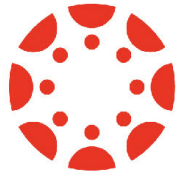


Angel gets the boot, Canvas to take its place

By Michaela Vue
Staff Reporter

Angel's days of bedeviling Highline students are coming to an end.

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and the state-funded four-year institutions have ended their search for successor to Angel, the learning management system in use at a majority of the colleges in the state-run higher education system in Washington.



canvas

They chose Instructure Canvas and several campuses have already transitioned to the new system.

Highline will make the move during the next academic year.

Angel had been acquired by Blackboard in 2009, which subsequently announced it was

pulling the plug on the product in hopes that colleges would migrate to Blackboard's Version 9.1.

Instead, a committee representing student services, IT, eLearning, librarians, faculty, and representatives from all six state universities decided Instructure

Canvas would be a better fit.

A contract for Canvas was approved in June 2012 and some colleges began making the switch.

They included Green River, Bellevue and Tacoma community colleges. Highline and the bulk of the remaining schools are expected to make the transition this next academic year.

"The first time that students will see anything will be Winter [Quarter]," Sue Frantz, Highline Instructional Design office fac-

ulty in residence, said.

If all goes well, all of Highline will be using the program by next spring quarter she said. The license for Angel expires in 2014.

The tentative schedule for the changeover includes:

Systems integrations and transition testing will begin this summer. System integration, training, and course transitioning will begin during Fall

see Canvas, page A16

President plans to stop student loan rates from doubling

By Hien Hong
Staff Reporter

With the deadline to prevent interest rates on subsidized student loan rates from doubling on July 1 rapidly approaching, dueling proposals from the House of Representatives and President Obama are being rejected by both sides and there appears little movement towards a solution.

The House, controlled by Republicans, has passed a proposal to tie student loan interest rates to the 10-year Treasury rate.

That would mean interest rates would change annually and President Obama has rejected the proposal.

"The House bill isn't smart, and it isn't fair," Obama said last week.

The president's plan would lock in the current low interest rates for the life of the loans.

see Loans, page A16



Luis Batlle/THUNDERWORD

Students have reported getting their phones swiped from their desks while studying in both the library and the Higher Education Building.

Phone thefts escalate on campus

By Gabrielle Paulson
Staff Reporter

Inside, outside; twilight, broad daylight; set it down, hold it in your hand – your phone is not safe.

Within the past couple weeks there have been 10 recorded cases of cell phone robbery and theft at Highline.

Phone thefts are not uncommon, said Larry Yok, vice president of Administrative Services, but "these kinds of grab-and-snatch are relatively new."

The methods have included grabbing phones out of students' hands randomly or after asking for the time, threatening them with violence or a weapon; or asking to use a phone and then running away with it.

"There's two groups doing the possible robberies," said Chief of Campus Security Richard Noyer.

The first group is two young black females who ask to use a phone or distract the student, grab the phone and then run away.

The second is two black male adults possibly age 18 years old to early 20s.

"They say, 'We are going to beat you up' or 'We have a weapon,'" said Noyer.

The two males run a higher risk due to their method of obtaining the phones, changing the classification from robbery to armed robbery.

"You get additional time for indicating

see Thefts, page A16

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Graduating student wins two national beauty queen titles



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Seven incredible students assemble for graduation



Page A12

Poker night raises money for Women's Programs



Driver hits gate with stolen car

A vehicle hit a gate in the North Parking Lot on May 24. A man was driving away from the police in a stolen vehicle when the vehicle hit the gate along the way. Although he wasn't caught on campus he was caught shortly afterwards.

Medics come for assistance

A student passed out in Building 17 on May 29. Campus Security was called at approximately 11:50 a.m. Paramedics later arrived to assist the student.

Student reports iPad theft

A student's iPad was reported stolen from the library on May 29. The student left the iPad unattended while using the restroom.

Instructor reports car theft

An instructor's Subaru was stolen on Thursday, May 30 from the administration parking lot. The vehicle has not been recovered.

Two men get away with cart

Two men stole a cart on May 31. Campus Security saw the men, but they ended up getting away.

Student reports stolen Honda

A student's Honda Accord was stolen from the North Parking Lot on Monday. The vehicle hasn't been recovered.

Items in the Lost and Found

A set of keys, a wallet, a pair of sunglasses, and other items were found last week. Go to the Campus Security Office on the first floor of Building 6 to retrieve any of the items.

Recycle, reuse bottle caps at the MaST

By Lindsey Kealoha
Staff Reporter

In an effort to prevent the accumulation of plastic bottle caps in landfills, Highline's Marine and Science and Technology Center will launch its "Got Caps?" campaign this Saturday, June 8 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. There will be workshops on how to reuse caps, a "Sink Your Boat" contest and those who bring in a grocery bag of plastic bottle caps will be able to enter in a contest with the chance to win prizes such as iTunes gift cards, Salty's at Redondo gift certificates, and gift packages. Dr. Kaddee Lawrence, the MaST Center executive director, said plastic bottle caps pose a particular problem for the environment because people don't know how to deal with them. "People don't realize plastic bottle caps are made out of a different material than the



Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD
A plastic bottle cap collection box located in the MaST Center.

bottles themselves," she said. "The caps are actually not recyclable ... and don't break down very well. They are hazardous to Puget Sound." The campaign is aimed to

help proper recycling and this, "one-day event is to kick off a long campaign," Dr. Lawrence said. She said many organizations are interested in partnering with the MaST Center on the project. "We are hoping to work with Waste Management in King County ... and trying to partner with many schools," Dr. Lawrence said. The campaign was previously conducted on a small scale throughout the academic year, with receptacles for the caps placed around the main campus, but MaST Center workers are expanding their focus to the wider community. The plastic bottle caps collected Saturday will be used for eco art projects and the art will be on display at the MaST Center. The MaST Center is at 28203 Redondo Beach Drive S. in Des Moines.



Summer tuition, fees due today

Tuition and fees for Summer Quarter are due today. Classes will begin Monday, June 24 for the eight-week session.

Central students to graduate Sunday

Commencement for graduating Central Washington University students will be Sunday, June 9 at the ShoWare Center. Commencement is from 1-3 p.m. and doors open at noon. The ceremony is for graduates from the Central Washington University studying at campuses in Des Moines, Kent, Lynnwood, Everett and Steilacoom.

Mary Alice Heuschel, the chief of staff for Gov. Jay Inslee, will be the keynote speaker. ShoWare Center is at 625 W. James St., Kent.

Prepare to take the COMPASS

Workshops for students planning to take the COMPASS test are offered every Friday in Building 30, room 317. The math workshop is from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The reading and writing workshop is from 1-2:30 p.m. and includes English as a Second Language material. Students are encouraged to come at the start of the sessions, but do not need to register. For workshop schedules and

additional information, go to placement.highline.edu/index.php.

Welcome people at commencement

Students who speak foreign languages are needed to help open the Highline commencement ceremony on June 12 at the ShoWare Center. To apply to be a multicultural welcome speaker, students must be eligible to graduate and walk in their cap and gown at commencement. Students selected will also have to attend a training session on Friday at 1 p.m. in Building 8, Mount Constance room. Interested students can email Amee Moon, the associate director of International Student Programs at amoon@highline.edu to sign up.

Express, listen to written work

The Writing Center and Inter-Cultural Center is holding an Open-Mic Reading event today from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Building 26, room 319. Students, staff and faculty are invited to come share their writings or to just listen to others read.

Attend staff, faculty retirement parties

Sabine and Donn Walter's retirement party is today from 4-6 p.m. at the MaST Center. Sabine Walter works as a faculty secretary in Building 15 and Donn Walter works as a biology instructional technician. The MaST Center is at 28203 Redondo Beach Drive S. in Des Moines.

Education faculty member Kathy Oberg will also have a retirement party on Monday, June 10 from 4-6 p.m. Oberg's party will be at Scotch and Vine, located at 22341 Marine View Drive S., Des Moines. Staff and faculty and who knew them can attend the retirement parties of Sabine and Donn Walter and Kathy Oberg.

Chartwells changes schedule

Chartwells, the college's food vendor, will continue to serve students on finals week and Summer Quarter. The Café on the first floor of Building 8 will be open from 7 a.m.-1:30 p.m. until June 12 and will reopen June 24 for Summer

Quarter. The hours will be 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Monday to Thursday with espresso and food. The Bistro on the second floor of Building 8 will be open June 10-11 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., June 12-13 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. and then will be closed for Summer Quarter. Café 29 located on the second floor of Building 29 will open from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. today and will close over the summer.

Explore potential university options

Admission representatives from the University of Washington-Tacoma will be on campus to speak to students on Thursday, June 6 from 9 a.m. until noon on the first floor of Building 8.

EXPERIENCE
PUGET
SOUND
AND
EARN
SCIENCE
CREDIT!

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

WE OFFER:

- BIOL 103 - Marine Birds & Mammals (offered occasionally)
- BIOL 110 - Marine Biology*
- OCEA 101 - Introduction to Oceanography*
- ENVS 101 - Introduction to Environmental Science: Marine Focus (spring & summer)

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

*Many hybrid courses offered every quarter.

Graduation speaker's dream to come true

By **Racquel Arceo**
Staff Reporter

Tina Bui has hungered to be Highline's student Commencement speaker for more than a year now.

Dinner time is June 12 at 7 p.m. at the ShoWare Center in Kent.

And even though she will not officially graduate with her associate in Communications until next fall, Bui says she is stepping up to the table.

"Because I feel like I want to show the students that this was their last step. It's the end of Highline and I want to show them that even when they leave Highline they can still make a difference and an impact in other ways," Bui said.

