

Softball team  
doesn't place  
at NWAACC  
See page 9



Break-dancers  
bust a move  
at Highline  
See page 5



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# The Thunderword

MAY 24, 2007/VOLUME 46, No. 28/HIGHLINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Funds pending for accomplishing the dream

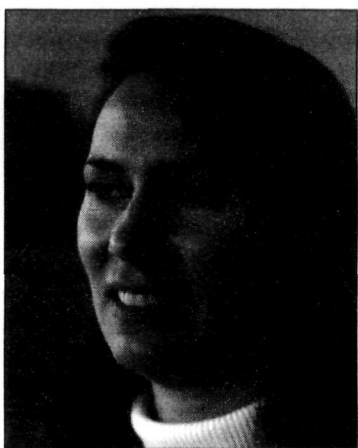
By JOCIE OLSON

staff reporter

With \$400,000 at stake, the Highline administration is waiting to see if the Achieving the Dream proposal is accepted.

Highline has already implemented the Achieving the Dream with an initial \$50,000 grant by the Lumina Foundation in the summer of 2006. If the proposal goes through, the college will receive \$400,000 more over the next four years.

"It's a national initiative primarily funded through the Lumina Foundation, whose goal



Lisa Skari

is to make community college students more successful," said

Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lisa Skari.

Highline is one of 58 colleges in 10 states to participate.

Dean of Instruction for Transfer Programs Jeff Wagnitz explained that the proposal is for the money to be used for faculty and staff to make improvements.

"There's no aid for students. This is an administration grant," Skari said.

Wagnitz said after looking at a large amount of data, three issues were settled on.

The first area is in development.

Wagnitz explained that the Math 91 and 97 courses are among the highest-enrolled classes on campus but the success rates are not as high. Also, students in these classes tend to be young and many times transfer students.

One possible solution is additional tutoring for students, Wagnitz said.

The second issue is the number of Highline students enrolled in non-credit courses such as English as a Second Language (ESL).

"There are 3,000 students on any given day enrolled in these

courses," Wagnitz said. "Only one-fourth make the jump into credit courses and very few make it all the way through."

After looking through the data and talking with students and faculty, Wagnitz said a solution will be to train ESL faculty as advisers.

The final area of emphasis is students who have a low completion rate in key 100-level courses.

Wagnitz said intense advising will be given to these students.

SEE DREAM, PAGE 15

## People, not terrorists

Middle Eastern  
campus members  
deal with racism,  
stereotypes

By FERESHTA NOMAN

staff reporter

Zohal Yosofi, who just wants to be treated like an average Highline student, sips a latte in the Student Union, while taking a break from studying toward a nursing degree.

When she talks of her exotic story and her horrible past, however, people are curious. Born in Kabul, Afghanistan, Yosofi lived through warfare and terrorism in her homeland.

"There were pieces of skin on the floor, while my mom held my hand running as far away from the missiles and mines as she could," Yosofi said, recalling the missiles being carelessly launched by the Mujahideen who were fighting against the Soviets stationed behind civilian homes.

Yosofi and her family were offered an opportunity to seek refuge in Seattle, with the help of relatives who were located there. They have been U.S. citizens for 16 years now, and yet when people find out about their background, stereotypes constantly arise in the community and on campus.

Some people choose to  
ignore the truth.



DAVID HSU/THUNDERWORD

"They're terrorists, they know Osama bin Laden, and they have hatred towards the West," she said, listing the common stereotypes of the Middle East.

The situation in the Middle East interests a lot of Highline students, faculty and staff, many of whom are passionate about clearing the negative stereotypes.

They want to end the stereotypes and clear up misconceptions, such as that Middle Easterners are anti-Western, they oppress women and they follow an evil religion that promotes hatred.

"Middle Easterners don't hate Americans," said Waleed El-Himri, a Palestinian American.

"Islam is peaceful. What they saw (in terrorist attacks) were misguided people, not real Muslims," said Hamad Al-Hadab, an international student from Saudi Arabia.

"We see women as a treasure, we try to protect them with our

SEE RACISM, PAGE 16

There is still  
time to cast  
your vote

By BECKY MORTENSON

staff reporter

This is the last chance to vote for Highline's Student Government leaders for next fall.

Michele Fitzgerald and Steve Simpkins are running for president. Ayan Qumane, Sergio Ullou, Skyler JM Nichols, Lucas Heath, Dave Gagnat and Jay Smith are running for vice president.

Voting started yesterday and continues today until 10 p.m.

"[Voting] is really easy" current vice

★★★★★  
Student Government  
Election  
★★★★★  
president Paul Pittman said.

There are three different places that you can go to vote: the third floor of the Student Union, outside the bookstore, and online.

The voting goes on from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Student Programs, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. by the bookstore and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. online.

"It should take less than a minute," Pittman said.

A student identification number and pin number are needed to vote.

Each location will have information about each candidate.

"If you are a Highline student you can vote," Pittman said.

CSI:



## HIGHLINE

### Sixth car stolen this quarter in parking lot

A 2000 Honda Civic was stolen from the north parking lot May 18.

This is the sixth car stolen from Highline this quarter.

The Des Moines Police Department is handling the case.

### Student gets license plate stolen from car

A student had the back license plate stolen from their car on May 22.

The case has been handed over to Des Moines Police Department.

### Purse stolen in Student Union Building

A student had her purse stolen May 21 in either Building 25 or Building 8.

### Student pulls fire alarm instead of light switch

A student accidentally pulled the fire alarm in Room 109 in Building 19 on May 17.

The student had been searching for the light switch.

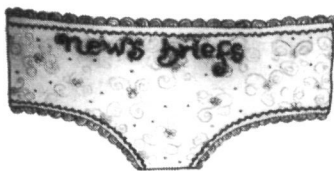
### Found items

The following items were found on campus: a Python remote car device; a pink woman's cosmetic kit; a pair of brown, woman's sunglasses; an iPod charger; a cell phone; a blue umbrella; two jackets; a set of six keys on a plain, silver ring; an IBM student folder; a Samsung T-Mobile cell phone; a "Precalculus: Mathematics for Calculus" fifth edition textbook; and a pair of gray warm-up pants.

### Lost items

The following items were reported lost on campus: a TI-83 calculator; a Motorola cell phone; a graduation ring with a ruby gem in the center; an iPod; and a cell phone.

-- Compiled by C. Feeley



### Awards to be given to faculty and staff

This year's Annual Faculty and Staff Spring Awards Luncheon will be a little earlier than usual.

It will be Thursday, June 14, at 11 a.m. in the Student Union.

This is to allow for commute time for buses leaving campus at 1 p.m. for commencement at KeyArena.

Invitations were sent out earlier this week by e-mail.

There are no printed invitations, so those who have not received the e-mail should contact Sandy Moser at [smoser@highline.edu](mailto:smoser@highline.edu).

### Movie Fridays will bring "happyness"

Happyness can be found at this week's Movie Fridays.

*The Pursuit of Happyness* is based on the true story of Chris Gardener.

The movie follows his struggle to provide for his son, while working as an intern for a stock brokerage.

There is a free screening May 19 in Building 29, room 216 at noon.

For more information about Movie Fridays, contact Roman Wright at 206-878-3710, ext. 3999 or at [rwright@highline.edu](mailto:rwright@highline.edu).

### Honors scholars will receive recognition

Highline's Honor Scholar Program is going to honor its scholars.

A reception will be held next



Student Vice President candidate, Skyler JM Nichols, makes cotton candy in the Student Union Building.

month to celebrate the accomplishments of the scholars, and the success of the program.

Light refreshments will be provided, accompanied by short presentations about the students being honored.

The reception is June 6 in Building 7, at 12:10 p.m.

For more information about the reception contact Barbara Clinton at 206-878-3710, ext. 3151 or at [bclinton@highline.edu](mailto:bclinton@highline.edu).

### Book Club lays siege to the castle

Highline's Book Club is continuing to discuss *The Man in the High Castle* by Philip K. Dick.

This is a science fiction novel about the rebirth of slavery in 1962 when the U.S. is occupied by Japan and Germany after losing World War II.

Everyone is welcome to join in the discussion of the book and its themes today, May 24 in Building 6, room 164 from noon-1 p.m.

For more information about the Book Club, contact Nailia Akers at 206-878-3710, ext. 4350 or at [nakers@highline.edu](mailto:nakers@highline.edu).

### Seminar discusses big picture of paint

If you have ever wondered how bad paint is for your health or if you are planning on painting your house this summer, come to this week's Science Seminar.

A lecture titled, "Can You Paint and Breathe at the Same Time?" will be presented by Jonathan Betz-Zall.

Betz-Zall will be speaking about the dangers of paint, and

what can be done to reduce the negative health effects on you and your family.

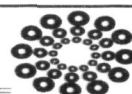
Science Seminar is Friday, May 25 in Building 3, room 103 from 2:20-3:10 p.m.

For more information about the Science Seminar, contact Dr. Eric Baer at 206-878-3710, ext. 3513 or at [ebaer@highline.edu](mailto:ebaer@highline.edu).

### Correction

In a track story in last week's issue of *The Thunderword*, it should have said Rosie Meeker ran 21:33.98 in the 5000-meter.

It was a season best for Meeker.



## 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

### Student Painters

Job # 2816



Student Painters needs hardworking people just like you to paint houses this summer. Puget Sound

Mon-Fri.  
8am-4:30pm  
\$8.50-11.50

### Summer Programs Assistant

Job # 2806



The White River Valley History Museum is looking for a Program Assistant to June 22-Aug. 22. Duties include: youth and families and assist with gallery supervision. Auburn

Wed, 9am-12pm  
3-12 hrs/wk  
\$9/hr

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

## Free Tutoring!!!



Feeling overwhelmed?  
Get help!

Visit the Tutoring Center in Building 26, Room 319.

We specialize in turning good students into better students

### Tip of the Week:

Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful.

Albert Schweitzer

### 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>



## Highline's teriyaki woman at your service

By JUDY VUE

staff reporter

Many Highline students see her often and don't even know her name.

She is Jennifer Kim, the smiling, cheerful cook and cashier at HiLine Teriyaki on Pacific Highway, right in front of the East Parking Lot.

Whether you're grabbing food during the busy lunch hour or coming in when there's only one other customer, Kim's first priority is to greet you with a welcoming smile.

Many of Kim's customers are Highline students.

"I love to meet people," she said. "I try to be very cheerful because I see people coming from [Highline] and they're so stressed."

Whether they didn't do so well on a midterm or they didn't get a good grade on that paper, Kim said she does what she can to relieve them of that feeling, if only temporarily.

"The moment they're staying here, I want them to be happy with my food and service," Kim said.

Kim was a Highline student herself, although she is not taking any classes this quarter. She said one of her favorite classes was Speech 100.

"I really loved it. I learned a lot [about] speaking English," said Kim.

Kim grew up in Seoul, South Korea, and immigrated to the United States with her family when she was 19.



JOHN THOMPSON/THUNDERWORD

HiLine Teriyaki's cook and cashier, Jennifer Kim, takes a customer's lunch order. Kim is not currently taking classes at Highline.

That was four years ago. Not only has she mastered English, she tries her hand – or more appropriately, "tongue" – at Spanish.

As a Latino customer, who is also a regular, leaves with his order, he personally bids Kim goodbye in Spanish.

"Hasta mañana," Kim says back cheerfully.

Kim has never taken a Spanish class, though.

"I bought a book and listened to tapes," she said.

She also has Latino co-work-

ers who help her when there are words she has trouble with.

Whenever Latino customers walk into her store, she enthusiastically greets them in Spanish.

"Hola, como esta?" she asks with that unfaltering smile on her face.

Her outgoing attitude with customers may be a surprise, coming from someone who only came to the United States four years ago.

And it did, indeed, take Kim some time to absorb her new

home and new culture.

One of the things about American culture that shocked Kim the most was the amount of independence many young Americans have.

