

Men tie for  
first  
See page 7



Student paints  
campus mural  
See page 5



## Inside

ARTS.....PAGE 5  
CAMPUS LIFE.....PAGES 2-3  
OPINION.....PAGE 4  
PUZZLES.....PAGE 6  
NEWS.....PAGES 1, 10-12  
SPORTS.....PAGES 7-9

# The Thunderword

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PERIODICALS

FEB. 8, 2007/VOLUME 47, No. 4/HIGHLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Common courses just don't add up Arrests made in Drungo murder

Faculty speaks  
out against plan  
to unify classes

By JOCIE OLSON

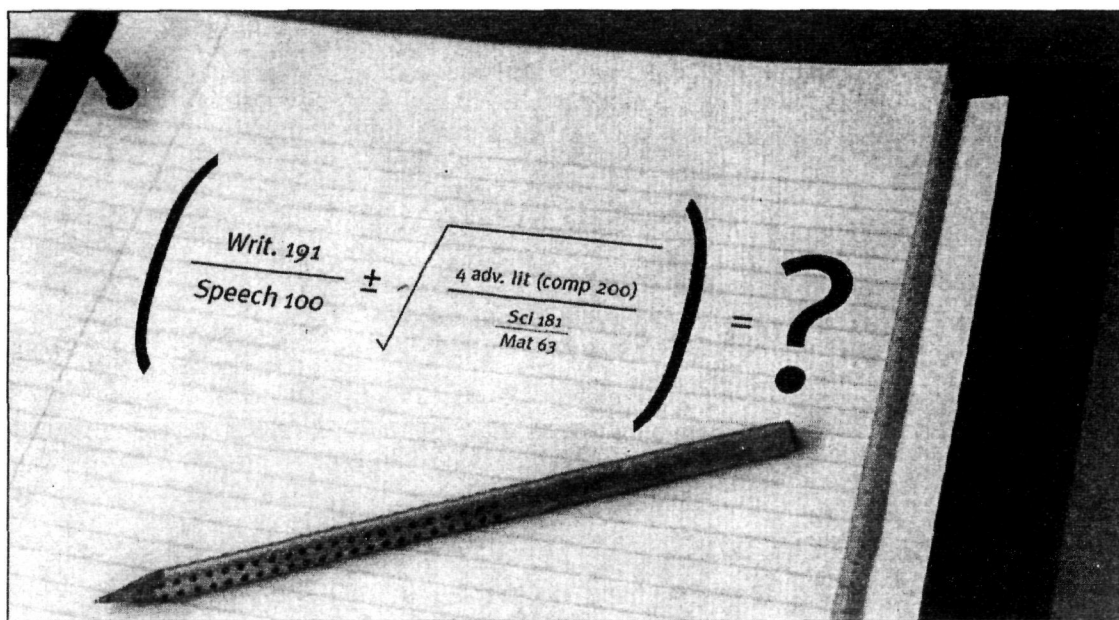
staff reporter

Highline officials say that they can't count on Common Course Numbering.

Common Course Numbering is an attempt by the State Board to give the same course number and title to courses that have similar content in Washington's community and technical colleges.

The system was the result of votes by all the college presidents.

"Common Course Numbering is really based on an important principle of making it easier for transfer students and not inadvertently taking an equivalent course at another college. I believe strongly in the principle behind Common Course Numbering," said Dr. Jack Bermingham. "There are better ways to get back to those principles," said Bermingham. "The [Faculty] Senate has



DAVID HSU/THUNDERWORD

Faculty questioned the value of the Common Course Numbering plan.

Bermingham also said that he does not think that the numbering system fails to take into account faculty rights related to the curriculum.

"We have a lot of curriculum, so trying to do Common Course Numbering creates significant challenges," he said.

"There are better ways to get back to those principles," said Bermingham.

"The [Faculty] Senate has

been following the issue closely and has polled the faculty about their concerns," Bermingham said.

One faculty member, math instructor Allan Walton, said that he thinks that Common Course Numbering is a bad idea.

"It would require extensive renumbering for some schools," Walton said.

Walton also said that the new numbering system may have a

big effect on the classes that are offered.

"If certain courses are renumbered the content is forced to be the same. What that does is remove the ability of the individual department or schools or instructors to put into their courses what they think is im-

SEE COURSES, PAGE B11

ROBERT LAMIRANDE  
staff reporter

A Kent man has been charged in the murder of Jessie Drungo, a former Highline student killed last year.

Drungo was stabbed to death on the night of Thursday, Sept. 1 outside of the Ventana Apartments in Kent.

Lonnie Lee Johnson is being charged with murder in the second degree in the stabbing death of Drungo.

Due to prior convictions and the seriousness of the charge, he is being held on \$1 million bail.

Johnson's prior convictions are varied, including one violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act and unlawful possession of a firearm in 2004, an attempted possession of stolen property in 2005, and possession of stolen property in 2006.

He pleaded innocent on Dec. 4 and is awaiting trial at the Regional Justice Center in Kent.

According to papers filed by the King County Prosecutor's Office, the stabbing was a result of a confrontation between a group of caucasians and a group of African-Americans, the report said. Drungo was part of the latter group.

The fight was a result of racial epithets believed to have been exchanged between the two parties.

However, because of varying witness stories and the involvement of alcohol, it is unclear whether one group actually vocalized racial slurs or not.

Knives were brandished and three people were stabbed (two from the group of African-Americans and one from the group of caucasians). Drungo was the only person killed in the incident.

One of the men in Drungo's

SEE ARRESTS, PAGE B12

## Interim President steps up to the plate

By JUDY VUE

staff reporter

He fell just short of becoming president of Highline in 2001. Six years later, he now has the job.

Jack Bermingham is the interim president of Highline.

He was selected to fill in when former president Priscilla Bell was fired in late November of 2006.

Prior to his acceptance of the position, he was the school's vice president for academic affairs.

His office is neat and professional, with plaques and posters that seem becoming of a high-ranking school official.

Despite the high position he holds, Bermingham is a man with modest roots.

"I grew up in a small farming

community in central California and was the first one in my family ... to go to a university," Bermingham said.

He received his undergraduate degree from Cal State-Northridge and went on to earn his Doctorate at the University of California-Santa Barbara.

"I had a good experience in college," Bermingham said.

He attended college during the period of the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War.

Back then there was a "focus on making a difference," Bermingham said.

Bermingham participated in the activism that occurred during this time.

"I had an opportunity to voice

SEE INTERIM, PAGE B12



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

Dr. Jack Bermingham has been the interim president of Highline since November 2006.

CSI:



HIGHLINE



## Students displaced after alarm sounds

### Student injured by car

A student slammed her finger in her car door on Feb. 5 around 10 a.m. Her acrylic nail broke in half and simultaneously ripped off half of her natural nail. Security was called and her finger was cleaned, wrapped, and ice packs were applied.

### Vehicle abandoned

Security found a Nissan Maxima in the tennis court around noon on Feb. 5. The passenger side window was smashed out. A permit was in the window.

The owner was located but she said she doesn't normally drive the vehicle.

The Department of Licensing looked up the license plate, but no student was found with a matching name or address.

### When cars collide

A car accident occurred while a student was parking in the east lot on Feb. 2 around 8:10 a.m.

The student reported that she hit a 2003 gold Honda Acura while trying to park. There was damage to the rear bumper.

The owner of the car was contacted and information was exchanged between the owner and the driver of the other car.

### Lost property

•A USB flash drive was lost at approximately 6 p.m. on Feb. 1.

•A pink T-Mobile cell phone was lost in Building 8 on the 3rd floor around 12:15 p.m. on Feb. 2.

•A set of GM car keys and a garage door opener were lost in Building 21 at 12 p.m. on Feb. 2.

### Found Property

•A black Quiksilver pouch and ATM card were found on Feb. 1, around 3 p.m.

•One set of keys was found in Building 6 around 2 p.m. on Feb. 1.

•A set of 6 keys and 2 remote alarms were found in Building 6 around 3 p.m. on Feb. 1.

-Compiled By B. Fuller

A fire alarm went off on Tuesday, Feb. 6 at approximately 1:10 p.m.

According to Head of Campus Security Richard Noyer, a smoke detector in the first floor of the Highline Student Union set it off.

The fire alarm resulted in a brief evacuation of the building.

Lafe Altier and Kimberly Miser were sitting by the fireplace in the Bistro when it went off.

The two students said there was mass confusion while it was going off.

"Doors started closing [automatically]," Altier said.

Altier and Miser said that chairs had to be moved out of the way as students rushed to the exits.

"I was wondering if something was going to blow up [or that someone] stole something," said Miser.

Altier and Miser both agree that students appeared more "confused" than scared as the alarm went off.

Altier said that students didn't seem to know what to do and some were still "chillin'" as the alarm rang.

Students had to wait outside for 5-10 minutes until they were allowed back inside the building.

The alarm interrupted a blood drive that was going on in the Mt. Constance room, hosted by the Nursing Program.

However, after people were allowed back in, it was back to business and chairs were occupied by students lined up and filling out paperwork to donate blood.

As of press time, maintenance crews were still working to see what the problem was.



PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

Highline students stand outside in the rain having evacuated the Student Union after a fire alarm was set off on the first floor on Feb. 6 at about 1:10 p.m.

## Building bridges

The Black Student Union wants to discuss the condition of relationships within the Black community.

The BSU will host the Bridging the Gap Series to celebrate Black History Month.

The second event of the month will be a panel titled Relationships between Men and Women in the Black Community.

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in the discussion of relationships with representatives from two groups on campus: Men of Vision and Sista's Empowered.

The panel will take place on Feb. 14 in the Mt. Constance room of the Student Union at 11 a.m.

For more information, contact Kiana Hayes at 206-878-3710, ext. 3291, or at khayes@highline.edu.

## Science re-born

Science Seminar will be giving birth to a new idea.

This week's Science Seminar will be Born in the U.S.A.: The State of Birth in the 21st Century, presented by nursing Professor Marie Esch-Radtke.

Everyone is welcome to attend the seminar and discover

more about the pros and cons of giving birth in this country, and how technology has and will affect it.

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

For more information, contact Dr. Eric Baer at 206-878-3710, ext. 3513, or at ebaer@highline.edu.

## Fighting against animal cruelty

A small group of students at Highline are trying to recruit more students for their campaign against KFC's cruelty towards chickens.

Shira Hockstedler, Troy Hastelius, and Sarah Delp stood handing out flyers outside of

Building 6 on Monday, Jan. 29.

The fliers read: "Unite to Fight KFC's Cruelty to Chickens. We aren't asking you to go vegan/vegetarian. We're asking you to put your money where your heart is: Refuse to purchase from KFC until they stop brutalizing the chickens WE eat."

"KFC is treating chickens inhumanely," said Delp.

"Unlike McDonalds and Burger King, KFC has refused to sign the Animal Welfare Act and has continued its abuse of chickens."

This group of students has long-term plans of targeting the fur trading industry, for inhumane treatment of animals in skinning them alive.

The group is also trying to stop companies from doing tests on animals.



## Co-Opportunity Cooperative Education Interested in Criminal Justice? Try an internship! 5-20 hrs/wk.

The Court Resource Center is looking for a DATA SUPPORT INTERN. Learn court protocols and procedures. Provide excellent customer service and develop written communications that meet the City of Seattle performance standards. Experience with Windows, Word, and Excel required.

Get real world experience while earning real college credit.  
Building 6, upper floor

## Student Jobs

### Administrative Assistant

Job #2477

Wages: \$7.93-\$10.00, Hours: flexible  
2-16 hrs/wk. Off-Campus Work-Study

Build up your IT skills while helping underprivileged youth. Duties include answering phones, data entry, filing and processing bills.  
Location: Seattle

### Customer Service

Job #2470

Wages: \$12. 20 hrs/wk. Flexible.

Attention: Detail-oriented, creative, professional and friendly people! Are you studying International Business and/or Transportation? This part-time job that grows into full-time could be for you! Location: Des Moines

For additional information log on to Interfase at  
<https://www.myinterfase.com/highline/student>

## Free Tutoring!!!



Feeling overwhelmed? Get help!  
Visit the Tutoring Center in Building 26, Room 319. We specialize in turning good students into better students.  
Sign up for help in:  
Accounting/Business  
Languages, Math,  
Science, Computers  
Writing, and more subjects!

"Learning is like rowing upstream; not to advance is to fall back."

~Chinese proverb

Mon-Thurs.....8:00 am-7:30pm  
Fri.....8:00am-1pm  
<http://flightline.highline.edu/tutoring>



## Progress is made, but there's more to be done

By SHURVON HAYNES  
staff reporter

African Americans have come a long way since the emancipation, a civil rights leader said here Wednesday.

Oscar Eason Jr., president of the State/Area Conference of the NAACP, spoke as part of the Black Student Union's annual celebration of Black History Month.

"We have come a long way since slavery. Look around us and you will see we have a long way to go," said Eason.

A group of students gathered in a circle with Eason to discuss the issues of discrimination, affirmative action and the use of the "N-word."

Student Taylor Benson said he didn't think that African-Americans valued the freedoms they have in 2007 compared to those who lived during the slavery and civil rights era. Eason agreed with Benson's opinion and said that is why it is important for younger generation to remember the works of people such as Dr. Martin Luther King.

"Dr. King had an impact on our whole society, he influenced how all people view each other, not just blacks," said Eason.

The celebration of Black History was originally started by Carter G. Woodson in 1926 as Negro History Week. It was extended to be month long celebration in 1976 by The Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History.

"The plight of African-



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

Oscar Eason Jr., president of the State/Area Conference of the NAACP spoke at Highline on Feb. 7 on the changes made over the years in the black community, and what still has to be accomplished.

Americans is like watching a video, having lived in a segregated community, my view of the world is different from younger people living today," said Eason.

Growing up, Eason was often told by his elders that he would have to work twice as hard as a white person to be successful. When he repeated this admonishment to his own son, he was challenged to answer the question why?

"My son didn't understand why he had to work twice as hard, he wanted to know what could be done to change the system," said Eason.

Eason was born and raised in San Antonio, where he experienced racism and segregation firsthand. As a young man he had to sit in the back of the bus and in the balcony of movie theatres, and it was against state law to intergrade public schools.

"My own father was indicted and ordered to stand trial for accepting a Latino man into his vocational school for World War II veterans," said Eason.

This happened until the Brown vs. the Board of Education, declared segregation to be degrading and illegal.

Nonetheless, so-called Jim Crow laws stayed on the books

to maintain segregation between blacks and whites.

"Affirmative Action was created to intergrade America, because many qualified individuals lacked opportunities due to discrimination," said Eason.

Eason is licensed professional engineer, an Army veteran and he was recently appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire to be a part of the Commission on African-American Affairs.

Eason also produced a report called Affirmative Action and Beyond, addressing the educational, social and economic implications of affirmative action.

Affirmative Action is now

illegal in three states including Washington, California and Michigan.

As a result America is going through a stage of re-segregation because people don't see any merit in bringing people together, said Eason.

Eason also criticized the use of the "N-word" and other derogatory names towards people of color to make them feel inferior," said Eason.

He further explained how name calling is an act of racist propaganda toward people of color commonly used to justify discrimination and hate crimes.

"In order for me not to like someone, I would have to dehumanize a person to make them feel inferior, which would enable me to harm them without having remorse," said Eason.

Student Steve Simpkin said he didn't understand why this negative word is still being used in the black community.

"The 'N-Word' is insulting and demeaning regardless of who uses it, the negative connotation doesn't change," responded Eason.

Eason concluded his speech with an admonishment to students to be change engines.

"Education and economic empowerment is necessary to make positive changes in this country. We have to teach and educate our youth. The most dangerous person on earth is a college sophomore because they are learning how to not let fear get in the way of their progress," said Eason.

## Highline will be screening film on global warming

By JOCIE OLSON  
staff reporter

A Highline instructor says that that all citizens should see the film *An Inconvenient Truth*.

"It is actually a documentary about global warming," said biology instructor Woody Moses.

Moses explained that global warming is the increase in the earth's average temperature due to an increase in heat trapping gases the most important of these is carbon dioxide.

