



Feb. 14, 2008 / Volume 47, No. 12

Highline Community College



The Thunderword

Board, faculty disagree on search issues

By **Carrie Draeger**
Staff Reporter

Faculty on campus are concerned with their level of involvement in the presidential search process. Faculty have expressed concern to the Board of Trustees about both the search consultant and changes to the search process. The Board said it appreciated the concerns of the faculty, but

was satisfied with the search process and with the consultant, Dr. Don Hunter.

Highline began looking for a permanent president this year after the Board fired former President Priscilla Bell in



November 2006, citing “philosophical differences.” Dr. Jack Bermingham, vice president for academic affairs, has been serving as interim president since then. The search for a new president began in October 2007 when the Board hired Dr. Hunter to assist in the process. Since then, a Presidential Search Advisory Committee, comprising representatives from various campus groups, has been cre-

ated. Nonetheless, not everyone is happy with the process so far. Ruth Frickle, psychology teacher and advisory committee member, addressed the faculty’s concerns in an e-mail to members of the Board. “Faculty are concerned that the consulting firm that is recruiting candidates and doing the preliminary selection also trains people to become community college executives. The

appearance of a conflict of interest is quite stark,” Frickle said in the e-mail. The faculty also reaffirmed its desire that the Board will decide to allow a representative from various constituents on campus to participate in the interview process and any site visits. “The ability to directly interact with candidates on behalf of our groups and to directly report

See Search / A16



Deandria Sanders and her three-year-old daughter Fiona play together at the Childcare Center.

Lizeth Duran/ THUNDERWORD

Single student moms often live two, three lives

By **Shannon Clary**
Staff Reporter

Deandria Sanders was living in a friend’s basement with a 3-year-old daughter, and pregnant with her second child. Last winter she realized she needed to do something for herself and her children. Sanders was not working, and she knew going to school was the way to

help improve her and her children’s lives. She walked to Highline and went to the Women’s Programs offices and asked what she could do in order to start school that spring. “I was pregnant, living in a basement and in the middle of a divorce. All I wanted was to come to school,” said Sanders. With the help of Women’s

Programs, Sanders received an Opportunity Grant, which helps her pay her rent, child care, and financial aid. Sanders is not alone. Highline often plays host to single moms, although the exact number of single mothers is unknown. It’s not an easy path for these students. On top of dealing with the pressures of school, they

have the added challenge of being a single mother. Women’s Programs is available to help single mothers at Highline with tuition assistance, career guidance and educational advising. Deana Rader, director of Women’s Programs, says child

See Moms / A16

Journalism bill dies without Senate hearing

By **Nick Dalton**
Staff Reporter

A bill that would’ve extended more freedom to student journalists got spiked again this year without so much as a hearing. Senate Bill 6449 is a piece of legislation that would’ve given high school and college student journalists more freedom in determining the content of their media. Last year Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1307 won the approval of the House with a vote of 58-37, then died in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The idea was to take the bill to the Senate first this year, and try to pass SB 6449, which is essentially the same as ESHB 1307, instead of starting over in the House with ESHB 1307. This year the bill didn’t even make it on to the legislative schedule for a hearing. ESHB 1307 was originally the brainchild of Brian Schraum, a former student journalist who wrote for The Current, the newspaper at Green River Community College. Schraum contacted State Rep. Dave Upthegrove, D-Des Moines, last year about creating a bill that would secure the freedom of student journalists. “We met at Auntie Irene’s Ice Cream shop in Des Moines... and a national movement for

See Bill / A15



Woman had lost a husband

Security received a phone call from a wife who was worried about her husband’s whereabouts at 7:40 p.m. on Feb. 9. She stated that he usually called by then if he was running late. His vehicle was still in the north lot. Security found him at 7:48 p.m. by the elevators in Building 8. He said he just talked to his wife and was heading home.

Student loses iPod

A Highline student’s iPod was stolen in the circulation area of the Library at 4 p.m. on Feb. 8. The student had plugged his iPod into the computer and left for a couple minutes, only to return to his iPod missing.

Library used as a campsite

A lady was found sleeping in the Library at 8:45 a.m. on Feb. 8. A Security officer woke her up and informed her if she was found sleeping again she would be asked to leave.

Desperado advertises for virgins, more graffiti found

Grffiti was found on the bottom stairway of a building on Feb. 7 at 5 p.m. More graffiti was found east of Building 6. There was a small picture and written next to it “I like virgins,” on the large new campus map. Security notified a custodian to remove it.

Attempted cell phone theft

A verbal altercation between two students occurred at 9:30 a.m. on Feb. 6. The argument started when one student tried to grab the other student’s cell phone. Shortly afterwards the two began yelling at one another.

Harassment is put to a stop

A Highline student was harassed by a male in Building 8 on Feb. 6 at 11 a.m. The man cursed the student out and threatened that she was going to be get beaten-up. Security was notified of the situation and reported the incident to the police.

Thief steals things from car

A Highline student’s Ford Taurus was broken into in the east lot at 9:05 a.m. on Feb. 6. The student’s car charger, parking pass, check book, and \$20 were stolen from her vehicle.

-Compiled by Rachel Aleaga



Arcturus deadline extended

The deadline of submissions for Arcturus has been extended to the end of next week.

Arcturus is an annual Highline publication that features works by students, alumni, faculty and staff. Submissions of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, photography, and works of art are accepted. Issues of Arcturus are released May and June each year.

Students who are interested should submit their works to Sharon Hashimoto in Building 5, room 1. For more information call Sharon Hashimoto at 206-878-3710, ext. 3158.

The workshops must go on

The Counseling and Career Resource Center is continuing its workshop series today.

From noon to 12:50 the Informational Interviewing workshop will be hosted by Patricia Haggerty, a faculty counselor.

Students can learn helpful tips for finding and interviewing people who have careers that interest them. This will be presented in Building 8, in the Mt. Skokomish room.

The Utilizing the Career Collection in the Library workshop also will be today from noon to 12:50. This is hosted by Gloria Rose Koepping, a psychologist and faculty counselor.

At this workshop students will meet a career counselor in the library’s Career Resource Room. Students will be able to explore print resources and use them to discover and develop their career path.



Lizeth Duran/THUNDERWORD

Robert Fitzgerald and Sean Good perform at the Blend, they improvized many of the songs performed at yesterday’s Blend. This is the first time Fitzgerald and Good have performed together.

Don’t miss seeing the Devil on Horseback -- it’s a kick

Movie Fridays presents *The Devil Came on Horseback* this week.

Every Friday Highline’s International Student Programs chooses a film for students to watch for free. Free popcorn is also provided.

The Devil Came on Horseback is about an American witnessing the tragedies taking place in Darfur. Former U.S. Marine Captain Brian Steidle takes the viewer on a journey to witness as the Arab run government tries to implement a plan to get rid of all the black African citizens. Since Steidle was in the military he had access to parts of the country that no journalist could ever go. Watch as Steidle transforms from a soldier to passionate activist.

Movie Fridays is open to everyone, and attendees are encouraged to stay after the film is shown to discuss and analyze major points of the film. This event takes place Friday Feb. 15, at noon in Building 7.

To get more information on Movie Fridays contact Vicky Chu at the ILSC Center at 206-878-3710, ext. 3824.



FREE TUTORING!!!

*Feeling overwhelmed?
Get help!*

Visit the Tutoring Center: Building 26, Room 319

**We strive to help students
to achieve their college success!**

*“Do not worry about your difficulties in
mathematics. I can assure you that
mine are still greater.”
~Albert Einstein*

Sign up for help in:
**Accounting/Business, Languages, Math,
Science, Computers, Writing, and more subjects!**

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

Power outage scheduled to take place next week

A new back-up generator for Administrative Technology will be installed Feb. 18 causing power outages for Buildings 23 and 26.

From 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. the following systems need to be shut down: main campus web pages, student and employee web transaction pages, Highline e-mail, Administrative systems, online schedule and calendar, purchasing system, online time cards, campus environmental controls, SPAM filter, VPN, and network drives.

This will be a test to make sure the back-up generator will work correctly in case a power outage occurs. The back-up generator will be set and working officially next week.

Students might want to take note of the when the power outage will occur so that they don’t lose any work during the power outage. Also so that they can access whatever they need to before the power outage occurs.


For more information contact Administrative Technology at 206-878-3710, ext. 4357.

Corrections

Thao Dang’s name was spelled incorrectly in a story in a recent edition of the Thunderword.

Dr. Sandra Glover should not have been identified as the music director of Highline’s Fine Arts Department in the Jan. 31 edition of the Thunderword. She is the director of the Highline Chorale.

Co-Opportunity: Cooperative Education



Get organizational experience WHILE earning college credit!

Run the Food Bank ON Campus!


Duties:
Get the club recognized, coordinate with Des Moines Food Bank to get food and bring it here; coordinate volunteers. Ensure that the Des Moines Food Bank got paperwork they needed regarding who is using the Food Bank. **Very satisfying and fun!** Transportation is required (if work is split between 2; 1 of 2 people need a car).

Contact Jessica Neilson at jneilson@highline.edu

Get real world experience while earning real college credit.

Building 6, upper floor

Student Jobs



Package Handler
~Part-time~

Job #3456

Loading, unloading packages, scanning and sorting packages. This is a warehouse job.

Hours: 25, Monday-Friday
Where: Auburn **How Much:** \$9.50-10.00

Park Ranger
~Part/Full-Time~

Job #3469

Prepare and present interpretive programs on Mount Rainier resources, conduct informal interpretation on trails, staff visitor center.

Hours: vary 40/wk
Where: Mt. Rainier **How Much:** \$14.24-18.67

For more information, log on to Interfase at www.myinterfase.com/highline/student or visit Student Employment in Building 6.

Blackboard allows students to communicate online

By Martin Ericksen
Staff Reporter

The most popular blackboard at Highline doesn't have any chalk on it.

The Blackboard Academic Suite is accessed by thousands of students at Highline and is used by professors to update their students' progress on their classes.

Teachers use Blackboard for online, live, and hybrid classes.

It is set up so students can communicate with their peers through discussion boards and turn in their assignments.

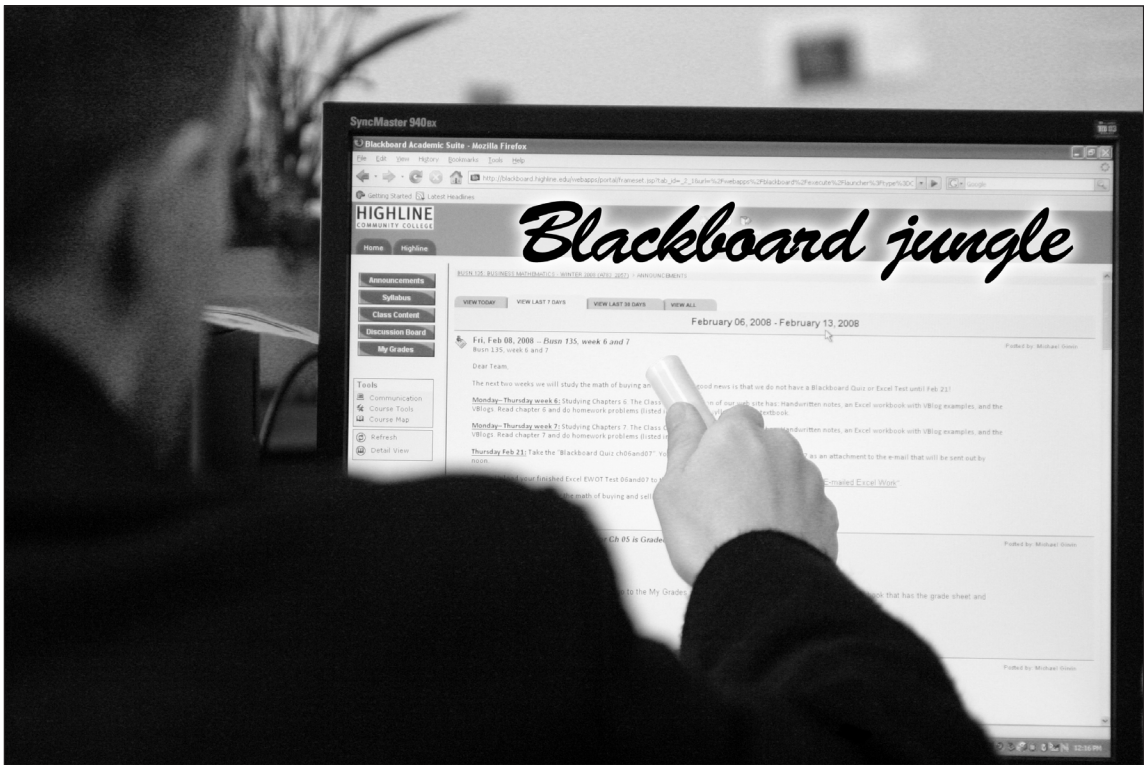
This year, 2008, marks a decade that Blackboard has been in use at Highline.

Growing in usage by about 20-30 percent every quarter, Blackboard is currently used by around 4,550 students at Highline.

This quarter 226 classes are using Blackboard, said Mark Lentini, coordinator of instructional design.

Professor Jeff Ward, Business Department coordinator, describes Blackboard as a "class environment system that works online."

"We try to make it as much of a physical classroom as possible," said Ward. "Although there is no face-to-face inter-



David Hsu/THUNDERWORD

action on Blackboard, students can still communicate with their peers through the discussion board."

The discussion board is an application that you can access by selecting the class that uses Blackboard and then navigating to the discussion board icon. From there you can post threads (articles) that your classmates can read and reply to.

Ward has been using Blackboard for his business classes for

five consecutive years at Highline, and he finds the program both convenient and necessary for academic achievement.

Students don't need to be at Highline if their teachers use Blackboard for their online classes.

"Blackboard is useful for people who can't go to college because when they log on to their account they can get attendance points, communicate online with classmates through

a discussion board, and turn in homework," said Ward.

Some Highline students such as Josh Norris need to take more classes but don't have time to attend them. "Using Blackboard is a great way to fit an extra class in your schedule," Norris said.

Through Blackboard many Highline students can participate in class activities without attending the class.

"I meet with my classmates and teacher every other Friday

in a chat room on Blackboard," said Nathan Hard, Highline student.

"For instructional purposes Blackboard is better," than other classroom programs, said Janice Adams, instructional designer. "It's easy for students to use."

Other Highline professors have a completely different take on the uses of Blackboard, viewing the program as more of a setback for college students.

"It's too simple," said Angi Caster, Highline writing professor for 14 years. Caster disagrees with the program because of how easy it is for students to access their Highline information with one touch of a button.

"You want your students to have to navigate," said Caster.

Some students don't find Blackboard easy or useful.

"It has potential to be useful, but right now it's not being utilized the way it should be," said Cameron Adams, Highline student.

"If I miss class it's hard for me to communicate with my teacher," said Rumi Konno.

For other students it has the opposite effect.

"It's easier to communicate with my teachers. It's a lot quicker than seeing the teacher in her office," said Royoko Fukumitsu, Highline student.

Communters face increase in Metro fares Cruise offers weekend getaway

Traffic delays throughout King County are minimal this week with the exception of the Pacific Highway corridor, and bus riders are bracing for a rate hike.

•Bad news for Metro Transit riders -- the fare for all trips will increase by 25 cents beginning March 1.

This rate increase will affect all adult, youth, and senior individual trip fares.

All monthly bus pass prices will increase as well.

All passes except senior and access will increase by \$9, senior passes will increase by \$4.50, and access passes will go up \$5.50.

•Drivers have less to worry about, as very few major projects are currently in process within South King County.

•The left lane of the off-ramp from Interstate 5 to Swift/Albro is still closed, but is expected to reopen by Feb. 27.

•Expect daytime delays and lane restrictions in both directions on Pacific Highway South between South 272nd Street and Dash Point Road.

