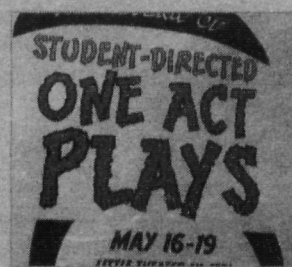


T-Birds go to
NWAACC
today
See page 10



Highline's One
Act plays have
begun
See page 5



Inside

ARTS.....PAGES 5-8
CAMPUS LIFE.....PAGES 2-3
OPINION.....PAGE 4
PUZZLES.....PAGE 9
NEWS.....PAGES 1, 13-16
SPORTS.....PAGES 10-12

The Thunderword

RECEIVED
MAY 17 2007
HIGHLINE COLLEGE LIBRARY
PERIODICALS

MAY 17, 2007/VOLUME 46, No. 27/HIGHLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

•Opinions differ on search for president

By **MICHELLE ERICKSEN**
AND **SIMONE SNOW**
staff reporters

Many Highline professors say they want a candidate search to fill the position of permanent Highline president.

Interim Highline President Dr. Jack Bermingham was a finalist in 2001 for the position of permanent president, but Dr. Priscilla Bell was chosen instead. He was appointed interim Highline president following the firing of Dr. Bell in Novem-



Dr. Jack Bermingham

ber 2006.

"I'm very interested [in be-

coming the permanent Highline president], but I'm not a part of the selection process," Dr. Bermingham said in an interview two weeks ago.

The process is beginning with a faculty forum to discuss what professors are seeking in a permanent president. One or two members of the Board of Trustees will be in attendance to compile comments on May 24 in the Mt. Constance Room in the Student Union at 3 p.m.

At a recent Board of Trustees meeting, former Highline

president Dr. Ed Command said faculty support for the Highline president is key to his or her success.

In a non-scientific survey conducted by The Thunderword, Highline faculty members were asked whether they want Dr. Bermingham to be made permanent president, or if they would prefer a search for multiple candidates.

Highline has 166 full-time faculty members. Out of the 48 faculty members surveyed, 13 said they wanted a search, nine

said they did not want a search, 22 declined to comment, and four said it was not appropriate to comment at the time.

"Selection of a college president is a very important issue and the college will be involved in this process for the next six to eight months. The trustees will be talking with campus groups soon about beginning the process," said Dr. Ruth Windhover, writing professor and faculty union president.

SEE SURVEY, PAGE 16

Group seeks solution to messy issue

By **JUDY VUE**
staff reporter

If you're concerned about cleanliness in Highline's restrooms, then here's a potential solution.

The Medical Assistant Club has commenced a project to implement the use of toilet seat covers and hand sanitizers in Highline's restrooms. The project is spearheaded by Cheryl Blackford, a student in Highline's Medical Assistant Program, and guided by Program Coordinator Babs Cerna.

Blackford said the idea came up from "talking in class with other students."

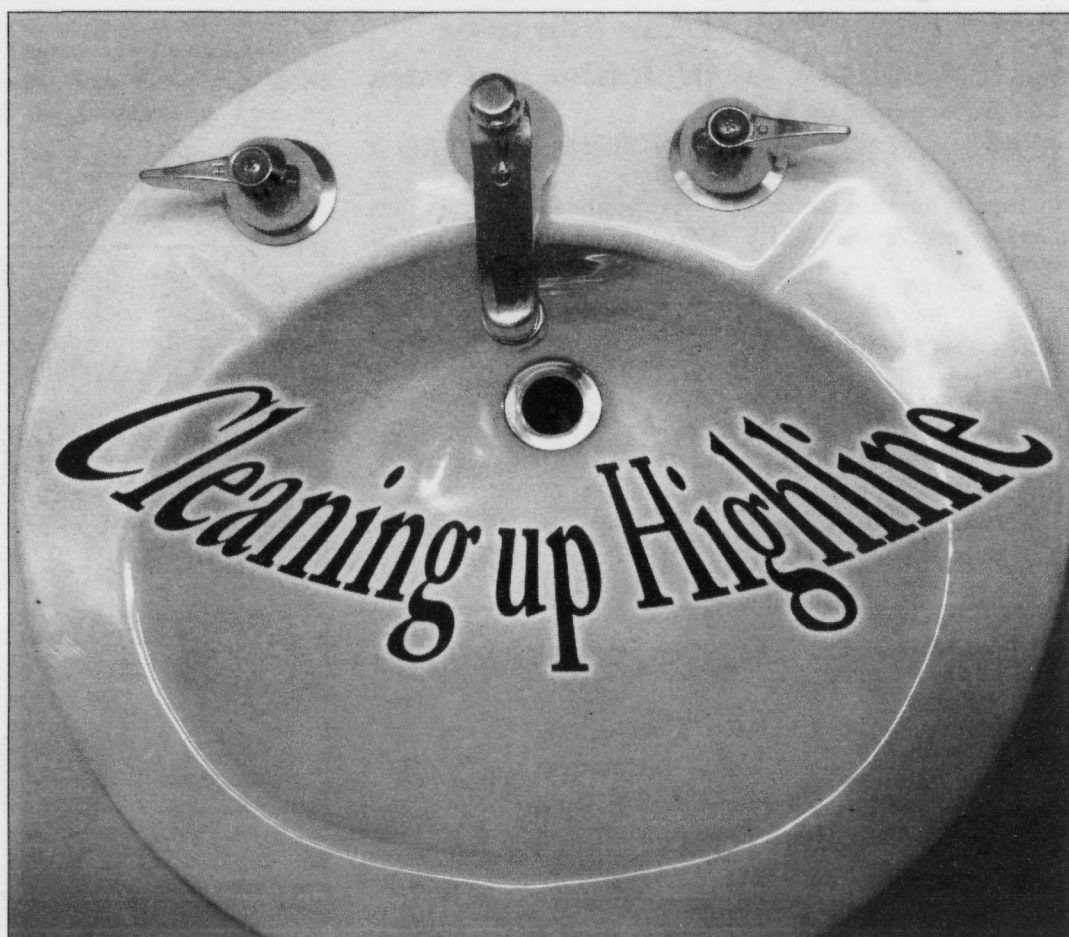
"This was the first thing brought up," she said.

"We have beautiful facilities... and automatic flushing toilets," said Babs Cerna. "It just makes sense to also have a seat covers and sanitizer."

Blackford said that they are just now "setting the pace" for the project to go under way.

"We have had some meetings ... it was taking a long time to get signatures together," she said.

Although gathering signatures was not a required protocol, Blackford figured that garnering "support of staff and faculty" would assist in her cause.



PATRICIA O'NEILL/THUNDERWORD

Discussions have already been made with Facilities Director Pete Babington, but Blackford said Babington had reservations about the idea due to costs and his own research on the subject.

Babington was unable to be reached for comment.

This has not discouraged

Blackford, who said that a "lot of thinking and brainstorming" has occurred in order to still have seat covers and sanitizer and save on funds at the same time.

"Instead of each stall, there could just be seat covers at each restroom," Blackford said.

She said that when people first enter the restroom, there could be a main dispenser for toilet seat covers once they enter so they can be "available to people who want to use them."

Another medical assisting

SEE CLEAN, PAGE 13

Candidates have plans for Student Government

By **BECKY MORTENSON**
staff reporter

Students will vote next week on who will be president and vice president next year.

Eight candidates are running; two for president and six

★★★★★ for vice president.

★★★★★ Michelle Fitzgerald and Steve Simpkins

are running for president.

Ayan Qumane, Sergio Ullou, Skyler J M Nichols, Lucas Heath, Dave Gagnat and Jay Smith are running for vice president.

The two candidates running for office this year both feel that they can make a difference on campus.

Michelle Fitzgerald, 20, is in her third quarter at Highline. She is working toward getting her associate of arts transfer degree in political science with a minor in chemistry for military affairs.

"I became involved in Student Government because I wanted to utilize my knowledge

SEE FORUM, PAGE 15

CSI:



HIGHLINE

Truck found with a smashed window

An abandoned car was found in the lower south lot on May 9.

The Isuzu truck had its passenger side window smashed out and the doors were unlocked with the key in the ignition.

The license plate came back clean through the local police network.

Elevator gets stuck with woman inside

A woman was stuck in elevator B on May 9 in the Library.

She was removed from the elevator in about 20 minutes.

Fire started on campus but put out quickly

A bark fire was started by the southwest corner of Building 30 on May 10.

The fire was put out safely.

Skateboarders leave without a fuss

Two boys were found skateboarding by Building 25 on May 13.

They left campus without incident upon request.

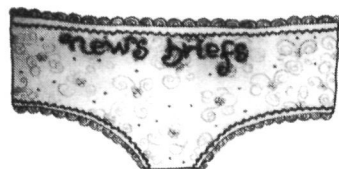
Lost property

The following items were lost on campus: a backpack with two books and legal research papers; silver Razr cell phone; Acura car keys; a necklace; a blue umbrella; a blue Cingular cell phone; keys; an LA Fitness pass; two Coach key chains; a black Sprit flip phone; a US history book; a USB drive; and a silver Samsung cell phone.

Found property

The following items were found on campus: a tan Gap coat; a white Gap jacket; an orange backpack; a Motorola cell phone; a TI-89 calculator; a key ring with two keys; a pink Coach umbrella; a black umbrella; a single key; and a Washington Mutual Debit card.

-- Compiled by C. Feeley



Sistas Empower are hosting a potluck

Brothers and Sistas will be trying to create one "Vision."

Sistas Empower and Men of Vision will be discussing issues that are not usually part of everyday conversations.

All are welcome to attend the meeting. Everyone is encouraged to bring their favorite dish to the potluck during the discussions.

The meeting will be held on Monday, May 22 in Building 6, room 151 from 1:30-3 p.m.

For more information contact Dolly Babber at dbabber@highline.edu.

Movie to raise awareness of racism

The issue of racism will be prominent at this week's Movie Fridays.

During the film *Once Upon a Time, We Were Colored*, a narrator tells his story of his childhood growing up in an African American community in the south during time of segregation.

Everyone is welcome to attend the free screening on May 19 in Building 29, room 216 at noon.

For more information contact Roman Wright at 206-878-3710, ext. 3999.

Paranormal topics presented at seminar

There's something strange at Highline, who you gonna call?

Bob Baugher and Sue Frantz



PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

A Highline student is getting her graduation regalia at the first Graduation Fair last Tuesday. Along with receiving their regalia, students were able to shop for diploma frames, talk to a class ring vendor, and get their picture taken.

will be speaking at this week's Science Seminar on "Psychology of the Paranormal."

During their discussion, Baugher and Frantz will examine different psychic phenomena.

The seminar will be held on May 18 in Building 3, room 103 from 2:20-3:10 p.m.

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

Learn how to be professional at work

Watch you P's and Q's at Highline.

Professional Etiquette will be the topic at this week's Counseling and Career Resource Center Workshop.

Faculty Counselor Thressa Alston will cover a variety of topics regarding ethics and appearance, including: being responsible, having a positive work ethic, civility, manners, developing skills and expertise,

and much more.

The workshop will be held today in Building 6, room 151 from 11 a.m.-noon.

For more information contact Kathy Day at 206-878-3710, ext. 3353 or at kday@highline.edu.

Appreciate mom during breakfast

Highline's Breakfast Club will be showing mothers appreciation today.

Attendees are encouraged to bring in a poem about moms or bring questions to ask the group.

The meeting will be held

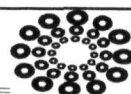
today in Building 6, room 164 from 9-10 a.m. Muffins, coffee, and tea are provided.

Honors opens doors in psychology

Next week's Honors Colloquy is focused on opening doors for students interested in becoming a psychologist.

Dr. Gloria Koepping, a Highline counselor, will discuss what students need to study to get into graduate school, and the many settings that employ Psychologists.

Honors Colloquy is held every Wednesday from 12:10-1:15 p.m. in Building 7.



Co-Opportunity Cooperative Education

Summer Internships

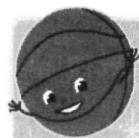
Summer is coming! Not sure what to do summer quarter? Consider doing an internship! Visit Workforce Development Services on the 2nd floor of Building 6 for more information.

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

Student Jobs

Box Office Associate

Job # 2797



Sell Sonics and Storm tickets at the Key Arena! Position includes walk-up ticket sales, will call and handling cash and credit card transactions.

Game Nights
SDOE
Key Arena

Receptionist/Patient Advocate

Job # 2792



Are you a highly motivated and confident individual? Then you could make an excellent Patient Advocate! Some marketing/phone answering experience a plus.

30 hrs/wk
Mon-Fri.
SDOE
Des Moines

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

Free Tutoring!!!

Feeling
overwhelmed?
Get help!

Visit the Tutoring Center in
Building 26, Room 319.



We specialize in turning good students into better students

Tip of the Week:

"Every man should have a college education in order to show him how little the thing is really worth".

-Elbert Hubbard

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>

Student learns to balance responsibilities

BY SIMONE SNOW
staff reporter

Katie Nikkel once had to remind herself to breathe.

Nikkel, 18, took care of her brother while he was ill. She had to balance that with being a student.

Nikkel was a student at Highline in the Puget Sound Early College program, a full-time Running Start program at Highline's Federal Way campus. She will graduate this spring.

"I chose to come to PSEC because I didn't like other kids copying off my paper," Nikkel said. "It's a lot different than high school because it's full of students that want to come to school."

However, school became less of a priority for Nikkel over a year ago when her brother, Bear, was infected with bacterial meningitis.

"It was like 15 different bacteria that ended up in his brain fluid," Nikkel said. "It caused his brain to swell."

Nikkel sat on the edge of her seat while staring intently at her hands neatly folded in her lap. As her dark brown locks fell across her face, Nikkel recalled that she and her family were unaware of his illness until one morning when she and her



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

Highline student Katie Nikkel took care of her brother during his recovery from a stroke and the surgery that followed. She learned how to balance her time going to school and looking after her brother.

other two brothers were unable to wake up Bear, then 14.

"My brothers and I called

911 because my mom was at work and the ambulance came and took him to Children's Hos-

pital," Nikkel said.

