By Alyssa Hoffman  
Staff Reporter

A Highline counselor gave a workshop last week on how to quit smoking to students who didn’t smoke. Meanwhile two students puffing away near Building 6 hadn’t even heard about the workshop and most likely wouldn’t have attended.

Jordan Olson, an 18-year-old student at Highline, started smoking when he was 14. “It was the cool thing to do. I don’t even have a desire to quit now because hey you only live once. Smoking is my favorite pastime,” he said.

Another student William Moore started at 15. “I can’t quit now [at 17]. It’s addicting and now I’m facing the fact. Consuming tobacco used to be a form of enjoyment but now just a habit,” he said.

This may be one of the reasons these students are still smoking. Nicotine is reportedly one of the most addictive substances. Your brain changes and then depends on that chemical and makes you want it more and more.

“It is not a bad habit, it’s an addiction, you have to be able to break the chemical dependence.”

By Carrie Draeger  
Staff Reporter

Bad weather and construction trouble have pushed back the opening of the Marine and Science Technology Center at Redondo Beach.

The MaST Center was scheduled to have three classes held in it this quarter; two marine biology courses and an oceanography class. The classes will be moved to the Highline main campus.

Biology instructor Woody Moses had planned to teach the oceanography class at the MaST Center.

“We will be doing a lot fewer plankton tows,” Moses said with a laugh.

“It’s disappointing,” he said.

Students don’t give a puff about no-smoking class

By Jocie Olson  
Staff Reporter

College officials say that the Washington State Board for Community and Technical colleges is expected to approve a policy whereby all the community and technical colleges are to adopt Common Course Numbering.

Common Course Numbering has already been implemented in some of Washington’s community and technical colleges, but some people at Highline say there still may be some big problems with the system.

Common Course Numbering is a system that renames Washington’s 34 community and technical colleges’ equivalent courses with the same identification number and title.

Some of Highline’s courses would have to be renamed such as writing and literature which would become English. Chairwoman of the Common Course Numbering Steering Committee Sunny Burns explained that the community and technical college presidents put this project together.

“The presidents voted on the plan in May of 2007,” Burns said.

Nine colleges, including South Puget Sound and Grays Harbor Community College, have already implemented the system but Highline is one of five colleges against it. The system is intended to make transferring easier between community and technical colleges, Burns said.

Quitting is a drag

By Carrie Draeger  
Staff Reporter

Margaret Rychart (left) and Roy Thorp take a smoke break at the designated smoking area located next to Building 6.

By Alyssa Hoffman  
Staff Reporter

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“It is not a bad habit, it’s an addiction, you have to be able to break the chemical dependence.”
Hate messages found painted on car at Highline

A person called the Security Office stating a car in the administration lot had spray paint all over it on March 10 at 5:45 p.m.

The Honda Civic had “only Jesus can save,” painted on the driver’s and passenger’s side windows. “Gay people will go to hell” was painted on the back window of the vehicle. Security looked up the license plate number and it did not come up as a student’s or faculty’s car.

Government steals bike

A student’s bicycle was stolen in front of the Library on March 8 at 2:15 p.m. The student did not want to file any paperwork because he felt the government was conspiring against him to make him look bad.

He also stated that any report would let “them” know they’re winning. He left the campus because they (the government) knew he was there.

Suspicious lady makes fuss

A suspicious female was reported walking around the Highline faculty area of Building 29 on March 7 at noon.

Security asked for her name and she claimed her name was “Bobs.” She also stated that this was a discrimination against her Jewish people.

She then began to talk about the school system, pentagrams, her weight, people wanting her blood and her beating heart. She complied with Security when asked to leave and departed on a Metro bus.

Student’s wallet was stolen

A Highline student’s wallet was stolen from her purse in the Library between 10 a.m. and 11:55 a.m. on March 5.

Her wallet contained $200 in cash, four credit cards, her driver’s license, as well as her social security card. The bank has a suspect’s name as well as a picture of the perpetrator from Lowe’s. Security looked up the suspect’s name and he is not a student.

Juveniles cause disturbance

Several juveniles dressed in black were causing disturbances in the Library on March 4 at 5:55 p.m. As they left the Library they yelled “West side street mob.” They have caused property damage in the Library during Fall Quarter.

-Compiled by Rachel Aleaga

No Country for Old Men makes last Movie Friday

Movie Fridays this week is showing the Academy Award-winning film No Country for Old Men.

International Student Programs hosts a movie every Friday at noon in Building 2. No Country for Old Men won an Academy Award for best picture, best director, best actor and best writing.

The movie is about Llewelyn Moss who discovers the remainants of drug runners who were murdered; instead of reporting the murders Moss takes the two million dollars for himself. This sets off a murderous chain of events that includes Anton Chigurh, a psychopathic killer after Moss and Sheriff Bell who is investigating the crimes going on throughout the film.

Free popcorn is always provided at Movie Fridays, but this week students can design their own popcorn. Several toppings will be provided such as seasonings, salt, and cheese. Students are encouraged by International Student Programs to stay after the showing of the film to discuss their thoughts and feelings on the film.

Google Earth is more than just a geographic locator

Students can learn more about Google Earth this week at Science Seminar.

This Science Seminar Eric Baer will talk about Google Earth, a free program that allows you to look at satellite imagery on your computer.

However, what many people are unaware of is that with Google Earth people can display information of geographic locations, people can display, analyze, and synthesize all kinds of information. Baer will give a hand on demonstration this Friday. Students can come and learn how to use Google Earth and some of the cool features it has.

This Science Seminar will be held from 2:20 – 3:10 p.m. Building 29, room 309, everyone is welcome to attend.

Learn to accept your image

Students can learn how to accept the body they have at a workshop today.

Faculty Counselor Thressa Alston will go over 20 Ways to Accept Your Body: Understanding and Overcoming Negative Body Images.

Alston will help students to look in depth about their image and begin to understand unrealistic images presented in today’s media and how fitting these images don’t constitute a persons worth.

This workshop will be held today from 11 – 11:50 a.m. in Building 8, in the Mt. Skokomish room.

Documentary on Execution will show next Tuesday

A documentary film entitled Execution, tells the story of a man sentenced to death and the days leading up to it, will be shown April 1, at Highline.

Following the film will be a discussion panel, featuring the film’s director Steven Scaffidi, a former inmate that spent 16 years on Georgia’s Death Row, William Neal More; and a Central Washington University Law and Justice alumni currently working in the field of criminal justice.

“I was contacted by Christopher Sims, and he is the professor of CWU Law and Justice Student Association, and he heard that I coordinate Movie Friday’s at Highline, and he wanted to see if they could use our venue to show the film Execution,” said Roman Wright, professor of American Sign Language at Highline. The film will be presented by CWU at Highline.

Execution is said to be a highly controversial film featuring footage of a man’s actual execution.

The film will be shown on April 1 in Building 7 at 6:30 p.m. It’s 90 minutes long, and there will be a discussion panel.

Co-Opportunity: Cooperative Education

Looking to bridge the gap between education and work experience?

Don’t be the one who let opportunity pass you by!

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

Student Jobs

Recreation Assistant

Full Time Summer

Provide operational support to the Recreation Coordinator for 2008 summer special events, sports leagues and day camp programs.

First Aid/CPR and 6 mos. related experience req.

Hours: 40 – Start in June

Where: Maple Valley Hours: 8-1550-515-5540

Mover/Driver

Full/Part Time

Job #3524

Work as part of a small crew that packs, loads, transports and unloads items in houses and offices. In addition, drivers drive an 18-24 foot box truck between the customers’ locations.

Hours: 40 – 40, Start in June

Where: Puget Sound Hours: 810-40, FT, or weekends

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

Visit the Tutoring Center: Building 26, Room 319

We strive to help students achieve their college success!

“The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet.”

Aristotle

Sign up for help in:

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

Mon – Thurs: 8:00 am – 7:30 pm

Fri: 8:00 am – 1:00 pm

http://tutoring.highline.edu

Lizeth Duran/THUNDERWORD

No Country for Old Men
If you’ve ever had your blood drawn, odds are you’ve come into contact with a certified phlebotomist.

A phlebotomist is a trained specialist who is certified to draw blood in patients for testing or donations. New this quarter, Highline’s Phlebotomy Certification Program has been specifically designed for Adult Basic Education and ESL students as a part of Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST).

I-BEST is a program that allows students to learn basic skills while earning a certification or degree in a technical skill so they can enter the workforce upon completion. This applies to students in Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, and applicants of the General Equivalency Degree.

I-BEST strives to provide underserved students the qualifications to earn a livable income in an offered technical field such as phlebotomy.

“This is an intensive program that requires students to be in class from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday,” said Kris Mason, Highline’s phlebotomy instructor.

Phlebotomy is a 20-credit course that is completed in one quarter. In the last four weeks, students are asked to do an externship at a clinic or lab to gain field training and experience.

Sticking needles in patients’ arms to draw out blood takes a bit of time and quite a lot of practice, so phlebotomy students get to practice on fellow classmates and volunteers.

“Phlebotomy students practice drawing blood. There is a certain amount of anatomy and physiology that is needed in order to draw blood from the correct vein,” Mason said.

Students will also have to be prepared for those patients who are squirmy around needles and blood. Therapeutic communication is also taught to students and plays an important role in the health care provider-patient relationship.

But phlebotomy isn’t just as simple as sticking someone with a needle, drawing blood, then sticking on a band-aid afterward.

“There are many different tests required by doctors and labs that the student needs to understand before they are in the work place. It is important for technique to be correct so that the patient is not subjected to pain or discomfort,” Mason said.

Phlebotomists can make $12-$16 per hour on average and usually find work in a doctor’s office, laboratory,pharmacy, or even in insurance agencies that require physical exams and blood work before giving life insurance policies.

“Depending on the employer and the applicant’s experience, sub-baccalaureate students may bring (phlebotomy students) up to $30,000 per year because there is such a demand,” Mason said.

The phlebotomy class may also count toward the Medical Assisting program but does not necessarily meet the requirements for pre-nursing or other medical programs.

