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second in West  
Division  
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returns with  
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# The Thunderword

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PERIODICALS

APRIL 19, 2007/VOLUME 46, No. 23/HIGHLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## From student to professor to trustee

BY JUDY VUE

staff reporter

She has come from China to Taiwan to Wyoming and now to Highline.

Dr. Elizabeth Chen is the chairwoman of the Board of Trustees and has been a member since November 1994.

The Board of Trustees is a group of five individuals who are appointed by the governor to help oversee the operation of Highline.

Chen, a Federal Way resident, was born in China but grew up in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan.

"I got my college education



Dr. Elizabeth Chen

in Taiwan," Chen said.

However, changes were soon imminent for Chen, as she de-

cided on what American college she should go to in order to pursue a graduate degree.

"My parents always encouraged me to go far away," she said.

"[But] they didn't want me to go New York and California," she said with a laugh.

Chen said the reason was because they didn't want her to be exposed to the crime and other negative things that they had seen in western movies.

She laughs about it now as she talks about where she did end up.

"I looked at all the bulletins and [one had] a picture of Yel-

lowstone on the cover," she said.

That bulletin was for the University of Wyoming and that picture of Yellowstone was a deciding factor in Chen's decision.

"I thought [Yellowstone] was in their back yard," she said, as she laughed about the memory.

It also helped that the University of Wyoming also gave her a scholarship.

Chen left Taipei for the U.S. in 1970. After having grown up in the big urban environment of Taipei, she said the less busy

SEE CHEN, PAGE 16

## Students say they feel safe on campus

BY KRISTA WHITE

staff reporter

Most students at Highline say they feel safe, despite the shooting that occurred at Virginia Tech on April 16.

On Monday, a student gunman went on shooting spree at the university in Blacksburg, Va. and killed 33 people, including himself.

While some students said they hadn't even heard of the incident, others said they were shocked.

"I can't imagine going through something like that," said Joanna Schwanke.

"Shootings can happen anywhere. My heart goes out to the families of those who were killed, but you can't live your life in fear. You have to believe

you'll be OK, or you can't go to school anywhere," student Ed-

die Washington said.

Blair Brandt says she feels safe at Highline because, "It's not that big of a school and most of the people here are local because it's a community college."

"Everyone seems to have a mature and positive attitude at Highline," said student Corry Damey.

"I feel very safe at Highline," Schwanke said. "Nothing has ever happened here for me to think differently."

"I haven't seen too many crazy people running around the school yet," Corey Muma said.

However, some students don't feel quite as safe on campus.

"I don't feel safe at night on campus. The lighting is horrible. I would feel safer if Highline had better lighting," JaneLee Wardock said.

Student Spencer Johnson said he still feels safe, "but less than before."

SEE SAFETY, PAGE 15

## Sound Transit eyes bigger rail system

BY BECKY MORTENSON

staff reporter

Sound Transit aims to get people out of their cars and onto the light rail system that they plan to finish by summer of 2009.

"It is very inefficient to haul

and two and a half tons of steel with three seats empty. It's a very inefficient system," said Andrew Schmid, government and community relations specialist.

Schmidt and Sound Transit Senior Planner Eric Chipps spoke at Highline on Tuesday as part of Earth Week. They explained how Sound Transit's network of light and heavy rail lines, plus express buses, will reduce traffic congestion and pollution in the Puget Sound area.

Sound Transit is a regional transportation agency covering



PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

Construction on the light rail continues in SeaTac. The light rail route will connect the University of Washington and SeaTac Airport once it is up and running, hopefully in 2009.

Arlington to Tacoma and Seattle to Bellevue.

Six years ago Sound Transit began its mission to help cut down on the congestion in the

cities of Seattle, Everett, Tacoma and Bellevue.

Some of the services that Sound Transit runs are the Sound Transit bus which runs

from Seattle to Issaquah and Everett to Seattle; the Sounder

SEE TRANSIT, PAGE 12

## See more coverage inside

•Students don gloves, grab trash bags, and get dirty to keep the campus clean. See page 11.

•Tim Stewart commutes around the area on just two wheels. See page 11.

•Cutting down on waste with the use of biodegradable plastics. See page 13.



EarthWeek  
April 16-20, 2007

CSI:



## HIGHLINE

### Cigarette equals fire

A trash can was set on fire by a lit cigarette on April 12 in front of Building 12.

A student passing by assisted in putting the fire out.

Fires in trash cans and beauty bark happens a couple times in Spring Quarter, and about a dozen times in Summer Quarter, said Richard Noyer, supervisor of security and safety for Highline.

Noyer said 95 percent of the smokers on campus are careful and stay in the designated smoking areas, but asked students to "just be more careful and thoughtful with their smoking."

### Student vehicle stolen

A car was reported stolen by a student on April 13. The Des Moines Police Department will handle the case.

The missing car is a tan, four-door Nissan that was parked in the south parking lot.

### Theft suspect spotted

A man fitting the description of a suspect in several on-campus thefts was seen walking in Building 12 on April 12.

Several students described the man as a white male in his early 20s with dirty blonde hair pulled back in a ponytail, and approximately 6'0" and 190-200 pounds.

The man also fitted the description of a man found in the equipment room in Building 12 where a scale is missing.

### A prank, not a crisis

Four prank calls to 911 were made from a pay phone on campus on April 12.

The 911 operator was contacted and informed that the calls were a prank.

### Stereos taken from cars

Stereos were stolen from both a Ford Mustang and a Ford Ranger between 3 and 7:30 p.m. on April 11.

Both cars were parked in the lower south parking lot.

-- Compiled by C. Feeley



## Celebrating the earth

Learn even more about the Earth.

Highline's Environmental Club will be holding the final events to celebrate Earth Week today and tomorrow.

The remaining events of the week include:

- Pollution and Our Bodies presented by the Highline Medical Assisting Club on April 19 in Building 2 from 9-10 a.m.

- A representative from Action for Animals will be presenting Factory Farming: Facts About Meats on April 19 in Building 2 from 10-11 a.m.

- Pollution in People, presented by Puget Sound Early College, will be held on April 19 in Building 2 from 11 a.m.-noon.

- A presentation titled Toxicology, Health Products, and You will be given on April 19 in Building 2 from noon-1 p.m.

- You Can Go Green by Design will be presented by Highline Professor Naoko Barker on April 20 in Building 2 from 10-11 a.m.

- This week's Movie Friday will be a screening of *The Future of Food* on April 20 in Building 7 at noon.

- The Cannabis Reform Union will be giving a presentation called Hemp: Time for Its Fair Share on April 20 in Building 2 from noon-1 p.m.

### Get some free help for your business

Get some tips on starting your small business.

The Washington State Department of Revenue is giving a



PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

A Highline student watches as his car is towed away after he parked it illegally on Baskin & Robbins property in the East entrance to the North parking lot off of Pacific Highway.

ment of Revenue is giving a free workshop for new and small business owners.

A workbook and helpful reference guide to the Department of Revenue rules and regulations will be provided.

It will be held on May 16 from 1-4 p.m. at Fairwood Library located at 17009 14th SE, Renton.

To register for the workshop, visit [www.dor.wa.gov](http://www.dor.wa.gov) or call 253-437-3440.

### Welcome to the Paralegal Program

Get the inside scoop on Highline's Paralegal Program.

The program will be hosting an orientation for students interested in becoming a paralegal or earning the paralegal certificate.

The orientation will cover what a paralegal does and how to enter the profession.

The event will be held on April 25 in the Mt. Olympus Room in the Student Union

from 6-7:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Jessica Neilson at 206-878-3710, ext. 4902 or at [jneilson@highline.edu](mailto:jneilson@highline.edu).

### Breakfast Club will discuss abortion

The Breakfast Club will be having another meeting today, April 19 and all students are invited to attend.

The topic for this week's club meeting will be abortion. Attendees are encouraged to bring in a poem of their choice on the topic. Questions are also encouraged.

The meeting will be held

today in Building 6, room 164 from 9-10 a.m.

### Science is evolving

Science Seminar is evolving this week.

The next Science Seminar will be Human Evolution: Egos, Politics, Fossils, and Genes by Lonnie Somer.

Everyone is welcome to attend for free and learn about the origins of humans and how theories of evolution have been affected by politics and the differing opinions of scientists.

Science Seminar will be held on April 20 in Building 3, room 102 from 2:20-3:10 p.m.

### Co-Opportunity Cooperative Education



#### Des Moines Farmers Market Internship

Looking for an internship that's not your typical office job?

Love the Farmers Market and Des Moines community? You can help spread the word about the locally-grown foods, great community atmosphere, live music and special events that are down at the market! Intern in the following ways:

E-Newsletter Writing

Web Publishing

Applications due April 25, 2007

Get real world experience while earning real college credit.

Building 6, upper floor

## Student Jobs



#### Day Camp Counselor

Teach arts & crafts, drama, science sports and more to kids in an exciting summer camp.

Job # 2017

40 hrs/wk  
\$8.75-\$10.90  
Federal Way

#### Focus Group Host

Preparation and serving refreshments, light office work, interaction with clients and handling cash. No experience necessary.

Job # 2713

6-24 hrs/wk  
\$12/hr  
Tukwila

For additional information log on to Interfase at <http://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

Tip of the Week:

Let the world know you as you are, not as you think you should be."

-Fanny Brice

Sign up for help in:

Accounting/Business, Languages, Math, Science, Computers, Writing, and more subjects!

Mon-Thurs.....8:00 am-7:30pm

Fri.....8:00am-1pm

<http://flightline.highline.edu/tutoring>



## Yee rips U.S. over Muslims' treatment

By BRIANNE BEETS

staff reporter

James Yee gave an impassioned speech on the prejudices and fears against Muslims in America to more than 200 students and faculty.

Yee's presentation was sponsored by the Muslim Student Association and the Muslim Women Association.

"Today I want to share with you some of my story," Yee said on Tuesday.

Born a third-generation Chinese-American, Yee was part of a long line of military soldiers.

His father and two younger brothers had all served in the military.

As a graduate of West Point, Yee converted from Lutheranism to Islam in 1990.

"For me it was a confirmation in my monotheistic faith," Yee said.

By 2001, Yee was appointed as the first Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo Bay, and the newest Muslim chaplain in the history of the military. Yee was one of only 10 Muslim chaplains who were serving in the military at that time.

As a Muslim chaplain at Guantanamo Bay, "many Americans had many questions about Islam after 9/11," Yee said.

In his speech, Yee speculated that the government appointed him as a Muslim chaplain in order to appear more "humane" towards the prisoners.

But Yee painted a different picture in the way the alleged "hard-core terrorists" were treated.

Yee spoke about a secret weapon that was used to gain information from detainees. "It was the use of religion against these prisoners," Yee said.

CIA and FBI agents would place prisoners over a satanic circle and force them to bow down to it, the same way that they would bow down to their own god, Allah.

Yee also spoke of female in-



James Yee

## Nature walks at Kent Ponds are for the birds

By JAIME GUDJONSON  
staff reporter

Amidst the highly urbanized area of the Kent Valley, with much of the land surface covered by asphalt or rooftops, is a slice of land that provides habitat to about 165 bird species and an abundance of mammal species.

The Green River Natural Resource Area, with its adjacent public park and trail system, is one of the largest manmade, multi-use wildlife refuges in the United States.

These luscious lagoons are surrounded by variations of shrubberies, tall blades of grass and the air is filled with the calls of the wild.

The Green River Natural Resource Area encompasses paved trails that meander around the surrounding ponds. Three towers are scattered across the area in the wild and untamed fields to give onlookers a different perspective of the wildlife habitat.

