Graffiti taints Highline campus

By OTHMAN HEIBE
Staff Reporter

Graffiti has increased on Highline’s campus as more buildings get tagged on a daily basis.

“Graffiti has long been an issue on Highline’s campus, but, as of recently, the volume has increased. It happens daily and on a number of buildings, such as Building 27, 25 and 29 are graffiti magnets,” said Barry Hol-Idorf, the director of Highline’s Facilities Department.

These buildings are all on the lower part of campus.

Campus Security is responding to the matter, however, in variety of ways to thwart the taggers. It has increased its routine foot patrols to areas plagued with graffiti, and it is getting help from Highline students, faculty and staff, who are reporting it as soon as they notice it.

“I consider here at Highline like home,” one student said. “I spend many hours here and certainly broken windows or graffiti decorated all over the walls won’t make anyone feel safe here, does it?”

Campus Security and the Facilities Department try to quickly remove graffiti as they spot it. This strategy has worked and made graffiti writers frustrated, officials claim.

“It makes them really frustrated,” said Sergeant Demetria Guillen at the Campus Security office, “because we’re taking it down really fast, and after a while, they probably just get tired and bored with the whole thing.”

The Des Moines Boys and West Side gangs are the most active participants, scribbling messages all over the buildings.

See Graffiti, page 15

Candidates contend for Highline’s election vote

By DANIEL HOWELL
Staff Reporter

Five candidates are vying for the opportunity to be the two new leaders of Student Government next fall.

The candidates made their cases at a forum Wednesday in the Mt. Constance room in the Student Union.

The three contenders for the office of President are Olga Afichuk, Shaquita Pressley and Jagdev Singh.

Olga Afichuk is currently serving as vice president and is running in part to continue work on issues she has been a part of during her current tenure.

“There are initiatives that we started this year, such as the Highline Classifieds for book and other resource-trading for Highline students, the Sustain-ability Policy and the statewide tuition and financial-aid reform, that I want to pursue further on a more legislative level,” Afichuk said.

Afichuk also says she is an advocate for college accessibility at the legislative level and worked on what issues that students wanted presented to state leaders.

“I consider here at Highline - the Legislative Acade-my Win-ter ‘10. I was one of just over 10 people in the state of Washington to help write the proposed issue concerning tuition affordability, and financial-aid accessibility. As president, I hope to present this issue to our legislators and pursue college accessibility,” she said.

Shaquita Pressley is currently the president of the Black Student Union and says she wants to improve the student experience on campus.

“I plan to work very hard. It’s good now, but there is room for improvement,” she said.

“Hope to change the parking situation,” Pressley also said.

The worst times for parking are between 9-11 a.m. Maybe we can work with teachers to

See Election, page 3

Dancing around the globe

Highline students Phuong Vo (left) and Mike Le perform a traditional Vietnamese dance during their performance at the eighth annual GlobalFest last Saturday. They were among nine other Highline students.

See page 8 and 9 for story and pictures.

Ex-student faces murder charge

By CAITLYN STARKEY
Staff Reporter

A former Highline student is one of four people charged in the murder of an Edgewood man last month.

Joshua Nathan Reese, 20, of Tacoma, who briefly attended Highline a few years ago, was charged with the first-degree murder of James Sanders, first-degree robbery and second-degree assault.

According to documents filed in Pierce County Superior Court on April 28, Reese, along with Kiyoshi Higashi, Clabon Berniard and Amanda Knight, showed up at Charlene and James Sanders’ house. They arrived on the pretense of buying a diamond ring from the couple after they had posted it on Craigslist.

After Charlene Sanders answered the door, the four entered the house and proceeded to

See Reese, page 16

Lady T-Birds snag victories to avoid last-place finish/P10

Student finds niche in fencing academy/P12
Student leadership positions open to all

By VICTORIA SADDLER
Staff Reporter

Student Programs is hiring people for the fall. Applications are due May 17.

“We’re looking for students who will give back to the community. We want the students we’re hiring to know that they’re dealing with their fellow students and helping to shape the student body,” said Natasha Burrowes, assistant director of Student Programs and Diversity.

Student Programs is looking for students to be leaders among their peers, and not to afraid to mingle with their fellow classmates.

Student Programs wants them to stand out from the rest of the student body, Burrowes said.

A total of 14 positions are open, including positions in Student Government and the Design Team.

The Student Government application, which covers the position of caucus chair, president and vice president, club consultants, Blend music coordinator and Volunteer Fair Committee chair, is due on May 17. There are 11 open positions.

The Design Team is made up of graphic design computer software to make flyers, posters, banners, invitations, handbills and other materials to help the program. There are three positions available and applications are due May 14, Burrowes said.

Training for Student Programs and the Design Team will run Aug. 30 through Sept. 17.

“The training consists of using this time to perform up-grades and patches, Highline’s systems.

Everything should be back to normal by 7 a.m.

Donate shoes to help souls in need

Donate unwanted shoes to those in need.

All kinds of shoes are need-ed: sandals, athletic, dress shoes, boots and flip flops.

Deposit boxes are located in the Student Union Building, outside the Bookstore, the upper and lower levels of Building 6, inside the main level of Building 29 and other locations.

The shoes will be sent to Soles 4 Souls, which distributes shoes to over 125 countries and Dress For Success, in the United States.

Clothing available for graduating students

Free clothes are available at the Clothing Closet.

The Clothing Closet is a program for graduating students who have little funding to get free clothing.

The closet will be held all day in the Student Union’s Mt. Skokomish room on Friday, May 28.

Photos by P.J. Chen

Highline Professor Susan Landgraf teaches English at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. She will be there for all of Spring Quarter.

LEGEND NOTICE

Highline Community College provides equal opportunity in education and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, creed, religion, or status as a veteran of war. Prohibited sex discrimination includes sexual harassment (unwelcome sexual conduct of various types).
New energy meters to be installed across the campus

By ANDREY PILIPCHUK  
Staff Reporter

Metering of energy and gas systems are no longer just a desirable feature for buildings, it is now a necessity. Washington State has adopted legislation and is requiring Highline to put gas and electric meters in every building over 10,000 square feet to help the college monitor its energy use, said Barry Holdorff, the director of the Facilities Department.

“The meters will help us specifically identify how much electrical consumption each building uses,” said Barry Holdorff, the director of the Facilities Department.

The Environmental Protective Energy Star Portfolio Manager is an interactive energy management tool to track and assess energy and water consumption across the entire portfolio of state agency buildings in a secure online environment. The portfolio manager software, database, data storage, technical support and training will be provided by EPA at no cost to state agencies.

Agencies will install the portfolio manager to identify underperforming buildings, verify efficiency improvements, track agency goals for reducing energy use, and collect building energy use data for reporting greenhouse gas emissions.

Highline will install 18 electric meters total on campus and 16 gas meters will also be required but that won’t happened anytime soon because there is no money for gas right now.

Building 26, the Administrative Technology Building, will have two meters installed.

“The only reason we are putting two meters in 26 is because between that AT and Facilities departments we felt it important enough to know what kind of specific electrical energy we are using to power the AT server room and the other meter will measure the entire building’s electrical energy usage,” Holdorff said.

The AT building provides the equipment and hardware necessary to server up software such as Angel and day to day networking services such as connectivity and wireless connections.

The financial issue is the biggest problem in order to install all these meters.

“Using operating money from the budget, 18 electric meters with labor, design and material will cost $73,000 and 16 gas meters will cost even more, over $100,000,” said Holdorff.

