

Interest on student loans may double this summer

By **ALISA GRAMANN**
 Staff Reporter

President Barack Obama is encouraging students to fight for their education.

Current interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans are about 3.4 percent, but the interest rate is scheduled to double on July 1, unless Congress takes action, President Obama said on Tuesday during a conference call with student reporters from around the country.

In 2007, Democrats drafted a law that would bring the interest rates on student loans down to 3.4 percent. However, this law expires at the end of June.

“Student loan debt exceeds credit card debt in this country,” said Cecilia Muñoz, assistant to the president and director of the White House Domestic Policy Council.

“Higher education can’t be a luxury,” President Obama said



President Obama encourages college students in North Carolina to support lower student loan rates.

in mid-flight from Air Force One. “It’s never been more important. [But] it’s also never been more expensive.”

An estimated 7.4 million students will owe more if student loan interest rates increase, the president said, “[And,] it’s completely preventable.”

The president said that both he and his wife used student

loans to finance their educations.

“We had enormous debt,” he said, so they can relate to students’ current experiences with loan debt.

The President also recognized students’ ability — and

See Interest, page 19

New grading policies may not affect students much

By **ALISA GRAMANN**
 Staff Reporter

Two new grading policies will be taking affect this summer.

The first new policy requires students to get a 1.0 in a class in order for the class to count toward their direct transfer agreement degree, including associate of arts, associate of science, and associate of applied science degrees, said Kate Skelton, a

•This is a correction to a story in last week’s Thunderword.

senator at large in the Faculty Senate.

Buzz Wheeler, chairman of the Faculty Senate, said that the college adopted this policy in compliance with a statewide policy established by the Inter College Relations Commission and recognized by many other colleges in the state.

“That was to have some degree of continuity,” said Wheeler, who is also a paralegal instructor at Highline.

The Faculty Senate voted and approved this policy in January, Wheeler said.

“There was a lot less time spent on discussions for the 1.0,” Wheeler said.

See Grades, page 20



Kate Skelton

Highline aligns mission statement with core values

By **JACOB YOUNG**
 Staff Reporter

Highline is in process of changing its mission statement.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) has announced every institution must reiterate their purposes in a mission statement, which identifies its core themes and elements of that particular institution.

Every five years the strategic plan and strategic initiatives get revised through a campus wide, committee-driven process which ends with a revision by the board of trustees.

“In higher education, it’s a basic, longstanding expectation that every institution will have a mission statement. It’s just one



Jeff Wagnitz

of those things that you have to have. But, beyond that, the mission has real value in defining our identity,” Vice President of Academic Affairs Jeff Wagnitz

See Mission, page 20

Highline environment is good for learning, local community says

By **SHANNON CARTER**
 Staff Reporter

People who know about Highline generally seem to like it according to a recent survey.

Lisa Skari, vice president of institutional advancement for the college, presented the results to the board of trustees last week. The overall perception of Highline is “still overwhelmingly positive,” said Skari.

The survey was taken in November and December of 2011 to assess the perception of Highline in the surrounding communities and among business-leaders, high school students, and current Highline students.

Each category had about 200 random participants who were interviewed by phone by the

Hebert Research of Kent.

“With cuts we’ve really had to scale back what we’ve done. I was a little concerned in some of the areas, especially with awareness in the community,” said Skari.

The margin of error was 3.5 percent and the confidence level in the survey was 95 percent.

The survey tried to measure the degree to which people remembered Highline with and without prompting.

“Unaided recall really looks at that first mention,” said Skari.

The survey asked, “When you think of all colleges, universities or training schools in the Puget Sound region from Seattle to Tacoma, what schools come to mind?” Highline was the No. 1 response among busi-



Lisa Skari

ness and community leaders.

The survey showed that 21.7 percent of high school students

See Survey, page 19

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



P6

Life coach shares his story, tells students to be inclusive



P8

P.R.I.S.M. to host all-inclusive Pink Prom



P11

Lady T-Birds' fastpitch win streak continues



Crime and Punishment

Armed robbery takes place south of campus

A victim was robbed at gunpoint at around 12:50 a.m. on April 19. The location was south of campus on S. 240 Street and Pacific Highway S.

The suspects were two male adults wearing dark clothing and one of them was wearing a mask.

911 was called and Kent Police Department and Des Moines Police Department set up a perimeter. They cleared the area about a half an hour later.

The case is still being investigated and the suspects have not yet been arrested.

Annual fire drill occurs in some buildings

Buildings 26 and 29 experienced a fire drill around 9 a.m. on April 25. The fire drill is an annual safety requirement for certain buildings.

The drill went well and Campus Security was able to check the buildings and evacuate everybody within 10 minutes. That is considered fast for this type of event, a Security officer said.

Instructor's driver side window broken

An instructor who had parked behind Building 28 returned to his car later on and found the driver side wing window broken out on April 18 around 12:45 p.m.

Nothing appeared to be missing but it was obvious that his belongings had been shuffled through.

Student's vehicle missing from lot

A student reported their vehicle missing from the North lot on April 24 around 2:25 p.m. Campus Security helped him check the lot for his car but they did not find it.

The Campus Security Office called the Des Moines Police Department and they said that the car was not stolen. It was repossessed for no payment.

-COMPILED BY HAYLEY ALBRECHT

Gala dinner auction to raise money for scholarships

By SHANNON CARTER
Staff Reporter

This year's Gala has a goal to raise \$60,000 in donations for 50 scholarships.

In light of Highline turning 50, the goal of the auction is to raise enough money to give-away 50 scholarships.

"Our biggest fundraiser is this dinner auction that we do. It's a black tie event and about 200 folks come to it," said Rod Stephenson, executive director of the Highline Foundation.

The Highline Foundation is a nonprofit organization that rais-

es money specifically for Highline. The Gala is a fundraising event that happens once a year to raise money for Highline.

The money that comes in from the auction and donors will go straight to Highline for things like emergency funds, student programs and much more.

"We take all that money and then allocate it to designated areas," said Stephenson. Last year the Gala raised more than \$100,000 to provide 60-65 scholarships. Some items will be auctioned off and other attendees will just simply donate



Rod Stephenson

money.

This year's student speaker will be Renee Jones. Her job is to give a three-minute speech

to make the crowd want to give to Highline.

Some people are willing to simply hand over a donation with nothing in return. They will get the simple gratification of helping Highline and students said Stephenson.

"Our goal is to raise \$100,000 in two hours, or three," said Stephenson. "The Foundation raises money to benefit Highline."

There will also be five alumni from the class of 1961 attending this year's Gala. Some of the guests will be traveling to Washington just for this event to help support Highline.



News Briefs

Deadlines for near graduating students

Students who intend to graduate have deadlines approaching.

May 13 is the deadline to RSVP and to pre-order commencement packets. Students who pre-order can pick up their packets on May 15 at Highline's fourth annual graduation fair in Building 8 on the second floor.

"The advantages of pre-ordering include express pick-up of commencement packet with the guarantee of a graduation gown in student's size as well as fun giveaways," said Debbie Faison, assistant registrar at Highline.

Orders after May 13 will still be accepted and orders can be placed online. All online orders can be picked up at the bookstore.

June 1 is the last day to apply for graduation and have names printed in the program.

Online college resources offline for maintenance

Angel and most other Highline online websites and services will be offline for maintenance beginning at midnight on Sunday, April 29. This maintenance will take place in order to continue to facilitate the high usage that these sites undergo.

Highline's online resources should be back up and running quickly though, with 1 a.m. Sunday being the estimated time that maintenance will be finished and the college's sites will go back online. For more

information contact Highline's IT Helpdesk at 206-870-4880, ext. 4357.

Science Seminar on basics of gardening

Jason Billingsley from Furney's Nursery will be visiting Highline this Friday, April 27, for Science Seminar. He will be presenting information about vegetable gardening and how anyone can get involved in this rewarding outdoor activity.

The seminar will take place in Building 3, room 102 at 2:20 to 3:23 p.m. All are welcome to join and learn how to grow their own crop of fresh vegetables.

Writing Center workshops available

The Writing Center will be putting on workshops every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday until the end of the quarter excluding the last week of classes. Workshops will take place in Building 26, room 319.

Tuesday workshops will be at 1:30-2:20 p.m., workshops on Wednesday will take place from 4-4:50 p.m., and Thursday's workshops will be at 11-11:50 a.m.

Today there will be a workshop on the building blocks of sentences at 11 a.m., including learning to identify major parts of speech, and next week's workshops will highlight common errors and how to fix them.

Anyone is welcome to join the workshops, just come by and sign in to participate. Bring copies of your drafts so that you can put the information that you learn in the workshops to work.

Special topics workshops planned

Special topics workshops in the Writing Center will take place during the month of May. On Monday, May 7 at 2:30-3:20

p.m. and Wednesday, May 9 at 11-11:50 a.m. there will be a workshop entitled American Slang and Idioms.

Later in the month on Monday, May 21 at 9-9:50 a.m. and Wednesday, May 23 from 11:30-12:20 p.m. a workshop will take place focusing on Resumes and Cover Letters.

Both of these workshops are open to all who are interested in attending them. For more information contact the Writing Center Director, Rosemary Adang, at 206-592-3822 or email her at radang@highline.edu.

Cut cards for a cause

Soroptimist International Seattle South will be putting on their fourth annual Cards for a Cause Casino Night and Texas Hold 'em Tournament on Sat-

urday, May 19. All proceeds will benefit Highline's Women's Programs and Hospitality House Women's Shelter.

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the festivities will go from 6 p.m. to midnight at 1500 SW Shorebrook Dr., Normandy Park. General admission is \$25, a \$2,500 value in poker chips, and registration for the poker tournament is \$40, or \$5,000 in chips.

The Texas Hold 'em Tournament winner will receive a trip for two to see the L.A. Lakers in Los Angeles with airfare and hotel included. Space is limited so pre-registration is advised.

For further information contact Patti Gifford at 206-227-4848 or email pattigifford2@gmail.com. To register online go to soroptimistseattlesouth.com.



MaST Marine Science & Technology Center

Each quarter Highline's MaST Center offers hands-on marine science laboratory classes. Earn your 5 credits of lab science with first-hand experiences.

WE OFFER:

BIOL 103 — Marine Birds & Mammals (offered occasionally)

BIOL 110 — Marine Biology*

OCEA 101 — Introduction to Oceanography*

ENVS 101 — Introduction to Environmental Science: Marine Focus (spring & summer)

The MaST Center is located 4 miles south of the Highline Campus in Redondo. Our aquarium has 11 tanks with more than 100 local species on display.

*Many hybrid courses offered every quarter.

EXPERIENCE
PUGET
SOUND
AND
EARN
SCIENCE
CREDIT!



Goats returning to campus to manage shrubbery

By SHANNON CARTER
Staff Reporter

Highline is bringing in the goats and going green.

Craig Madsen, the owner of Healing Hooves, and his goats will be returning to Highline to clean the retention pond area. With about 210 to 230 goats arriving on May 29, the retention pond area will be cleared in five days.

The retention pond area is located on the southwest corner of campus near the tennis courts.

"The gentleman that manages the goats does a couple of things to make this work," said Barry Holldorf, Highline director of facilities.

Madsen will set up a small electric fence around the areas that the goats will be roaming and then the goats will begin clearing. They will stay in the fenced areas for the duration of their stay. At the end of the visit Madsen will lead the goats back to the trailer and then the fence comes down.

When finished, Madsen and goats move on, leaving Highline with a cleared retention



Alisa Gramann/THUNDERWORD

This tribe of goats are clearing out Highline's retention pond area. Averaging about two acres per day, the goats should have the retention area cleared in five days.

pond and surrounding area. Madsen will be living on site in his semi-truck to watch over his flock. He will also be accompanied by his border collie, Mac,

who helps herd the goats.

Bringing in the goats saves money versus having contractors and their machinery.

"We bring the goats in to

remove the brush around the pond, because heavy equipment would trample some of the plants and trees that surround the pond that we don't

want damaged. They actually are needed as a natural water-filtering system," said Holldorf.

The goats clear about two acres a day and sometimes more, depending on what they are munching on.

"The blackberry bushes are the majority of the material we want eradicated it happens to be what surrounds the storm water retention pond," said Holldorf.

Because of the location of the retention pond, many students might not even know that goats are on campus.

There are blacktop trails that lead down and around the retention pond for the students that would like to take a look at the goats in action.

There are always the baby goats that people can't resist gawking over.

"I personally would love to have more people observe this activity and understand what our storm water retention pond was built for," said Holldorf. "And the important part it plays to make sure our water run-off is managed prior to returning to the Puget Sound at the bottom of the hill."

Islander pride month to be celebrated on campus

By SHYLA AKINS
Staff Reporter

Asian-Pacific Islander Month features music, dancing, free food, a keynote speaker, and a movie on Friday, all on Highline campus during the entire month of May.

Asian-Pacific Islander Month is about celebrating the Asian-Pacific Islander culture in the United States, Asian-Pacific Islander Month started in a congressional bill like most memorial months did.

In 1977, it started as just a week celebration but in 1992 President George H.W. Bush signed an extension that changed the week-long celebration into a month-long celebration.

The month of May was picked as Asian-Pacific Islander Month to honor the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the achievement of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Most of the rail-road workers who built the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

There will be a showing of the film *The Wedding Banquet* is on Friday, May 4 from 12:30-2:15 p.m. in Building 29, room 104. This film is a Chinese-American family comedy with surprising fraud taking place at the reception of the wedding.



Pramila Jayapal

On Tuesday, May 8 keynote speaker Pramila Jayapal is coming to Building 7 from noon to 1 p.m. to talk about voting. Jayapal is executive director of OneAmerica, a Seattle-based immigrant rights nonprofit organization.

She is also an immigrant from India and has spent more than 20 years working for social justice.