In Federal Way, the school board placed a moratorium on the film after one parent complained.

Moses said that the film is based on a presentation that Al Gore had been working on.

"[The film] combines research from around the world and illustrates that humans are causing it and the effects are incredibly severe," Moses said.

"It's the best summary of the evidence of the human link with global warming because global warming is something that affects all of us," Moses said.

*An Inconvenient Truth* will be shown at Highline this Friday at both noon and 7 p.m. in Building 7.

Moses said that he hopes that students will learn humans have a significant effect on our atmosphere and climate and also that something needs to be done about it.

"I hope they learn the connection between humans and climate damage," Moses said.

Steven Simpkins, one of the students responsible for the presentation of *An Inconvenient Truth*, said that he hopes students form their own opinion.

"It raises environmental awareness," Simpkins said.

After the film is shown there will be discussions about what

can be done about global warming and specifically what students can do.

Moses explained that he liked how the film showed science in a way that the average person could understand.

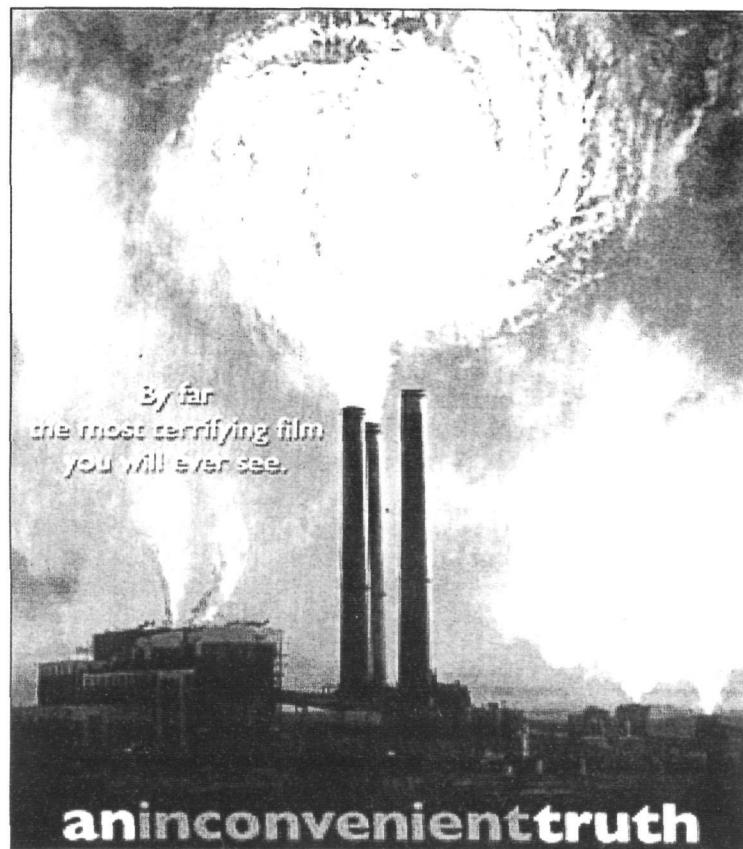
"I like the clarity and I like how he (Al Gore) has been able to synthesize information and present a clear message," Moses said.

Moses said that there is only one thing that he didn't like about the film.

"[It] doesn't spend enough time discussing about what we can do about greenhouse gases," Moses said.

For more information about the film screening of *An Inconvenient Truth* contact Woody Moses at wmoses@highline.edu or at 206-878-3710, ext. 3649.

Also contact Steven Simpkins at ssimpkin@highline.edu or at 206-878-3710, ext. 3536.



## Editorial comment

### College cannot afford to slack off its marketing efforts

After three years of declining enrollment at Highline, it looks as if those numbers are beginning to level off. The numbers from the recount have been tallied 10 days into the quarter get an accurate readout of the total to submit to the state.

Though the declining slope of enrollment has begun to plateau, it is not cause for celebration. Now is the time to see what has and has not been effective in bringing more students to Highline. It's a prime moment for policies to be altered or changed.

The enrollment numbers bears heavily on the amount of state funding that Highline receives. The higher enrollment is the more funding Highline receives. If enrollment numbers drop any more, Highline is in danger of losing state funding. A loss of that funding would result in a reduction in course offerings, which could result in some students finishing their education elsewhere.

Highline's administration has done a good job in keeping current students enrolled in classes here, completing their degrees. What could be improved are the tactics employed in bringing in new students. Simple redesigns of the schools logo does not seem to be doing much to Highline's image and even Highline's occasional TV spot, is only a drop in a bucket compared to what other institutions do. It will take more than a squiggle in the "H" to draw more people to Highline.

### Highline WinGS program flying in the right direction

Kudos for WinGS, for their efforts in helping students in need of a meal, and to those who donate food, clothing and time to make WinGS possible. It's an inspiration to see students and college employees come together for a shared desire to provide food and clothes for those who need a step-up.

Often the objectives of a program can get lost or tangled in "red tape," bureaucracy, and power struggles, diluting the overall effect and message trying to be sent out. So far in its infancy, WinGS has avoided such setbacks. They operate on voluntary basis with no official leaders. Time will reveal the long term effectiveness and stability of the program.

Those who have wanted to help out with such programs but put it off should note that WinGS is always looking for anyone with the desire to lend a helping hand. The growth of the program is partially out of their hands. It will take the added contributions of more volunteers to spread WinGS around campus.

## Staff

*"It's not bad, I just don't like it."*

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BRACKINS RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH



## My faith doesn't have to be yours

It's a question I dread answering: What religion are you?

I am not a Christian, yet I am not an atheist.

I believe God exists and I believe a god exists.

I believe in Jesus Christ, yet I believe in Darwin's evolutionary theories.

In addition to that, I'm open to the fact that there could be gods that control earth, wind and fire and that my ancestors will take care of my spirit when I die.

I don't go to church every Sunday. In fact, I don't really go to church at all.

Some friends invited me go to their worship night recently and it was the first time in a long while I've stepped inside a place of holiness.

I have to admit it wasn't all that bad. No, I did not convert or burst into tears. I did not "find myself" and discovered "the way" but the experience I had was intellectually fulfilling for me, if not spiritually.

I've had in-depth discussions with devout Muslims about their religion and I found what they had to say fascinating.

With both religions, there were things I disagreed with, yet I still respected them.

No one tried to impose their religion on me and I did not try to have a theological debate with them to tell them they were

## Commentary



JUDY VUE

wrong.

In the wake of this, I've been having my own internal debate about my own faith.

I wish there was a category for people like me, as in people who don't claim just one belief in something or nothing. People like me are open to anything, which in the eyes of many, makes us really nothing.

Despite my openness and tolerance, people still want to say ignorant things.

"Don't tell me you believe in that crap about us coming from monkeys? That's just stupid!"

"I'll be nice to an atheist, but I'm of course going to have more respect for someone who believes in something other than nothing."

"You don't go to church? At all? I feel sorry for you."

And here's my personal fa-

vorite:

"If you don't believe in God, you're going to hell."

I'm sick of being seen as something abnormal because of my beliefs.

I'm sick of people who are so overbearing over their own faiths that they lose all sense of decency and respect for those who may not share the same view.

I don't need someone shoving their views down my throat that God will save me.

I don't need someone putting me down because I don't just believe in God alone.

I don't need someone to feel sorry for me because it's me who should feel sorry for them.

I feel sorry that people forget basic human decency and begin criticizing and spewing ignorant words of hatred.

I feel sorry they're so unaware that what they say genuinely hurts other people.

And I feel even sorrier because many of those hypocrites have overlooked the prevalent themes of many mainstream religions, quite possibly their own: love and respect.

So the next time you want to ask me what religion I am, I will truthfully answer you.

And hopefully, you learn to accept it and respect it.

*Judy is angling for sainthood.*

## Submissions to Thunderword invited

The Thunderword encourages letters to the editor and columns from the college community.

Editorial cartoons on timely subjects also may be considered.

Submissions will be edited for style.

Due to limited space, please limit your submission to 500 words or less.

Submissions that are too long may be subject to editing for length. Material that libels others will not be considered for publication. Letters and columns can be on any subject, but

topics of interest to the campus community will take priority.

Please include contact information as all submissions must be confirmed as belonging to the author(s). Deadline for submissions is Monday of each week.

E-mail your submission to [thunderword@highline.edu](mailto:thunderword@highline.edu)



THE THUNDERWORD/FEB. 8, 2007/PAGE B5

# Pichit's painting opens new windows in ESL

BY BRIANNE BEETS

staff reporter

A vast, blue-tinted landscape stretches across a length of canvas, dotted with snow white deer sipping from crystalline streams.

"It kind of looks like a window when you open it," said Pichit Maikow, the artist behind the mural.

Maikow was asked to paint the mural by ESL instructor Angela Meyer.

"The teacher asked me to paint it because in the room there were no windows," Maikow said, aided by assistant ESL instructor Heather Galvin.

The mural took three days to paint "but it's not done yet," Maikow said. The mural is located in Building 23 Room 211b.

Originally from Bangkok, Thailand, Maikow is an ESL student at Highline. Maikow came to the U.S. in 1990 to teach Buddhism, and has been studying at Highline for two years.

"I don't know English very well, and I need to study," said Maikow in slightly broken English, referring to his reason for attending Highline.

Maikow rides the bus from his temple to Highline, which takes about two hours.

Although Maikow is only taking ESL classes at present, he said he would like to take an art class at Highline in the future to



Pichit Maikow painted this mural that hangs in Building 23, Room 211b. The room had no windows, ESL instructor Angela Meyers asked Pichit to paint something so it felt like they had a window.

improve his painting skills.

Maikow began painting when he was 13, mostly in temples where he was a monk.

"I've painted in Canada, California, Arkansas, Tennessee," said Maikow, who has painted in temples around Thailand as well.

Maikow currently resides and works in the Wat Washington Buddhavanaram temple in Auburn. When he was 13, Maikow began training as a novice, and by the time he was 20 Maikow began teaching others in becoming a Buddhist monk.

The primary rules that monks

follow are no drinking alcohol, no killing even the smallest of animals, no stealing, no adultery, and no lying, but "there are 227 rules [that monks follow]," Maikow said.

At the temple, Maikow and the other monks begin their day at 8 a.m. chanting. By 9 a.m.

"we meditate for 30 minutes, sometimes an hour," Maikow said.

From 10 a.m.-noon people offer food to the monks, and from noon-9 p.m. Maikow said that monks clean the temple, read, meditate, watch T.V., and of course, paint.

## Centerstage opens 'Absurd' play

BY AUDRA PATTERSON

staff reporter

Alan Ayckbourn's Absurd Person Singular opens at the Knutzen Family Theatre this weekend.

The play, performed by Centerstage Theatre Arts Conservatory, is a comedy about social class.

It follows three very troubled couples over three successive Christmas Eves.

The couples are played by Jennifer Chadwick, Dean Wilson, Devin Kerns, Jason Rose, Karen Nelson, and Brad Harrington.

Centerstage was founded in 1977.

Their mission is to "entertain and culturally enrich" audiences and they believe that theater "should uplift the human spirit," according to their statement on seattleperforms.com.

Alan Ayckbourn is a famous and prolific playwright from England whose plays are performed in many countries.

Born in 1939, he has written 70 full plays along with dozens of other works, such as children's plays and revues.

Ayckbourn won 27 awards in a 32-year period (1973 to 2005), and has been nominated for countless others.

Absurd Person Singular opens Feb. 10 and runs through Feb. 25.

It is directed by Carole Roscle. The Knutzen Family Theatre is 3200 S.W. Dash Point Road, Federal Way.

Jennifer Chadwick is playing Eva Jackson, a pill-popping, suicidal wife, in the play.

Chadwick was invited to participate in this production by the director, Carole Roscle.

She doesn't quite relate to her character, Eva, but "you have to play your character as a part of you," Chadwick said.

Absurd Person Singular will be the third production Chadwick has done with Centerstage. "I had a lot of fun doing Nunsense at Centerstage in 2005," Chadwick said.

She has also done a Christmas show there.

She wasn't always an aspiring actress. "I did a lot of dance as a kid," said Chadwick.

Her first role was in a high school production of Stage Door. Chadwick has a bachelor of arts in acting from the University of California at Irvine.

Chadwick took a decade break from acting and only returned to acting seven years ago.

The next play by Centerstage will be *Robin Hood: The Legend Continues*, by Martin Charnin, Tom Meehan, and Peter Sipsos. *Robin Hood* will open March 23 and run through April 15.

Chadwick will not be involved in *Robin Hood*.

"It's hard to do back-to-back shows, they overlap," Chadwick said.

Ticket prices range from \$8 to \$25.

For more information about Centerstage or for tickets, visit [www.centerstagetheatre.com](http://www.centerstagetheatre.com) or call 253-661-1444.

## Blend artist doesn't make it to Highline

Blend attendees didn't have much to listen to yesterday.

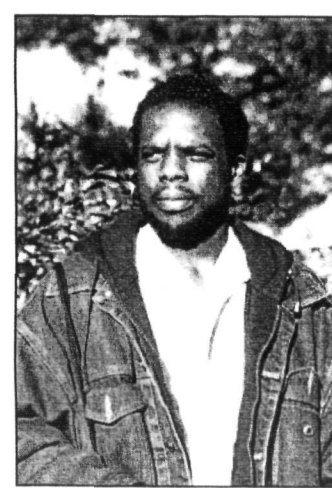
Roman Tucker, the recorder-playing, poem-spitting artist for this week, didn't show up for his performance.

The Blend is a concert that takes place every other Wednesday in the Bistro, which is in the Student Union. They usually go from 10 a.m. - noon.

Artists this month were selected from actual Highline students; however, Tucker does not currently attend Highline and has only taken one class here.

Equipment had been set up yesterday morning as normal, indicating that Blend organizers weren't given any notice of Tucker's absence.

Steve Simpkins, who organizes the Blend, said that



Ramon Tucker

he believed Tucker thought the show was at 10:30 p.m., rather than 10:30 a.m.

Simpkins intends to continue organizing the Blend with purely Highline students including: Jennifer Graybill, and Steven Weston.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

|    |   |   |   |    |    |
|----|---|---|---|----|----|
|    | - |   | x |    | 21 |
| x  |   | ÷ |   | +  |    |
|    | - |   | x |    | 16 |
| +  |   | + |   | +  |    |
|    | - |   | x |    | 15 |
| 24 |   | 6 |   | 18 |    |

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 3 4 5 7 8 9

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8. HISTORY: "Baby Doc" Duvalier was dictator of what country before he was overthrown?

9. TELEVISION: In what comedy series did the robot Hymie appear?

10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who was Gumby's sidekick in the animated series?

- Answers
1. Upper thigh (sartorius)  
2. Bruce Springsteen  
3. Intellectuals  
4. British Columbia  
5. Dr. Seuss (Theodor Geisel)  
6. Billy Crystal  
7. Order Sirenia  
8. Haiti  
9. "Get Smart"  
10. Pokey

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Arts Calendar

•Tangoheart, an evening of romantic music and dance, comes to the Kent-Meridian Performing Arts Center, 10020 SE 256th St., Kent, on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. The Seattle-based Tangoheart Sextet is hailed as one of the best tango orchestras in North America. Tickets for Tangoheart are \$16 for adults and \$14 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave. N., Kent, or by phone with a Visa or Mastercard during business hours at 253-856-5050.

•Wylie & the Wild West will bring their blend of western swing, classic country, cowboy, and folk music to the Kentwood

Performing Arts Center. 25800 164th Ave. SE, Covington, Friday, Feb. 9 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$15 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave. N., Kent, or by phone with a Visa or Mastercard during business hours at 253-856-5050.

•The City of Kent is seeking local talent and artists to perform/sell their wares for the following community festivals.

Festivals include the Fourth of July Splash; and Cornucopia Days, July 13-15, 2007. Live performers, artists and craftspeople are encouraged to apply. Artists who can provide activities for children also are needed.

