



Photographs
bloom in Library
gallery / **P6**



T-Bird men kick way
into first place
in the West/ **P8**

Sept. 22, 2008 / Volume 48, No. 1

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Highline Community College

The Thunderword

President outlines future of Highline

By Jaren Lewis
Staff Reporter

Highline will have to pay attention to resources as it tries to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse and sometimes low-income population, the college president said last week.

Nonetheless, Dr. Jack Bermingham has some big ideas for where the college should go.

Dr. Bermingham gave his State of the College Address last Friday, Sept. 19. He spoke a bit on Highline's past and present, and then discussed his ideas for the college's future.

Dr. Bermingham noted how much Highline has changed since he arrived as a vice president in 1994.

The campus is much more diverse; Running Start enrollment has grown from under 100 to nearly 1,000; and half of the students in Highline's nearby school districts get free or reduced-price school lunches.

Meanwhile, 30 percent of the student body is enrolled in basic skills education, up from less than 10 percent 14 years ago; and up to half the student population are non-native English speakers.

"This is very much a changing world," he said.

See President / P11



Max Dubbeldam/THUNDERWORD

Chefs prepare items for a campus event last week, above, while servers get ready to do their part, below.



CHARTING A NEW COURSE

New vendor promises to cook up some change for Highline's food service

By David Olerich
Staff Reporter

Harry Carleton doesn't hope that you will be impressed by the new food service at Highline. He hopes you'll be blown away.

Carleton is the director of dining services for Chartwells, the firm that recently took over Highline's food services. Chartwells replaced Cater Seattle, whose contract expired July 31.

He has big plans in mind for the service he will be providing for people here on campus.

"I think it's really important to have many choices to offer for the faculty and the students here," Carleton said.

He said he believes that having a diverse menu is essential as long as it doesn't become excessive.

"We want to make sure that we give many choices to the students, because I don't want to feel like they're pigeon-holed into buying or getting what is the only thing we provide," Carleton said.

"We will do vegetarian wraps and we'll do vegetarian pizzas upstairs," he said.

"I know that there are some vegans on campus; I will be addressing that issue as well."

Carleton did reassure those of us who are not vegetarian: "Don't worry about the meat-

See Food / P3



Harry Carleton

Newly opened MaST center luring lots of weekend visitors

By David Olerich
Staff Reporter

Highline's MaST center has brought in schools of fish and people over the summer since its re-opening in June.

"We usually have several hundred people during the four-hour opening every Saturday between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.," said

Russ Higley, a Highline instructor and MaST manager.

The Marine Science and Technology center, better known as the MaST, at Redondo Beach, has been drawing in crowds since it re-opened.

The center was under reconstruction and closed to the public since the fall of 2006.

The re-opening of MaST

"means the physical structure and not the aquarium that has literally taken months to get up and running," explained Higley. "Right now I would say we're at about 40 percent of the animals that we'll have when we're done."

"So they're very cool but they're going to be a lot cooler," he said.

The MaST center has five aquarium-like tanks that hold creatures such as starfish, sea cucumbers, brown rock fish, crabs, and sea slugs to name a few.

The center offers a teaching facility for both marine biology and oceanography students attending Highline, who use it as a lab and classroom.

Classes run on a schedule of two or three days a week.

"The center is a five-minute drive from campus," Higley said.

However, he says, one of the biggest misconceptions is that you have to be a marine biologist in order to get involved with

See MaST / P11

The Thunderword /Sept. 22, 2008

CSI: **H**ighline

Robbery in the East Lot

A woman was robbed in the southeast corner of the East Parking Lot walkway on Sept. 17.

One male and one female assailant struggled with the victim and then took her purse.

Group fight at midnight

A person from the kitchen staff reported a large group of people fighting outside of Building 8 at midnight on July 19.

There were multiple intoxicated adult men with no shirts taking part in separate fights.

Five Des Moines Police officers arrived on the scene.

Pit bull on the loose

A pit bull was spotted outside the Child Care center on June 25 at 1:10 p.m.

A Highline Security officer chased the animal away by throwing pine cones at it.

Animal Control arrived 10 minutes later and picked up the animal.

Summer break-ins

Over the summer there were multiple car break-ins as well as a car that was stolen.

A Toyota Camry was reported stolen from the upper part of the South Lot on July 18.

A Volkswagen Jetta had its driver side window smashed in on Sept. 9, but it is unknown if anything was missing.

The car belonged to a volleyball player who had parked the car and had gone to an away game.

A Honda Accord was also broken into in the North lot on Sept. 9. A GPS device was stolen from the vehicle.

Un-brotherly tough love

A Highline student said he would press assault charges against his twin brother on July 29. The victim stated that he was tired of his brother hitting him, and that he wanted to press charges. A Des Moines Police officer was called to take care of it.

Family trouble leads to threats and harassment

A harassment complaint was called in on June 19.

A woman made threats and left a note for the victim to find stating, "you can run but you can't hide."

The brother of the assailant, and wife of the victim, stated that his sister is bipolar and violent.

He said she is known to carry a knife and has used it recently to attack her boyfriend.



Fair to introduce clubs to campus

The Fall 2008 club fair will be held Thursday, Sept. 25. Representatives from each of Highline's clubs will be on hand to explain what their club does, and where it meets. Highline is home to a wide variety of clubs, including cultural, academic and activity-oriented clubs.

Each table will also be hosting a game or activity that relates to their club. The club fair will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Highline Student Union.

Three professors die

Two former and one part-time Highline instructor died over the summer.

Former physics instructor Dave Johnson died June 18 from pneumonia complications. Johnson taught at Highline for 33 years before retiring in 1998. He was also coach of the tennis team for many years.

Services were held at Des Moines Chapel on June 28.

Former Fashion Program instructor Sharon Tietjen died June 28. She taught at Highline from 1972 to 1992.

Tietjen is survived by her brother Richard, daughter Robin, and her granddaughter, Angelina Nicole.

Part-time math instructor Mark Taylor died Sept. 2 after being diagnosed with lymphoma.

Taylor had taught at Highline since 1998.

Services were held Sept. 6 at Bonney Watson Funeral Home.



Eva Kaltenbach/THUNDERWORD

Amelia Boulyard dances at the Faculty and Staff of Color and Allies reception on Sept. 16.

Making Strides walks to battle cancer

The "Making Strides" American Cancer Society Walkathons are coming up.

There are two five-kilometer walks: one in Downtown Bellevue Park on Sept. 28, and one at the American Legion Park in Everett on Oct. 5.

Both events will feature coffee from Starbucks pre-walk, and a musical guest post-walk.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. and the walk at 9 a.m. on both dates.

The Walkathon has already raised over \$70,000 in donations. Find more information at www.pugetsoundstrides.org.

Summer sees staff changes

Three Highline staff left over the summer.

Danette Randolph has been hired as the director of workforce at Clark College in Vancouver, Wash.

Randolph has held a range

of leadership positions, including most recently with Opportunity grants and the I-BEST program.

Michelle Tuscher has left for the Department of Information in Olympia. Tuscher worked at Highline since September 2000, starting as a back-up server administrator. She also took part in several committees, including the vice-presidential search committee.