The "Beyond the Myth" Asian-Pacific Islander Month event is being held on Wednesday, May 9. A group will go over the diverse voices, experiences and ambitions of the Asian Pacific Islander American through the eyes of current Highline students and alumni.

The Xbox Kinect Dance Off is on Thursday, May from noon to 2 p.m. in Building 7.

It's a competition that students put on where everyone

can show off their dance skills to win prizes.

The final Asian-Pacific Islander Month event is the musical performances from around the Asian-Pacific Islander world. The types of music that will be performed will be as varied as the Asian-Pacific Island people.

Attendees will explore different Asian Pacific Islander countries to listen and gather information on traditional music and culture.

It's free and there will be free food and beverages provided. The event is from 6-8:30 p.m. in Building 8, Mt. Townsend room.

Ekkarath Sisavatdy is a part of the Asian-Pacific Islander Month committee.

The rest of the committee includes staff, students, and instructors.

"I am one of the coaches of the Asian-Pacific Islander month. This is the third year of Asian-Pacific Islander heritage month and it's unique to Highline because it embraces what we are about," said Sisavatdy. "It's about giving back to the community. Learning takes place everywhere if you open your mind to it."

The Asian-Pacific Islander Month events first came to Highline three years ago.

"I got involved because of a simple email sent from our vice



The Wedding Banquet will be shown on Friday, May 4 in honor of Asian-Pacific Islander month. This is a comedy concerning the intermarriage of two races.

president and dean of Highline who wanted to see something like this happen on campus," said Sisavatdy.

Everyone is welcome to attend all of these events located on Highline's campus.

"They are open to all of the campus, community and beyond," said Sisavatdy. "Any interest or curiosities please come. We want to reach everyone, we're all celebrating diversity."

Editorial comment

Your vote will always matter

Before retiring in January 2013, Secretary of State Sam Reed is touring community colleges across Washington in hopes of increasing the amount of voting among young people.

Only 45.3 percent of people ages 18-24 are registered to vote, and only 17.6 percent of them voted in 2010. Consider that 70.5 percent of people of ages 45-65 are registered, and 54.4 percent of them voted in 2010.

Essentially the younger generations of today are allowing the older generations to control their future. Voting impacts young adults today just as much as anybody.

Right now young people need to be electing leaders who can benefit them now and in their future, because they are the people who'll be responsible for leading (and living in) the country in the future.

When young people wait until they're older to participate in elections, they're basically inheriting a future that they weren't responsible for choosing. The entire basis of how America works is based on preventing a single demographic from owning all of the decision making power.

Right now young people are allowing themselves to be controlled by the older voters because they aren't allowing their voices to be heard.

The one constant with a vote is that it always holds power, even when the election turns out to be a runaway. Votes impact the margin of victory. When the margin of victory for a candidate is great, less people are going to oppose him or her in the future, and vice versa.

There are issues in all types of elections that people need to participate in, even outside of the presidential elections.

The city council races are elections that people often ignore. The people involved in the city council are the people who make decisions for the environment closest to you: the involvement in parks, the amount of police officers, and inclusion of small businesses.

The larger elections elect candidates are the ones who make decisions that will largely affect young people financially, such as tuition, budgets, and taxes.

There's a vote coming up on the fall ballot that includes the legalization of marijuana, and the 45.1 percent of users who happen to be 18-24 have an opportunity to make a difference if they vote.

Registering to vote is very simple and takes five minutes. You can register online wei.secstate.wa.gov/osos/en/voterinformation/Pages/RegisterToVote.aspx, and all you have to do is give them your driver's license number and you'll be free to vote.

Standards for Degree Increased

The standard for transferring students in Highline was recently raised thanks to the college's new compliance with the Inter College Relations Committee.

Students must earn a minimum grade point of 1.0 in each of their classes in order to go toward transferring to a university. Previously an 0.7 or better would have been sufficient toward transferring.

This is ultimately a good thing for students who can apply themselves enough to earn a degree. Because of the change, an associate's degree is now worth more to universities and the career field.

It will also improve the prestige of Highline as a college. Students will actually have to learn something while in school.

Grades ranging from 0.7 to 0.9 now constitute as failing the class, and anything below 0.7 constitutes as a zero.

Now students who would typically get by without getting zeros in the classes they failed face a higher risk of academic probation when failing classes. This will help weed out the students who don't put effort in their studies, improving the image of our college.



Worth the price of admission

3D or not 3D – that is the question.

Whether I should suffer the extra charge of using those special glasses, or in choosing otherwise, miss out on the possibility of an epic experience.

This is especially problematic because *The Avengers* will be coming out in two weeks and it's time for me to buy my ticket.

At the risk of being left out in the cold during the midnight opening I'm going to have to get my ticket soon.

Herein lies my problem. Should I spend the extra \$3.25 and watch the movie in 3D? Or just pay the already outrageous \$10 and watch the movie in standard definition?

There are a few things to consider before making the decision.

First of all, *The Avengers* was shot in 3D, meaning that the filmmakers used a camera with two lenses next to one another simulating human eyeballs.

This creates two nearly identical images that are slightly separated, thus we use the special glasses to help our own eyes line up the images and give the illusion of depth.

Therefore if I choose the 3D route, I will be taking full advantage of the technology available to today's filmmakers.

"With digital 3D projection, we will be entering a new age of cinema...the biggest action, visual effects and fantasy movies



Grinds my gears
Josh Nelson

will be shot in 3D, and soon audiences will associate 3D with the highest level of visual content in the market," said James Cameron in a Time Magazine interview.

Cameron, who directed *Titanic*, *Aliens*, and *Avatar*, has been privy to the innovations of the industry over the last decade, having helped pioneer some of the techniques used to shoot films in three-dimensions.

And although his opinion may be a little biased due to his involvement, Cameron does have his finger on the pulse of the industry, meaning his opinion shouldn't be overlooked.

As important as I find the movie-going experience, I would do well to consider how much better 3D has gotten over the years.

However, I have this feeling like I am being duped whenever I pay the extra money for 3D.

"A well shot, well-projected

film, should already give the illusion of a three-dimensional experience," said Christopher Nolan, director of *Batman Begins* and *The Dark Knight*, during an interview with Rolling Stone.

I tend to agree with Nolan.

As inundated with new techniques and computer generated images as modern audiences are, it is refreshing to see filmmakers utilize methods that seem antiquated or out-of-date.

But all the bells and whistles aside, this comes down to a question of funds, and whether or not I feel I can waste the extra cash on an evening of puerile entertainment.

Our price for entry is high, an outrageous average of \$9.75. This is to satisfy the corporate entity and their obscene need to turn a profit at the expense of the average person.

And then I remember, this is *The Avengers* we're talking about, who cares how much it costs? Do I really want to use this movie as my medium for protest against the man?

Nope. I'm going to be there opening night, first in line, shamelessly waiting to geek out as much as any other nerd there, with the biggest grin on my face.

Managing Editor Josh Nelson regularly stars in his own movie. But it's in 2-D, and he's usually listed as an extra in the credits.

The Staff

E-Mail tword@highline.edu

I used to shave for fun. I don't know why.

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HOCUS-FOCUS



CAN YOU TRUST YOUR EYES? There are at least six differences in drawing details between top and bottom panels. How quickly can you find them? Check answers with those below.

Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Cuff is missing. 3. Picture is missing. 4. Switch is missing. 5. Name is different. 6. Sign is missing.

Crossword 101

By Pete Canty

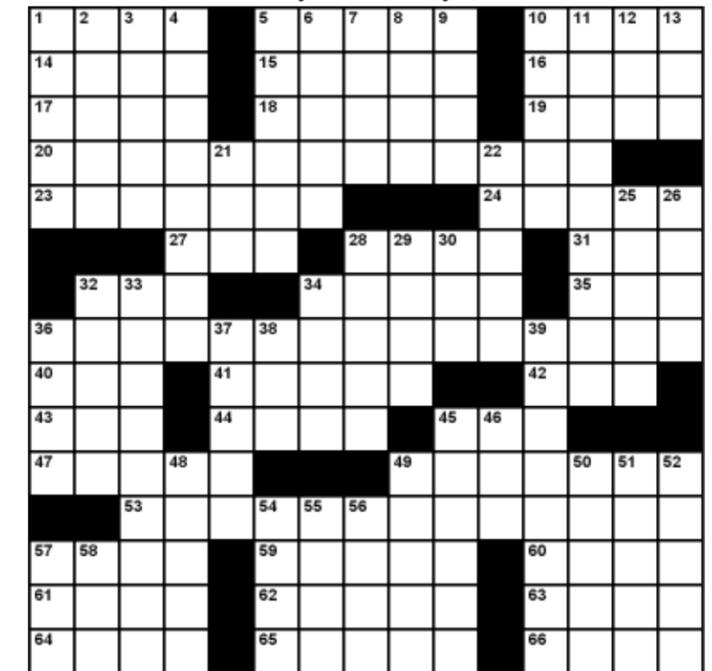
Shakespearean Titles

Across

1. Plays a role
5. Out in front
10. Kind of rain or rock
14. Frankfurt female
15. Contemptible person
16. Shoe part
17. Office fill-in
18. Nobelist Curie
19. Word of agreement
20. Shakespeare's Caesar
23. Type of collision
24. Public meeting
27. "The _____ Squad"
28. Bleacher part
31. One _____ time
32. Bake sale org.
34. Oscar winner Jessica
35. Juilliard subj.
36. Shakespeare's Hamlet
40. Gobble up
41. Impulses
42. Holiday _____
43. Flue residue
44. Some contests for kids
45. Hartsfield-Jackson Airport, abbr.
47. Aquarium fish
49. Lands at an airport
53. Shakespeare's Lear
57. Real estate
59. Author Zola
60. Prefix with China
61. H.S. math class
62. Odometer reading
63. Solid server
64. Go out with
65. Begin
66. Arid

Down

1. Party preceder, at times
2. _____ de menthe
3. Gulf city
4. Bird or plane alternative?
5. Amaretto flavorer
6. Stockpile
7. French bread
8. "In your dreams!"
9. Bucks
10. 1836 battle site
11. Behind the scenes guy
12. Bar stock
13. Animal house
21. _____ Speedwagon
22. Frequently
25. Complete reversal
26. Halloween staple
28. Vaults
29. Concludes
30. Get older
32. Poetry counterpart
33. Close, as a community
34. Balcony section
36. Excellent, in modern slang
37. Mavericks owner Mark
38. Before, before
39. Citizen armies
45. Collar
46. Cycle prefix
48. Hill chain
49. More competent
50. "The Legend of Bagger _____"
51. Pillow stuffing
52. Saw logs
54. Rubies, emeralds, etc.
55. Leave out
56. Nike competitor
57. Inc., in London
58. Coach Parseghian



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★ ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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1. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Faroe Islands located?
2. TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom's theme was the song

I'll Be There for You?

3. ASTRONOMY: What planet is named for the Roman god of trade, thieves and travel?
4. HISTORY: When did the United States repeal Prohibition, which forbade sales of alcohol?
5. LEGAL: What is an affi-

davit?

6. RELIGION: Which book of the Bible describes the Israelites' deliverance from slavery in Egypt?
7. MONEY: What European country's basic monetary unit was the escudo -- prior to the euro?
8. POLITICS: What was

the nickname for Teddy Roosevelt's Progressive Party?

9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the purpose of gills in fish?
10. MUSIC: What kind of bird was featured in the Disney song *Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah*?

Answers

1. Between Scotland and Iceland
2. Friends

3. Mercury

4. 1933
5. A written statement made under oath
6. Exodus
7. Portugal
8. The Bull Moose Party
9. To take in oxygen and release carbon dioxide
10. A bluebird

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Quotable Quote

Americans adore me and will go on adoring me until I say something nice about them.

... **George Bernard Shaw**

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

Even Exchange by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pounding tool | ___ _ _ M ___ _ | Laundry basket | ___ _ _ P ___ _ |
| 2. Idaho capital | B ___ _ _ _ | Clamor | N ___ _ _ _ |
| 3. Ledge | ___ _ _ _ F | Seashore discovery | ___ _ _ _ L |
| 4. Ship's kitchen | G ___ _ _ _ | Forge | V ___ _ _ _ |
| 5. Female horse | ___ I ___ _ _ | Foolishness | ___ O ___ _ _ |
| 6. Nobleman | ___ _ R ___ _ | Breakfast meat | ___ _ C ___ _ |
| 7. Portugal's capital | ___ _ _ B ___ _ | Boxer Sonny | ___ _ _ T ___ _ |
| 8. Channel | ___ _ _ _ T | Put through a sieve | ___ _ _ _ N |
| 9. Goblet or tumbler | ___ _ A ___ _ | Surface shine | ___ _ O ___ _ |
| 10. Sixth sense | ___ _ N ___ _ | Rabbit pen | ___ _ T ___ _ |

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Coleman hasn't let challenges limit his life

By **CHAYCE BALDWIN**
Staff Reporter

Disabilities and situations do not define limitations, a visiting life coach said here Tuesday.

Christopher D. Coleman is a keynote speaker, certified life coach, and author who came to Highline to speak on the power of diverse culture Tuesday, April 24 for Highline's Unity Week. He has written one book and is working on another. He is confined to a wheelchair and often the disabled label that people set upon him, but he does not let this limitation define him, he said.

Coleman had a challenging start to life. He was born without breathing. For 15 minutes.

"When I was born I was pronounced completely dead," Coleman said. Because he did not have oxygen for 15 minutes, he was not expected to be able to talk or think properly, he said, but he has overcome these limitations set upon him.

"Regardless of what society says, regardless of anything else, I know who I am...I am who I am," Coleman said.

"People look at me, just the way I look, and assume I am mentally disabled," he said. He said he looked back at one accuser and said, jokingly, "Really? I thought you were mentally disabled!"

He has not let himself be defined by labels and expectations though, he said.