At the hospital, it was discovered that Bear had suffered a stroke.

"His brain was swelling so much, it was pressing through the hole at the base of his skull," Nikkel said.

The doctors decided to remove a section of Bear's skull in March 2006 to relieve the pressure on his brain.

While her brother became her primary focus, Nikkel said her grades began to decline.

"When it all happened, I was on the quarter break between Winter and Spring Quarters. During this time I fell into an attitude that my brother was the only thing that mattered," Nikkel said. "I went into Spring Quarter thinking that it would be easy; I was only taking speech and chemistry."

Nikkel said she quickly discovered the opposite as she fell behind in her classes.

"I didn't really study or prepare for anything and I missed a bunch of days in the beginning because I would rather see my brother than go to school. This wasn't a good idea on my part," Nikkel said.

She soon reached a turning point when she sat down to take an exam in her speech class with no notion of what the test would

cover.

"One day my speech teacher gave a pop quiz on the material that we should have been reading, and to no one's surprise I didn't know any of the answers," Nikkel said. "So instead of guessing I wrote my teacher an apology."

Having vowed to her instructor to do better, Nikkel managed to pull her 0.7 grade to a 2.1 during the last half of the quarter.

"I have to say that that by far is my worst grade ever," Nikkel said.

Since her professors then knew what was happening in her life, Nikkel said the support they provided for her and her family became a blessing.

"[My teachers] talked to me all the time about what was going on, and I was able to talk to them at any time," Nikkel said. "And at one point right after it happened, all of the teachers made meals for my family because my mom was staying at the hospital and they wanted my brothers and I to eat things besides fast food."

Nikkel said she felt much better and was less distracted once her brother was out of the

SEE NIKKEL, PAGE 14

Highline brings Japanese culture to campus cafe

BY ARIEL MCKENZIE
staff reporter

Japanese students at Highline are about more than just eating sushi and watching anime.

At the Cultural Café, Highline's Japanese students gathered with their American neighbors in Building 2 on Tuesday.

The room was arranged in such a way that attendees could focus their attention directly to the middle of the room where the Japanese panelists were sitting.

Appearing very relaxed and un-intimidated despite the many eyes upon them, a dozen Japanese panelists began by pointing out their place of origin on a map of Japan.

The Highline community showed its appreciation for a culture unlike their own at this quarter's Cultural Café.

The room was packed full of almost 90 attendees and a shortage of chairs left some without a place to sit.

The Japanese community came together with the American community this quarter with



JOHN THOMPSON/THUNDERWORD

Japan was the focus of this quarter's Cultural Cafe. Students stood up and told what part of Japan they were from and a little about it.

hopes to build bridges, share their culture, and build deeper respect for one another.

Highline's Japanese community had much information to offer other students.

From values and attitudes important in Japanese culture to what Highline can offer them,

they were lively and open to sharing their culture with Highline's staff and students.

Mariko Fujiwara, director of International Student Programs, led the discussion sharing what she saw as the most important value of Japanese culture.

She said that in Japanese culture there is so much respect for elders and ancestors because no one would be here today without them.

She explained that there is an altar in the house in memory of the family's ancestors that is offered fresh water and rice every morning.

"Respect older people and parents. Without parents and ancestors we are not here today," said Fujiwara.

Another important part of the Japanese culture are the many celebrations and festivals. Among the many, one celebration stands out to Yukiko Nakada. This is the coming of age ceremony.

SEE CAFE, PAGE 14

Editorial comment

Board should take action quickly

It's a laborious but vital task that needs to be done: The process of finding a new president for Highline. Recently, former president, Dr. Ed Command told the Board of Trustees to commence their search quickly.

The question is whether the Board of Trustees will heed Dr. Command's advice.

It is a task the Board has not had to worry about since 2001, when they initially hired Dr. Priscilla Bell.

Many Board members viewed Dr. Bell's hiring as something to be very proud of.

However, Dr. Bell was fired without warning in November 2006, due to "philosophical differences."

With any luck, that same feeling of accomplishment and hard work that was so prevalent during the hiring of Dr. Bell can be repeated once again with a new president.

And without the same results.

Whatever the Board decides, it is clear that action must be taken now and no time should be wasted. If the process takes longer than it should, that could cost Highline a good candidate who might accept an offer from another institution or company.

According to Dr. Command, the potential top five candidates may also be getting offers from other institutions. So the hiring of a new president potentially becomes a competition between Highline and other institutions or companies.

Also, we cannot forget our current Interim President Dr. Jack Birmingham. He has expressed interest in pursuing the position and the work he has done since Dr. Bell's firing should not be overlooked by the Board.

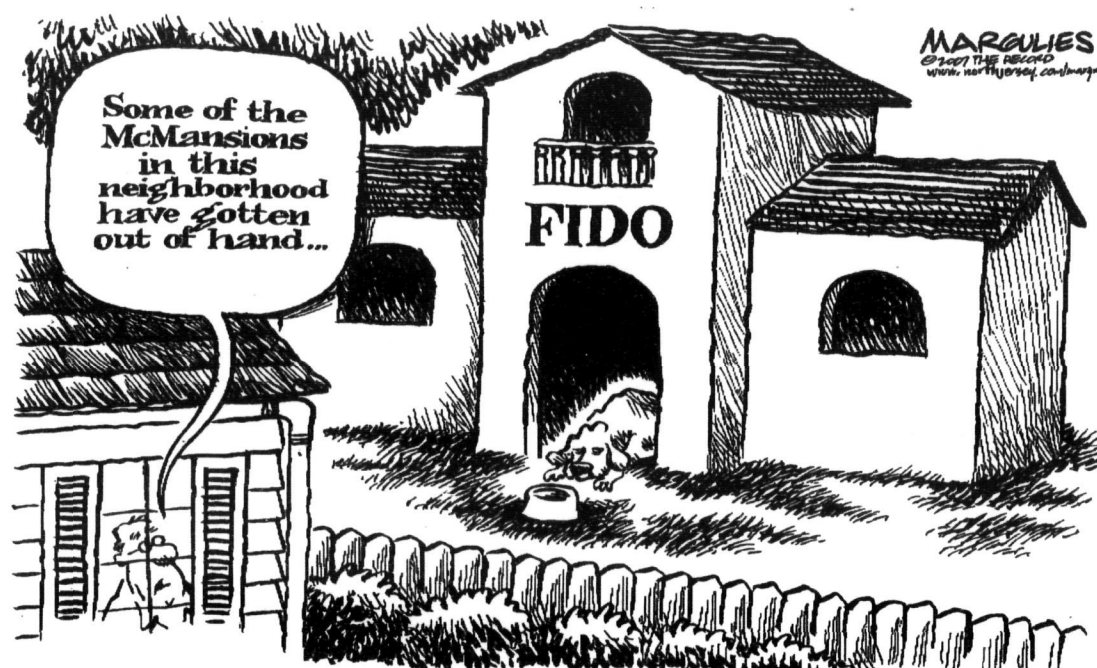
However, all this work to find a new president should be done in a timely fashion.

Other important matters must be addressed soon, such as marketing for Highline and bringing up enrollment. And a long search for a new president will take time away from those main concerns.

Right now though, the Board says they will nationally advertise for a college president in January 2008. At this rate, we can hope to have a new president by June.

And that is unacceptable.

The Board needs listen to Dr. Command and get the ball rolling. Any further inaction will only weigh them down and make their job harder.



The computer is not my friend

I want to be somebody's No. 1.

Some people work tooth and nail to be No. 1 and to those who can weather the bad times, they can often achieve that goal.

MySpace and Facebook are both social networking sites that allow users to customize an entire page to fit their personality, to meet new people through these online profiles, and to keep in contact with anyone else you know who may have one.

MySpace's "Top Eight" enables the user to post their top eight friends in full view of the rest of the world. What better way to show someone how you feel about them, than by showing them exactly where they rank among your other friends?

No. 8 must feel especially appreciated knowing that even though they are near the top of your friends list, just one slip up could get them booted out.

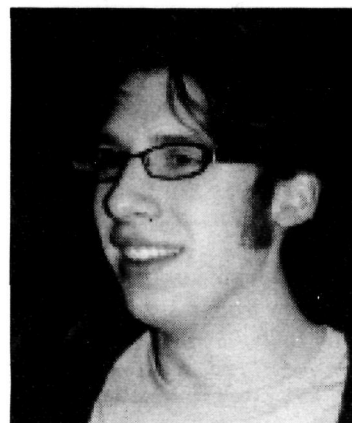
A scream will sometimes echo through my house, followed by a gathering of all family members to see what the commotion is about. We find my sister in tears sitting in front of the computer.

"What's wrong?" we ask. "I'm Erica's No. 4, I used to be No. 3," she tearfully replies.

My mother spends the remainder of the evening consoling her. With any luck, her social growth will not be stunted.

I believe modern science could prove that more friend-

Commentary



DAVID BIEHN

ships were ended by situations like this, than the next three causes combined. I think it is safe to say that a friendship ruined in this fashion, probably wasn't that strong to begin with.

It might be a good idea to take into account the spontaneity of life while keeping up with your online profiles.

Facebook's newsfeed feature allows users to see changes their friends have made to their profiles, including their relationship status with others.

That means if your friends Stacy and Matt are together Monday and Tuesday, but not Wednesday and Thursday, but back on for a few hours on Friday, you're going to know about it. You can post your favorite song on your MySpace profile, so every time someone visits

it they'll be able to hear that song while viewing it. So in the unfortunate event that you encounter sudden death, your best friends can still rock out to *Who Let the Dogs Out?* while they mourn you.

Let's walk down a path to a time when these sites make up the majority of social interaction. Imagine a world where people just sat at their computers all day, and never went outside. People would get tans from computer screens and gas prices might just go down. It's not so bad at first.

Then comes the rapture: Grass lawns begin to overgrow, turning residential areas into jungles. Soon after Starbucks all across the country begin to close, after people learn to harness the power of caffeine IVs.

OK, it'll probably never get that bad. It's puzzling though why people spend the time they do constantly updating their profiles, when they could be out with friends, or making new ones.

We should get out more and explore the world around us. The level of interaction even on the most feature-ridden of Websites is limited, and in the end it will only dull your ability to work with others face to face.

And yet the lure of No. 1 stalks me the way that a Star Wars geek stalks Princess Leia at a convention.

David is No. 8 in life.

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. 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.

Staff

"An inappropriate forum for over 50 years."

Editor-in-Chief.....	Simone Snow
Managing Editor.....	Jocie Olson
News Editor.....	David Biehn
Arts Editor.....	Alicia Mendez
Sports Editor.....	Kory Farrell
Opinion Editor.....	Judy Vue
Graphics Editors.....	Patricia O'Neill,
David Hsu, Jeremy Kochel	
Photo Editor.....	Michelle Ericksen
Reporters.....	Shurvon Haynes, Meghan Howey,
Brianne Beets, James Birmingham, Carrie Draeger, Caitlin Feeley, Jaime Gudjonson, Annie Maytum, Ariel McKenzie, Ashley Messmer, Matthew Mesaros, Becky Mortenson, Fereshta Norman, Aaron Quam, Kelsey Sims, Christy Saeteurn, Brittany Still, Nick Vanunu, Krista White, Ebonee Woods	
Photographers.....	Patrick Cabellon, Brian Day, Nicholas Dolan, John Thompson
Advertising Manager.....	Anjelica N. Wolf
Ad Rep.....	Matt Estes
Business Manager.....	Candace Kruger
Office Manager.....	Jasmira Mulic
Adviser.....	Dr. T.M. Sell
Newsline.....	206-878-3710 ext. 3317
Fax.....	206-870-3771
Address.....	P.O. Box 98000, Des Moines, WA 98198
	Building 10-106
Advertising.....	206-878-3710, ext. 3291
E-Mail.....	tword@highline.edu

Lights, camera, and a little action in One-Acts

One-Act Plays offer a more mature humor

By ALICIA MENDEZ
staff reporter

The risqué One Act Plays are a short and sweet production.

The One Act Plays opened yesterday at 8 p.m. and are well worth the \$5. The actors gave preview on Tuesday, May 16. While the cast, directors, sound and lighting crew had a few kinks, the overall performance was impressive for a run-through.

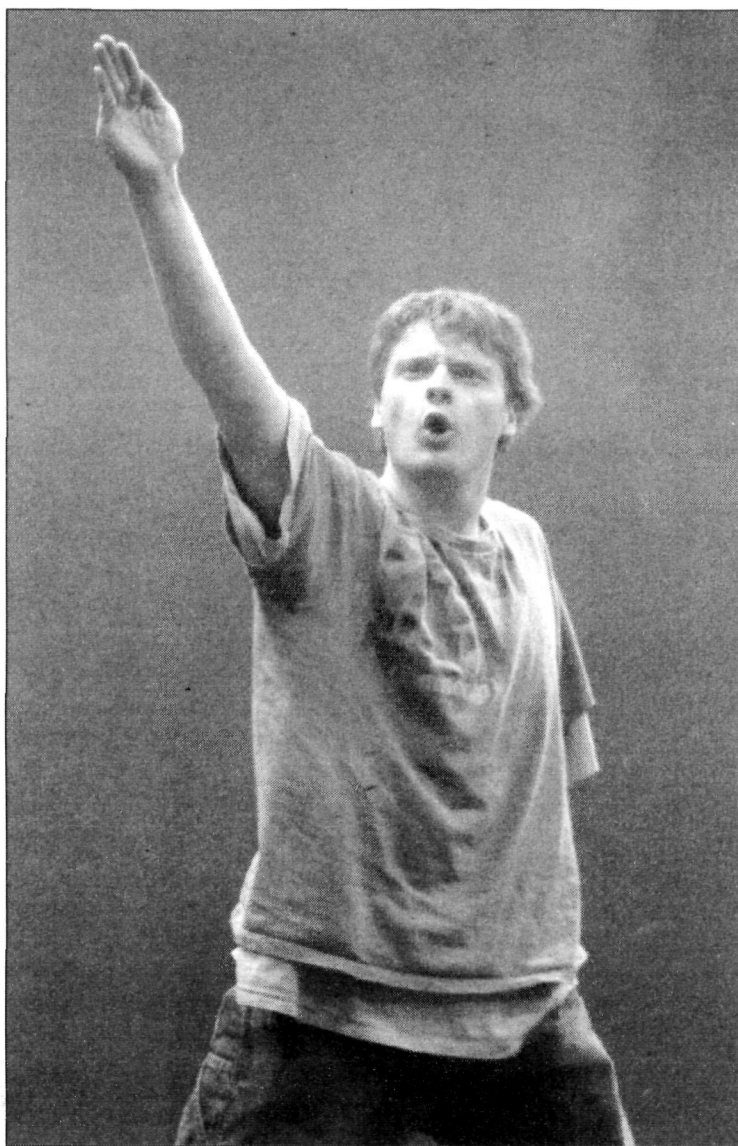
The One Act Plays are an annual production that consists of four or five one-act shows that are student directed.