Mary Averett, dean of Extended Learning, has retired.

Annual Thunderweek

Fall Quarter is starting and that means another Thunderweek.

This yearly event, organized by Highline's Student Programs, takes place during the first week of school. It is aimed at helping new and returning students with activities and services.

On the first two days, Monday, Sept. 22 and Tuesday, Sept. 23, there will be booths and tables between Building 8 and the Library, handing out maps and free student planners from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. This will also provide students with a chance to meet their peers and teachers.

From noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday there will be an ice cream social in Building 8 with free ice cream. Students will have an opportunity to meet Dr. Jack Bermingham and Vice President Toni Castro.

On Thursday, the Clubs Fair will be held outside Building 8 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. along with a BBQ which runs from 11:10 a.m. to 1:10 p.m.

CO-OPPORTUNITY: Cooperative Education

Want to find out more information about doing an internship?

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mrennick@highline.edu
Drop by for a visit: 1st floor of Building 6 (room 156).

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-- Karen Casey,
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Summer projects give campus a little facelift

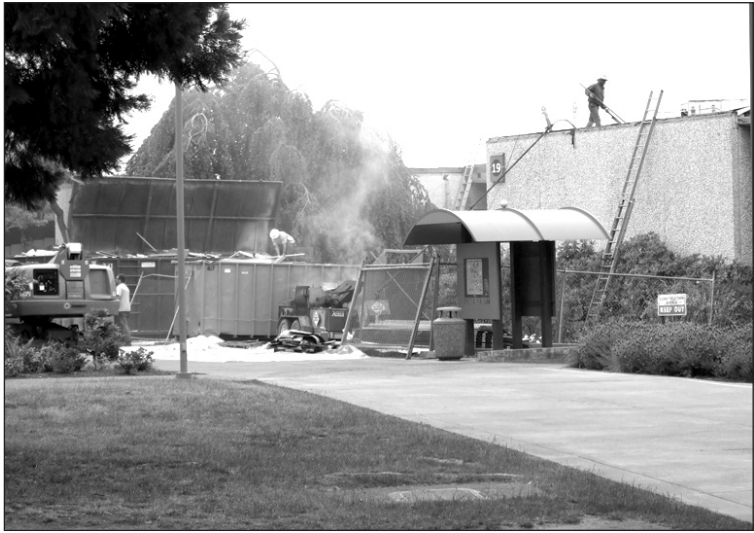
By David Olerich
Staff Reporter

Several different construction projects have been taking place on Highline’s campus over the summer.

Projects have included: Building 19 is being renovated, roof replacement on Building 10, both the North and South Lots have been restriped, a boiler has been re-tubed, a wall was torn down and replaced in the Tutoring Center, an exhaust fan was added for better ventilation to Building 9, a classroom was expanded in Building 16, many modifications were made in the kitchen area, and a new room was added in the locker room building, Building 27.

College officials say that three of the projects are completed and the rest of the projects are near completion. The team room, the North and South Lots and Building 10 are all finished.

A major renovation has been



Jamie McCall/THUNDERWORD
Workers begin the renovation of Building 19 earlier this summer.

going on inside of Building 19 causing the relocation of many offices.

“Most of the interior of the building (19) was gutted down to the walls and bare concrete and built back up from there,” said Pete Babington, director of facilities.

“The work included new ceilings, lights, paint, and carpet.

“Systems that were replaced include the ventilation, power, data, phone, and fire alarm systems,” Babington said. “The building’s various offices have all been gathered in one location on the first floor, near the refurbished restrooms.

“All of the building’s offices were collected into one location on the south end of the first

floor. Having offices gathered into one area allowing for better communication and collaboration,” Babington said.

The roof on Building 10 has caused trouble enough to be declared an emergency by college officials.

“When it was discovered that Building 10’s roof membrane was undulating in the wind like the surface of a lake, the president (Dr. Jack Bermingham) asked the state to declare this situation an emergency, as a normal fall storm would have torn off the roof and flooded the building,” Babington said.

“The state’s emergency declaration allowed for an expedited process of hiring a contractor and provided State emergency funds,” he said. “The college received over \$100,000 in emergency funds, which covered about half of the project’s costs.

“The balance was funded from a facilities repair budget.”

The North and South parking lots took on a new look after

being touched up over the summer.

“The North and South lots were restriped because the old lines were badly faded,” said Babington.

“The layout remains essentially the same,” he said.

In Building 26, where the Tutoring Center is, some changes have also taken place.

“One wall was removed and another built,” Babington said.

“The new wall, which provides power and data access, better divides up the space,” he said.

The kitchen area in the Student Union had undergone multiple changes.

“Various modifications were and are being made to accommodate new equipment, address unreported problems, and improve services,” Babington said, assisting the efforts of Chartwells, Highline’s new food vendor.

These changes have assisted the new food vendor.

Food

Continued From Page 1

lovers; we’ve got them covered too.”

He explained that there would also be an “Out Take” program, “where things are going to be prepared that morning” to buy.

Carleton said he plans to have different food stations such as a grill station, an authentic Asian station and a Southwest burrito station.

“We’re not going to do re-fried beans, we’re gonna do black beans. I mean that’s exactly what they do in the south,” he said.

Carleton said he also has a full-time baker coming in from Sunday through Thursday on a 40-hour-per-week schedule, so that come “Monday morning all the items will be freshly baked.”

“We’re going to do all our bread for our hoagie sandwiches,” he said.

The transition for Carleton and Chartwells has not been an easy one, college officials say, due to the change of equipment and the restructuring of the kitchen areas.

“Operationally, Chartwells was eager to get going. The physical transition has been less smooth, but not for a lack of effort as there were many more equipment and systems problems in the kitchen than had been reported by the previous operator,” said Pete Babington, Highline’s director of facilities.

“For the last month and a half, we’ve been scrambling,

making things happen – coordinating contractors, hands-on repairs, assisting Chartwells in integrating with our campus systems,” Babington said.

Chartwells is a British company which is part of the Compass Group.

“Chartwells has a very high standard reputation for putting out great quality food with the service that backs that up,” Harry Carleton said.

“I think you have to be successful with not just the quality of the food but the quality of service that goes behind it.”

Carleton says that Chartwells uses a particular method when pricing their food items.

“What we do is called a ‘market basket’ and basically it’s a way to look at your area, what competitors in your area have whether you go to KFC, Burger

King, Sub Shop, or to the Mall and their food court items,” he said.

“It takes a matrix profile and puts all the items into the matrix, whether it’s a burger, soda, or a cookie, and formulates what the average market price is for your area. Then, what we do is price-point down below that, making sure that the student gets a good value,” Carleton added.

“All of our portion sizes as far as our sandwiches are above market-portion size.”

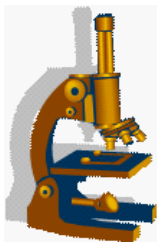
Carleton believes in having passion for what he does in the food and beverage industry and that his workers must also share this same enthusiasm.