•The traveling lane underneath the Alaskan Way Viaduct between

Columbia Street and Yesler Way is still closed around the clock until spring.

•State Route 900 at Boeing Access Road and Ryan Way is still closed around-the-clock until further notice.

•The southbound HOV lane of SR 167 near SR 516 will be closed from 8 p.m. tonight until 11 a.m. tomorrow.

•Up to two lanes of northbound I-405 will be closed from 11:59 tonight until 5 a.m. tomorrow.

•The ramp from I-405 to eastbound I-90 will be closed from 10:30 p.m. to 4 a.m. the following morning tonight and tomorrow.

•The left lane on eastbound SR 518 near SR 99 (International Boulevard) will be closed from 10 p.m. tonight until 5 a.m. tomorrow.

•One lane in each direction on SR 519 between 4th Avenue South and Occidental Avenue South will be closed until 3 p.m.



today, and from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. tomorrow.

•If you would rather not have to know what traffic delays are happening or coming up, consider letting someone else bear the burden.

Metro Transit operates a Vanpool program which allows people along a similar route to work or school and home each day to pitch in and be picked up and dropped off at locations anywhere in King County.

The more people travelling along a given route, the cheaper the fare is for each rider.

This can be a less expensive alternative to driving to Highline or to work each day. This also helps to reduce air pollution, Metro officials say.

New riders may also be eligible for a \$50 MasterCard gift card. Gift cards are also available as an incentive for riders who recruit others to participate in the Rideshare program.

•Those seeking to avoid driving themselves in congested traffic, or interested in saving money, can learn more about this program at transit.metrokc.gov/tops/van-car/vanpool.html.

-Compiled by Nick Dalton

By Catherine Dusharme
Staff Reporter

Need a break from school? How about a weekend cruise?

Highline, in conjunction with Carlson Wagonlit Travel, has coordinated a three-day, two-night cruise on the locally based cruise ship Norwegian Pearl.

The cruise is open to all Highline students and staff, as well as their friends and family.

International students are encouraged to bring their host families.

Titled "Cruise to Nowhere," the ship departs out of Seattle on Friday, May 2, and sails out past the United States-Canadian border, then returns back to Seattle on Sunday, May 4.

Even though this is only a weekend cruise, The Norwegian Pearl offers many activities and events that will keep passengers entertained.

While on board, student and their guests can attend comedy shows and movies or dance the night away at the disco.

Other activities include

bowling in the at the new Bliss Lounge.

The lounge also includes a sports bar and a night club area, perfect for hanging out with friends at night.

For passengers who like sports and working out the fitness center with basketball courts, a track, weights and cardio equipment, is open 24-hours.

Or just relax at the pool, spa or in the hot tubs.

The cruise has a no formal wear policy so passengers can be as casual or elegant as they want to be.

"Mini-cruises are very popular," said Kathleen Tansey, Carlson Wagonlit travel agent and a member of the Highline Travel and Transportation Advisory Board.

Tansey also thinks it's an excellent opportunity for Travel and Tourism students.

"It gives students a chance to see what it's like to go on a cruise," she said. "They could be working in six months to a year."

For more information contact Tansey at 253-630-7755 or Kathleen@travelcenter4u.com.

Editorial comment

Vote for the candidate who will be the best president, not personality

This year, people need to vote for a candidate based on their stance on important issues, not based on their personality, looks or beliefs.

Every year you hear people talk about hating a candidate because of the way they look or the way they talk or the way they act ,and say they won’t vote for them because of those reasons.

Sometimes the people they won’t vote for are the ones that would help the country the most.

This year, some people are saying that they won’t vote for Senator Clinton because she is a woman.

You hear other people say they won’t vote for Senator Obama because he is black.

It is sad that in 2008 some people still think like this.

Another thing you hear a lot of people say during election time is, I’m voting for someone because I think they have the same religious views that I have.

That may be, or maybe they just don’t go around campaigning about it, but the person who you’re not voting for may be the better president.

Many people seem to forget that in this country there is supposed to be separation between church and state.

In 2004, the candidate no one liked in the general election was Senator John Kerry.

Kerry wasn’t charismatic and seemed dull.

However, when it came to important issues, he had the best answers.

Unfortunately, when it came time to vote, too many people didn’t like how boring and dull he was and voted for the other guy, and we can all see how well that turned out.

The same thing happened in 2000 with Al Gore.

This year, it is time that we vote for someone based on their stance on issues that are really important to the future of this country.

It is time to elect a candidate who will put your interests, and the interests of the entire country in front of the interest of oil companies.

Staff

“You learn to appreciate this more when you don’t have cable.”

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Letters to the editor

Athletic director says Highline focuses on academics

Dear Editor:

This letter is in reference to Ms. Draeger’s commentary on Highline athletes’ focus on academics.

Clearly, I understand that Ms. Draeger is in the process of learning the art of journalism, and for that I will give her a bit of a break.

Having said that, let me first apologize for Ms. Draeger (softball player), to the majority of our student-athletes who carry better then average GPA’s in relation to the college. (Last time we did a comparison, Highline student-athletes average cumulative GPA was higher than Highline’s non-student-athletes).

Since coming to Highline 17

years ago, I have made academics not only our number one priority, but have based the majority of our department’s philosophy on academic success. Further, I have hired all but one of our Head Coaches, of which, all have College degrees. Six of eight, have Masters and or Doctorate degrees.

To even imply that Highline College Athletics does not put the highest importance on academics is, to be honest, a slap in both the athletic program’s and my face.

Further, let me make it very clear that the academic standards set by the NWAACC, do not reflect the standards that we expect of our student-athletes. In fact, we may have the most rigid standards with regards to

both scholarships and participation in the entire NWAACC.

Further, our entire academic model for athletics has been implemented by many other NWAACC schools throughout both Washington and Oregon.

Finally Ms. Draeger, let me remind you that being from a state that does not offer athletic two year opportunities, if not for Highline College Athletics, as well as the financial benefit of an Athletic Scholarship, you would not be in a position to both compete in athletics and write for the Thunderword.

-- John Dunn,
Athletic Director
(3.04 cum. GPA) undergraduate
(3.69 cum. GPA) Graduate

Highline student tired of campus bookstore

Dear Editor:

I consider myself a patient man however I’ve grown tired of the style in which the student bookstore operates.

The shelves and racks form a small tight maze, which makes the store feel over crowded even

when a small group are inside shopping.

A large line has a tendency to form because of a slow processing register and a low number of cashiers during peak hours. Everyone in the tight crowded line starts sweating from the collective body warmth and the hot

beaming stage lights over head.

If the bookstore found a way to lower the temperature, and made the room a little less crowded, shopping for needed school supplies would be a more pleasant experience.

--S. Russell Gregory,
Highline student

Write to us

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

Editorial cartoons on timely subjects also may be consid-

ered.

Submissions will be edited for style.

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

Submissions that are too long may be subject to editing for length.

E-mail your submission to thunderword@highline.edu.

Letters and columns can be on any subject.

Topics of interest to the campus community will take priority.

Please include contact information.

Art, politics,



Jamie Bollenbach's oil painting Population

FIRE

JAMIE BOLLENBACH MOVED FROM POLITICS TO ART AND WANTS HIS STUDENTS TO SPEAK OUT

By Kendall Cortese
Staff Reporter

Highline teacher Jamie Bollenbach said he wants to turn students' visual perceptions into personal self-expression.

Bollenbach teaches part time for the Art Department at Highline. This quarter, he teaches Drawing I, Drawing II, and Introduction to Color.

Bollenbach said that he is constantly creating new art that tries to engage his audience with motions of time and memory.

"Almost anyone can learn basic visual grammar. I want to show people that they can look at the world with precision. (I want) them to get a sense of curiosity and of wonder about the visual experience in their lives, and to take that curiosity and

turn it into powerful self expression," Bollenbach said.

Bollenbach's main medium is oil. His paintings consist of abstract art that shows "gestural marks that are pushed into pictorial space, the synthesis of mood, process and image elevated over an illustration of external philosophical concept. My paintings argue that the dynamic of vision, illusion, and painting process is intellectually serious activity," Bollenbach said.

Bollenbach said he was inspired by the work of Leon Golub, an American painter of the 20th century. Golub was an artist who focused on military violence scenes, and had a serious synthesis to his paintings.

"His work showed political awareness without falling into simple propaganda," Bollenbach said.

"Almost anyone can learn basic visual grammar. I want to show people that they can look at the world with precision."

lenbach said. "(It showed me) the possibilities of interests in democracy and politics within a primary pursuit of visual culture."

Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, Bollenbach said he has long been filled with curiosity on a variety of subjects.

During high school, he started doing cartoon illustrations.

After graduating from high school, Bollenbach moved to Oregon and attended Reed College for his bachelor's degree in political science.

After finishing his degree, he moved back home where he served as executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Alaska for five years.

But Bollenbach said he wanted to exercise freedom more rather than just advocating it.

"Art synthesized the ideas that I had from many other subjects," he said.

In the early '90s he moved to San Francisco, setting up his first studio in East Oakland.

"It was all too premature," Bollenbach said about his move to California. "My skills weren't where I needed (them to be) to maintain a commitment like that."

"In the mid-'90s I eventually moved back to Portland.



I hadn't the depth of training I needed," Bollenbach said.

In Portland, he found a work studio space where he rented out to other artist as well. He named it the Bollenbach Art Labs.

"This is where my painting became much more serious," Bollenbach said.

At this time he was falling more and more into the art scene, seeing a good extent of work from all over.

Doing this meant he gave up other interesting opportunities such as law school, or even an invitation to run for the Legislature in Alaska.

After some time in Oregon, Bollenbach decided he wanted to get a master's in fine arts. One of the universities he ap-

plied to was the University of Washington, where he was one of only eight applicants accepted out of 200 students.

"I think the professors could see that the problems in my work were often forms of experiment," Bollenbach said. "They thought that I was serious about my work."

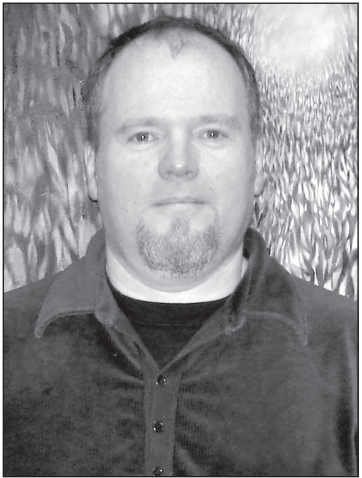
Bollenbach said that getting in to graduate school on the first try was a surprise.

While working on his master's degree in fine arts at the University of Washington, he taught classes and was able to receive financial help for school.

He continued to teach painting, drawing, design and scientific illustration after graduating from the University of Washington School of Art and at several colleges around Seattle, until he began teaching at Highline in 2005.

"I am noticing more that (art) is a critical part of our economy. ... Creativity is necessary to do what we want to do," said Bollenbach.

Bollenbach's artwork has been featured at the Henry Gallery and The Seattle Art Museum. His work is currently available for viewing at his website, bollenbach.blogspot.com



"I am noticing more that (art) is a critical part of our economy. ... Creativity is necessary to do what we want to do."

NEW CLUB IS DOWN WITH URBAN ART

By Rachel Aleaga
Staff Reporter

In the past, Sean Clemens would get into trouble with police frequently due to the art he was working with.

It wasn't until Winter Quarter 2007 that he found a way to direct his artwork into a more positive and legal setting by starting the Evolution of Art Club.

"What would make me mad about getting into trouble with police for the art I was doing, was that no matter how good the artwork was, it was still seen as illegal. I want to be able to show that it can be art," said Clemens.

Clemens, president of the club, has been a student at Highline since Fall Quarter 2006. He has been drawing ever since he can remember.



Sean Clemens

"At first I started out sketching cartoons, it wasn't until I was 11 or 12 that I started to get into graffiti with a couple of friends that I would meet up with," said Clemens.

"I'm interested in graffiti, the

urban and gangster art. I'm into the older side of hip-hop, like old-school," Clemens said.

"My parents are both very supportive of my artwork," said Clemens.

"They are more surprised that I started this club and was able to get a lot of people to join. Both of my parents have a strong background in art and are impressed with everything I have accomplished so far."

"What inspire me are city situations. I'll bring my camera with me and take pictures of the city then sketch them out. When I went to Portland to visit my brother, I just walked around the entire city and took about 600 pictures. I took pictures of homeless people, police, people, and just things that were real," said Clemens.

One of Clemens' favorite

works of art is a mural that he and a friend produced, inspired by the movie *War of the Worlds*.

Clemens' ultimate goal is to start his own clothing line using his style of artwork. The Evolution of Art club has not been working on spray painting and graffiti work, due to not having an available room for spray painting.

"We do our spray painting on our own time. I usually do mine in my garage," said Clemens.

Currently the club is working on canvases and artwork for the upcoming Hip Hop Summit on Feb. 26. They are also designing T-shirts, posters, and flyers for other clubs.

"One of my main goals for this year is to hopefully produce a mural that can go up in the library," said Clemens.

"Starting up this club, I

wanted to send the message out that graffiti is art, and you can express what you have to say, rather than having it be seen as vandalism or trash," said Clemens.

"Our club is also all about promoting diversity, and I believe you can do that through art. It can be through performing art or even visual art," said Clemens.

"Art brings the talent of people in the community out and I want to show Highline how it can bring people together no matter what their background is."

The Evolution of Art Club meets every Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Building 16, room 171. Everyone is welcome to attend meetings, no matter what skill level or art experience you have.

The Thunderword / Feb. 14, 2008

Latin Love: Symphony offers spicy Valentine's Day concert

By Satori Johnson
Staff Reporter

Spice up Valentine's Day this year and experience the sounds of Latin Love with the Northwest Symphony Orchestra.

The Northwest Symphony Orchestra will have their annual Valentine's Day concert on Thursday, Feb. 14 at 8 p.m. at the Highline Performing Arts Center.

"We wanted to have some fun with the Latin theme," said Anthony Spain, music director for the orchestra.

"Themed concerts are really effective for obtaining the public's attention," he said. "The audience can take a trip to Spain for a night."

The orchestra will be performing *España Rhapsody* by Emmanuel Chabrier, *Piano Concerto in G* by Maurice Ravel, *Rumbaclav* by Dell Wade, and *Capriccio Espagnol* by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

Local pianist Geisa Dutra will perform solos for *Concerto*



National award winning Northwest Symphony Orchestra will perform Latin inspired music for their annual Valentine's Day concert.

in *G*. Another piece being performed is titled *Rumbaclav*, and was written by local composer Dell Wade, who is currently conductor of the Boeing Orchestra of Flight.

The Northwest Symphony prides itself on collaborating with local musicians and com-

posers, said Spain. The group incorporates a piece written by a local composer for every concert they perform.

"It's one way that we really are an orchestra for the community and the Northwest," said Spain.

Community is something

that the orchestra is dedicated to, said Spain. The group advocates for music education and works with students in the Seattle area as a part of their Symphony for Students program.

The orchestra gives away hundreds of free tickets to their performances to students living in the Northwest.

They want to extend their generosity to Highline students as well, said Spain.

The orchestra will give free admission to students with a valid Highline identification card when presented at the door.

Along with being recognized for their many contributions to the community, the symphony has also gained attention for its

numerous local, regional and national awards.

The Northwest Symphony Orchestra won first place in 1994 and 2007 in national competitions and has been honored nationally seven times for Programming of Contemporary Music.

Spain has led the orchestra in its achievements from its beginning in 1987, and has helped to nurture it into the group it is today. He earned his doctoral degree in music from the University of Washington in 1990, and has studied abroad in Paris.

Spain has conducted the orchestra on all three albums, which are available for purchase on their website. They have recently recorded the fourth album which will be released in the next year.

