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,” President Obama said, “And it’s completely preventable.”

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

“We had enormous debt,” he said, “so they can relate to students’ current experiences with loan debt. The President also recognized students’ ability — and need — to make a difference.”

Highline aligns mission statement with core values

By JACOB YOUNG
Staff Reporter

Highline Community College is in the process of changing its mission statement. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) has announced every institution must reiterate their mission statement every five years.

“The overall perception of Highline is “still overwhelmingly positive”, said Skari. The survey was taken in November and December of 2011. The result presented 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. The overall perception of Highline is “still overwhelmingly positive”, said Skari. The margin of error was 3.5 percent and the confidence level in the survey was 95 percent.

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. The result presented to the board of trustees last week.

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 business and community leaders.

The survey showed that 21.7 percent of high school students recognized Highline with and without prompting.

Highline environment is good for learning, local community says

By SHANNON CARTER
Staff Reporter

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New grading policies may not affect students much

By ALISA GRAMANN
Staff Reporter

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 faculty 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.

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

Kate Skelton

Highline revisits recycling rules

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.

Kate Skelton
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 males 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 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.

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Crime and Punishment

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 raises 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 items will just simply donate.

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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 available

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 Furry'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 2:20-3:23 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 4:45-5 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 gain 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 Saturday, May 19. All proceeds will benefit Highline’s Women’s Programs and Hospitality House’s 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 $2.50 value in poker chips, and registration for the poker tournament is $40, or $5,000 in chips.

The Texas Hold ’em Tournament 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 Patty Gifford at 206-227-4848 or email pattigifford2@gmail.com. To register online go to soroptimistseattlesouth.com.

EXPERIENCE PUGET SOUND AND EARN SCIENCE CREDIT!

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.
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 Holdorf, 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 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 Holdorf.

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 Holdorf.

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 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 Holdorf.

“And the important part it plays that lead down around the retention pond for the students that would like to take a look at the goats in action.

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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 a Chinese American family comedy with surprising fraud taking place at the reception of the wedding.

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.

“Goats returning to campus to manage shrubbery”

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 stated the month of May was Healing Hooves, a Chinese-Asian-Pacif Islander Month started in the United States on May 7, 1843, and was one of the first Japanese to the United States.

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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 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, housing, 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 weisecate.wa.gov/onon/en/voterinformation/Pages/RegisterVote.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 atrous 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 I will be taking my ticket soon. 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 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 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 $8.75. 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 my ticket soon.

So I tend to agree with Nolan. As inundated with new technologies and computer generated images as modern audiences are, it is refreshing to see filmmakers utilize methods that seem antiquated or out-of-date. Because 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.

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 3D or not 3D – that is the question.

I used to shave for fun, I don’t know why.

E-Mail tword@highline.edu

The Staff
Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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: ★★☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Even Exchange

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
2. Idaho capital
3. Ledge
4. Ship’s kitchen
5. Female horse
6. Nobleman
7. Portugal’s capital
8. Chainlet
9. Gabby or tumbler
10. Sixth sense

M ―― P
N ―― L
G ―― V
I ―― O
R ―― C
B ―― T
A ―― O
N ―― T

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 foreboded sales of alcohol?
5. LEGAL: What is an affidavit?
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?


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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 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 resume, 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, "Christopher, I 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. "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

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 going 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 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.

"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-Andrade.

Dr. Duncan-Andrade said he hoped 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 said. "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."

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.

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

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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.

Peppered 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 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 media 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.

“We need to return black people to a state of humanity.”

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.

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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 building housing the event. Although they didn’t quite sell out as fast as last year, other than two hours of selling on April 23, only 35 tickets were still available, Moon said.

“Some people came to the event and clean up after the event and volunteered 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.

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

“‘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 they are 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.

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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 capacity of the Student Union, which has a limit, Moon said.

Although they didn’t quite sell out as fast as last year, other than about 2 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.
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 Mehlotti 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 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, and 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 had over 60 productions of his plays, including productions performed as far away as South Africa, Germany, and Korea.

Anchors are 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.