“It’s important that the people that work for me and the people that I bring in have the passion to do what I think is important,” he said.

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Carleton also says that a balanced career and home life is important to him as well and having a good balance of both is living successfully, of which he says Chartwells has given him that opportunity.

He signed on with Chartwells on Aug. 12, bringing 25 years of experience in the food and beverage industry with him.

Carleton’s last job was at the Seattle Sheraton Hotel as an outlet manager of the dining, lounge, and room service areas.

He went to Federal Way High School growing up in the Redondo area, and attended Highline for a short period of time in

the early ‘80s, taking classes in advertising and business.

“I think it’s a great opportunity to be a part of a community that I grew up in,” Carleton said.

“I thought it was an exciting project when it was presented to me to be a part of something this large and dynamic and kinda from the ground floor up.”

He has a particular principle that he strongly believes in when it comes to preparing food for others.

“I put out there what I would feed my family and if I wouldn’t feed my family that, I’m not going to feed the students that.”

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Editorial comment

It’s time to register to vote

Oct. 4, 2008 is not a federal, state, or local holiday yet it should be marked prominently on the calendars of most readers of this newspaper.

Oct. 4, 2008 is the final day to register to vote online, by mail, or in person in King County. It should be marked prominently because this nation, region, state, and county have rarely had more at stake than exists today. Our futures and the futures of our families rest upon how we vote on Nov. 4.

For the first time in the history of our nation, we will have the opportunity to vote for an African-American for president or a woman for vice president. We can choose to affirm the truths that have been held evident in the Constitution of these United States of America and make possible the dreams of the framers of our great nation with either vote.

The nation is faced with a burgeoning economic crisis. We can choose to continue the course traveled for the past eight years or change direction. Should we place our trust in the hands of experience at the top of the ticket and uncertainty at the bottom, taking a chance on longevity and rewarding service on behalf of our nation? Or do we opt for intellectual curiosity and a willingness to bring the best and brightest our nation has to offer to bear on these unprecedented challenges we face? Our lives and those of our children and grandchildren depend upon these decisions.

Statewide, we are being asked to reelect our governor or her challenger in what, again, appears to be one of the closest races in the country. In addition to this choice we will be faced with making decisions on more freeway lanes versus mass transit, whether to allow doctor-assisted suicide, or how to allow the licensing of home care aides.

Locally, there is a slew of amendments to the King County Charter, most of which are not understood by the average voting citizen, yet they carry overreaching changes. Changing the County Charter is akin to changing the United States or State Constitutions. We will also vote on more funding for Sound Transit.

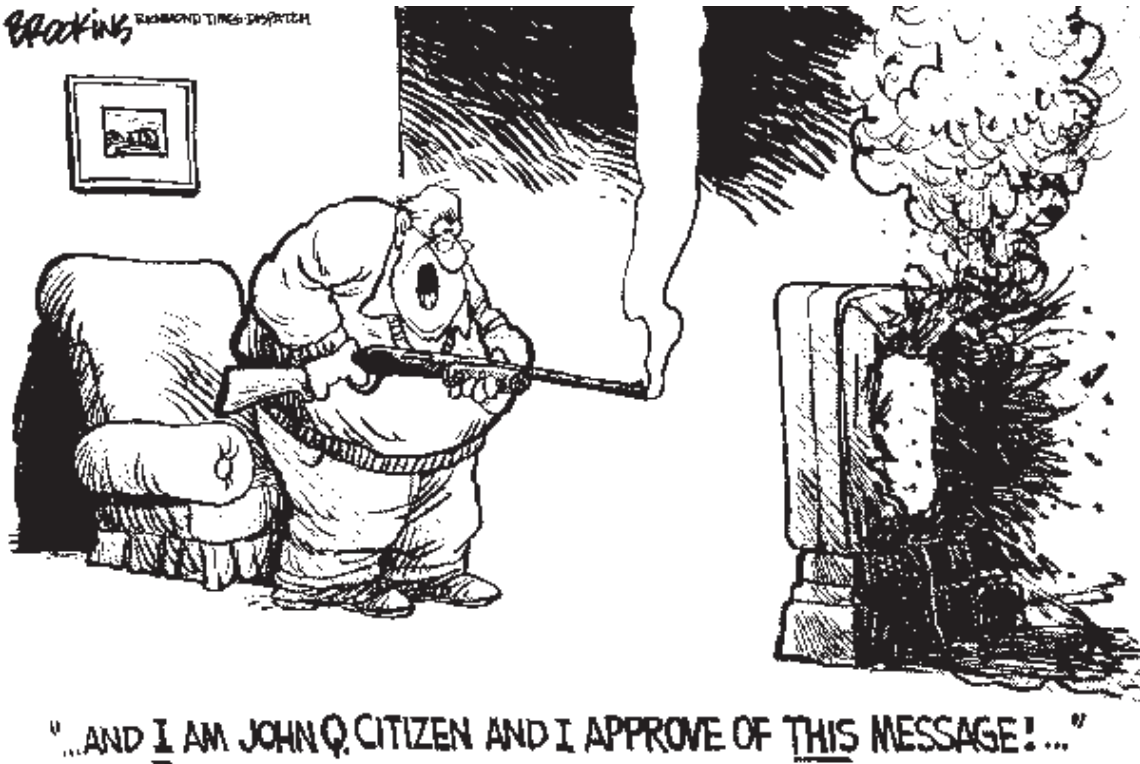
You can register to vote by going to <http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration.aspx> . You can also get forms from local libraries, city halls and many schools.

So mark your calendar for Oct. 4. If you haven’t registered to vote by that date, don’t let it pass you by. All our futures depend upon it.

Staff

“That’s not a spider; that’s a tarantula.”

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Highline’s people make a difference daily

Welcome to Highline Community College’s 2008-2009 academic year. These next few months will offer exciting opportunities for many of us to learn more about ourselves and our community, to make a difference in our own lives and in the community, and to shape change.

It’s not easy to change our world, but education can be a remarkable tool in the hands of individuals motivated to make a difference in their community and in the lives of others.

I am proud to lead a college whose faculty and staff express this kind of commitment with their actions in support of students every day.

I am proud of student leaders who seize the responsibility and the opportunity to strengthen the learning environment and who re-define what their educational experience can be at the college.

I marvel at those students who work hard to stretch their abilities through their studies and their broader engagement at the college.

I am inspired by students whose energy and character allow them to overcome social, economic, or physical disabilities.

Take advantage of your time at the college. Assert yourself, engage in conversations and inquiry, use fully the resources available to you, and set high expectations for yourself. A wise colleague has often told me that change comes one student at a time. For each student it comes with taking responsibility for fully participating in the educational experience.

It is time for us all to broaden our intellectual curiosity and to examine substantive issues facing humanity. Highline provides the educational environment to develop the skills to test the veracity of your ideas and

Commentary



Dr. Jack Bermingham

analyses.

As the nation faces economic challenges, it relies on an educated, innovative, and skilled workforce to find and implement solutions. As the country struggles with war abroad and with depleting its resources, it depends even more on an informed public and their articulate voices to shape the changes necessary to improve security and build international friendships.