The I-BEST Phlebotomy Certificate Program will be offered again this coming Fall Quarter and every Fall and Spring Quarter after that.

There will be a phlebotomy orientation this Spring Quarter for the following fall. Fliers will be posted around the campus closer to that date. Students are encouraged to contact Kris Mason with any questions or to sign up for an orientation at kmason@highline.edu or 206-878-3710 ext. 6081.

Road race will eclipse road rage on stretch of Pacific Highway

South King County commuters have the typical delays and closures to look forward to this week, but would do well to avoid downtown come Sunday morning.

On Sunday, March 16 northbound SR 99 from South Bend foot race.

Starting Point: From Point Pleasant Beach to South Bend Foot Race, traffic on State Route 99 began being moved onto the newly paved portions of the road. Work continues on this stretch, and the usual daytime traffic delays should be expected.

The left lane of the on-ramp from Northgate Way (Northeast 107th Street) to northbound I-5 will close at 11 p.m. Saturday night until 7 a.m. Sunday. Expect delays of up to 15 minutes if you will use the intersection of 1st Avenue Northeast and Northgate Way.

The left lane of the off-ramp from southbound I-5 to Swift/Albro will reopen on Monday, March 17 after an extended closure.

The right lane of northbound I-5 near SR 599 will be closed from 11:59 tonight until 5 a.m. tomorrow.

South 178th Street over I-5 will remain restricted to one lane of alternating traffic through May of 2008.

Up to two left lanes of westbound I-90 from the East Channel Bridge to 76th Avenue will be closed tonight, with the first lane closing by 7 p.m. and the second lane by 11 p.m. The first lane will reopen tomorrow by 4 a.m., and the second by 5 a.m.

The northernmost lane of the 190th Street ramp from 30th Avenue South to I-5 will be closed from 8 p.m. Tuesday until 5 a.m. tomorrow.

The right lane of southbound SR 99 (International Boulevard) from South 154th Street to SeaTac Airport will be closed today and tomorrow from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The two left lanes of southbound SR 167 between North 4th Avenue and South 212th Street will be closed beginning at 7 a.m. Sunday night, and re-opening by 11 a.m. Monday.

Two lanes of southbound I-405 between I-5 and SR 167 will be closed from 8 p.m. tonight until 5 a.m. tomorrow.

One lane of southbound SR 167 will be closed from 8 p.m. tonight until 5 a.m. tomorrow.

In the near border of Tukwila and Renton, one lane of eastbound Grady way near Oakesdale Avenue Southwest will be closed until 5 p.m. today. One lane in each direction on Oakesdale Avenue Southwest will be closed until 5 p.m. as well.

In addition, one lane of westbound Tukwila Parkway from 66th Avenue South to the on-ramp of I-405 will be closed until 5 p.m. today.

These three projects have been a weekly occurrence for over a month, and commuters should be prepared for these closures to continue every day in the near future except Sundays.

The HOV lane on southbound I-405 from Southeast 8th Street to I-90 will be closed from 8 p.m. tonight until 6 a.m. tomorrow.

The westbound SR 518 ramp to southbound SR 99 (International Boulevard) will be closed from 8 a.m. to noon today and tomorrow.

The left lane of the westbound SR 518 ramp to SeaTac Airport will be closed from 8-10 a.m. tomorrow.

One lane of SR 900 at Boeing Access Road and Ryan Way continues to be closed around-the-clock until further notice.

The traveling lane under the Alaskan Way Viaduct between Colman Dock Street and Yesler Way is still closed, but also still scheduled to reopen in spring.

In downtown Seattle this weekend, expect traffic congestion and delays before and after the Sonics play Minnesota at the Key Arena at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

Compiled by Nick Dalton
Search process runs risks

The Board of Trustees should not allow the process of the presidential search get in the way of choosing the best possible candidate for Highline.

The college is already at risk of losing possibly one of the best candidates for president, Dr. Jack Bermingham.

Highline’s Interim President Dr. Bermingham is a candidate at Highline but has recently been named a finalist at Santa Barbara City College.

If this is happening with Dr. Bermingham the Board needs to be aware that this could be happening with the other applicants.

While Dr. Bermingham’s finalist position at a much larger college reflects well on Highline, his departure would be a huge loss to the college.

During his time as interim president, Dr. Bermingham has done some good things for Highline, especially in the area of international initiatives.

Also his management of the college is in line with how Highline has always been managed and that is Dr. Bermingham allows people to do what they do best.

So with an applicant pool that is neither wide nor deep, losing Dr. Bermingham as a candidate doesn’t seem likely to help things.

Early on in the process, it was suggested to the Board that they needed to have a process that was quick enough so they didn’t start losing candidates. Last Spring Quarter, former Highline President Dr. Ed Command, who has been on three of Highline’s presidential searches, gave Highline’s trustees advice about the upcoming search.

Dr. Command explained to the Board that they will not want to hold forums in Summer Quarter because many faculty and staff are not on campus. He also said the Board should not wait until September to begin the search process.

Dr. Command also told the Board that if they wait until April or May to make a decision they will start losing candidates around March because their top candidates will also have offers from other colleges.

The Board has not taken Dr. Command’s advice.

According to the timeline on the presidential search website, Highline’s Board of Trustees plan to announce a president in early May.

Hopefully by the time the Board is ready to announce a president, Dr. Jack Bermingham is a candidate at Highline but has recently been named a finalist at Santa Barbara City College.

It’s been my experience attending classes here at Highline that there are a lot of students who just don’t try.

They don’t try to follow instructions, don’t even try to complete their assignments, they don’t even try to attend their classes.

Let me give you a little background.

I failed the sixth grade, seventh grade twice, eighth grade, and then dropped out of high school before the end of my first semester. I never earned a single credit, my GPA was literally 0.0.

I’ve been attending classes here since last Spring Quarter, and my GPA right now is 4.97. Teachers are willing to write sparkling letters of recommendation for me to apply for scholarships and employment on campus, and within a month of enrolling in Journalism 101, I was promoted to a news editor position.

I credit this success to nothing more than making an effort.

Have I given 110 percent? No. But, I have put forth the effort to attend class every day, no matter how I feel, or what else I have going on, and no matter how bad I might just not feel like it.

That effort is seen by my teachers and others around me, and is rewarded with respect. I see so many students here, mostly younger students, who just don’t appreciate that they have an opportunity to get an early start at making a future for themselves.

I’m 25 years old, which gives many students here the advantage of essentially being 7 years closer to achieving their educational goals than I am.

The problem is, they can’t even drag their asses out of bed and come to school.

What a number of people I’ve encountered don’t seem to realize, is that Highline is a small version of the real world.

Here, you’re given tasks to do, and your credibility and pay depend on your ability to listen to what the teacher tells you about how to do it. The pay is your grade and ultimately your education.

I’ve worked eight fast-food jobs in my day, I’ve also worked for IHOP, Denny’s, a number of construction jobs, spent a long time in a call center, and worked a variety of other positions; and I have nothing to show for all of this lost time but a huge pile of debt.

Maybe what some of these slacker students need is to take some time off, and go work some crappy dead-end job and struggle to support themselves and pay their bills for a few years, and then return to Highline with a newfound sense of appreciation and dedication.

One thing I know for certain is they should stop wasting the time of their professors and their fellow students by failing to attend class and pull their weight, and slowly down the education process for the rest of us by asking questions for which the answers have already been given to them.

If you can’t comprehend the difference between a persuasive speech and an informative speech by the end of a quarter in which you’re taking Speech 100, then you’ve made more of an effort to fail than you have you have to succeed. And I’m sure you’ll find that effort like that produces its own reward.

Nick was a news editor but now he wants to get a real job.

Write to us

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

Editorial cartoons on timely subjects also may be considered.

Submissions will be edited for style. Due to limited space, please limit your submission to 300 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.
Comics Mckenney always finds the time
By Satori Johnson
Staff Reporter

Craig McKenney said he wouldn’t find the time to write comics if he didn’t love it. Between teaching writing courses at Highline and working towards his doctoral degree in technical communication and rhetoric at Texas Technical University, what McKenney can’t spare is time.

“I simply love being in that story telling mode,” he said. “It’s a natural thing for me.”

Mckenney grew up in Garland, Texas and said he never knew that comic writing would be in his life long.

“I started writing them in high school with friends,” he said. “We would trade stories about our terrible teachers.”

He attended Texas A&M University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in English, then pursued a master’s degree at Southern Methodist University in Texas. McKenney moved to Washington 1999 where he worked for MTV and Fantagraphics Books as a freelance comic writer. After a year of contributing his works to other publications, he decided to start writing his own comic books.

Under the Headless Shakespeare Press name, McKenney started self-publishing his comic books in 2000. He is responsible for all aspects of the business, from publishing, marketing and promoting to the shipping and distribution of the books.

McKenney has worked with several artists, including, well known author and illustrator Rick Geary. Together they published The Brontes: Infernal Angria #1, written by McKenney and illustrated by Geary, which won the Xeric award in 2004.

“It would be less fun for me if I had to do the artwork myself,” he said.

The other four books McKenney has worked on include: Blanche Goes to Paris; Stalagmite #1; Stalagmite #2; which was nominated for best debut comic at the 2004 Small Press Exhibition; and The Magic If.

In his comics, McKenney incorporates “murder, mayhem, and foolishness” and explores internal conflicts of his characters.

“I tend to write stories that I would like to read, stories about characters that I can empathize with and characters that wouldn’t annoy me to the point of not caring about what happens to them.”

He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. through an online program at Texas Tech University located in Lubbock, Texas.

Music of Mom’s Rocket jets out of this world
By Luis Lemus
Staff Reporter

Tom Roney installs security systems for businesses. Jason Celestine is a software engineer. Jeff Meschke and Randy Keller are real-estate agents. All of them are in their late 30s or early 40s. They have ordinary jobs - but when they get together, they rock. The four of them share the same passion for music and play in the band Mom’s Rocket.

A four-piece rock band that sounds similar to AC/DC with their own little twist, Mom’s Rocket is now thinking about making another record.