"In Korean culture, [there's not much] independence," she said.

Although Kim's parents would normally have had her stay home with them, they changed things up once they lived in the States.

"My parents wanted me to be very strong," she said. "They

said, 'You have to be Americanized.'"

Kim said that because they were living in a new country, they had to do things in their new country's way. So at 21 years old, in order to be "Americanized," Kim moved out.

It was difficult, Kim says, but she has managed well. She leaves any difficulties at the door when she is working. Other sacrifices have to be made as well.

"I have to put my hobbies [such as playing piano] behind me to study English and business [at the restaurant]," Kim said. But it is all good training for bigger goals of becoming a businesswoman.

"I want to open up a chain restaurant [someday]," Kim said.

This was not her initial dream.

"I was going to be a nurse because I thought I could make people happy [through doing that]," she said.

However, when she first began working at HiLine Teriyaki, she realized that she could do the same thing there, and she is happy with that.

"I serve people with my food," she said. "I want people to be happy at that moment."

Kim said the money makes no difference to her as long as she can make her customers happy.

For students who are regulars, Kim probably knows your name.

Now, you know hers.

## Highline campus will be hosting future scientists

By JOCIE OLSON

staff reporter

Move over college students, elementary school children are coming to Highline – at least for a week.

Highline is hosting a science-focused summer day camp for children in the first through sixth grades.

"It's a camp for grade-school students to have a fun time to develop problem-solving skills," said James Loetterle, geology professor and camp director.

Camp Invention is a non-profit program founded by the National Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation. Since its foundation in 1990, the program has grown to host camps in 44 states.

"It's the first time we have hosted a camp that's not ours," said Lisa Skari, vice president for institutional advancement.

During the week, camp-

ers will participate in activities such as creating games, make prototypes of roller coasters and other theme-park rides, and also improve the safety of a skateboard.

"It's very hands on, very creative, and it is all science based," Skari said.

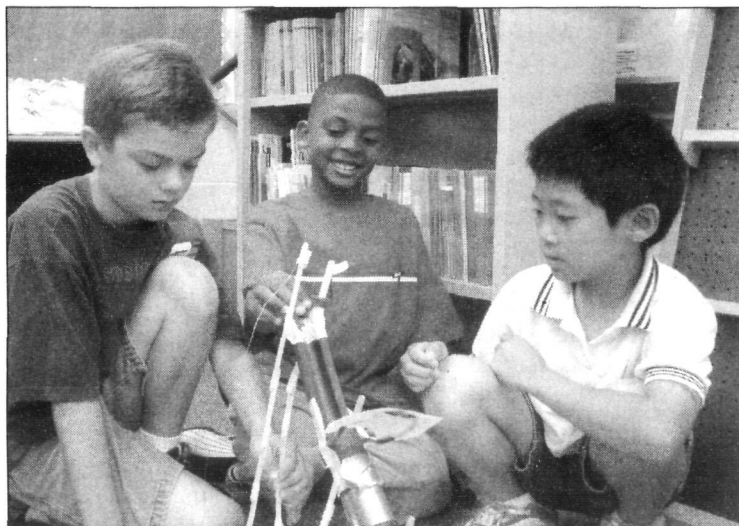
The children will also be able to explore the world of science fiction.

Skari explained in one activity the children will crash on a fictional planet and have to work with other children to survive.

"It's well structured, it's going to have fun activities, and it's a way of making science fun," Loetterle said.

For another activity, children will bring in all sorts of items, such as broken-down appliances and during the week they will take them apart and create something else.

The highlight of the camp is



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME

During a science summer camp for first through sixth graders, children are able to participate in activities designed to help them explore science and work with other children.

when the inventors present their inventions to family and friends at the end of the week.

"I hope they learn that they can build something, work in

groups, and learn what it takes to build something that works through trial and error," Loetterle said.

The camp is still looking for

more help.

"We have two teachers from nearby schools and a counselor, but we are [still] looking for another counselor," Loetterle said.

Counselors can be anyone from the ages of 14-18 who has experience working with children.

Loetterle said the camp is looking for parents and responsible high-school aged brothers or sisters to volunteer.

Camp Invention will run July 9 to July 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The cost is \$199 per camper if registered before June 29 and \$219 after that.

Highline employees, returning campers, and campers registering with a buddy receive a \$19 discount.

For more information, contact James Loetterle at 206-878-3710, ext. 6543 or at [jloetter@highline.edu](mailto:jloetter@highline.edu).

## Editorial comment

### Steve Simpkins has president potential

Voting for president and vice president of Student Government ends today.

There are a handful of qualified candidates running for vice president, but only two brave souls have stepped up to the plate to run for president – Steve Simpkins and Michele Fitzgerald – and they are to be commended.

However, at the candidates' forum last Wednesday in the Student Union, Fitzgerald, was absent due to a personal family emergency. Fitzgerald said she works in Bellevue, which made her unable to attend the forum.

While not official, it appears Simpkins will become president.

"[Student Government] is not about implementing my plans but finding out the students' plans and implementing theirs," Simpkins said last week.

The fact that Simpkins has been the only visible candidate makes this an easy decision.

Students should also understand why Simpkins is qualified.

His past may be questionable. He admits to suffering from past alcohol and abuse. He said being cited for a DUI was the turning point in his life and said he learned from his mistakes.

Simpkins sobered up three and half years ago. At 40 years old, he is not your typical community college presidential candidate. However, it is clear he has changed and his past should not be used against him.

In fact, Simpkins has recently started a club for people like him: Sober Socialites, which is meant to provide services and activities for students so they don't have to turn to drinking. Sober Socialites is not only open to recovering students, but anyone at Highline who is interested.

His concern for making students' voices heard is important and he is not running for any personal agenda. Students should consider that factor as they go out and vote.

Also, Simpkins has another huge advantage going for him: he is readily available to anyone who wants to speak with him.

All one needs to do is walk to the third floor of the Student Union and if he's not there, you can leave a message and he gets back to you immediately.

This trait is definitely becoming of a Student Government President.

## Staff

*"I'm not a quote-generator."*

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## Honor other kinds of soldiers

Monday is Memorial Day.

I could tell you how important it is to honor our veterans and our troops in Iraq.

I could tell you that you shouldn't see it as a day off from school, but a day to honor those who have died.

I should spend this Memorial Day honoring American soldiers because, after all, it is an American holiday.

I could tell you something profound, but I can't find it in me.

I support our troops. I respect anyone who has been in military service. But it is hard for me not to think about other countries' people who have sacrificed for the U.S.

I'm talking about a story during the Vietnam War that people never hear about. The CIA recruited the help of primitive people, including both of my grandfathers, who mainly resided in the mountains of Laos.

This "Secret Army," as it is now called, was trained to fend off the North Vietnamese communists so that Laos – a neutral country during the war – would become a supply route.

These people were Hmong, and they fought bravely for the American side. They succeeded in killing 100,000 to 150,000 North Vietnamese troops.

They were trained to fly planes and fire guns – when the most advanced technology they had known before was probably a shovel.

They were considered some of the best fighter pilots, comparable to their American equivalents.

They fought because they were promised food and safety for their families.

Instead, once defeat was inevitable, the United States cut and ran and left the Hmong people to die at the hands of an angry communist regime.

Both of my grandfathers fought this secret war. They

## Commentary



JUDY VUE

were fortunate to survive and keep their families alive in time to safely immigrate as refugees to the United States.

I would not be here writing this if not for them.

However, many others were not so lucky back then.

So when you stick a "Support Our Troops" ribbon on the back of your car, who are you thinking of?

Are you also thinking of men and women – and boys and girls – who are in the Middle East right now, risking their lives for what seems to be a lost cause?

You should be.

Are you thinking of the soldiers whose lives were lost in wars in past centuries?

You should be.

Are you thinking of people such as the Hmong soldiers of the 1970s?

You should be – but you're probably not because you just don't know.

In turn, you're probably not thinking of Iraqi interpreters who have been instrumental in assisting our troops in the Middle East.

George Packer is a journalist who spent three months traveling Europe and the Middle East compiling the stories of Iraqis who risked their lives – and still were by just speaking with Packer – to assist American

troops in gathering intelligence.

"The arc from hope to, betrayal that traverses the Iraq war is nowhere more vivid than in the lives of these Iraqis. America's failure to understand, trust, and protect its closest friends in Iraq is a small drama that contains the largest history of defeat."

It's really funny how history repeats itself. It's funny how humans can never seem to learn from their mistakes.

It's funny – but not in a very humorous way.

I have the utmost respect for our troops and I feel great sympathy for the families of troops we have lost.

Our troops are deserving of every last bit of sympathy and admiration we can muster.

But what saddens me is that those feelings of sympathy and admiration always miss the people we hear the least about.

And I'm not just talking about the Hmong soldiers or Iraqi interpreters.

What about the Afghani fighters, the homeless Vietnam vets, the MIAs – pretty much, anyone who has played a direct role in fighting for our side and who have now been forgotten?

When I hear a bugle playing "Taps," I'll think of a soldier, no older than I am, who risks running over a land mine.

I'll think of a Hmong man, such as either of my grandfathers, being trained how to use a machine gun or fly a fighter plane.

I'll think of Iraqi men who believed that the Americans would give them a better life and who sacrificed everything to help them, only to be left to fend for themselves.

This will be who I honor on Memorial Day.

You should do the same.

Judy is opinion editor of the Thunderword. She can be reached at [jvue@highline.edu](mailto:jvue@highline.edu) or 206-878-3710, ext. 3317.



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## During class breaks, these guys dance

BY KELSEY SIMS

staff reporter

You have probably seen or heard the guys in the Student Union who break-dance.

Isaac Park, Troy Diawata and Ariel Marlit are three of about seven break-dancers.

Whenever they don't have class and have some free time they go into the Student Union, turn on some music and break out some moves. They don't dance for long amounts of time.

"It's something I like to do," Park said.

Break-dancing started in the 1970s in the Bronx just as the disco era was getting started.

B-boys, what break-dancers were called, would battle other dancers to prove who had better moves.

Occasionally, these dance battles would substitute for the violence that often took place.

Highline's dancers just do it because they enjoy it, and they don't classify their dancing as only break-dancing.

"Everyone throws their own kind of style into it," Diawata



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

A student break-dances in between classes..

said.

To them it's not only a dance, "it's a lifestyle," Marlit said.

Park has been dancing in the Student Union for about one quarter, but has been break-dancing longer.

He used to be involved with the YMCA in Puyallup where he helped teach other kids to break-dance.

For these guys it's not about being the center of attention, it's about having an open, flat space so they can practice their moves.

They also get together so they can help teach each other new moves.

"I think people want to learn. It's something everyone wants to try once in their life," Park said.

Most people don't mind that these guys do it in the middle of the Student Union.

"It's fun to watch," said Stephanie Vanderhoff, who is a student at Highline.

"It's pretty cool to watch because it's like a competition between them. They go back and forth like a dance battle," said

Jesse Peterson, who is also a student at Highline.

Although for some people, they don't appreciate as much.

"I think it's kind of annoying, but their doing it to entertain themselves, so it's cool ... It's background noise, I don't really notice it," said Joanna Schwanke, who is a running start student at Highline.

It seems like the student body has a mixture of opinions toward the guys who break-dance, but they don't plan on stopping anytime soon.

In the end, they do this just because it's fun, and it's a way to express themselves.

Some of the dancers say their way of dancing is just a way of life.

It is all forms of dance mixed together, performed how they feel.

### Suit-and-tie gentlemen rock out to raise funds

## Local band soothes the Blend with soft tunes

BY NICK VANUNU

staff reporter

Jonathan Kingham and Ryan Smith brought an urban coffee-house atmosphere to the Fireside Bistro during Wednesday's Blend with a soulful combination of soothing vocals and jazzy, old rhythm-and-blues guitar and piano music.

Twice a month, different musicians are booked to play The Blend in The Fireside Bistro, Highline's sit-down musical performance showcasing talents from around the area.