Can you grapple with the issues of our day? Can you find a substantive basis for your beliefs? Are you developing the skills that will be responsive to the workforce needs facing us? Will you make a difference in this community and the wider world?

For almost 50 years Highline faculty and staff have shared the commitment necessary for students to tackle these challenges, to make better lives for themselves and their families, and to make a difference in communities ---large and small.

Whether it’s Chris Carrel leading the restoration of the Hylebos watershed or it’s Ezra Teshome facilitating improved water quality and vaccinations

for children in East Africa, alumni of the college have made important contributions to our collective betterment.

Whether it’s Professor Darryl Brice mentoring students or it’s Administrative Technology’s Pat Daniels’s passion to address issues of sustainability, faculty and staff at the college embrace a culture of change within the educational experience.

The bar is high here for each of us to participate in shaping change to advantage us all. We have great examples in some of those who came before us.

Forty-five years ago Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke in Washington, D.C. about his dream of a better life for all. His words reached into our hearts to inspire the best within each of us to be a force for equality and social justice.

Whether you are a student or you are faculty or staff at the college, you enjoy the privilege of being at an institution that nurtures American democracy. On our best days, Highline lives the dream and transforms King’s inspiration into daily action.

Now is the time for all of us to focus our energies on Dr. King’s dream and make it the dominant tide of history. I encourage you to take advantage of the college’s resources and to mobilize your ideas and skills for your personal and professional growth. Be a force of change. Make it your best year!

Jack Bermingham, Ph.D., is the president of Highline.

Write to us

Letters and opinions from the campus community are welcome. E-mail your submission to thunderword@highline.edu. Please limit your submission to not more than 400 words.

Music Department launches new Vocal Jazz Ensemble; choir auditions this week

By Keith Daigle
Staff Reporter

There is no Jazz Band this quarter, but music professor Dr. Glover said that she hopes that the new class Vocal Jazz Ensemble will help revitalize it.

Vocal Jazz Ensemble is an open class that will give begin-

Comic to perform in Des Moines Oct. 10

Local comic Kermet Apio will perform Friday, Oct. 10 at the Des Moines Field House, 1000 S. 220th St., at 7:30 p.m.

Apio is a former Seattle Comedy Competition winner who has performed around the country.

Advance tickets are available now at the field house for \$10. Tickets will also be sold at the door for \$15.

Advance tickets are available at the Des Moines Field House 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday or by calling Des Moines Parks, Recreation at 206-870-6527.

The performance is sponsored by the Des Moines Arts Commission.

ning students an opportunity to learn vocal jazz technique and more advanced students songs they can sign as solos in addition to the ensemble music.

There are no auditions for the ensemble.

Dr. Glover said the Jazz Band has fizzled out over the last couple of years. In previous years, the band had performed in China as well as in concerts around the area.

The vocal jazz group will require at least a rhythm section and Glover said she hopes to help bring the jazz band back as the vocal jazz students solidify into a solid ensemble.

The ensemble meets at 1:20 p.m. Monday through Thursday

in Building 4, room 104. Any students interested in joining should show up during the first week of classes.

Auditions for Concert Choir begin today, Sept. 22, and will continue at the beginning of choir class during the first week at 12:10 p.m. Building 4, room 104. The chosen few will receive an e-mail with an entry code to the class from Music Department Head Dr. Sydney Stegall.

Music for this class is master composer level, said Dr. Glover. This requires more work, it is highly rewarding, she said.

The Concert Choir has been invited to perform in Washington, D.C. Dr. Glover said the

decision on whether to go has not been made. Before presenting the trip to the administration she said she wants to make sure that there is a strong choral student base that will improve throughout the year.

Most students in the Concert

Choir continue taking it throughout the year, even though it is only a one-quarter class.

Both choirs will give performances toward the end of the quarter. The Vocal Jazz Ensemble will enter local and regional jazz festivals.



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Contact Student Employment with further questions at 206-878-3710 x3350 or visit us in bldg. 6, upper floor.

The Thunderword / Sept. 22, 2008

Unplanned, uncut and all natural

James Rogers didn't plan to be a photographer, but like his pictures, it all came naturally

By Rochelle Adams
Staff Reporter

James Rogers doesn't like to cheat.

He says enhancing pictures through Photoshop instead of allowing a photograph to stand on its own merit is cheating.

Anyone who sees his art, now showing through Oct. 31 in the Library gallery, can be sure they're getting the real deal.

This local talent grew up in Eugene, Ore. and moved to Washington 15 years ago for a job as a store manager. He now works at REI Adventures selling adventure trips.

Rogers said his art career was completely "unplanned," a

word he uses over and over.

Photography was never a dream of his. He merely enjoyed taking pictures. A work function inadvertently got him involved in selling the pictures he took as cards to his coworkers. Those became so popular, he turned selling cards into an annual arrangement at his job.

In another unplanned turn of events, an artist friend of Rogers', who showed her own art at the former New Earth Books in Kent, encouraged him to exhibit his own pictures there. Despite having no portfolio prepared, the manager of the store bought 15 of his cards on the spot. He became the first and only man to exhibit art at that store.



James Rogers's photograph, *Inner Glow*, is typical of his work.

Now Rogers is here at Highline for his second showing anywhere.

"It's definitely a good side project," he said of his photographic work.

Rogers has been taking pictures since he was 10 years old, but never seriously until four years ago when he started making the cards for his coworkers.

"I always enjoyed photography," he said. "For me photography is a fun way to capture the world around me."

Nature plays a major theme in his work. Most of his pictures are what he calls "floral art" and other outdoors shots from unique perspectives.

Rogers said he comes upon pictures waiting to be taken by accident. In his mind, he sees how he wants to frame each shot and how close or how far away he wants it to be.

He said he has a "fascination of getting in close, especially with flowers. There's an intimacy and sensuality with flow-

ers."

Rogers said that when people usually look at flowers, it is from a distance.

As those who visit his exhibit will see, Rogers is not scared to get up close and personal with his camera. Many of his shots are so close to their subjects that, the subject expands beyond the edges of the photograph.

All of his work is unaltered and uncropped. "I don't even put it in Photoshop," Rogers said.

He admits to having an issue with Photoshop and other photographers who use it to fix their work. He sees altering pictures as cheating and calls it lazy.

"Photography was originally used to capture reality," he said. Photoshop is "a fake way to make the photograph better."

Rogers said he dabbles in other arts, but is only serious about photos and poems. Poetry is another of Rogers' side projects, having written it since high school. He doesn't see that

as a career either.

It's "a way of getting the words out of my head," he said.

Despite his blasé attitude about his second hobby, Rogers has received a lot of acclaim for his work. He was published several times including in the magazine Prism and the Washington Poets Association's yearly anthology. He also won the Charles Proctor award.

Unlike many artists he isn't out to make money on his work. His only purpose is to "share the beauty that's around us."

That's why he doesn't price his work very high. For those interested in purchasing some of his photographs, the library's front desk on the ground floor will be taking down names for Rogers to contact after his show is taken down.

The Library gallery is located on the fourth floor and is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.



