Tracy Brigham enters the world of motherhood

By Nicole Claunch
Staff Reporter

After traveling to Africa a dozen times, teacher Tracy Brigham brought a part of it back with her. Brigham has recently adopted a child from Ethiopia, located in eastern Africa.

Brigham has been at Highline for 14 years. She teaches Global Health Issues, which became a class at Highline in 2002. Besides teaching, Brigham has traveled all over the world.

“First time I went to Ethiopia I fell in love with it, and the people,” Brigham said. Ethiopia is one of the few countries in Africa that will allow you to adopt a child.

“I knew eventually I would adopt a child from Africa,” Brigham said. As for Brigham, her adoption process was quicker than most. The Children’s House International agency is what put the pair together. The agency has programs in 18 countries worldwide.

There are different government requirements for different programs, such as age, and marital status. Other requirements include the time of stay in that

Highline students want more help from government

Highline students are looking to the government to provide health care and more services, mirroring a national poll of young adults.

A seven-question survey on the economy was administered to a sample of 100 students at Highline to find out their views on government-supported programs.

A majority of the students supported the idea of the government providing universal health care with 82 percent of those in favor, with 18 percent disagreeing.

Some students answered from their own personal experiences. Lisa Visintin moved here from Oklahoma and said that she is unable to afford health insurance. So, it would help if the government provided affordable health insurance,” Visintin said.

“I’m not expecting the government to pay for everything, just a little bit,” she said.

Gary Chin said he believes health care should be the government’s responsibility. “I just think the government should help people and serve their needs better, ‘cause that’s what the government is supposed to do: they work to serve the people,” said Chin.

Students aren’t ready to vote

By Nicole Claunch
Staff Reporter

Many Highline students say they have not yet registered to vote for the 2008 presidential elections.

Some students said they have been meaning to register but haven’t yet. Others said they just do not want to vote.

While presidential candidate Barack Obama is focused on the younger population, Highline students are not as focused on him. Likely candidates for president are Obama, Hillary Clinton, and John McCain. Obama is currently running against Clinton for the Democratic Party nomination. McCain is running as the Republican Party nominee.

Obama is currently 43 delegates away from winning the Democratic nomination as expected. If Obama wins the Democratic nomination as expected, then he will run against McCain for president this fall.

Students who have registered to vote spoke their minds about the upcoming elections.

“I would vote for Obama, he relates to younger voters,” said Steven Ghobinan.

Other students felt differently about the candidates.

“Hillary would be great in office. She is smart and stands on her issues. I love her health care plans,” said Kristina Griess.

“McCain seems like a good guy, and has experience with war,” said Jerrod Sitzler.

Some students were still undecided.

“I would likely vote for Obama or Clinton. Both make good points. Either would be an important victory. They both

Take the long way home

Tracy Brigham brought Zavion to the U.S. from Ethiopia in July of 2007.
Falling for Highline

A Highline student fell down a short flight of stairs on May 19 and was taken to Highline Hospital by her friends. The student fell again on May 22 on a sidewalk on campus. Her friends called 911 and then contacted Security.

American Medical Response reported that she was having muscular spasms in her lower back. The ambulance crew then transported the student to Valley Medical Center per her request.

Prank emergency calls

Over the past week there have been a number of hang-up calls from the blue Emergency Call Boxes located throughout all the parking lots. These tall blue towers, located in every parking lot on campus, are for emergencies only.

When the phone is taken off the hook and the blue button pressed, a call goes out to the Des Moines Police Department and Highline Security, and officers are sent out. Highline Security asks that these be used for emergencies only.

Give lost items a home

With the quarter coming to an end, Highline’s lost and found is still growing.

If you feel that you have lost something this quarter and still want to find it, go swing by the Highline Security office in Building 6 and see if it was returned.

If you have found something this year if you find something between now and the end of school, you can take it to the Highline Security office and drop it off with them.

Report unwanted guests

As the quarter is coming to an end, Highline Security is increasing their patrols throughout campus.

A main area that has seen an increase in checks has been the Library because of non-students using the computer terminals. Security suggests that if you see people who don’t seem to belong, contact the Librarian.

By Shalina Baldwin

Staff Reporter

Two Highline humanities teachers have been chosen to participate in a government-endowed journey for scholars this summer, the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Andean Worlds program.

This scholarly excursion will venture into the vast history of the ancient Incan Empire in Peru, studying ruins of a civilization created almost a thousand years ago. The Andean Worlds program runs from June 29 through July 24. Highline professors Ellen Hofmann and Ruth Windhover both applied to the summer program and coincidentally were both among the 20 or so scholars chosen nationwide.

“Two professors from the same college in the same department is highly unusual for this type of thing,” said Hofmann. “It’s a very competitive program among teachers and scholars all over the country.”

As part of the admission process, each teacher submitted a proposal of what they intend to study if chosen for the program. Hofmann entered her proposal after discovering the program online. She has a love of adventure and traveling. As a student, Hofmann moved to France to study the French language. Additionally, she has often led students on spring breaks to places such as France, Italy, Greece, Spain, China, Japan, Turkey, and Egypt. Her experience traveling has prepared her for this latest excursion to study the ancient Incan.

“I chose to enter for the Andean Worlds program in Peru, because it seemed particularly unusual and interesting,” said Hofmann.

Hofmann said that writing the proposal was like writing a composition. She focused her proposal on comparative archit ecture, a field which she has been interested in for years. She intends to focus on the ancient structures, studying what they might have been used for, how they were built, and the architectural science behind the ancient buildings. Windhover’s focus while in Peru will be primarily on women’s issues before and after Spanish colonization. The group of scholars selected will all travel together through Peru, each one focusing on their individual interests. Most of their expenses will be funded by the government endowments.

“Our purpose as a group traveling in the Andean Worlds summer program is to retrace the steps of the Conquistadores as well as the Incas,” said Hofmann. “We’ll be doing a bit of archaeology, trying to uncover the mysteries of the great Incan Empire.”

Hofmann

Perfect your punctuation

Receive writing and grammar assistance at two workshops starting today.

The Grammar and Writing workshops are located in Building 26 room 319.

The “Self Assessment and Writing Portfolio Cover Letters” workshop is today. Bring drafts of essays that you would like to put in a writing portfolio to the workshop and receive helpful cover letter tips. Learn how to analyze your own writing while gaining materials to build your portfolio.

This workshop is today from 1:30-2:20 p.m.

The “Other Tricky Punctuation Issues” workshop is on June 2, 3, and 4.

This workshop is aimed to help clarify tricky punctuation marks.

The punctuations marks that will be discussed are: quotation marks, apostrophes, hyphens, and periods with abbreviations and acronyms.

These workshops are on June 4 at 4-4:50 p.m., June 3 at 9-9:50 a.m., and June 4 at 1:30-2:20 p.m.

Message to students

On March 26, a local bus driver transported the student to Valley Medical Center. The ambulance crew then contacted Security.

