Dr. Jack Bermingham is the interim president of Highline.

**Arrests made in Drungo murder**

**ROBERT LAMIRANDE**

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 Ventura 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.

**Interim President steps up to the plate**

**BY JUDY VUE**

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 community just don’t add up**

Faculty speaks out against plan to unify classes

**BY JOCIE OLSON**

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 debates 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 equivalence course at another college. I believe strongly in the principle behind Common Course Numbering, but I feel it’s not a way to achieve that without considerable disruption,” said Highline’s Interim President Dr. Jack Bermingham.

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 remumbering 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 important,” Walton said.

“The [Senate] has received this time.

SEE INTERIM, PAGE B12

SEE INTERIM, PAGE B12

SEE COURSES, PAGE B11

SEE COURSES, PAGE B11

SEE ARRESTS, PAGE B12

SEE ARRESTS, PAGE B12
Campus Life

When cars collide

A car accident occurred while a student was parking in the east lot on Feb. 2. A permit was in the window. The owner was located but she said she doesn't normally drive the vehicle.

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. While trying to park, the other car hit a 2003 gold Honda Acura. There was no student was found with a matching name or address.

Lost property

• 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 Quicksilver 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

CSI:

HIGHLINE

Students displaced after alarm sounds

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

According to Head of Campus Security Richard Noyes, 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.

Lafé 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 "chill[ing]" 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.

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 Hattelius, and Sarah Delp stood handing out flyers outside of Building 6 on Monday, Jan. 29.

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

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.myinterface.com/highline/student
The celebration of Black History Month is important for younger generations to remember the works of people such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said Eason.

"It is actually a documentary presentation of an inconvenient truth," Moses explained that he liked the film screening of An Inconvenient Truth. Moses explained that global warming is something that affects all of us, Moses said.

"I hope they learn the connections between the earth's average temperature due to an increase in the earth's average temperature due to an increase in heat trapping gases and the most important of these gases is carbon dioxide," Moses said.

Moses explained 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 simpkins@highline.edu or at 206-878-3710, ext. 3536.

Highline will be screening film on global warming
Opinion

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 quarter system have been tallied 10 days into the quarter and 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 bear 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 student enrollment 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 original TV spot is only a drop in a bucket compared to what other institutions do. It will take more than a squalge 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 clothing 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 employees come together for a shared desire to provide food and 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 clothing for those who need a step-up.

The growth of the program is partially out of their hands. It will take the added contributions of more people to spread WinGS around campus.

Submissions to Thunderword invited

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
**Pitchit's painting opens new windows in ESL**

**BY BRIANNE BEETS**

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 Pitchit Maikow, the artist behind the mural.

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

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

The mural takes 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, who studied 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 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.

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 Roscie. 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 Roscie.

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 is 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 Charmin, Tom Meehan, and Peter Sipos. 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 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 record-er-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 "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 TV, and of course, paint.

**Centerstage opens ‘Absurd’ play**

**BY AUDRA PATTERSON**

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.
and folk music to the Kentwood Bring their blend of western
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?
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7. NATURAL WORLD: What order in the animal kingdom do sea mammals like manatees belong to?

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 $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.

*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 ocal 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 arts organizers are encouraged to apply. Artists who can provide activities for children also are needed.

Last week's crossword puzzle solution

**GO FIGURE!**

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.

DIFFICULTY: ***

* Moderate ** Difficult *** GO FIGURE!

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Trivia Test by Richard Barren

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T-Birds tie for first place in West Division

BY SAM BOYD

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 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, purring the Titans 64-54, 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.

The Titans 84-54, though Tacoma got closer within the last two minutes. The final score was 89-66.

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 center.

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 Raiders 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 lead behind fast break baskets and impenetrable defense, but a trifecta of Noble’s 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 Thunderbird’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.

Weiss 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 unusual 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 defense. “The 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 defense.”

“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.
Lady T-Birds tighten grip on first place

Highline tames Tacoma, paddles Pierce as win streak reaches nine

BY Yonas Woldemichael
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, averging an earlier loss, and then slid past Pierce 47-31 on Saturday.

Against Tacoma, from the second tip off took place many fans and observers could quickly sense the electricity buzzing around the Pavilion, as many expected the game down to the wire. The Lady T-Birds appeared to have a vicious vendetta as both teams scored 43 points. Highline hit the road only nine played against a team line up. Highline was able to defeat Pierce by 16 points.

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 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
Walla Walla 82, Blue Mountain 51
Col Basin 75, Tr Valley 59
Wen Valley 77, Big Bend 57
Bellevue 64, Seattle 62
Peninsula 54, Edmonds 43
Skagit Valley 73, Olympic 46
Clackamas 90, Umpqua 54
Linn-Benton 73, Mt. Hood 71
Lake 93, 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

01/13/2007
Seattle 50, Olympic 58

02/07/2007
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

Portland 100, SW Oregon 57
Lone 53, Chemeketa 51
Umpqua 73, Mt. Hood 60
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

North League/Season
Bellevue 9-1 19-2
Everett 8-1 16-3
Skagit Valley 7-2 15-4
Whatcom 7-3 13-9
Peninsula 5-5 10-9
Seattle 4-6 9-13
Edmonds 3-7 7-13
Olympic 1-9 3-17
Shoreline 0-10 1-17

