

## Campus hosts events in honor of student killed in car crash

By Hien Hong  
Staff Reporter

Students remembered Asha Salim on Tuesday at the Inter-Cultural Center's Diversity Poetry Lounge as other students prepared to carry out her plans for a Hip Hop Summit tomorrow night.

Salim, 20, died May 1 in a car crash along Interstate 5. Prior to her death, Salim had been planning this year's Hip Hop Summit, which takes place from 5-11 p.m. on the first floor of the Student Union.

Diversity Poetry Lounge is an event hosted by the Inter-Cultural Center and Writing Center that allows students to come and share their poetry in a nonjudgmental, stress-free environment.

"We (Inter-Cultural Center leaders) came up with the idea that it'd be great to dedicate Diversity Poetry Lounge to Asha, especially because she was president of the Hip Hop Club [which] is all about art and expression," said DeLon Lewis, an Inter-cultural Center student leader.

Through dedicating the event to her, "we got really deep, reflective poetry," Lewis said.



Asha Salim, center, was the president of the Highline Hip Hop Club and was originally planning this year's Hip Hop Summit. The Hip Hop Summit is being held tomorrow night at 5 p.m. in memory of Salim.

Lewis, himself, wrote and presented a poem dedicated to Salim during the event.

"When I was thinking of Asha, I was like 'What is life?'" Lewis asked.

In life "people spend a lot of

time thinking about the negative things, but we should really just focus on what's positive," Lewis said. "And that's what Asha reminded me of."

"No matter how crazy things around her got, she was always

smiling," Lewis said.

"When people pass, it should be seen more as a celebration," he said.

see Summit, page 15

## Student loan rates to double

By Erika Wigren  
Staff Reporter

Student loan interest rates will double starting July 1 unless Congress acts soon.

The subsidized Stafford Loan rates are currently at 3.4 percent but because of the sequester the rates will rise to 6.8 percent – increasing student debt.

According to the Huffington Post, the student nationwide debt is already at \$1.1 trillion and climbing.

"Starting July 1, the interest rates on subsidized direct loans will increase to 6.8 percent," said Lorraine Odom, director of Financial Aid.

"This means students would have to pay even more than the original loan they borrowed," she said.

Odom said that as of right now, if a student receives a subsidized Stafford Loan for \$5,500 then they would have to pay an additional \$995 on

see Loans, page 15

## Metro cuts may aggravate campus parking woes



Daniel Joyce/THUNDERWORD

King County residents sign up to voice their opinions at the King County Metro hearing about proposed Metro bus service cutbacks.

By LaTonya Brisbane  
and Daniel Joyce  
Staff Reporters

As pressure continues to build on Highline's parking shortages, college officials are asking students to speak out against possible bus service cutbacks that may limit their alternatives to driving to campus.

College officials have been encouraging students to use the Metro bus system to help reduce the number of cars being driven to campus each day.

The problem became all the more acute recently when Lowe's Hardware threatened to impound the more than 150 vehicles parking illegally in its lot.

A significant number of students stopped parking there, but the relief may be temporary.

King County Metro is threatening to cut bus service to the college due to a shortage of funds, and if more funding is not made available by the Legislature, the cutbacks could cause even more students to begin driving to campus.

Vice President for Administrative Services Larry Yok informed the campus that the King County Council is accepting emails from the public regarding possible cutbacks to the Metro routes.

On Tuesday, May 14, a public hearing was held at Union Station in Seattle for the public to voice its concerns to King County Council members. More than 400 people overflowed the room.

see Parking, page 15

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Spring play to raise awareness on gay hate crimes



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International Student Programs hosts 7th Annual GlobalFest



### Page 10

Despite recent losses, Lady T-Birds head to playoffs





### Backpack left outside, is taken

A student’s backpack was stolen while they were in volleyball class on May 9.

The backpack was left outside of the classroom with other backpacks; it was the only one stolen.

The backpack has not been recovered.

### Security spots phony permit

A student was ticketed for trying to use a fraudulent parking permit on May 9.

The student had put a home made sticker over an older one but in the wrong color.

### Explosion heard on campus

There was a loud explosion on May 13 around 8:05 p.m.

Campus security could not locate the source of the explosion but said it could have been a transformer box due to the storm.

-COMPILED BY MARK FITZGERALD

# Student achieves through ACHIEVE

**By Lindsey Tyson**  
Staff Reporter

When Lawrence Lillie came to Highline he couldn’t read.

Now, two years later he will be walking at the ShoWare Center at this year’s Commencement on June 12 with a 3.8 GPA.

It is estimated that 26 intellectually and developmentally disabled students from Highline’s ACHIEVE program will accepting their one-year fast track to employment certificate.

The goal of ACHIEVE is to work with students who have disabilities to create an individualized education and employment plan.

Services such as intensive advising, peer mentoring, on-the-job training and long-term job coaching support are provided to students involved with the program.

Lillie, for example, has his eye on a job at Starbucks and because his ACHIEVE classes including Interview Skills, Balancing Work and Life and Workplace Communication. He feels confident he’ll be a good candidate.

ACHIEVE has been around in one form or another since 2001, but Sandler said 2010 is when the program was given the capacity to reach new heights.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded Highline and 26 other universities a five-year \$1 mil-



Jennifer Sandler/ACHIEVE  
*Lawrence’s Lillie hard work and positive thinking will earn him his one year fast track to employment certificate.*

lion grant to enhance programs such as ACHIEVE. The grants assist programs like ACHIEVE to integrate students with disabilities into the college campus.

Sandler said this grant has played a big role in the program and has helped guarantee a higher success rate of securing paid employment by the end of the program.

Students are able to participate in nearly all aspects of college life with ACHIEVE.

“Our students feel like Highline students,” Sandler said.

Lillie said he has mixed emotions about graduating because Highline has become a home to him, and he thanks ACHIEVE for that.

“If you believe, anything is

possible,” he said, “I’ve proved a lot of people wrong. I have a disability but I can do anything I set my mind to.”

Sandler hopes to bring this ACHIEVE student back next year to talk to upcoming classes.

“Just keep thinking positive, work hard, and don’t give up, because people can succeed in college,” Lillie said.



### News Briefs

### Student elections continue today

Elections for the 2013-2014 Student Government president and vice president positions continue today, ending at midnight.

Voting is strictly online and can be accessed on any computer.

There are voting stations on the third floor of the Student Union outside the Bookstore from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Election results will be posted tomorrow, Friday, May 17, at noon.

To vote go to [bob.highline.edu/elections](http://bob.highline.edu/elections)

### Homicide is topic at Science Seminar

This week’s Science Seminar will be on What We Know and Don’t Know About Homicide on Friday, May 17, from 2:20–3:23 p.m. in Building 3, room 102.

The discussion will be run by

Darryl Brice and Bob Baugher.

Science Seminar is a weekly series of discussions organized by Dusty Wilson.

### Students to survey cars in East lot

Students from an environmental science class will be surveying cars in the East Parking Lot on Tuesday, May 21 from 5:30-6 p.m.

Students will be noting the make, model and year of the cars on their clipboards for a research project on fuel usage.

No information on owners or drivers will be recorded.

Vehicle owners can help by posting a sign on the car window with the make, model and year to avoid students observing cars for too long.

### Pick up graduation gear today

Graduation Fair is today, May 16, on the first floor of the Student Union in the Mount Constance room from 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

At the fair, graduating students can pick up their pre-ordered Commencement packets and their cap and gown.

Students can still pre-order

Commencement packets online or in the Bookstore

**Buy used books**

There will be a used book sale on the first floor of the Student Union in the Mount Olympus room today, May 16, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

The sale is sponsored by Highline’s Respiratory Care Program in partnership with TRiO.

### Parking spaces being re-striped

Parking spaces in the South and East lots will be temporarily blocked off for striping Friday, May 17 through Saturday, May 18.

Parking on the western area of the south lot will be blocked off tonight, May 16, for work on Friday. The rest of the lot will be striped as traffic dies down.

On Saturday, the Northwest section of the east lot will be worked on.

### Funds raised for scholarship

Women’s Programs raised \$1,022 at their 31st annual raffle on May 8.

“My main shout out is that it takes all of the campus and community to pull off a suc-

cessful event and we cannot do it without you all. Thank you,” said Jean Munro, Women’s Programs coordinator.

All proceeds from the raffle will go to the Emergency Scholarship Funding that helps Highline students pay for application and COMPASS test fees, transportation, rent, utility assistance, and emergency hotel stays

for domestic violence cases.

All donations were from faculty, staff and students.

**Discuss fibrillation**

Discuss Atrial fibrillation today 10-11a.m. in Building 10, room 207 with the Northwest nurse ministries.

The event is free to everyone.

### WHAT'S NEW AT THE MAST CENTER?

Highline’s MaST Center, located in Redondo, has lots going on if you are interested in your local environment.

**WATER WEEKEND** - Every Saturday from 10am to 2pm. Open FREE OF CHARGE to the public to view more than 100 local species in our aquarium.

**SCIENCE ON THE SOUND SPEAKER SERIES** - Saturdays throughout the month. Local scientists and environmental educators discuss the health of Puget Sound.

**LIVE DIVER** - 2nd Saturday of every month. Shows at 11 and noon.

**WORK STUDY OR INTERN OPPORTUNITY** - Work with the animals of Puget Sound while earning work study \$\$ or Intern credit! Contact [mast@highline.edu](mailto:mast@highline.edu)

**VOLUNTEER STEWARDS** - Most of the work at the MaST Center is done by our team of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering you can come and visit the Center, or e-mail us at [mast@highline.edu](mailto:mast@highline.edu)



# The future of Ukraine depends on its youth, says visiting prof

By Nathan Brewster  
Staff Reporter

Emerging from the Soviet Empire has been difficult for the Ukrainian people and it is the youth of that country and their vitality that will determine what becomes of the country a visiting lecturer told a History Seminar audience here on May 8.

Marina Tolmacheva, a professor at Washington State University, explained how the people of Ukraine have been pulled for centuries by both western and eastern influences.

Kiev, the main city, was the major political and economic capital of Eastern Europe in the ninth century. The country straddles the Dneper River and each bank of the river reflects the tug-of-war for the soul of the country.

"East and West division of Ukraine was very important," Tolmacheva said.

Historically, the east bank of the river would become part of the Soviet Empire. The west bank came under the influence of Poland. The west bank was influenced by Europe, the east bank reflected Russia.

"This was very important for economic and political reasons," Tolmacheva said.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has had difficulty emerging from its Soviet-era past.

"Capitalist Ukraine doesn't seem to have strong agriculture. New Ukraine is not being logical with its future and it is hurting their culture," Tolmacheva said.

But Tolmacheva said she thinks the younger generation may bring the changes that Ukraine desperately needs in order to become a thriving country once again.

There is a movement among the youth of the country to revive the Ukrainian culture and religion as opposed to Russian influences.

The youth of Ukraine are reviving native dancing and more



Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD  
*Marina Tolmacheva of Washington State University talks about how Ukrainian youth are affecting the future of Ukraine.*



and more youth are taking part in church activities.

"Religious pilgrimages have become a legitimate thing with the country. Young people are being used for reviving folk culture in the country," Tolmacheva said.

