

**Jared Stratton
is leading man
in upcoming
play/P8**



**Highline alum
became a
renaissance
man/P9**

Feb. 5, 2009 / Volume 48, No. 15

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The Thunderword

Highline Community College

Child Care and Federal Way centers close

By MAX DUBBELDAM
Staff Reporter

Heavy cuts have been made to the school budget, but they might not be the last in sight.

Highline has had to make \$ 2.1 million in cuts to meet the expected state budget now being crafted in Olympia.

The biggest cuts made were the closures of the Early Childhood Learning Center, effective at the end of Spring Quarter, and

the Federal Way Center, which houses the Puget Sound Early College program.

"We approached it as conservatively as possible," President Dr. Jack Bermingham said of the budget cut. "None of the decisions



Dr. Bermingham

were easy... all [of them] have significant impact."

"Unfortunately we can't guarantee that there won't be additional cuts," he added.

Bermingham said that they looked at what wasn't core to Highline's mission when they were decided on what cuts to make.

Together with the closures of the two centers, Highline has also been eliminating positions.

"Overall, we have been re-

ducing 44 permanent positions," Bermingham said.

He added that employees of the Early Childhood Learning Center and the Federal Way Center probably make up more than half that number.

"We've looked at areas' efficiencies and reorganized slightly as to have the least possible negative impact," Bermingham said. "No choice is an easy choice. We're already thinly staffed."

He said that the number of children served in the Early Childhood Learning Center, as well as the number of students in PSEC program, didn't match up with the number of students served by other programs.

He added that he wants to help parents find alternative options for their children.

"I've asked the Student Government to set up a task force to

Please see Budget, page 15

Tet Festival roars to life



Amee Moon

The Tet Festival returns to Highline for its annual celebration of the Asian lunar new year. Among the activities were lion dancing, above, and a fashion show, right.

For more pictures of the Tet Festival please see page 16.



Winter enrollment appears to be down

By SIDNEY PACAMPARA
Staff Reporter

Winter enrollment appears to be down but is looking to turn around as the quarter progresses, school officials say.

The latest head count summary shows that Highline has a total of 5,799 full-time equivalents (FTEs), down from the 6,505 FTEs recorded midway through winter quarter last year.

To determine the number of FTEs, the total number of credits currently taken at the time is divided by 15, the amount of credits considered full-time.

There were 6,386 students enrolled at all locations on the first day of classes this quarter. "We are still in the process," said Kate Bligh, associate dean for enrollment services.

Bligh says the reasons for it appearing to have decreased are the changes done with recording international students and the

process of recording Adult Basic Education/English as Second Language enrollments.

International students are no longer state-funded and are now contracted students. They receive funding from their own organizations.

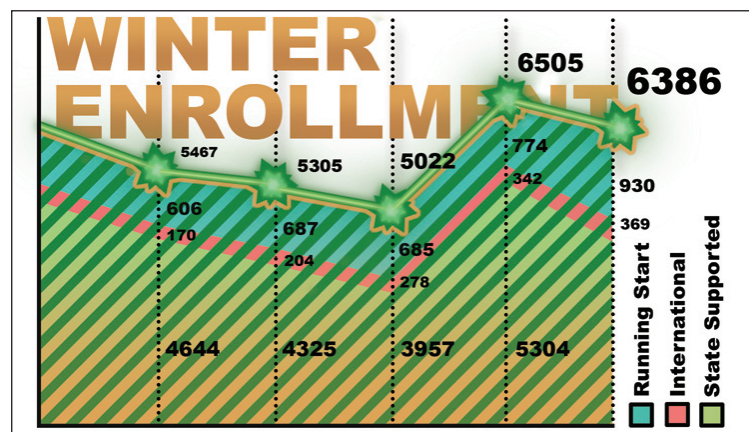
The college must meet a certain number of state-funded FTEs and although difficult, the college is still meeting the criteria, Bligh said.

Adult Basic Education/English as Second Language enrollments come from multiple off campus sites and make up a third of enrollment.

"They don't go through a regular registration process," Bligh said.

Instead of electronically, registration for ABE/ESL students is done manually. Bligh attributes the manual process as being a main factor in why reg-

Please see Enrollment, page 15



Charlie Dubbeldam/THUNDERWORD

Enrollment appears to be down, but college officials say that they have changed the way that they count students.

The Thunderword / Feb. 5, 2009



Fire in Building 29

The Higher Education Building was cleared Monday due to ventilation mishap on Monday.

The Des Moines fire department was called after a fan in the ceiling overheated in Building 29, room 203. The alarm was pulled at 10:24 a.m. and students were forced to evacuate the building.

Nobody was hurt: a fan motor in the ceiling overheated and caused some smoke, said Lt. Ed DeGane, of the South King County Fire and Rescue Department.

"It was tough to find, it took us about 20 minutes until we finally put it out," DeGane said.

The fire department arrived 10 minutes after the alarm was pulled. Campus Security kept the building evacuated for 40 minutes while the problem was resolved.

"The fan motor froze up and caused the electrical wiring to smoke," said Gus Nyquist, from the Maintenance Department.

Nyquist said he had to replace a few wires and that should take him about two hours.

Issue in Building 30

A call from Building 30 stated that a juvenile was being non-responsive, standing by the second floor stairwell for almost an hour.

Upon Security's arrival the individual was no longer there.

911 Incident

911 was called due to an intoxicated female lying on the side of the road near Building 16.

She was taken from there to the hospital.

Security escorts

Security escorts are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, says security Chief Richard Noyer.

If you are in need of an on-campus escort call Security at (206) 878-3710 extension number 3218.

Found items

These items have been found by campus security and are being held in Building 6 in the security office: Backpack, flash drive, cell phone, pink folder, text books, car keys and other keys, grey mittens with white and red stripes.



Highline student wins scholarship

Highline student Catherine Dusharme has won the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

The award, as much as \$5,000, is one of 600 given to undergraduate students who want to study abroad.

The number of awards given to two-year college attendees is 35 percent higher this year than it was last year, making it the highest it has been in the program's history.

Dusharme is the first highline student to win this award.

"It was a wonderful surprise to win the award," Dusharme said. "It's an honor to be chosen to represent Highline Community College and the United States here in Costa Rica."

Dusharme is pursuing a major in Spanish, and is using the scholarship to attend a 10-week study abroad program in Costa Rica.

Movie Friday goes to the future

Movie Friday will be exploring the distant future this week.

George Pal's 1960 film adaptation of H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine* will be shown tomorrow, Friday, Feb. 6 at 12:30 p.m. in Building 26 room 213.

Highline faculty Lonnie Somer will be presenting the film.

The film follows an unnamed Englishman at the turn of the 20th century who builds a machine that travels through time.

He uses his time machine to travel over 800,000 years into the future, where he finds that



Nicholas McCoy/THUNDERWORD

The Fundraising to Make a Difference club sells books, pens, calendars and buttons to students in their quarterly booksale to raise money for charities benefiting Cambodian children.

humans have evolved into two distinct species.

The film stars Rod Taylor as the time traveler, Alan Young and Sebastian Cabot as his two skeptical friends and Yvette Mimieux as Weena, a girl from the future.

On its release in 1960, *The Time Machine* won an Oscar for special effects, and was nominated for a Hugo award for best dramatic presentation.

Science Seminar rocks local geology

This week's Science Seminar is likely to resonate with Puget Sound locals.

The seminar, called "Rocks and Roll - Earthquakes in the Pacific Northwest," will be held Friday, Feb. 6 from 2:20 to 3:10 p.m. in Building 3 room 102.

Science Seminar organizer and science faculty Dr. Eric Baer will be speaking about the Pacific Northwest's earthquake activity.

He will cover recent discoveries that make scientists wor-

ried about the area, as well as nearby major faults.

"I'll bet it (the nearest major fault) is less than 6 miles from where you are right now," Baer said.

Free résumé clinics begin next week

Weekly résumé clinics will begin next week on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

The clinics will be held every Tuesday for the rest of Winter Quarter. Each will run from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Mt. Townsend room of Building 8.

This new weekly event is being hosted by the Student Em-

ployment Center.

The clinics will be for students to come by with their résumés and receive feedback.

Information on Highline's Cooperative Education program will also be available.

The event is being helmed by Merridy Rennick, a career specialist with the Cooperative Education program.

Correction

There was an error in last week's issue on page seven: Josh Magallanes is a coordinator and adviser for the Running Start program, not the program's director.

CO-OPPORTUNITY: Cooperative Education

Want to find out more information about doing an internship? Check us out!

Contact Merridy Rennick, Career Specialist
206-870-3710 ext. 3148 mrennick@highline.edu
Drop by for a visit: 2nd floor of Building 6 (room 222)

STUDENT JOBS:

Have you visited the 3rd largest aquarium in the state, the MAST? Want to get paid to work there? If you have work study and an interest you can!

Part time State Work Study or Volunteer Biologists and Interpreters ~ Job #'s 3655-3659

Positions include: exhibit interpretation with the public, maintaining animals and aquariums, and helping with animal collections.

Location: The New MaST at Redondo
Wage: \$8.57-10.07 Hours: up to 19 per week.

For more information about co-ops, these jobs and more, log on to www.myinterfase.com/highline/student

Free Tutoring!!!

Feeling overwhelmed? Get help?

Visit the Tutoring Center in Building 26, Room 319

Tip of the week:

The more difficulties one has to encounter, within and without, the more significant and the higher in inspiration his life will be.

-Horace Bushnell



Sign up for help in:

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

Mon-Thurs 8am-7:30pm & Fri 8am-1pm

<http://tutoring.highline.edu>

Egyptians at Highline come to study

By **SIDNEY PACAMPARA**
Staff Reporter

A normal day at Highline may not be so normal for everyone.

"It is completely different," Mohamed Elbagoury said, "but I'm very glad to be here in the states."

Elbagoury is one of Highline's four members of the Egyptian Technical College Fellowship, a national program that brings educators from Egypt to observe and develop different teaching practices to take back to their country.

The other members at Highline are Sameh Alhlfawy, Adel Lilah and Samy Osman. They are part of a 17-member group that is made up of instructors and administrators from Egypt.

They began the program in June 2008.

All 17 members were housed at Seattle University for the first eight weeks to undergo ESL training and received an introduction to the culture of American community colleges.

The members left to attend and observe five community colleges throughout the nation. Alhlfawy, Elbagoury, Lilsa and Osman stayed at Highline while the other Egyptian educators were assigned to Parkland College in Illinois, Kirkwood Community College in Iowa, Northampton Community College in Pennsylvania and Daytona State College in Florida.

The program was established to help the Egyptian government's current process of reforming higher education. Reconstruction of 45 colleges in Egypt has already begun.

The Ministry of Higher Education, one of the governing bodies of higher education in Egypt, similar to the State



Jordan Brenden photo

Four out of the 17 teachers and administrators from Egypt will be teaching at Highline.

Board here, recognizes the need for change in the system, but lacks the resources to fund it.

The Egyptian Community College Initiative was then established, receiving funding from the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The Community Colleges for International Development (CCID) directs and administers the initiative.

Highline participated with CCID in the past by bringing international students to the college through the U.S. Community College Summit Initiative Program and continues to do so now with both students and faculty.

The knowledge gained through the program is more than just education but also culture and customs.

"I learned a lot about culture," Adel Lilah said. "I hope you learn from us too."

Exchanging cultural, teaching and educational ideas as

well as comparing the system between American community colleges and Egyptian technical colleges are one of the program goals they intend to meet.

Each educator has attended classes and lectures to observe and even help instruct.

"I really like the education here," Sameh Alhlfawy said.

"The tutoring center is new to us," Lilah said. "Students helping students is good."

Another goal of the program is for the educators to develop and improve their English.

Alhlfawy came to the program with very limited English but shows definite growth, said Alice Madsen, program director and Highline's dean for Professional Technical Education.

"Language was one of the biggest barriers," said Mary Beth Hartenstine, program manager of CCID. "There's been a lot of progress though."

The educators also have a goal of developing a teaching philosophy that is clear and in-

tegrates different tools not previously used when in Egypt. All said the amount of technology available for everyone is something they weren't used to.

"Technology is more reachable and active between the teacher and student," Lilah said. "I learned how to teach and a different way to teach with Blackboard."

Hartenstine said learning about the technology and actually using it while in the classroom as a focus is important and valuable since Egypt isn't as technologically advanced yet.

Their last goal is to create a curriculum that uses a partnership with the working industry as its foundation.

Erik Tingelstad, project coordinator and Highline's director of workforce development services, says there is a division between education and the industry in Egypt.