“It’s challenging because it’s a nonfunding mandate, while we want to be in compliance the budget typically dries what we can or can’t do.”

All buildings that are 10,000 square feet or larger are required to be in the Washington General Administration Energy Star Portfolio by July 1, 2010.

“Our goal at Highline is to have all of it done by then but I am hoping we will finish as early as mid-May,” said Holdorff.

Electrical Technology Building, will have two meters installed.

“Meter of energy and gas use will be installed across the campus with the hope of decreasing Highline’s carbon footprint.”

Chuck Kibbie/THUNDERWORD

“Individual instructors can learn the skill of marketing.”

The two candidates running for vice president are Jenny Yin and Vince Dominguez.

Jenny Yin, 18, is the youngest of all the candidates running.

While admittedly shy, she said becoming involved in the extra-curricular activities has been one of the best things she has done in her life.

“I am not the strongest, but I think if I become vice president I can become the voice of our students. I want to be there to help because when I came here I did not know who to talk to,” she said.

Yin is currently a member of the WISE/SWE club, which supports women interested in the fields of engineering, physical sciences, math, and technology and also helped with the annual egg drop held in front of the Student Union.

“You can vote by picking up a ballot at the polling booth in front of the bookstore, or at www.highline.edu where there will be a link to vote.”

“I really hope that we can unite students from different campuses to advocate for their educational needs.”

-- Vince Dominguez,  
Vice President Candidate

Planning day for students to connect with advisers

By JEREMY LEE  
Staff Reporter

Highline is planning another campus-wide advising day to encourage students to meet with faculty advisers.

The event will be held for May 20 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and it will be in the Mt. Constance room in the Student Union.

“The purpose of the advising day is twofold: First we want all of our faculty to be more involved in student advising. As faculty we are expected to fill this role as part of our contractual obligation,” said Rod Fowers, a psychology instructor at Highline.

“Second, and perhaps more important: we want students to be able to meet with a representative from any department on campus even if they only think they might be interested in a particular discipline,” said Fowers.

“The advising fair will make all of the departments visible in one area so that students can ‘shop around’ or get specific advice for their degrees,” Fowers said.

Jeff Ward, department coordinator of the business program, said seeing a faculty adviser can help students avoid some of the pitfalls of self-advising so they don’t end up having to take extra classes when they thought they’d be graduating.

Tables will be set up with laptop computers, course schedules, and academic planning sheets and each student will sit and talk with the advisers about their academic goals.

“Individual instructors can offer specific advice to students who plan to either complete a certificate here or who are planning to major in a specific discipline at a four year school. Each program and discipline has unique requirements and it’s best if students meet with someone who knows what those requirements are,” said Fowers.

“For example, if a student is planning to major in Psychology at the University of Washington, any of the Psychology faculty can advise students specifically in that area of study,” Fowers said.

“Students should talk to advisers because advisers have knowledge, experience, and the desire to help and can help students focus on an area of study, then navigate the best possible route towards achieving their educational goals,” Ward said.

“Students can find all of the programs and departments on campus an opportunity to be visible to students and to answer questions.”

“We think it’s very important for every student to have an adviser. Advisers were once students too, and can help students think through their areas of personal interest with educational goals and future career possibilities in mind,” Ward said. “To every student: Get an adviser; he or she wants to help you.”
Editorial comment
We must challenge ourselves

Diversity is a big thing at this college.

We're majority-minority. The racial demographics alone in the 2008-2009 school year broke down to 19 percent Asian, 19 percent foreign/other/multiracial, 14 percent African-American, 12 percent Hispanic, 2 percent native and 34 percent white. Most of this campus' students are non-white.

Those numbers do not, however, represent the full breadth of diversity on campus. Uncounted are the numbers of students that consider themselves gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered. Still more students may consider themselves simply “queer,” a once-offensive moniker now taken back by many of the younger generation. These numbers are all inherently hard to track. Other areas of diversity can include age, religion, ability and background.

With a majority-minority population attending campus, the Unity Through Diversity Week events represent an important opportunity for us all to challenge ourselves about our assumptions concerning discrimination.

Although the response people have when confronted by their own prejudices are not always ideal, they are important nonetheless. Some ideas are hard to take in. Not everyone is ready or willing to try to grow and learn, or to listen to ideas that make them feel uncomfortable or even guilty.

The thematic center of this year’s Unity through Diversity Week, the exploration of privilege, is especially hard for many to accept. The idea that oppression can come not just from what is said, done, or thought, but what some people do not have to say or do or think, is hard to swallow.

Despite the denial many people feel, however, the really important thing that Unity through Diversity Week sparks is conversation. When we’re faced with ideas that challenge us and our assumptions, we grow and learn, even a little. We sit down and talk about what’s still wrong with the world. There is a lot of inequality that still remains. Racial and sexual slurs are still thrown at people every day. Economic disparity is still rampant. Hollywood and shows on TV still perpetuate hurtful stereotypes and we still, all too frequently, buy into them. That’s still rampant. Hollywood and shows on TV still perpetuate hurtful slurs are still thrown at people every day. Economic disparity is still rampant. Hollywood and shows on TV still perpetuate hurtful stereotypes and we still, all too frequently, buy into them.

There’s just something intrinsically wrong when it sounds like a law in the U.S. is authorizing, even requiring, figures of authority to demand your papers— and not just demand them, but demand them for reasons that most people agree are almost always going to be based on race.

The situation seems to be much worse though.

I know in some ways other states are almost as foreign as other countries, but at least when weird crap happens in another country, you don’t have that sickening sensation that they’re in some fundamental way your kin. Intellectually, you know you’re the same species, but you can pretend that your culture, and the other country’s culture are somehow intrinsically different. You can write it off.

Not the case with American craziness.

So when a GOP candidate for the Iowa state legislature, Pat Bertoche, was recently quoted advocating for the microchipping of illegal immigrants, I had the unfortunate experience that I can’t just stick my fingers in my ears and pretend it’s not happening. His exact words were: “I think we should catch ’em, we should document ’em, make sure we know where they are and where they are going. I actually support microchipping them. I can microchip my dog so I can find it. Why can’t I microchip an illegal? Bertoche said.

Although this yahoo is not in a position of power, and hopefully after making that comment, won’t be any time soon, this showcases the sort of thinking that is a plague on this (and every) country.

That thinking is the idea that the basic human dignity of others is somehow less than your own. This thinking is evident in the Tea Party protestors who, a few months back, spat on black and gay congressmen, shouting violent, hate-filled epithets at them.

It’s evident in a recent Newsweek column, “Straight Jack-et,” by Ramin Setoodeh, that launched into a tirade about how gay actors are somehow lesser than straight actors, insisting that straight men can play gay convincingly but that gay men can’t play straight.

It’s evident in the CBS news program that featured bigoted commentators calling transgendered people unfit to be school teachers, in some ways mirror- ing the hate-filled attempt decades ago to prevent gay people from teaching in schools.

And it is evident in the recent law in Utah that, in attempting to prevent some women from trying to induce a miscarriage on purpose, actually introduced a law that could potentially criminalize any miscarriage.

All of these are symptoms in a larger trend that has been going on for a long time of denying others the dignity we ourselves demand. If we are to consider ourselves civilized, we must strive to recognize and correct these injustices.

Write to us

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

Tell us your name and include your relationship with the college.

Letters should be no more than 200 words. Comments should be 600 words or less and arrive no later than Monday for publication that Thursday.