Tickets for the performance are \$10 and \$14. The Highline Performing Arts Center is located at 401 S. 152nd St. in Burien. More information is available on their website www.northwestsymphonyorchestra.org

Faculty readers draw big crowd

By Max Dubbeldam
Staff Reporter

Five Highline professors came together last Thursday to share their interest in things like squirrels, rats, wood chippers and pastries at the first all-faculty reading in many years.

Around 90 people showed up for the event and more chairs needed to be brought in to accommodate for them. Despite the extra chairs there were still people who had to stand in the back or sit on the ground.

"It's pretty exciting to see standing room only at a reading," said Susan Rich when she was up at the podium.

Four people joined Susan Rich in reading at the event. They were Allison Green, Sharon Hashimoto, Tarisa Matsumoto-Maxfield, and Susan Landgraf. Landgraf was the master of ceremonies for the event which was called And Then There Were Five.

Rich was the person who organized the event. She said she called on everyone in the writing department to see who wanted to join in, and four replied.

"We have the Highline Listens program but they're always people from off campus," said Rich. "In the eight years that I've worked here this is the first all-faculty reading that I can remember."

Moscow Circus travels around the world to Kent

By Koreena Bates
Staff Reporter

Excited to share the Russian culture with South King County, The Moscow Circus is coming to Kent Thursday, Feb. 14.

"We're absolutely excited," said Sasha Vosk, artistic director and producer. "(It's a) great opportunity to bring the circus to the community."

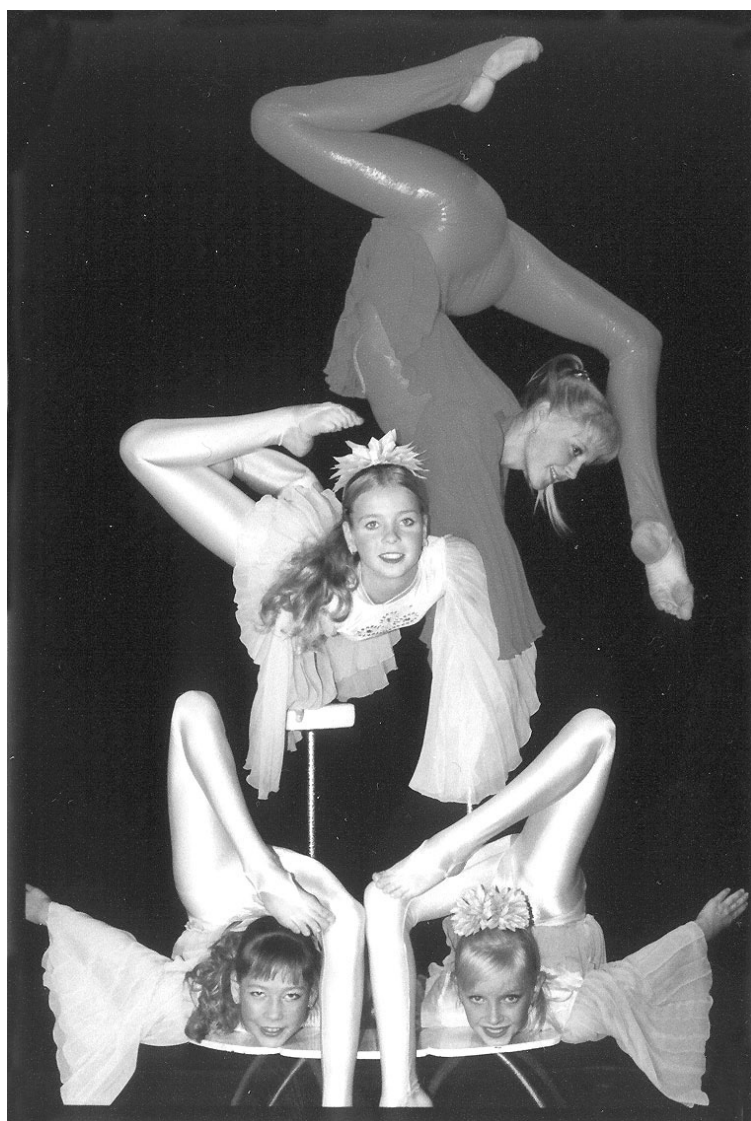
The performance will be at the Kentwood High School Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. The show will last for two hours including intermission. Vosk said the show will have a smooth and constant flow.

"When one act ends, the other act begins—they tie together," said Vosk.

Ranging from a contortionist to clowns, the Moscow Circus performance will consist of 17 performers.

Having a variety of age groups in the audience, the circus performers create elements for all ages to enjoy, Vosk said. The performers range in age from 11 to 56 years old. Wearing colorful costumes and using different movements helps grasp the attention of the audience.

Vosk has been involved in show business since the age of 11. With his wife and partner, Lena Vosk, he has been producing the tours of the Moscow Circus shows in North America since 1998. In 2005 they produced one of the largest ethnic



Contortionist acrobats perform as part of the Moscow Circus.

Russian festivals in New York City. The show drew more than 300,000 people over the Labor Day weekend at the Festival of Nations.

Because of their busy schedule, they are unable to come out and have pictures taken with the

audience after shows.

"With our hectic schedule we literally have to finish and pack up and leave," Vosk said.

The Moscow Circus recently celebrated its 120-year anniversary. Due to its popularity and long-time history in Russia, the

Moscow Circus continues to be the standard by which all other circuses are judged, Vosk said.

"They are a great group of people to work with and are extremely disciplined," Vosk said of the performers. "On top of being unique with what they do, they are great artists. What could be more satisfying than that?"

Keeping the audience on the edge of their seats with the risky acts and stunts, the performers always have safety on their minds, he said.

"Dangerous acts are a part of the circus. It's something that makes the circus the circus and hopefully nothing happens but it's a part of what the circus performer is performing," Vosk said. "(They) try to keep a little red light blinking in their minds. You're in a danger zone - be careful. Don't ever let one hand go when the other one is free. You have to learn not to forget to bend your knees at a certain angle."

The show will be at the Kentwood High School Performing Arts Center, 25800 164th Ave. SE, Covington.

Tickets are on \$32 for general admission, \$26 for students and senior citizens.

Group and family rates are available. For more information or to purchase your tickets online, go to www.ci.kent.wa.us/arts/spotlight/index.asp, or call the ticket line at 253-856-5051.

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T-Birds just keep winning; streak extends to seven

By Maxx Shelley
Staff Reporter

The T-Birds have just won their most important game of the season against South Puget Sound.

At least, it was the most important game that day.

The Thunderbirds are attributing their success to their mentality that, as several players have put it, "every game is the most crucial game of the season."

That approach has led them on a seven-game winning streak, and a solid grip on second place in the NWAACC's West Division with a 9-3 division record (14-10 overall).

On Monday the T-Birds played the Clark Penguins here at Highline.

The mighty T-Birds battled back and forth to win the game 70-57.

"It all just came down to stops," sophomore forward Kris Rainwater said. "It wasn't a very high scoring game for awhile. It was a grind."

The T-Birds shot 45 percent from the field, 64 percent from outside the 3-point line, and 65 percent from the free-throw line.

Shedrick Nelson and Cody Thueringer led the T-Birds in shooting with 16 points each and Nelson led the team in rebounds with a total of 10.

The Penguins hit only 36 percent of their shots from the field and a mere 6 percent from outside the 3-point line going 1-18.

"They didn't have a lot of 3-point shooters," Rainwater said. "We just played off the guys who usually don't shoot threes."

Just as he did last time his team took on the T-Birds, Orlando Westbrook led his team in scoring with 19 points. He also added six rebounds.

On Saturday, the Thunderbirds defeated South Puget Sound 77-71, rallying back from a seven-point deficit after the first half of play.

"We let them get open on the perimeter a bit too much and struggled to convert some shots," Head Coach Che Dawson



Jocie Olson/THUNDERWORD

Freshman forward Coby Gibler (center) pulls down one of his nine rebounds in the game against Clark on Monday. Gibler also added nine points to help lead the T-Birds to a 70-57 victory over the Penguins.

son said of his team's first-half effort. "We just didn't attack them well enough."

The T-Birds came out after the half ready to contain and maintain and then proceeded to take the win.

"We did a better job of con-

taining the shooters," sophomore forward Jesse Norris said.

And contain them is what the T-Birds did.

The Clippers shot 33 percent from the field in the second half compared to 53 percent in the first half.

The T-Birds, on the other hand, shot 43 percent from the field and 48 percent from outside the three-point line.

The T-Birds also dominated the boards, 57-36.

"We emphasized crashing the offensive boards," Dawson said. "The guys did a nice job getting second- and third-chance shots."

Cody Thueringer had an outstanding game, leading the T-Birds with 29 points and 10 rebounds, as well as two assists.

Kelly Edwards added 18 points and Shedrick Nelson led the team with 12 rebounds.

"He (Cody) had a great game, but it was more so a great team effort that allowed us to come from behind," Dawson said.

Jonny Saryaz led the Clippers with 17 points while Michael Brumsey had eight rebounds. Chris Scott, who is an NWAACC conference record holder for assists, led the Clippers with 10 assists.

"We did a good job containing him and not letting him penetrate," Norris said of Scott.

On Wednesday, The T-Birds played Green River for the second time. Last time they played, the Gators spanked the T-Birds 78-64.

"It's time for a little pay-

back," Rainwater said.

Results for the game were not available at press time.

On Saturday, Feb. 16 at 3 p.m., the T-Birds will travel south to take on the Lower Columbia Red Devils.

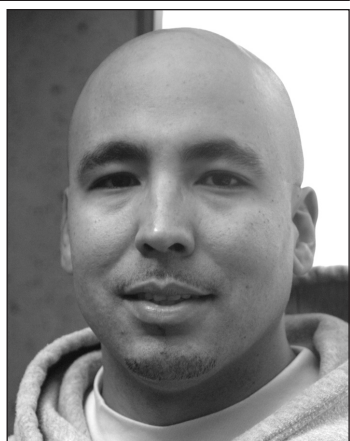
The first-place Red Devils are 12-0 in league play, 19-5 overall and Dawson has yet to win a game in Lower Columbia since he started coaching here five years ago.

Next Monday the T-Birds have a bye but will play the Tacoma Titans on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at Tacoma. Game time is 8 p.m.

The T-Birds' current seven-game winning streak began with their convincing 90-61 victory over Tacoma in their last meeting on Jan. 23.

"We emphasized crashing the offensive boards. The guys did a nice job getting second- and third-chance shots"

--Che Dawson





Inside **SCOOP**

The Thunderword Magazine



REDISCOVER



ROMANCE

February 14, 2008





Valentine's grows from Christian religion

By Melody Ericksen
Staff Reporter

Valentine's Day is a day that lovers celebrate, often by showing their mutual affection for each other through tokens such as candy, flowers, and cards with sweet little nothings written on them.

Valentine's Day represents many different things to a large number of people today; it is a widely known and celebrated holiday in America and throughout Europe.

Valentine's Day in America has also become highly commercialized and is marked by businessmen and popular culture as a day of celebrating love, especially through large expensive gifts.

Valentine's Day was not always celebrated in America. Its roots stretch back to early Christian traditions, and to ancient Roman festivals before that.

Three different St. Valentine's are recognized today by the Catholic Church, all of whom were said to be martyred on Feb. 14.

One story contends that Valentine was a priest during the third century in Rome. St. Valentine defied the decree made by Emperor Claudius II that outlawed marriage for young men (who would be better soldiers as bachelors, without wives and families).

Valentine performed marriages for young lovers in secret. He was later apprehended and the emperor ordered him to be put to death.

Another story claims that St. Valentine was killed while attempting to help Christians escape Roman prisons where they were being beaten and tortured.

Another legend says that Valentine's involvement with love was more of the agape kind (unselfish love of one person for another without sexual implications; brotherly love) rather than the all consuming love/passion of Eros. In this version, St. Valentine was martyred for refusing to renounce his religion.

Yet another story tells of Valentine falling in love with his jailer's daughter while in prison. The girl visited him during his confinement, and before his death it is alleged that Valentine wrote the girl a love letter signed "From your Valentine."

These many stories taking place in vastly different circumstances during the Middle Ages all underline St. Valentine's attributes as having a sym-



thetic, heroic, and romantic involvement with love.

It is believed that Valentine's Day is celebrated on Feb. 14 both to honor and remember the death of St. Valentine, and also as an early attempt by the church to Christianize the very pagan celebrations that occurred during the Lupercalia festival.

This festival began at the ides of February which was the 15th. This was a time or ritual cleansing where houses were cleaned and salt and spelt (a kind of wheat) was sprinkled throughout the house to purify it.

Lupercalia was also a time to celebrate fertility and was dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to Romulus and Remus the founders of Rome.

Part of the festivities during Lupercalia was to have a lottery where all the young women would put their names in a large urn to be drawn by young bachelor men.

The allotted couple would then stay together for the rest of the ensuing year, spending their time exploring sexual pleasures.

These matches often ended in marriage.

However, later on this lottery system was deemed un-Christian and was promptly outlawed.

Another common belief that gave credence to the placement of Valentine's Day was the fact that both the French and English believed that Feb. 14 was the beginning of the bird mating season.

Valentine's Day began to be widely celebrated in England in the 1700s, and in the 1800s it became common for people to exchange hand written notes, or tokens of affection.

In the 1840s Esther A. Howland began selling the first mass-produced Valentines in America.

Since that time Valentine's Day has progressed in the world of business to be the second largest card-sending holiday of the year with an estimated one billion valentine cards sold each year, 85 percent, of which were purchased by women.

Although Valentine's Day has made its way from the Middle Ages as a time of romance and

press their appreciation for each other. Below are some old Valentine's Day traditions. They are very dissimilar from how we practice Valentine's Day in America.

A valentine tradition in Wales was to carve spoons as gifts on Feb. 14. It was popular to decorate these spoons with hearts, and keys, and keyholes, this meant "you unlock my heart." Such spoons are now sold as souvenirs in Wales.

In the Middle Ages young women and men would put their names into a bowl and then drawn. You would wear the name of the person you drew on your sleeve the rest of that week.

Today when people say that you wear your heart on your sleeve, they mean that it's easy for them to know how you are feeling.

An old belief that existed on Valentine's Day was that if a woman saw a robin flying overhead she would marry a sailor. If she saw a sparrow she would marry a poor man but be very happy, and if she saw a goldfinch she would marry a millionaire.

Another thing that people did for fun, would be to think a five or six names of girls or boys that they liked, and then to say them while twisting the stem of an apple. The name that you were saying when the apple stem came off would be the person that you would marry.

It is also said that the number of seeds in an apple is the number of children you will have.

Inside SCOOP

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Inside Scoop is a regular feature of the Thunderword. Address all comments and question to Carrie Draeger, editor-in-chief, at cdraeger@highline.edu.



Valentine memories:

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

By Mark Maras
Staff Reporter

Valentine's Day is a day of hearts, and sometimes of heartbreak.

For some, Valentine's Day brings memories of breaking up.

"My boyfriend and I of almost a year broke up on Valentine's Day," said Breanna Lovell.

"In fifth grade, my boyfriend broke up with me on Valentine's Day for my best friend Vicki," said Megan Brainerd. "He broke up with me because they were neighbors and hung out a lot. After he broke up with me I stole his lunch money and went out with his best friend for a day. The next time I went to Vicki's house, I stole her Backstreet Boys CD."

Some have had to let go of their secret admirers.

"In high school, everybody knew that I had a crush on this one girl for two years, and on Valentine's Day, I found out that she hooked up with a guy she knew for only two days," said Steven Chith.

Some students have good

old-fashioned sweet date stories.

"This guy I was friends with was my first real Valentine last year, and he bought me a teddy bear and chocolate. Two

days later, we officially started dating," said an anonymous student.