"Industry input is important," Tingelstad said, "and it creates a good connection for students."

There is a direct collaboration with training for the job market and seeking jobs at Highline and it is essential to be there to assist the students, Tingelstad said.

Assisting the educators are three mentors – Sam Alkhalili, Rich Bankhead and Bob Maplestone. The mentors directly work and help the educators on a one-on-one basis.

"They meet at least once a week; often times more frequently," Tingelstad said. "It's a time for both to ask questions and get updates on the progress."

The mentors accompany the educators to many events and meetings, including their seminars.

Program Manager Madsen says the seminars are where they educators do a lot of their work and processing.

The educators will make a portfolio, called a capstone by the program, to summarize the overall experience of the program and to take back home to Egypt. The fellows are leaving in mid-March and look to take back a deeper connection with the U.S.

"I enjoy the hospitality so much," Mohamed Elbagoury said.

"It's been a learning experience," CCID Program Manager Hartenstine said. "An interesting process."

"I've had the pleasure of getting to know them," Tingelstad said. "They're very interesting and motivated people."

Hartenstine and Tingelstad said next year the program will be refined and should be the same with a similar concept.

The four Egyptian educators will conduct a forum on Feb. 23 at 11 a.m. in the Mt. Olympus Room of Highline's Student Union.

Lowe's towing may have carried weight with students

By **BILL SCHLEPP**
Staff Reporter

Fewer students have been parking in the Lowe's parking lot near Highline says the manager of the hardware store.

Store manager of Lowe's, Brian Russell, made it so Highline students will be towed if they park there, and since then he said that he has seen a noticeably less amount of students parking in the lot.

"The average time a customer is in the store is 45 minutes," Russell said. He wishes to "maximize parking for customers," because spring and summer are the busiest seasons.

He also added that he is not sure if anyone has even been

towed yet.

Many Highline students were not exactly happy about the decision to stop student parking.

One student said that he has not even seen a sign about the towing yet, and said that if they did tow him that, "I will take a picture of the parking lot and tell the police that Lowe's stole my car."

One student said that she will keep parking at Lowe's until she can afford a parking pass.

She also said that "when it comes to book prices it's hard to pay for parking."

Many students were not aware that they aren't allowed to park at Lowe's. But most of them said that they would no longer park there because they



Michael Valle/THUNDERWORD

Lowe's, near campus, where students have been parking their cars.

were informed about the towing.

Another person said that

he figured that they had every right to tow, but he said that he doesn't know how they would

keep track of who is a student and who isn't. He also said that parking is expensive and the parking lot is usually full anyway.

Another student said that he thought it was stupid that he can't park at Lowe's because there is usually plenty of parking for customers.

The towing company that Lowe's has is Airport Towing, whose charge is around \$50 a day. However, Highline Security Chief Richard Noyer said that the towing fee could range from \$150-\$300.

Russell said that he actually doesn't want to tow cars, because of the hassle, but his main concern is having enough parking for his customers.

Editorial comment

S&A contribution needs an end date

The request for fund from the S&A budget to take some of the weight off the general fund is reasonable, but it must come with a clear end date.

The Highline operating budget is down \$2.1 million as a result of revenue shortfalls.

To take up some of the slack, it was proposed at a Student Government meeting last week that some of the funds could be made up using the Service and Activities Budget.

The S&A budget is separate from the general budget; each quarter, a contribution to the S&A budget is included in the tuition that students pay.

The proposal is to use \$140,000 out of the S&A budget to pay for a few things currently covered by the general.

The money would go to pay for the stipends of coaches and advisers at Highline, as well as contribute to graduation costs. Because the stipends are paying for the advisers of extracurricular activities already, it is reasonable for those costs in particular to make the switch.

The proposal has not yet been voted on. It isn't yet a sure thing that the S&A budget will be used for this; but it would be a decent way to make up some of the budget.

The school needs to make up the shortfall somewhere. The school is lucky; there isn't yet any specific talk of cutting school programs, or even club and sports activities.

The Early Childhood Learning Center is not so lucky. Established in 1972, the child care center is set to close as a result of the budget shortfall.

The proposed withdrawal from the S&A budget is even in the name of supporting extracurricular student programs and services for students. It's a good match for the money.

However, if the proposal is accepted, one very important aspect needs to be included. A timeline.

The last time this happened, the budget crisis was long over before the college resumed paying for adviser stipends.

Although it's reasonable to pull money from the S&A now, with the school and the state under the kind of economic pressure that their currently enduring, it would be unfair to make the cut indefinite.

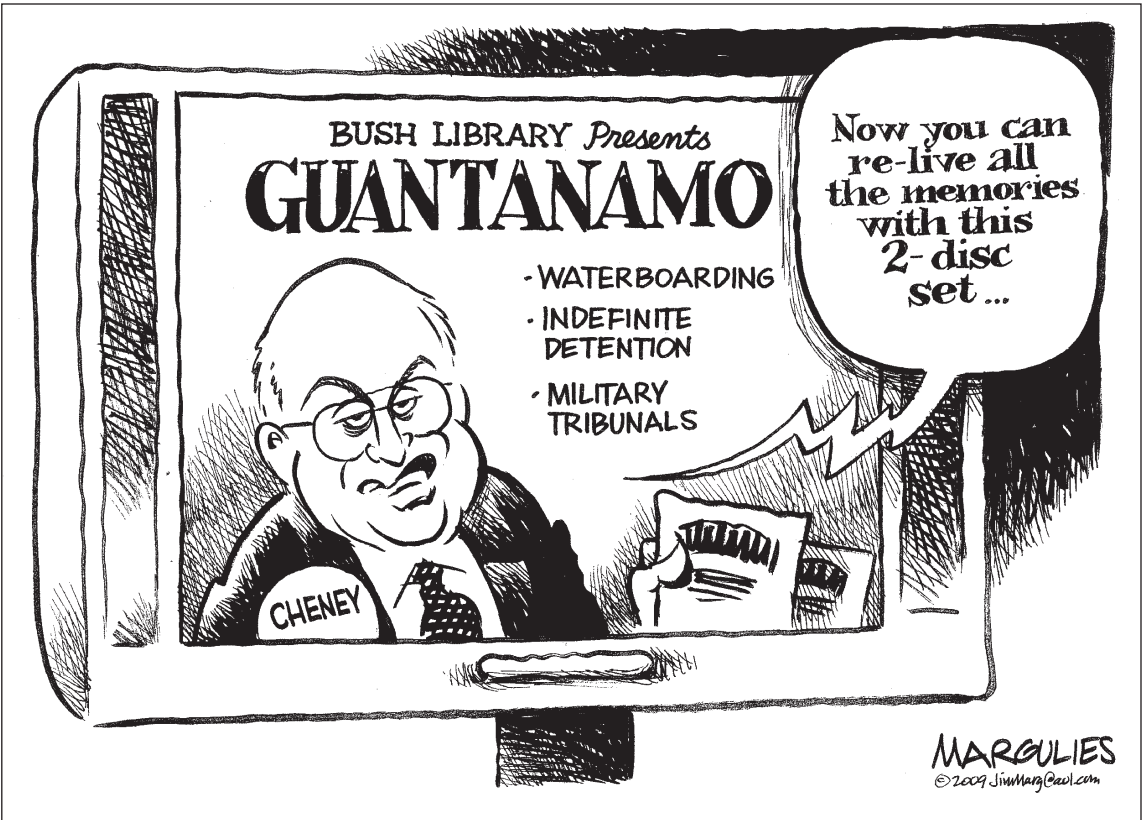
When the school is in a better position financially, it needs to resume paying for the stipends.

A clear timeline needs to be established for the budget change.

Staff

"That would be really strange if you disappeared."

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Behavior in light of bailout outrageous

The handling of the bank bailout has been unacceptable, and the news from the Associated Press that nine out of 10 bailed-out-bank executives kept their jobs is just the latest examples of the irresponsible shenanigans that the country has observed in the face of the collective economic shudder.

The rush by financial institutions of subprime mortgage lending is commonly treated as one of the sources of the economic downturn and banking crisis that lead to the bailout. Banks started making high-risk, high-interest loans to people with bad credit histories; when the global market contracted, and the high-risk borrowers defaulted (as the concept of high-risk and bad credit would imply that they would be wont to do), the banks faced insolvency.

Eventually, the government approved a \$700 billion bailout plan. The plan was controversial for a number of reasons, not least of which was the relatively little oversight that was built into it. The long and short of the deal was that taxpayer money would be used to buy up shares in the institutions to help keep the banks alive.

The bailout drama began within a week after the confirmation of the bailout. While the American public faced financial crisis, and hemorrhaged vast amounts of money in a desperate prayer that the economy wouldn't violently collapse, the executives of insurance company AIG took a \$440,000 bender at a California resort. The company, which also holds stakes in mortgage lending, was granted \$85 billion in September 2008 as part of the bailout.

A further \$37.8 billion was loaned to AIG in October, immediately preceding a \$86,000 hunting retreat the company took in Britain. ABC reported that the company spent a further

Commentary



Nicholas McCoy

\$343,000 at an Arizona resort in November, just prior to another bailout announcement for the company on Nov. 10, 2008.

The Associated Press revealed last week that nine out of 10 of the highest ranking executives from 2006 have retained their jobs, despite layoffs that have left over 100,000 bank employees out of work. Unemployment in the banking industry, according to the AP, has tripled in the last two years. Considering the role the executives likely played in embroiling the country in this mess, few things are as outrageous.

There was a saying touted in the course of the 2004 election, that one does not change horses midstream. This was used to imply that it would be foolish to change leadership in the course of a war. Although I have my own arguments with the concept of the phrase, particularly in that context, one could be convinced that the maintenance of bank executives during the crisis was fueled by the same principles. It may have been desired that the financial institutions not undergo the further complication of attempting to find new leadership during an already sever crisis.

A New York Times report indicated that the end of year bo-

nuses received by Wall Street's banker and broker types reached \$18.4 billion dollars. In combination with the generally thrilling extravagancies enjoyed by the executives at AIG, however, one is not given the most beneficent image of the intent behind the financial institutions decision to retain their leadership.

Disturbingly, \$18.4 billion is actually a reduction from the bonuses total received in previous years. Bonuses received in 2007 totaled up to \$32.9 billion. In 2008, Wall Streeters settled for bonuses amounting to, on average, \$112,000.

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that the median household income in 2007 was \$50,233, less than half of the average bonus received on Wall Street.

On the other hand, although the U.S. financial situation may seem dire, the country has not yet reached Icelandic proportions of drama. After a general implosion of the Icelandic economy, and after months of protest, members of the ruling party in Iceland (including the Prime Minister) resigned in late January.

The U.S. dollar is still relatively solvent. There has been a reassuring lack of rioting in the streets. And the government has not yet been forced to resign. By comparison, the country is doing well.

Let's keep it that way.

Nick hopes to be a sergeant of industry someday.

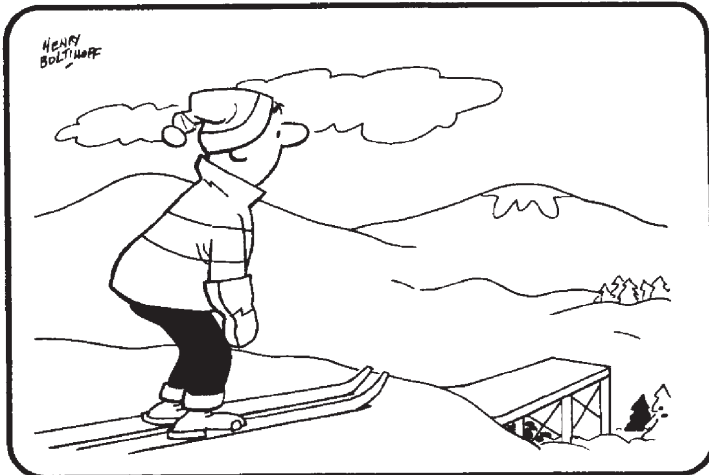
Write to us

The Thunderword invites letters and guest commentary from members of the campus community.