“It is like a heroin addiction,” Meschke said.

“Next thing we know we were a band,” Roney said.

After a while the band got a call from former friend John Dammeyer and asked if he could produce a demo. The demo turned out to be their first CD titled Mom’s Rocket.

Now the band is trying to reach as many people possible with their music, handing out free CDs to their audience, they produce a demo. The demo turned out to be their first CD titled Mom’s Rocket.

As the band hands out free CDs to their audience, they make sure that everyone gets one.

“The music makes us feel complete,” Celestine said.

“We might call it Flavor of the Month,” Roney said.

Meanwhile the band is going to continue with the shows and to reach a bigger audience the band is going to try to reach a bigger audience the band is going to try to reach a bigger audience the band is going to try to reach a bigger audience the band is going to try to reach a bigger audience.

“The music makes us feel complete,” Celestine said.

“It’s a huge kick to reach people with your music,” Celestine said.

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2. MUSIC: Who sang “Rebel Yell”?  7. O. Henry
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In what year was Olympos introduced?  8. SCIENCE: What was the pen name of William Sydney Porter?
4. COMICS: What was L’il Abner’s last name in the comic strip?  9. LITERATURE: What is the fastest runner on land?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: For whom women could cast a ballot?  10. LANGUAGE: What fashion design kind of game is “draughts” in Great Britain?

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Arts Calendar

Highline’s winter Chorale concert, featuring a range of music from around the world, will be Monday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. in Building 7. Admission is free.

Laides of Slack Key Guitar come to the Kentwood Performing Arts Center, 25800 164th Ave. SE, Covington, 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 15. Tickets are $25 for adults and $23 for students and seniors. Tickets are available on-line at www.kentarts.com, or by calling 253-856-5051.

College students with school ID can explore the mystery of uncertainty in the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play Doubt. A Parable at a dramatically reduced price of $10 on Taproot Theatre Company’s University Night, April 3, 2008, at 7:30 p.m. Taproot also offers a $2 discount for students and a $15 ticket to people ages 25 and under for all performances during the regular season. To purchase tickets, contact the box office at 206-781-9707. Half-price rush tickets are available at the box office to students 15 minutes prior to curtain when available.

Doubt, A Parable runs from March 28 - April 26 with previews on March 26-27. The theater is at 204 N. 85th St in Seattle.

Got arts news? Contact arts editor Satori Johnson at sajohn@highline.edu, or call 206-878-3710, ext. 3318. On-campus events get priority listing, but all events are welcome to be submitted.

Weekly SUDOKU

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: **

Moderate  **  Challenging  ***  HOO BOY!

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The Lady T-Bird softball team began the season well, winning three of their first four games, with 13 or more runs scored in each win.

On Saturday, Highline won both of their games against the Big Bend Vikings in their first doubleheader of the year. On Sunday they split two games with Yakima Valley.

In the first game against Big Bend, Highline shut out the Vikings in a 16-0 blowout.

Freshman pitchers Cara Chaet and Carrie Crookshank started off their community college careers by combining for a no-hitter in the season opener.

The second win, a 13-1 victory over Big Bend, came just as easily as the first one.

Freshman pitcher Carrie Crookshank threw the first no-hitter. Chaet threw the first five innings and Crookshank closed out the fifth.

“Our pitching was outstanding,” Highline Head Coach Anne Schmidt said.

On top of excellent pitching, the T-Birds hit the ball extremely well.

“We just jumped on the bats and started the game with confidence,” freshman infielder Kayla Leliefeld said.

The team crushed the ball for a total of 18 hits and committed zero errors. Sophomore first baseman Carrie Dregaer and freshman outfielder Alea Litvinenko each hit one home run, helping the Lady T-Birds win the game.

The results were not available at press time. Litvinenko hit a home run in the Lady T-Birds’ season opener in Big Bend.

On Sunday, the Lady T-Birds lost their first game against Yakima Valley to obtain their combined total of only four hits.

This didn’t phase the Lady T-Birds one bit as they smashed 16 hits, one of which was a home run from Leliefeld.

“Our pitching was very good, very well,” Schmidt said.

On Sunday, the Lady T-Birds lost their first game against Yakima Valley 4-1. Highline struggled to hit the ball to their potential due to the Yakima pitcher’s deceptive pitching style.

“We knew that their pitcher threw a lot of risers and we let it get to us and I think it made us nervous in the box,” freshman infielder Kayla Leliefeld said.

But the Lady T-Birds wiped off that loss and got ready for the second game, a game they won 15-7.

“The second game we got our bats again,” Leliefeld said. “We brushed off the first loss and knew we had to come out big.”

Sophomore center fielder Lexi Nichols hit her first home run since playing for Highline, right over Yakima Valley’s right field fence.

“It was awesome,” Leliefeld said of Nichols’ home run. “She had been down on her hitting lately, so as soon as she rounded first (after hitting the home run) she gave us this where-did-that-come-from look. It was great.”

Highline has a combined batting average of .407 after their games over the weekend.

The T-Birds played Bellevue on Wednesday in their third doubleheader. The games were at 2 and 4 p.m. Results were not available at press time.

This weekend the Thunderbirds will travel to the Columbia Playfields in Richland Wash. for the pre season tournament that is held there every year.

After the pre-season tourney, Highline returns home to play Clark on March 22. The games will be at 2 and 4 p.m.

On March 29 and 30, the Lady T-Birds will travel to Vancouver, Wash. to the Vancouver Girls Softball Association Complex for the Spring Round Robin Tournament.

On April 1, the Lady T-Birds will open regular season play when they travel to Pierce with games at 2 and 4 p.m.

On April 8, at 2 and 4 p.m. Highline will travel to Centralia for a doubleheader.
Freshman infielder catches attention with her glove

By Nick Bare
Staff Reporter

Deisha Pico stands out on the field. It’s not the freshman infielder’s smile, it’s definitely her pink glove.

“There’s no particular story behind my pink glove, just that pink is my favorite color. I thought it’d be unique to have,” she said.

Pink gloves are something rarely seen on a softball diamond, and Pico says she receives some grief about it.

“People make fun of it, but it doesn’t bother me,” she said.

Highline Head Coach Anne Schmidt said the pink glove isn’t really something she looks for in a player.

“Though I don’t necessarily look for players who will use a pink glove, I couldn’t argue with Deisha’s choice; it is very much representative of who she is,” Schmidt said.

Pico and her pink glove bring some island flavor to this year’s Lady T-Birds’ softball team.

She came all the way to Highline from the Hawaiian island of Moloka’i, which is located between Oahu and Maui, and north of Lanai.

“It’s different (in Des Moines). The toughest part was leaving the warm weather and my family,” Pico said.

Pico and some of her other out-of-town teammates moved in together in a three-bedroom apartment.

Her roommates include freshman pitcher Cara Chaet from Helena, Mont., freshman shortstop Kayla Leiefeld from Spokane, and freshman third baseman Jaclynn (Bubba) Williams from Enumclaw.

“It’s fun living together. Although it can get kind of crazy sometimes and the place can get really dirty, it’s still fun. I’m happy as long as I get my own bathroom. The girls have become my family,” Pico said.

Pico began her road to Des Moines when she met Schmidt at a softball showcase in Las Vegas.

“After meeting Schmidt, Pico visited the Highline campus last February and decided to become a Thunderbird,” Schmidt said.

“She seemed like a very calm coach. Knowledgeable, as well as caring, and it showed,” Pico said.

After meeting Schmidt, Pico visited the Highline campus last February and decided to become a Thunderbird.

“Deisha brings dedication, intensity and positive energy to the team,” Schmidt said of the freshman who plays both second base and shortstop for the Lady T-Birds.

“She will always work hard in practice and pick up a teammate. She looks outside herself to see what she can do to help someone out. Because she always works hard in practice, she inspires her teammates to work hard too,” Schmidt continued to say.

Pico is a poster child for the Highline program.

“I could not be more fortunate in getting Deisha as a part of this team. She is the kind of player we look for, and has fit right into the philosophy of our program,” Schmidt said.

Pico said her strengths on the field are her positive attitude and her ability to encourage her teammates, while Schmidt sees more strengths.

“He’s strong points are her intensity and work ethic. She is very coachable and constantly trying to improve all parts of her game. She has a very strong arm and will be a consistent power hitter,” Schmidt said.

In the little bit of free time Pico has, there isn’t much she does.

“I don’t study, I don’t really do anything. I’m pretty boring I guess,” she said.

Off the field, Pico is majoring in business and has plans to move on after Highline.

“I want to transfer to a four-year school. Definitely somewhere warm, but I haven’t decided yet,” she said.

After her stint in a four-year school, she has a set view of where she’ll be in 10 years.

“I’ll have a master’s in business, married, kids, happy family, you know the whole fantasy, and back in Hawaii,” she said.
Softball calls me back to diamond each spring

Carrie Draeger

We e-mailed each other over the next few months, and eventually I signed to play, much to the dismay of my mother. I have been around softball for as long as I can remember. My dad coached softball in Montana for 20 years. In fact, my dad coached softball in Montana when Coach Schmidt was playing high school ball in Montana. I probably watched her play as a little girl, but I have no memory of this.

In coming to Highline from home, I had a very specific goal. I wanted to prove that I was good enough to play college ball, that I could succeed on the field. Last season I achieved that goal. I hit well, threw well, and was chosen as a first team all-league selection.

I knew coming into this season, that it was probably going to be my last. I often wonder if I will be able to give up softball completely. Can I really just walk away from such a significant part of my life?

I know my body is ready for a break, but my heart and mind will miss the game.

This year my goal is a little different. I want a division championship, and a good showing at NWAACCs. I want to be able to beat the teams that beat us last year when we were short on players. No, I want to destroy the teams that beat us when we were short on players.

Our season was rough last year. We struggled just to find enough players. We finished up the season with a 17-13 league record and finished third.

Last year we were good. This year we have the potential to be great.