"I didn't think I was going to get it but I just wanted to apply so I could say at least I gave it a shot," Bui said.

Bui's involvement on Highline's campus predates her attendance here. As a high school student she participated in several clubs, including the Vietnamese Student Association.

"I was vice president and president of VSA," said Bui.

Currently she is working in the Inter-Cultural Center as a student leader, organizing and running events.

"I love meeting new people, networking, I love talking to students, putting together events. If it weren't for Highline I would never have experienced that," said Bui.

She attributes her work in the Inter-Cultural Center for shaping her focus of study.

After graduating Bui hopes to go on to get her bachelor's in Communications with a minor in Business. ICC co-worker,



Tina Bui

KJ Dampier, said that when he thinks of Highline he thinks of Bui.

"She's played such a big role at Highline since she was in high school," he said.

"Tina is a talented organizer, she knows how to mobilize people," Leadership adviser Noory Kim said.

As Commencement speaker Bui feels it's her opportunity to show how much Highline has effected and changed her as both a student and a person.

"I want them to see how Highline has impacted me and shaped me as a person. I want them to know that they can do that at their jobs and they should still have hope in themselves," said Bui.

As a full-time student, Bui said she can relate to students because she too knows the hardships that the graduates have faced throughout their Highline careers.

"I feel like I've been really involved on campus with different programs," said Bui.

Since coming to Highline Bui said she has seen changes in herself.

"I am more outspoken and I have more confidence in myself, and I've gained a lot of leadership skills," said Bui. "I just want to tell the students 'you do you' and at the end of the day you are supporting yourself. It's an important thing."

Former respiratory student named distinguished alumni

By **Daniel Joyce**
Staff Reporter

Carl Hinkson has been nominated this year Distinguished Alumnus, making him one of the only professional technical graduates to become a Highline Distinguished Alumnus.

Hinkson began his career as a respiratory therapist in 1996 after graduating from Highline.

That year he started working at Overlake Hospital in Bellevue, where he interned during school, and Harborview Medical Center in Seattle.

"[Hinkson] has worked tirelessly and effectively to improve, promote and invigorate the respiratory care profession," said Bob Bonner, Respiratory Care Program Coordinator at Highline.

In 1999, Hinkson left Overlake and worked exclusively at Harborview.

"He is currently intern manager of one of the largest and most prestigious respiratory care departments in the Pacific Northwest," Bonner said. "Harborview Medical Center's respiratory care department has always been innovative and on the leading edge of patient management techniques and modalities."

At Harborview Hinkson has been responsible for direct care in several areas such as pediatric intensive care units, acute care units, and emergency rooms.

In these areas he has cared for various types of patients including medical and surgical patients as well as burn victims.

By 2004, Hinkson had worked his way up to the position of Respiratory Lead at Harborview as he took on the responsibility of implementing and coordinating the Respiratory Care Departmental Journal Club.

Between 2004 and 2008 he also chaired the Best Practices Committee, edited his department's Pocket Procedure Manual, supervised shifts, and acted as a member of the rapid response team.

"Ever since he started working at Harborview he has been moving up to more and more substantial positions," Bonner said.

In addition to his associate degree from Highline, Hinkson also earned his Bachelor's of Science from the University of Kansas in 2008 and his Master's of Science from Northeastern University in 2012.

"Although there are many respiratory care practitioners who have Master's degrees, he is the only Washington state respiratory care practitioner to have a Master's Degree in Respiratory Care" said Bonner.

Hinkson is also a nationally published author, having contributed to three research articles, nine research abstracts, and three book reviews.

Hinkson has even participated in government legislation regarding respiratory care.

"Carl has been active on both the state and national level regarding health care legislation," said Bonner.

"In Washington state he has worked with the Department of Health and the Department of Licensing to upgrade and

'He has continuously sought to improve the educational levels of the respiratory care profession.'

-Bob Bonner

modernize our licensing regulations and scope of practice," he said.

On top of everything else, Hinkson started teaching respiratory therapy classes in 2002.

"Another positive attribute Carl possess is his commitment to education," said Bonner. "He has continuously sought to improve the educational levels of the respiratory care profession."

Hinkson worked at Seattle Central Community College briefly in 2002 where he taught classes on cardiopulmonary anatomy and physiology, pharmacology for RCI, and advanced patient assessment, and also served as a clinical site instructor.

In 2007, Hinkson joined the Highline team.

As a Highline faculty member he has developed and instructed classes on research processes and critical appraisal of published articles.

"Carl has become an impressive role model for many respiratory care practitioners in the area and a countless number of respiratory care students. As busy as his schedule has become, he always makes time to meet and discuss current topics with respiratory care students," Bonner said.

Vicom's Gary Nelson retires after 33 years here

By **Bailey Williams**
Staff Reporter

Gary Nelson has outlasted four Highline presidents and started working here the same year the world was introduced to the Sony Walkman. Now, after 33 years, Nelson will be walking off into retirement after finals. But he won't be walking away from the memories.

"It's a very special thing for a person to be accepted into an extraordinary college like this," said Nelson.

"In the 70s it spoke to Highline's desire for diversity of thinking when they hired me," said Nelson. "That's how the students learn to think... being exposed to different points of view and assessing it for themselves."

What really makes Highline a great place are the people, said Nelson.

"There are incredibly differ-



Gary Nelson

ent people here and those differences really intrigue me," he said. "I like the opportunity of being able to learn from other people and this particular place is the best."

"We're the school that everyone looks toward. We're a big deal," said Nelson.

Nelson is a very beloved professor at Highline, said Tammi Hilton, Highline's interior design/drafting design coordinator.

"Gary has always been a great mentor for me," said Hilton. "He was a big influence to

me as a younger instructor."

Hilton is appreciative of Nelson's leadership. As is Meg Ryan, Business and Visual Communications professor.

"He has a distinct passion for what he does. And I've developed my own passion because he has been such a role model," Ryan said.

The biggest thing Hilton learned from Nelson is his commitment to students, Hilton said.

"I once told a group of students that I can't teach them anything," said Nelson. "They have to be willing learners."

It's easy and fun to teach the superstars, Nelson said.

But, it's frustrating to motivate those students who don't want to learn," he said.

Hilton said Nelson is always friendly, supportive, encouraging and smiling.

Although he is always smiling, Nelson said teaching is an

incredibly hard thing to do.

Most people get into teaching because they care about people and they have empathy for students, Nelson said.

"Each individual you work with is coming and going to different places and you can't have a preconceived idea about where that is," he said.

During his tenure as coordinator for the Visual Communications Department, Nelson saw the similarities with the Vicom, Interior Design and Drafting programs and how they could complement each other.

"We brought together departments that had been separate for so long and gave students a chance to explore more creative endeavors," said Nelson.

"We're always thinking outside the box so it's fun to collaborate with someone like him," said Hilton. "He always has good advice and I can always

run something by him."

With all the going away parties and well-wishes of current and past students, Nelson has found time to reflect on his career.

"The most valuable thing that a human being has is time. And when you get to your retirement you start to think about how you used your time," said Nelson. "When you're young you should appreciate the time you have while you have it. And work hard to make a difference while you can."

Ryan said she's going to miss Nelson's steady and affirming presence.

"He has finished strong and completed the courses strongly right up until the finish line," she said. "He has been really a gift to Highline and he will be immensely missed."

"I'm going to miss seeing him on campus," said Hilton. "Thank you [Gary], you will be missed."

Fear is in the way of helping others

Religious teachings tell us to help each other out, but today's society tells us differently.

People don't help one another anymore out of the kindness of their hearts and for the most part this is because of fear.

In today's society people don't trust people, they fear who they could be.

People don't just pick up a homeless person, take them home, bathe them, feed them and give them a place to stay.

People fear helping others because they fear the unknown.

As a society, we need to open our hearts toward love and kindness for others as we are taught in the Bible instead of fearing what they don't know.

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," Franklin D. Roosevelt said.

How true.

Letter to the Editor

Abortion debate continues on

Dear Editor:

I'd like to reply to Ms. Hatch's May 30 letter to the editor, and for all its worth, reflect on this quarter-long abortion debate.

Ms. Hatch states in her letter that I have made enormous assumptions about her character and beliefs.

When have I done so?

Was it when I said that those who are pro-life without fighting other social ills were merely anti-woman?

I said this because this group of people is oppositional to the implicit (and often explicit) interest of women all over the world – controlling their lives.

Or was it when I claimed that Ms. Hatch wishes abortion to be unilaterally illegal?

This was based on the conversation I had with Ms. Hatch on April 15, the conversation that motivated me to reply to her initial letter to the editor.

Ms. Hatch, in her letters, has repeatedly cited the names of women she knows who have become mothers via rape, and who have turned a usually traumatic event into a personal blessing.

While I won't question their choice (it is, and should be, a choice to give birth), I will question Ms. Hatch's awareness.

When I speak of victims of incest and rape, I think of women such as "Beatriz" in El Salvador, who despite being incredibly ill and unlikely to survive if she gives birth, is being barred from receiving an abortion as we speak.

I also think of the high profile case from 2009, where a 9 year old girl in Brazil who had been molested by her step-father was pregnant with twins.

She was able to receive an abortion, and was subsequently excommunicated from the Catholic Church.

Her rapist, however, was not.

Ms. Hatch, in her previous letter, stated that she is a student fascinated with philosophy, notwithstanding her graphic and manipulative pathos-based rhetoric.

If this is the case, I would invite her to join the Philosophy Club this coming fall... supposing Ms. Hatch and I are capable of sitting in the same room while respecting each other's beliefs and identities.