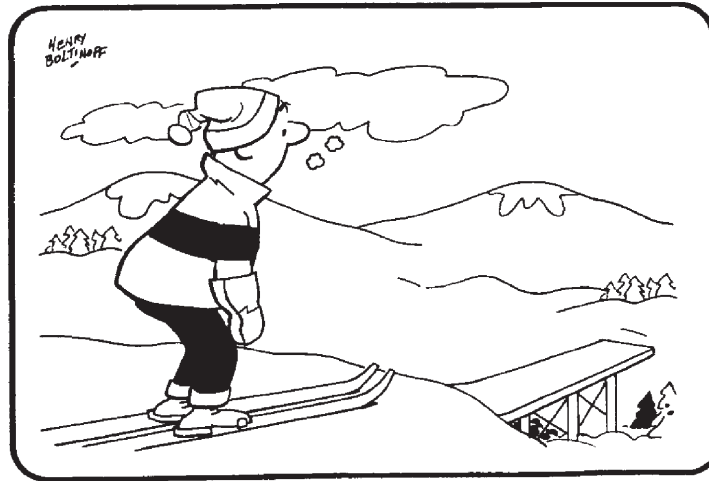
E-mail your submission to: thunderword@highline.edu. Please limit your submission to no more than 400 words. Please provide contact information for confirmation purposes.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sweater stripe is black. 2. Breath puffs added. 3. Nose is smaller. 4. Ski ramp is longer. 5. Snow added to mountain on left. 6. Trees added on left.

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1. PSYCHOLOGY: What is lachanophobia a fear of?
2. MUSIC: What other musical instrument does the marimba most closely resemble?
3. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Which entertainer once said: "Tragedy is when I cut my finger. Comedy is when you fall into an open sewer and die."?
4. MEASUREMENTS: What does a caliper measure?
5. ENTERTAINERS: What famous entertainer was born Eldred Peck?
6. LANGUAGE: What is something that is described

- as a "cakewalk"?
7. GEOGRAPHY: Which of Canada's provinces has the slogan, "La Belle Province"?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a young swan called?
9. MOVIES: Which movie featured a girl gang called the Pink Ladies?
10. U.S. OLYMPICS: In which sport is the pommel horse used?

- Answers
1. Vegetables
2. Xylophone
3. Mel Brooks
4. Diameter or thickness
5. Gregory Peck
6. An easy task
7. Quebec
8. Cygnet
9. Grease
10. Gymnastics

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Old Man Winter

Across

1. Lion's den
5. Busch Stadium residents
10. Quote
14. Early Peruvian
15. Roughly
16. Flu symptom
17. Toro, for one
19. "___ here long?"
20. It eats shoots and leaves
21. Editor's mark
22. Garage sale warning
23. Duck down
25. "Banzai!", for one
27. What's left behind
30. ___ tube
31. Colorado resort
32. Sitter's headache
35. Video game name
38. Be mistaken
39. Horse barns
41. Baby food
42. Heiress, perhaps
44. Blow the whistle
45. Relig. leaders
46. Pursue
48. Sound investment?
50. Plot
52. Dairy purchase
54. Icy coating
55. _____ Bora
57. Rodeo rope
61. Hodgepodge
62. LL Bean winter items
64. Off-limits item
65. Part of HUD
66. Great Lakes city
67. Formerly, once
68. No longer in
69. Sun. deliveries

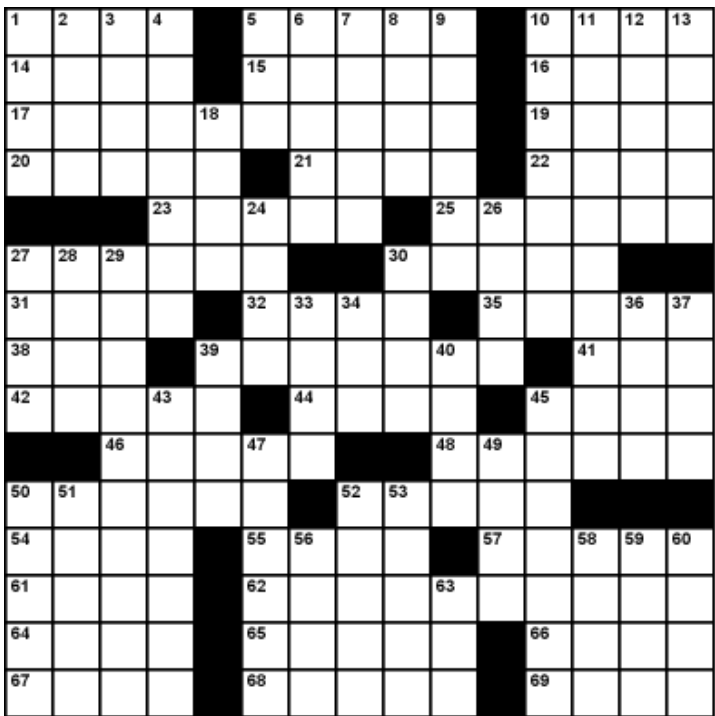
Down

1. Say Beth for Bess, e.g.
2. "___ Karenina"
3. Computer image
4. Unfair treatment
5. ___ Poly
6. Dwelling
7. Crew member
8. Hamilton-Burr incident
9. Scattered
10. Liza Minnelli's Oscar film
11. NYC drivers winter need
12. "A League of ___ Own"
13. Very, very tiny
18. Lure
24. Chapter 11 issue
26. Santa ___ (hot winds)
27. Roulette bet
28. Delhi wrap
29. Tahoe December car need
30. "___ cost you!"
33. Evaluate
34. Playwright Burrows
36. Talk wildly
37. ___ facto
39. Clothing line
40. "If all ___ fails ..."
43. Type of cigar
45. New versions of old films
47. Establishes
49. Soft mineral

By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com

Crossword 101

By Ed Canty



50. Glistened
51. Crayon choice
52. Corn holders
53. Indian princes
56. Gumbo ingredient
58. Dehydrated
59. Commotion
60. Sugar suffixes
63. "Wheel of Fortune" purchase

Quotable Quote

People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out the window and wait for spring.

-- Rogers Hornsby

Arts Calendar

•International Guitar Night comes to Kent's Spotlight Series on Saturday, Feb. 7 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kent-Meridian Performing Arts Center, 10020 SE 256th St., Kent. Artists include Brian Gore, Pierre Bensusan, Benjamin Verdery and Cecilia Zabala. Tickets are \$24 for adults, \$22 for seniors and \$20 for youths. Tickets are available online at www.kentarts.com, by calling 253-856-5051. • Dallas Brass brings An American Musical Journey to Kent's Spotlight Series on

Thursday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kentwood Performing Arts Center, 25800 164th Ave. SE, Covington. Selections will include

Last week's
Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Last week's crossword solution

HIDDEN CITIES

A	T	A	R	I		A	R	C	H		S	E	L	F
V	I	X	E	N		P	A	R	A		T	A	I	L
E	D	E	N	V	E	R	M	I	N		O	R	E	O
R	E	D	D	E	N		P	E	G		L	E	G	O
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works from Copland, Bernstein, Gershwin, Berlin and Sousa; from bands like the Tijuana Brass and Chicago; and from styles ranging from Dixieland, swing, Broadway and folk to patriotic, pop and even hip-hop. Tickets are \$22 for adults,

\$20 for seniors and \$18 for youths. Tickets are available on-line at www.kentarts.com. •Taproot Theatre Company presents Gee's Bend. Students ages 25 and under can buy tickets for

just \$10. Visit www.taproottheatre.org.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

The Thunderword /Feb. 5, 2009



ART



IN YOUR FACE

HIGHLINE STUDENTS POLINA KUD AND MILI MULIC HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY

BY CHRISTIAN COOPER
Staff Reporter

Highline students Mili Mulic and Polina Kud are collective artists who plan on showing the world what they're up to.

Kud and Mulic will have the opportunity to showcase some of their work at the Arts & Lecture event on Thursday, Feb. 12, 1-2 p.m., in Building 6, room 164.

"Arts & Lecture allows artists to express their thoughts and creativity, it gives them the opportunity to show the world what their up to," said Rashiid Abdullah, Arts & Lecture program coordinator.

It also consists of a question and answer panel discussion that allows the campus and community an opportunity to get to know the artist, Abdullah said.

He said that Arts & Lecture is not just for collective artists, it's for anyone who is involved in any kind of art. There have been web designers and even musicians.

"A lot of the time people are not able to express their art, so that was the main reason why we created Arts & Lecture," Abdullah said.

Abdullah said the majority of the people who get involved are Highline students or former Highline students. In some cases there will be some outsiders such as last quarter when they brought in musician Pura Fe'.

Mulic, a Highline student, will be showcasing some of his collective work that he has currently been working on. He is responsible for most of the art done for Martin Luther King Week.

Kud will be sharing mostly illustration work, but will also show some digital and traditional pieces.

"Drawing has always come easy to me ever since I was little," Kud said.

Her main goal right now is to keep learning and progressing, Kud said. She sees herself getting better and better after every piece of work.

"Every time we do Arts & Lecture it's to help the artist progress," Abdullah said.

The Arts & Lecture program is done three times a quarter. Since spring is so busy with graduation and other events it's only done twice.

The Arts & Lecture program is open to anyone on campus, Abdullah said.



Wings, a piece done by Mili Mulic.



Celts, chocolates highlight weekend

By LIVIA MAHAFFIE
Staff Reporter

There are several events taking place in the greater Seattle area in which everyone is invited to attend.

•On Friday, Feb. 6 there is a Celtic Music Concert at Benaroya Hall in Seattle.

Different Celtic artists will bring tradition to life through sight and sound.

The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and goes until 10 p.m. The tickets cost \$30-\$40. For more information call 360-416-4934.

•If you don't mind driving a little out of the way, there is the Enumclaw Chocolate Festival on Friday, Feb. 6.

There will be chocolate tasting, wine sampling, musical entertainment, and seminars with chocolate themes.

The cost is \$10 and the event runs from noon to 9 p.m.

•If you're looking to get into shape or just like a little exercise, there is the New Balance Super Jock 'N Jill Winter Grand Prix Two Mile Track Run.

The run is at the Nathan Hale High School track in Seattle, starting at 9 a.m. going until 11 a.m.

The event will run in heats, according to your specific running pace. Pre-registration is required. For more information call 206-729-9972.

•If running isn't your thing, you should check out the Science Fiction and Fantasy Short Film Festival in Seattle on Saturday, Feb. 7.

The Festival will be held at the Experience Music Project, from 4-10 p.m. There will be ten short films from 4-6 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. An awards ceremony will follow.

The cost is \$9/single session and \$15/both sessions.

For more information call 206-464-5830.

•Looking for something more in the entertainment industry, but don't want to pay an arm and a leg?

The University of Washington School of Drama is currently running a play titled *Big Love*.

The play is an adaptation of Aeschylus' *The Suppliant Maidens*.

Show times starting at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and runs Sunday at 2 p.m. The play is about an hour and a half long.

Tickets range from \$8-\$15, and seniors citizens are \$12.

Sunday, Feb. 8 is the last day the play will be performed.

UW prof discusses death themes in kids lit

By LIVIA MAHAFFIE
Staff Reporter

Presenting the various themes and perspectives of death in children's books, Dr. James W. Green said there are several ways to view and deal with death, showing the diversity of different cultures.

The presentation was on Jan. 28 in the Student Union Building. There were around 50 people, anticipating for the event to begin.

The presentation started with an introduction of Green from Allison Green, Highline's arts and humanities division chairwoman, who also happens to be Green's daughter. She explained how her dad taught a popular class at the University of Washington called Cross Cultural Death Practices.

Now retired, the university is begging him to come back. The presentation revolved around five main themes found in children's books that involve the topic of death: Announcing the bad news, bodies, appropriate grieving, funerals, and the afterlife. Green started with the theme announcing the bad news which includes how adults pass news of death onto children and how death is handled.

He said, "This can be problematic, rising questions such as, 'how do you do it or what do I say?'"

He also said, "It would be



Max Dubbeldam/THUNDERWORD

Dr. Green, with Alison Green spoke on death in children's literature.

hard to explain to your child that their grandma or dog has died."

He used the book *I Don't Have an Uncle Phil Anymore*, by Marjorie White Pelligrino to present this theme.

Green said, "This is a good book on how to explain bad news to children. Children's books are artifacts as how adults view death in regards to explaining it to children."

The next theme Green presented was about bodies and what you do with a corpse.

Green said, "This is problematic in every culture."

He elaborated that different cultures handle this process differently and that the process has

changed over a course of time.

He explained that the control of death was changed to hospitals and funeral homes from people's own personal homes at the turn of the 20th century.

He said in America before the 20th century, women had the responsibility of dealing with the corpse.

"They would do the washing of the body, and prepare the dead body for viewing," Green said.

He used the book *Saying Good-bye to Grandma*, by Jane Resh Thomas, as a reference to evolve the theme of bodies.

The third theme covered was appropriate grieving. He dis-

cussed how and why children act and grieve in certain ways.