There are two factors that are different from last year that will help us achieve that goal: depth and experience. We had talent last season, but by the time the season was over we were flat exhausted. With 13 players this year we are at least two deep in each position, three deep in most.

We are still young this season, but with four all league players returning, we should have some experience to carry us through the year.

After three months of being cooped up in a gym, it was great to get back on the field this past weekend. It was a long weekend, but we came out with a sense of what we could do on the field and at the plate.

We worked hard in the off-season, and it showed, especially at the plate. We scored 45 runs in four games, and four different players hit home runs. Two of my teammates had never hit a home run before, but they made it over the fence with ease.

Defensively we made a few errors, but as we play more games we will tighten up and play better. Our pitchers threw well; pitching is like a fine wine, it just better with age.

It’s exciting to start the season with a 3-1 record. Hopeful- ly we can build upon that record as the season continues.

Carrie still thinks diamonds are a girl’s best friend.

State parks need volunteers for funding evaluations

By Max Dubbeldam

The Washington state Recreation and Conservation Office is looking for a flock of volunteers to help figure out which recreation or conservation projects will receive state funding.

The Conservation Office is looking for volunteers who are actively involved in one of four different environmental categories. These categories include farmland preservation, waterfront recreation, and boating facilities.

“We’re looking for people with a certain background and skill,” said Susan Zemek, a Recreation and Conservation Office Communications Manager.

“For example, for the boating the volunteer needs to be a boatie.”

Carrie still thinks diamonds are a girl’s best friend.

ROCK AROUND THE WORLD IN SPRING QUARTER!!!

Music 106:
History of Rock Music
A historical survey of the ever transforming styles of rock music and the forces that shape them
TTh, 7:35 PM-9:45 PM
Item #5128

Music 110:
Music Cultures of the World
Explore music from cultures around the world by active participation in class, concert attendance and so much more.
Fulfills the globalization and diversity credit
TTh, 5:15 PM-7:25 PM
Item #5134

The Thunderword /March 13, 2008

Get sports news? Give me a call at 206-835-3710 ext. 3318

SPORTS

Help Wanted

The Thunderword has two openings for Spring Quarter.

Photo Editor
Primarily responsible for taking digital photos for the Thunderword.

Graphic Editor
Provides design and original artwork for the newspaper.

These are paid positions, with flexible hours and a pleasant, on-campus working environment. Some experience helpful.

Interested?
Contact: Dr. T.M. Sell at tsell@highline.edu

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Globalfest to celebrate cultures of Highline

By Catherine Dusharme
Staff Reporter

The International Leadership Student Council is busy plan-
ing Highline’s biggest event of the year and they need your help.

Globalfest 2008 is coming in May and will feature food, cos-
tume, performances and cultural displays from around the
world.

“We like to show how di-
verse we are here at Highline,” said Chuong Pham, the decorat-
ing coordinator.

“It’s an opportunity to show everyones different cultures and traditional dress.”

“But one of the most difficult things is finding volunteers,” he said.

The council needs volunteers for the culture booths, recep-
tion, decorations, performances and the fashion show.

“It’s a huge event – we start planning it in January,” Pham said.

“It’s not easy because in ad-
tion to the planning we also have to find talent and perform-
ers.”

The council is looking for stu-
dents, faculty and staff to sing, dance or display their culture at
a culture booth or onstage.

“One of our biggest jobs is
decorating,” said Pham, who wants to make the Student
Union look like an around-the-
world cruise.

In addition to culture booths and beautiful cos-
tumes, last year’s event featured taiko
drummers, henna tattoos, origami paper
cutting, calligraphy, fortune
telling and games.

“It was real-
ly fun last year and this year we want to surpass that,” Pham said.

To volun-
teer, drop by Building 9 down-
stairs or call 206-878-3710, ext.3384.

David Hu/THUNDERWORD

African dancers and musicians performed at last year’s Globalfest.

By Paul Song
Staff Reporter

The City of Federal Way has several projects currently go-
ing on to improve the quality of life of the community and resi-

dents.

Michael Park, who owns Midway Cleaners next to High-
line, has served three terms as mayor. The failure of an initia-
tive to change to a strong mayor form of government left Park
and six other council members the job of running the city.

Basically as an individual, I like the current system of gov-

Pham said.

While the community moves

foward, it is also looking for-

ward. With more than 85,000

residents, Federal Way has the seventh largest population in the
state. Park said its spot on the
I-5 corridor positions it well for
development.

“We are trying to become a
business-friendly city,” Park said.

“The council’s emphasis is on economic development in the
city center.”

The City Council unanimously
voted to approve mixed-used
development in the city, which
would allow construction of
mid-high-rise buildings.

The city purchased the AMC
North Lot in 2006, and hopes to use it for a four-tower devel-

opment called the Symphony

James Bermingham/THUNDERWORD

In addition to his duties on the council, Michael Park also operates
his dry cleaning business located near the Highline campus.

Project. The towers would have
16-24 stories, including 900
housing units plus office and re-
tail space.

Park said the project should begin in May. The city hopes that Highline will move its Fed-

eral Way campus to the new de-
velopment.

“Our goal is to create a high-
density, pedestrian friendly city
center,” he said.

The construction of the pri-

vately funded Symphony proj-

ect will increase property value in the city center, generating
revenue that the city is currently lacking.

“Funding is a problem be-
t cause as a nation we are facing an economically slow down-
turn and that will surely affect Federal Way,” Park said. “We
are anticipating city revenue to grow slower than past years and
to be safe we have set aside $1.3
million to our rainy-day funds
for ‘09.”

In addition to the lack of
funding, Federal Way is faced with challenges in the real estate
market.

“Another concern would be the slowdown in the real estate
market, which has not been re-
sponsive,” Park said. “We hope
that it will start to pick up before
the Symphony Project will be
complete, which will be in five
to seven years.”

Federal Way is the third larg-
est city in King County, howev-
er, the revenue and expenditures per capita are near the bottom.

“I think we are 31st or 32nd out of the 35 cities in King County,” Park said.

That’s not stopping the city from trying to address important
issues, however, he said.

Last year the city govern-
ment and the chamber of com-
merce jointly agreed on the
Safe City program. The Target
Corporation granted $100,000
for the program to install 25 re-

dote cameras, which patrolling
officers can access and control
through their laptop inside their
vehicles.

“This should increase public
safety and reduce criminal activ-
ity,” Park said. “We are hopeful
that a safe environment for the community and the visitors will
impact the city’s economy in a
positive fashion. Federal Way
will be the first city on the West
Coast to use this technology and
we hope to implement it this
year.”

The environment also is a
concern. Last year the City
Council approved a Green City
program, in which the city will
work with other local govern-
ments to try “help make Federal
Way more ecologically friend-
lv.” Park said.

The city also hopes to help
foster improvements to the in-
tersections of I-5, State Route
18 and State Route 161. The
area is noted for accidents and
big traffic backups.

The city’s Triangle Project aims to reduce congestion and
speed traffic through the area.

“The project is going to cost about $230 million and we have about 6 percent of the funds se-
cured,” Park said.

“We plan on lobbying the state and federal government to fund the rest of the project. We are
also conducting a $2.5 million study on I-5 access in Federal Way with our long-term goal to
create another off-ramp exit off 312th.”

Community members also want a performing arts center, though that project, too,
needs money, Park said. Improve-
ments to Pacific Highway South and South 356th Street also are
planned.

“One of my personal goals is that I would like to make Fed-
eral Way a safer and good place for people to live, play, educate,
and run their business,” Park
said. “We want to develop a quality community.

“I believe the city govern-
ment operates very effectively
and in a productive manner,” he
said. “We are striving to make a financially stable and self-sus-
tainable government, working on public safety, and economic
development, and solving trans-
portation problems throughout the city.”

The city's Triangle Project will increase property value in the city center.
Leadership Resource Center opens doors to Highline

By Lizeth Duran Staff Reporter

Leadership has a new home at Highline.

Highline Student Services hosted the grand opening of the Leadership Resource Center on March 5. The grand opening was attended by students and staff including Interim Highline President Jack Bermingham, Student Programs Director Natasha Burrowes, and Dean of Student Services Tony Castro.

Students were able to enjoy food and refreshments and had the opportunity to talk to mural artist Jonathan Matas.

The grand opening of the Center included two sessions: one at 1:30 p.m. and one at 6 p.m.

During the afternoon session, social activists Heidi Durham and Mark Cook attended as speakers.

Durham became one of the first women admitted to work in City Light’s Line Worker apprenticeship program. She was also the youngest member of the Electrical Trades Trainee program at City Light.

Cook was a member of the Black Panther Party and was a co-founder of its Walla Walla chapter.

The Learning Resource Center provides students with many resources in high demand.

“The center is home to an inspirational mural created by Matas. In it he depicts student movements throughout time in the U.S. that prompted social activism,” said Glenn Rivera, leadership coordinator.

“It looks like it evolves,” said student Jeffrey Taylor. “But it’s not really evolving, it’s you evolving.”

The Leadership Resource Center was organized to be equipped with multimedia resources available for students who reserve the room.

“These resources include a video library with speeches by Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi, as well as their autobiographies among other leadership books. An iPod with recordings of speeches by famous leaders such as Nelson Mandela, is also available to students. These resources are available for students to check out of the room.”

The center also offers laptops with internet access and connection to a plasma screen for presentations.

“It’s amazing that there are so many resources in here. It’s amazing what’s available to students now,” said Jonathan Matas, the mural artist.

Although students can currently only use the center after reserving it, Student Programs is looking into having open hours once or twice a week.

In order to give students an opportunity to connect with their community, they are able to partner with community organizations and hold activities such as workshops and meetings, Burrowes said.

“The Leadership Resource Center is a place where everybody can come. It’s a diverse room,” said Glenn Rivera, Highline student and clubs and community consultant.

Burrowes said the center was a year and a half in the making, with its mural taking months to complete.

“The Learning Resource Center is a great place where leadership can flourish. It’s an inspirational space. I’m glad it’s finally open,” said Jayne Crebassa, Highline student and caucus chairwoman.