"No one taught me to read or write, or add or subtract," he said, but when he was a child every night for nine and a half



Austin Seeger/THUNDERWORD

Despite a difficult beginning, Christopher D. Coleman has achieved great success in life.

years, without anyone knowing, he taught himself to read.

When his IQ was tested, he showed to be functioning at a ninth grade level, he said. High school officials were reluctant to put him into school, but his mom persisted, he said.

"My mom isn't one of those people you want to say no to," Coleman said. "She gets her way, whether you like it or not."

Coleman was put into school and started to get a proper education, although he had never

had any education previous besides what he taught himself, he said. "I became the first and only college graduate in my whole family," he said.

Coleman said he has many ways to change school systems to become more helpful for disabled people. The normal people that the school systems accommodate and disabled people are not that different, he said.

"Diversity is the combination of strength and weakness," he said. "It requires embracing

individuals' capabilities as well as their limitation."

"I need help in different areas than you need help in, but at the end of the day, we all need help," he said.

After graduating college, Coleman has traveled around the nation to speak, despite his disabilities, for 11 years, he said. He decided he wanted to become a certified life coach, because of the experience he has had, Coleman said.

"Your strengths are utilized

when they are an avenue for someone's capabilities," he said.

Despite his life experience and resumé, the certified life coach class teacher would not allow him to take her intense class, he said.

She doubted his ability because of his speech and his disability, Coleman said. It took the threat of a law suit to make her allow him into her class, he said, but at the end of the class she said, "Chris, you made my class so much better."

Inside the class, his life experience became helpful in teaching the other life coaches and providing real-life examples, he said. On one occasion, he shared an anecdote with one of the members of the class on helping others.

Coleman said that a boy repeatedly asked a man at a balloon stand to fill various balloons of different colors, shapes, and sizes, and show him how balloons work. Every time, when the balloons rose, the boy was amazed, he said. Eventually, Coleman said, the man said to the boy, "Son, it doesn't matter what shape the balloon is in, or what color it is, if you fill it with the right stuff, it will rise."

Coleman said he has a problem with people "deciding" to include disabled people in society. Whether they include disabled people or not, he said, disabled people are a part of society, no matter what.

"A powerful society recognizes the strengths and capabilities of an individual while embracing their weaknesses and limitations," Coleman said.

Don't leave the old 'hood behind, professor says

By **PAUL PINKNEY**
Staff Reporter

It is critical to helping others that you first seek out who you really are, a visiting professor said here Monday.

The speaker, Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade, is an associate professor of Raza Studies and Education at San Francisco State University.

Duncan-Andrade spoke on "Unconditional Love for the Hood: Redefining Success in our Communities" held in Building 7 to kick off Unity Through Diversity Week.

Unity Week is an event that is held every year for the last 15 years. This year's theme is Justice, Leadership and Social Challenge.

Dr. Duncan-Andrade said he is motivated by the principle of giving back.

"When you get an education that's OK, but what are you go-

ing to do with this education?" he asked.

Quoting Assata Shakur, Dr. Duncan-Andrade said "If you are deaf, dumb, and blind to what's happening in the world, you're under no obligation to do anything. But if you know what's happening and you don't do anything but sit on your ass, then you're nothing but a punk."

"If you're from the hood and you make it to college and come back and gear up your team, and every time someone makes it they come back and gear up somebody else, then pretty soon everyone will have gear," Dr. Duncan-Andrade said.

"When you are in the hood, success is defined by how far away you can get from your community," Dr. Duncan-Andrade said. "When you come from wealth, success is defined by how well you can replicate your situation."

"If you don't understand



Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade speaks at Unity Week on Monday.

your own heritage you can't help other people. We carry our ancestors' problems inside our genetics and we owe it to them to rectify them," Dr. Duncan-

Andrade said. "People are smoky mirrors and when you clear the smoke away, what do you see? You see yourself," said Dr. Duncan-An-

drade. "Be the change you want to see in the world."

Dr. Duncan-Andrade said he hopes for under privileged society to start "moving from coping, always on the defensive, to hoping, taking control of your destiny."

Dr. Duncan Andrade spoke about the difference between education in nice communities and in poorer communities. "There isn't an achievement gap but an opportunity gap," he said.

"Malcolm X once said 'Only a fool would let his enemy educate his kid,'" Dr. Duncan-Andrade. "When you are taught by those that don't look like you, you won't be interested in what they have to say."

Dr. Duncan-Andrade also spoke about unity saying, "This isn't America; this is North America and really just the U.S. There are people suffering everywhere you go."

We are still waiting for a revolution, prof says

By SHANNON CARTER
Staff Reporter

Being diverse isn't enough, a visiting professor said Monday.

Students and faculty gathered into Building 7 for a lecture by Dr. Jared Ball, author of *I Mix What I Like! A Mixtape Manifesto*. Head-Roc, hip hop artist, was also there to give a performance.

"We still need a revolution that has never really been completed," said Dr. Ball.

Peppering his speech liberally with quotes from speakers ranging from Malcolm X to Nelson Jackson, Dr. Ball described why he thinks African Americans are still repressed.

He tried to get the audience to see that African Americans are still being enslaved in the modern world and justice is not being served.

"We've been conditioned to believe that revolutionary change occurred at one point in time and that everything has been on the up and up," said Dr. Ball.

He reminded the audience that African Americans still



Shannon Carter/THUNDERWORD

(Left to right) Dr. Jeff Duncan-Andrade, Dr. Darryl Brice, Dr. Jared Ball and Hip-Hop Artist Head-Roc gathered to speak as part of Unity Week.

aren't gaining an equal place in this world. He referenced the jail and economic systems of today.

Ball said that jails use inmates to produce items at a lower cost, which is modern day

slavery.

"Black Americans hold the same percent of the nation's wealth that we had in 1860," said Dr. Ball.

In the media world there also seems to be gap between me-

dia giants and hip hop artist, he said.

"Media is more controlled and locked down today than ever before," said Dr. Ball.

Speaking through music about inequalities in the media,

government and society are the goals that Dr. Ball and Head-Roc try to achieve.

"We use the example of rap music and hip hop culture to prove the persistent inequalities," said Dr. Ball.

"Media is more controlled and locked down today than ever before," said Dr. Ball.

With only a few media giants owning most labels and systems that don't give much of a chance for new hip hop voices to be heard, Dr. Ball said.

Through diversity, hip hop and revolution can create equality among people of color.

Dr. Ball said, "We need to return black people to a state of humanity."

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What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas

P.R.I.S.M. club soon to throw Vegas themed Pink Prom

By **JOSIAS JEAN-PIERRE**
Staff Reporter

Highline's P.R.I.S.M. club is throwing a Pink Prom, and everyone is invited.

"Come and get wild at the Pink Prom, a night in Vegas," P.R.I.S.M. chairwomen Caitlynd Davison said.

P.R.I.S.M. is a club that allows a safe zone for gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals, transsexuals, and questionings.

This event will be held Friday, May 18 in the Student Union from 8-11 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the Vegas night theme.

The dance is free; however, you will need tickets so P.R.I.S.M. can keep a head count. Tickets will be available soon, club officials said.

"Pink Prom is not restricted like high school prom. It encourages not only whoever you want to bring, but it also encourages people to express themselves however they want, under decent circumstances,"



Students Caitlyn Davison (left), Evan Pitzner, and Veronica Kelly show off their formal wear for P.R.I.S.M.'s upcoming Pink Prom.

said Joseph Park who is the decoration coordinator for The Pink Prom.

"This is a time where people on campus can come together in a safe environment, despite of their gender, sexuality, and race," said Cassandra Dilliard, who is P.R.I.S.M. vice presi-

dent.

The event will feature performances from the Hip-Hop Union, K-Pop, and the Seattle Central Glee Club.

"There will be a huge dance floor with a live DJ whose name is Jake Boyd Koistinen. If you think you got moves and could

dance, come to the dance floor and show what you got," said Caitlyn Davison.

An award will be given out for the person who wins on the dance floor.

The dress code is semi-formal to formal. No jeans, but you do not have to rent a tux.

"There will be a queen and king," Kiley Juarez, the president of P.R.I.S.M., said. A king and queen will be crowned as well, Juarez said.

"Those who are interested in running will have to sign up in our promotion booth," Juarez said.

"It's an exclusive event that celebrates diversity, tolerance, and acceptance for all people," said John Moradel, a P.R.I.S.M. member.

Currently, P.R.I.S.M. is looking for volunteers to help set up the event and clean up after the event. Volunteers are asked to show up as early as 6 p.m. on the day of the event.

"We need a lot of help, as it is a large event with multiple components," said Craig McKenney, the P.R.I.S.M. club adviser.

McKenney said he wants all students to feel welcome at the Pink Prom.

"Pink Prom is not just a gay event—it is a time for LGBTQI students and their straight friends to have a moment that they may not have been offered while in high school. I empathize because I did not take the person I wanted to prom...I am so proud of the PRISM students for creating an open, inviting opportunity for students to not have to have a memory like the one I have," McKenney said.

GlobalFest tickets going fast

By **CHAYCE BALDWIN**
Staff Reporter

Forty GlobalFest tickets were sold in the first 15 minutes they were available.

Tickets went on sale April 23 in the Student Union and only 15 are still available.

GlobalFest takes place on Saturday, May 12 from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Student Union.

Amee Moon, associate director of International Student Programs, said—explaining the popularity of GlobalFest—"It's really fun and you get to do a lot, you know."

"The culture booths get better every year, and the performances are often amazing," Moon said.

GlobalFest is an event put on by International Student Programs and the International Student Leadership Council.

They are a group of student leaders who help with leading and coordinating events for International Student Programs.

GlobalFest is an annual event that celebrates cultures throughout the world and provides a chance for students to experience different cultures.

"I think the students come, if they're buying regular tickets, to come see their friends," Moon said.

Along with students, many teachers working with students in the Community College Initiative, host families, and Des Moines residents often come to enjoy GlobalFest, Moon said.

Many people, such as Highline students Amika Suga, Megumi Mitsukaki and Miki Iwano said they're coming to GlobalFest for the first time this year.

They said it is mainly because it looks very interesting to them.

Ming Zhen Wu, who has been once before, is returning this year "because I can eat some delicious food," he said.

Wei-Ting Chen said he's looking forward to GlobalFest "because I want to see different cultures."

Others, such as Yumi Yamashita, were persuaded by International Student Programs to go to the event.

"International Student Programs said it was very very fun," she said.

Moon said that along with

the first 40 tickets sold to the public, about 100 had been purchased alone by members of the International Student Programs faculty. As well as by their friends and family.

That is over half of the 250 tickets available for the event, Moon said.

International Student Programs is restricted to selling 250 tickets because of the legal capacity of the Student Union, the building housing the event.

Along with the almost 240 volunteers helping with GlobalFest, the union is filled to its limit, Moon said.

Although they didn't quite sell out as fast as last year, after about two hours of selling on April 23, only 35 tickets were still available, Moon said.

"That's not too bad," Moon said with a laugh.

GlobalFest tickets are currently still available, Moon said, but they are selling very fast.

To buy tickets visit the International Student Programs in Building 25 located on the fifth floor. Tickets cost \$12.

Students can also contact Moon at extension 3374 for to purchase tickets.

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Comedy, clash of cultures to take stage

'Anchor Baby' expected to bring laughs this May

By **BARBARA CAWLEY**
Staff Reporter

They came. They saw. They moved in.

Anchor Baby, a new show by local playwright David Tucker, is a story of culture clash on the tiny island paradise of Mehlot.

The story is about a young couple, Bobby and Alita Anchor, that live on a fictional island, said Tucker.

Bobby had dual citizenship because his parents stopped in Mehlot when he was born, so when he grew up he decided to move there and married a Mehlot girl, Tucker said.

When his father loses his job, he decides to bring his wife and teenage daughter to move in with his son on Mehlot, said Tucker.

"They attempt to make it like home," he said.

"It's pretty much a worst case scenario of three people



Dave Tucker's *Anchor Baby* is a farce that follows the Anchor family on the small island paradise of Mehlot.

moving to this island, taking it from an island paradise to mass hysteria," said Tucker.

"The concept of *Anchor Baby* is kind of what would happen if Americans invaded a country and changed the culture," he said.

"I finished the first draft last March," Tucker said. "I actually wrote it in about two months and edited it for about a year."

Tucker said he's been writing plays ever since he was a kid, but he's been writing seriously for about 10 years.

Tucker, who currently lives

in Auburn and works as a telecommunications project manager, said that he has loved writing since he learned to type.

"I was cast as a turkey in a first grade play because I was the only one in class who could make a gobbling noise," said Tucker. "The following year I wrote my first play and my only novel. Neither were particularly good."

Tucker said that he has had over 60 productions of his plays including productions performed as far away as South Africa, Germany, and Korea.

Anchor Baby is being produced by Dukesbay Productions.

"It's all been their project, I'm just kind of following with," said Tucker.

"Typically the playwright just wants to see if it works," Tucker said. "I listened to the first read-through then I left them alone for a while."

"I came back in later to figure out from the actors what didn't work and then adjusted the script accordingly," he said.

"Two of the women that were cast in the show I had in mind when I wrote the parts," he said. "They were doing this play in my head two years ago without even knowing it, now they're doing it in front of a live audience."

Tucker said that the show would be fun for anyone.

"It's a farce," he said. "It's funny because it's so outlandish."

"Anyone that would enjoy a good sitcom or a comedy would enjoy it."

Anchor Baby will be performed at 7:30 p.m. on May 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, and 19 at the First Congregational Church 918 Division Ave, Tacoma.

Tickets for *Anchor Baby* are \$12 at the door.



•Tommy Kim's movie Fridays is joining with Unity Through Diversity to show the film *American Teacher*, this Friday, April 27. The film focuses on education. The film will begin at 12:30 p.m. in Building 7. All students are welcome to attend the free movie event.