Lonnie Somer, an anthropology professor here at Highline, will now be hosting weekly nature walks to the Green River Natural Resources Area, better known as the Kent Ponds, on Wednesdays from 2-3 p.m.

The Green River Natural Resource Area is located at 21861 Russell Road (Russell Road, between South 212th Street and South 226th Street.)

At first Somer was targeting the nature walk more toward Highline faculty and

terrogators who would "exploit conservative Islamic culture," by standing naked in front of the prisoners, grabbing their genitals, and subjecting them to lap dances in the course of interrogation.

"It's degrading to the prisoners, the female interrogators, and to all women," Yee said.

Other forms of mistreatment included the desecration of the



Highline birdwatchers get rewarded during a nature walk by seeing a bald eagle land on a telephone pole at the Kent Ponds.

staff but now says that it would be beneficial to students as well.

Last week, Somer and a small group along with retired bird expert Carol Schultz attended the nature walk.

The Green River Natural Resources Area project transformed an abandoned sewage lagoon system into a combined storm water detention and enhanced wetland facility that provides a rich diversity of wildlife habitat.

"The 306-acre site has three viewing towers and is one of the last remaining open tracts of land in the Kent Valley," Carol Schultz said.

Somer and Shultz together were able to identify by either sight or sound more than 16 kinds of birds. Species included a bald eagle, Canada geese, a red-tailed hawk and a variety of ducks and swallows.

Somer and Shultz brought along their spotting scopes, telescopes designed for birding or other nature observation, for the group to get a better view of the birds that were farther away.

The spotting scopes were especially useful to get a close up of the bald eagle that was seen. Even though the eagle was a more than

100 yards away, the spotting scope brought the eagle close enough into view so that the viewer could see every feather on its wing.

Along the trail, Somer squatted down while saying, "I hope that no one here is squeamish," as he picked up coyote scat and began splitting it apart, uncovering fragments of bird bones inside. Somer was easily able to identify a hip bone as well as a few other bones.

The next trip will be held on Wednesday, April 25 from 2-3 p.m. For more information contact Lonnie Somer at 206-878-3710, ext. 3516.

Koran, the holy book of Islam whose words are said to be from Allah himself.

"[The guards] would turn it upside down and shake it violently, thinking something dangerous would fall out," Yee said.

The prisoners would react to the mistreatment of the Koran by "protesting, hunger strikes, and suicide attempts," Yee said.

Yee described that one prisoner who attempted to hang himself wound up with such extensive brain damage that he now has the mind of a fifth grader.

To end these suicide attempts, Yee was appointed to create a plan that would both enforce safety and security as well as respect for the Koran.

Yee described how he ob-

tained medical masks to serve as a Koran holder; that way the Koran would still be respected, yet it was high enough so the prisoners wouldn't be able to reach for a weapon fast enough to harm any of the guards.

Such achievements earned Yee official military awards, including a stellar officer evaluation report.

After 10 months of serving at Guantanamo, Yee was given a two-week break to visit his family in Olympia.

But Yee didn't receive a friendly welcome back when he arrived at the Jacksonville, Fla. naval air station; instead he was arrested and thoroughly searched.

Yee recalled intelligence officers telling him they had found suspicious documents.

"It wasn't a coincidence, it was a sting operation," Yee said.

After hours of being searched; Yee was shackled and forced to wear blacked out goggles and heavy earmuffs to block out the sound.

"They threw me in the back of this truck with an armed guard," Yee said.

Accused of espionage and aiding the enemy, Yee was held in a naval brig in South Carolina for 76 days.

Yee's charges were eventually reduced, then dropped completely due to lack of evidence.

Yee called his imprisonment a "gross miscarriage of justice."

Today as a lecturer, Yee travels around the country to speak about racial and religious injustice.

## Editorial comment

### Remember and mourn those we lost

The American flag on our campus stands at half-staff for the individuals who died in the Virginia Tech massacre on Monday morning.

Despite the fact that Virginia Tech is clear across the country from Highline, this tragedy has still sent chills down our spines nonetheless.

That fact is obvious when you walk into your class and the first few minutes are classmates discussing anything new that has popped up in the news since the very first hour this event began.

"Man, Virginia Tech is getting sued."

"If someone walked in with a gun, I'd start swinging."

"He shot 32 people... That's our whole classroom."

And the reality silently creeps in as we attempt to grasp the magnitude of the situation.

In the aftermath, debates will inevitably occur.

People can argue between themselves about stricter gun laws while students, staff, families and citizens of Blacksburg, Va. mourn.

People can criticize immigration policy about how Cho Seung-Hui – a South Korean resident alien – was able to be in this country in the first place.

People can say that the warning signs from Cho Seung-Hui should have been obvious and action should have been taken long before this tragedy happened.

But whatever people say – whether you're conservative, liberal, Christian or atheist – none of these things will bring back the 33 people we lost on Monday.

There is no doubt that there are issues that need to be addressed in the wake of what has happened.

But before we can tackle those difficult issues – issues that will certainly not be resolved anytime soon – we must realize that the people who died were sons and daughters and brothers and sisters.

Before we start all the inevitable finger-pointing and lawsuit-filing, we must stop and mourn.

And life will eventually go on.

Right now though, life has stopped. Life has stopped for 33 people. Life has stopped for their loved ones.

Remember those 33 people. Remember Virginia Tech.



### Students of color should unite

YAKIMA -- I went to the Students of Color Conference here last weekend to bond with other students from local community colleges and to learn how to take action against oppression, sexism and racism.

This year's theme was Diversity in Action-Openin' Minds, Makin' Changes.

Workshops were focused on topics ranging from cross-cultural communication to liberation theology.

The purpose for this conference was for students of all races to gain an awareness and understanding of different cultures, ethnicities and genders.

I expected to be elevated, celebrated and appreciated for being a person, something all people regardless of race, class, color or creed have in common.

However when you begin to add color to my skin, you will see that I am black.

I am often discriminated against just because the sun tanned my skin a little darker than others.

Then add my gender and you will see that I am female, which can be a disadvantage, because I live in a patriarchal, male-dominated society.

African-American women are considered to have two strikes against them because they are black and female.

#### Commentary



SHURVON HAYNES

They are often labeled as welfare queens, strong emasculating mummies and most recently, "nappy-headed hos."

But at the conference my sense of faith, hope and love was renewed when speaker Byron Hurt spoke of a world where all people, specifically women and children would be free from all forms of violence, sexual assault and disrespect.

"As a man I believe I can make a difference and I encourage other men to make an effort to reduce the level of violence in our culture," said Hurt.

Hurt is the co-founder and associate director of the United States Marine Corps gender violence prevention program and producer of two award winning documentary videos, I am

a Man and Beyond Beats and Rhymes.

I could relate to speaker Tissa Hami, an Iranian-American woman, who stripped off her veil and left her corporate job as an investment banker on Wall Street to follow her life's passion of becoming a stand-up comic.

"You can't please everyone...you have to be your own biggest fan," said Hami.

I was motivated when Magdalena Rose-Avila encouraged students to never be afraid to do something that is right.

He then quoted Bob Marley's song, "Get up, stand up: stand up for your rights!"

Get up, stand up: don't give up the fight!"

"The only way to change the world is by raising your voice and support heroes outside of your own community," said Rose-Avila.

Students of color must stand up for their right to be heard and find their place in this world.

We must stop fighting against each other, which would help decrease crimes within our own neighborhoods.

We must continue to fight against obstacles that would hinder our pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

Shurvon writes for the Thunderword.

### 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 in-

terest 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

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## Commission hopes to revitalize local arts scene

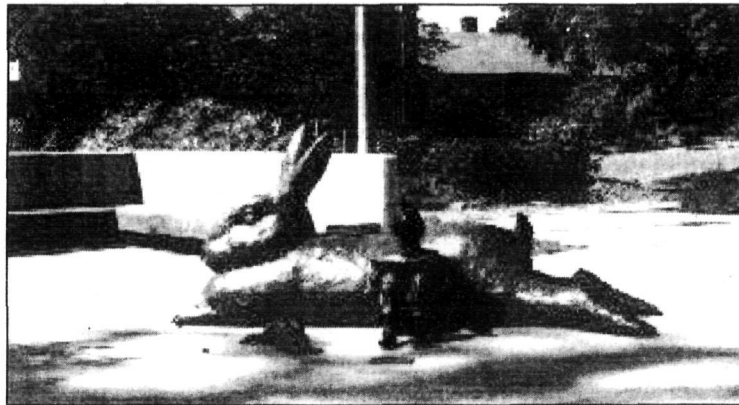
By ALICIA MENDEZ  
staff reporter

The recently created Des Moines Arts Commission hopes to enliven the arts scene in the Waterland City.

The arts commission formed last June when about six art lovers from Des Moines began meeting to discuss aspirations for Des Moines as an art community. The official group was named the Des Moines Arts Steering Committee since they were steering Des Moines toward an arts commission.

They began piecing together a proposal for the Des Moines City Council to approve.

The proposal, presented to the City Council last fall by Vice Chairwoman Nancy Warren, stated the committee's mission statement, and why Des Moines



*The Des Moines Arts Commission hopes to purchase a sculpture similar to the rabbit outside of the Mercer Island Library for the Des Moines Library.*

should make an effort to involve the community into its local art.

According to the mission statement, "The mission of the Des Moines Arts Commission is to provide leadership in establishing cultural opportunities to improve the quality of life, en-

hance the aesthetic environment and to promote Des Moines as a center for great arts."

"We began putting together a proposal for the City Council. Once it got approved ... we got the initial funding of \$10,000," said Clark Snure, chairman of

the arts commission. "We're pretty well organized we're working on projects and goals for not only this year, but next year."

Since the committee became a commission it has been able to get \$9,000 in grants from the Des Moines Legacy Foundation and 4 Culture.

With the funding, the commission already has projects in the works. The first event will be an arts day for kids on June 2, in conjunction with the first day of the Des Moines Farmers Market.

"There's going to be fun, cool, free art things to do for kids," Warren said.

"We're looking at summer activities, such as a series of concerts of various types of music," Snure said.

The series of concerts will

be the second Saturday of every summer month.

On July 14 the commission is bringing a Latin flare to the marina with a Latin band.

On Aug. 11 the commission will bring a mini rhythm and blues festival to Des Moines.

Finally, on Sept. 8, the commission will bring "world music" to the marina "from all over the world," Warren said.

"We're also looking at being involved in the Des Moines fireworks display," on July 4, Snure said. The night of the fireworks display the commission plans to bring a rhythms and blues band for the community to enjoy between 8-10 p.m.

The commission also plans to incorporate Highline in its musical and potential theatrical

SEE ARTS, PAGE 6

## Open your eyes to cheesecake

If you are tired of store-bought desserts and want to show off your baking abilities then try some cheesecake.

Although making it sounds daunting, cheesecakes are actually simple to make and delicious to eat.

With a few simple steps and a couple of good tips you will be well on your way to mastering the art of cheesecakes.

The first thing before you begin is to choose a good recipe.

If this is your first time then find one that's simple and won't require a whole lot of extra ingredients.

After mastering an easier recipe you can move on to something more complex, but keep in mind that simple is sometimes more elegant.

Once you have chosen the right recipe for you, then read through the directions and make sure that you understand all the terms and also that you have the necessary ingredients.

The basic ingredient for a cheesecake is the cheese itself.

Cheeses used can be anything from cream cheese, which is the most common, to ricotta to cottage cheese.