"Last Valentine's Day, my boyfriend surprised me at my house with a really huge teddy bear, a beautiful bouquet of red roses, and a box of chocolate. We went to a restaurant that night for dinner and he paid. I was overwhelmed and excited to be treated like a princess," said Katelyn Chenour.

"One of my best Valentine's Days was when my boyfriend surprised me by taking me out to Anthony's Restaurant in Seattle.

"After dinner, a plate came out with pudding and chocolate, and braided in chocolate were the words 'Happy Valentine's Day Lisa'. I was flattered to see something so sweet," said Lisa, who declined to give her last name.

Some go out of their way to express their affection.

"Three girls and three guys at Highline drew names for Valentine's Day in 2007. The rule was that you had to bring stuff like candy, a card, and balloons for the person's name you drew out. For the person I drew, I planned to fill his car with balloons and a piñata of candy," said student Brittany Nichols.

"Early in the morning, I went to his car with the key I got from his mom," Nichols said. "His car was an ancient

Volkswagen beetle and when I tried to turn the key to get the stuff inside, the key broke in the lock. So I brought him all the stuff and my sincere apology."

Sometimes plans on this day can turn out to be an inconvenience.

"Last Valentine's Day, my boyfriend and I were going to a nice restaurant. I was all dressed up with high heels on, and then one of his friends called and said he needed his stereo hooked up. My boyfriend hooked up his stereo, while I had to sit and wait out in the car for three hours," said Tyeisha Taylor.

Others start different Valentine's Day traditions.

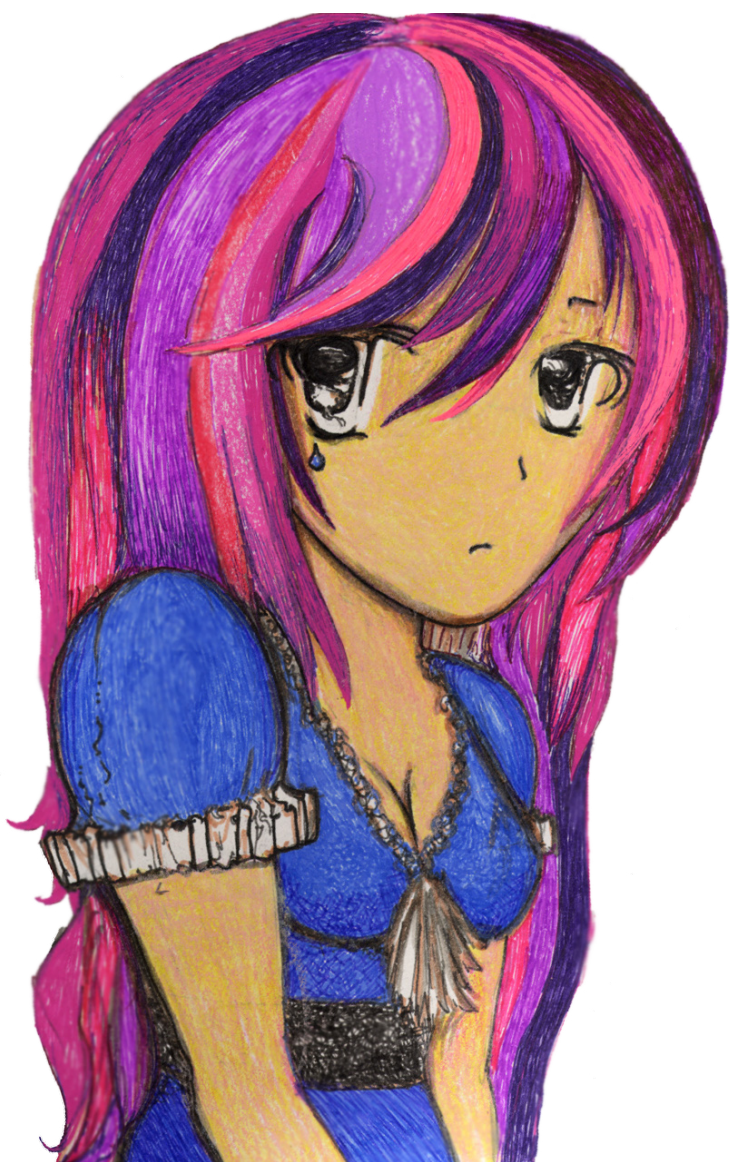
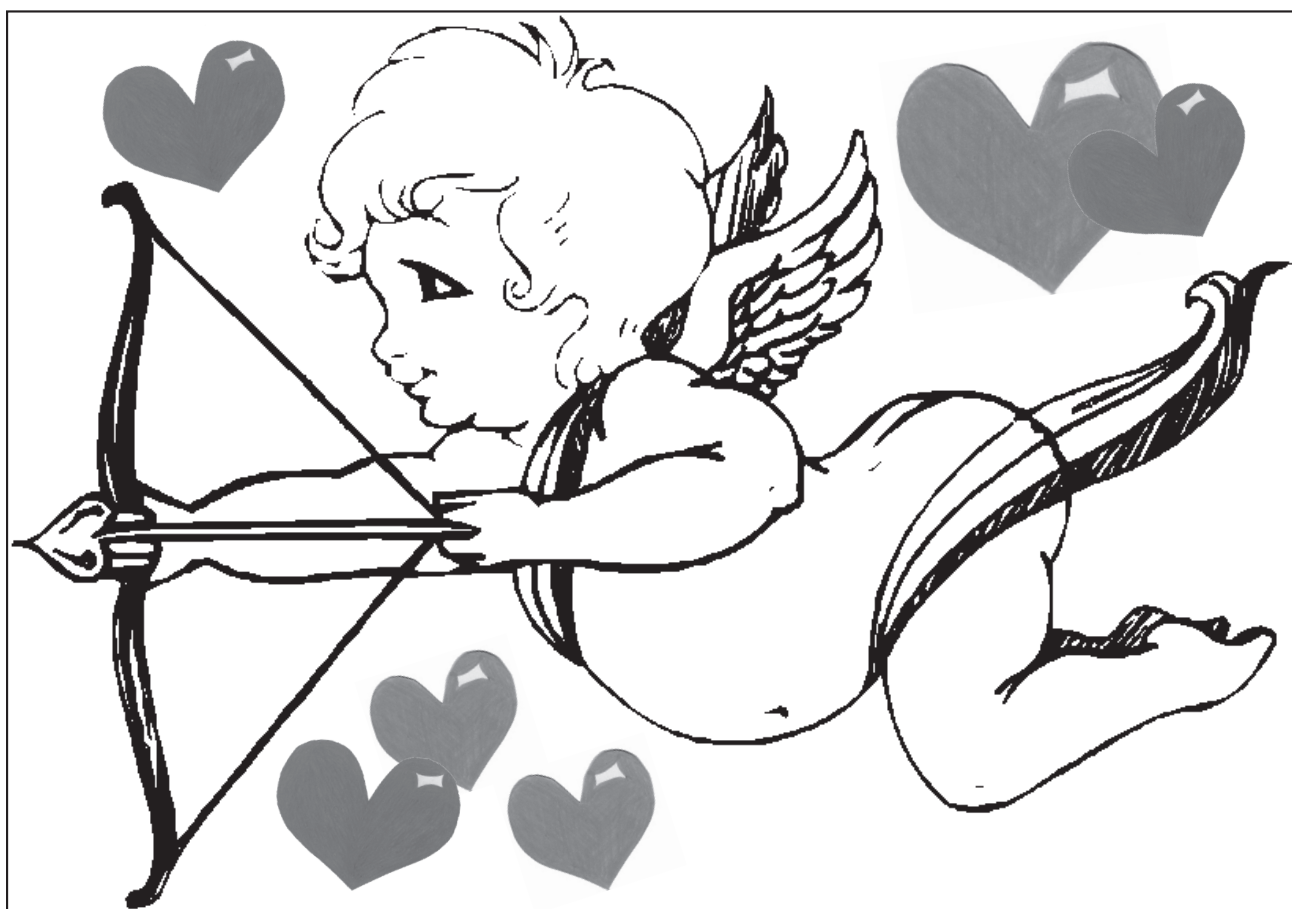
"This year my future husband and I plan on starting a new tradition by celebrating Valentine's Day on the 15th instead of the 14th. On last year's Valentine's Day, we got stuck in Snoqualmie Pass and were too tired to do anything so

we celebrated it the next day," said Lena Allen.

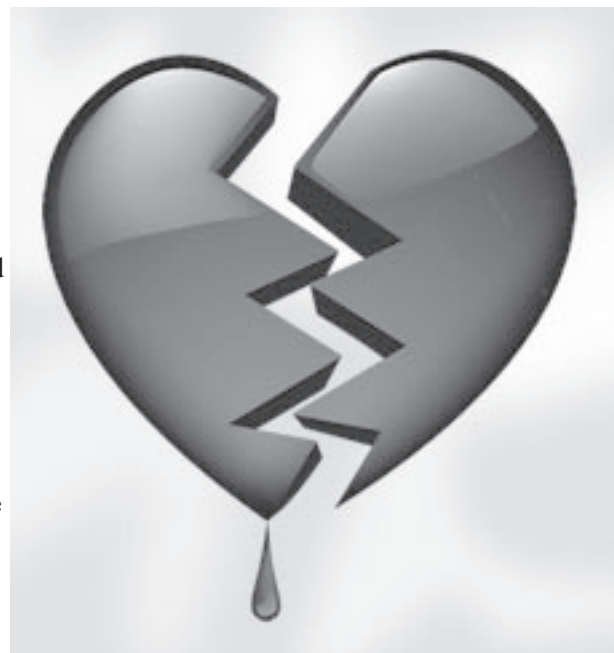
Sometimes the day to rekindle your affair can also be the day to end your affair.

"During my senior year of high school on Valentine's Day, my boyfriend broke up with me to get back with his ex, who was one of my friends. He then used our Winter Formal dance tickets that I purchased to take her out to the dance," said Lisa Visitin.

"On Valentine's Day, I came home from work early that day to surprise her with a rose and dinner that night. But when I came into the bedroom with the rose, I saw my girlfriend butt-naked with another guy. I ended up breaking up with her that day," said Tru Truong.



Patricia O'Neill/THUNDERWORD





A man's guide to win over a woman

By Angela McClurg
Staff Reporter

Doug and Petey are the same age and attend the same school.

Doug is your typical good-looking, tall, muscular man, while Petey is short, skinny, and not so good-looking.

Both men showed up at a house party where they spotted a gorgeous woman standing in the corner of the room talking to her friends.

There was no doubt in Doug's mind that he could win this woman over with his charm; what woman could resist him?

Petey on the other hand knew he would have to play it cool; why would she want to be with him when she obviously could get with any man she wanted?

Doug started to walk through the crowded room, inflating his lungs so his chest would bulge through his skin-tight shirt. He looked like a gorilla in mating season; all he needed to do was pound his chest and throw some leaves in the air.

Doug didn't throw any leaves, instead, he walked up to the mysterious woman while she was talking to her friends and shouted, "Hi, my name is Doug. That's 'god' spelled backwards with a little bit of you wrapped up in it."

The woman gave a annoyed smirk.

Doug knew she was just playing hard to get so he asked her if she had a boyfriend.

The woman gave a small grin as she waved a wedding ring in his face.

"It's OK," Doug said. "He doesn't have to find out."

The woman rolled her eyes, realizing this guy would not get the hint.

Instead of trying to reason with him, she asked him to get her a drink while she and her friends slinked away.

The entire time this was happening, Petey was standing in the back watching. Seeing this

tall muscular man get shot down made him even more nervous but he knew he might not ever see her again.

Petey slowly walked up to the woman and asked her how she liked the party.

The woman just shrugged and said it was sort of lame.

Petey introduced himself and explained how he makes sure to get out on the weekends because he is working, going to school and plays for his college soccer team.

This seemed to strike the woman's interest because she also played soccer.

Both Petey and the woman talked for a couple of minutes about their college career until Petey stopped in the middle of his sentence.

"Oh I'm sorry," Petey said. "I didn't know you were married."

"Oh this old thing?" the women said. "It's not real; I just use it to chase weird guys away, but so far it hasn't worked."

"Sorry, I didn't think I was acting that weird," Petey said.

"No, I didn't mean you," the woman said with a flush gaze. "There is just this arrogant gorilla that won't leave me alone."

About 20 minutes later, Doug came walking up with a half drunken beer in his hand.

"I was looking all over for you," Doug said. "But after a couple minutes I got distracted and drank some of your beer, but here you go."

"No thanks," the woman said, "my 'husband' and I were just leaving."

"Wow, that was a fast ceremony," Petey chuckled.

"Do you want to get out of here?" the woman asked.

Petey just smiled as they both walked away leaving Doug with a bewildered look on his face.

If you are one of those men who get shot down by a girl the minute you open your mouth like Doug did, you might want to consider these few do-nots and helpful techniques, when trying to get a date.

You will usually have a 50 percent chance when you approach a girl; she is either interested, or isn't. Your job is to make your odds as good as possible.

When you first approach a woman, you have about 30 seconds to get her attention before she decides to walk away. What you should not do is cause a scene in order to get it.



Never yell across a room to let her know you want to talk. This will only embarrass her and lead her attention away from what you are saying. You have now just lost your 30 seconds. Instead, casually walk up to her when it looks like she is free of distractions and introduce yourself. And whatever you do, do not use any pick-up lines like Doug did.

Some people might say approaching a woman they have never met before is easier said than done but chances are, if this is the first time you have ever seen her, you might not get another opportunity.

If you find you have grabbed her attention, you must now

keep it. This is probably the hardest part for men.

The most important thing you need to remember is to never belittle yourself. If you tell a woman that you haven't had a girlfriend in a long time, or you're amazed she is even talking to you, then she might start to think she is too good for you to.

Let her know you do more in your life then just try to pick up girls. Since both of you are in school, let her know what your goals are like Petey did.

If you are working or doing extra activities, briefly let her know what they are. And while you're explaining all this, make sure you deliver it with some

self confidence.

While it is a good thing to have self confidence, you have to make sure you don't sound too arrogant. And never refer to yourself as "god."

Girls like to talk, so make sure to ask questions. If she is talking about herself you are pretty safe because you don't have to say anything.

Since you have already explained why you're in school, try asking her what her goals are. If you did a good job explaining what you're doing, she will be the one trying to impress you now. You have just reversed the situation.

If you have kept a woman's attention for this long, you just



A woman's guide to win over a man

By James Bermingham
Staff Reporter

Picking up a guy is easier than most woman think.

The most important thing a girl can do when she is trying to get a guy is be patient.

Also, it is important that you realize that you can't always get the guy, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't try.

Guys like it when you flirt with them but it is hard to tell what is flirting and what isn't. Guys have been trained to think that if they ask a girl out on a date it is probably sexual harassment, so don't get discouraged if they don't ask you out right away.

Also, it is hard for some guys to tell when a woman is flirting with them. It can be helpful when girls give guys hints. Talk about movies that are coming out soon that you want to see.

Talk about restaurants you want to try soon. If you say things like that, he may realize you want to do some of that stuff with him.

If cluing him in doesn't work, you could always ask him out on a date. Some guys will have a crush on you but never act on it. So if you like a guy like that, it's up to you to ask him out.

Another thing that guys like is confidence. Guys don't like a girl who is arrogant, but a confident, easy-going girl is extremely attractive.

Also, humor is something that is really underrated.

Sometimes conversations between men and woman can be awkward. But humor can lighten the mood.

Another thing many guys like is intelligence.

Guys like a girl who they can have good, intelligent conversations with. Some girls think they need to act dumb for guys to like them, but that just isn't true.

Different things work with different guys, but this should help with getting most guys.

line category.

Someone pass me the tartar sauce cuz you're quite a catch and Pardon me miss, I seemed to have lost my phone number, could I borrow yours? These are both great examples of lame pick-up lines.