The Thunderword / May 29, 2008

Compiled by Jason Baker
Highline panel debates the N-word

By Katy Weythman
Staff Reporter

A panel of students, faculty and community leaders met all on the table when discussing the effects that stereotypes and the N-word have on the African-American community. With an audience of about 25 people, the six person panel met on Tuesday, May 20 in Building 8 in the Mt. Constance room. Students Dave Ganett and Charles Motsooko sat on the panel along with Laura Manning, a Highline speech instructor; Aaron Reader and Natasha Burrowes, who work in the Multicultural Services department; and Sean Good, a local activist. The panel agreed that Hip hop has major influence within the African-American community and that it also shapes the image society has of African-Americans. “Hip hop is so insidious,” Manning said. “[Hip hop] is used to make a statement,” Motsooko said. “But people are using it negatively and as a tool of violence.” “There are cultural differences and communication barriers,” Ganett said. Hip hop has influenced the African-American community, but so has the Black Panther Party, whose members served and defended their communities against police brutality, panelists said. “What measures is the US justified with for going to war?” asked Reader when the discussion turned toward the Black Panthers. The Black Panther Party was founded in Oakland, Calif. in 1966 for protection from police and they fought for social and economic equality. “They [Black Panthers] went all the way to protect the integrity of the African-American people,” Motsooko said. “They wanted to show the whites that we will fight for freedom.” The Party’s primary goal was to promote freedom, civil rights, and self defense through news pamphlets, marches, and protests. “The Black Panthers were strategic about social change,” Burrowes said. “I believe in nonviolent social change and direct action.” “The Black Panthers were also portrayed as stereotypes of African-Americans to the rest of society. Some Black Panther members became involved with drugs and violence, which was, for some people, the image of the entire party.” “ ‘White America defines African-Americans with stereotypes which are flat,’ ” said Manning. “ ‘That’s why you only see a gun with the Black Panthers.’ ” Without knowledge and understanding of what the Black Panthers were really fighting for makes it easier for society to rely on stereotypes. “This shows the strength of the media, and that we need to get past our Content Box, and go to something called a library to defeat our ignorance,” said Good. Also associated with the Black Panthers and stereotypes, the N-word holds major significance whenever it is used, panelists said. The panel was unable to come to a consensus on the use of the N-word and the meaning behind it. “When you don’t use something, it makes it more powerful,” Good said. “The definition gives it power, and the use gives it life.” “We don’t need someone else to oppress us, we do that ourselves with internalized oppression,” Burrowes said. “I’d rather not hear it, than hear it.” “No matter how it’s changed or used, the history attached to it is not going to be forgotten,” Reader said. “Eventually they [society] will come out with another word with the same historical meaning.” Regardless of the history, the panel was able to agree on whether or not the word should be used. Many died to not be called the N-word and it shows disrespect to those who died when we use it with each other,” Motsooko said. “If we listen to people we must hold them accountable for what they say,” Good said. Motsooko and Good both wanted the conversation to continue after this discussion and they wanted people to become educated on the subject. “It’s a lack of understanding of history,” Good said. “But a nation without a history is a lost nation,” said Motsooko. “The problem is from the root, not the fruit,” Good said. “We need to get to the root of the problem to fix it.” Highline panel debates the N-word

The panel also discussed the cultural effects of TV and hip hop. Construction to cause delays on Pacific Highway yet another week

By Whitney Iwasaki
Staff Reporter

It’s that time of year when commencement is finishing up school and getting ready to move on with their lives. Are you ready? At Highline, finishing up school results in being in the Commencement ceremony, making sure you are on track to graduate, or making certain that transcripts are finalized and ready to go. This year, Highline’s commencement ceremony is on June 12 at 3 p.m. at the WaMu Theater in Seattle. Participants of this ceremony must have already applied for graduation and received an invitation by early May or otherwise contacted the Registration office. To apply for graduation, Debbie Faison, the assistant registrar, said, “You must apply two quarters in advanced by filling out an Application for Graduation and pay the required fee at the cashier window in Building 6.” Students get too caught up with the end of the year nearing and with summer just around the corner, they forget to make sure if they know if they are on track to graduate. “To make sure you are on track for graduation, you need to make sure to apply for graduation and should meet with an adviser so you know if you are meeting all of the requirements,” Faison said. You may participate in the commencement ceremony if you have already graduated or plan to graduate in the following quarters: summer 2007, fall 2007, winter 2008, spring 2008, and summer 2008.

Surprise, construction will continue to cause delays on Pacific Highway South in Federal Way this week. Crews will be working on the medians, curbs, centerline, and street lights for the Dash Point Road intersection. The new lights will be turned on after the new sidewalks are poured this Friday. Property restoration work has resumed on the east side of the highway. The work will begin at the My Lan restaurant and proceed northward for the foreseeable future. Crews have begun to remove the median pavement south of the South 288th St. intersection. They will be installing a drainage pipe and system B storm water vaults in this segment of median later this week. Installation of a traffic barrier will begin Friday with concrete pouring continuing until July. Drivers should expect daytime delays and closures. Delays will continue across area freeways as well. Crews will close one lane in each direction of I-405 between I-5 and State Route 167 from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Friday morning for survey and electrical work. Northbound State Route 99 will be closed from 160th Street to 154th Street for bridge work from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. tonight and tomorrow night. Crews will close one lane of eastbound and westbound State Route 518 from SR 99 to I-5 from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Friday morning for bridge work. Flaggers will direct traffic on 42nd Street as needed. The eastbound ramp from SR 518 to SR 99 will be closed from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. tomorrow morning for construction work. Crews may also close the westbound ramp as well, depending on work progress. Construction crews will close one lane of eastbound Grady Way near Oaksdale Avenue Southwest in Renton from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night. The Seattle Mariners continue their homestand this weekend with three games against Detroit. Friday’s game is at 7:10 p.m., Saturday’s at 12:55 p.m. and they close the series Sunday with a 1:10 p.m. first pitch. The homestand continues with three games against Anaheim. Monday and Tuesday’s games start at 7:10 p.m. and Wednesday’s at 1:40 p.m.
Editorial comment

Two Board slots still need filling

Highline is now in need of two new Board of Trustees members and it is in the entire community’s best interest to ensure the appointments happen quickly.

Highline now has two vacant seats on the Board after Karen Vander Ark resigned a couple weeks ago. Mere months after the untimely death of Rita Creighton, a second slot on the Board has opened up before the first even had enough time to be filled.

It is important to Highline and the local community that these slots be filled by qualified and motivated people, at the earliest possible date. We would encourage members of the local community to speak with their local legislators and nominate people they think would perform the duties of Trustee in the best manner.

When deciding who to nominate it is important that people making the nominations are informed on what makes a good Board member. Although the members do not need to have a deep understanding of the education process. Highline has students, staff and faculty from all of the surrounding communities and comprise a very diverse demographic. The large numbers of international students also contribute to the diversity of the campus. A strong sense of leadership would also be an ideal quality for a trustee, by ensuring they voice their opinions on important matters. They need to be from the local district and have a working understanding of the local community and how the college fits into it.

Once nominations have been made, it is important that the governor’s office doesn’t sit on the decision for too long. Although the governor does make the final decision on Board member appointments, she has a staff that relies on to know who is best suited for the job. The governor is a very busy person but luckily the people who are more accessible in her office are really the ones who are most knowledgeable about those nominated.

The governor’s office has been very helpful with providing information about the process and there is no reason to think that they would stop now. We would encourage those who want to see new Board appointees be named quickly to start by getting in touch with local legislators. If there is still no action taking place, work their local legislators. If there is still no action taking place, work your way up the political chain. It is important for members of the community who have an interest in Highline to not wait for someone else to offer names to legislators. If we wish for the process to happen as quickly as possible, it is the responsibility of the entire community to get in touch with local legislators and give nominations.

Staff

“This week was long, I went to class everyday.”

Director of News

Nathan Brown

Ways to immunize against spring fever

Spring is upon us and it can be difficult to stay focused during these last few weeks of the quarter. The sun is out, life is spawning all around us and the lure of outdoor activities is very powerful to Washingtonians. Although springtime can be rejuvenating to the people of this often overcast state, it is in students’ best interests to maintain focus for just a bit longer.

The seasons in Washington are often blurred and indefinite. Having more cloudy days than not, it is easy to understand college student distractions to sunny days. The temptation to blow off duties and studies is high and many students have trouble figuring out how to combat these irresponsible enticements.

Finding a quiet place seems to work for Highline student Leo Thomas.