Sugar, eggs, and vanilla are also used for the cheesecake filling.

The texture of the cake is really important.

The best way to have a great texture is to start with soft ingredients that are at room temperature.

Also beating the eggs before adding will allow everything to get mixed well but not over mixed.

The next part of a cheesecake

### Big Jo's Kitchen



JOCIE OLSON

is the crust. The crust can vary from a graham cracker crust to a pastry crust.

Although you may think that it is easiest to go a buy a pre-made graham cracker pie crust, let me tell you that making one is so simple and tastes way better.

When you do the graham cracker crust, you have two options. You can either buy the crackers and crush them yourself or you can buy cracker crumbs.

Again, crushing them yourself will save you money and also it will give your cake that extra homemade look.

But if you are looking at saving time then buying the pre-crushed crackers might be for you.

Once you have your cracker crumbs, all you will have to do is mix it with melted butter and press it onto the bottom and sides of the pan.

For a more tasty crust, try

adding a small amount of ground cinnamon before adding the butter.

Cheesecakes tend to get over-baked and this can be avoided by removing the cake while the center is still wobbly.

Remember that that the heat of the pan will continue to cook the cake even after it is removed.

Another trick is to allow the cheesecake to bake in a steam bath environment which allows even cooking.

To do this fill a glass pan half way with water and place it on the bottom rack of the oven.

These cakes bake best at a low consistent heat, so the less you open the oven door the better.

When the cake is done, turn off the oven and open the door and give the cheesecake time to cool down slowly.

Extreme temperature changes cause cracks so keeping the cake in the oven will lessen the chances of that happening.

Once the cake is completely cooled, cover and refrigerate for at least 4-6 hours depending on the size.

Serve the cake either plain or with a fruit topping.

For an easy and elegant cheesecake recipe try this one:

3 cups of graham cracker crumbs  
¾ cups of butter, melted  
4 packages of cream cheese (8 ounces), softened  
1 2/3 cups of sugar  
4 eggs, beaten slightly  
2 teaspoons of vanilla extract



Mix butter and graham cracker crumbs and press onto the bottom and sides of a 9-inch springform pan.

Beat cream cheese until smooth in a large mixing bowl. Add sugar and continue beating until smooth. Add eggs and vanilla and mix until filling becomes smooth with no lumps.

Pour filling into pan and bake at 300° for 1 hour and 20 minutes or until the center does not move when shaken gently.

Remove the cake from the oven and allow to cool on a rack. Cover and refrigerate for at least 8 hours. Serves 12.

For a slightly more elaborate cheesecake try this recipe:

2 cups of crushed graham crackers  
½ teaspoon of ground cinnamon  
½ cup of butter, melted  
3 packages of cream cheese (8 ounces), softened  
1 cup of sugar  
2 tablespoons of flour  
1 teaspoon of vanilla  
½ teaspoon of finely shredded lemon peel, optional

2 eggs  
1 egg yolk  
¼ cup of milk

Combine crushed graham crackers and cinnamon in a bowl. Add melted butter and stir until combined.

Press crumb mixture onto the bottom and sides of an 8- or 9-inch springform pan and set aside.

An a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese, sugar, flour, vanilla, and lemon peel until smooth. Add eggs and egg yolk all at once beating until just combined. Stir in milk.

Pour the cake filling into the pan.

Bake at 375° for 40-50 minutes or until the center moves slightly when shaken.

Cool the pan on a wire rack for 15 minutes and loosen the crust from the sides of the pan and cool for 30 minutes.

Remove the sides of the pan and cool the cake completely. Cover and refrigerate for at least 4 hours before serving.

Makes 12-16 servings.

## Slowfolks slow it down with a song and a strum

By NICK VANUNU

staff reporter

Slowfolks hopes to make a fast impression at next week's Blend.

The Blend is Highline's bi-monthly event showcasing musical performers in the Fireside Bistro every Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Next week's will be the second performance this quarter.

Slowfolks, comprised of Robert Lamirande and Cameron Moulton, is an indie rock duo that formed last summer, playing piano and guitar respectively and both doing vocals.

They recognized one another from high school and when they started jamming it just clicked, Lamirande said.

Lamirande, who attended Highline, has been playing piano for 15 years and only took lessons for six of those, after



Slowfolks members Cameron Moulton (left) and Robert Lamirande (right).

which he just taught himself. He has been writing music since the end of high school.

Moulton has been playing guitar for 10 years and singing for five, writing for just as long, and is completely self-taught.

Having just recorded a demo, they're focusing on playing shows to get noticed.

"We want to show our music to people so that's what we're doing right now," Lamirande said.

Both want their music to succeed, but are aware of the hard and turbulent road that is the music industry.

"I want to be a rock star," said Moulton. "But eventually

I just want to make a living with my music."

Both members spend time writing the music so it's not just a one-man show.

Generally one person will start writing a song and they'll finish it together.

"Sometimes the song stays the same, but sometimes it changes completely," Lamirande said.

The longer they've played together the more they've started to influence each other, he added.

Although their music is hard to classify, it contains very definite themes, Lamirande said.

They write everything from standard songs about drugs and the opposite sex to more obscure topics like working too much and being baptized as a child.

Whatever it is they write about, it always deals directly with their lives.

"It's all stuff that's important to you and whether or not you know why, you just have to sing about it," Lamirande said.

Slowfolks is not the first project for either member.

In high school, Lamirande played in a jazz band and Moulton played in a pop-punk band called Mariposa.

They both also have their own side projects, but are taking time away from that to really focus on Slowfolks, they said.

"Slowfolks has a much darker side of my music; my solo work has more love songs and is very personal," Moulton said.

If you enjoy their performance next week, you can catch them at coffeehouses around Seattle, Redmond, and Tacoma in the coming months.

All performance dates and some of their songs can be found at [www.myspace.com/slowfolks](http://www.myspace.com/slowfolks).

# Arts

## Pecos Bill to lasso Highline audience

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

By KELSEY SIMS

staff reporter

cal plans for the community.

Plans are a quarterly concert of classical music ranging in instruments from acoustic guitar, to harps, and wind instruments.

"Building 7 is really a wonderful place for that kind of music," Warren said.

"We're also looking at working with the college to reestablish the comedy night," Warren said. "We would bring in comedians ... that would attract another part of the community."

The commission has been hard at work at fundraising for a public sculpture at the Des Moines Library.

This mission was driven by member Barbara McMichael, who is also a part of Des Moines Friends of the Library.

After visiting other King County Libraries who also had sculptures, she realized it was the community's duty to incorporate visual art with its library.

Des Moines being a waterfront community with 30,000 people, Warren said, it is the commission's goal to involve much of the community in family friendly art events.

Pecos Bill rides into Highline to put on a cowboy show next week.

On April 26 at 5 p.m. in Building 7 Central Washington University Theater will perform *Pecos Bill and the Ghost Stampede*.

The Central Washington University's Drama Department is putting on a youth theater tour. After their performances in Ellensburg they will travel throughout the Northwest performing their play. Highline is the third stop on their tour. They will perform at several different CWU campuses and also K-12 schools.

"This will be the first time they have performed at the Highline campus," said Nada Lee Brady, who is the program support supervisor for CWU's Des Moines campus.

A total of six students will be on the tour, five cast members and one stage manager.

The six members are Thomas Ohrstrom, Amanda Rubeck, Andrew Shanks, Amanda Stutesman, Maggie Flynn and Alicia

James.

They will be touring from April 24- June 6.

The play was written by Eric Coble and based off the stories written of Edward O'Reilly. It is about a larger-than-life cow-

boy who is credited with creating the first round-up, cattle drive and rodeo.

He is a fun-loving character who's tales are more fiction than fact.

"The show should be fun for

students of any age," said Leslee Caul who is the director of the Theater Department at CWU.

Caul also said that the production is a funny story about an American legend.

Admission is free.

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IN THEATRES APRIL 27

Got a hot band? Your own  
CD? A new art project or  
show? Let us know!  
[tword@highline.edu](mailto:tword@highline.edu)  
206-878-3710, ext. 3317



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.

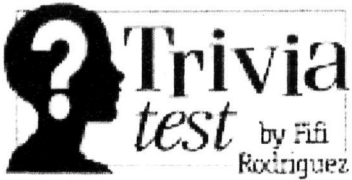
	x		+		23
-		x		-	
	+		x		35
x		+		x	
	x		+		30
21		19		18	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 2 3 5 6 7 7 8 9

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1. MOVIES: Who won the Best Actor Academy Award for his role in "Forrest Gump"?  
2. TELEVISION: On what show did the Coneheads get their start?  
3. FOOD & DRINK: What is a cauliflower's true origin?  
4. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What type of creature is a bandicoot?  
5. GEOGRAPHY: On which continent is the country of Gabon located?  
6. ENTERTAINERS: Which entertainer's real name was Muzyad Yakhoob?  
7. GEOLOGY: What is the chief ore in aluminum?

8. TECHNOLOGY: What does a baud measure?  
9. MEDICINE: Who discovered that yellow fever was carried by mosquitoes?  
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: On which river is Victoria Falls located?

10. Zambezi River  
9. Walter Reed  
8. Transmission of digital data  
7. Baud  
6. Danny Thomas  
5. Africa  
4. Marsupial  
3. It is a type of cultivated cabbage  
2. Saturday Night Live  
1. Tom Hanks

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Arts Calendar

•The Central Washington University Theatre Ensemble presents *Pecos Bill and the Ghost Stampede*, Wednesday, April 26 at 5 p.m. in the Lecture Hall, Building 7. The performance is free.  
•Ushani Nanayakkara's landscape paintings will be on display from May 4 to May 31 at the Kent Centennial Center Gallery, 400 W. Gowe St.  
•The City of Burien's Moshier Community Art Center is holding its annual Spring Student Pottery Sale, Saturday, May 5, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Moshier Art Center, 430 S. 156th St. This popular event features work by more than 30 students, instructors and studio potters. Checks are accepted, and cash pre-

ferred. For information, call 206-988-3700 or 206-242-7752, or visit [www.burien-parks.net](http://www.burien-parks.net).  
•A spring plant sale, sponsored by Friends of Burien Parks, will be Saturday, May 5 at the Burien Fire Station, 15100 8th Ave. SW. Proceeds to benefit improvements at Jacob Ambaum Park. To volunteer for the event or donate any surplus perennials or other plants, please contact Gloria Gould-Wessen at 206-241-8142. For more information, visit [www.friendsofburienparks.org](http://www.friendsofburienparks.org).  
•The Highline Swing Club offers swing dance lessons every Thursday, 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Building 27. Lessons are \$5 for Highline students, faculty and staff and \$10 for

Go Figure!  
answers

8	x	2	+	7	23
-		x		-	
1	+	6	x	5	35
x		+		x	
3	x	7	+	9	30
21		19		18	

Last week's  
Weekly SUDOKU  
Answer

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

Here Again ?