Arguable the worst type of pick-up lines are ones like: *Is the sun coming up... or is that you lighting up my world?* And, *baby you are everything I never knew I always wanted.*

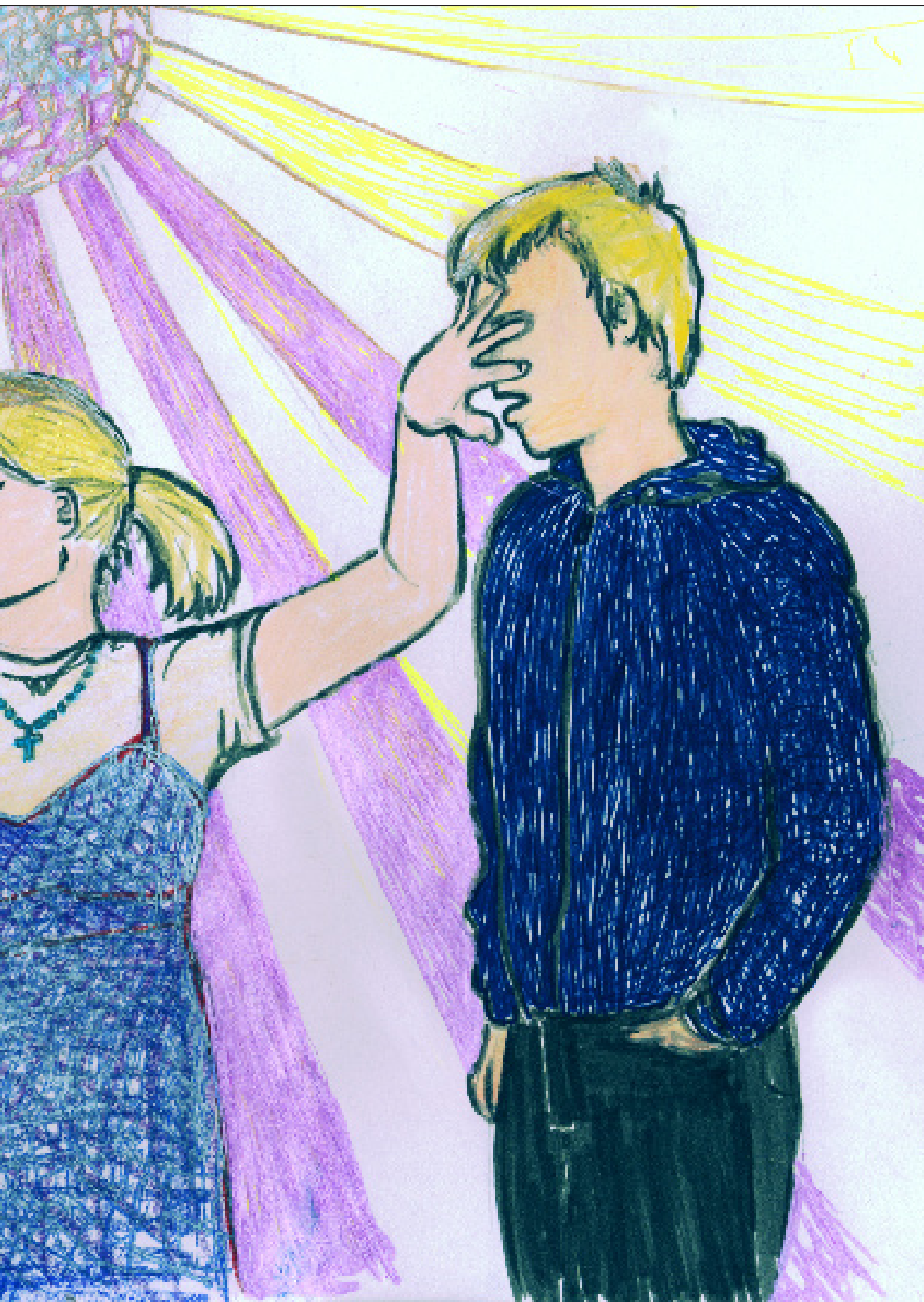
These are in the corny pick-up lines category. These pick-up lines usually leave the person who said them with nothing but a little less dignity.

The fact of the matter is pick-up-lines don't work, they never have and they never will.

It is time for people who use pickup lines to stop and come up with a plan B.

However, for those determined to use pick-up lines, here is a list of lines that should never be used.

- *Can I buy you a drink or would you just prefer the five bucks?*
- *If I could rearrange the alphabet, I would put U and I together.*
- *Can I read your t-shirt in braille?*
- *If I followed you home, would you keep me?*
- *Do you like bacon? Wanna strip?*
- *I'd like to kiss you passionately on the lips, then move up to your belly button.*
- *The word of the day is legs. Let's go back to my crib and spread the word.*
- *I'm not actually this tall, I've got this bad habit of sitting on my wallet.*
- *Wanna go for pizza and a screw? What you don't like pizza?*
- *If your left leg is Thanksgiving, and your right leg is Christmas, can I visit you between the holidays?*
- *Could I touch your belly button...from the inside?*
- *Your name must be Daisy, because I have the incredible urge to plant you right here.*
- *That shirt looks very becoming on you, but if I were on you, I'd be coming too.*
- *I love every bone in your body; especially mine.*
- *You must be Jamaican, because Jamaican me crazy.*
- *You make my software turn to hardware.*



Patricia O'Neil/THUNDERWORD

increased your odds.

Now would be a good time to ask her for her number or to get a bite to eat. Where you ask her to go just depends on the situation. Just make sure it is in a public place so she will feel comfortable in saying yes.

Remember, no means no. If a girl rejects your offer, there's no wasting your time trying to convince her. This will only make her want to get away from you faster. Instead, leave the scene with confidence, making her think she is the one who lost out on a good thing.

And if a girl says she has a boyfriend or is married, chances are she doesn't want another one.

Pickup-lines are a no-no

By James Bermingham
Staff Reporter

Baby, I'm no Fred Flinstone, but I can make your Bedrock!

This is the perfect example of a pick-up line that not only won't work, but it will more than likely get you slapped.

It is sad to say, but there are still many guys who think pick-up lines actually work.

Did you clean your pants with Windex because I can practically see myself in them?

That is another pick-up line that will probably get you slapped.

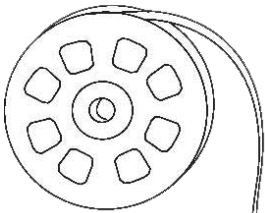
Other pick-up lines you should use only if you want to get slapped are: *Should I call you in the morning or just give you a nudge.*

My friend and I have a bet that you won't take off your blouse in a public place.

Now there is also another type of pick-up line. *If you were a pill, I'd overdose.*

This pick-up line is not going to get you slapped but it won't work and you'll probably become part of a cruel joke between the girl you tried to pick-up and her friends.

These are in the lame pick-up



Reel love

The right film can put you in the right mood

By Shannon Clary
Staff Reporter

This Valentine's Day snuggle up with your sweetheart, stay in for the night and watch a romantic movie.

There are many romantic movies, but here are a few that will fulfill any romantic need on Valentine's Day.

•*The Princess Bride*, starring Cary Elwes and Robin Wright Penn, is one of the funniest romantic comedies of all time.

The movie is about the love between Buttercup and Westly.

Buttercup is supposed to marry Prince Humperdinck after she believes that her true love Westly is dead, but she is kidnapped on the eve of her wedding and that is when the adventures begin.

The Princess Bride involves giants, swordsmen, duels, a mysterious man in black, "and wuv, tru wuv." This very quotable movie is as funny as it is romantic.

•*Casablanca* is one of the most famous and quotable romantic movies. It stars Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman.

The movie takes place in Casablanca, a city in Morocco, during World War II.

Rick and Ilsa Lund were once lovers in Paris, but after they parted ways she appears one night in his nightclub with a husband and a big problem.

Casablanca is one of the best romantic movies because of Rick's love for Ilsa and the boundaries he is willing to cross to help her.

With many famous quotes and a beautiful story line, *Casablanca* is perfect for Valentine's Day.

•Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan cannot go wrong in romantic comedies.

Sleepless in Seattle is a hilarious and witty movie that centers around a radio talk show when Tom Hanks' character, Sam Baldwin's son calls to find

help for his brokenhearted father.

Tom Hanks is hilariously sarcastic in *Sleepless in Seattle*, and Meg Ryan is adorable and lovable as always.

This film is perfect for Valentine's Day because it includes Seattle and a hilarious story line.

•Another great movie that stars Hanks and Ryan is *You've Got Mail*. Kathleen Kelly and Joe Fox are friends who met over the internet.

They are not romantically involved but share advice and stories with one another without giving away their true identities.

The dynamics between Hanks's and Ryan's characters are fun to watch because they loathe each so much, the watcher knows that eventually they will realize they actually love each other.

You've Got Mail is great for men and women because it's romantic without being overly sappy.

•A truly romantic movie is *Pride and Prejudice*, starring Keira Knightly and Matthew McFayden.

The movie is about the modest Bennet daughters who are constantly being pressured by their mother to get married.

This film has beautiful scenery and dialogue.

The relationships between Elizabeth and Mr. D'Arcy is interesting because for most of the movie they think they don't like each other at all.

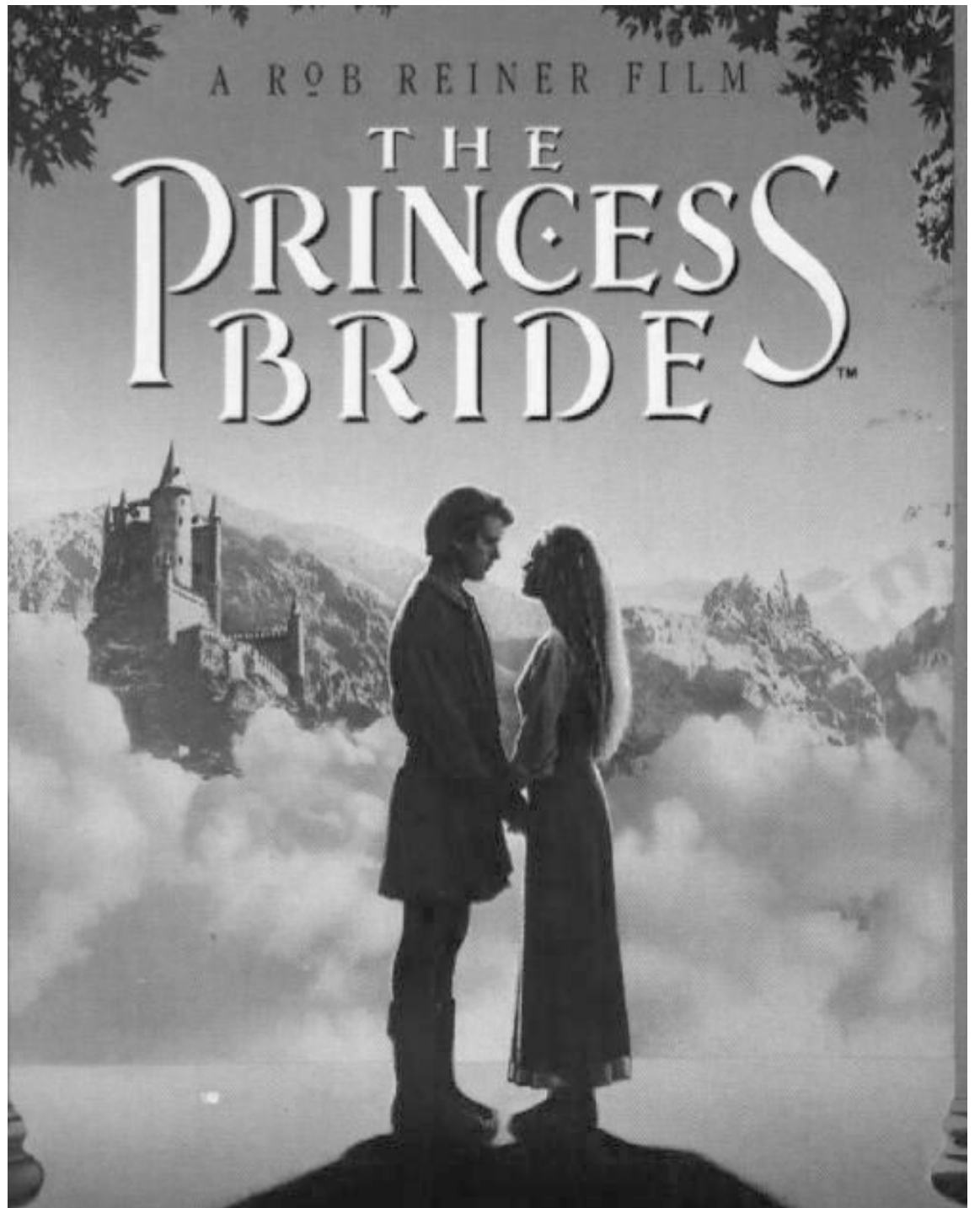
The watcher gets to see them evolving and falling in love with every glance and touch they exchange.

Pride and Prejudice is for anyone who believes that opposites do attract.

•One of the funniest romantic comedies is *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, starring Nia Vardalos and John Corbett.

This movie is about Toula's proud Greek family.

She is thirty and unfortunate-



This Valentine's Day stay home and watch one of many romantic movies, such as *The Princess Bride*.

ly in her families eyes, unmarried. Toula's life is boring until she decides to go to college against her father's wishes and meets Ian, an attractive exciting man who is not Greek.

The character of Toula is inspiring because she is an ordinary person who finds herself with a wonderful romance.

The romance between Toula and Ian will keep the women swooning and the family's antics will keep everyone laughing.

•*While You Were Sleeping* is another great romantic comedy starring Sandra Bullock, Bill Pullman and Peter Gallagher.

Lucy Moderatz works in a subway tollbooth and lives a dull life up until a stranger named Peter who she loves from afar, falls onto the subway tracks and she saves his life.

Lucy leads Peter's family to believe they are engaged. Watching Lucy fumble through her new life and lies is hilarious and endearing.

While You Were Sleeping is a sweet and funny movie that allows the watcher to find out

what can happen when you finally meet the person you think you love.

•*When Harry Met Sally*, starring Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal, explores the question of whether or not a male and a female can be friends without being intimate.

Harry and Sally meet for the first time when she gives him a ride to New York City after they graduate college.

The movie goes back and forth between their lives, while they go through relationships and other milestones, and bump into each other once in awhile.

Watching Harry and Sally debate issues that a man and a woman go should be easy for many of us to identify with.

Many people wonder if men and women are capable of just being friends and Harry and Sally are able to act out what sticky situations can result from it.

The relationship between Harry and Sally is funny and not overly cheesy and romantic, so men can enjoy this movie too.

•*The Notebook* stars Rachel McAdams and Ryan Gosling.

It is about the romance between Noah Calhoun and Allie Hamilton.

This movie is all about long-lost loves and how fate can work to pull two people back together.

The Notebook is very romantic, includes a wonderful cast, and is a tear jerker.

•*Sixteen Candles* is one of the best 1980s' romantic comedies. It stars Molly Ringwald and Michael Schoeffling.

Samantha is a high school student dealing with the stress of her family forgetting her birthday, and being in love with the hottest guy in school, Jake Ryan.

This movie is relatable because many girls in high school had their own Jake Ryan, and know how it feels to love someone who doesn't even know their alive.

Sixteen Candles comes with all the cheesiness, teenage angst, and tacky wardrobe that makes '80s movies fun to watch.

This cute romantic comedy is a great choice this Valentine's Day.



On Valentine's, nothing beats home cookin'

Skip the night out, whip up some chicken, salad instead

Instead of taking your date to a crowded restaurant this Valentine's Day, spend the evening at home and cook a romantic meal.

Valentine's Day, along with a few other holidays, is one of the worst days to go out to a restaurant. It seems as though people who shouldn't eat out in public decide to do so on Valentine's Day.