Please provide contact information for confirmation purposes.

Submissions may be condensed and/or edited for spelling, grammar and length.

To provide a submission, contact nmccoy@highline.edu.

Arizona law is just a symptom

I feel like I’m in the Twilight Zone.

That’s the only way I can articulate the way I feel. It’s the twilight zone and it’s all up in my American politics.

The recent law in Arizona requiring the police to inquire about the citizenship status of anyone that could potentially be an illegal alien is ugly.

There’s just something innately wrong when it sounds like a law in the U.S. is authorizing, even requiring, figures of authority to demand your papers—and not just demand them, but demand them for reasons that most people agree are almost always going to be based on race.

The situation seems to be much worse though. I know in some ways other states are almost as foreign as other countries, but at least when weird crap happens in another country, you don’t have that sickening sensation that they’re in some fundamental way your kin. Intellectually, you know you’re the same species, but you can pretend that your culture, and the other country’s culture are somehow intrinsically different. You can write it off.

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2. Soothing ointment
11. Doozie
14. Compel
15. Primp
16. Keats creation
17. Kids who are easily frightened
19. New York player
20. Actress MacGraw
21. Old French coin
22. Yoga class need
23. Asleep
27. With brevity
29. standstill
30. Part of CNN
32. Big name in computers
33. DI doubled
34. TV lawyer Van Susteren
35. Indian title
36. Some wings
41. Upturned, as a box
43. Coloring
44. Happy hour seat
46. Certain palms
47. Legal scholar’s deg.
49. Null’s partner
52. Fixed
53. Most likely winner
56. Runaway pair
57. Legal scholar’s deg.
59. Ending for Pam
60. Carpentry tool
61. From ___ Z
62. Legal scholar’s deg.
63. Indian title
64. runoff water
65. Legal scholar’s deg.

Down
1. Conditions
2. Mythical bird
3. George Gershwin’s brother
4. Throw out
5. Obeying a dog school command
6. Mole
7. Circle segment
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10. Guarantees
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Last week’s crossword solution

**ALL THAT GLITTERS**

MOSS BENS ALIT
POET SARAH LIMO
SHAUN WHITE GNAT
NEE EER EDGE
BETLES SPARSE
LAVS PIS ALIE
IRACENTS GAYER
STI IACCOCA VEE
SOLOS ERASE ORA
YUCK ELL SNIP
ASTORS DEFINES
ORAL EWAR
LOCI SHANIDAVIS
AMEN GINAS LINT
FAKE EBBAY SANS

To purchase tickets call 253-661-1444.

*Got arts news? Contact the arts editor, Stephanie Kim by calling 206-878-3710, ext. 3317 or by e-mail at skim@highline.edu.

Campus events get priority but all events are welcome. Please include time, date and location of the event, plus contact information.

**Weekly SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

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**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:***

* Moderate ** Challenging

***HOO BOY!!***

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The theater is located at 3200 SW Dash Point Road in Federal Way.

May 21, 22, 28, 29, June 4, 5 at 8 p.m. and May 22, 23, 29, 30, June 5, 6 at 2 p.m.

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* Moderate ** Challenging

***HOO BOY!!***

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Theater students take stage as directors

By THUNDERWORD STAFF

Five theater students will sit in the director’s chair for Highline’s annual Spring One-Acts next week. The event will run from Wednesday, May 19 – Saturday, May 22, starting at 8 p.m. in Building 4, room 122.

The event will feature seven plays, two directed by drama professor Rick Lorig and the rest by student directors. Tickets are $8 for the general public and $7 for students and can be purchased 30 minutes prior to the shows.

Directors of this year’s shows include:

Jared Stratton - The Still Alarm
Stratton has spent the last three years at Highline and this year, he has the opportunity to direct one of the acts for this year’s Spring One-Acts.

Being the youngest of four children in his family, Stratton always felt like he had to do something to outshine his older siblings.

“I’m the youngest of four and I always had to find ways to fight for attention,” Stratton said.

“I always liked [acting] since I was a kid so it never really confused me,” he said.

It was in elementary school Stratton had his first opportunity to be on stage, he said. However, it wasn’t until he reached high school that he was on stage to act.

Stratton got interested in acting after watching the movie Ace Ventura.

“T!” Stratton said. “I wanted to be like Jim Carrey.

Stratton hopes to expand his acting skills by going beyond just Jim Carrey movies.

“I’m still discovering new movies and actors to look up to,” he said.

Stratton credits British actor Sir Laurence Olivier as one of his inspirations to act.

“I want to be as talented as him,” Stratton said.

Although Stratton is directing The Still Alarm, he will also have the chance to show his acting skills in both of Rick Lorig’s plays The Spot and Funeral Parlor.

“I would love to keep acting,” Stratton said.

“There’s some aspects of directing I’m not particularly good at,” he said.

Although Stratton hopes to focus on acting, he believes having directorial experience will help him become a better actor.

The Still Alarm is set in the early 1920s in a British hotel room. Two businessmen learn there’s a fire in the hotel and the storyline is based around that.

“People should expect to relax a little and be prepared to laugh,” Stratton said. “Theater attendees are never sure when it’s appropriate to laugh, but with these shows, it’s OK.”

Brennan Grant – Making the Call
Grant is no stranger to the theater world. He has been doing theater since high school and has spent the last three years with the drama department at Highline.

He directed one of the acts for last year’s Spring One-Acts, but took Winter Quarter off to focus on his acting.

The actor has done two shows with local theater Breiters Theater and, most recently, with the Tacoma Little Theatre.

“I did a lot of the performance side and technical side,” Grant said. He will be designing lights for this year’s One-Acts.

“You learn a lot about acting by directing,” he said.

“Making the Call is about two people who are very different and are thrust into an awkward talk,” Grant said. “I don’t want to give away too much.”

“It’s a very inédicive person…I can’t say more,” he said.

Grant found his passion in theater when he was in high school. He played guitar for four years, but realized he couldn’t make a career from it because “I was terrible at it,” he said.

“Theater’s the only one that’ll have me right now,” he said.

Tyler Arns - The Tarantino Variations
Student Tyler Arns chose theater as a very “last-minute” choice.

After taking two quarters off, Arns decided he wanted to come back to school.

“I was trying to get back in school after taking maybe two quarters off and I felt that if I didn’t get into a class that quarter, I wasn’t going to come back at all the next quarter,” Arns said.

His theater professor at the time, Dr. Christiansa Taylor, pushed his limits and that’s what kept him doing theater.

“I wanted to see how far I could push myself as an actor and to see how far I could push myself as a director,” Arns said.

As a third-year student at Highline, Arns was finally given the opportunity to direct one of the plays for Highline’s annual Spring One-Acts.

Arns will direct The Tarantino Variations, a spoof of Quentin Tarantino’s film Reservoir Dogs.

“I liked the pace and the comedy the play had and the way it spoofed, but paid respect to the work of Director Taran-

Arns,” said. “It’s a lot more work than I thought it would be but it’s also really fun and it has definitely helped me to gain leadership skills,” Arns said.

Owen will also be acting on stage. She will play Betsy in The Spot, directed by Rick Lorig, and playing Ellen in The Actor’s Nightmare.

“This is my first and last time directing because I love acting more,” Owen said.

“I wish more students came to the shows because we do have a lot of talent and everyone has been improving,” said Owen. She also said she enjoys acting for many reasons.

“The biggest reason I love acting is that it’s so fun and if you’re not having fun, then you shouldn’t be acting and that’s what I’ve been taught and always try to keep in mind,” she said.