"The younger generation is very optimistic. The younger generation is very entrepreneurial. Younger people are engaging in politics," she said.

They are reacting to unpopular legislation, such as an infamous bill that has the country divided over language. Eastern Ukrainian interests want the official language to be Russian, while the western part of the nation speaks a variety of western tongues.

"Younger people want to join

politics to meet their higher expectations," Tolmacheva said.

At the same time many are seeking to restore a sense of Ukrainian identity, educational reforms that encourage the recruitment of international students to the country's esteemed colleges are seen as exposing the country to more outside influence.

"In 2012, Higher Education reform caused uproar from students. It started opening up doors for international recruitment," Tolmacheva said.

This has led many to doubt the future of Ukraine and some young people are making career changes that puzzle many of their countrymen, Tolmacheva said.

"Young men are willing to serve American military to try and get full time residency in America and live there after their service," Tolmacheva said.

How today's youth of Ukraine react to their country's dual-identity will determine the country's future, Tolmacheva said.

# Highline alumni moves up career ladder on campus

By Bailey Williams  
Staff Reporter

Cathy Cartwright is in a holding pattern; waiting for the Legislature to determine how much money the state is going to give Highline to operate next year.

She's got work to do and time's flying by now that she's been named Highline's new budget director.

"The largest challenge I am facing right now is waiting on the Legislature to make up its mind [as to] what our revenue is going to look like for the next biennium. Budget development is on hold pending the agreement between the House, Senate and governor about what the funding stream is going to look like," Cartwright said. "Right now it is a wait and see situation."

As budget director, Cartwright is responsible for coordinating the development of the annual budget and providing financial analysis projects for the president and vice-presidents of the college. She also monitors the budget for actual performance and then tries to trouble shoot any anomalies she might see.

Cartwright's duties also include supervising grant management. Grants provide material funding for the college. The prospect of possible cutbacks is something she takes in stride, she said.

With past cutbacks, "our executive staff and the budgeting folks (we have a team that contributes) were very conservative and deliberate when they created last year's budget. Highline develops its annual budget with an eye on revenue projections and required cuts," Cartwright said.

"That being the case, I am not worried about needing to cover any shortfalls at this



Cathy Cartwright

point," Cartwright said.

She said she doesn't know if there are going to be cuts this year or not.

"If there are, I am confident that our executive staff will continue with its conservative approach and be sure to build a budget that takes into consideration any cuts we need to take," she said.

For someone who began her association with Highline by taking accounting classes here, being named budget director "is a big step," Cartwright said.

Cartwright took accounting classes here and then transferred to Central Washington University's now-closed Burien campus.

"My second quarter at the college I took Accounting 121 and figured this is something I'd like to do," she said. "I thought, 'I could do this'."

She later returned to Highline as an academic scheduler.

"It was so not what I was used to doing," Cartwright said.

Cartwright was then named the director of Instructional Planning and Budget, a position she held since 2010 until her recent promotion, said Larry Yok, vice president of Administrative Services.

Cartwright also teaches Accounting 121 at Highline.

Highline is such a great place to work, said Cartwright.

"Through the years I've had a lot of opportunities to learn and grow," she said.

# Job Fair will help students to explore careers on campus

By Michaela Vue  
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of jobs will be filled at Highline's annual spring Job Fair next Thursday, May 23.

An estimated 500-600 students and people in the community are expected to attend this free event in the student union from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Recruiters are very nice and want to talk to students," Student Employment Program Specialist, Diana Baker said. "It's a great

time for students to explore."

To prepare for the job fair, Baker suggests students go down the list of employers who will be attending to get an idea of who they want to talk to.

"There are opportunities for everybody," Baker said.

Students shouldn't put a time limit on talking to a recruiter if the position is something that they are interested in, Baker said.

"I would plan at least an hour," she said. "If you have class you can definitely come back."

She recommends students ask about internship opportunity and things that the recruiters would have done differently while in college.

"Job fairs are a time to ask recruiters what the career field is really like," she said.

Even if students are not looking for a job, they will be eventually and should network.

"I think every student should attend," she said.

Students should be prepared to talk about their experiences,

job skills, and bring copies of their resume.

"Employers are looking for students who can clearly explain their education and career goals," Baker said. "Some recruiters will have an interview on the spot so you could potentially walk out with a job."

Other advice that she had was to dress appropriate, talk loud so that recruiters could hear students and to not eat or drink while walking around.

"Put the cell phone away," Baker said.

A job fair happens every quarter at Highline. The next general job fair will be in the fall. The winter job fair is specifically for jobs related to health care.

Student Employment is available to review resumes and to give more tips prior to the job fair.

Appointments can be made online. Visit [studentemployment.highline.edu](http://studentemployment.highline.edu) for information on which employers will be attending.



# Aid needs change

Unless one is 24 years old, they are considered a dependent of their parents according to Financial Aid.

When someone files for Financial Aid they are asked 11 questions about their parents and if they answer yes to any of them, then they are considered an adult. If they answer no to every one of them, then they are considered to be a dependent of their parents or legal guardian, even if they have been supporting themselves since they were 18.

According to Federal Student Aid, the Financial Aid program is based on the concept that the student and their family are primarily responsible for paying for the student's education.

Student Aid sees a dependent as a student who is assumed to have the support from their parents and it is for that reason that they need to have access to the parent's information in order to get a better understanding of the family's financial situation.

But this isn't fair for students younger than 24 who don't live with or have the support of their families because when many people turn 18, they end up moving out and supporting themselves.

Right now, with the independent status set at the age of 24, it makes it really hard for these students to receive Financial Aid, especially if they are not in contact with their parents.

With the way things are, even if one's parents aren't going to help them pay for college and refuse to provide the information needed they will still be considered a dependent. And if they don't put the information on the application it will be "rejected".

What needs to happen is that the age at which someone can claim themselves as an independent should be lowered to 18.

At the age of 18, one is considered to be an adult and their parents stop being legally responsible for them, including financially.

It makes no sense that at the age the state deems one financially and legally responsible for themselves doesn't apply when it comes to Financial Aid.

Even if one doesn't live at home and their parents don't help them financially or even would help them with school, they are supposed to lie on the application and say that they are a dependent of them anyway.

However, there should be a place on the application that states that if one does live at home they are a dependent and their parents' information is needed.

## Letter to the editor

### Student defends her stance on abortion

**Dear Editor:** In the May 9 edition of *The Thunderword*, Madison Fortney responded to the ongoing abortion conversation between me and Ian Morrill.

As I have stated in each of my letters thus far, I believe that a woman should have control of her own body, insofar as it does not cause harm to herself or others – which is exactly why I oppose abortion. I have listened to many women who have abortion experience, often crying by the time they finish their stories – and let's not forget the children who are brutally dismembered and poisoned by abortion: they are also being harmed.

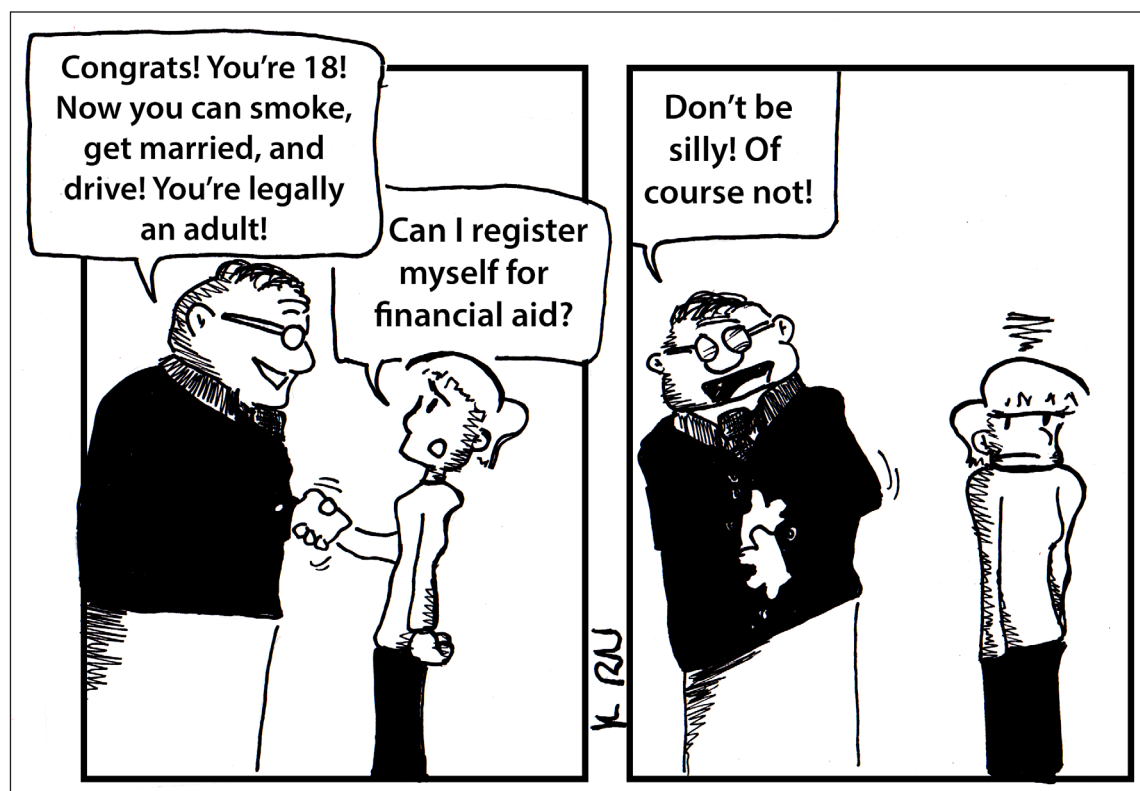
Fortney said that I am wrong to assume that abortion is the true problem; but I agree with her in that. Abortion is a symptom of an absence of moral abso-

lutes: who's to say that it's wrong to kill an innocent human being? In spite of this, I have not said in my letters, that it's inherently immoral to kill innocent people. I just said that's what abortion does.

However, because I am pro-life, I actively search for ways to save lives. I am a pre-nursing major, volunteer with Care Net Pregnancy and Family Services, where we offer free pregnancy tests and ultrasounds, parenting classes, post-abortion healing classes, and ever so much more; and am president of the brand-new pro-life club Life SLED, among other things.

SLED is an acronym borrowed from pro-life author Stephen Schwarz, which stands for the four differences between the born and the unborn: Size, Level of development, Environment and Degree of dependency.

**Aleah Hatch,**  
Highline Student



John Rutherford/THUNDERWORD

## People shouldn't be able to drive a car before they can vote

Being able to drive a car before you can vote for who will represent you is stupid.

If you are "big" or old enough to get behind the wheel of a two-ton vehicle then you should be able to vote for the people who will make decisions for you that will affect and change your life not only now, but in the future.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death in the United States for teens.

There are about 25,000 deaths every year from motor vehicle accidents in the United States.

In 2010, approximately 2,700 teens were killed and 282,000 were injured in the United States from motor-vehicle accidents.

CDC statistics show teenagers ages 16-19 are more at risk of motor-vehicle accidents than any other age group. Amongst teenagers, males are the most likely to be involved in accidents.

CDC officials say that teenage drivers, unlike adults are more at risk due to factors of not being able to recognize dangerous situations.