So save you and your sweetheart the stress of waiting in long lines and dealing with rude people and stay at home.

The first thing to do is to start with a menu. Don't stress yourself out by picking recipes that are complex and require two weeks worth of preparation. Also pick recipes that don't take a long time or use rare ingredients that can only be found in specialty stores.

Something else to consider is that certain things do not have to be homemade. If you want to serve bread with your meal it's just as good to buy a loaf of French bread, this will save you time and money.

Whatever preparation that can be done ahead of time should be done. Always read through the recipes to see how long each dish will take so you know when to start.

You don't want all of your side dishes to be finished while you still wait on your main course to get out of the oven.

Spend the bulk of your cooking time on the main course and not the side dishes.

This is supposed to be a relax-

Big Jo's Kitchen



Jocie Olson

ing and romantic meal, so don't slave away over a hot kitchen stove the entire evening without spending time with your date. That will ensure neither of you have a good night.

For this Valentine's Day dinner, I have picked a menu of cherry-glazed chicken, steamed carrots, green salad, French bread, and chocolate covered strawberries.

The green salad can be made the day before.

- 2 cups of torn mixed salad greens
- 1 cup of fresh or frozen unsweetened raspberries or strawberries
- 2 teaspoons of olive oil
- 2 teaspoons of apple cider vinegar
- 1¼ teaspoon of sugar
- 1/8 teaspoon of salt
- Dash of pepper

Combine the mixed salad greens with ¾ cup of berries. Mash the remaining ¼ cup of berries and strain, reserving the juice and discarding the seeds.

In a medium bowl, whisk the berry juice, olive oil, vinegar, sugar, salt and pepper. Drizzle over the salad just before serving and gently toss.

If you are making the salad ahead of time don't drizzle dressing over it until just before



Patricia O'Neill/THUNDERWORD

serving.

Now start the chicken. In this recipe I used cherry preserves but any type of jelly or preserves can be used.

- 2 boneless chicken breasts
- 1-1½ cups of cherry preserves
- 3 tablespoons of honey
- 3 tablespoons of vinegar
- 3 table spoons of orange juice
- 1½ tablespoons of soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon of almond slivers

Pre-heat oven to 350°. In a medium mixing bowl, combine honey, vinegar, orange juice, soy sauce and ½ cup of preserves. If mixture is too thick you can add more orange juice.

Pour half of the mixture over the chicken breasts. Also spread 1 tablespoon of preserves over breasts.

Cook breasts for 30 minutes and pour the rest of the mixture over the breasts. Add another tablespoon of preserves on top of the chicken and continue to cook for another 30 minutes or until the chicken reaches an internal heat of 165°.

Remove chicken from the oven and spread another tablespoon over the breasts and sprinkle almond slivers on top.

While the chicken is in the oven, get to work at setting the table. Setting the table will add a nice touch to your dinner. This will show your date that you put in extra effort to make this night something special.

The plates should be placed in front of each chair or if you are using a placemat, put the plate in the center of the mat.

The silverware should be placed in the order that it will be used. Silverware that will be used first is placed on the farthest sides of the plate. Forks are placed at the left side of the plate and spoons and knives are placed on the right side.

Water glasses are placed directly above the dinner knives and other drinking glasses are placed nearby the water glass.

Napkins can be placed on the plate, to the left of forks or even in the empty water glass.

You can add romantic touches to your table with tablecloths, candles, and flowers.

Once the table is set start the dessert. Chocolate-covered strawberries are delicious and so easy to make.

In a double boiler melt a ½ pound of milk chocolate and a tablespoon of shortening over medium heat. The chocolate can scorch if the heat is too high. Stir occasionally until the chocolate is smooth.

Insert toothpicks into the tops of about a ½ pound of fresh strawberries and dip them into the chocolate.

The strawberries can be turned upside down and the toothpicks inserted into styrofoam so the chocolate can cool. Strawberries can also be laid on a sheet of wax paper to cool.

About 10 minutes before the chicken is done steam 1 cup of carrots for 5 to 8 minutes. Carrots are done when they can be pierced with a fork easily. Drain carrots and sprinkle with butter and brown sugar.

Instead of buying a plain loaf of French bread, get a buttered loaf of French bread that you can bake in the oven. Most of these can be baked quickly; just follow the directions on the package.

Once the chicken is out of the oven, light the candles and enjoy a romantic homemade Valentine's dinner with your sweetheart.



Cherry-glazed chicken is easy and tasty. Cooking at home on St. Valentine's Day will save you money and headaches. On holidays, restaurants tend to be overcrowded with people who don't know how to behave in public.



Simple decorations such as flowers and candles can turn an ordinary table into the setting for culinary romance.



B&

FEBRUARY 14, 2008

Get your sweetheart the perfect gift

By Satori Johnson
Staff Reporter

The wearisome hunt for that extra special gift this Valentine's Day can drain out all the love.

If you haven't had the chance to obtain that perfect Valentine's Day gift for your sweetheart, don't worry because you still have some time to put together something amazing. Here are some ideas to in your last minute search.



•You can't go wrong with the time-honored tradition of Valentine's Day chocolates. This is a good option if you don't have much time to think of anything more creative. If you do buy chocolates, try to go for higher quality products. For the absolute best chocolates, try Godiva Chocolatier located at the Westfield Mall (also known as Southcenter Mall).

•Flowers are also a good last-minute choice. You can make a floral bouquet extra special by adding your sweetheart's fa-



Patricia O'Neill/THUNDERWORD

vorite flowers. Floral boutiques can create custom arrangements and many are open until 5:30 p.m. on Valentine's Day.

•If you want to give a gift that will score you a lot of points without spending too much

money, plan and prepare romantic dinner for two. Pick up candles and flowers from your local grocery store, and put on your favorite CD of love songs to set the mood.

A home cooked meal is al-

ways the best way to go, but if you can't cook or don't have the time, pick up a takeout dish from your favorite restaurant.

•Gift baskets are quick to put together and very practical. Stop by a local drug store for

items such as massage oils, aromatherapy rubs, bath salts, and scented candles. Stores like Bath and Body Works or Fred Meyers carry heart-shaped soaps and rose petals for a steamy bubble bath.

•Diamond earrings and platinum watches are incredible gifts if you can afford it. But jewelry doesn't have to be extravagant or expensive. Sterling silver jewelry is less expensive can be engraved to make its value priceless. Things Remembered stores can engrave a variety of items purchased at their stores in just one hour.



To add even more effect, purchase a matching item for yourself to signify your commitment to each other.

•Many couples might not have time to go out on a romantic date. Giving tickets to a later event such as the movies, a Sonics game, a symphony concert, or a local theater production is a way to make Valentine's Day last for longer than one day.



Let's face it, being unattached has more benefits than we think

By Nathan Brown
Staff Reporter

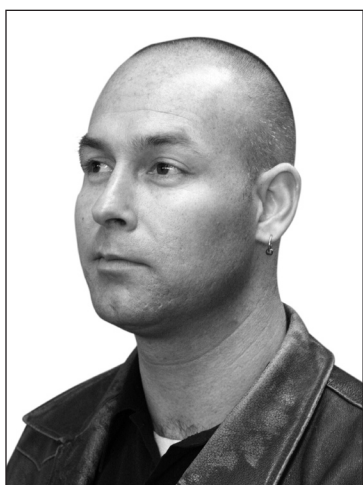
Being single is often a better option, no matter the season.

During this time of lovers and romance, a immense amount of subliminal pressure is placed upon us to take part in these pseudo romantic festivities.

Like some other modern holidays, Valentine's Day is highly commercialized and creates a certain amount of neuroticism in individuals who are not currently in a relationship.

This holiday of lovers can spark feelings of depression and low self-worth among single people by insinuating that being in an intimate relationship is always the most desirable situation.

It's no wonder internet dating sites such as eHarmony and Match.com are so popular at the moment. We are constantly bombarded with advertisements telling us that we aren't complete unless we are intimately sharing our lives with another person.



Nathan Brown

Having been on both sides of the equation many times over the years, I have found that there is something to be said for the single person.

When I'm single, I find that I have more time to study, visit with friends, and explore spirituality. I wouldn't go so far as to say that when I'm single I'm always more productive, but in general I have less powerfully distractive thoughts on my mind.

Some distractions from stud-

ies are unavoidable, such as paying bills, household upkeep or rowdy roommates. Add to these distractions frequent thoughts of someone else's well being and performing tasks will take a larger amount of perseverance.

Levels of stress are also greatly decreased while single. This is a matter of perspective which greatly depends on the amount of experience a person has with being in intimate relationships. A single person without much relationship experience might feel more stressed due to longing for companionship.

However, a single person with more relationship experience is less likely to feel they are missing out and can use solitary time to work on personal growth.

Anytime two people come together in an intimate relationship, there is a certain amount of time and energy that must be invested in order for the relationship to work. If the two lives are already busy and have trouble with either compromise or com-

munication, massive amounts of stress can be expected.

The most important argument that can be made as to why being single is a good thing is often overlooked by young people: Being single is a great time for self discovery and personal growth. I firmly believe that you can't truly share yourself with someone if you have no idea who you are.

However, what's ironic about that statement is that having relationship experience is a part of getting to know yourself. Even so, it's important to keep in mind that if an intimate relationship goes sour in early adulthood, it's not the end of the world.

Every aspect of life can be learned from, and I've found solitary reflection to be just as enlightening, if not more so than being in a relationship.

On this Valentine's Day I would remind those who are single and in relationships alike, to not feel obligated to do something thoughtful because commercialized American culture implies you should. The act

is no longer truly thoughtful at that point.

Despite this fact, Americans plan on spending a lot of money this romantic season. Out of the 61 percent of American consumers who plan to celebrate this Valentine's Day, the National Retail Federation expects the average consumer to spend \$122.98, according to CNNmoney.com. However, that isn't what the holiday should be about. Spontaneity is important, and Hallmark shouldn't have a patent on love.

Experiencing life as it develops and enjoying every moment as a learning experience is most important. I do believe that it is important to have commemorative days throughout the year in order to not forget important events in history. But holidays that are centered on corporation's profits have no place in emotionally healthy peoples' lives.

I'm not sure what I'll be doing this Valentine's Day, but I guarantee it won't be anything sappy in order to check the box.

Lady T-Birds continue to fight for last playoff spot

Highline battles Grays Harbor, Clark, and Green River for final playoff spot in the west

By Max Dubbeldam
Staff Reporter

Highline gained a slight edge in a tight race for the fourth and final playoff spot in the NWAACC's West Division.

The Thunderbirds beat Clark on Monday (71-53) and lost to South Puget Sound on Saturday (52-46). Highline's league record is now 5-7 (9-14 on the season) and the Thunderbirds took over fourth place by a narrow margin.

Green River, Clark, and Grays Harbor are tied for fifth with a league record of 5-8.

Highline started out strong in the game against the Clark Penguins and they didn't let up.

"We came out very positive. We had a lot of energy out there," said sophomore guard Tammie Hilla.

Highline took that energy and put up a defensive display that took Clark out of the game. The Thunderbirds outrebounded the Penguins and recorded 17 steals.

"Our pressure and physicality helped contain them," said Freshman Ashley Nwosu.

Highline was able to take Clark's Ashley Kitzman out of the game by heaping a pile of pressure on the Penguins' team leader.

"They didn't like the pressure," said Head Coach Amber Rowe Mosley. "They didn't have a lot of ball handlers so they couldn't deal with it."

Offensively, the Thunderbirds came out strong and were very sharp in setting up their of-

fense. Highline moved the ball around smoothly and found open teammates with ease. Freshman Desiree Valentine recorded a double-double in the game with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Clarks' sophomore guard Kristina Wilson was the game-high scorer with 17 points.

With the way the team played against Clark, the Lady T-Birds are starting to realize that hard work pays off.

"They're starting to see that if they work hard, good things happen," said Coach Mosley. "They're starting to believe in it."

On Saturday Highline lost against third-place South Puget Sound by six points.

Coach Mosley said that Highline played a good game but that the accuracy was lacking. Highline shot only 25 percent from the field, and was 0-14 from behind the 3-point line.

"We couldn't hit the broad side of a barn on Saturday," said Mosley.

Sophomore Valerie Clark led the T-Birds with 21 points and pulled down 12 rebounds. Teammate Desiree Valentine also recorded a double-double with 14 points and 14 boards.

The end of the league season is almost over and with an extra game to go Highline is currently a half game ahead for last playoff spot.

Highline's last four games are: a crucial match against fifth-place Green River, a match against second-place Lower Columbia, and Tacoma and Pierce who are currently in eighth and ninth place respectively.

"We still have a great shot at making the playoffs," said sophomore Kerstin Torrescano. "We have our destiny in our own hands."



Jocie Olson/THUNDERWORD

Sophomore guard Kerstin Torrescano shoots over a gaggle of Clark defenders. Torrescano scored 13 points and pulled down four rebounds in the 71-53 victory over the Penguins.

Three other teams are fighting for the last playoff spot.

Clark has the toughest remaining schedule with games against third-place South Puget Sound, first-place Lower Columbia, and fifth-placed Green River.

After Green River plays Highline, they still have to face third-place South Puget Sound

and fellow playoff contender Clark.

Grays Harbor is facing ninth-place Pierce and eighth-place Tacoma in their upcoming matches. They finish the league season against Centralia, who is tied with Lower Columbia for first place in the west.

On Wednesday, Feb. 13, Highline began their final push

towards the playoffs with a home game against Green River, but the score wasn't available at presstime.

Saturday, Feb. 16, Highline travels to Lower Columbia to face the first-place Red Devils.

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, Highline will take a trip south to Tacoma to take on the Titans at 6:00 p.m.



Jocie Olson/THUNDERWORD

Freshman guard Randi Olsen drives past a Penguin defender in Monday's victory over Clark. Olsen scored 12 points and dished out three assists. The victory over Clark was a big step in the Lady T-Birds' playoff race.

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*Limit one person customer

Seven T-Birds pin down trip to national tournament

By Jason Baker
Staff Reporter

The Highline men’s wrestling will be sending seven wrestlers to Nationals in Rochester, Minnesota in one week.

This last weekend brought high hopes for the T-Birds wrestling team.

Not only did they have seven place in the finals, but Captain Pano Dreves took home the Most Outstanding Wrestler Award for the tournament.

He claimed this honor by taking first place in the 174 pound weight class, which was the toughest at the tournament.

It had been two weeks since he had been on the mat due to a small fracture in his tibia. Not only did he take first but he came away with the Most Outstanding Wrestler award. He



Pano Dreves

improved his record to 18-7 on the season.

“What Pano did this week is hard to put into words. I’ve never seen anything like it in 25 years of wrestling,” said Coach Scott Norton.

“In his first match he beat Jared Smith of Yakima who had beaten him earlier in the year. Then in the finals he knocked off the fourth-ranked wrestler in

the country, David Laird, from Southwestern Oregon,” said Norton.

Highline came in fourth place out of six, scoring 100 points as a team.

North Idaho won the tournament with a total of 152 1/2 points. They beat second-place Southwestern Oregon by 35 1/2 points.

NIC ended up having 10 of their wrestlers qualify for nationals.

The T-Bird’s next appearance will be at the NJCAA Wrestling Championships on Feb. 21-23 in Rochester which is about 75 miles Southeast of Minneapolis.

The T-Bird’s Ionica Hanson placed fourth at 141 pounds, earning him a spot to wrestle at the national tournament.

Hanson was in a weight class

with three returning All-Americans.

Chessjuan Monk was upset in the semifinals by Mike Beeson of Clackamas, whom he had pinned earlier in the season. He placed a strong third at 149 pounds.

He improved his record to 23-12 on the season.

Marshall Giovanni captured first place at 157 pounds with a 3-2 win over Zolboo Enkhdan who was a junior national champion from Mongolia, now wrestling for Southwestern Oregon.

Giovanni improved his record to 25-6 on the season.

