not only owns and runs Midway Dry Cleaners near Highline, but is also the mayor of Federal Way, an area which is home to more than 10,000 Korean-Americans.

"It's an opportunity for Korean-Americans to celebrate their heritage," Park said. However, one does not have to be Korean to attend the festival and become



The intense percussion group Balkwang will be performing in the Han Woo-Ri Village on the third night of the festival.

immersed in the culture.

Sports will be featured with a soccer tournament at Celebration Park, a Tae Kwon Do tournament at Todd Beamer High School, and a golf tournament at Northshore Golf Course.

All the other events will take place in the south parking lot of

the Commons Mall in Federal Way, under a 100-foot-by-200-foot tent called the Han Woo-Ri Village.

One event taking place at the village will be a fashion show which will model Korean clothing from the Choson Dynasty, such as wedding cos-

tumes, royal attire, and clothing from all four seasons.

"It's going to be quite a treat," Park said. "Even for local Koreans out here it's very rare for them to see these costumes."

Park also said there will be "various different exhibits on

Korean history."

For the kids, there will be games and activities available to participate in, including paper folding and the chance to learn to write their names in Korean.

Traditional Korean food and drink will also be offered, along with vendors selling Korean items.

"Every evening we'll have a different event," Park said.

On the first evening, the Opening Night Gala will preview several acts and performances to come later on during the festival.

On the second, a pop concert of modern Korean music will be held with the artists Crying Nut, a popular punk rock group from Korea; Kim Johan, an artist famous in Korea for his hit R&B songs; and local band New Heights.

The third and final night will feature more traditional music. Aura Corea, a group which mixes some contemporary music with traditional music and costumes will be playing, as will Balkwang, a group Park called "a high-energy percussion group... like Stomp."

For times and ticket information, call 253-835-6868, or go to www.hanwoorifestival.org.

Breeders Theater invests in new 'Capital'

By ERIK BREAKFIELD

STAFF REPORTER

Going to the theater at the E.B. Foote Winery is a Capital idea, because the Breeders Theater opens the summer with "Capital," a play about money on July 14.

This modern comedy, written by T.M. Sell is about quirky characters thrown into a corporate takeover. "And then greed takes over, which isn't always good," writer T.M. Sell said.

Founded in 1999, Breeders Theater has been performing live theater in non traditional venues around the Seattle area since they first opened. Each winter they donate the profits of one show to the Highline Scholarship fund.

"This will be the first show I have directed for Breeders Theater," said director Scott Green, but he did act with the troupe in their last two performances, Rescues Inc. and Pigeletto.

This has given him previous stage experience with five of the eight actors cast.

"The last two shows I was in were light and silly. This one has more for the audience to understand," Green said. He is referring to the technical aspect of

the show that deals with problems faced in the office.

The employees will include Terry Boyd as Bob, Eric Hartley as Ned, Highline alumni Jim Cooper as Dan, Highline alumni Kirsten Olds as Alison, Melissa Grinley as Leslie, Doug Knoop as Johnny/Dweems, Highline alumni Steve Scheide as Jason, and Samantha Chapman as the intern.

Green said that the script is strong and that they won't have a problem being an entertainment to the audience.

Each performance will be held at the E.B. Foote Winery in Burien and will be complemented by appetizers, as well as a tasting of stocked wines, all included in the \$20 price of the ticket.

Tickets are available at the E.B. Foote Winery and at Corky Cellars, 22511 Marine View Dr., Des Moines, WA 98198. Their phone number there is 206-824-9462.

The show opens July 14 and runs July 14, 15, 19, 21, 22, 26, 28, and 29 at 7 p.m. There will be two matinees July 16 and 30 that will start at 2 p.m. More information is available by visiting the Breeders Theater website at breederstheater.com.

Chorale auditions are set on seeking talented crooners

By RACHEL LUSBY

STAFF REPORTER

Do you like to sing? Are you actually good at it? Then the Arts and Humanities Department at Highline has the class for you.

An additional choir course will be added to the music department next fall.

The class is an auditioned chorale and is open to anyone who wishes to try out.

This class will not replace the current beginning choir course and students may be in one or both classes.

The new addition to the music department is an exciting one because students will get the chance to compete with their talents and even possibly compete at Carnegie Hall on April 22, 2007 in New York, permitting that fund raising goes as planned.

"We are beginning soon to plan for funds," says Dr. Glover.

The Highline College Choir was invited to participate in this national event by Dr. Geoffrey Boers, the conductor of the University of Washington's Symphony Chorale.

"He invited Highline along with others to represent the northwest," says Dr. Glover.

The new choir will be performing master literature such as that by famous composers such as Beethoven, Mozart, Bach, Palestrina, Haydn and Madrigals.

"Should the chorale go to New York, they will perform Joseph Haydn's *Mass in the Time of War*.

Tenors and basses are needed, Dr. Glover said.

To become a member, students must audition for choir instructor, Dr. Sandra Glover, at the end of spring or summer quarters, or within the first four days of Fall Quarter.

To schedule an appointment to audition for the new choir contact Dr. Glover at 206-878-3710 ext. 6170 or at sglover@highline.edu

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Stahl explains how to develop a poetic eye

By AUSTEN LAVERY

STAFF REPORTER

Just by following some simple steps any beginning photographer can become a better photographer says Highline professor Bob Stahl.

During his lecture *Photography: Developing a Poetic Eye*, Stahl helped to explain how to enhance your photography methods and opening your photographic eyes to the world around you.

"There are many ways in which one can improve their photography," said Stahl. Photographers can follow these simple steps to see a gradual change in their pictures.

- Look for a dramatic presence of light in the picture.
- Try to find a composition that fits well in the frame.
- Look for leading lines that will help to guide the eye through the picture.
- In your photography try to find subjects with life. People respond best to pictures with

life.

- Leave all distractions behind. Don't forget to leave those distractions at home.
- Just slow yourself down when taking pictures.

Many beginning photographers tend to run into a bind when deciding on what type of camera to use.

Stahl suggests film cameras for any beginning photographers if they are looking to learn the basics.

Stahl also says digital is a good way to go.

Although it does have some drawbacks.

"Digital cameras tend to promise perfection," said Stahl.

That's not true. Digital cameras will provide a good quality in your pictures, but it will not help you to become a better photographer.

Whether you are a vacationer or not, digital may just be the way you might go.

Digital will also at times cause the photographer to lose their creativity when taking pic-

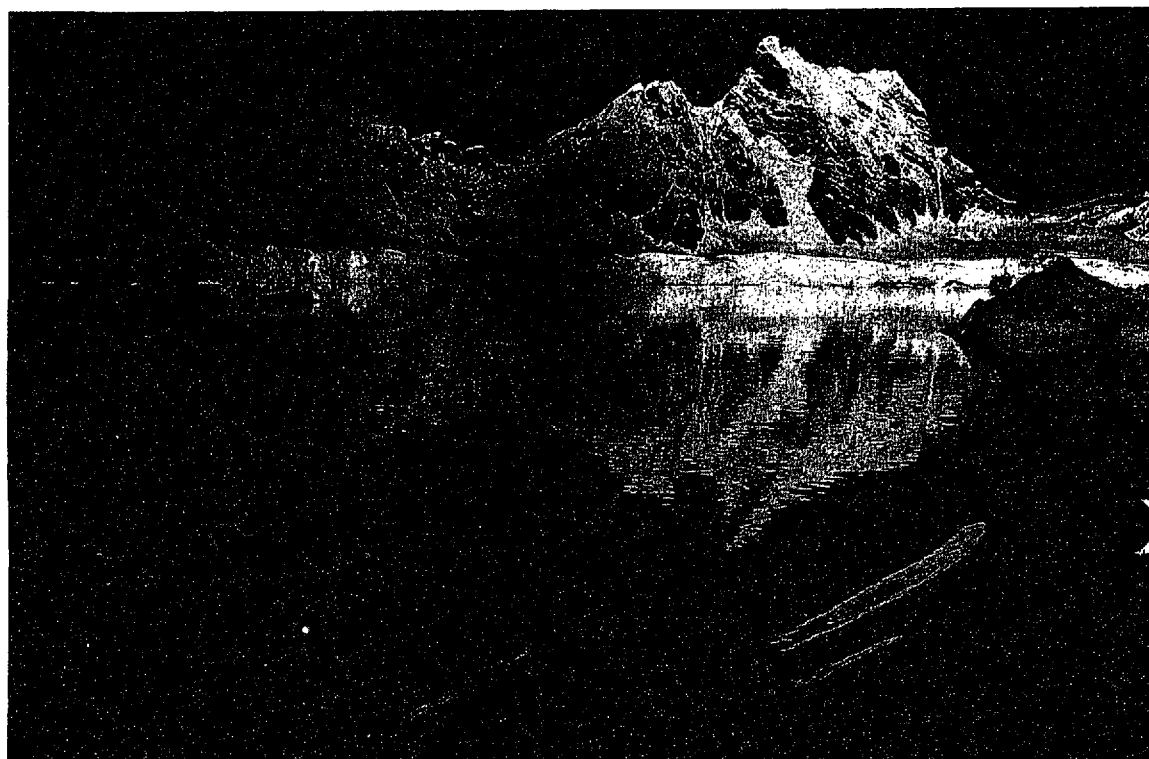


Photo courtesy of Bob Stahl

Antarctica's serene and picturesque landscape made for a beautiful photo opportunity.

ture. "Film on the other hand," said Stahl, "allows you to determine what you want and how want it to look."

Film also causes deliberation in the photographer because they must decide on what they want to capture.

Stahl recommends for any "casual photographers" to bring two rolls of film with them everyday when taking pictures. He also says for any "serious photographers" to bring three to four rolls of film.

Stahl has also recommended to all of his students to pick up

a tripod for their photography. "I guarantee if you use a tripod when taking photographs, you will become a better photographer overnight," said Stahl.

But Stahl doesn't mean that everyone needs to go out and buy a tripod for every picture they take. Sometimes you may just want to go use your handheld for quick pictures.

Quite possibly the biggest challenge for any new photographer is the settings on their camera. Digital cameras automatically adjust the clarity of the pictures, whereas film

cameras have the photographer manually adjust the settings.

Stahl recommends for photographers to follow the Sunny 16 Guideline. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. is a good time to be out taking pictures, especially when the sun is out. For front lit subject matter Stahl suggests for you to set your aperture setting to F-16 and one over your ISO setting.

Even if you don't know the settings quite yet, Stahl recommends to just mess around with your camera and "just go with it."

Simple flowers for blooming gardeners

By RACHEL LUSBY

STAFF REPORTER

If you're growing a budding interest in flowers, spring is the time to cultivate that thought.

If you are new to the gardening scene and are just looking to add a little color to your yard, there are a number of flowering plants can fulfill that wish.

Joe Asahara, the owner of Oriental Garden Center in Federal Way, says that flowers such as marigolds, petunias, nasturtiums, and impatiens are easy to grow and even children can handle growing them.

"You don't have to stake them," says Asahara.

These plants don't require a whole lot of maintenance other than making sure they are watered and fertilized.

Marigolds are an edible flower that many vegetable gardeners plant amidst their vegetable crops to help keep bugs away.

They are brightly colored and range from red-orange to yellow, to orange in color.

They will also grow almost anywhere.

Petunias come in a multitude of colors and are an excellent



Petunias create a rainbow in your yard and scent the air with a light and lovely fragrance.

choice if you are looking to add a rainbow of color to your yard.

They bloom from early spring until first frost and you can also grow them either in the ground or in containers.

Nasturtiums are another edible flower. They form either a low bush or a trailing plant and come in a variety of shades of red, orange, cream and crimson.

They also grow great in almost every area except for areas

of extreme cold.

If you have children, gardening is a great hobby for them to pick up. Not only does it give them something to entertain themselves with, but it also gives them something to take care of and to be proud of.

Asahara recommends allowing children to plant flowers starting from seed.

"Seeds are good for children because they like to watch them sprout up," he says. "You could

also use starts because they are easy to plant."

For those who are not able to move around so easily, and can't go outside and work in an actual garden, containers will work just as well.

"Planting in pots or on patios is easiest for older people," says Asahara.

This is another great thing about the aforementioned flow-

ers; they grow just as well in pots as they do in the ground.

The same rules apply, however, in their care. You must make sure that they have water and fertilizer.

Also, all these plants like well-draining soil. To assure this you can get pots that have holes in the bottom so that the excess water drains out and the plant doesn't drown.

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6/1/06

THE THUNDERWORD

SPORTS

Cross country has two new coaches

BY TREVOR KULVI

STAFF REPORTER

The Highline cross country program is now looking good for the future with the hiring of two new coaches to run the program.

Barry Carel has been named the head coach while Keith Paton will be the assistant coach.

"I'm very excited," said Carel.