This year's directors are Michael Bacalzo, Kate Muldoon, Creighton Oliver, and Jared Thomas. By coincidence each director chose a play that was slightly dark, but humorous nonetheless. Each play has its moments of vulgarity and sexual connotations.

The first play is *Judgment Call*, was directed by Bacalzo. Its cast consisted of Mathew Hopkins (Joe), Erik Hanson (Harvey), and newcomer Andrew Cardenas (Frank).

Hanson has been in a few Highline productions already, Hopkins was in last quarter's *Heartbreak House*, and Cardenas was pulled from the Student Union and almost forced to try out.

During Tuesday's preview show, considering the range of experience the actors did a good



ALICIA MENDEZ/THUNDERWORD

Student Mathew Hopkins as Joe, in the play *Judgment Call*.

job of capturing the absurdity, and passion of umpires.

Their set was the least vibrant, with just a green backdrop resembling a baseball field.

The Worker, directed by Thomas, cast Jonathan Lee as the husband, Sophia Villanueva as the wife, and Jared Stratton as the messenger.

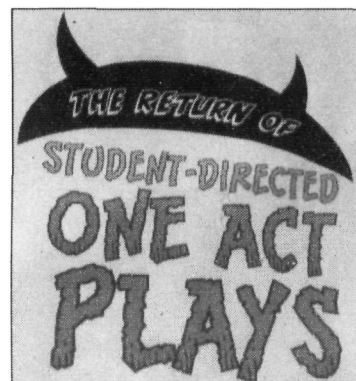
The Worker pokes fun at a working man and his neglected wife who wants to start a fam-

ily.

Villanueva and Lee carry the play well with worthy comedic timing.

This show stepped it up a notch for costume with a homemaker's polka dot dress, eventually covered by an apron. Lee dressed the part well of a working man.

The set was a very homey atmosphere, eventually intruded by the husband's office supplies



The One Act Plays opened last night at 8 p.m. in the Little Theater of Building 4. The One Act Plays are an annual Spring Production, and are always student directed.

that he brings home from work.

The Wedding Play, directed by Oliver, consisted of Sophia Villanueva as Rita and Jaime Gudjonson as Minda.

The show is simply two women bantering, and venting. If you're a woman, you'll appreciate a portion or two of their dialogue.

Villanueva acted her first time in last quarter's production of *Heartbreak House*, and this was Gudjonson's first time acting.

Considering the experience of the two ladies, they carried the show well in comedic timing and body movement.

Again their costuming was admirable, along with the elegantly pink bathroom, again decorated by hints of black polka dots on the couch.

Rightfully following two bickering women is the final play *The Ex*. *The Ex*, directed by Muldoon, consists of two young men bantering about women.

The actors are Jared Stratton as Will, and Mathew Hopkins playing Adam.

Abstinence is the final play, starring the directors, and Anjelica Wolf. The directors play

Abstinence tells the hypocritical story of people seemingly remaining abstinent from guilty pleasures.

Each show, leaves you waiting to see which topic will be poked fun at next.

What's always fun about these shows is students are able to see classmates in an entirely different atmosphere. The quiet kid sitting next to you in math class, may also be playing a drunken friend smoking pot out of a bong while naming different objects to get sexually aroused by.

All of the costuming was done by each director, and set design was by Richard Lorig.

The rest of the shows can be caught tonight through Saturday at 8 p.m., doors at 7:30 p.m.

The show is held in Building 4, in the Little Theater.

Student actors take a lead behind the scenes

By ALICIA MENDEZ
staff reporter

The One-Act Plays are ready for action thanks to the student directors.

Student directors Michael Bacalzo, Kate Muldoon, Creighton Oliver, and Jared Thomas have been hard at work preparing for the Spring Quarter's production of the One-Act Plays.

The One-Act Plays are an annual Spring Quarter production, and are always student directed.

This year Oliver chose to direct *The Wedding Play*, Thomas chose to direct *The Worker*, Bacalzo chose to direct *Judgment Call*, and Muldoon chose to direct *The Ex*.

Bacalzo has been acting and directing in Highline's productions for over five years.

He said he chose this show because of its dark humor, which seems to be a theme chosen by all of the directors.

Two of his actors who were originally cast for his show dropped out, so he was busy scrounging for new actors to play the roles.

His cast was finalized with Erik Hanson playing Harvey, Andrew Cardenas playing Frank, and Mathew Hopkins who plays Joe.

Newcomer Cardenas went from a smaller role, to a much bigger role, and had to learn a new part in less than two weeks, he said.

Judgment Call tells the story of an umpire's life, and their inhumane duty that is umpiring.

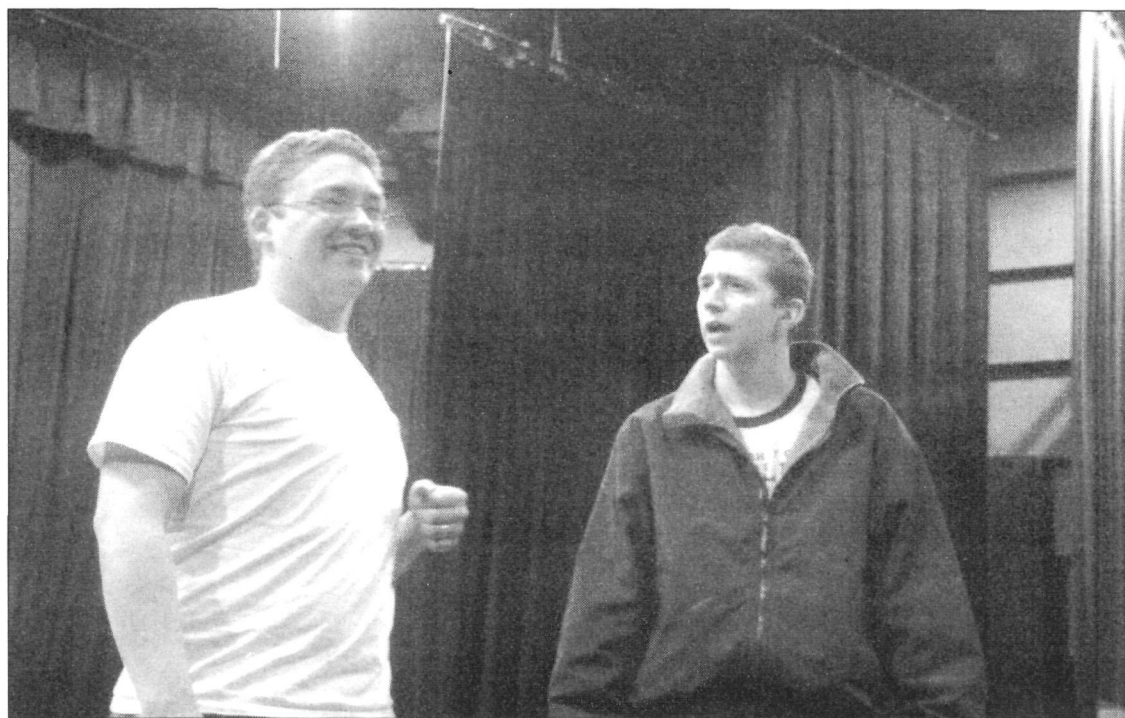
Muldoon's show *The Ex* is a show about two young men venting and bickering about women.

Muldoon has been apart of Highline's drama production for almost two years now, and this is her second time directing. Before this chance at directing, Muldoon directed a local elementary school play.

While Muldoon said she prefers acting, she has learned a lot from a director's eye.

"You see everything as a complete picture," Muldoon said. "The stage as one entity."

The show opened yesterday at 8 p.m. It will continue running tonight through Saturday at 8 p.m., doors at 7:30 p.m. in Building 4 in the Little Theater.



ALICIA MENDEZ/THUNDERWORD

Students Erik Hanson (left) and Andrew Cardenas during the last rehearsal of *Judgment Call*.

Local artists need some good lovin', too

By SHURVON HAYNES
staff reporter

Local hip-hop artists are worthy of support from the community, a panel of experts said here last Friday at the Second Annual Hip-Hop Summit.

The influence of hip-hop has expanded across racial, social and class boundaries to become one of the most controversial forms of music today, panelists said.

The panelist included Julie Chang Schulman, Northwest regional coordinator of Hip-Hop Congress; Wyking Allah, founder of Hip-Hop Summit Youth Council; Jawaan LaRue, former Highline student and rap artist; and Silas Blak and Jace Ecay from the Silent Lamb Project.

They each spoke about the struggles of being a positive hip-hop artist and how it has impacted their lives.

"Hip-Hop took me full circle as an individual. It has been my foundation, formed my life experiences. It has deepened my perspectives and given me a means by which to process my sense of self and identity,"



PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

Silas Blak puts the microphone to work at a session at the Hip-Hop summit.

Schulman said.

Hip-Hop builds a power base for a real social justice movement globally. Communities globally are dealing with the same issues: poverty, disparities in education, media consolidation and police brutality, panelists said.

Hip-Hop is not just a form of

entertainment but is also a vehicle to promote social activism and political awareness about these issues.

As a result many organizations have been formed to target local youth within the Pacific Northwest such as the Hip-Hop Congress, 206 Zulu, Seattle

Urban Debate League and the Think Big Foundation.

These local organizations strive to give hip-hop artist a stronger voice in their own community, something the corporate music industry has failed to do say panelist.

"If we want to use hip-hop

to have a positive influence on young people then we must develop the tools for them to thrive as writers, activists, educators and organizers outside of the entertainment industry," Schulman said.

You can't be a real hip-hop fan without supporting local artist, it is the key element to their longevity and positive impact panelist said.

"Local artist are starting to work together while paving the way for younger people showing them an example of the what it takes to be a part of the local hip-hop scene," said organizer Rashiid Abdullah

The first step to supporting local hip-hop artist is to purchase their music instead of mainstream artist and demand to hear it on your local radio stations such as the X104, 91.3 KBCS and KEXP.

"There are pioneers within our own community and across the world that we haven't heard about because the historians of Hip-Hop have not yet evolved from the 'Outta the Bronx' theory. It is my responsibility to help get those stories heard," said Schulman.

Reclaim hip-hop, sociology professor says

By KRISTA WHITE
staff reporter

Rap – and hip-hop, the culture that spawned it – are struggling to maintain their authenticity, a sociologist said here Friday.

Dr. Mako Fitts, a professor at Seattle University, talked about the need to reclaim hip-hop and rap because their roots have been lost amid their over-commercialization.

She spoke as part of Hip-Hop Summit, an annual event on campus to promote hip-hop awareness. In two presentations, Dr. Fitts spoke about the need to keep hip-hop authentic, counterbalanced against the need for hip-hop artists to make a living.

She pointed to rappers' labels, the conglomerates that hold them, and ultimately the capitalist structure of America as the thieves of hip-hop's true identity.



Dr. Mako Fitts

Rap music prides itself on being real and values artists' authenticity, she said.

Ironically, she added, "The industry is not open to creativity."

She also said that in other industries, such as pop or rock, fans don't expect artists to remain authentic because the musicians play a role as an entertainer.

In rap, however, this is not the case.

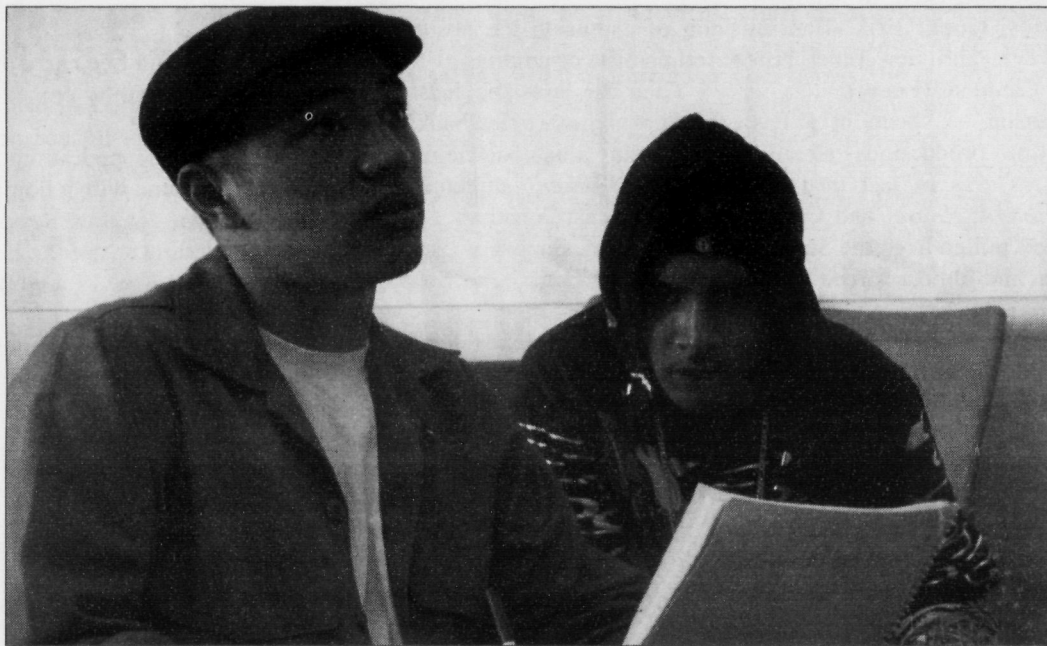
"We need to question the extent [to which] we hold rappers accountable for

keeping it [more] real than other entertainers," she said.

