

## Frosty returns to find campus empty



Corey Sun/THUNDERWORD

A lone snowman stands in the grass near the library last Thursday, his builders long since having left him to bear the cold alone.

## Two-year college retention rates rising

By RASCHELLE CASEBIER  
Staff Reporter

Retention rates are rising at two-year colleges and dropping at four-year colleges, according to a recent study.

Community college retention rates have risen from 53 percent in 2005 to a record high of 56 percent currently.

The retention rate at four-year private colleges has fallen, from 75 percent in 2005 to 72 percent currently, according to the ACT organization.

ACT is an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides a broad array of assessment, research, information, and program management solutions in the areas of education and workforce development.

"The data is based on responses from 2,581 postsecondary institutions across the U.S., including 890 two-year colleges and 1,691 four-year colleges and universities," said Ed Culby, ACT spokesman.

"Retention rates continue to be substantially lower at two-year than at four-year institutions overall. The gap, however, has narrowed in recent years," he said.

"Retention rates, or persistency rates, are defined as continuing to enroll every term at the same college," said Tonya Benton, Highline director of institutional research.

Persistency rates for community colleges are rising, though by a small percentage.

"The changes themselves are not big, but they are consistent. We are seeing trends over the past several years," Culby said.

Retention rates have not

## Snow arrives at Highline, students don't

By MALLORY MURRAY  
and YURI NISHIZAKI  
Staff Reporters

Snowy weather hit the campus on Feb. 23 and left it inaccessible to many students, staff and faculty.

Wide areas of Washington State experienced heavy snowfall that day, according to the National Weather Service an average of 3.5 inches of snow accumulated by the following day.

Many students were unable to attend class Thursday, Feb. 24 because the roads surrounding their homes were icy, snowy and too dangerous to drive on.

The roads were clear around Highline, but unpredictable elsewhere.

"My neighborhood is surrounded by hills. There was no way my car was going to make it up them so I had no choice but to skip my classes," said Joe Abber, a Highline student.

Highline student Huy Nguyen did not experience the same level of concern as the roads near his home were clear. "I drove slowly with more care and awareness," Nguyen said.

Distance from the school coupled with the icy road conditions was a factor for some.

"I live in Enumclaw which is

a thirty minute drive to school, I wasn't going to take a chance of getting stuck so I decided it was best to stay home," said Danielle Streuli, a Highline student.

Highline student Erin Chapin who lives in Renton said "the roads were way too icy around my apartment to try to make it to school. My car is reliable but I get too nervous driving in weather like that."

Since many students chose to skip school, they had a little fun of their own.

"I was snowed in at my house in Kent so my friends and I decided to go sledding. There wasn't a ton of snow but it was

fun while it lasted," said student Marley Erickson.

Highline student Nicole Brunette said she "loved having a snow day on Thursday. My boyfriend and I went sledding on the hills around my neighborhood in Renton."

"Snow days are what I live for. I got to sleep in and just hang out all day. It's a good excuse to be lazy," said student Michael Paulston.

Although many students weren't able to show up to school, a select few still made it

See Snow, page 12

See Retention, page 12

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



P7  
Students have another printing option



P8  
Wrestling team is academic champions



P10  
How Drama Department makes the right picks

### Weekend Weather



Complete combo offered this week.

Full forecast|P12





## Crime and Punishment

### Snow drives crime into the parking lots

Snowy weather led to two reckless driving incidents on campus on Feb. 23.

Someone drove a vehicle in the South Parking Lot at around 11:20 p.m. The vehicle was doing doughnuts and appeared hit a few of the overnight vehicles parked there, a Highline Security Officer said.

The Highline officer called Des Moines Police Department to inform them that drivers were likely to continue driving recklessly throughout the night.

Two people were spotted driving a Toyota Corolla recklessly in the South Parking Lot.

A Highline Security Officer confronted the driver. The passenger said that he was teaching the female how to drive.

The officer reported that there was a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle.

The officer informed them that the police had already been called regarding an incident in a different parking lot and they should practice driving elsewhere. They complied and left campus.

### Employee is the target of a vehicle burglary

A Highline employee's vehicle was broken into on Feb. 24.

She parked her vehicle behind Building 28 at noon and returned at 1 p.m., and found the passenger side window of the vehicle was broken out. Her cell phone was stolen from the vehicle.

### Bag theft in the Library

A Highline student's Coach bag was stolen from the library on Feb. 25.

The bag contained several valuables, and the total loss is estimated at \$600.

### Origin of marijuana smell not found

A strong smell of marijuana was found outside of Building 22 and 23 on Feb. 26.

A Highline employee said he saw some kids earlier and the smell followed soon after. A security officer looked for them, but couldn't find them.

-Compiled by Yuri Nishizaki



Kyle Cotton/THUNDERWORD

Construction workers finish some final touches on the lawn outside of Building 9 during the start of last week's snow storm.



### Building 99 hopes to open soon

Building 99 is being restored as quickly as possible since last week's fire. The Facilities Department has given a do-not-exceed limit for repairs to Service Master, the cleanup company.

"The drying process is complete but there is still cleaning up to do," said Barry Holldorf, director of facilities.

Some carpet sections and ceiling tiles need to be replaced and not repaired due to extensive water damage.

"The likelihood of anyone re-occupying the space is from all best accounts early next week if all goes as planned," Holldorf said.

Operations from the building have been temporarily relocated in space across campus.

### Highline offers Next Step Scholarship

The Highline Foundation is offering a scholarship for students planning on attending the University of Washington, Tacoma in Fall Quarter.

The application can be found at [www.tacoma.washington.edu/scholarships](http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/scholarships). The scholarship will be a total of \$9000 for the 2011-2012 school year which will be \$1500 per quarter for six quarters.

The application has some requirements for approval which are: a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, writing ability and personal statement, participation in honors

program, recommendations, internships, demonstration of leadership, and community service.

The application is due on March 7, at 5 p.m. to the Financial Aid Department. There will be three people chosen to move onto the final selection process.

### Discussion about immigration planned

Maha Jahshan will be presenting about immigration for families, women, and children. The event is open to the public and is at the Burien Community Center on Tuesday, March 8 at 6:15 p.m. The Burien Community Center is located at 14700 6th Ave. SW.

Jahshan is an organizer and membership coordinator for One America, which is an organization that advances the fundamental principles of democracy and justice at the local, state and national levels.

### Stephen Swope bake sale

Respiratory Care professor Stephen Swope died on Monday, Feb. 14. Respiratory students organized a bake sale in his honor.

Swope's Sweets Bake Sale is happening again today in Building 8 on the second floor.

Respiratory care students are hosting this bake sale to help Stephen Swope's family through this difficult time. The bake sale is from 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union.

### Caucus discussion is changed due to weather

Due to last week's weather the caucus discussion was moved to Tuesday, March 8. The caucus discussion will be about "should we end black history month?". The caucus dis-

cussion will be held in Building 6, room 164 in the Inter Cultural Center.

### First Fridays: Ancient Roots of Leadership

The Center for Leadership and Services will host a presentation on Ancient Roots of Leadership. The presentation will be on Friday March 4, from 2-4 p.m. Learn different perspectives of leadership philosophies utilized in ancient societies and indigenous cultures. For more information on this event visit [www.highline.edu/stuserv/programs/LEADER/leadership.htm](http://www.highline.edu/stuserv/programs/LEADER/leadership.htm)

### GET enrollment deadline is approaching

Washington's Guaranteed Education Tuition program helps families that are struggling save up money for college education.

The program includes a state guarantee, a choice of colleges nationwide, tax benefits, flexible payment options, and offers a safe and easy way to pay for a child's education.

For more information please visit [www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov) and enroll by March 31.

### Academic Achievement Award winners

The Academic Achievement Award winners have been announced for Spring Quarter. The winners will receive a full tuition waiver for Spring Quarter.

The Spring Winner are Megan Pardi, Michelle Lie, Amanda Bailey, Joy Mukiri, Elena Afanasyeva, Ali Salim, Koffi Fadonougbo, Gabriela Osario, Brendan Ronish, Regina Burck, Charles Irons, Sue Lowe, Rachel Moyer, Denise Sakimoto, and Maria Buckingham. These students worked very hard to receive this award.

Writing assignments hanging over your head? Come to the Highline Writing Center



**We help create better writers not just better papers.**

Open Monday-Thursday 8:00-7:30 & Friday 8:00-1:00

In 26/319i 206-878-3710 ext. 4364

[flightline.highline.edu/writingcenter](http://flightline.highline.edu/writingcenter)



## Program provides alternative print method

By **JONNY MCGUIRE**  
Staff Reporter

The graphic production and print media department will be offering printing services to Highline students starting next month.

This news comes in response to Highline's new printing limit policy, set to take effect on March 6.

The printing limit will give every Highline student a \$10 credit on their printing account for each quarter.

Highline's printing prices are to be as follows: single-sided black and white printing will cost 10 cents per page, double-sided black and white printing will cost 15 cents per page, color prints will be 50 cents per page.

Posters can also be printed for one cent per square inch.

Once a student runs out of printing credit, they can go to a kiosk and pay to add to their account.

The kiosks are located in the Library at Building 25, the Higher Education Center at Building 29, or the Instructional Computing Center at Building 30.