Last week's

Go Figure!  
answers

|    |   |   |   |    |    |
|----|---|---|---|----|----|
| 5  | - | 2 | x | 7  | 21 |
| x  |   | ÷ |   | +  |    |
| 3  | - | 1 | x | 8  | 16 |
| +  |   | + |   | +  |    |
| 9  | - | 4 | x | 3  | 15 |
| 24 |   | 6 |   | 18 |    |

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 9 |
| 5 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| 9 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| 8 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 |
| 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| 1 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 6 |
| 7 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 |

Great Ideas

Across

- 1 Adventure story  
5 Small thin cookie  
10 Memory measurement  
14 Actor Douglas  
15 Extremely sharp  
16 Abnormal respiratory sound  
17 Thought  
18 Area between the Rockies & the Sierra Nevada  
20 London pm refreshment  
21 A Christmas carol  
22 Skillful  
23 Dilutes  
25 Lug  
27 Art gallery  
29 Marathon, e.g.  
33 Mindless  
34 'Lil Abner's Dad  
35 Spitzer of NY  
36 Small child: Var.  
37 Walks back and forth  
38 Song  
39 Southwestern Native American  
40 Passover supper  
41 Squander  
42 Official document  
44 Contract  
45 Melody  
46 A drink of liquor  
48 Different  
51 Barnyard resident  
52 Computer key  
55 City in Montana  
58 Plant a bug  
59 Pack  
60 Expect  
61 Sign  
62 Comedian Murphy  
63 Sen. Kennedy to family  
64 Clean

Down

- 1 Short performance  
2 Helper  
3 Superior, et al

Crossword 101

By Ed Canty

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 |    |    |    | 15 |    |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    |
| 17 |    |    |    | 18 |    |    |    |    | 19 |    |    |    |
| 20 |    |    |    | 21 |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |    |
|    |    | 23 | 24 |    |    |    | 25 | 26 |    |    |    |    |
| 27 | 28 |    |    |    |    | 29 |    |    |    | 30 | 31 | 32 |
| 33 |    |    |    |    | 34 |    |    |    |    | 35 |    |    |
| 36 |    |    |    | 37 |    |    |    |    | 38 |    |    |    |
| 39 |    |    |    | 40 |    |    |    |    | 41 |    |    |    |
| 42 |    |    | 43 |    |    |    |    |    | 44 |    |    |    |
|    |    |    | 45 |    |    |    | 46 | 47 |    |    |    |    |
| 48 | 49 | 50 |    |    |    | 51 |    |    |    | 52 | 53 | 54 |
| 55 |    |    |    | 56 | 57 |    |    |    | 58 |    |    |    |
| 59 |    |    |    | 60 |    |    |    |    | 61 |    |    |    |
| 62 |    |    |    | 63 |    |    |    |    | 64 |    |    |    |

- 4 Alias: Abbr.  
5 Radio Flyer, e.g.  
6 Area units  
7 Propane, e.g.  
8 JFK initials  
9 Out to pasture: Abbr.  
10 Wall Street worker  
11 Comfort  
12 Faux pas  
13 Shelter  
19 Cuckoo  
21 Office starting time, perhaps  
24 Sharpen  
25 Imbiber  
26 "\_\_\_\_ I dropped it"  
27 Stomach exercise  
28 Author Loos  
29 Gem surface  
30 "Have \_\_\_\_"  
31 Dimes  
32 Escape  
34 San Diego player  
37 Manual laborer  
38 Imitator

- 40 Gush forth  
41 One-armed bandit  
43 Regular  
46 Firm  
47 Mean  
48 Stare  
49 Trampled  
50 Leader  
51 Happy  
53 Region  
54 Twisted  
56 Obese  
57 Feeling of admiration  
58 Hit the jackpot

Quotable Quote

*We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office.*

... Aesop

By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at [www.gfrpuzzles.com](http://www.gfrpuzzles.com)

For applications, please visit [www.ci.kent.wa.us/arts](http://www.ci.kent.wa.us/arts) and click on opportunities for artists. Performing applicants are asked to send an demo tape or compact disk, along with any photos, biographies or press packets.

•Got arts news? Send

Last week's crossword puzzle solution

GAMING

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | K | I | N | L | A | M | A | R | O | S | L | O |
| I | N | D | O | U | N | C | L | E | S | T | O | W |
| L | I | A | R | S | P | O | K | E | R | C | U | R |
| A | S | H | P | I | N | E | E | V | A | D | E | D |
| S | H | O | O | I | N | E | S | C | A | R | P |   |
|   |   |   |   | P | E | E | L | C | O | N | S | O |
| O | P | T | E | D | O | H | A | R | E | K | I | D |
| P | A | W | N | B | O | A | R | D | B | E | R | G |
| E | R | E | L | A | N | G | E | A | R | R | A | Y |
| C | A | N | D | I | D | E | S | A | G | E |   |   |
|   |   |   | T | I | E | D | Y | E | L | O | W | B |
| A | N | Y | O | N | E | M | E | I | R | A | B | E |
| R | O | O | D | B | A | C | K | G | A | M | M | O |
| A | N | N | E | T | W | E | E | N | A | B | E | T |
| B | E | E | S | S | E | E | D | S | P | I | S | A |

items to the Thunderword at [tword@highline.edu](mailto:tword@highline.edu). Deadline is Monday of each week for Thursday's paper. Listings in the arts calendar are free; preference is given to on-campus events. Items also can be delivered to 10-106.

For information, call 206-878-3710, ext. 3317.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 2 |   |   | 3 | 8 | 7 |   |
| 3 |   |   | 2 |   |   |   | 6 |
|   |   | 5 |   | 7 | 4 |   |   |
|   | 7 |   |   | 8 | 2 |   |   |
|   | 9 |   | 5 |   |   | 1 |   |
| 6 |   | 1 |   | 2 |   |   | 7 |
|   |   | 2 |   |   | 1 | 3 |   |
| 1 |   |   |   | 4 |   |   | 8 |
|   | 5 |   | 6 |   | 2 |   | 4 |

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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# T-Birds tie for first place in West Division

By SAM BOYD

staff reporter

The Highline men's basketball team fought for victories over Tacoma and Pierce last week, improving to 8-2 in the division and climbing to a tie for first place with Pierce in the West Division.

When Highline played Tacoma on Jan. 3, the T-Birds edged the Titans 70-69. This time, Highline would not have any trouble bringing down the hammer on Tacoma in a decisive victory. The Thunderbirds started the game with an aggressive full court press, grabbing steals and executing fast breaks en route to a 47-35 lead at the half.

By the last few minutes of the game, Highline had extended their lead to 30, pummeling the Titans 84-54, though Tacoma got closer within the last two minutes. The final score was 89-66.

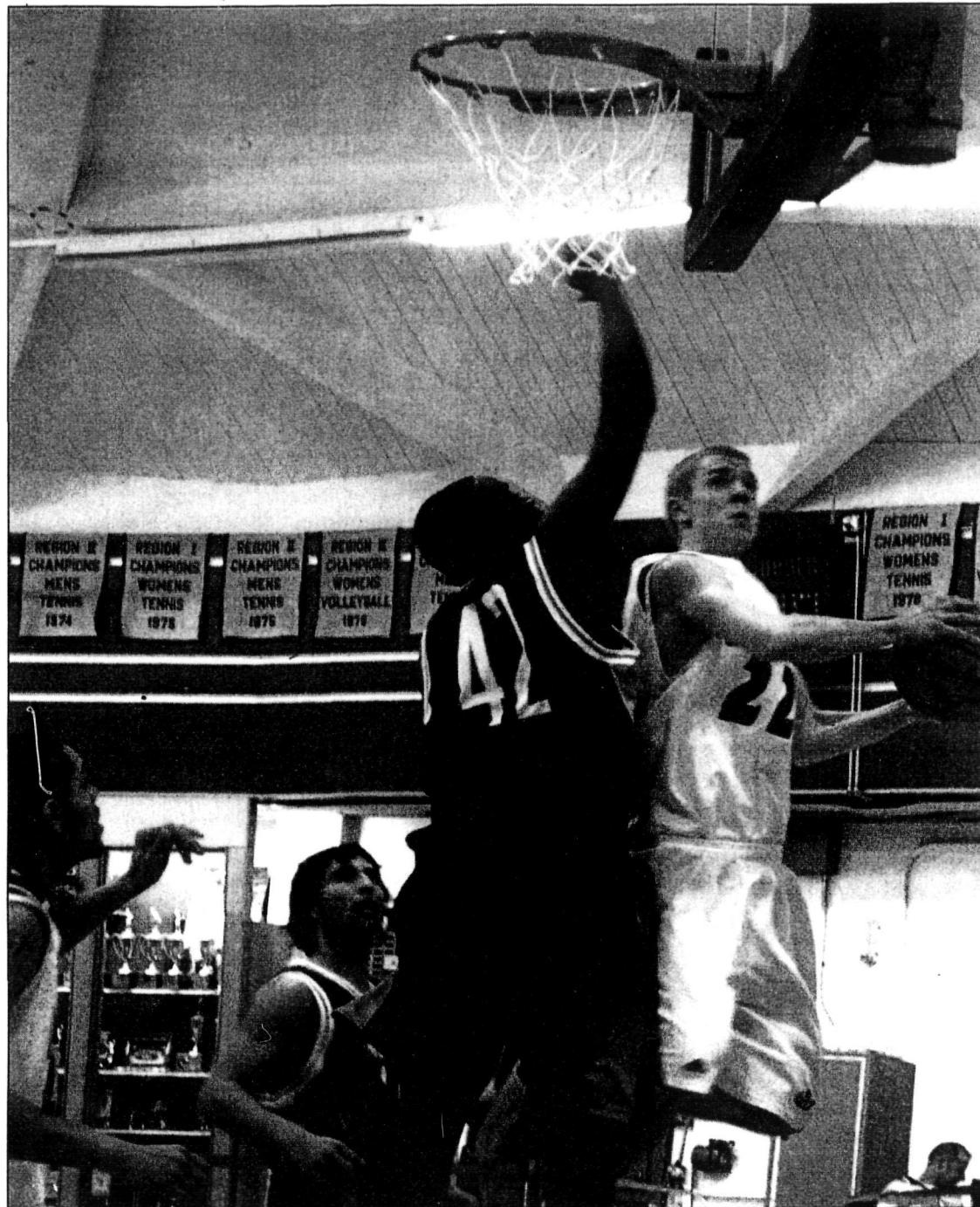
Vaughn Gaines played stellar basketball, shooting four of five from beyond the three point arc and spreading the ball well. Gaines finished with 19 points and six assists.

Center Zach Bruce led the T-Birds in scoring, with 21 points on 10 of 12 shooting, and he added nine boards in a performance that has come to be expected from the 6'7" sophomore from Oceanside.

Derrick Webb added ten points, seven rebounds, and eight assists, and Morris Anderson scored 12 points, bringing down eight rebounds and dishing eight assists.

Highline next traveled to Pierce, seeking a much needed victory over the Raider team that defeated the T-Birds 67-66 on Highline's home court. Pierce came into the game in first place in the West Division, one game ahead of Highline.

Highline jumped to a 26-13



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

Highline's Justin Armstrong seeks to score on Tacoma's Leon King.

lead behind fast break baskets and impenetrable defense, but a trifecta of Noble'd Shelton three-pointers carried the Raiders to within four points. Pierce's defense toughened up and eliminated many of Highline's fast buckets, and the half

ended with a slim Raider lead, 34-33.

In the second half, the two teams battled back and forth, trading baskets and turnovers. The turning point came with 5:03 left, when Anderson stole the ball and dished a long alley-

oop pass to Bruce for an electrifying dunk to tie the game at 56.

Highline never looked back, outplaying Pierce the rest of the game. The proverbial nail in the coffin was Brandon Smith's three ball to extend the Thun-

derbird's lead to 68-58 with 1:10 to go.

The final score was 71-65, and the two teams now share first place in the West Division with 8-2 records.

Webb led the Thunderbirds with 17 points and seven boards, and Bruce added 16 points and seven rebounds. Gaines scored 13 and dished nine assists in a solid performance. The unsung hero of the game was Brandon Smith, who not only scored 13 points but played nearly flawless defense in a gritty effort.

Head Coach Che Dawson said that Highline's defense was the key to the game.

"We did a nice job defensively, limiting their good looks and stopping up the post," Dawson said. "We came ready to play."

Coach Dawson also said that focus has been the biggest factor in the T-Bird's six-game win streak. Specifically, this can be seen in the way Highline has played transition basketball, crashed the offensive boards, and hustled, Dawson said.

Is overconfidence going to be a problem in the last six games of the regular season for a Highline team that has beaten everyone in the division?

"Our guys are mature enough to not overlook anyone at this stage," Dawson said. "We learned our lesson earlier in the season."

"We can't be taking the games and experience for granted. If we appreciate every practice and every game, we will have good results," said Dawson. "If we don't appreciate those, we will struggle."

Results from Wednesday's game with Grays Harbor were not available at press time.

Highline's next home games are with Centralia on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 3 p.m., and South Puget Sound at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

## Scoreboard

### Men's Basketball

#### 02/03/2007

Yak Valley 111, Spokane 107  
W Walla 82, Blue Mountain 70  
Col Basin 84, Tr Valley 71  
Big Bend 107, Wen Valley 74  
Bellevue 97, Seattle 71  
Whatcom 85, Shoreline 68  
Peninsula 108, Edmonds 86  
Olympic 88, Skagit Valley 87  
Clackamas 97, Umpqua 83  
Portland 86, Lane 73  
SW Ore 85, Chemeketa 81  
Mt. Hood 71, Linn-Benton 61  
Tacoma 81, Centralia 79  
Clark 82, Green River 74  
Lower Col 83, SP Sound 47  
Highline 71, Pierce 65

#### 01/31/2007

Everett 72, Peninsula 71  
Olympic 100, Seattle 91  
Bellevue 70, Whatcom 66  
Shoreline 87, Edmonds 86  
Umpqua 98, Lane 55  
Clackamas 99, Portland 70  
L-Benton 103, SW Ore 100  
Mt. Hood 71, Chemeketa 70  
Clark 93, Lower Columbia 79  
Highline 89, Tacoma 66  
Pierce 50, S. Puget Sound 49  
Grays Harbor 82, Centralia 65

#### 01/29/2007

Shoreline 91, Everett 89

#### 01/27/2007

Spokane 82, Wen Valley 55  
Big Bend 117, Yak Valley 111  
Col Basin 80, B Mountain 77  
W Walla 91, Tr Valley 78

Skagit Valley 78, Shoreline 62  
Bellevue 104, Olympic 70  
Everett 94, Whatcom 84  
Peninsula 100, Seattle 89  
Clackamas 95, L-Benton 66  
SW Oregon 98, Portland 74  
Chemeketa 99, Lane 73  
Mt. Hood 67, Umpqua 44  
Clark 76, S. Puget Sound 68  
Highline 84, Green River 80  
Lower Col 77, Centralia 54  
Grays Harbor 73, Pierce 65

#### Standings

| WEST         | League/Season |       |
|--------------|---------------|-------|
| Highline     | 8-2           | 15-5  |
| Pierce       | 8-2           | 14-8  |
| Clark        | 7-3           | 17-7  |
| Lower Col    | 6-4           | 14-9  |
| Grays Harbor | 5-4           | 11-10 |

|             |      |      |
|-------------|------|------|
| Centralia   | 4-6  | 6-15 |
| Green River | 3-6  | 8-12 |
| Tacoma      | 3-7  | 4-16 |
| SP Sound    | 0-10 | 2-19 |

| NORTH         | League/Season |       |
|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Bellevue      | 10-0          | 20-2  |
| Whatcom       | 7-3           | 15-7  |
| Peninsula     | 6-4           | 11-7  |
| Everett       | 5-4           | 10-9  |
| Olympic       | 5-5           | 9-12  |
| Shoreline     | 4-6           | 11-10 |
| Skagit Valley | 3-6           | 8-13  |
| Seattle       | 2-8           | 7-15  |
| Edmonds       | 2-8           | 6-15  |

| EAST          | League/Season |       |
|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Big Bend      | 8-1           | 18-4  |
| Walla Walla   | 8-1           | 18-4  |
| Col Basin     | 7-2           | 19-3  |
| Blue Mountain | 4-5           | 11-11 |

|               |     |       |
|---------------|-----|-------|
| Spokane       | 4-5 | 11-13 |
| Wen Valley    | 3-6 | 5-16  |
| Yakima Valley | 2-7 | 10-13 |
| Tr Valley     | 0-9 | 6-18  |

| SOUTH       | League/Season |       |
|-------------|---------------|-------|
| Clackamas   | 9-0           | 20-4  |
| Mt. Hood    | 7-2           | 15-7  |
| Umpqua      | 6-3           | 12-12 |
| SW Oregon   | 5-4           | 18-6  |
| Chemeketa   | 4-5           | 12-10 |
| Linn-Benton | 3-6           | 12-12 |
| Portland    | 2-7           | 5-17  |
| Lane        | 0-9           | 6-18  |

#### Upcoming Games

#### 02/10/2007

Big Bend @ Blue Mountain  
Treasure Valley @ Spokane  
Centralia @ Highline



# Lady T-Birds tighten grip on first place

## Highline tames Tacoma, paddles Pierce as win streak reaches nine

By YONAS WOLDEMICAHEL  
staff reporter

Remember the Titans. Highline did, and then sacked the Pierce Raiders in a week that saw the Lady T-Birds solidify their lead in the NWAACC West Division.