Puzzle answers:

SHAKESPEAREAN TITLES

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FraULouSELaCe
TempMarieAmEn
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2. Boise, Noise 7. Lisbon, Lister
3. Shell, Shell 8. Strat, Strat
5. Filly, Filly 10. Hunk, Huch

Even Exchange answers

2. Boise, Noise 7. Lisbon, Lister
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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
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5 7 3 1 4 9 2 8 6
4 6 9 8 2 5 7 3 1

Got news? email tword@highline.edu

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4 6 9 8 2 5 7 3 1

Got news? email tword@highline.edu
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 for a Bohemian flair. I adore the 1940-1960s fashion style. Especially the cuts of the dresses; those dresses were made to complement 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 shoes. "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 the mall in her loose hot-pink blouse with narcy-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 shirts every day -- 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 gamerike-image like Slobodchikova later admitted, "I am influenced by American fashion though. Especially when it's raining, I feel like wearing my hoodie and sweatpants." While hoodies and sweatpants 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 illusor and the practical minimalist, Highline student Anna Perepicekia, 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 changes 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 2 Chainz, who wears 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 plaid. 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 designers 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 invogue 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 loudly 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."
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 getting 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 Maimard.

Shortstop Blessed Joy Mupara 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 three scoreless innings, 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.

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," said first baseman Kathy Murdock said of the 1-3 Gators.

"Knowing this, we as a team wanted to really focus on our weaknesses, 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 T-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 Tues-day, 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, Miy-palar 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.

Hi ghline’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 membership.

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 Alkhali.

"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 space is very limited on campus, we get the OK to use the current classroom."

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.

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

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.

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

“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, adrenaline; because you will end up working 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 you just having a good time,” Zgherea said.

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

Sam Alkhali
Dunn juggles jobs as Highline athletic director

**By ZACH STEMM  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 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 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 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 had a better person 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 advisors. 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 advisors, 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 salaries 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 outfits people on the things we cannot control,” Dunn said.

**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 will be working with have benefited from my development as a coach and the expanded network I am being plugged into. This is a 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 for him, and how he can 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 a time,” said Prenovost. “It is a huge time commitment; however, 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 am excited to work with the Sounders U-23s.”

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 work ethic and commitment to the game. Besides my respect for Darren as a person, Darren the coach has been trusted with guiding the youth academics 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 this season. Darwin and Jamael are products of the Sounders Academy and were in place before I was officially onboard,” said coach Jones.

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 feel that is going to be a great event and experience. This first year has been kind of hectic with Darren inheriting a lot of things including a schedule and no facilities to play our games,” said Prenovost. “That being said Darren has done a great job finding solutions for the games 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.
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.

"Afer the passing of Initiative 969 in the '90s, Des Moines 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 Fed eral 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 runoff and pollutants that go into Puget Sound, and local government is held responsible for any short coming."

Kaplan also expressed how important it is for citizens to become more 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 em ployer in Des Moines," said Kaplan. "I think the value of the college has been underestimated 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 re turned next week, with John Barbunk 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.

State Rep. Dave Upthegrove, D-Des Moines

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

State Rep. Dave Upthegrove

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Toole's tragic life expored

Butterfly in the Typewriter: The Tragic Life of John Kenne dy 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 Co lumbia University and teaching at the University of South west ern 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 man uscript. He received numerous rejections and trouble with 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.

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 classic and must-read.

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

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Jim Crow laws kept discrimination alive, professors say

By HIE N 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.

“The worst 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 in the South continued to have their rights restricted with Jim Crow laws.

“The white supremacy attitude in the South has not changed,” Dodd said.

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 rejected 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 still pretty bad.

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 pscleai.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, 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.

In all, Price said, 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 feature Highline flowers and plants 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.

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 said that they 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.

Of the air pollution coming from China being swept over the area, Price said that Washington is still very healthy. It is rare that the Seattle area has a bad day.

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Leader positions open for hire

By JOSIAS JEAN-PIERRE  Staff Reporter

Student Programs is recruiting for opening positions 2012 to the 2013 school year application.

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 reapply 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 Ho, a transfer 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.

“Every position is a year long, and then you would have to reapply 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.”

Counselor prepares for a new chapter of his life

By MICAH MORYLL  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 portable classrooms at Glacier High School. Gibson transferred to the University of Washington and earned his BA in psychology with minors in anthropology and history along with his teaching degree.

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, 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 from LSD on Monday morning 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 type writer,” 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 said he has 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.”

Some students had plans for annual 4/20 festivities

By JAMELA MOHAMMED  Staff Reporter

Some Highline students said that they were going to 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 it causes.