Students who are seeking an alternative to this printing limit can turn to the printing lab, which will offer \$25 pre-paid punch cards to Highline students who need extra printing.

The printing lab, located in Building 16, specializes in processed color printing using sheet-fed presses, and recently acquired the equipment for digital printing.

"Almost everything you use in your classes was printed in the printing lab," said Dave Weber, an instructor in the print department.

Students who choose to utilize the printing lab will not be able to access a copier themselves, but will instead give the printing department's staff a file for them to out-



Alisa Gramann/THUNDERWORD

*Alex Orlovskiy of the Printing Program practices his skills operating the equipment in the Building 16.*

put.

Weber encourages students to come to them specifically if they need a color print or a proof done.

The graphics production and print media department is also an instructional printing program that teaches students the skills needed for a career in printing.

Students enrolled in the program receive instruction in every aspect of the industry, including design, prepress, preflight, and sales and marketing.

The program offers students an associate of applied science degree for two years of instruction, or a certificate of completion for one year.

To earn the degree or the certificate, students take courses in technical training, general education, and interpersonal skills.

In addition to the variety of printing at Highline, the printing department also offers their services to nonprofit organizations.

"Everything from a business card to a printed book, and everything in between," said Weber.

The prices for printing jobs vary from order to order.

"Each printing job is different, but I can tell you that a small order of business cards, about 250, would cost about \$30," Weber said.

Although the printing department specializes in high volume orders, they also have a digital copier for smaller projects.

For more information on printing services, students should contact Dave Weber at [daweber@highline.edu](mailto:daweber@highline.edu).

## Shopping for groceries gives back to schools

By **DEMETRIUS GRIFFIN**  
Staff Reporter

Safeway is giving back 10 percent of your purchases to support your school.

The company has teamed up with big companies, such as Kraft and Proctor and Gamble, to give 10 percent back to elementary schools, middle schools, high schools, and colleges throughout the country between Jan. 1 and March 7.

"The 10 percent is not based off of the total amount of the receipt, but the total amount based off of the featured products," said Melissa Sell, executive assistant of Institutional Advancement at Highline.

After you have made your purchases, you receive a redemption code that can only be redeemed at <http://backtoschools.escip.com>.

"There is a redemption code at the bottom of the receipt that is needed in order to redeem this 10 percent discount," Sell said.

Safeway is not the only store that has linked up with this promotion.

Other stores include Vons, Dominick's, Randall's, Pavilions and others that are an extension of Safeway in other parts of the country.

The promotion is effective until March 7, the last day the codes can be redeemed.

For store listings, featured products and information on redeeming codes, visit <http://backtoschools.escip.com>.

## Health and economics combine to create new course

By **DEMETRIUS GRIFFIN**  
Staff Reporter

The intersection between global health issues and economics will be explored in a new introductory course next quarter.

The course, COOR 101: Building a Better World; Health, Human Rights and the Fight for Social Justice, is a combination of both PE 101 (Global Health) and ECON 110 (Economics).

Tracy Brigham, a physical education instructor, and Kevin Stanley, economics instructor, will be teaching the class.

This course is 10 credits and meets Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. until 1:03 p.m.

The basis of coordinated studies is to allow for students to integrate two classes from



Brigham

two different teaching departments.

"Our students talk about a lot of the same things," said Tracy Brigham, on the decision to pair the two classes.

"Our pairing was just natural," Kevin Stanley said. "I often hear my students say, 'We talked about this in Tracy's class.'"

Not only do students receive credit toward their physical education, social sciences, and diversity and globalism graduation requirements, "Students get more time on what they are working on and they have a chance to get to know each other with the two hour class," said Brigham.

"Students spend less than \$50 on textbooks for this class. We use a lot of articles and things that are current," said Stanley.

The new combination of classes provides adjustments for both Brigham and Stanley.

"We are both used to teach-

ing by ourselves in our own classroom," said Brigham. "Neither of us are prima donnas, so it should work out just fine for us."

"We're relaxed about it. We've done three or four campus presentations together which makes us comfortable," said Stanley.

"There isn't a lot to be given up, but we are both willing to sacrifice topics if we have to," Stanley said.

The instructors are providing various ways for students to learn about these topics.

"Videos, guest speakers, a self-service project and connecting with Invisible Children are going to be part of the class," said Brigham.

Invisible Children is an organization devoted to ending the

war in Uganda through the efforts of young people.

The course will also add in a chance for the community to participate.

"Once a week, we meet and read articles with others that are outside of the course," said Stanley. "The students gain different opinions and perspectives from this."

Both instructors say they are looking forward to the course and are very optimistic about the outcome.

"It should be great," Stanley said. "We're big on diversity while giving the students a chance to share and hear that."

For more information on the course, contact Tracy Brigham at [tbrigham@highline.edu](mailto:tbrigham@highline.edu) or Kevin Stanley at [kstanley@highline.edu](mailto:kstanley@highline.edu).



**Editorial comment****We need a good snow policy**

There should be a better policy put into place at Highline to be used during snow days.

We need to be more realistic about people not being able to make it to make it to school in the snow.

Last Thursday, Highline was not closed but the campus was practically empty. Something has to be figured out so students can receive their class assignments at home during these kind of weather conditions.

With the Highline online Angel system, some students can get their assignments online. The Angel system could be better used to create a program that will allow all students to receive and complete assignments and schoolwork.

During the last snow storm people reported waiting for hours for the bus. The road conditions in south King County can be hectic due to the hills. If you live even further away, such as Puyallup, it will be even more difficult for people taking the bus.

The college's goal is to remain operational when it's at all possible, but if the school is open and nobody shows up but the professors, it's a waste of time.

Area school closures with college students are not the same as it is for high school.

College students have kids and jobs that demand our attention and responsibilities. If our kids, who may be under-aged, have a school closure, we might have to stay home with them.

Snow throws the entire academic schedule into a tizzy and the freezing weather doesn't encourage a positive mind set.

The whole bus system is affected by harsh weather conditions. The routes change due to some areas having dangerous roads on their route. The weight and size of the buses could be dangerous when a lot of people are out on the roads trying to get from one place to another.

There are several advantages to having a better policy in place because the new one needs help.

When people live far away and there are hills along the route, things get even more difficult for students and faculty to arrive here at Highline. Sometimes missing a day of class will set a student back. The focus has to be more on making sure that even though school is open, all students who live outside of the immediate area have the chance to keep their grades and attendance perfect if that is their goal.

Quizzes and tests that were scheduled for a day that snow prevented one from attending needs to be addressed, because those situations could possibly hurt someone's grade, GPA and impede them from getting into a university. The current way Highline handles extreme weather days needs to be looked at.

Highline is a great institution that does a good job at making sure that motivated students get what they earn.

But sometimes Mother Nature has her own cruel motives and we just have to accept the consequences of her actions.

**Share your opinions in print**

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

E-mail your submission to [mmcdonald@highline.edu](mailto:mmcdonald@highline.edu)

Letters should be no more than 200 words.

Commentaries should be 600 words or less and arrive no later than Monday for publication that Thursday.

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

Please provide contact information for confirmation purposes.

For information, contact us here at The Thunderword at, [thunderword@highline.edu](mailto:thunderword@highline.edu)

**Technology threatens a faceless classroom**

The face of the classroom is slowly becoming faceless.

I have witnessed the revolution of technology changing the dynamics of classrooms in the world. I'm a child of the '70s and raised in the '80s. There weren't computers in classrooms. Teachers and books were the center of the educational process that catered to the social psychological growth and development that's formed between student and teacher.

Now artificial intelligence rules the educational process, thereby eliminating the social element of the classroom.

Computers and basic computer science is now a fundamental prerequisite that's necessary even in elementary school. Whereas only the wealthy elementary school students in the '70s and '80s had any exposure to such technology, it is now the main tool in today's school system.

From a social standpoint, technology and computers are removing the human contact we have with one another. A computer has no face, only windows.

There used to be mandatory attendance for a student to pass a class but now you can take the class online to do your work at your leisure. The face of the classroom is missing. The social interaction between student and teacher is becoming obsolete.

Taking a class online is an option that one has to weigh for

**Commentary**

Michael  
McDonald Jr.

themselves. This column was written for the awareness of the possibility of losing the entire face of the classroom and learning process.

As human beings move into this grand new era of enhanced technologies, ease of access and demand for greater flexibilities, the face of the modern classroom is becoming a faceless one.

In a time when time itself has become a limited commodity, compressing as much of what is required into one day is integral. Interacting and exchanging information amongst classmates takes time, listening to an instructor lecture takes yet more time, and with the clock consistently subtracting minutes from the day, without enough hours, people are looking to economize and use short-cuts.

One has to wonder how interpersonal skills are enhanced by limiting real engagement between one another. While writing is an extremely important and still prominent form of communication, so is speech.

Computers are themselves an evolutionary process much like humans, given they are our creation, have gone through the birth and growth into the core

fabric of our society. However, the spark that's contained in human beings must not be extinguished as we grow our capabilities in the arena of technology. Instead a balance must be genuinely undertaken and continually fought for. For if not, faceless indeed we shall be.

As technology gets more advanced, the gap that's already in place between student and teacher will only widen. We need social interaction in classrooms to stimulate the positive development of a child to an adult.

This is a somewhat a scary topic. If we become a totally computerized society to the point where humans don't have any social contact, life will cease to exist.