She said rap artists are pigeonholed into a gangster, pimp, super-masculine stereotype and are not free to be themselves.

Dr. Fitts' second presentation focused on the local hip-hop scene in the Seattle area, which, she said, is struggling to strike a balance between artists' need to make money and the community's need for hip-hop.

Learning to rap



MICHELLE ERICKSEN

A couple of budding hip-hop artists ponder their art at a session last Friday on learning to rap. Artist Sean Goode led the session in Building 8.

"There is a lot going on with the Seattle hip-hop culture," Dr. Fitts said.

She spoke about the problems that underground artists face in the area, posing questions like, "How do [they] take [their] artistic abilities and use it for other means?" and "How can they command livable wage salaries?"

She said that non-profits unintentionally exploit hip-hop

teachers and artists by not paying them for the work they do. Many artists have huge hearts and a passion for what they do, and believe in the cause of hip-hop.

Because of this, many artists are willing to work for free.

However, as Dr. Fitts said, they should be paid to do workshops and other events, instead of being constantly asked to help out for free.

Their skills and time are just as valuable as those who get paid to teach workshops or entertain. In order to be able to do what they do, she said, artists need to get paid.

At the outset, Dr. Fitts asked, "Is hip-hop dead or alive?"

She concluded with an answer.

"Hip-hop is more alive than ever," she said. "It is up to us to reclaim it."

Dance club takes steps to get you moving

By ARIEL McKENZIE
staff reporter

Highline's groovy Swing Dance Club has a funky move for everyone.

At a recent session in the aerobics room next to the PE lockers, men and women, ranging in age from 18 to over 30, lined up to share a dance with a partner.

With swing jazz calling from a boom box in the background, the steps started out slowly, but quickly swung into more complex moves. The instructors, patient and understanding of the beginners, eased their students into ever more difficult combinations.

The class seemed initially skeptical of what they were being asked to do. But after a few rounds of new steps, the class



Swingin' into spring

JOHN THOMPSON/THUNDERWORD

Swing Dance Club members learn steps at a recent session in Building 27.

was smiling and enjoying the dance. Although they were dizzy from all the twirling about, the class was eager to learn more new steps. At the end of the hour, class members seemed

exhausted, yet satisfied to have learned to dance in a way they never thought they would.

Erin Hovland, swing dance club president, said that no dancing experience is needed to come join the lessons. She said that after the first lesson, attendees had already learned moves they never thought they could do.

More new moves will follow in future swing dance lessons, Hovland said.

Hovland said that her goal for this program is to get as many people dancing as possible. She said that she wants more people dancing, and although she will not be at Highline next year, she hopes the club continues.

"I want everyone to experience (swing dancing). It's a fun hobby," said Hovland.

The largest challenges Hovland has encountered are leads calling in to say they can't make it to the lessons, and finding an

instructor.

Hovland said she hopes more people will attend the lessons, and the group of individuals participating is growing.

Meanwhile, she said the instructor problem has been solved, as she found Kevin Buster and Lizzy Boyer to fill the slot as a swing dance instructors.

Buster and Boyer are instructors for the Abbey Ballroom in Tacoma. Hovland met Buster in a class they shared at Highline, and asked him to become the instructor for the swing dance club.

"(Buster) is fantastic. He is the best dancer I know," Hovland said.

Hovland shared that she did not come from a background of dancing. She said that she feels people who do not have a dancing background usually stay away from dancing activities. She would like people to see that even if they have no dancing experience, they can do it.

Frank Bagley, a swing dance club member, said that he has only been dancing a couple weeks after being invited by a lady friend. He also said that he would like to see the program continued next year.

"It's fun. Everyone seems to enjoy it and have fun," said

Bagley.

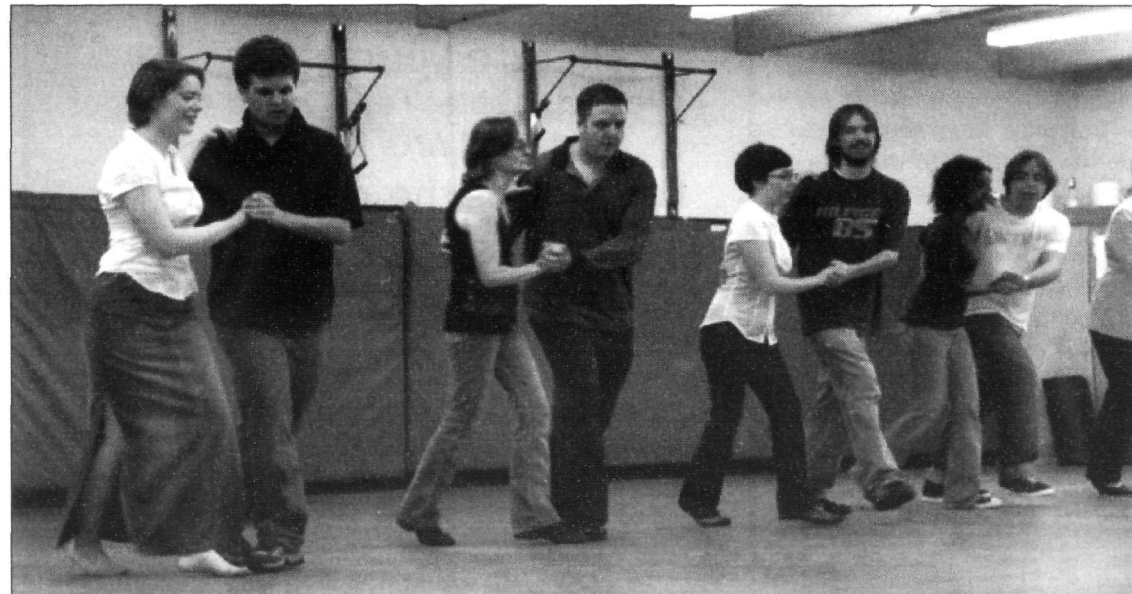
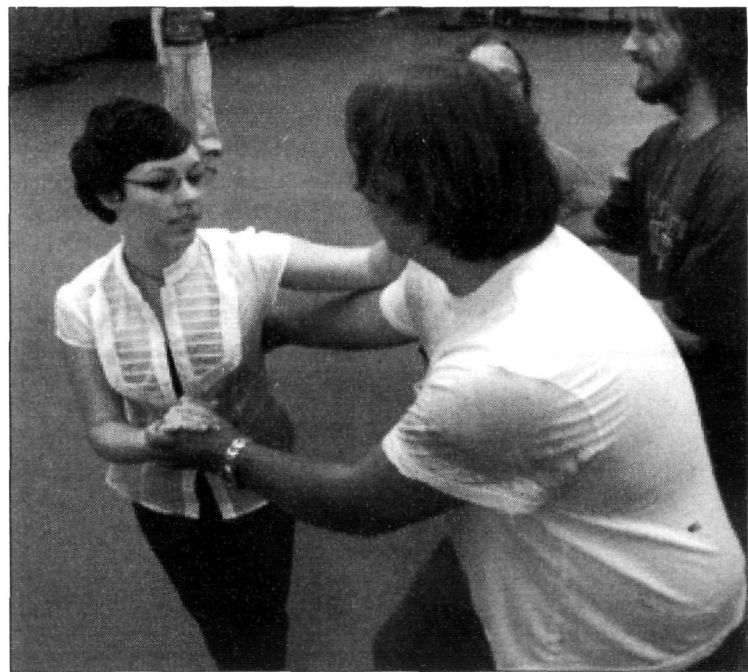
Hovland hopes that more faculty will attend and share information about swing dance club with their students. Hovland said that she will be putting up more posters around swing dance club around campus soon.

Swing dance club hosts weekly swing dance lessons that are offered to everyone in the community. Swing dance lessons are every Thursday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in Building 27. Lessons cost \$5 for students, faculty, and staff and \$10 for anyone else.

Buster and Boyer both teach swing dance lessons at the Abbey Ball Room. Buster says he has been dancing for about eight years and teaching for about six to seven years, while Boyer has been dancing for about two years and teaching with Buster for about a year and a half. Boyer is in charge of the swing program.

Buster and Boyer said that there is a swing dance offered every Wednesday for only \$4 at the Abbey Ballroom. A free lesson is available before the dance from 8:30-9 p.m. and the dance is from 9-11:30 p.m.

The Abbey Ballroom is located at 1901 S. Fawcett St. in Tacoma. More information on this event and the instructors can be found at www.lindybomb.com.



JOHN THOMPSON/THUNDERWORD

Swing Dance Club members dance with a variety of partners at a recent meeting. At right, instructors Kevin Buster and Lizzy Boyer demonstrate as a line of dancers look on and try to follow. The club meets every Thursday at 3:30 p.m. Lessons are \$5 for students and \$10 for all others.



THE THUNDERWORD/MAY 17, 2007/PAGE 8

Roll the credits: Local store outlasts competition

By **BRIANNE BEETS**
staff reporter

In the land of video chain giants Normandy Park Video continues to thrive.

Amidst a strip mall of grocery



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		30
+		+		+	
	÷		x		18
÷		x		x	
	+		+		7
8		16		11	

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 9

© 2007 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



- BOOKS: Who wrote the best-seller *Unsafe at Any Speed* in the mid 1960s?
- GEMS: What color is lapis lazuli?
- GEOGRAPHY: The Falkland Islands lie off the coast of which continent?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does a spelunker do?
- U.S. STATES: What is the official slogan of the state of Illinois?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Latin term "semper fidelis" mean?
- ART: What is chiaroscuro?

- CARTOONS: What is the name of Porky Pig's girlfriend?
- SCIENCE: What kind of gases are neon and helium?
- MOVIES: Which three comedians starred in the movie *The Three Amigos*?

- Answers
1. Ralph Nader
2. Blue
3. South America
4. Explore caves
5. Land of Lincoln
6. Always faithful
7. Use of light and shadow in painting
8. Petunia
9. Noble gases
10. Steve Martin, Chevy Chase and Martin Short

(c) 2007 King Features Synd., Inc.

Arts Calendar

•The Highline Drama Department's annual One Act plays will be 8 p.m., May 16-19 in the Little Theater, Building 4. The plays are student-directed one-act works. Tickets are \$6, and \$5 for students and seniors.

•Rainier Symphony presents its annual pops concert, featuring music from Hollywood and Broadway. Shows are 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 19, at Renton IKEA Performing Arts Center, 400 S. 2nd St., and 3 p.m. Sunday, May 20, Foster Performing Arts Center, 4242 S. 144th St., Tukwila. Tickets are \$17 and \$12 for students and senior citizens. Call 206-781-5618 for more information.

•Tickets are now on sale for

Breeders Theater's new production, *Out of the Nest*. The show runs July 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28 at 7 p.m., and July 22 and 29 at 2 p.m., at E.B. Foote Winery, 127B SW 153rd St., Burien. Tickets are \$20 and include wine tasting and hors d'ouerves. Tickets are available at the winery and at Corky Cellars in Des Moines. Call 206-242-3852 for more information. www.breederstheater.com.

•The Sumi Art of Lois Yoshida is in the Library's Fourth Floor Gallery for the month of May.

•Ushani Nanayakkara's landscape paintings will be on display from May 4 to May 31 at the Kent Centennial

Last week's

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

	11		91		8
7	1	+	4	+	2
	x		x		÷
18	9	x	3	÷	6
	+		+		+
30	5	x	1	-	7

Answers

Go Figure!

Crossword 101

By Ed Canty

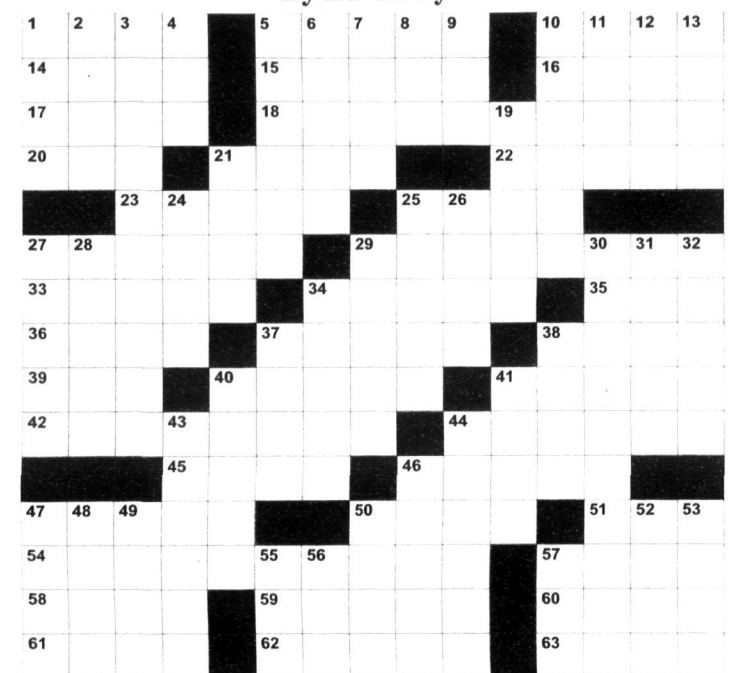
Hail To The Chief

Across

- Monopoly token
- Faith of a billion plus
- Home owners' concern
- Turn in a game
- Lose one's shadow?
- Nautically safe
- October birthstone
- Ceremonial spot, often
- Styling stuff
- Dumbo's "wings"
- If they slip it can hurt
- Poet Nash
- Boxer Spinks
- Baseball's Palmeiro
- Boeing product
- Like a munchkin
- Fabled bottle dweller
- Bruin legend
- Landed
- Wind phenomenon
- Biblical pronoun
- Sleepy coworker
- Clinton investigator
- Keeps an eye on
- Adds sugar to
- Rollerblader's protection
- Spreadsheet content
- Trig. function
- Anticipate
- Comedic Carvey
- "Survivor" network
- Location of 18A and 3D
- Load for Jack and Jill
- Give a makeover to
- Some wedding guests
- TV's funny Fey
- Wine bottle datum
- Partner of meet
- Roddick or Rooney

Down

- City haze
- Rhode Island's motto
- Symbolic center of US government



- Sushi option
- State since 1948
- Fleeced
- Dublin darling
- N.Y.C.'s A, B, C, or D
- Ryan of film
- Dolphins' hall of fame
- quaterback
- Automotive pioneer
- Soup veggie
- Comfy rooms
- Acrobat producer
- Utopian spot
- Trot or canter
- Kind of eclipse
- Kuwait VIP
- Enjoys a book
- Sanction
- Bleacher boos
- Hopeful resident of 54A
- Eat into
- Dollar word?
- Kofi Annan's land
- 43D's notation
- Rummikub piece

- Condi Rice's Department
- Monument Valley feature
- Magazine VIP
- "I swear!"
- Societal division
- Out of kilter
- Roller coaster cry
- Elton John musical
- Sand Hill
- Sticky situation
- Do in, as a dragon
- MacBeth figure
- "Days of ___ lives"
- Sch. group

Quotable Quote

I'm glad the President finally found an economic development program. I'm just sad that it's only in Baghdad.