Craig Jackson was a No. 1 seed for the tournament but was upset by D.J. May of North Idaho who he had pinned earlier in the season. Jackson came back to take third place at 165

pounds. He improved to an impressive 13-1 on the season.

Freshman Michael Morales lived up to his number two seed in the tournament. Morales was able to place a strong second losing only to Jason Troxel of Southwestern Oregon. Morales improved to 11-6 on the season.

Heavyweight Zach Corbett was able to place fifth in his weight class, earning him a spot at the national tournament.

The Region 18 championships were held in Clackamas, Ore.

The tournament started at 9 a.m. and didn’t end until around 10 at night.

“The tournament was fun but took way too long. There were a couple of times where it seemed like no one was wrestling. But everyone seemed to enjoy themselves,” said Corbett.

Scoreboard

Wrestling Region 18 Championships Clackamas, Ore.

Team scores:	
North Idaho College	152
Southwestern Oregon	117
Clackamas	114
Highline	100
Yakima Valley	61
Pima	49 1/2

NJCAA National Qualifiers:	
125 lbs.	
1st Nektoe Demison (NIC)	
2nd David Islas (PCC)	
3rd Jared Miller (SWOCC)	

133 lbs.	
1st Kevin Mitchell (NIC)	
2nd Vance Beeson (CCC)	
3rd Eleazar Islas (PCC)	
4th John Suttan (SWOCC)	

141 lbs.	
1st Chris Harris (NIC)	
2nd Derick Bartlemay (CCC)	
3rd Joseph Michel (SWOCC)	
4th Ionica Hanson (HCC)	

149 lbs.	
1st Tim McGoldrick (NIC)	
2nd Mike Beeson (CCC)	
3rd Chessjuan Monk (HCC)	

157 lbs.	
1st Marshall Giovanni (HCC)	
2nd Zolboo Enkhbayar (SWOCC)	
3rd Stephan Gonzales (CCC)	
4th Jordan Anderson (NIC)	

165 lbs.	
1st DJ May (NIC)	
2nd Kris Spencer (CCC)	
3rd Craig Jackson (HCC)	
4th Adam Fugit (SWOCC)	

174 lbs.	
1st Pano Dreves (HCC)	
2nd David Laird (SWOCC)	
3rd Dino May (NIC)	
4th Jared Smith (YVCC)	

184 lbs.	
1st Steve Vasquez (NIC)	
2nd Richard Jensen (CCC)	
3rd Fernando Pedraza (SWOCC)	
4th Benji Martin (YVCC)	

197 lbs.	
1st Jason Troxell (SWOCC)	
2nd Michael Morales (HCC)	
3rd Brett Fredrickson (NIC)	
4th Tyler Bullington (YVCC)	

285 lbs.	
1st John Bates (CCC)	
2nd Tim Ofield (NIC)	
3rd Ryan Hoover (SWOCC)	
4th Izzy Torres (YVCC)	
5th Zach Corbett (HCC)	

Men’s Basketball

NORTH	DIV	PCT	SEA
Whatcom	10-1	.909	18-5
Everett	10-2	.833	18-6
Peninsula	8-3	.727	17-7
Bellevue	8-4	.667	16-8
Edmonds	6-6	.500	9-13
Shoreline	4-7	.364	12-11
Skagit Valley	3-9	.250	6-16
Olympic	3-9	.250	5-16
Seattle	0-11	.000	3-19

EAST			
Spokane	10-0	1.000	23-1
Big Bend	8-2	.800	19-4
Yak. Valley	7-4	.636	19-6
Treas. Valley	6-5	.545	9-14
Walla Walla	4-7	.364	8-16

Col. Basin	3-8	.273	10-14
Wen. Valley	3-8	.273	6-17
Bl. Mountain	2-9	.182	5-17

WEST

L. Columbia	12-0	1.000	19-5
Highline	9-3	.750	14-10
S.P. Sound	7-5	.583	12-11
Grays Harbor	6-7	.462	15-9
Clark	6-7	.462	13-12
Pierce	5-7	.417	10-15
Green River	5-8	.385	8-15
Tacoma	4-9	.308	6-15
Centralia	2-10	.167	3-18

SOUTH

Umpqua	10-1	.909	20-5
SW Oregon	7-4	.636	18-8
Clackamas	7-4	.636	15-11
Mt. Hood	6-5	.545	12-13
Chemeketa	5-6	.455	14-11
Lane	5-6	.455	14-12
Linn-Benton	3-8	.273	7-15
Portland	1-10	.091	3-20

Women’s Basketball

NORTH	DIV	PCT	SEA
Everett	10-2	.833	17-7
Seattle	9-2	.818	16-6
Bellevue	9-3	.750	14-10
Skagit Valley	7-5	.583	15-8
Peninsula	6-5	.545	10-10
Whatcom	5-6	.455	9-12
Olympic	5-7	.417	8-14
Shoreline	1-10	.091	3-17
Edmonds	0-12	.000	0-21

EAST

Col. Basin	11-0	1.000	21-3
Spokane	8-2	.800	17-5
Yak. Valley	8-3	.727	20-5
Walla Walla	6-5	.545	19-5
Big Bend	4-6	.400	14-9
Treas. Valley	4-7	.364	7-17
Wen. Valley	1-10	.091	10-16
Bl. Mountain	1-10	.091	10-17

WEST

Centralia	11-1	.917	20-5
L. Columbia	11-1	.917	18-5
S.P. Sound	10-2	.833	13-8
Highline	5-7	.417	9-14
Green River	5-8	.385	11-12
Clark	5-8	.385	7-13
Grays Harbor	5-8	.385	6-16
Tacoma	3-10	.231	4-19
Pierce	1-11	.083	1-21

SOUTH

Lane	11-0	1.000	23-3
Umpqua	8-3	.727	22-4
Linn-Benton	7-4	.636	15-10
Clackamas	6-5	.545	16-9
Chemeketa	6-5	.545	12-13
Mt. Hood	3-8	.273	9-16
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Broussard cheated death, now the ball's in his court

By Nick Bare
Staff Reporter

Nine years ago, Josh Broussard had only a 30 percent chance to live.

Nine years later, he is a college basketball player.

Broussard, a sophomore guard for the men's Thunderbird basketball team, was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis in fifth grade, and the doctors didn't give him or his family too much hope.

"I didn't find out until later, but the doctors only gave me a 30 percent chance to live," Broussard said.

The near-fatal disease came into Broussard's life after a bout with pneumonia one year earlier. His medical problems followed another tragedy, as his sister died at the age of 3. Broussard was only a year old at the time of his sister's death.

Broussard credits his mom for being strong through both events, and says his mom helped him live through his disease.

"My mom had a strong willpower to keep me alive. She couldn't stand to lose another child," he said.

Broussard says he has a certain appreciation for life that others may not have after surviving the disease.

"It really puts things in perspective," he said. "I learned not to take anything for granted."

One thing that Broussard has really learned to appreciate is the game of basketball.

He began playing basketball at a young age when his grandparents set up a hoop for him and his brother, Broussard said.

Broussard sees himself at his best on the court when he's working hard and helping his teammates get better.

"My effort, and pushing myself and others at all times," Broussard said of his strength on the court.

"That's more important than other skills," he continued.

Highline Head Coach Che Dawson says Broussard always brings his best effort to the court.

"Josh always plays really hard and shoots the ball well from three (3-point range)," he said.

Dawson also said that Broussard has what it takes to make him a good teammate.

"He is extremely unselfish and understands what it means to be a part of something bigger than himself," Dawson said.

Broussard graduated from Federal Way High School as a two-year varsity letterman in basketball. He also played baseball his junior year, ran track his senior year, and com-



Melody Ericksen/THUNDERWORD

Sophomore Josh Broussard has been through a lot on his way to the Highline basketball court.

peted on the gridiron his junior and senior year.

Broussard says there are many pieces of the game that he loves, including the team aspect.

"Other than that (team aspect), I like the pace of the game, and the overall game play," Broussard said.

"I like how you can work individually to make yourself better and improve the team," Broussard said.

Broussard wasn't heavily recruited out of high school, and wasn't looking to make the trip to a community college before going to a university.

He had to work hard to get

noticed on the court, so he spent his free time working on his game.

"I spent time at open gyms

working hard, and trying to get better at this (college) level," Broussard said.

Although he was recruited by Green River, Broussard chose Highline in the end because of the basketball program.

"The Highline basketball program has a strong history," Broussard said of his choice.

Highline Head Coach Che Dawson is happy that Broussard decided to come to Highline.

"I am proud to have been able to have him as part of our program," Dawson said.

Although he doesn't get a lot of minutes, Broussard is the kind of player that Dawson likes to have on his roster.

"Josh stands for everything we are as a program; work ethic, unselfishness, character, pride and academic achievement," Dawson said.

Broussard not only works hard on the court, but continues his hard work off the court as well.

"He (Broussard) is a leader vocally and by example on the court and in the classroom," Coach Dawson said.

Broussard hopes his diligent work will one day turn into an architecture degree.

He has narrowed down his choice of schools to Washington State, Academy of Art University in San Francisco, Prairie View A&M in Texas, and he still might apply to UNLV.

Broussard has a clear view of where he sees himself in the next 10 years.

"I'll be done with school, internship over, hopefully a few years into my career. I hope to have a kid or two, stay healthy, and be contributing to the community," he said.

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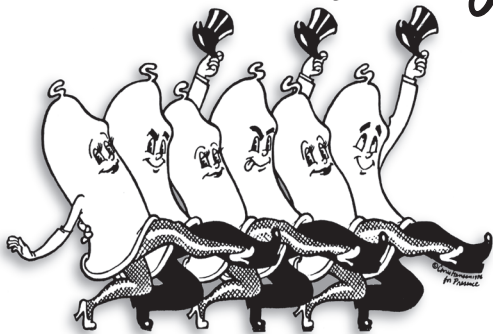
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The Thunderword / Feb. 14, 2008

Rat year starts out right at Tet celebration

By Catherine Dusharme
Staff Reporter

The lights dimmed.
The drumbeats began to throb.

The crowd leaned forward expectantly.

The huge animated lion ran onto the stage and began to bob and weave its large red head, blinking its feathered eyes and opening and closing its gaping mouth. The colorful body followed behind, undulating and jumping excitedly.

This was the scene at the Tet Festival, which was put on by the Vietnamese Student Association.

Tet celebrates the Vietnamese New Year, which, like the American New Year, is a chance to start fresh and look forward.

This upcoming year is the Year of the Rat in many Asian cultures, including Vietnamese and Chinese.

The festival also featured traditional dancing, with women in long, brightly hued silk dresses of lime, pink, yellow, blue and red. They told the story of the dance with graceful hand gestures and playful movements.

"It's nice to see the familiar clothes of my home country," said Trang Le, who came to Highline on Sept. 14 from Vietnam.

Club members served traditional Tet food including banh chung, a soft rice cake with flavorful pork nestled in the middle.

Students Abdul Hawasli, who is from Syria, and Blake Kaiser said they came for the food and also proclaimed the lion dance "really good."

Many students seemed to enjoy the raucous and lively games of chance, where they won Rat money -- colored pieces of paper decorated with rat drawings -- which they then used to purchase the food.

Non-Vietnamese attendees were given small embossed red envelopes for good luck, which also held Rat money.

"It's a chance to show you what our culture is like," said Quang Nguyen, who is a new club member and participated in the fashion show.

"I also came to meet other Vietnamese-Americans who were born in the United States," he said.

More than 150 students attended the festival, which was held in Building 7.

"We were worried that no one would come," said Nhung Duong, V.S.A. treasurer, "but it exceeded our expectations."



Lizeth Duran/THUNDERWORD

Vietnamese Student Association dancers perform, top; students play hopscotch for prizes, below left; and the traditional lion dance rings in the new year at the Tet festival last Thursday in Building 7.



W.A.V.E. Scholarship Washington Award for Vocational Excellence

The W.A.V.E. scholarship is awarded to students for outstanding achievement in vocational-technical education. Every year, the W.A.V.E. program gives scholarships for six quarters (four semesters) of tuition and fees at two and four-year colleges, universities and technical schools in Washington State. Three W.A.V.E. recipients are chosen from each legislative district by the selection committee. Any student currently enrolled in a vocational program by June 30, 2008, is eligible to apply. To receive application forms and guidelines please contact Rickitia Reid in Building 9, by email rreid@highline.edu or (206) 878-3710, ext. 3301, or visit the W.A.V.E. homepage at: www.wtb.wa.gov.

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Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today

Workshop helps students combat procrastination

By Ashley Mathews
Staff Reporter

Don't stop working. With a few helpful hints you can quit procrastinating today.

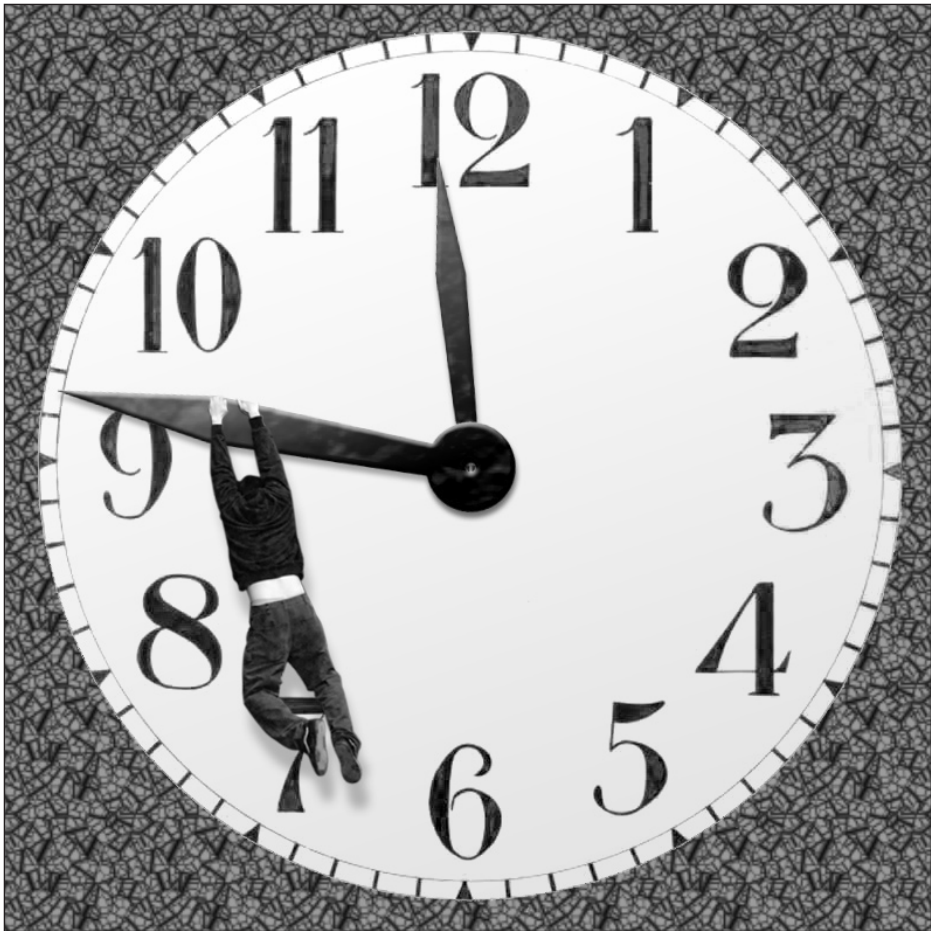
Going around the room on Feb. 4 at the procrastination workshop advised by Patricia Haggerty, each attendee shared a little about their own habit of procrastinating by explaining how they know they're doing it.

"I put it off to the last minute," student Mary R. Gladstone said.

"I once put off an apology, and when I finally got around to it, it came off as a kind of shallow apology," Haggerty added.