Highline is now 9-1 in division play, 19-4 overall.

With three weeks left in the season, the T-Birds seem headed for the NWAACC tournament once again.

Highline beat the Tacoma Titans 80-76 on Wednesday, Jan. 31, avenging an earlier loss, and then slid past Pierce 47-31 on Saturday.

Against Tacoma, from the second the tip off took place many fans and observers could quickly sense the electricity buzzing around the Pavilion, as many expected the game came down to the wire.

The Lady T-Birds appeared to have a vicious vendetta as they stepped out on the court.

The last time these two teams met Tacoma won by a score of 62-57; now it was Highline's turn to return the favor.

It was a close first half as Highline only led by four points at halftime, and remained close as both teams scored 43 points

during the second half.

"As far as Tacoma goes, we made some small adjustments at halftime that I believe were the difference in the game," Head Coach Amber Rowe said. "The girls put those adjustments into action and we were able to build a lead."

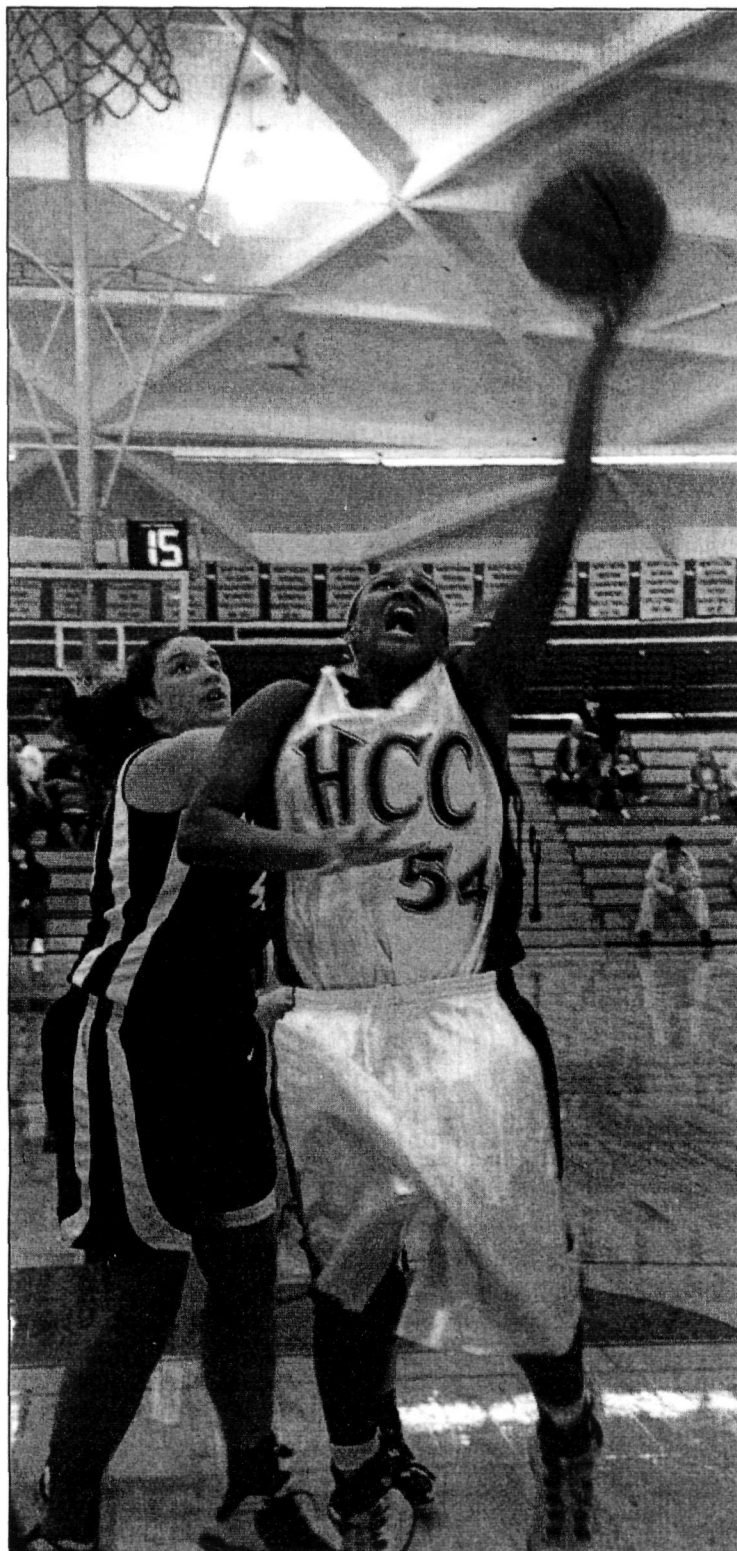
"My only real concern with the Tacoma game was our clock management and end of the game demeanor. We should have slowed the action down once we were up 12, but instead we made long, risky passes and did not take good care of the ball," Rowe said. "That is a product of being so young, that will get better."

This is an optimistic view from a coach whose team mostly consists of freshmen and two sophomores.

"During this game we had a season high 30 assists, which means that there was no one player taking care of the team," said Lady T-Bird Jasmine McEachern. "But if I had to nominate an MVP it would be Kim Dodson."

Dodson had the only double-double on the team with a spectacular show of 25 points and 10 rebounds. Samantha Tinned added with 20 points.

After the home game with



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

Lady T-Bird Valerie Cook goes for a lay up against Tacoma.

Tacoma, Highline hit the road and headed over to Pierce where it was a different story.

Of the original 13 players listed on the Lady T-Birds ros-

ter only nine played against a five team line up. Highline was only able to defeat Pierce by 16 points.

"We only played with nine



Amber Rowe

girls because we were trying to heal some injuries," Rowe said. "I was erring on the side of caution with a couple of girls who probably could have played, but I felt a couple extra days off would really be best."

"In missing a couple players it put us a little out of our rhythm and normal rotation. In addition to this we just could not put the ball in the basket; we missed a lot of open shots," Rowe said. "This comes from not being mentally ready to play at a high level. I believe that the girls gave effort and played hard, but not smart or prepared. In their defense I am sure it is hard to get yourself psyched up for a team who you beat by 50 the first time."

Rowe could say that again. Highline shot 19 for 59 for total shots attempted and made, and only made eight out of 15 free throws.

Although, Highline more than doubled the total number of rebounds that Pierce had (67 to 30), they also turned the ball over 30 times compared to Pierce's 12 turnovers.

Even though the Lady T-Birds don't always play with the tenacity and motivation a team should have, they've extended their win streak to nine games.

Results from Wednesday's home game against Grays Harbor were not available at press time. Highline has two home games in the coming week against Centralia on Feb. 10 and South Puget Sound on the 14.

## Scoreboard

### Women's Basketball

#### 02/03/2007

Yak Valley 63, Spokane 49  
W Walla 82, Blue Mountain 51  
Col Basin 75, Tr Valley 59  
Wen Valley 77, Big Bend 57  
Bellevue 84, Seattle 62  
Peninsula 54, Edmonds 43  
Skagit Valley 73, Olympic 46  
Clackamas 90, Umpqua 54  
Linn-Benton 73, Mt. Hood 71  
Lane 83, Portland 72  
Chemeketa 108, SW Ore 40  
Tacoma 77, Centralia 73  
Lower Col 60, SP Sound 39  
Green River 65, Clark 59  
Highline 47, Pierce 31

#### 01/31/2007

Seattle 90, Olympic 58

Everett 69, Peninsula 58  
Bellevue 74, Whatcom 62  
Clackamas 79, Portland 49  
Lane 96, Umpqua 58  
Chemeketa 84, Mt. Hood 56  
L-Benton 124, SW Oregon 43  
S. Puget Sound 80, Pierce 29  
Centralia 73, Grays Harbor 54  
Lower Columbia 79, Clark 38  
Highline 80, Tacoma 76

#### 01/27/2007

Centralia 69, Lower Col 53  
Col Basin 83, B Mountain 68  
Spokane 71, Wen Valley 67  
Tr Valley 67, Walla Walla 65  
Yak Valley 74, Big Bend 63  
Bellevue 96, Olympic 40  
Everett 73, Whatcom 64  
Peninsula 75, Seattle 67  
L-Benton 65, Clackamas 57

Portland 100, SW Oregon 57  
Lane 53, Chemeketa 51  
Umpqua 73, Mt. Hood 60  
S. Puget Sound 86, Clark 42  
Highline 70, Green River 64  
Pierce 54, Grays Harbor 41

### Standings

| NORTH         | League/Season | WEST         | League/Season |
|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Bellevue      | 9-1 19-2      | Highline     | 9-1 19-4      |
| Everett       | 8-1 18-3      | Tacoma       | 8-2 14-7      |
| Skagit Valley | 7-2 15-4      | L Columbia   | 8-2 12-7      |
| Whatcom       | 7-3 13-9      | Centralia    | 6-4 13-9      |
| Peninsula     | 5-5 10-9      | SP Sound     | 6-4 12-9      |
| Seattle       | 4-6 9-13      | Green River  | 3-6 4-15      |
| Edmonds       | 3-7 7-13      | Clark        | 2-7 2-15      |
| Olympic       | 1-9 3-17      | Grays Harbor | 0-8 1-16      |
| Shoreline     | 0-10 1-17     | Pierce       | 1-9 1-19      |

### EAST

### League/Season

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| Yakima Valley | 8-1 22-2  |
| Col Basin     | 8-1 17-5  |
| Wen Valley    | 6-3 11-12 |
| Spokane       | 5-4 15-7  |
| Walla Walla   | 4-5 11-11 |
| Tr Valley     | 3-6 8-16  |
| Big Bend      | 2-7 9-14  |
| B Mountain    | 0-9 2-20  |

### SOUTH

### League/Season

|             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| Lane        | 9-0 21-3  |
| Clackamas   | 7-2 16-7  |
| Chemeketa   | 6-3 17-7  |
| Linn-Benton | 6-3 17-7  |
| Mt. Hood    | 3-6 11-12 |
| Portland    | 3-6 10-13 |
| Umpqua      | 2-7 10-13 |
| SW Oregon   | 0-9 1-19  |

### Upcoming Games

#### 02/09/2007

Treasure Valley @ Big Bend  
Blue Mountain @ Spokane

#### 02/10/2007

Blue Mountain @ Big Bend  
Treasure Valley @ Spokane  
Walla Walla @ Wenatchee  
Centralia @ Highline  
Tacoma @ Clark



# Highline limps into the regional tournament

By KORY FARRELL  
staff reporter

Highline wrestlers are bruised, but not beaten as they head into the post season Region 18 tournament.

Competing for the title this year are six teams: the Clackamas Cougars, the Glendale Gauchos, the Highline Thunderbirds, the North Idaho Cardinals, the Pima Aztecs, and the Southwestern Oregon Lakers.

Taking the mat for Highline is Steven Velasquez at either the 125 or 133 pound weight class, Michael Markey at 149, Justin Studer at 157, Pano Dreves at 165, Lionel Orji at 174, returning All-American and top ranked Brad Padgett at 184, Zach Nims at 197, and Roy Chambers at heavyweight.

For the past three years Highline has consistently sent seven to eight qualifiers to the season ending national tournament. But this year due to injuries, an illness, and ineligibility they're pressing to send that many to the regional competition.

"We want to try to take 10, but really our team right now is pretty plagued with injuries," Head Coach Scott Norton said.

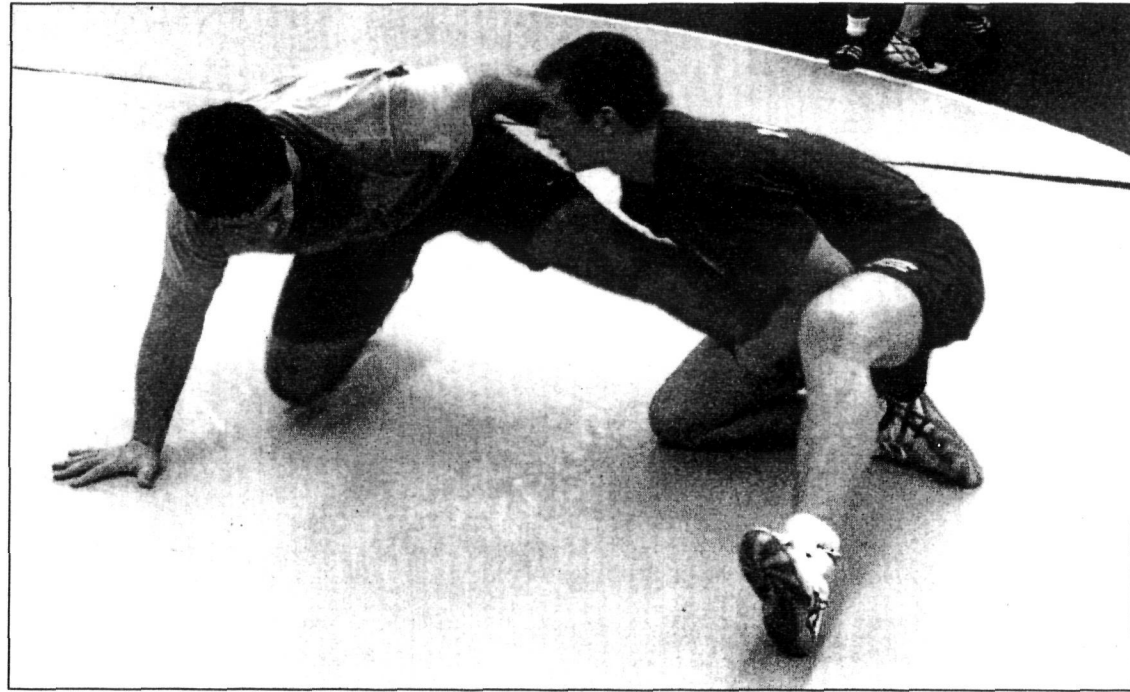
Norton says that having five starters banged up is not the ideal way to go rolling into the tournament, and he also would have wanted T-Bird wrestler Chris Mather's presence at the 133-pound weight class.

"He actually would've helped us out a lot," Norton said. "Because he probably would've made it to nationals. He's pretty good."

Also at 141 pounds, freshman Anthoni Heffernan was robbed of potential trip to the national tournament in Rochester, Minn. by a fractured tibia during practice. Heffernan had a winning record of 13-9. Norton had high hopes for his starter at 141, but Heffernan will sit out for the duration of the season.

In the recent NJCAA coaches' poll, Highline was ranked 10th in the nation with all of their wrestlers healthy. But with the recent injuries taken into account, Norton suspects their chances of chasing the team title are slim.

If Norton had his choice of who is favored to win it, though, he'd nominate the North Idaho Cardinals. The Cardinals went 10-6 over the regular season, and posted six nationally ranked wrestlers; at 141 pounds (Heinrich Barnes, ranked second); 149 (Coby Jones, fifth), 157 (Kenny Qualich, seventh); 184 (Kyle Sand, second); 197 (Evan Mattingly, fifth); and heavyweight



Pano Dreves tries to prevent his opponent from escaping.