“Friends don’t keep you focused,” Thomas said. Often friends and acquaintances’ schedules differ from ours and you sometimes have to put your foot down to fulfill obligations. Sometimes people just have to wake up to the fact that they’re adults and real friends won’t take it personal if obligations need to be fulfilled.

There are numbers of ways to deal with friends and the distractions of the outdoors.

“Don’t answer the phone,” said Highline student Anna Krivorot. “This solution might seem a little extreme but at times could be necessary. Although it’s possible to have some guilt over ignoring friends, you must look out for your best interest. Times of steady focus don’t last forever and it is best to do what is necessary until it is finished.

Krivorot also says she incorporates the good weather with studying by reading outside. This is a very good way to enjoy the benefits of the season while getting schoolwork done.

Although she would like to do things like go out on the boat or visit the park, Krivorot emphasized the importance of focusing on school and grades. It’s not a surprise that Krivorot already has her AA in biology and is looking to a future in medicine.

There are also other methods that students have come up with in order to deal with the season. “I try to get all school work done in one day or by Friday,” said Highline student Danielle Hinds.

By working straight through, Hinds is more able to enjoy those moments away from school. The lure of blowing off school is very high because seven to eight months out of the year are covered by clouds.

Students such as Hinds are afraid they will miss out on contact with the sunlight.

It’s also commonly thought that people are more affected by romance and attraction during spring. This can be a powerful distraction and possibly one of the most powerful on the planet.

After talking to students however, this is not an issue that is exclusive to spring. Romance is a year round distraction. The reason it seems so prominent during the warmer months is because more people are out and about. Also breaks and vacation time offer much needed pause from obligations. This allows people to have a little more time for romantic rendezvous.

The best way for students to remain focused during these last few weeks of the quarter is to study in secluded places and ensure friends that know the importance of their schoolwork.

Most importantly though, that we all realize how a strong last push of effort will pay off. Nothing lasts forever and putting your best foot forward in these last weeks will make for a much more enjoyable break.

Commentary

Nathan Brown

Write to us

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

Editorial cartoons on timely subjects may also be considered.

Submissions will be edited for style. Due to limited space, please limit your submission to 500 words or less.

Submissions that are too long may be subject to editing for length. 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.
Amateur cage fighting hits Highline

By Maxx Shelley
Staff Reporter

Get ready to rumble this weekend when Northwest Fitness brings its fight team here to Highline for some good old-fashioned amateur fighting.

Doors to the Pavilion open at 7 p.m. and the fights start at 8 p.m. Tickets will cost $20 for general admission, $35 for V.I.P. and $50 for ringside seats.

Reese Andy, professional fighter and fitness trainer at Northwest Fitness, is responsible for the event and said he is excited for the fight to be at Highline.

“Highline is a great school and we want more people from around our area to learn about the college and for more people in your area to learn about us,” Andy said. “This is a great way to build support for both the college and our business.”

Nine different gyms from around the area sponsoring the event will be there, allowing people to learn about the different fight schools around Washington. “It’s a great way for people to cross-train and learn about what other fighting styles different gyms have to offer,” Andy said.

There will be 12-15 amateur fighters, consisting of no more than three rounds each. Mixed martial arts, or MMA, is a full contact combat sport which combines wrestling, striking, and jiu jitsu.

Because the fights are all amateur, there were no qualifying matches to get to this point and there will be no titles or belts on the line.

An amateur fight also means that elbows and knees cannot be used. If they are used in the match, the fighter will lose a point.

The rules in an amateur league, or circuit, are different than those of the pros because the pros are far more violent and the fighters are putting themselves in a position to really hurt one another.

“If the same rules that are used in the pros were used in the amateur leagues, the amateur fighters might as well get paid just as much as the pros,” Andy said.

Because no elbows and knees will be used, the fight will consist of strikes, submissions, and takedowns.
Highline women’s soccer team rebuilding for next season

By Max Dubbeldam
Staff Reporter

After two years of having an undermanned team, the Highline women’s soccer coach is looking to thicken out the squad for next season.

Last season the team was ridden with injuries which made it hard to keep playing their best game.

“We started losing players, but we got enough wins to secure the league title,” said Head Coach Thomas Moore.

Highline ended last season with 30 points, which secured first place, and a 9-6-3 record.

The Thunderword / May 29, 2008

Staff Reporter

Soccer (football, futbol) really is a kick in the grass

At the newspaper we needed a sports column and I, being a European soccer fanatic, offered to write a soccer column. The faces of the other editors dropped and they joked at the idea; unfortunately this is how many Americans react to “the beautiful game.” With Seattle getting ready for its own Major League Soccer team, which has been linked to French superstar Thierry Henry, it is time for the U.S. to catch up with this worldwide sport we (the rest of the world) like to call football.

Soccer is, above all, a game of balance. It is a relatively simple game and only has one rule called the “laws of the game.”

My favorite soccer quote of all time explains soccer to perfection. The quote is from Dutch soccer legend Johan Cruyff and goes like this: “Soccer is a simple game, but the hardest thing to do is to play simple soccer.”

The object of the game is to score more points than the other team by shooting the ball past the other team’s goalkeeper and into the net.

This part you probably already know.

Each team consists of 11 players with one designated goalkeeper. The keeper is the only player who can use his or her hands while the ball is in play and can only do so within the 16-yard box.

The outfield players (non-goalkeepers) are divided into three different categories; they are defenders, midfielders, and attackers. The players are organized according to the tactics the team uses.

The task of the defenders is to protect the goalkeeper, and the goal, from the other team’s attackers.

Midfielders are generally the most well-rounded players on the field and have to be able to combine their defensive skills with offensive ones. Their main task is to spread the play with passes and set up the attacks.

I firmly believe that most, if not all, games are won and lost in the midfield area.

The final category of players, and the most glorified one, is the attacking group. These players are commonly called forwards, or strikers, and their main task is to score the goals.

So why should you watch this game? What makes it so fun?

The first thing you’ll probably notice when you watch a soccer match are the low scores. It is not uncommon that matches have only one goal, or that there aren’t any goals scored at all.

Although goals can be spectacular, they aren’t what make the game so great.

The game is all about strategy, and it is probably the most team-oriented sport around. Teams have to play together and jell in order to move the ball around in a way to get their attackers a sight of the goal.

It’s a beautiful thing to see how these athletes move around the pitch and how they can read and adjust their play according to what’s going on.

Soccer is not easy to get into if you’re just starting to watch it. You need to give yourself time to really get into the game, and most of all you need a team to root for and love.

Once you start watching the game more often and start understanding it, you’ll see what all the fuss is about.

To be a soccer fan is to be part of a huge family that stretches out all over the world. And the best thing about it is that it is international and that you can share it with everyone.

If you want to get into the game and start watching, this summer is a great time to start.

Starting on June 7 are the European Championships which will be broadcast on ESPN. This tournament features the top soccer nations in Europe battling it out to see who’s best. It’s not as good as the World Cup. You have to wait until 2010 for that to come around again.

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Commentary

Max Dubbeldam

Continued From Page 5

sist of strikes, submissions, and takedowns.

Although the fights are all about striking, still expect to see some good fights in all weight classes, Andy said.

Andy said there will be one or two heavyweight fights and all the rest will be in the middleweight or lightweight class.

The fights will be determined by not only weight class but experience as well.

A fighter who is debuting won’t fight someone who has been in eight fights; he’ll fight another debut fighter.

Andy said that the trainers for each fighter spoke with one another to make sure there wouldn’t be any mismatches amongst the fighters.

“Every bout will be fair,” Andy said.

And to make sure the fights will be fair, the fights have been booked for nearly two months allowing the fighters to prepare themselves.