Also, many teenagers drive around with their friends in the car, which can mean a higher risk because they are less likely to pay attention to the road and are more likely to be paying attention to their friends.

Now, the big question is, do we as a whole raise the driving age or



### Commentary

#### Kiya Dameron

lower the voting age?

The voting age was already lowered in 1971 when Congress passed the 26th Amendment, which gave citizens the right to vote at the age of 18.

The reason for lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 in 1971 was in response to the anti Vietnam War argument that you were old enough to go to war; you should be old enough to vote.

When you or someone is behind the wheel of a car, you hold the lives of other people on the road in your hands.

Many 15- and 16-year-olds are not ready for that kind of responsibility.

Driving isn't a right that you get when you turn 15; it's a privilege that needs to be considered with thought.

It should also be pointed out that the government has put stipulations on when you can do certain things such as; at 15 you can

get your permit, but can only drive with an adult; or that at 16 you can get your license and can drive by yourself and can have family in the car, but no friends are allowed until you have had your license for six months and even then you can't have anyone younger than 16 with you and can only have three people in the vehicle.

But how are police supposed to know how old someone is by looking at them, without pulling them over and taking a look at their license?

Despite some "inconvenience" that raising the driving age to 18 would cause, it would be wiser.

Unfortunately, we tend to judge people by groups and the group of teenage drivers have so far proven that they cannot handle the responsibility of driving at the ages of 15 and 16.

As a society, we say that 18 is the age in which a person becomes an adult and it is at 18 that we give a person the most responsibility. This is when a person enters the "real world" and most people grow up.

If at 18 you can handle making the decision to serve this country and to vote for the people who will represent you in government then, it should be at 18 that you are old enough to hold someone's life in your hands as you sit behind the wheel of a car.

*-Kiya Dameron is the opinions editor of The Thunderword.*

## the Staff “

If math is a universal language, then why do we put English letters in it?”

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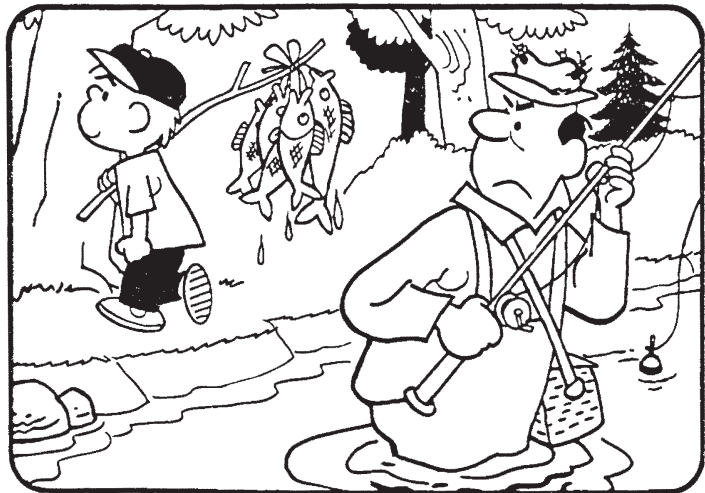
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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



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

DIFFERENCES: 1. Cap is reversed. 2. Stones are missing. 3. Fish is smaller. 4. Pole handle is shorter. 5. Tree is missing. 6. Float and line are missing.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★ ★

★ Moderate   ★ ★ Challenging  
★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

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? Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. ANIMAL KINGDOM:  
By what other name are a cat's whiskers known?
2. ANCIENT WORLD:  
Where is the Acropolis?
3. HISTORY: Who was the commanding Union general at the Battle of Gettysburg?
4. MEDICINE: What is

- scoliosis?
5. GEOGRAPHY: What two countries share Niagara Falls?
6. MOVIES: What was the name of Gary Cooper's character in *High Noon*?
7. ENTERTAINMENT: What kind of horse was Trigger, Roy Roger's trusty steed?
8. SCIENCE: What metal is

Crossword 101

By Pete Canty ([Pete@gfrpuzzles.com](mailto:Pete@gfrpuzzles.com))

Intelligence First

Across

1. Hoarse talk

5. Like the Capitol

10. Icelandic epic

14. High point

15. Overhead

16. Gehrig and Brock

17. Golf hazard

18. Sarcastic comments

20. Treacherous types

22. Ease

23. Perfect score, often

24. Abbr. on a lease

25. Latte relative

30. Belt targets

34. Flu-like

35. Rover's brand

37. Apple messaging program

38. \_\_\_\_\_ Paolo, Brazil

39. Not one or the other

41. Exist

42. Bert's companion

44. Long (for)

45. Sweat spot

46. Like a tomato

48. Turns bad

50. Wedding words

51. Popular fruit drink

52. Holiday songs

55. Unquestionable

60. Divergence less than 90 degrees

62. Cereal "for kids"

63. Hindu princess

64. Leave the house

65. Iris holder

66. Computer insert

67. Barely beats

68. Salon offering

Down

1. "Phooey!"

2. Farm unit

3. Modern communication device

4. Spicy, in a way

5. First light

6. Passing remarks?

7. Trunk growth

8. Cain raiser?

9. Make less threatening, as a cat

10. Stretchy

11. Holliday and Gooden, informally

12. Perennial hoops powerhouse

13. PGA part

19. Fix

21. Memphis-to-Nashville dir.

25. Lets up

26. Close call

27. Ed.'s request

28. Err

29. Vision-related

31. Hairpin turn, e.g.

32. Fortuneteller's card

33. Worries

36. Olympian Apolo Anton \_\_\_\_\_

39. Quilter's need

40. Always, poetically

43. Inane

45. Developed, as a neighborhood

47. Medicinal amount

49. Frat letter

52. Joker or ace

53. Antioxidant berry

54. Enters a political contest

55. In awe

56. Sad

57. Tennis units

58. Echelon

59. Midterm, for one

61. Wink's companion

Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

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

1. Center	M _ _ _ _ _	Brain teaser	R _ _ _ _ _
2. Toast topper	_ E _ _ _ _	Like Old St. Nick	_ O _ _ _ _
3. Paper pad	_ _ _ _ _ T	Spreadsheets	_ _ _ _ _ S
4. Rhythm	_ _ _ _ _ O	Entice	_ _ _ _ _ T
5. Shriek	_ C _ _ _ _	Small river	_ T _ _ _ _
6. \$1000	_ _ _ _ _ D	Ulysses S. _____	_ _ _ _ _ T
7. Prince William's sibling	_ _ _ _ R _	Laurel's buddy	_ _ _ _ D _
8. BB	_ E _ _ _ _	Young hen	_ U _ _ _ _
9. Surrender a claim	_ _ _ _ V _	Restaurant server	_ _ _ T _ _
10. Cutlass	_ _ B _ _ _	More secure	_ _ F _ _ _

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- liquid at room temperature?
9. ANATOMY: Where is the medulla oblongata located?
10. LITERATURE: Who created the *Tom Swift* series of novels?
- Answers
1. Vibrissae, or "tactile hairs"
2. Athens
3. George Meade
4. Curvature of the spine
5. U.S. and Canada
6. Will Kane
7. Palomino
8. Mercury
9. Lower part of the brain stem
10. Edward Stratemeyer
- (c) 2013 King Features Synd., Inc.

top ten

Least-Visited Countries

1. Nauru

2. Somalia

3. Tuvalu

4. Kiribati

5. Marshall Islands

6. Equatorial Guinea

7. Turkmenistan

8. Sao Tome & Principe

9. Comoros

10. Afghanistan

Source: UNWTO/Gunnar Garfors





Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD

On right, actor Steven Davis rehearses with actor Stephanie Mock. On left, Amanda Rae is not only an actor for The Laramie Project, but Rae is also the costume designer.

## Highline to revisit death of gay youth

**By Cristina Acuna**  
Staff Reporter

As it struggles to cope with the temporary sidelining of its home theater, the Highline Drama Department is preparing to debut its presentation of *The Laramie Project* on May 28.

The production will be presented in Building 7 instead of Building 4, which is under renovation.

"The biggest obstacle has been not being in our 'home' theater. Building 7 is designed to be a lecture hall, not a place for performances," Drama Instructor Debra Pralle said.

"I'm not sure if we're excited about that, but we're up for the challenge of working

in new environments," she said.

Most challenging will be that Building 7 does not have a backstage. But the Highline drama troupe is taking things in stride.

"We're making the space work by keeping sets minimal, bringing in additional lighting, and working as a traditional theater troop where everyone chips in and helps with props, costumes, and set up and tear down of the show," said Pralle. "So in a way this obstacle has created a unique opportunity for the actors to understand what it's like to work on a play that is transient."

And the play itself carries some controversy with it as well.

"The plot of this play centers around

the events surrounding the 1999 brutal beating and murder of gay student Matthew Shepard," Pralle said.

"This event launched the nation into a dialogue that brought to the surface how we think and talk about homosexuality, sexual politics, education, class, violence, and the differences between tolerance and acceptance," she said.

The play deals with the feedback received in interviews conducted by The Tectonic Theatre Company in Laramie after Shepard's death. *The Laramie Project* has become an influential teaching resource over recent years.

"We're very excited to have the LG-BTQIA Task Force, PRISM, and the Women's Programs all supporting our

show," said Pralle. "They will be having a special reception on Friday, May 31 during the evening performance."

Performances will begin May 28 and run through June 1. Curtain time will be 7:30 p.m. in Building 7. Tickets are \$8 general admission and \$7 for students. On June 1, there will also be a special matinee show at 2 p.m.

Pralle also said that she firmly believes that the live interaction of audience to artists is unique to any other art form.

"If someone has never experienced the electricity of live theater... they're really missing out. And this show in particular is so filled with memorable characters, relevant themes, and potential to truly affect the audience," she said.

## Dream Vision aims to help earthquake victims through Mosaic Art

**By Lindsey Tyson**  
Staff Reporter

Dream Vision is seeking pictures to add to its mosaic in support of the victims of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, the most powerful to ever hit Japan.

The earthquake took more than 15,000 lives and destroyed nearly 130,000 buildings.

Dream Vision, a group that seeks to support the victims of the earthquake today, wants pictures of anybody willing to snap a picture of themselves with a message showing their support.

"People tend to forget about disasters, it is important to remind them," Naho Takagi, Dream Vision student volunteer, said.

The completed mosaic will be displayed on the Dream Vision website and the Seattle Art Museum may even put a link to the mosaic on their website.