After Highline, Owen wants to transfer to a Western Washington University to take acting again and pursue her passion.

Reporters Stephanie Kim, Alisa Gramann and Andrey Pilipchuk contributed to this story.
Red Dead Redemption offers thrills and kills in Old West

By SAMUEL E. TIMLICK
Staff Reporter

Set your spurs in place for game developer Rockstar’s latest attraction, Red Dead Redemption, an open-world, western-style action/adventure game.

Red Dead Redemption is a third-person shooter set in 1911 in various parts of Mexico and the southern United States. It is a new take on the classic western setting because it takes place later than most westerns, just as the mythical old west was dying out.

Redemption will offer a single-player story along with a well-designed multiplayer version, both with a surfeit of items and customizable options.

An open-world game is one that is not set on a linear path. It gives the entire landscape of the game for players to roam at any point in the game. A third-person shooter is a game in which the camera is set from a third-person perspective where players watch the main character as they control his actions.

“I’m really looking forward to running around the west, shooting people and getting involved with the story. [The story] looks well-done and complex,” said Louie Villalobos, editor of www.thegameur.com, a video game website.

The story of Red Dead Redemption traces the tales of John Marston, a reformed outlaw, through his search for members of a gang he used to belong to.

For many gamers, Redemption may appear to be Grand Theft Auto with horses, but it offers much more than that.

An unprecedented amount of items and options will accompany Redemption’s single player and multiplayer.

“I think the online game play will be a major step up for the sandbox genre [a sandbox game is an open-world game with a plethora of items in the environment the player can freely interact with at any time] with much more customization,” Villalobos said.

Redemption’s multiplayer version is innovative and compelling in that it allows up to 16 players to join an online game and complete tasks anywhere in the game’s world as a group.

This flexibility allows players to roam the game’s world freely (gamers would call this a free-roam game) before choosing a different game mode with all characters in the game.

“Although I’m mostly looking forward to the single player, mainly for the story, I think the online will be really good because of how much there is to do,” Villalobos said.

Villalobos said what makes Redemption unique is the vast, open world Rockstar has created, explaining that Rockstar has a lot of experience with open-world games, so, “Red Dead Redemption should be great.”

Redemption is also very aesthetically pleasing, thanks to its vast open territory, high level of visual fidelity and accurate representation of historical items.

Besides a few game play elements and small similarities in the main characters’ visual appearances, Red Dead Redemption’s story has nothing to do with Red Dead Revolver’s story, also a western-style shooter made by Rockstar San Diego, a unit of New York-based Rockstar.

Whether playing single-player or multiplayer, gamers will have the option to kill and skin wild animals and sell their furs to locales of any nearby town. Players may then use their profits for buying new weapons or outfits for their character.

A special and unique feature of Redemption Rockstar has implemented into both the single-player and multiplayer version is known as dead-eye-targeting, which has three levels.

The first level of the dead-eye-targeting system allows players to slow down the action while shooting enemies for a short period of time.

The second level allows players to mark a single enemy with multiple bullets while time temporarily slows down. The marked enemy is then riddled with a burst of bullets.

Finally, the third level of dead-eye lets players mark multiple enemies at a time, while time is slowed, for multiple take downs at once.

Many gamers may see the dead-eye-targeting system as a good, fun idea, but Villalobos isn’t as sure.

“Any sort of auto-aim in online can be problematic. In single player, it’s OK, but for online it can really ruin the entire match of auto-aim. If it’s available only in certain situations, then that’s cool.”

At its core, Red Dead Redemption is a massive shooter for players with different preferences and play styles.

“If you like sci-fi shooters and care most about online multiplayer, then this might not be for you,” Villalobos said. “If you like third-person shooters like Gears of War, open world games like Grand Theft Auto, or old westerns, then give Red Dead Redemption a try. If you don’t like it, then it’s not for you but you can at least give it a shot by renting it.”

Redemption will ride into retailers this coming Tuesday for $59.99 on PS3 and Xbox 360.

Rainier Symphony imports music from Hollywood

By JIN YOON
Staff Reporter

The Rainier Symphony is having a Symphony Pops concert for the 2009-2010 season. This is our Symphony Pops concert, which is always very popular,” said David Waltman, music director and conductor of Rainier Symphony.

“This year, we will be playing music from several movies, including Titanic, Star Wars, ET, Raiders of the Lost Ark and Superman. We will also be playing a lot of familiar music from Hollywood. We will also be playing a lot of familiar movies, including Titanic, Star Wars, ET, Raiders of the Lost Ark and Superman.

“When I attended Shoreline Community College, I received an award for outstanding performance,” Waltman said.

Waltman said after a while, playing a song becomes easy. “After practicing a song, it later becomes natural,” he said.

Waltman said he is ready for his performance and expects a good show.

“One plan on playing La Virgen De Macarena for sure,” Waltman said. “Accepting the gig was the hardest decision,” he said. “I’m a student at the same time as well.”

Waltman is currently a student at the University of Washington.

Waltman hopes everyone will have good time and enjoy his performance.

“Everyone is invited to attend these performances,” he said.

Blend performer mixes different musical genres on one instrument

By ADRIAN SCOTT
Staff Reporter

Local musician Dante Wallen will perform in Highline’s Student Union next Wednesday. Wallen will perform in The Blend, Highline’s series of free concerts in the Bistro, Wednesday, May 19 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Performers are usually college students.

Wallen is a trumpet player and plays many different types of music: “I play jazz, classical, pop and international music,” he said.

Wallen has attended many schools and also has won awards when he was enrolled.

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GlobalFest glimmers with food, music and dance

Photos by Cody Warf

Clockwise from top left: Sue Lee playing Korean drum (Buk); Ryan Smith singing his original song It’s Raining in Seattle; Yusaku Nagata, Mizuho Matsumoto performing a traditional dance (So Ran Bushi); Luna Cheng writing names in Chinese characters; Mira Kim, Dahe Kim, Sarah Kim, Seung Min Hwang, Liz Kim, Jessica Chang performing a traditional Korean dance (Talchum); Thelma and Liz Odoh dance to the rhythm of African drums; Viviana Penaranda, Laurent Anaya dance with partners in a Latin dance.
GlobalFest glimmers with food, music and dance

By STEPHANIE KIM
Staff Reporter

Guatemalan pyramids and kites, Brazilian masks, African drums, traditional Asian dresses and dances from all over were present to celebrate Highline’s eighth annual GlobalFest.

With 10 performances and a fashion show, the International Student Programs hosted GlobalFest last Saturday, May 8 to celebrate the diverse cultures and traditions that make up Highline.

Highline has more than 400 students from 35 different countries.

“One of the great things is that students have a rich education through diversity,” Highline President Dr. Jack Bermingham said at GlobalFest.

Students are able to experience firsthand the different cultures at Highline by attending events like GlobalFest, he said.

Associate director of International Student Programs, Amee Moon, has been directing the annual GlobalFest for the past four years.

This year’s GlobalFest is different from the past ones because “we had a lot more countries from the Arab world,” Moon said.

“Japan, Korea, Vietnam and China went all out [this year],” she said.

Students said they had a variety of reasons as to why they wanted to participate in this year’s GlobalFest.

Student Zozan Shamdeen was born in Iraq, but has been living in the United States for the past 14 years.

She wanted to do an Iraqi culture booth because Iraq has not been represented in past GlobalFests.

“[Iraq] is not just what people see on the news,” she said.