This fight will also be the first event that Northwest Fitness has organized themselves.

“We’ve helped out a bunch of other shows, but this is the first one we’ve done ourselves,” Andy said.

If you are interested in attending the event you can purchase tickets by calling Northwest Fitness at 425-226-3808 or you can purchase them online at www.westcoastfightteam.com.

I like using the wings and having crosses from the outside,” Moore said. “Last year we played a 4-5-1 formation. I want to move to somewhere along the lines of a 4-3-3.”

Moore said that Lusebrink will be key to his team’s success. Moore foresees that Highline will be battling it out with Tacoma for the division title.

“We’ve got a pretty good shot of making it all the way,” Moore said.

If you’re interested in trying out you can contact Coach Moore at TMoore@highline.edu.

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The final category of players, and the most glorified one, is the attacking group. These players are commonly called forwards, or strikers, and their main task is to score the goals.

So why should you watch this game? What makes it so fun?

The first thing you’ll probably notice when you watch a soccer match are the low scores. It is not uncommon that matches have only one goal, or that there aren’t any goals scored at all.

Although goals can be spectacular, they aren’t what make the game so great.

The game is all about strategy, and it is probably the most team-oriented sport around. Teams have to play together and jell in order to move the ball around in a way to get their attackers a sight of the goal.

It’s a beautiful thing to see how these athletes move around the pitch and how they can read and adjust their play according to what’s going on.

Soccer is not easy to get into if you’re just starting to watch it. You need to give yourself time to really get into the game, and most of all you need a team to root for and love.

Once you start watching the game more often and start understanding it, you’ll see what all the fuss is about.

To be a soccer fan is to be part of a huge family that stretches out all over the world. And the best thing about it is that it is international and that you can share it with everyone.

If you want to get into the game and start watching, this summer is a great time to start.

Starting on June 7 are the European Championships which will be broadcast on ESPN. This tournament features the top soccer nations in Europe battling it out to see who’s best. It’s not as good as the World Cup. You have to wait until 2010 for that to come around again.
Puzzles

The Thunderword / May 29, 2008

Arts Calendar

-Henry Ford

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Across
1. Go....
2. Mall event....
3. Blood vessel obstruction....
4. Mayberry tye....
5. Take out of the package....
6. BMW rival....
7. Calm and relaxed....
8. FDR successor....
9. Table parts....
10. Current measure....
11. Hides in the closet?....
12. Where the buoys are....
13. Breathe hard....
14. Not playing....
15. Great Lakes city....
16. Johnson of "Laugh-In"....
17. Fluster....
18. "Dick Tracy"....
19. Tattle....
20. Loyal fo...
HIGHLINE’S MOST ARTISTIC STUDENTS PUT THEIR WORK ON THE LINE IN THE ANNUAL PORTFOLIO SHOW

By Rochelle Adams
Staff Reporter

A group of Highline students and alumni will be sticking their creative necks out this June at Portfolio Show 2008. At the event, Highline alumni and students from the visual communications, drafting, and interior design departments will be displaying their art including illustrations, photography, and electronically generated images.

By McKinzi Mortensen
Staff Reporter

While other kids were outside playing soccer, Ashley Johnson was inside practicing the cello.

Johnson, a former Highline student, has been playing cello for 12 years. At 18 years old, she said she loves being able to play beautiful music, but that comes with a heavy price.

“Two to successful you have to be willing to sacrifice several hours daily and the instruments themselves can be extremely expensive,” Johnson said. “My sister-in-law is a professional violinist, and her violin is worth more than my parents’ house.”

Although Johnson was attending orchestra camps in middle school through high school, her passion for cello started many years ago.

“When I was 6 my mom started me on the violin,” Johnson said. “I was not very teachable with my mom as my teacher, so that instrument lasted about two weeks."

Johnson’s mom is a private violin and viola teacher, and her dad is a music teacher for a high school, middle school, and community college. He also helped establish and conduct two orchestras in the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association, one of the strongest youth symphonies in the United States, for more than 30 years.

After violin was out of the way, Johnson tried piano for about a year and finally settled on the cello. Johnson started cello when she was 9 in one of her dad’s beginning orchestra classes.

“I was in the fourth grade and it was a fifth grade class, so I drove with my mom to the class every morning in Auburn, and after that class she would drive me back to my own school,” Johnson said. That same year, Johnson played with her own elementary school orchestra where she was able to join a year early there as well.

This was before they got rid of the music program in elementary schools so she was able to be part of that program from fourth to sixth grade.

When Johnson was in fifth grade she was able to audition and join the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association. The symphony offers six different orchestras and her very first year she was selected as the principal cello.

“As a fifth grader it seems pretty scary to take on that much responsibility, but honestly I don’t think I really knew what it meant back then,” Johnson said. “I was just there to hack away at that cello.”

Johnson practiced her art in school music programs through 11th grade, when she transferred to Highline. Every year since then, Johnson has

"Sometimes students are brave enough to stand by their work,” Nelson said. That is extremely brave considering the fact that their work isn’t just there to be seen by onlookers. Each piece is also being judged in a contest at the event.

Nelson said he has nothing to do with the judging. A group of volunteers, consisting of industry professionals, will go around the show, giving each piece of artwork a score between 1 and 5. A few days later when all the scores have been tabulated by an independent source, the awards will be given out.

Though he hasn’t worked out what the exact money amounts will be, Nelson said more than $1,000 worth of prizes will be given away to the winners with the first prize most likely being $500.

Judges aren’t the only ones these artists are looking to please. Potential employers will also be there looking for new hires.

The artwork being presented ranges from commercial art used in advertisement, to interior designs to the work of draftsmen. Companies are looking for artists in many different fields and for numerous projects.

One example he gives is the Boeing recruiter who is coming to fish for drafting students.

“Some employers have hired students based on the work they see at the show,” he said.

For those who aren’t interested in judging or hiring these artists, this show can serve as an opportunity to see the latest designs of Highline’s up and coming new talent as well as attend the reception.

At the reception there will be refreshments and music from the Leanne Wilkin Band.

The show takes place in the Mt. Constance room of Building 8 on June 2 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and June 3 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. with the reception running from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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Cello

Continued From Page 8

been the principal cellist of each of the succeeding orchestras in the Tacoma Youth Symphony Association.

“My dad conducts two of those orchestras, the Tacoma Debut Orchestra and the Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra, and I was privileged to play in each of those orchestras,” Johnson said.

When Johnson was in the 10th grade, she auditioned and was accepted into Washington’s All-State chamber orchestra. This is the highest of the selective orchestras in the state.

Johnson said they met for one week in Yakima and then performed.

Johnson has also participated in the solo/ensemble contest every year since she started playing cello and received superior ratings each of those years.

“Last year I was chosen as my region’s representative and was able to compete at the state level,” Johnson said.

She placed third in Washington state as a junior in high school.

Attending Highline, Johnson got a sense of where she was going to go in life.

“I attended Highline the fall and winter quarters this past year as my senior year in high school, and I’m glad I did this, because I was able to get better-adjusted to a college setting,” Johnson said. “I also took music theory and sight singing with Ben Thomas, and am very grateful for these classes.”

“I would have been doomed if I hadn’t taken these classes at Highline,” Johnson said.

Johnson was able to graduate high school early and transfer to Brigham Young University, where she is currently a music performance major and a part of BYU’s orchestra.

“Once I receive my degree, I plan to continue on to a music conservatory where I will hopefully earn my master’s and maybe even a doctorate,” Johnson said.

Johnson would love to eventually have a job with a symphony, and is even thinking of being a cello professor, while still being a mom.

“My mom has always been a stage mother, which can be frustrating at times, but it has always meant a lot to me that she cares and supported me so much,” Johnson said. “She has always been my cheerleader, and the one who has made it possible for me to be a part of so many programs and opportunities.