This is of course if you believe that life centers around being involved in activities with other human beings. Even pets can provide a social element that your iPad can't provide.

In the case of mathematics in particular one can see significantly positive consequences and enhanced visualization only produced as computer solutions. A guy by the name of Matthias Kawski recently published a paper demonstrating this very concept. Kawski's theory also illustrates the understanding that's gained through visual computer imaging.

Stimulation increases the educational experience, thereby giving the classroom a face.

**The Staff**

“ I wish my brain had a Ctrl F ”

E-Mail [tword@highline.edu](mailto:tword@highline.edu)

**Editor-in-Chief** Kandi **Carlson**  
**Managing Editor** Victoria **Dom**  
**News Editor** Cody **Warf**, Alisa **Gramann**  
**Arts Editor** Katie **Adams**  
**Sports Editor** Richard **Meier**  
**Opinion Editor** Michael **McDonald Jr.**  
**Graphics Editor** Jackie **Argueta**, Nina **Naeher**  
**Photo Editor** Maybe someday

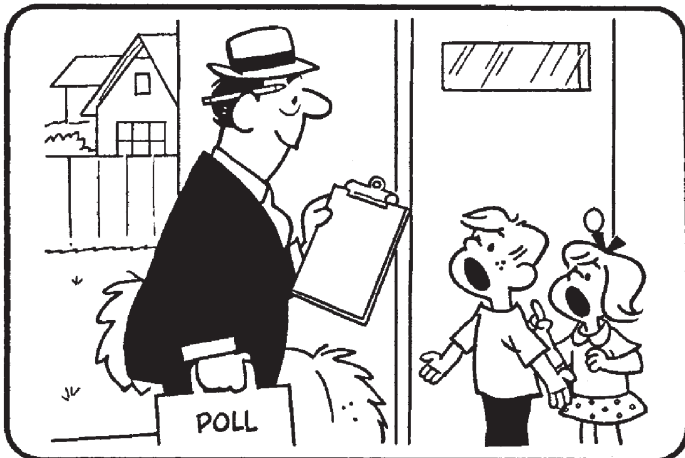
**Reporters** William Brokaw, Raschelle Casebier, Jonny McGuire, Katrina Blake, Melina Brown, Eli Eir, Demetrius Griffin, Joshua Hart, Brandon Herman, Rainy Huang, Jeff Kemp, Taylor Lunka, Mallory Murray, Joshua Nelson, Yuri Nishizaki, Kristen Remeto, Hussain Rizvi, Bryanna Robbins, Gersom Tesfaye, Phattra Vorasane.

**Photographers** Kyle Cotton, Corey Sun

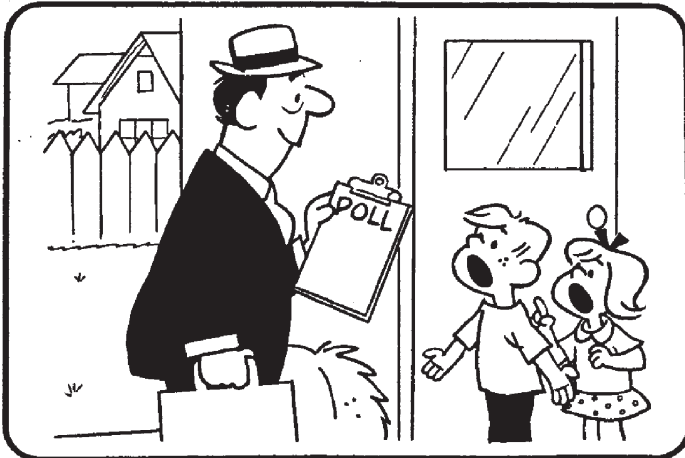
**Advertising Librarian** Sabrina Olkeriil, Ernesa Hart  
**Adviser** Christina Gramling  
 Dr. T.M. Sell



HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Door window is larger. 2. "Poll" is written on clipboard. 3. Briefcase is blank. 4. Pencil is missing. 5. Fence is different. 6. Shrub is missing.

© 2011 King Features Synd., Inc. All rights reserved.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging  
★★★ HOO BOY!

© 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.



1. SCIENCE: Which scientist was the first to use the word "cell" in describing the basic components of life forms?
2. TELEVISION: Which state was the setting for TV's *Knots Landing*?

3. MYTHOLOGY: In the legend of King Arthur, what was the name of Merlin's mistress, who also was called The Lady of the Lake?
4. POETRY: Who wrote, "Sometime they'll give a war and nobody will come"?
5. GEOGRAPHY: Which body of water would one find east of Greece?
6. MUSIC: Where would one find a coda to a piece of music?

Passing Fads

Across

1. Fail miserably  
5. Myanmar, formerly  
10. Pub projectile  
14. Sailor's cry  
15. "A Room With \_\_\_\_"  
16. Get bigger, as in bread  
17. Woodworking tool  
18. Bloodsucker  
19. Actor Alda  
20. 1980s fad  
23. Final approval  
24. Peter or Paul, e.g.  
28. Eat between meals  
32. Blue shade  
33. Civil War inits.  
36. 1990s fad  
39. Pac 10 team  
41. Inhumane  
42. Author Morrison  
43. 1960s fad  
46. Actor Beatty  
47. \_\_\_\_ Gay  
48. Wed secretly  
50. Odd  
53. Pulitzer winning playwright Edward  
57. 1970s fad  
61. Retro hairdo  
64. Drinking aid  
65. "\_\_\_\_ I say!"  
66. West German capital  
67. "It's \_\_\_\_ for!"  
68. Feminine suffix  
69. Rugged rock  
70. Taters  
71. Fresh talk

Down

1. Zingers  
2. Scarlett of Tara  
3. Walk leisurely  
4. Avoid, as construction  
5. Completely smooth  
6. Iris holder  
7. Nothing, in Nice  
8. Muhammad's birthplace

By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at [www.gfrpuzzles.com](http://www.gfrpuzzles.com)

Crossword 101

By Pete Canty (Pete@gfrpuzzles.com)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23							24			25	26	27
			28		29	30	31		32			
33	34	35		36				37	38			
39			40		41					42		
43				44					45		46	
47							48			49		
50					51	52			53		54	55
			57				58	59	60			
61	62	63			64					65		
66					67					68		
69					70					71		

9. Smart as \_\_\_\_  
10. Prolongs  
11. Feel sick  
12. 2010 World Cup host, abbr.  
13. Perfect score  
21. King \_\_\_\_  
22. "Cheers" regular  
25. Boxer Mike  
26. "Mule Train" singer  
55. French states  
56. Mississippi quartet?  
58. Pakistani language  
59. Roach's foe  
60. Rams' mates  
61. Fox's competition  
62. Pro  
63. Genetic initials

Quotable Quote

Great things are not accomplished by those who yield to trends and fads and popular opinion.

••• Charles Kuralt

THE X BOX

7. IN-VENTIONS: When was the zipper invented?
8. GEN-ERAL KNOWL-EDGE: What is terra cotta often used to make?
9. ANAT-OMY: What's another word or words for capillary?
10. U.S. STATES: Which state's largest body of fresh water is called Moosehead Lake?

A	H	O	Y		S	L	E	W		U	P	O	N	A
C	O	K	E		K	O	L	A		N	I	X	O	N
M	A	R	S		I	B	I	D		S	P	Y	O	N
E	X	A	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N		G	R	O
					A	N	D	R	E		M	A	N	E
S	E	A	N	C	E					P	A	R	E	N
M	A	X			H	E	L	L	O		L	A	T	E
I	T	L	L		P	E	A	R	L		T	A	P	E
T	E	E	U	P		A	N	N	A	S		N	E	A
E	N	G	R	O	S	S				M	A	S	K	E
			R	E	T	E			C	O	B	R	A	
S	H	E			E	X	C	L	U	S	I	V	E	L
L	E	A	S	E			H	A	N	K		A	R	I
A	R	S	O	N			A	S	C	I		N	I	C
T	E	E	N	S			T	H	E	N		T	E	E

- Answers
1. Robert Hooke  
2. California  
3. Vivian  
4. Carl Sandburg

5. Aegean Sea  
6. At the end  
7. 1891  
8. Pottery  
9. Blood vessel  
10. Maine

(c) 2011 King Features Synd., Inc.

top ten

DEADLIEST ANIMALS

- to Humans
1. Mosquito  
2. Asian Cobra  
3. Australian Box Jellyfish  
4. Great White Shark  
5. African Lion  
6. Australian Crocodile  
7. Elephant  
8. Polar Bear  
9. Cape Buffalo  
10. Poison Dart Frog

Source: IIE/Open Doors

© 2011 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Arts news?  
[tword@highline.edu](mailto:tword@highline.edu)





Richard Meier/THUNDERWORD

Highline's Darren Faber goes for a pin against Fred Moses of Lincoln College in consolation action at the NJCAA championships last weekend in Spokane.

# T-Birds can't quite pin down a title

By **RICHARD MEIER**  
Staff Reporter

SPOKANE – The Highline men's wrestling team placed 10th at the NJCAA National Tournament here last weekend.

T-Bird rivals Clackamas and North Idaho finished first and second.

The men also brought home four All-Americans as well as being named the No. 1 Academic Team in the nation.