Rogers says he likes to get close to his subjects.

Enter, stage right: Drama seeks actors for fall production

By Max Dubbeldam
Staff Reporter

Break a leg: The Drama Department will be holding auditions for their Fall Quarter production.

The auditions are in the Little Theatre in Building 4, room 122, on Wednesday, Sept. 24, and Friday, Sept. 26 from 2 to 5 p.m.

"Everyone is welcome and if they want to watch, that is OK," said drama coordinator Dr. Christiana Taylor. "Anyone wishing to be involved who cannot make auditions should e-mail me right away and we'll see about another arrangement before the second week."

She can be contacted at ctaylor@highline.edu.

Dr. Taylor said anyone who is auditioning should have a short piece of a play memorized. Two minutes is good for a monologue. She added that if any-

one can't memorize a piece by that time she will offer a cold reading with whatever material they have on hand.

"The best material is a character roughly in the actor's age range, not more than 10 years older," said Taylor. She also suggested not to use a mentally over-the-top and/or crazy character.

The department hasn't chosen which script they are going to perform, but they have narrowed it down to a few selections. Taylor said that the final decision will be made after the auditions are completed.

"We like to have several choices so we can cast as many [people that] want to experience theater and can give the time and effort to [the] production," Taylor said.

After the auditions, the rehearsals will be held every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (with an occasional weekend) until tech week starts, when they will re-

hearse every day into the evening until the opening night of the play.

The play is scheduled to open on Nov. 13 and run through Nov. 22.

Taylor said all cast members must enroll in an acting class.

"All cast members must register for a minimum of three credits," Taylor said. "Credits are assigned based on the size of the role, up to five credits."

Another way to involve yourself in the Drama Department is through stagecraft. If you are interested in stagecraft you should contact the Drama Department on Tuesday, Sept. 23 or Thursday, Sept. 25. You can also e-mail Rick Lorig, Highline's designer and production manager, at rlorig@highline.edu.

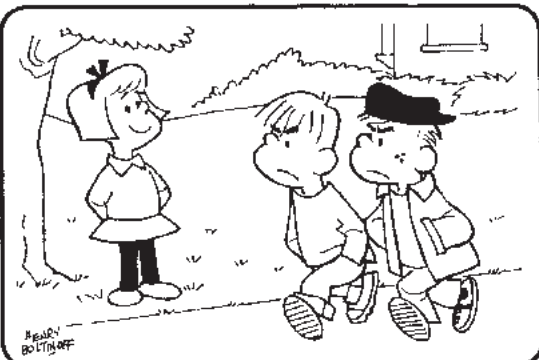
"Many people help with stagecraft as well as do some acting in this program," said Taylor. "We encourage everyone to try all the possibilities in the theater arts."



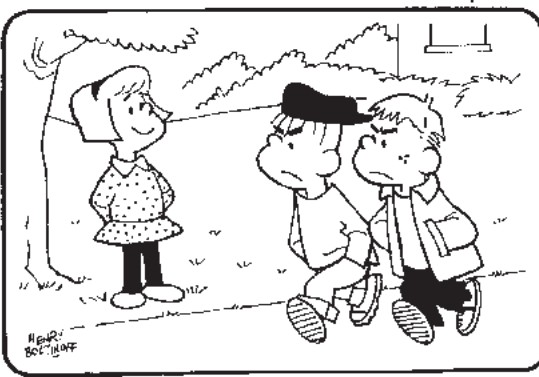
Max Dubbeldam/THUNDERWORD
Drama professors Rick Lorig and Dr. Christiana Taylor.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Dress is dotted. 2. Jeans are black. 3. Different boy is wearing cap. 4. Bushes have been added. 5. Girl's bow is gone. 6. Side window is gone.



1. TELEVISION: Who was executive producer of the *Animaniacs* television cartoon show?
2. MOVIES: Which Jon Voight/Dustin Hoffman film won Best Picture in 1969?
3. MUSIC: Who sang the following pop lyrics: "Sendin' out the message to all of my friends, we'll be looking flashy in my Mercedes Benz"?
4. GAMES: How many dominoes are in a standard set?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Blarney Stone located?
6. POLITICS: In what year did a Republican run for president on the slogan, "A chicken in every pot; a car in every garage."
7. FAMOUS QUOTES: Who said, "The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit

- is sweet."
8. MYTHOLOGY: According to some accounts, what was the last name of the legendary King Arthur?
9. COMPUTERS: What does the acronym JPEG stand for?
10. LITERATURE: In which novel does the character of Madame Therese De-farge appear?
- Answers: 1. Steven Spielberg 2. *Midnight Cowboy* 3. Pink, *Get the Party Started* 4. 28 5. Blarney Castle, Cork, Ireland 6. 1928, Herbert Hoover 7. Aristotle 8. Pendragon 9. Joint Photographic Ex-perts Group 10. *A Tale of Two Cities*, Charles Dickens
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Arts Calendar

•Local comedian Kermet Apio will perform 7:30 p.m., Oct. 10, at the Des Moines Field House, 1000 S. 220th St. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets are available at the fieldhouse.

Apio has performed with Sinbad, Weird Al Yankovich, the Smother Brothers, and more. The hilarious Apio has comedy samples available at www.ikerm.com. This will be an all-ages performance, hosted by the Des Moines Arts Commission.

For more information or for upcoming events such as the Waterland Music Series and Afternoon with the Artist, visit

us at www.desmoineswa.gov/artscommission.

•The East Village Opera Company rocks Kent's Spotlight Series on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. This performance brings the towering emotion and timeless musicality of opera into the 21st century at the Kentwood Performing Arts Center, 25800 164th Ave. SE, Covington.

The East Village Opera Company, featuring vocalists and a string quarter, re-imagines opera arias as popular songs. Arias by Verdi, Puccini, Bach, Mozart, and Wagner collide with Rock and Roll, R&B, '60s and '70s pop, surf, and soul.

Pulling Rank

Across

1. Unedited version

6. Yankee's Derek

11. Teacher's favorite

14. Part of INT

15. Say "y'all," say

16. Elem. school trio

17. International yachting regatta

19. 401(k) alternative

20. Fish

21. Vehicles traveling together

23. Book site

26. Dress-down day attire

27. Native New Yorker

28. "___ Potatoes" (Jeopardy category)

29. Fifth-rea. canonized pope

30. Cole slaw and fries

31. Sixth sense

34. Sushi fish

35. Warsaw natives

36. Spelling contests

37. GOP fund-raising org.

38. Was concerned

39. Grant's successor

40. Aromatic herbs

42. Words before easy

43. Atease

45. Sherwood et al.

46. Carroll's mad tea drinker

47. Cloudbursts

48. Hurler's stat.

49. Big-time

54. 1996 Olympic torch lighter

55. Ex-Sen. Althouse D'___

56. List of candidates

57. Nine-digit ID

58. Subsequently

59. Tennis champ Mexico

Down

1. Paternity identifier

2. Free

3. Bank machine

4. Franciscan bang outa

5. Transport to Oz

6. PB&J part

7. "If all ___ fail..."