Across

- 1 Take on  
5 It may be junk  
9 Pond floater  
13 Unwritten  
14 Farm area  
15 Frosty's eyes  
16 Fox film  
20 Half and half  
21 Rash action  
22 Dangerous fly  
23 Deli offering  
24 Toolhouse  
25 Lox resting places  
28 Lead player  
29 Teacher's favorite  
32 Morning noisemaker  
33 Washer cycle  
34 Met star  
35 Take it easy  
38 Driving aids  
39 "\_\_\_ Misbehavin"  
40 Battery terminal  
41 Wrap up  
42 Tough journey  
43 "\_\_\_ Roberts" '55 movie  
44 Escort provider  
45 Bar follower  
46 Bee house  
49 First-rate  
50 Bob Cratchit's son  
53 Start all over again  
56 Fencing tool  
57 Friend or foe, e.g.  
58 "I \_\_\_ tell"  
59 Lad's date  
60 PDQ in the OR  
61 Additional

Down

- 1 Tramp  
2 Islamic republic  
3 Tear  
4 Lodge member  
5 Seder cracker  
6 Joint problem

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			

- 7 Wrath  
8 Southpaw need  
9 Performed  
10 Oaf  
11 Pikes' kin  
12 Out of the wind  
17 Louise's partner  
18 Rows  
19 Customer  
23 Seasonings  
24 Tour of duty  
25 Sew loosely  
26 Nonnative  
27 Like some communities  
28 Paddle  
29 Amelia Earhart's job  
30 Get away from  
31 Internal Revenue Service, e.g.  
33 Went downhill fast  
34 Thickheaded  
36 Traveling companions  
37 Oakland player  
42 Civil wrong  
43 "\_\_\_ Lisa"

- 44 Forgeries  
45 Basie's title  
46 Genesis fatality  
47 One of the Bears  
48 Summer coolers  
49 Pastel shade  
50 Plane, e.g.  
51 Overnight places  
52 Give with "out"  
54 Lush  
55 Meadow mom

Quotable Quote

*This paperback is very interesting, but I find it will never replace a hardcover book - it makes a very poor doorstep.*

... Alfred Hitchcock

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

others. All skill levels are welcome.  
•Artists and crafters are wanted at the 2007 Cornucopia Days in Kent. The festival runs July 13-16, 2007. The festival takes place in and around downtown Kent, with the Fine Craft Market located in an outside venue at Kent

Station, 417 Ramsay Way.  
Booth fee is \$145 for a 10x10-foot space. Applications are available at the website, [www.kentarts.com](http://www.kentarts.com), or call 253-865-5050 for more information. Deadline to apply is April 27.

•Got arts news? Send items to the Thunderword at [tword@highline.edu](mailto:tword@highline.edu). Deadline is Monday of each week.

Last week's crossword puzzle solution

CAKE WALK

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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## Lady T-Birds tied for second in West Division

By BRITTANY STILL  
staff reporter

Rain kept the Lady T-Birds fastpitch team off the field for a third of their games last week.

Highline's trip to Grays Harbor was rained out last Friday, but then the weather relented and the Highline women were able to travel to South Puget Sound on Saturday before coming home to face Centralia on Tuesday.

Highline again split a doubleheader with South Puget on April 14, before sweeping two games from Centralia last Tuesday.

The Lady T-Birds now have an 8-4 record (9-12 overall), tying them for second with South Puget Sound in the West Division. They trail first-place Pierce by 2 games.

Nonetheless, the women continue to be pleased with their progress.

"We are really coming together as a team. We are really supportive of each other," Ashley Carey said.

Highline won its first game against South Puget Sound 8-



Lady T-Bird Alexis Nichols rounds second against Centralia.

MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

7 with home runs from Caitlyn Ratcliffe, Rachel Comstock, and Anna Herried.

"South Puget Sound came out messing around. We really went after them," Comstock said.

Carrie Draeger pitched both games but the Lady T-Birds weren't able to pull out a win the second game, los-

ing 10-7. Draeger has only lost two out of the last nine games she has pitched.

Highline then demolished Centralia (2-8) at home on Tuesday, finishing both games in five innings.

Draeger pitched the first game winning 19-6, and power hitter Comstock hit her second home run this week.

"The team is improving a lot. We are getting better everyday," Comstock said.

Herried pitched a shutout the second game, winning 9-0 after the T-Birds scored six straight

runs without an out in the bottom of the fourth inning.

"Caitlyn [Ratcliffe, the catcher] called a great game. We wouldn't have shut them out if it weren't for her," Herried said.

"Anna really hit her spots. It was a dual effort," Ratcliffe said.

Highline will make up their rained out double-header against Grays Harbor today at Grays Harbor at 2 p.m.

The Chokers (6-4) have the potential to tie with Highline and South Puget Sound for second if they win both games.

After that this weekend Highline travels to Wenatchee for some non-league games at a crossover tournament.

Highline takes on Treasure Valley (4-14) first on Saturday at 10:45 a.m., then Clark (0-10) at 2:15 p.m. Highline then plays Big Bend (9-9) at 12:45 p.m. on Sunday, followed immediately by a game against Clackamas (10-0) at 2:30 p.m.

The Lady T-Birds then travel to Green River for a double-header at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 24 against the Gators (0-12).



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

Rachel Comstock makes the throw from third.

## Kim hopes to bring softball team to bat this summer

By KORY FARRELL  
staff reporter

Thunderbird athletes aren't the only ones picking up bats for the softball season.

Writing and literature professor Tommy Kim is looking to put together a summer recreation softball team of Highline faculty, staff, and students.

"We almost got a Highline softball team together last year so I'm going to try to put together a team again for this summer," Kim said.

The cost per person is approximately \$65-\$80.

The cut-off date to sign up is

at the end of April.

"The league will start either June 10 or June 23 and the playing field will be either Green Lake or Queen Anne," Kim said. "I'm just going to grab the first slot that's open and hope we get into one of these leagues. Last year we got stuck in a league that played way up north and had to ultimately disband the team because of that," Kim said.

The season will be six weeks long with a total of seven games, including a double-header on one of the days.

"You do not have to show up to every game," Kim said. "If you have plans that will cause

you to miss a game or two, it's not big deal, assuming we have enough players to field a team."

Highline needs eight players to take the field, with a maximum of 15 players per roster.

Each player only need supply themselves with a mitt, because bats and balls are provided.

Kim also said that in this league you don't have to have a whole lot of talent, because the primary goal is to have fun.

"Talent is secondary," Kim said. "Enthusiasm trumps all else."

If you're interested in playing in the league this summer, e-mail Kim at Tkim@highline.

## T-Bird Jennings qualifies for NWAACCs in 5,000 meters

By JAIME GUDJONSON  
staff reporter

Trevor Jennings finished second in the men's 5,000-meter run at the Spike Arlt Meet at Central Washington University last Saturday.

Jennings completed the race with a time of 15:55.23 qualifying him for the NWAACC Championships.

Jennings second place win helped Highline's men's team to finish 13th place in the meet.

Highline's Rosie Meeker finished 13th in the women's 5,000-meter with a time of 22:16.9.

Brandt May placed 19th in the 400-meter dash with a time

of 54.98.

In the 800-meter run May finished 15th with a time of 2:05.53 along with John Hurlburt who finished 21st with a time of 2:10.87, Noah MacDonald-Robbins in 23rd with a time of 2:14.11 followed closely by Tyler Eidsmoe with a time of 2:14.34.

In the 1,500-meter run Tyler Eidsmoe finished 20th with a time of 4:22.6 followed by MacDonald-Robbins who finished 27th with a time of 4:36.3, John Hurlburt in 29th with a time of 4:41.5 and William Anderson in 30th with a time of 4:44.3.

Anderson ran the 5,000-meter run, finishing 12th with a time of 18:07.83.



THE THUNDERWORD/APRIL 19, 2007/PAGE 9

# A mountain to Si for

## Four-mile trek rewards hikers with great views

BY KORY FARRELL

staff reporter

If you're looking for a difficult hike an easy distance away, Mount Si is your big mound of dirt.

Located just 45 minutes east of Seattle in North Bend along the I-90 corridor, Mount Si is an eight mile hike (four miles up, four miles down) zigzagging nearly continuously uphill through dense forest. The trail is punctuated by mile markers at every half-mile or so to let you know how far, or how little, you've climbed.

In my opinion, Si is not only a physical test, but a mental one as well. This hike gives you very little by way of encouragement on the way up as it only gets steeper and steeper, the forest no less dense and very few decent views in between.

But when you do reach the top, on a clear day, I can guarantee you will believe the view was worth the climb. The entire valley is laid out before you, including North Bend, Snoqualmie, Rainier and the Olympic Mountains, and (cloud-cover permitting) Seattle.

Just keep climbing.

At around a mile into the hike, you come across a good rest spot: an opening in the trees to a small cliff with a view of the valley and I-90 (on a clear day).

Not far after that you'll round a corner to a small rest area among the trees with benches covered in the initials of hikers past.

About another three-quarters of a mile after that you'll encounter a fork in the path: if you go right you'll encounter a massive uprooted tree with a small stream running past it, if you go left you'll continue up the mountain and soon come upon the only level part of the

hike: Snag Flats.

While you're there, take the opportunity to catch not only your breath, but a little Si history. On this level stretch of land, a man-made boardwalk cuts through the relatively new growths of fir trees, given their shot at life after a forest fire ravaged Si for weeks in the early 1900s.

Enjoy this level ground while you can, because from here on out the hike only gets steeper and more demanding, the weather more fickle.

Only two and a half more miles to go, two of which we spent pretty decently waterlogged by the light snow falling from the sky, dripping down through limb and bough onto our heads.

You know you're very close to the top when more and more rocks and boulders begin to jut out of the path.

Once you reach Haystack Basin, don't be intimidated by the rocky terrain, because the view gets exponentially better and vaster the further and higher you climb.

But be advised: Take your time, know your limits, and feel out your footing very, very carefully, because somewhere on Haystack there is a monument to a deceased youth, one of the few yet tragic instances of fatality on the mountain.

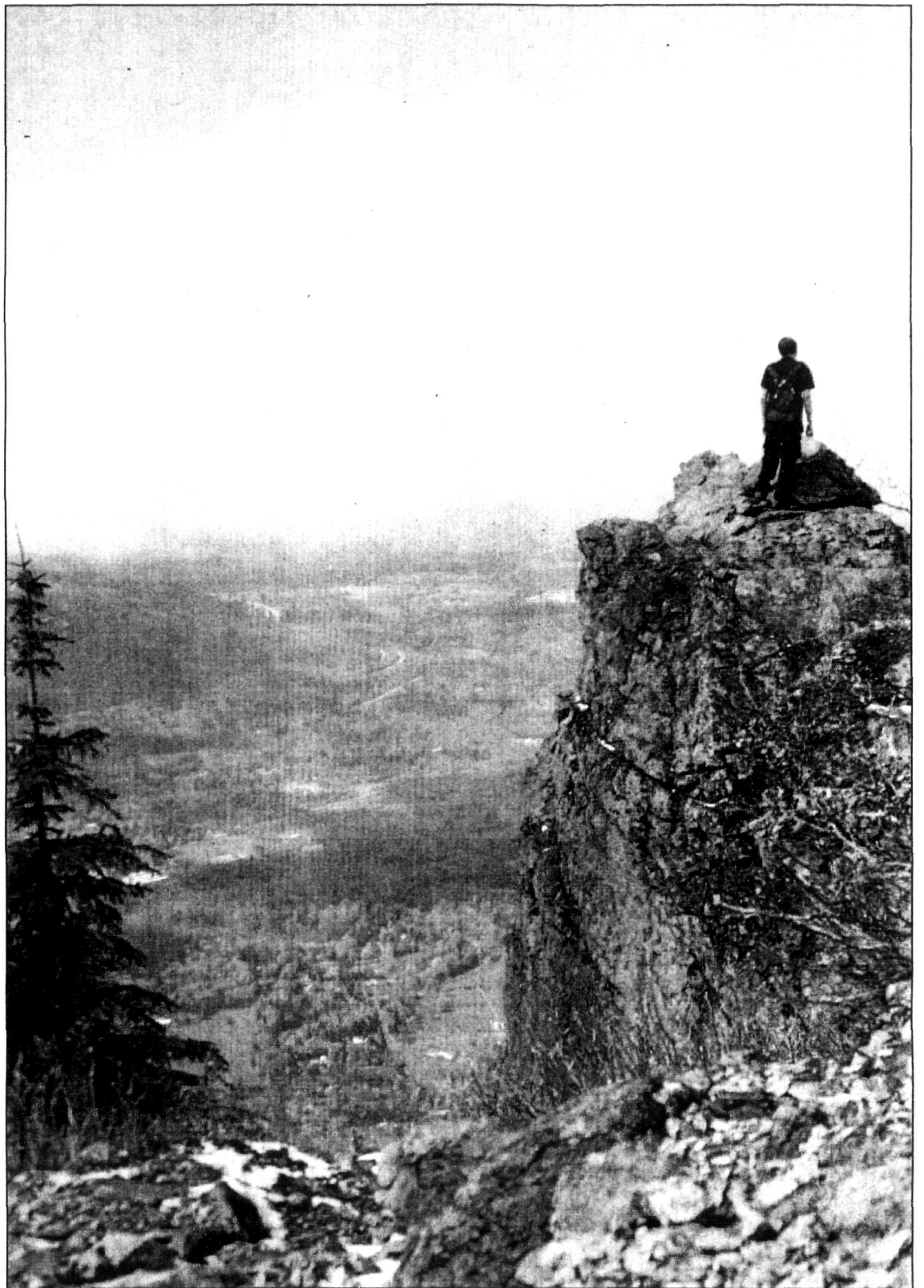
The entire hike took us around three hours to reach the end of the trail at Haystack Basin.