Hiroaki Matsuzawa of Japan wanted to participate in GlobalFest to remember his Japanese identity.

Lesly Aguilar represented Guatemala. Unlike other countries, she was the only one representing her country.

“She’s proof you don’t need to have 25 people,” Moon said.

Student Anja Caracu of Germany wanted to represent her country to break German stereotypes and also to represent a European country.

“There are no other European country representation [this year],” Caracu said.

“Everyone thinks we walk around with sausages, sauerkraut and beer,” she said.

“In America, people say, ‘America is the land of freedom,’ but in Germany, we say, ‘Germany is the country of poets and thinkers,’” People such as Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Friedrick Schiller, Martin Luther, Emmanuel Kant and Karl Marx are all from Germany, she said.

GlobalFest 2010 was Liz Odoh of Nigeria’s third time participating.

“I love to dance, I like being creative and getting other people involved in the creativity,” Odoh said.

“It’s fun seeing all the different cultures,” said Mercy Tolo of Liberia. “Some people don’t have the opportunity to see different cultures [otherwise].”

Student Ricky Ulim of Indonesia wanted to represent his country to educate people.

“[Often I hear], ‘Indonesia is India, right? ’ What? No,” he said.

Paul Park of Korean heritage participated in last year’s GlobalFest, but felt this year’s was more successful.

“Last year was more limited,” Park said. However, this year, more returning members came back who know what has to be done, he said.

Last year, students of Korean heritage were not able to perform the traditional dance, talchum, but because there were more returning members this year, they were able to perform it.

In preparation for GlobalFest, they practiced their dances every day for about two months.

Similarly, Taiwan practiced their dances extensively.

“The weekend before GlobalFest, we practiced six hours a day,” said Taiwanese student Luna Cheng.

“I saw the video from last year’s GlobalFest and I thought it would be cool to be a part of it,” she said.

“I don’t think a lot of people understand U.S. culture; how eclectic [it is],” said Theophilus Human, who represented the United States.

“Our culture is pretty much people coming from all over the world. We’re creating a new culture,” Human said.

“The event] gets bigger each year, very spectacular,” Dr. Bermingham said. “It’s so great for so many different reasons.

“There are a lot of things going on with diversity, but with GlobalFest, it is different. There are more international students with GlobalFest,” Moon said.
Fastpitch shows promise for next season

BY BRIAN GROVE
Staff Reporter

The Highline women’s fastpitch team began the season with a common goal: to get better and be competitive.

And after two and a half months of softball, Highline Head Coach Gary Graf said the team has done just that.

“They’re not making the mental mistakes that they were at the very beginning. We still drop the ball every once and a while, but that’s just outright practice and sometimes focus. But honest to goodness their total game has really improved.”

Highline, 4-24, squatted out of the lastplace spot in the West Division, which buried the team for most of the season, after beating Grays Harbor, 5-4 and 5-2 last Friday, May 7. Grays Harbor, 3-25, finished in last place in the West.

The next day, May 8, Highline took on the Pierce Raiders in their final two games of the season. Pierce clinched the West Division title, sweeping the Lady T-Birds handily, 7-0 and 13-3.

In the first game, Highline was tied with Grays Harbor at 2 runs a piece when freshman centerfielder Evan Tallis hit an inside-the-park home run to put the Lady T-Birds up 3-2. This was the first Highline home run of the season.

Tallis said she just thought to “run fast” after she hit the ball. “It wasn’t in my head that it was going to be a home run. He [coach Graf] stopped me at "run fast" after she hit the ball. I was like, ‘I’m going. I’m going. I’m going.’”

However, Tallis was more critical of herself. “For me, I think I could have pitched a little bit better. But even then I think I had 13 strikeouts [she did] with both games though, so I was really proud of that.”

Baldwin also said she was glad she didn’t have very many walks.

Throughout the season, Baldwin has arguably gotten more experience than any other pitcher in the NWAACC. She said her attitude toward pitching has changed throughout the season and has somewhat embraced being the team’s only pitcher.

“Before I was like ‘I don’t want to do this at all,’ but now it’s like ‘This is really fun,’ and I think the fact that I have faith in myself to be able to pitch different pitches like my change-up and drop ball.”

Baldwin added a drop ball to her repertoire over the season. Although the season didn’t end on a high note in the losses to Pierce, Graf said he was still happy with how the year went. “This has just been a blast. I’ve had a great time. I love these girls, they work hard. It’s a great group and they’ve improved tremendously. Overall, I’m really pleased with the season,” he said.

Even though Graf has coached softball for 13 years, he said has still learned new things. Not necessarily about the game, but about coaching at the collegiate level.

“You’re always learning,” he said. “You’re learning how to handle the girls a little bit better but the game is a game, it doesn’t really change much. You learn how to leverage what you have a lot better. Learning how to help the balance with their work and their school is something I’ve never had to deal with before, so that’s something else I’ve got a better understanding for.”

Graf said his focus is still the same now as it was at the beginning of the season.

“As far as coaching goes, it will always be more about their growth than it is about the wins.”

With regard to next season, Graf also said the future of Highline softball looks bright.

“We’ve been recruiting, and right now if the verbal agreements I have out right now come through, we should be looking completely different next year,” he said.

After having only one pitcher this season, Graf has focused on taking care of the girls. “I’ve got some more pitchers and some real solid catchers, and some real solid athletes coming down here that I believe will really fit our mix well.”

Still, Graf said he’s looking for attitude over skill.

“I’ve been very careful about recruiting great attitudes and good athletes because I believe if you’ve got a good attitude and you’re a great athlete I can help make you what we need you to be here. I’m actually really looking forward to next year because the talent I have on verbal right now is really good, real strong.”

Highline fastpitch will return next September when the Lady T-Birds start their fall season.

If you are interested in playing softball next season, contact coach Graf at 206-369-8659 or txfarg@hotmail.com.
Warming up: a dynamic part of exercise

By BARB GILGER
Special to the Thunderword

Although they tend to be neglected by many people, a proper warm up and cool down are integral to most athletic activities.

Proper exercise preparation not only warms the muscles and prepares them for work, but also decreases the risk of injury and facilitates optimal muscular performance.

Unfortunately, many people don’t know how to correctly prepare their bodies for physical activity.

For example, many exercisers still engage in the outdated practice of performing static stretching prior to exercise instead of doing an adequate warm up.

A static stretch is performed when isolated muscles are stretched and typically held for 10 seconds or longer. The current research on pre-exercise static stretching indicates that it may be counterproductive and possibly dangerous to stretch a cold muscle.

In addition, static stretching isn’t sport specific, since most athletic activities don’t require a large range of motion to perform them.

It may also contribute to decreased force output and hinder the performance of explosive movements due to micro-tears in the muscle fiber.

A more appropriate approach for most activities would be a dynamic warm up.

This is done through movements of the muscles about to be worked and generally tends to warm up the whole body.

An example of a simple dynamic warm up sequence would be arm circles, high knee walk, butt kicks (jogging while kicking your butt with your heels), jumping jacks, walking lunges, and leg swings.

These dynamic movements get the blood circulating, elevate the heart rate, lubricate the joints and warm the muscles and body core. Essentially, you are preparing to move by actually moving.

When performing a dynamic warm up, you should progress from low to higher intensity movements.

It is also important to always maintain control and attempt smooth, fluid movements instead of using bouncing or momentum to extend the range of motion.

This type of uncontrolled movement can place strain on muscles and other tissues, causing injury.