I include myself in that statement intentionally.

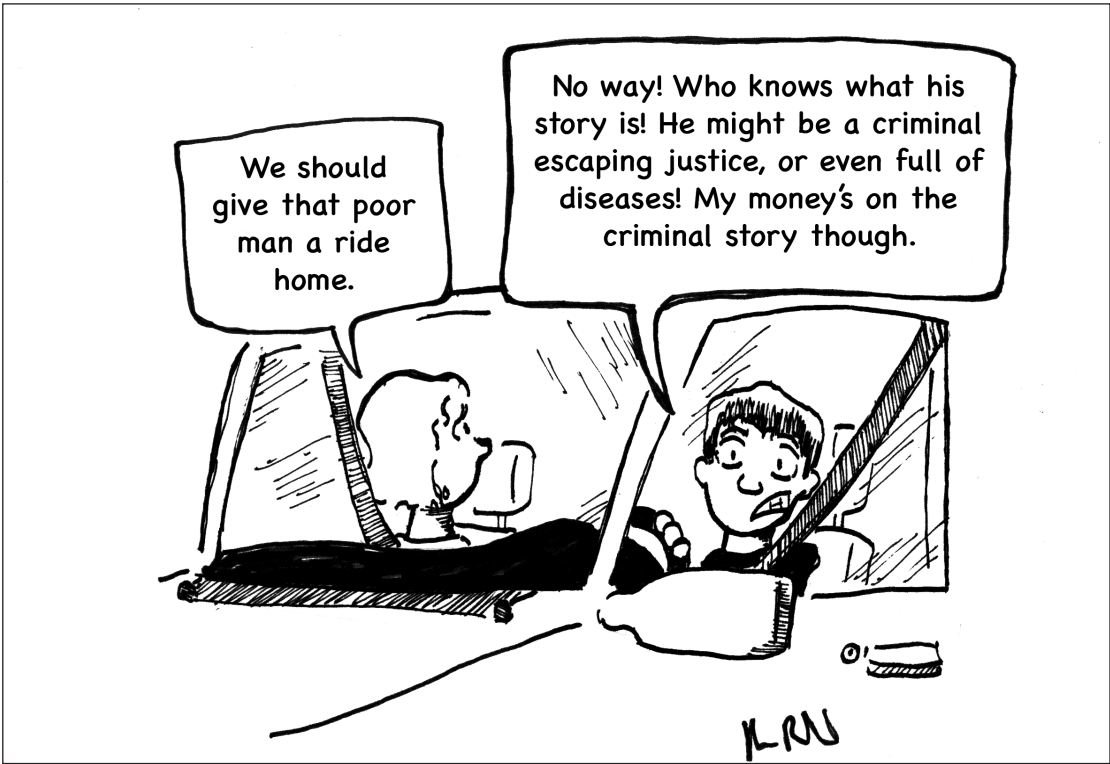
I don't know if having this debate has been very effective.

The format is not ideal, plus Ms. Hatch and I are speaking from very different perspectives.

I tried bridging the gap in my previous letter, with the example of coercive one child policies, but this was apparently not effective.

For all its worth, I'd like to thank Ms. Hatch for providing an outlet for my thoughts, and thanks to the *Thunderword* staff for finding the patience – and hopefully the humor – to let this debate go on for the entire quarter.

Ian "Proteus" Morrill,
Highline Student



John Rutherford/THUNDERWORD

Opinions aren't all about talking, but listening as well

Opinions and strong beliefs are at the forefront of all great ideas.

But some really bad ones, too.

There is nothing wrong with sharing your opinions as long as you understand that not everybody is going to agree with you.

One of the great parts about sharing your opinion is hearing those of others.

Maybe they will change your mind, or maybe they will reconfirm the stance you already have.

However, if you never allow yourself to truly hear the other person's point of view, then there is no point to having a discussion because you really don't want a discussion -- you just want to tell someone what he or she should believe.

If you are unwilling to actually hear what someone else has to say, you might as well just have a conversation with yourself.

And not every discussion has to be a debate; sometimes it can be for intellectual enlightenment.

"Take a little, give a lot."

Give a lot of what you know, but also take in a little



Commentary
Kiya Dameron

of what they know as well. But don't do it in a way that allows you to use it against them.

Do it so you can understand them.

This is more important than you could ever realize because you will never find someone who believes or has the same views as you on everything.

Unless you look in the mirror, of course.

In my house, I am the only one who doesn't support the death penalty and that is hard.

But I listen to my family's side and why they are in support of it.

While we may disagree, we

all acknowledge the other's point of view and respect the fact that we don't see things the same way.

So many people feel attacked when someone disagrees with their views and are told about someone else's views.

The only reason someone should feel so attacked is that they feel they must continuously defend their views.

But just sharing opinions is not a debate.

You don't have to defend your side; you can simply share your beliefs and be done.

Take time to see where someone else is coming from and you may learn something.

Unfortunately, too many people believe that theirs is the only way.

That isn't true.

People need to learn other people have a right to their opinions, too.

As one of the greatest minds in the world, Leonardo da Vinci once said:

"The greatest deception men suffer is from their own opinions."

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

the Staff “

Nobody smells like rainbows.

” E-Mail: tword@highline.edu

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Letters to the editor

The other side of gun control

Dear Editor:

In response to the article "Students weigh in on gun background checks bill."

Gun control is a complex and emotional topic.

I would like to weigh in on the issue with some personal opinions and citable statistics to illustrate how complex it really is.

The huge statistic that nobody is talking about is from 1992-2011 the U.S. violent crime rate dropped 50 percent and the murder rate fell 54 percent (FBI.gov).

The rate of firearm related homicide dropped about 50 percent (Pew 2013).

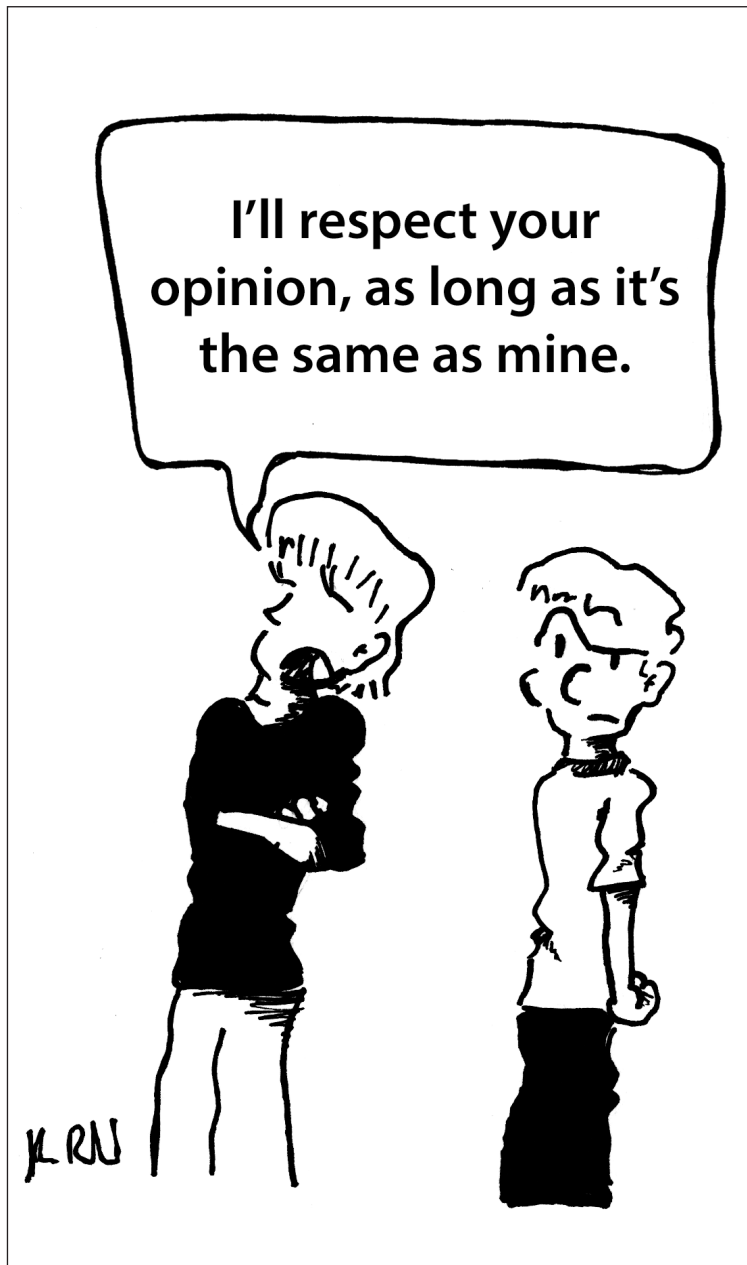
These rates all fell at the same time gun ownership was rising (Gallop Poll 2011).

So it would appear that higher gun ownership does not result in higher crime as widely claimed.

But according the Pew Research Center (2013), the perception is that gun crimes have increased over the last 20 years despite the massive drop. *Note- FBI Stats for 2012 are not fully available yet.

Many people believe that strict gun control/gun bans are the solution.

Then why do the cities/states with the strictest gun control also have the highest crime and



John Rutherford/THUNDERWORD

murder rates?

Washington D.C.'s murder rate tripled in the 13 years after

its handgun ban.

Chicago's murder rate doubled in the 10 years after its

handgun ban.

Maryland and California both have waiting periods and strict restrictions on handguns and rifles yet their murder and robbery rates far exceed the rest of the country (FBI.gov).

Personally I understand the case for extending background checks, but I think it is a flawed idea.