Kingham and Smith write their music and have both released several solo albums, songs from which they play together at shows.

Kingham plays the acoustic guitar and sings lead vocals while Smith plays a keyboard and sings backup on most of their performance tracks.

Kingham possesses huge charisma on stage, chatting with the audience between songs and telling short jokes and anecdotes throughout the show. During one love song, he delivered a humorous soliloquy of sorts about finding the perfect girl.

Musically, Kingham played a mellow style of classic jazz rock that was spiced with a tinge of funk. His chord progressions, which were somber while re-



PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

Ryan Smith (left) and Jonathan Kingham jam during the Blend in the Bistro.

taining a laid-back groove, were made more interesting with consistent shifts in the individual shapes of each chord.

Smith played perfectly accompanying parts, his bluesy piano style juxtaposing nicely against Kingham's guitar work. During the aforementioned love tune, Smith delivered an impressive and unique keyboard solo that enhanced the pace of the song.

One of Smith's songs, entitled *Piece*, incorporated a bass melody with a treble rhythm

which was an interesting and pleasant change from the standard style of songwriting.

Kingham played a fiercely emotive solo during *Piece*, which, although not technically particularly strenuous, brought a pained look to his face and a twang to his picking that gave it plenty of personality.

The two artists' set list was comprised of mostly original pieces and a few covers. When Kingham was drawn away from the set by extenuating circumstances, Smith took over the

acoustic guitar and played a poignant cover of Bob Marley's *Redemption Song*.

Even without the presence of many familiar songs, Kingham and Smith kept the audience's attention with their soulful songwriting and musical abilities.

Each Blend this quarter has brought something entirely new and this performance was no exception. Kingham's ability to work an audience and the originality of both musicians' material kept the Fireside Bistro groovy.

BY NICK VANUNU

staff reporter

A Battle of the Bands, organized by Highline's accounting department and the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants (WSCPS), was held Saturday night in the Student Union building to raise money for Highline's accounting department.

The event, with bands comprised of members from local chapters of the WSCPS, was emceed by Seattle disc jockey Mike West and was a definite success according to Tom Byrne, one of the organizers.

"It was just a really good evening altogether," Byrne said.

It drew around 175 and raised about \$2,000 for Highline's accounting department.

The South King County, Bellevue, Pierce County, UW Beta Alpha Psi, and Seattle chapters put together bands called The Disregarded Entities, Accounting Crows, Industry Audit Guys, Facial Depreciation and Terminal Liability, respectively.

Each band played a series of three covers and the winners were allotted an encore of two songs.

Some of the more memorable songs from the evening

SEE ACCOUNT, PAGE 16

## Homemade jewelry brighter than store bought

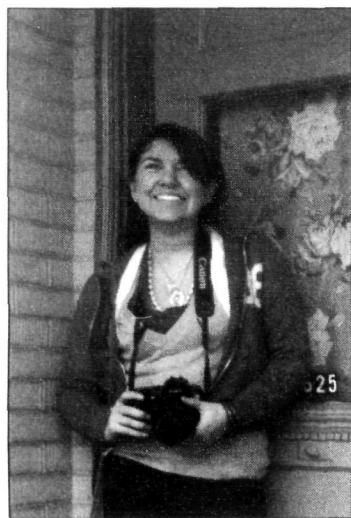
The family jewels can make a mean bracelet.

Jewelry making can be as intricate as you want it to be, or very simple.

The trick to jewelry making, is to not over-think it.

To start making necklaces, bracelets, earrings, or even

### Artistic Pursuits

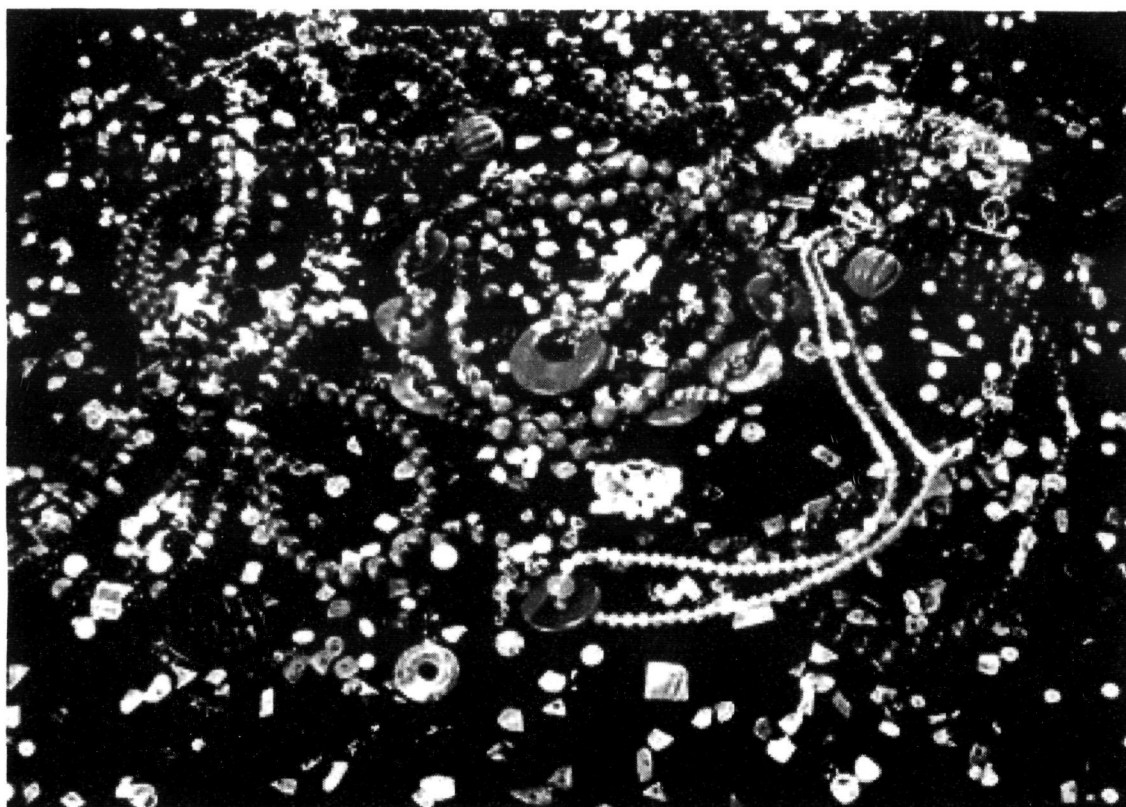


ALICIA MENDEZ

rings you'll need a basic supply of string and loads of beads.

Materials can be purchased at a local craft store. Craft stores offer starter-sets that have a variety of beads, along with clasps you'll need, and the string.

Beading starter-sets start at about \$30. If you buy each item individually, be sure to buy a beading needle, which



PATRICIA O'NEILL/THUNDERWORD

starts at \$3. The beading needle will help thread the needles onto the string you choose for your jewelry piece.

There are many types of string for beading, but the beginners typically use nylon, and for a nicer finish you can use silk string. Keep in mind, silk string is usually used for crystal beads or pearls.

A hefty set of pliers will help tying the ends together along with getting the clasp nice and firm onto the string.

OK, here's the deal. Beading, and making presents is nice and all. But the real fun is when you

lay out all your beads, or throw them in a deep bucket, and just run your hands through them.

Do it, really, it will make you appreciate your beads that much more. Now that you became one with your beads, onward with the jewelry making.

If you'd like, pick out a pattern to make a bracelet or necklace. Arrange the pattern from the beads you've chosen, all laid out in order.

Next, measure the length of the string. A nice measurement is your wrist; add a centimeter or two to play it safe if you think the person has a bigger

wrist than you. Necklaces are much easier to measure; it just depends on how you would like it to hang on the person.

Always add a little bit extra length to tie around the clasp.

Thread your needle with the measured string. Before beginning to bead, attach the clasp on one end of the string. This is so the beads will land on something, rather than slip right off your string.

When you're attaching the clasp, your handy dandy pliers will come to the rescue. Attach the clasp as tight as possible to your string. The pliers will help

you tighten the clasp around the string.

This shouldn't take long but requires a lot of concentration and hand coordination.

Once that is in place, you can start beading.

Now, add the other part of the clasp to the opposite end of the jewelry piece. Again, wrap it around the string the same way, and tighten it with the pliers. There is your finished product. You can see how lovely it looks by trying it on yourself.

You can always do multiple strings of beads, in which case you cannot add a clasp on either side until you're done beading.

Another way to make jewelry is using remembrance wire. Remembrance wire eliminates the need for a clasp, and allows you to shape your piece. It is also a lot more practical to use when trying to make something smaller such as a ring or earrings.

What's nice about remembrance wire is the ability to shape it. While it has its advantages, it also requires more concentration and hand-eye coordination.

You can still add a clasp to the end of remembrance wire to give a more polished look. You'll need memory wire end caps for that.

If you're interested in getting a more hands-on approach to learning how to bead, Michaels arts and crafts offers beading classes every Tuesday at 6 p.m. There is a \$15 charge, and you are expected to bring your own supplies.

## Highline Reads does the right thing, and chooses new book

By ASHLEY MESSMER  
staff reporter

The Highline Reads Committee has chosen *The Good, The Bad, and the Difference* by Randy Cohen for next school year's read.

Cohen writes a column, "The Ethicist," in the New York Times, on doing the right thing. In his book there are highlights from his columns, in which people write questions about life and many other subjects and he offers advice to them in this process it teaches people valuable information and lessons.

"It's a book based on doing the right thing and every conceivable thing," said Matt Schwisow, one of the committee members and writing professor.

"It's a short book, made up of short sections," Schwisow said.

The committee said the book

offers information that could come in handy and a lot of the questions asked are interesting, which one could learn a great deal from.

The Highline Reads is three years old; the first year's book was *Fast Food Nation*.

One faculty member from each division takes part in selecting the book.

The committee chose this book from faculty nominations of about 20 books.

Once the field was narrowed to five books, everyone in the committee read the books.

Cohen's book was chosen through the list of criteria it has for selecting a book.

"We try to stick to the criteria the best we can," Schwisow said. "There is no way to make every one of them."

"I think it would be a good book for everyone to read. It would be appropriate for any class."

Unlike last year, the college will not be getting free advance copies for the entire faculty and staff; however, Highline will be receiving a handful of books

that will be placed on reserve in the library.

"We encourage you to take part in this year's Highline Reads," Kim said.

Don't miss Breeders Theater's next show!

### Out of the Nest

**E.B. Foote Winery**  
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July 13, 14, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27 and 28 at 7 p.m.  
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Tickets: \$20, including hors d'oeuvres and tasting of E.B. Foote wines. Tickets at the winery and at Corky Cellars,  
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## Big Jo's making a delicious and quick dinner

Easy dinner recipes are something everyone is looking for.

As the quarter continues on and dinner becomes less and less of a priority, let me help with a few easy recipes that will ensure you and your family gets fed.

When I was little, I remember going to my grandma's house for big family functions and the one thing on everyone's mind was my grandma's tacos.

I can picture her standing in front of the stove with two frying pans and a pot of beans in front of her.

The way I see it, tacos are like hamburgers because everyone like them differently.

But the basics are cheese, sour cream, salsa, guacamole, onions, and lettuce.

The trick to making these tacos is preparation.

Make sure that you have everything done ahead of time before you start frying the shells.

If you don't want to spend time grating cheese, packages with grated cheese are perfect.

Onions and tomatoes can be diced beforehand and lettuce can be washed and shredded.

Buying shredded lettuce is always an option.

Any type of taco shells can be used, so for a healthier taco, corn tortillas are the way to go.

When frying the tacos, make sure the pan and the oil is hot. Keep the burner on a medium to medium high temperature.

Before frying, have a stack of paper towels on hand to place between the cooked shells.