(Robbie Shaw, eighth) classes.

North Idaho Head Coach Pat Whitcomb believes his own team is favored to win by a small margin, followed closely by Southwestern Oregon (the only NWAACC affiliated team to hand them a defeat this year) and Clackamas (who tied with them in a Cardinal home dual meet).

"I think the Region 18 tournament will be the closest in recent years," Whitcomb said. "With a trip to nationals on the line anything can happen."

Whitcomb said Clackamas could be the dark horse team, citing that they had the individuals to make a run for the title.

Among these individuals for Clackamas is sixth ranked Sam Schmitz at 149 pounds, who is undefeated against his junior college peers with a record of 10-0, and 24-6 overall. Schmitz is one rank below the Cardinals' Coby Jones, but posted two victories over him in the regular season.

Clackamas Head Coach Josh Rhoden, looking forward to entering his first Region 18 tournament, has faith in Schmitz, and in his 157-pound wrestler, Seth Roy.

"He's [Roy] really been a standout for us this year at 157," Rhoden said.

Rhoden said that the three front-runners of this tournament will be North Idaho, Southwestern Oregon, and his Cougars. Rhoden thinks that Southwestern Oregon will be the dark horse.

The Lakers would be a surprise presence as they have no wrestlers individually ranked and are not ranked as a team.

Norton gives credit to Southwestern Oregon's dual meet skills, but said they don't have

enough guys who can be real forces in the tournament. Norton's original choice for the dark horse of the tournament would have been his own team, but with the recent run of bad luck the team has endured, he thinks Pima's chances as a surprise team might be a little better.

What Norton is sure of is how intense the competition will be at 184.

"The toughest weight class in the country could be 184, at least in our region because we've got [Highline's Brad] Padgett ranked first, [North Idaho's

Kyle] Sand ranked second, and Pima [Travis Degroat] ranked third," Norton said. "Usually you don't see the top three guys in the country ranked the top three in the region."

Norton is confident, though, that Padgett will do well against Sand.

"He's [Padgett] got a lot of offense," Norton said. "He's got a whole arsenal of stuff."

Despite a lackluster dual meet season, the T-Birds are ready to show what they're really made of.

"Everything is a learning ex-

perience and practice until Regionals and Nationals. We're all 0-0 right now," 165-pound wrestler Pano Dreves said. "We're working hard, we're a tournament team, and going into regionals and nationals we're going to prove our stuff."

As a freshman Heffernan said earlier in the season that wrestling in college is like entering a different realm.

"In high school there are some good kids and some not-so-good kids," Heffernan said. "But in college everybody is good so you always have to be on your A game."

Norton said that many of his weight classes can qualify for the National tournament, and that the only thing standing in their way is themselves.

"Every day they need to wake up telling themselves that they're the best wrestler in their weight class," Norton said. "And that's what they need to be telling themselves when they go to bed, too, until it's engrained and they truly believe that."

"It's up to them to step up and perform, they've got all the technique and their conditioning is good. It just comes down to mentally who's ready to go."

"Wrestling is an individual sport, it's all in your head, 90 percent mental, 10 percent physical," 197-pounder Zach Nims said. "Just go out there and give it all you got. No one can ask for any more."

"Most of the time you know that your team believes in you and you believe in yourself, and it's not so much focusing on what they're going to do to you, but what you're going to do to them."

The team is wrestling light this week, recuperating from a brutal January.

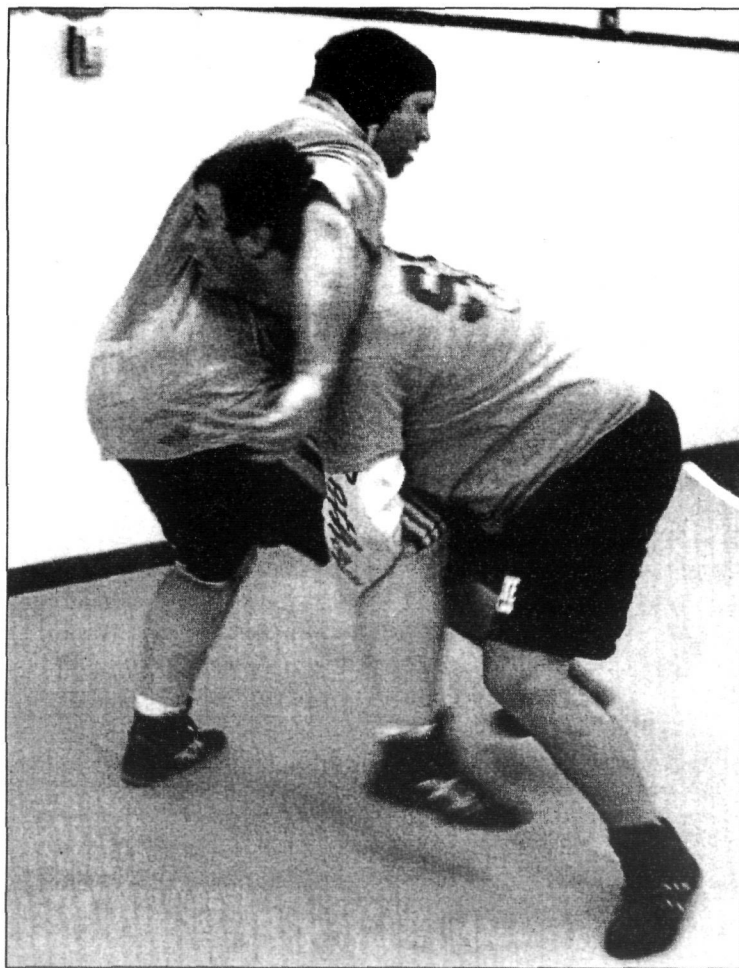
"It was tough, we had some tough practices," Norton said. "But now it's time to relax, let their bodies recuperate, and roll into there fresh."

"We're banged up this year, but I don't feel like any of our guys are burned out or over-trained," Norton said. "Even if you are injured, as long as you're fresh going into the tournament that's usually the way you want to go into it."

On the eve of battle, Norton admits he is a little bit nervous.

"We're kind of limping into the tournament. You really never want to go into a tournament that way," Norton said. "But that's how it is, and sometimes we just have to wrestle through the adversity. You can let it beat you, or you can beat it."

"I think our guys are capable of beating it."



Highline heavyweight Roy Chambers works on takedowns with practice partner.

MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

# Conference Coordinator ready for opportunity

By MEGHAN TAVARES  
staff reporter

Renting spaces is the name of the game for Donna Longwell, Highline's conference coordinator. Since November of 2006, Longwell has single handedly managed to coordinate the entire campus's activities.

Before coming to work for Highline, Longwell was an entrepreneur who owned restaurants, catering businesses, and a touring organization called Majestic Charter and Tours.

"When I saw this position was available I applied, thinking this would be a wonderful way to spend the rest of my career. The students keep me young," said Longwell.

Countless papers are fastened to the looming board above her desk.

"This is only one week's events," said Longwell gesturing to her board. "Last year we did over 1,400."

Although it might seem like a

lot to organize, Longwell shows only a smile of content. This seems to be her calling.

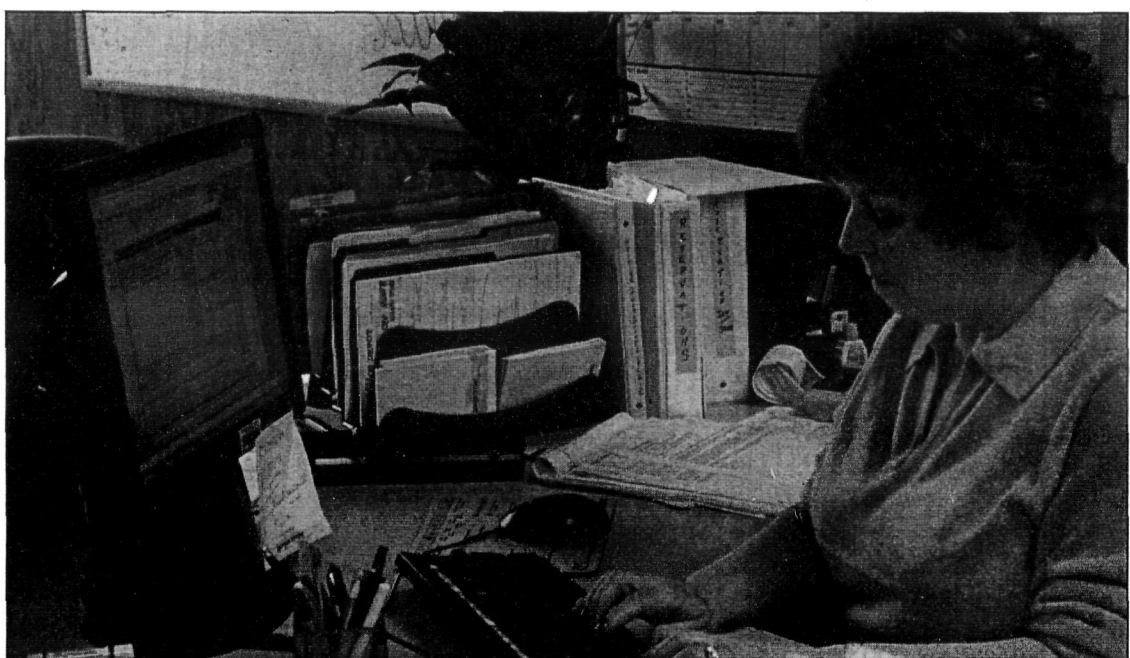
You can tell that Longwell enjoys her position. She thrives amidst apparent chaos, but it's not the busy atmosphere that keeps her going. Instead it's the constant reward of helping the students and faculty.

From board rooms to classrooms she will rent available space.

"I'll rent the lawn if it'll make money for the campus," said Longwell. The Student Union, Mt. Townsend Dining Room, Mt. Olympus, Mt. Constance, Mt. Skokomish, Building 2, Building 7, the Library Board Room, and many classrooms are frequently rented.

Highline is host to the Rotary Club, weddings, the Boeing Stamp Club, the Latino Club's Noche de Arte — an upcoming formal dance called Enchanted Winter Night — and many more events.

"I'm noticing that more fac-



NICHOLAS DOLAN/THUNDERWORD

Donna Longwell, Highline's new conference coordinator, types away furiously at her computer

ulty and students are utilizing the facilities we have here," said Longwell.

The base rate ranges from \$55 to \$550. Amenities are available at additional cost.

"An estimated 8 percent of the profit made goes towards the Student Union Building," said Jodie Robinett.

The empty place where a door used to be welcomes you

into Longwell's office in Building 1. Her office hours are usually 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., but in reality she works wherever she goes. "I'm always available to talk," said Longwell.

## Lobbying for purification of nuclear waste site

By BRYNN FULLER  
staff reporter

Cleaning up the Hanford Nuclear reservation should be a bigger priority, an activist said here Wednesday.

Hyun Lee, an attorney for Heart of America Northwest, a group dedicated to cleaning up the Tri-Cities nuclear facility, spoke on Wednesday to a group of around 40 people in Woody Moses' Environmental Science class.

Lee said the Hanford Cleanup is a mess.

The reservation is 560 square miles and houses 177 containers filled with high level nuclear waste. Out of those 177 containers, 69 have leaked more than 1 million gallons of waste into the environment, he said.

Nuclear waste is "the most dangerous material humankind

has come up with," he said.

The Heart of America Northwest is mainly concerned with the "mixed waste" that has been dumped into Hanford, a partially solidified low level waste and partially toxic waste.

Unfortunately, Lee said, this waste has been mostly deposited in unlined burial grounds — in other words, dirt trenches. Due to this, the hazardous waste could potentially seep through the ground into the Columbia River.

This pollution would greatly affect the environment, Lee said.

"If the waste enters the Columbia River the life blood of the region is contaminated," said Lee. For many years nothing was done to prevent this damage, he added.

Lee said the Department of Energy continued to release

waste into this area, and made no progress in creating a safer surrounding for the waste to reside in. They want to make Hanford into the national radioactive waste dump, he said, meaning that 70,000 truckloads would be delivered to Hanford.

Routes to deliver this waste would run through densely populated areas in Western Washington, Lee said.

Consequently, the Heart of America Northwest helped come up with Initiative 297. The initiative aimed to force clean up of Hanford and an end to waste dumping there. In 2004, Initiative 297 passed with a 70 percent approval from Washington voters.

The day before the initiative was to be certified, the Department of Energy filed a lawsuit opposing this initiative and certification was postponed. Heart

of America Northwest intervened in the lawsuit in defense of Initiative 297. In court, the judge sided with the Department of Energy. The Heart of America Northwest appealed the court ruling and is awaiting a ruling on its appeal.

However, another path could lead to cleanup at Hanford, Lee said. Two bills now before the state Legislature both support the clean up of the Hanford site to the "extent practicable," as the bill states.

Heart of America is calling all citizens to lobby for the approval of these bills, Lee said.

They are spreading the word

about Lobby Day 2007, which takes place next Thursday, Feb. 14.

The priorities of Lobby Day this year are to clean up and create a healthy Puget Sound area, eliminate toxic flame retardants, promote clean air and fuels, and invest \$100 million in the Wildlife and Recreation Program.

At Lobby Day people will be learning how to lobby from top non-profit lobbyists and will have the chance to meet elected officials.

The cost of the event is \$15. For more information visit [www.Pugetsound.org/index/lobbyday](http://www.Pugetsound.org/index/lobbyday).

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# Mount St. Helens has been busy, Baer says

By BRIANNE BEETS

staff reporter

Mount St. Helens is erupting at this very moment, according to Highline professor and esteemed volcanologist Eric Baer.

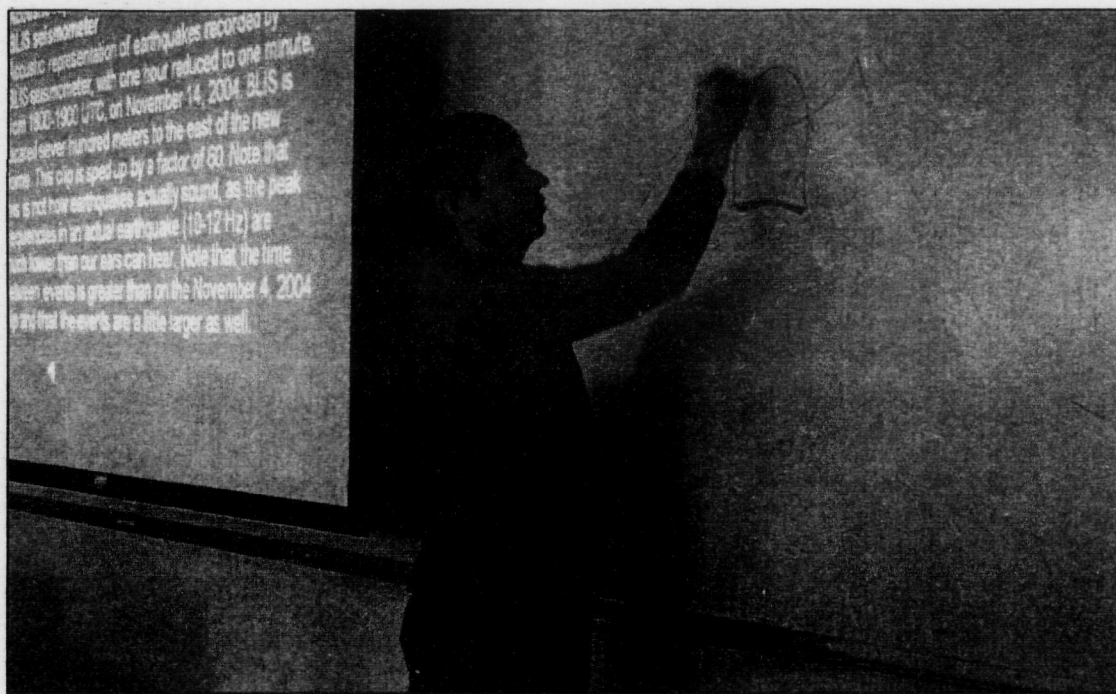
Last week's Science Seminar took an in-depth look at the goings-on of Mount St. Helens since it became active again in September 2004.