•Seattle Repertory Theatre presents *Clybourne Park*. The play runs from April 20 to May 13 at 155 Mercer St. in Seattle. It runs Wednesday through Sunday at 7:30 p.m. with select Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets to *Clybourne Park* are range from \$15 to \$74. For tickets call 206-443-2222 or go online at seattlerep.org.

•Burien Little Theatre's production, *Reasons to Be Pretty* began last weekend and will run until May 13. The show will run every Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. as well as 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets range from \$15 to \$20. Burien Little Theatre is located at 437 Southwest 144th St. in Burien. For more information visit burienlittletheatre.org/tickets.html.

•5th Avenue Theatre began their production of *Damn Yankees* on April 21. The show will run until May 20 everyday except April 23 and 30, as well as May 7, 14, 15, 16. The production is at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 8 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, as well as 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Saturdays and 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets range from \$29 to \$75. 5th Avenue Theatre is located at 1308 5th Ave. in Seattle. For more information visit 5thavenue.org/boxoffice.

•Choralsounds Northwest will be presenting a 30-minute mini-concert on Sunday May 6. The concert, *Rockin' The Boat*, will begin at 2 p.m. at Glendale Lutheran Church located at 13455 2nd Ave SW in Burien. The event is free and open to everyone. For more information visit www.nwassociatedarts.org/csn/.

•YouthSounds in Burien will be presenting *Bring on Broadway* on Friday, May 11. It will be held at the Highline Performing Arts Center at 401 South 152nd St. in Burien. Tickets range from \$10 to \$15. The event will include a collection of medleys from films and shows. For more information visit www.northwestassociatedarts.org.



Dave Tucker

Puzzle answers:

SHAKESPEAREAN TITLES

A	C	T	S		A	H	E	A	D		A	C	I	D			
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Even Exchange

answers

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Hammer, Hamper | 6. Baron, Bacon |
| 2. Boise, Noise | 7. Lisbon, Liston |
| 3. Shelf, Shell | 8. Strait, Strain |
| 4. Galley, Valley | 9. Glass, Gloss |
| 5. Filly, Folly | 10. Hunch, Hutch |

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Got news?

email tword@highline.edu

By JOSEPH PARK
Staff Reporter

When dressing up, Highline student Rachael Chapman sees herself as a painter trying to create an original masterpiece.

Despite the tight budget and work schedule of a typical college student, Chapman regards fashion as an indispensable aspect of her life.

"Fashion is very important to me. I feel like my body is a blank canvas and the clothes I wear are the paint I use to decorate that canvas. I can express my individuality through the clothes I wear," said Chapman. "Plus, I feel like I can conquer any situation with the right dress and a kick-ass high heel."

Chapman confidently showed off her figure by wearing black leggings from Brass Plume and a coral-pink retro dress, which she bought online.

"I would say my style is retro with a Bohemian flair. I adore the 1940-1960s fashion style. Especially the cuts of the dresses; those dresses were made to compliment women with curves, not the stick models you see today," said Chapman.

Chapman is not the only young woman who audaciously charges into the Seattle weather in black-leather, high-heel boots.

"I dress up often," Highline student Devi Acosta said. "I dress up when I go out, especially to school. At home I usually just wear sweats and an old T-shirt with leggings. The main reason I dress up is because I love dressing up, but also because I try to make a good impression. I want to look mature and my age."

Acosta said that she styles herself in a way that projects her real age, so that people do not mistake her for being an adolescent.

"People think I look 15 or 16. I want to look 19, which is my age. So depending on the clothes I wear, I can accomplish that," said Acosta.

While Acosta strolled around

Fashion plates

Budgets and busy schedules be damned, some students just like to dress up



Kaley Ishmael & Simone Elbrecht/THUNDERWORD
Highline student, Rachael Chapman (above) says she sees herself as a canvas and the clothes she wears act as the paint.

the mall in her loose hot-pink blouse with navy-leopard prints and a dark-gray pencil skirt, student Svetlana Slobodchikova was on campus and explained that she has a different reason for spending time in her closet.

"I am wearing a blue-leopard-print scarf and a pastel-yellow trench coat on top of my

beige skirt and black blouse. I decided to wear this today, because I made a promise to wear skirts everyday – you know – to look more feminine," said Slobodchikova.

Slobodchikova referenced her Russian roots quite frequently when talking about her stylistic influences.

"Russian women like to dress up most of the time. For Russian women, looking good is a big deal; they are always trying to look," said Slobodchikova. "For Americans, their fashion is about being comfortable. America is a working nation, so being comfortable stands before being fashionable."

The blue leopard print scarf around her neck dabbed a little edge on her gamine-like image. Slobodchikova later admitted, "I am influenced by American fashion though. Especially when it's raining, I feel like wearing my hoodie and sweat-pants."

While hoodies and sweat-pants serve as the last option for some individuals, casual wear is the daily attire for students such as Jake McCauley.

"Every once in a while, I put on nice clothes, but I don't dress up often," said McCauley. "I dress up only when it's necessary. There is no need to dress up every day."

Although the student population seems to be divided between the committed illustrator and the practical minimalist, Highline student Anna Perepicica, an international student from the Republic of Moldova, said she is swayed by neither extreme.

"Your look is your first impression, so everywhere you go, you want to make the right impression, but I am not the kind of person who always chases the new Jimmy Choo shoes," she said. "I am a serious person when it comes to fashion, but all I want to do is to make a good first impression through clothes. So I only wear casual stuff inside."

Casual is the word that describes American fashion, according to Highline student Chenkun Liu.

Liu is from the People's Republic of China, and he said, "Local residents dress more

casually than international students. For me, I have no preference in dressing, but I am serious about looking stylish."

Indeed, his American Eagle Outfitters cardigan, red-white-and-blue flannel, Levi's jeans, and Gucci satchel served as proof that Liu does not simply clothe; he coordinates.

"International students dress better and I'm jealous; it's true, I'm jealous," said Highline student Steven Kim.

"The key difference between the way international students dress and the way local residents dress is that international students dress up more; they always look like they're going to a special event," said Highline student Viet Dinh.

Dinh, who identified himself as a fan of GQ Magazine and Coco Chanel, was wearing black skinny jeans, a pair of Tom's, brown cardigan over his white V-neck, and some glittering Forever 21 necklaces.

"I like looking good and sophisticated, and I like the whole Hippie style, because it's different and kind of goes along with living in Washington," he said.

Highline student Tina Bui also said international students appear to be trendier.

"A lot of the international students wear nice clothes. In general, guys wear a lot of plaids. Girls generally wear cardigans and scarves. Both genders wear a lot of brand clothes, such as Tommy Hilfiger," said Bui.

Bui said that she throws on whatever clothes she feels like putting on, and that she does not follow any major fashion trends, but underneath her white sports jacket, she was wearing a tank top splashed with watercolor-flower prints – an unintended homage, reminiscent of the Dolce and Gabbana Spring/Summer 2012 collection.

Not all international students embellish themselves with products from well-to-do houses such as Louis Vuitton and Gucci.

Highline student Rolando Sierra, who is from the Republic of Honduras, proudly said, "I would say my style has been Americanized, because I like comfortable clothes, and I don't care about brands."

Sierra was wearing a simple black hoodie and jeans.

The realm of ease does not seem to include en vogue or Vogue for that matter. Dressing to impress is still a task – a task for the dedicated.

Beyond those jeans and humble hoodies, lies ironic chic or alluring elegance that causes bruises and calluses, and students such as Sanya Nijjar loyally represent that other side of the comfort zone.

"I dress up so that I can present myself in a professional way," said Nijjar. "Plus, if you dress up, it makes your self-confidence grow."



Kaley Ishmael & Joseph Park/THUNDERWORD

Batting, pitching keep T-Birds in first

By **ADRIAN SCOTT**
Staff Reporter

The first-place 11-1 Highline T-Birds softball team exploded offensively to blast by the last-place Green River Gators, moving their winning streak to seven games in the West Division.

The T-Birds won the first game 11-0 last Tuesday afternoon, before going the Gators 13-5 in the nightcap.

In the opener, Highline put up four runs in the top of the first, then scored two runs the second through fourth inning to put the game away.

The T-Birds earned those 11 runs on only 10 hits -- nine of them singles -- taking advantage of seven errors by Green River and three walks by Green River pitcher Madison Mainard.

Shortstop Blessed Joy Mipalar added a triple in game one and now has eight extra base hits this season with a team high batting average of .438.

"These ladies are really hitting the ball hard and well," said Head Coach Scott Dillinger. "I've been impressed with their performance throughout the season."

Sophomore pitcher Clarissa Gidcumb threw a five-inning shutout, scattering six hits, no walks and striking out three.

Gidcumb is now 8-3 with a 4.52 ERA.

In game two of the double header, the burning T-Bird bats stayed on fire and dried out the Gators.

The T-Birds scored four runs in the first inning and tacked on another six in the third.

The ladies ended the game with a 13-5, five-inning victory.



Third baseman Brooke Evans takes a swing at the ball on Tuesday in a 13-5 win over Green River. Highline remains in first place in the NWAACC West.

Corey Sun/THUNDERWORD

Freshman pitcher Brianna Votaw led the 'Birds to the victory on the mound.

Votaw ended her third start throwing five innings, allowing eight hits, two earned runs, and struck out four batters.

In Votaw's last start against

the Gators she pitched a one-hitter in five innings.

"Brianna has really stepped up this season to help the team," said catcher Dani Babcock, who is hitting .403. "Everyone on this team looks out for one another, which is making this

season more than just the first place standing."

In the top of inning number three, Green River pitcher Abby Motes-Conners began to show fatigue and began to lose her control.

Motes-Conners walked the

bases loaded allowing Babcock to tack on another RBI to her season with a base on balls.

At the end of the third the T-Birds left three ladies on base, and had four hits on six runs.

Brooke Evans led Highline with four runs batted in, while

"We knew going into this game that Green River wasn't the strongest team in our league," first baseman Kathy Murdock said of the 1-3 Gators.

"Knowing this, we as a team wanted to really focus on our weakness, going into the important series with Pierce," said Murdock, who had three hits in the second game.

The T-Birds continued their road trip and faced the second place Pierce Raiders on Wednesday, April 25.

The results of the game were unavailable at press time.

Highline is three games ahead of Pierce, 8-4, in the West Division standings.

"If we win against Pierce it will really set us apart from everyone else in the league," said Coach Dillinger.

The 'Birds will return home to host the fourth-place Centralia Trailblazers. The first game of the double header will on be Saturday, April 28 at noon.

The T-Birds will face the Pierce Raiders for the last time in the regular season on Tuesday, May 1 at 1 p.m.

Having gone 9-1 in their last 10 games, the Lady Thunderbirds are now 15-9 overall.

Among league leaders, Mipalar is 12th in hitting in the NWAACC. She leads Highline with 25 hits and seven doubles.

Murdock leads the team with four home runs and 17 RBIs,

Hit an ace with the Highline's Table Tennis Club

By **ROSALEE VITENTE**
Staff Reporter

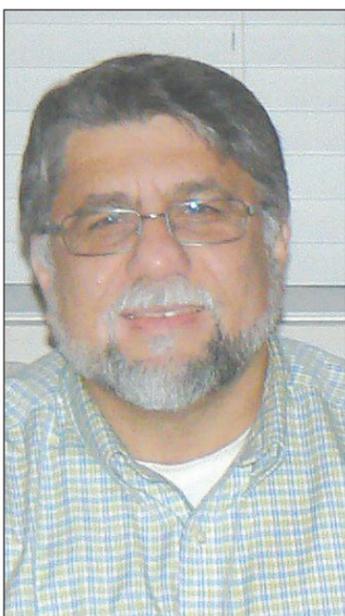
Highline's Table Tennis Club needs room to grow.

For the past 15 years, the Highline Table Tennis Club has been in and out of the spotlight.

Recently President Nathan Hatch was handed the responsibility to oversee the club and is now working on finding a better space for meetings and also expanding its member base.

The club meetings take place every Friday at 2 p.m. in building 26, room 315.

"We would like to have room for at least three tables," said Club Adviser Sam Alkhalili. "The club is under the supervision of the Student Program Office and this office does work hard to find us a non-classroom space. However, since the spac-



Sam Alkhalili

es are very limited on campus, we get the OK to use the current classroom."

They could play in the gym, but the gym is going under an extremely condensed schedule and it is hard to find the right time to play, Alkhalili said.

But the college has really worked with the Table Tennis Club and giving the club the privilege to play in the current classroom.

They work with the scheduling and the security office to ensure having the class available for the students to play and, it has been working out in their favor.

These meetings run for about four hours or more.

Every Friday the club is seeing an average count of 15-20 people attending meetings.

At the meetings they usually just play games of ping pong, but on occasion they do set up the tables for tournaments.

Some days they also do learn different techniques from Alkhalili, who won the 1980 Lebanon Junior Championship and in 1991 won the Fresno, Cali, championship.

"It's a great place to challenge yourself but also to meet people who share similar likes," Hatch said.

"If you are a motivated and have a competitive attitude, table tennis is for you," member Yuri Zgherea said.

The club is made up of a variety of different personalities and backgrounds, said Hatch.

To join the Table Tennis Club you do not need any experience, you just have to have a great positive and open attitude, said Zgherea.

The club welcomes anyone willing to learn or wants to improve themselves at ping pong.

"I didn't know how to play ping pong at all until the Table Tennis Club," said Hatch. "Now I kill."

"Over time you will learn the basics and skills to further become a better ping pong player," Zgherea said.

"If I could describe the Table Tennis Club in just three words I would say sweat, because you will definitely get a hard work out in, adrenalin; because you will end up wanting to win so bad after each match; and fun, because you end up realizing if you do happen to win, you win, but if you lose, you just lose to a friend, so in the end it's a your just having a good time," Zgherea said.

If anyone has questions about the club feel free to join the club meetings on Fridays at 2 p.m. in Building 26, room 315.