For grandma's tacos you will need:

1½ pounds of hamburger  
4 cans of chili beans (I use S&W Zesty beans)

### Big Jo's Kitchen



JOCIE OLSON

1½ cups of grated cheddar cheese  
Diced onions  
Diced tomatoes  
Sour cream  
Guacamole  
Salsa  
Lettuce  
1 package of taco shells either flour or corn  
Oil

Brown beef in a pan and drain if necessary. Mix beans and hamburger together and heat on stove.

Fry taco shells in hot oil until golden brown on each side.

Place shell on paper towel and stack shells on top of one another with paper towel in between.

Once shells are done all that's necessary is to put everything out and allow everyone to make their taco how they like.

Makes 6 servings.

Quesadilla casserole is another easy recipe to make when you don't have time to cook. This dinner can be made ahead of time and refrigerated so all



Try this quick dinner of Big Jo's grandma's tacos.

you need to do is pre-heat the oven and stick it in.

This casserole is mixture of canned goods and spices between layers of tortilla shells.

The ingredients include:

1 can (16 ounces) of refried beans  
1 can (8 ounces) of tomato sauce  
1 can (4 ounces) of chopped green chilies, optional  
1 teaspoon of ground cumin seed  
1 teaspoon of chili powder  
1 teaspoon of garlic powder  
1 teaspoon of onion powder  
4 8-inch flour tortillas  
2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese

Sour cream (optional)

In a small bowl, combine refried beans, tomato sauce, green chilies, ground cumin, chili powder, garlic powder, and onion powder.

Place a tortilla in a greased 8-inch round cake pan.

Spread ¼ of the bean mixture over the tortilla.

Repeat with the second tortilla and bean mixture.

Sprinkle 1 cup of cheese over bean mixture.

Continue with the rest of the tortillas and bean mixture.

And sprinkle the remaining cup of cheese on the top.

Bake uncovered in a 350° oven for 35-40 minutes or until heated through and cheese is bubbly.

Serve with sour cream on top.

Makes 8 servings.

## Accounts

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

were *What I Like* as performed by The Disregarded Entities, *Takin' Care of Business* as performed by the Industry Audit Guys, *I'm the Only* as performed by Terminal Liability, Facial Depreciation's parody of Queen's *We Will Rock You* that replaced "Rock" with "Audit." The songs keep the audience on their feet, waiting to hear which common tune a band would mimic.

The audience voted Accounting Crows as the winner with its covers of *Jenny, Jenny, Can't You See*, and *Sweet Home Chi-*

*cago*, then covering *After Midnight* and *Call Me the Breeze* for their encore.

Over 25 prizes were given to the audience, including conga drums, a car stereo, and gift certificates to Guitar Center, Big Foot Java, and other businesses in the area.

Byrne said that the newly formed bands haven't given up on their chances of stardom just yet.

The general manager of a semi-pro football team is one of the members of The Disregard Entities and the group plans on performing during halftime at a game next season.

The Accounting Crows feels the group is good enough to keep working at it, possibly writing songs and playing more

shows, and Terminal Liability featured members who are the core in another band.

"The camaraderie amongst the bands was really strong, lending to a fun atmosphere," Byrne said.

"I loved seeing a bunch of accountants getting a little crazy and wild over the course of the night."

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## HELP WANTED FALL QUARTER

The Thunderword, Highline's weekly newspaper has openings for the following paid positions:

- Advertising Sales Rep
- Arts Editor
- Office Manager

Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Flexible hours.

Contact [thunderword@highline.edu](mailto:thunderword@highline.edu) for more information

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		13
-		x		+	
	x		-		20
x		÷		+	
	x		+		24
15		14		18	

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

1 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9  
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TELEVISION: What TV series spun off another series called "Gomer Pyle, U.S.M.C."?

3. U.S. STATES: Which state has only one syllable in its name?

4. MUSIC: What else did singer Art Garfunkel do for a living early in his career?

5. GEOGRAPHY: What U.S. city is also known as Beantown?

6. LITERATURE: In Greek tragedy, what does the tragic hero need to possess in order for the story to unfold properly?

7. GEOLOGY: What kind of rock can float?

8. ENGINEERING: What is a girder?

9. TIME: How long is a fortnight?

10. RELIGION: Who founded the Church of England?

- Answers
1. To be born with extra toes or fingers  
2. "The Andy Griffith Show"  
3. Maine  
4. He was a teacher.  
5. Boston  
6. Hamartia, or a fatal flaw  
7. Pumice  
8. A beam, usually made of steel  
9. Two weeks  
10. King Henry VIII

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Arts Calendar

•The Burien Strawberry and Arts Festival will be Saturday, June 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, June 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival will be held at the Burien Community Center.

•The 10th Anniversary Boomer Blast will be Thursday, June 21 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. The event will be in downtown Kent. Food, booths, and music will all be offered. For more information contact Helena Reynolds at 253-856-5164.

•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](http://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 Center Gallery, 400 W. Gowe St.

•The Highline Swing Club offers swing dance lessons

	18		14		15
24	6	+	3	x	5
	+		÷		x
20	8	-	7	x	4
	+		x		-
13	1	x	6	+	7

ANSWERS

Go Figure!

Last week's

Answer

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

Household Words

Across

- 1 Catch a crook  
4 Wetland  
9 Blue eyes or curly hair  
14 Salt Lake City collegian  
15 Mobil rival  
16 Dressing option  
17 Lead a discussion  
20 Lawrence, in Stockholm  
21 Crow's home  
22 Farthest  
26 "Erie Canal" mule  
27 Grammy category  
30 Freud topics  
31 Mower storer  
33 Ted of "Monk"  
35 Miracle drink  
37 Slightest trace  
38 Former Mid-East Powerhouse  
42 Saintly radiance  
43 Katmandu resident  
44 Sells at a big profit  
47 Singer's submission  
48 Eyebrow's shape  
51 Prof.'s degree  
52 Be under the weather  
54 Gridiron pitchout  
56 Pink Ladies  
59 Presidential turndown  
60 Reader's guide  
65 Grace \_\_\_\_ of "Will and Grace"  
66 Off limits  
67 Draft choice?  
68 Brainstorms  
69 Sarcastic  
70 Spot for a scene

Down

- 1 Cell centers  
2 Nearby  
3 Uncle Sam & Father Time add ons  
4 Disfigure  
5 Org. with an oft-quoted journal

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

Crossword 101

By Ed Canty

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17			18						19					
20							21							
22				23	24	25		26				27	28	29
30				31			32		33		34			
				35				36			37			
	38	39							40	41				
42							43							
44				45	46		47					48	49	50
51				52		53		54			55			
			56	57				58			59			
60	61								62	63	64			
65														
66														
67														
68														

- 6 Mythical bird  
7 Rob Roy, for one  
8 Great Lakes acronym  
9 Rarest baseball hit  
10 Give an R to, for example  
11 In front, anatomically  
12 Rocks at the bar  
13 Title starter, often  
18 Catholic ending  
19 One of three squares?  
23 Nobel Peace Prize locale  
24 Slender wedge  
25 Bush or LBJ  
28 Part of a.m.  
29 Shooter ammo  
32 Ate elegantly  
34 Eight on a sundial  
35 Catchall abbr.  
36 Drive back  
38 "Hey, that hurts!"  
39 Like baseball cards  
40 One of the three bears  
41 Parcel of land  
42 Nile reptile  
45 ID documents

- 46 Farm tower  
48 Sports spots  
49 Crib toy  
50 It may be a walk-in  
53 Certain turns  
55 First lady?  
57 Court declaration  
58 Do a checker's task  
60 Ice skater Babilonia  
61 Calculate the total  
62 Kimono closer  
63 Silent assent  
64 Corn site

Quotable Quote

*Horse sense is a good judgement which keeps horses from betting on people.*

... W. C. Fields

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

ered to 10-106 or call 206-878-3710, ext. 3317.

Last week's crossword puzzle solution

HAIL TO THE CHIEF														
S	H	O	E		I	S	L	A	M		M	O	L	D
M	O	V	E		S	H	A	V	E		A	L	E	E
O	P	A	L		R	O	S	E	G	A	R	D	E	N
G	E	L		E	A	R	S			D	I	S	K	S
		O	G	D	E	N		L	E	O	N			
R	A	F	A	E	L		J	U	M	B	O	J	E	T
E	L	F	I	N		G	E	N	I	E		O	R	R
A	L	I	T		S	H	E	A	R		T	H	O	U
D	O	C		S	T	A	R	R		M	I	N	D	S
S	W	E	E	T	E	N	S		H	E	L	M	E	T
		D	A	T	A		C	O	S	E	C			
A	W	A	I	T			D	A	N	A		C	B	S
W	H	I	T	E	H	O	U	S	E		P	A	I	L
R	E	D	O		A	U	N	T	S		T	I	N	A
Y	E	A	R		G	R	E	E	T		A	N	D	Y

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

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THE THUNDERWORD/MAY 24, 2007/PAGE 9

# Highline lacked offense in NWAACCs

By KORY FARRELL

staff reporter

PORTLAND - The Lady T-Birds struggled to put runs on the board, going two and out in the NWAACC tournament last Friday.

Highline opened the 16-team tournament with a 7-1 loss to Clackamas, the eventual tournament runner-up. The T-birds were eliminated with a 4-0 loss to Peninsula.

"It was a learning experience, we'd never been to NWAACCs before," said shortstop Ashley Carey.

Highline finished the season with a 17-13 record. Lower Columbia walked away with the title for the second straight year over Clackamas in the final. Lower Columbia has won the title nine out of the last 10 seasons.

The entire West Division (Pierce, Highline, South Puget Sound, Grays Harbor) struggled to compete with the powerhouse South, East, and North, as Grays Harbor was the only team to make it to the second day.

Against Clackamas, Highline was outthit 14-2.

"They're a very good team, they hit the ball well," Highline Head Coach Anne Schmidt said. "It would've taken everything we possibly had to beat Clackamas."

"Defensively we were solid," center fielder Alexis Nichols said. "[But] it wasn't our game. We need to connect our hits, get our bunts down."

Highline took a 1-0 lead in the first inning. Nichols reached base on a wild pitch. She stole second and third, and scored on third baseman Rachel Comstock's ground-rule double under the fence in center field.



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

Third baseman Rachel Comstock tags out the Peninsula runner.

Clackamas tied the score in the bottom of the first inning off of Highline pitcher Anna Herried, then took a 5-1 lead in the second on a three-run homer and a run-scoring triple. Herried and Highline's defense held Clackamas scoreless the next three innings, with the help of Carey, who pulled a double play in the third.

Nichols caught a Clackamas runner making for home with a cannon throw to catcher Caitlyn Ratcliffe in the fifth, and Ratcliffe saved a run by recovering a wild pitch and diving into the dirt to catch a Cougar trying to

score in the sixth.

"The score definitely does not reflect the way that these girls played," former Highline player and statkeeper Leah Perkins said. "(Herried) pitched very well, defensively we had some great plays, but offensively I think they just psyched themselves out."

Outfielder Janice Ludington agreed.

"We need to know that we can hit anybody and go out there, be prepared, and play, and know we can do it," she said.

Against Peninsula, the T-Birds had a much better game offensively, but couldn't string hits together to score runs. Both Highline and Peninsula had eight hits apiece.

Ratcliffe opened up the game strong for the T-Birds, hitting a double off of the fence in center field. Nichols then hit a single and Ratcliffe was called out in a controversial call at the plate.

"I think it sort of deflated them in the first inning when we didn't score [with runners] on first and third, and Caitlyn was safe at home," Schmidt said.

Carrie Draeger pitched a complete game for the T-Birds, giving up one run in the second inning and three runs in the third.

The T-Birds had their best chance to get back in the game in the fourth inning, loading the bases with no outs. Highline was unable to score, however, popping out twice and ground-

ing out to end the inning.

"We should've beat Peninsula, we just didn't have our offense that day enough to make it happen," Schmidt said. "We played good defense, but they just scored runs and we didn't. Can't win when you don't score any runs."