Vigorous exercise, such as running, should be followed by a short five to 10-minute period of a low-intensity cool down, such as walking.

This helps move the blood that has pooled in the legs back to the heart and generally helps ease the body back to normal functioning.

This would also be the appropriate time for static stretching since the muscles are still warm and elastic.

When doing static stretching, slowly move into the desired position until you feel tension, but not pain. Hold the stretch in that position for 10-30 seconds and then relax.

Since it is typically not nearly as enjoyable as our chosen athletic endeavors, many people may be tempted to skip a proper warm up, cool down and post-exercise stretch.

However, warming up and cooling down the body, as well as stretching at the appropriate time, can help improve performance, decrease the chance of injury and can be a challenging and fun addition to your overall workout routine.

Students learn new skill that may save lives

By NEELI ABBASI
Staff Reporter

A group of students at Highline have been taking blood from other students. Volunteer students from Highline have been helping Highline’s phlebotomy I-BEST students practice and demonstrate their blood-drawing skills.

The phlebotomy Integrated Basic Education Skills Training (I-BEST) program at Highline is designed to help English as a Second Language students who want a career in phlebotomy.

It is a two-quarter program; the first part is the introduction to phlebotomy and is taught by an ESL teacher, Christopher Foertsch.

“I help the students understand the basics of phlebotomy and main parts,” said Foertsch.

The second part of the program is taught by lead instructor Babs Cerna.

This part is mostly hands-on and the students are tested accordingly.

“When drawing blood or just getting prepared, we divide the students into three groups. One group welcomes the volunteers and the other draws blood, while the third team stocks [gets lab ready for the next group of patients],” Cerna said.

Every phlebotomist needs to do the steps in a certain order, Cerna said.

“I enjoy my class and have a close relationship with my classmates. I also like how my instructors teach and are so helpful,” said Rosa Lopez, a student in the phlebotomy I-BEST program.

“When it gets closer to the end and the students are getting ready to graduate we help them by having an office day once a week so they can work on their resumes to find a field job for when they get out,” said Michael Green, phlebotomy instructor.

“Students keep track of how many times they drew blood by writing it on the board and the more blood they draw the better it looks on their resume,” said Green.

For more information about this program contact Babs Cerna, lead phlebotomy instructor, at bcerna@highline.edu.
Highline student Kevin Mar is sharpening skills for his fencing business.

After a lifetime of studying, Kevin Mar turned his 13-year passion for fencing into his profession.

Mar started the Washington Fencing academy together with co-founder Serge Timacheff. Mar created the curriculum used at the academy and is the executive coach.

Mar has accumulated around 500 college-level credits over his college career, and when he walks after Summer Quarter, he will receive six different degrees and one certification that he plans to apply to his fencing academy.

Mar will receive a business degree, an international business and trade degree, a marketing and sales degree, a small business and entrepreneurship degree, a tutoring certificate and a project management certificate.

“Obviously I enjoy schooling or else I wouldn’t have taken so many classes, but that’s a part of who I am,” Mar said.

Before studying at Highline, Mar studied a variety of different subjects at both Shoreline Community College and Seattle Pacific University.

When Mar originally went back to college he checked out all of the different physical education classes and was bored with the selection because he had done all of them before.

“When I saw fencing I went like ‘ooohhhhh’, what boy doesn’t want to do fencing?” Mar said. “I always wanted to be a pirate.”

After the class had ended, though, Mar didn’t know if there was any way to continue fencing. He said that years later a friend of his went fencing and asked him if he wanted to come along.

Mar practiced with his friends there and found out that he was pretty good at it.

Mar spent a number of years competing at local, regional, national and international levels. But together with coaching, it became too much work.

“I got to the point where I had to come to a decision,” Mar said. “I would rather do coaching because I could have a larger impact on people.”

It was four years later (2002) that Mar met his new business partner, Serge Timacheff, and decided to try and start a fencing academy.

Mar said that he was at a fencing camp when Timacheff contacted him about starting an academy but said that he only wanted to do it with him.

“He’s feeling was that if [he] worked on all the business stuff, and if he never had to run a class he’d be OK with it,” Mar said. “On the other hand, if I never had to any of the business stuff and I could run the classes I’m okay with that.”

The academy Mar and Timacheff set up is called Washington Fencing Academy.

Washington Fencing Academy has about 10 different locations in the Puget Sound area. They teach in schools, churches and community centers since they don’t have a fixed facility yet.

“We’re kind of in our first stage of our business plan. The second stage is that we’ll have a fixed location with satellite locations surrounding it,” Mar said. “We’re constantly looking for places because for business it’s location, location, location.”

Washington Fencing Academy currently has five coaches who travel from location to location.

Mar said that they brought in other coaches with a lot of talent. These include former Venezuelan world team epee fencer Eugenio Salas and former Israeli national champion Arthur Urman.

“I wrote a curriculum that is a mix between martial arts and the Boy Scouts,” Mar said. “Right now in fencing, unless you’re competing, you don’t know you’re getting better.”

Mar said that only about 15 percent of the fencing population competes actively, and that the other 85 percent don’t know if they’re getting better.

“The new executive director for the USAF (United States Fencing Association) is actually looking at my curriculum as something to roll out,” Mar said.

“I got to the point where I had to come to a decision. I would rather do coaching because I could have a larger impact on people.”

- Kevin Mar
The ongoing crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo is an enormous issue that demands attention worldwide, a speaker said here last week.

It has been the world’s deadliest conflict since World War II and some 5.4 million people have died from war-related causes since 1998 due to the fighting over the rich natural resources of the country.

Kabale Musavuli, a guest speaker from the Friends of Congo, visited Highline to explain this concern to students and how everyone could play a role to make a change.

“This is the greatest humanitarian challenge of our generation and each and every one of us can do something to make a difference in Congo,” said Musavuli.

The Friends of the Congo is an advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C., and was established at the behest of Congolese human rights and grassroots institutions in 2004, to work together to bring about peaceful and lasting change in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The minerals found in Congo such as coltan, the blood mineral of Congo, are a key to the technology industry worldwide, said Musavuli.

Coltan is a black, tar-like mineral found in large quantities in Congo and the country possesses 64 percent of the world’s coltan resources.

Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi are the primary exploiters of coltan in the Congo, Musavuli said.

When coltan is refined, it becomes a heat-resistant powder that can hold a high electric charge.

The properties of refined coltan are vital elements in creating devices that store energy or capacitors, which are used in a vast array of electronic devices, especially in mobile phones, laptop computers, video cameras, pagers and many more electronic devices, according to the Friends of Congo website.

Once the coltan is processed and converted to capacitors, it is then sold to companies such as Nokia, Motorola, Compaq, Dell, Sony, Ericsson, Alcatel, and Hewlett-Packard for use in a wide assortment of everyday products.

The minerals go through a whole chain of buyers, traders, companies and middlemen. Foreign multinational corporations have been deeply involved in the exploitation of coltan, Musavuli said.

Tens of thousands of people are working as miners in Congo, including children.

Child labor and widespread rape of women by soldiers is becoming an increasing problem in the region.

The work conditions are horrible and civilians work long hours with barely any breaks.

Starvation and disease have killed hundreds of thousands and the fighting has displaced 2 million people from their homes, he said.

Minced meat like gold, coltan is found by digging large pits in riverbeds, with armies of miners scraping away dirt to get to the coltan underground.

Most of the mines are controlled by the rebels, and some are controlled by the army, and there is competition between corrupt generals and rebels.