Men's soccer coach will assist future pros

The Scoreboard

By **ADRIAN SCOTT**
Staff Reporter

The head coach for the Men's T-Bird soccer team Jason Prenovost will coach with the pros this summer.

Coach Prenovost will be the assistant coach for the Sounders U-23 developmental Club, which is the platform club for the Seattle Sounders FC first team

Prenovost has had a long coaching career, and finally was chosen to assist one of the top premier soccer teams in the world. Prenovost says this coaching experience will help expose the Thunderbirds men's soccer team.

"The pros obviously include the association with the Seattle Sounders and my professional development as a coach," said Coach Prenovost. "The players I coach at Highline will also directly benefit from my development as a coach and the expanded network I am being plugged in to. This is a win, win, win situation for Highline Community College, the students I coach and myself."

Coach Prenovost says that coaching this summer will be a huge commitment, but he is excited to see what the summer will bring and how he will help the development of the next generation, of professional footballers.

"I really do not see a downside. I guess the one downside would be that we train 8-10 at night and will be playing games most weekends through the summer," said Prenovost. "It is a huge time commitment; how-



Corey Sun/ THUNDERWORD

Head coach Jason Prenovost during a Fall 2011 season practice.

ever the opportunity I will be gaining will far outweigh the hours of sleep I will be losing."

Being one of three assistant coaches for the U-23 team, Prenovost has many responsibilities and roles, but says he's up for the challenge.

"My role is to help coach and manage the team," said Prenovost. "I sit next to the Head Coach Darren Sawatzky and provide him with a sounding board, feedback and my perspective."

"Darren has been adamant that he brought me in to coach players, challenge him on what he sees and help this team win," said Prenovost. "Once Darren makes a decision and sets an agenda, my role is to be on-board, help facilitate the agenda and build trust in our team's direction."

Darren Sawatzky has known

coach Prenovost for a while now, and said it was only a matter of time until Prenovost would become a coach for the team.

"Jason is someone I have known a long time and his coaching resume includes hardware in the trophy case as well as the respect of people in the community," Sawatzky said. "I can't think of a better person to work with the Sounders U-23's"

Prenovost has more than 20 years coaching experience, and has been given the name of "The Most Winningest Coach" for men's soccer in the NWAACC, with a record of 247-77-59.

"My main goal is to continue to become a better coach," said Prenovost. "I have always respected and admired Darren's passion, work ethic and commitment to the game. Besides my respect for Darren as a per-

son, Darren the coach has been trusted with guiding the youth academies of what is becoming one of the premier professional football clubs in the world."

Darwin Jones and Jamael Cox, who both are former Highline athletes, made the roster to play in the Sounders U-23 team

"Darwin and Jamael are products of the Sounders Academy and were in place before I was officially onboard," said coach Prenovost.

Jones is a special player who continues to get better day after day says Prenovost. "I look forward to seeing him play against professional level talent."

The Sounder U-23 will start their developmental league on May 11 and will run through July 11.

"We do not truly have a home field this year and will be taking our game to a few different venues," says Prenovost.

The new Tacoma Rainiers stadium will be host to one of the home games the season. Coach Prenovost says that he is excited to be the first soccer team to play in the renovated Cheney Stadium.

"I think that is going to be a great event and experience. This first year has been kind of hectic with Darren inheriting a few things including a schedule and no facilities to play our games," said Prenovost. "That being said Darren has done a great job finding solutions and the opportunity to play in Cheney is a very cool one. It will be a great night."

Tickets for the Sounder U-23 regular season are now available at soundersu23.com

Softball

Region League PCT Streak

Region	League	PCT	Streak
NORTH			
Bellevue	13-0	1.000	13W
Shoreline	7-3	0.700	4W
Olympic	9-5	0.643	2W
Douglas	6-4	0.600	3L
Everett	8-7	0.533	2L
Skagit	2-13	0.000	3L
Edmonds	0-15	0.000	15L

EAST

Wenatchee	16-2	0.889	16W
Walla Walla	16-3	0.842	1W
Treasure	12-6	0.667	7W
Spokane	14-9	0.609	1W
Big Bend	7-14	0.33	1W
Yakima	6-12	0.286	1L
Columbia	5-15	0.250	1W
Blue Mtn.	4-14	0.222	2L

WEST

Highline	11-1	0.917	7W
Pierce	8-4	0.667	1L
Gr. Harbor	7-5	0.583	2L
Centraila	1-13	0.071	8L
Green River	1-13	0.071	8L

SOUTH

Clackamas	8-1	0.889	7W
SW Oregon	10-3	0.800	2W
L. Columbia	6-5	0.545	2W
Mt. Hood	5-5	0.500	4L
Clark	4-10	0.286	1W
Chemeketa	2-7	0.222	1L

Scores

Tuesday, April 24

Clackamas 7, Chemeketa 4
Clark 2, Lower Columbia 10
Bellevue 6, Everett 0
Treasure 5, Southern Idaho 10
Highline 13, Green River 5
Clark 6, Lower Columbia 7
Olympic 10, Centaila 2
Treasure 0, Southern Idaho 7
Bellevue 6, Everett 3
Highline 11, Green River 0

Sunday, April 22

Mt. Hood 13, Treasure 5
Douglas 0, SW Oregon 4

Dunn juggles jobs as Highline athletic director

By **ZACH STEM**
Staff Reporter

John Dunn keeps a lot of balls in the air at once.

Now in this 12th year as athletic director, he was Highline's assistant athletic director for eight years and has been a physical education instructor for 19 years. He also was the assistant coach of the men's basketball team for three seasons and was the head coach for three seasons.

He is tall with black hair and plays golf and basketball. Some say he still has a mean jump shot. With this nimbleness, Dunn said he has been able to handle being the athletic director and a physical education instructor at the same time.

"You have to be organized. There is no secretarial support," Dunn said. "It's a juggling act."

Highline is one of the few colleges that does not have a



John Dunn

full-time athletic director.

"There are only two or three schools without a full-time athletic director," Dunn said. The goal for Highline athletics is "to get quality student athletes who go to class, are solid citizens, and are productive members of society when they leave here," Dunn said. "If you get all those

things, the success usually takes care of itself."

Still Dunn said he wrestles with "funding support, lack of full-time jobs for coaches, increased workloads, and responsibilities with no adjustment in staffing."

Highline athletics have already seen a great deal of success.

"We are always usually in the top half of the division. We rarely ever miss playoffs," Dunn said.

Highline athletes have seen success with academics as well as athletics.

"We work with athletes to get them their two-year degree," Dunn said. "In the last 12 years, we have been the No. 1 Academic All-American National Wrestling Team. We have the best wrestling team in the nation."

Highline is picky about who it recruits to play here.

"The coaches do most of the recruiting," Dunn said. "We identify athletes when they are sophomores and juniors. In their junior and senior years, we go see them play anywhere from two to 20 times. We do a lot of talking with their coaches to see how their athletes are academically and athletically.

"We have them to come to Highline, show them the campus and have them meet with coaches and academic advisers. Then we have them take a placement test, give them financial papers, and have them apply to the college," Dunn said. "If they fit with our philosophy, we have them sign a letter of intent."

To help student athletes get through college, "we provide a structure that gives them necessary tools needed to succeed including: strong coaching mentors, advising from academic advisers, mandatory study halls, mandatory grade checks,

and all the other necessary tools needed to succeed on and off the field," Dunn said.

Highline athletics include: basketball, cross-country, soccer, softball, volleyball, and wrestling. The track and field team was cut for financial reasons.

When looking for coaches, "we look for good people who care about students first and athletics second, see the bigger picture, and generally care about students," Dunn said.

"We would like all our coaches to be educators as well, but with coaches only getting about \$5,000 to coach the entire year, that becomes a problem," Dunn said.

Highline athletics will reach its goal by staying true to its motto, said Dunn.

"We try to control the things we can, and outwork people on the things we cannot control," Dunn said.

Mayor says city needs participation

By JOSH NELSON
Staff Reporter

The key to local government lies in cooperation and public involvement, said Dave Kaplan, mayor of Des Moines and City Council member.

Kaplan visited Highline on Tuesday as a part of the Local Tuesdays series. The series is dedicated to providing Highline students with an insight into local governments.

Kaplan, who is currently serving his third, non-consecutive term on the Des Moines City Council, gave a breakdown of how Des Moines works.

“Des Moines is organized into a city council/city manager structure,” said Kaplan. “We have a seven member council, so we need at least four votes to get anything done.”

Kaplan continued by explaining that once the city council sets a given policy, it is the city manager’s responsibility to insure the policy is carried out.

“We find ourselves working together a lot,” said Kaplan. “Cooperation is often a better route than opposition.”

Along with basic structure, Kaplan also discussed some of the challenges the Des Moines government has been facing over the last couple decades.

“After the passing of Initiative 695 in the ‘90s, Des Moines



Corey Sun/THUNDERWORD

Mayor Dave Kaplan urges students to get involved.

lost its second largest form of income,” said Kaplan. “As such we’ve had to accommodate for the loss.”

One of the ways Kaplan and the council are combating this is by increasing incentives for new business to operate and open in the city.

“We don’t have the retail available like Tukwila and Federal Way, with their big malls and shopping areas,” Kaplan admitted.

“We’re just now altering our zoning laws in order to allow

taller buildings for new businesses.”

Another challenge the Des Moines City Council has to contend with is surface water drainage.

“We’re the drainage basin for the cities that surround us,” said Kaplan. “We are federally obligated to mitigate the run-off and pollutants that go into Puget Sound, and local government is held responsible for any shortcoming.”

Kaplan also expressed how important it is for citizens to be

involved with their local government.

“If there’s something you want to see happen, you have to let us know,” said Kaplan. “You need to get involved.”

Kaplan said Highline students, faculty, and staff are excellent examples of groups that should be more involved in the local government.

“Highline is the largest employer in Des Moines,” said Kaplan. “I think the value of the college has been underutilized in the past. Hopefully that will change soon.”

Kaplan theorized that Highline students are most important to the city. That their ideas are unique and innovative, and they will end up changing the face of Des Moines.

“And with the new businesses we are trying to attract, comes new opportunities for you [Highline students],” said Kaplan.

Kaplan urged Highline students to visit the Des Moines city website at desmoineswa.gov, or email him with questions and concerns regarding the city at dkaplan@desmoineswa.gov.

Local Tuesdays will be returning next week with John Burbank from the Economic Opportunity Institute of Seattle.

He will be speaking in Building 7 at 10 a.m. and his talk will concern How Not to Build a Middle Class.

Toole’s tragic life explored

Butterfly in the Typewriter: The Tragic Life of John Kennedy Toole, by Cory MacLauchlin (Da Capo, \$26)

Reviewed by Larry Cox

This is the intriguing story of John Kennedy Toole, a New Orleans-based writer who, with a single novel, helped change the face of modern American fiction.

After studying English at Columbia University and teaching at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, Toole accepted a position at Hunter College, where, at 22, he was the school’s youngest professor. In 1961, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and stationed in Puerto Rico. There, he began work on what would be his masterpiece, a novel he titled *A Confederacy of Dunces*.

Following his discharge, Toole returned to New Orleans and began submitting his manuscript to publishers, including Robert Gottlieb, a senior editor at Simon and Schuster. After numerous rejections and troubled by paranoia and depression, Toole committed suicide on an inconspicuous road outside of Biloxi, Miss., in March 1969. He was 31 years old.

Toole’s unpublished work might have remained forgotten had it not been for his rather determined mother, Thelma Toole. She found the manuscript atop an armoire in her late son’s room and spent the next five years trying to find a publisher. She badgered Walker Percy, a faculty member at Loyola University in New Orleans, to read it, and when he finally did he was dumbfounded by how good Toole’s work was. Three years later, *A Confederacy of Dunces* was published by Louisiana State University Press with a first printing of 2,500 copies. The book quickly attracted international acclaim.

In 1981, 12 years after his tragic suicide, Toole was posthumously awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel. To date, the book has sold more than 2 million copies and been translated into two dozen languages. Many believe it is an American masterpiece.

In *Butterfly in the Typewriter*, biographer Cory MacLauchlin builds a convincing case that Toole’s life is one of the most compelling stories in American literary history.

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Committees are more than just bill killers

State Rep. explains how committees function and their purpose

By KEVIN KENISTON
Staff Reporter

State Rep. Dave Upthegrove, D-Des Moines, said that most bills struggle to make it out of committees, at Highline’s MaST Center on Saturday

Rep. Upthegrove serves as chairman of the Washington State House Committee on Environment.

“That’s where the real debate happens is in committee,” he said.

Committees are composed of representatives from multiple districts who represent many different perspectives.

Issues such as budget concerns make passing bills a challenge.

“It can become very difficult



“You have influence over your legislators...do reach out to your elected officials.”

-State Rep. Dave Upthegrove, D-Des Moines

to get bills out of committee,” Rep. Upthegrove said. Legislators from different districts may come to a disagreement due to their represented communities having different needs.

However, another way a bill can be killed is by the committee chairman.

The chairman sets the agenda for their committees and control which bills get a hearing and are voted on.

He said that everyone in the committee can support a bill,

but the committee chairperson can still prevent it from passing.

“The chair can single-handedly kill a bill,” he said.

Becoming more involved in your district is one way that Rep. Upthegrove said you can help a bill.

Public hearings allow speakers three minutes to speak with a committee and are open to anyone who is interested in lobbying.

Rep. Upthegrove said you don’t have to be an expert, but

it is important to lobby with a concise message and to be clear when saying which way your representatives should vote.

You should ask legislators which way they intend to vote.

“You have influence over your legislators,” Rep. Upthegrove said. It is not uncommon for Rep. Upthegrove and other legislators to leave committee meetings to talk to people from their districts.

“Most legislators will do that,” said Rep. Upthegrove. “Do reach out to your elected officials.”