Schmidt said Highline's defense remained strong throughout the tournament, and that having Comstock back at third base after getting her cast removed made the infield click.

"She got her hand back and she was just amazing," Schmidt said. "With her at third base, things worked back the way they were supposed to."

Another defensive standout on the team was Nichols in the outfield.

"I think Lexi had a really

SEE NWAACC, PAGE 12



PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

Shortstop Ashley Carey makes contact with the ball against Clackamas.



PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

Pitcher Anna Herried winds up for the pitch against Clackamas.



## T-Birds reflect, look forward to next season

By MICHELLE ERICKSEN  
staff reporter

PORTLAND - The Highline softball team was wrought with injuries and a short roster, but the women came together to finish third in the West Division.

The Lady T-Birds had a 17-13 conference record and an overall record of 19-26.

"I think it went really well, from the first game to the last game," said Head Coach Anne Schmidt. "Our defense improved dramatically. They came together defensively the whole season."

Shortstop Ashley Carey and pitcher/first baseman Carrie Draeger made first team all-league in the West and catcher Caitlyn Ratcliffe, center fielder Alexis Nichols, third baseman Rachel Comstock and sophomore left fielder Amanda Proulx made second team.

The Thunderbirds were two and out at the NWAACCs, but defense was not the issue.

"It was a matter of not hitting," Schmidt said.

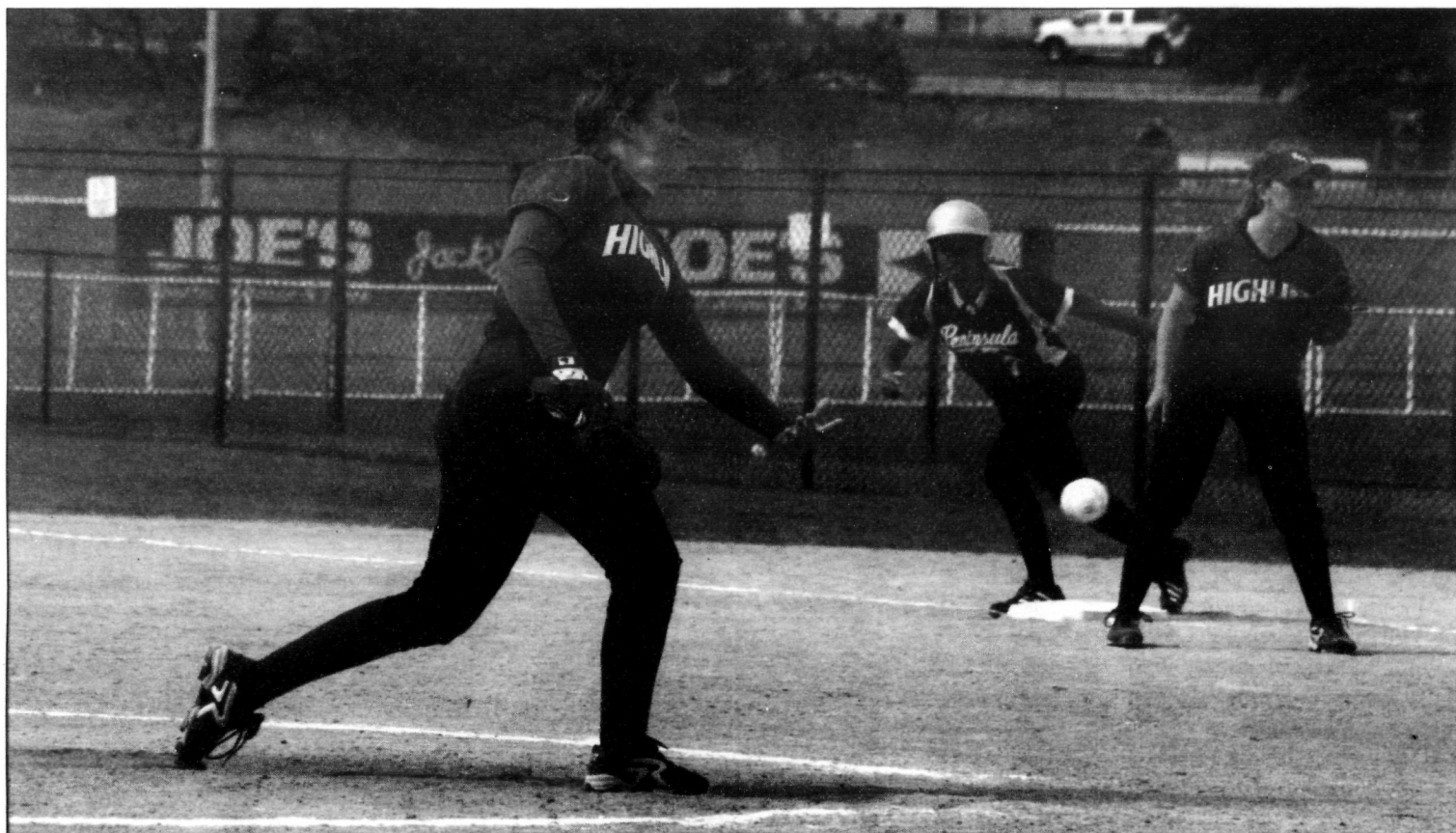
The Lady T-Birds were down to 10 players during the tournament.

"It was hard with (10) people on the team," said Nichols.

"It made us work that much harder," said sophomore right fielder Amanda Houser. "We had to suck it up and make it work."

"It was up and down like a rollercoaster," said Draeger. "We had so few players and so much talent."

Schmidt said overall the season was a hit.



T-Bird Carrie Draeger throws a pitch against Peninsula, while first baseman Anna Herried watches for the hit, and the Peninsula baserunner prepares to advance.

MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

"For them to place third with 10 players, three of them seriously injured (for half the season) it's pretty impressive," Schmidt said. "It shows their level of commitment and how much they love the game."

Schmidt said lack of players will be a non-issue next year.

"We're hoping to have a very full roster next year," said Schmidt.

Coach Schmidt said that ideally a team should have two catchers, and three pitchers.

"You'd like to have 15 (players)," Coach Schmidt said. "It's hard to find those kinds of numbers. We already have three freshmen pitchers signed."

Coach Schmidt said that the last three years have been bad for recruiting.

"Some years you'll have a lot of softball players, and some you won't," Schmidt said. "I've sent out 15 letters of intent and so far I've got eight yeses. There are still other players we need to go and get."

In past years, there has been a lot of turnover on the softball team.

"There's going to be a different feel next year," Coach Schmidt said. "You have to work for your position. You can't be lazy when there's competition."

Seven Thunderbirds have said they will be returning. During the course of the season, the players said they bonded and became very close as a team.

"We knew no matter what we were going to be playing that day," outfielder Janice Ludington said. "We had to lean on each other. We had to be there for each other and work extra hard as a team."

Many of them said they hope to bring experience and leadership to next year's team.

Ludington added that their level of playing, and level of bonding would not have been as high had they had so much adversity.

"It's important to be friends and supportive on and off the field," said Comstock. "I hope

we all bond again next year. I hope to become a better leader and lead (next year's) team."

"I want to make it all the way to the NWAACCs for the last day," said Comstock. "I want to bring more leadership and a stronger bat."

"I want to bring more leadership," said Ratcliffe. "Leadership, commitment, and make sure the freshmen know what we're about and how we work as a team."

"I want to bring more heart to the team, especially to the

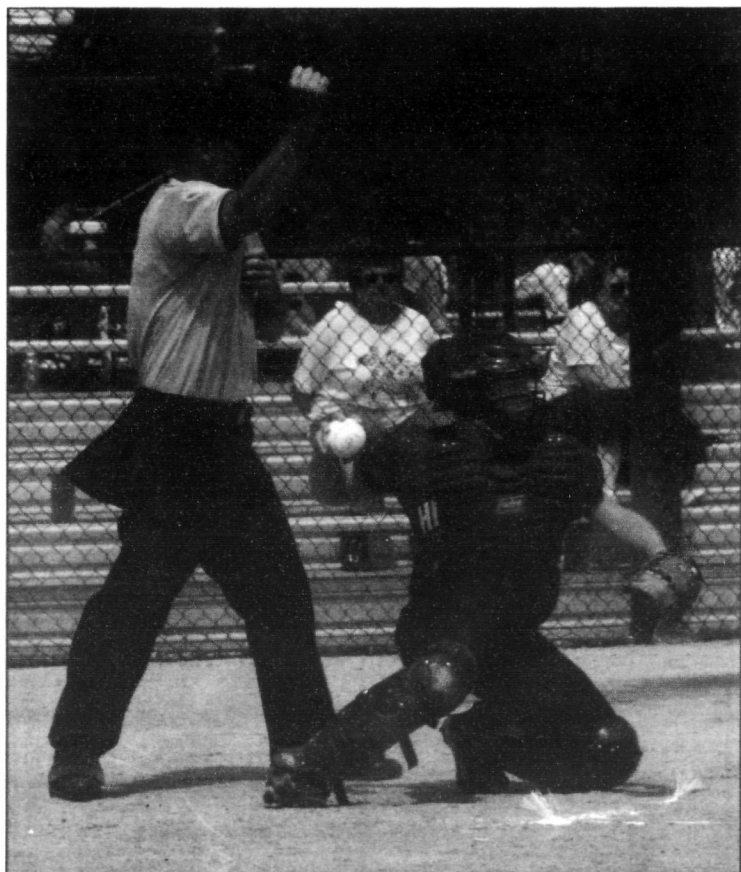
freshmen," said pitcher/third baseman Anna Herried.

Numerous injuries also put a lot of stress on the small team.

"The season was fantastic. Broken fingers, and torn ACL's kinda brought us down but they also made us work harder," Ratcliffe said.

"It put a lot of stress on peo-

SEE REACTION, PAGE 12



PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

T-Bird Caitlyn Ratcliffe catches a strike against Clackamas.

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# Sole Lady T-Bird runner takes flight to Air Force Reserves

BY JAIME GUDJONSON  
staff reporter

In November, Rosie Meeker will be taking her degree and years as a runner to boot camp.

Being the only girl on the Highline track team, Meeker is used to challenges.

"I'm nervous and excited about boot camp, but can't wait till it's over," said Meeker, who is joining the Air Force Reserve.

Meeker ran two years for Highline, qualifying for the NWAACC Championships last year in the 5,000 meters but did not qualify this year.

"I thought that if I qualified last year that I would automatically qualify this year but there was stiffer competition and new girls," Meeker said. "This track season was very different. Being the only girl it is hard to push myself running alone on the trails during practice. Speed days and pace days are better because I get to run with guys and they push me."

Meeker said that being the only girl on the team gave her a chance to bond more closely with Coach Christina Loehr.

"I think she's awesome and full of spunk and being the only girl I get a chance to relate to her more than the guys do," Meeker said.

Meeker said she enjoys distance running, keeping her mind occupied on her form, relaxing her arms and opening her stride.

"I count down the laps and keep my head up and there is usually a continual song in my head," Meeker said. "I like to be the front-runner of my group and will sometimes battle other girls for a pass, which isn't very good because it wears me out faster."

Meeker, who went to Klahowya High School in Silverdale, will be finishing at Highline this summer and will be taking some time off before she goes to boot camp in Texas.

"I joined the Air Force Reserve to get money for school," Meeker said. "I registered in January but did delayed-en-

rollment so that I could finish school and start basic training in November."

Meeker will be spending six weeks in boot camp, get some time off and then return for another 13 weeks.

"I was placed in the mental health department, which was fitting because my major will be in psychology," Meeker said.