Highline was led by 149-pound Jason Gray, who placed second; 125-pound Steven Romero, who placed third; 197-pound Darren Faber, who finished in fourth place; and 157-pound Eric Jones, who finished fifth.

Prior to nationals, Head Coach Scott Norton stressed the importance of Romero setting the tempo. Romero didn't let Norton down, defeating Neosho's Jeff Vesta in Highline's first match, 4-1.

Romero followed with convincing wins over Harper's Eduardo Dominguez, 8-2, and Niagara's Rocco Rosso, 7-2.

The lone loss for Romero came in a last-second heart-breaker to Iowa Central's Josh Heinzer in the semifinals.

With less than 10 seconds left in the match and down 3-1, Romero took down Heinzer, tying the match up at 3-3 apiece. However, according to the official, Heinzer put a reversal on Romero with one second remaining.

The officials turned a deaf ear to coach Norton as he pleaded for a protest on the final seconds of the match.

"Every year this happens to one kid. Ever year someone gets screwed. This year, unfortunately it was Steven [Romero]," Norton said.



Richard Meier/THUNDERWORD

Highline's Jason Gray, left, begins his championship match against David DeJesus of Iowa Lakes.

The loss placed Romero in the consolation bracket finals where he defeated Neosho's Vesta, 11-6, in a rematch of the first round. The second win over Vesta secured Romero a third-place finish and All-American honors.

"Romero got screwed, but stuff like that happens. But the thing is, champs put it behind them and they go out there and win. And that's what he did," said Highline's Jason Gray.

Gray was the only Highline wrestler to make it into a championship match.

Gray started the tournament out on fire, dominating Darn-ton's James Bennett 17-2 in the first round.

Gray had a tougher time in the second round, edging Nassau's Mac Maldarelli to make it close on the way to a 14-12 win.

"I think I wrestled really well, but my second match, I won 14-12, and I was on the

ground too long and let him get too many points. It was really my only bad match of the tournament," said Gray.

Gray regained his composure with a 15-6 victory over Lincoln's Mark Marianovich in the quarterfinals and a 7-3 decision over Labette's Michael Perez in the semifinals.

The win over Perez set up a showdown with defending champion David DeJesus of Iowa Lakes.

DeJesus defeated Gray 3-2 in slow-paced match that lacked the intensity Gray had shown throughout the tournament.

"I knew the first round was going to be slow, he's a really good scrambler. I went against him before, last year, so I knew what to expect," Gray said.

"I was looking to go to overtime so I could go all out and not hold back, and I let my guard down for a moment and he took advantage of that."

"Gray did everything right [in the finals]; sometimes you just come up short," said Norton of his top wrestler's performance.

"He was going against the defending national champ, who beat him 3-0 last year, so it's tough. They're both D-I wrestlers."

Eric Jones's title hopes were dashed early, when the fourth-ranked Jones fell in the first round to Western Wyoming's Scott Verner, 3-2.

"I wish I could have done things differently. I definitely underestimated him," Jones said after the loss. "I definitely should have done things differently to prepare physically and mentally."

"He [Jones] started off slow and lethargic, he made some bad choices and it showed," Norton said.

Jones's loss to Verner meant Jones would be battling the rest

of the tournament from the consolation bracket and he did just that, on the way to a fifth-place finish and All-American honors after four consecutive wins before falling in the consolation bracket semifinals.

"I think the fact that I was able to get back and place, made things not a complete wash. The last match I got caught off guard, but there wasn't much I could do," Jones said.

Jones's first win came against Mercyhurst North East's Deandre Carter by way of a pin.

Jones followed with three dominating showings against Iowa Lakes' Brian Storm, 10-4; Labette's Kayton Marshall, 12-5; and a redemption match against Verner of Western Wyoming, 6-4.

Jones finally met his match in the consolation bracket against Gloucester's Justin Pencook, who capitalized on Jones's mistake, pinning him just 1:32 into the first round.

"Of course I wanted to get a national title, but placing fifth isn't too bad," Jones said.

Highline's final All-American, Darren Faber, traveled a similar path to Jones after falling in his first match as well.

After a first-round bye, Faber squared off against Ellsworth's Vinny Campanille.

Faber fell behind 4-0 early in the first round and wasn't able to make up the ground, falling 5-4, and dropping into the consolation bracket.

He then hammered out five consecutive wins before losing in the consolation finals.

"I think I did really well," Faber said. "Winning after losing early is a lot harder than losing later on, but it ended up



# Class act: Highline wrestlers win second academic championship

By **RICHARD MEIER**  
Staff Reporter

SPOKANE — The Highline mens' wrestling team was named the No. 1 Academic Team in the nation this past weekend at the NJCAA national tournament in Spokane.

The academic championship is an annual award given out to the team with the highest grade point average (GPA) in the nation. It is the second time Highline has won the academic championship.

Highline finished the season with a 3.28 GPA, which was a surprise to the team.

"It was pretty cool to win that award; I didn't expect that at all," All-American Darren Faber said. "The unexpected is cherished much more. It's a testament that we won that award and finished in the Top-10."

"We definitely did better than last year, especially with scholarship and non-scholarship combined this year," he added.

Fellow All-American Jason Gray added that, "I'm surprised that we got Academic All-Americans because we got yelled at earlier this year."

Earlier in the season Head Coach Scott Norton cancelled a tournament so the wrestlers could focus on grades. At the time the team was in danger of losing key wrestlers due to academic ineligibility, so Norton made the call and had the wrestlers hit the books, not the mats.



*Highline Head Coach Scott Norton holds the trophy the team received for having the top GPA of any two-year college wrestling program in the country.*

"I think it was a good choice to have skipped that tournament early on in the season. If we didn't we could have lost three All-Americans, two for sure," Norton said.

The honor of being named the nation's top academic team isn't just an award for the wrestlers to be proud about, but something Norton says that reflects how the athletic department conducts itself as a whole.

"I think it's a great testament to how the athletic department and coaches work with the guys and open up the doors for them to get a tutor and help them.

Being a teacher, I even tutored some guys from time to time," Norton said.

In addition to the effort put in forth Norton and the wrestlers, the athletic department has also showed continuous support to push the wrestlers not just to make grades and excel in the classroom, but to also help the men advance their education past Highline.

"Working with Laura Rosa [Highline's Athletic Department academic adviser], I have to say I was very impressed. I like where she is coming from and John Dunn is on the same page too," Norton said.

"They both know our athletes need to get their AAs, they're not just here to takes classes and stay eligible, they're also here to get an education and move on."

Norton extended his gratitude towards the athletic department even further thanking them for their ongoing support of Highline's wrestling program.

"I'd just really like to thank the teachers who worked with the wrestlers and the athletic director [John Dunn] for his unwavering support," Norton said.

"He's [Dunn] never once thought about taking away the program," Norton added. "Granted, it's hard to do when you place 10th and are the national academic team, but even before that he never stopped supporting the program."

## Nationals

continued from page 6

OK. You just have to go out there and do what you got to do. After you lose, it's not so much about worrying about placing or winning, but instead surviving."

Faber won his first consolation match against Northwest's Ben Price 3-2.

He followed with decisive wins over Niagara's Travis Taylor, 18-2; Western Wyoming's Simas Norkus, 17-4; and Lincoln's Fred Moses, 12-1.

Faber was able to avenge his loss, defeating Vinny Campanille by way of pin in the consolation quarterfinals.

Faber's season came to an end when third-ranked Nick Pica of Iowa Central pinned him just 2:46 into the match.

The loss left Faber in fourth, earning the final All-American spot for the Thunderbirds.

Eight of Highline's 10 wrestlers were able to score points for the team.

At 133 pounds, Tyler Wooding defeated Trey Travis of Darton 5-2 in the first round of the consolation bracket.

At 165 pounds, Casey Park defeated Northwest Kentucky's Caleb Crump in the first round of the consolation bracket, 7-4, and beating Yakima's Dillon Ford 6-0, before falling 8-0 to Nassau's Lance Wade.

After a first-round loss, Caleb Padgett made a run in the consolation bracket with two victories, almost placing at 174 pounds.

Padgett first defeated Ellsworth's Marciano Ali, 4-3, then beating Muskegon's Riley Boomer 8-2.

Padgett fell a round before the consolation quarterfinals though, to Lincoln's James Haywood by a score of 13-3.

"I think we did well overall, with eight scoring points," Darren Faber said.

"Caleb did really well after losing his first match after his bye, he was able to score some much needed points and he almost placed so it was a huge accomplishment for him and us," he said.

Evan Parberry also picked up points for the Thunderbirds at 184 pounds with a 2-0 victory over Niagara's Paul Ciaramella in the second round.

Head Coach Scott Norton was proud of his team's success this season, especially given that this was the first year that they combined the two junior college divisions, non-scholarship and scholarship, into just one division.

If there were still two divisions, Highline could have possibly finished in the top five, however; Norton applauded his teams' efforts.

"I think as a coach, they [Highline] did a hell of a job to get to nationals and I think we're moving in the right direction," Norton said.

"Anytime we can compete against someone like North Idaho whose budget is way higher than ours, it's good," he said. "They can give more full rides to guys than us and have a bigger budget to recruit. It's tough to compete against, but we did good."