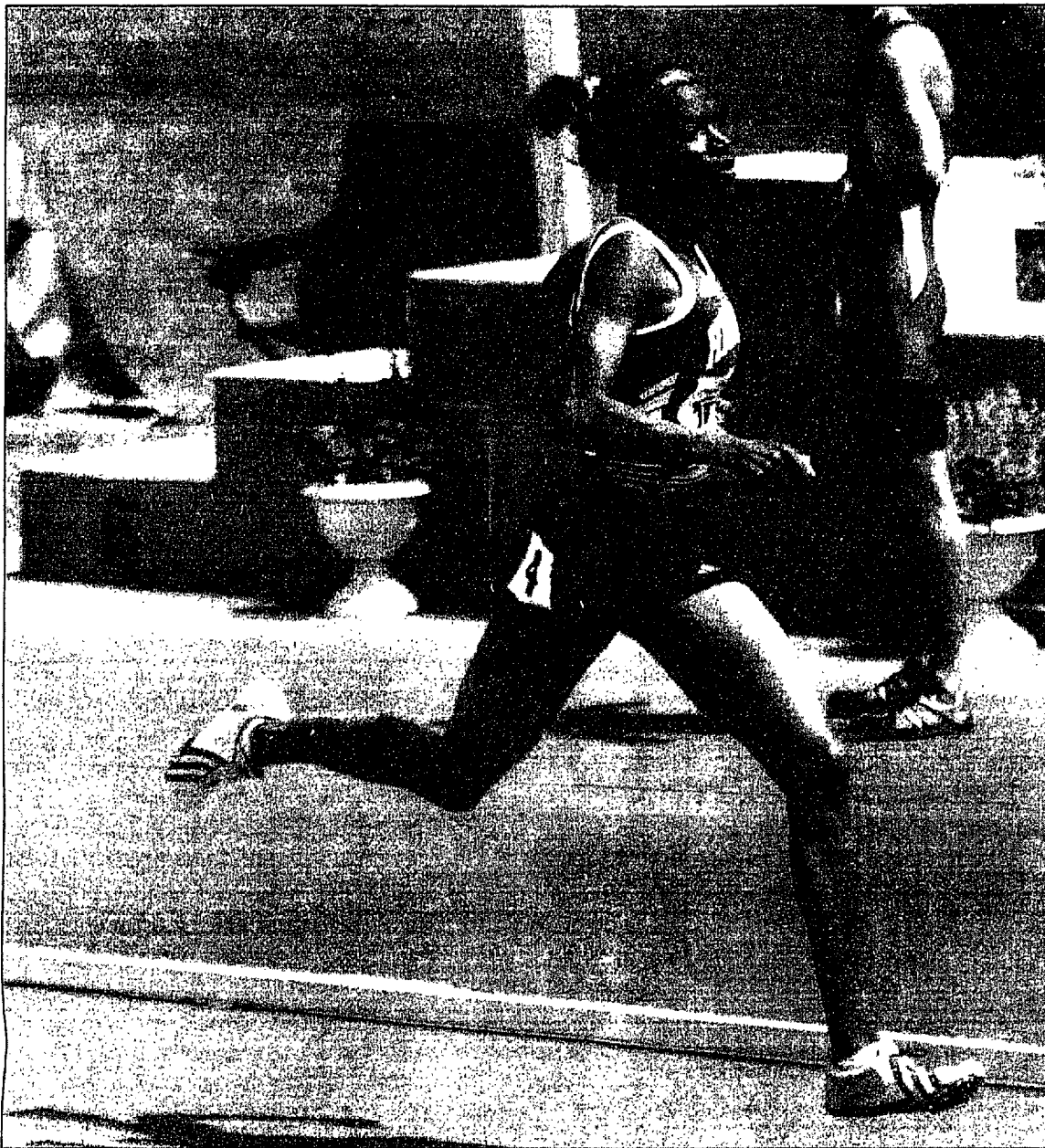
"The experience with track helped out and this will be a good new challenge."

Carel brings with him nearly 30 years of running experience to the program.

"I've been a runner for about 28 years," said Carel. "I've always had to work at it and I've run everything from 5K's to marathons and triathlons."

Paton also brings a big athletic background to the cross country and track programs.

"I've got a lot of training



Stock Photo

Sheree Barbour winning the 800 at the recent NWAACC Track and Field Championship meet. Barbour is considered a favorite to win the cross country title in the fall.



Barry Carel

time instructor will help keep tabs on the runners."

The recruiting process can be difficult because some athletes

don't know where they want to go.

"Athletes at the community college level commit late," said

Paton.

"Recruiting is not done, but we should be top three, top four at championships," said Carel.

"The guys are filling up fast with five if not six coming in. I'm also hoping to get at least five girls."

Both Paton and Carel will also work with the distance runners in track.

They will oversee the track program even though there is no head track coach named yet.

Their main duties during the track season will be making sure that athletes have their scholarships, budgeting the money for the teams, and renting vans for the trips. In addition to renting the vans, coaches must drive them. Often times the drives are long and strenuous.

"I will coach the mid-distance and long-distance runners and I will make sure that budgets are also under control," said Carel.

Coach Carel has also set some high goals for himself and the team for the cross country season.

"I think we have a chance to win on both the men's and women's team title," said Carel.

"Track we don't have the numbers to compete for a team title because it's more of an individual goal."

If you are interested in joining the cross country team in the fall you can contact Barry Carel at 206-878-3710 ext. 3060, bcarel@highline.edu or Keith Paton at 206-878-3710 ext. 3473, kpaton@highline.edu.

The first meet of the year will be hosted by the University of Washington.

Soccer players rarely recruit themselves

As the athletic season comes to a close, coaches now can focus on recruiting. Some coaches will need to recruit more than others, but all will need some players as replacements.

One sport that does not need a lot of recruiting is soccer. The men's soccer team is expected to return 10 players from last year's team. However, men's Head Coach Jason Prenovost is not stopping recruiting.

"I'm never done recruiting," Prenovost said. "I recruit year round. I talk to around 115 potential players a year. That number dwindles down and by the time tryouts come around that number is about 30."

Recruiting year round is a necessity as soccer is played year round. In other sports there is a season that lasts a couple of months. In soccer, the season consists of club games in fall, high school in spring, and

summer tournaments. The top players are always playing, and many of them have not made up their minds about where they will play next.

As soccer is a popular but not major sport in the U.S., there are far fewer college recruiters prowling the pitches. In sports such as football or basketball, the best players can choose from several big name universities. In soccer, the best players can fall through the cracks and end up at Highline. From Highline they have the opportunity to move onto a university.

"It's a long process," Prenovost said. "When you relax you lose players. You don't know for sure a player is coming until

they show up to tryouts."

The soccer team has been particularly successful the last several seasons, with a total of six losses in three years. The most successful team was the 2004 squad, which won the NWAACC championship for the first time in Highline's history.

The 2004 team had players from far and wide, including Alaska, Eritrea, and Somalia. Sometimes players just show up, and the coaches don't know they exist until tryouts.

"This year's sweeper, Samuel (Fessehazion), came out of nowhere. He showed up just a few days before tryouts and ended up being a real key player for us," Prenovost said.

From the field



STEVE PIROTTE

Fessehazion is originally from Sweden, but moved here to study and play soccer. In most countries in Europe, it is not possible to play soccer competitively and go to school at the same time.

Another source of players is college transfers. Although these players can be great assets, Prenovost does not go out of his way to recruit them.

"I just take it as it comes. We get enough transfers coming back. Steve Mohn is a great example. He played a year at Pacific Lutheran University, and then decided to come play here. He had a great season and now he's moving on to UW," Prenovost said.

Prenovost's biggest asset in recruiting players from universities is his recruiting policy.

"When players choose to go somewhere else, I don't hold grudges. I just wish them well

and leave the doors open for them to come back.

"A big part of recruiting that people forget is getting players who could move on to come back for another year. The players are better than players I could recruit because they've already got experience at this level."

Prenovost says that the biggest factor in recruiting is his mindset.

"I really enjoy recruiting and building a team because I know what students can achieve here. Like I said, I don't hold grudges against players, but in the back of my mind I truly believe that they've made a mistake in not coming here. That's part of what makes me a good recruiter. I really believe in bringing students here because I believe it's what is best for them."

Coach Prenovost vowed to stop recruiting after he met Steve.

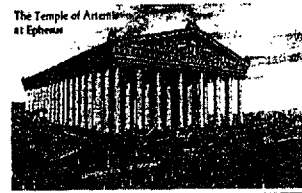
6/1/06

INSIDE SCOOP

THE THUNDERWORD MAGAZINE



THE
7
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OF HIGHLINE



STEPHANIE GILDART

BY JOIE OLSON

For Stephanie Gildart, every accomplishment has been a stepping stone leading her to her ultimate goals.

Gildart was born on Sept. 21, 1985 in Sedro-Woolley but has lived in Federal Way since she was 6 days old after being adopted.

Her birth mother was a high school student who felt that it was best to put her up for adoption and her adoptive parents couldn't have children.

"I really respect my birth mother for her choice to see the pregnancy through and then trust someone else to care for me because she knew that she wouldn't be able to," Gildart said.

She said that her parents never kept it from her that she was adopted.

"To me, it's almost like I was meant to be in this family; my way of getting here was just a little different," Gildart said.

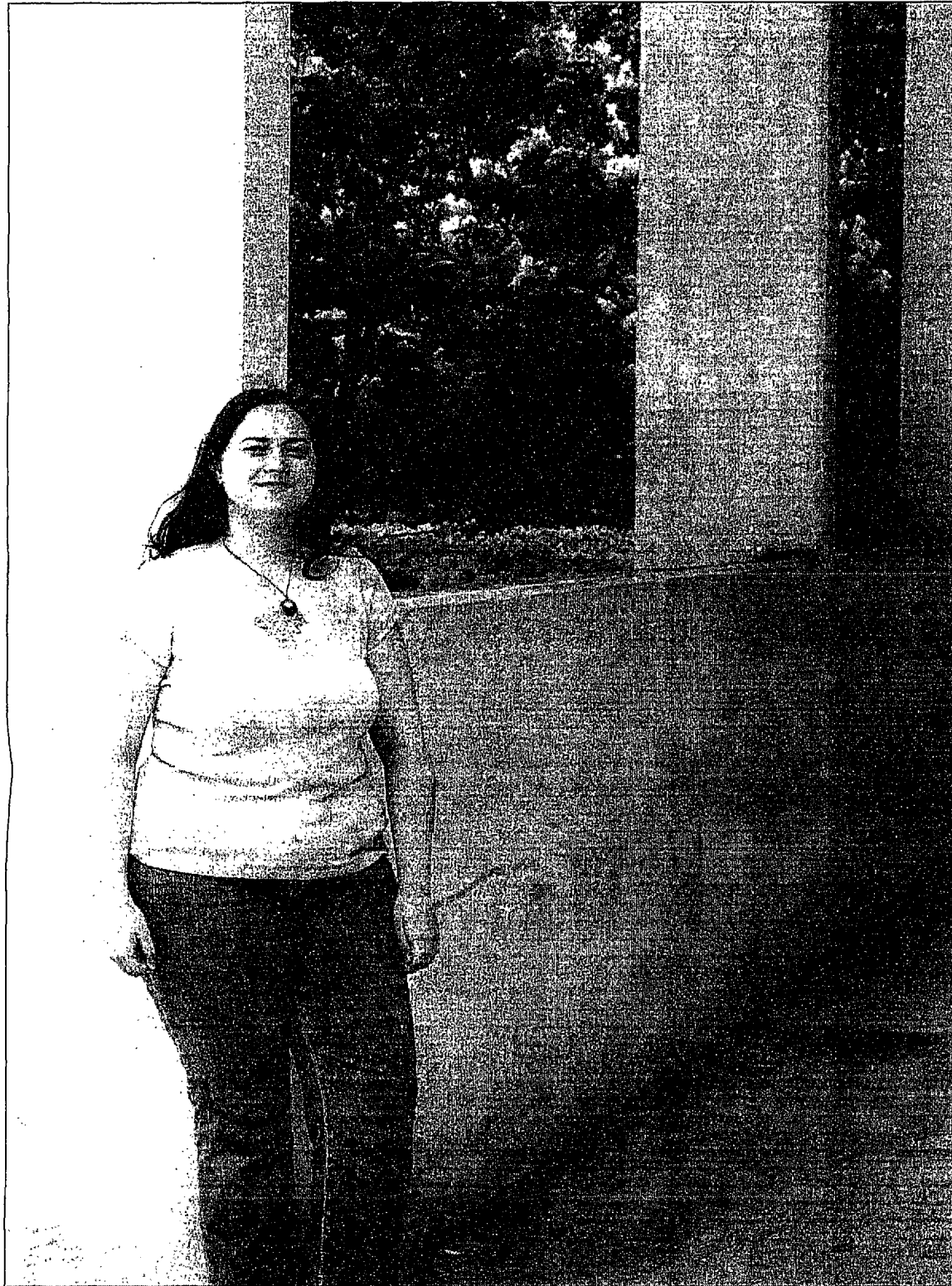
During her time at Highline, Gildart has been involved in the Highline Vocal Ensemble club, the Creative Writing Club, the Club Resource Team, Anime Club, and the Mormon Club.

"You make time for the things you like to do and when you do that everything usually falls into place," Gildart said. "I think it helps that my parents are there to help me. It's great to have their support."

Her mother is a stay-at-home mom and Gildart said that she has inspired her to serve others. Gildart's father works at Boeing as an engineer and he likes things structured and organized.

"He'd take me and my brother to the library almost every week, so he's also a lot of the reason why I love to read so much," Gildart said.

She said that her family has been a great support for



JOIE OLSON PHOTO

Student finds faith, family and music

her while she has been at Highline.

"My dad has paid the tuition I haven't received grants or scholarships for and I live at home, so I don't have to worry about rent or where my food's coming from. It makes it so much easier to focus on studies," Gildart said.

What has made Gildart's studies at Highline easier are the two scholarships

she has received.

"Because of my participation in the music department and because music is so much a part of me and my goals, I was able to receive a grant for Spring Quarter 2005 from the Music Department and then from the Breeders Theater Scholarship for the 2005-2006 school year," Gildart said.

Aside from receiving

scholarships, Gildart participated in the King County Library Teen Writing competition.

"I was just barely young enough to make it in this competition and it was the first writing competition I've ever really participated in," Gildart said.

She had to write a 500-word fantasy story, but she said that the hardest thing was to keep the entry at

500 words.

"The short story, The Island of Dreams, took second place. This really gave me confidence in my writing ability and it's a small step towards becoming a published author," Gildart said.

Becoming an author is one of her biggest dreams.

"I have already finished one novel and I'm constantly revising it and trying to submit it, but it's a long process. I intend to write more short stories and try to establish myself locally through them, and studying English and also cultural anthropology helps my writing," Gildart said.

Her other dream is to tour the world singing.

"I've just always liked music and always liked singing and when I came to Highline it just became too clear that music was what I wanted to study," Gildart said.

She explained that her faith is her inspiration for singing.

"Even when I'm not singing a religious song, I feel that spiritual influence in the music," Gildart said.

For Gildart, Highline has been a chance for her to stand up.

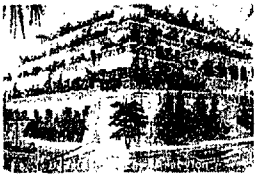
"I really like the opportunities that I have had," Gildart said. "I don't take myself seriously so when I make a mistake I can stand up and do better."

After Highline, Gildart said she plans on attending Brigham Young University in Salt Lake City and double major in music and either English or anthropology.