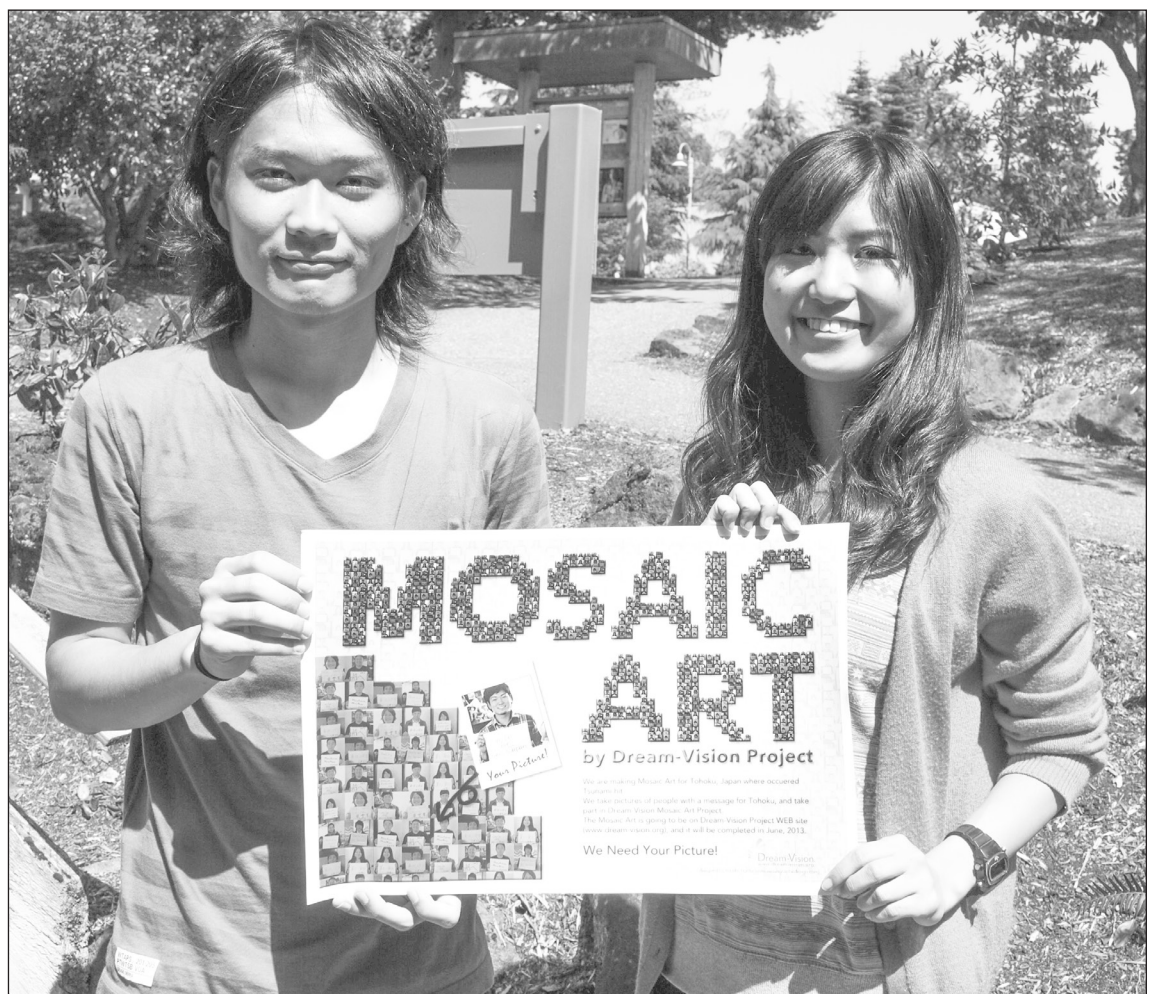
The program is also looking into sending the art to Japan and displaying it in the Tohoku area.

Highline students are encouraged by the International Leadership Student Council to take part in this mosaic because there is such diversity among the student population.

Not only are there many Japanese students, there are students from all over the world who can now reach out to support someone across the globe.

Pictures must be submitted to Dream Vision by June 30.

To find out more visit [dream-vision.org/mosaic.html](http://dream-vision.org/mosaic.html).



Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD

Students Yosuke Narita and Naho Takagi scout for pictures to create Dream Vision's Mosaic Art.



25 Arts Calendar

• **Movie Fridays.** Sit back and relax while watching a film. The International Student Program shows a movie every Friday. This week, it will feature *Resident Evil: Extinction* in Building 29, room 104, at 12:30 p.m. There will be free popcorn. This non-credit event requires students to sign-in.

• **Bill and Peggy Hung Playwrights Festival.** Burien Little Theatre will feature four new plays written by local playwrights – two comedies and two full-length dramas. Stephen Feldman’s *17-B* and David Miller’s *Parsing Race* will run May 17-26. Showtime on Fridays-Saturdays is 7:30 p.m., but 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are \$10. Tickets can be purchased at [click4tix.com/showdates.php?s\\_id=428513](http://click4tix.com/showdates.php?s_id=428513). The address of the BLT is 14501 Fourth Ave. SW in Burien. For more information, call 206-242-5180.

• **It’s Only Rock ‘n’ Roll.** Centerstage brings rock ‘n’ roll hits of the ‘50s, ‘60s and ‘70s, arranged by David Duvall. The program will run May 17-26. Showtime is 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, but 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets cost \$28 for adults, \$24 for senior citizens and military personnel, and \$10 for youths (25 and younger). The Centerstage Theatre is at 3200 SV Dash Point Road, Federal Way. For more information, visit the centerstage-theatre.com or call 253-661-1444.

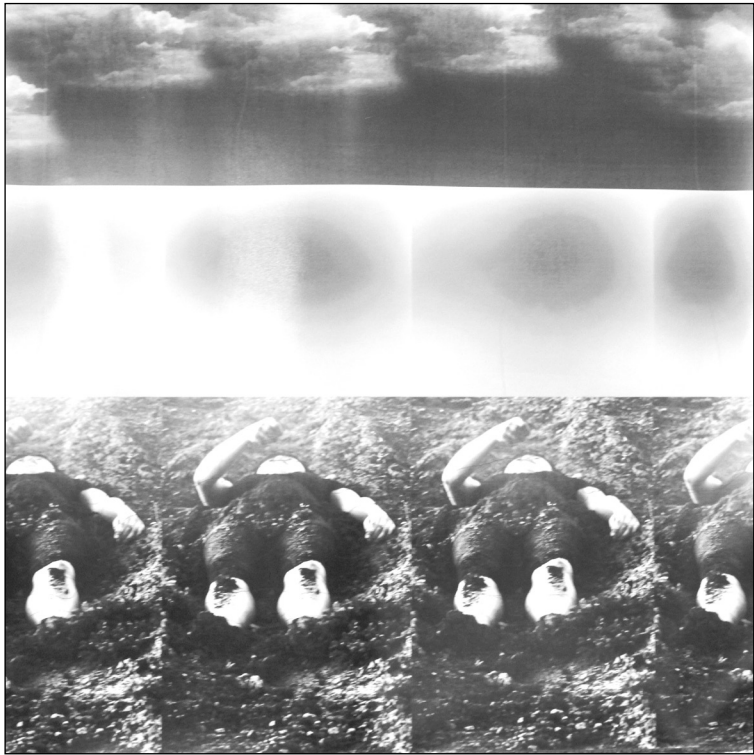
• **Shrek the Musical auditions.** The Hi-Liners will hold auditions for *Shrek the Musical* on Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Performers should prepare approximately 16 bars of a song and a one minute monologue. Audition location is the Burien Annex 14501 4th Ave. SW, Burien. For application materials or more information about the audition process, visit [hi-liners.org/MSaudition.html](http://hi-liners.org/MSaudition.html).

• **Highline garden tour and plant sale.** The Highline Historical Society and SeaTak Botanical Garden will be hosting a garden party. The event will allow plant-lovers to experience five unique gardens. There will be live performances, as well as raffle tickets, artists, and plant sales. The garden tour starts in June 6, Sat. from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Normandy Park, SeaTac, and Burien. Tickets are available at Herr Backyard Garden Center, Burien Park, and Lavina Mays in Normandy Park.

• **The Gingerbread Boy.** Centerstage will showcase the sweet adventures of *The Gingerbread Boy* on Saturday, June 8 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. General admission is \$10, but for kids (18 and younger), admission is \$7. The Centerstage Theatre is at 3200 SV Dash Point Road, Federal Way. For more information, visit the centerstage-theatre.com or call 253-661-1444.

• **Quilters.** Act I Theatre Company presents *Quilters*, a musical that showcases the life of Sarah and six other pioneer women struggling to survive frontier life. Performances are June 7-9, and June 14-16. Ticket prices are: Adults \$15, Students/Seniors/Military \$10. For times, visit [atheatrepro.com/tickets](http://atheatrepro.com/tickets). The location of the production is 5814 152nd Ave. Ct. E, Sumner. For more information, call 253-447-4139.

• **A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum.** Considered one of Broadway’s most comedic productions; Renton Civic Theatre presents *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*. The play borrows literary elements from Roman playwright Plautus and integrates them with modern vaudeville. The story is about a slave, Pseudolus, who struggles to win the hand of a beautiful but slow Philia for his young master, Hero, in exchange for freedom. Showtimes vary. To purchase tickets visit their website: [rentoncivictheatre.org/tickets/](http://rentoncivictheatre.org/tickets/). The address for RCT is 507 S. Third St., Renton. For more information, call 425-226-5529.



Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD

Alan Abdulkader’s blend of topography, geography, architecture, and photography hangs in the fourth floor of the Library.

# Artist captures scars of war through body topography

By Samantha Hill  
Staff Reporter

Alan Abdulkader is often asked whether his architecture is influenced by his art, or the other way around.

It’s the classic chicken or the egg question, and his work is on display this month at the Highline Library Gallery.

“In general it was always architecture, but I wanted to take an artistic approach to it,” he said.

Abdulkader is a Fine Arts adjunct instructor at the Evergreen State College in Olympia and his Absence|Silence and Topographic Politics project, featured in fourth floor display in the Library.

The display includes his thesis work for his master’s in archi-

itecture from Washington State University where he also has a bachelor of arts degree. His task was to create a memorial representing an attack or war.

He has now turned pictures from his thesis project into popular art around the Northwest.

“I didn’t want to make it like every other memorial, like the ones you see in Washington D.C. I wanted them (the audience) to be able to feel the people, see that they are part of the landscape, where the war happened,” Abdulkader said.

His pictures focus on an attack on the city of Alajab, in northern Iraq.

During March of 1988, the city was bombed with chemical gases, killing more than 20,000 people and mutilating many more.

The first piece Abdulkader

‘There is no identity in the people; they are only representation.’

– Alan Abdulkader

created he named “Attack.” The picture shows planes dropping bombs on the area of Alajab and killing its Kurdish population.

“[It] shows how the landscape is changing, from its people being vertical, alive, to being killed and becoming horizontal; slowly falling and letting the body become the landscape. They (the pictures) are a timeline,” Abdulkader said.

He explained how his artwork, coupled with the idea of architecture being such an im-

portant part in history, is able to show how the people of a city are its “fabric.”

People, he said, make up the whole of the city and should not be forgotten. That is why he put the dead in his pictures, laying horizontal, being a part of how the landscape changes over time, how the land’s people become a part of the landscape.

“There is no identity in the people, they are only representation,” Abdulkader said.

He said it is important that there is nothing connected to the people besides the political and geographical issue of the bombing of Alajab.

“I want to show that once someone’s identity is given up, taken from them, the geography is stolen and changed as well,” he said.