He also covered how cultural differences can correlate to the ways people grieve.

"Anger is a fairly common emotion around the occasion of death. Children frequently have guilt and a fear of abandonment. This is rarely addressed in children's books," Green said.

According to Green, *When Dinosaurs Die*, by Laurie Ransy Brown and Marc Brown, "Answers more questions that children have and suggests a wider range of emotions."

He said, "This book is terrific and wonderful. It's the only multi-cultural book I've found."

The next theme Green covered was funerals. He discussed how parents try to protect their children from death. He said that it's not normal in most of the world that children are isolated from death.

"The aspect is starting to change in America where children are not as isolated," Green said.

He also mentioned how people are starting to view funerals as more of a celebration of life, rather than a solemn gathering.

Green said, "This isn't really in children's books, because it's a new view."

The last topic covered was the afterlife.

"Most books rarely talk about religion, afterlife and cultural customs concerning

death," Green said.

He mentioned two popular American themes are, "lives in our hearts and memories" and "that after you die, you go somewhere like earth, but better."

He also said that cremation is becoming more popular in the United States.

However, back in the 1880s when it emerged, there was a controversy. The Catholic Church was opposed because they believed that burning a body was like burning a soul.

Green ended the presentation answering a few questions from the audience.

Green said he hopes people leave the presentation knowing "That people understand the children's books are not a full representation of what goes on at the time of death in a family. There are lots of ways to deal with and view death other than the white middle class model that is frequently presented."



Dr. James W. Green

International Guitar Night comes to Kent's Spotlight Series

By VITA MULYARCHUK
Staff Reporter

International Guitar Night has traveled near and far and is finally dropping by in South King County for a night of solos, duets, and quartets this Saturday.

North America's longest-running guitar festival will present itself in Kent's Spotlight Series on Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m., at the Kent-Meridian Performing Arts Center.

Founded by Brian Gore in 1995, International Guitar Night started out in a converted laundromat in the San Francisco Bay Area and today tours throughout the world.

The night showcases the finest guitar composers and performers who come together in a concert setting to perform, collaborate, and exchange ideas rather than compete.

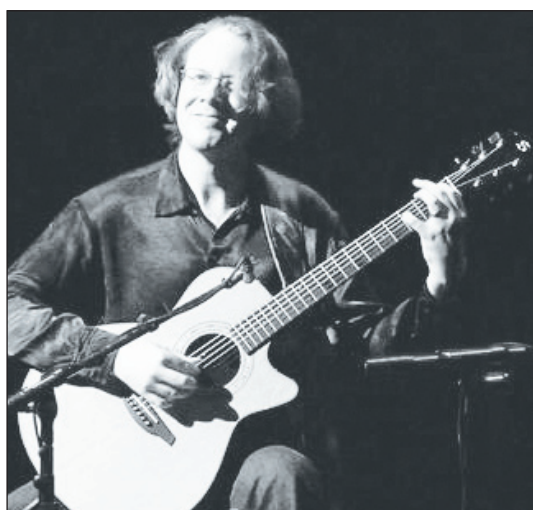
"We want to show how people from different parts of the globe with different styles of music work together," Gore said.

"It's really a chance to be of a service because we get to awak-

en people for the acoustic guitar and new genres. It's a wonderful and an inspiring thing to pass on to the people and our players feel the same way," he said.

After the International Guitar Night tours in the United Kingdom during fall and Canada in the early winter, Gore invited guitarist Pierre Bensusan, Cecilia Zabala and Benjamin Verdery and to join him on yet another tour, this time in U.S. cities. These will be the individuals performing Saturday in Kent's Spotlight Series, hosted by the Kent Arts Commission, Recreation, Kent Parks and Community Services.

Bensusan has come from far-away France to join Gore in the International Guitar Night tour. In the field of solo acoustic guitar, Bensusan has gained himself a reputation of an innovator due to his experimentations with electronic instrumental effects as well as the tuning system. In addition to composing and performing, Bensusan holds guitar workshops and writes books of guitar technique and compositions. Argentinean guitarist and singer Cecilia Zabala will give



Brian Gore of International Guitar Night.

her audience a taste of Argentinean folklore and the twentieth century jazz and tango. Zabala has an active musical career in Buenos Aires where she collaborates with several chamber ensembles other than performing solo.

Though being the chairman of the guitar department at the Yale University School kept him busy, Verdery, a Connecticut native, has performed worldwide since 1980. Successful in his compositions, Verdery has released 15 albums. Branches, the latest of his releases, is a

diverse combination of arrangements featuring works from Bach to Hendrix.

As for the founder of the night, "music started out as a kind of therapy for me," Gore said. "Consequently, I am a very emotional player. Now, my style of playing has also become a well honed

craft. I am very grateful I can share this with people."

The Acoustic Guitar Magazine wrote that Gore's "finely crafted poetic 'songs without words' take the listener on a spellbinding emotional ride."

Those interested in attending the International Guitar Night may purchase tickets on-line at www.kentarts.com, by calling 253-856-5051, or in person at the Kent Commons located on 525 4th Ave. N.. Tickets cost \$24 for adults, \$22 for seniors, and \$20 for youth.

Poets perform at Poetry Lounge

By ROCHELLE ADAMS
Staff Reporter

The next Poetry Lounge will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11.

The Poetry Lounge has been at Highline for three years. Throughout the years students have gathered to showcase their own personal ideas and thoughts.

The Poetry Lounge can be found every other week at the Inter-cultural Center in Building 6 room 164, from 11 to noon.

For the last year, the Poetry Lounge has been coordinated by Deon Brown, a student worker in the Multicultural Center.

Brown said that the main purpose of the Poetry Lounge is to celebrate diversity and help others through words.

Every Poetry Lounge has a different topic for you to speak out about. This week's topic is "the first time."

"There are all kinds of first times," Brown said. "It can be anything."

Refreshments will be provided during the reading.

'Cloudy' days ahead for Stratton

By YUN HWANG
Staff Reporter

Last November Jared Stratton ran around the stage with underwear outside his slacks as he played the role of an inspector in Franz Kafka's play *The Trial*.

Jared Stratton will be playing the lead role in the Highline winter theater production, *The Clouds*.

Beneath the soft gray sweatshirt and calm composure, it may be difficult to imagine the mad inspector who once lived through him in *The Trial*.

Through Stratton's smile as he described his commitment to theater, it's clear that he is describing something that he loves.

"I love it," Stratton said. "I don't have any qualms or stress when I'm on the stage."

Theater became part of his life when Stratton first joined drama in his early high school years. He plans to pursue acting as a career. With his eyes fixed in midair, as if trying to picture something in his mind, Stratton said he could not imagine living without theater.

"I'm too creative for that," he said. "I think I can offer something more rather than a standing body at some company or supermarket."



Sol Lee/THUNDERWORD

Stratton will perform in the production of *The Clouds* this winter.

Theater work is not always easy for the ambitious actor. Stratton manages his time to both spend nine hours in the theater and work at a bookstore in Sea-Tac Airport every day.

"Very strenuous, but tons of fun," he said.

Being an actor is not always easy, Stratton said. Glory and money are not guaranteed. Stratton said he too sometimes doesn't understand why he spends so much time and effort for a performance.

Stratton also admits that

despite the joy theater brings to its audience, not every actor becomes a multi-millionaire celebrity. "We're kind of the unsung heroes in a sense," he said.

But even without the glory, Stratton said his love for theater doesn't fade.

When he nails a monologue, or works out a scene, Stratton said he then knows exactly why he is performing. "It's all OK, because I enjoy doing this," he said. "I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

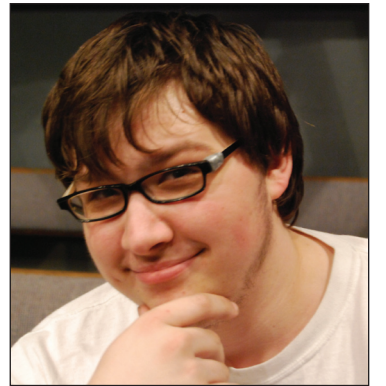
People are another factor that he loves about theater. He often finds himself in great conversations with the members of the theater, on and off stage.

Stratton said he tries to be always friendly and never treat people differently.

With great instructors and the amount of things that he has learned within the short period of time, Stratton said he is very appreciative of his experience at Highline.

His current plans include graduating from Highline and transferring to Western Washington University where he can continue to do what he loves.

Stratton has much support for his acting career. He said his parents are "surprisingly supportive." He said, as they



Jared Stratton

watch him spend great amounts of time and effort, "they're very proud of what I do."

His main goals are "to do the best I can and to be the most valuable and helpful person I can be to other people."

In February, Stratton will be playing the role of Strepsiades in Aristophanes's play *The Clouds*.

Stratton is currently spending most of his time preparing for the play along with other cast and crew members. Being the lead is very time-consuming, but Stratton enjoys it.

"I never look back at a day and feel like, 'I don't want to do this.' I always feel like that was a nice day of work," he said.

The show will begin on Feb. 26, 27, 28, and through the following week on March 5, 6, and 7. The shows run from 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for general and \$7 for students. They can be purchased at the door.

Aztlan blends bilingual tunes

By KATHERINE TACKE
Staff Reporter

New Aztlan, a rap/hip-hop group, is coming to perform for Highline's Blend series on Feb. 11.

The Blend is a bimonthly music session in Highline's Fireside Bistro held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

New Aztlan's members, MasterMind, Oso, and Killer, bring a unique twist to the rap culture because their lyrics are bilingual; they sing in English and Spanish.

"We love what we do, first of all because music is a way to let loose and express inner thought, and also because with music we can explore within ourselves higher levels of thinking," said lead rapper MasterMind.

MasterMind said that the group has been friends for a long time and around a year ago they got together to form New Aztlan.

"All of us in the group were born in Mexico. We believe that we are the next generation of the Aztec race, so we applied the word 'new' to add a sense of rejuvenation, and a new call to life to our ancestors," Master-



New Aztlan, will perform at Highline for the bi-weekly Blend.

Mind said.

The message they want to bring to Highline is the same in English and Spanish: Live today to the fullest and do not worry about what tomorrow may bring.

"We hope to have a perfect performance for all the races and creeds at the college," MasterMind said.

The group makes their own

background music and lyrics.

"Most of our lyrics are of our life situations," MasterMind said. "Stories of our past, incidents of our present, and hopes of the future."

New Aztlan has a new album entitled 253 La Conecta.

Next Wednesday they hope to generate energy on stage and impact the audience with their new sound and original style.

Library exhibit celebrates Darwin's 200th birthday

By KATHERINE TACKE
Staff Reporter

There are skulls in the library. The celebration of Charles Darwin's life and work is being presented in Highline's Library on the fourth floor throughout the month of February.

The Darwin exhibit is special right now because this month marks 200 years since Darwin's birth and 150 years since the publication of Darwin's book, *The Origin of Species*.

The month of February will also host a few presentations by professors to add to the celebration of Darwin.

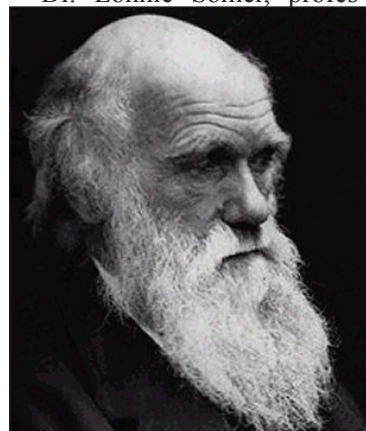
Dr. Lonnie Somer, profes-

sor of anthropology, has lent a large part of his own collection to share with Highline. Somer said that the exhibit will be very interesting to Highline right now because it will highlight some of Darwin's work beyond *The Origin of Species*.

"Darwin did a lot more than just write about evolutionary theory," Somer said. Somer explained that the exhibit will highlight Darwin's contributions coupled with ancient life on Earth. On exhibit are several different skulls as well as multiple books, movies, and video games that relate to Darwin.

"Darwin had the biggest impact on the biological sciences than anyone in modern times. So we're celebrating his contribution," Somer said. Somer also said that Darwin and his views on evolution can be controversial to some people.

"They think he is the evil incarnate, analogous to Hitler. They're speaking from their own prejudice and ignorance," said Somer. "Darwin was actually a recluse. He just came up with an idea that some people don't like."



Charles Darwin

Thunderbirds finally get new fastpitch coach on base

By **BRIAN GROVE**
Staff Reporter

After six months of not having a fastpitch coach, the Highline Athletic Department has finally settled on Gary Graff to be the head coach of the softball program.