"My perception is that a lot of the public does not know that Mount St. Helens is erupting. It is an amazing opportunity to go see an erupting volcano, only a few hours' drive from here," Baer said.

Currently, Mount St. Helens is emitting three tons of lava per second, "about a pickup truck load; this is building a huge pile of debris called a dome," Baer said.

The lava, which is approximately 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit "seems to have been sitting under Mount St. Helens since at least 1986," Baer said.

Baer explained that what's most baffling about Mount St. Helens is that since its eruption it has continued on at such a



Dr. Eric Baer illustrates his point during last week's Science Seminar on the continuing activity of Mount St. Helens.

steady pace for so long.

"Usually volcanoes go through periods of less activity and greater activity, a big explosion and then quiet, then lots of activity again," Baer said.

Mount St. Helens has been steadily erupting for the past

two and a half years.

Because of this rarity it "is a terrific opportunity for scientific advancement and education," Baer said.

When Mount St. Helens erupted in May 1980, Baer was in Colorado, but came to the Pa-

cific Northwest in August.

"I collected ash when I was here and I still use that ash in some classes to teach about volcanoes and geology," Baer said.

A professor at Highline for the past nine years, Baer received his bachelor's in geology

from Carleton College in Minnesota and a Ph.D. in volcanology from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

"I was in South America (Ecuador) and there were all these amazing volcanoes there which either hadn't ever been studied or needed lots more work on them. They were very dangerous, and yet very little was known about them, so I decided it would be great to pursue volcanology," Baer said.

Baer explained that the possibility of an even bigger eruption than in 1980 could happen again was unlikely in the near future, but when it happens, "ash will be spread throughout the area, and depending on the direction the wind is blowing that day, could even fall here," Baer said.

Ash damages engines, contaminates water supplies, makes driving difficult to impossible, will destroy aircraft's that attempt to fly through it, and can interfere with communications and electrical supplies.

Science Seminar takes place every Friday at 2:20 p.m. in Building 3.

## Courses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

portant," Walton said. "The fear is that it would remove academic freedom."

What Common Course Numbering means is a lot of work, faculty say.

"It means that we have to rework a bunch of classes and some classes might be eliminated. It has big repercussions campus wide," Walton said.

Walton explained one reason for the new system is a belief that students are suffering because they end up taking the same course at two different schools.

Another problem Walton said that he has with the new system is that the four-year schools are not having anything to do with it.

"The University of Washington is not going to participate," Walton said.

President of the Faculty Senate Phil Droke said that a vote was taken and over 90 percent of more than 90 faculty members voted to oppose the current plan for Common Course Numbering.

Yesterday afternoon, the Faculty Senate voted unanimously on two resolutions.

The first was the faculty was responsible for naming course numbers. The second was that faculty supported a simple web

based table instead of the numbering system.

"Anyone could enter a course from any school in the state and find its equivalent, if any, at any other school," Droke said.

Droke said that Common Course Numbering is not in the best interest of the college.

"I believe that the change in all of our catalogues, our course adoption forms, and every publication there is from the college, will be costly and ineffective,"

Droke said. "There will be a large amount of labor required to follow through with Common Course Numbering, all of which could find much more productive things to do like help students determine the best set of courses to take in order to achieve their goals."

Droke explained that faculty can do something about this.

"The faculty can voice their concerns at every opportunity," Droke said.

The deadline for the implementation has been delayed until 2008.

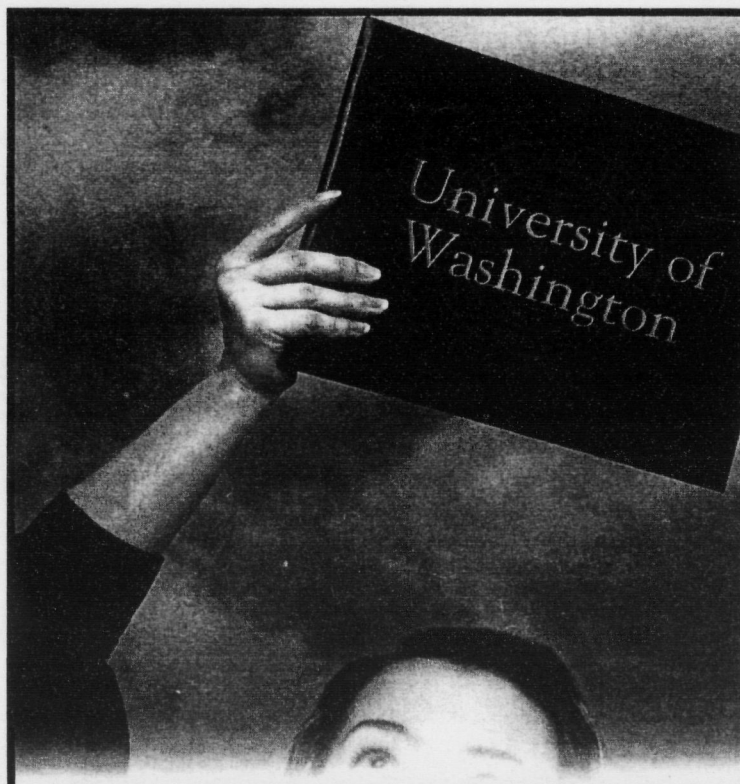
The Washington State Board said that the plans for the new system are progressing.

"The vice presidents are determining the finer details of how the common courses will appear in the college catalogs and class schedules. They will make a proposal to the presidents within the next month," said Jan Yoshiwara, director of

Education Services for the State Board.

Yoshiwara explained that some colleges are fully on board and are just waiting for the green light to move forward.

Although no one has said whether or not colleges have to comply with the system Yoshiwara said that the colleges will be strongly encouraged to do so in order to best serve the students who transfer between two-year colleges.



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## Interim

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

my opinion on the war and concerns about it," he said.

"I thought the [Vietnam War] was not in our best interest."

Fast forward to 2001, where Bermingham was one of three finalists to become the new president of Highline.

It was a "very exciting opportunity," he said, although he did express disappointment when he was not selected in the end, having lost the position to Priscilla Bell.

That same year he was awarded by the Washington Education Association for human and civil rights for his work on making staff and faculty "more inclusive in curriculum."

Fast forward to now, where Bermingham is now in the position that eluded him six years ago.

Of course, not everything is perfect and he does have his fair share of challenges to face.

"I would like to create more time...to interact with student groups," he said although he is "not sure how to structure that" due to his other duties.

Another difficult challenge Bermingham cited is funding from the state.

"As a community college, we're underfunded," he said.

In spite of these bumps in the road, Bermingham is still an optimist. "I think [there are] really exciting things for the college," he said.

One goal he is passionate about is reaching out to the massive immigrant community in the surrounding area.

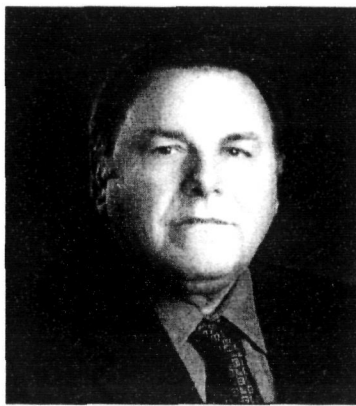
Many immigrants nearby struggle with the English language, Bermingham said.

"We want to provide educational opportunity for them. We try to impress upon them we are their community college too," he said.

"We'll really make a difference, not in this community, but in the larger society as a whole," Bermingham said.

While he has held his position for the past two months, his current title is still interim president, meaning he is not officially president of Highline and only filling in until the Board of Trustees finds the right candidate.

Some at Highline say Bermingham should officially be-



Jack Bermingham

come president, but that is still uncertain.

Bermingham himself avoids the topic, only saying he would "probably" accept the position if the Board chooses to offer it to him.

In the time being, whatever trials Bermingham may face, he is not going at it alone.

"My success [of being president] rests a lot on the dedication and commitment of my colleagues," Bermingham said.

"It feels like I owe them and [Highline] some loyalty [and] I want to support their passions of making a difference in students' lives. It's an honor to serve in this capacity with such a strong leadership team."

## Arrests

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

group, Melvin James Lyons, is being charged as well for assault in the second degree for stabbing a man in the caucasian group.

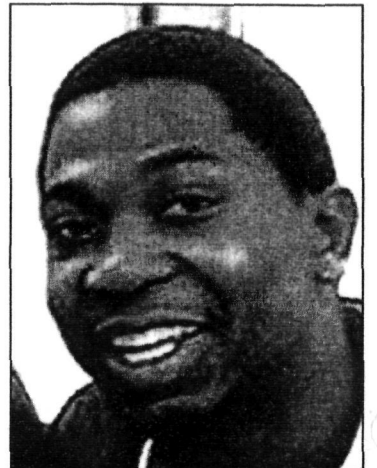
According to the police report, Lyons chased the caucasian group back to their apartment after the initial stabbings and stabbed one of the men. Lyons also pleaded innocent to his charges on Dec. 4 and is awaiting trial after having posted bail later that month.

The charges, filed on Nov. 21, came nearly two months after the incident. Kent Police Public Information Officer Paul Peterson said time was needed to piece together a case that couldn't be solved based on witness testimony.

"They (the witnesses) all saw it from their own perspective," Peterson said. "They had all been drinking, so we had wildly varying stories."

Rather than relying on tainted testimony, Peterson said more advanced measures had to be used in the case.

"Based on works done by the



Jessie Drungo

laboratory, particularly DNA testing, we were able to file charges against the person who was the suspect," he said.

Two knives were involved in the case, both of which were recovered at the crime scene. DNA evidence from one of the knives was used to make the arrests. "The person who denied even having a knife indeed had that knife and bled on it," Peterson said.

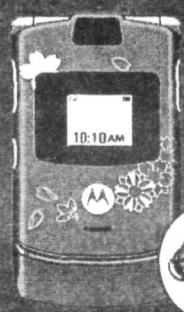
While Johnson's attorney declined to comment, Dan Donahoe of the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office said that they are preparing to go to trial.

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# *Inside* **SCOOP**

*The Thunderword Magazine*

*February 8, 2007*



**ANTI-Valentine's Day**

**HOW TO SAY NO  
FINGSTY MUSIC  
WORST ROMANTIC MOVIES  
TO A DATE**





# Valentine's Day is not so lovely after all

## St. Valentine did not intend for candy hearts

By **LOVELY LOPEZ**  
staff reporter

Why is it year after year we find ourselves last-minute shopping for the obligatory stuffed bear, the perfect single rose that sooner than later will die, and of course the inevitable overpriced chocolates for this fairytale holiday, Valentine's Day.

Why? I ask you. I'll tell you why. Because we are tools.

We have been manipulated to believe that this "holiday" is the only day worthy of actually letting the people you love aware of your affection.

It's madness, and maddening.

The fact of the matter is Valentine's Day is still a mystery. The day is based off a few ambiguous romance tales that could strum the chord of any person's heartstrings.

But is it worthy of making another expensive holiday? Seems like a stretch.

St. Valentine is the protagonist of the faulty love stories.

One legend is that the Emperor Claudius II of Rome decided the best-fit soldiers were unmarried men. Rumor has it he banned marriage and the heroic Priest Valentine defied this law and continued to secretly wed young couples. Eventually, Valentine's romantic deeds were discovered and he was sentenced to death.

One tale simply says Saint Valentine saved many Christians from death and torture during the time they were being persecuted and eventually was put to death for his actions.

Another legend tells that while Valentine was in jail, for what it doesn't specify, he fell in love with the prison guard's daughter.

While in prison he wrote her a letter, said to be the first Valentine greeting because he signed it "From your Valentine."

Either way, Saint Valentine's death occurred around 270 A.D. sometime in the middle of February, and eventually a Roman Emperor decided to a holiday in Valentine's name because of his gracious deeds.

All of these stories somehow have resulted in our never-ending need to proclaim our love



through 99-cent boxes of Harry Potter, or Dora the Explorer valentines.

Which baffles me, seeing as the point was not to send generic love notes, or only show that you care for someone via a stuffed dog with a heart collar around its neck.

Understand that Saint Valentine cared for people, and was just as lovesick as we are. His point was not to start a trend of giving tart candy hearts with meaningless "I love u's" engraved on it.

Of course, as we've gotten older, we've managed to step even further away from Saint Valentine's valiant efforts to spread true love through a message here or there.

We've now added an overpriced dinner for two in a restaurant filled with over hormonal teenagers ogling each other; a vomitacious love movie; and of course the mood lighting at the end of the night.

It is kind, and understandable to acknowledge Saint Valentine

in all his glory.

The fact that we need a specific day to finally give extra attention to our loved ones does not say much about our character. In fact, it makes us lazy, and

thoughtless.

Our compassion should be extended to every day of the year. We should not have to rely on Hallmark's assortment of how to say I love you cards.

Not only does not following this "holiday's" trend save you some dignity, it should save you some money.

Just think all the money you would save NOT buying that dozen roses, or that famous men's cologne, or the necessary smooth romantic jams CD. It tells your beaux how you feel to a delightful tune.

If you must participate in this wretched, guilt-inducing holiday, be creative with your gifts.

Instead, I recommend making your love something. It's cheap, and thoughtful.

If you must descend to the mushy mix tape, make it specific, and include songs written by someone other than Luther Vandross.

Nothing says I love you like a homemade dinner.

If you watch movies, attempt to watch something other than *The Notebook*. Instead watch something that you both can have a good conversation about such as *Brick*, or classics that never get old such as *Star Wars*.

If you really want to induce a cuddle marathon, pop in any flicks galore.

Anything that will make your skin crawl is perfect.

Finally, for a gift, why not simply frame a picture of you and your other.

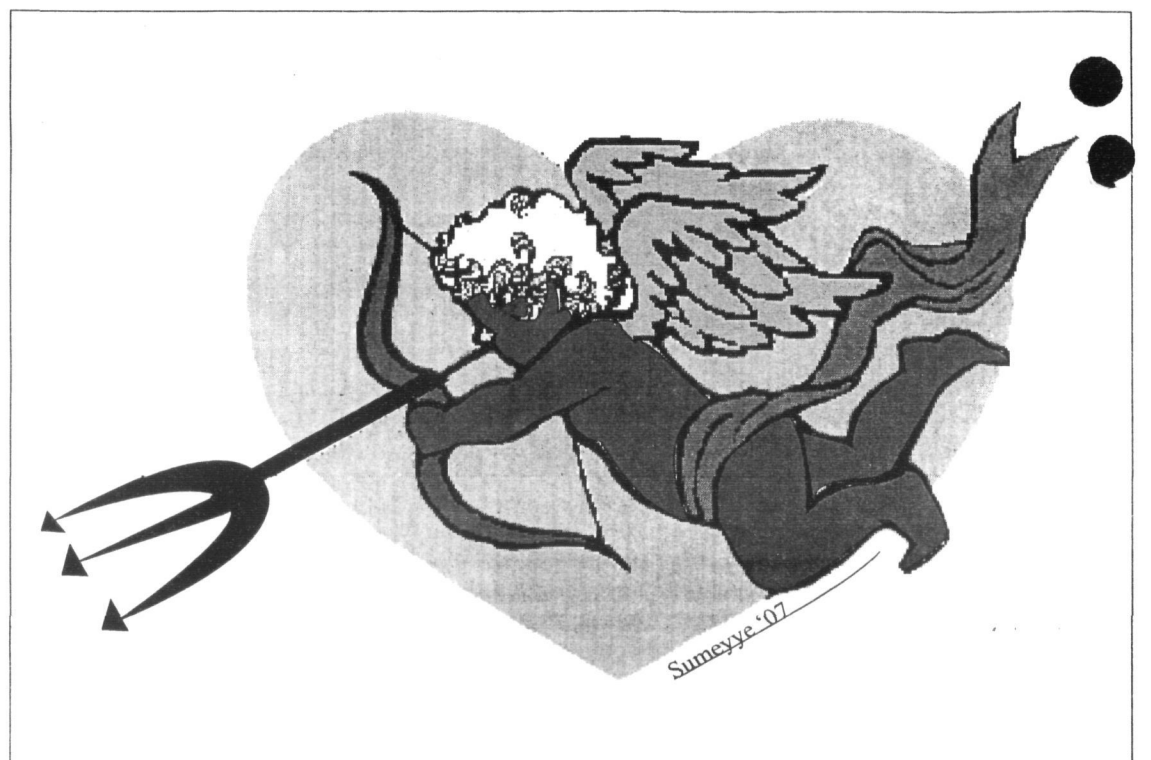
Or do you have any special hidden talents that you could use to express your love?