## Puzzle answers

### Even Exchange answers

- Middle, Riddle
- Jelly, Jolly
- Tablet, Tables
- Tempo, Tempt
- Scream, Stream
- Grand, Grant
- Harry, Hardy
- Pellet, Pullet
- Waiver, Waiter
- Saber, Safer

### Intelligence First

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

### Weekly SUDOKU

#### Answer

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





Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD

From far upper left: A student shows off traditional Chinese garb while descending a staircase decorated as the Great Wall of China. A group plays magaiang, a Chinese tile game (upper left). Student Honami Suzuki (upper center) performs a traditional dance. Another student (upper right) plays a Ukrainian tune on the domra. The K-pop Club (center) also performed. A student (lower left) shoots a rubber band gun to win a prize. Attendees could also request their name to be written in Chinese calligraphy (left). Professor Oussama Alkhalili (lower right) and family pose outside the Turkish booth.



# Annual salute to diversity was long on the Asian experience and short on other cultures

By Joseph Park  
Staff Reporter

Attending Highline's seventh annual GlobalFest was similar to visiting a village on the Silk Road. Last Saturday, the Student Union was reconstructed into a marketplace of exotic foods and curiosities from countries from Korea to South Africa. "It's amazing," said Highline student Zoan Wang. "I see 10 countries in one room." Wang distributed samosas as visitors descended a Great Wall of China constructed entirely out of butcher paper. Samosas were not the only appetizers volunteers were handing out. There were cups of "saku," a warm concoction of tapioca, corn and sweet rice. While one has the opportunity to gaze at peculiar trinkets, eating utensils and musical instruments from foreign nations, the overall atmosphere of GlobalFest is awfully like Hollywood. For the Mexican booth, one could see that the International Student Leadership Council had recycled the Oscar statues from previous student events, and then dressed them with sombreros and ponchos.

Which is more theatrical, the sculpture or the costume? That is open to interpretation. The very nature of GlobalFest must take on the role of the international tour guide. "I like to immerse myself with [different] food and performances," said Highline student Justin Taft. "You just don't get to do that as much." However, if GlobalFest transports people beyond the stereotypes the audience would likely lose interest altogether. "You kind of have to be stereotypical," said a student who asked to remain anonymous. "Being recognizable is important."

The student said that she wished to see fewer Asian countries and a more equal representation of other countries. Comparing the number of booths reserved for particular Asian countries to the number of stands showcasing a cluster of non-Asian lands, such as the African continent, her request was not entirely irrelevant. GlobalFest's theme was "Earth City" – a concept that attempted to simulate an imaginary metropolis containing all the different cultures of the world. In this city, as the main show suggested, citizens of Earth City could enjoy operatic performances sung by Koreans, and critically dissect all the traditional dance moves executed by Cambodians, Japanese, Vietnamese and more. Does anyone notice a pattern? The Asian invasion is beside the point. Apparently, the chicken dance is the one human accomplishment that brings everyone together in the name of peace and harmony – at least

## Review

2013 GlobalFest: Earth City - May 11, Student Union Building, presented by International Student Programs

one aspect of American culture was exhibited. Still, with regard to the overall message of GlobalFest, most attendees expressed similar ideas. "Highline is a very diverse place," said Erick Calsado, who was one of the drummers in the Taiko routine featuring traditional Japanese drumming. "There's no room for racism; we are one big family," he said. The focus of GlobalFest was not, however, so much about condemning racism, but educating the student body about the importance of ethnic diversity. According to Dr. Jack Bermingham, president of the college, GlobalFest serves an educational purpose. "There is an opportunity to learn all these cultures," Dr. Bermingham said. "It's great to see so much talent... to see these individual people part of one college." But how much can people learn from practicing to write one's English name in Chinese calligraphy? What is the significance of donning kimonos and qipao dresses? What are students supposed to detect by looking at another country's flag? Entertainment was by no means lacking, the crowd clapped incessantly to the martial art presentation. However, there were still innumerable numbers of cultural dots left unconnected.

# Global Fest 2013



3835  
3145  
2114

Scoreboard

Women’s Softball

NORTH League Season

Bellevue	23-1	35-5
Douglas	23-3	28-5
Olympic	13-13	15-17
Everett	12-12	23-19
Shoreline	10-14	16-24
Skagit Valley	5-19	7-32
Edmonds	0-24	0-33

EAST

Wenatchee V	26-2	39-4
Spokane	20-8	26-16
Columbia B	16-12	25-19
Treasure V	15-13	20-20
Yakima V	14-14	25-20
Walla Walla	12-16	18-27
Blue Mount	5-23	8-35
Big Bend	4-24	10-34

WEST

Pierce	18-2	26-17
Centralia	16-4	18-14
Grays Harbor	12-8	17-20
Highline	6-14	18-18
Green River	5-15	7-24
S. Puget Sound	3-17	3-24

SOUTH

Mt. Hood	16-4	36-5
Clackamas	15-5	28-14
SW Oregon	12-8	27-12
L Columbia	9-11	23-16
Chemeketa	8-12	21-19
Clark	0-20	2-28

SCORES

Thursday, May 9  
Pierce 6, Highline 5  
Pierce 3, Highline 2

Friday, May 10  
Green R 6, S Puget Sound 3  
Shoreline 1, Everett 0  
Centralia 10, Highline 4  
Douglas 4, Olympic 3  
Skagit V 7, Edmonds 2  
Green R 5, S Puget Sound 4  
Mt Hood 15, L Columbia 2  
Everett 9, Shoreline 2  
Pierce 7, Grays Harbor 3  
Douglas 9, Olympic 0  
Skagit V 9, Edmonds 4  
Mt Hood 7, L Columbia 5  
Pierce 8, Grays Harbor 6

Saturday, May 11  
SW Ore 10, Chemeketa 2  
Wenatchee V 6, Yakima V 2  
SW Ore 4, Chemeketa 3  
Everett 3, Skagit V 1  
Clackamas 7, Clark 0  
Spokane 13, Big Bend 3  
Col B 12, Walla Walla 1  
Blue Mount 9, Treasure V 7  
Bellevue 9, Shoreline 1  
Douglas 9, Edmonds 1  
Yakima V 8, Wenatchee V 4  
Everett 12, Skagit V 3  
Col B 3, Walla Walla 1  
Spokane 17, Big Bend 7  
Treasure V 6, Blue Mount 1  
Bellevue 13, Shoreline 7  
Douglas 8, Edmonds 0

‘Birds hope for success in playoffs

By Zach Stemm  
Staff Reporter

The Highline softball team has qualified for the NWAACC playoffs for the second straight season.

However, this time the Thunderbirds are the 16th seed in the tournament.

“Being seeded 16 doesn’t mean anything,” Highline outfielder Dani Babcock said. “We’re glad to be in the tourney.”

Babcock finished the regular season with a .308 batting average, 14 runs, 32 hits, nine doubles, and 17 RBIs.

Sixteen schools qualify for the NWAACC playoffs. The top four schools from each region make up the 16.

“Against Mount Hood we are going to need to hit and play solid defense,” Babcock said. “They are a good team and we will have to bring our A-game.”

Highline is ranked last out of the 16 teams and will play the No. 1 seed Mount Hood.

The Thunderbirds secured a spot in the playoffs last week, beating out Green River and South Puget Sound for fourth place in the West Region.

The tournament will take place on May 17-20 at the Owens Sports Complex at Delta Park in Portland, Ore.

A four-day pass for admission to the tournament is \$20. Single-day admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students with a current ID, seniors, and military. Single-day admission for children between the ages of seven and 12 is \$3 and children under six get in for free.

Highline wrapped up the regular season losing their last four games. They lost two



Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD  
Karyssa Marbet hits a single in the first game against Centralia.

games on the road against Pierce last Thursday, 6-5 and 3-2, and lost two games at home against Centralia last Friday, 10-4 and 4-1.

In 6-5 loss to Pierce, the Thunderbirds had the lead until the bottom of the second inning.

They scored first when the Raider pitcher walked outfielder Brianna Votaw with the bases loaded in the first inning.

Votaw finished the regular season with a .299 batting average, 29 hits, four home runs, 21 RBIs, and ten walks.

Highline lost the lead in the bottom of second when Pierce scored three runs in the inning.

The Thunderbirds tied the game at five runs in the sixth, but Pierce scored the go-ahead run in the bottom of the sixth to bring the score to the final score.

In the second game against Pierce, both teams were scoreless until late in the game.

Highline scored two runs in the sixth inning, but the Raiders scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh to win the game.

In the 10-4 loss to Centra-

lia, the Thunderbirds were not able to generate enough runs off of their hits. They had 12 hits while the Trailblazers had 14.

Outfielder Tayler Holtman had a solid game at the plate. She went 4-4 with 2 RBIs in the leadoff spot.

Holtman finished the regular season with a .355 batting average, 39 hits, seven doubles, one triple, one home run, and 26 runs.

In the 4-1 loss to the Trailblazers in the regular season finale, Highline did not have an extra base hit. Their seven hits were all singles.

The Thunderbirds also had three errors in the game.

Those errors led to three unearned runs.

That is all behind them now as they prepare for the NWAACC playoffs.

“Realistically, with our injury situation and the number of people hobbled at this point, I think competing hard and winning a game on day one to advance to the second day should be our goal,” Head Coach Scott Dillinginger said. “I think the girls have stayed in it mentally, as we battled the division champion Pierce in two one-run games on the next to last day and really should have won the second game.”

With the playoffs having a double-elimination format, the Thunderbirds will have to win at least one game out of two on day one to play on day two.

If Highline loses to Mount Hood, they will take on the losing team of the Spokane and Pierce game.

If Highline wins against Mount Hood, they will take on the winning team of the Spokane and Pierce game.

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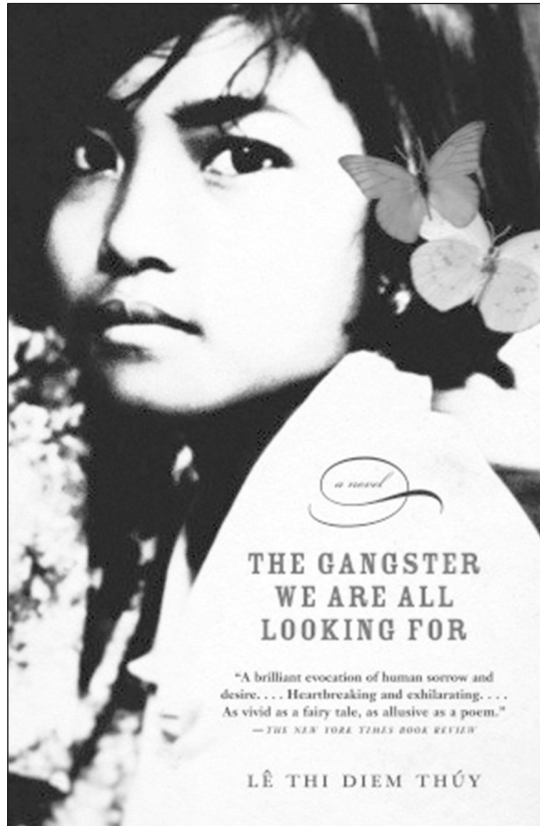




## Book reading discusses identity, family and war

Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD

As a part of AAPI (Asian-American Pacific Islander) Heritage Month, students and faculty members came together for a book reading of *The Gangster We Are All Looking For* with the aim to explore how culture influences people's understanding of the world. On far right, a Highline student reads out loud *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*, which is Vietnamese-American author Lê Thi Diem Thúy's first novel. On right, the cover art for the book.