“The LRC is available for use Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students interested in reserving the room can contact the following Executive Caucus members: Isaac Cameron at icameron@highline.edu or 206-878-3710, ext. 3215; Raquel Carrillo at rcarrillo@highline.edu or 206-878-3920; Jayne Crebassa at jcrebassa@highline.edu or ext. 3920.”

Students and organizations can make an appointment for a job application or admitance to another college, an official transcript may be requested in which a degree/certificate/diploma can be entered on the transcript.

For more information, students can make an appointment to talk to their adviser or to Educational Planning or visit www.highline.edu/studentregistration/graduation.html.

Graduation process a mystery to many Highline students

By Lizeth Duran Staff Reporter

Students who want to graduate Spring Quarter should begin the process soon, Highline officials say.

But do students know what they’re supposed to do to graduate?

“I have a broad general idea,” said Highline student Stephen Koistinen.

Koistinen has plans to transfer to a four-year university such as the University of Washington or Pacific Lutheran University.

He is planning to get an associate of science degree, he said, and is aware of the prerequisites for an AS after talking to counselors.

Although admitting to having a general idea of the requirements for graduation, Highline students Mey Liu and Melissa Son said “What’s that?” when asked if they were going to apply to graduate.

“The application process is quite complex,” said Liu.

Students must apply for graduation two quarters before their completion quarter. They can also apply when they have 45 credits that apply toward an associate of arts, associate of science or associate of applied science degree, or 30 credits that apply toward a certificate.

Those applying for a high school diploma need only apply two quarters before their completion quarter.

To apply for graduation, an Application for Graduation form must be submitted. Students can get an application for graduation from the information desk on the second floor of Building 6. It can also be obtained from the Highline website at www.highline.edu/stusers/registra tion/GradAppInstr.pdf.

The application can be turned in to the cashier on the first floor of Building 6, by mail or by fax.

Separate applications must be submitted for each degree or certificate being completed. A $12 nonrefundable fee is due for the first degree or certificate along with the application.

Students who wish to graduate with honors must have a GPA of 3.50 or higher. Also, students who wish to participate in Highline’s annual commencement ceremony will be mailed information after applying for graduation.

Though graduation evaluators will update the evaluation every quarter of attendance until requirements are completed, students will not be sent updated copies. It is up to the students to be updated.

Students’ applications and evaluations will be kept on file during their attendance at Highline but will be shredded after one year of not attending and students will need to reapply. If proof of graduation is needed, students can request an appointment for a job application or admitance to another college, an official transcript may be requested in which a degree/certificate/diploma can be entered on the transcript.

For more information, students can make an appointment to talk to their adviser or to Educational Planning or visit www.highline.edu/studentregistration/graduation.html.
African student’s journey toward a dream

By Kendall Cortese
Staff Reporter

Nelly Some is a woman with ambition and a plan behind it. Some moved to America from Africa and has been taking classes at Highline toward a nursing degree.

She is currently holding off school so she can start up a non-profit organization, the Chebagogo Foundation, to help out adolescent AIDS victims back home in Kenya. This is a tax-exempt organization.

“This is a way we can provide health care, education, and shelter for orphans that are in need of help,” Some said.

“I’ve always wanted to help victims like this because it was the exact help that I prayed for every day through my childhood,” Some said.

Growing up in Kenya, Some lived a troubled childhood in the village of Moi’s Bridge and her parents separated after she was conceived. Some’s mother gave her to her grandmother to be raised so that she could finish school.

Having her grandmother being the mother figure and a whole new inspiration in her life, Some looked up to her and always worked hard for what she wanted.

It was a 24-hour struggle to survive, Some said.

Some and her grandmother took leftover corn that remained on farmlands after the main portions were picked to wrap in bundles to sell. They also bred smaller livestock such as chickens to sell so they would have enough money to purchase more valuable livestock, such as cows, for themselves.

At age 15, Some reunited with her biological mother because her grandmother was getting too old to take care of her. She went to live with her mother, stepfather, and their family.

Living with her new family she went through even worse hardships. With an abusive stepfather and a mother who did anything to please her husband, Some quit school and ran away.

Ending up on the streets, Some came in contact with the closest group of friends that she’d ever felt a part of — other who were homeless as well.

“When that group I always had shoulders to lean on. For the first time I realized that there were people that existed that could care for me, they were like my family,” Some said.

Some’s description was broadcast over the radio after she went missing. Someone in the town she was in recognized Some by the description.

Some was picked up by police and brought back to her mother and stepfather’s home.

“The car ride back to their place it felt like I was going from heaven to hell. I was in disbelief that I was going back to the abusive environment,” Some said.

Not too long after her grandmother found out that she was being mistreated, Some’s grandmother decided to take her back.

Some felt that she couldn’t go back to school because she had to take care of the livestock that they had, but her grandmother insisted that she go into town and sell a calf.

That was the first time Some met her biological father.

“A man in a new rich-looking truck pulled up and started asking me about my calf. He wanted to know if I wanted to get a bite to eat so that we could talk a little more,” Some said.

“Instead of telling him about how I wanted to go to college but I didn’t have the money. After listening to my story he pulled out a book and started to write something. He rapped out a check and told me to take it to help me out. It was a check for 6,000 shillings ($100),” Some said.

Some took it home and explained the story to her grandmother; her grandmother asked if this man fit a certain description.

“Everything that Some agreed with fit the appearance of her father.”

Finding this out, she went off to meet with him again.

She found out that he was a politician as well as one of the richest men in Kenya.

“He was the first male figure in my life that was humble and treated me with love,” Some said. “He told me he knew that I was here somewhere in Kenya and that he had been looking for me for all these years.”

With financial and family support, Some came to the U.S. where she enrolled at Highline.

Four months after she met her father, he was assassinated for his political beliefs.

Returning to Kenya for the funeral, Some was moved by the amount of orphans that she saw living in her hometown.

Some returned to the United States and started to face troubles in affording her living expenses while trying to maintain herself.

Regardless of these obstacles, the most important thing Some wanted was to help these orphans back home, who were suffering from disease as well as being homeless.

With her ongoing commitment to do better for these children, the Chebagogo Foundation was born. (Chebagogo means Grandmother’s daughter in the Kalenjin language.)

“Since my grandmother was there for me and also because my grandparents are always the ones back home that take the extra step to take care of their abandoned grandchildren, I felt that it was a good name,” Some said.

Some now has 12 children that she is sponsoring back home and is planning to build a boarding school that will provide shelter and education.

Some is also writing a book about her experiences and the message that she wants to get across to people on how vital it is to have an education and an appreciation for the opportunities in your life.

To find out more about the Chebagogo Foundation and ways that you can help, check out Some’s website at www.chebagogofoundation.org.

There’s no WI in dropping from classes next quarter

By Alyssa Hoffman
Staff Reporter

The WI symbol is withdrawing itself from Highline’s grading system.

“The WI symbol is a grading symbol meaning instructor withdrawal.”

“The instructor requests for it to be put on a student’s transcript under certain circumstances,” said Kate Bligh, associate dean of enrollment services.

The WI carries no credit, indicates neither passing nor failing at the time of withdrawal, and does not affect the grade point average.

The grading symbol will be abolished at the beginning of spring quarter.

“This symbol was recommended by the faculty senate to be eliminated because the symbol was permissive but not required; many students assumed that if they received the symbol in one class it was in all classes,” said Bligh.

Faculty members were not obligated to utilize this grading option for students who failed to attend or participate in class, Bligh said.

Some of the faculty members dropped students from classes, while others did not.

“Ultimately, the Faculty Senate believed it was the student’s responsibility. It took seven to eight months before it was approved by the policy development council,” said Bligh.

Faculty members were not obligated to utilize this grading symbol by other colleges or universities and is unique to Highline.

“In Spring Quarter, the student will receive the decimal grade their instructor determines they have earned, as reflected in the class syllabus,” said Bligh.

There are two ways a student can drop a class, either online through the 10th day of classes, April 11, or in person in Building 6.

“Make sure you receive a copy of your new schedule to confirm the WI was successfully completed,” said Bligh.

The last day to officially withdraw from classes with no W (withdraw) on your transcript is April 18 and May 29 with a W.
Students want to know about eligibility, rules

By Bob Drawson
Staff Reporter

Failing a class does not necessarily disqualify you from getting financial aid, a financial aid adviser says.

Students may be missing out on financial aid because they think they’re not eligible or don’t understand how the system works, said Loraine Odom, Financial Aid director.

Students can have the financial aid staff help fill out any necessary forms that would help them qualify if needed. Also students can get a lot of information on Highline’s financial aid webpage, Odom said.

Recently, students were invited to submit questions to the Financial Aid office, and advisers there attempted to answer them. Questions ranged from failing classes to qualifications to apply to credits to scholarships.

•Student Amy Le asked two questions concerning the effects of flunking a class.

“If you fail a class can you still get financial aid for the next quarter?” she asked.

Financial Aid adviser Brooke Weber said this question often comes up toward the end of the quarter.

In some cases, if you fail a class you may have to petition the financial aid office to receive financial aid the next quarter. This is because of our Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy (SAP). This policy states that you must be consistently completing all the classes for which you register, Weber explains.

If you have one quarter where you register for 15 credits (three five-credit classes) and you are unable to complete one class, you will most likely only be on probation (which is a warning and you will still receive aid for the next quarter), Weber said.

If you are unable to complete one class the next quarter, you will be placed on suspension. This means that you would have to do one of two things:

1. Petition the Financial Aid office and explain the unusual circumstances surrounding why you weren’t able to complete the quarter.

2. You would have to pay for one quarter (and register for at least six credits) on your own. After successful completion of that quarter, you could be reinstated for aid the following quarter, but it is not guaranteed.

“The most important thing to remember is that if you are receiving aid and you think you are not going to complete one of your classes, you should check with the Financial Aid Office to see if it will affect your future eligibility,” Weber said.

•Le’s next question was, “If you fail a class, do you owe them back the money?”

The only time that you would owe money to the college for failing a class is when you fail all the classes that you registered for that quarter, Weber said.