The bottom line is criminals don't go to the store or gun shows to buy their guns.

"If you talk to any criminal, they can find a gun within an hour or two. Cheaper guns that were stolen can be sold for \$50. On the street, a typical good handgun will run you \$200 to \$300," says former ATF Assistant Director Mike Bouchard.

Believe me, you won't find those prices at any gun store.

It is my firm belief that you yourself are your first line of defense. However you chose to go about that is your own personal decision.

For those who believe that the police are your best line of defense, I think that you should know that the average response time on priority calls for the Seattle Police Department in 2011 was 6.3 minutes. That is a long time to wait for help in an emergency.

And it is much, much longer than that (anecdotally up to 40 min) if you live in unincorporated King County.

And finally why hasn't any-

one thought to ask the Police what they think will or will not work?

I think they would have better insight than any member of Congress.

A recent survey of more than 15,000 current and former police officers has some pretty clear opinions (PoliceOne.com). Over 70 percent believe that banning "assault weapons," reducing magazine sizes, and extending background checks will have ZERO effect on the violent crime rate.

And over 80 percent say gun buy backs have zero effect on the violent crime rate.

I think given their experience, their professional opinion should definitely be given consideration.

The causes for violent crime are very complex (poverty, drugs, family life, etc.) and I don't pretend to have all of the solutions.

And I don't intend to make light of the fact that the U.S. has some of the highest violent crime and murder rates in the world.

I just wanted to present the other side of the argument with some facts to show people that something that on the surface appears simple can be incredibly complex.

A seemingly simple solution, such as gun bans, can have the exact opposite effect they were intended to have.

Jason Morin,
Highline Student

Reader objects to gun control story

Dear Editor:

Once again I am writing to point out an error in the alleged "facts" surrounding an article in the campus newspaper.

The May 30 edition has an article on background checks for gun purchases.

The very first paragraph states that the rejection of a recent gun control bill "... continues the ability of individuals to purchase firearms and ammunition without a background check."

Simple research on the part of the *Thunderword* staff should have shown you the current federal laws pertaining to the sales and possession of firearms by citizens of this country.

A simple search on Google for "federal firearms background check law" would have pointed you to a webpage for the FBI which highlights the "National Instant Criminal Background Check System" which is used by Federal Firearms Licensed Dealers (that is the people who sell you guns at a legal gun store or other commercial enterprise) to do INSTANT CRIMINAL



BACKGROUND CHECKS on people who want to purchase firearms from a legal firearms dealer.

That background check is done by the FBI in compliance with a federal law, 18 USC § 922 the "Gun Control Act of 1968".

That set of laws specifically states that it is illegal for someone to knowingly sell or deliver a firearm to someone who is or should reasonably be known to be a criminal, fugitive from justice, non-resident or illegal alien, some one addicted to controlled substances, some one adjudicated to be mentally unfit, who has been dishonorably discharged from the Armed forces or who renounced their United States citizenship.

In fact, the FBI states on the NICS website that the system has been used more than 100 MILLION times in the past 10 years and has resulted in over 700,000 rejections to ineligible persons.

Hardly the unregulated free-for-all your article would have us believe.

I suppose those facts escaped notice when the writers were preparing for this article.

That or they were deliberately ignored to put a spin on the issue to serve someone's agenda.

Who knows?

As the federal laws stands right now the only times you can purchase a firearm without being subjected to a background check is:

A) the private sale of a firearm between two citizens who are legally allowed to purchase or own firearms and

B) buying a gun from a criminal off the streets.

If the intent of your staff was to highlight the sales of firearms at say gun shows or between private citizens, then that should have been specified in the article instead of giving the misleading impression that any person can walk into a gun store, pick out a gun and walk out the door without any form of legal oversight at all.

And while I do appreciate the opinions of the students who were also interviewed for this article, it is unrealistic to think that home security systems, dogs, ammunition limits

or relying on the members of the Armed Forces (who incidentally are prohibited by federal law from policing the civilian population of this country) or even the outright ban of gun ownership by the public would have the slightest deterrent on someone intent

on carrying out a criminal act against you on campus or anywhere else for that matter.

Bad people do bad things and no amount of words on paper will ever change that fact.

Loquimini Veritatem.

Bravura Laughingwolf,
Highline Student

A+

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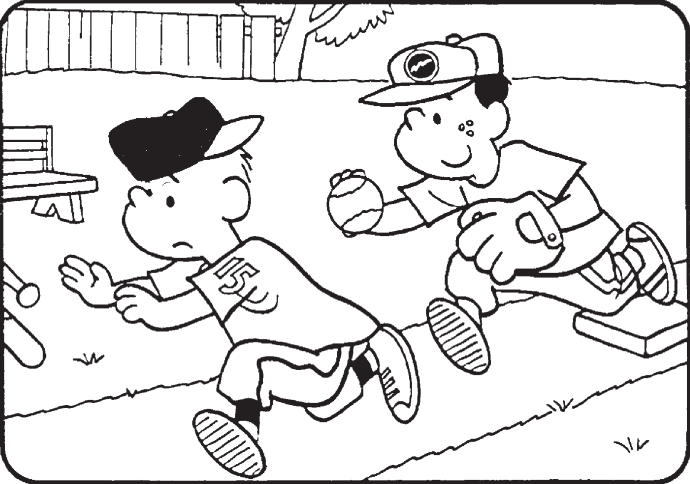
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HOCUS-FOCUS
BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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.

different. 4. Cap logo is missing. 5. Stripe is missing. 6. Base is missing.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★ ★

★ Moderate ★ ★ Challenging
★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!

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1. ANATOMY: What is the cartilage flap in front of the ear called?
2. MUSIC: What group produced the 1980s pop hit *Karma Chameleon*?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Dijon is a region within which European country?
4. ENTERTAINERS: In the 19th century, what singer

was called the “Swedish nightingale”?

5. HISTORY: In what year did the United States celebrate its bicentennial?
6. MOVIES: Which film director’s credits included *Romeo and Juliet* and *La Traviata*?
7. ADVERTISEMENTS: What was the name of the cartoon character that promoted StarKist tuna?
8. MEDICINE: Vitamin K plays an important role in what function of the human body?

Crossword 101
By Bill Deasy (Bill@gfrpuzzles.com)
Ms. Scarlet’s Friends

Across

1. 1970s veep
6. Tell ____ story
10. *The Amazing Race* aid
13. Polished-off
14. Musical symbol
16. *Born in the ____*: Springsteen
17. Type of crime
19. Avg. level
20. Verbally assault
21. Indulge
23. BlackBerry devices, e.g.
25. Sailing the Pacific
26. Stage equipment
29. Vegas openings?
32. Unhip person
34. Big shot at the bar?
36. The "G" in G-man: abbr.
37. "Rock Around the Clock," e.g.
39. Case for needles
40. Pro-school grp.
41. Yikes!
42. Pyramids, e.g.
44. Typical Georgia Tech grad (abbr.)
46. Hill and ____
47. A few words in passing?
48. Trusty mount
50. 1040 ID
51. The "C" in T.L.C.
53. Bogus
55. Target of John Brown's raid
58. Asian peninsula
62. F of FSU
63. Elite military unit
65. Chip brand

Down

1. " ____ needle pulling thread..."
2. Oom- ____ (tuba sounds)
3. "How Sweet ____": James Taylor
4. Go back to an old source
5. City near Syracuse
6. Word after long
7. Rights org. led by M.L.K.
8. Casa cooker

9. ____ quick retreat
10. World War I weapon
11. Memo opener
12. Bachelor home
15. San Joaquin Valley town
18. Trolley toll?
22. Reacted to a shock
24. They may be skipped
26. Act as lookout
27. "Ditto"
28. Wacky to the max
30. Word with main or blessed
31. Rocket sections
33. Calls, once
35. Shinbones
38. Genesis fall place

43. ____ *Nona* (Tomie dePaola children's book)
45. 12-step program
49. "You think I won't?!"
52. 2002 headline company
54. *West Side Story* heroine
55. Chorus voice
56. Space starter?
57. "Oh, why not?"
59. Planting areas
60. Teeny, for short
61. Movie pooch
62. Trapper's haul
64. 'No' vote

Even Exchange
by Donna Pettman

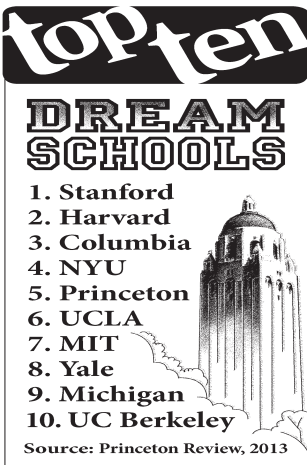
Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 1. Late morning meal | B _ _ _ _ _ | Moment of truth | C _ _ _ _ _ |
| 2. Workforce | _ _ A _ _ _ | Unbending | _ _ I _ _ _ |
| 3. One who fuses metal | _ E _ _ _ _ | Laura Ingalls _____ | _ I _ _ _ _ |
| 4. Lucky number | _ _ _ _ N | Split | _ _ _ _ R |
| 5. Four-leaf _____ | _ _ O _ _ _ | Skillful | _ _ E _ _ _ |
| 6. Bog | _ _ _ S _ | Windy month | _ _ _ C _ |
| 7. Tremble from the cold | _ H _ _ _ _ | Wood fragment | _ L _ _ _ _ |
| 8. Vanna or Betty | _ _ _ T _ | Go on and on about | _ _ _ N _ |
| 9. Thirsty cloth | _ _ _ _ L | Eiffel _____ | _ _ _ R |
| 10. Sunday meat | _ _ A _ _ _ | Perch | _ _ O _ _ _ |

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9. LITERATURE: What literary character’s family motto is “The world is not enough”?
10. TELEVISION: On the comedy series *Happy Days*, what was Fonzie’s full name?
ANSWERS
1. The tragus
2. Culture Club
3. France

4. Jenny Lind
5. 1976
6. Franco Zeffirelli
7. Charlie
8. Blood clotting
9. James Bond
10. Arthur Herbert Fonzarelli



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More public art installed in Des Moines

By **Cristina Acuna**
and **Lindsey Tyson**
Staff Reporters

The City of Des Moines last Saturday nearly doubled, in one fell swoop, the number of its public artworks when its arts commission dedicated an outdoor sculpture gallery.