Rep. Upthegrove spoke as part of the Science on the Sound series at Highline’s Marine Science and Technology Center.

“The MaST Center is a tremendous community aspect,” Rep. Upthegrove said.

The Science on the Sound series will continue on Saturday, May 5 at noon. Erica Cline, Assistant Professor, at UW Tacoma in the Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences department, will speak on salmon market distribution.

Cline will be speaking at the MaST Center located in Redondo at 28203 Redondo Beach S.

Jim Crow laws kept discrimination active, prof says

By HIEN HONG
Staff Reporter

Racism is a central part of American history, Highline professor Davidson Dodd said.

In a room packed with more than 70 people, Dodd, who teaches political science, spoke about Jim Crow and the Great Migration at last Wednesday's History Seminar.

History Seminar is a series of weekly discussions on topics throughout history featuring Highline faculty and guest speakers from 1:30-2:20 p.m. on Wednesdays.

"What is this cancer called racism?" Dodd asked, admitting he was not exposed to racism while living in the 1960s except for what was on the television.

Dodd became more aware of racism when he studied history during his first year at the University of Washington.

"Fifty years later I am still asking that question," Dodd said.

At the start of American history, African Americans had no rights and were considered property, Dodd said, adding that racism is "all about white supremacy."

After the Civil War, African Americans living in the South continued to have their rights restricted with Jim Crow laws.

"The white supremacy attitude in the South has not



Alisa Gramann/THUNDERWORD

Davidson Dodd explains the ramifications of Jim Crow laws throughout the U.S. after the Civil War.

changed," Dodd said.

The term "Jim Crow" derived from minstrel show actor Thomas D. Rice's song and dance "Jump Jim Crow" and was degrading towards African Americans.

Starting in the 1870s, Jim Crow law became the term for the laws in Southern states that restricted the rights of African Americans.

The Civil War "divided our nation very deeply," Dodd said.

In the South, segregation was common, especially when it came to transportation.

Dodd talked about a case called Plessy v. Ferguson. In 1896, a man who appeared light colored was arrested for sitting in the "white" car on a train because he had African-American lineage.

When Plessy challenged the Supreme Court, they justified his arrest with the "separate but equal" doctrine.

The Supreme Court's justification was that if colored people thought it was discriminating, it was just their interpretation, Dodd said.

The Supreme Court also re-

jected any Civil Rights Act that Congress had passed, Dodd said.

Jim Crow laws also prevented African Americans from getting any judicial hearing. In the South, sharecroppers were at the mercy of farm owners, Dodd said.

African Americans were also lynched in the South. The total amount of the lynching that happened throughout the 1890s was "about one lynching every three days," Dodd said.

After a few decades of Jim Crow in the South, African Americans decided to move to northern cities, starting the Great Migration from 1915 to 1970.

When Dodd talked about the Great Migration, he referenced a book called *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Isabel Wilkerson.

The Warmth of Other Suns follows the stories of three migrants; sharecropper's wife Ida Mae Brandon Gladney, agricultural worker George Swanson Starling, and Dr. Robert Joseph Pershing Foster, as they respectively migrated from Mississippi to Chicago, from Florida to New York City, and from Louisiana to Los Angeles.

Before migrating, some people such as Gladney and her family had never even left their county, Dodd said. Sometimes people like Starling would have

to sneak out of work to board a train.

"She also talks about the northern experience," Dodd said.

Dodd also presented paintings by Jacob Lawrence, an artist from Harlem who depicted the Great Migration in his narrative artwork.

In Lawrence's Great Migration series, he wrote captions for each painting. His paintings depicted that the men stayed until they could get their whole family to go, that the housing in the North improved, and that riots and bombings began happening after they settled into ghettos.

Migrants are blamed a lot in the northern cities, Dodd said.

However, the people who came to the North stayed married longer, rarely had children out of wedlock, and were generally more hard-working, Dodd said, defending the discrimination towards migrants.

Dodd ended the seminar with a poem by Langston Hughes called *Merry-Go-Round*.

In the poem, a colored child at carnival asks where the Jim Crow section is on a merry-go-round after he has moved to the North.

The next history seminar will feature Highline professor Dr. Lonnie Somer speaking about Moon Creatures on May 2 from 1:30-2:20 p.m. in Building 19, room 101.

Migrating air pollution contributes little to overall levels

By ANGELA STONE
Staff Reporter

Seattle's air quality remains healthy despite pollution from China being swept over the area.

Last Friday Dr. Heather Price, a chemistry professor at Highline, spoke on air pollution at the weekly Science Seminar.

"There are no borders to pollution," Price said. She found how true this was while working on her doctorate. Price said she worked with a pilot to collect air samples.

Collecting samples as high as seven kilometers into the air, Price said she found something interesting.

Communicating with her fellow chemists in China, Price found that seven days after a major cloud of dust picked up pollution in China, a similar reading of pollution was found directly over the Pacific Northwest.

The day the pollution came through, the higher she and the pilot went, the hazier it got, Price said.

Even though Price found evidence that China's pollution comes right over the Seattle area, Price said that Washington is still very healthy. It is rare that the Seattle area has a bad day.

The Seattle area's air quality is typically in the teens on the Air Quality Index.

Good air quality is ranked between 1 and 50 (to find the current air quality visit pscleanair.org).

Price said that maybe 10 percent of our air pollution comes from China or other source but, "90 percent is us."

Presenting two charts, Price said summers are healthier than winters in terms of pollution. During the winter 63 percent of the pollution produced is from fire and other fuel sources. The number of fires decreased during the summer by nearly 20 percent, and Price said that the overall pollution decreases during the summer.

Price presented another diagram to display the difference between four different types of fuel sources: open fireplaces,



"There are no borders to pollution."

- Dr. Heather Price,
Chemistry professor

wood burning stoves, and diesel fuel vs. natural gas.

The worst offender is an open fireplace, whereas natural gas is the cleanest source of fuel for heating homes. The visual difference was between a large pizza and a grape.

Natural gas "burns very cleanly," Price said. Natural gas produces carbon dioxide which is an air pollutant but it is not wholly bad.

Even though carbon dioxide (CO₂) contributes to global warming, carbon dioxide

doesn't have adverse health implications for humans and it is necessary for plant life, Price said.

Price explained that there are two kinds of pollutants: those that are bad for human health and the kind that contributes to climate change.

For example, in the stratosphere ozone (O₃) protects us from ultraviolet radiation, but "ozone is an air pollutant down here in the troposphere," Price said.

During the 2008 Olympics,

a large number of people were concerned about the pollution levels in China. China's pollution levels were at an unhealthy level (over 150 on the Air Quality Index).

However during the three months the Olympics were going on, China's pollution levels dropped 38 percent.

"They were cracking down," Price said.

They were shutting down the factories while the Olympics were going on. The air quality improved a lot for China but it was still pretty bad.

The people who are at the most risk when it comes to air pollution are young children (who are still developing their lungs), elderly people, and those with respiratory or heart disease.

Next Friday Jason Billingsley, from Furney's Nursery will be speaking at Highline on growing vegetable gardens.

Science Seminar is open to everyone and meets every Friday (except the first and last Friday of the quarter) at 2:20 p.m. at Building 3, room 102.

Counselor prepares for a new chapter of his life

By MICAH MORRILL
Staff Reporter

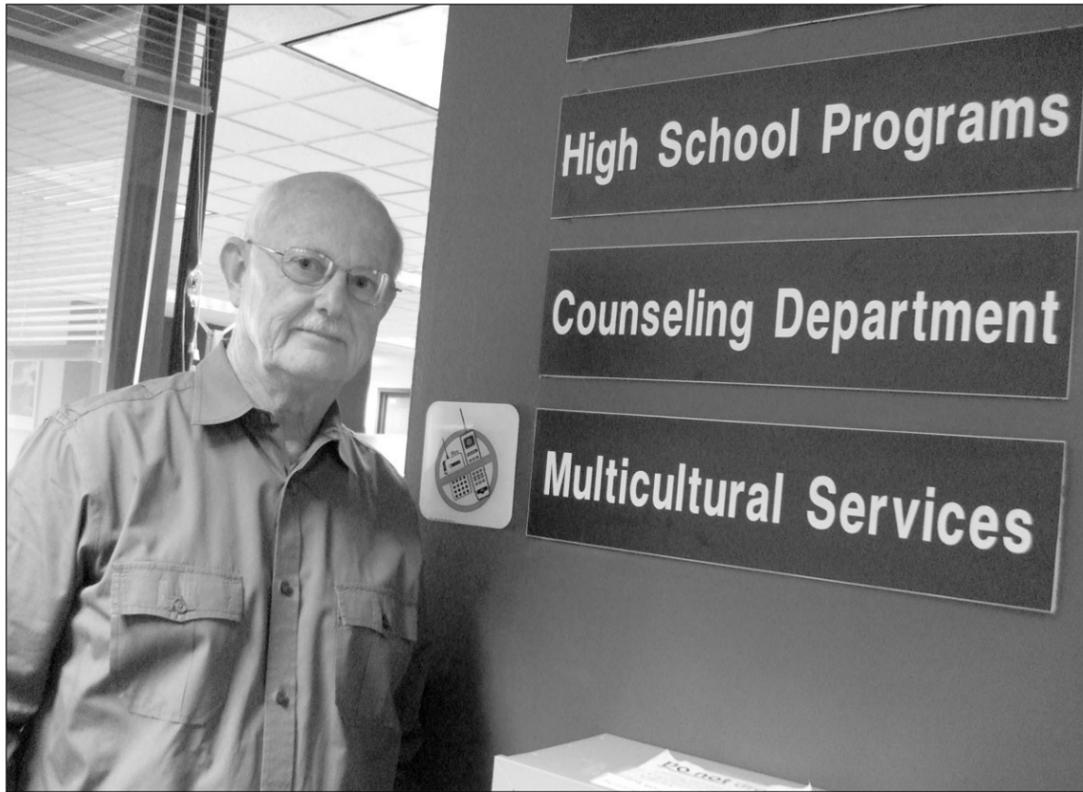
Highline has gone through many structural, social, and technological changes over its first 50 years, counselor Lance Gibson has been here to witness it all.

Gibson was a part of Highline's first graduating class in 1962 when the school was located in portables at Glacier High School. He then transferred to Central Washington University and earned his BA in psychology with minors in anthropology and history along with his teaching certificate.

In 1966, in graduate school at University of Washington he was required to do an internship in counseling psychology and found that there was an opening at Highline. During his internship Gibson was offered a job as a psychology teacher, which he accepted.

"I thought that I would come for two or three years and finish my doctorate, but I think I got hooked and those two or three years turned into 45," Gibson said.

"When I first came here as a counselor it was sex, drugs, and rock and roll. The Vietnam War was going on and students were in the streets protesting," Gibson said, "We also had a lot of students who were coming in with overdoses of and bad trips



Simone Elbrecht/THUNDERWORD

Lance Gibson graduated with Highline's first graduating class in 1962, and has worked as a counselor on campus for 45 years.

from LSD on Monday mornings that we had to deal with."

Gibson also witnessed social and racial change in the college throughout the civil rights movement.

"We had the Black Student Union take over the president's office and then the Thunderword office during the beginning of the civil rights movement," Gibson said.

When the school first started

out it was, "largely white middle class with a few smattering students of color, but not a lot and today we're 68 percent students of minorities and two thirds of our student population has English as a second language," said Gibson.

The structure and technology of the school has also changed during Gibson's time at Highline.

"Fifty years ago the college

started in portable buildings on the Glacier High School campus," Gibson said.

The college has changed from a few portables to today's 80-acre campus.

"By the time the campus opened up in '64 there was considerable growth of programs and faculty," said Gibson.

"When we first came here we had phones, typewriters, and secretaries that would do

typing. I remember the first significant technological development was the electric typewriter," Gibson said.

"Before it was all lecture and face-to-face learning, and now there are so many different teaching and learning methodologies," Gibson said.

This year will be Gibson's last at Highline. He will be celebrating his 69th birthday this summer and that is enough of a reason to move on, he said.

"I've had wonderful opportunities to work with students one-on-one behind closed doors in a counseling relationship that I feel has been significant and sometimes life-changing for those students," Gibson said.

Now that he won't have to worry about coming in to the college every day, Gibson plans on continuing to counsel people in either a paid or volunteer setting. He is also interested in putting his doctorate in theology to use by getting involved with some kind of ministry.

Gibson is a husband and father of two children. He also has four grandchildren. His hobbies include fishing, wood carving, crossword puzzles, remodeling houses, and restoring antique furniture.

"I still love working here with the students and the staff," Gibson said, "but there comes a time when you have to start a new life outside of Highline."

Leader positions open for hire Some students had plans for annual 4/20 festivities

By JOSIAS JEAN-PIERRE
Staff Reporter

Student Programs is recruiting for opening positions 2012 to the 2013 school year applications are due May 7.

Every year, around the spring quarter, Student Programs recruit students to work for Center for Leadership and Service as a club consultant.

There are 15 positions that are open in the Student Programs and all of them are hiring this quarter.

Every position is a year long, and then you would have to re-apply for the position again.

Student Programs is flexible with your class schedule and work around your schedule. All the positions are minimum wage but 15 hours per week.

Applications are available online at studentprograms.highline.edu/leadershipjobs.php or you can go to Student Programs office in Building 8 located in the third floor. Applications are due May 7, by 5 p.m.

Viet Dinh, a student who works in the Student Program office as a Club Consultant

says, you should apply because it is a way to gain experience and it also offers good leadership opportunities.

"We are looking for those who are passionate and committed," said Natasha Burrowes who is the assistant director for Student Programs and diversity.

"It's a place where it will take you out of your fears," said Rolando Sierra who is the Club Consultant for Student Programs.

As a club consultant there are skills that you need such as, being passionate about the students in the community and in the school, need to have time to invest in the position, also the program, because it is a hard commitment, and you need to be dedicated to the position you are applying for, says Burrowes

"As a club consultant, you provide space and student committees for students at highline to be involved and engage for extracurricular activities," said Burrowes the assistant director.