Graff will take over for Anne

Schmitt, who resigned after last season.

The six-month stretch without a fastpitch coach involved more than 25 applicants. Highline Athletic Director John Dunn said Graff was right up there at the top.

Graff has spent most of his life in the military and is cur-

rently in the reserves.

While he was there, Graff was head coach of the fastpitch team.

He also has 22 years of experience coaching football.

Graff has been coaching SSSA select softball teams for the last few seasons.

Dunn said Highline is lucky

to get someone so good at this time.

"We're just very fortunate to get such an individual with this kind of expertise this late in the game," he said.

Assistant basketball coach Taryn Plypick will also be the assistant coach for the softball team.

Graff currently works at Boeing and does training there. His wife and his daughter attend Highline.

The softball players have yet to meet their new head coach, but will get the opportunity to do so this Friday, Feb. 6.

Practice begins for the softball team Monday, Feb. 9.

A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS

HIGHLINE ALUM BRONZELL MILLER HAS HAD ENOUGH CAREERS FOR TWO PEOPLE

By **CHRIS WELLS**
Staff Reporter

Bronzell Miller has accomplished more than most of us could dream to accomplish in a lifetime.

Miller, who graduated from Highline in 1992, has been a professional football player, actor, songwriter, model and small business owner.

Before Miller ever accomplished anything, he was a normal kid born and raised in Seattle and attended Federal Way High School.

Although football was always at the top his mind, he also had another passion.

At the age of 15, Miller appeared in his first movie, *Plain Clothes*.

After his time at Federal Way High School, he chose to attend Eastern Arizona Junior College based on the recommendation of the football coach at the University of Utah.

"Ron McBride, the football coach of the University of Utah at the time, sent me down to E.A.C. when we met in 1990," Miller said. "He gave me a chance, he said, 'If I succeeded down at E.A.C. he would like me to come back to the U of U. If I failed, good luck with life.'"

Miller attended Eastern Arizona from 1990-1991 where he was a star football player and focused on studying drama.

In spring of 1991, Miller decided that he wanted to return home and to play basketball at Highline starting in the winter quarter of 1992.

"Joe Callero saw me playing basketball with his team in the spring of 1991 and he offered me a spot on his team the following season (1992) after I got



Now an actor and businessman, Bronzell Miller played basketball at Highline before a football career in the NFL.

done with my time at E.A.C.," Miller said.

Even though Miller missed part of the season, Head Coach of Highline, Joe Callero says he was a key member of the team.

"Although he missed the first part of the season he became a great spark for us. He was into making sure the team was successful," said Callero.

Even with basketball being his main focus during his athletic career at Highline, football was never far from his heart and it wasn't long after attending Highline that the University of Utah had an offer for him.

"I made a tape from what I had done down in Arizona and sent it to them on a Monday. Sean McNabb flew in on Wednesday or Thursday of that week and I signed my letter of intent at the end of the Edmonds game to play football," Miller said.

Standing at 6'4" and weighing in at 245, Miller was a physical presence at defensive end during his time with the Utes.

During his senior season with Utah, they finished with a ranking of No. 8 in the nation and beat the University of Arizona in the now defunct Freedom Bowl.

Miller finished the season as a college all-star and was invited to the East-West Shrine Game where he started for the West.

After finishing with a 3.8 grade point average and a bachelor's degree in communications and minor in theatre, Miller was selected in the seventh round in 1995 by the Los Angeles/St. Louis Rams of the National Football League.

"I fell out the end of the first round. There is a business deal going on during the draft with all of the players involved in the draft and your agent's and current roster of NFL players," Miller said.

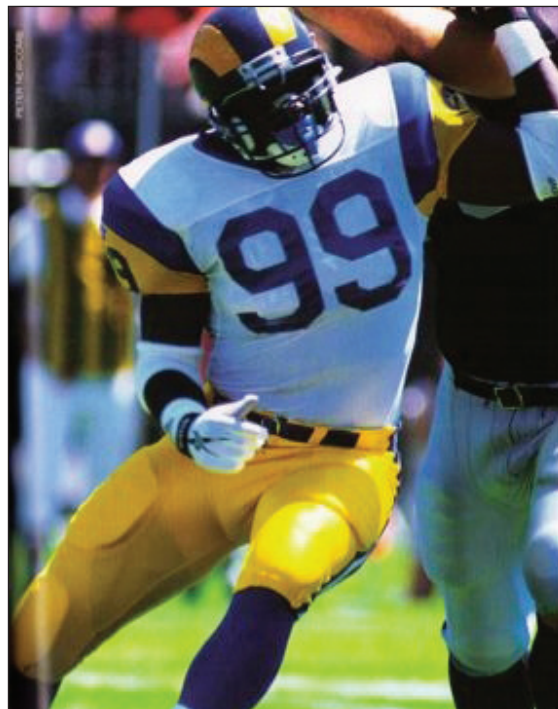
"Bigger agents are typically creating deals to package their players on the same team or on

teams that don't create a conflict of interest for their current players and their other rookies."

Miller spent half of the 1995 season with the Rams as a line-backer before joining the expansion Jacksonville Jaguars.

After bouncing around with Jaguars and San Diego Chargers, Miller went on to join the Amsterdam Admirals of NFL Europe.

After playing in Amsterdam, Miller played with the Calgary Stampeders of the Canadian Football League, the Los Angeles Avengers and the Nashville Kats of the Arena Football



Miller in his rookie year with the St. Louis Rams. He played football at the University of Utah after Highline.

League before retiring in 2001 due to back and ankle injuries.

All was not lost for Miller, though, as acting had remained a constant factor in his life over the years.

Appearing in such movies as *Dumb and Dumber*, *Con Air*, *See Spot Run*, *Planet of the Apes*, *Bringing Down the House* and *Mr. 3000*, Miller says acting has always been another passion of his.

"I started acting in the sixth grade as an understudy to a guy in a play about Christopher Columbus. In the eighth grade, I played Jesus at a church play. In the ninth grade, I was in my first movie called *Plain Clothes* as an extra during the fight scene. After that I took drama in school and knew this is what I wanted more than football."

In addition to movies, Miller has also appeared in several supporting roles on television shows such as *Touched by an Angel*, *Promised Land* and the currently-in-production *Justin Time*.

Beyond football and acting, Miller has taken an interest in songwriting and already has several country songs.

"I started with poetry in the eighth grade. That turned into music in my head. Last year, I started putting music to the words through a songwriter in Nashville. Next thing you know I'm writing country lyrics," Miller said.

In 2006 and 2007, he appeared on a citywide YMCA ad in New York and he hopes to get started on his own fashion line soon. Also in 2007, Miller started his own business, Door Anchor, a portable lock that cannot be picked.

Only just 17 years after graduating from Highline, Miller has already done so much and has aspirations to only accomplish more including producing his own movie.

Miller says Highline helped him prepare for the rest of his life.

"Finishing community college at Highline helped me prepare for college as well as my human development skills with others."

The Thunderword /Feb. 5, 2009

Highline wrestler has big ambitions

By **KAYLA LELIEFELD**
Staff Reporter

David Lopez couldn't wait to get home.

After a successful football career at Mt. Rainier High School, Lopez went off to California to continue playing.

He didn't like living down there, he couldn't wait to come home.

Home meant enrolling at Highline and pursuing the other sport he was passionate about, wrestling.

Now the 6'3," 285-pounder is Highline's top heavyweight.

Lopez graduated from Mount Rainier High in 2007.

"I chose Highline because of the good tradition, great coaches, and great opportunity," he said.



Loren David/THUNDERWORD

Lopez brings down his competitor during a recent match.

"It's one of the only real wrestling program left in Washington, and it's right in my home town."

Lopez didn't find his interest in wrestling until his junior year

of high school.

"I actually started to help out my buddy who was our varsity wrestler at the time, and to get better for football," Lopez said.

In Lopez's first year of wres-

ting in high school he won impact newcomer, outstanding wrestler, most pins, team captain and placed sixth at state.

The following year Lopez was ranked first in the 3A high school division, but tore his ACL early in the year during football season.

The transition from high school wrestling to college wrestling was "huge," he said. "Everyone is good here."

"There are no easy matches," he said. "You have to bring your A-game to every match. It's a lot tougher."

"It's easy to make little mistakes and they cost you a match so, if you lose you have to be able to learn from it and not make the same mistake again."

Being able to work with All-American and Highline's only

national champion, Yura Malamura, is helping Lopez work hard to reach his goal to be an All-American.

"They push me to a whole other level just to keep up with them," Lopez said.

He is also working hard on his own and listening to all his coaches' input, focusing on the areas where they think he needs to improve.

Right now, Lopez is focusing on getting his associate of arts degree; he's undecided on the career he plans on going into.

"I want to keep my options open just in case I get any offers," said Lopez.

However, Lopez said he is leaning toward Central Washington University and playing football after his time here at Highline.

T-Bird men continue to make statement in West Division

By **CHRIS WELLS**
Staff Reporter

The Highline men's basketball team remains tied with Tacoma for first place in the NWAACC West after nine games.

The T-Bird men are now 9-1 in the West and 13-7 overall after they came out victorious in their last two games against Pierce and Centralia.

On Jan. 28, the T-Birds went south to face the Pierce Raiders of Puyallup.

Pierce, now 4-5 in league and 9-13 overall, weren't able to contain Highline as the T-Birds ran out triumphant by a score of 74-66.

One of the key players for the T-Birds was 6'9" sophomore forward Coby Gibler.

Gibler, who is second on the team in scoring and leading in rebounds, was able to put up 15 points.

In addition to his offensive production, Gibler grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds.

He also added to his team-high block total with three more.

Also contributing on the offensive end was Shedrick Nelson, a 6'3" sophomore guard.

Having gone 6 for 8 from the field, Nelson was able to put up 14 points. He was also able to pull in 6 rebounds.

Kelly Edwards, a 6'3" sophomore guard, had a solid offensive night with 15 points and 6 for 12 shooting.

Running the point, Vaughn Gaines, a 5'10" sophomore guard, had 6 assists and 6 points.

On the defensive end of the

ball, 6'3" freshman guard Julian Fernandez made an impact with his 3 steals in 13 minutes on the court.

In addition to Fernandez, Dan Young, a 6'10" freshman forward, made a difference in the post with 3 blocks.

On Jan. 31, the Centralia Trailblazers, who are 3-6 in the West and 5-13 overall, were able to hang closely with the T-Birds, but Highline was able to pull it out with a final score of 93-90.

The player of the game for Highline in this one was Gaines.

Gaines shot 12 for 14 from the field and 3 of 4 beyond the 3-point line for a team season high of 29 points.

Not only did Gaines score, but he also contributed elsewhere, with 4 assists, 5 rebounds, 2 steals and a block.

Not to be outdone, Gibler shot 9 for 14 from the field with a solid 20 points.

He also grabbed a game-high 7 rebounds.

Also, shooting the ball well was Stedman Richardson, a 6'2" sophomore guard.

Richardson shot 7 for 10 from the field for 15 points.

The next game the T-Birds men played was against the Grays Harbor Chokers on Feb. 4.

Scores and statistics for this game were unavailable at press time.

On Feb. 7, Highline will have their second and last bye of the season. Gibler says this is a time where they need to stay focused.

"We need to keep going over the same old stuff and work hard during our practices," Gibler

said.

The next game that Highline will play is on Feb. 11, at home, against the South Puget Sound Clippers out of Olympia.

The young Clippers, who feature just two returning players, are struggling so far this season with a 2-7 record in the West and 8-12 overall.

Leading the way for South Puget Sound is a 6'5" freshman forward out of Eagle River High School in Anchorage, Michael Hall.

Hall has done it all this year for the Clippers, averaging 13.5 points per contest and 8 rebounds.

He also has been a contributor on the defensive end with 1.68 blocks and 1.37 steals per game.

Running the point for the Clippers is Will Sharp, a 6'1" freshman guard from North Thurston High School.

Averaging 12.89 points and 5.11 assists per game, Sharp has been a solid presence on the court all year long for South Puget Sound.

Sharp also has contributed on the defensive end with 1.74 steals per game.

With six games remaining in the regular season, three of which are home games, Highline needs just two more wins to secure a birth to the NWAACC tournament in Kennewick, taking place on March 5-8.

Gibler said that even though they are in a good position, they need to play every game the same.

"We realize every time is going to be tough and we can't play anyone lightly and think every team we play is the best."



Ami Nguyen/THUNDERWORD

Highline wrestlers battle it out during a practice match.