As far as who inspires her the most, it would have to be her dad.

Johnson said that everyone always tells her, “Oh, it must be terrible having your own dad as your conductor. How do you do it?”

That’s not the case at all for Johnson though, who has always loved having a dad fill the roles he has in her life.

“He is the one who got me started on the cello and has helped me for hours on end, when I’m sure the sounds I have made on that instrument haven’t always been the most pleasing,” Johnson said.

Johnson has played in several of the orchestras her father conducts and it amazes her how patient and caring he is with each of his students.

“Unlike other conductors I have worked with, he always has suggestions but doesn’t give criticism in a negative way,” Johnson said. “He also works so well with young beginning string students, and it would be so easy to get upset and frustrated with young students, but he always shocks me with his patience and love for these students.”

Johnson said her dad is the most knowledgeable man she knows in many subjects, but with musical skill, he has and will always leave her dumb-founded.

“Whatever piece is playing on the radio, he can identify the name, composer, and opus number of the work within seconds,” Johnson said. “I really hope to be as patient, intelligent, and kind as my dad someday, and he is one of the reasons I plan on pursuing music as my career.”

This year Johnson once again auditioned and was selected to play a concerto with the other orchestra her father conducts.

“I performed the Brahms Double Concerto for Violin and Cello, with violinist Joanna Park,” Johnson said. “We were also the soloists for that concert’s encore.”

And in addition to playing the cello, Johnson has taught cello lessons for the past five years and currently has 12 private students. She began attending Brigham Young University at the end of April for the spring term as a music major.

To Johnson, success isn’t gaining fame or glory; it’s loving what you do.

“It is frustrating to me to see people only doing things because they want recognition,” Johnson said. “There is not much money in music, but I love it, so I’m making it happen.”

Johnson’s final performance was with the Tacoma Youth Symphony last Saturday, May 17.

Starting in the fall, she will be joining the symphony at BYU and will have plenty of performances with them, as well as solo recitals.

“I would have been doomed if I hadn’t taken these classes at Highline.”

– Ashley Johnson, BYU cello student

After trying violin and piano, cello was the instrument that Johnson says finally clicked for her.
The Blend cools spring fever

By McKinai Mortensen  
Staff Reporter

Jah Breeze blew into Wednesday’s Blend concert with a blast of reggae, while Society’s Child will finish the quarter up with a hit of R & B next week.

The Blend is a bi-monthly music event hosted by Student Programs.

Previous performers have included Recco Cool and Arturo Rodriguez and Island Bound.

Songs ranged from rap, to reggae, to old African chants when Breeze and a friend performed Soulja Boy along with songs by Bob Marley.

Breeze and partner, Kathryn Rodriguez and Island Bound.

Their music could be described as reggae with elements of old school and new school.

Breeze holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in Speech Communication from Drake University and received a Service to Education Award in May 2000 from Seattle Community College.

The duet was also supported by some other African drums, including the djembe drum.

Breeze and partner, Kathryn Rodriguez and Island Bound.

Society’s Child will be performing at the Blend on June 4, from 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Bistro.

Society’s Child, who performed at the Blend last year, is an R & B sextet from Seattle featuring Professor Ray Jay (Arthur Ross) on the keyboard, Lenny Epps on bongos and vocals, C-Bone (Cornell Robinson) on bass, and Netty Jackson (Annette Jackson), and Lady Vee (Vanessa) on vocals.

They will be performing hit cover songs from over the years as well as some of today’s favorite pop songs.

This will be the last Blend performance of Spring Quarter 2008.

Chorale to perform finale

By Satori Johnson  
Staff Reporter

Sadness, excitement and relief fill the air as Highline’s singers gather to sing for the public just one last time.

Chorale, an audition only singing group at Highline, will be preparing to perform the last in a three-part series entitled Music of All Time.

The performance will be on June 5 at 7:30 p.m. in Building 7. The concert will be free and open for all of the Highline community to attend.

They will be performing a popular piece from the Baroque Period titled Gloria composed by Antonio Vivaldi.

The whole composition has 12 different movements and will take up approximately half of the concert.

The latter half of the performance will feature the musical works of Highline’s Music Department coordinator, Dr. Sydney Stegall.

Stegall has been composing music for some time and will contribute his pieces for the concert.

Dr. Glover, music instructor, along with her colleagues will also contribute musical literature including poetry, songs and acoustics, for the Chorale to perform.

The Chorale has faced some challenges this year, said Dr. Glover.

Illness was the reason that last quarter’s concert was canceled.

Contact Nancy Warren for more information, nwarren@highline.edu

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HOT 229: Housekeeping Operations Certificate  
(item #2171) 9am-1pm, M/TH

HOT 282: Introduction to Wines  
(item #2175) 5:30pm-7:30pm, TH

Contact Nancy Warren for more information, nwarren@highline.edu

Grilled salmon is a delicious and healthy alternative to red meat.

Try this easy recipe at your next barbecue for something different and exciting.

This super simple salmon entrée with a bok choy vegetable side dish is perfect for a warm day. You don’t have to heat up the kitchen, plus you cook two delicious dishes in one easy throw-away container.

And both the salmon and the bok choy are very healthy.

The American Heart Association recommends eating at least two servings of oily fish such as salmon per week to reduce the risk of heart disease.

Bok choy is high in vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium and cancer-fighting beta-carotene.

The salmon at your local fish market or, better yet, from your local fish market will be preparing to perform the last in a three-part series entitled Music of All Time.

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Get healthy this summer, eat salmon

Catherine Dusharme/THUNDERWORD

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Get the salmon at your local grocery store or, better yet, from your local fish market if you’re lucky enough to live near one.

The bok choy is a slightly sweet vegetable that pairs nicely with the salmon. You can find usually find it at any farmers market or grocery store, and definitely at Asian produce markets, like the
Younger students on the run to get to college

By Shalina Baldwin  Staff Reporter

McKenna Grotefend is looking forward to her junior year in high school: she won’t be there.

Grotefend is a sophomore at Todd Beamer High School. Ever since learning about the Running Start program, Grotefend has been waiting for this coming Fall Quarter, 2008, when she can begin classes at Highline.

“I’m really excited about Running Start. I know about 10 people that are in the program, and they’re all saying very positive things about it,” said Grotefend. “A lot of my friends have said they like it a lot because it is much more laid back than high school.”

Grotefend’s parents are very supportive of her decision to leave high school early and come to college full time. Her two older brothers, Matthew and Dallin, also attended Highline, establishing their parents’ trust in the program.

Grotefend said there is nothing they would like more than for her to get a head start on her college career and finish two years of college tuition-free.

She’s not alone.

Running Start has attracted ambitious high school upperclassmen for almost two decades.

Many high school students look for alternative options to staying in high school for four long years. Running Start is an option for high school students who need more challenged and want a head start in their college career.

Initiated in Washington state in 1990 as a pilot program, Running Start’s enrollment rates continue to increase rapidly.

As of the 2006-2007 school year, 16,826 high school students participated in Running Start, making up 8 percent of the total population of community and technical colleges in Washington.

Every seat was filled in Building 7 during a Running Start Information Night on a recent evening. About 130 parents and students sat forward in their chairs listening attentively to Running Start Coordinator Karen Steinbach as she spoke about the program at Highline.

“How many of you have outgrown high school?” Steinbach asked the students.

Hands were raised throughout the room.

Students took notes during the presentation, while their parents, looking concerned, asked questions frequently.

Running Start came to Highline in Fall Quarter, 1992. During that first year, there were 50 Running Start students. Currently, there are 912 Running Start students, 11 percent of the entire student body of 9,907. About 10 percent of Washington’s high school juniors and seniors make use of the program.