8. Quirk

9. Teaches

10. Lies down

11. Hammer and Spade

12. Film star Flynn

13. Airline seat parts

18. Indian tourist site

22. Order member

23. Colorado Rockies in '87 Series

24. One ___ (pear odds)

25. Hotel employee

26. Like a cryptogram

28. Laundry loads

30. Tender spots

32. "Try to ___ my way..."

33. Attention-getters

35. Deli choice

36. Popular food rainer

38. Movie houses

39. It will hold your horses

Crossword 101

By Ed Canty

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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Quotable Quote

We herd sheep, we drive cattle, we lead people. Lead me, follow me, or get out of my way.

... General George S. Patton

By CFRA Associates ••• Visit our web site at www.gtpuzzles.com

Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$23 for seniors and \$20 for youths. Tickets are available on-line at www.kentarts.com, by calling 253-856-5051 or in person at the Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave. N.. Hours for phone and in-person sales are Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Box office is closed on Sunday.

Spotlight Series is presented by the Kent Arts Commission and Kent Parks, Recreation and Community Services.

•Taproot Theater Company presents a new production of Rachel Crothers' 1930s Broadway hit, *Susan and God*.

Tickets for ages 25 and under are \$10. *Susan and God* runs Sept. 26 through Oct. 25, with previews on Sept. 24 and 25.

The new \$10 25-and-under price is a significant savings over Taproot's normal

tickets, which range from \$20-33.

To purchase tickets, call Taproot Theatre's box office at 206-781-9707 or Ticketmaster at 206-292-ARTS.

•Celtic band Gaelic Storm performs Saturday, Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kent-Meridian Performing Arts Center, 10020 SE 256th St., Kent.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and youths. Tickets are available on-line at www.kentarts.com, by calling 253-856-5051 or in person at the Kent Commons, 525 4th Ave. N.

•Got arts news? Contact arts editor Rochelle Adams at radams@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

by Linda Thistle

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7			3				8

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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The Thunderword / Sept. 22, 2008

Thunderbird men charge into first in the west

By Max Dubbeldam
Staff Reporter

The men's soccer team is soaring once again as it is undefeated in league play.

Highline is undefeated in top position of the West Division with 16 points out of six matches. They defeated Tacoma, Everett, Peninsula, Skagit Valley, and Olympic and tied Whatcom and have a 5-0-1 league record. They did lose one non-league match against Wenatchee Valley to bring their overall season record to 5-1-1.

Head Coach Jason Prenovost is trying to form a team worthy of challenging the best in the NWAACC by not only winning but playing attractive, attacking soccer.

Prenovost is giving his team an extra dimension by having players play in positions they don't regularly play.

"It's way good for playing at the next level. And it helps with reaching the next step," said midfielder Tony Maxwell. Maxwell was originally a forward but has mostly played in the midfield for Highline and even plays in the center of defense.

Highline started the league season with a win against Tacoma at home on Sept. 5. Prenovost's men started well, putting good pressure on the opposing players and playing with overall high energy both on and off the ball.

The pressure paid off in the eighth minute when Tacoma's goalkeeper misjudged an incoming ball at the top of the box. Brandon Arreola got possession and passed it into the feet of Ryan Kuffler who slotted it into the open goal.



Eva Kaltenbach/THUNDERWORD

Juan Salas leads the charge for Highline against Olympic in soccer action last week.

Tacoma retaliated six minutes later when Tyler Bretana received Frank Tayou's through ball, beat Highline's offside trap, and finished off in the 14th minute to even the score at 1-all.

The game winner came in the 60th minute when Alex Bresnen scored off a penalty kick to give Highline the 2-1 victory at home.

The Tacoma match was freshman goalkeeper Liviu Bird's first time between the posts for Highline, and he said that he'll have to fight to keep his place in the starting line-up.

"Now that I've got it I want to keep it," said Bird. "I won't give it up without a fight."

Prenovost said that midfielder Maxwell had a solid game and is capable of having a very good year.

The next day, on Sept. 6, the team played away at Everett, where they won 4-2.

Highline got two goals in

each half, with scores from Jarred Thomas, Daniel Nam, Jay Hardy and Zachary Taylor.

In the following match on Sept. 9, Highline played away at Whatcom where they tied the Orcas 1-1.

Whatcom sophomore Kalem Hemlock scored the first goal after only five minutes of play off a pass from Dylan Nicholson.

Highline's Tony Maxwell equalized at the stroke of halftime to give the Thunderbirds a point on the road.

On Sept. 11 Highline played Peninsula at home and defeated the Pirates by a score of 2-0.

The Pirates started the game with good pressure and there was an early opportunity after Kenyan forward Steven Williams utilized his speed to get one on one with goalkeeper Bird but he failed to hit the target.

After 15-20 minutes the Thunderbirds started to find

their feet, build up from the defense, combined well, but they couldn't find that killer pass that could split the defense.

The best opportunity for Highline came at the end of the half when Ricco Sanchez sent in a free-kick from 45 yards out which flew over everyone, including the keeper, and almost sank into the goal.

In the 65th minute Highline got a corner kick and two shot attempts were cleared off the line until finally defender Daniel DeWaele slotted the ball in the net to put Highline one up.

The second goal fell in the 78th minute when Fernando Gonzales received the ball outside the 18-yard box and half-volleyed an unsavable shot into the top corner to give Highline the 2-0 win.

The following game was an away game at Skagit Valley in which Highline thrashed the Cardinals 9-0.

Freshman striker Bundu Koroma recorded a hat-trick as he slotted three goals past the Cardinals keeper. The other goal scorers were: Fernando Gonzales, Alex Bresnen, Daniel Nam, Brandon Arreola, Ryan Kuffler, and Jay Hardy.

On Sept. 16 Highline played at home against Olympic and beat them 8-1.

The Thunderbirds outclassed the Rangers and were in front 4-0 by halftime. The goal-scorers were Ryan Kuffler in the eighth minute, Brandon Arreola in the ninth, Kuffler again in the 38th, and Juan Salas in the 42nd.

Olympic was left trying to throw hopeful balls into the box from free-kicks and corner-kicks, but they never threatened Bird's goal.

The second half was much of the same as Robbie Gouk made it 5-9 in the 55th minute, and Zachary Taylor made it 6-0 in the 61st.

Josh Gilson did score a consolation goal for the Rangers after back-up goalkeeper Dave Lugo mistimed a tackle and Gilson rounded him and put the ball into the open net.

After that goal it was business as usual when Jarret Thomas scored in the 65th and in the 73rd minute striker Bundu Koroma showed his touch as he put a gentle lob over distraught goalkeeper Dustin Gessang to make it 8-1, Thunderbirds.

Even though the score was so lopsided, the Thunderbirds fought hard for every ball until the final whistle blew.

"We wear teams down with our energy," said Prenovost. "It's been a longtime staple of ours. We put an emphasis on our work rate."

Young Lady Thunderbirds finding their way on volleyball court

By Max Dubbeldam
Staff Reporter

The volleyball team is feeling confident that they are ready to face off against their division rivals.