"I really like to write, but I am most interested in writing about people and cultures," Gildart said.

Gildart will be graduating from Highline in Summer 2006.

"My advice for students would be to look for opportunities to stand up and do things on campus," Gildart said.



AINALEM GEBREANANYA

BY SIMONE SNOW

Ainalem "Nally" Gebreananya may appear to be a small woman, but she has faced big challenges in her life.

From leaving her native country as a young girl to dropping out of high school to being a single mom, Gebreananya has risen to meet every difficulty.

Casually sprawled back in a chair outside the Highline Student Union, arms folded across her chest, Gebreananya does not appear to be 31 years old. Her maturity and thoughtfulness make her seem much older, while her features remain free of any sign of age that marks her as being older than 25.

Clad in fading blue jeans, a navy scarf twisted around her hair, and a gold sweater wrapped around her, the most significant part of Gebreananya's wardrobe is a silver necklace with a charm bearing the words #1 Mom. It was present from her now 4-year-old son, Matiyos.

"It was my first Mother's Day gift," Gebreananya said as her lips eased into a small smile.

Unfortunately, Gebreananya did not always have something to smile about. She had to leave her home in Ethiopia at the age of 12 due to a developing war and move to Georgia only to find herself poor. It was especially hard since she had enjoyed what she called a "pampered" up-



JOCIE OLSON PHOTO

Student travels far to reclaim hope

bringing in Ethiopia, complete with private schools, nannies, and chauffeurs.

"We weren't rich anymore," Gebreananya said. "We had to give up everything we owned to come to America."

Her situation did not improve when she ended up dropping out of high school in her junior year.

"It was more fun to party and drink," Gebreananya said shaking her head. "Before I knew it I was missing a week, two weeks, a month; it was just easier not to go back."

Instead Gebreananya went to work as both a waitress and bartender for several restaurants and night clubs.

"Anything to do with restaurants, I've done it," Gebreananya said. "It's a dead-end job."

Gebreananya admitted she felt like a hypocrite for many years as she kept pressing her sisters to become educated, while not being educated herself.

What finally made her change was an incident Gebreananya says she recalls with embarrassment. While reading to her son from *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut* by Dr. Seuss, Gebreananya came across a word she could not pronounce. The word was hallelujah, and one she often spoke.

"[The Highline catalogue] came in the mail two weeks later," Gebreananya said.

At first, Gebreananya looked into attending Green River, but finally decided on Highline's GED program as she felt Highline's environment suited her better. She eventually enrolled

at Highline as a full-time student. She will graduate this June with her associate of arts degree.

"That's something I think a lot of people don't realize, how great the staff is here," Gebreananya said. She named Ed Morris, who, despite not being her teacher, still tutored her in math. She also cited Highline professor Vickie Ropp as a major influence.

"Dr. Vickie Ropp pushed me to enter a [speech] contest my first quarter here," Gebreananya said. She came in second and kept on going, speaking at the Highline Gala, to the Washington state Legislature, the Women's Programs Breakfast, and the Black Student Union.

"She's one of those students who add so much positive spirit to a class,"

Ropp said. "She's very supportive of everyone. I love having her in class."

Another professor who Gebreananya says has had an impact on her was Bob Baugher.

"Every time I take his class, I change my life," Gebreananya said. "Because of him I stopped bartending, and I only work weekends when my son is with his dad."

Starting in the fall, Gebreananya will begin school at The Evergreen State College to earn her bachelor's degree and eventually her master's degree in human services, in order to work with non-profit organizations to promote awareness about HIV and AIDS.

"[My goal is] to work for World Vision," Gebreananya said. "It's my dream job."

Another dream of Gebreananya's is to have had a positive effect on others at Highline.

"I like to think that in my two-and-a-half year career here that I've let someone know it's never too late," Gebreananya said.

While she is looking forward to starting a new school, Gebreananya admitted she feels nervous.

"I will miss knowing there are people on campus whose soul mission is for me to succeed," Gebreananya said, tears springing to her eyes. "[Highline] is the only college experience I've had, and it's been a great one."



ANNE SHAW

BY RACHEL LUSBY

Soon-to-be Highline graduate Anne Shaw is a woman with a goal to become something more.

She has won multiple achievement awards and received great acknowledgements from her instructors.

Her schedule has been constantly busy with school, work or extracurricular activities for the past two years, but that hasn't slowed her down.

Shaw says her work habits and drive to do her best goes all the way back to elementary school, where she was in an honors program.

Shaw continued to uphold her standard of academic excellence throughout her remaining school years.

"I did OK," she said. "I had about a 3.6 [GPA] in high school."

In 1993 Shaw graduated from Ballard High School. From there she began attending North Seattle Community College but dropped out soon after.

"I didn't want to be in school anymore. After 12 years of school, I was done," Shaw said. "Plus I didn't feel like anyone cared...the teachers and such."

This is when she began working as a checker at a Safeway grocery store.

In 1998, Shaw lost her father to diabetes.

"He was a big reason I am who I am," she said.

Shaw got a lot of her personality and tastes from her father, including her eclectic taste in music and her love of culture.

In 1999, Shaw got married, but things did not end up as planned and she divorced at the end of 2001.

This didn't get her down, though.

"I enjoyed being by myself," she said. "I learned a lot about myself."

Shaw continued working at Safeway but she had begun to experience problems with the veins in her legs.

"I was on my feet all the time," said Shaw.

She ended up having to seek medical care and had ultrasounds done to examine the problem veins in her legs.

She was instantly captivated by the ultrasound.



AUSTEN LAVERY PHOTO

Busy student finds fortune in misfortune

"I was fascinated," she said. "I kept asking questions."

In 2004, Shaw decided to attend Highline to start working toward her new goal of becoming a diagnostic ultrasound technician.

For Shaw, being a student at Highline has been both a rewarding and stressful experience.

She was encouraged right away by writing instructor Angi Caster to apply for the Honors Program.

Multicultural and Student Programs adviser Na-

tasha Burrowes convinced Shaw to become involved on campus. This is how Shaw ended up first being a student ambassador, and then becoming the lead ambassador in which she helped organize events and promote the campus.

Shaw also got involved in the Tutoring Center. Throughout fall, winter, and spring 2005 she worked as a writing tutor and from summer 2005 to winter 2006 she was the astronomy tutor.

Despite having enjoyed being involved on campus and being proud of do-

ing well in her classes, the stress-factor still reared its ugly head.

Not only was she active on campus, she was also a full-time student and she still was working at Safeway.

"This quarter has been especially hard," Shaw says about this spring. "I almost had a nervous breakdown."

She's gone to Highline for two years now without a break, including summers. Shaw said she has no life.

"The hardest part has been having little-to-no personal life or time," said

Shaw. "I'm really glad I'm graduating."

"I have probably lost at least two or three good friends since coming back to school," she said. "When your priorities change others feel threatened or they just disappear. It's sad, being so busy with school and having no life. I never could go out. People stopped calling or inviting me places. You'd think the good friends would understand and at least still try to call occasionally or email or something, but nope, these two just wait for me to call and I don't have time anymore. My priorities are elsewhere."

Aside from the hardships of being a full-time, working student, though, Shaw has proven that there is an upside.

She has received many awards and acknowledgements.

She's received two Highline Academic Achievement Awards, and speech and Honors 100 instructor Barbara Clinton nominated her for the Who's Who Among American Junior Colleges for 2005.

Shaw also made the National Dean's List in both 2005 and 2006.

At the final stretch of her time at Highline, Shaw has some advice for current and future students.

"Take advantage of your instructors' office hours," she says. "And don't be timid, ask questions, never be unsure."

She also encourages every student to get involved on campus and says that everyone should try for the honors program. She says those, combined with grades, matter a lot on future college applications.

And she would know.

Shaw applied to Seattle University's Diagnostic Ultrasound Program and received notification of acceptance within two weeks.

She had sent in her application as well as a resume listing all her extracurricular activities.

She was one of 14 applicants accepted into the program.

Anne Shaw will graduate with a 3.83 GPA and move on to attend Seattle University next fall.



KIM KOMOTO

BY ALEX CAHAN

From planting vegetables to tending the fields of law, Kim Komoto has made some big changes since coming to Highline.

Komoto, 45, has been in the Paralegal Program since coming here in Spring 2004, and is graduating with her degree this quarter.

Originally a farmer in the Kent valley, Komoto and her husband of 20 years, Bill, grew a variety of vegetables, particularly lettuce and cabbage, for Safeway. They also ran a roadside stand, pumpkin patch, and hayride during the fall.

After they sold the business, Komoto wanted to do something else, and she wanted to obtain a current education. She came to Highline after deciding that she wanted to be involved in paralegal work.

Highline has the Washington State Bar Association approved paralegal program.

"There are only three community colleges in Washington that have the approved program and the others were too far away," said Komoto. "I actually live closer to Green River Community College but they didn't have anything I wanted to pursue."

After graduation she plans to work with local lawyers.

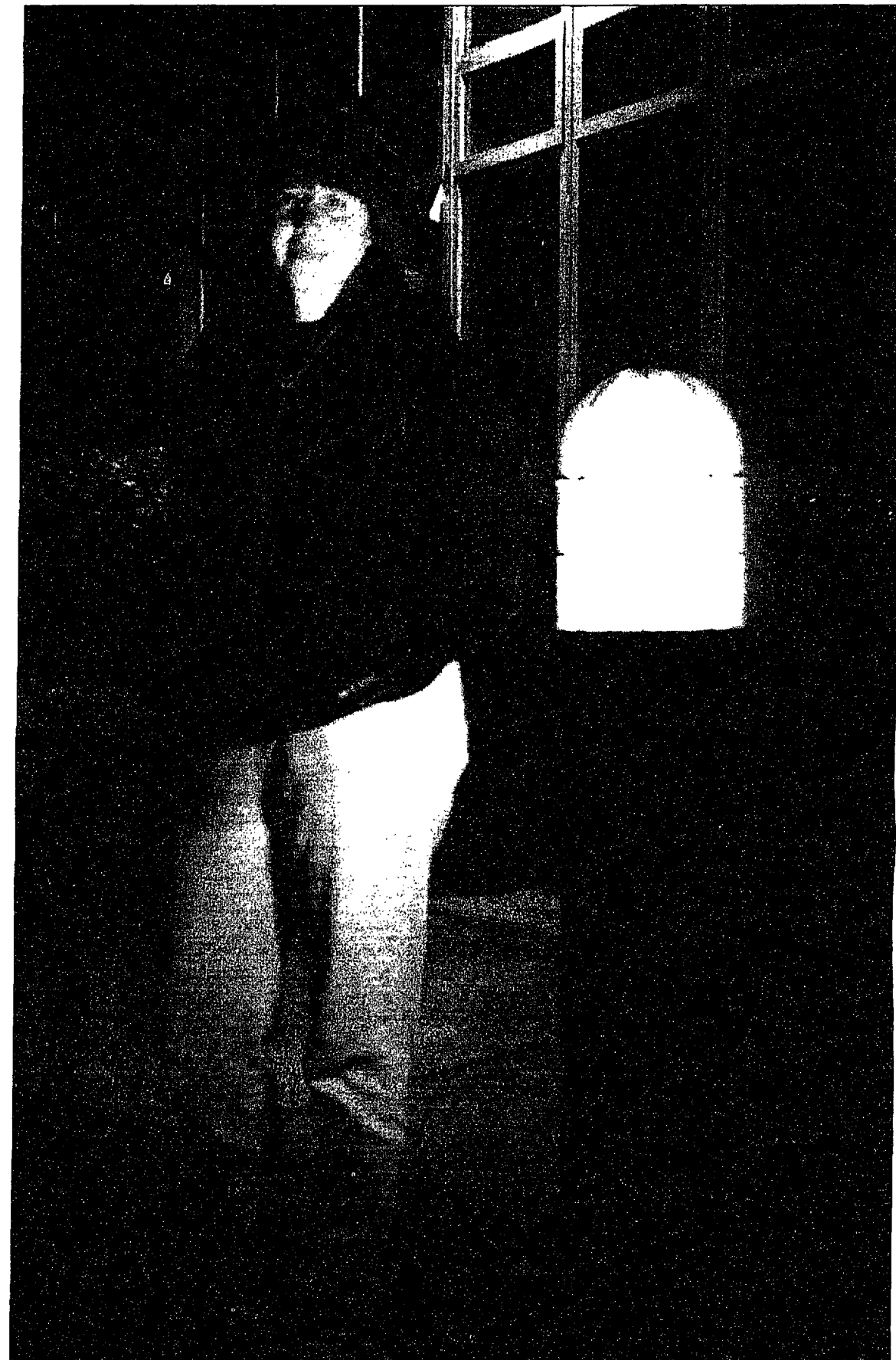
"I'm currently working part time for a law firm," said Komoto.

She is working at the law offices of Steven D. Weier, Inc. located in Auburn.

She hopes that it will lead to full time work now that she's out of school.

Perhaps the biggest obstacle to earning a degree for her was juggling her family responsibilities and her school work. Besides her husband, she also has two children, 17-year-old Melissa and 14-year-old Keenan.

"I have teenagers so I have to work in their activities as well as getting



KEITH DAIGLE PHOTO

Mid-life career change doesn't slow student down

to and from class and doing my homework," said Komoto. "I don't have a mom at home to take care of me, so I have to cook and clean and shop."

Because of this, she feels her greatest accomplishment is obtaining a degree in two years with all the requirements and a few extra electives.

"I feel that the most important thing to me is

having a balance between my personal life and my career," said Komoto.

Komoto gives a lot of credit to Highline and what it has done for her.

"Highline has provided me with a quality education that has enabled me to step into the paralegal role without any assistance from the employer.

They've given me all the skills that I need to do my

job," she said. "I really enjoyed the classes and the instructors."

"I enjoyed listening to everybody's speeches in both [speech classes] 100 and 213. 213 was a huge class, so listening to those was pretty cool."

She said she is not going to miss the parking situation at Highline.

As far as instructors go, one instructor stuck out for

Komoto.

"My influence would have to be Buzz Wheeler because of his passion for teaching. He throws everything at you and it's just a matter of absorbing it," said Komoto.