The other questions answered covered a wide range of subjects including taxes, filing status, credits, and scholarships.

•Another student, Luis Ballesta, said he thought it was odd that he was asked to bring in his tax returns long after his application was accepted.

Being selected randomly is one reason, said Michelle Ho, financial aid adviser.

Another reason your tax return may be required is if you were selected for verification by the Federal Processor, also if the information you provided on your FAFSA appeared to be inaccurate. Another reason can be that the school may ask you to bring in your tax return to verify discrepancies with your income information, said Ho.

•Your independent/dependent status is a big factor in determining the process one needs to take to file for financial aid.

Student Lorena Austin asked, “If you are under 25 and independent can you still get financial aid?”

Age has a big influence, said Katrina Titchenal, Financial Aid adviser.

Generally, if you are under 24, single, and without children, you are considered a dependent student for financial aid purposes and must include parent information on the FAFSA.

This requires a student to determine their independent/dependent status for financial aid.

For the 2008-2009 award year, if you were born before Jan. 1, 1985, you are considered an independent student and parent information is no longer required for filing the FAFSA.

•Student Bintu Golia asked, “How much money do you have to make in a year to qualify?”

Financial aid adviser Charlene Green also depends on the state of the student and parent to make that annual cost requirement.

In order to qualify for grants and work-study, the Federal Department of Education uses a complex formula based primarily on family income and family size to determine eligibility.

The state uses an easier formula that is strictly based on family income, family size, and number in college.

For example she says, a family of four with one student in

The Thunderword /March 13, 2008

NINE QUESTIONS FOR FINANCIAL AID

By Alyssa Hoffman
Staff Reporter

New changes for financial aid will begin Spring Quarter. Currently, students can apply and receive financial aid for classes but problems occur due to students being put on the wait-list.

Beginning Spring Quarter, the census date will change.

“A census date is the day the financial office looks at the number of credits a student is taking,” said Loraine Odom, director of financial aid.

The financial aid office will base a student’s aid on the credits they enrolled in on the first day of the quarter.

“All aid will only be done on the fifth day, after the fifth day change to a part time student you owe the difference,” said Odom.

The census date for Spring Quarter is April 4.

The number of credits you are taking will determine the amount of financial aid you receive, for example:

•If you are a full-time student taking 12 or more credits, you will be covered 100 percent.

•If you are taking 9 to 11 credits, you will be covered 75 percent.

“If you are a part time student, taking 6 to 8 credits, you will be covered 50 percent.

If you are less than a half time student, taking 2 to 5 credits, you will be covered 25 percent.

In order to receive financial aid you must have a complete financial aid packet turned into the financial aid office which includes the FAFSA and Highline application form.

The deadline to apply for Summer Quarter financial aid is April 17.

The other questions answered covered a wide range of subjects including taxes, filing status, credits, and scholarships.

•Another student, Luis Ballesta, said he thought it was odd that he was asked to bring in his tax returns long after his application was accepted.

Being selected randomly is one reason, said Michelle Ho, financial aid adviser.

Another reason your tax return may be required is if you were selected for verification by the Federal Processor, also if the information you provided on your FAFSA appeared to be inaccurate. Another reason can be that the school may ask you to bring in your tax return to verify discrepancies with your income information, said Ho.

•Your independent/dependent status is a big factor in determining the process one needs to take to file for financial aid.

Student Lorena Austin asked, “If you are under 25 and independent can you still get financial aid?”

Age has a big influence, said Katrina Titchenal, Financial Aid adviser.

Generally, if you are under 24, single, and without children, you are considered a dependent student for financial aid purposes and must include parent information on the FAFSA. This requires a student to determine their independent/dependent status for financial aid.

For the 2008-2009 award year, if a student answered yes to any of those questions, they are determined to be an independent student, regardless of their age.

For the 2008-2009 award year, if you were born before Jan. 1, 1985, you are considered an independent student and parent information is no longer required for filing the FAFSA.

•Student Bintu Golia asked, “How much money do you have to make in a year to qualify?”

Financial aid adviser Charlene Green also depends on the state of the student and parent to make that annual cost requirement.

In order to qualify for grants and work-study, the Federal Department of Education uses a complex formula based primarily on family income and family size to determine eligibility.

The state uses an easier formula that is strictly based on family income, family size, and number in college.

For example she says, a family of four with one student in

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Monday, Wednesday & Thursday: 8 am - 5 pm
Tuesday: 8 am - 6 pm
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Up to 50% off the new price on books being reused at Highline Spring Quarter

www.highlinebookstore.com

See Financial Aid / P13
Young women to receive hands-on career experience

By Shannon Clay
Staff Reporter

Women’s Programs is hosting Expanding Your Horizons, a conference that encourages young women to research careers in math, science, and technology over spring break. On March 21, Expanding Your Horizons will host close to 550 young women from middle school and high school, and women from math science and technology careers.

The conference is for the young women to experience a day on campus to learn about different careers, receive hands-on experience, and interact with professional women.

Deana Rader, Women’s Programs director, says this conference is extremely important. “It is important for young women to practice their skills in math, science, and technology, they should not be afraid of it,” said Rader. “The conference will take place all across campus. It will start in the gym at 11:30 a.m. with keynote speaker Alice Rowe, author of Where Have All the Smart Women Gone?”

Women’s Programs wanted Governor Christine Gregoire to be the keynote speaker but she was unable to attend. She sent Rader a DVD with a special message for the young women.

This is the first expanding Your Horizons conference Rader has planned, but she is expecting success. “I expect organized chaos, but it has been a success in the past. We’ve always had wonderful presenters,” said Rader.

The young women will learn what to expect in different careers and the work place. Rader is hoping it will help prepare them to make decisions about college.

“Girls tend to have more of a negative outlook on those skills. Traditionally young women have not scored well in math and science,” said Rader. Highline students can get involved with the conference by volunteering to be tour guides and help check people in.

To volunteer contact Rader at drader@highline.edu or 206-878-3710, ext. 3004.

Women’s Programs also has important events coming up Spring Quarter. The week of April 28 is Unity Week. During Unity Week will be the Extraordinary/Ordinary Women Awards.

Women’s Programs hosts guests as keynote speakers, and present awards to nominated women.

To nominate, students can pick up applications coming out in the next couple of weeks. For more information about this event, or to contact Women’s Programs, call their front desk at 206-878-3710, ext. 3340.

Earth Week seeks volunteers

The conference will take place all across campus. It will start in the gym at 11:30 a.m. with keynote speaker Alice Rowe, author of Where Have All the Smart Women Gone?”

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For Motsoko it was a dream come true. “I remember when I was 10 years old a friend of mine came to America. I can remember seeing her airplane flying over and it became my dream to fly to Florida or Los Angeles,” said Motsoko.

Just as Motsoko was inspired by seeing his friend fly over, Sebothoma was encouraged by the American culture. “When I was 8 years old I watched Hollywood movies and MTV,” Sebothoma said. “When I watched them I thought to myself that if these guys are living like this, I should be too. Coming to America was the opportunity of a lifetime, seize the moment if you have a chance to take a shot,” Sebothoma said.

Excited to be in America, they are becoming accustomed to American culture. Their assimilation into American society has been a gradual process but some of the customs and trends are not completely new to them. “It didn’t take me that long to adapt to American society because I stayed with a host family for four months,” said Motsoko.

All four of them speak multiple languages including fluent English, although their accents give them away. “If you were just passing them you wouldn’t guess that they’ve only been in the United States for less than a year,” Lindsay said.

Their ease with American styles might be due to some similarities between South Africa and the United States. If you were to see Lehaha you could catch him in a Seahawks hoodie with his MP3 player. Usually you will hear his music before you see him.

“The clothes people wear in South Africa aren’t that different from here,” Lehaha said.

Believing that people are too reserved in America, they are friendly and open with everyone they see. “Back home I talk to anyone everywhere,” said Motsoko.

They are willing to share their story with anyone who wants to hear and they have already given a presentation on it at the Conversation Café. In their presentation, all four of them spoke on how life was in South Africa and how it has changed and is still changing.

“Women are rising in power, they are now in parliament,” said Lekgadimane.

After a one-year stay in the United States they will leave to go back to South Africa late June. Their experiences at Highline will help them to get a higher education in South Africa than they were previously getting.

“When I go back to South Africa I’m getting a job and going to a university. Coming to Highline has helped me to prepare for college in South Africa. Getting good grades at an American college is one of the top requirements for entry into some universities there,” Lekgadimane said.

Glenda Lekgadimane

Taking buses was a new experience for her and her countrymen. “At home we used taxis not buses because they were only used to take people to designated areas that were not open to the public. I think that buses are a better mode of transportation because they accommodate everyone, like people with disabilities. Back home we didn’t have that,” Lekgadimane said.

All four of them attended college together in South Africa when they were given the opportunity to travel to the United States.

The cruise industry is a growing business in the Seattle area. The program is very popular, Charles Motsoko, and Tourism student, wants to be a flight attendant in Japan. “I enjoy the program and I am gaining the skills I need. I also get to work in perfecting my English language skills,” she said.

The program has added some travel courses for spring. “One of the travel courses we are offering is Travel 283 this Spring Quarter. The class consists of a three-day cruise in the Seattle area; some people call it a cruise to nowhere,” Lindsay said.

“The class is a three-credit class and is open to any one that is interested in taking it,” he said.

“We are also making the program more flexible for students by offering classes online,” Lindsay said.

The Thunderword / March 13, 2008

The Thunderword has two openings for Spring Quarter.

PHOTO EDITOR
Primarily responsible for taking digital photos for the Thunderword

GRAPHICS EDITOR
Provides design and original artwork for the newspaper.

These are paid positions, with flexible hours and a pleasant, on-campus working environment. Some previous experience helpful.

INTERESTED?
Contact: Dr. T.M. Sell at tsell@highline.edu

the certificate and the associate of applied science degree,” Lindsay said.

“We are considering more travel courses,” he said.

Students will take 10 more credits on travel courses instead of business courses, he said.

Travel courses provide students with more specific information and training within their major, Lindsay said.