Working in student programs has benefits such as, "guidance from the advisors. They won't only help with professional de-

velopment, but also with education and classes. You will experience the real life things in a job but in a friendly environment," said Svetlana Slobodchikova, the Club Consultant for Student Programs.

"It's really a good way to get involved on campus, and it's a way to meet new people. People think college is just going to classes and go home. Getting involved helps you meet new people. Success in life is not about what you know it's who you know," said Muibah Azeez, the club consultant for Student Programs.

The interview will happen on May 18, for all the applicants. From the group interview, we will choose the top candidates and do single interviews from there.

After the single interviews, a selection will be made.

"I really want to encourage people to apply for the positions. It's a way to develop your leadership skills, gain work experience, grow as a person, and make your college experience memorable," Burrowes says.

By JAMELA MOHAMED
Staff Reporter

Some Highline students said they were going to go smoke marijuana in observance of 4/20. However, other students who don't smoke see it as just another day.

Accounts of the origin of 4/20 vary. Apparently, during the mid-'70s students from different areas of central California began a ritual to smoke weed at 4:20 p.m. As the years went by the ritual changed and people began to smoke on April 20 at 4:20 p.m.

"4/20 is going to be live this year," one student said.

Certain students said that they were going to go smoke at abandoned parks, their homes, and one student even said his car. Most students said that they still smoke even though they know what it causes.

"I smoke 'cause it calms me down, but if I smoke too much I end up kinda paranoid," one student said with a laugh.

"I'm chill when I smoke, I only get the munchies," said

another student. Munchies is a term used when someone is hungry. Students say that they usually feel calm when they smoke. The students who don't smoke find the drug not appealing or don't care for it.

"I don't smoke weed because I don't want to smoke, I think the smell is just nasty" said a student who wanted to be called Austin.

Some students said that the smell and the stigma of weed make them not want to smoke.

"I agree with the health benefits of weed, but I think it's overrated, like people smoke too much," said another student.

Weed has become the drug of choice for some Highline students and harder drugs like cocaine are things that students stay away from.

"I use weed because I know it is natural and nothing is really going to happen to me," one student said.

Students who smoke say that weed is not addicting and that quitting the drug is not going to be hard.



Photos by Alisa Gramann/THUNDERWORD

Trio tracks down trash

Highline students Kelly Cassinerio (below standing), Peyton Tamayo (right standing) and Erin Mullins (right kneeling) picked up trash on campus last week on Thursday as part of Earth Week's annual campus cleanup.



Explore Washington at a cheaper price with Seattle Southside

By **ASHLEY KIM**
Staff Reporter

Seattle Southside can help tourists plan a vacation, or help local people visit eateries and attractions.

Seattle Southside is a destination marketing organization in South King County. The organization is a joint venture with the cities of SeaTac, Kent, Tukwila, and Des Moines.

The organization is about 10 years old and Katherine Kertzman is the founder. "She was working for the city of Tukwila for the chamber of commerce and decided to make a joint program to market all the cities," said Ashley Comar, who is the marketing communications manager.

"SeaTac and Tukwila made an interlocal agreement, Kent joined a few years later and Des Moines joined shortly after," said Comar.

Tukwila, Kent, and SeaTac contribute through lodging tax funds.

"A joint program to market all the cities would help bring more tourists in," said Comar. Tourists can explore and get to

know better what is out there in Washington, she said.

"Seattle Southside is the home base to explore the rest of the Pacific Northwest," said Comar. Visitors stay here and they use this area as a home base and then they explore the rest of the region, she said.

The organization helps people find what they are looking for, she said.

"We connect people to local vendors, attractions, shopping merchants, hotels, and restaurants," said Comar. If you are looking for a specific place to eat, to sleep, and to find entertainment, Seattle Southside will provide all the help and information.

"We have a visitor center where people can come and ask questions and get recommendations. We coordinate brochures in the front desk," said Comar. The visitor center is located in SeaTac, three blocks from International Boulevard or one block east of the airport at, 3100 S. 176th St. SeaTac.

Plenty of tour and vacation packages are available, she said.

"On our website, there is something called packages and

promotions, and it lists all the packages the hotel offers. Some offers that are going on are the backyard wildlife festival in Tukwila, honeymoon package, and the Museum of Flight," said Comar. More than 50 packages and promotions are available.

People can choose to stay around Tukwila, Kent, SeaTac, and Des Moines to save more

money, she said.

"The hotels are more affordable here than at downtown Seattle. A lot of our hotels offer complimentary breakfast, free parking, and shuttle rides to the airport. So it is a lot more affordable to stay around here," said Comar.

People can rent a car or book a flight on the Seattle Southside

website.

"We work with Travelocity to do flight and car reservations," said Ashley Comar.

Seattle Southside will save you time and money to plan your experience with Washington. For more information about Seattle Southside, visit their website at www.seattlesouthside.com.

*Don't
miss the
party!*



www.highline.edu/50th.party.php

College faces recycling challenge

By ROSALEE VITENTE
Staff Reporter

Highline wants to improve its recycle and waste system.

Highline's waste hauler, CleanScapes, recently charged the college \$69.02 because too much garbage was mixed in with the recycling.

On March 21, CleanScapes hauled 40 yards of recycling from campus and discovered that 30 percent of it was trash.

CleanScapes became Highline's new recycle and waste company Fall Quarter 2012. When CleanScapes dumped the additional waste at its third party vendor, they were charged \$155.45 a ton for the extra waste, and they passed part of that on to the college.

"We are in a three-year contract with them [CleanScapes] so we have to make it work,"

Highline Facilities Director Barry Holldorf said.

CleanScapes and Highline will be negotiating over the next couple of months, hoping to find some common ground on what works for both the company and the school.

"CleanScapes is looking forward to resolving the recycling issues and making a better system for the school," said Quinn Schweizer of CleanScapes.

CleanScapes won the garbage and recycling contract for the city of Des Moines last year. The firm, founded in 1997, also has waste-hauling contracts for Seattle, Shoreline and San Francisco.

CleanScapes currently collects cans, bottles, plastic containers, paper and empty cartons to be recycled. The items are supposed to be empty and clean.

"People have to pick and sort by hand; it makes their job easier when things are clean and empty," a CleanScapes customer service representative said.

Under the waste category, CleanScapes collects food scraps, yard debris such as grass clippings and weeds. They also consider soiled food paper such as use pizza boxes or the cardboard trays used by Highline food services as waste.

CleanScapes will be sending a representative to Highline sometime this spring to try to further educate students, faculty and staff on their expectations for the recycling program.

"They will also be putting up bigger and more informative flyers and signs around waste and recycle bins," said Highline's Holldorf. "We are CleanScapes' largest customer. We can and will do better."



Simone Elbrecht/THUNDERWORD
Highline's Barry Holldorf says Highline must get better at recycling.

Nelson travels without leaving Highline

By CHAYCE BALDWIN
Staff Reporter

Audrey Nelson hopes to someday travel the world.

For now, as a 17-year-old college sophomore, she is experiencing the world by way of working with the diverse population of students in International Student Programs.

Nelson is a member of the International Student Leadership Council; she is one of six students who hold different responsibilities for leading international students and creating activities and programs for them to experience the Pacific Northwest.

"I have made some really great friends in the ILSC who I am 99 percent sure I probably would have never met if I didn't apply to the job. You definitely learn a lot about people and their backgrounds when you spend so much time with them," Nelson said. "Seriously. I love this job."

She's a native of Federal Way, and as a Volunteer Bank Coordinator, she said she finds or creates and leads volunteer activities, giving the international students of Highline opportunities to serve the Pacific Northwest region and communities where she grew up.

Nelson said being a Volunteer Bank Coordinator can be difficult because she often has to find volunteer activities to accommodate large numbers of international students. That includes finding transportation to and from the campus to activities, and the many forms that accompany any one activity, such as off-campus waivers,

event forms, and possibly even housing paper work.

Nelson also does all the promotional work for the volunteer activities she organizes. She advertises through many different media such as posters, social media such as Facebook, or even just talking to people, she said.

Nelson got involved after hearing a professor stress the importance of extracurricular activities. With an ongoing friendly rivalry with a friend over who could be the most involved in school, she heard about the leadership luncheon—a large on-campus job fair—last year at Highline and decided to attend, and see what they had to offer to be involved. She also genuinely wanted to be involved, and said, jokingly, it can be a "great alternative to homework."

Originally, Nelson was going to apply for a completely different job, but decided to apply for International Student Programs instead. It sounded fun and she found the position as Volunteer Bank Coordinator as her niche, and her new home in International Student Programs, Nelson said.

At first she said she felt a little out of place, but soon she became close with the other members of the International Student Leadership Council, she said. Each member of the council has different roles to fulfill, but they often step into other roles helping each other.

"We're co-workers, but we're more like close friends. We are the ISLC family," Nelson said.

Interacting with people is what she likes, Nelson said.



Simone Elbrecht/THUNDERWORD
Audrey Nelson says that being involved with International Student Programs has been a learning experience.

Nelson said she loves different cultures, people, and their stories.

Working in International Student Programs gives her an opportunity to gain insight on people from all around the world, their cultures, and different aspects, "especially food," Nelson said.

Being in International Programs has taught her a lot, she said.

"One of the most important things I've learned from being in the ILSC is how to work with other people and actually share

that work evenly. To be honest, in a lot of the other activities I've been involved it seems like I (as well as others) have the habit of either doing everything or doing absolutely nothing," Nelson said.

"It's been great to work with a group of students who all work hard and are dedicated to what we do. Definitely learned how to both step up and make decisions as well as step down and let someone else take the lead. It's really important to know when to do both of these things," she said.

"Another thing is time management. Goodbye Tumblr and 9gag," she said.

Although Nelson is a full-time student at Highline, and active in its leadership, she said she remains a leader at Thomas Jefferson High School as she is involved in Future Business Leaders of America and co-president of Family Career Community Leaders of America at the high school. The latter focuses mainly on community service, consumer sciences, and family education.

Nelson has the drive to push the extra mile and achieve higher education because her financial situation at home has caused her to realize the need to work hard to be successful, she said.

The financial benefit is why she first came to Highline as a Running Start student (along with a better social environment than high school), first pushed herself to take honors classes, and first went to the leadership luncheon in search of a job, she said.

Nelson said after she leaves Highline this spring, she wants to transfer to Santa Clara University or an in-state college: either Seattle University or the University of Washington. Because of her love for people and interacting with them, she is considering exploring an international public service, health care related or international studies related career, she said.

Studying environmental health at the University at Washington or public affairs at Seattle University are high on her list of possibilities, Nelson said.

Highline instructor just can't stay out of Africa

By **BEN FRIEDLAND**
Staff Reporter

Something keeps pulling Tracy Brigham back to Africa.

Whether it's the fact that her son is from there, the work that's being done, or the community bonds that are so evident, Brigham always returns to Africa.

Highline Instructor Tracy Brigham recently came back from a seven month trip to the African continent. Spending most of it in Zimbabwe and Kenya, Brigham also visited Ethiopia, Tanzania, and South Africa. This was her 12th trip to Africa.

Brigham and her adopted son, Zavion, spent four months in Zimbabwe's capital city, Harare, as part of a research project for Johns Hopkins University. Brigham was there to collect information about infant and child malnutrition. She also met with women and girls to talk about attitudes toward gender.

Brigham volunteered in rural villages in Kenya. Staying in a building with no electricity or running water is nothing new to Brigham, who said she's become "desensitized to the shock factor."

Brigham says what's most striking about the cultural difference is "how much more community-oriented they are than we are." When you stay in a village, you don't just stay in one house, Brigham said, you



Photo courtesy of Tracy Brigham

Highline instructor Tracy Brigham, enjoyed her time in Africa with her son, Zavion.

stay in an entire community network.

"That's what draws me back to Africa," said Brigham.

In a community, Brigham says the value system is different from ours. "We tend to

measure poverty by our standards," said Brigham.

However, Brigham also said, "we can't ignore that poverty exists." She said the urbanization of African countries is actually making things worse. As

areas become more urbanized, more people move into the cities.

"As people move into the cities," Brigham said, "more of them end up living on the streets."

"We think we have the answers for everything," she said.

Brigham first started working in Africa on the HIV-AIDS epidemic, "before it was being talked about," she said.

There is less denial about it now, she said, "but it's still a huge problem." Yet she thinks, "things are headed in the right direction."

"The infrastructure has improved, the water is cleaner," Brigham said.

What makes this trip special for Brigham is that this time, her son was able to come along. Zavion, who turned 5 on the trip, is adopted from Ethiopia. They were able to visit his home country as well. "[Zavion] turned out to be a fantastic travel companion," Brigham said.

Brigham said she's always been interested in travelling.

"I've been everywhere," she said. She started travelling overseas in her off-time. After a while, she was able to combine her passion for travelling and human rights with work. She started teaching a Global Health Issues class at Highline in 2001.

"This school has been very supportive," said Brigham.

If students want to get involved, Brigham said, they have the option of contacting her for ideas.

Brigham is also planning on having campus presentations, service learning programs, and fundraising.

Help keep prescription drugs off the streets this weekend

By **BEN FRIEDLAND**
Staff Reporter

The Drug Enforcement Administration is hosting a nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back event on April 28.

Local police departments including Des Moines Police Department, Kent Police Department, and SeaTac Police Department are cooperating with the DEA on this event.

The Prescription Drug Take-Back event is set up for the safe disposal of expired or unwanted prescription medications.

This event is meant to reduce

the chances of medications being abused. The most common occurrences happen at home.

This is the fourth event hosted by the DEA. In the previous three events, the DEA collected almost 500 tons of prescription drugs at around 5,300 sites.

The Des Moines Police Department reported that they collected over 650 pounds of prescription drugs in the three events.