"We have a lot of motivated students in our program," said paralegal instructor Buzz Wheeler. "Kim is unique in the sense that she's very bright and works hard. She always goes the extra step."

"She's determined, and I think that she will be quite successful in her future work," said Susan Rich, a writing instructor. "She has a kind of sensitivity that makes her stand out."

Komoto did not get heavily involved in any clubs or programs while she was here.

"I did not have the time. If I had I probably would have been on the board for the Paralegal Association, but I'm already on my kids' PTA board, and just don't have the time," she said.

On weekends, especially when the weather is nice, she does make time for some hobbies at home.

"I like to work in the yard or outside," said Komoto.

While Komoto wouldn't do anything different about her time at Highline, she does have advice for future students.

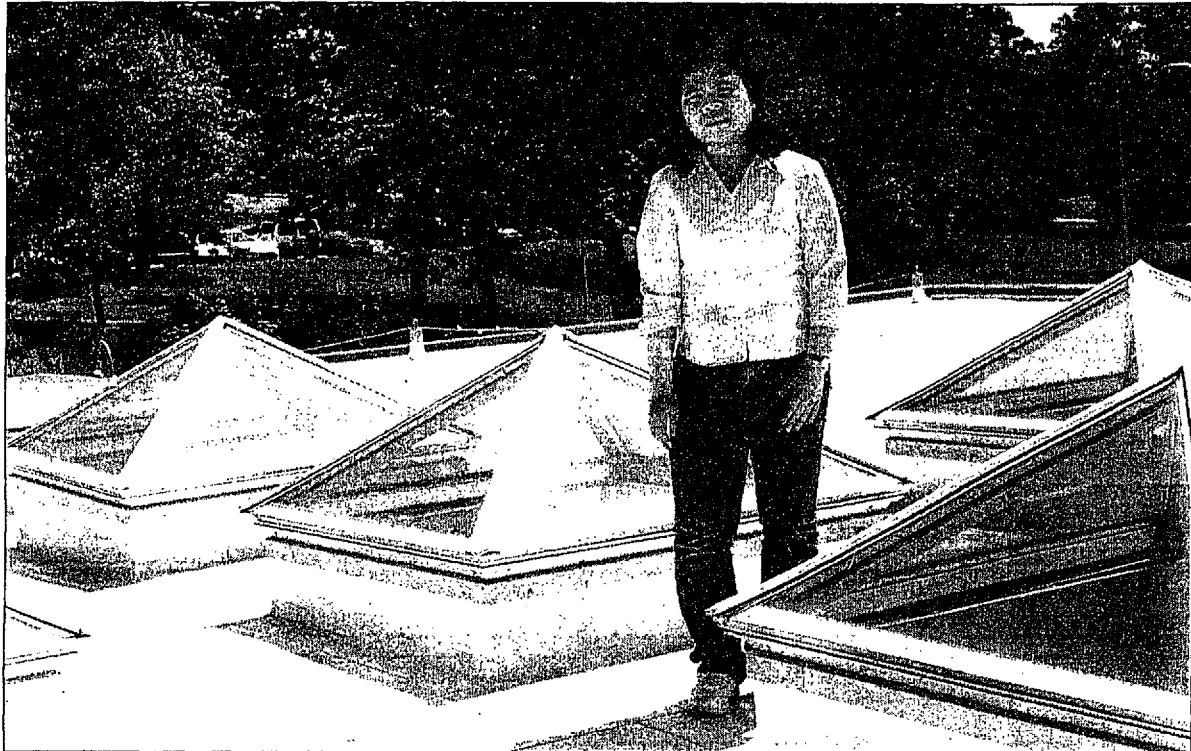
"Just stick with it – stick to obtaining the goal you set and don't quit," she said.

Komoto feels that her age and life experience have been beneficial to her time here at Highline.

"Something special is my ability to bring my past life, my work experience and education experience, into my education and my job. Basically I know more than the typical 19-year-old about life," Komoto said. "I think the thing that surprised me the most is that I am older than the average student, but the students here didn't make me think that's an issue."



KIM TRINH



KEITH DAIGLE PHOTOS

Quiet woman's work stands out

BY AUSTIN MACKENZIE

Kim Trinh is a person who freely admits that she doesn't stand out. "I'm the kind of person you can just walk by and never notice," she said. However, this has not stopped her from making contributions to the Highline campus and pursuing her dreams.

Born in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Trinh immigrated to the United States four years ago. She had studied English for several years in Vietnam, but most of the English she learned came after she moved.

"I didn't want other people to know I had an accent," she said, "not because I was ashamed of my accent but because I didn't want people to think I was stupid because of my accent."

Despite her fears about her accent, Trinh is actually quite easy to understand. Although she is obviously not a native speaker, her accent is light and pleasant, giving her a distinctive voice but not preventing her from communicating effectively.

After coming to Highline, Trinh began working at the Writing Center. She started in spring, and eventually became the lead consultant and won the Outstanding Achievement award for her services.

"Originally I started working in the Writing Center because I loved helping people with papers," Trinh said, "just hearing about their dif-

ferent experiences."

Trinh hopes to one day to be able to teach literature at the community college level.

"I'm just fascinated with literature," she said. "I think I want to teach American literature so I can communicate my enthusiasm for literature."

Part of Trinh's fascination with literature stems from her interest in language, fueled by the language barriers she herself faced.

"There's nothing you can do to escape language," Trinh said.

Trinh hopes to teach at the community college level because she enjoys the environment more.

"I think it's nicer and friendlier," Trinh said.

Trinh's desire to teach at a community college stems from her experiences at Highline.

"What I like about the courses," Trinh said, "is that they don't try to change your perspective."

"When you teach any subject I'm able to learn more because of the contact and communities [of community college]."

Trinh realizes that she will never be considered a native writer. However, this fact actually works to encourage her in her studies and to continue her work.

"A poet once said that for him to be black and a poet, people will always view him as black and a poet," Trinh said. "I will always be a non-white writer. I think that to a certain extent it gives me the strength to go on with my

studies.

I want to break down the stereotypes about being a native speaker."

Trinh will be graduating this June as an Honors Scholar and be

starting at Whitman in August. "I'm excited, but I'm also scared of leaving Highline. It took me a long time to get used to the environment here," she said.

Trinh declined to say why she left Vietnam. Having spent several years here already, Trinh does not feel that she will be returning to Vietnam.

"The thing is that it took me so long to adapt to the American culture that if I went back," Trinh said, "I'd have to re-familiarize myself with the Vietnamese teaching styles, literature, and culture."



INSIDE SCOOP
THE THUNDERWORD MAGAZINE

DEDICATED TO THE CLASS OF 2006.

EDITOR.....MICHELLE ERICKSEN
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BY ALICIA MENDEZ

A physical disability has helped Curtis Kirkland realize all of his abilities.

"A disability should not be defined as what you cannot do, but rather by what you will do to stand out — the abilities you have," Kirkland said.

Kirkland is wheelchair bound and has been as long as he can remember. In all that time, his hero has been Superman (Christopher Reeve), on whom Kirkland tries to model his life and outlook.

Born with cerebral palsy, Kirkland has a neural deficiency in the brain that limits body movement and coordination. Cerebral palsy occurs during the fetal stage and sometimes a bit after birth, there are several forms of it depending on which part of the body it limits.

"I was born with the form of Spastic Diplegia. ... I have muscle spasms in my lower legs. For the most part, these spasms have been corrected by the one and only surgery which I chose to have about 10 years ago," Kirkland said.

"I can move and feel everything. I'm just not strong enough to walk without a walker," Kirkland said.

Kirkland grew up with his on again off again parents until he was 10 years old. His mother had bipolar disorder, and his father was an alcoholic.

After his father died from an accidental drug overdose, Kirkland began living in foster care.

"You could say my mom was erratic," Kirkland said.

Because of his mother's increasingly violent behavior because of her disorder, Kirkland was forced to make one of the most difficult choices of his life.

"Due to personal reasons she couldn't take care of me. ... I was the one to make the choice in the end to enter foster care," Kirkland said.

After entering foster care, Kirkland began living

with his respite care provider who he had known his entire life. About three years later he began living with his aunt and her family, where he still resides.

What people may view as the easiest part of their day is harder for Kirkland, such as waking up in the morning, rolling out of bed, or getting dressed and ready for the day.

"All my life I've had two

battles: getting around and doing stuff. What might take you five minutes might take me 15," Kirkland said.

Kirkland's physical disability just may be what helped him pull through his traumatic childhood with ease.

"I was too busy focusing on my every day challenges to focus on all the other things," Kirkland said.

"I do everything everyone else does. I just don't complain," Kirkland said.

Again Kirkland's disability has shown itself as more of a capability that influences his cheerful attitude.

"I'm dealt a hand of cards and this is how I play them," Kirkland said.

Despite his mother's unpredictable behavior when he was younger, Kirkland has looked past that, and

has remained in close contact with her.

"Times are different now, she's on medication for her disorder," Kirkland said.

After 10 years of his mother taking care of him, Kirkland said it is more like he takes care of her now.

"I remind her to take her meds, and make sure she consistently goes in for treatment," Kirkland said.

Regardless of the disheartening raddictions Kirkland's father had, he still says he was the best dad he could be. He once was angry at the lifestyle his dad chose that ended his life, but Kirkland says now he has forgiven him and remembers his goodness.

"Truth be told, when he was sober, he was a great guy," Kirkland said.

Kirkland spends a lot of his time helping out at his church, or working with children. During his senior year of high school he went on a mission trip to Mexico to help children between the ages of 4 and 16 in a foster home. The children were initially surprised by his disability, but Kirkland helped them understand he was just like them.

"They had never seen a wheelchair before. Eventually, they would always push me around in my wheelchair and help me off of platforms. They would work together to help me out," Kirkland said.

"I was basically their playground. I connected with them on a personal basis," Kirkland said.

Kirkland will be graduating this spring with his Associate of Arts with an emphasis in business management. After graduating, he hopes to find a job and move out, just like anyone would, he said.

Superman instincts have continued to push Kirkland on to succeed and always be optimistic in life.

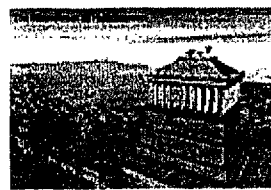
"It makes me laugh and gives me the strength to go beyond my limitations and be more than I ever dreamed possible," Kirkland said.

CURTIS KIRKLAND



ALICIA MENDEZ PHOTO

Not disabled -- just on a roll



PAUL KALCHIK

BY MICHELLE ERICKSEN

From the Soviet Union, to Italy, to the United States, Paul Kalchik has traveled a long way. Yet he says he still has far to go.

Kalchik has been an actor, and a leader in Student Government. His interests range from criminal justice to real estate.

In 1986, Kalchik was born in the city of Novovolynsk, Western Ukraine in the former Soviet Union.

Kalchik frequently wears a suit, and his confident air makes him appear older than the age of 19. He has a youthful face, although it is covered in whiskers.

Kalchik's family moved to several European countries before settling in the United States.

"We moved to Austria and lived there for about three months, and then we moved to Italy where we lived in Rome for close to a year," he said. "We came to the United States Nov. 6, 1989; it was close to my parent's anniversary so it was a nice present for them."

Kalchik's family moved to the United States to take advantage of opportunities that were not available to them. Freedom of speech and religion were not options in the Soviet Union, he said.

"My dad worked as a coal miner. If you're a Christian (in the Soviet Union) you are considered a second class citizen," Kalchik said. "You couldn't go to college or university and you end up working labor intensive jobs."

His grandfather spent several years in a Soviet prison because he would not recant his faith.

"He was released when Stalin died," Kalchik said.

He added that in the United States his parents had the opportunity to be successful and raise the



KEITH DAIGLE PHOTO

Student leader finds crime, drama

family.

"We came as refugees. The Soviet Government revoked our citizenship when we left the country so we came to the United States as citizens of nowhere," he said.

Kalchik's family experienced a culture shock when they moved into their first home in the United States in Rainier Beach.

"It was seven people living in a two-bedroom apartment. It was a huge culture shock because America was described as the land of gold and the land of gold turned out to be a two-bedroom roach-infested apartment," Kalchik said.

Kalchik said his mother was surprised by the diversity of Rainier Valley.

"In Ukraine and (different parts of Europe) there weren't a lot of black people," he said.

"The majority of the people (in Rainier Valley) were black," Kalchik said.

"My mom had only ever seen one black person before in Moscow while we were traveling. ... It was her first time seeing a diverse population.

"The fact is we lived in a ghetto, we heard gunshots at night, my sister saw a shooting right in front of her when she was 5," he said.

Kalchik attended a preschool while his parents tried to learn English. "He was able to speak conversational English in about six months," Kalchik said of his father.

Once Kalchik's father got a job as a welder, his family moved to Federal Way where Kalchik still lives.

Kalchik attended Federal Way High School which he describes as a waste of time.

"I wasn't getting the education I needed. I started making bad decisions and skipping classes, he said. "I decided to pull myself out and started coming to Highline.

"I came here (Highline) and found something that worked so I stuck with it," he said.

Kalchik is the current president of Highline's Student Government.

Kalchik came to Highline as a Running Start student and technically

graduated from Federal Way High School in summer 2005.

One of the biggest challenges Kalchik said he overcame was coming to college.

"None of my parents went through college, only trade school," Kalchik said. "I'm the youngest in my family none of my older siblings went through college."

Kalchik has one brother, and two sisters. One of his older brothers died in 1997.

"Today I've completed the Criminal Justice Program (at Highline) and I have a certificate in real estate fundamentals," Kalchik said.

Kalchik's father is now real estate broker and owns his own company.

"He's doing very well. He has about 26 real estate agents working for him," he said.

Kalchik credited Highline professors Garry Wegner and Dr. Christiana Taylor with getting him interested in both criminal justice and drama.

"At Highline I explored the Criminal Justice Program, but then I also got

attracted to the Drama Department," Kalchik said. "I really like acting."

"I was blown away by the intelligence of Christiana Taylor," Kalchik said. "She's turned out to be a blessing and very helpful and caring about her drama students."

Kalchik has been in four shows at Highline and in one short film in Seattle, *The Bookie*.