"It's a lot steeper (than most other hikes)," hiker Amanda

Daigle said.

"This is a very steep hike," hiker Mike Daigle agreed. "This one is a lot in the trees."

"This one is a little steeper than some," hiker Spencer Havens said. "The view is different because it's a little more city



JAIME GUDJONSON/THUNDERWORD  
The view of North Bend from Haystack Basin (top), and hikers Mike Daigle (left) and Amanda Daigle (right) enjoying the mountain air.

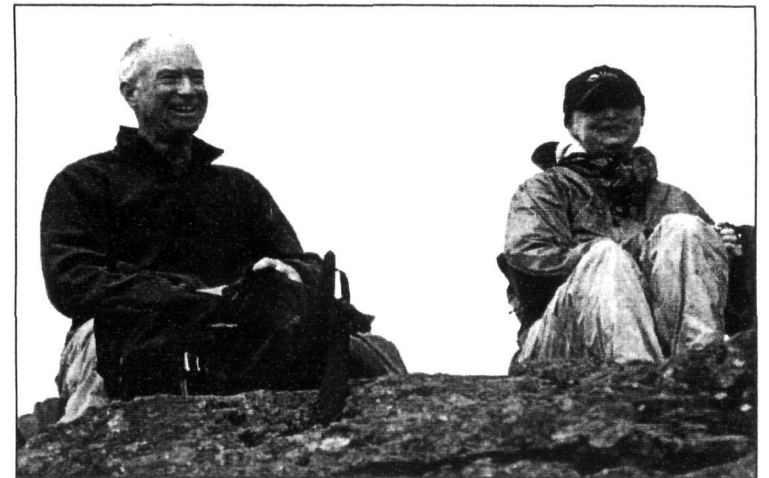
view, while [on] some [other hikes] you get out and it's just wilderness vs. being a little more urban here."

"This is one of the more scenic trails around, it's better than Tiger (Mountain), I would say," hiking regular Gene Pepetone said. "It's got a great point of vista up at the top, its tough the last half mile but a good time."

Perhaps one of the negative aspects of Si is that a lot of people take this hike.

We arrived at the Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area parking lot around 9:30 a.m. on a Sunday and the lot was almost 75 percent full.

From the casually dressed recreational crowd (us among them) to the hardcore pace-setting geared-up hikers, complete with hiking poles and packs the size (and probably weight) of small children, to a man dressed only in shorts and a T-shirt run-



ning the trail all the way up and down once, then half-way up and down again, Si has a very diverse and dense population of hikers.

If you're setting a casual pace, prepare to be passed often. However, a more polite and friendly a crowd you'd be hard-pressed to find.

All in all, as far as seclusion goes, though, this hike is best described as standing room only.

In the end, if you're looking to embrace the solitude of Mother Nature, Mount Si prob-

ably isn't for you.

But if you're looking to get in a good work out, and feel like you really accomplished with your day, the panoramic view Si offers at her summit tells it all.

To get there: Head east on Interstate 90 and get off on Exit 31 (to North Bend), then drive east on North Bend Way and in less than a mile turn left onto Mount Si Road (at the New Dawn coffee stand.) From there, just pay attention to the signs. The lot can hold about 200 cars, and parking is free.



JAIME GUDJONSON  
Hikers blaze up trail at Si.



# Bruce lives, breaths, eats basketball

BY MICHELLE ERICKSEN

staff reporter

Basketball isn't everything to Zach Bruce, but it's right up there with oxygen.

Bruce played on Highline's basketball team for the last two years. They won the championship in 2006, and took seventh in the NWAACC this year.

Bruce is graduating from Highline this year with an associate of arts degree. He is still deciding what career to go into.

"I like doing a lot of stuff, and I hate doing a lot of stuff too," he said.

Bruce said he will definitely not be working a 9 a.m.-5 p.m. job, and unquestionably no job that involves any engineering.

"I'm interested in sociology," he said. "I want to work with children."

Bruce is originally from Oceanside, Calif. He moved to Washington in 2004.

"I graduated from high school in '03, and my parents were moving up here," Bruce said. Bruce's dad retired from the Navy and re-located to Washington with his new job.

Bruce, 22, spent his first two years out of high school working.

Just getting back into school and staying with it was an accomplishment for him.

"Basketball has helped me with that," he said.

Bruce played baseball when he was younger but switched to basketball because baseball was too easy.

"It was for me anyways," he said. "I started playing basketball and it's a hard sport. I loved it."

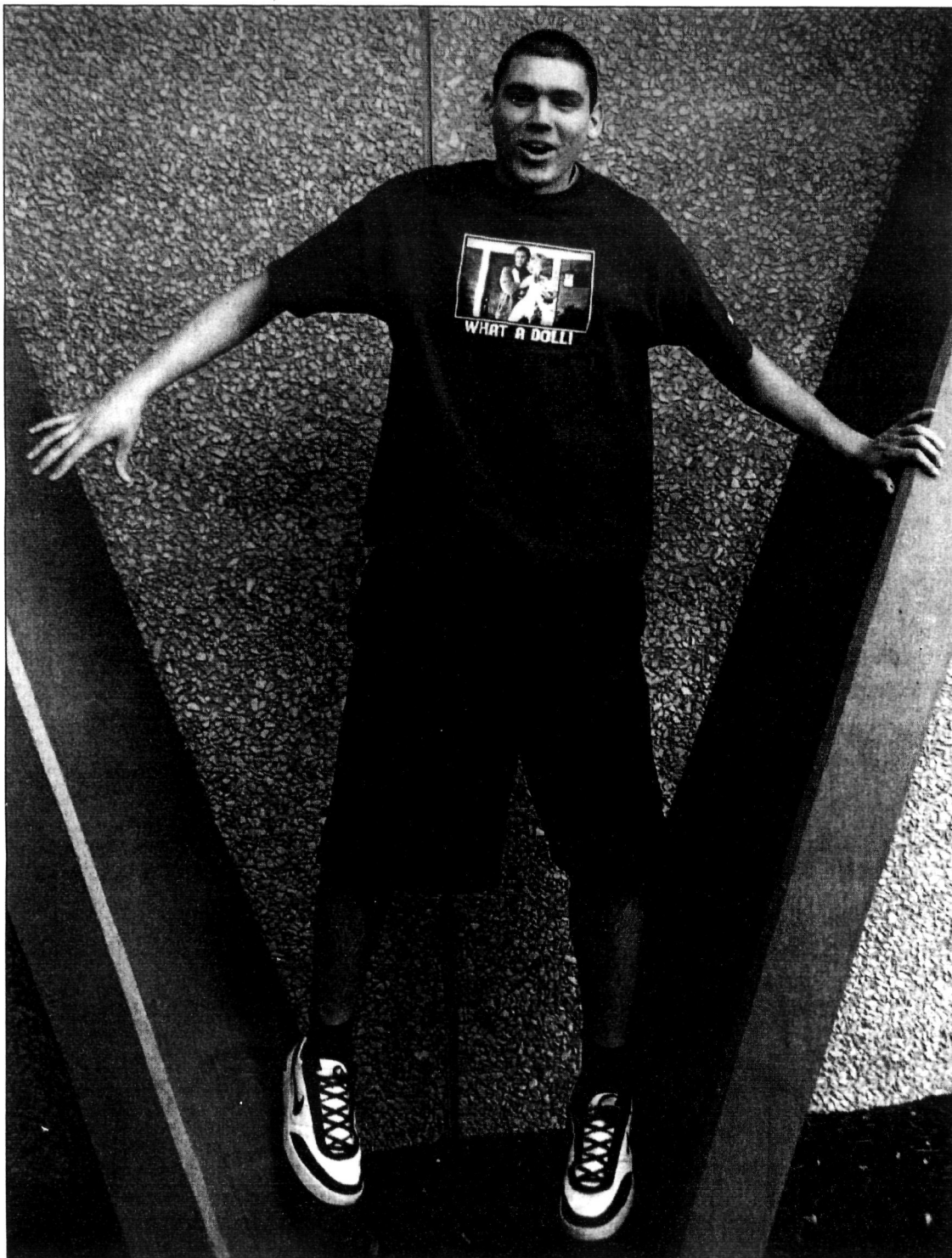
Bruce, 6'8", played forward for the T-Birds and was usually one of the tallest players on the court.

Last season he averaged 12.5 points a game and led the NWAACC in field goal accuracy with a shooting average of 63.5 percent.

At the end of the season he averaged 6.25 rebounds a game and is third in the league with 16 blocks this season.

"When I was younger I didn't know how tall I was going to be," he said. "So it all worked out."

Bruce heard of Highline



Zach Bruce played basketball for Highline for the last two years.

ALICIA MENDEZ/THUNDERWORD

through friends.

"I just felt at home at Highline and decided to stay," Bruce said. "Clearly I made the right choice."

One of the highlights of Bruce's time at Highline was winning the NWAACC championship in 2006. Bruce took home the most inspirational player award.

"You learn a lot of your individual success depends on others, you learn positive determination, patience with others, and discipline," he said. "It's all about discipline."

Bruce said the major difference between the championship

team and this year's team, was that last year they had two full rotations.

"We had a lot more people we could rely on," Bruce said.

Bruce said that there was much more togetherness within this year's team and that although they were short of players there was an equal amount of talent.

"There's a lot of heart too," Bruce said.

Bruce said playing basketball keeps him focused.

"Basketball is sort of a sanctuary," Bruce said. "It's just like that time you're with

your team in the gym. It's just that place you can retreat to.

"It (basketball) helps put life in perspective too," he said. "Like if you have a big paper

due, you just do it right after practice because that's the mentality you have."

Just coming back to school was a big accomplishment for Bruce.

"I took basically two years off," Bruce said. "I couldn't have done it without my parent's help."

Bruce said one of the biggest influences in his life is his father.