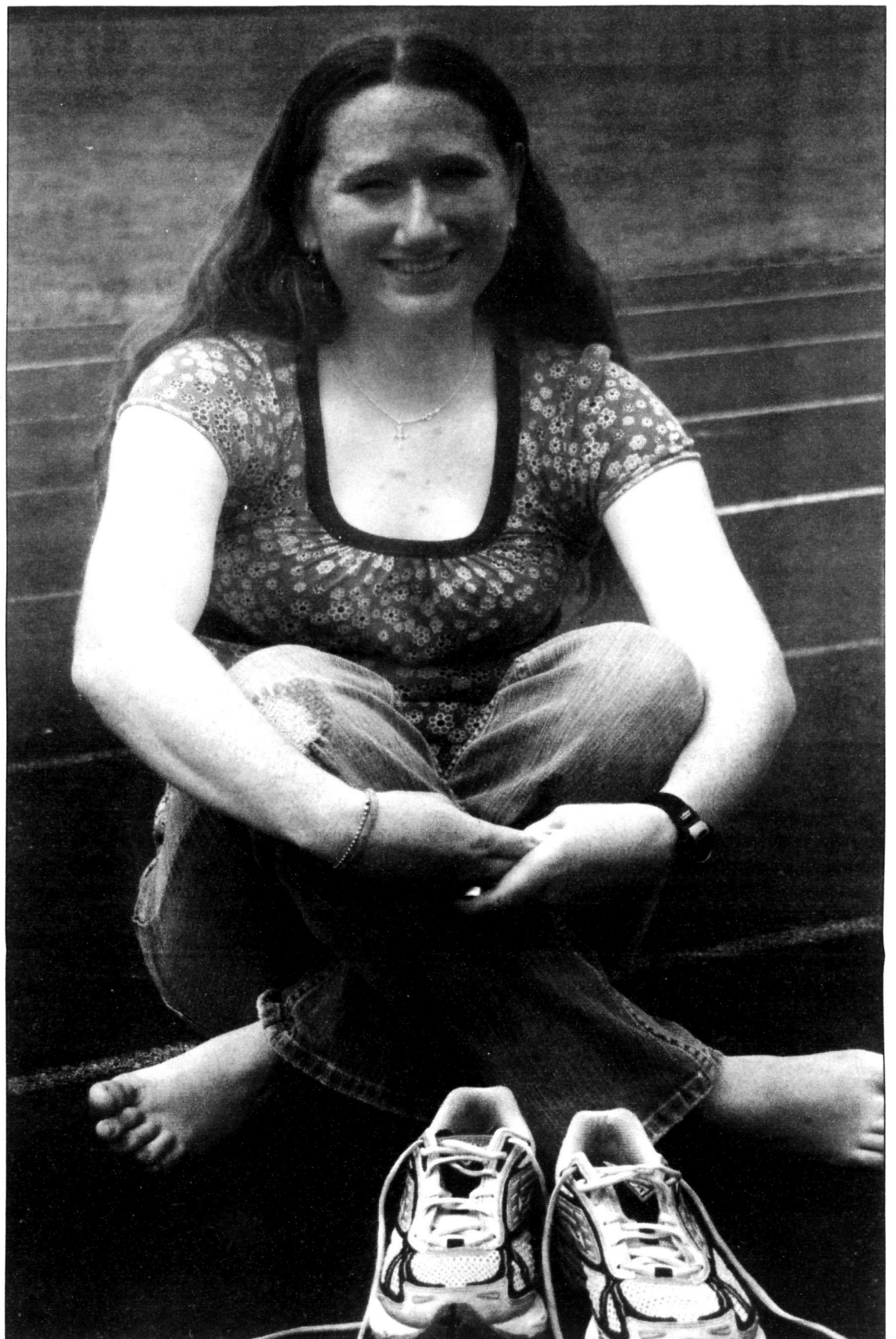
Once she has completed boot camp, Meeker is looking to enroll at Central Washington in the fall of 2008 but will be in the Air Force Reserve for the next six years.

"My mom wanted me to do full-service active duty," Meeker said. "She said that I should do this to help me make better decisions in life."

Meeker said joining the service is a good experience and a chance to give back.

"My dad didn't think I would do it," she said. "He thought I was all talk."

JAMIE GUDJONSON/THUNDERWORD  
*Highline runner Rosie Meeker takes off her running shoes on the track she has run the last two years on.*



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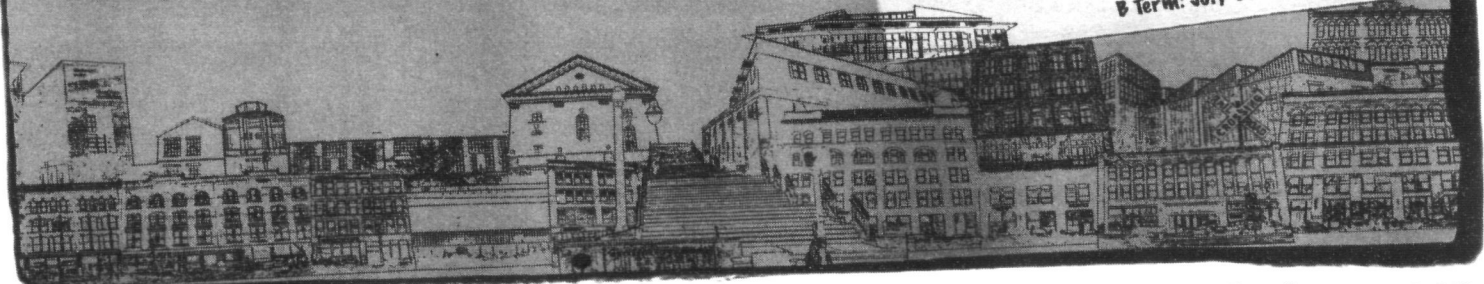
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# T-Birds experience improvement Reaction

College athletics are rough enough, but playing with barely enough girls to field a team is brutal.

We had enough talent to be a good team this year, but we didn't have enough people.

Our final record was 19-26 and we reached NWAACC tournament, but can you imagine what we could have accomplished if we would have had 11 players instead of 10?

We started with 12 signed players at the beginning of the year, and by the beginning of winter practice we were down to seven. We had to recruit from all over campus to have enough players to make a team. Our season was full of "what ifs" and "can you imagines."

Can you imagine how good we could have been with just one more pitcher? Or one more infielder?

What if we hadn't had so many serious injuries?

What if we had every player at every game and every practice?

Our season was filled with empty questions, games we could have won, and games we should have won. It's hard not to think about what our season would have been like with more players, with more experience, with fewer injuries.

People on campus often come up to me and congratulate

## Carrie at the bat



CARRIE DRAEGER

me on the great season we had despite our adversity.

I can't count how many times I have heard, "imagine what your team would have been like if you had more players."

At the same time it's easy to be proud of what we accomplished with so little going for us.

As conference play started, we won five of our first six games and finished the first half of the season with a 9-5 record.

Our final 20-26 record doesn't seem very good, but considering we started the season with 1-9 pre-conference record, it's

something to be proud of.

We had very little going for us this season. The odds were against us from the beginning. We were short on leaders with only two sophomores at the beginning of the year and short on players at 12.

We were a threat to every team in our league and on a good day we beat them. We beat all of the teams in our league and we lost to all but one.

We played two games this year that really showed us at our best.

Before conference, we lost to Everett Community College in extra innings despite only having eight players. Everett finished in first place in the North League with a 33-3 record.

We beat Pierce, which finished first in our league with a 26-4 record, in the second half of the season with nine players, two of them with their hands in casts.

It's hard to reflect on our season because it was so up and down. It's hard not be proud of what we did, but at the same time, with our talent, we could have been better.

We learned more about what we could accomplish as a team and as individuals, against all odds.

Carrie Draeger is a pitcher for Highline's fastpitch team, and will be returning next season.

that there's a little more mental stuff that goes on.

"To be able to control your mental and emotional state a little better is harder when there's more pressure. And as freshmen you're a little bit younger player, and a little more of an immature player, but as a sophomore you have the experience and you're a little better at managing the emotional stuff that often-times makes players not do very well."

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

ple because you have people hurt and know you can't go to the doctor. It's pressure," Comstock said.

"Injuries were really difficult, we lost our huge power hitter Rachel (Comstock), and our sophomore presence on the field," Draeger said.

"When Amanda (Houser) got hurt it was difficult playing without her," Draeger said. "She brought a lot of presence to the game. She had a great presence in the outfield."

Draeger said her pitching performance was affected when Ashley Carey stopped catching due to injuries.

"She had been catching all my games. A.C. is great behind the plate and we just clicked," said Draeger. "She's a phenomenal catcher. She understands the physical and mental aspect."

Other returning players hope to bring better academics and more energy to the team.

"As an individual I'd like to bring more power to the plate," Draeger said. "I'd like us to be a very strong academic team as well. We have a lot of girls that

don't realize their potential as students and I'd like to help the freshmen through that."

"A couple of home runs, and just energy," said center fielder Alexis Nichols.

"I plan to bring a huge fan base," said sophomore outfielder Ludington.

"I'm going to bring my banana suit, some laughter and some jokes," said Carey.

One of the biggest highlights for many of the women was beating West Division winner Pierce.

"Everybody really wanted it and everybody put all their effort into it," Carey said. "The one thing we wanted was to beat them."

"Pierce is a very difficult team and everyone was on top of their game," said Comstock.

"If we played like that every game we would have been undefeated," Ratcliffe said.

The women have their sights set higher for next season.

"I kinda know what the season's like and how tough it will be," said Carey.

Carey said she looks forward to coming back as a dominating team.

"I think everyone in the league will be afraid of us next year," Carey said.

"I'm excited we're going to be a good team next year," Comstock said.

## NWAACC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

good tournament," Schmidt said. "She just plays great defense all the time."

Schmidt said Highline needs to improve its hitting.

"We have to have a lot stronger bats," Comstock agreed.

But as a team composed almost entirely of freshmen that will be returning next season, this is likely not the last time the T-Birds will attend the NWAACCs.

"It takes a little more mental commitment in NWAACCs than it does in the regular league," Schmidt said. "And I think we had such a team full of freshmen, it's like going anywhere for the first time... it's a little different. You've got to know



MICHELLE ERICKSEN/THUNDERWORD

Rachel Comstock dives to make the catch against Clackamas.

## Scoreboard

### NWAACC Results 5/20/07

L. Columbia 3, Clackamas 2  
Clackamas 4, Wen. Valley 0  
Clackamas 5, Mt. Hood 1

5/19/07

Clackamas 3, Walla Walla 2  
W Valley 13, Chemeketa 5  
W Valley 18, Grays Harbor 2  
Walla Walla 6, Peninsula 5  
Wen. Valley 7, Spokane 5  
Bellevue 4, Col. Basin 3  
Spokane 12, Everett 4  
Walla Walla 7, Bellevue 0

L. Columbia 9, Clackamas 8  
Mt. Hood 12, Chemeketa 4  
L. Columbia 8, Mt. Hood 7

5/18/07

Mt. Hood 4, Walla Walla 0  
Spokane 13, Pierce 0  
Chemeketa 9, Bellevue 5  
Gr Harbor 14, Olympic 12  
Peninsula 4, Highline 0  
L Columbia 11, Everett 5  
Clackamas 1, Wen. Valley 0  
C Basin 14, S P Sound 12  
Walla Walla 4, Olympic 1  
Wen. Valley 4, Peninsula 1  
Bellevue 5, Spokane 3  
Everett 6, Columbia Basin 4

Mt. Hood 4, Grays Harbor 0  
Clackamas 7, Highline 1  
Chemeketa 7, Pierce 2  
L. Columbia 6, S. P. Sound 3

### Line Scores

#### Game 1

Highline 100 000 0 - 1 2 1  
Clack. 140 002 x - 7 14 0  
WP Santos  
LP Herried

#### Game 2

Highline 000 000 0 - 0 8 1  
Peninsula 012 000 x - 4 8 0  
WP Rosencrants  
LP Draeger

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# Scheduling is key in balancing work, school, and free time

By JAIME GUDJONSON  
staff reporter

Writing down one's schedule instead of trying to sort through it at the last minute will reduce stress and provide more opportunity to get things to get done, a Highline counselor said.