... John Kerry

By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com

Center Gallery, 400 W. Gowe St.

•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 others. All skill levels are

welcome.

•Got arts news? Send items to the Thunderword at tword@highline.edu. Deadline is Monday of each week for Thursday's paper. Listings in the arts calendar are free; preference is given

to on-campus events. Items also can be delivered to 10-106 or call 206-878-3710, ext. 3317.

Last week's crossword puzzle solution

BANK ON IT

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

© 2007 King Features Synd., Inc. World rights reserved.

Lady T-Birds finish third in west

NWAACCs pose stiff competition

By KORY FARRELL

staff reporter

Highline's fastpitch team has a tough NWAACC tournament ahead of them.

The Lady T-Birds travel to Portland today to participate in the season-ending NWAACC tournament at Delta Park. The top four softball teams of the West, East, North, and South divisions will all compete for their shot at the NWAACC title.

After finishing third in the West Division, Highline will face off against Clackamas in the opening rounds on Friday, May 18, at 11:30 a.m.

Highline Head Coach Anne Schmidt said that one of the keys to victory against Clackamas is handling their pitcher.

"We have to be patient at the plate and hit the pitches that are strikes," Schmidt said. "I'm assuming they're going to be throwing their No. 1 pitcher. They're in it to win."

Clackamas has Renee Santos, the best pitcher in the NWAACC, according to many coaches in the South. Santos has an overall earned run average of 1.80 in 26 games pitched.

"She throws a lot of rise balls," Schmidt said. "It's impossible to hit if it's good, and apparently she pitches a good rise ball."

A rise ball is a pitch that goes in straight as a level strike, but rises at the last second.

"That's probably why she's considered one of the No. 1 pitchers, because she has a great rise ball," Schmidt said. "There were no pitchers in our league with a good rise ball."

"We have to hit, score as many runs as we can," Schmidt said.

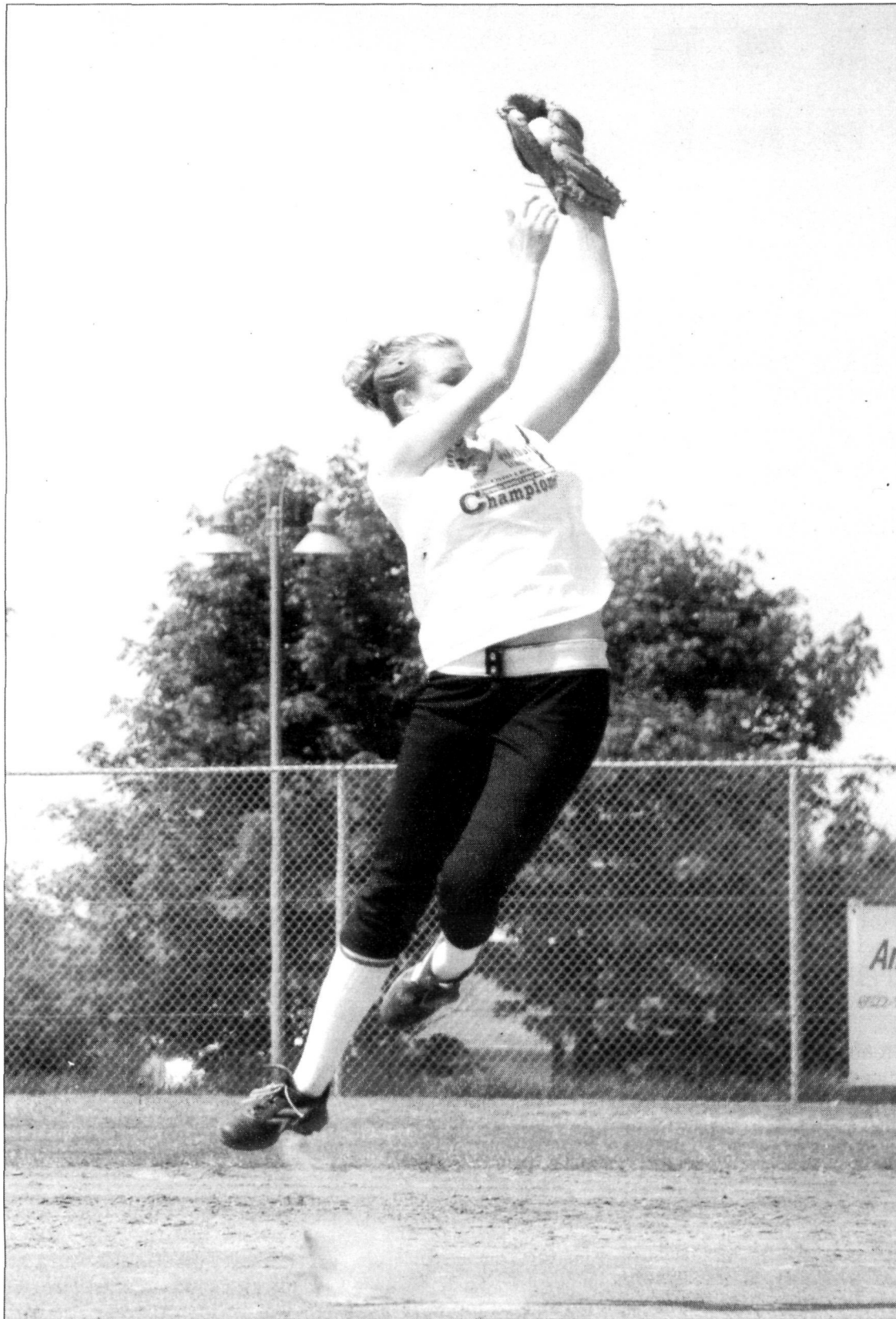
Clackamas (23-7) was recently voted No. 2 in the NWAACC in a recent coaches' poll.

In their only meeting in the regular season, Clackamas defeated Highline 7-1.

But Schmidt said Highline is going into the tournament playing strong defense.

"We have very solid infield defense," Schmidt said. "When they play together everything sort of falls in place."

Highline also isn't going in without offensive weapons. As a team Highline has an overall



T-Bird second baseman Dana Hall catches a high throw during practice.

PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

season batting average of .397, with 210 RBIs.

"Our batting is really strong," Schmidt said. "We have a lot of potential to score a lot of runs."

Clackamas isn't the only team to cause potential problems for the T-Birds, though.

Ahead of Clackamas by 23 votes in the coaches' poll is No. 1 Mt. Hood (25-5), despite posting a losing record (2-4) against their division rival.

Most coaches agree that the South Division is the strongest moving into the tournament, as all four of their qualifying NWAACC teams were voted into the top eight in the coaches' poll.

"The South Division is al-

ways the toughest," South Puget Sound Head Coach Matt Loes said.

"The three strongest teams are the top teams in the South," Olympic Head Coach Clay Blackwood said.

Mt. Hood and Clackamas take the No. 1 and No. 2 spots, followed by defending champions Lower Columbia in fourth with 41 points, and Chemeketa in eighth with nine.

Also breaking into the top eight were Wenatchee Valley (No. 3) with 49 votes, Walla Walla (No. 5) with 31 votes, Everett (No. 6) with 30 votes, and Bellevue (No. 7) with 14.

Wenatchee Valley Head Coach Shelley Pflugrath be-

lieves that her teams strengths are offensive power, speed, and solid defense, and feels her team is prepared for the tournament.

"We're working on maintaining what we're doing," Pflugrath said. "Time for learning is over, now is the time for playing."

At No. 5, Walla Walla Head Coach Mike Staudenmaier said that his team's strength is 'swinging bats.'

With a team batting average of .380, and 74 home runs over the course of the season, the stats back up that claim.

Highline falls to Chokers, still takes third place

By BRITTANY STILL

staff reporter

The Highline women's fastpitch team finished third in the NWAACC West Division, after losing a doubleheader against Grays Harbor last Friday.

The Lady T-Birds finished off their season 17-13 in league play and 19-24 overall.

"We did good this season even with all of the injuries that we had. We did better than I predicted," catcher Caitlyn Ratcliffe said.

At Grays Harbor, Highline lost the first game 7-1 and the second 10-2.

"We had good defense and good pitching, we just didn't hit the ball," Ratcliffe said.

Despite Highline's eight hits the ladies couldn't pull off many runs. Ratcliffe was the only one to score.

The Lady T-Birds only made one error in the first game.

Anna Herried pitched in the second game against Grays Harbor and the Lady T-Birds again couldn't battle offensively with only two hits to the 13 by Grays Harbor. Again Ratcliffe scored both runs.

Tomorrow Highline will be in Portland for their 11:30 a.m. game against Clackamas.

"We feel pretty good. We are really excited and as long as we hit we should do really well," Ratcliffe said.

"I'm so excited and I think that we've worked really hard for this. I think [the tournament] will be a great way to end the season," pitcher Anna Herried said.

Highline's offense has improved over the course of the season, as they have a team batting average of .397 with the ninth highest RBI count in the NWAACC with 240.

Depending on the results of the Clackamas game the Lady T-Birds will either play Wenatchee Valley with a record of 20-8 or Peninsula with a record of 22-14.

"I think that it's all mental. We need to go in prepared and confident, and play our game," center fielder Alexis Nichols said.

SEE NWAACC, PAGE 11

Spark plug Carey leads Thunderbirds

By MICHELLE ERICKSEN
staff reporter

The Superman of Highline's softball team is really a woman.

Ashley Carey carries her weight on the softball team and more.

Carey can often be seen around campus on her crutches sporting her Superman gear or spitting on the softball diamond.

Her crutches disappear when she steps on the field and when the game begins Carey is one of Highline's most fierce players.

Carey has suffered multiple injuries during the season and although battered she says she's ready for the tournament.

Carey plays multiple positions and roles on the team.

"She gives little motivational pre-game speeches," said Head Coach Anne Schmidt. "I've never heard one, but I've heard they're good."

"She's a lead by example, she's not lazy, she never wastes time and she's always working on something," Coach Schmidt said. "She's also the joker when she and Alexis get together."

Coach Schmidt said that since September, Carey has improved dramatically.

"Her biggest improvement is her self-confidence, she never

really played in high school," Coach Schmidt said.

Schmidt said that Carey went from a pre-season batting average of .136 to her now overall average of .538.

"It's really hard to improve your batting average, usually it drops," Coach Schmidt said. "She improved by about .300 in the span of 32 games."

Carey has 8 doubles, 2 triples, a homerun, and 38 RBIs.

As Highline's utility player, Carey can play third, catcher and shortstop.

"The outfield is difficult because it's something I haven't done much of," she said.

Carey was catching earlier in the season, but is now playing shortstop.

"I grew up playing shortstop, and I started catching in seventh grade," she said.

Carey prefers being catcher because it involves more action.

"As a catcher you're involved in every play, shortstop you have to wait for the ball to come to you," she said. "As catcher you have a feel for all the positions, and the team relies on you."

Carey said it is scary being the catcher sometimes.

"You see the ball coming fast, and you have to jump in front of it," she said.

"I don't really care what position I play, as long as I'm playing," Carey said.

Carey said she rarely thinks about her injuries on the field.

"If you love to do something that much, you can't sit out and watch," she said. "You wanna play as much as you can before you get old and can't play anymore."

Carey has been playing softball since T-Ball. She also played basketball and soccer in high school.

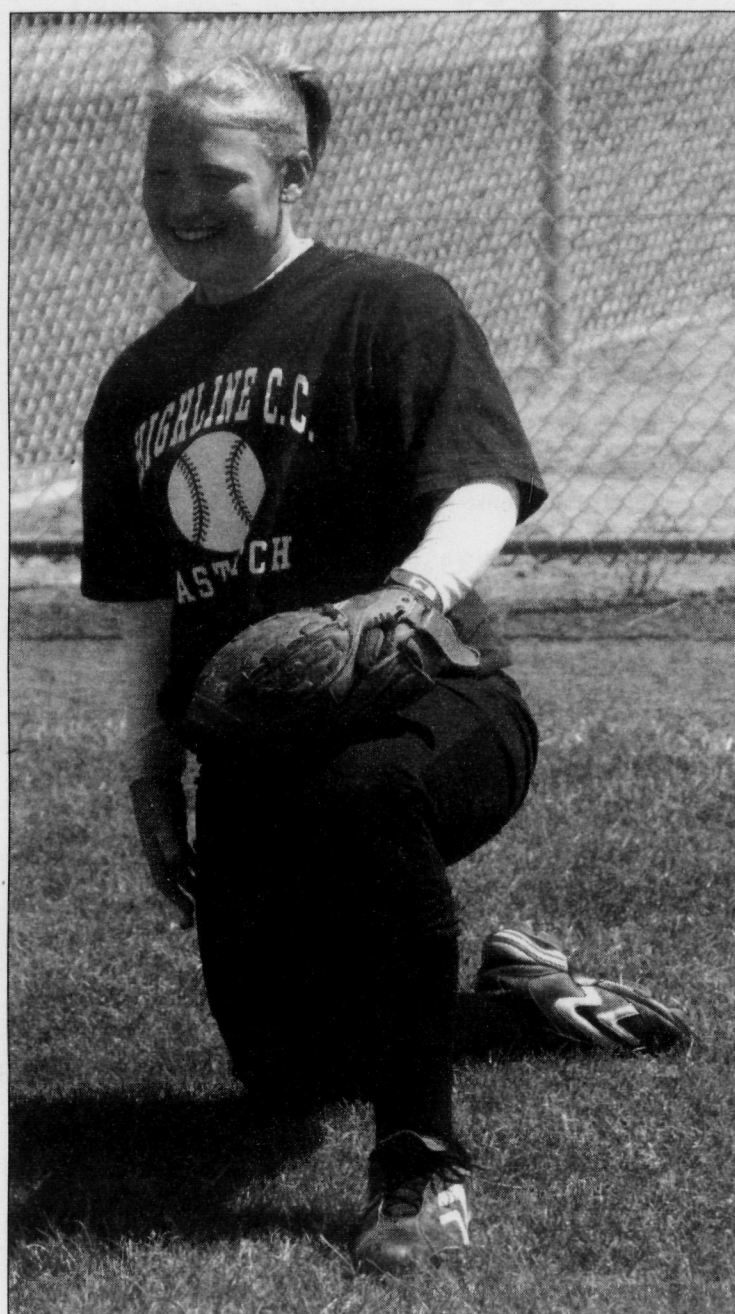
Although softball just might be the love of her life, one of her biggest sports achievements came in soccer.

selves at the top of the North Division over Bellevue (31-5), Everett's (33-3) only two losses in the past 20 games have come from Bellevue.