"My father's been through two wars then he married my mom who already had two kids," he said. "He loved us like we were his own kids."

"I didn't understand that when I was younger, but I could be a totally different person now if not for all that," he said.

Bruce said that the only father figure he had before his mom remarried was his grandfather.

Bruce is looking to transfer to a college on the West Coast.

"If I get a huge D-I offer somewhere I might have to take that," he said.

Right now Bruce might transfer to Western Washington University or Seattle Pacific University.

Bruce said he wants to play basketball somewhere, somehow.

"I'd play professional ball anywhere. If I could make decent money playing ball I'd do it," Bruce said. "I'd rather play in the NBA of course, but I think it's more of a realization. The NBA is real tough to get too."

Bruce said being a paraplegic is the only thing that could stop him from playing basketball. He is very passionate about basketball.

"Basketball is like a home cooked meal: you can mince it, you can marinate it, chop it, sauté it, and filet it, but in the end it all tastes good," Bruce said.

## Scoreboard

Women's Fastpitch								
NORTH			WEST			SOUTH		
League/Season			League/Season			League/Season		
Bellevue	18-2	22-4	Pierce	10-2	18-9	Clackamas	10-0	18-3
Everett	17-1	25-7	Highline	8-4	9-12	Chemeketa	7-3	17-6
Olympic	13-9	14-13	S. Puget Sound	8-4		L. Columbia	6-2	14-4
Peninsula	8-10	12-13						
Shoreline	8-10	10-16						

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# Campus clean-up nets butts, clothing

A dress, a shoe, and underwear were among the trash found during the Campus Clean-up event on Monday.

A group of about 40 students wandered around the campus, armed with trash bags and rubber gloves to pick up litter.

Students from Tracy Brigham's Global Health Issues/101 class made up most of the students who volunteered.

"It's helping us to focus on the environment and see the effect that an hours worth of cleaning can do," said Ashley Marie, a student from the class.

"It helps to give our class a point," student Abby Oden said. "Instead of just reading about it, we're learning about it hands-on."

Students said they found mostly cigarette butts and miscellaneous garbage.

About 20 bags of trash were filled by the time the students' efforts were through.



A Highline student picks up cigarette butts as part of the Campus Clean-up that kicked off Earth Week on Monday. Events continue today and Friday.

JOHN THOMPSON/THUNDERWORD

## Big sibs aims to help youth

By CARRIE DRAEGER

staff reporter

Many kids in the Puget Sound area don't have a mentor, someone they can look up to. Big Brothers Big Sisters is trying to change that.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been around for 100 years nationally and 50 years in this area, says Jacqui Deelstra, program administrator for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

The main focus of Big Brothers Big Sisters is mentoring kids. The program is the oldest and largest youth-mentoring organization in the United States.

"We can all think of someone who mentored us," Deelstra said. "We see a lot of kids who don't have that same kind of experience ... who are in need of some guidance."

In Washington, 21,000 students have at least one parent or guardian incarcerated. In addition to that 17,000 families in King County live in poverty and only 70 percent of King County high school students graduate.

"We kind of see within the justice system that they don't do a lot to consider children with parents that go to prison," said Deelstra.

"Seventy-five percent of teens don't feel they have a mentor," said Deelstra.

Big Brothers Big Sisters offer two programs that for mentoring purposes, a school-based program and a community-based program.

School-based Mentors go to local schools and spend one hour a week doing activities at school with an individual student focusing on relationship building.

"With 25 students in class, there isn't really much one on one time," said Deelstra. "We all need to feel special. ... You can really change the life of a child over time if they open up to you."

Community-based mentors meet with children in the community and are more involved with the students and have a more flexible schedule.

They often pick up the students from their homes and take them out to ice cream or to a Mariners game.

Persons interested in volunteering have to go through an application process, an in-person interview, and a background check.

For more information, visit the Big Brothers Big Sisters website at [www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org) or by calling 877-700-BIGS(2447).

## Local teacher does his part by biking to work

By JAMES BERMINGHAM

staff reporter

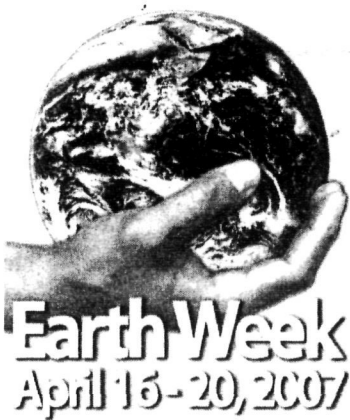
Tim Stewart lives two miles from work and it takes him 15 minutes to get there, but he gets great mileage.

Stewart is a bicycle commuter, and has been one sense 1999.

Stewart was a speaker at Highline's Earth Week celebration. He told a small audience on Tuesday that he tries to lead by example in the fight against global warming.

Stewart said, "bicycling is easy to get in to." He got into it because of his desire to "actually do something to help they environment, not just talk about it."

Stewart believes he helps the environment by; biking when-



ever possible, buys food from local markets, eats organic food, donates to environmentalist groups, and is a member of the Green Party of Seattle. Stewart is also involved with Northwest Trek.

"I believe that there our many things we as a country need to

start doing to help the environment," said Stewart. His ideas included; building a more effective public transportation system, get people into biking, have people support local farmers, buy food from local organic markets, look into alternative fuel sources, and carpool when you drive.

"The biggest problem is we are a car culture. We like to watch shows like *Pimp My Ride*," said Stewart.

"Another problem is Americans like to drive alone, that's why only 3 percent of us use public transportation or carpool."

However, Stewart says he is still optimistic about the future. "There are some signs that change is coming, a tug boat company in Seattle is looking

into using clean burning fuels and I believe that things like that show we are ready to change."

Stewart is a teacher at Thomas Jefferson High school, and adviser to the school's Key Club. He has a bachelor's degree in English and a teaching certificate from Pacific Lutheran University.

Stewart first taught in Korea, then moved back to the United States and began teaching junior high school, and now high school.

Stewart is an English teacher and said, "I usually don't discuss the environment in my classes except if a student brings up the topic in class."

"However I'm always looking for new ways to add the environment into my English class," he said.

## Campus Calendar

•More than 30 organizations will be present at the Volunteer Fair, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. today in Building 8. Students will have an opportunity to connect with organizations looking for volunteers in a variety of fields.

•Movie Fridays and the Environmental Club will present *The Future of Food*, noon, Friday, in Building 7. The film examines modern food production and its impact on people around the world.

•Job Training: Dr. Gloria Rose Koepping, psychologist and faculty counselor, will discuss the job training available in the community and technical colleges in our state, today, noon-1 p.m. in the Student

Services conference room, Building 6, lower level. Learn how to use WOIS to research colleges and gain important information that may help you get a better job.

•Nominations for the Annual Extraordinary/Ordinary Woman Awards will be accepted until Friday. Forms are available at the Women's Programs office, Building 6. Call 206-878-3710, ext. 3340 for more information.

•Applications from students to be this year's Commencement speaker are due 3 p.m. Friday, April 27 in the Student Programs Office, third floor, Building 8.

•The 2nd annual Educational Opportunities Night for

ESL students and community members will be 6:30-8:45 p.m., Tuesday, May 8 in Building 8. This event will provide information about Highline financial aid, IBEST programs, professional/technical programs and transferring. Free child care will be provided.

•College representatives on campus this spring will include: Antioch University, Wednesday, May 9, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Art Institute of Seattle, Monday, May 14, 9 a.m.-noon.

City University, Thursday, May 10, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Eastern Washington University - Bellevue campus, Thursday, May 17, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Evergreen State Col-

lege - Olympia campus, Wednesday, May 30, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The Evergreen State College - Tacoma campus, Monday, May 21, 9 a.m.-noon.

Pacific Lutheran University, Thursday, April 19, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

UW Seattle Evening Degree Program, Monday, April 23, 3-5 p.m.

University of Washington-Tacoma, Thursday, May 17, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Washington State University, Wednesday, May 9, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and Wednesday, June 6, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (individual appointments).

Tables will be in the Student Union.

## Transit

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

commuter rail which runs from Tacoma to Seattle; the Tacoma Link Light Rail which runs from the Tacoma Dome to downtown Tacoma; and the downtown tunnel and transit facilities.

Now they are working on a new project that will take even more commuters out of their idling cars and onto the train.

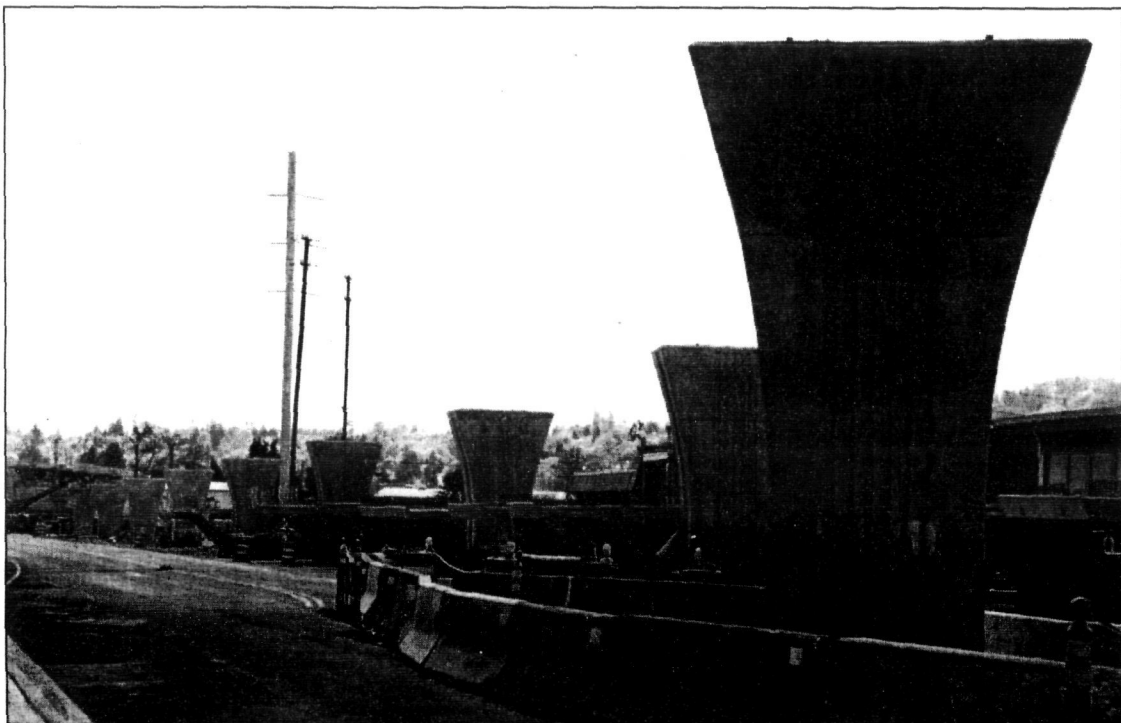
This project is the light rail, which will run from the University of Washington to SeaTac airport.

The light rail is "the one that people think is a little sexier," said Senior Planner Chipps.

"We figure that it will affect you students more than us older people," said Chipps.

The light rail is already under development with 19 miles of track in place. By the summer of 2009, Sound Transit hopes to have added enough miles of track to reach the airport.

The agency's vision is bigger than just a train to the airport, however. This November, Sound Transit will ask voters to approve a 0.5 percent increase in the local sales tax to help pay



PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

*Posts to hold up the light rail on its route are currently being built. Sound Transit hopes the light rail will get commuters off the road, reducing traffic.*

for \$11 billion more in transportation improvements.