The benefits of Running Start include up to two years, 11th and/or 12th grade, spent at a local community or technical college, tuition-free.

High school credits and college credits are attained simultaneously. In some cases, this allows students to earn their associate of arts degree before they finish high school, or to graduate early.

Running Start student Adam Lee said, “The benefits definitely outweigh the disadvantages. Only a couple hours of school a day, and you’re done. And what could be better than free college?”

First-year Running Start student Nicole Kay attributes her plans for her immediate future to the program.

“I am going to graduate high school early, thanks to Running Start. After graduating, I’m going to transfer to a university and study to become an elementary school teacher,” said Kay.

Incoming and current Running Start students feel that Running start has advantages over regular high school.

Steinbach told the students at the Running Start meeting that she enjoys students’ excited reactions when she tells them that a Highline school day typically lasts three hours.

“I honestly don’t think I could go back to seven-hour school days. I would go out of my mind. I’m getting a lot better grades at Highline compared to high school,” said Kay. “We spent way too much time at school before. Now I have more time to study, read and do other schoolwork.”

Many high school students are warned by their teachers about going to college too early. They want them to understand that it will be a big change, and that they will have to act responsibly.

“I didn’t know what to expect,” said Running Start student Diana Knudsen. “I was apprehensive about coming to college at such a young age, because of the many warnings I had got in high school about the level of rigor involved. Despite my initial unease, coming to Highline has been a great learning experience.”

Steinbach said that often times Running Start students are the best students, the best writers, and they boost the energy of their classes.

“We depend on Running Start students to fill our student leadership positions,” said Steinbach.

The atmosphere of a college classroom also attracts many younger students who feel they are ready for a more mature environment.

Steinbach said that Running Start students should be prepared to be in classes with people of all ages, all lifestyles and all education levels.

“Students are more mature and willing to learn here,” said Knudsen. “They have different means of motivation at college than at high school. It’s a definite improvement in the learning atmosphere.”

Some high school students hesitate to leave high school because they feel they will have to give up their high school experience.

“The only thing I regret about leaving my high school is not being able to see my old friends as much as I used to, but I still have classes with some of my friends, so it’s OK,” said Lee.

Running Start students also say that they appreciate the variety of classes available to them in college.

“After I graduate, I want to go to a four-year university,” said Lee. “Being able to have such a variety of classes to choose from is what is helping me narrow down what I might want to do as a career. It’s helping me become prepared for a university and to choose a major.”

Current Running Start students extend their advice and words of caution to incoming students.

“Although you have more freedom than ever before, you have to be self-motivated,” said Lee. “I am very self-motivated, so I think that’s why it’s really good for me.”

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Highline student returns to become employee of year

By Marin Bergman
Staff Reporter

Shawn Bergsma-Stoll has taken a long break from her studies here at Highline, but has come back as a driven student finishing her education.

Bergsma-Stoll has received this year’s title as student employee of the year.

“Shawn accepts change with a smile on her face,” said Dave Weber, the instructor of the Highline Graphic Production program who nominated Bergsma-Stoll.

The winner was announced Tuesday, May 13, in the Mt. Constance room of the Student Union, with an ice cream party.

United Postal Service sponsored this event as well as the prizes.

Nominations are based on reliability, quality of work, initiative, disposition, contribution, and flexibility.

Bergsma-Stoll works in the print shop, and will be graduating with a visual communications degree this spring.

“Working here has been a great learning experience for me, what I have learned in the print shop will relate to what I would like to do when I am finished with school. Highline has a unique opportunity because we print for nonprofit and local organizations; we really get hands on experience in the field,” Bergsma-Stoll said.

Bergsma-Stoll started at Highline in 1979. Before graduating she moved to California.

After working with her sister for awhile, Bergsma-Stoll starting her own business, then moved back to Washington and decided to finish her schooling.

Many of her credits still applied.

“The biggest difference between school then and now is the use of computers, a lot has changed in graphic design from 1979,” said Bergsma-Stoll.

Bergsma-Stoll still operates her own business part time, framing art pieces. After graduating, Bergsma-Stoll would like to be a part of a design team.

“Owning my business was very stressful. You become your own accountant, secretary, sales manager. I would love the chance to work with others and have fun while doing what I love to do,” said Bergsma-Stoll.

Weber, Bergsma-Stoll’s supervisor, has worked with her since last spring.

Supervisors get a chance to observe students working, and at the end of the school year nominate one person in which they believe has exceeded expectations in each category.

For winning, Bergsma-Stoll received a $50 gift card to a restaurant of her choice, and a plaque with her name on it, which was given to her at the Student Awards ceremony on May 21.

Bergsma-Stoll will also have her name engraved on an Employee of the Year plaque, which will hang on display in Building 6.

Several students were nominated and recognized for their hard work in this year’s Student Employee of the Year celebration.

Eric Tinglestad, the director of Workforce Development Services, presented a certificate of recognition and flowers to this year’s nominees: Galina Vasyanovich, Kay Vallejo, Candace Kruger, Noory Kim, and Julie Aksenova.

“We rely on you every single day. We recognize your work here as an extension of learning. I want to thank all of you for your hard work and your contribution to our school. We truly could not do it without you,” Toni Castro, the dean of Student Services said about the 300 to 400 students currently employed at Highline.

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Shawn Bergsma-Stoll works in Highline’s print shop. Shawn Bergsma-Stoll

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Shannon Gentry/THUNDERWORD

Shawn Bergsma-Stoll
Highline students looking for more hours, new jobs over break

By David Olerich
Staff Reporter

Highline student Omobola Oyebola works as a registered nurse’s assistant at Falcon Ridge in the SeaTac area while going to college full-time.

Oyebola said her job is a temporary one and that she is still looking for another job relating to her major in business.

“I’m planning to work somewhere else this summer, Oyebola said, “I’ve applied to a few places so I’m expecting to go for an interview this week and next week.”

Oyebola is not alone in her search for employment. Many Highline students are seeking to do the same.

Several recent reports have indicated that job seekers could face some challenges over the summer for employment from what some experts are saying.

Paul Holley, a spokesperson for Manpower Inc., a temporary staffing firm, said that the job market is rising in some areas and falling in others.

“It appears we’re slowing down in business,” Holley said.

For some jobs, there is a lack of people to fill these particular positions.

“Engineers are the No. 1 harder to fill and following that is technicians,” Holley said.

A report released this month by Manpower for the Seattle metropolitan area said that 21 percent of the companies surveyed plan to hire more employees while 7 percent expect to reduce their payrolls.

Seventy-one percent expect to maintain their current staff levels.

The report also said that hiring levels in some areas appear to be stronger and that employ- ers are less optimistic about hiring activity.

Among some of the best job prospects were durable goods manufacturing, wholesale/re- tail trade and public administration, the report said. Hiring in construction, non-durable goods manufacturing and education is expected to remain unchanged.

In another nationwide report also released in March by Manpower, Chairman and CEO Jeffrey A. Joerres said, “The important change we are seeing is not about reductions in workforces, like we would typically expect in a recessionary period, but rather an increase in the percentages of employers who are definitely a ‘wait and see’ approach as they evaluate where their economies are headed.”

Vault.com CEO Erik Soren said, “It’s a tough market out there for new grads right now, especially in the professional services industries such as banking and consulting. The best thing any job seeker can do is to be as well informed as possible about the industry, the company they’re applying to, and the specific skill set required for the job. Doing your research and presenting yourself accordingly is the best way to increase your chances of getting that offer.”

Vault, an internet site that offers services for both job seekers and employers, conducted its Job Market for New Grads Survey across the United States from May 2 through May 8.

Washington state labor economist David Wallace said he believes that King County has a stronger job market than the rest of the state.