“I smoke ‘cause it calms me down, but if I smoke to much I end up kinda paranoid,” one student said with a laugh.

I feel has been significant and sometimes life-changing for those students,” Gibson said. Another student. Munchies is a term used when someone is hungry. Students say that they use it to 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 makes them not want to smoke. “I smoke weed because 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.
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.

Explore Washington at a cheaper price with Seattle Southside

By ASHLEY KIM
Staff Reporter

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.

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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.

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.

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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 student, $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 garage 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.

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.

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 perspectives, “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.

“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.

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 extra 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 she plans 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 FRIEDELAND
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 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.”

“People ask me how I can keep coming back,” Brigham said. “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 2002.

“[That class] is for students who 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 FRIEDELAND
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 country,” 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, unused, 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

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

Or something.

206-592-3291 • thunderword@highline.edu
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 re-call of 18 percent in a metropol-

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

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

The survey asked the community about Highline’s perceived rolls. For example re-
spondents were asked whether they agreed with the statement “One major purpose of community colleges is to provide a skilled labor force for businesses and industries where employees are needed.” With 92.2 percent of the community par-
ticipants saying yes, 6.3 percent were unsure.

The community was also asked about Highline’s programs and opportu-
nities. 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 respond-
ed with yes and 6.9 percent said they were unsure to the ques-
tion. Highline students were asked by the survey if “A de-
gree from Highline will create better opportunities for you in the future compared to degrees from similar schools in the area?”

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 re-
sponse when asked about in-
structors, classroom discussion, atmosphere of the classroom, and freedom to express them-

selves. 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 stu-
dents were asked if college “In-
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Mission

continued from page 1

said.

Highline’s current mission statement is “We deliver innova-
tive education and training opportunities to foster your per-
sonal and professional success in our multicultural world and
global economy. We help you build a better future.”

Highline officials are work-
ing on changing the current
mission statement to reflect
the college’s core values in compli-
ance with the Northwest Com-
mission’s newest guidelines, said Wagnitz.

The Highline Board of Trust-
ees recently drafted a new mis-
sion statement that reflects the
college’s current core themes and initiatives.

“As a public, two-year insti-
tution of higher education serv-
ing a diverse community in a
multicultural world and global
economy, Highline Commu-

nity College promotes student
learning and achievement, in-
tegrates diversity and globalism
throughout the college, sustains
diversity and globalism
learning and achievement, in-
community College promotes student

nity. Without a good mission
statement, the entire self-assess-
ment process 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 accredi-
tation is driven by a process of
self-evaluation. To self-evalu-
ate, colleges are expected to as-
semble their effectiveness at meet-
ing their own mission,” said Wagnitz.

“For that to work, the col-
leges’ mission statements them-
selves must be meaningful and
accurate in expressing each in-
sitution’s purpose.”

“That’s why the commission
sets a standard for mission qual-
ity. Without a good mission
statement, the entire self-assess-
ment process has no founda-
tion,” said Wagnitz.

Grades

continued from page 1

buzz Wheeler

A mission statement is more
than just a formality.

“A good mission statement
expresses the institution’s high-
est, most enduring priorities and
captures the unique character of
that institution within its com-

“A 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 pro-
posal to eliminate the grades be-

tween 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 repre-
sent?’ Skelton said.

‘[A] 0.7 is the minimally rec-
ognized 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 transfer-
able degree, Skelton said.

‘It [the new policy] affects
students earning a transfer
degree, Skelton said.

‘It is 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.

‘[Because] we really needed
to ensure each school reaches
what they say they are going to
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tation is driven by a process of
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ate, colleges are expected to as-
semble their effectiveness at meet-
ing their own mission,” said Wagnitz.

‘For that to work, the col-
leges’ mission statements them-
selves must be meaningful and
accurate in expressing each in-
sitution’s purpose.”

“There is no question that
students understand the
expected and the new
grading policies.

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

Both of these new grading
policies will go into effect Sum-
mer Quarter 2012.

Your teaching
career starts here.

Highline Community College and Heritage University have
joined hands to help you seamlessly expand your AA or
AS degree into a Bachelor of Education. For details, visit
Heritage’s office in Highline’s Academic Affairs Building (Bldg.
9) or contact us at 206-592-4243 or seattle@heritage.edu.

Greater success is closer than you think.

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