## Weather strikes out softball team

By **JEFF KEMP**  
Staff Reporter

The start of the softball season is on hold at Highline because of the rain-soaked field.

Tuesday's game, March 1, against Edmonds will be rescheduled for March 15 when the fields are more playable.

Highline is looking forward to playing Edmonds because they competed well with them last year, said Faith Baldwin, who was scheduled to be the starting pitcher for Tuesday's game.

The fastpitch team is ready to get out of their indoor practice facility in Auburn and compete, she said.

"[We], the team as a whole, just want to go outside, have fun, and get dirty. We are extremely excited to finally go outside and play some games," Baldwin said.

Highline's next scheduled game is a doubleheader at Ed-

monds' home field on Tuesday, March 8, at 1:30 p.m.

Last year the team beat Edmonds twice by more than seven runs, and hopes to use the games against the Tritons to jump start an improvement over last year's 6-28 record.

Edmonds finished 1-35 last year, playing in the NWAACC North Division.

A year after not fielding a team due to a coaching change and low player turnout, Highline struggled last season. The Lady Thunderbirds finished fifth in the six-team West Division.

This year Highline has a new head coach in former Green River coach Scott Dillinger, and more players.

Baldwin, who threw every game for the T-Birds last year, now won't have to be Highline's only pitcher.

"With Coach Dillinger at the helm they will be a rapidly improving program," said Mark

Edmonston, the head coach of Pierce, about the coaching change at Highline.

The team's expectations this year against Edmonds are to compete to win, but also to see where the team is at with fielding and hitting and what they need to work on at practice, Baldwin said.

"We just want to play our hardest and learn now where we need to improve our skills on the field. Playing hard and working as a team will show us what we need to work on," Baldwin said about the first games of the season.

Highline is going to have a tough season this year, facing Pierce, who had a 27-3 record; South Puget Sound, who had a 21-9 record; and Centralia who had an 18-12 record.

The Lady T-Birds have a light schedule this month, with only six games before beginning division play against Green River on April 1.

heritage.edu

## Turn your Highline degree into a teaching career.

Highline Community College and Heritage University at SSCC have joined hands to help you seamlessly expand your AA or AS degree into a Bachelor of Education. For details, call Heritage at 206 764-5371 or e-mail [seattle@heritage.edu](mailto:seattle@heritage.edu).



**Heritage University**  
at SSCC

Greater success is closer than you think.



# T-Bird men head to tournament after two wins

By **WILLIAM BROKAW**  
Staff Reporter

The T-Bird men are the third seed out of the West Division with victories over Centralia and Grays Harbor this past week and now prepare for the championships in Kennewick this weekend.

Highline will be travelling to Kennewick Friday morning in preparation for their 8 a.m. tip off Saturday, March 3 against Mt. Hood.

Mt. Hood finished their season with an 8-6 record in league and acquired the second seed out of the South Division.

The NWAACC championships will be held at the Toyota Center in Kennewick.

Highline defeated Centralia 79-69 on Wednesday, Feb. 23 and followed that up with a 78-48 blow-out over Grays Harbor on Saturday, Feb. 26.

The T-Birds came out to play against Centralia because they knew that the victory would clinch the third place seed out of the West Division.

"We started the game fired up because we wanted to clinch the third seed," said Highline forward Ira Haywood.

Highline definitely turned on their game and were sinking shots comfortably. At one point the T-Birds had a 20-point lead, but eased up towards the end of the half and let the Saints hit a few open shots.

The T-Birds took a 33-24 lead into the half.

"We were handling them pretty well," said Haywood.



Corey Sun/THUNDERWORD

*Men's Head Coach Che Dawson works with the T-Birds at a recent practice.*

"But at the end of the half we let them hit a few three's because we got comfortable with our lead."

Nothing changed much in the second half and the T-Birds came out and dominated once again.

"We rebounded and guarded the posts really well," said Haywood. "They have two big men that do all their scoring and we shut them down."

Highline's PJ Bolte led the team with 28 points, six rebounds, and a steal in his 28 minutes on the court.

Haywood had 19 points, four rebounds, three assists, and three steals in his 29 minutes of action.

The Thunderbirds followed that win with a blow-out over Grays Harbor.

It was sophomore night against the Chokers and the T-

Birds were very anxious to play.

"We came out with our own energy because it was sophomore night," said Haywood. "Our sophomores were amped up and everyone else followed."

Highline quickly got the lead and held on to it, going into the half ahead 39-23.

With a performance like that there wasn't much to improve on, but the focus that night was to have fun.

"We wanted to have fun with the sophomores and make it a fun game for them," said Haywood. "We turned up our defense in the second half, extended our lead and finished the game cruising."

Jon Morine led the T-Birds with 15 points, 18 rebounds, one assist, and a blocked shot.

Haywood had 11 points, three rebounds, an assist, and a steal.

## Tacoma favored to win NWAACC men's championship

By **WILLIAM BROKAW**  
Staff Reporter

The No. 1 ranked Tacoma are favorites to win the NWAACC championship this year.

The championships are this weekend, Friday, March 5 through Tuesday, March 8 at the Toyota Center in Kennewick.

Tacoma, 23-2, has lost to Spokane and Clackamas this season.

"Tacoma has to be the favorite after going an undefeated 16-0 in league play," said Peninsula Coach Lance Von Vogt. "They have a lot of tools and a good mix of interior and perimeter players that make them very difficult to guard. They are a team when you take something away they usually have an answer."

However, No. 2-ranked Big Bend is not far behind.

The Vikings finished their season 21-4 record as the No. 1

seed out of the East Division.

"Big Bend and Tacoma have been terrific as of late. I don't think either of them have had a close game in over a month," said Von Vogt. "That is amazing especially with all the good teams and talent in the NWAACC this season. It will be interesting to see how they match up with some of the top teams from the other divisions."

No. 3-ranked Bellevue also look very much in form, finishing first in the North Division with a 14-2 league record and 19-6 overall record.

"I pick Tacoma to win this thing, but honestly there are any number of teams capable," said Whatcom Coach Jeffrey Reinland. "Bellevue, Clackamas, and Big Bend would all be in there. Tacoma has great talent and outstanding coaching to go with it, all things considered I would have to pick them, but all these others are right behind

them."

Highline comes into the tournament ranked No. 8, finishing their season with a 11-5 league record and a 18-7 overall.

The Thunderbirds will play Mt. Hood, the No. 2 seed out of the south, after finishing the year with a 15-10 record. Highline plays on Saturday, March 3

at 8 a.m.

The championships will be a challenge with close games, excellent coaching, and players leaving it out on the floor, said Clark Coach Mike Arnold.

"Four games in four days is always a challenge as depth and health always plays a factor in a tournament such as this," said

Von Vogt. "You have to adjust to the sight-lines of the arena, especially on the perimeter shot. In an arena such as this your depth perception can be affected the first game or two which can occasionally make it more difficult for a team that relies on three pointers to advance."



**PAWN DEPOT**  
PUGET SOUND  
"We Loan More & Sell For Less"

**Having Hard Times  
We Are Here To Help**

**Instant Cash Loans on your Merchandise**

24615 Pacific Hwy South, Kent | 253-946-6222 | [pspawndepot.com](http://pspawndepot.com)





Corey Sun/ THUNDERWORD  
T-Birds' Head Coach Amber Rowe Mosley says her team must take care of the ball to have a chance at the NWAACC tournament.

## Clackamas, Columbia Basin are tournament favorites

By JOSHUA HART  
Staff Reporter

Clackamas and Columbia Basin are the favorites to win the NWAACC women's basketball playoffs, based upon coaches' opinions.

The NWAACC playoffs begin on March 5 in Kennewick where the 16 best women's teams in the NWAACC will face off for a shot at the title.

Lower Columbia of the West Division was the only team to maintain a perfect 16-0 record in league play. They will face off against a Southwest Oregon team that went 8-6 in the South Division.

Lower Columbia is led by sophomore guard Mollee Schwegler, who averaged 18.93 points per game in league play.

Skagit Valley, Columbia Basin, Lower Columbia, and Clackamas, secured No. 1 seeds in the 2011 NWAACC playoffs.

Skagit Valley won the North Division with a 15-1 record. Columbia Basin, with a 12-2 record, won the East Division. Clackamas had a 13-1 record to win the South Division.

"The top teams in the four divisions all have quality players," said Bellevue Head Coach Brent Hermanson, whose Bulldogs went 13-3 to finish as a No. 3 seed of the North Division.

He added that advancing will all depend on matchups.

However, some teams can make some noise in the tournament by using the full capability of their star performers.

Sophomore forward Ashley Smith led all NWAACC players in scoring with 23.97 points per game and will captain Lane as a No. 2 seed out of the South Division.

Brooke Randall of Spokane, Chelsey Christensen of Umpqua, Arquaezia Jackson of Portland, and Shayla Ball of Clackamas were the only other players to average over 20 points per game during league play.

Yakima Valley Head Coach Cody Butler, whose 10-4 Yaks took a No. 2 seed out of the East Division, said that the players to watch out for in the tournament are Trishi Williams from Columbia Basin and Schwegler.

"Mollee Schwegler of Lower Columbia is a very good player. She has carried her team all year, I look for them to go deep into the tournament and surprise some people," Highline Head Coach Amber Rowe Mosley said.

There were only a few favorites around the league according to coaches.