Tied for third with Peninsula in the North under Bellevue and Everett, Olympic's Blackwood believes Everett could be a surprise team in the tournament.

But Johnson's team continued to work hard through this week, the coach said.

"We're preparing the girls for a series of intense games," Johnson said. "We're going to spending this week before we leave sharpening our talents in



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

T-Bird utility player Ashley Carey during practice.

"My senior year I got first-team all-league as goalie," she said. "That was pretty big."

After graduating high school Carey decided to concentrate on softball.

"Softball is life," Carey said. "I eat, breathe, and sleep softball."

Carey said she wakes up everyday excited to go to practice.

"It's everything to me," she said. "It's an escape from any

stress you can possibly have."

Carey came to Highline because of the coaches and the softball program.

"Our coach has done more with me than anyone ever has," Carey said. "She's given me a chance like nobody else has. She gave me the chance to play."

Carey said she sat on the bench most of the time in high school.

The softball team will be traveling to Portland today for the NWAACC tournament.

"If we play our best, we're one of the toughest teams in the NWAACC," she said. "We're hitting really well."

Carey said she and the rest of the team have a lot of respect for their coach, Anne Schmidt.

"She's coached by herself a bunch of people that were injured," she said. "A team of nine in the NWAACC and third (in the West Division), that's not just the team, it's the coach too."

"This has been my favorite team to play on, the girls are all amazing," Carey said.

"Everyone gets along really well and we have a lot of fun."

Carey currently lives with one of her teammates, Rachel Comstock.

"I love, love, love Desperate Housewives," she said. "I'm obsessed with them. I have all the seasons."

Carey said she's now gotten her roommate hooked on the TV show too.

"She can't stop watching it," she said.

Carey is taking 17 credits this quarter, as well as working part-time.

"I work as many hours as I can between practices and games," she said.

Her major is still undecided but will probably be either early child development or psychology.

One of the biggest influences in her life was her little brother.

"My little brother's grown up his entire life not caring what other people think," said Carey. "He's his own person. He's kinda taught me how to do that."

Carey's dream job is that of a kindergarten teacher.

"In reality I'll probably be a child psychologist," she said. "I just want to work with kids."

Carey, 19, in many ways is

SEE CAREY, PAGE 12



Ashley Carey

NWAACC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

"Walla Walla has some serious hitters on the team," South Puget Sound Coach Loes said.

"Walla Walla (could be a surprise team in the tournament)," Everett Head Coach Mandi Johnson said. "They're a huge threat with the bat."

At No. 6, Johnson said her Everett team's strengths are pitching and hitting.

After establishing them-

what we do and how we work."

Amidst all this talent, Highline will certainly have an uphill battle against not only the stiff competition, but a season plagued with injuries.

Going into the tournament, Highline has Rachel Comstock back at third base after she had her cast removed last Wednesday. Amanda Houser, however, retains her cast and Ashley Carey is playing with a knee injury.

If Highline defeats Clackamas, they will face off against the winner of the Wenatchee Valley-Peninsula game. If they

don't beat Clackamas, they will face the loser of that game.

But Schmidt is happy that the T-Birds have made it to the NWAACCs.

"I think that's its been a great season, the team has played very well," Schmidt said. "We have 10 players, and we just came together."

"We have a very talented team and a lot of the women know how to play and they've brought it. We've struggled through injuries, but they've still been able to hold on."

"And that's what it's about, its understanding that you're

there for your teammate, you're playing this game because you love to play, and it's great that we got to the NWAACC tournament."

"The NWAACC tournament is blast. It's fun to see all that high level of play. We're going to just go out and have a good time and see what happens."

"It's been a fun year and a fun team to coach," Schmidt said.

Overall, the West Division will also have to earn respect, as over the regular season they have a combined record of 5-26 against rival divisions.

Highline runners complete final meet before NWAACCs

By JAIME GUDJONSON
staff reporter

Highline's T-Bird runners timed personal bests at the Ken Foreman Invitational last Saturday at Seattle Pacific University.

"All the runners did great scoring personal bests in many of their events," Coach Christina Loehr said.

Trevor Jennings ran a personal best in the 5,000 meters with a time of 15:39 and a time of 4:08 in the 1,500 meters.

Rosie Meeker also ran a personal best in the women's 5,000 meters timed at 29:49.21.

Not only was the Ken Foreman Invitational a shining point for many runners improving their times, it was also a meet where runners felt the urge to try new events.

Noah McDonald-Robbins ran for the first time in the steeplechase.

"Noah has never trained for the steeplechase event so it was a big jump to take," Coach Loehr said.

The steeplechase entails runners running at a length of 3,000 meters. The number of laps depends on whether the water

jump is located to the inside of lane one or to the outside of lanes eight or nine. Each runner encounters a total of 28 barriers over the course of the race, as well as seven water jumps.

Another runner to try a new race was William Anderson, who competed in the 10,000 meters with one other runner.

"It was a very intense race," Coach Loehr said.

With the NWAACC Championship coming up on May 24-25, Coach Loehr is thinking positively.

"I think that everyone will do well being able to compete at their own level," Coach Loehr said. "I expect there to be many personal bests made."

With the track season drawing to a close this will be the last time a handful of runners will compete for Highline.

John Hurlburt, Brandt May, McDonald-Robbins, and Meeker will be moving on.

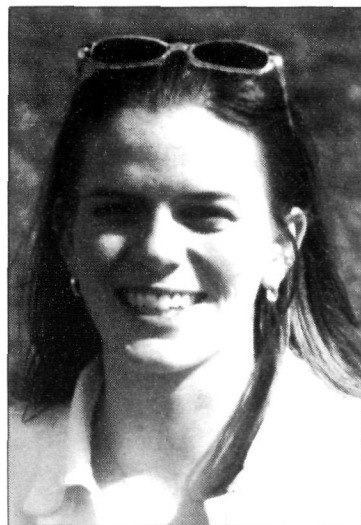
However, this still leaves a little under half of the team returning including Anderson, Tyler Eidsmoe and possibly Jennings.

"I talked with Seattle University about the recruitment of Trevor so this might be his last time running for Highline as well," Coach Loehr said.

Coach Loehr plans to return next season to continue to build a foundation in the hopes of rebuilding Highline's track program.

"For next season I plan on getting new equipment so that the runners can properly train for the steeplechase as well as for some distance relays," Coach Loehr said.

"Hopefully with these plans in the work we can continue to recruit for a larger team and then expand the track program to include more events with this foundation."



Christina Loehr

Carey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

as tough as she looks, but her contagious smile and easy laugh make her the kid of the team.

"They always make fun of me because of my Superman blanket when we travel for

games and because I have a Superman poster over my bed," Carey said.

Although Carey wants to work with kids, she never wants to stop being involved in softball.

"I think if it's been a part of your life for so long you can't just let it go after college," Carey said. "When I grow older and have kids, I wanna coach their teams."

Team thrives amid diversity

If I had a quarter for every time someone asked me if I was nervous for NWAACCs, I still would be broke. It seems to be a popular question. The truth is I don't think we have time to be nervous.

Yes, we play the second highest ranked team in the NWAACC for our first game, and yes they beat us at midseason, and yes, the tournament in itself is enough reason to be nervous, set aside playing Clackamas right off the bat. But we don't have the luxury of being able to worry about it.

It's no big secret that we are a small team. Ten players are not enough in most cases, but we make it work. With the loss of five signed players before pre-season had even started, we didn't know what to expect out of the year, much less if we were even going to have enough to play.

Everyone has stepped up and fulfilled a role this season that they never expected to. Outfielders and catchers have become infielders, and vice versa.

Neither Anna Herried or I had planned on pitching this year, but when you lose both of your signed pitchers, someone has to step up.

Lexi Nichols has played six out of the nine positions without complaint. Janice Ludington and Dana Hall joined the team right before season started after years of not playing. Amanda Proulx joined us and is only able to play two days a week.

Carrie at the bat



CARRIE DRAEGER

Rachel Comstock spent two weeks in a cast. Ashley Carey injured her knee and hobbles across campus on crutches. Despite this Comstock and Carey led our team in RBIs.

Amanda Houser spent most of the second half of the season in a splint. She has taken on a huge leadership role as one of our two sophomores and never complains about anything, cheering us on and helping us through our own hitting struggles.

She goes up to the plate and does exactly what she needs to do, whether that be moving a runner or fighting for a walk.

We are often scrounging around for another player, just so we can play.

Mercedes Fernandez of Highline's volleyball team, Anya Serebraykov of women's basketball and soccer, and Lindsey McGlothlin of women's soccer came through for us on many occasions.

Serebraykov and McGlothlin were instrumental in an 8th inning rally to beat Grays Harbor with a base hit and a walk.

Fernandez played a solid right field against South Puget Sound with a hit and a couple of walks.

We have had to deal with things that no other team in the NWAACC has even thought about. We have had to overcome obstacles that never should have come up.

The odds are against us; make no mistake about it. They have been ever since the beginning. We are the underdog against Clackamas, and probably against anyone else we will play.

The one thing we will have to do this weekend if we want to have any kind of success is hit the ball. Our team batting average is .397. If we hit the ball well, we give ourselves a good chance of winning this weekend.

We know what is at stake in Portland and we are ready for it. Clackamas is a good team, but so are we. We have the talent and the heart to beat anyone in the NWAACC.

Carrie Draeger is a reporter for the Thunderword and plays fastpitch for the T-Birds

Scoreboard

Women's Fastpitch Standings

NORTH League/PCT/Season

Everett	33-3	.917	44-10
Bellevu	31-5	.861	36-10
Olympic	22-14	.611	24-21
Penin.	22-14	.611	26-17
Shorel.	11-25	.306	13-31
Sk. Vall.	7-29	.194	8-32
Edmon.	0-36	.000	0-36

EAST League/PCT/Season

W. Valley	20-8	.714	35-12
W. Walla	19-9	.679	36-16
Spokane	16-12	.571	22-20
C. Basin	15-13	.536	19-24
B. Mount	15-13	.536	25-22
Big Bend	13-15	.464	20-21
Y. Valley	8-20	.286	15-27
T. Valley	6-22	.214	13-38

WEST League/PCT/Season

Pierce	26-4	.867	36-13
SPS	24-6	.800	30-14
Highline	17-13	.567	19-24
G. Harb	16-14	.533	16-23
Centralia	6-24	.200	6-24
G. River	1-29	.033	1-37

SOUTH League/PCT/Season

Mt Hood	25-5	.833	40-5
Clackam.	23-7	.767	35-10
L. Colu.	21-9	.700	33-11
Chemek	15-15	.500	27-20
SW Ore.	6-24	.200	11-33
Clark	0-30	.000	0-34

Results

05/12/2007

Spokane 5, Big Bend 2
Big Bend 8, Spokane 7
Wen Valley 8, Yakima Valley 0
Wen Valley 6, Yakima Valley 1
B Mountain 13, Tr. Valley 3
Tr. Valley 14, B. Mountain 7
W. Walla 15, Col. Basin 4
W. Walla 8, Col. Basin 6
Everett 12, Skagit Valley 0
Everett 11, Skagit Valley 1
Bellevue 20, Shoreline 1
Bellevue 9, Shoreline 1
Clackamas 19, Clark 1
Clackamas 19, Clark 0
Chemeketa 10, SW Oregon 1
Chemeketa 7, SW Oregon 3
Mt. Hood 5, L. Columbia 4

Mt. Hood 15, L. Columbia 7

05/11/2007

Peninsula 5, Skagit Valley 1
Peninsula 27, Skagit Valley 4
Peninsula 13, Skagit Valley 3
Everett 2, Bellevue 1
Bellevue 12, Everett 3
L. Columbia 1, Clackamas 0
Clackamas 4, L. Columbia 0
Mt. Hood 15, Chemeketa 4
Mt. Hood 10, Chemeketa 7
Grays Harbor 7, Highline 1
Grays Harbor 10, Highline 2
Pierce 10, Centralia 2
Pierce 11, Centralia 0

NWAACC Schedule

05/18/2007

Grays Harbor vs. Mt. Hood
9 a.m.
Chemeketa vs Pierce
9 a.m.
Olympic vs Walla Walla
9 a.m.
Spokane vs Bellevue
9 a.m.
Highline vs Clackamas
11:30 a.m.

Science Seminar says end of the world is avoidable

By AARON QUAM

staff reporter

Environmental Science and Biology instructor Woody Moses said that the collapse of modern society may be a possibility unless people step in to change some attitudes and ideas.

In this week's Science Seminar Moses spoke on the topic of the possible collapse of modern civilization compared to the collapse of some of history's well known societies.

Moses used the event to highlight the book *Collapse* by Jared Diamond.