"I had my mind set on Evergreen State College but now I'm thinking about a few art schools," Kalchik said. "Of course everyone will think I'm crazy if I tell them I'm going to be an actor."

Kalchik found out about Student Government when a candidate came up to him and asked him to sign his petition.

Kalchik dropped by Student Programs picked up an election packet, and ended up running for Vice President of Legislation.

"I was one of the lucky ones and my position was unopposed," he said. "That year's president's race was brutal."

Jonathan Brown, associate dean for Student Programs, explained to Kalchik what Student Government was all about.

"It truly felt like a public service," Kalchik said.

He still has goals.

"I want to get elected into a public office and I want to be able to say that I've at least taught one college class," Kalchik said. "I would love to be in a movie or a hit on stage, either or."

Kalchik also wants to own a business, possibly in real estate or security.

And his education won't stop.

"One of my fears is spreading myself too thin and another one is stopping college," Kalchik said. "Even if my career does flourish I still want to be taking classes somewhere."

Five parks you probably don't know

By EMIL JACOBSON

STAFF REPORTER

There are many hidden gems of nature around this area that are worth visiting.

These spots all have a natural beauty, and represent a piece of the living world integrated into today's metropolitan concrete jungle system.

Among the areas hidden gems are:

Olympic View Park is a small wooded area with a trail running through the center.

It is located in Federal Way, just off of 21st Street Southwest. It is location is in a suburb.

The trail in the park is a dirt trail with short twists and elevation changes. It follows a stream that runs the length of the park. On both sides of the trail are small stretches of tall trees and light undergrowth.

The trees form a canopy over the trail, and light shines down through breaks in the tree branches. There are entrances at both sides of the park, so one can enter or leave from either side.

Marine View Park beach is a little piece of paradise that is protected by a mildly steep quarter mile trail.

It is located just off of 208 and Marine View Drive in Normandy Park, just off of First Avenue.

The park at the top and the forest along the trail are beautiful, but the real treasure is the tiny beach at the bottom.



Photo by Keith Daigle

The setting sun illuminates the scenery of Marine View Park beach.

Smaller, bordered on either side by private beaches, it is not unusual for you to have the beach all to yourself. On sunny days there is an unobstructed view of Des Moines and Mount Rainier to the south and the

Olympics to the North.

The next area is not recognized as a park but makes for a beautiful, brief walk.

The parcel of land in question is located on the west side of Dash Point Road just south of

the Lakehaven Utility Building, and north of 21st Avenue Southwest.

The area has a single entrance, and features dense forest with thick undergrowth. Moss covers many of the trees, and a small stream runs through the area.

If water is what you are looking for, then you can go down the Dash Point Road for about a mile and reach Dumas Bay Park.

Dumas Bay Park is a wildlife sanctuary located just off of Dash Point Road on 44th avenue Southwest.

The park has a small parking lot, with a single gravel trail leading into the park.

This park also has a large woodland in it, composed mostly of maples.

Along the path, there is a small grassy area on the left side with a wooden bench and patches of daisies growing up through the grass.

After a few more minutes of walking, you will reach the beach. The beach begins as sand, but quickly changes over to a rocky, shellfish covered shore.

Large logs and driftwood litter the area. Above the beach, there is a wetland, with tall grasses and high water level.

The wetland and all of Dumas Bay Park are recognized as a wildlife refuge.

The park is a heron breeding colony, and the large birds can be viewed on the shore.

Sarah Florence, a local dog enthusiast, walks her golden retriever at Dumas Bay Park.

"My dog loves the water. The park is a great local spot to bring your dog," Florence said.

Though people bring their pets to Dumas Bay Park, any messes made must be cleaned up.

Dog walking is prohibited during spring and summer, the mating season of the heron.

As it is a wildlife sanctuary, tampering with the environment is prohibited.

The final area to be discussed is much more out of the way, but is definitely a sight to behold.

Federation Forest State Park, in Enumclaw, is a 619-acre old growth forest.

This forest has grown up around the White River. Upon arriving, you can check out the hiking trails, which run for 12 miles through the forest.

Along the way, there are interpretive displays that give information on the various plants, and wild life present in the park.

If hiking is not your idea of a good time, then the interpretive center offers a nice informative alternative.

There is no camping or overnight reservation at Federation Forest. There are some picnic areas, and day-use sites, including an amphitheater.

The spring and summer are the seasons of growth, and all of the proceeding areas promise a wonderful, natural outing.

Avoid body odor with proper hygiene habits

Before using a machine, a good idea would be to make sure to clean it to stay healthy.

Hygiene is becoming more important due to the outbreaks of many viruses and the spread of bacteria.

In Elementary schools they are encouraging hygiene in classrooms through teachers and school nurses.

"Best way to stay healthy is to wash your hands frequently. We tell the kindergartners to sing the happy birthday song so they wash their hands long enough," chuckled Des Moines Elementary School Nurse Lois Baron. This prevents harmful germs from entering the body, and keeps you healthy in the process.

"Keeping up your hygiene decreases the amount of bacte-

ria from head to toe, including dental," said Cedarhurst Elementary School Nurse Ida Pennewell.

If you do not keep up your hygiene you are opening yourself to infection, and possibly making others sick in the process. "Benefits to keeping up your hygiene routine will make you feel better mentally and physically," said Pennewell.

Other results of not taking care of yourself are; smelling horrible, yellow teeth, greasy hair, and a possible chance of people running away from you. More specifically, be sure to be aware of unsanitary conditions at the gym.

"Use sanitizer to clean the machines before and after you use them to prevent your self from getting sick," said Seattle

Providence Hospital E.R. Nurse Marian O'Brien.

Remember the people before may not have cleaned the machines.

"Make sure you wash your hands before and after you work out, also when you use the bathroom," said O'Brien.

For all you know a smelly sweaty person could have been using the machine before you. That means their body sweat distributed onto the machine before you touched it, which is pretty disgusting. When working out, always leave your shoes on.

"Don't go bare foot if in a public place. That is where you can pick up unwanted germs," said O'Brien.

She suggests when you are working out with a cold and you have the need to cough, cover your mouth so that others don't get sick.

Another part of good hygiene

is to live a healthy lifestyle.

"Get a lot of sleep, eat regular meals, and generally take good care of yourself," said O'Brien.

The bottom line is you need

to make sure to keep up on your hygiene in order to stay healthy.

"Be smart, use your common sense, and take showers daily," said O'Brien.

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THE THUNDERWORD

Program helps businesses keep going

By FLOYD DECKER

STAFF REPORTER

Chris Mitchell's newspaper needed help.

He needed help with their business plans, to see what projects or ideas could be taken to the next level.

He also needed help with analyzing the financial portfolio, to improve its cash flow and increase profits.

He needed help with developing a business strategy plan with ways and means to run the business more efficiently so the business could grow, said Mitchell, the associate publisher of the Northwest Prime Time newspaper.

Mitchell was able to turn to Highline's Small Business Development Center, where Director Zev Siegl worked to help Mitchell address the paper's problems through three business sessions.

After analyzing all situations in each case, and taking a close, careful look at each issue, Siegl helped the business develop strategies that led to operational efficiency. This included cost cutting and cost saving, and this enabled the business to grow and prosper, said Mitchell.

"Without the help and support we received from the Highline Small Business Development Center, it would have taken us a lot longer to get to where we are at, or it might have never happened," said Mitchell.

The center is under the direction of Siegl, who says he is devoted to assisting in the development of small businesses, like the one owned by Mitchell.

"I'm a small business development specialist, that counsel

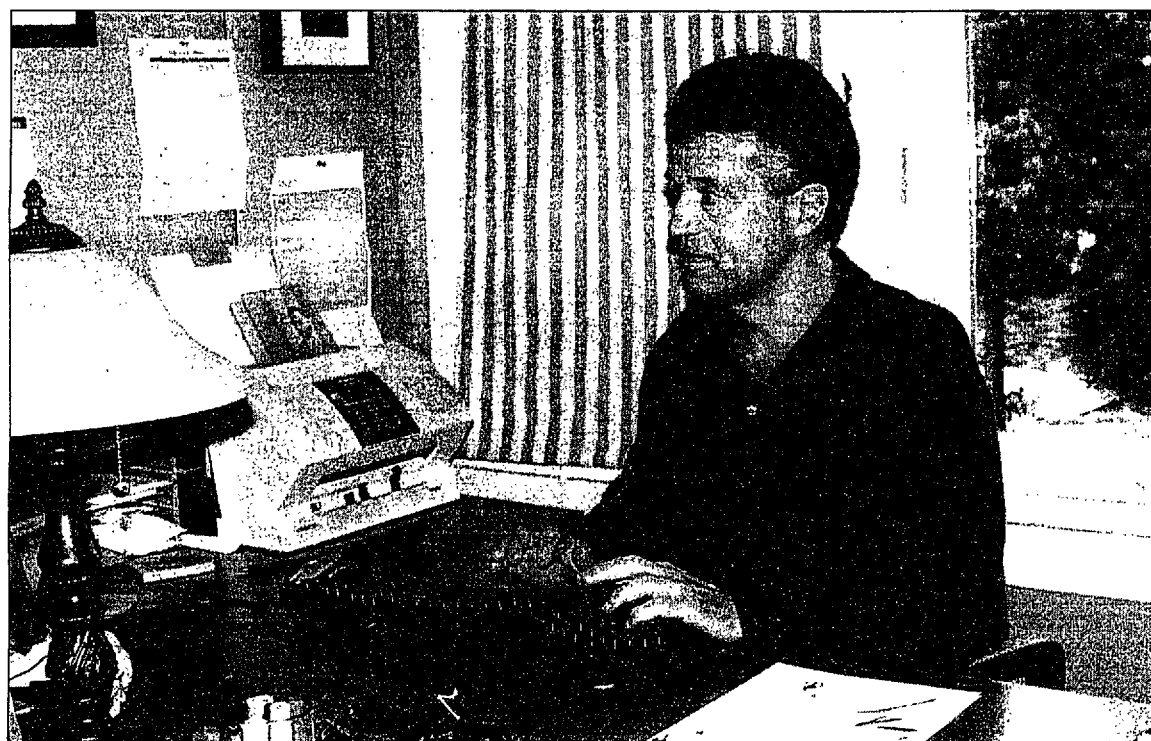


Photo by Keith Daigle

Chris Mitchell works at his desk as associate editor for the Northwest Prime Time. Mitchell's business is just one example of a local business helped by Highline's Small Business Development Center.

and assist in developing local small business, to grow and prosper," said Siegl.

As an entrepreneur, he was successfully involved in a series of businesses from 1970 through 2000, and served as either the founder, or a top executive, said Siegl.

His leadership and business credentials includes vice-president and co-founder of Starbucks Coffee Company, and an independent business consultant for emerging and established Northwest businesses.

Siegl said he came to the business center because it, "enables me to help a lot of small business owners to grow their companies, and avoid expensive mistakes. I really like doing it."

After six years of being in the

business of publishing a monthly newspaper that specializes in covering news and information for the 50 plus generation, "we started to look for ways to grow," said Mitchell.

"We found out about Highline's free business consultant service. In March 2006, contact was made with the Highline Small Business Center, and after three business consultation sessions, the business is stable and growing," said Mitchell.

The business center is in the process of working with the business in forming an advisory board to come in and give ideas, and lend support for continuous growth and prosperity.

"Other great things about their service were that it is accessible and their service was

free for our business," Mitchell said.

"Without the directions, various help, support, and free service that our business has received from the Highline Small Business Development Center, it is very doubtful that the business would be where it is now."

Siegl said every work day as a business owner, you talk to customers and vendors, but none of them have the whole picture of your business. A business owner should know more things than any one person can actually learn.

Outside expertise is sometimes expensive, and that's where a small business development center can be very useful, said Siegl.

The Highline Small Business

Development Center provides a no-fee, confidential counseling service on all management topics.

The funding support for Highline's Small Business Development Center no-fee Counseling service is made possible through the partnership of the Southwest King County Economic Development Initiative and Highline.

The business development specialists can also assist you in areas of counseling that includes getting your business off the drawing board, to assisting clients on loan packages, to operational success, said Siegl.

Siegl is the Highline Small Business Development Specialist, for the campus and surrounding communities and part of the Washington Statewide Small Business Development Centers Network.

The center markets their service through their network associates' brochures displayed at all of the associates' 22 statewide centers.

Marketing is also done through the centers' web site advertising, through public appearances at local business club meetings, seminars at community centers, and public service announcements. However, most of the clients come from satisfied customer referrals, said Siegl.

Business counseling services through the Washington Statewide Small Business Development Centers are free to all small businesses and potential entrepreneurs.

For more information about the Highline Small Business Development Center Service, call 206- 878-3710, ext. 5151.

Instructor reaches across many cultures to teach

By CANDACE BOHONIK

STAFF REPORTER

Her name is like a song. Her voice mail and email messages convey a sparkle. Even before you meet her, you know you are going to like her.

When you do meet her, she is warm and welcoming with a quick and easy smile that puts you at immediate ease.

The lightness in her step and the liveliness in her eyes tell you that Maurea Maya, Highline ESL instructor, has a passion for what she does and an unmistakable joy for life.

Of Filipino heritage, Maya was born in Hawaii, grew up in Western Washington, and has taken a road less traveled to be where she is today.

On her mother's advice, she



Maurea Maya

initially pursued a medical career at Western Washington University.

"I didn't fit into that," Maya said. "I wanted to work with healthy people."

Maya learned sign language and volunteered in the deaf and blind communities.

She attended Shoreline Community College before transferring to the University of Washington where she earned a bachelor's degree in American Ethnic Studies.

Maya spent six months in Mexico in order to become fluent in Spanish.

She later lived and worked in the Los Angeles area as part of an AmeriCorps literacy program. While in Los Angeles, she was deeply entrenched in both the Filipino and Latin cultures.

While teaching Spanish literacy, she observed the ESL class next door.

"It looked like a lot more fun," Maya said. "I realized I can help people through languages."

She returned to Washington

and went to Seattle University for her master's degree in Adult Education and Training.

Throughout her schooling, Maya worked at Red Robin for 10 years. She put together an ESL training program to benefit the Spanish-speaking employees.