Highline played 18 non-league matches leading into the league season and its record is 10-8.

Before their non-league season started the Thunderbirds went down to Brazil and trained eight hours a day for 10 days.

"We went mostly for skill training," said Coach John Littleman. "We got a month's worth of practice done in 10 days."

Littleman also said that the team had a fantastic time but that the focus was very much on

volleyball.

Amanda Harker and Stefanie Rojas are the only sophomores on the team and they've been designated as captains.

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, Highline played the Edmonds Titans. They fought hard and won the first set 25-21.

In the following sets the Titans' experience came through and Highline lost the following sets 21-25, 19-25, and 19-25.

On Friday Sept. 12, Highline played Olympic at home.

Highline outclassed Olympic and beat them 25-22, 25-11, and 25-14. Adriana Aukusitino recorded 13 assists in that game.

Littleman pointed to setter Aukusitino as being one of the most important members of the team.



Shelby Sieber photo

Adriana Aukusitino sets the ball for teammates in a game last week.

"She's one of the best setters in the league," Littleman said. "But we've got to pass better to help her out."

Littleman said that the team doesn't have any superstars and that they're trying to create a

very balanced and all-around team.

Littleman said that the team's feeling very confident leading into the league season, but that they have to face the five toughest opponents in the division in

the first five games.

"We haven't played any of them yet," said Littleman. "I think it's gonna be a real battle."

Littleman said that it's going to be hard for any of the teams to finish first in the division.

"Anybody can beat anybody on any given day," said Littleman. "We're going to try to be the team that beats everybody."

The volleyball team played in the Bellevue Crossover over the course of Friday, Sept. 19, and Saturday, Sept. 20 with results unavailable at presstime.

Highline plays on Wednesday, Sept. 24 at Pierce at 7 p.m. After that they play at home against Green River at 7 p.m. on Sept. 26, and away again at Tacoma on Oct. 1.

Short-handed Lady T-Birds still finding ways to win

By Max Dubbeldam
Staff Reporter

The women’s soccer team is short-handed for the third year in a row, but Head Coach Tom Moore isn’t worried about it.

Highline is currently in second place in the West Division with 12 points out of seven games and a 3-1-3 record.

Even though they a minimal amount of substitutes (at times none) and no regular goalkeeper, it seems that the Lady Thunderbirds have learned how to make due. With returning stars such as forward Kelsey Lusebrink and defender Brittany McKay, Highline is as competitive as ever.

“I’m almost used to it,” said McKay. “We’re just as good as last year. I think we’ll go as far, if not farther.”

McKay added that it is harder to play short-handed because people get tired.

Moore said that one of the reasons why there aren’t a lot of women coming out for the team could be because incoming students might not know Highline has a women’s soccer program.

“For girls [soccer] is not always the highest priority on the list,” Moore added.

Highline started the league season on Sept. 5 with a scoreless draw at home versus Tacoma.

Sophomore field-player Whitney Lynch played in goal against the Titans and kept the clean sheet.

The next match they played was on Sept. 6 when they played away at Everett. They tied the game at one-all after both teams scored in the opening five minutes of play.

Hayley Bustad opened the scoring for Everett in the second minute after receiving a pass from teammate Kaitlan Ducken to put the Trojans up 1-0.

Highline retaliated almost immediately when Kelsey Lusebrink set up Tammie Hilla to set the score even at 1-1, and rescue the point for Highline away from home.

In the Thunderbirds’ next away match on Sept. 9, they suffered a tough loss against Whatcom.

Highline scored the first goal in the third minute when Ivanca Frerichs received an assist from Lusebrink.

However, Whatcom struck back a minute later when Bianca Canaday found the net in the fourth minute.

Whatcom took the lead in the 10th minute when Canaday turned provided and passed to Laura Lichon who slotted the ball into the net.

Highline’s Lusebrink evened things up again at the 13-minute



Eva Kaltenbach/THUNDERWORD

Kelsey Lusebrink fights off an Olympic defender only to have her shot miss the frame of the goal.

mark, making the score 2-2.

Whatcom retook the lead in the 33rd minute through freshman midfielder Nina Rhea to sum up the goal frenzy in the first half.

In the second half Whatcom put some space between the two sides when Tasha Parris buried a goal in the 55th minute to give the Orcas a 4-2 win.

Highline bounced back from the loss and went on to defeat Lower Columbia at home on Sept. 11 by a score of 3-1.

Lusebrink opened the scoring for the Thunderbirds in the 20th minute. Six minutes later, however, Lower Columbia struck back through Zury Romero and the score was level going into half-time.

In the second half Lusebrink recaptured the lead in the 61st minute, and Alyssa Dale finished off the Red Devils’ chances in the 82nd minute and clinched the 3-1 victory for Highline.

The next match was away against the Skagit Valley Cardinals on Sept. 13. The game finished in a 2-2 draw.

Highline defender Brittany

McKay opened the scoring in the eighth minute of time after receiving a pass from Korinne Goudey.

The Cardinals evened things out when Bryana Manchester scored in the 32nd minute. Skagit Valley took the lead in the second half when freshman Taylor Madsen found the netting.

Lusebrink, however, rescued a point for the Thunderbirds when she scored in the 72nd minute.

On Sept. 16, Highline played at home against Olympic and squeaked by with a hard-fought, 1-0 win.

Lusebrink scored the only goal of the game in the 43rd minute after receiving a pass from Andrea Erdahl.

Highline might have had another scoring chance after Lusebrink went down in the 18-yard box. However the referee didn’t deem it to be enough to award a penalty kick.

Olympic did have some clear-cut chances, most coming from freshman Brittnay Gates. However, she was unable to convert them into goals.

Highline’s Erdahl recorded a hat trick, scoring three times in the first half. Kelsey Lusebrink scored twice to bring her season tally to seven goals.

Green River’s Carli McCrabb did score in the 12th minute to tie the game at 1-1 but it was not enough the stop the Thunderbirds’ assault.

Despite the team’s success, Coach Moore doesn’t want to spend the season with only 10 players.

Moore said that he is accepting walk-ons and implores any women who are interested in playing for the Thunderbirds to try out. You can contact Moore at TMoore@Highline.edu.

Highline’s next two matches are at home. They play Bellevue on the 24th at 2 p.m. and the play Shoreline on the 27th at noon.

Highline’s next away match is against Tacoma on Oct. 1, also at 2 p.m.

Highline Bookstore

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New coach Baker hopes to cook up cross country renaissance

By Max Dubbeldam
Staff Reporter

Highline's cross country team is up and running once again.

Head Coach Josh Baker is taking charge of the program after it was abandoned last year when then-coach Christina Loehr resigned two days before the season began.

Together with his wife, and Co-Head Coach Toni,, Baker has been ressurecting the cross country program from scratch.

"We have had great support from people around campus; like John Dunn, our athletic director," said Baker. "He has made it very clear that having a successful running program is important."

Dunn said that he believes that Baker is the right man for the job and that he can bring the team back to its former glory.

"He's already got more runners than we've had in like 15 years," said Dunn. "He'll do very well in the NWAACCs once he has a full year to recruit."