“King County is looking the best and everywhere else is looking bad,” Wallace said.

“Retail is down on a state-wide level, whereas food service is down in the area of King County,” he said.

“We haven’t seen any evi- dence of a recession but we’re moderate,” said Wallace. “Education seems to be doing fine but it’s driven by policy,” he said.

Some students at Highline are still seeking employment for the summer and will experience some of these challenges.

Robert Martin participates in the work-study program and tutors at Highline’s tutoring center for math.

“I’m not currently empleado,” Martin said. “I plan to take summer school and do some work here.”

“I expect to work 25 hours here at the tutoring center and then after summer school is over I plan to work as much as humanly possible,” he said.

Martin said he’s been looking around a little on Craigslist and seeing what’s out there for jobs.

Barry Hansen is unemployed and is still trying to de- cide what kind of job he would be interested in.

“I do plan to find a job over the summer, but I’m not sure what it will be,” Hansen said.

“I am living at home right now and I am getting help from the parents on paying for col- lege, it’s just sort of one step at a time thing,” said Hansen.

“I wouldn’t mind working in customer service right now but I prefer not to, probably office work would be best for me right now, like a secretary or personal assistant,” Hansen said.

“I would prefer to work as much as possible without it be- ing too stressful,” he said.

Micah Linscott wants to be employed but is also not sure what job would fit him.

“I don’t really want to work for a restaurant or in retail but something more interesting,” Linscott said.

“Maybe something that’s like, creative,” he said. “I need to find something that fits into my schedule. It will probably be a part-time job.”

Other Highline students are already working steady jobs and want to work more hours over the summer.

Jeremy Williams works with disabled and handicapped people.

“I work full-time as a care- giver for the mentally ill,” Wil- liams said.

“I just started and I’ve only been working there for about a month and a half now,” he said.

“It’s real fun, I just work with them and try to integrate them into the community.”

“Right now I already work 40 hours a week but in the summer I plan to become a big time wrestler. So, where school would have been I’ll be doing camp helping out at a wrestling camp and stuff as one of the in-structors,” Williams said.

“I’ll be balancing that with my other job because it’s like other than training, you know, I’ll have nothing but the wrestling camps to do,” he said.

“So in the morning I’ll do wrestling camp and then after that I’ll go to the regular job.”

Erica Cunanan works at a job in a hospital taking care of patients.

“I’m a nurse’s assistant at St. Francis Hospital in Federal Way,” Cunanan said.

She said that she is not really fond of her job to some degree and explains her reasoning.

“First, you’re dealing with patients and you’re dealing with their bodily functions. They’re sick and your main goal is to help them get better and make them feel comfortable as pos- sible,” Cunanan said.

“So, it’s stressful, but it also helps you become a better person.”

Cunanan doesn’t have plans to pursue more working hours over the summer.

“My brothers are coming from the Army and my family is coming from everywhere, so I just want to relax and only work a couple of days a week,” she said.

Brittany Clifford works in food services, waiting on tables at a restaurant.

“I’m a waitress at the Olive Garden in Federal Way,” Clif- ford said. “I’ve been working there two years now in Aug- ust.”

“I am going to go up to 40 hours a week because school is almost out,” she said.

Edward Wilcox is involved with sales at a sporting goods store for employment.

“I am a sales associate at Foot Locker,” Wilcox said. “I’ve been only working there for about a couple of months now,” Wilcox said.

He said that getting more hours over the summer is not something he can do at his job.

“Usually during the summer more people tend to ask for more hours but they don’t get it because the managers need their hours to get in. We have to get used to the same amount of hours as we have now,” Wilcox said.

Welch said his job is quite comfortable and laid back and he’s not likely to look for any other job right away.

Adriana Hernandez also works in food services, serving tables at a restaurant.

“I’m a waitress at Applebee’s in Federal Way,” Hernandez said. “I’ve been working there for almost one year.”

“I’m actually currently look- ing for another job,” she said.

Students face uncertain job market during summer
Highline alumnus continues studies in Swaziland

By Sam Boyd
Staff Reporter

Like many former Highline students, Jillian Bellamy went from Highline to the University of Washington.

But Bellamy hasn’t taken any classes at the UW; she has been attending the United World College at Swaziland.

Not many students get to study abroad, and even fewer have the opportunity or desire to study in an African country halfway across the world—much less at age seventeen.

But that’s exactly what Bellamy is doing through the United World College program.

Bellamy, a former Running Start and Honors Program student, was the speaker at the Honors Colloquy on April 23. She shared her experiences (so far) in the World College.

Bellamy attended local Woodmont Elementary and Federal Way Public Academy for her schooling through her sophomore year of high school.

She first heard about the World College program in eighth grade, at one of a series of presentations that school board member Charlie Hoff made about college opportunities. Immediately, she knew she wanted to apply.

Founded in Wales in 1962, the United World College program is a group of 12 international schools that features students from 90 countries around the world. Besides Swaziland, campuses include Wales, Singapore, Norway, New Mexico, Italy, Venezuela, Hong Kong, and Vancouver, B.C.

“Swaziland wasn’t my first choice,” Bellamy said, “but I loved it.”

The World College is an International Baccalaurate program (IB), which Bellamy describes as academically rigorous and demanding. Students as old as 20 participate in the program, but the program is meant primarily for students in their junior and senior years of high school.

At the Honors Colloquy, Bellamy spoke of the vision of the program, which includes international and intercultural understanding, celebration of difference, personal responsibility, mutual respect, compassion and service, respect for the environment, a sense of idealism, personal challenge, and action by personal example.

Bellamy was one of only 50 accepted from the pool of 700 American applicants. In high school, Bellamy had a 4.0 GPA to go along with a number of leadership positions and community service hours. After she ranked which schools she would rather attend, Bellamy was assigned to Swaziland by the National Committee.

It wasn’t her first choice—Hong Kong, Costa Rica, Italy, and Singapore all held higher spots on her list—but she’s not unhappy about where she ended up.

The only places she really didn’t want to attend were the American or Canadian campuses.

Swaziland is a small country the size of New Jersey in southeastern Africa, and is almost completely surrounded by South Africa. Its population is just over one million, and about 40 percent of the population is infected with HIV.

Once accepted, National Committee students have a full ride scholarship which includes room, board, tuition, books, and transportation.

The student population at Swaziland is about 70 percent African, of which about half are Swazi. Students from Swaziland can apply directly to the National Committee. Students from other countries apply through the National Committee.

“I only get four and a half to five hours of sleep a night. There’s a lot of homework.” There’s also a lot of pressure on the IB tests that will occur at the end of the two-year stay.

If Bellamy scores high enough, she can receive college credit for her classes. Much of the work in the classroom is geared towards these tests, which is something of a disappointment to Bellamy.

But time isn’t all spent on tests. Students also complete a number of group projects, which promote intercultural understanding.

“It’s nice, since we’re a boarding school, we have a lot of group projects,” Bellamy said. “The only hard part is trying to figure out where to meet, in our busy activity schedule. Sometimes, we have to meet at one in the morning because that’s the only time we can get together.”

Bellamy said she does a number of activities outside the classroom. Her favorites include debate team, soccer, theater, leadership training for the lower forms, youth group at a local church, tennis, yoga, Link Group (which connects Swaziland with other World College campuses), Gender Awareness Project, and dancing.

She also does community service with the Youth Development Program, providing a way for disabled children from local hospitals to play sports at local fields.

Every World College student is required to do a minimum of two hours of service a week and students have a choice from a number of programs including teaching English, Environmental Club, and teaching AIDS education.

“We get to work with people who really need the one on one time,” Bellamy said. “We do a lot of community service based around the youth of the country.”