Wrestlers prepare for regional tournament

By **KAYLA LELIEFELD**
Staff Reporter

The Thunderbird wrestling team will travel to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho to compete in the regional tournament this Saturday, Feb. 7.

Six teams will be competing: North Idaho, Southwestern Oregon, Clackamas, Yakima Valley, Prima Arizona and Highline.

This year the region has improved and is very tough, said Tito Pimentel, Yakima Valley Head Coach.

"Tyrell Fortune of Clackamas is as good as a freshman JC heavyweight as we have seen, and that includes Rulon Gardner, the former Olympic Champion," said Pimentel. "Teams like North Idaho and Clackamas are as good as they ever have been."

The big favorite heading into regionals is Northern Idaho College, said Casey Park, High-

line's 174 pounder.

"There are several wrestlers from Highline that have a good chance to win titles; Justin Purves, 125; Aaron Smith, 133; Zach Burnett, 165; Caleb Padgett, 184; and Michael Morales, 197," Park said.

"Anything can happen and I'm sure there will be some upsets, guaranteed," said David Lopez, Highline heavyweight. "Although I do think Aaron Smith has a good chance to become a national champion."

The Thunderbirds traveled to San Francisco, Calif. to compete in the California State Championships in preparation for the regional wrestling championship.

Although none of the Highline's wrestlers placed, "We all wrestled very well this weekend, the tournament was a Division I tournament, so all the best wrestlers in the nation were there," said Lopez.

Lady T-Birds in bidding for playoff birth

By BRIAN GROVE
Staff Reporter

The Highline women’s basketball team has moved up the ladder to a fourth-place tie with Grays Harbor in the West Division after going 1-1 in their games against Pierce and Centralia last week.

Both Grays Harbor and Highline are currently 5-4 in league play.

Last Wednesday, Jan. 28, Highline hosted the Pierce Raiders in their first match-up of the season.

The Lady T-Birds seemed to be the ones doing the raiding in this game, defeating Pierce by 21 points, with a final score of 65-44. Highline shot 38 percent from the floor and outscored Pierce 31-19 by the end of the first half.

From a defensive standpoint, overall the team had 55 rebounds and blocked four Raider shots.

Freshman Jordan Beale sported a 75 percent shooting percentage and was a perfect three for three from beyond the arc.

Freshman Adriana Aukusitino was also a hot shooter for the Lady T-Birds, going five for eight overall and two for five from three-point range.



Sol Lee/THUNDERWORD

Freshman Ariassa Wilson Gaurds Dani Carlman at practice.

Although Highline beat Pierce, the players say they could have done better.

“We played down to their level for the first half, not our game at all,” freshman guard Ariassa Wilson said.

“We picked it up in the second half and started to play. Should’ve won by more, but at least we got the win,” she said.

Highline tried to do just that

in their next game against Centralia.

Unfortunately, the Lady T-Birds were burned by the Trailblazers with a final score of 59-46.

Although Highline was only down by one at half-time, Centralia took it to the T-Birds scoring 37 points compared to Highline’s 25.

Highline’s Head Coach Am-

ber Rowe said Centralia is a difficult place to get a win.

“Centralia is a very tough place to play, the gym is very loud and it is hard for the players to hear me. Centralia did a great job switching up defenses and we did not recognize the changes quickly enough which made it hard to run our offense,” she said.

The Lady T-Birds faced the Trail Blazers for the first time on Saturday, Jan. 3 and were defeated by a narrow margin of 69-68.

Coach Rowe said several factors contributed to the wider point spread the second time around.

“We fouled too much in the second game against Centralia. They shot 30 free throws. That makes it hard to win a game especially when our shots were not falling,” Rowe said.

Highline players said their play was a matter of adapting to the different circumstances that arise during the game.

“We had a good shooting week at practice and warmed up well but we weren’t able to adjust to the different situations that were thrown at us during the course of the game,” Wilson said.

Although Highline lost by 13, the game was not as distant as the box score shows.

“The game was actually closer than the final score. We had to start fouling them toward the end of the game. They made their free throws and we were not able to score quickly enough and therefore the score was higher,” Coach Rowe said.

Despite the loss, the Lady T-Birds spirits are still flying high.

“We are always trying to stay on the positive side,” Wilson said.

“If we can beat everyone we beat before and then some, then we’ll make it to NWAACC. If we stick to the game plan and listen to what the coaches are telling us, we should be able to get the job done like we know we can.”

The Lady T-Birds’ main focus is still improving their offense and revamping their fast break.

“We need to focus on getting our shots up against not only TCC and Pierce-like teams, but teams that are ranked better than us, so even if we don’t blow them out we’ll get the W by the end of the night,” Wilson said.

Highline played Grays Harbor Wednesday, Jan. 4 at 6 p.m. with results unavailable at press time.

They have a bye this Wednesday, Feb. 7 and their next game is against South Puget Sound

Scoreboard

Women’s basketball standings				
North Division				
League/Pts/Season				
Sk.Valley	9-0	1.000	17-1	
Peninsula	7-2	.778	12-8	
Bellevue	6-3	.667	13-8	
Whatcom	5-4	.556	9-8	
Olympic	4-5	.444	6-11	
Everett	4-5	.444	5-14	
Seattle	3-5	.375	4-14	
Shoreline	2-7	.222	8-12	
Edmonds	0-9	.000	0-16	
East Division				
League/Pts/Season				
Yak.Vall.	7-0	1.000	16-5	
Col.Basin	5-2	.714	13-7	
Walla	4-3	.571	13-4	
Spokane	4-3	.571	11-8	
Tr.Valley	4-3	.571	10-9	
BigBend	3-4	.429	13-7	
BlueMT.	1-6	.143	3-13	
Wn.Valley	0-7	.000	5-15	
West Division				
League/Pts/Season				
Centralia	8-1	.889	16-3	
Lower.Col.	7-1	.875	10-9	
S.P.Sound	6-3	.667	12-7	
Highline	5-4	.556	10-11	
Grays.	5-4	.556	5-11	
Clark	4-5	.444	4-12	
Grn.River	3-6	.333	9-8	
Tacoma	2-7	.222	6-13	
Pierce	0-9	.000	2-16	

South Division				
League/Pts/Season				
Umpqua	7-1	.875	20-2	
Lane	7-1	.875	3-11	
Clack.	7-1	.875	14-2	
Mt.Hood	4-4	.500	11-3	
Linn-B.	3-4	.429	6-8	
SWOre.	2-6	.250	5-12	
Chem.	1-7	.125	6-7	
Portland	0-7	.000	2-13	
Women’s scores 1/31				
B.Mount-67, W. Valley-56				
Walla-72, Big Bend-56				
Spokane-65, Col. Basin-64				
Yak.-Valley-75, Tr. Valley-61				
Olympic-71, Edmonds-41				
Peninsula-71, Shoreline-42				
Sk. Valley-72, Whatcom-61				
Bellevue-58, Everett-49				
Umpqua-94, Chemeketa-55				
Clack-53, SW. Oregon- 38				
Lane-88, Mt. Hood-63				
Clark-56, Tacoma-49				
Centralia-59, Highline-46				
Green River-74, Pierce-53 S.				
SPS-57, Grays Harbor-50				
Men’s basketball standings				
North Division				
League/Pts/Season				
Olympic	8-1	.889	16-2	
Bellevue	7-2	.778	18-4	
Sk.Valley	6-3	.667	17-1	

Peninsula	5-4	.556	8-12
Seattle	4-4	.500	7-11
Whatcom	4-5	.444	11-8
Everett	4-5	.444	6-12
Edmonds	2-7	.222	2-11
Shoreline	0-9	.000	6-14
East Division			
League/Pts/Season			
Yak.Valley	6-1	.857	17-4
Spokane	6-1	.857	14-4
Col.Basin	4-3	.571	11-6
BigBend	3-4	.429	11-9
Walla.	3-4	.429	10-9
BlueMt	3-4	.429	9-12
Wen.Valley	2-5	.286	8-13
Tr.Valley	1-6	.143	4-17
West Division			
League/Pts/Season			
Tacoma	8-1	.889	19-2
Highline	8-1	.889	13-7
LowerCol.	5-3	.625	12-7
Clark	5-4	.556	11-8
Pierce	4-5	.444	9-13
Grn.River	4-5	.444	7-12
Centralia	3-6	.333	5-13
S.P.Sound	2-7	1.000	8-12
G. Harbor	1-8	.111	1-15
South Division			
League/Pts/Season			
Clack.	8-0	1.000	11-3
Mt.Hood	6-2	.500	9-6
Chem.	6-2	.000	4-10
Linn-B.	5-3	.500	5-8
SW.Ore.	3-5	.000	5-9
Portland	2-6	.000	3-7
Umpqua	1-7	1.000	15-1

Lane	1-7	1.000	13-3
Men’s scores 1/31			
B. Bend-99, Walla Walla-83			
Spokane-76, C. Basin-66			
W.Valley-70, B. Mountain-58			
Y. Valley-81, Tr. Valley-72			
Peninsula-70, Shoreline-66			
Olympic-77, Edmonds-65			

Bellevue-74, Everett-62
Sk. Valley-64, Whatcom-63
Clack.-118, SW Oregon-85
Chemeketa-87, Umpqua-81
Linn-Benton-75, Portland-74
Mt. Hood-71, Lane-51
Tacoma-76, Clark-53
Highline-93, Centralia-90
G. River-76, Pierce-62
SPS.-92, Grays Harbor-56

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Panel helps silent wars of the world be heard

By **MAX DUBBELDAM**
Staff Reporter

Four speakers gave voice to the Silent Wars of the World here at Highline last week.

On Jan. 29, Amal Equeiq, Gabriel Majak, Harper McConnell and Nathan Brown spoke on a panel in the Mt. Constance Room.

Each of the speakers talked about their area of expertise and/or their experiences with war around the world.

Equeiq spoke about the war in Palestine, Majak spoke about his experiences living in Sudan, McConnell spoke about the conflict in Congo and Brown spoke about his experiences as a veteran in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

“We tried to get together people that have been affected by war,” said moderator Joel Kalonji.

Amal Equeiq is 20 percent Palestinian native and is a grad student at the University of Washington.

“Does anybody know what the number 61 means?” Equeiq asked the audience at the opening of her presentation.

When nobody answered, she explained that it is the number of years that Palestine has been under occupation.

She said that Gaza is the only territory of Palestine that has access to the sea, and that it’s mostly filled with refugee camps.

She added that with 1.5 million people living in Gaza, it is the most crowded place in the Middle East.

“On Dec. 27 of last year Israel started invading Gaza,” she said.

Equeiq said that Gaza has been under siege, and that the people are not allowed to leave.

Equeiq also added that she thinks it’s very depressing the people of the United States have a lack of knowledge of what’s going on in Gaza.

“To be a superpower and don’t know the people they’re occupying, or helping occupy; that’s not cool,” she said. “U.S. people should be informed about things happening at Middle East. You can’t occupy a nation if you don’t know how to spell it.”

She ended her presentation by asking the question, “if you’re not informing yourself about what’s going on, is that immoral?”

Gabriel Majak spoke briefly about what it was like to live in, and survive, the war in Darfur, Sudan.

“This is my first time speaking in front of people,” Majak said when he stood in the front of the room.



Nathan Brown, a veteran of the Iraq war, speaks about his experiences as a soldier.

He started by saying that the war began in 1983 on May 16, when he was only 5 years old.

He was separated from his parents in 1987, and went to Sudan in 1992. In 1994 he joined the war effort.

“I [left] when [I] got shot here,” Majak said while pointing to his knee. He said that he got shot in 1997 and left for Kenya.

He left Africa to come to America in 2004.

Harper McConnell is a volunteer worker with HEAL Africa.

She spoke about the conflicts in the Congo, and her experiences after living in Congo for two years, and working with HEAL Africa.

Congo is the third largest country in Africa, bordering seven countries, with 65 million people from 300 different tribes. They speak 150 different languages, five of which are main languages, McConnell Said.

Congo was colonized by King Leopold of Belgium in the 1880s. Leopold exploited the area for its resources and McConnell said that “10 million people died directly from his exploitation.”

Congo got its independence in 1960 and Patrice Lumumba was elected prime minister. He was assassinated in 1961.

She said that Mobutu Sese Seko was the next important leader of Congo. She said that he was one of Africa’s most brutal dictators who embezzled close to \$ 5 billion.

In 1998 the Second Congo War started. This is also known as Africa’s first World War.

McConnell said that all bordering countries invaded Congo. Congo is the target of many countries because it is rich in resources.