"Columbia Basin, Walla Walla, Lane and Clackamas have tradition on their side and are all very capable of winning the championship this year," Butler said.

Butler also said that there aren't many surprises once the tournament comes around but Southwest Oregon has proven to be a solid team capable of knocking anybody off.

Southwest Oregon Head Coach Mike Herbert, whose Lakers went 8-6 and earned a No. 4 seed from the South Division, said Clackamas and Columbia Basin are the favorites to win the tournament, but Lower Columbia, Highline, and Bellevue could all be surprise contenders.

Rowe Mosley also said that Clackamas and Columbia Basin are the early favorites, but Lane and Walla Walla are also contenders.

Rowe Mosley said Highline can be successful at the tournament and she thinks they can beat Umpqua, their first round matchup.

"In order for us to be successful at the tournament, we need to play defense and take care of the ball," Rowe Mosley said.

On Saturday, Highline will play the South's No. 3 seed, Umpqua, who is led by Chelsey Christensen, averaging 22.07 points per game.

## T-Birds face Umpqua in opener

By JOSHUA HART  
Staff Reporter

The Highline women's basketball team will meet Umpqua Saturday, in the first round of the NWAACC tournament after finishing second in the West Division.

Highline finished the season with a 14-2 record in league play and an 18-8 record overall.

Their league play record was the best finish for the team since the 2006-07 season, when they also finished 14-2.

The team secured the record in the final week of the season with wins over Centralia and Grays Harbor.

On Feb. 23, Highline traveled to Centralia and came out with a 50-38 win.

Highline locked down defensively forcing Centralia to shoot 23 percent from the field.

"Defense was the key," Head Coach Amber Rowe Mosley said.

Highline allowed only 15 points in the second half, seven of which were free throws.

The T-Birds had 25 offensive rebounds, converting to 16 second chance points, compared to only 17 Centralia offensive rebounds and four second chance points.

Rowe Mosley attributed the success on the offensive glass to

17 of 61 shooting by Highline.

"Mentally we were already at the tournament. We didn't play with a lot of intensity these last games," Rowe Mosley said.

Carol Howard overcame the lack of focus to lead Highline in scoring with 11 points.

Heather Hitch also added 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Jocelyn Jones was back in action for the first time since an ankle injury and contributed 10 points.

Jones also came up big in an 82-54 win over Grays Harbor at home on sophomore night.

Howard led the scoring for the second game in a row with 18 points, and Jones had 17 points.

An unusual grouping of players started on sophomore night for Highline.

The starting lineup featured Dani Carlman, Bree Morkert-Burling, Patrice McKinnon, Jessica Morgan and Leini Tukutau.

The starters combined for 29 of the T-Birds' 82 points.

"I wanted to showcase all the players, each player started either the first half or the second," Rowe Mosley said of the starting lineup.

After ending the season with two wins, Highline will travel to Kennewick to play in the NWAACC tournament against

Umpqua at noon on March 5.

"Luckily for us, Umpqua will play a zone and the last two teams have played a zone, so we have really been working on attacking the zone and moving the ball," Rowe Mosley said of the matchup with the Riverhawks.

Rowe Mosley said that Umpqua's team features a couple quick guards, Chelsey Christensen (22.07 points per game) and Kristen Swim (12.83 points per game), and a very tall center, Pua Kailiawa, who measures in at 6'2."

Umpqua finished with a 10-4 record in league play in the South Division, finishing third, and a 19-7 record overall.

"Amber Rowe Mosley is a very good coach so we have to be prepared to play a team that is athletic from top to bottom and that plays fast and plays hard," Umpqua Head Coach Dave Stricklin said.

Stricklin also mentioned that Umpqua has to eliminate turnovers to cut down the fastbreak opportunities of Highline.

"I don't know that we can combat Highline's speed – we are certainly not going to get any faster in the next few days," Stricklin said.

"My plan is to come home with a trophy next week," Rowe Mosley said.

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA

“I was ready to go to school, ready to leave work and do what I love and learn what I love, and UW Tacoma allowed that to happen for me.”

—TRAEANNA HOLIDAY, senior

## Why UW Tacoma?

Find out at:

**[tacoma.uw.edu/why](http://tacoma.uw.edu/why)**



# Precisely picking perfect plays

Debra Pralle  
and Rick Lorig  
purposely pick  
plays with  
different themes

By **BRYANNA ROBBINS**  
Staff Reporter

Drama professors Rick Lorig and Debra Pralle have to go through many factors to pick two perfect plays for Highline.

*The Adding Machine*, from the Fall Quarter drama production, and the soon to open *Texarkana Waltz*, are not related to each other, and that's how they like it.

*The Adding Machine* had an eerie vibe about murder and the afterlife, while *The Texarkana Waltz* tells many stories of romance, crime, and singing cowboys.

When selecting plays, Pralle and Lorig choose different styles and different subject matters for the fall and winter quarters.

"We want to challenge students to really stretch themselves," said Pralle. "We try to

pick shows that will showcase their unique talents."

One of the main factors on picking plays is cast size. They have to have enough students to fill a standard 15-person class, Pralle said.

Whoever is directing the play also needs to feel passionately about it, she added.

"Directing is a tremendous amount of work and so it's always best if as a director you are compelled to tell this story," she added.

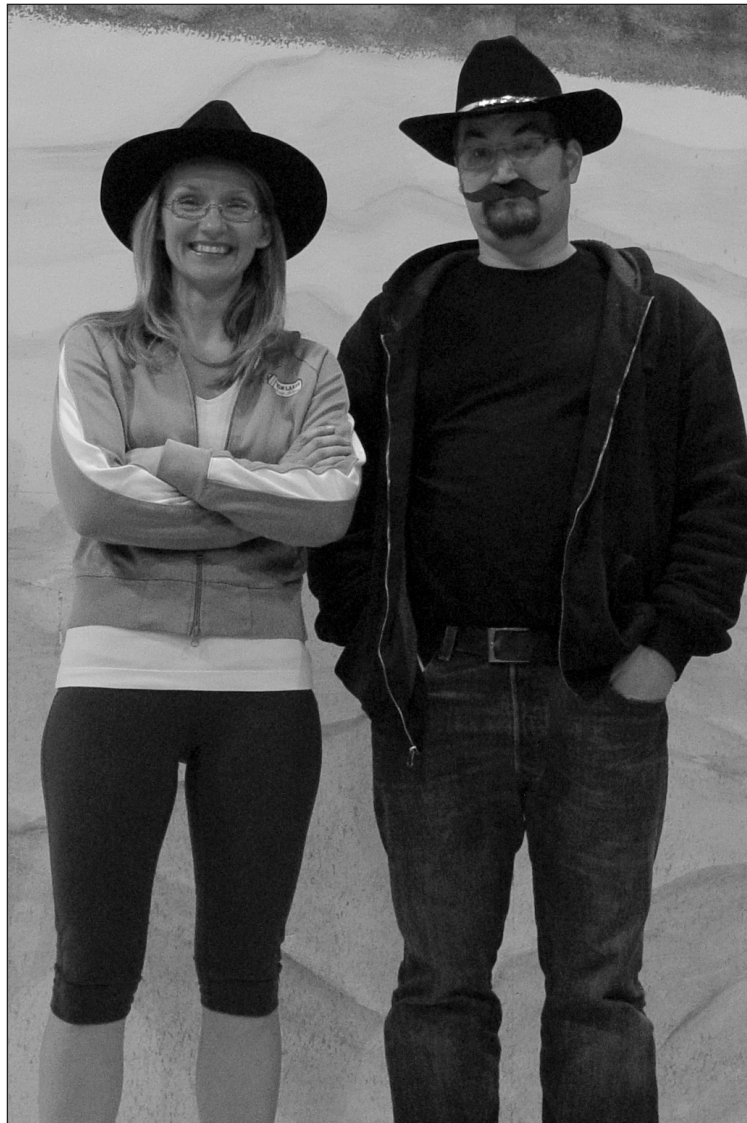
Another big factor for her is that she wants the play to be entertaining. "Theater isn't truly theater without that interaction with the audience," she said.

"Cost is always a concern but Rick Lorig is pretty darn amazing at making things look great on a shoe-string budget," she added.

As long as she has plenty of time to prepare, she's willing to direct anything, Pralle said.

"Right now I have to say I am hankering to do a Moliere piece next year," she said, speaking about what she has in mind for the future. "I'm feeling farcical."

See *The Texarkana Waltz* on March 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, all starting at 8 p.m.



Alisa Gramman/THUNDERWORD  
Debra Pralle, left, and Rick Lorig are the drama professors who make the play selection.

## Tacoma Art Walk lacking in youth attendance

Despite the unique opportunity that art walks provide for artists and viewers alike, not very many young people are setting time aside to take part in the monthly tradition.

On almost any given day during the month, an art walk is taking place somewhere in Western Washington, displaying the work of local artists of all media.



Commentary  
Katie Adams

Tacoma had its art walk a couple weeks ago on Feb. 17, the third Thursday of the month. Unlike other area art walks that display the work of local artists in everyday businesses in a section of a city, Tacoma puts a twist on the gig by offering free admission and food to the viewers of their museums, such as the Tacoma Art Museum and the Tacoma Glass Museum, from 5-8 p.m. A number of local galleries are also open.