## 2016 is doomsday for some buildings at Highline

By Ryan Johnston  
Staff Reporter

Those small, cramped, cage-like cubbyholes where many faculty members hold forth during office hours are doomed... the bulldozer is on its way.

But not before 2016.

A large number of faculty members will be relocated to new offices in Building 26 when it is renovated in 2016. Shortly thereafter, buildings 5, 11 and 18 will be torn down.

In total, Buildings 5, 11 and 18 currently house about 130 faculty members in roughly 60 offices.

According to the Facilities Condition Survey in 2011, buildings 5 and 11 were rated very low based on the decay of plumbing, ventilation, and overall building quality. The open-air "atrium" architecture of each of the building has also lead to a deterioration of second floor walkways.

Building 18 shares these problems.

Director of Facilities Barry Holldorf said that the reconstruction of Building 26 will provide new office space for faculty members in anticipation of



Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD

*Buildings 5, 11 and 18 are in need of repair. Their demolition has been scheduled for 2016.*

the demolition of the worn-out faculty buildings.

"I'm estimating, but we'd need about 9,000 to 15,000 square feet in Building 26 [for offices]," Holldorf said. The size of each individual office currently cannot be estimated, as Facilities has to plan accordingly to state guidelines and this plan-

ning has not gone into effect yet.

Facilities is working on the project request for reconstruction of Building 26 to be submitted to the state next February. New faculty offices won't be the only additions.

"There isn't an efficient use of the classrooms," Holldorf said. The current layout isn't

conducive to the programs offered in the building. Smaller rooms that have the latest technology would create a better learning environment, he said.

Reconstruction of the building would also move some Life Science and Health Care programs in from buildings 12 and 14, creating a program adjacency.

"We will [also] be asking the Port of Seattle for some money for some sound remedy work," Holldorf said. The sound remedy work is similar to the construction happening to Building 4, in which there will be better soundproofing inside and outside the building.

Buildings 5 and 11 would be removed with Building 6 to create a new, multi-institutional building.

This new building would contain instructional space, student services, and about 15,000 square feet for new faculty offices.

Building 18 would simply be torn down. Currently, there are no plans to occupy that space with anything else.

Soon after the Building 26 renovation is completed, Facilities will focus on sound abatement in Building 16.

"The east wing of 16 is what we're targeting," Holldorf said.

In addition to these larger upcoming projects, new LED lights will replace the lights attached to buildings and light poles on campus and in the parking lots.

"They're going to save us a lot of money and maintenance work," Holldorf said.



Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD

*Singer Hollis Well sings before Women's Program.*

## 'Sheroes' recite poetry and songs

By Nathan Brewster  
Staff Reporter

The power and dedication of women was celebrated May 8 as Highline's Women's Program observed its 31st anniversary with a presentation and panel discussion featuring poetry and song.

The focus was on "sheroes," rather than heroes, and highlighted the struggles of women.

Kelly Zen expressed her emotions through her love of poetry and words.

"I know there's no me without you. But I know there's no you without me," Zen said. "True women take on everybody's problems without worrying about their own."

Jess Monae, a guest poet and singer, talked about

her difficulty growing up as a mixed-race woman.

"My mother was a refugee from Cambodia and my father was a black man," Monae said.

Some of her poems and songs also reflected that part of her life as well as other issues that women feel such as rape and under appreciation.

"I carried all of your weight. You took up my space and I didn't ask you to apologize for it. Not even my words could stop rape," Monae said.

Another panel member, Hollis Well, has worked for many up and coming artists and poets, including Macklemore at one point.

She presented a poem reflecting on the tragedy of the Boston Marathon bombings.

"Don't fade into obscurity. We are the watchmen. I was born into this generation confused," Well said.



# Age of majority laws can be confusing but Highline prof says they make sense

**By Angela Sucher**  
Staff Reporter

Grow up, kid.  
Legally, defining exactly what that means can be confusing in Washington state.

The age of majority lines are blurred in this state with a collection of laws differing as to at which age citizens attain legal rights as an adult.

“Age of majority is the conceptual age that a person is considered, by the state, to be a legal adult and no longer a minor,” said Highline legal professor and former family practice attorney Bobby Wheeler.

In general, Washington state declares the age of majority to be 18 years old, and at that time a person is permitted to partake in various actions that were prohibited to them as a minor.

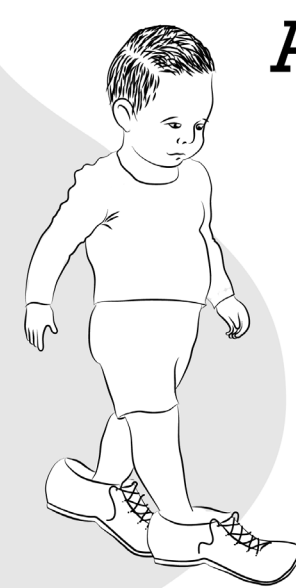
“At the age of 18 a person may enter into a legal binding contract, get married without parental consent and becomes legally responsible for themselves,” said Wheeler.

Additional rights afforded to a person at this age include the right to work 40 hours a week, vote, take out a line of credit or loan and gamble legally in some casinos.

Just don’t try to belly up to the bar and hoist a few to celebrate.

The legal drinking age is probably the most obvious and debated. Despite the title of adulthood at age 18, persons younger than 21 are prohibited from consuming alcohol in all 50 states. While state and federal laws permit young men and women to fight overseas for our country and weld dangerous military weapons at the age of 18, they prohibit the same citizens from having a beer after doing so.

“I believe it’s really the evidence over a period of time that



## Age of Majority

- 16 Age of consent
- 18 Tobacco, contracts, right to vote, credit cards/loans
- 21 Alcohol, marijuana, firearms, car rentals & gambling
- 25 Car rentals

Luis Batlle/THUNDERWORD

shows the maturation of young adults at that age that dictates these laws, particularly the drinking age. The laws reflect evidence that shows whether or not there is a significant physiological change that takes place at this age,” said Wheeler.

The fact that the legal age to consume alcohol exceeds the legal age of majority by a full three years has been widely unpopular, but it is far from being the only thing prohibited.

With the recent legalization of the recreational use of marijuana in this state, an additional age restriction of 21 was also implemented for legal use of the drug.

While the evidence of inconsistency among the laws is prominent, Wheeler says that the reasoning behind the laws is earnest.

“Really there is more a lack of inconsistency between states rather than within this state, I don’t believe that in Washington there is that much dichotomy. I do believe that there are well-formulated ideas behind

each law and that they are not as arbitrary as they may seem. They were formulated to protect minors, not to overly restrict,” said Wheeler.

For example, Wheeler says that if a minor enters into a contract or agreement with an adult the minor has the right to nullify such an agreement as they are protected by their status as a juvenile.

“Also, juvenile court is completely separate from court where adults are tried. Typically, as a juvenile, a minor’s record maybe expunged in order to give them a fresh start in life. The penalties are usually much less severe. That’s why [prosecuting] attorneys attempt to try juveniles as adults for particularly heinous crimes,” Wheeler said.

Aside from being tried in juvenile court, being considered a minor or dependent can sometimes have added benefits both before and after 18.

With the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010, un-

married dependent children can be covered on their parent’s health insurance up to the age of 26. This has allowed under- and uninsured young adults, many of whom were students, to be covered under health insurance that was previously prohibited past the age of 19.

The right to make decisions regarding sexual conduct is also afforded to those younger than 18. State law declares that a person is legally capable of consenting to have sexual contact at age 16, a full two years before the legal age of majority, although such relationships remain prohibited in many cases when a person is 60 or more months older than the minor.

Washington state prohibits the right-to-carry a firearm from citizens younger than 21, although they allow citizens older than 18 to own firearms.

There are other restrictions as well, some dictated by industries, rather than the state.

Many casinos in the state

mandate a minimum entry age of 21 although state law only requires that a person be 18 years old to legally gamble.

Like casinos, car rental agencies also restrict services to citizens under a specific age, not in correlation with state law, but per company policy.

Despite the fact that the state holds no legal restrictions to those older than 18 renting vehicles, most companies charge an additional \$25 to \$75 a day to patrons younger than 25. The agencies maintain that the fee is to cover additional insurance costs.

In addition to the rental car companies, insurance companies around the nation and specifically here in Washington, charge any driver younger than 25 significantly more than those in late adulthood. Insurance companies claim that statistically drivers older than 25 are less likely to be involved in accidents, and require less coverage, and therefore should be charged less.

With the various differing statutes and policies, it can be fairly easy to run afoul of age-restriction laws, but Wheeler said it’s not overly common among young adults.

“I don’t think it’s a large segment of adults that break these laws. The majority of it is people that engage in criminal activity anyways, such as drugs or maybe gang-related activity. In my opinion there is a relatively small amount of minors actually charged with breaking these laws,” Wheeler said.

Although the laws and practices can be confusing, the rationale for the discrepancies are placed there to protect the well-being of young adults, Wheeler said.

“There is evidence present that supports the implementation of these laws, they are there to protect, not restrict,” Wheeler said.

# Activist discusses social justice and disability

**By Alex Jackson**  
Staff Reporter

Racism, sexism, homophobia, and ableism. Ableism?

Although the first three might be a little more familiar to most people, all four are problems faced by Mia Mingus, a self-labeled “queer disabled Korean transracial and transnational adoptee” writer and activist.

“The one thing people know the least about is disability,” said Mingus. “They’ve never heard it talked about in a political way.”

Ableism, which is defined by Mingus as the system of op-

pression that targets disabled people, was the main topic of discussion when Mingus shared her story as part of the fourth annual Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month events.

Mingus was adopted by white parents at the age of 6 months, and lived in St. Croix, the biggest island in the Virgin Islands. “It was kind of like a small town, but you’re trapped by water,” Mingus said.

“I grew up in a small, close-knit, feminist community,” said Mingus, a place that provided her with a profound sense of activism.

At a very young age, Mingus

was diagnosed with polio. The disease caused problems with her legs, and she wore a brace from her heel to her hip until finally, in her sophomore year of college, Mingus decided she no longer wanted to wear the braces.

“When it came to doctors and male professors, my parents just took their word for it,” Mingus said. “Nobody was asking me what I wanted to do.”

From a young age, Mingus “saw women organize for themselves when no one else would,” and that environment shaped Mingus and enabled her to think of disability in a different

light than those around her.

“We talked about white supremacy around the dinner table. We talked about racism and sexism, but we never talked about disability,” said Mingus. “There are fierce movements who are talking about social justice, but they aren’t talking about disability.”

Mingus found herself asking how to connect her sense of self as a disabled person, to her deeply political sense of self as an Asian-American girl.

She then went on to talk about her experiences as a disabled, transracial woman.

“Disability and queerness

have been both deeply connected to me,” said Mingus. “It is risky to be out as a disabled person.”

After sharing her story with the audience, Mingus opened up the floor for questions and commentary. The discussion ranged from disability and medical violence, to domestic and sexual abuse, with an overall theme of the importance of getting involved in campaigning for social justice and activism.

“Disability justice is still so new,” said Mingus. “We are trying to expand what disability even means, as well as who we think of as being disabled.”



# Student is awarded with JKC scholarship

**By Jawaahir Omar**  
Staff Reporter

Before attending Highline, the possibility of attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was just a dream for Joey Putnam.