Congo contains 80 percent of the world’s coltan, McConnell said. She added that coltan is used in all of the world’s cell phones and laptops.

“It is not just an African conflict,” McConnell said. “It’s a global economic conflict.”

achieved sergeant rank and is a veteran of both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Brown also spent six months at the Abu Ghraib prison from Oct. 2003 to Feb. 2004, and he said that when he got there the torture hooks and steam chambers of Saddam’s regime were still around.

Brown said that the prison got hit by an average of five mortars a day.

“The worst we got hit was 36 consecutive mortar rounds inside the wall,” Brown said.

She said that to date six to seven million people have died in this conflict.

“That’s the equivalent of seven to eight Rwandan genocides, or 20 Darfurs,” she added.

McConnell said that they’re not just helping by providing medical care but also by providing knowledge. She said that just helping medically would only be “treating the symptoms.” They’re trying to help cure the disease.

Nathan Brown served in the U.S. army where he

Brown said that he found out his wife cheated on him when he was in Germany on leave but they decided to work it out.

On Christmas of 2003 his wife filed for divorce. He said that it was really tough on him because she was the only person he could talk to.

He said that he had to repress his personal life so he could do his job.

“Nine out of 11 soldiers on my team had relationship issues,” Brown said, “but they were still doing their job out there.”

He told a story about once speaking with a fellow soldier about his problems, and hearing someone behind him put a round in a gun. They wrestled the gun from him, and in the end he was fortunately unharmed.

“We came to a consensus that nobody back home is worth killing yourself over,” Brown said.

Brown said that he suppressed his emotions for a long time, and that he drank too much.

This accumulated in him being sexually promiscuous and getting a D.U.I.. The latter, he said, “opened up another set of problems.”

Brown said he didn’t know why he kept feeling this way, and was wondering why he couldn’t get over the stuff.

“On more deeper levels I get the feeling that people don’t understand. And they might never,” Brown said.

“Not everything’s been negative,” Brown added. “A lot of those experiences did put things in perspective ... all the little things are more important to me now.”

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

The W.A.V.E. scholarship is awarded to students for outstanding achievement in vocational-technical education. Every year, the W.A.V.E. program gives scholarships for six quarters (four semesters) of tuition and fees at two and four-year colleges, universities and technical schools in Washington State. Three W.A.V.E. recipients are chosen from each legislative district by the selection committee. Any student currently enrolled in a vocational program by June 30, 2009, is eligible to apply. To receive application forms and guidelines please contact Rickitia Reid in Building 9, by email rreid@highline.edu or (206) 878-3710, ext. 3301, or visit the W.A.V.E. homepage at: <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/WAVEWebpagenew.asp>

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Center for faculty now open

Learning and Teaching Center gives faculty place to relax

By **CHRISTIAN COOPER**
Staff Reporter

The Faculty Resource Center has now evolved into the Learning and Teaching Center.

Highline has just recently opened the Learning and Teaching Center on the lower level of Building 9. This will provide faculty with an opportunity for professional development and career advancement.

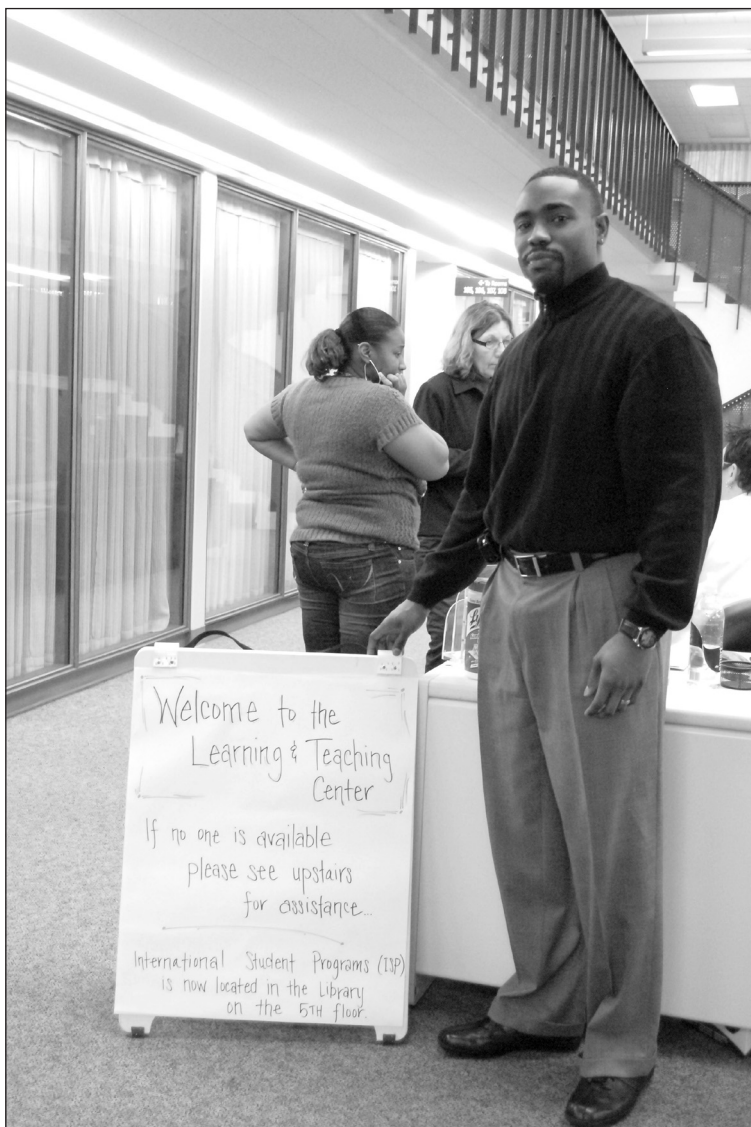
"This generates a better learning environment for students as well as staff. Teachers can come to these teaching camps because they have a passion for teaching," said Rolita Ezeonu, Dean of Instruction.

Formerly known as the Faculty Resource Center, the Learning and Teaching Center will provide faculty with the opportunity to get away from their intense schedules. One of the directors in charge is Faculty of the Year winner Darryl Brice.

Faculty is "more than welcome" to come mingle, grade papers, relax and even stop in for some free coffee, Brice said.

The center is still feeling things out, but if members of the faculty decide to attend they will find professors kicking around feedback, networking, participating in workshops and even doing faculty orientations, Ezeonu said.

"The hope is that through professional development, it will expand opportunities for students to be better served,"



Sol Lee/THUNDERWORD

Darryl Brice in the new Learning and Teaching Center.

Brice said.

The Faculty Resource Center was originally located on the sixth floor of the campus library.

"After the small turnout, it was determined that the new Learning and Teaching Center needed to be moved to a place that was more noticeable to the community," Brice said.

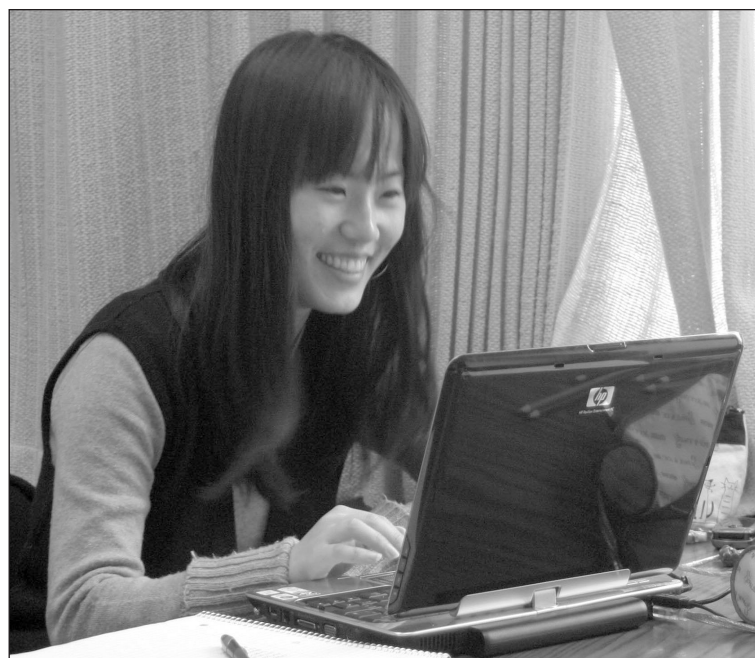
With a new name and a few modifications, the new Learning and Teaching Center has ad-

opted some "home-like traits." They have added new plush couches and offices, and will serve free coffee.

Brice said this is a way to build friendships and meet a variety of people.

On Jan. 14, Highline conducted an open house to unveil the new Center.

"Anyone is more than welcome to stop in. The hours of operation are the same as the campus hours," Brice said.



Sol Lee/THUNDERWORD

Nayoung Wang studying on her laptop.

Wi-Fi won't distract, users say

By **GRANT SNYPP**
Staff Reporter

Laptops in classrooms won't be a problem as more Highline buildings get Wi-Fi access, professors and students say.

Kevin Stanley, who teaches economics at Highline, notices that texting is more of a prevalent problem than laptop abuse.

"While teaching at the University of Utah, which has been wired for Wi-Fi, I found that I could reign in those trouble makers and utilize them as a resource by asking them questions and having them look up tangential information that was relevant to the topic I was discussing," he said.

Stanley also noted that there was an increase of students having laptops during his night classes, which he suggested was most likely the result of the increased percentage of students who have jobs and can afford such luxuries for themselves.

Samuel Le, who also teaches economics, said he estimates that about 10 to 20 percent of students bring laptops to his class.

"It's good. It's fine," Le said. "I don't mind students using

laptops to take notes. I'm all for Wi-Fi in the classroom to do research, but if they're on Facebook it is kind of a catch-22."

If one goes to the second level of the Student Union Building one may find student Adam Thatcher, 18, sitting in a comfy chair looking at videos on YouTube with his friends.

"I sometimes use my laptop in class, I generally use it to take notes," Thatcher said. "I have no experience with other students misusing their laptops in class. If I did use the internet in class it would be to work on other projects or papers and thus reach levels of greater efficiency."

"In some situations it may be faster for me to look something up online rather than looking it up in a book or waste the professor's and my fellow classmates' time by asking," Thatcher said.

Student Maggie Gorski, 19, said she owns a laptop but rarely brings it to school.

"Sometimes people interrupt class when they don't have service," she said. "Sometimes I want to go on MySpace, but I don't. I have seen though that some of my friends do and it is disappointing."

Drunk driver pleads innocent

By **ZANE STEARMAN**
Staff Reporter

Jabari M. James has pleaded innocent to vehicular homicide in the death of Highline student William Somtoa.

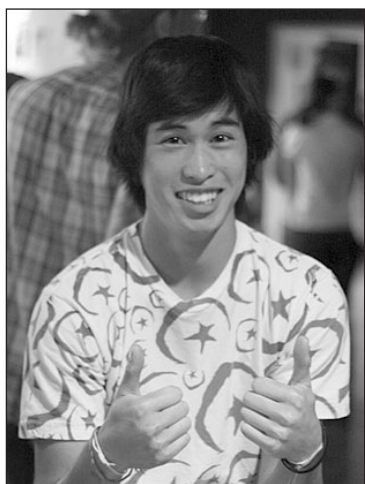
On Jan. 3 Somtoa and two other Highline students, Chase Evans and Carmrodeen Kahn, were in Evans's car, stopped at a red light on Lake City Way when a car driven by James crashed into the back of their car.

The collision sent all three students to the hospital, as well as James's passenger, Daniel Thomas.

On Jan. 4, after being on life support for a day and a half, Somtoa died.

James was arraigned on Jan. 21, and bail remains at \$75,000.

"He was put on a temporary

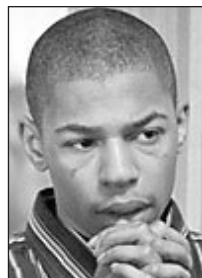


William Somtoa

release to post bail, if not he'll turn himself in," said Ian Goodhew of the King County Prosecutors Office.

Unable to post bail, James is now back in custody.

James was to undergo a hear-



James

ing in court on Wednesday, but his attorney asked for and was granted a continuation. A new hearing date will not be set before Monday, said a spokesman for the King County Prosecutor's office.

A website has been set up in remembrance of Somtoa at rememberwilliam.com.

GOT NEWS?
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EXT. 3318

Transfer Fair

TODAY, February 5
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Highline Student Union Building
The first floor of the cafeteria in Building 8

The Transfer Fair is YOUR opportunity to meet admissions representatives from over 25 Washington State and out-of-state colleges and universities.

Start planning your transfer NOW!!!