Baker has a master's degree in physical education and recruiting is a strong point of his, since he studied recruiting for community college athletics for his master's thesis.

Baker may not have experience at being head coach, but he has been an assistant coach for the men's basketball team and has gained valuable experience from Head Coach Che Dawson.

"Coach Dawson is an incredible coach and I have learned a great deal in following his lead," said Baker. "Working with Coach Dawson has helped develop my own coaching style and philosophy."

Dawson said that he thinks



Assistant Coach Sara Argyle, Head Coach Josh Baker, and Co-Head Coach Toni Baker are resurrecting the cross country program.

Baker has great potential and that he has a good handle on what makes players tick.

"He's an incredible organizer and he's very detail-oriented," said Dawson. "He takes a lot of pride in everything he does and he's very competitive."

Baker said that the team will be competing in six races this year. The men's team will be running eight-kilometer races and the women's team will be running five-kilometer races.

The cross country team's first race was in the Orca XC Invitational on Sept. 6. Eight different schools were represented, including Western Washington University and Simon Fraser University. The men's team finished fifth overall and the women's team ended up sixth.

"Our runners really put in a nice effort and gave us a great place to start from," said Baker. "We are excited about the possibilities for this year."

Simon Fraser University runner Ryen Brockerville took first place in the men's event with a time of 26:17.

Out of the eight Highline runners in that race, freshman Kevin Clancy finished highest,

23rd in a field of 71 runners with a time of 27:46. Colby Peters and Ryan Eidsmoe finished 32nd and 33rd respectively in 28:19 and 28:23.

JP Strozewski finished in 49th position with a time of 29:21; Tyler Eidsmoe and Abdi Hassan finished 58th and 59th in 30:06 and 30:12; Nathan Tustison finished 67th with a time of 33:44 and Shane Khan finished in 71st position with a time of 37:31.

In the women's portion of the meet, sophomore Sarah Porter from Western Washington University took first place with a time of 17:38.

Livia Mahaffie was the fastest woman on Highline's team, finishing in 54th place with a time of 22:04. Anna Resendiz finished 62nd in 22:32 and sophomore Kim Barney took 68th place with a time of 22:58.

Krysta Renton and Catherine Nalley finished 77th and 78th respectively with times of 30:19 and 30:23.

Baker has his eyes set on the long term and is hoping to rebuild Highline's cross country team to be a powerhouse in the NWAACC.

"We are building a champi-

onship program. Our goal is to once again hang banners in the Thunderdome on a regular basis," Baker said. "This year we will establish strong momentum to carry us that direction."

Baker said that he will accept walk-ons after the school-year starts and that he's especially interested in finding more women to join the team

"If a girl ran in high school,

played another sport or just enjoys running we might even have some scholarship money available for her," said Baker.

The cross country team went to the Clark Invite in Battle Ground, Wash. on Saturday, Sept. 20 but the results weren't available at presstime.

The next meet will be the Charles Bowles Invite on Oct. 4 at Bush Park in Salem, Ore.

Transfer Fair

Monday, October 13

9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

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The first floor of the cafeteria in Building 8

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The Thunderword needs you

The Thunderword, Highline's weekly student newspaper, needs reporters, photographers, graphic artists/designers and ad sales representatives. Some of these are paid positions; some offer college credit. Current openings include:

- Sports editor: covers Highline sports, edits stories, designs pages. Relevant experience and/or training helpful.
- Graphics editor/designer: Designs ads and graphics in support of stories; coordinates with other editors and advertising manager.
- Photographers, artists, reporters and ad sales reps also are needed.

Interested? Send a resume, cover letter and relevant writing samples to thunderword@highline.edu, or see T.M. Sell, adviser, in 10-106.

MaST

Continued From Page 1

the MaST center. There are lots of other reasons and ways to be involved.

Besides the water-weekend event on Saturdays, more will be offered during the school year. For example, there will be a speaker series at the MaST, comparable to the Science Seminars at Highline, Higley says.

There will be more sea animals to look at when the aquarium is ready for them.

“The two big creatures that we want or that we’ll have shortly are the octopus and the wolf eel,” he said.

“In the next couple of weeks we’re actually going to be work-



David Olerich/THUNDERWORD
MaST manager Russ Higley shows off a starfish in the touch tank at Highline’s new facility.

ing on taking one of the tanks that’s out there and octopus-proofing it,” Higley said

That will involve, among other things, the use of Astro-

holes the size of quarters.

Not every fish will be locked up. One of the other features that is available to the public are the touch tanks.

“The aquariums are a draw and being able to touch the animals and handle them,” he said. “The pre (K-12) school kids will be allowed to visit and have field trips to the facility which also will start up again.

Eventually, the MaST will have live video communication with divers, including the ability to see what the diver is seeing underwater.

“The diver has communication on his gear and our divers go into the Puget Sound while we have two 40-inch screens in the aquarium area and you can actually see what the diver’s seeing and talk to the diver,”

Higley said.

Another plus is the center’s proximity to Highline.

Higley explained that other schools such as the University of Washington has its facility located eight hours away at Friday Harbor. Western University has its facility, “Enchanted Point,” located an hour away in Anacortes.

“We are the only facility in the Seattle area that offers a center close to its own campus,” he said.

“We are a research office that tends to be a place for researchers who come in from fishing wildlife, NOAA (National Ocean Atmospheric Administration), from many of the universities around that want access to a pier, to the water, and to other aquariums,” Higley said.

President

Continued From Page 1

Birmingham said that the college will always face demands on its resources, especially as an open-door institution designed to accept any and every student.

As a result, he said, Highline must learn to be successful in getting money from the state and national governments, as well as private donors and grants.

He said the college has a “conservatively developed budget.”

“The economy will impact what we can deliver,” he said, “but we will meet those challenges together.”

Currently, state officials are warning that the soft economy will mean lower tax revenues and hence put pressure on state agencies such as Highline to trim spending.

“We’re going to have to do some serious budget monitoring this year,” Birmingham said. “We have to serve students but stay within our budget.”

Birmingham also cited a number of programs where Highline is succeeding, such as the Southwest King County Economic Development Initiative.

The SKCEDI is “a cooperative effort to enhance investment and employment opportunities in Southwest King County,” according to their site. In addition to the college, King County and the Port of Seattle also are involved.

Dr.. Birmingham said the college needs to improve its ability to assess student progress to stay accredited, as well as develop talent on campus to staff administrative positions.

Dr. Birmingham said that “on some days, the best idea might just not be enough,” but that “it must always be OK to take those risks.”



Dr. Jack Birmingham

He said he would like the college to become “more entrepreneurial,” and to “leverage its resources.”

Birmingham asked college employees for support in help in finding ways to meet such challenges.

“We must have a culture of innovation,” he said.

He also said the college must participate in ecological sustainability efforts.

“It is a challenge as a citizen of this community, as an institution in this community.”

Dr. Birmingham served as interim president for the last two years before being named president last spring.

He ended his talk on a note of optimism, applauding the staff and faculty’s “willingness to come here every day, and believe.”

“We have an enviable community.”

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