Soon it will be a reality.

Putnam and 73 other students from the United States have won the 2013 Jack Kent-Cooke Foundation scholarship.

The JKC Foundation is a private, independent foundation dedicated to advancing the education of hard-working students who are transferring to selective four-year colleges and universities.

"It's specifically for students who are going to transfer to [a] four-year institution," said Putnam.

The JKC Foundation awards students up to a \$30,000 maximum to cover tuition payment, living expenses, books and even sports equipment for three years. Students are expected to keep a 3.0 GPA in order to keep the money for the full three years.

In order to qualify for the chance to apply students must have a good GPA throughout their community college experience, complete an online application and have two instructors fill out online evaluations as well.

Putnam was informed of his scholarship through the Honors



Joey Putnam

Program and said that he is excited to not only be awarded this scholarship but to also be attending MIT, his dream college.

"When I first began studying at Highline, my goal was to transfer and earn a degree in computer science. However, I never would have considered a school like MIT," said Putnam.

Putnam grew up in a place where education was undervalued. But he said the Honors Program, Presidents Honor Roll and Phi Theta Kappa programs here have built Putnam's confidence to succeed at Highline.

"Before Highline, the only

person who pushed me to succeed was myself," said Putnam.

He has done a lot of self-directed study in various areas of computer science, his field of major.

But throughout his Highline experience Putnam has met many people who he is grateful for: faculty and staff members such as Barbara Clinton, Terry Meerdink, Gregory Reinemer, Tina Ostrander, Josh Archer and Portia Plante.

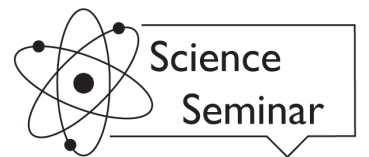
Putnam said Highline has also given him a chance to take introductory classes in computer science, web development and database theory, all which he is planning to pursue.

Putnam said that he is looking forward to spending every summer in Virginia for the "Scholars' Weekend," a retreat for honor scholars who have won JKC Foundation scholarship this year and some other scholars from the previous years.

"I'm really excited to interact with other bright students whom I can learn from and be inspired by," said Putnam.

# Seminar focuses on the immune system

**By Taylor Rengstorff**  
Staff Reporter



There are always new discoveries being made in the biotech field. New medicines are being created every day and new ways of looking at cancer research, a Highline professor said last week.

"Our bodies inherited our immune system, that has been passed down since the beginning of time," Sam Shabb, a Life, Ocean, and General Sciences faculty member, said to a Science Seminar audience.

The immune system is made up of trillions of "armies" fighting off infections and working to keep everyone healthy, Shabb said.

The immune system is made up of cells – B-cells and T-cells – each one doing its part to keep bacteria and antigens out of the body.

B-cells, as Shabb explained them, are the drone operators; they send out molecules to tag diseased cells. T-cells are the "Navy Seals" that directly fight and kill cells.

Then there are the helper T-cells, or "military command," that activate the B- and T-cells.

Those ones "give the marching orders to the cells," he said.

The B- and T-cells work together to get the bacteria out, and work on protecting the immune system. This works by the cells "tagging" the diseased cells, and working to contain them and then destroy them, he said.

The first time a bacteria enters the immune system, the cells work fast and it takes around 14

days to clear it out and recover. When the same bacteria comes around, the person won't get sick.

This is because when the bacteria entered the body the first time, the B- and T-cells contained the bacteria and then created antibodies to fight off that same infection the next time, Shabb said.

"You will never get sick from the same bacteria, it is basically impossible," he said.

Then there are cells that can't be killed off by just what's in the immune system: cancer cells.

There are treatments, but no medicine at this point that can actually cure cancer, said Shabb.

Cancer patients have choices to make when it comes to treatment.

There is chemotherapy, in which drugs are used to kill off cancer cells. Unfortunately, the drugs can also kill healthy cells.

"This treatment, though effective, can also cause more problems down the road for recovering cancer patients," said Shabb.

With immunotherapy, another option, doctors take good cells from around the affected area and create antibodies to fight off the cancer without damaging other cells.

"It focuses solely on taking down the cancer cells, and nothing else," said Shabb.

This Friday's Science Seminar at 2:30 p.m. in Building 3, room 103 will discuss homicide.

# AAPI members discuss personal experiences

**By Lindsey Kealoha**  
Staff Reporter

Raising the awareness of Asian-American Pacific Islander individuals and their communities was the focus of a panel discussion here at Highline on Tuesday.

An audience of 60 people heard Frieda Takamura, a commissioner of the Washington Commission on Asian Pacific-American Affairs, Sili Savusa, director of the White Center Community Development Association, James Hong, director of Youth and Community Engagement and Soya Jung, Senior Partner of ChangeLab encourage the audience to get involved in their community.

Takamura became involved with the AAPI community because of her, "conscious experience related to the 1940s... during the time of concentration camps," after the bombing of Pearl Harbor during World War II.

Her goal is to raise aware-



Rebecca Starky/THUNDERWORD  
Sili Savusa and Soya Jung discuss their involvement with AAPI.

ness for the, "segregation of data issues...and focus on looking at the opportunity gaps for minorities."

"There is still a huge segregation when looking at the

student population," said Takamura. "People don't get an honest picture of who our students are."

Takamura's involvement with the AAPI community has

"really been a wonderful journey...it gives me such hope to see this drum beat in the community," she said.

Savusa was inspired to become involved with the AAPI community because of her childhood experience.

"As a kindergartener I would skip school. [It was an] awful experience," said Savusa. She said teachers who "don't believe in these kids shouldn't teach...you are doing them a disservice."

"[I'm] tired of media putting us in this box...I want to preserve our language and who we are," said Savusa, "to show how we live."

What inspired Hong to get involved with the AAPI community was his, "experience and influence that was brought on by misfortune."

Serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cambodia had made him, "appreciate and recognize how the mobilization of youth can empower individuals and communities," he said.

"The more I do it, the more issues I realize are present," said Hong. "How do we address and promote these issues... since there is a lack of understanding why these issues are occurring?"

Hong said economic conditions are causing families to focus more on putting food on the table and paying the rent, rather than focusing on school.

"We are very family-oriented... we want younger children to engage with the older generation," said Hong.

What inspired Jung to become involved with the AAPI community is that, "there wasn't a consciousness of who Asians were...when I went to college a group of six people and myself, became apart of a AAPI group."

The goal is, "filling in the gaps...we have to get our house in order," said Jung, "Asian-American Pacific Islanders have a lot to contribute...we carry a lot of trauma and a lot of pain."



# Downtown Des Moines QFC closing

**By Lester Bugaychuk**  
Staff Reporter

An integral part of Des Moines’ Marina District will be gone next weekend when the QFC closes down on Saturday, May 25.

“QFC made the very difficult decision to close this location because of the cost of keeping such an aging store open, coupled with new competition coming into the neighborhood,” Amanda Ip, QFC’s media relations officer, said.

The grocery store has been an important part of the Marina District, and shopper Carl White said he thinks long-time patrons aren’t too happy that it is closing.

A lot of people will “tighten up their jaws” over the loss, he said.

“It is very important to have a grocery store as a central piece of the community commercial district,” Marion Yoshino, Des Moines’ Economic Development manager, said.

“We will probably go through some down time where



Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD  
*The Marina District QFC is a convenient grocery stop for both local businesses and denizens.*

the site is vacant, and then under construction, before we get a grocery store back again,” Yoshino said. Once the store closes, it will be a year or more until a new one comes to fill the vacancy, Yoshino said.

The impact, though, is expected to go beyond simply losing a grocery store.

QFC functions as an anchor tenant to local businesses, such as The Soggy Doggy and Super Bowl Pho.

Smaller businesses were able to get customers from some of the traffic that went to the QFC.

“I’m probably gonna lose a

lot of traffic here,” Ty Ho, Super Bowl Pho’s owner, said.

“I would like to keep it going, but I don’t know how,” Ho said.

Others are going to miss the convenience of a Marina District grocery.

“I went to high school here and have been in the area for

10-15 years,” Jenny, a local customer who declined to give her last name, said.

“I would probably go to the Safeway [on 216th Street] since it’s on the way,” she said.

This marks the second time Des Moines has lost a QFC recently.

The Midway Crossing QFC at Kent-Des Moines Road and Pacific Highway South closed a few years ago.

That leaves the city with just two major grocery stores – both on Pacific Highway South – at South 216th Street and South 272nd Street. Both are Safeways.

While QFC is going away, the jobs will remain with all employees at the Marina District store being placed in jobs at neighboring stores since the company has no plans to open another location nearby.

“Our associates will celebrate their service to the Des Moines community with a volunteer event at the local food pantry [today] from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.,” Ip said.

# Fight for gender equality continues, despite progress

**By Samantha Hill**  
Staff Reporter

Gender inequality in the workforce remains a problem in the 21st century, a Highline administrator told a Women of Vision workshop last week.

Lisa Skari, vice president for Institutional Advancement, told a small group of concerned women, young and old that, as recently as the 1960s, there was significant economic injustice against women in the workforce.

That began changing in the 1970s.

“You always have a choice,” Skari said, whereas up until that time women did not always have a choice.

It wasn’t until 1972 and the passage of Title IX that discrimination against women in the workforce and educational fields, including sports, became illegal.

Along with Title IX, The Pregnancy Discrimination Act instituted in 1978 made discrimination against pregnant women, or women who may be more likely to become pregnant, illegal in the workplace and educational fields.

It would be another 30 years before the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, the first bill signed into law by President Barrack Obama, would address equal pay in the workplace.

The Ledbetter bill removed the 180-day statute of limitations for filing equal-pay lawsuits in American regarding pay discrimination and sexual harassment.



Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD  
*Vice President for Institutional Advancement Lisa Skari speaks at a Women of Vision workshop in the ICC.*

The Fair Pay and Paycheck Fairness acts made it to Congress after Ledbetter sued the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. for paying her less than her male counterparts.

She lost that suit on the basis that she did not file suit within 180 days of receiving her first paycheck.

The problem was that she did not learn she was being discriminated against until much later.

Passage of the Ledbetter Act has not resolved the discrepancy in pay. The current gender wage gap here in Washington is 77 cents, Skari said.

Women can, however, be active in bettering their status, she said.

They need to do their research

and speak up about the problem.

“Getting the right information is how you can speak up,” Skari said. “First, be knowledgeable... do your research. Second, talk about it!”

She also stressed the importance of family planning and being financially secure with a good education, the latter becoming more problematic given the rising costs of college.

Therefore, women need to better use their resources, such as all of the scholarship options within colleges and universities.

She passed out pamphlets giving information on where women can reach out for financial help with schooling.

Skari illustrated her point by relating her personal experience as a female student, single mother, and working woman.

“Put yourself in scary situations,” she said, “for scary situations are where you learn the most.”

“Look at what men have done and learn from them. We [women] just need to join hands and work together,” she said.

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# Summit

continued from page 1

"I understand why people get upset," Lewis said. "But in order to get over that ... you need to learn to look at it as triumph."

Thinking about it "makes you really appreciate life," Lewis said.

Tee-James Ancheta, a friend of Salim's also presented a poem as a tribute to her.

The poem will also be presented at the Summit.