With the recent opening of the Tacoma Art Museum's Norman Rockwell exhibit, I decided to check it out per suggestion from the University of Washington-Tacoma.

With this amazing opportunity to delve into the best art that the Northwest can offer, I was surprised to see so few young adults walking through the doors of the museums and galleries.

Most months when the Tacoma museum district hosts this event, you can spot elderly couples strolling down the sidewalk or groups of women taking a much needed break from their children, but rarely do you see the younger demographic frequent these museums and galleries during this monthly event.

The art walk is a wonderful opportunity for individuals who have never had an opportunity to visit the museums, especially my personal favorite: the glass museum.

Many individuals, who aren't impressed by paintings, sketches, photographs, and other pieces of art commonly shown in the Tacoma Art Museum, tend

## Uncle Bonsai brings their iconic folk to Auburn

By **MELINA BROWN**  
Staff Reporter

Legendary Seattle folk-pop group Uncle Bonsai brings their ironic look at modern life back to the stage in a concert at the Auburn Avenue Theater on March 12.

Songwriter and co-founder Andrew Ratshin explained that Uncle Bonsai's music is lyric heavy and can't be stereotyped.

"The majority of our songs tell a story. In order for that to happen we pick a topic and write about it. Some topics may be something you have never heard about before. There is no real purpose for our songs," Ratshin said.

Ratshin described Uncle Bonsai's music as original contemporary acoustic pop with humor.

"It's not laugh out loud humor; it is in a way dark humor. We tell stories with humor but we are not necessarily telling jokes," said Ratshin.

Do not expect dancing or any other sort of entertainment at an Uncle Bonsai show. "We sing and play. That's it," Ratshin said.

Uncle Bonsai will perform songs from the last five years including new ones. "We try to have new songs each time we



Courtesy of Uncle Bonsai  
Andrew Ratshin, far right, won't be showing off dance moves at the upcoming Auburn Avenue Theater performance.

play," Ratshin said.

Uncle Bonsai first formed in 1981 with their three original members, Ratshin, Arni Adler, and Ashley O'Keeffe.

Their first "show" was performing outside of the Bumbershoot Festival gates and earned them seven dollars a piece, being just enough to enter the gates onto festival grounds.

A year later, they were invited in to open for Firesign Theater, the first of many appearances at that festival and others across North America.

The three went to Bennington College in Vermont com-

pletely unaware of each other. "We all ended up in Seattle for different reasons, but we found each other through a want ad that Ashley put out," Ratshin said.

Uncle Bonsai has played in New York's Bottom Line, DC's The Birchmere and San Francisco's The Great American Music Hall.

In 1989, after playing 14 shows in 12 days, the trio decided it was time to take a break. "We were tired of it. It got a little too much," said Ratshin.

That wasn't before performing one final show, a benefit

concert before 8,000 people at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle.

Eight years later, Uncle Bonsai reunited to record and perform the album titled Doug. "That concert sold out within two hours after it was announced," Ratshin said.

After a number of performances throughout the Pacific Northwest, the group decided that it was time to start touring again.

Ashley O'Keeffe left the group shortly after that decision had been made and in 2007 Patrice O'Neill was welcomed to Uncle Bonsai. "Patrice is from Seattle and has a gorgeous voice," Ratshin said.

They recently released a new album, their first one in 10 years entitled *The Grim Parade*.

The album is a collection of studio and live tracks that focus on the passing of time, the passing of genes, and the passing of pets.

General admission is \$17 and \$15 for students and seniors.

To purchase tickets contact Auburn Parks, Art & Recreation at 253-931-3043 or online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

Auburn Avenue Theater is located at 10 Auburn Ave. The show starts at 7:30 p.m.



What's Happening?



Next to Normal, an off-Broadway musical, is showing at the 5th Avenue Theater through March 13.

03.03

- *Next to Normal* is a new musical straight off Broadway that began on Feb. 22 at the 5th Avenue Theater in Seattle. It runs through March 13. It is a story about the stop/start life of a bipolar mother and the hell her unreality wreaks on her family as she rides the sharp edge between coping and insanity. Tickets are between \$53-83, depending on seating. They can be purchased on [www.5thavenue.org](http://www.5thavenue.org).
- Tet Festival 2011, a celebration of the Asian New Year, is being held on March 3 from 6-9 p.m. in Building 8, on the first floor. Food will be provided. There will be games and performances, some of which include skits and a fashion show.

03.04

- *Winter's Bone* is the featured movie being shown Friday, March 4 in Building 29, room 104. The movie begins at 12:30 p.m.

03.06

- The Federal Way Symphony is performing on March 6 at St. Luke's Church in Federal Way at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased online at [www.federalwaysymphony.org](http://www.federalwaysymphony.org).

03.11

- *West*, a new production from Breeders Theater, begins on March 11 at the E.B. Foote Winery in Burien. This is the last production being done at that location. The show runs March 11 through March 26. Tickets are \$20 and include the tasting of E.B. Foote wines. Tickets can be bought at E.B. Foote Winery, 127-B SW 153rd St. in Burien or Corky Cellars, 22511 Marine View Drive in Des Moines.

03.12

- Handsome Little Dev-

ils "Squirm Burpee Circus," a Vaudeville comedy, high-skill circus act, is playing at Kent-Meridian Performing Arts Center on March 12 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$18 general, \$16 senior, and \$12 youth. They can be purchased at [www.ticketturtle.com](http://www.ticketturtle.com).

03.17

- The Gothard Sisters will be performing as part of Auburn Art Commission's St. Patrick Day celebrations on March 17. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Auburn Avenue Theater. Tickets are \$17 for the public, or \$15 students and seniors. You can purchase tickets at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

03.18

- Alpin Hong is performing at the Kent-Meridian Performing Arts Center on March 18 at 7:30 p.m. Hong is a pianist that has earned the reputation as a modern day Pied Piper. Tickets are \$26 general, \$24 senior, and \$20 for youth. Tickets can be purchased at [www.ticketturtle.com](http://www.ticketturtle.com).

03.25

- Melinda Doolittle, of *American Idol* fame, will be performing at the Kentwood Performing Arts Center on March 25 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$28 for the general public, \$26 for seniors, and \$20 youth. Tickets can be purchased at [www.ticketturtle.com](http://www.ticketturtle.com).

03.26

- The Broadway Showstoppers are performing at the Auburn Performing Arts Center on March 26 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for the public and \$23 for seniors and students. Tickets can be purchased by calling Auburn Parks, Arts & Recreation at 253-931-3043, or online at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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



Dragon Age returns for round two

By JONNY MCGUIRE  
Staff Reporter

Gamers can enter the world of Ferelden once again when *Dragon Age 2* hits store shelves on March 8.

*Dragon Age: Origins* was released in November 2009, receiving significant praise from many major video game and media outlets and selling more than 3 million copies.

The first *Dragon Age* was a single-player game set in the fictional world of Ferelden during a period of civil unrest. It allowed the player to assume the

role of a warrior, mage, or rogue who must travel throughout the kingdom and unite the various races of the world to fight the darkspawn, a type of demonic force threatening Ferelden.

*Dragon Age 2* will mark the second entry into the *Dragon Age* series, and will incorporate a variety of new elements into the game world.

The ability to choose different races for your main character is also absent from *Dragon Age 2*, with human being the default race. *Dragon Age: Origins* allowed the player to choose from three different races- elf, dwarf, or human.

Shaun McInnis, a writer for Gamespot.com, was slightly disappointed in the game's new character editor.

"There's still a character editor to build your very own Frankenstein's monster. Start by choosing male or female, design their look, then dress them up all fancy-like with the various gear you pick up throughout the game," said McInnis.

"This time, though, you can only build a human character. The fact that you're a human is a critical part of the story, so no rad-looking dwarves with bright red beards. Sorry," said McInnis.

Perhaps most exciting is the graphical overhaul done by BioWare, the company that produces the *Dragon Age* series. McInnis said the graphics are a lot smoother in the second entry.

"I'd say that the console versions' graphics are substantially improved over the first game, which was kind of a mess on the 360 and PS3," said McInnis.

"Origins was kind of a bland fantasy world, but *Dragon Age 2* has a much more unique look to it. A little edgier, with character designs that are a bit more angular and striking," McInnis said.

Joe Robinson, deputy editor and marketing manager for [strategyinformer.com](http://strategyinformer.com), said that he is most excited for *Dragon Age 2*'s story.

"They're using what's called a framed narrative, which is a story within a story, I believe. Think of *The Usual Suspects* and you get the basic ideas. Since that's one of my favorite films, that's the bit I'm most looking forward to," said Robinson.

In regards to the game's action, Robinson was decisively underwhelmed.

"The action looks OK, but seems a bit simplified since DAO, and apart from those two elements there's not much else to the game," said Robinson.

*Dragon Age 2* will span the course of 10 in-game years, as opposed to *Origins*' two years. Choices that players make in one year of the game may have repercussions years later.

*Dragon Age 2* will be available on the PC, Playstation 3, and Xbox 360 on March 8 and will retail for \$60.