According to a DEA press release, "the service is free and anonymous, no questions asked."

"Prescription drug abuse is a major epidemic across the coun-

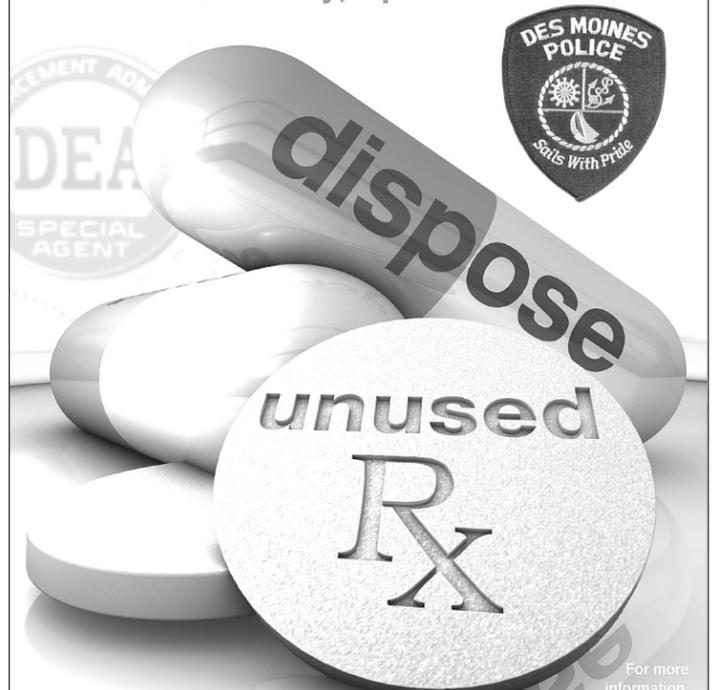
try," said DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart, "and the DEA is committed to reducing the potential for misuse by providing a safe and secure method for Americans to clean out their medicine cabinets and properly dispose of unwanted, unneeded, or expired medications."

A list of disposal sites can be found on the DEA's website, justice.gov/dea.

Two local disposal sites will be held in the Bartell Drugs parking lots at 21615 Pacific Highway S in Des Moines, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and at 27055 Pacific Highway S, Des Moines, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Got Drugs?

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal
Saturday, April 28th



For more information, please visit www.dea.gov

Des Moines Police Collection Sites:

LOOK FOR THE DES MOINES POLICE MOBILE PRECINCT

Bartell Drugs-Parking Lot
21615 Pacific Hwy South
Des Moines, WA 98198
Collection Times: 9am-1pm

Bartell Drugs-Parking Lot
27055 Pacific Hwy South
Des Moines, WA 98198
Collection Times: 2pm-6pm

Advertise in the Thunderword and help a troubled group of young college students find meaning and purpose in life.

Or something.

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Survey

continued from page 1

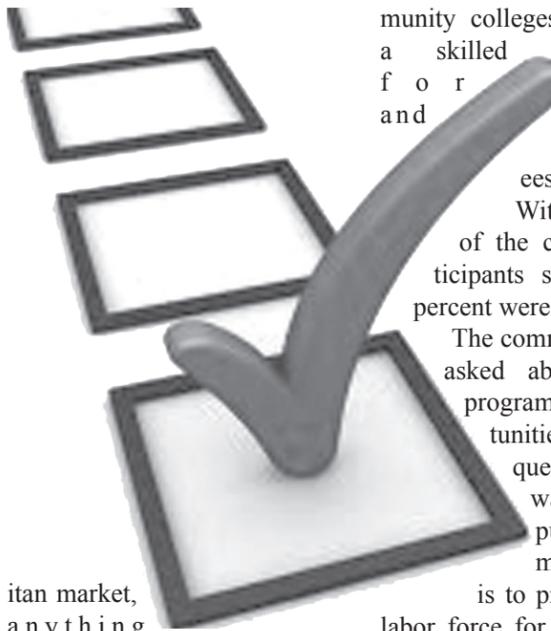
numbers are lower,” said Skari. When asked about Highline high school students tended to be complimentary. “Highline Community College students are intelligent, but cannot afford a four year university,” said one participant.

“Students are hard-working and motivated towards earning their collegiate education,” said another.

“The high school seniors had mostly great things to say about the students at Highline Community College,” said one participant.

Unprompted business and community leader awareness dropped 5 percent since 2004, going from 40.5 percent to 35.5 percent. The total awareness among business and community leaders is 95.5 percent for 2011.

“If you have an unaided recall of 18 percent in a metropol-



community colleges is to provide a skilled labor force for businesses and industries where employees are needed.”

With 92.2 percent of the community participants saying yes, 6.3 percent were unsure.

The community was also asked about Highline’s programs and opportunities. One of the questions asked was “One major purpose of community colleges

is to provide a skilled labor force for businesses and industries where employees are needed?”

Some 86.6 percent responded with yes and 6.9 percent said they were unsure to the question. Highline students were asked by the survey if “A degree from Highline will create better opportunities for you in the future compared to degrees from similar schools in the area?”

itan market, anything above that is good,” said Skari.

Community awareness without being prompted went from 36.2 percent to 33.7percent in 2011.

The survey asked the community about Highline’s perceived rolls. For example respondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement “One major purpose of com-

Interest

continued from page 1

the need — to speak up for themselves and get Congress to take action.

“I need your help,” President Obama said.

The president said that higher education should be available to all Americans.

“I’ve always believed that we should be doing everything we can to help put higher education within reach for every single American student,” the president said.

“We can’t let America become a country where a shrinking number of people are doing really well, a growing number of people struggle to get by, and you’ve got fewer ladders for people to climb into the middle class and to get opportunity,” President Obama said.

“We need to reward hard work and responsibility,” President Obama said. “And part of that is keeping interest rates on student loans low so more Americans get a fair shot at an affordable college education, the skills they need to find a good job, a clear path to the middle class that’s not blocked by a mountain of debt.”

“We can’t just cut our way to prosperity,” the president said.

“I’m going to take this issue to every part of the country this year,” the president said.

A college education is the best avenue to a sustainable job, said Cecilia Muñoz. Furthermore, it is the avenue to a full economic recovery.

“We think it’s important, economically,” she said.



Cecilia Muñoz

item,” said Muñoz, both economically and personally for the president.

But keeping interest rates low, she said, “requires legislative authority.”

The Obama Administration has been working to protect higher education in state budgets, and also increasing the availability and size of pell grants, Muñoz said.

“This is part of a bigger policy agenda,” she said. “[And] this is an arena where we are determined to make a difference.”

But in order to keep interest rates — and costs for education — down, Muñoz said, “we need everyone involved.”

Therefore, President Obama is speaking to students across the country, encouraging them to get involved in getting congress to take action.

“He is urging folks to lift up their voices,” she said.

President Obama and his administration are working toward one more year of the lower interest rates so that they can pursue a long-term solution to financing higher education.

“We hope to inspire a conversation in congress about the whole higher education question,” Muñoz said. “This is the kind of thing that can get done in a bipartisan way.”

“This is an important agenda



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free WiFi

Students were asked to rate the colleges ability to do that on a scale from 1 to

10. With respondents giving Highline a mean score of 7.1.

Students had a positive response when asked about instructors, classroom discussion, atmosphere of the classroom, and freedom to express themselves. Students gave Highline an 8.9 in that area.

Students gave Highline a mean score of 8.7 when asked about faculty showing that they care about students.

Highline got an 8.4 when students were asked if college “Instructors do an excellent job for preparing and guiding students so they know what to expect on exams.”

The survey also asked Highline students if Highline lives up to their expectations and 96.4 percent of students said it does.

Applications available for Shirley B. Gordon Award

Applications are now available for the Shirley B. Gordon Award.

Applicants must be participating in the 2012 commencement ceremony, have at least a 3.5 GPA, clear educational goals, and be able to demonstrate their involvement on campus or in the community within the last 3 years. Applicants also need a faculty sponsor.

The application is due on May 18.

The application, as well as the full criteria for applicants can be found online at www.funds4highline.org/

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER

FROM THE SHADOWS, BRIDGING THE GAPS AND EMERGING TOGETHER



4

MAY

Movie Fridays: The Wedding Banquet
12:30 - 2:15PM Building 29 Room 104

Part of Movie Fridays film series, Wedding Banquet is a Chinese-American domestic comedy with a little deception in the reception.

8

MAY

Keynote Speaker Pramila Jayapal
12 - 1PM Building 7

Pramila Jayapal is the founder and Executive Director of the Seattle-based, immigrant rights nonprofit organization, OneAmerica (formerly known as Hate Free Zone). She is an immigrant from India and has spent over twenty years working for social justice, both internationally and domestically.

9

MAY

API Students and Alumni: Beyond the Myth
12 - 2PM Building 2

A brief presentation and panel will address the diverse voices, stories, experiences and aspirations of the Asian Pacific Islander American through the lens of current Highline Community College and alumni students.

10

MAY

XBOX Kinect™ Dance Off
12 - 2PM Building 7

Want to show off your dance skills? This is a chance to enter the XBOX Kinect™ Dance battle and win prizes and more!

14

MAY

Musical performances from around the "API World!"
6 - 8:30PM Building 8 (Mt. Townsend)

Join us as we travel together from one Asian Pacific Islander country to another exploring traditional music and culture. This will be a night you don't want to miss! It's FREE and there will be FREE FOOD and Beverage!!!

Mission

continued from page 1

said.

Highline's current mission statement is "We deliver innovative education and training opportunities to foster your personal and professional success in our multicultural world and global economy. We help you build a better future."

Highline officials are working on changing the current mission statement to reflect the college's core values in compliance with the Northwest Commission's newest guidelines, said Wagnitz.

The Highline Board of Trustees recently drafted a new mission statement that reflects the college's current core themes and initiatives.

"As a public, two-year institution of higher education serving a diverse community in a multicultural world and global economy, Highline Community College promotes student learning and achievement, integrates diversity and globalism throughout the college, sustains valuable relationships within its communities, and models sustainability in human resources, operations, and teaching and learning."

A mission statement is more

than just a formality.

"A good mission statement expresses the institution's highest, most enduring priorities and captures the unique character of that institution within its community," wrote Wagnitz.

"By keeping us focused on those priorities, the mission statement can be a hugely valuable tool in institutional planning," Wagnitz said.

The Board of Trustees consults with community stakeholders over the next year and comes to an agreement on what Highline's goals are, Wagnitz said.

The Northwest Commission has every institution explain its purpose in a mission statement to ensure each school reaches what they say they are going to do.

"Higher education accreditation is driven by a process of self-evaluation. To self-evaluate, colleges are expected to assess their effectiveness at meeting their own mission," said Wagnitz.

"For that to work, the colleges' mission statements themselves must be meaningful and accurate in expressing each institution's purpose."

"That's why the commission sets a standard for mission quality. Without a good mission statement, the entire self-assessment process has no foundation," said Wagnitz.

Grades

continued from page 1

"I felt that it was a little less discretionary for us," he said, "[Because] we really needed to be in compliance with them [other state colleges]."

The second policy was a proposal to eliminate the grades between 0.1 and 0.6, Skelton said. Skelton is also a math professor at Highline.

The Faculty Senate discussed this idea at length to determine whether to keep or nix the 0.1 – 0.6 grade range.

"Now the question is, what does a grade below 0.7 represent?" Skelton said.

"[A] 0.7 is the minimally recognized grade," Wheeler said.

A 0.7 is the lowest grade that accrues any kind of credit — however, a 0.7 is not enough to accrue credit toward a transferable degree, Skelton said.

"It [the new policy] affects very minimal amounts of students," Skelton said.

The 0.1 – 0.6 range, Skelton said, "is different shades



Buzz Wheeler

of passing. These grades don't transfer."

"If it's not going to directly help the student anyway, why [keep it]?" Skelton said about the 0.1 – 0.6 grade range.

The 0.7 – 0.9 grades that students earn will count toward their GPA, but not toward their transfer degree, Skelton said.

A 0.0 grade, Wheeler said, "has financial aid implications."

The degree of effort a student puts in to a class will determine whether or not the student has to repay financial aid received

to finance the classes.

While Wheeler said he does not expect the new policy to have significant impacts on students, he said that there will be a significant amount of additional work for instructors, as well as financial aid staff.

"It is going to require some additional housekeeping," he said.

If a student's name is on the course roster throughout the entire quarter, an instructor assigning a 0.0 must also include the last day the student attended class.

Wheeler said that most of the extra effort will be in making sure that students understand the expectations and the new grading policies.

The Faculty Senate recently voted in favor of this policy in the last month after lengthy discussions, Wheeler said.

"We were trying to solicit a lot of feedback," Wheeler said, because the change will involve more work for instructors because "the first reported grade will be a 0.7."

Both of these new grading policies will go into effect Summer Quarter 2012.

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@ Highline

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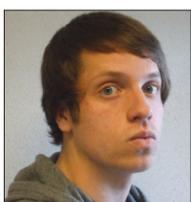
STEP UP Or Step Aside

**Be a part-time Soldier while attending school full time.
For your service you could be eligible for...**

- ◆ \$4,500 in Federal Tuition Assistance
- ◆ We will pay up to \$50,000 in current student loans
- ◆ Put over \$300 a month in your pocket with Montgomery GI bill
- ◆ Add up to another \$350 per month with the Army National Guard Kicker
- ◆ Up to 50% reduction tuition at the University of Washington.
- ◆ One weekend per month (paid training)
- ◆ Two weeks during the summer (paid training)
- ◆ Be physically and mentally fit to perform your duty as a Citizen Soldier



To learn more on how to join our team please contact:
Sergeant Michael A. Danao
michael.a.danao@us.army.mil
Mobile: 206-462-9535
Office: 253-945-1818



Mass confusion

is what we try to avoid at the Thunderword, so send us your news tips at thunderword@highline.edu.