South League/Season
Yakima Valley 8-1 22-2
Col Basin 8-1 17-5
Umpqua 73, Mt. Hood 60
S. Puget Sound 86, Clark 42
Highline 70, Green River 64
Pierce 54, Grays Harbor 41

Standings
Bellevue 9-1 19-2
Everett 8-1 16-3
Skagit Valley 7-2 15-4
Whatcom 7-3 13-9
Peninsula 5-5 10-9
Seattle 4-6 9-13
Edmonds 3-7 7-13
Olympic 1-9 3-17
Shoreline 0-10 1-17

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 tames Tacoma, paddles Pierce as win streak reaches nine 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 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.
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 teams like 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 Markay at 149, Justin Studer at 157, Pano Drevs 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 our lineup 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 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 expectations for his starter at 141, but Norton suspects their wrestlers healthy. But with their wrestlers healthy. But with their

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

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

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

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

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

"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 you need to wake up telling yourselves that they're the best wrestlers 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."
News

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 entirety of campus’ 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 hooping board above her desk.

“This is only one week’s events,” said Longwell gesturing to her board. “Last year we did over 1,400. I 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, 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 Clean-up 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 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/lobby-day.

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Mount St. Helens has been busy, Baer says

By BRIANNE BEETS

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 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 rock 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 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 Pacific 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 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.

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

Courses

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

important,” Walton said. “The fear is that it would remove academic freedom.”

“But Common Course Numbering means there 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.

Baer explained that the possiblity 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.

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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.
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 fund raising 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 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 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."

Jack Bermingham

Arrests CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

According to the police report, Lyons chased the Caucasian group back to their apartment after the initial stabbing and stabbing again. Peterson 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 procedures had to be used in the case.

"Based on works done by the 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 arrest.

"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.
Inside SCOOP
The Thunderword Magazine
February 8, 2007

ANTI VALENTINE'S DAY
HOW TO SAY NO TO A DATE
FOBSTY MUSIC
WORST ROMANTIC MOVIES
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 over-priced 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? Sounds 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. Valentine was sentenced to secretly wed young couples. Eventually, Valentine’s romantic deeds were discovered and he was sentenced to death.

Another 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 over-priced 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 money.

Just think all the money you would save NOT Sting 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 any rom 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

Ladies, let '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 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 waiting 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-to-door? I blame and we need to grow a backbone.

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 whose presence you feel 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!'

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!'"

Men can say no by being dumb

By ROBERT LAMIRANDE

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 when they see a woman that has not banned her for life.

Therefore, the only thing that will work.

For instance, a woman might say that you have a lot in common, suggesting that you may really like such-and-such movie. That's convenient, she says, because 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.
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. You can be just as delicious.

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 for dinner.

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 1/4 cup of water
1 1/2 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 follows:

Add 1/2 cup of spaghetti sauce
1/4 cup of bread crumbs
1 lightly beaten egg white
1/4 cup of grated Parmesan cheese
1 tablespoon of grated Parmesan cheese

Heat it over medium heat.

Whisk the egg whites and then roll the chicken in the bread crumbs.

Spray an unheated skillet with olive oil 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.

Spoon strawberry mixture 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.

1/2 cup of fresh or frozen strawberries
1/2 cup of cream

Mix until well blended.

Dash of salt

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 croutons.

Remove from heat and allow it to cool completely.

Dip bread slices into a bit-size pieces and put them in a salad bowl.

Cut bread slices into bite-sized pieces and broil croutons for about 1-2 minutes or until they are browned.

For the salad you will need:

1/2 teaspoon of anchovy paste
1/2 teaspoon of Dijon-style mustard
1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/8 teaspoon of chopped garlic
2 1/4 tablespoons of olive oil

Add water and lemon juice to the dressing.

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

Add the dressing, mix until well blended. 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 croutons.

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

Cut bread slices into bite-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.

1/2 cup of fresh or frozen strawberries
1/2 cup of cream

Mix until well blended.

Dash of salt

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

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DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 16, 2007
BY SIMONE SNOW

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

“I broke up with [someone] in junior high on Va-Dee-Day. It was horrible because he put a rose in my locker,” said Highline student Lori 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 Zunn 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.

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 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 type 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 Wallace.

“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 woke her up with.

“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

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 events.

SEE SINGLE, PAGE A6
Rock me, baby
When you’ve got nothing to say, just add music

BY LANCE LOVE

Go way back to the 1970s, a decade in which the highest cultural achievement was a ‘50s revival, when radio stations infiltrated listeners with such gems as Brandly (by a largely forgettable band called Looking Glass). Brandly 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 Brandly, 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 Emum-claw, 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 much angst. Foreigner, one of the great early formula-metal bands of the 1970s and ‘80s, brought us album after album of viscously purgatorial 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 girlfriend 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, gent: 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 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.

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For details on these positions, see T.M. Sell in 10-106, or e-mail thunderword@highline.edu for more information.
BY DAVID BEHN
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 Cavill-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 girl. 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 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 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 Castle, 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 is 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

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

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Friends without benefits

Friendship and sex don't necessarily go hand in hand

BY SHURYON 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.

Televison 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 Frickel.

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 Kalchak.

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 misinterpretations," said Professor Frickel, 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 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 blackstudent@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 cliches.

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 predication 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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Michele Member
Highline psychology professor

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