Five new sculptures are scattered about the city’s Marina District – which stretches from South 216th to South 227th streets – but the ceremony was on the plaza outside the Harbormaster’s Office at the Marina.

Dubbed Art on Poverty Bay, the project involves the leasing of sculptures from various local artists for outdoor display at various locations throughout the city’s central business district. The sculptures will be rotated every year and a call for artists has already been issued for the next rotation, which will be put into place next May.

Retired Arts Commission Chairman and Highline School District educator Dr. Nancy Stephan, headed the process of getting the sculptures installed. She raised more than \$15,000 from many civic-minded individuals and businesses to fund the project.

“I did a lot of research on how these projects are organized,” Dr. Stephan said. “We rented the sculptures for a year while they are on sale so that the artists can display them.”

Dr. Stephan said that this is the first year of what she hopes will be an annual event. Similar programs, such as the one in Puyallup, have been in place for 18 years.

“These sculptures serve many purposes,” Dr. Stephan said. “The importance of public art is something that should not be overlooked.”

“Art is an important part of our daily life,” she said. “And it is important for the people to be a part of it and to feel like it is theirs.”

Mayor Dave Kaplan, accompanied by the entire city council, visited the Des Moines Waterfront Farmers Market to recognize the artists who leased their art.

Five new sculptures are all the works of local artists – including a Des Moines resident and a collaboration of 17 Puget Sound Skills Center students.

Kaplan thanked the sponsors whose donations helped make the Art on Poverty Bay Gallery possible. Among others, the major contributors to this project were the Rotary Club of Des Moines; Gehrke, Wegener & Doull Law Office; The Des Moines Legacy Foundation, and the Des Moines Marina.

The city’s public art is basically clustered in three locations with “Shorebirds” by Lin McJunkin, “Spirit of Des Moines” by Anita Corby, and “Graduated Progression” by Dale Copeland and his Skills Class at the South entrance to the Marina.

At the heart of the Marina are “Compass Rose” by George C. Scott, “Yakutat” by Gretchen Daiber, “Way Finding Salmon Sign” by Dick Body, and “Pier Group” by John Hicks.

Richard Beyer’s “Big Catch” and “Beyer Panels,” “Octovia” by George C. Scott, “Celebrating Life in Des Moines” by Chandelle Anderson, and “Turtle Island Puget Sound” by Mark Twain Stevenson are clustered near South 216th Street and the municipal/library complex at the north end of the Marina District.

A map detailing the sites, artists and prices of the Art on Poverty Bay project pieces is available at City Hall and various locations in the Marina District.



Rebeckay Starkey/THUNDERWORD

Above, Illuminated One, a sculpture created by Leo Osborne.

Student works printed in ‘Arcturus’

By **Jawaahir Omar**
Staff Reporter

The 2013 edition of *Arcturus*, Highline’s literary publication is finally published.

This year’s theme was virtual reality.

The book consists of 55 short stories and 240 poems, much more writing than was included in last year’s edition that was published and awarded first prize by The National Humanities Association.

Arcturus comes out once a year and its page length and the number of submissions included in the book is different each time.

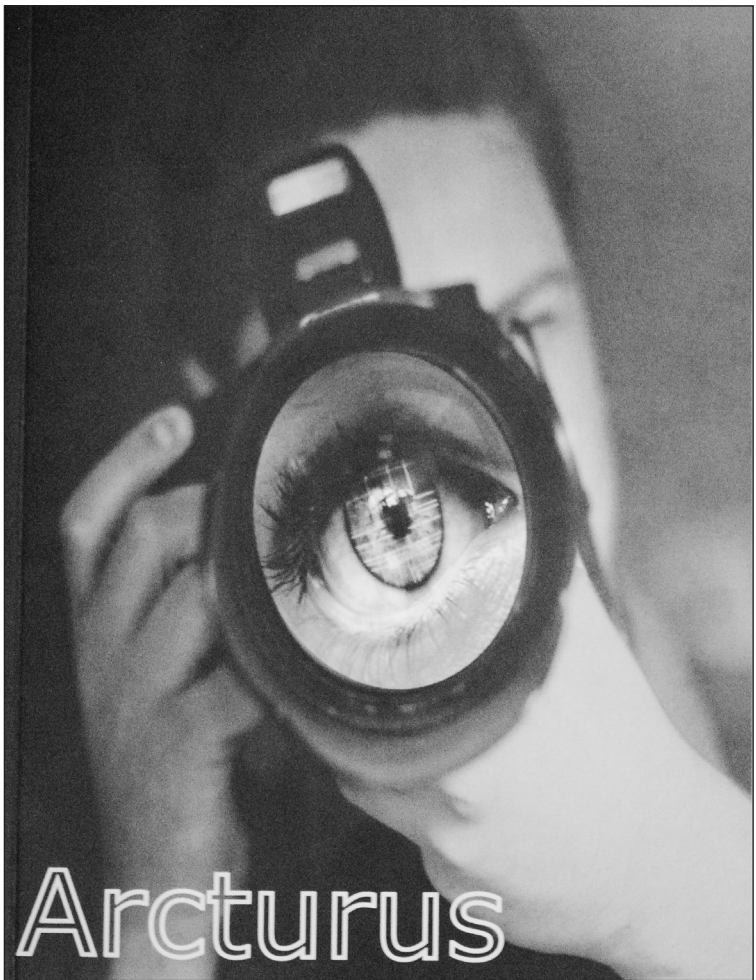
Students are encouraged to submit their writings, even if they have never been published before.

“Most students want to be writers [but] have no idea about what it takes because they haven’t done it,” said English teacher and adviser Sharon Hashimoto.

As the publication has evolved over the year, changes in writings, artwork styles and updated technology have helped make the book more creative, she said.

“Technology is helping [us do] better things,” Hashimoto said.

The last book had eight editors working on it. This year’s book had only four.



Courtesy of Arcturus

Above, the cover art of the 2013 edition of the Arcturus.

Students from all levels of English writing are welcome to submit poems, short stories, artwork, nonfiction stories and essays.

Arcturus editors are looking for pieces of writing with originality, voice, creativity and

something different.

“Submit to the magazine. Most are surprised. You don’t realize how others might react to your writing,” Hashimoto said about students who aspire to be published in future editions.

Annual Shakespeare in the Park is Aug. 4

By **Ipek Saday**
Staff Reporter

Comedy will make way for drama this summer on the lawn of Des Moines’ Beach Park as the Des Moines Arts Commission hosts its third annual Shakespeare in the Park.

The commission announced it would host the Seattle Shakespeare Co.’s rendition of Shakespeare’s *Henry V* on Sunday, Aug. 4 at 7 p.m.

Previous Shakespeare in the Park offerings have reflected the Bard’s comedic works, but this year, with a choice between *The Tempest* or *Henry V*, the monarch carried the day.

The story of *Henry V* is actually the final chapter in a four-play series consisting of: *Richard II* and *Henry IV* Part 1 and 2.

It follows the life of Henry V, son of Henry IV who has just died in the opening of the play, and his journey as the new king of England.

The play depicts Henry’s decision to invade France, which then leads to war as well as the famous Battle of Agincourt.

“We wanted to try something different,” Denny Steussy,

a Highline academic adviser and former arts commissioner, said.

The arts commission has sponsored Shakespeare productions at the Beach Park for three years with the help of a \$1,000 grant from the Rotary Club of Des Moines, which ensures that the event will be free to the public.

The entire productions is the responsibility of the Seattle Shakespeare Co. under the direction of George Mount and includes the cast and crew, costumes, sets, props, technical equipment, and live music.

This year a food vendor will also be available and the commission may partner with Destination Des Moines to sell beer and wine by the glass. Those details are still being negotiated.

The response from the public towards Shakespeare in the Park has been extremely positive, with audiences sometimes contributing \$400 -\$600 following the event.

Steussy said the combination of audience response and the Seattle Shakespeare Co.’s delight with the Beach Park venue bodes well for the event’s future.

“There isn’t anything else like it,” Steussy said.

Royalty to walk at graduation

Student with two national beauty queen titles to receive diploma

By LaTonya Brisbane
Staff Reporter

It will be a different type of runway at Highline's Commencement next week, but the titleholder for two national beauty queen titles will be adding graduate to her list of accomplishments.

Denise Johnson of Kent, who studied Hospitality and Tourism Management, along with Business Information and Technology, managed to sandwich in – not one but two – national beauty queen titles.

For 2013 she is the reigning Miss American Beauties Plus Queen and Hearts of America Ms. Queen.

During her time here, Johnson has been active with the Black Student Union and was a co-chair for Knowledge Week in 2012.

Johnson is a native of Ventura, Calif and the mother of a 9-year-old girl.

According to her biography posted on Facebook, Johnson is a program assistant for a non-profit organization that helps

individuals find jobs in the travel and logistics industry. She also works with and supports low-income airport employees to return to school so they can obtain higher paying employment.