Maya views her past two years at Highline as "an opportunity for me to grow." She instructs non-English speaking, pre-college students in English, helping them along their career path.

"Some are here to survive, get a job, and pay the bills.

"Everyone comes with unique experience and skills, whatever they are. I have to learn about each student individually and come in without pressure," Maya said. "I help

them get something from the class to apply to the real world.

For some, that means getting organized and ready for the workplace."

When Maya is not working, she enjoys hiking, kayaking, salsa dancing and belly dancing.

This summer she has plans to spend time with her nieces and nephews, take a beach volleyball class and travel.

She has plans to ride horses at Cannon Beach and then drive to Napa Valley to check out the cuisine and do some wine tasting.

"I just love road trips," Maya said.

She leaves you with the feeling that whatever road she travels, it's going to be an adventure.

Controlling your money

By FLOYD DECKER
STAFF REPORTER

Keeping track of your spending can help you from spending too much, a financial expert said.

"Many people are walking through a financial landmine. Their budget has exploded by more than expected, because of over-spending," said Christine Holmes, financial educator from the Boeing Employees Credit Union.



Holmes

She came to Highline to talk to students about the importance of not spending too much, the value of maintaining good credit, and how to create a successful budget planner program.

Team Highline and the Boeing Employees Credit Union sponsored the financial seminar in the Student Union.

Holmes has a master's degree in education, and expertise in financial planning. Her full time position is doing financial seminars, sponsored by the Boeing Employees Credit Union Community Relations and Education Department.

In part one of the workshops, Holmes explained how to budget.

Many people do not know where their money is going, because they do not have a financial budget planner program, Holmes said.

When people do not keep a good track record of how they are spending their money, often they over-use their credit cards, over-write checks, create unmanageable debts and other financial problems for themselves, and their families. When people's debt is far greater than their income, and they begin to fall behind in paying their debts and bills, their sense of confidence is shattered, said Holmes.

"Money problems is the No.1 reason for divorces in America," Holmes said.

It is important to know what you have and how you manage it, not how much you have; you must take the time to manage your own money and resources, she said.

Each journey of 1,000 miles starts with a single step. The first step is creating a personal-

ized budget, said Holmes.

She advises that you create a spending diary, and daily specify in your diary exactly how much you spend, and what you spend your money on.

Keep track of every dollar you spend, and at the end of the week, ask yourself did you need to spend your money on what you spent it on, or could you have shopped around and found a better deal, and what can you do to control impulse buying?

After asking yourself those questions and similar questions, this will help you to manage your money more wisely, said Holmes.

The best way to budget your money is to analyze and itemize according to priorities, your basic monthly expenses, your monthly bills, and how much you would like to save after expenses, and other monetary obligations have been met.

No matter how well you create your budget plan, if you don't stick to your budget, you will not achieve your budget goals.

This could lead to mismanagement of your money creating bad debts, and ruining your credit, said Holmes.

In part two of the workshop, Holmes explained how to raise your credit score to 688 or higher.

There are three major credit reporting agencies in America, they are Equifax, Experian, and Trans Union, and they all use a points scoring system. The credit points rating scoring system for credit are as follows: 400 - 600 points range is poor, 600 - 650 is fair, 650 - 700 is good, with 688 being a high good credit rating, and 700 - 800 is excellent.

The higher your credit rating, the greater your credit benefits are, the lower you pay for interest rates.

A high credit rating will qualify a person who is buying an expensive vehicle or a home to purchase it with little or zero down payments, and will allow the purchaser a longer time to pay the debt off, according to the Northwest Credit Association.

Many credit counseling experts suggest that you keep up with your credit status, through periodically contacting the three major credit reporting agencies, to find out what's in your credit.

For more information about future financial seminar workshops, call 206-439-5920.

By FLOYD DECKER
STAFF REPORTER

A lesson before dying: it's going to happen to everyone.

"We all are going to die, and we have a choice; we can ignore it, deny it, pretend it's not there, or embrace it, and use it to enjoy each day that we have on this earth," said Dr. Bob Baugher, who teaches Psychology 130, Death and Life course, at Highline.

Highline professor Dr. Bob Baugher teaches the Death and Life class, on Highline's main campus. He has been teaching the course for almost 30 years.

It is a class in understanding the many issues related to death and life.

There are some misconceptions about death, Dr. Baugher said.

Many believe that people get over their grief after a few months, when in reality, most people never get over the death of a significant person, usually their life changes.

Another misconception about death is that in talking about it you might cause death to happen, said Dr. Baugher.

"What people should know is that many wise people believe that looking at your own death can help you appreciate the life you have."

That's why he calls his course Death and Life, said Dr. Baugher.

It is important for people to realize that they are not guaranteed to have them, parents, brothers, sisters, spouses, children, and friends for another day, so tell them you love them now, don't wait, Dr. Baugher said.

It is inevitable that death is an issue that someday we must all face, whether it be the loss of a loved one, family member, relative, friend, associate, church member, neighbor, and finally, face one's own death.

The Death and Life class teaches how to cope and best deal with the many issues of death.

The course is for anyone who wants to better understand death and life, also to better cope with death issues, and the fear of death.

Topics covered in the course include fear of death, attitudes toward death, the funeral and the cemetery, responses to loss, suggestions for coping with grief and depression, and acceptance and readjustment.

Several of the students taking the Death and Life class have mixed emotions, and comments about the course.

"I'm from Japan, and the main reason I came to America

is to study psychology, so that I can be a mental health counselor, and I took this class to overcome the fear of death. This class has taught me to really appreciate getting a better understanding of death and life," Mayumi Shinozaki said.

Genevieve Kralis said her goal for the death and life class is for the course to help her learn to deal with the death and dying process. Seeing so many deaths on her job in the Critical Care unit at St. Joseph Medical Center in Tacoma, the Death and Life course offers topics that could help her cope better with death, she said.

"It's difficult to see so many people dying, but in some cases it's harder to face than other times, because in the manner of their death and how young they may be," said Kralis.

"I'm really enjoying this class. It has helped me to understand and deal with the process of dying a little better," said Kralis.

Anthony Hanley, another student said, "I have learned a lot about living, that we take things for granted. One can die anytime; we should learn to live our lives to the fullest."

For more information about the Psychology Death and Life course, call 206-878-3710, ext. 3414.



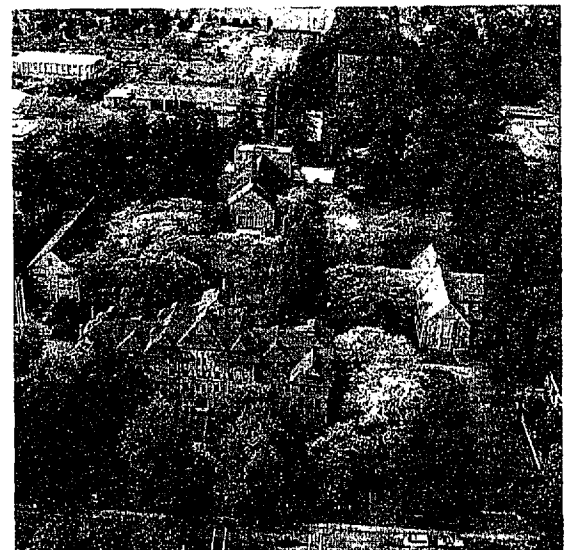
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Mai finds perscription for success

By EMIL JACOBSON

STAFF REPORTER

Karyn Mai, a student at Highline, has accomplished much in her 18 years of life.

Mai has been a student at Highline for two years, and this quarter will finish her associate's degree. She has managed to earn a 3.9 GPA. Mai will also be graduating from Kent-Meridian High School this year.

From Highline, Mai will go onto the University of Washington, and continue her undergraduate study. Mai then hopes to go onto medical school. "I want to start getting experience in the medical field," Mai said.

"I want to be an Ophthalmologist"

Mai has also received the



Karyn Mai

Gates scholarship.

This scholarship is for students of minority decent, and gives the student a full ride through all of their undergrad-

uate years. The scholarship might also pay for some of the student's graduate schooling, if they major in a lab science, math, engineering, or education.

To receive a Gates scholarship, the student must have a 3.3 GPA, plus they must have participated in extra curricular activities including a leadership role. The student must also write a few essays regarding what they feel are their greatest strengths and weaknesses. They must also write an essay about any difficulties they have had because of their minority background. Finally, the student must be nominated by someone from his or her school, and someone known as a community leader.

Mai also participates in Phi Theta Kappa, an honor society that serves the campus and community.

Mai is an officer in Phi Theta Kappa. As an officer, Mai assists in leading various events, such as the Chemo-caps for chemotherapy patients program, which was co-sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa.

"We (the officers) help lead events. We don't want to control; we just want to help guide events and projects," Mai said.

In this event, Phi Theta Kappa members made hats for cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy.

"Phi Theta Kappa is a great way to build leadership skills and to get connected with the community," Mai said.

Mai wants to finish her education for medical practice, but she also has an interest in social service. Before she settles down, Mai wants to join the Peace Corps.

"PTK helps the community, and that motivates me to go further in public service. The Peace Corps is a way to take that service to the global level," Mai said.

Mai will now move on into the future with fond memories of Highline.

"Highline is very homey, small, the perfect size. I'll miss this school," Mai said.

Mai begins at the University of Washington this fall.

"Highline has made a great stepping stone to help with the transition," Mai said.

Tent City aided by Highline fundraiser

By JUDY VUE

STAFF REPORTER

Phi Theta Kappa's drive to collect donations for Tent City Four during May 23-24 was a success, said adviser Laura Manning.

"Not only did we collect a large supply of items to help them out, but we also did some real consciousness-raising," she said.

Some of the items that gathered were 400 books, 15 bags of food, 15 bags of clothing, and many hair care products that were donated by HairMasters.

The service project also included a panel of three Tent City residents who were invited to answer questions and speak about their experiences.

The panel provided students a real look at the people that they would otherwise only see on television.

During discussions, students learned of the true hardships through these people's eyes as they answered every question thrown at them and told stories about the Tent City.

Manning and six students saw these things for themselves, "taking three very full carloads of love."

"We hung around for quite awhile after our tour of their set-up, sharing their coffee and talking politics and religion," Manning said. "Truly, we didn't want to leave."

Manning said there are still those who are opposed to tent cities.

"I think it's frustrating that people are not supporting even the idea of a tent city, much

less tolerating having it in their neighborhood," she said.

She said that while politicians still debate over an alternative solution for the homeless, the use of tent cities is a "pretty darned good solution."

"It's people solving their own problems - the American way, yes?" she said.

However, the American way also involves politics and formal oppositions to Tent City Four.

Last week, homeless advocate and volunteer Lynn Matthews said that opposition was forming in Woodinville to do away with Tent City.

"I think that people don't want them around because they're scared of homeless people and homelessness," Manning said.

"I think that's a shame. Homelessness is not really catching, and no they're not bad role models for our kids," she said.

On the contrary, Manning said that the presence of Tent City would enable kids to become more compassionate toward those less fortunate.

"(That's) a good thing for our kids, no?" she asked.

Manning challenges those who would argue against Tent City.

"There is always this question: Why should I be compassionate with you if you are in a situation that you brought on yourself somehow?" she said.

"My answer always is: Name for me any spiritual hero who would have paused to ask someone in need to demonstrate that they were worthy of compassion."

Somali students work to combat drought in their home country

By REBECCA LIVINGSTON

STAFF REPORTER

One hundred and twenty people attended a dinner hosted by Highline Somali students in order to raise money for their drought-stricken country.

Somalia is suffering from a combination of both war and drought. Up to a million people need assistance, according to the United Nations.

The dinner was hosted at New Holy Community Center Gathering Hall on May 26 and their goal was to raise \$5,000.

These Somali students tried to host the program through the Highline Somali Student Union,

but it turned out they were unable to. But they pressed on and hosted the dinner themselves. As of Wednesday, they still were not sure how much money they collected because of the complications of not being able to run it through Highline.

The money they collected will be donated to the United Nations Children's Fund, and it will mainly go toward supplying water, but will also be divided amongst other causes.

On a PowerPoint slide show they displayed a chart showing how much of the money that you would donate would go to what causes.

• \$17 can immunize a child

against six diseases.

• \$40 can provide large wool blankets for ten children.

• \$60 can immunize 60 children against polio.

• \$101 can provide 10 families with a basic family water kit for use during emergencies.

• \$648 can buy a supplementary dry feeding kit that contains enough to feed 500 moderately malnourished children.

The dinner's main purpose was to promote an outreach to help those who are affected by this drought in Somalia, to collect donations and to inform people of where the money they donated will be sent and by which organizations.

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Professor brings colleagues to Africa

By CANDACE BOHONIK
STAFF REPORTER

Davidson Dodd, professor of political science at Highline, has traveled to Africa four times in as many decades. Each trip, however, had a unique purpose and set of circumstances.

He first went to Africa in 1963 with a friend to explore the culture of Egypt, both ancient and modern. There he learned that the rest of the world is different from the United States.

As part of Operation Crossroad Africa in 1965, he spent the summer in Sierra Leone along with other American and Canadian students. The group helped build a school for the Ministry of Social Welfare. "This experience produced an affection for Africa in me that has remained a constant," Dodd said.

He was one of several teachers, most of whom were also from Highline, who went to South Africa and Namibia under the sponsorship of an institutional Fulbright grant in 1999.

In December 2005, Dodd returned to Africa, this time to Cameroon.

Cameroon is a country on the west coast of Africa that is roughly the size of California. Its 250-mile coastline is along the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. Although the official languages are English and French, Cameroon is home to more than 200 languages.

Dodd accompanied Dr. Emmanuel Chiabi, professor of anthropology and political science at Highline, on his 7,000 mile journey to his family home in Cameroon.

"I had gotten to know Emmanuel," Dodd said. "I heard his stories, became curious to see his home, family, culture, where he's from, what shaped him."

Chiabi has taken two groups of Highline colleagues to Cameroon. The first group went in December 2002 and the second group in December 2005.

Dr. Bob Baugher, professor of psychology and behavioral science at Highline, his wife Kris and son Shawn also accompanied Chiabi on the trip. Chiabi returns to his home in Cameroon once or twice each year. He will go back this summer in August.