<http://www.highline.edu/stuserv/transfer>

Center for Extended Learning to feel effect of budget cuts

By **JAREN LEWIS**
Staff Reporter

Highline's Center for Extended Learning will be strongly affected by budget cuts.

Most of the Center for Extended Learning's Technology courses are taught at the Federal Way Center, a branch campus of Highline.

The Federal Way Center's lease is not being renewed as part of state budget cuts, so those classes will be moved to the main campus, said the Cen-

ter's interim director, Dr. James Peyton.

Peyton said the Technology, Personal Development, and Business and Contract Training programs are being restructured.

"It is likely that these programs will be combined under the leadership of a single program manager," Peyton said.

The Center for Extended Learning, previously known as the Continuing Education program, offers a variety of non-credit courses in subjects rang-

ing from personal enrichment to business and computer skills. Courses are taught by community members with expertise in those areas.

Current course offerings include landscape painting, flagger training and Microsoft Access.

Peyton said the dean position of the Center could be eliminated; when it is, he will return to his position as a Highline faculty member teaching economics.

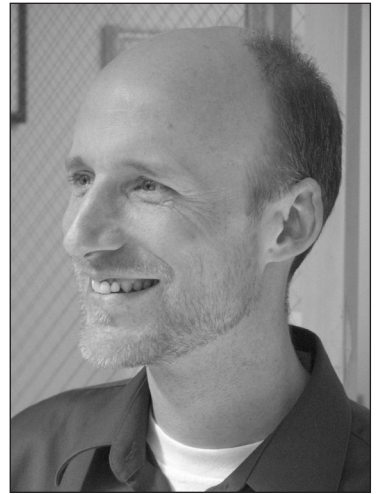
"I expect to continue my involvement with HCC's eco-

nomie development activities," Peyton said.

The news is not all bad, however.

The Small Business Development Center and StartZone programs, while also part of the Center for Extended Learning, are funded by separate contracts and grants that "look stable going forward," Peyton said.

The programs will "maintain their activities at approximately the same level," although "one staff person has reduced his hours."



Dr. James Peyton

Puget Sound Early College shocked by news

By **YUN HWANG**
Staff Reporter

Students and staff at Puget Sound Early College expressed much disappointment as Highline officials announced the program will be closed after this year.

The decision is one of many which were made in response to Governor Gregoire's recently released budget cuts for community and technical colleges.

Highline's budget was reduced by \$2.1 million.

For the past five years, The Puget Sound Early College has been offering high school students an opportunity to earn college credits and AA degrees during their junior and senior years.

The program will no longer be available due to Highline's

decision to close down its Federal Way campus, which houses Early College, among other programs.

A senior at Puget Sound Early College, Jordon Beyer, expressed much gratitude toward the program.

"The structure of atmosphere here at Puget Sound Early College is incomparable to any other program available," he said. "The small academic school prepared students beyond academics such as community service, lending hands, or mentor groups."

Mary Barkley, the director of Puget Sound Early College, wanted to be clear that this is not only a change but an extermination of the program.

"It seems people don't understand the situation accurately," she said. "This is the end of our program. At the

end of this academic year, Puget Sound Early College will no longer exist."

Currently about 100 students and 50 staff are members of the community.

Barkley said that the impact of this decision is quite significant on both staff and students.

"We have all lost our jobs," she said.

A student at the Early College, Michelle Lie, said the news for her was devastating.

"You lose your close connections to the teachers," she said.

Joseph Brown, a student at the Early College said, "Puget Sound Early College has a unique program. I'm skeptical that the strong connections between the students and teachers and the localized community aspect will be able to transfer to the main campus. I don't know the specifics about it, [the budget

cut] but I know this program is very beneficial. It's a tragedy." Briana Grosche, a junior attending the Early College, said her plans have drastically changed due to the decision.

"Obviously I won't be graduating here next year," she said.

Grosche also expressed her surprise and disappointment. "I didn't think it [the budget cut] would hit this close to home. It's really sad."

Beyer was also disappointed by the news. He said, "It's unfortunate for future students because it was a wonderful program."

As a director, Barkley expressed much disappointment as well.

"We have provided a different learning environment in which we implemented much of what we know is highly effective pedagogy," she said.

The last classes that will be offered at the Federal Way campus will be English as Second Language and GED credentials classes which will end in August.

No plans regarding the Early College have been announced.

"The best and the most immediate outcome would be for the hallmarks of Puget Sound Early College's successes to be carried onto the culture of Highline," Barkley said.

A session regarding the Federal Way campus closure will be held on Feb. 11 at the Highline Federal Way Center, 33320 1st Way S. Campus Square Office Park, Building A.

For more information contact Mary Barkley at mbarkley@highline.edu.

Reporter Livia Mahaffie contributed to this story.

Student volunteers to help others

By **TORI PATTERSON**
Staff Reporter

The Highline Volunteer Association might be a good place to look if you want to get involved in helping others.

"Our main purpose is helping others who need help," said Shanti Liang, the club's president.

Founded in January 2008, approximately 70 members are in the club's mailing list, with 25 to 30 people actively involved in the events and the meetings. They meet weekly in Building 3, room 103 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

In the past, the members have done various volunteer events, such as street clean-ups, tutoring in math and Chinese, and even fundraising for the 8.0 Great Sichuan Earthquake in China that killed at least 69,000 people, less than three months before the 2008 Summer Olympics held in Beijing.

Last fall, the volunteers helped restore the Duwamish River with the People for Puget Sound Organization by planting trees. They also volunteered at the Cannery Food Bank, and created their own programs to entertain the elderly at the Wesley Nursing Home in Des Moines.

"We want to know you more, and welcome you into our family," Liang said.

For the quarter, in addition to organizing a sock drive, and designing a club t-shirt, the Highline Volunteer Association is even planning on adopting a child from World Vision.

Members benefit from the association by getting involved in organized activities, developing leadership skills, and even learning and growing behind what can be taught in a classroom.

For more information, contact club President Shanti Liang, at shanti_i520@yahoo.com.

First Fridays returns with peace

By **DUANE VILLINES**
Staff Reporter

Natasha Burrowes wants everyone to give peace a chance.

This Friday, she will be speaking at the First Fridays Leadership Institute. The focus of the talk will be passive resistance. The First Fridays Leadership Institute is a workshop that meets the first Friday of every month. Burrowes runs the program.

Burrowes said that First Fridays mostly focuses on "skill-building, and philosophical topics."

"It's basically covering leadership theory and skills," she said.

Everyone is welcome to attend, with emphasis is on people already in leadership, and those interested in becoming leaders.

This upcoming First Friday is about "non-violence as a philosophy, and how it can be applied now," Burrowes said. Burrowes said she believes that "we live

in a very violent world," and thinks that passive resistance can be used as a tool of leadership.

The First Friday Leadership Institute will be held from 2 to 4

p.m., in the Mt. Constance Room in the Student Union. For more information, contact Natasha Burrowes at nburrowe@highline.edu or 206-878-3710, ext. 3257.

The Federal Way Police Department is Hiring!

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For questions, please call the Recruiting Office
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Max Dubbeldam/THUNDERWORD
Child care chef Charlie Scanlon preparing snacks for the kids.

Budget

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seek other options for child care locally,” Bermingham said.
In the case of the Federal Way Center, he said that the lease was up and that it won’t

be renewed, but that they are looking to bring in additional resources.
He added that the PSEC students also have the opportunity to participate in the Running Start program if they want to.
“Philosophically we tried to make choices that if he had to make a cut, we don’t do that

again,” Bermingham said.
He added that “it’s very difficult to cut an academic program.”
Bermingham said that the governor indicated a cut in the budget, but that she didn’t say the school had to cut down in the number of students served.
He said that the governor believes “colleges [are] key to economic recovery. [She is] very interested in student success.”
He added that she thinks “supporting students in the classroom is a priority.”
Bermingham had also asked the campus to come up with suggestions on how to further save money.
“We’ve received some info and suggestions and we continue to look at these,” Bermingham said.
He said that most suggestions were about behavioral changes such as: Turning the heat down two percent, turning computers off when they’re not being used, and using fewer printers.
“There are potentially good

suggestions,” he said. “We’re going to implement some in spring and then see how it’s going.”
Bermingham also said that were suggestions on raising certain fees, but that they’ll have to see how that plays out.
Bermingham said that they have the opportunity to lease Building 00 (Early Childhood Learning Center building), and that they’ll be looking at the options over the next few months.
Bermingham added that he’s appreciative of the faculty’s dedication, especially in these economically difficult times.
“In spite of very difficult times people remain energized in teaching their classes,” he said. “That’s something we should never take for granted.”
Learning Center employees declined to be interviewed.
The Early Childhood Learning Center is a place where kids from 6 weeks old to 6 years old go to learn and it also acts as a day care. The building was opened in September 2004 and cost \$5 million to build.

Enrollment

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istration appears to be lower.
“It is very time consuming,” Bligh said. “It is a tedious, manual process. It’s critical that we’re careful.”
ABE/ESL enrollments start coming into registration the second week and the bulk usually the ninth or tenth week, Bligh said.
“...I expect to see the ABE and ESL FTEs to at least double,” Bligh said.
Bligh says Highline is projected to surpass its annual goal of needed FTEs, with 70 percent of the goal is already met, she said.
“Summer and fall was an all time record high,” Bligh said.
First day headcounts showed 75 percent of winter 2009 students were enrolled in fall 2008 and 43 percent were enrolled in spring 2008. There are 930 Running Start students and 369 international students.

Campus hears details on budget cuts

By SIDNEY PACAMPARA
Staff Reporter

Reaction was muted in an all-campus meeting to discuss impending budget cuts on Wednesday.
Highline President Dr. Jack Bermingham described the budget cuts to a standing-room only crowd in the Student Union Building’s main floor.
Bermingham said it is difficult to be forced to make a lot of eliminations to the tangible areas - people, programs and services - even when they are successful.
It is the intangible, Bermingham says, that must be protected and further developed.
“We need to protect,” Bermingham said, “not lose sight and think and acknowledge the importance of those things.”
Bermingham brought up what he called “paradoxical funding” and how it is a difficult concept that the government does to institutions like Highline. The government takes away money from the college but later gives a portion back. The money taken away from the college may result in cutting positions, but the money being given back may ask for hiring of specific people for specific programs that the college may or may not have, Bermingham said.
Reactions were quiet after Bermingham spoke and there were few questions.
Professor Lonnie Somer said the money given back by the state should be put back to what is being cut. It was a concern from those in attendance that

maybe these cuts are going to be permanent so no such use of the money will be viable. Bermingham said if the resources did return, what is being cut might be a part of what is considered for restoration.
The college recently asked Student Government for \$140,000 out of its Service & Activities budget with an additional \$75,000 projected to be sought next year. It was suggested that more money out of the S&A budget can be used to help ease the cuts, not just stipends and commencement as was originally asked for. Both

Bermingham and Vice President of Student Services Toni Castro said they appreciate the help they’re receiving from Student Government but it is Student Government’s own decision of what to do with their budget.
Increased tuition was an area of concern as many noted that students may directly feel that effect. Bermingham said the college has no say in increasing tuition and it is only the 5 percent increase in tuition that Gov. Christine Gregoire proposed in her budget that they are currently following.
He also added that due to the

underfunding of Running Start, an access fee or only course fees may be applied for students to pay, with waivers available, in order to help with funding.
Along with the cuts announced last Friday, WorkFirst,

a program that helps people with public assistance to gain career skills and employment, is going to suffer significant cuts as well, Castro said. They are going to be cut 45 percent for next year – from \$831,000 to \$420,000.

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Thanh Nguyen, left, Theresa Bui, Phuong Nguyen, Phuong Vo, Duyen Le and Nhat Bui perform Trong Com.



Nhat Bui, Van Quach, Thy Truong and Phuong Vo sing.



Tri Le, Tung Vu, Lam Ho and Quang Nguyen in the men's part of Dan nuoc nam.



Thu Nguyen, Katie Doan, An Nguyen, Thy Truong and Yen Nguyen perform the traditional Vietnamese song Dan nuoc nam.

A T-BIRD TET

Highline students, led by members of the Vietnamese Student Association, celebrated Tet, the festival of the Lunar New Year, last Friday night in the Student Union Building. The evening featured dancing, music, martial arts performances, and food. Around 250 people attended the event.



Thu Nguyen, Katie Doan, An Nguyen, Thu Truong, Yen Nguyen, Tung Vu and Tri Le in Dan nuoc nam.



Photos by Aimee Moon

A demonstration of Vo Vietnam, a martial art.