Normally the travel courses have 20-30 students in a class and the business class usually has 35 students, he said.

Students have to do an internship at the Seattle-Tacoma International Air-port or at the waterfront with the Port of Seattle.

They get one credit for every 30 hours they work, Lindsay said.

The program is very popular with international students, mostly from Japan, he said.

Nozomi Higashi, a Travel and Tourism Management student, wants to be a flight attendant in Japan. “I enjoy the program and I am gaining the skills I need. I also get to work in perfecting my English language skills,” she said.

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Legislature offers good, bad to colleges

By Nick Dalton
Staff Reporter

This year's legislative session may have a bittersweet ending as teachers prepare for a less-than-promised pay increase, and the state says it won't be helping colleges with the cost of Running Start students. While many of the bills that will have a direct effect on Highline are still being negotiated and have yet to be passed, the Legislature has made some decisions already.

"One of the things we were working on that didn’t pass and I’m disappointed about, is that we won’t be able to offer any financial assistance to community colleges who take Running Start students," said State Sen. Karen Keiser, D-Des Moines.

There’s a big gap in the cost of educating these students and the amount of money the state provides the college to do so, Keiser said.

On a more positive note for educators, Keiser said that there will be a 3.9 percent cost of living adjustment, or COLA, for teachers this year, including those at community and technical colleges.

The proposed additional half-percent increase still in the works to cover a portion of a promised COLA that was supposed to have taken effect some time back, but Keiser said it’s not yet set in stone, and she’s not even sure that the additional amount would apply to community and technical college teachers’ salaries.

The proposed half-percent is a sort of a compromise between the House and the Senate, Keiser said.

The House had 1 percent in their budget, but the Senate hadn’t allocated anything.

Another bill still in the works is House Bill 2582, which would provide community colleges with what many at Highline say is a much needed boost to their child care programs.

HB 2582 would call for the state to match any amount of operating funds donated to college childcare programs by the college’s student government.

"If the student government donates $50,000 to the child care center, then the state will match that $50,000," Keiser said.

A number of other bills are still in negotiations between the House and Senate, and legislators are working hard to come to decisions by the end of today, the last day of this year’s legislative session.

Health Fair informs students about health risks

By Luis Lemas
Staff Reporter

The Student Union Building was noisier and more crowded than usual last Tuesday. Side conversations were everywhere in the building, the only difference was that all of the conversations had something to do with health risks.

The Health Fair took place in the Student Union Building on March 4. Highline’s health programs participated in putting the Health Fair together. In the first floor of the building, students presented the audience with information on different health risks that happen in our society.

The students designed posters with the health risks they were presenting and gathered information and flyers to pass out to the audience.

Some of the health risks that were targeted were AIDS, childhood diseases and viruses. Every booth had its own unique style on getting the information to the audience. Some of the booths had very descriptive pictures and games, and some passed out flyers and condoms.

Overall their goal was to inform the audience.

On the second floor there were a couple of schools who offered careers in the health field. The schools passed out information to the students explaining the different programs they offer. Schools were not the only ones passing out information. Health care companies such as Multi-care, Valley Medical Center and others were handing out information on the requirements that a person needs to obtain a job with their company.

Students choose their own topics for new biology/writing class

By Erica LeBeau
Staff Reporter

If you’re looking for a way to fulfill your lab and science credits while studying topics such as cloning and flesh-eating bacteria, you may want to sign up for the Bioshock Coordinated Studies class next quarter.

The Bioshock Coordinated Studies class is a ten-credit hybrid course that consists of a five-credit Biology 100 class and a five-credit writing class (either Writing 101 or Writing 105). Since it is a hybrid course, there is an online component in addition to class and lab. The course is named after the videogame BioShock.

"It deals with themes of that game and other popular games, such as science going too far and genetic experiments going out of control," said Angi Castor, who teaches the writing half of the course.

"Students will choose their own topics from within the realm of current cutting edge biology," Castor said.

Some topics that may be covered include “the biology of HIV, MRSA, stem cell research, cloning, designer babies, genetically modified foods, impact of global warming on life, etc.” said Gerry Barclay, who teaches the biology half of the course.

Barclay usually teaches a botany class Spring Quarter, which is followed by a plant sale at the end of the quarter. He isn’t teaching a botany class this quarter, but students in BIOSHOCK will be growing plants of their own. They will also be participating in the plant sale at the end of the quarter.

Highline’s Early Childhood Learning Center

We have openings!

• Open 7:30 to 5:30 Mon - Fri
• Serving ages 6 weeks up to 5 years
• Head Start Program offered for those who turn 3 by 8/31 and are income eligible.

Faculty and Students: Come share your talents with the children by volunteering and joining our community. Please call 206-878-3710 x3224 for more info.
Steve Scheide likes to hug. He likes to hug so much that he goes to the Pike Place Market every Saturday afternoon holding a sign that says “Free Hugs” and lets people who don’t even know him give him hugs. His hugs range from big ones to quick ones.

Free Hugs is a non-profit organization. According to the website [free-hugs.com], “Free Hugs is a Social Company committed to promoting social value. We strive to tap into the heart of the community through creativity and innovative ideas in order to create opportunities that transform peoples’ lives.”

Scheide first heard about Free Hugs through a YouTube video that a friend e-mailed him. In the five minute video, there was a man explaining how he started the Free Hugs movement. When Scheide saw this, he decided to take part in the movement.

“I thought I would take a risk and see what the reaction of people would be if I did Free Hugs in Seattle,” says Scheide. “I thought it was a simple way to make some change and maybe change people’s opinions of the youth culture. A lot of society has this opinion that the youth culture is all about themselves, so I wanted to show that wasn’t true, and that we can give back in a simple way.”

Starting in June 2007, on almost every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Scheide stands in front of Pike Place Market at the corner of 1st and Pike holding his “Free Hugs” sign and waiting for anybody walking by to give him a hug.

“I developed a pretty good relationship with the food produce vendors at Pike Place,” says Scheide. He has also gone all around Seattle holding his “Free Hugs” sign and waiting for anybody walking by to give him a hug.

“For all the hugging Scheide does, he makes sure he is dressed for the weather. “I’ve been out during winter wearing scarves, mittens, and my beanie,” says Scheide. “I keep on doing it because of people’s reactions and the responses I get. I feel better about myself and the message that I’m spreading, which is love.”

Scheide says he has gotten hugs from all types of people and of all ages. From the most macho of men, to elderly men who hug him and tell him that he’s doing a good job. He’s even hugged singer Amy Winehouse.

Being in the public eye, Scheide has to constantly talk about what Free Hugs is and what he’s trying to do. “I get asked constantly if it’s religious. I lose track of how many times a day people ask what Free Hugs is and why I do it. I explain how it started and that I’m out to make a difference, and you always feel good after a hug.”

Scheide says one of his most memorable hugs came from a woman who burst into tears after hugging him. She told him how she was in Seattle to visit her daughter who just got into a car accident and was in the hospital.

Scheide graduated from Highline last Fall Quarter. When he’s not doing his Free Hugs on Saturday, he works at the Virginia Mason Clinic in Federal Way.

Scheide’s days of giving out Free Hugs in Seattle are coming to a close, since he plans to move to Los Angeles by the end of March.

He hopes to live in L.A. for about a year working with his brother doing television producing. He also plans to attend UCLA, where his brother is also a screenplay producer. Scheide hopes to someday get a career in the entertainment field. He previously acted in Highline’s drama productions of Shakespeare’s 12th Night and The Madwoman of Chaillot.

Anybody hoping to hug Scheide before he moves at the end of March can do so at Pike Place on a Saturday afternoon from 11 to 5 p.m.

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Facilities hopes you’ll keep it clean around storm drains

By Paul Song
Staff Reporter

Highline’s Facilities Department wants the campus community to be more careful around storm drains.

Storm drains collect rainwater runoff and move it away to retention ponds or directly to rivers, lakes or Puget Sound. But because stormwater runoff collects a bit of everything that people leave behind, it can cause environmental problems up and down the food chain. The Washington State Department of Ecology requires that all stormwater systems include primary on-site treatment of runoff, regular inspections of the system, and training the staff who manage stormwater systems.

Highline has followed most of the regulations and soon will be up to date with the remaining two, which are to label drain basins with No Dumping signs and to raise awareness about ecological issues and the proper use of stormwater systems. “Highline’s stormwater system is presently in good condition and facilities’ job is to constantly inspect the system and keep it that way,” said Phil Sell, facilities project manager. Highline has about 220 storm drains on campus.

Stormwater systems are separate from the sewer systems that serve most houses and businesses. Sanitary sewer systems carry household and industrial wastewater to where the water is treated before it is released. Storm drainage systems, on the other hand, typically contain no treatment, so that pollutants washed into them by rainfall can damage the surrounding ecosystem.

Highline faces that challenge with every drop of rainfall. “We are surrounded by a big street and huge parking lots,” said Woody Moses, biology instructor. “Runoff is expected, but that is what the retention ponds are there for, to let the runoff settle before going into the stream or Puget Sound.”

Highline has retention ponds in addition to a storm drainage system that are located in the southwest corner of campus. These retention ponds not only help control floods, and filter pollutants, but they also act as a habitat that provides homes or shelter for animals.

Highline’s retention ponds are affected by runoff, nonetheless.

“Fertilizers that are used to maintain the fields can often create low oxygen in the ponds, which affects the wetlands,” Moses said. “The wetland is occupied by migrating birds and the cattails provide a habitat for various species like red wing blackbirds, swallows, ducks, mallards, frogs, and turtles.”

The remaining pollutants that enter a bigger body of water can possibly spread further and do even more damage, experts say. “It is important for us to reduce as much water pollution as we can,” said Kate Rhoads, senior water quality specialist for King County Water Management. “Treatment facilities are not able to remove 100 percent of the pollutants, only a fraction or a portion of it.”

Retention ponds, now a regular feature of large new construction projects, help. “Wet ponds provide some treatment,” Rhoads said. “The wet ponds retain floatables as opposed to being discharged into the streams and pollutants are removed in the wet pond by settling into the soil. However, organisms on the bottom of the food chain are affected by the pollutants in the soil.”