Dr. Gloria Rose Koepping, faculty counselor and psychologist at Highline, held a workshop last week for students addressing the increasing challenges of managing one's life.

"We all have many lives – a home life, people we live with, school and relationships to manage," Dr. Koepping said. "Relationships are not stagnant; they need to be managed."

Students encounter many problems trying to balance relationships, work and school and are daily feeling pulled.

"We need to ask ourselves, what things need to change to make things work?" Dr. Koepping said.

One way that was suggested was having family meetings at least once a week to discuss and divide responsibilities. Lists should also be posted so that family members can remember what they

are supposed to do and when.

"Kids can help too," Dr. Koepping said. "My 9-year-old folds and puts away the laundry and sets the table."

Dr. Koepping stressed the importance of making sure that everyone is contributing in some way.

To help keep track of family schedules, Dr. Koepping suggested using a master calendar.

"A master calendar is a great way for people to get in the habit of checking before they commit to anything," Dr. Koepping.

Scheduling efficiently also is important.

"Do as much homework at school as you can," Dr. Koepping said. "At home we want to relax, therefore work is less likely to get done."

Dr. Koepping suggested utilizing the library, because it's a less distracting environment. Also, breaks between classes can provide built-in study time.

For most students, another scheduling concern is work.

Dr. Koepping suggested when looking for a job, try to find a place with flexible hours. Online courses are an option for those who have to work a lot.

"Make sure to always plan

## Outstanding students honored

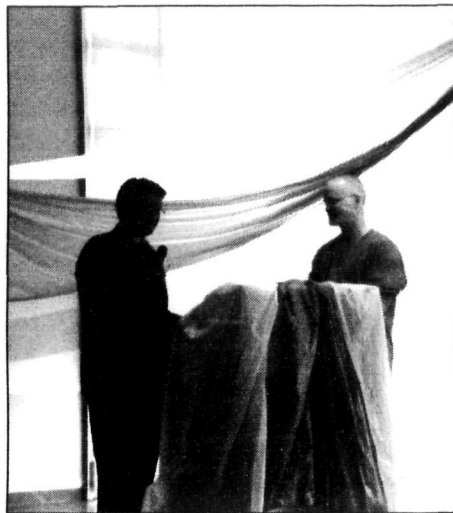


Highline held its annual Student Awards Ceremony yesterday, giving awards to academic departments and organizations that made exceptional contributions to the college. Only 100 out of 7000 students at Highline receive these awards.

Joseph Ambler, Doris Martinez, Adriana Saenz, and Sergio Ulloa (right) receive awards for Outstanding Contributions in United Latino Association.

Yul Woo Lee (bottom right) accepts his award for Outstanding Contributions in Table Tennis Club.

Steve Simpkins (bottom left) is presented with his award for Outstanding Contributions in Gay Straight Alliance.



ahead your days off for exams," Dr. Koepping said.

Once these schedules have been organized, it's time for people to take care of themselves, Dr. Koepping said. This includes making sure to eat well, sleep well and exercise daily.

"Students need to make sure that they're going to bed at a reasonable hour – sometime before midnight – and exercising,"

Dr. Koepping said. "You don't need to be a personal trainer but at least walk the track or trails on campus for at least half an hour or take a P.E. class."

If the stress becomes unbearable and unmanageable, Dr. Koepping said take time to "stop out" not "drop out."

"Remember you can always come back or take on-line classes," Dr. Koepping

said. "People come back."

"One of the most important things that students need to learn in order to reduce their stress is to say 'no.' You can make up for it later. School is one of the most important priorities," Dr. Koepping said.

"It's only two years."

## Marketing seeks student volunteers to promote Highline

By CARRIE DRAEGER  
staff reporter

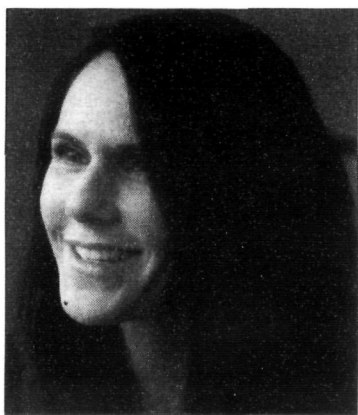
Calling all aspiring actors. Highline's Communications and Marketing Department wants you. Highline is looking for 15 to 20 students who want to participate in videos to help promote the college's image to prospective students.

"The college is looking for upbeat, charismatic students who can make factual statements seem exciting," Kelly Maloney, Director of Highline's Communications and Marketing Department said.

One- to two-minute videos will be shot and put on the Highline website. Longer videos will be shot by the Professional and Technical Education and the Outreach departments to be shown at area high schools and local events.

"We thought it would be a lot of fun to have the students participate," said Maloney.

The selection committee will try to match the performers with their programs of study if possible.



Kelly Maloney

"We want to give a higher understanding of what each program offers. Hopefully the potential student can relate to them (the performers)," Maloney said.

Auditions will be held on May 31 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Mt. Skokomish Room of the Student Union Building. Students interested in auditioning should memorize the following sample script and be ready to perform it in front of the selection committee during their audition:

"Have you heard the stereo-

type that engineers aren't creative? I think it's time to redesign that thinking. It takes an agile and creative mind to turn ideas into reality. Engineers make positive contributions to our day-to-day quality of life. We're concerned with the creation of structures, developing transportation solutions, and systems for human use – generally for groups of people rather than individuals. And, that's creativity to the nth degree."

The videos are part of the college's new campus wide image campaign, named "Dream it, Achieve It." The campaign involves promoting Highline through billboards, transit posters and at local events, such as health or career fairs, and at chambers of commerce.

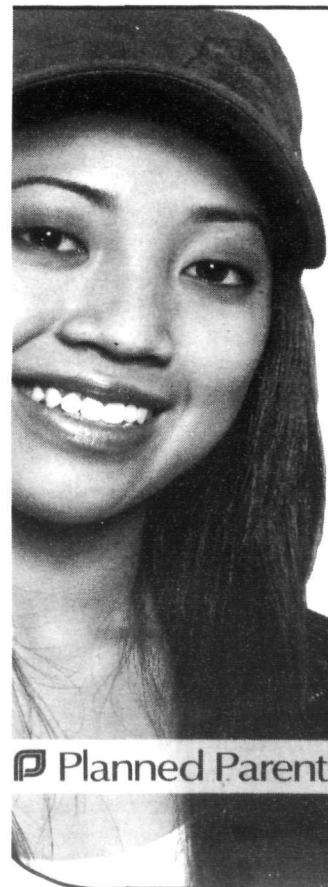
"The overriding purpose of the campaign is to reach out to the community at many levels, changing the perceptions about the value of a community college education," said Maloney.

Highline plans on doing this by focusing on students, faculty and programs.

"We will be highlighting

former and current students who have either achieved their dreams or are in the process of

achieving their dreams by attending Highline," said Maloney.



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# Kent Station is a community gathering place

BY MATTHEW MESAROS  
staff reporter

The economic development train has pulled into downtown Kent.

The newly developed Kent Station, off Fourth Avenue North and West James Street in Kent, offers a mix of food, clothing, and entertainment. Designed by Tarragon Development, the \$100 million Kent Station project occupies 470,000 square feet of downtown Kent.

At its current state, the Station employs more than 500 people. The first stores started appearing in November of 2005 and have progressed rapidly since.

"The Kent Station is a community gathering place," said John Hinds, general manager of Kent Station.

With 12 places to eat and drink, the Station has quite a variety including The Ram Restaurant and Brewery, Duke's Chowder House, Zao Noodle Bar, Pizzeria Fondi and The



Patrons don't let overcast weather stop them from enjoying a brisk walk through Kent Station.

PATRICK CABELLON/THUNDERWORD

Zephyr Grill and Bar. With 29 different stores, the Station can accommodate all ages.

It has a variety of stores, from Ann Taylor Loft to Zumiez.

The stores are close together, and with street entrances on both sides, the Station can be described as a small urban village in the heart of downtown

Kent.

"Downtown Kent has become a destination spot," said Ben Wolters, head of Economic Development for the City of

Kent.

"The Station has put confidence in other businesses around the area to invest in property around Kent Station," said Wolters.

At the Station's heart lies a new 14-screen AMC movie theater. AMC offers discounts for all students and seniors.

The theater is expected to draw about 940,000 people a year. The Station has two main parking lots, along with a five-level parking garage that holds up to 350 cars.

"The Station is generating significant revenue and is making hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax money a year for the city," said Wolters.

"We are very pleased with the results of the first two phases of Kent Station," said Senior Development Manager Kristin Jensen of Tarragon Development.

Tarragon plans to add a hotel and condos to the Station project, further developing the downtown area.

## Psychology can be mind-numbing career path

BY CARRIE DRAEGER  
staff reporter

The road to become a psychologist is not for the faint of heart, according to Dr. Gloria Rose Koepping.

Koepping, a counselor on Highline's campus, spoke to the Highline Honors Colloquy Wednesday about her experiences in the field of psychology.

Koepping grew up in the Des Moines area, and attended classes at Highline while in high school.

"It usually takes between eight and nine years to get a PhD in psychology," Koepping said.

Koepping helps Highline students struggling with everything from depression, anxiety, sexual abuse, sexual identity, chronic mental illness and career planning.

What I work on pretty much covers the gamut. You name it, I've done it," Koepping said.

Koepping said psychologists usually spend four years in undergraduate school, four years in graduate school, and the last year in an internship.

"The more education you get, the more exciting and interesting your job will be," Koepping said of her nine years in school.

In most graduate schools, the first two years focus on completing classes toward their



Dr. Gloria Koepping

master's degree. Students then spend a year taking exams and one year writing a 70-page dissertation.

After getting her undergraduate degree in psychology from the University of Washington, Koepping spent two years doing research and working for experience before attending graduate school at Southern Illinois University and getting her PhD.

"You have to be able to convince people that you have some judgment skills," Koepping said.

Koepping said having some experience in the field of psychology was key when getting into graduate school.

"You've got to act in a mature manner," Koepping said. "You have to be professional, and sometimes it's hard to do that without experience."

Koepping got her experience before graduate school by working as a residential house parent

in a group home for mentally retarded and autistic children, and at Swedish hospital.

Koepping said looking into a particular field of psychology is a good idea before entering it.

"If you think you want to work with a certain population ... it's a good idea to spend some time with that population, because it will be problematic to change (fields) in the future," Koepping said. "If you think you want to work with kids, you should actually work with kids."

After getting her PhD, Koepping spent time working at research facilities at colleges and in community mental health before starting at Highline.

"I really liked going to school and I never wanted to quit. It's really fun for me being in an academic environment," Koepping said.

Koepping breaks the field of psychology into four categories: teaching, research, counseling, and applied psychology.

"I never come to work and have the exact same day. It's pleasurable to go to work," said Koepping of her job as a counselor at Highline.

Applied psychology breaks down into two main fields and most students that go into it focus on industrial psychology, said Koepping.

Koepping said industrial psychologists are usually the high-

est paid.

They work in large companies helping to decide what department an employee is best suited for.

"They (the company) want every employee to be as productive as they can. It's (industrial psychology) all about making the employee happy and the company happy," Koepping said.

"We present choices to people. It's up to them as an informed consumer to make a decision," Koepping said of psychology in general.

For more information, contact Koepping by email at [gkoeppin@highline.edu](mailto:gkoeppin@highline.edu).

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# Spend your money for Cambodian charity

By MEGHAN HOWEY  
staff reporter

Purchasing CDs, greeting cards, and movies today at Highline could help young orphans a continent away.

Today, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the first floor of the Student Union, Phi Theta Kappa will be selling donated items, ranging from 25 cents to \$2. All proceeds go to the educational development of a Cambodian orphanage and donations will also be accepted.