She supports organizations that empower youth and selected Care Net Pregnancy Center of Puget Sound as her charity of choice.

That decision, the biography states, is personal to Johnson as she received pregnancy services from the organization when she was a teen mother.

She is also a founding board member of the Kingdom of God Faith Deliverance Church in Tacoma.

She began her quest for national fame last November.

After a former co-worker encouraged her to compete, Johnson made a name for herself by networking and months of stage preparation.

"Everything I have done to line me up to where I am now, it has all been worth it," Johnson said. "Whoever you want to be, you have to work hard for it,"



Courtesy of Denise Johnson
Denise Johnson receives two national titles during her coronation.

Johnson said.

She attributes a large part of her success to her mother.

"My mother has always pushed me to become some-

one," Johnson said. "I am an overcomer in all things I do."

"I want to represent full-figured women and self love," she said.

Chorale to sing songs for diversity

Highline Chorale women will be performing classical opera, Broadway musicals and folksongs from foreign cultures, today in Building 7.

They have scheduled their showtime at two different time slots: 12:10 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

They will be performing the same program they used for the Two-Year College Music Department Festival, which was a festival held in Bremerton last month.

Some of the songs for this include *Tundra* by Ola Gjelle, a song that conjures the northern wind of Norway.

Chorale will also sing a traditional Hebrew, Japanese and Bulgarian songs, arranged by a Japanese composer named Naomi Sekiya.

Classical opera numbers include works by Christoph Willibald Ritter von Bluck, Henry Purcell and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Family members are encouraged to attend. Admission is free.

Highline 2013 Portfolio Show draws attention



Rebecca Starkey/
THUNDERWORD

This year's portfolio show featured work from the graphic design, interior design, drafting design and photography departments of Highline. Artists' work was displayed in the Mount Constance/Olympus room in Building 8 from June 3 to 4. The show allows artists to display highlights from their work over the quarter for the public to view. Businesses seeking artists and designers may also contact the creators for possible business opportunities.

Beauty and Brains

Student in the running to be Miss Washington USA

By Angela Sucher
Staff Reporter

Highline transfer student La-Tonya Brisbane never thought that she would be considered beautiful or conventional enough to be a pageant queen, but she currently holds the Miss South King County USA title and will go on to compete for Miss Washington USA next fall.

"I am learning it's not just about being beautiful but that the title comes from earning it. I never thought that I'd be considered beautiful enough. But I'm learning that it's not about fitting a specific mold. [It's] about being yourself and the most beautiful version of you that you can be," Brisbane said.

The 25-year-old manager of the Grocery Outlet in Federal Way said that she really just stumbled across the opportunity this year.

Going on to compete in Miss Washington is only the first step on her journey, Brisbane said.

"From Miss Washington. If I win, I would go onto compete in Miss USA, and from there Miss Universe. It's important to me to hold the title because it pushes me to the success that I want to reach," she said.



Brisbane currently holds the title of Miss South King County USA.

And there's much more that goes into the work of being a pageant queen than just showing up and looking beautiful, she said.

"No. 1 is living a healthy lifestyle. Eating healthy and working out are both things that you have to do. I just learned some

good advice from my production manager, she said that when you're living a healthy lifestyle you're going to look and feel more confident."

Brisbane also spends her time volunteering at The Pacific Science Center in Seattle, and with youth at the Birch Creek Youth Center in Kent. She said the rewards and opportunities obtained through the pageant would be well worth the work.

"The winner of Miss Washington receives a full-ride scholarship to Lindenwood University in Missouri. The most rewarding prize though, is the networking that comes with it. You only hold the title for a year, but the relationships you build during that time are promising," she said.

Brisbane will be judged on three different categories during the actual pageant.

"There are 20 judges, all Washington business leaders, who score us during the pageant," she said.

Aside from preparing for the actual pageant Brisbane said that she must meet many other requirements for contestants.

"In order to compete, contestants have to sell 10 tickets, sell a \$300 ad that goes in the program

and I also have a goal for myself to earn all of my registration fees back," she said. "I need sponsors. I'm going out and using contacts in the community. If anyone is interested in sponsoring me they can go to gofundme.com/miss-southkingcountyusa."

Going on to Miss Washington and winning the title may mean more to Brisbane than others; because this is the only shot she gets at it. The pageant doesn't allow contestants older than 27.

"My family and friends have been so supportive. When I think about the pageant I think about the opportunities. I've always known that I have the ability to accomplish anything I put my mind to, but putting myself in this position I have really proven it to myself. I know I can do it," Brisbane said.

As she competes, Brisbane is not shirking service to the Highline student body. This week she was named Speaker of the Caucuses, the third highest position in Highline's student government.

With this position, she is responsible for coordinating the growth and development of the caucus program, and representing the needs and concerns of clubs.

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Questions about Career Coach?

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G064 05/13

T-Bird wrestlers are honored for academics

Highline wrestlers Ben Tynan, Junior Benitez, Craig Dyess, Hakeem Smith, Max Welsch, Lucas Huyber, and Wayne Swartz were all named to the National Wrestling Coaches Association, NWCA, National All-Academic Team.

“These young men did a great job for me wrestling and balancing their academics,” Head Coach Scott Norton said. “We try to emphasize that academics comes first, then wrestling.”

The NWCA National All-Academic Team requires a minimum 3.0 GPA of its athletes.

“Academically, our wrestling program has been one of the strongest in the nation for several years in a row now,” Academic Adviser Laura Rosa said.

Rosa and Athletic Director John Dunn helped the wrestlers with their academics.

“A big thank you to John Dunn and Laura Rosa for encouraging our wrestlers to excel in their academic endeavors,” Norton said.

Six softball players selected for awards

T-Birds Karyssa Marbet, Abby Bellin, Kayla Andrus, Tayler Holtman, Blessedjoy Mipalar, and Brooke have all been given softball awards this postseason.

Marbet has been named to the All-Academic NWAACC team. Bellin has been selected to the All-NWAACC first team while Andrus, Holtman, Mipalar, Marbet, and Evans have been selected to the All-NWAACC second team.

Fishing derby will teach kids how to fish

Kids in first through sixth grades will have an opportunity this summer to learn how to fish, thanks to the Des Moines Waterfront Farmers Market and the Puget Sound Anglers.

A fishing derby will be held on July 13, Aug. 10 and Sept. 14 during the market hours -- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Saturday -- for up to 20 kids who sign up at the market information booth.

Participants will be provided with poles and bait for the lessons.

Yoga flexes its popularity

By LaTonya Brisbane
Staff Reporter

People are bending over backwards to practice yoga.

“Yoga offers you a complete workout, mind and body, breath and asana [posture] and strength and flexibility,” Highline yoga instructor Cheryl Davis said.

Davis also teaches Zumba classes.

Interest in yoga has increased over the past 10 years because of its accessibility to more people through schools, health and fitness clubs, yoga studios and community centers, she said.

“Many of my students have found so many benefits in their [yoga] practice,” Davis said.

Those benefits include weight loss, stress management, increased flexibility, better posture, better sleep, pain management, better performance in sports, increased balance, work performance and



Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD

A Highline student demonstrates an example of a regular tree pose.

breathing. “Each and every type [of yoga] brings qualities together creating a complete workout of

breath, strength, flexibility and stress reduction,” she said.

But yoga alone does have both its ups and downs.

Instructor Brenda Conner said, “You can’t do one [exercise] for everything, you’re not going to get all that you want from one of anything. That’s with all exercises.”

She teaches Pilates, step and cardio kickboxing at Highline.

“Yoga is great for many things but it is important to get your cardio workout, and yoga doesn’t do that,” Conner said.

Her advice is: “If you don’t like [exercise] you have to find what you do like to do.”

“People need to focus on the health benefits [of exercising], and not worry about looks,” Conner said.

Yoga and several other Physical Education classes will be conducted for the eight-week Summer Quarter.

Particular class details are available on the Highline website at classes.highline.edu.

T-Bird Golf Classic takes another swing

By Samantha Hill
Staff Reporter

Highline’s annual T-Bird Golf Classic tees off June 14 at the Twin Lakes Golf and Country Club in Federal Way.

Athletic Director John Dunn said the fundraiser is chock full of prizes for participants who will plunk down \$140 to register for the event. All proceeds will go support Thunderbird Athletics.

“We don’t really ever have a set monetary goal. Our main goal is to ‘Friend Raise,’” Dunn said.

T-Bird Classic began more than 18 years ago, but the set-up is still the same.

“This is a day of celebration. Over the years we have developed many new relationships for both the college and the athletic department,” Dunn said.

Check-In is at 9:30 a.m. and the Shotgun Start begins at 11 a.m. The registration fee covers: cart and green fees, a tournament T-shirt, beverages on the course, tee prizes, a buffet dinner after the tournament, and chances to win three grand prizes.

Those grand prizes include: An eight-day, seven-night Hawaiian vacation for two, including airfare and hotel to Oahu; an eight-day, seven-night Viva Las Vegas trip for two that includes hotel and airfare; and a five-day, four-night Pebble

Beach/Spyglass/Spanish Bay trip for two including airfare and hotel, plus a round of golf at Pebble Beach and Spyglass.

On top of the grand prizes, there is a raffle drawing for the winning division. Winners of each division will be able to take home golf gear.

There are also tournament sponsorships available at the following levels:

For \$250 Tee-It-Up donors a full-color, laminated tee sign including company name and logo posted at one tee/green and a T-Bird Classic sponsorship listing;

For \$750 Grip-It-and-Rip-It donors all of the benefits of the Tee-It-Up Package, plus one 4’ x

8’ professionally made, full-color plywood outfield sign to be posted on the Highline softball field fence for one year (yearly renewal available for \$300); or

For \$2,000 T-Bird Classic major donors -- Four tournament green fees, a full-color plywood outfield sign, four Highline sweatshirts, four Highline T-shirts, four Highline polos, plus a personal assistant for the tournament with bottle service and eight quality cigars.