Previous to *Collapse*, Diamond wrote the book *Guns, Germs, and Steel* in which he outlined the rise of modern societies.

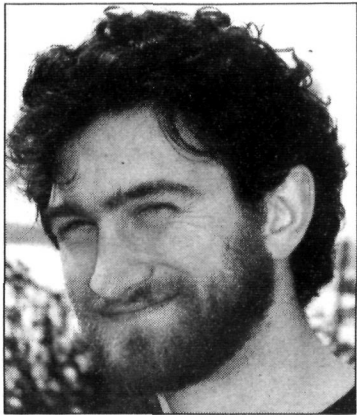
"These books are really well done," said Moses. "They come across with really good information and remain objective so that the reader can assimilate the information and then make their own judgments."

In *Collapse*, Diamond discusses the collapse of societies and some of the common characteristics they all shared with other failed civilizations.

Moses decided to use the book as a reference point in an attempt to make people aware of the current conditions and if there is anything that can be done to change the path today's society is on.

Moses said that there are five factors in common with all of these civilizations declines.

The first is the damage that



"They come across with really good information and remain objective so that the reader can assimilate the information and then make their own judgments."

--Woody Moses, science professor

people inflict upon the environment that they live in. The second is a change in the climate (often due to the first factor). Living in the presence of hostile states or neighbors is the third factor.

Decreased support with friendly neighbors would be the fourth. And lastly how these societies choose to respond to the situations that faced them.

The first society Moses talked about was the Rapa Nui.

They lived on Easter Island and are most well known for the massive stone heads (Moai) that dot the landscape of the island.

Moses said that is hard to say what exactly these Moai were for.

Most likely they may have been a combination of idol worship or community status-symbols.

The first settlers were Polynesians that traveled from the Cook Islands around 900 A.D.

"These people were rock solid," said Moses. "They did amazing things."

Proof of that included the im-

mense distances they traveled to even make it to the island to settle on.

Some of the primary reasons they settled the island was the abundant supply of foods such as fish, birds, and eggs.

The island also had a lot of trees when it was first settled.

In fact, the largest specimens of palm trees ever seen have been found in fossil records on the island.

In contrast to this, the island today is completely devoid of trees.

This is to be believed to be one of the major factors contributing to the fall of the Rapa Nui society.

Moses said that deforestation led to much of the island losing its soil making it impossible for new trees to grow.

Along with the shortage of trees, the Rapa Nui could not build any more living structures and the boats that they needed

to harvest their food.

Combined with a fickle climate and the inability to change their philosophy, the Rapa Nui society failed by 1722 A.D.

"Evidence suggests that there was widespread cannibalism towards the end of their society," said Moses. "It could not have been pretty."

"The more stubborn you are, the harder things get," said Moses in relation to a society's inability to change its ways.

Moses also went on to discuss the collapse of the Mayan civilization and the demise of the Viking outposts in Greenland.

In both these cases both groups shared many common problems that brought about the end of their societies.

Damage to the environment they lived in, hostile neighbors, climate change and, most importantly, the failure of how these societies responded to their situations were all major factors that led to their downfall.

"There is not much of a guarantee that civilizations will last based on historical evidence," said Moses.

Moses said that there are both many reasons to be pessimistic and many reasons to be optimistic about the future.

People can be pessimistic because today's society has damaged the environment to the point that it has impacted the climate negatively.

Global warming is on the rise and it is estimated that by 2050 half of the snow pack in the

Cascade mountain range will be gone.

Other factors such as overuse of fossil fuels, increasing population, and invasive species all contribute to a grim outlook toward the future.

Moses said that perhaps today's society is already marching down the same path as past failed societies.

Conversely, Moses said societies do have reasons to be optimistic.

Societies are starting to learn to use sustainable systems for food and water.

With the global economy taking hold, societies are now more than ever becoming dependent upon each other, making it less likely that a collapse can happen.

And most importantly, the fact that society recognizes the problems facing it make it much more likely a collapse can be averted.

"It sounds cheesy," said Moses. "But get involved in things to make a change."

This week in Science Seminar Bob Baugher and Sue Franz speak on the "Psychology of the Paranormal" as they take a scientific examination of some of life's most interesting psychic phenomena.

The seminar will be held in Building 3, room 102 at 2:20 p.m. on Friday.

For further information on Science Seminar, contact Dr. Eric Baer by email at ebaer@highline.edu or call 206-878-3710 ext. 3513.

CLEAN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

student who is passionate about this project is Tamara Trimmer.

"Since we're in the Medical Assistant Program, we believe in hygiene," Trimmer said.

"Hospitals and corporate offices have seat covers," Trimmer said. "Why the heck have the schools not done that?"

"They (the administration) should have a little more concern for their students when they enter their restrooms."

Along with the uncertainties of administration, students involved in this project have had to confront other doubts from their own peers.

"Some people try to solve this problem by saying 'Don't sit,'" said medical assistant student Alla Chikh, with a frustrated look on her face.

"The main cause is that people are not looking at it logical-

ly," said Trimmer. "We should have more concern about micro-organisms out there."

Trimmer said that all the research they've done in the program has shown that dangerous bacteria is widespread in public restrooms.

One thing in particular causes her great concern.

"There's a fear of hepatitis," Trimmer said. "It's a true fact from our studies that hepatitis lives for several days."

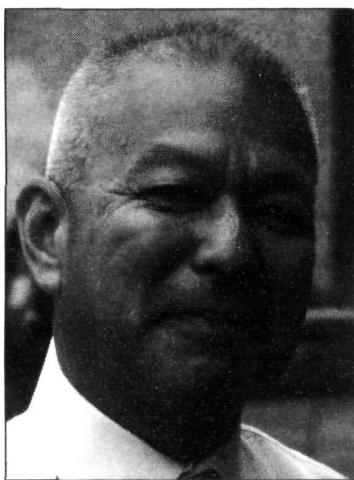
Hepatitis is the abundant presence of inflammatory cells in the liver tissue, which causes potentially severe damage to the liver.

There are several types of hepatitis, ranging from A to G.

According to TheBody.com, common transmission of hepatitis is caused by sexual interactions - commonly anal and oral - or "through shared needles used for drug abuse."

Nothing was mentioned about transmission via toilet seat.

However, in a section called "Women's Health Myths" on



Larry Yok

Swedish Medical Center's Website, www.swedish.org, Dr. Sherry Marts said that "It's OK to sit down... Most organisms that cause STDs will not survive for long on a toilet seat."

In addition, Dr. Marts said that a woman would have to make genital contact with the actual seat in order to contract hepatitis.

Many students said they would want seat covers and sanitizer in the restrooms.

Student Anna Moskalenko said that she would want them "because it is done in other places, so why not. Also, it would be hygiene-right."

"It's hygiene, duh!" said student Chisom Chiedu.

"I've worked in a kitchen for 18 years; I know all about sanitation, or lack thereof," said one student who said yes and wished to remain anonymous.

Although plans have not been formally brought to Larry Yok, vice president of administration, Yok said that he and Babington would "have to see the science behind the request."

"We want to have some degree of caution ... and see what the rationale is [before making such a big change]," he said.

Along with the cost of adding toilet seat covers and hand sanitizer, there are labor costs as well.

"[We have to worry about] staff time to keep dispensers stocked," Yok said.

Yok also voiced concern over the potential mess that could re-

sult due to the addition of toilet seat covers.

If the Medical Assistant Club's plans see fruition, Yok said that a state vendor could provide the materials.

The state vendor would be the same that supplies materials to hospitals.

It is uncertain how long it will take for the Medical Assistant Club's plans to fully come through, but the resolve of its students is clean and clear.

"Do we have to have an epidemic?" Trimmer asked. "It should be prevented before it ever happens."

Fancy Nails

Full Set-\$14.99 Manicure-\$8.99

Manicure/Pedicure-\$23.99 Waxing-10% off

Spa Pedicure-\$14.99 Fills-\$9.99

Discount valid with this coupon!

Mon - Sat / 10am - 7pm

Sun / 11- 5pm

25630 PAC Hwy S.

253-529-2469

Nikkel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

hospital and back home.

While the surgery was successful, Nikkel said it left Bear extremely vulnerable.

He needed to be monitored constantly and had to wear a helmet to protect his brain.

"That was when I stepped up and became his caretaker," Nikkel said.

Community Support Solutions of Washington is an organization Nikkel used to educate herself on how to take care of her brother once he returned home.

"We went through the training program so that I could take care of him in case something happened," Nikkel said.

In the training program, Nikkel said she learned "how to make sure he was moved enough ... how to go through preparing his food ... safety precautions, how to seat him the shower, and stuff like that."



Nikkel

"Community Support Solutions of Washington really taught me what to do if I saw something wrong," Nikkel said. "[They taught me] how to take care of a pretty stationary person."

While her mother was at work, Nikkel was her brother's primary caretaker during summer 2006.

"He would wake up at 8 and then we'd get breakfast and brush his teeth," Nikkel said.

The rest of the day would include eating, taking walks, and watching sports, her brother's favorite pastime.

However, Nikkel said going out in public took some adjusting.

At more than 6 feet tall and with a helmet on his head, Nikkel said she was concerned Bear would receive unwanted attention.

Eventually, Nikkel said it became easier, despite how daunting it could be at times.

"Taking care of my brother over the summer was a lot of work, but to be able to see him everyday instead of him being in a rehab center made me feel a lot more at ease," Nikkel said. "I knew everything that happened with him. I was able to be in the loop."

Still, Nikkel said, it was difficult.

"It was hard, and in the beginning I was more afraid of me messing up than of him falling and hitting his head," Nikkel said. "But over time I realized that if we just took things 20 minutes at a time everything would be OK."

Taking things slow was the key lesson Nikkel said she had to learn.

Nikkel's mother repeatedly told to her to breathe, and Nikkel even went so far as to have the lesson tattooed on her wrist to serve as a constant reminder.

On her right wrist in black cursive letters is the word "breathe," the action Nikkel's mother kept reminding her to do.

Nikkel said it also reminds

Amazing labyrinth



PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

A large canvas labyrinth was brought to Highline by Gloria Koepping Monday, May 14. Participants take advantage of its soothing capabilities that come from walking the labyrinth.

her of when she and her brothers called 911 when Bear was struggling to breathe.

"It has a lot of meaning," Nikkel said while tracing the lettering with her index finger. "It's really just kind of a reminder. ... One day maybe he'll realize why I got it."

When school resumed in the fall, Nikkel shared the responsibility of looking after Bear with one of her other brothers.

Once Nikkel got home in the afternoon, she looked after Bear.

Nikkel said Rehab Without Walls, an organization that

brings neurological rehabilitation to patients' homes, was also very helpful to Bear and herself.

During that time, Nikkel said her brother's health improved a great deal and "The only thing we [had] to watch him for is when he [was] in the shower [without his helmet]."

Bear no longer had to wear any helmet at anytime after his final reconstructive surgery on April 24 to put prosthetic pieces in his skull.

"My brother's surgery went great," Nikkel said.

"He's so excited to finally

be able to wear his baseball hat collection again."

Nikkel said Bear, now 16, has already made plans to return to school in the fall.

"As far as immediate plans, sometime next month he hopes to attend a Mariners game," Nikkel said.

Nikkel said it feels great to have her brother healthy.

"I'm finally relieved and I feel like I can breathe easy," Nikkel said.

"I don't need to look at my tattoo anymore to remember to take it slow. I can rest assured that everything is OK."

Cafe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Nakada explained that this festival takes place on the 20th birthday of a young man or woman. She said that an average of \$15,000 to \$20,000 thousand dollars is spent on a Kimono alone.

A kimono is a traditional Japanese gown.

While some found values and celebrations important, the most important part of Japanese culture to Ryota Hosaka is eating sushi.

Meanwhile, some panelists thought of some things that Highline could do as a community to help the Japanese community.

Fujiwara said that Japanese students tend to be very quiet and shy, and that sometimes it is hard for them to show their feelings and emotions. She sug-

gested that American students invite Japanese students to participate in activities with them. She said that if this happened, Japanese students could share their emotions more openly.

Nakada said that sometimes she feels she might be annoying people because of the way her English sounds.

While some Japanese students might have found speaking English their biggest challenge when coming to the United States, others had some different problems.

Yuka Hamada, a Japanese panelist, said that her largest problem when coming to the U.S. was getting used to the food.

She said that in her country, everyone usually eats a healthy diet, but in America, there are many foods such as McDonald's.

"I really miss eating Japanese food. I want to eat fresh fish," said Hamada.

Fujiwara also expressed her

food concern when first coming from Japan.

She added that she gained 10 pounds her first year in the United States.

Food is not the only major difference for the Japanese students.

An audience member asked why so many Japanese people smoke cigarettes when they seem to make such health conscious food choices.

Fujiwara said that many of the working class people in Japan are put under so much stress due to long work days.

She said that smoking an outlet for the stress, offering them relaxation in such a busy life.

With the many differences between the United States and Japan, some Americans may have misconceptions of Japanese people.

The Japanese panelists agreed that there are many beliefs about Japan that are not true or are not a direct reflection of their culture.

Although not providing many examples, they said they also feel that sometimes they are grouped into one homogenous category, when their culture is

very different from other Asian cultures.

"Kung-Fu is not Japanese culture. All Asians are different," said Nakada.

**Are you into
photography or
journalism?**

**Ever considered writing
or taking pictures for
The Thunderword?**

**Enroll in Journalism 101
or Journalism 105 for Fall
Quarter 2007**

**Learn the skills of newswriting and
photo journalism and expand your
horizons! Email tsell@highline.edu.**

ELECTION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of the school in a way that could positively affect the student life at Highline," Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald has many goals that she hopes to achieve while in office. Some of them are "enabling a new sport added to Highline, particularly baseball"; having all "students get involved in extra curricular activities" and implementing "student health plans and things to help poor students in their living," she said.

Since Fitzgerald was treasurer of her high school her junior year and finished 70 credits these past three quarters while juggling extracurricular activities, she feels that she is more than capable of being president.

"Also, I am a multi-tasker, I can juggle more than most," Fitzgerald said. "With saying that, the 19 hours required for this job are probably not so hard, even my personable personality allows me to speak with others."