Local militias get supplies of food, money and military hardware in exchange for smuggled resource riches, he said.

Reports from the United Nations Security Council said the coltan profits are fueling the war and allowing a large number of government officials, rebels and foreigners to amass as much wealth as possible.

All this can be prevented and solved peacefully if people take the right actions, Musavuli said.

According to Musavuli, this is a historic opportunity for this generation to positively affect the change in Congo.

“One day, Congo will see an end to this and realize enormous human and natural potential,” Musavuli said.

Students at Highline can do many things to help the crisis in Congo, he said, such as learning more about this issue and sharing with friends, reaching out to elected officials and asking for help, gathering on campus to do fundraisers, recycling electronics and doing equipment drives.

“This generation could be a part of history and leave their mark on humanity,” Musavuli said.

By ANDREY PILIPCHUCK

MaST opens doors for free elementary school camp

Look out below

By ELIZABETH ELTRICH

By ANDREY PILIPCHUCK

Staff Reporter

The ongoing crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo is an enormous issue that demands attention worldwide, a speaker said here last week.

It has been the world’s deadliest conflict since World War II and some 5.4 million people have died from war-related causes since 1998 due to the fighting over the rich natural resources of the country.

Kabale Musavuli, a guest speaker from the Friends of Congo, visited Highline to explain this concern to students and how everyone could play a role to make a change.

“This is the greatest humanitarian challenge of our generation and each and every one of us can do something to make a difference in Congo,” said Musavuli.

The Friends of the Congo is an advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C., and was established at the behest of Congolese human rights and grassroots institutions in 2004, to work together to bring about peaceful and lasting change in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The minerals found in Congo such as coltan, the blood mineral of Congo, are a key to the technology industry worldwide, said Musavuli.

Coltan is a black, tar-like mineral found in large quantities in Congo and the country possesses 64 percent of the world’s coltan resources.

Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi are the primary exploiters of coltan in the Congo, Musavuli said.

When coltan is refined, it becomes a heat-resistant powder that can hold a high electric charge.

The properties of refined coltan are vital elements in creating devices that store energy or capacitors, which are used in a vast array of electronic devices, especially in mobile phones, laptop computers, video cameras, pagers and many more electronic devices, according to the Friends of Congo website.

Once the coltan is processed and converted to capacitors, it is then sold to companies such as Nokia, Motorola, Compaq, Dell, Sony, Ericsson, Alcatel, and Hewlett-Packard for use in a wide assortment of everyday products.

The minerals go through a whole chain of buyers, traders, companies and middlemen. Foreign multinational corporations have been deeply involved in the exploitation of coltan, Musavuli said.

Tens of thousands of people are working as miners in Congo, including children.

Child labor and widespread rape of women by soldiers is becoming an increasing problem in the region.

The work conditions are horrible and civilians work long hours with barely any breaks.

Starvation and disease have killed hundreds of thousands and the fighting has displaced 2 million people from their homes, he said.

Minced meat like gold, coltan is found by digging large pits in riverbeds, with armies of miners scraping away dirt to get to the coltan underground.

Most of the mines are controlled by the rebels, and some are controlled by the army, and there is competition between corrupt generals and rebels.

Local militias get supplies of food, money and military hardware in exchange for smuggled resource riches, he said.

Reports from the United Nations Security Council said the coltan profits are fueling the war and allowing a large number of government officials, rebels and foreigners to amass as much wealth as possible.

All this can be prevented and solved peacefully if people take the right actions, Musavuli said.

According to Musavuli, this is a historic opportunity for this generation to positively affect the change in Congo.

“One day, Congo will see an end to this and realize enormous human and natural potential,” Musavuli said.

Students at Highline can do many things to help the crisis in Congo, he said, such as learning more about this issue and sharing with friends, reaching out to elected officials and asking for help, gathering on campus to do fundraisers, recycling electronics and doing equipment drives.

“This generation could be a part of history and leave their mark on humanity,” Musavuli said.

By ANDREY PILIPCHUCK

MaST opens doors for free elementary school camp

Look out below

By ELIZABETH ELTRICH

Elementary-school children will have the opportunity to learn about marine life in the Puget Sound this summer.

Highline’s Summer on the Sound 2010 Marine Science Camp will be held this July for students entering fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

The camp is offered to only 25 students and will focus on scientific exploration of the Puget Sound and the intertidal zone in particular.

The campers will have the chance to learn about many different topics.

Topics that will be discussed will include methods for measuring the chemistry of seawater, sampling biodiversity, fish anatomy and marine ecosystems through art.

“I hope that [the students] discover a passion and a sense of ownership, making them want to take care of the Sound,” said Rus Higley, an oceanographer and marine biology professor.

It is a week-long camp beginning on Monday, July 12 through Friday, July 16 from 9:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The camp is free, but donations can be made through the Highline Foundation.

For the application, the students will need a one-page letter explaining their interest in science and why they want to attend the camp.

Students will also need a letter of recommendation from a teacher (preferably science) or someone besides a family member.

Lastly, the students will need to submit a handwritten lab report for an experiment they have done inside or outside of school.

The experiment should demonstrate their understanding of the scientific method.

“We will be judging the lab write-ups against applicants from the same grade.

“We won’t be comparing apples to oranges, just apples to apples,” Higley said about the lab reports required as part of the application.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on May 28.

For applications and more information, go to www.highline.edu/maст.
By EMILY INNOUVONG
Staff Reporter

Highline has received two grants from the Gates Foundation to help faculty ensure students succeed in college-level classes.

In February 2010, Highline applied for a math grant and received news this month that it will get a total of $120,000 over two years. The program has already begun, starting with Math 81. “Full redesign goes into effect with all classes in fall of 2010,” said Dr. Helen Burn, a professor in the Mathematics department.

The focus is on precollege math because math is one of the “major barriers to students completing degrees,” said Dr. Burn. The success rates are at less than 60 percent in general.

The grant will help instructors and fund summer institutes that will help with the execution of the precollege mathematics curriculum redesign.

With the grant, Highline’s overall goal is to improve the teaching and learning environment of the precollege curriculum and to establish the “process of faculty inquiry around outcomes assessment that will lead to better student engagement and learning,” Dr. Burn said.

The grant will benefit students in the precollege courses by reducing the number of precollege classes needed by most students, focusing on topics that will be immediately useful and actively help students develop successful learning habits and attitudes.

Highline has been part of the Achieving the Dream program for more than four years. The initial focus was on a mentoring program, with a plan to move toward a larger curriculum redesign during the final part of the grant. The second grant Highline has received is for the Integrated Basic Education Skills Training program or I-BEST. This program integrates college-level classes with Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language class. In I-BEST, there is an overlap time with both teachers in the classroom for some of the instruction.

“All the I-BESTs are transferable and typically are at 19 credits; students are job ready and also have completed college-level classes where they can then continue on towards a bigger certificate or degree,” said Joy Smucker, chairwoman of Highline’s Business Division.

I-BEST received a developing education grant from the Gates Foundation in late March 2010, which is run through the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges.

The grant amount is $160,000 over the next two years, $80,000 beginning Fall of next year and an option to renew the other half in fall 2011. The money will be allocated among faculty in order to provide greater resources for both educators and students. Their primary goal is to enhance their current teaching methods in order to ease the students into college-level courses and, in turn, their pursuit of a higher education.

For anybody who is in precollege classes, this is a way to “create an open pathway for students to get a degree,” said Smucker.