For registration or further information, contact John Dunn at jdunn@highline.edu. “[We’re] just looking forward to a great day of golf and fun,” Dunn said.

ShoWare hosts 3 on 3 b-ball tourney

By Thunderword Staff

A 3 on 3 basketball tournament to benefit Kent Youth and Family Services will unfold July 27-28 at the ShoWare Center in Kent.

The fourth annual ShoWare Shootout is open to anybody who enjoys playing basketball. There will be many different divisions of this tournament varying from wheelchair to men and women of all ages.

Teams can have a maximum

of four players, but only three players can be on the court at any time.

For team registrants prior to June 15, the fee is \$65. It is \$75 for those who register thereafter.

“We donate a small portion of the event proceeds and [donate] all the basketballs and some other athletic equipment when the event is over,” Steve Turcotte, a facilitator of the event, said.

A portion of the money will

be donated to the Kent Youth and Family Services.

Kent Youth and Family Services provides professional counseling, education, and support services to children, youth, and their families.

New to the ShoWare Shootout this year will be ball hockey games.

While the basketball tournament is conducted in the parking lot, the ball hockey games will be going on in the ShoWare Center. The Seattle

Thunderbirds hockey team will provide the nets, boards, sticks, balls, and goalie equipment for people of all ages to play ball hockey for free.

Another new addition is that players and coaches from the Seattle Storm women’s basketball team will hold a clinic at the ShoWare Shootout on July 27.

For more information about the event or to register, visit the event’s website showareshootout.com.

Social sites fill basic human needs, boost self-esteem

By Erika Wigren
Staff Reporter

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, MySpace, Pinterest – in other words, the life of an American college student.

On average, 45 percent of college students spend six to eight hours a day on social media sites, according to a 2011 study by Johnson and Wales University.

Twenty-three percent spend more than eight hours a day on social media sites, 20 percent spend two to four hours a day, while only 12 percent spend less than two hours a day.

Garth Neufeld, a psychology professor, said that there are many reasons why people use social networking sites.

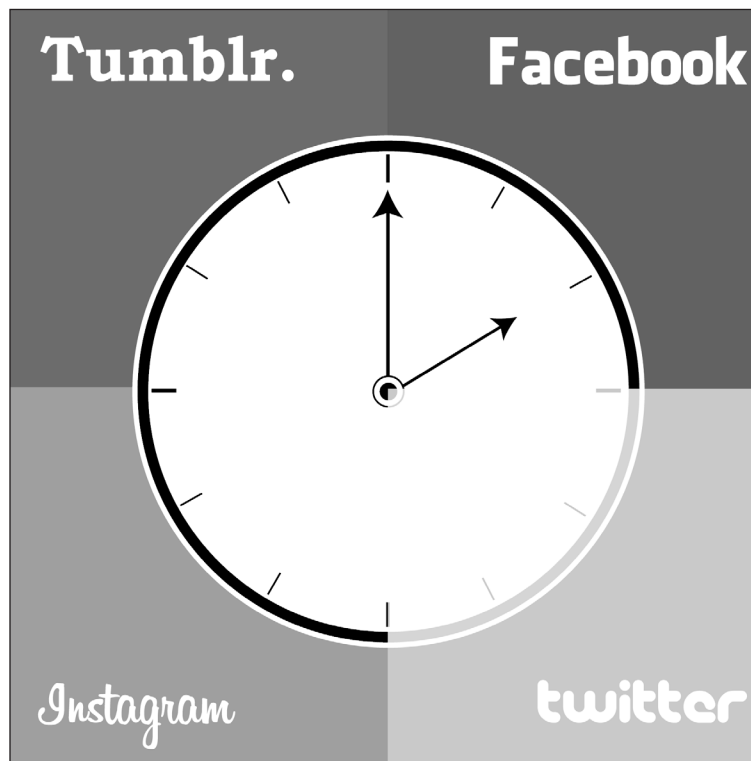
"I am certain that throughout history, there has always been social networking – feasts, parties, teams," said Neufeld. "But with new technology, comes a change in strategy. You no longer need to attend a party to get linked-in with someone. They are Facebook-able. Everyone can be 'connected' with the click of a mouse."

Neufeld said that he believes the main reason people utilize social networking sites is because it fills basic human needs.

"I think people are attracted by different things, such as belonging. I think it fills the basic human need to be valued, accepted and known," Neufeld said.

Another main reason for the use of social networking sites is what Neufeld termed as "the feel good reward."

"I know people who check their Facebook accounts multiple times a day. It reminds me of a rat pressing a lever for a pellet of food. 'Likes' and 'Comments' are social networking food for humans. Rewards feel



Luis Batlle/THUNDERWORD

good. Humans do more of the things that result in feeling good," he said.

Social Psychology professor Sue Frantz said that she believes there are many reasons why people use social media sites.

"Social networking sites have taken a small town experience – where there is no privacy – and dropped it into this worldwide Internet," Frantz said.

She said that people need contact with other people.

"People are social creatures and it is very difficult for us to imagine living without people around us. Take for example the film *Cast Away*. The protagonist is stranded alone on an island and he creates somebody else with a volleyball. Even though that ball isn't a person, he needs to have somebody present and to socialize with. We are very much the same way," Franz said.

Frantz said that social media

is utilized because of the reinforcement it brings.

"The other thing that makes social media so powerful in addition to those connections is it is immediately reinforcing," she said.

Frantz also said that research has showed that social media sites can boost self-esteem. Whether it is by the number of friends or followers a person has on the sites, or the number of Likes and comments they receive.

"Research showed that just the act of posting something on Facebook was enough to boost self-esteem. Even if there is no response – it doesn't matter. Just the act of posting can boost one's self-esteem," Frantz said.

"One reason this may be is [that] because you feel like you are connected with other people, and that other people are there for you, even if no one actually responds," she said.

Students can't seem to put the Facebook down

By Thunderword Staff
Staff Reporters

Highline students are echoing concerns voiced in a recent Pew Research Center study that indicates teens are finding social networking is becoming a burden.

According to the report released earlier this month, "While Facebook is still deeply integrated in teens' everyday lives, it is sometimes seen as a utility and an obligation rather than an exciting new platform that teens can claim as their own."

The report resulted from questions to 802 teens between the ages of 12 and 17 last September about their online habits.

Overall, teens' usage of social media appears to have leveled out at about 40 percent who check their accounts several times a day, the study says.

Sitting in the Student Union one may look around and almost never make eye contact because almost everyone is engrossed in some form of social networking.

"It's so easy these days to get access to Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram," said Highline Student Lauren Anderson. "I don't know how much time I spend but I know it's a lot."

"I spend roughly four to five hours [daily] on Facebook," Highline student Diane Bui said, "I think it's an addiction."

Bui may not be that far off, her fellow peers admit to spending the majority of their time on different social media sites.

"I use it probably 30 plus times a day," Deshar House said.

And they have a multitude of reasons for their excessive usage.

"I'm on it (his phone) to see if anyone texted me and to see what people are doing," House said.

Johnny Pham said that he uses it to "...talk to my friends and listen to music."

And on the romantic side of things, Kari Blomberg admits to using social sites to "talk to someone special who lives far away."

Since purchasing a smartphone, Highline student Lauren Anderson said, "I spend more time on my phone than I used to."

Liz Kim said that she almost never uses her laptop anymore to check her notifications but uses her cell phone.

"I do it subconsciously... I lost count [the amount of times she uses her phone]. Add it up and it's probably three to four hours."

Jared Miller admitted to pulling out his phone when he feels bored.

"If I need to look something up, translate something, or check Facebook, my phone is right there," he said.

Students seem to have arranged their phones in such a way that it almost seems like it's a part of their wardrobes, if not a part of their bodies.

First-year Highline student Brianna Torres said that she's sure if she did own a smartphone she would find herself spending much more time on her Facebook account.

Staff reporters Michaela Vu, Lindsey Kealoha, and Ipek Saday contributed to this story.

Hard work and all-nighters pay off for student

By Angela Sucher
Staff Reporter

Heather Huang's ability to stay focused throughout her Highline career has allowed her to battle academic overloads, achieve her associate of applied science degree, all while she worked towards graduating from high school.

Huang even managed to maintain a 3.93 grade point average.

The 18-year-old's accomplishments as a Running Start student at Highline would have mere mortal humans in desperate search of a nap. But she will fight on, transferring to the University of Washington-Seattle as a bio-chemistry major.

"I might do chemical engineering or maybe something in pharmaceutical," said Huang. "I've always been interested in



Heather Huang

chemistry, I just learned the concept and memorized it."

Huang's superpowers weren't capped at academics however. She is also president of the Asian Student Association at Decatur High School; a member of the Volunteer Association; a long-time member of the National Honor Society; as well as

Highline's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Huang also works one day a week at Liem's Aquarium in Seattle's International District.

Between studying, work and maintaining her grade point average, Huang began tutoring chemistry five days a week in the Tutoring Center her last year.

"It's more difficult than people think, we have weekly classes that help us to tutor better," she said.

And she is more than qualified, she said.

"I've taken the entire Gen-Chem (general chemistry) series, Chem 161 to 163 and the entire Organic-Chem series 261 to 263. I've also done the entire General Biology series 211-213 as well as Calculus four and differential equations," Huang said.