Potentially, chemicals such as herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers people use to maintain yards will eventually get washed off. The parking lots at Highline are notorious for oil drippings, which contribute to water pollution. “We need to check and make sure that oil is not dripping from our cars,” she said. “Driving less will also reduce the amount of zinc and copper dust from tire wear and brakes from entering storm drains. Washing our cars less will also decrease the amount of grime, metals, and debris that will end up in our storm water. Take your car to a commercial car wash center if you need to clean it because the water is connected to a sanitary sewer system.”

Even though the label on a soap container may say it is non-toxic or biodegradable, soap is toxic to aquatic organisms. Aquatic organisms like algae are vital in removing oils and sediments from retention ponds.

“It’s only non-toxic to human and pets, but can have adverse affects on aquatic organisms,” Rhoads said. “If the concentration is high enough it will eventually kill those organisms, if there are low levels of concentration, it can interfere with their eating habits and reproduction cycle.”

Rhoads said we should try something new. “There are so many different things we can do to prevent and stop pollutants from getting into storm water,” Rhoads said. “We just need to make more careful decisions in our daily lives because storm water is interrelated with all activities we do,” Sell agrees.

“By educating and bringing awareness to students, faculty, and staff we hope to reduce the amount of water pollution problems in the future,” Sell said.
Former Honors scholar plans to give back

Highline alum will soon travel to her home country of Ethiopia to provide aid

By Martin Ericksen
Staff Reporter

Endeshaw came from Ethiopia to the United States and will soon return there to help people in need.

Endeshaw spoke at Honors Colloquy yesterday on her college experience, as well as a planned trip to Ethiopia. Honors Colloquy is a weekly event held every Wednesday at noon in building 7.

At Highline she was a part of the Honors Program headed by Dr. Barbara Clinton. She earned good grades, and graduated as an Honors scholar.

In 1997, Endeshaw came to the United States from Ethiopia not knowing a word of English. Through a program that helped her learn fluent English, Endeshaw was enrolled in school as a child and then progressed on to high school. As a junior she participated in the Running Start program at Highline.

Endeshaw has been interested in helping the HIV/AIDS orphans in her home country of Ethiopia ever since a professor at the University of Washington introduced her to someone who got her an internship.

"As of 2005, there were 744,000 HIV/AIDS orphans in Ethiopia," Endeshaw said.

Endeshaw visited Ethiopia in 2006 to address health issues among women, and she will return there this summer. Through the Netsebak Reproductive Health and Social Development Organization, Endeshaw will be helping 550 HIV/AIDS orphans.

"I’m trying to do something on a small scale to address the need that I saw," Endeshaw said.

These HIV/AIDS orphans have been ostracized by their communities because their parents died of AIDS, she said. The tragedy is that the children Endeshaw is helping are not HIV positive but they are still outcasts.

Endeshaw’s goal is to set up two programs for these impoverished children—an educational program, and a recreational program.

"I’m going to open a library and buy books for children, and I am going to buy them sports equipment," Endeshaw said.

The funding for these programs is coming from the Davis Foundation Project for Peace grant that Endeshaw won. The $10,000 grant will cover most of the expenses, but Endeshaw still needs $4,000.

Endeshaw has three months to work with the orphans in Ethiopia through the Netsebak program.

For more information on how to make contributions to Endeshaw’s project contact Dr. Clinton at 878-3710, ext. 3151, or Bclinton@highline.edu.

Students will have a chance to get more bang for their books

Students will have the opportunity to save money while exchanging books this March at Highline.

The Pi Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and Student Programs organized a student book exchange connecting student sellers to student buyers.

Unlike the Highline bookstore buy-back, organizers will not hang on to books or give out money nor will they profit from the exchange.

Instead, students post their phone numbers or e-mail addresses on a board along with book information and their asking price. Unlike the Highline bookstore buy-back, organizers will not hang on to books or give out money nor will they profit from the exchange.

Book exchange dates will be March 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 31 and April 1. Students will be able to exchange books from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Those interested can meet outside Mt. Constance, HSU during the March dates and inside Mt. Constance on April 1.

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Spring Quarter!

Do you meet one of the following criteria?

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If yes ~ Contact our office as soon as possible to determine eligibility for Spring

Worker Retraining
Building Six, Upper Lobby
206-878-3710 ext. 3802
jhuber@highline.edu
MaST may see generous donation

By Martin Ericksen
Staff Reporter

Student Government may donate $100,000 to the new Marine and Science Technology Center.

The Student Government met on March 11 to vote on donating $100,000 to the new MaST Center but with no decision made the vote has been moved to April 8.

Rod Stephenson, the executive director of the Highline Foundation, was going to explain how Student Government’s donation would be spent, but due to his absence as a result of miscommunication no decision was made at the Tuesday meeting.

The Foundation is a private non-profit organization that raises funds for the college.

The MaST Center is currently under construction but it should be finished in six weeks with its grand opening scheduled for June 16.

The new building is much larger than the previous MaST Center and the 2,300 gallon aquarium is the third largest in Washington state, Stephenson said.

Steve Simpkins, the Highline President of the Faculty Senate Ruth Frickle said that there are both pros and cons with the system.

On the pro side, it will probably minimize student confusion about what courses count if they transfer to another community college. On the con side, it can create some confusing scenarios wherein prerequisites for some classes at a given school have a higher number than the course for which they are a prerequisite.

Students could likely miss out on some great courses that could be of value to them personally and which would actually transfer, Frickle said.

“One concern that has been brought up is the issue of Common Course Numbering implying that the content of the courses will have to be similar. “I can tell you that many faculty have concerns about how common course numbering may impact not only the name and number of a course but also the content,” said Division Chairwoman Arts and Humanities Allison Green.

“Sunny Burns, steering committee chairwoman, said that the system was never intended to be common content. “Burns explained that there were three options for making the system transparent to students including Common Course Numbering, a common curriculum system, and a virtual crosswalk system. “We did not vote for the common curriculum,” Burns said.

The virtual crosswalk system would have been a web-based system that would allow students, advisors, and faculty to match courses from college to college.

“Current problems that have held back construction are bad weather and building decisions, Dr. Sell said. The biggest problem for opening the MaST Center was getting the proper building permits from the City of Des Moines.

“We could have had our permits sooner. … I don’t know why they permits took so long,” Dr. Sell said. It took Highline a year and a half to get approval and permits from the City of Des Moines.

Some people in Des Moines were concerned that Highline has a parking plan that would not disrupt the day-to-day activities in the area.

Officials hope that the MaST Center will be open for classes by Summer Quarter. Moses said they plan to have two marine biology courses and an oceanography class during the summer.

The tentative grand opening celebration is scheduled for June 16. Dr. Sell said that U.S. Rep. Adam Smith, D-Ninth District, is supposed to attend, but neither the opening nor his appearance is final.

“In the construction business, nothing is for sure,” he said.

Smoking
Continued From Page 1

Burns explained that during a study of about 326,000 students, about 19 percent of them had other colleges on their transcripts. Data from just Pierce and King County showed a much higher percentage.

“What we found was that students took classes over again that they had already taken,” Burns said. “We are doing this to help students identify courses that transfer between colleges.”

Student body president, is in favor of the donation.

“This project is going to enhance the campus and the community,” said Simpkins.

If the Student Government donates the money, the MaST Center will have almost accomplished its fund-raising goal.

Most of the money has come from individuals who have taken an interest. Former trustee Michael Allan, whose father was the first president of Highline, has donated a substantial sum of money to the MaST Center, Stephenson said.

The original cost for the new MaST Center was $1 million but due to delays in construction the price doubled, Stephenson said.

The most important thing is the students support, Stephenson said.

The donation will show that the students are concerned, Stephenson said.

If Student Government votes in favor of the donation, a portion of the MaST Center will be named after them.

There are also other parts of the MaST Center that are open to naming, Stephenson said, and students could likely miss out on some great courses that could be of value to them personally and which would actually transfer, Frickle said.

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“A good class and makes it even better,” Shabb said.

The MaST Center is a 2,500-square-foot facility that will hold over 2,000 gallons of flow through saltwater tanks, and 80 different local marine species.

Both professors will have to change their lesson plans because of the change in location.

“(Relocating the MaST Center) is not a huge deal, but (at the MaST Center) you can actually observe (the species),” Shabb said.

Moses’ oceanography class will be held in Building 14 room 104 on Fridays from 6:30-9:00 p.m. and one of the marine biology classes, taught by Rus Higley, will be held in Building 14 room 104 from 4:00-6:45 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Shabb’s marine biology class from 12:30-2:30 has not yet been assigned a new classroom, but students can check the quarterly online for updates at http://onlineschedule.highline.edu/}

“Delay
Continued From Page 1

“It (would have been) wonderful to be on the water, but you roll with the punches.”

Sam Shabb, who was going to teach a marine biology class, agreed. “(The MaST Center) takes a good class and makes it even better,” Shabb said.

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Common Course
Continued From Page 1

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Students could likely miss out on some great courses that could be of value to them personally and which would actually transfer, Frickle said.

“The common course number implies that other courses won’t transfer, and that’s simply not the case,” Frickle said.

One concern that has been brought up is the issue of Common Course Numbering implying that the content of the courses will have to be similar.

“I can tell you that many faculty have concerns about how common course numbering may impact not only the name and number of a course but also the content,” said Division Chairwoman Arts and Humanities Allison Green.

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The virtual crosswalk system would have been a web-based system that would allow students, advisors, and faculty to match courses from college to college.

“It’s not like this was a big surprise,” said Dr Phil Sell, the project manager for the MaST Center.

Sell said a lot of factors held up the opening of the MaST Center.

Current problems that have held back construction are bad weather and building decisions, Dr. Sell said. The biggest problem for opening the MaST Center was getting the proper building permits from the City of Des Moines.

“We could have had our permits sooner. … I don’t know why they permits took so long,” Dr. Sell said.

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