The project would include light rail links from the airport to Tacoma, from Seattle to Bellevue, and from the University of Washington to Everett, plus bus improvements on I-405, among other projects. In total, Sound Transit Two, as its being

called, would add 40 miles of light-rail track to the existing 19 miles.

"The light rail is the backbone of this proposal," Chipps said.

With the light rail in place, Sound Transit predicts that the delays at chokepoints will be reduced, travel times will improve

and pollution will decrease.

"It is the cleanest transit source you can use in this area," Schmid said.

Sound Transit predicts that within the next 20 years, the Seattle area's population will increase by 40 percent, or by 1.2 million by 2030.

The kind of density that will

come with that much growth will not only make transit necessary, it will make it viable, Chipps said, as transit-supportive densities occur around 12 houses per acre. Currently the Sound Transit area has two houses per acre, including the industrial areas.

"It used to be density was thought of as a bad thing. Now developers are using this to their advantage," said Schmid.

With an increasing number of people, Sound Transit hopes to be ready for the population increase.

"The cost of housing is absurd in King County. The reason people are living farther away [from the city] is because of affordability," Schmid said, adding that light rail will help make that commute easier.



## Caution: toxins could be in your yard, soil

By CHRISTY SAETEURN  
staff reporter

Scary but true, the soil in your back yard could be contaminated with toxic metals. Not just in South King County, but places in the Puget Sound area.

On a speech about the environment, Senior Engineer David South of the Washington state Department of Ecology explained that of the dangerous toxins that leaked out of the smelters in the past could have an effect on people today.

South spoke as part of the Highline Earth week events.

South earned an M.S. in Geology and a Ph. D in Geological Engineering at the University of Arizona, along with a bachelor's of science in Geological Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines.

A registered geologist in the State of Washington, he currently is involved in cleaning up the Everett Smelter zone.

"I'm in charge of implementing the environmental laws of Washington state....," South said.

A smelter is a factory where metallic ores (such as copper, lead, silver, and gold) are melted and separated.

This process produces hazardous waste which needs to be handled properly in order to avoid contaminating the envi-



PHOTO ILLUSTRATED BY DAVID HSU/THUNDERWORD

*There are toxic metals that can be commonly found locally in the soil.*

ronment.

But when money comes into play, and the environment is last on their minds, citizens are at risk.

One way to find out if you have toxins in your soil is to call the Department of Ecology for more information at 1-800-633-7585.

Or if underneath your soil there are huge clumps of white sediments within your soil that could be a problem.

The best way to find out is call the Department of Ecology

and check with them to see if you are at risk.

"We have done a lot of work to assess the distribution of contamination. We are still finding new sites around the state," South said.

Resident neighborhoods near smelter plants have shown to have contaminated soil. But the contaminated soil isn't high enough to cause cancer if, and when, the soil is ingested.

When considering if the soil may be dangerous, two different measurements of toxicity is

used, with respect to cancer and non-cancer risks, South said.

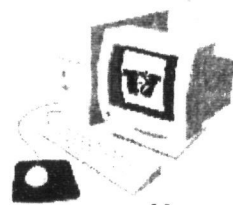
Cancer potency factor and reference dose are used to calculate the persons exposure to the toxin. This measurement includes: body weight, amount of soil consumed, rate of consumption, concentration of toxin in soil, and length of time exposed to the toxin, South said.

If your property is deemed

toxic and the Department of Ecology declares that your property needs to be cleaned, the payment of that bill could be laid on the company or the person that contaminated that site.

Therefore, the current homeowners of the contaminated property might or might not have to put up the bill, depending on the circumstances, South said.

### "Virtual" Transfer Fair in May



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Got ads? Prices starting at \$10. Call 206-878-3710, ext. 3291, or e-mail [tword@highline.edu](mailto:tword@highline.edu).

Next issue, this space could be yours.



## Women's Programs to honor extraordinary women

By **CARRIE DRAEGER**  
staff reporter

Highline's Women's Programs will honor four extraordinary/ordinary women at their Annual Women's Celebration on Wednesday April 25 starting at 11 a.m. in the Student Union in the Mt. Constance Room.

The Women's Program has been around for 34 years and this year marks the 25th Anniversary of Highline's Annual Woman's Celebration.

The Annual Women's Celebration tries to recognize and congratulate some of the extraordinary women on High-

line's campus. This year the keynote speaker will be State Senator Claudia Kauffman, D-Kent. Kauffman is the first Native American woman elected to the Senate for the state of Washington. Kauffman will talk about the road she took into politics and how she is using her passion to encourage others.

"We have a lot of women come to us saying, I couldn't have done it without Women's Programs. We didn't do any of that. You did that. It's just like basketball; we are just making the assist. We are all incredibly extraordinary and we often pass it off as ordinary," said Women's Programs Director Marie Bruin.

The awards have been given to single parents attending school, working, and raising their children; students and staff recovering from addictions, are victims of abuse; and professors who have gone above and beyond to help their students succeed.

"There are a lot of single parents on campus that we don't realize," said Jean Munro of Women's Programs.

"Here's what's so incredible. For many of these students, college wasn't even part of the plan. ... [The Annual Women's

Celebration is about celebrating] the mom whose son has terminal cancer and is still moving on with her life," said Bruin.

Anyone can nominate a woman on campus who they believe fits the description of an extraordinary/ordinary woman. Nominations are due to Women's Programs by Friday, April 20.

Nominations can be picked up and submitted in the Women's Program's office in Building 6.

Women's Programs is one of the oldest programs of its kind in the nation.

"Highline was pretty pro-

gressive in having a women's program," said Bruin.

The program was instated to welcome new and future students. Women's Programs helps both women and men transition from their current situations into life as college students.

"Regardless of who you are, we can navigate your situation," said Bruin.

Women's Programs helps with job attainment, transportation, counseling, parenting issues, drug and alcohol addiction, among other things.

"It's a hard thing to do. It's even harder to do by yourself," said Bruin.

## Biodegradable plastics still face high costs

By **JAIME GUDJONSON**  
staff reporter

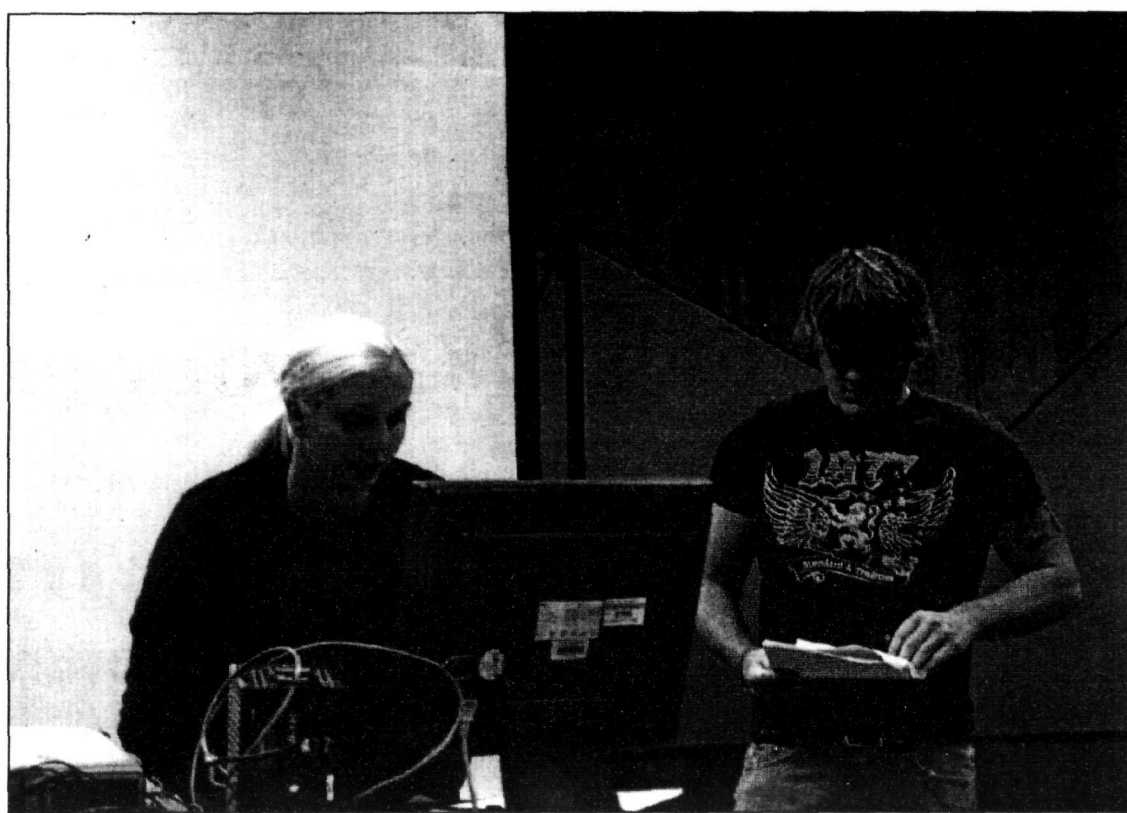
Biodegradable plastics made with plant-based materials have been available for many years. However, their high cost has prevented them from swaying the mass market to replace traditional non-degradable plastics, two students said here this week.

Plastic packaging does in turn provide excellent protection for the products that it seals, it is cheap to manufacture and seems to last forever.

However, this "lasting forever" bit is proving to be a major environmental problem.

In celebration of Earth Week at Highline, a seminar titled What happens after you throw it away? held in Building 2 Monday, was put on by Highline's Chemistry Department.

Twelve people total attended



Misty Queen and Chris Williams explain the difference in degradable and non-degradable plastics.

"Awareness will help to solve the problem," Queen said.

Queen and Williams focused mostly on the chemical makeup of non-degradable and biodegradable plastics and their differences so that attendees could better grasp the science behind the movement for biodegradable plastics.

The knowledge of the different chemical makeups helped to distinguish and answer the

questions as to why non-degradable plastics are becoming such an environmental threat in the world.

"The reason traditional plastics are not biodegradable is because their long polymer molecules are too large and too tightly bonded together to be broken apart and assimilated by decomposer organisms. However, plastics based on natural plant polymers derived from

wheat or corn starch have molecules that are readily attacked

and broken down by microbes," Queen said.

Unfortunately, as with polylactide (PLA a biodegradable polyester derived from renewable resources such as corn starch or sugarcane), polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA a linear polyesters produced in nature by bacterial fermentation of sugar) is significantly more expensive to produce and thus is having a hard time replacing the widespread use of traditional petrochemical plastics.

Despite the impending push for PHA over PLA, there are still an assortment of ways to recycle, reuse, or avoid using plastic products.

"Using grocery bags made from cloth to carry your groceries. And reusing water bottles," are a few examples Williams pointed out.

"I hate to admit this, but growing up my mother used to make me use plastic grocery bags to cover my head while walking to school in the rain," Queen said.



the seminar.

The speakers were Misty Queen, student president of the chemistry club, CASM, a club directed toward pre-medical, pre-pharmacy, pre-dental students, and Chris Williams, vice-president of CASM.

"Plastic is everywhere and so is plastic waste," Williams said.

### Swing dance lessons available at Highline

Highline's Swing Dance Club's is offering weekly swing dance lessons, to anyone that is interested.

No prior dancing experience is needed or required.

Beginners are encouraged to join in.

The first lesson was held last week, but it isn't too late to sign up.

The cost is \$5 for students and \$10 for everyone else.