Take advantage of the few talents you actually have and use them to woo your prince or princess.

Please don't forget your family, that will inevitably be expecting a gift or two.

Love is a beautiful thing, but please, just don't make it a generic notion.

*Lopez is so over you now, Brad.*





# Give a big, fat no, for Valentine's Day

## Ladies can say no by acting crazy

By ALICIA MENDEZ

staff reporter

Ladies, letting 'em down easy never works.

Let's be honest girls, we've been raised to be polite and ladylike. But the older we get the harder we find it is to be polite and ladylike to the hoards of sweaty, festering men that buck up the courage to ask us out.

Too often we find ourselves in that same predicament, our friends wailing at us, asking why on earth did we say yes to go out with this person. What's the response? It's always 'I didn't want to be mean,' or 'I tried saying no and he just didn't get it.'

Who's to blame? The persistence of this man who so adores our beauty? Or our door-mat tendencies?

I think it's clear we are to blame and we need to grow a backbone.

I think with a few of these simple tactics we can avoid becoming a doormat for the trampling feet of unwanted advances.

Keep in mind, men read into everything. An extra wave can set off the deepest of manly urges and assures him you most definitely want to go out on a date with him.

So to avoid this, once a man starts talking to you — a man in whom you are not at all interested in — walk away. That's all you have to do, don't excuse yourself, don't apologize, just walk away.

At all times carry a bulky crucifix in your purse, or around your neck. If a man does not understand that you are not interested simply pull this sucker out and yell "Back! Back!" Make your noblest attempt to speak in tongues and don't forget to foam at the mouth.

Never forget that any man is a potential predator who only wants to sleep with you to make lots of babies, and stick you in a house where you spend all day cooking and cleaning.

So to avoid those types, make them fully aware that you are a backstabbing wench who will cheat on him with his brother; you will take all his money; also stay on birth control behind his back, so he will assume you're barren.



PATRICIA O'NEILL/THUNDERWORD

Lastly, inform him the only thing you know how to cook is microwavable ramen.

If for some reason you're already with this man and can't find the right way to turn him away, here are a few little helpful hints:

One thing any man cannot stand is a crazy, unbalanced woman.

If you have baggage, lay it all on him. He'll be sure to turn and run.

**"At all times carry a bulky crucifix .... If a man does not understand you are not interested simply pull this sucker out and yell 'Back! Back!'"**

If you don't have baggage, make up your problems; let him know at any time you can break down.

If he says he can handle it, begin sobbing uncontrollably in restaurants because they have Pepsi instead of Coke.

Constantly tell him to do one thing, and when he does it, yell at him for doing so.

Once you've rid any man of finding you attractive physically and emotionally, go to your room and pout in your wonder of why you just can't find the perfect man.

## Men can say no by being dumb

By ROBERT LAMIRANDE

staff reporter

Despite popular beliefs that have existed for ages, not all men are trying to have sex with the next woman they see. In fact, many men, like women, have to worry about turning down undesirable dates.

Men, not naturally being socially oriented, may have a trickier time saying no then women, so I've come up with a few quick tips to ensure that you

don't wake up next to the girl of your nightmares.

Whereas male come-ons are usually transparent and blunt, those of the female influence tend to be more cryptic and suggestive. Women give clues, small hints to pull their prey along, most of which they believe to be concrete when men are usually left speculating.

A one-second pause, a bat of an eyelash, or an unwarranted smile may be the only warning you get before you're considered to "know." However, women tend to understand that men don't usually pick up on such subtleties, so one's best line of defense may be to play the role of being stupid.

For instance, a woman might say that you have a lot in common, suggesting that you may

really like such-and-such movie. What's convenient, she says, is that she would love to see the movie again.

When faced with a situation like this, don't panic. Instead, wear an expression of extreme disinterest and confusion. "Those kinds of movies suck," you could say, or, "Going to the movies is lame. Want to go drink beer with my friends?"

If she rolls her eyes, you've done well.

Another rule of thumb is to stick with a group of testosterone-heavy friends. Such companions are extremely reliable when it comes to making what would normally be a beautiful, delicate moment into an awkward mess.

Just think how effective it would be if a buddy cut the woman off in mid-sentence with a crooning cat call of epic proportions. Also, friends who nudge you in the ribs as you're talking to women are extremely valuable when trying to avoid dates.

For those of you who don't think well on your feet or don't have any friends obnoxious enough to keep you date-free, try the age-old solution of complete avoidance. Work with her?

Quit.

Go to school with her?

Drop out.

You've been best friends since the sixth grade and she knows all of your friends, family, coworkers, and keeps a shrine of you in her closet?

Move to Cuba.

However, there are times when you need to simply say no. Undesirable women's feelings should certainly be accounted for, but sometimes saying no is the only thing that will work.

Otherwise, be clever, be creative, and be glad that at least somebody thinks you're cute.

## Get personal -- with ads!

### Man seeking moose.

So, if anyone has seen my wife please call. She can usually be found at the Sizzler on Pacific Highway, as they are the one establishment with a salad bar that has not banned her for life.

### Man seeking princess.

Tired of being solo, looking for a rebellious girl, with attitude. A little forceful is fine. Must love wookies.

### Girl seeking boy.

My

requirements are that he smells good, has green eyes, spikey hair, and is sentimental. If you fit into this category and aren't in a serious relationship than I am totally available.

### Girl seeking wimp.

A glorified hand-holder, purse-carrier, and shoulder to sob on is needed. Must keep cellphone on at all times to my beckoning call. A man with any semblance of self-respect need not apply.

### Lioness seeking nerd

Persian Viking Princess of Doom is looking for her prince. The kind of man who wears glasses, ties, and pocket protectors. Must be good at math and enjoy playing games such as: Checkers, and Risk. Must have a wild side for late nights of calculus and molecular science.

**I want a woman** to fill me with bovine inspiration. A herd mate -- get the yoke?

# Valentine dinner for one can still be fun

If invitations for dinner aren't pouring in this Valentine's Day don't worry because dinner by yourself can be just as delicious.

Valentine's Day doesn't just have to be about two people; instead you can celebrate the fact that you are single.

Enjoy the moment and make yourself a great tasting dinner that you can remember for years to come.

Cooking for one is sometimes a hassle but if you are tired of cup of noodles and tuna fish than maybe it's time to splurge on you this Valentine's Day.

Because most recipes are not geared for one person they can be a challenge.

Try to find recipes that are easy to cut in half or even in fourths.

This Valentine's Day I'm recommending baked chicken with rice and a fresh Caesar salad. For the finale, we have an easy strawberry dessert.

Start with the brown rice. Brown rice has more nutritional value than white rice because the process of removing the layers to get white rice reduces the nutrients.

If you do not have a rice cooker than follow these simple instructions for cooking brown rice:

1 ¼ cup of water  
½ cup of brown rice  
Dash of salt

In a small pan, combine water and salt and bring to a boil. Add rice, cover and reduce heat to a simmer.

Cook for 45 minutes or until water is absorbed.

With the rice cooking it's time to get the chicken ready.

An easy but elegant recipe for cooking chicken breast is as

## Big Jo's Kitchen



JOCIE OLSON

follows:

½ cup of spaghetti sauce  
¼ cup of bread crumbs  
1 lightly beaten egg white  
1 boneless chicken breast  
2 tablespoons of shredded mozzarella cheese  
1 tablespoon of grated Parmesan cheese

Preheat the oven to 350°. Pour ¼ cup spaghetti sauce in a small baking dish and set the dish aside. Put bread crumbs in a small dish and eggs whites in another small dish.

Dip the chicken into the egg whites and then roll the chicken in the bread crumbs.

Spray an unheated skillet with olive oil no-stick spray and heat it over medium heat.

Place the chicken breast in the skillet and cook for about 4 minutes on each side until browned.

Then place chicken in the prepared dish and top it with the remaining spaghetti sauce. Sprinkle with mozzarella and Parmesan cheeses.

Bake for about 40 minutes or until the temperature of the

chicken breast reaches 170°.

While the chicken is baking you can make the Caesar salad.

Traditional Caesar salad is prepared with romaine lettuce but you can substitute that for others.

For the salad you will need:  
½ head of romaine lettuce  
¼ cup of grated Parmesan cheese

For the dressing you will need

½ tablespoons of lemon juice

½ teaspoon of anchovy paste

¼ teaspoon of Dijon-style mustard

1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper

1/8 teaspoon of chopped garlic

2 ½ tablespoons of olive oil

For making the dressing, mix together lemon juice, anchovy paste, mustard, pepper and garlic.

Use a whisk and mix until smooth. Add the olive oil and mix until well blended.

Wash the lettuce leaves and pat dry. Tear the leaves into bite-size pieces and put them in a salad bowl.

Add the dressing and 3 tablespoons of Parmesan cheese then toss well. Sprinkle the salad with the remaining cheese and croutons.

If you are feeling adventurous or you don't have any try making your own crutons.

Butter both sides of a few French bread slices and sprinkle some garlic power on both sides.

Cut bread slices into bite-



PATRICIA O'NEILL/THUNDERWORD

sized pieces and broil croutons for about 1-2 minutes or until they are browned.

Now, the best part of being alone on Valentine's Day is you can eat as much dessert as you want.

For a simple but tantalizing dessert try this strawberries and cream recipe.

½ cup of fresh or frozen strawberries  
1/8  
¼ tablespoons of cornstarch  
1/8 cup of water  
½ tablespoon of lemon juice

After hulling and slicing

strawberries in half, combine them with sugar and cornstarch in a medium saucepan.

Mash strawberries using either a fork or a potato masher. Add water and lemon juice to bring mixture to a simmer.

Stir constantly until it is thick; this will take about 8 minutes. Remove from heat and allow it to cool completely.

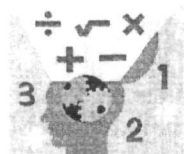
Spoon strawberry mixture over vanilla ice cream. For a sweet touch add some mini chocolate chips.

When your meal is ready, sit back and enjoy it by candlelight.

*Big Joe always dines alone*

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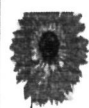
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BY SIMONE SNOW

staff reporter

While some Highline students have spent past Valentine's Days with their sweetheart, others have spent it breaking up with that special someone.

"I broke up with [someone] in junior high on V-Day. It was horrible because he put a rose in my locker," said Highline student Loni Walker.

"I broke up with my girlfriend on V-Day. We had plans to go ice skating but she was pissing me off with her antics. So I did the meanest thing possible," said a student who declined to give his name.

"I broke up with him. We decided that it wasn't going to work out since he cheated on me," Maria Mazur said.

In a survey of 120 students, 28 people said they have experienced a break up on or close to Valentine's Day.

"I got flowers from my boyfriend on V-Day and they were meant for another girl," Liza Zum said.

"Two days before V-Day, my boyfriend told me he was using me to get over his last girlfriend," Kasia Kupsia said.

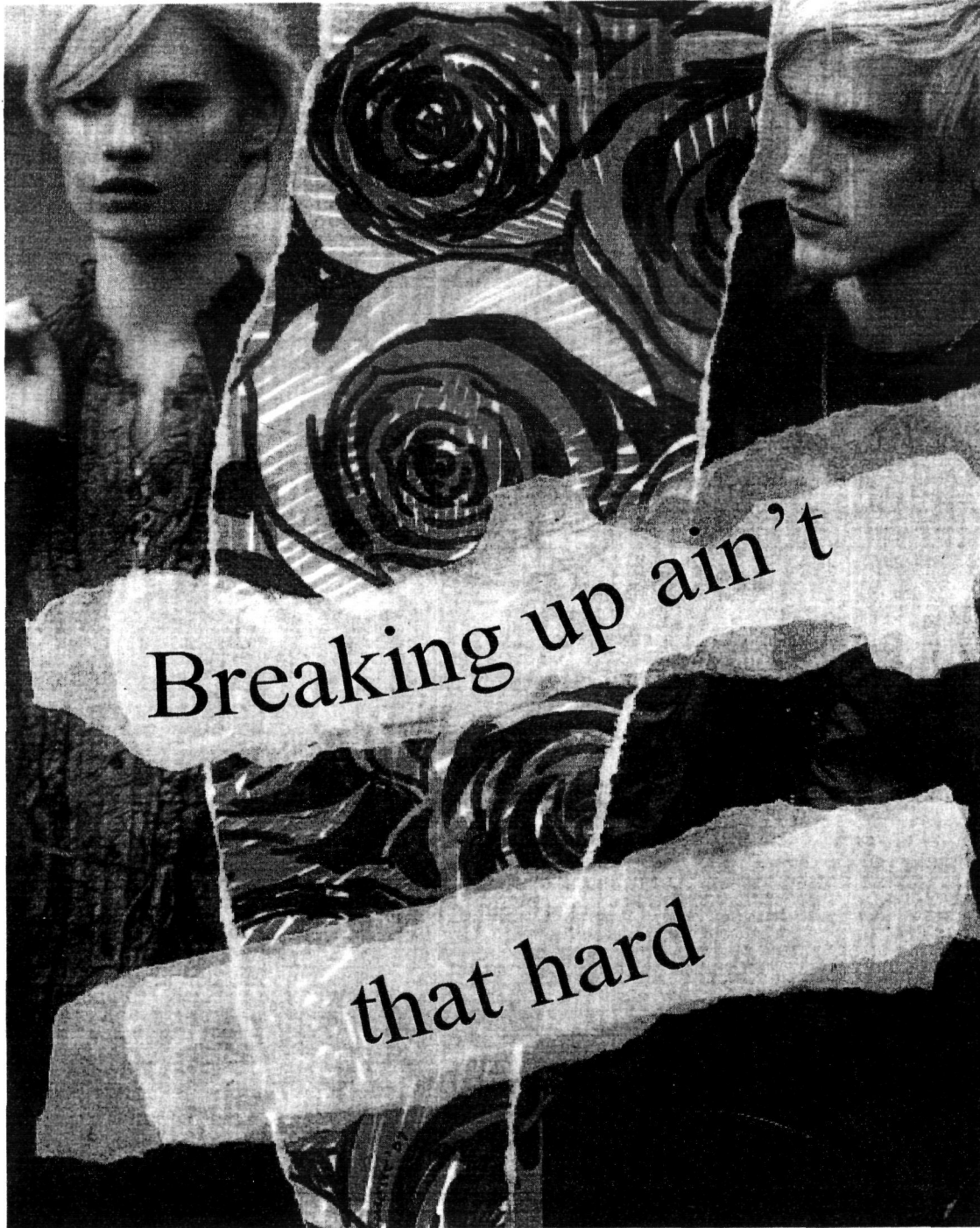
"I was in elementary school and I broke up with him because he was a geek," Brooke Culley said.

Regardless of the timing of a break-up, Highline psychology Professor Ruth Frickle said everyone needs to take time to get past the loss of the relationship.

"Coping with a break-up differs depending on whether you're the one who is doing the breaking up, the one who is broken up with or when it's mutual," Frickle said.

"When a relationship ends, it's a loss that needs to be grieved, even if you're the one doing the breaking up.

"It's helpful to think about what you've learned from the



SUMMEYEE UNIVER/THUNDERWORD

## Even on Valentine's Day, couples kill the beast

relationship that can improve future relationships," Frickle said.

"Bad-mouthing the other person can actually harm your self-esteem, so don't do it."

Frickle said it is also important to have a support system in place in the wake of a failed relationship.

"No matter what the situation, you need a social support network. Friends and family you can talk to about your feelings," Frickle said. "You want to maintain your network while you're in the relationship so that if the relationship does end, you have someone to turn to."