The money generated from this event will have a huge impact of the lives of 55 Cambodian orphans, ages 5 to 18, said Mouy-Ly Wong, a survivor of the Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia and the adviser of Phi Theta Kappa. The proceeds will be sent directly to the orphanage in an electronic funds transfer.

The Cambodian children are

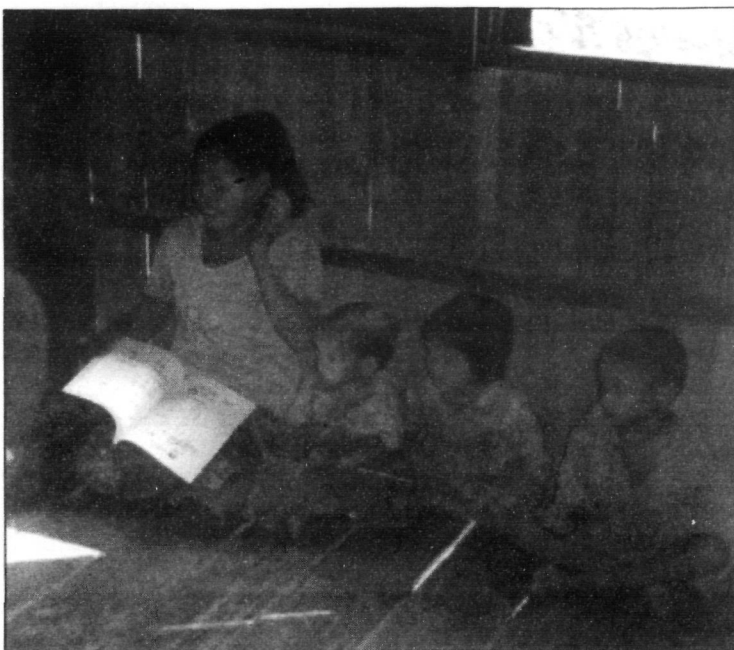


PHOTO COURTESY OF HAGAR INTERNATIONAL

*Phi Theta Kappa is selling items to collect money for developing an orphanage for children in Cambodia.*

victims of AIDS, sex and drug trafficking, and have had little opportunity in their lives for education.

"Reading is a very special treat for them after a long day of working in the fields," said Wong.

"We want to promote a higher level of literacy so they can become self-sufficient," said Wong, who agrees that education has become the great equalizer of the world. She said that with the right tools these orphans could create a better life for themselves.

Wong suggested a re-generative light bulb so that the children could continue learning after sunset. More light would give the children more time to learn.

The children would also be able to purchase books with the donated money, along with writing utensils and supplies.

"At times our problems can seem so large and unconquerable, but they are small in comparison to the basic needs these

children are deprived of," said Wong. "A single dollar could work wonders in their lives."

## Dream

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents.

The proposal was sent in on May 15 and if it is successful then Highline will receive the first check July 1.

"We need to demonstrate to them that we are doing the work," Wagnitz said. "As long as we are working they will continue to fund us."

After the four years, Highline will not be eligible for the grant again.

"The theory is if you concentrate on it for four years, you can create things that will sustain themselves," Wagnitz said.

# Science Seminar shows the truth is out there

By AARON QUAM  
staff reporter

Alien abductions, astrology, the Loch Ness monster and ESP.

Things to believe in?

No, not according to Behavioral Science instructors Bob Baugher and Sue Frantz, who said understanding how people perceive their world can help explain a lot of the paranormal.

That was the topic of last Friday's Science Seminar, which focused on demystifying a lot of the paranormal things that people may have experienced.

The message was clear. Don't believe everything you perceive.

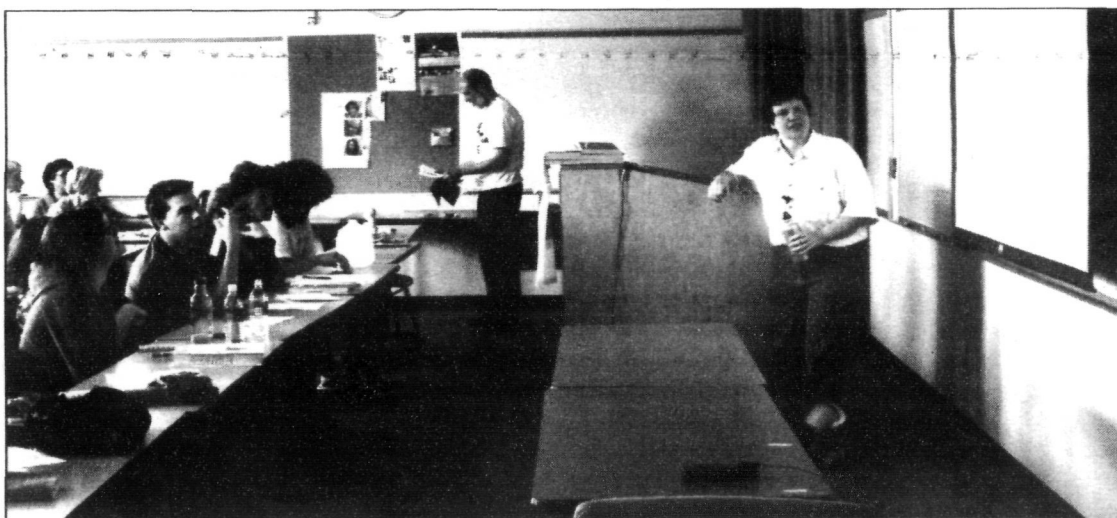
One of the best examples was horoscopes. Although a large portion of the people at the seminar said their horoscope was fairly accurate, it soon became apparent to all that the horoscopes were the same with just the order of wording being different.

"This is our tendency to accept the stock spiel," said Baugher. "This is when general statements seem to point at you."

Baugher said this is one of many tactics that psychics, mediums, astrologists, and palm readers use.

Baugher said that psychics ask general questions at first and broaden the questions in hopes of hitting on something that the client can associate with.

"One characteristic that most of these people have is a great self confidence in what they



JOHN THOMPSON/THUNDERWORD

*Behavioral Science professor Sue Frantz presents a video at last week's Science Seminar about the paranormal. Also presenting was Behavioral Science professor Dr. Bob Baugher.*

do," said Baugher.

Baugher and Frantz demonstrated this point by showing a video clip of prominent psychic Sylvia Brown erring badly on how a woman's husband had died. Brown said his disappearance was associated with water or drowning. When told the man was a 9/11 World Trade Center victim, the psychic steadfastly maintained her story.

Frantz said a lot of the paranormal is based on perception and sensation.

Sensation is how information gets to the brain and perception is what the brain does with that information.

Another paranormal phenomena is back-masking.

"These are songs that when played backwards supposedly contain hidden or subliminal messages," said Frantz.

Frantz played several clips of

music backward and only one of the three seemed to have a message. The messages on the other two clips only became apparent after being told what the message was.

"People hear what they expect to hear, and they don't hear what they don't expect to hear," said Frantz.

This can also be applied to what people can see.

Frantz demonstrated how perceptions can be wrong based on the percentage of people killed with firearms. Although most at the seminar chose murder as the highest cause of death, suicide actually accounted for almost two-thirds of all firearms related deaths.

The difference between perception and fact, Frantz said, is that people always hear about homicides and murders on the news but never of suicides that

occur quite often.

Understanding how the brain

works and perceives things, however, can help people see things as they are.

This week's Science Seminar features Jonathan Betz-Zall, a part-time librarian at Highline who has a master's degree in Environment and Community from Antioch University in Seattle.

Betz-Zall will speak on the topic of how dangerous paint can be and what you might do to reduce its impact on you and your family.

"Can You Paint and Breathe at the Same Time?" will be held in Building 3, room 102 this Friday at 2:20 p.m.

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

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## Racism

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

life," said faculty member Ousama Alkhalili, who is of Lebanese descent.

In Islam, women are encouraged to maintain modesty and simplicity for cultural reasons. How they interpret modesty depends on them. Some Muslims, like Yosofi, don't wear a head covering.

"In my country, before the Taliban made burkas (a fully covered headdress) a requirement, the women would dress as freely as they wanted and I choose to do so as well, because it's my choice and this is my definition of modesty," Yosofi said. "It's between me and my God, no one else."

On the other hand, there are Muslims like Ruqia Khalif, who wears a hijab that covers her head and whole body.

"I have a choice to wear a hijab. Nobody forces me to do it, it's my decision," Khalif said. "My parents didn't force me to cover up, they couldn't if they wanted to because it's my choice."

The Quran gives women the choice to dress as they want as

long as they are not so revealing as to degrade themselves. The subject of covering up is controversial in Islam. It has much more to do with culture than it does with religion.

"I hate the towel-head remarks because we wear scarves on our head simply because it's hot, it's not a religious thing," said El-Himri.

Covering the head is a symbol of remembering God, and all Muslims do so when they are at mosque, but outside of prayer time, there is a lot of diversity among Muslim women when it comes to covering up.

Stereotypes of the prophet Muhammed are the most sensitive, and these misconceptions are the ones that Middle Eastern students at Highline are most passionate about.

"People think that Muslims follow a terrorist for a prophet," said Yosofi, who has heard negative remarks at the Student Union.

"They have no idea that he stopped racism, promoted peace, encouraged women's rights, progressed the economy, and taught us that we are not Muslims unless we want for our neighbor what we want for ourselves," said Yosofi. "Does that sound like a terrorist to you?"

"I believe that in spite of ev-

everything happening, they still don't know enough," said Amal Mahmoud, a Highline faculty member of Egyptian descent. "There are 1.5 billion Muslims who struggle, work hard and try to make a good living, but is the general public even aware of this?"

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, dramatically altered many lives, including those of Middle Eastern students and staff members on campus.

"Two weeks after 9/11, I had a conference in Phoenix, but they wouldn't let me board because of my name. They were giving me lame excuses to not get on the airplane," said Highline faculty member Alkhalili. "Then they offered me money, and they held us for 11 hours, even though I had been traveling for over 10 years."

Amal Mahmoud also had similar experiences.

"Last December, we had two first-class tickets," he said. "I was in the front, close to the pilots, and every time I would go to the bathroom they would interrogate my young son, asking him various questions about me."

Hamad Al-Adab also had a negative confrontation after 9/11.

"When I lost my luggage at

the airport, I asked a worker for help and then he asked me where I was from," he said. "When I told him I was Saudi Arabian, he told me to go f\*#k myself and left. Things have changed since (9/11). It used to take me only three hours to get a visa, now it takes two years."

"I don't even feel safe anymore because there is still a lot of ignorance and racism in certain areas, so I feel like I'm limited to where I can go," said Yosofi.

"After 9/11, at the local gas station, a Pakistani man had to sell his station because he was constantly harassed in Federal Way," said Highline student Skyler Nichols.

Racial profiling has affected many Highline students, some of who are not even of Middle Eastern descent.

"One of my relatives who was a Sikh was at the airport and they called security and gave him no reasonable explanation for doing so," said Amita Singh, a Highline student from India. "Anyone brown is associated with negativity."

Rashid Abdullah, an African-American student at Highline, has heard negative remarks on campus.

"One time, someone was criticizing Muslims right in front of

me," he said.

Highline students from the Middle East are speaking out, trying to show that the Middle East is an incredible place to visit, and the people are completely different than what most generally perceive.

"Learn about us from us, don't learn about us from others," said Alkhalili. "The Middle East is a very welcoming area."

Professor Amal Mahmoud compared the difference between the east and the west.

"In desert culture we are very kind to strangers, it becomes our duty to befriend you," he said. "In Cairo, when a cement truck hit my car, several civilians literally came and lifted my car by hand, but it's not the same here."

The Middle Eastern students at Highline say they want to bring awareness and knowledge about their culture, background and religion as it really is, which is far from how it's perceived.

"I just wish people would see how generous and loving the culture and the people are," said Yosofi. "We're so tired of all the negativity associated with our people and especially our religion, because in reality, we are a very peaceful community. We just want to live our lives in peace."

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