The group visited Chiabi's home in Belo, Northwest Province of Cameroon, and became acquainted with his family. They met the mayor of Belo, enjoyed a meal as guest of a traditional leader of the Kom people called the Fon, attended a Kom wedding, and visited a tea plant nursery.

Dodd said he absorbed a



Photo courtesy of Davidson Dodd

Davidson Dodd and Emmanuel Chiabi traveled to Cameroon last December as part of their trip.

sense of human connection that is lacking here. "We give up a sense of connection for a more modern, comfortable life," said Dodd. "Are you lonely? It's not a concept there."

"We view Africa as primitive," Dodd said, citing the perspective of colonial powers. "The experience would contrast that."

Dodd went on to explain that Americans are undereducated about how African culture works and that the overlay of the Western model of culture is based on erroneous suppositions. "We presume that everyone wants to be modern. Our image of Africa as given from the media is of limitless crisis—war and famine," Dodd said.

While Dodd said that he does not want to minimize the sense of need, or to rush to judgment, we have the "poor Africa" approach, of people living awful lives. "When you go there it's quite opposite—you find yourself being revitalized."

"The complexity of the culture is overwhelming," Dodd said. "The dress is colorful and the hospitality is quite spectacular." He also spoke of their complexity of language and of family kinship.

What impressed Dodd the most was the people. "What you get to observe is people living their daily lives," he said. "People walk—they walk everywhere."

What Dodd brought back from his Cameroon trip was a "feeling of sweetness for the people."

He feels that the experience is beneficial in his role of educator. "It's helpful to have experiences you can draw on to illuminate principles and theories."

He said his classes at Highline

typically are comprised of students coming from 11-12 different language backgrounds and what he has learned from the travel experiences can help make the students feel more comfortable and respected. "My first

principle of teaching is to know every student's name—as they want it pronounced."

Chiabi saw the experience of taking colleagues to Cameroon as a very valuable asset to Highline as well.

"You can talk about Africa or any remote area of the world, but when you take people there they have a different experience," Chiabi said. "They get to see the people they don't read about in books. They get a different perspective."

Chiabi feels the experience for him as well as the colleagues who accompanied him was an opportunity to learn and gather materials for their classes. "I am learning also," he said.

He had never before visited a shaman, who is a combination of medicine man and fortune teller.

Chiabi grew up in the area of Cameroon that still has a strong British colonial influence and the practice was discouraged.

Chiabi spoke to the value of the experience in dealing with students who come here from areas such as Cameroon. "When you see where the students come from, you get a better understanding of them."

You can see photos and read Dodd's journal of the trip at www.flightline.highline.edu/ddodd.



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MAST Center will offer summer camp

By JOCIE OLSON

STAFF REPORTER

Highline's Marine Science and Technology center will be offering a free Summer on the Sound day camp for 11-13 year olds.

The camp will be held July 10-14 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"We are the only marine science center on the South Puget Sound and we are here to serve the community," said Christina Gan, biology instructor and camp coordinator.

Gan explained that they received a federal funding grant to do community outreach, and Summer on the Sound is one of the ways that they do that.

"We are trying to reach kids to get them interested in science," Gan said.

Two community members, Larry Reymann and Nancy Lane, will be teaching the children along with Rus Higley, who is a biology instructor here at Highline.



Photo courtesy of the MAST center

The MAST Center's summer camp is available to children ages 11-13.

Reymann will be talking about many things from ecology to stewardship, as well as having the children create fish print t-shirts.

Lane will be focusing on water quality, water chemistry, and said she will also teach about plankton.

One of the highlights during

the camp is when Higley will be underwater with a video camera talking with the kids.

He will also cover intertidal life and have the kids go tide pooling.

Most of what the children will be doing will be hands on, Gan said.

Last year was successful and

Gan said that she hopes for another great group of kids.

"I'm hoping for a successful camp where the kids not only have fun, but learn to appreciate something meaningful about a world they perhaps were initially unaware of," Gan said.

"I hope they learn to more fully appreciate the interdepen-

dence of our own species with those of the Sound and realize that we share the same planet," said Gan.

Each student will be selected based upon three things.

Every child needs to write a one-page letter explaining their interest in science and why they want to attend the camp. Along with completed application, the child will need to get a written letter of recommendation from their teacher.

For an application, go to the MaST website at www.highline.edu/mast. The letters and application need to be received by June 5.

The letters and application can be mailed to Chris Gan, at Highline Community College P.O. Box 98000, MS 29-02 Des Moines, WA 98198-9800.

The MaST center is located at Redondo Beach in Des Moines.

For more information about the Summer on the Sound camp, contact Christina Gan at 206-878-3710, ext. 3695, or at cgan@highline.edu.

Salmon topic of discussion at Science Seminar

KAREN DANIELS

STAFF REPORTER

There is potential for as much as a ten thousand percent increase in wild salmon in the Elwa River if funding comes through to remove the Elwa river dams, said Sam Shabb at the Science Seminar last Friday.

The Elwa River is just west of Port Angeles on the Olympic Peninsula and currently has two hydroelectric dams.

The dams have caused a drop in wild salmon from more than 400,000 to 4,000 in the 94 years since the dams were built in 1912.

The Science Seminar is a weekly presentation every Friday given by experts on topics that relate to science.

Salmon start their life in rivers and streams and as they mature will eventually reach the ocean. When it is time for a salmon to spawn it makes

its way back to the very same stream it was born in.

Protecting these journeys are the reasons for laws that dams must provide fish ladders allowing them to continue.

On the Elwa River these laws were never enforced.

"In both cases, no fish ladders," said Shabb.

Salmon used to be able to travel all the way down to the tributaries of the Elwa River; there was 70 miles of accessible river, but now there is about five.

It has been inaccessible for almost 100 years for the salmon to spawn and is the biggest rea-

son for the significant decrease of wild salmon.

A salmon hatchery was put in the Elwa River to help compensate for the dams. Hatchery fish are smaller, can't spawn on their own, spread disease more easily, and are aggressive toward wild fish, said Shabb.

The Elwa River can still support wild salmon if the dams are removed.

"There are plenty of dead streams in Seattle, they will never support wild salmon," said Shabb.

Many dead streams in the area can't support salmon because of pollution, water runoff

from cities, and destruction of habitats.

"Everyone says they want to help the fish, but when you ask what they are willing to sacrifice, it's harder to get people to do it," said Shabb.

Officials have agreed to remove the Elwa River dams, the only problem is funding. With the proper funding the dam removal can begin as soon as 2008. Dam removal is the only option for such a great increase

in wild salmon, shabby said.

"They will find their way upstream, we hope," Shabb said. "(Salmon) are a cultural icon in the Northwest."

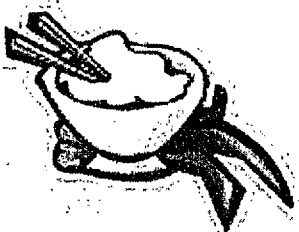
"I'm really coming at this as a citizen," Shabb said, "It's a personal investment in the area."

The last Science Seminar will be held in Building 3-102 from 2:20 till 3:10 pm on The Science of Soup Can Races by Richard Bankhead.

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Meerdink shines on Highline campus

BY REBECCA LIVINGSTON
STAFF REPORTER

Terry Meerdink is a lover of math as well as her family.

Meerdink is a math professor at Highline who teaches elementary algebra and pre-calculus.

"I love to see the lights go on," said Meerdink, referring to when students understand what she is teaching them.

Meerdink works mainly with below college-level students, and teaches the occasional college-level class.

"Math is something they can do," said Meerdink. "Don't be afraid of it."

She was born in Mount Edgecumbe, Alaska, near Sitka, where she graduated from high school.

Meerdink got a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in education from the University of Stanford in Palo Alto, California. After that she taught at a high school for two years in California.

Having a desire to teach at college level, she started attending the University of Idaho. She got a master's and a Ph.D. in mathematics.

While at the University of Idaho in 1989, she met Ken, whom she married in the summer of 1991.

They now have three children: Matthew, 12; Laura, 9; and Haley is 6 months. Her husband was hired by Boeing which brought the family to Federal Way and her to Highline.

Meerdink enjoys reading books with her children, such as the Lord of the Rings series and the Harry Potter series. She loves to ride bikes with her family.

"I also do not teach in the summer so I can spend quality time with my family," said Meerdink.

She loves to solve math puzzles and loves for her students to challenge her with new ones.

Meerdink was the Mathematics Department coordinator for five years and one quarter, but she recently stepped down due to the birth of her third child.

She was responsible for hiring part time faculty, making sure each instructor was observed in class once a year, dealing with student complaints, scheduling math courses and assigning instructors, making sure the bookstore had ordered the texts, running department meetings, making sure paperwork was done for conferences, ordering equipment for classrooms and still, a lot more.

"I'm actually most directly involved in our advising plans,"

said Meerdink.

She also oversaw the math lab, including the Academic Systems classroom and Highline's calculator rental program. Meerdink is involved in as many things on campus as she possibly can be.

One thing that she was involved in during her Department Coordinator years was the Math Resource Center.

"In addition to the Math Resource Center, the Math Department is working on advising so that students will take the right math classes and take them early so they can graduate," said Meerdink.

Meerdink is also involved in the Critical Moments project at Highline. The goal of the Critical Moments project is to create a community that celebrates diversity and multicultural understanding.

"They are reaching out to students who turned their lives around," said Meerdink. "That's really neat." The Highline Reads Committee is another project that Meerdink is involved in and last quarter she led a reading group for it.

"This year we are reading Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser," said Meerdink. The purpose of the Highline Reads committee is for the campus to decide on a book to read which is hoped that faculty, staff and members of the community will all read and attend a number of activities surrounding the book.

Meerdink said that she wants to get more involved at Highline, although she wants to wait until six-month-old Haley is older because she wants to be able to spend quality time with her.

In Meerdink's classes, she does special quizzes where all her students do several math problems. She mixes them up and hands them back out to a group of people.

"There's less pressure," said Amina Hasanbegovic, a student of Meerdink's. They have to correct several problems together and write in full sentences what is wrong with them.

She grades not only on how they figure out the problems and corrected them, but also on how they wrote the sentences. Her students seem to enjoy her quizzes and her entire classes in general.

"I like that she's patient



Photo by Keith Daigle

Terry Meerdink teaches math on campus and helps with many different programs and activities

and will re-explain things," said Sherry Nunn, a student of Meerdink's.

One thing that Meerdink faces daily is the juggling of her family and work.

"Some days things don't go

exams in Algebra, Analysis, and Topology for her Ph.D. she failed all three.

"It was really hard and the only reason it worked is that my husband Ken was extremely supportive," said Meerdink.

well on either front, but most of the time I enjoy both work and family," said Meerdink.

Her first two children were born while she was in graduate school working on her Ph.D. and her third was born while she was working on her dissertation. This was not an easy task and the first time she took

She succeeded 18 months later and it took her a total of six years to do it.

"If I hadn't made it then I would have failed out of the program," said Meerdink.

Now that she is here at Highline, she still juggles family and work.

"It is a challenge to balance all of this, but one thing that helps is that I try to focus on my work when I am on campus and on my family when I am with them," said Meerdink.

"This works pretty well for the most part, but I am not super human."

She drops one daughter off at school on the way to work, and brings her youngest daughter to the Early Childhood Learning Center on campus while her husband drops off their son at school on his way to work.

"Working on a degree while raising small children is the hard way to do things," said Meerdink.

"If one has a choice I would recommend getting the degree before having the children, but I believe that having done it this way, I can really relate to the struggles of the many Highline students who are taking classes and raising children at the same time."

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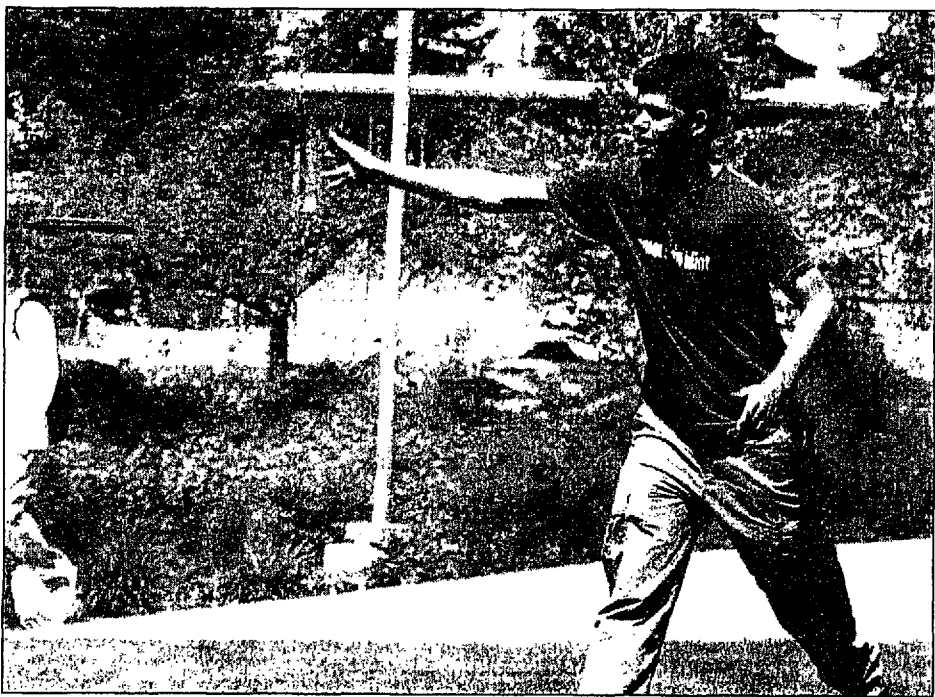
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Flying saucers sighted



A Highline student takes advantage of the sunshine as he plays Frisbee on a warm spring day, refusing to let the unseasonal spot of good weather pass him by.

Now read this

Reading program aims to unite campus classrooms

BY REBECCA LIVINGSTON

STAFF REPORTER

Highline Reads is trying to get people across campus to all read the same book.

This program at Highline is in its second year. Each year Highline Reads finds a common book that everyone on campus can use in their classrooms and in their own free time.