The causes of break ups are

usually so multifaceted, Frickle said, that it is hard to determine whether the stress and hype surrounding Valentine's Day is one of the factors.

"I honestly have no idea whether break-ups are more frequent then or if V-Day causes break ups," Frickle said. "The factors that can contribute to

break ups are myriad and complex. There is not a yes or no answer."

While some students have gone through a Valentine's Day split from their boyfriend or girlfriend, most people reported no such incident.

"Nope. I'm as solid as a rock," said student Janelee Wal-dock.

"Break-ups? Yeah right. I never have a girlfriend around Valentine's Day," Brian Dotson said.

"It's not really a break up, we just didn't spend Valentine's Day together," Tiffany Pham said.

Even though a total of 92 students said they never experienced a Valentine's Day break up, several students said past Valentine's Days have not been kind to their romantic relationships.

"I was dating this girl around Valentine's Day that had a brain tumor, but she was one of those obsessive types and so I ended up breaking up with her a couple days later because of that. Then, she went and told everyone that I broke up with her because of her brain tumor, which really sucked," said Highline student Kaplan Bodily.

Elizabeth Olin said she broke up with her boyfriend on Valentine's Day after he got mono from kissing another girl.

Tara Michelle Hasme said her boyfriend called her at 5:30 a.m. on Valentine's Day and broke up with her.

"When I was 11, I broke up with my boyfriend at the time because he didn't give me a Valentine's Day card and I made a big deal about it," Nadia Rodriguez said.

"I broke up with a guy because he was rude," Kristina Holloway said. "He treated me badly at dinner so I left him there stranded."

Reporters Arnel Custic, Audra Patterson, and Meghan Tavares contributed to this story.

## Singles groups offer fun for a price

BY GARNET WONG-WOO

staff reporter

Single Highline students who are unable to find time for romance on Valentine's Day, or any other day, this year might want to consider looking into local Seattle dating companies.

Dating companies are organizations that create several types of events that allow singles to mingle and have fun getting to know other singles. Companies will host events that are either group oriented or one-on-one dates. There are some companies that offer both types of dating options.

A few local firms are hosting events for Valentine's Day.

Space City Mixer is a Seattle social company that started as a small cocktail gathering in 1999. It eventually grew in attendee size and now plans events for many singles that range in the age from 25 to 45. Fun, outgoing characters blended with a few shy personalities is what others can expect when going to an event, Space City Mixer employee Kim Savage says.

The type of events they offer are ski trips, art walks, movie nights, cooking classes, cocktail parties, and so on. They have about 15 to 20 events per

month.

For Valentine's Day this year they will be hosting a social gathering at Azura Bistro, which is a modern Asian bistro and sushi bar. The event will be at 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. with a \$28 fee that can be paid online.

"We welcome everyone," Savage said.

Joining Space City Mixer is free. To sign up for a membership, singles can go to the Space City Mixer web site and just enter their e-mail address.

The only thing members have to pay for is reserving a spot at

SEE SINGLE, PAGE A6

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# Rock me, baby

*When you've got nothing to say, just add music*

BY LANCE LOVE

staff reporter

Nothing says Valentine's Day quite like a really bad romantic song.

And the airwaves are full of them, year after year, decade after decade, as bands and artists add to the ever-growing litany of jilted lovers' lamentations.

When your love-life is crap, nothing quite so explains your loss as bad poetry. Maybe it's because most pop music is written by 20-somethings who don't yet know that relationships are like buses — when one leaves, wait 15 minutes and another one will be along soon.

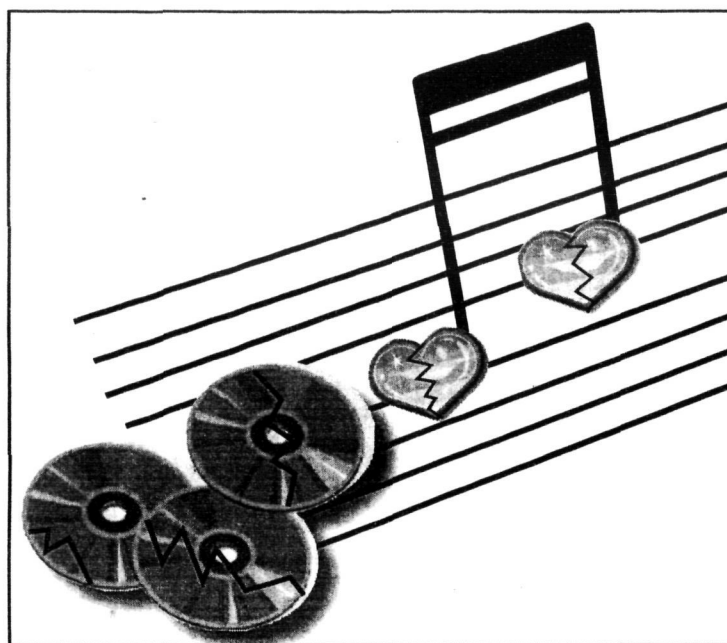
Go way back to the 1970s, a decade in which the highest cultural achievement was a '50s revival, when radio stations inflicted listeners with such gems as *Brandy* (by a largely forgettable band called Looking Glass).

Brandy was apparently a major babe who had fallen for a guy who would rather be at sea with a bunch of men. Now, there's nothing wrong with that, but own it, sailor-boy. And Brandy, honey, get a clue! You're the wrong gender for this guy!

Sometimes the love lost isn't even a woman. In the only love song ever written about Enumclaw, The Byrds' *Chestnut Mare*, Roger McGuinn sings of the horse he's chasing, "And

we'll be friends for life; she'll be just like a wife." Ride 'em, cowboy.

Judging by their music, some folks were just meant to be alone. Take Eric Carmen's *All By Myself* (or the equally annoying Celine Dion version). There aren't enough drugs on the street to get you through a relationship with that



SUMEYYE UNVER/THUNDERWORD

much angst.

Foreigner, one of the great early formula-metal bands of the 1970s and '80s, brought us album after album of viciously puerile groping and self-flagellation. A critic at the time noted that a Foreigner concert had all the chemistry of a corporate board meeting, their lyrics had the charm of an annual report.

This ranged from the amazing *Hot Blooded* (in which da boys try to convince a potential groupie to dump her date for a

night of meaningful sex with strangers), to the truly painful *I Want to Know What Love Is*. Note to self, gents: It's the other four-letter word.

But as someone said, sad songs make me feel so good. I'm not sure why — let's face it, they're sad. I guess somehow wallowing in self-pity is one way to get through it all.

Little has changed in the ensuing decades. In Senses Fail's 2002 wonder, *One Eight Seven*, the lads lament: "You ripped my heart out, you tore my eyes out, now you're gonna pay. I'll stab you one time. I'll eat your heart out, so you feel my pain..."

That's a song lyric? You should know why she's not with

you anymore, bucky. It makes you wonder if the B-side of that number was a musical version of the restraining order she had to get when she dumped you.

Of course, if you can't get enough musical smarm, there's always radio diva Delilah, still holding court on local radio on many a depressing evening.

She's on for five hours a night, but it only seems like seven or eight. This queen of the pathetic takes calls from lovesick losers, who typically tell her: "My girlfriend left me; I just want her to know I still love her..." followed by some maudlin song dedication.

It makes you want to reach through the radio and grab that guy by the collar and shout "She's gone! She's never coming back! Get over it!" just before applying the obligatory head-butt.

That's tough love, but at least it's real.

*Lance is indeed all by himself, most of the time.*



Foreigner: Generally, more hair than talent.

## Single

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A5

spot at an event. Fees will vary depending on the type of event.

However, for singles looking for a little more intimacy, It's Just Lunch might be what you're looking for.

It's Just Lunch focuses on pairing up singles with other successful, professional singles who have a variety of interests.

It's Just Lunch started in 1991 and was created by a single Chicago woman who was uncomfortable with personal ads, blind dates, and such. She eventually decided an ideal type of date would be to have a lunch date or a drink after work. Since then It's Just Lunch has locations both nationally and globally.

The company confidentially interviews singles individually at the It's Just Lunch office in Seattle. Then they try to match up other clients who might be compatible based off of the information given during the interview.

Next they contact both individuals and set up a reservation at a Seattle or Bellevue restaurant. On the date of the reservation both individuals can meet

and enjoy lunch, or if lunch isn't an option a drink after work.

After the date both individuals can either exchange information and arrange for a second date if they're interested in one another. After every date It's Just Lunch will ask for feedback about the date and the impression of the person. This helps them make an even more precise match for a next date.

It's Just Lunch doesn't list prices on its website, however.

Space City Mixer's web address is: <http://www.spacecity-mixer.com>

For more information about Azura Bistro, singles can visit the web site: <http://www.azurabistro.com>

For those interested in It's Just Lunch can call the Seattle office at 206-340-0100

Singles can also check out the web site for the Seattle branch of It's Just Lunch at <http://www.itsjustlunchseattle.com>

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THE THUNDERWORD/FEB. 8, 2007/PAGE A7

# Sappy romantic flicks to pass the time

By DAVID BIEHN  
staff reporter

The relationship between audiences and romantic movies has been a rocky one for the last 20 years.

Viewers are being sold the same movie over and over again. Boy meets girl, stuff gets in the way, they live happily ever after, or one of them dies.

Here is a list of some of the worst romantic movies of all time, and a word of warning to those who read it: if you find yourself watching one of these movies with a viable spouse and they seemed to be enamored with it, they might not be the best to procreate with.

*Love Story* is a perfect example of this plot "cut and paste" trend. It takes the layers of complexity and depth of human relationships, and boils it down to one easy-to-remember definition: "Love means never having to say you're sorry."

Ali MacGraw stars with Ryan O'Neal as Jennifer Cavillier-Barrett and Oliver Barrett. Like most romance movies, it's a tale of differing views of class; the twist here, is that the girl is the poor one.

They meet in college, he got money, she's a working class stiff, and that's just where their problems begin. They fall in love, marry, and try to begin a family.

But problems arise when they try to conceive a child and they find out that she is actually dying of cancer.

Meanwhile the audience is dying of boredom, as they watch this overly dramatic and simplistic look at the human condition. If love means never having to say you're sorry, then the makers of this movie owe a big apology to the audience.

If you took *My Fair Lady*, cut out the music, and changed Audrey Hepburn's character to a hooker with a heart, you'd get something resembling *Pretty*



Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze discover the joys of wet clay in *Ghost*.

*Woman*.

Julia Roberts plays Vivian Ward, the best-looking prostitute ever. She meets Edward Lewis, played by Richard Gere, the most gracious client a hooker could ask for. He offers to pay Vivian to accompany him for an entire week. Over time they teach each other about life, and how to be better people.

Not many people can say their life was changed by a call girl; the same way that not many guys can say they liked this movie. The movie tries to reinforce a belief that all a woman needs is a rich man to rescue her, to save her from all her problems. *Pretty Woman* is more science

fiction than romance.

*Dirty Dancing* seems to have the idea that if you have dance in your heart, anything is possible.

Jennifer Grey plays Frances Houseman, a young girl from a wealthy family. Set during the summer of 1963, Frances accompanies her family to a resort where she meets Johnny Cas-

tle, played by Patrick Swayze. Frances becomes attracted to Johnny's rebel ways, and after a series of events, they end up becoming dance partners.

This movie can be found on top five all-time movies lists of most females.

It may come as a big disappointment though, when they find out that they will never find

a guy to sweep them off their feet, and segue into a dance routine.

Patrick Swayze continued that same trend of unlikely romance stories when he starred in the movie *Ghost*, alongside Demi Moore. Their relationship is only briefly touched upon in the opening 10 minutes of the movie. When Sam (Swayze), is shot and killed trying to protect his girlfriend Molly (Moore) in a mugging, he finds himself still on earth as a ghost.

Sam soon finds out that his death was no accident, and that his girlfriend is in danger. Unable to communicate with her as a ghost, he enlists the help of a psychic, played by Whoopi Goldberg.

Swayze's character has more of a pulse than this movie does, and the plot is just as transparent as he is.

The sinking of the Titanic was one of the greatest tragedies in history. It's no surprise that there would be a movie made dramatizing it, though it is unfortunate that it was crafted into a three-hour romantic movie.

The movie's narrative is from the firsthand experience of Rose, who is one of the last remaining survivors of the Titanic sinking.

Through her story we get snippets of facts here and there, but mostly a cut and paste class war love story that comes with, yes, you guessed it, a snobby mother.

The film can barely stay afloat, as the weight of irrelevant romantic plot sinks the

SEE MOVIES, PAGE A8



Julia Roberts enjoys a bit of luxury in *Pretty Woman*.

## COME AND JOIN

### 2nd Annual Math Resource Center Open House

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

2:14pm-2:12pm (bld. 26)

Students, Faculty, Staff & Administrators are all invited!

Pizza and soda will be served.

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MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

# Friends without benefits

## Friendship and sex don't necessarily go hand in hand

By **SHURVON HAYNES**  
staff reporter

Students agree men and women can be friends under certain circumstances.

Student Tiffany Carter says it can be done.

"I believe it is very possible for women to be friends with men without their being any undertone of bedding them in the future. However, it is difficult for men to truly befriend a woman without wanting to be more intimate with her. At some point they will attempt to say or do something sexual," said Carter.

The problem may be with how people have been socialized through the media to believe they can't interact without

having sex.

This can cause confusion and unrealistic expectations within the friendship.

Television and magazine ads stereotypically depict woman in skimpy clothing.

Men, on the other hand, are often shirtless, which causes people to focus on body parts, rather than mind and intellect, a Highline psychology professor said.

"Society has to educate men on how to think and interact differently with women and treat them like people and not just sex objects," said Ruth Frickle.

Students say sexual intimacy and lack of communication is what makes it difficult for them to maintain a platonic friendship.

Confusion can arise because one may be thinking the friendship will stay platonic, while the other person will be hoping for more intimacy, students say.

However, once friends have become intimate, things will never be the same and they must be able to deal with the consequences, said students.

"Once you cross the friendship barrier it is hard to go back to way things used to be. Basically you have to ask yourself if you want to remain friends in the future, this will help you determine if that line should be crossed," said student Paul Kalchik.

Mutual agreement is necessary for a friendly relationship to work; both parties must be clear about their expectations students say.

"Women have a tendency of being indirect and not clear. We use more qualifiers, leading to



Michele Manber

misinterpretations," said Professor Frickle, while men usually know during the friendship stage if they want to establish a more intimate relationship with a woman.

"I usually know within the friendship if it's someone I want to have as a girlfriend, I have to feel comfortable as friends before I take things to the next

level," said student Keith Sterling.

If the relationship doesn't work it is important for each person to be honest and respectful which could help make the break-up less traumatic and possibly salvage the friendship, said students.

"People want to be let down easy. They don't like to be strung along, they want to know where they stand," said Michele Manber, a psychology professor at Highline.

For more discussion on this topic and other relationship issues attend "The Bridging the Gap between Men and Women" panel discussion on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

The event will be located in the Mt. Constance Room in Building 8 at 11 a.m., call 206-424-4304 or email blackstudentu@yahoo.com for more information.

## Movies

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A7

historical subtext. The film does a tragic disservice to those who died in the sinking.

One can only hope that there is never a movie made about Sept. 11, where a poor boy meets a rich girl in the World Trade Center.

My final pick is *The Notebook*. Based off the Nicholas Sparks novel of the same name, *The Notebook* is an epic story of romantic movie clichés.

Set half in present day with flashbacks set in the 1940s, we follow along as an elderly man reads a love story to an elderly woman suffering from Alzheimer's in a retirement home. As the story progresses, it becomes painfully obvious that the she is

actually his wife, and that he is reading the story of their relationship.

Their story is yet another tale of class war. She is rich, he is not, so the parents do not approve. Even with the acting talents of up-and-comers Ryan Gosling and Rachel McAdams and seasoned actors Gena Rowlands and James Garner, *The Notebook* simply accomplishes in two hours what it takes a soap opera to do in a year.

There seems to be a never-ending supply of poor handsome boys in the romantic movie genre. Could it be that romantic movies are simply dramatizing the politically charged prediction of the death of the middle class, or is there just a lack of interesting ideas for romance movies? Either way it's not looking good for America.

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