Since the Swaziland campus is in the Southern Hemisphere, they’re on a different calendar than their northern counterparts. Their first term starts in January and goes to April, second term from May to July, and the third term goes from September to December, with a one month break in between terms.

After she graduates from the World College in November 2009, Bellamy hopes to attend an east coast school—her top choices right now include Wellesley, Gettysburg, Middlebury, and George Washington.

She wants to major in international economics or diplomacy, and she would love to study abroad and eventually move out of the United States.

Some students find the Swaziland campus challenging because the country is so poor and is riddled with violence and disease. But Bellamy doesn’t mind.

“I miss the way you can live without all the daily comforts. You don’t notice them after the first week. You make so many friends there.”
Kelli Tracey named. A student who did not want to be country is ready for that,” said a
vote is ready to begin working as election process is over and he by Yen Nguyen with 83 votes, followed Frank won with 191 votes or 64.3 percent, followed by Dave Ganett with 84 votes. Kelli Tracey won with 174 votes or 58.6 percent. Followed by Yen Nguyen with 83 votes, and Ernie Hogan with 33 votes. Frank said he is happy the 2008 presidential elections. The Clintons were in office once and how much power do we want one family to have?” Scott Rojas asked. There is still time for students to sign up to register to vote for the 2008 presidential elections. Online and mail-in registration forms for the Aug. 19, 2008 primary elections are due by July 19, 2008. For the Nov. 4 general elections registration is due by Oct. 4, 2008. Students who have signed up to vote will encounter a long ballot of elections. Upcoming elections include the US House seats, the state Legislature seats, state Supreme Court, and the Washington statewide positions including governor, secretary of state, and attorney general. To vote in the state of Washington one must be a legal citizen of the United States, a legal resident of Washington state, at least 18 years old by election day, and not presently denied voting rights due to a crime. Registration forms and more information on the 2008 elections are available at www.metrovote.org/elections/register.html.

By Shannon Clary Staff Reporter
Lance Frank is Highline’s new student president. Kelli Tracey is the new vice president. Voting was held on May 21-22 online and through hand ballots. Overall 297 votes were cast. Frank won with 191 votes or 64.3 percent, followed by Dave Ganett with 84 votes. Kelli Tracey won with 174 votes or 58.6 percent. Followed by Yen Nguyen with 83 votes, and Ernie Hogan with 33 votes. Frank said he is happy the election process is over and he is ready to begin working as Highline, Brigham was able to continue teaching, and be a full-time mother with her child right on campus. “I have been really happy with the day care center here,” Brigham said. Zavion is really sociable, and he has adapted so well to his new surroundings, said Brigham. Brigham is a single woman, supporting herself and her son. “Single parenting can be exhausting, but he makes up for it,” Brigham said. Now Zavion is 14 1/2 months old and has already been on 22 plane flights. Some of their adventures include Japan, Mt. Si, and Hawaii. Brigham plans a possible trip for her and her son back to Ethiopia in 2009 or 2010. Zavion just has so much energy, and is always smiling, Brigham said. “I don’t have to go far because everything is an adventure to him. He can pick up a rock and be excited, which makes me excited,” Brigham said. Brigham may not be climbing mountains, or backpacking through Europe anymore, but she considers having a son as being its own adventure.

Highline has new Student Government officers

“Hello, my name is Zavion,” Brigham named her son Zavion, which means new home. Brigham felt it was the perfect fit. Brigham was able to pick up her son when he was 4 1/2 months old. “He was so young. We made a huge connection and bond right away. We have been very lucky,” Brigham said. With the flexible hours at Highline, Brigham was able to continue teaching, and be a full-time mother with her child right on campus. “I have been really happy with the day care center here,” Brigham said. Zavion is really sociable, and he has adapted so well to his new surroundings, said Brigham. Brigham is a single woman, supporting herself and her son. “Single parenting can be exhausting, but he makes up for it,” Brigham said. Now Zavion is 14 1/2 months old and has already been on 22 plane flights. Some of their adventures include Japan, Mt. Si, and Hawaii. Brigham plans a possible trip for her and her son back to Ethiopia in 2009 or 2010. Zavion just has so much energy, and is always smiling, Brigham said. “I don’t have to go far because everything is an adventure to him. He can pick up a rock and be excited, which makes me excited,” Brigham said. Brigham may not be climbing mountains, or backpacking through Europe anymore, but she considers having a son as being its own adventure.

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Rashid Abdullah said he believes that it’s the government’s responsibility to provide universal health care.

“Even the poorest countries have medical care and they live longer than Americans do. The prime example is Cuba, who has the best medical programs in the world and they’re communist,” said Abdullah. “As a people, we must know what we want and ask the right questions pertaining to our health care system.”

Renee Eddy said she believes that our country should put its advanced medical technology to use toward health care.

“We are the only country that doesn’t have universal health care and we’re the most advanced medically and we invest the most money already. If we have the technology already, why not use it for all members of society instead of just the upper class?” Eddy said.

Sean Tolentino said that our health care is hard to be able to afford today.

“A lot of us can’t afford health care because of inflation. Our wages are not growing higher due to recession,” said Tolentino.

On the other hand, Jim Miller disagreed with universal health care being provided by the government.

“We shouldn’t rely so much on the government; it should be up to us to take care of ourselves. I don’t want to have to take my tax earned dollars to pay for someone else’s medical costs for the rest of their lives. I pay enough taxes as it is,” said Miller.

“If we’re talking about health care for children, they should be covered. It’s not up to them what family they were brought up in,” Miller said.

The majority of the students also agreed that the government should spend more money on health care, with 79 percent of those in favor.

Only 21 percent of the students disagreed with more government spending.

Stewart Spilkner said he believes Canada’s health care system is good because the government has more, in contrast to our own government.

“Even if we have to pay more taxes, it would benefit us because if there’s a big emergency like going to the hospital and your insurance doesn’t cover it all, or if you don’t have insurance, at least the government would step in and help pay,” Spilkner said.

Renee Ankeny said she believes it would be to our advantage in the arena of medicine if the government spent more on health care.

“I feel like right now it would socialize medicine and help other people. Instead of spending billions on fancy cities and stuff for rich people, the government should spend it more usefully in assisting people who need help,” said Ankeny.

Students felt just as strongly about the government spending more on education, with 79 percent of those in favor, leaving 21 percent of the students disagreeing with this kind of spending.

Lisa Visintin said she came from a small midwest town where her opportunities at school were limited on an educational level.

“I grew up in Oklahoma and I lived in a small town and there was a lot of stuff I couldn’t do because my school couldn’t afford it,” Visintin said. “I feel like some kids miss out on opportunities without more funding in education.”

Stewart Spilkner said he believes that because education brings better paying jobs, paying more taxes shouldn’t be a problem in order to create more spending on education.

“If you’re making more money because of higher education, then the taxes won’t affect the money you earn,” said Spilkner.

Renee Eddy said she believes the country will fall behind without furthering its educational system.

“We should provide more services for education because these people will be creating our future and America is losing its spot as the world’s powerhouse because everybody else has students that have a lot more knowledge,” said Eddy.

Highline students also agreed that the government should provide more services for the people, with 78 percent of those in favor.

Twenty-two percent disagreed with having more services.

A recent report released by the Center for American Progress reflected these same views by young adults nationwide.

The report said that 87 percent of “Millennials” (young adults) were more likely to support universal health care.

The report also said that 87 percent of Millennials think that more government spending on health care with higher taxes should be done.

Ninety-five percent of Millennials think more spending on education with higher taxes should also be done, according to the same report.

The report said that 61 percent of Millennials think the government should be providing more services as well.

Overall, the report said that young adults of today believe that the government can be a useful tool in improving the economy.

David Olerich is a Thunderword staff reporter.