One-third of Highline students are stuck in precollege classes. This program is creating bridges for those students. Students will be taught in a “contextual learning style,” which is a much easier way for students to develop writing skills when learning them in the context of a particular subject, Smucker said.

Classes are team taught and students will have an adviser to meet with weekly.

Three classes will be integrated together each quarter, all with three teachers working together and treating the subjects as one.

Fall Quarter classes will be sociology, writing and humanities. Winter Quarter, the classes will be writing, math and law and justice and Spring Quarter will be environmental science, math and writing. New students are welcome to join any quarter and will earn credit for all three classes.

Four panel speakers break bamboo ceiling at Highline

By ALYSON FUHRMAN
Staff Reporter

Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders continue to face challenges reaching top management positions, but are making progress, a panel said on Monday.

Four local leaders talked about the bamboo ceiling on May 10, as part of Asian Pacific Islander month.

The four addressed how ethnic stereotyping and cultural influence affects students of Asian and Pacific Islander heritage interested in pursuing managerial and executive careers.

“The topic [is] the issue of the bamboo ceiling, which is sort of the Asian equivalent of the glass ceiling we hear talked about so often when it comes to women and other parts. So, we just made a culturally-appropriate reference,” said Larry Yok, Highline’s vice president of administration.

The four panelists, Mark Mitsui, Victor Mizumori, Dr. Rolita Ezeonu and Yok, shared personal life experiences and their thoughts on the subject of stereotyping in higher employment positions.

Forty-four percent of Asians over the age of 25 are college graduates, which is the highest percentage of any U.S. ethnicity but they make up less than 2 percent of Fortune 500 company directors, Yok said.

Panelist Dr. Rolita Ezeonu is interim dean of instruction for transfer and precollege education. She shared her story of growing up as a Filipino on the island of Oahu, Hawaii.

“I remember my father telling me as I grew up to really be outspoken, to be able to speak what was in my mind, and not to be afraid to share [my] thoughts,” Ezeonu said.

She was the first in her family to go to college, with help from her parents.

“When I grew up in Hawaii, I really didn’t understand this term of minority. Only going to a place where I was the ‘only,’ then I started to understand that was such a big deal,” Ezeonu said about moving to eastern Washington to go to school.

Second panelist, Mark Mitsui, is the president/emeritus of North Seattle Community College.

There is a phenomenon called a “mean,” which is something that gets passed down across generations, by person to person, not through literature. It’s just a popular myth that gets passed down, said Ezeonu.

“The Mean is that it maintains the bamboo ceiling,” said Mitsui. “It maintains the bamboo ceiling.”

Mitsui also shared his feelings on how to be successful in higher education and work environment.

“In terms of moving up the ladder within higher education, how to handle the model minority myth and stereotypes about Asian-Americans play a significant role in the achievement of their pursuit of a higher education and, in turn, progress toward the bamboo ceiling,” Mitsui said.

Mitsui also shared his feelings on how to be successful in higher education and work environment.

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By NICHOLAS McCOY
Staff Reporter

They think, therefore they meet. Students will gather to discuss philosophy at the Northwest Community College Student Philosophy Conference this Saturday.

The conference has been in the planning process for over a year. Organized by the Green River Community College philosophy club, Veritas, it will feature a full day of philosophy centered presentations.

“All of the presenters are local students interested in philosophy,” said Kayla Campbell, the vice president of Veritas.

Starting at 9 a.m., concurrent sessions will be held every hour, breaking for lunch at noon. Each session includes a question and answer period afterward so the audience can ask questions.

Each of the sessions will be on different topics in philosophy.

“We wanted a way to reach students outside of our regular members and give community college students interested in philosophy an opportunity to gain more experience presenting philosophical concepts,” Campbell said.

“There are not many conference opportunities available to community college students and we wanted to change that,” she said.

Registration for the conference begins at 8 a.m., and attendance is free. Anyone is invited. The conference will continue until about 4 p.m.

Topics presented will include “Four Dimensionalism,” “Anomalous Monism,” “Albert Camus, WWII, and The Plague,” and “The Good Life.” Campbell will present on the Interpretation of Conditionals, or “If, then…” statements.

The conference will be held at Green River Community College, in Auburn, in the HS Building. The building is located near the east entrance of the college, near 124th Avenue Southeast.

For more information, contact Campbell at CampKayla@gmail.com.

Graffiti

By BARRY HOLLDORF
Staff Reporter

This weekend, students will gather to discuss philosophy at the Green River Community College Student Philosophy Conference. However, before they can discuss philosophy, students will have to clean up the graffiti.

Graffiti, in the form of racial slurs, is often found on billboards, parking signs, walls, bathroom stalls, and every obscure space, where they can have few minutes of privacy to tag.

“We notice different juvenile gangs are participating in these activities and using different signs and initials,” Guillen said, “but every time one tag stops another one starts. Their styles are different, too. Some use stars placed on top of their messages, another, group uses crowns on top and on the corners.”

Despite their efforts, however, some students say Security is not doing enough.

“We want to know what Campus Security, or whoever is in charge of this, is doing. ‘I am taking it down when it happens’ is an inefficient reactive response.”

Security and the Facilities Department officials welcome any suggestions, but defended their approach to the issue as the only feasible option at the moment.

They both rejected the idea that their approach to issues and events on campus is driven by reactive response.

“We’re definitely proactive in this front and we have been,” Guillen said.

“But we’re not peeking into the bathroom stalls to see what people are doing, if they’re writing graffiti or not.”

On an average day, each Security officer spends two to three hours looking for graffiti on the campus. The process of cleaning up the graffiti also costs the Facilities Department lots of labor hours and money.

Both departments regard the issue as an irritation and would like to get as much help as they can from faculty, staff and students.

Yet, officials are afraid this could lead to students accusing other students.

“Students have been on top of this and we would like them to continue that tradition,” Sergeant Guillen said, “but we don’t want students accusing innocent students. If students are participating, which I don’t like to speculate, we definitely would like to know that.”

Guillen and Holldorf say these people who are writing graffiti are outsiders because they don’t write like students do.

“They can use a spell checker next time, I recommend,” Holldorf said jokingly.

“We can’t understand whatever they’re trying to communicate. This is really pointless and irritating, but our job is to remove graffiti like it never happened.”
Weekly weather forecast

Reese

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bind the Sanders’ hands with zip-ties, prosecutors say.

One went upstairs and found the Sanders’ two sons, bringing them downstairs. When the older son saw that his father was being hit in the head with a pistol, he tried to intervene, prosecutors say.

The gunman who was beating James Sanders then turned and started pistol whipping the son.

James Sanders broke free from his ties and attempted to defend his son. That was when the gunman turned back to James Sanders and shot him three times — in the knee, in the thigh and fatally in the back of the right shoulder, prosecutors say.

The suspects then stole the ring off of Carlene Sanders’ finger and searched the rest of the house, stealing cell phones, a laptop, jewelry and several other items.

Reese, Higashi and Knight fled by car to California, where they were arrested on May 2.

This last Monday, the four appeared in Pierce County Superior Court and pleaded innocent.

An instructor, who asked to remain anonymous, knew Reese during his short time at Highline.

“He would be gone one day and back another. Two different family members called to tell me he was sick,” said the instructor.

“He had amazing green eyes. He was sociable and the ladies loved him,” said the instructor.

“I am so disappointed,” the Highline instructor said.

“I was in shock for the first couple days until I confirmed it was him.”

Write for The Thunderword Fall Quarter. Take Journalism 101, item no. 4182

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