Steve Simpkins, 40, is in his third quarter at Highline. He is working toward getting his bachelor's and, hopefully master's, in nursing.

Simpkins' main goal in office would be to "try to bring all the different programs together."

"I don't think we hear enough of student input," Simpkins said. "[Student Government] is not about implementing my plans but finding out the students' plans and implementing theirs."

"I think that is the whole point of Student Government here on campus: to represent the students' voice," Simpkins said.

Simpkins said that he feels he would be a good choice for Student Government because he can communicate well. "[I have] the ability to communicate with staff and students on all levels," Simpkins said.

Simpkins said that he has had a lot of practice already since he currently works in Student Programs.

Frank Bagley was planning on running for president, but decided there was not a need

to when he found out another candidate, Simpkins, is backing the same things he was.

"After speaking with Steve [Simpkins] I realized his and my views were very similar," Bagley said. "Then I decided to back him because my interest [for running] wasn't for personal gain or prestige, rather to make sure certain

issues were represented."

The six candidates running for vice president have many similar qualities, but each feels that they have that extra quality that makes them more qualified for the position.

Ayan Qumane, 21, is working toward becoming a biology teacher.

This means that she is going for two majors: biology and teaching. Qumane is now completing her second year at Highline. She has decided to take it slow here and get some extra classes to transfer over to the University of Washington.

Qumane said she is a good communicator and "people person." She said this is important in working with Student Government.

"I love communicating with people. I am very much a people person," Qumane said.

Qumane said she really just wants to help the students.

"I would like to know the students more," she said. "I'm very open and would like to give them my full service."

"I look at this as an opportunity to gain more knowledge about how to become a better leader," Qumane said.

Sergio Ullou, 18, has been at Highline for one year. He is currently

working toward his associate of arts degree and wants to go into law.

Ullou's main goal for this next year is to connect the campus. "I want to see a united campus," Ullou said. "We have an opportunity here at Highline; we just need to enhance it."

Ullou said that he is here for the students. But in order for him to be successful in "uniting to campus" the students must be willing to reach out to him.

Ullou said that his strengths

include the fact that he is "hyped" and energetic and that he has moved around a lot when he was younger. He said this helped him understand other people and different environments.

"You get different experiences of survival and adaptation," Ullou said.

"If they think I am the

right person to represent them then they should pick me," Ullou said. He said that it isn't about who will win but who is the most qualified to help out the students.

Skyler J M Nichols, 23, has completed his first year at Highline while working toward a double major.

Nichols came to college for pre-med and, after realizing it would take some time to get his math level up, decided to work toward a history major as well. "[Catching up on math] gives me more time here at Highline and I love Highline," Nichols said.

As a high school drop out and a recovering addict, Nichols said that he is grateful for a new beginning. "I have decided to make my addiction my success," Nichols said.

Nichols said that he thinks he would make a good vice president because he has prior leadership skills, has been volunteering in Student Programs for the past year and he has a great ability to communicate on all levels.

"I think I'm a great candidate. I'm not too young, I'm not too old," Nichols said. "I am a non-traditional student."

Nichols said that by being non-traditional, not fresh out of high school, that he has had some time to get perspective on life issues.

Lucas Heath, now 17, is in his third quarter at Highline as a full-time Running Start student. He is currently a junior enrolled at Kent Mountain View Academy, but spends all of his time

here.

Heath is hoping to get his two-year degree here and go into acting and possibly law.

Heath said that because his high school is so small and there is no Student Government, he never had a chance to run for office and help the students.

"That's what I like to do, help people," Heath said. "[I want] to get the students what they need and make it a better environment."

Heath said that he would make a good president because he gets along well with people, he is a leader, and he "does what needs to be done."

Heath said that the most important thing is to be honest.

"My main goal is to always tell the truth and be honest with people," Heath said. "I would rather lose the election then lie to people. I am here to help them not hurt them."

Dave Gagnat, 23, has been attending Highline for a year. He plans to go into business with an emphasis in entrepreneurial studies and a sub emphasis in Law.

Gagnat's main goal is to get students heard; to let them know that they matter. "[I have] that innate drive inside of me to inspire people and give them a chance to get involved."

"It's about acknowledging that person for what they want and how I can get that for him," Gagnat said.

Gagnat said that he wants to start summer jobs fairs, poetry jams and other events that help include people from all over campus.

"Honestly, I am not better than anyone else," Gagnat said. "I took the first step; you take the next; vote for Dave."

Jay Smith, now 21, is in his sixth quarter at Highline. He is majoring in business management and thinking of going into law.

Smith hopes to make Highline attractive to everyone. "I hope to make Highline the best community college in our area, even though I already think it is," Smith said.

"I hope to make it fun for

students to come to class daily because I know how much of a drag it can be," Smith said. "As long as I am helping other people I am happy."

Smith said that his main strength is the amount of work he likes to do. "I like a lot of work and I like to multi-task, I think it is fun," he said.

Smith said that he would make a good vice president because he "loves this school and he loves the students," he "knows how to get things done," and he is "going to make sure that all students voices are heard and all of their needs are met to the best of [Smith's] abilities."

Smith is confident in his ability to be the vice president for Highline. "I know the students should pick me; actually, I know the students will pick me," Smith said.



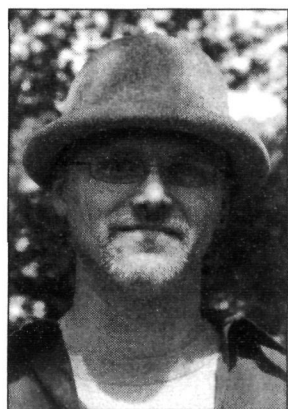
Sergio Ullou



Dave Gagnat



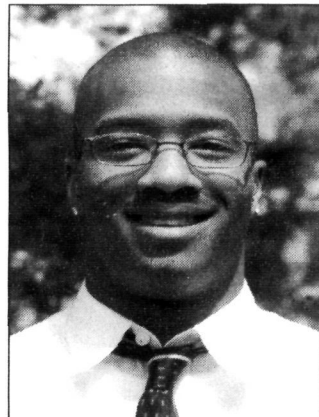
Skyler JM Nichols



Steve Simpkins



Lucas Heath



Jay Smith



Survey

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"During this period, the faculty will have the opportunity for lengthy public discussion and deliberation, as will staff, students, trustees, and the community," Dr. Windhover said. "Since all these groups have not yet come together to contribute to the job description for the presidency, it is premature to discuss this issue."

Some professors agreed with Dr. Windhover.

"I agree with Ruth's response. We need to be respectful of the process, which hasn't officially begun yet," said Rosemary Adang, coordinator of cultural, gender, and global studies.

"I have some strong personal ideas/opinions, but I agree with Ruth that it's not a good idea to be spouting our personal opinions at this point," said Writing Professor Susan Landgraf. "Once the process begins, all information you can gather about the meetings and the discussions will be news — and important news."

Many professors declined to comment citing a variety of reasons from feeling unqualified to

give an answer to having been encouraged not to.

Several said a search would be an unnecessary expense.

"The open evaluation of Dr. Birmingham would be the right thing to do, and if he passes that evaluation with good marks, there is absolutely no reason to embark on a very expensive national search, with hiring of useless 'consultants' and what not in one way or another taking that money from the college, from the students, from the teachers," one faculty member said.

"In my opinion, committee work is often synonymous with inefficiency and allow all involved to avoid the accountability that goes along with making an important decision like this," said paralegal professor Che Dawson.

"Ultimately, there's going to be a segment unhappy with the decision and a segment happy with the decision regardless of when or how the decision is made. Let's appoint Dr. Birmingham and get on with the business of the college rather than wasting a lot of time and money," Dawson said.

"Do not hire a search firm, most of which have a data base of people who have paid the service to promote them. In fact, more times than not, they

are comprised of presidents who have left other colleges for undisclosed reasons," another faculty member said. "Finally, Jack, has paid his dues, he has worked hard to make the instructional side of the college one of the most respected and highly regarded in the state."

Several professors said they would be happy to have him as the permanent president.

"His future is that of a college president, so why not take advantage of that and keep him here," said Science Division Chairwoman Dr. Helen Burn. "The board has the power to appoint Jack, and in my opinion they should. At the same time, I respect that many people believe there are benefits in doing an open search."

"I think he has done a good job since I've been here. I believe he is quite connected to the campus community. ... To have not been selected last time but to have stayed shows some commitment to Highline," another professor said.

"Jack has added a wealth of experience to our system and reached out to all branches of the college. Although I am not certain how the college Board is planning to fill the position, but they ought to give Jack the chance to keep the college mov-

ing in the right direction," said Business Technology instructor Sam Alkhalili.

"The other thing he's been great for the college is international relations. Not just symbolic ones, real ones," said political science instructor Davidson Dodd. "If he's not made president, will he stick around? My feeling is probably not."

Without Dr. Birmingham, Dodd said he thinks the success Dr. Birmingham has had in international relations and multicultural issues will "slowly dissolve."

A few professors said they were concerned not having a candidate search could create a division among the faculty.

"Some people are huge Jack fans and other people aren't that happy," an anonymous professor said. "If all the sudden [the Board of Trustees] were to appoint without a search it would feel like ... there was this group that didn't listen to the voices of the campus. ... Without a search, morale will really be low on campus."

Dr. Christiana Taylor, coordinator of art, drama, and music, said she agrees.

"I doubt very much the faculty would acquiesce without considerable protest to such a move. It makes no difference

whether one is for Dr. Birmingham or another candidate, it is the process that is imperative," Dr. Taylor said.

For the sake of fairness, many professors said they are in favor of a search.

"There's just the actual deed of fairness. ... Following the whole Dr. Bell fiasco, it would just look bad. It would look like Dr. Bell was fired to hire Dr. Birmingham," an instructor said.

"I believe that there should be, most definitely, a search with a full, objective, and transparent process," said Paralegal Program Coordinator Buzz Wheeler. "Given the present enrollment situation and other issues facing the college, the president needs to be an accomplished executive who has the full support of the entire campus community."

Some faculty members said they were interested in a search if only to explore all the options.

"It's fair to the whole process that we go out and find the best candidate," an instructor said. "I'm certainly in favor of a search, the sooner the better."

In addition to faculty forums, staff forums will be held on May 31 in Building 7 at 9 a.m. and again at 10 a.m.

www.celltowns.com

Pre-Summer Vacation Special!



Motorola RIZR Z3 - Rose

- Stereo Bluetooth
- Music Player
- 2 MP Camera/ Video
- Micro SD Card
- Speaker Phone

\$99.99 for everything
after \$100 In store rebate and
\$50 mail in rebate. MSRP \$249.99

FREE American Express Gift Card*

gift card \$100

Not to be used toward purchase of rate plan or handset.
Limited time offer, subject to change; while supplies last; at participating locations only

For Pre-Summer Vacation special, we give \$100 gift certificate with the purchase of Motorola RIZR Z3. Hurry! Offer ends soon*.

See or call store to get more detailed information!

Limited time offer. Offer requires 2-year agreement. Taxes and fees not included.



Cell Towns®
smart choice • smart savings

Cellular Town of Federal Way (Main)

1812 S.320th St. Federal Way, WA 98003
Next to Old coutry buffet • T. 253.529.5505

T-Mobile®
authorized dealer

Federal Way	Tacoma	Lakewood	Tacoma	Seattle	Shoreline	Bellevue	UW
Inside Paldo Market 2200 S.320th St Federal Way, WA 98003 T. (253)941-2010	Royal Plaza 8518 S.Tacoma Way #B2 Lakewood WA 98499 T. (253)588-6061	Next to Market Place 6111 Lakewood TC blvd. #C Lakewood, WA 98499 T. (253)588-8771	Next to Kyoto Restaurant 8718 S.Tacoma Way #C Lakewood, WA 98499 T. (253)584-1300	Columbia Tower 3rd fl. 701 Fifth Ave. #303 Seattle, WA 98104 T. (206)381-0707	Next to AA Repair 16053 Aurora Ave N. Shoreline, WA 98133 T. (206)546-1903	Across from DMV 545-A 156th Ave SE. Bellevue, WA 98007 T. (425)643-3727	Next to KIKU 5010 University Way NE Seattle, WA 98105 T. (206)729-6622

Limited time offer subject to change. CREDIT APPROVAL/ADDITIONAL COSTS: Does not apply to pre-paid. Credit approval and \$35/line activation fee required; \$200/line early cancellation fee applies. Regulatory Programs Fee (not a tax or government-mandated charge) of 86¢ per line/mo. applies; additional taxes and fees may add 6-28% to your monthly bill. Minutes over monthly allotment are 40¢ per additional minute. Partial minutes are rounded up for billing. SERVICE COVERAGE: Service is not available everywhere. For full details, see Coverage Maps available at www.t-mobile.com or at a T-Mobile store. ABNORMAL CALL PATTERNS: Call duration and/or your continued eligibility for any rate plan may be limited or terminated for (a) consumer protection purposes or (b) abusive conduct or abnormal call pattern(s). MAIL-IN and IN-STORE REBATE OFFER: Motorola Rizr mail-in rebate offer expires 05/31/07, in-store rebate offer expires 05/31/07. Limited to phone shown; Supplies may be limited and offer may not be available at all dealer locations. T-Mobile reserves the right to substitute different phone models of equal or greater value. Customer must remain on a qualifying T-Mobile rate plan at the time mail-in rebate is actually processed. Allow up to 8 weeks for mail-in rebate check. See mail-in rebate form for full details. See T-Mobile's Terms and Conditions (including mandatory arbitration), available at www.t-mobile.com, for cancellation policy, international long-distance, roaming and messaging rates, and additional details that may affect this offer and additional rate plans, and other information and/or contact T-Mobile Customer Care, at 1-800-937-8997, with questions concerning any T-Mobile offer or rate plan. T-Mobile is a federally registered trademark, and the magenta color is a trademark, of Deutsche Telekom AG. WHENEVER Minutes is a federally registered trademark, and myFaves, the myFaves design, Who's in Your Fave 5, Unlimited Any-Network Calling, and Stick Together are service marks, of T-Mobile USA, Inc. © 2007 T-Mobile USA, Inc.