Procrastination is the avoidance of doing a task that needs to be accomplished. As students face exams, job interviews, and building resumes the procrastination habit is fairly common. A psychologist estimated that "90 percent of college students procrastinate," confirming that most students do suffer from procrastination in some form or another.

Procrastinating may be doodling or daydreaming for some, for others it may be cleaning or organizing and never getting to



David Hsu/THUNDERWORD

the task at hand.

"I have to have a clean desk," Haggerty shared. "I take everything off, dust the desk, sharpen pencils, and when I'm done I'd say, 'I'm tired, maybe I'll take a break.'"

Procrastinating can stem from personal problems, fear of failure, boredom, or even negative beliefs that the student may

never succeed or is terrible at everything. A simple disinterest in an academic subject can get many students discouraged from completing school work.

Procrastination is a learned behavior, so it can become unlearned, Haggerty said.

"Why don't you set aside 30 minutes every night?" (I asked him) and he did. On the third

night he even said, 'I finished it. I just did the whole thing and it didn't take long at all,'" Haggerty said about a friend she helped kick the procrastination habit.

If scheduling specific times to complete a task doesn't work for you, studying in small blocks with frequent breaks, rather than cramming for hours on end, it may help you concentrate.

Recognizing that you have a problem sticking to a task is usually a good start. This way, you are on the alert and may catch yourself doing busy-work that may distract you.

Workshop attendees were asked to list all the things they needed to complete that day and were given five minutes to do so. After the allotted time, attendees were asked to prioritize the top three things that should be completed. Doing this, students set priorities and make accomplishing tasks a downright goal.

"(I'm going to) start making a list of things that I need to get done the night before and complete the top three, day by day," Gladstone said.

The next related workshops are an education wellness check-up on March 4, 11 a.m. to 11:50 a.m. in the Skokomish room of the Student Union Building; and a stress management, relaxation and mediation discussion on March 11 from 12 p.m. to 12:50 p.m. in Building 2.

For helpful tips, pamphlets, and the option of speaking with a counselor, you may go to the Counseling Center located on the upper level of Building 6.

They are open Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Financial aid director brings wealth of experience

By Bob Drawson
Staff Reporter

Lorraine Odom joined Highline on the first day of the Winter Quarter as the college's new financial aid director.

She brings an extensive background the position.

Most recently she came from The Evergreen State College, where she was the financial aid director as well.

Odom has 15 years financial aid experience and 10 years directorial experience.

"I enjoy working in the community college setting, where the administration is more student focused compared to a four-year college. Also I like the diversity of the students," she said.

Associate Dean Kate Bligh was on the committee that hired Odom.

"We were very fortunate to hire Lorraine. She is a seasoned professional and has a lot of financial aid experience," she said. "We were looking for someone with working experience in financial aid. She also



Lorraine Odom

already knew our computer system which was a benefit."

The financial aid director job consists of administering financial aid services for Highline. He or she has to be on top of the federal, state and school policies.

Along with being a counselor to students and parents, the financial aid director must be aware of any changes that may affect students receiving financial aid.

The financial aid department is responsible for awarding the students their financial benefit and weighing their eligibility.

They determine the programs the student qualifies for and the amount of funds a student may receive.

Odom's background before her move to Washington included her traveling the United States and spending eight years at a fishing lodge in Alaska.

Her sister talked her into moving to Washington state in 1985.

In 2002 she graduated from the University of Washington with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Odom wants to get the word out about financial aid. She encourages all students to apply.

"I enjoy helping students get an education, it is very fulfilling and rewarding," she said. "If we deny their application it's not because we don't like them."

Odom plans on getting more awareness and outreach to the students of Highline by having more handouts and posting more posters around campus.

She also plans on having more workshops and orientations that are more student friendly to help them apply.

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The Thunderword / Feb. 14, 2008

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Lizeth Duran/THUNDERWORD
Sean Good says more stuff doesn't necessarily make us happier.

Good life means thinking of others first

By Lizeth Duran
Staff Reporter

Motivational speaker Sean Good urged students to take matters in their own hands if they want to see change happen.

Good aimed to motivate students to think of others instead of only thinking of themselves at his speech at Highline's Building 7 on Monday. Good spoke as part of the Black Student Union's celebration of Black History Month.

He said it's important to have a sincere intention when trying to get to know other people for the sake of building a strong community rather than for mere personal gain.

Good is a part of a group profiled in the website rmovement.com. R Movement is a collection of entrepreneurs who work toward a social renaissance which highlights society's positives as an alternative to highlighting its negatives.

Good realized being a motivational speaker was what he wanted to do after spending time around campus and taking a class from sociology professor Darryl Brice here at Highline.

While motivational speaking is what Good enjoys the most, his day job is as a receptionist at a hospital.

In this job he has learned what motivates sick people to get better. Incidentally, this is parallel to his view of today's society.

Good believes people need to realize the truth whether it brings comfort or discomfort.

Before becoming a hospital receptionist, Good worked for a local stereo store and installed home theater systems.

He noticed that although the people for whom he installed home theater systems were surrounded by a lot of expensive material possessions, they were unhappy with their lives.

The more people earn, the higher their standards go, he said.

Good said Americans live in a society in which \$8 is the minimum wage and the average apartment rent is \$800. "Economically we are all chained together," Good said.

The American dream is not what it should be, he said. The dream should be to make a better America rather than chasing a dream based on the question "how can I make myself look better?"

The blame, Good believes, is not necessarily politicians. It's up to people to choose to participate in society's change or not, he said.

"It's important for people to wake up," Good said.

The motivation for wanting things that we don't need is reinforced by mass media advertising.

Good said the media has a way to "sweep people under the carpet who don't look right and amplify those who do."

Mass media, Good said, helps develop feelings of helplessness. The media has taught people to neglect the rest of the world and become self-centered.

"We've been sedated, we've been subdued," Good said. "We're being walked into unconsciousness."

And because people's dreams don't provide economic support, they chase somebody else's dream.

"The problems aren't the problems. The problems are the solutions," said Good. People have to find things that are applicable, things that people can actually do.

"If you don't step out, nobody else will," said Good.

According to Good, change doesn't have to be made by great people in great places. Change can be made by anyone.

Bill

Continued From Page A1

student press freedom was born," Upthegrove said.

Upthegrove was the legislator who introduced ESHB 1307 last year.

The essence of the legislation was to allow student journalists absolute freedom to determine what content to publish. The bill would have prohibited faculty from censoring any content chosen by students or from ordering any content to be published. Any media produced primarily by students of an educational institution, whether school sponsored or not, would not be subject to mandatory prior review by school officials.

Provisions existed within the bill that would have prevented high school journalists from publishing any content deemed to be libelous, slanderous, or offensive to minors -- particularly any content that was sexually charged

and devoid of any substantial literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

Another provision set forth by the bill would have granted civil or criminal immunity to the school where the media was published and to the governing body of the school, as long as the faculty members or representatives of the school or district was not directly involved in publishing any content found to be in violation of the law.

According to the bill, these provisions would have existed "whether or not the media was supported financially by the school, the use of school facilities," or whether the material was produced in conjunction with a class.

ESHB 1307 was met with a huge showing of support last year, as dozens of student journalists and representatives of various organizations were present to testify in support of the bill.

Only three opponents of the bill showed up to testify against

it.

Upthegrove said that the main argument of the bill's opposition is that if student journalists are given so much freedom, there would be no way to prevent them from printing vulgar and objectionable material.

While that may seem like a logical concern, Upthegrove said that several states already have similar legislation in place, and there have never been any reported incidents of student journalists abusing the freedom that a law such as this provides.

"The opponents always say 'Hey, look at the worst case scenario,'" Upthegrove said.

Upthegrove said he wasn't surprised that the bill wasn't scheduled for a hearing this year, and he's not discouraged by the way things have unfolded.

Upthegrove said that he's not yet giving up on the bill.

"We knew going into this that it was a huge uphill battle," he said. "It looks like it's going to have to be a two-year process."

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Moms

Continued From Page A1

care and financial assistance eligibility are the biggest concerns for single mothers.

Women’s Programs helps the mothers as much as they can, but if certain assistance is not available, mothers will be referred to help outside of Highline.

“They come in really distraught. It’s a matter of helping them plan, even if it’s just for the next day,” said Rader.

Sanders said she understands the importance of planning.

“My life involves a lot of time management. Without organization and planning, my life would be crazy,” said Sanders.

Sanders had her second daughter during summer quarter. After that, she knew planning and organization would be essential in her life.

“The first week of school I went into labor, had my baby, and went back to school five days later,” said Sanders.

She says she sits down before every quarter and plans out her schedule and how it will work around her girl’s schedules.

Sanders’s oldest daughter is almost 4 years old, and her youngest is 7 months. She is able to spend weekend and nights with them.

Instead of feeling sorry for herself, Sanders said she uses this situation in her life to teach her daughters an important lesson.

At 16, Sanders was married and pregnant. She relied fully on her husband, but when the marriage ended she was on her own for the first time.

“I want to teach my daughters to be independent and strong. You cannot depend on anyone to pull you through life,” Sanders said.

Sanders speaks animatedly about her daughters and her goals in life. It’s not a surprise that she is often asked to speak at events.

“I try to be as active as possible. I want to help people like I’ve been helped,” said Sanders.

Sanders is majoring in marketing at Highline and in the long run plans to get a master’s in analytical marketing.

On the weekends Sanders spends time with her daughters, and she says it is important to her that they attend church.

“Church is very important. It teaches my daughters morals, and the church community is very supportive,” said Sanders.

Another student at Highline also uses the support of her church to help cope with the obstacles that come with being a single mother.

Dana Wilson has been a student at Highline since 2003. Her normal day involves get-

ting up early in the morning to take her 12-year-old daughter to school, going to her morning classes, working at Highline as a file clerk in Human Resources in the afternoon, and two days each week she attends classes until 9:45 p.m.

Wilson says spending time with her daughter is the most important part of the day.

While Wilson cooks dinner she and her daughter talk about their day; they do their homework together and on weekends they like to go to the mall and the movies.

Wilson and her daughter are also very active in their church.

“Church keeps me grounded, my faith is very strong and that’s why I’m here today,” said Wilson.

Wilson’s life is on track now, but it has not always been that way. From 1991-2001, Wilson went through what she calls a “stumbling block,” and found it hard to escape that.

School has always been important to Wilson, who is graduating this year with a major in accounting. She says being a single mom will not stop her from reaching her goals. She hopes she is able to set a good example for her daughter.

“I want her to learn that you should always follow your dreams, and never lose faith in God even though you may lose faith in yourself, because He will never let you down,” Wilson said.

Despite the hardships single parents face, both Wilson and Sanders say it is worth it.

“Every time I think about quitting I look at my kids, they are my drive,” said Sanders.

Search

Continued From Page A1

constituent input to the board members in the final process will make the process as meaningful as possible to all members of the campus community. It may even allay some of the concerns (expressed by the faculty),” Frickle said in the e-mail.

While faculty members had expressed concerns with the consultant, the Board, through an e-mail from Chairwoman Karen Vander Ark, reaffirmed its confidence in Dr. Hunter and the consulting firm.

“The Board has full confidence in the search consultant firm. ... While I appreciate your (the faculty’s) concern about an appearance of conflict, you should be aware that a search consultant’s reputation is it’s most valuable asset,” Vander Ark said. “If firms are turning away good candidates because of their financial dealings with applicants, the firms would not last long in this environment.”

National Search and Education Consulting told the Board that its process has worked throughout the country.

“Unlike some of the other firms, none of the colleges in Washington have expressed any regret about the candidates that were forwarded by Dr. Hunter’s firm,” Vander Ark said.

Vander Ark also affirmed the Board’s position on candidates meeting constituencies and also who will be involved in the final interviews of the candidates.

“Certainly, each finalist will meet with each constituency group, including faculty. ... We

will expect both group and individual thoughts to be forwarded to us for consideration in our deliberations,” Vander Ark said through the e-mail.

At the board meeting on Jan. 17, the Board decided that it would not allow members of the advisory committee to participate in the final interviews of the finalists. The final decision in hiring a new president will reside with the board.

“Hiring a president is the Board’s responsibility,” said Jack Harton, reference librarian and advisory committee member.

“The campus will have a chance to meet and question the candidates,” Harton said.

Groups on campus can submit requests to the board to meet with the six finalists.

“The Board can consider it (the request) and choose to adopt it or not; it’s up to them,” Harton said.

When Bell was hired in 2001, the final interviews were conducted by both board members and figures on campus.

“This is a different process than before. ... This time when we get down to the final interviewing it will just be the Board,” Harton said. “The Board takes this responsibility very seriously.”

Whether the change in the process of hiring a new president is a positive change remains to be seen, Harton said.

“What’s going to determine the success of the process is if we hire the best candidate possible,” Harton said. “We can’t guarantee we are going to get the best candidate, but we want to put ourselves in a position to maximize our chances of getting the best person for the job.”

Friday marked the last day when applications for president were accepted.

The number of applications is kept confidential, but fell within the expected range of eight to 30 applicants.

While some faculty expressed a desire to know the names of the applicants, Washington state law exempts applications for employment from disclosure under the public records law, Vander Ark said.

“Some candidates would prefer that their applications not be disclosed, since common knowledge that they are seeking employment may adversely affect their current employment,” Vander Ark said.

Members of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee will take application packets and choose their top 12 to be discussed at the advisory committee meeting on Feb 21.

The committee will then narrow down the list of applicants to a group-approved twelve at their meeting.

“After we get our number down to 12, we will get videos of the 12 candidates answering broad questions. We will then narrow down the 12 as a committee to six,” Harton said.

The committee will narrow down the list to six at their third and final meeting on March 17.

“After that its down to six (candidates) the Presidential Search Advisory Committee disbands,” Harton said. “At that point the Board (of Trustees) does all of the interviewing.”

Between March 17 and April 1, the finalists come to campus, with the Board naming a new president in Early May.

Interested in Web/Database Development, Computer Forensics, Network Specialist or Computer Science?
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Life After HCC

After graduating from Highline Community College with two degrees (Client Server Programming and Network Specialist), I took a low-paying internship at Boeing to gather experience. It is often difficult to find well-paying jobs without documented experience, so I would sincerely recommend internships to any soon-to-be graduates as a great way to make your resume look more appealing to prospective employers.

Meanwhile, I kept my on-line resume up-to-date on several job-hunting websites, such as Monster.com, Dice.com, and HotJobs.com. After several months at Boeing, I was contacted by a recruiter and interviewed at Washington Mutual for a short-term technical writing position. Landing this position doubled my salary, and soon I was cashing very large paychecks. This nine-week contract extended to almost nine months, and when the project was finally completed, another contract agent contacted me about a job at Microsoft. I was ecstatic. A brief sideline in my career was leading to success.

After interviewing for several positions at Microsoft, I was hired and spent seven months documenting cell phones and other mobile devices. The job was not one of my favorites, but it was great experience, and the paycheck was awesome. After completing this contract, I interviewed for a number of positions, but ultimately decided to take a few months off. I bought a new house and spent the next few months cleaning, painting, and other homeowner related stuff. It felt really great to be able to afford a few months off, and I was confident that I would find employment when I was ready to return to work.

Finally, after a few months, I began seeking positions again. A contract agent that I had worked with previously arranged another interview at Microsoft. I was offered the job, and spent the next year documenting Systems Management Server. This was one of the greatest jobs I have ever had, and I received a healthy raise when I accepted the position. It just doesn’t get any better than that!

Now that I have completed this contract, I am once again taking a few months off. I have been approached by at least ten agents regarding full-time and contract opportunities in the area, and am interviewing for several positions. If I do not get an offer that excites me, I expect to return to Microsoft in January. I look forward to the next challenge.

The greatest lesson I learned from my educational experience is this: “You get back what you invest. Invest yourself.”

James Griffin - CSCI/CIS Graduate 2004