"A friend of mine said you should show it at the Hip Hop Summit as a tribute," Ancheta said. "People should hear my piece, he said."

Ancheta said he wrote the poem after going to Salim's candlelight vigil on May 3.

The poem is "the strongest thing I've ever wrote ... I cried while I was trying to [write it]," he said. Now "I'm trying to stay positive."

Salim would want her friends to stay positive, "nothing gets her down," said Ancheta.

Student Government President Nimo Azeez also presented a poem she wrote that later reminded her of Salim.

"I feel like the last stanza really relates to what Asha did to so many people," Azeez said.

The stanza's lines are "Life would be so different if we could understand from our hearts /

That's a good place to start."

For Friday's Hip Hop Summit, Salim had arranged for two competitions: three versus three All Styles and King of the Hill.

"The three versus three All Styles is basically two teams of three [dancers] battle it out to advance to the next round," said Tom Duong, an event planner for the Summit.

The King of the Hill competition is one versus one, until it's narrowed down to the top eight.

After that, it's a competition between one dancer and another, going down the line of dancers until someone gets seven points.

Competitors who win will be awarded a hand-made graffiti canvas.

In addition, guests Out-Kasted Dance Crew and graffiti artist Brandon will also be there.

Salim "had almost everything planned," Duong said.

Lewis said he is looking forward to enjoying this year's Hip Hop Summit.

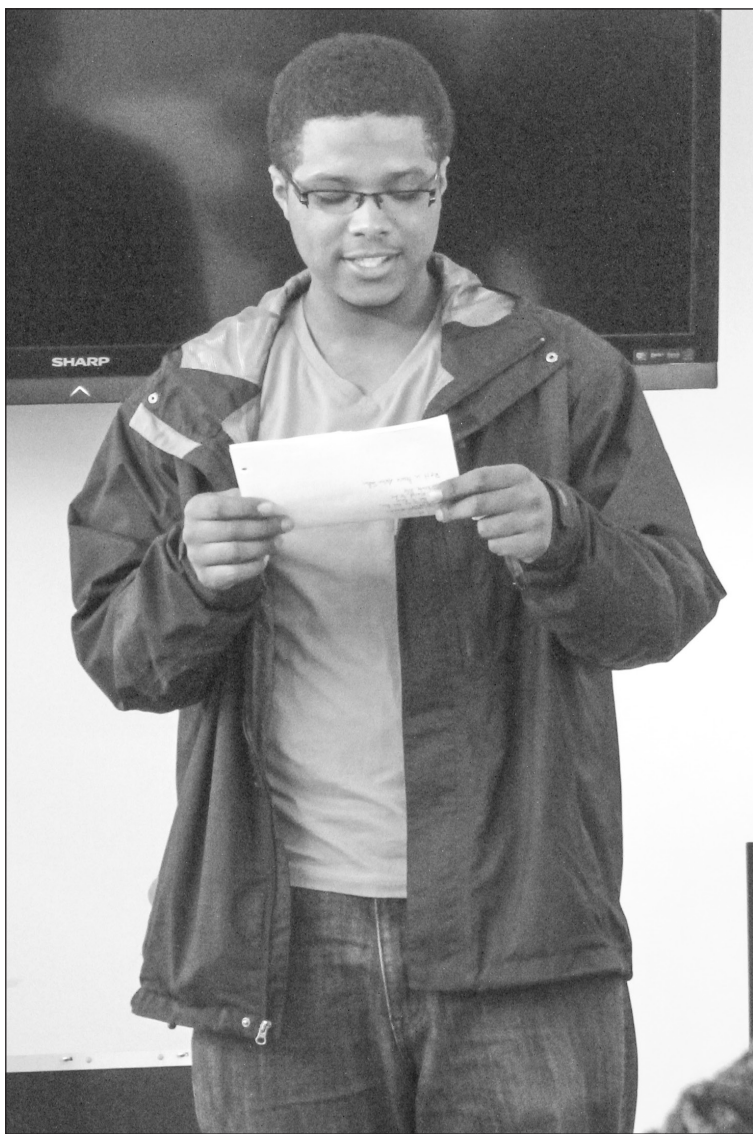
"I performed at the Hip Hop Summit [as a rapper] last year," Lewis said.

"I am showcasing Emerald Attire clothing," said Ancheta.

"[And] we're going to do a raffle," he said.

To participate in the raffle, like the Facebook page at facebook.com/emeraldattire.

Participants may win a free



Racquel Arceo/THUNDERWORD

Student DeLon Lewis reads a poem that he wrote for Asha Salim at the InterCultural Center's Diversity Poetry Lounge on Tuesday.

shirt or get a discount.

Food will be provided and the Summit is free and open to everyone.

To sign up for a competition,

go to the Highline Hip Hop Club: Hip Hop Summit Facebook page.

Registration ends on Friday at 6 p.m.

## Parking

continued from page 1

Sound Transit Chief Executive Officer Joni Earl was one of the first to testify against the cutbacks.

"We, like our partners, have done significant work to adjust to this economic reality," said Earl.

"We've eliminated capital project reserves and we've done more efficient bus scheduling," she said.

Unfortunately, Earl said this has not been enough to counteract the depth and severity of the recession.

"The good news is that we're still positioned to deliver most of our capital programs, including an additional 36 miles of light rail which will dramatically increase regional transit capacity in the future," said Earl.

"But today, our bus system is the work horse of the system," she said.

Kevin Desmond, the general manager of King County Metro, also testified at the hearing.

"For most of our users, there will simply be fewer options and this will complicate the problem for all of us," said Desmond.

"This is indeed a system. We all use the roadways," he said.

Metro is facing an annual \$75 million revenue shortfall despite various revenue raising efforts including four bus fare increases between 2008 and 2011.

The result could be the elimination of 65 routes and reductions to 85 more across King County.

Routes being considered for reduced service include the 121, 122, 156 and RapidRide A, which could severely affect student commuters.

Although encouraging students to ride public transit is the Highline administration's main recommendation for relieving the parking problem on campus, Yok said no one attended the Metro public hearing on behalf of Highline.

"We submitted a letter to our legislator. That is all we can do," he said.

"It's the students who have the most opportunity. They should be writing their legislators," Yok said.



Earl



Yok

## Loans

continued from page 1

top of the loan in 10 years.

"If the loan rates double and a student receives a \$5,500 loan, then they will have to pay an additional \$2,095 in 10 years. So though there is no immediate effect, but in the long term it would hurt them," said Odom.

If the subsidized Stafford Loan rate is doubled, then it will match the loan rate of the unsubsidized Stafford Loan.

"The subsidized loan is based off of student need, while the unsubsidized is for students without that financial need," Odom said. "Matching the student loan rates is then problematic."

Odom said that in addition to the increase of the subsidized Stafford Loan rates, the loan fee rate will increase as well.

"The loan fee used for processing will increase as well. Right now it is 1 percent but starting July 1 it will increase to 1.05 percent," Odom said.

In response, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, along with 11 other Democratic senators have proposed freezing student loan rates for two years.

In a recent hearing, Sen. Jack Reid said that, "instead of raising interest rates on families struggling to pay for college, Congress should close costly, special interest tax loopholes."

Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren has also proposed a bill designed to provide relief for those with student loans.

She wants to link student loan interest rates to the rates the Federal Reserve offers banks: 0.75 percent.

Sen. Warren said that it isn't right that the federal government is going to charge interest rates nine times higher than the rates

they charge the biggest banks.

She said she also plans to mobilize students to help get the bill passed.

"In response to Warren's bill, the fixed rates would be better for students in the long run, as [students] would owe less," Odom said. "And the variable rates could hurt them in the long run."

Even at the current rates, since the federal government took over administration of student loans last year, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the government will realize a \$51 billion profit this year alone.



Sen. Warren



Daniel Joyce/THUNDERWORD

A young boy holds a sign reading "Save Metro," at Tuesday's King County hearing. The hearing was open to all King County residents.





# Reptile Expo interest is off the scales

## Hundreds flock to Renton to enjoy creepy-crawlies

By Alex Jackson  
Staff Reporter

If it slithers, if it crawls, there was a good chance it was on display at the last weekend's Fourth Annual Seattle Metro Reptile Expo.

Hundreds of reptile hobbyists and enthusiasts attending the event at the Renton Community Center met vendors selling everything from live animals, animal equipment and souvenirs.

"It's a gathering place for hobbyists to be around other hobbyists, breeders and vendors," said Joel Ebarb, the owner of Northwest Reptile Expos. "We are hobbyists ourselves, so we really just like to help the hobby blossom."

Ebarb, who has owned reptiles for 25 years, got hooked at a very young age.

"My brother was allergic to fur, so really the only pet I could have as a child was something scaly," said Ebarb.

He, along with his wife Courtney, organize reptile expos all around the Northwest. His hobby has become a successful business.

So successful that many vendors, who came to the expo with a full inventory of reptiles were packing up early after selling out to the eager attendees of the event, Ebarb said.

"People don't realize that the reptile industry is a multi-million dollar industry," said



Ebarb. "A lot of our vendors here are doing really well."

Vendors at the expo had almost every type of reptile available for sale, although snakes and lizards, specifically chameleons, were the most popular. Many of the attendees brought their own reptiles to walk around with and show the crowd.



Alex Jackson/THUNDERWORD

(Clockwise from top left) Lizards and chameleons wow the crowds as hundreds of reptile lovers flock to the Renton Community Center for the Seattle Metro Reptile Show on May 11. Isaac Peterson of the Reptile Zoo in Monroe shows how to handle an alligator and not get bit.



was also a presentation by Isaac Peterson who runs the Reptile Zoo in Monroe. Peterson has been exposed to reptiles from a very young age thanks to his father Scott Peterson, who many know as "The Reptile Man."

"My father generally takes care of the traveling presentations while I run the Reptile Zoo," said Peterson. "If you like reptiles though, we have some pretty cool stuff to see."

Although a few Northwest Reptile Expos are scheduled in Oregon over the next several months, the next Seattle show is tentatively scheduled for next spring, once again in Renton.

Lash, who declined to give his last name, is a long time reptile hobbyist. He brought an 8-year-old albino Burmese Python named Thor that was a real hit with the other attendees. Many people wanted pictures with the 40-pound snake around their shoulders.

Lash said that although people always want a large snake after seeing how good Thor is with people, it is important to know the risks.

"You don't want to handle them alone," Lash said about the powerful snake. "He probably would never try to hurt you, but you don't want to be the one to make the news."

As well as vendors, there

## Memorial Day ceremony honors vets on May 23

### Thunderword Staff

The Highline's Veterans Committee is holding the Memorial Day Recognition Program next Thursday, May 23 at 12:15 p.m.

The program will either take place outside Building 3 in front of the Missing in Action/ Prisoner of War Memorial, or inside Building 2 depending on the weather.

Highline's Veterans Services Manager Josh Penner, who served in the U.S. Marines, will be a

featured speaker.

Accounting instructor Darryl Harris and a United States Military Academy graduate will be the master of ceremony. Student veterans who have 45 Highline credits or more will be awarded with a Highline Challenge coin. The commemorative medallion was designed by Visual Communications instructor Gary Nelson.

Afterward, a free reception including refreshments will take place in Building 2. The event is open for students, staff and faculty.

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