Lessons are held in bldg. 27 every Thursday from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

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## Highline students make the cut with paper machines

By **AARON QUAM**

staff reporter

The engineering students from Highline garnered four awards from this past weekend's Human Paper Powered Vehicle competition in Cheney.

Eighteen students on five teams had to create a vehicle that is comprised of a minimum of 90 percent paper and weigh less than 75 pounds.

The vehicle is propelled by human power only and raced through a 300-meter course with three driver changes in the fastest time possible.

Team Nightfall led the way with two first place finishes in both the vehicle performance competition and in vehicle presentation.

Team on the Edge took home the top honors for most innovative design and Team Innovation Station won second place in the vehicle competition.

Sounds easy on paper, but the engineering students might say otherwise.

"The week leading up to the competition involved a lot of



Engineering students from Highline pose proudly with their medals after winning four awards.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD BANKHEAD

planning and hard work to get our vehicle finished. Rich was a very big help in getting our vehicle completed on time," said Alina Stepchuk from Team In-

novation.

"Our vehicle turned out almost exactly how we had designed it," Gagandeep Dhillon of Team Nightfall said. "Care-

ful planning and managing our time properly really helped us achieve our goals and win in this year's competition."

"The last week was pretty

stressful and involved a few late nights by several teams in an effort to finish their vehicles," engineering instructor Rich Bankhead said.

"Overall the effort is well worth it because it gives the participating students the opportunity to put into practice what they have been learning and it gives them experience in working within a team environment," Bankhead said.

Bucking the trend of the predominately male teams usually involved in the competition, Highline was well represented by the women of the Engineering Department in this year's competition.

Four of the 18 team members sent were women and all were involved with the winning teams.

"You just have to go against the stereotypes and follow your ideas about what you want to do," said Stepchuk of Team Innovation.

"The women don't know what they are missing out on by passing up on opportunities like this."

## Unity Week to celebrate diversity

By **FERESHTA NOMAN**

staff reporter

Highline's 10th annual Unity through Diversity Week will take you to new places and perspectives, all without leaving campus.

From April 23-27, Highline will be holding a number of events that will encourage students and staff to "move beyond individualism."

"Unity Week is about celebration of what we bring to this community, and it's about education," said Yoshiko Harden-Abe, director of multicultural services. "Learning happens everywhere."

Events include:

•Unity through Diversity Week will also include several interesting speakers, who will lecture on behalf of diversity, success, society, and personal journeys.

Dr. Tricia Rose, a professor of Africana studies at Brown University will talk on the basis of African American culture and society. She will speak on Monday, April 23 from 9-9:50 a.m. and 11-11:50 a.m.

•Something new this year that the International Leadership Council (ILSC) is bringing to the table is an activity called Starpower that will be held on Tuesday, April 24 from 1:30-3 p.m. In this game, students can



participate in having an intense discussion about success society, and power.

•Another event includes a simulation game entitled Conversation Circles, which will consist of taboo topics, where the participants will have a full-blown conversation about the most forbidden topics about race and diversity and will also be held on Tuesday, April 24 from 12:10-1:13 p.m.

•State Senator Claudia Kaufman, D-47th district, also known as the first Native American to be elected as senator of our state, will be speaking on Wednesday, April 25th from 11-11:50 a.m.

•On Thursday, April 26, Dr. Derrick Brooms of Loyola University will discuss slavery and the reparations movement from 10-10:50 a.m. and Dr. Patrick

Chapman will hold a lecture about homosexuality and American society from 11-11:50 a.m.

•Floyd F. a man who experienced the juvenile and state imprisonment system at age 15, will speak from 10-10:50 a.m. in Building 2.

•There will also be a workshop on samba music and a live performance by Arturo Rodriguez, which will be held on Friday, April 27 from 11 a.m. to noon.

ILSC's biggest event of the year, the fifth annual Global Fest, will include food, performances, culture booths and several activities from every corner of the world. Tickets are currently selling \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. The event will be held on Friday, April 27, from 6-9 p.m.

ILSC is strongly encouraging all students and staff to get involved in the activities.

"We have something that would interest everyone," said Yoshiko Harden-Abe, director of multicultural services.

Unity through Diversity Week will enlighten participants about the many different cultures and communities that surround us, and how diversity affects society as a whole.

All other events will be held in the Mt. Constance room and at the Student Union, in the coming week.

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# Taking a closer look at bodily functions

BY AARON QUAM

staff reporter

Humans fart between a cup and a half gallon everyday.

"There have been actual scientific studies done on the subject of farts," said Biology instructor Carol Hernandez.

This week's science seminar had Hernandez give a presentation titled Bodily Functions in an effort to explain just why the human body does some of the things that it does.

Hernandez received her master's degree in biology from Emery University and has taught in the Portland and Seattle areas.

Hernandez has spent this past year teaching at Highline and will be returning next year.

The presentation she gave at Science Seminar covered flatulence, burping, and where and how urine is made in the human body.

"Farts happen because certain sugars are indigestible and an after effect of this is the production of gases in the lower intestine."

"Certain foods to avoid if



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

Highline Biology professor Carol Hernandez presents on functions of the human body at last week's Science Seminar.

one was planning a date would include: cabbage, apples, prunes, cauliflower, radishes, broccoli, onions, and beans."

"Burps are a release of gas from the esophagus and the stomach," Hernandez said.

They can be caused by

swallowing air while we eat and the ingestion of carbonated beverages.

Urine is made in the kidneys

and then stored in the bladder for later release.

"The kidneys are the bodies filtering system and are one of the bodies most complicated working systems," Hernandez said.

"As a biologist, you take for granted what people know," said Hernandez. "We sometimes assume people know what we have studied."

Hernandez decided to speak on this topic after conducting a brief survey with people and asking them where urine is made in the human body.

"One out of 25 people answered that question right," said Hernandez.

"So I decided to do this presentation in an effort to help educate more people on human bodily functions."

Seminars are held every Friday from 2:20 p.m. to 3:10 p.m. in Building 3, room 102.

"Human Evolution: Egos, Politics, Fossils, and Genes" will be the next featured topic of the Science Seminar series. It will be presented by Highline Biology instructor Lonnie Somers.

## GSA returns for a new quarter with a new leader

BY ANNIE MAYTUM

staff reporter

The Gay/Straight Alliance is back on campus, bouncing back after the departure of its former president last November. The club is accessible once again to any students, faculty and staff who are interested.

The group is being led by a new president, Steve Simpkins, who started at Highline last fall as an aspiring nurse.

Simpkins describes the purpose of the club as a means of bringing together homosexuals and heterosexuals, as well as those who identify as bisexual or are questioning.

Several activities for the group are currently under construction.

Simpkins said the main focus at the moment is an upcoming LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender) Conference in Yakima, taking place April 27 and 28.

A weekly club meeting is also in the process of being arranged for members to gather, socialize, and plan future events.

In the past, the club partook in recreational activities such

"It gives people somewhere to go. People to talk to that understand. ... Don't judge us before you find out."

—Steve Simpkins,  
GSA president



as movie nights and holiday celebrations, said Kip Brookbank, a returning member of The Alliance. He foresees similar experiences looming in the future, but so far nothing is concrete.

Brookbank said the goal of these group activities is to provide a supportive and safe environment for students to have fun and make friends.

"It gives people somewhere to go. People to talk to that understand," he said.

Since the Alliance just resumed this quarter, it hasn't yet accumulated much involvement. The club contains about 18 participants thus far, but Simpkins is

hoping to acquire more recurring members.

There are no costs, fees, or obligations included in joining, and sexual preference is insignificant. The club appreciates members who are both gay and straight, as well as everyone in between; a diverse group will aid their conquest for alliance, members say.

People are encouraged to contact Steve Simpkins for more information at 206-878-3710, ext. 3536, or at ssimpkin@highline.edu.

"Give us a try. Don't judge us before you find out," said Brookbank.

## Safety

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"You look around and see people and wonder what they are thinking," he said. "You see people frowning and wonder if they are depressed and to what extent."

Highline counselors have offered their support to students who might be troubled by the Virginia shootings.

"The Counseling Center wants to offer our sincere condolences for the violent loss of life at Virginia Tech University this week," said counselor Lance Gibson. "We are all a little stunned, confused, or feeling ill at ease as we try to make sense of what has happened."

"It appears as though unresolved mental health issues contributed to the situation. Because of that, we want to encourage any campus community member who still needs to talk about this tragedy to take advantage of our free and confidential services," Gibson said.

The Counseling Center is located in Building 6. Its services are free to students.

While most students feel safe, they say they hope the college has emergency plans for this kind of incident.

"To prevent future similar events from happening, a bet-

ter plan of action for emergency situations could be implemented," Damey said.

In honor of this tragic event, Highline's flag is at half-mast until Sunday by proclamation of President Bush.

Reporters Becky Mortenson and Ashley Messmer contributed to this story.

## How and where to get a better job

Highline wants you to get a better job.

The Counseling and Career Resource Center is continuing their series of workshops with a presentation by Faculty Counselor Dr. Gloria Rose Koepping on job training.

All are welcome to attend the presentation to learn about options for job training.

The presentation will take place today, April 19 in Building 6, room 151 from noon-1 p.m.

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## Chen

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environment of Wyoming was "pretty shocking."

"It seemed like after 6, there was nobody," she said.

However, this did not discourage Chen.

"I was lucky [because] all the people were friendly and nice," she said.

Chen went on to receive her master's and Ph.D. at the University of Wyoming.

She became a calculus and statistics professor at the University of Puget Sound from 1983-1987.

Although Chen adjusted well to life in the U.S., she was still learning new and unfamiliar things that were different from her life in Taiwan.

"I didn't know anything about community colleges," she said. Taiwan did not have community colleges, so the concept was foreign to her.

Having been a Highline trustee since 1994, that concept is not so foreign to her anymore.

"[Community] college belongs to the community," she



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

Dr. Elizabeth Chen attends a Board of Trustees meeting on April 12.

said of Highline. "It should have a role to serve the community."

A major task that the Board handles is the hiring of a new president for Highline.

Ever since Dr. Priscilla Bell was fired in November 2006, Dr. Jack Bermingham has been the interim president. The board currently has no new candidates for president and it is uncertain if Bermingham will officially obtain the position.

Chen said that the board wants to "start with conversation" before initiating a major search.

Although Chen said that a final selection for a president would not happen this quarter, she said that they wanted to at least get community input in the search for a new president.

Chen said they wanted to keep things "open" for all campus and community groups to get their say in the form of public forums and meetings.

Another issue that has recently sprouted up is the problems with Building 4.

Although the board has no direct involvement in overseeing the situation — Chen cited it as a "management issue" — the issue is still one the board is concerned with.

"It's an old building," Chen said. "The way I see it, you can't totally tear down the building."

Although the solutions for Building 4 are scarce or difficult,

Chen fully believes that the administration will handle it well.

"I'm sure Dr. Bermingham and Larry Yok [vice president of administration] will do their best and will take everybody's health issues and needs into consideration," she said.

She said that Bermingham and Yok will "constantly update the board" about the situation.

Although she is now chairwoman of the board, Chen was apprehensive when she was first nominated to become a trustee back in 1994.

"I was not sure if I would be an ideal candidate [when being selected for the board]," she said.

Those uncertainties have long been thrown out the window. An individual trustee's term lasts five years and Chen was reappointed to her third term in October 2004.

Chen was nominated to be a trustee by someone who wanted to remain anonymous.

"I am extremely grateful to this person for his or her trust in me and for this great experience," Chen said.

Chen said she still has two years left until she fully retires from the board.

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