"Our main goal this year was to create awareness of the common book program and begin to set up operational processes," said Pat Phillips, an advisory committee member for Highline Reads.

Highline is following in the footsteps of many other campuses that have started a program like this. For example, the University of Washington is now requiring all freshmen to read one common book and attend a series of lectures.

There were activities during winter and spring quarters this last year to support the book that was chosen, *Fast Food Nation* by Eric Schlosser.

These activities were sponsored by the Business Division, Highline College Education Association, Science Seminar, Black Student Union, Arts Week and Earth Week which brought in speakers and sponsored some of the student contests.

"It's been a steep learning curve this year, but overall we accomplished our main goal which was to make Highline Reads known to the campus and establish a foundation for building the program," said Phillips.

Gary Nelson's Illustration II



Tommy Kim

class used the book *Fast Food Nation* for their project for Winter Quarter and it was on display in the Student Union for a week at the end of the quarter.

"We offered book groups for faculty and staff fall quarter, but only one group met on a regular basis," said Phillips.

Highline Reads was hoping to bring in the author of *Fast Food Nation*, Eric Schlosser, onto campus, but he has a \$15,000 fee which made it impossible.

The committee is currently in the selection process of reviewing five books to choose from to read for next year. They have divided up the responsibilities along division lines.

The division representatives are: Patricia McDonald: Health, Education and PE, Richard Bankhead: Pure and Applied Sciences, Anthony Newton: Business and Bus. Tech, Marsa Mair: Staff, Maurea Maya: Social Science and Matt Schwisow: Arts and Humanities.

Each candidate book is being read by four people, meaning some people will be reading more than one book. The

final decision on the book selection for next year will be made during finals week. The books being reviewed are: *Mountains beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder, *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien, *What Would Jefferson Do* by Thom Hartmann, and *The World is Flat* by Thomas L. Friedman.

"I did create a list of criteria that the readers should be looking for in evaluating the book but, again, it's all very loose and open," said Tommy Kim, chairman of the book selection committee. Some things within that criteria include that it must not be a textbook, should be medium length, affordable, deals with current and relevant issues for topics, is not normally read in high school and should be manageable yet challenging for the reader.

The hope and goal for next year would be to have more campus-wide activities and at least two departments from each division run some sort of activity during the fall or winter quarters. And one of the main goals for next year is to promote faculty to use the book in their classes.

"I think the greatest benefit of the Highline Reads program is that it will help foster a sense of community – that we have a common book we are all reading together," said Kim.

Kim also said that he thinks it is especially helpful for students to see how one subject can be seen and approached from multiple perspectives.

New club hopes to fight media influence

BY LYNETTE MARQUIS

STAFF REPORTER

Highline's new True Love Club is pushing against the media's current by promoting abstinence.

Earlier this quarter, Julia Stafford said she found the need to start a club where people who want to save themselves for marriage can feel comfortable expressing their feelings.

"Ever since I was little my parents have been so serious about true love. They've always promoted abstinence, so I'm very passionate about it," Stafford said.

Stafford says the media shouldn't promote uncommitted sex. "The media promotes free sex, which is not healthy for their viewers. The viewers might believe that 'everyone is doing it' and follow the media's lead," Stafford said.

"It is time for the virgins to 'come out of the closet' and support their decision to keep their abstinence."

On Thursday, May 25, the True Love Club showed a movie (*Pride and Prejudice*) with free pizza and soda in Building 7. Almost 60 people showed up for the movie.

Before the movie began, Stafford shared her feelings about sex before marriage.

"Youth are like shaken-up pop cans. In each relationship, as they grow, they give a little bit of their love or trust; this is where their fizz goes. Each re-

lationship they open up a little more. Finally, you meet Mr. Right and you want to open up the can all the way, but there isn't any fizz left – it's flat. This is compared to a pop can that hasn't been opened or touched; in marriage you're able to open up completely and allow all the love and trust to bubble over."

A lot of people cheered Stafford on, but a few lashed comments and questions like one man who asked, "Shouldn't you live for today?"

A girl raised her voice across the room, "If you felt that way you wouldn't be in college."

Stafford said that agreement or disagreement isn't the point, she isn't trying to convert anyone. "The act of abstinence is an individual's decision. If people do not agree with our endeavor then we will not argue with them."

"One of our goals is to help Highline students see the importance of keeping sexual abstinence before marriage," she said. And though some may roll their eyes, the True Love Club has had an enormous amount of support and attention from both students and faculty.

Next year the club plans to host more events on campus, build a membership, have rallies about abstinence, as well as hold weekly meetings.

This quarter there is one more club meeting on Thursday, June 1, at 1:15 p.m. in the club room on the third floor of the Student Union.



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Advisers help guide students' futures

By ANDREA DAVIS-GONZALEZ
STAFF REPORTER

When it comes to planning their education, most students are not flying blind.

Many advisers say that getting any kind of degree can be confusing, that's why services such as educational planning and faculty advising are available at Highline.

In a non-scientific survey of 100 Highline students, 72 percent said that they have spoken with at least one person about creating their quarterly schedules. Many of the students said that speaking with either someone in educational planning or a faculty member has helped them avoid taking unnecessary classes.

"They answer the questions about classes, guide you through requirements, and make choosing my classes easier," said student Geno Amador.

Another student, Melissa Abalde, said that the advisers have also helped her and that students who are new to college should seek advising.

"Advising helps a great deal, especially when you're first starting college. Choosing classes can be overwhelming."

On the other hand, some students determine what classes to take for the following quarter by registering for the required courses displayed online or in the Associate of Arts (AA) de-

gree form.

"I don't have a lot of time. I have to wait a long time to see (educational planning) counselors, so I grabbed an AA outline form," said student Nausikaä Davis.

Instead of seeking help from an adviser transferring to other schools, other students figure it out for themselves.

"I look for the schools that I want to transfer to, and take the classes they require," said student Joanne Jang.

Advisers say that they encourage students to speak with either someone in Educational Planning or a faculty member. The difference between the two is that Educational Planning tries to guide students through the general requirements that are needed for either an Associate of Arts or Associate of Applied Science degree.

Faculty advising follows a more detailed agenda; it tries to guide students through taking specified courses for their major.

The transfer center director in Educational Planning, Siew Lai Lilley, said she provides assistance to more than 100 students per quarter.

"I see the adviser as someone who cares about the well-being of students and supports their academic success," Lilley said.

Although some students prefer to create their schedules by means of self-guidance, Lilley

"I see the adviser as someone who cares about the students and supports their academic success."

-- Siew Lai Lilley



Passing notes and laughter



Highline students take advantage of the warm spring afternoon to study outdoors.

said that she encourages them to double check that their classes count toward their intended degrees.

Some students have said that they do just that. "I hope I have been able to impact students in a positive manner," Lilley said.

Many students agree that the advisers in Educational Planning have made a positive impact on their careers at Highline.

"Speaking with Siew Lai has made a big difference in how I view academic planning," said student Brittany Clark. "She has helped me maintain an organized schedule that ensures that I take the proper classes to graduate on time."

Many advisers say that those students who plan on graduating from Highline should speak with an adviser no matter their major.

Joan Graham is one of the four advisers in the Education Department and said that she sees more than 50 students per quarter. Advisers are involved in a transfer agreement, which is the communication between two-year and four-year colleges, which can make transferring an

easier process for students

"We have these special connections (with other colleges). We know which Highline courses will transfer to other colleges," Graham said. "We've had this connection for about three years, so we're able to provide very accurate and up to date information."

One common major is business. Whether a student will major in accounting or interior design, they will still be able to consult with an adviser in the same department. Mike Cicero is one of the five advisers in the Business Department. He says that he advises more than 40 students each quarter and tries to help steer students in the right direction.

"It is part of my duties as a full time faculty member (to advise) and further I enjoy helping students successfully earn their degree or certificate at HCC."

Cicero says that even when a student's schedule conflicts with an adviser's, it is no excuse for not being able to receive assistance. A few of the ways students can receive consultation without physically speaking

with an adviser include sending e-mails, communicating by telephone, and speaking with a different adviser.

One student has said that he communicates with his adviser in more than one way, and still receives the help he needs.

"When I asked them any question by e-mail or physically in their office about my requirement courses, they helped me a lot," said student Solomon Tesfaye. "They gave me all the information on what the colleges needed to (help me) transfer."

Business adviser Cicero said that advising takes an important role in the future of students. Without any guidance at all, it would be more difficult for students to receive the degree of their choice.

"I always tell students not to get too frustrated by not knowing exactly what career they are interested in," Cicero said. "Just get the credential, degree or certificate, and doors will open for you and you never know exactly where those doors will lead, but we do know that without the credential those doors will remain closed."

Date

continued from page 1

Crisis Relief Center, who also declined to give her last name.

According to the Rape Abuse and Incest National Network, date rape typically happens to women between the ages of 18-25. Between men and women, 84 percent of rapes happen to women, and 16 percent happen to men. More than 50 percent of all rapes will go unreported.

A Highline student who asked to remain unnamed said

she was date raped at a party. Afterward, she had so many conflicting responses from friends and loved ones that she wasn't sure if what had happened was her fault or not. "Some of my closest friends and family members said things like 'well what do you expect when you go to a party? You're young,'" she said.

She is thankful that she does not remember most of the assault, and said she still feels stupid for even going to the party because six months before a close friend of hers had been date raped. She never reported the date rape because she knew

the person and didn't want to get him in trouble, she said.

"It seems like it usually happens with people you know and trust," said student Cliff Satterwhite.

"I knew a girl who was date raped. Afterward it prevented her from hanging out a lot. She mistrusted people should could trust," Cliff Satterwhite said.

"Bottom line, I think that guys that do that are chumps," Satterwhite said.

Other students agree.

"No it is not OK to have sex with a person while they are under the influence of any kind of substance, because depend-

ing on the situation, they're not themselves and they might regret the action that's going on," Jeff Arntz said.

"If she's not conscious of what she's doing that's taking advantage of her. I don't think it's right," Rogelio Gordon said.

Some students say it can be awkward to ask about sex, however. "You're not going to ask the person if you can have sex with them because that would kill the vibe," student James Etherington said. "If she doesn't say no and I'm picking up a vibe that she wants to and she's putting out a message, than most

likely I'd have sex with her."

Others say they'd have sex with a drunk partner if the alcohol wasn't changing any decisions.

"Sometimes it's OK to have sex with a person while they are under the influence of something, if it doesn't alter their decision from when it would normally happen," Chris Postert said.

Still others say you should be able to tell, even if the person can't say no.

"It's pretty situational. You can tell when someone is too impaired to make a decision," Logan Wallace said.

6/1/06

THE THUNDERWORD

Election

continued from page 1

with 34 votes, netting 21 percent of the votes. Kvasmyuk took third with 31 votes, or 19.1 percent, Singh took fourth place with 30 votes, or 18.5 percent and Birmingham took fifth place with 21 votes, or 13 percent.

Of the two candidates for vice-president, Pittman won with 86 votes, or 53.1 percent of the votes. His opponent Adam Whalen received 53 votes, or 32.7 percent.

While Nordstrom is optimistic about the next year, he also has some worries about the difficulties he will face.

"It's going to be interesting," Nordstrom said. "Hopefully I'll have enough time for the fun stuff."

Nordstrom, 37, was the oldest candidate for either position by over a decade. He has many plans for what he wishes to see in the following year.

"I think I'm going to start with figuring out where I'm at," Nordstrom said.

Nordstrom hopes to promote an open door leadership policy,



Daniel Nordstrom is the new student president of Highline.

as well as change the way people vote in following elections.

"I'd like to see the candidates' forum in the Student Union building during lunch hours," Nordstrom said.

"I foresee a pretty slow start to next year and it's going to take some diligent effort by both Paul and myself to get the ball rolling."

While Nordstrom remains guarded, Pittman is much more optimistic.

"For the most part I see the implementation of anything that will result in making Highline Community College a better



Paul Pittman is the new vice president of Highline.

place for learning as well as socializing, not too difficult," Pittman said. "I am confident that the students will support me and give me feed back as well as suggestions on what they would like to see happen."

Even with the low voter turnout, Pittman remains unfazed.

"One-hundred sixty-two people are better than 73 or even six for that matter," Pittman said, "but that number can certainly be much higher. With more student involvement and awareness we will get a much larger voter turn out for next year's executive officers race."

Change

continued from page 1

Dr. Bell says that Riverman's position will be filled in fall. During Summer Quarter, while finalists are selected for the position, Riverman's duties will be covered by Kim Wazerski of Financial Aid and Debbie Faison, who will be given the title of Registrar.

"We're going to do an open search," said Dr. Bell about the position. "There may be internal candidates, but I don't have the research on that."

"I don't know of any administrative positions that need filling beside's Becky Riverman's," said Dr. Bell.

Highline's newest administrative hire, Larry Yok, will begin working at Highline Summer Quarter as the vice president of administration.

Yok begins June 19, and will stay until June 30. He will be off campus until July 24 for some prearranged engagements, but will continue to serve in that position when he comes back.

"I don't believe the college is going to be short staffed. I don't believe it is now or that it will be," said Dr. Bell. "We will



Dr. Priscilla Bell

continue to provide excellent programs. That commitment has not diminished."

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offer expires 05/31/06. Limited to phone shown; Supplies may be limited and offer may not be available at all dealer locations. T-Mobile reserves the right to substitute different phone models of equal or greater value. Customer must remain on a qualifying T-Mobile rate plan at the time mail-in rebate is actually processed. Allow up to 8 weeks for mail-in rebate check. See mail-in rebate form for full details. See T-Mobile's Terms and Conditions (including mandatory arbitration), available at www.t-mobile.com, for cancellation policy, international long-distance, roaming and messaging rates, and additional details that may affect this offer and additional rate plans, and other information and/or contact T-Mobile Customer Care, at 1-800-937-8997, with questions concerning any T-Mobile offer or rate plan. T-Mobile is a federally registered trademark, and the magenta color is a trademark, of Deutsche Telekom AG. Whenever Minutes, FamilyTime and Get More are federally registered trademarks of T-Mobile USA, Inc. © 2006 T-Mobile USA, Inc.