PC Minimum:

- OS: Windows XP with SP3, Windows Vista with SP2, or Windows 7
- CPU: Intel Core 2 Duo (or equivalent) running at 1.8 GHz or greater
- CPU: AMD Athlon 64 X2 (or equivalent) running at 1.8 GHz or greater
- RAM: 1 GB (1.5 GB Vista and Windows 7)
- Video: ATI Radeon HD 2600 Pro 256 MB
- Video: NVIDIA GeForce 7900 GS 256 MB cards
- Disc Drive: DVD ROM drive required
- Hard Drive: 7 GB
- Sound: Direct X 9.0c Compatible Sound Card
- Windows Experience Index: 4.5

Art walk

continued from page 10

to gravitate toward the Tacoma Glass Museum.

The admission price is normally \$12, but like I said, there is free admission to all of the museums during the art walk.

My favorite part of the glass

museum is the Chihuly Bridge of Glass, which is the connecting overpass between Downtown Tacoma and the museum.

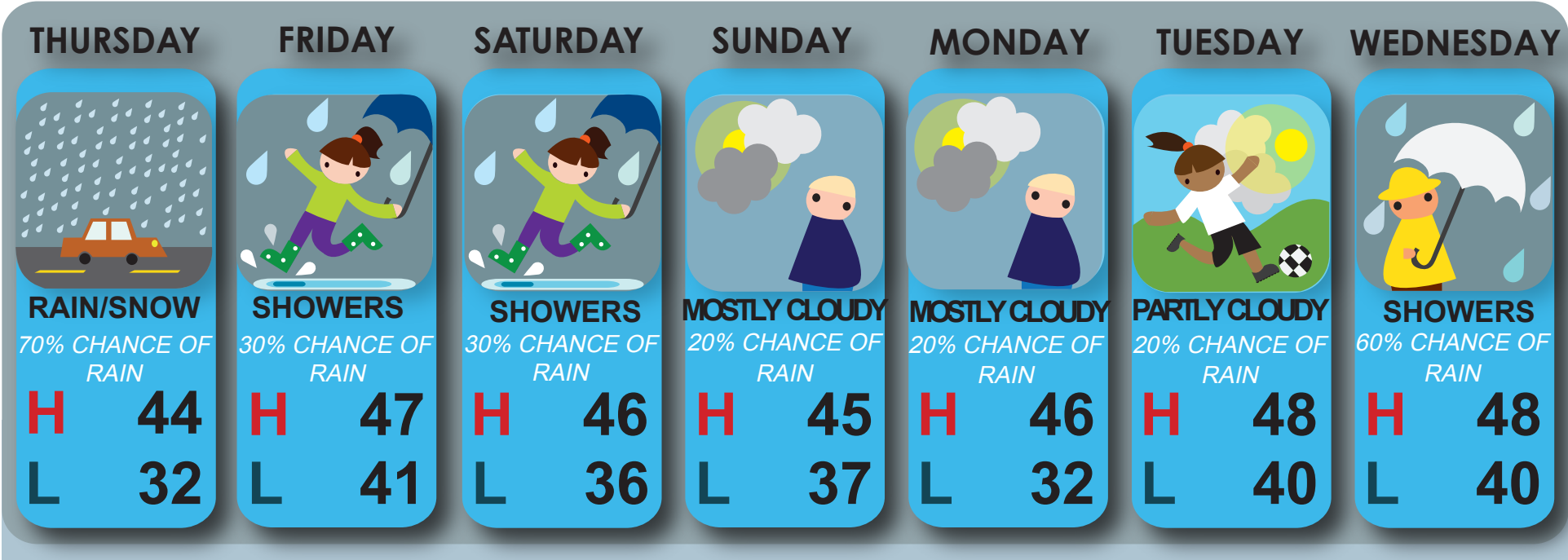
Dave Chihuly, a glass blower native to Tacoma, was commissioned to design it in the '90s. Its vibrant colors and intricate pieces of blown glass are eye-catching and well worth the half hour drive to the museum.

Once you get inside, you're guided through each exhibit by

the brightly lit cases that individually display the works of art. It's difficult to not walk into the different rooms and not stare for a good couple minutes or so at each piece for their complex design.

The next art walk takes place March 17. If you have the chance, I strongly recommend checking out the museums because they are worth spending an evening looking through.





## Retention

continued from page 1

changed significantly at Highline.

“From the data I see, retention rates haven’t grown appreciably. We have a lot of part-time students and a lot of diversity in our students,” Benton said.

“So there are a lot of different reasons why students will continue to return to Highline or why they may leave. It is not typical of students here at Highline to enroll every term,” she said.

“Currently second-year persistency rates are between 55 percent and 60 percent [at Highline],” Benton said.

The availability of certain classes at Highline can determine whether students will stay

or transfer.

“Students are serious and purposeful about their education but they are approaching it differently now,” said Gwen Spencer, Highline director of Educational Planning & High School Programs.

Students are jumping back and forth between colleges, in order to take the specific classes they need for their degrees, Spencer said.

Some students just come to Highline to take prerequisites before transferring to another college.

“There are a lot of students working on prerequisites for a program that we don’t offer,” she said.

“Some students will take 45 credits here and then transfer to another community college to obtain their degree,” Spencer said.

The changing economy has a big effect on the retention rates

at Highline and for colleges in general.

“The poor economy is likely the biggest factor behind the changing trends in college retention that we are seeing,” said ACT’s Culby.

Dr. James Peyton, Highline Economic Development Program coordinator, agrees with Culby.

“There is a pretty direct connection between the economy going bad and increasing enrollment at community colleges,” said Peyton, who also teaches economics at Highline.

In this economy, some students can’t afford the tuition at four-year colleges.

“A big difference in two-year and the four-year colleges are the costs,” Peyton said.

“Four-year colleges have economically vulnerable groups looking to improve their education. Some can’t afford to stay at a four-year college due to the

tuition costs and even apartment rent,” he said.

“Because of these costs, students sometimes end up switching to a two-year college,” Peyton said.

Some students are returning to community colleges for a career change.

“We [Highline] have students now who have master’s degrees and are returning for a career change,” Highline’s Gwen Spencer.

“More people are out of work, jobs are fewer, and emerging jobs are often requiring more advanced skills than the jobs that have disappeared,” Culby said.

“Two-year colleges tend to be less expensive and offer programs that provide entry into specific jobs, and those are aspects that can appeal to students in tough economic times,” Culby said.

“A lot of people have incen-

tive for improving employability,” said Peyton.

Jacqueline Rocha, a Highline student, is returning to college to gain skills for a new job after already attending a four-year college.

“When I first went to college in San Diego, I took it for granted that I would find a job after school, which was not the case,” Rocha said.

“Now that I know how hard the job market is and have worked in a job I did not like so much, I work harder in school now knowing what kind of job I do want,” she said.

Another Highline student left her current job to gain new job skills.

“I quit my job that I had and came back to school because I had a desire to improve myself and my skills. Knowing that there is a job out there waiting for me, makes me work even harder,” said Abby Farr.

## Snow

continued from page 1

to class.

“My class had a test planned for Thursday so I had to show up because I didn’t know if my professor would postpone it. Thankfully the areas around my house were clear enough to drive in,” said Kellen Hunter, a Highline student.

Student Bryan Murray said, “I felt like I was the only one at school on Thursday. My first class wasn’t until 11 a.m. so I figured I should show up. There weren’t many people in class so we got to leave early.”

Faculty appeared to outnumber students that chilly Thursday.

All of the instructors made it to school that call Building 15 home, said Sabine Walter, building secretary.

“[The road] was bad, but it was drivable,” said Emily Vu, a communication studies instructor.

Very few students showed up on Thursday, Vu said.

About three to four students showed up in each class, said Lauri Spivey, the Building 5 secretary.

Mira Shimabukuro, an English instructor held classes on Wednesday but “had to cancel the classes” on Thursday.

“Students said they were afraid to get stuck on campus,” which resulted in many absences, she said.

Spanish instructor Monica Gartman said she decided to cancel her classes on Thursday and let students do work on Angel. She lives in South Seattle and “[roads] were pretty clear in the afternoon,” she said.

Though many students didn’t show on Thursday, King County Metro was running either on regular bus routes or they changed to snow routes.

“No bus routes were cancelled, but some were put on snow routing, mainly in East, Southeast and Southwest King County,” said Linda Thielke, communications specialist for King County Department of Transportation.

“There are 39 cities plus a lot of unincorporated areas in King

County.

Metro travels through all of them, so we are really dependent on the local jurisdictions that are responsible for clearing snow and ice off the roads,” Thielke said.

The snow hit certain areas harder than others which caused Metro to put chains on some buses and not others.

This was a lot different than the snow storm in November of last year because metro was able to prepare by putting chains on all buses prior to the storm, she said.

“The one in November was the biggest and hit the entire county all at the same time. In some ways it was easier to deal with, because Metro could chain all the buses at once and put all routes on snow routing at the same time with more than 24 hours warning,” Thielke said.

Metro officials said they were pleased with how they handled this snowstorm.

They received fewer complaints about late buses and had more positive comments on how well they handled the snow with snow routes.

heritage.edu

## Turn your Highline degree into a teaching career.

Highline Community College and Heritage University at SSCC have joined hands to help you seamlessly expand your AA or AS degree into a Bachelor of Education. For details, call Heritage at 206 764-5371 or e-mail [seattle@heritage.edu](mailto:seattle@heritage.edu).



**Heritage University**  
at SSCC

Greater success is closer than you think.