Completing all of the re-

quired credits while maintaining her GPA and extra curricular activities was not an easy task, Huang said.

"I took 21 credits a quarter for three quarters straight. My grades definitely suffered a little and I think I got gray hair," Huang said.

However, despite her overload of credits and numerous extra-curricular activities, Huang said it was important for her to obtain her degree before the end of her high school career.

"My parents didn't go to college back in China where they are from. It was important to them and important to me that I go. There have been plenty of all-nighters. I've drank a lot of coffee over the last year. It's literally just been hours and hours of studying," she said.

Huang will graduate with more than 135 credits 50 credits

more than her degree requires and said that she is excited to start at University of Washington in the fall.

"I may do a double major. I know it's going to be a lot harder and I'm worried I won't get the classes I want, but I'm excited to start."

She hopes to minor in chemistry alongside her biology degree and pursue a career in science she said.

"My goals are just having a future and future career. My major (Biochemistry) is very interesting and it's exciting for me," said Huang.

Of all her accomplishments, Huang said that graduating with her associate degree is the most valued and that she didn't think it was possible.

"At first I didn't even want to try. I thought it was going to be too hard, but I did it. And I'm glad I did," she said.

Student succeeds in school with the help of TRIO, despite extracurricular obligations

By Zach Stemm
Staff Reporter

Even with the best of plans, obstacles sometimes get in the way.

For Highline student Jessica Pettit, those obstacles have included trying to complete her education while raising five children.

She had achieved her GED (degree) at age 17 following the birth of her first child and began a long string of jobs, trying to find better pay, better hours and better benefits.

Along the way she gave birth to four more children.

"I decided it was time to go back to school to advance my career. I wanted to be a teacher, make a



Jessica Pettit

difference in the world through young minds," Pettit said.

And that's when she enrolled at Highline.

Staying in school has been a constant problem for Pettit ever since she started college, she said.

"I have found myself so deep with homework and responsibilities of being a student, parent, and wife and really wanted to give up, but I kept my eye on the prize," Pettit said. "I took each day one at a time and did the best I could. I don't regret even the worst of those days."

Helping to keep her on track was Highline's TRIO Program. TRIO is a federal program that provides support for low-income, first generation college students and students with disabilities to remain in school.

It took three years, but Pettit will receive her associate degree next Wednesday. But that is not her greatest achievement, she said.

"Aside from the fact that I

managed to stay in school for three years and obtain my associate degree, I would say my biggest accomplishment was the Noyce Scholarship I have been awarded," Pettit said.

The Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship is given to students to encourage them to pursue teaching careers in science, technology, engineering or mathematics for elementary and secondary schools.

"It was a large pool of money and will allow the completion of my bachelor's degree in education... more specifically [as] a science teacher," Pettit said.

"She met a lot of barriers and found a way to be successful," director of TRIO Student Support Services Alexandra Man-

uel said.

"We're really proud of her and really excited for her next step," Manuel said.

Pettit will continue her education in the fall at Central Washington University in Des Moines.

"When you start taking steps toward reaching a new goal, we all go into it somewhat naive. We know we will need to work hard, and if you have given the idea much thought, you probably have a plan laid out so you know what steps to take to reach that goal," Pettit said.

"As I sit here now at the end of half my journey I know now more than ever that I am on the right path and it is worth the struggle," she said.

Legal issues await those involved in student deaths

By Hien Hong
Staff Reporter

Several Highline students died this year due to accidents or homicides. While the students may be gone, legal ramifications continue.

A Kent man, Aneet Chandra remains in the King County Jail on \$1 million bail following the deadly car crash May 1 that took the life of Asha Salim, president of Highline's Hip Hop Club.

Investigators found that Chandra was drinking at a party the night of the crash.

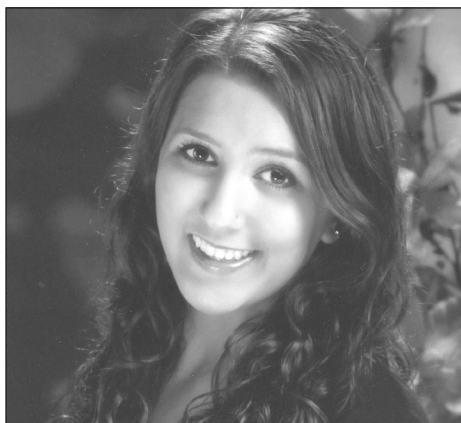
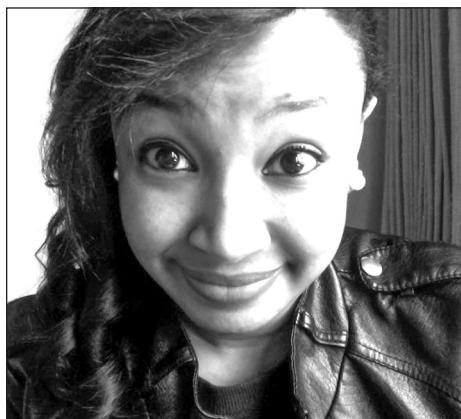
While reportedly driving back to the Federal Way area, he was distracted by a picture of a scantily clad woman on the front passenger's cell phone.

Chandra then reportedly drove straight into a guard rail, while heading south on Interstate 5 at more than 80 mph with six passengers in his 1992 Cadillac El Dorado.

Salim was ejected from the car and died at the scene.

In addition to vehicular homicide, Chandra has been charged with three counts of vehicular assault and two counts of reckless endangerment.

In other news regarding deceased students, a South Sound Community College exchange student, Yichun Xu, has



A total of four Highline students have died within the last year. Top left Asha Salim; top right, Justine Baez; bottom left, Jayme Thomas; and bottom right, Brenda Gomez.

appeared in court twice since posting \$2 million bail after the death of former Highline student Brenda Gomez.

Prosecutors were fearful that Xu would flee the country and return to China after posting bail, but Xu has ap-

peared to all court hearings.

Xu reportedly had been driving at excessive speed when he t-boned Gomez' car at the intersection of South 240th Street and 20th Avenue South.

Xu has been charged with vehicular manslaughter; however, Gomez's family is negotiating with Xu's family on a settlement.

In another incident, there apparently will be no further action in the case of Highline student Justine Baez who was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Highline student Dennis Clark III.

Clark shot and killed four others that same evening, and was then shot and killed by police officers.

The seven Federal Way police officers who were involved in the shooting of Clark recently returned to active duty.

And in an incident the previous year, Johnny Rourke remains in the King County Jail awaiting trial for the murder of Jayme Thomas on Nov. 6, 2011.

Thomas was the passenger in a car parked in the early morning hours on Redondo Way South near the Highline MaST Center at Redondo when Rourke reportedly fired into the vehicle during a dispute with a friend of Thomas.

Rourke is scheduled to be tried for murder later this year.

Join Casino Night to play card games and have fun for a cause

By Bailey Williams
Staff Reporter

Gambling may never seem so rewarding when the winners of the fifth annual Cards for a Cause Casino Night on June 15 raise money to benefit Hospitality House and the Highline Community College Women's Emergency Fund.

Hospitality House helps homeless women find a home, health and hope, said Sharon Mann coordinator of the casino

night and incoming president of the organization.

"Highline Community College Women's Emergency Fund is for women students who are in need of immediate financial help to stay in school," Mann said.

Cards for a Cause will be held at the Burien Community Center and the doors open at 5:30 p.m. heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. The festivities will go until midnight.

General admission is \$25 or

\$1,000 poker chip value. The poker registration fee is \$40 or \$5,000 poker chip value.

"All eight finalists from the [poker] tournament will be given prizes. First place is a trip for two to LA to watch a Lakers game from a private suite," Mann said.

The goal is to raise between \$15,000 and \$20,000, said Mann. Between 150 and 200 participants are expected, she said.

Raffle tickets are creating a

big buzz with the prizes including, but not limited to, a \$300 bar starter including alcohol and accessories, she said.

Along with the raffle tickets there will be a silent auction with approximately 50 items, including: poker sets, a coffee basket, a bathroom basket, jewelry, garden items, golf equipment, auto items, and a kitchen basket, Mann said.

Participants must be 18 years or older to attend this event. Reservations are not required,

but they are encouraged, said Mann.

"To purchase your ticket or to register, stop by The Women's Programs office in Building 6, lower level," said Leticia Picon of Women's Programs and WorkFirst Services.

"Together we can ensure many women and young girls in our community have the help to improve themselves in home and in society," said Mann.

For further information, contact Mann at 206.200.3616.

Food service provider promises changes

By Rebecca Starkey
Staff Reporter

Although students have long complained about the food on campus provided by Chartwells Food Services, changes are on the horizon.

Sandy Gonzalez, the new food services director at Highline, says she is working to make changes to better serve its clientele.

Gonzalez came to the Highline campus after overseeing the Chartwells operation at Green River Community College in Auburn.

Gonzalez said she is working with Highline to make several major changes to the Union Café.

The Origins food station will be redesigned to serve comfort food such as pasta, soups and other dishes. Meanwhile, the menu at the adjacent Fire and Rice station will be expanded to feature different cultural foods each week.

"We're trying to broaden [the food served] because they're serving the same thing every day," Gonzalez said.

In addition, Gonzalez said Chartwells will be using higher quality bread in the deli sandwiches and will also now be serving soups provided by a



Gonzalez

company known as Au Bon Pain, which offers their soups at several other Chartwells locations.

For Summer Quarter, the Union Café hours will also be extended from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

"The college has been very helpful in everything we want to implement," Gonzalez said.

The changes can't come fast enough for some Highline students, staff and faculty. The quality of food, prices and a perceived lack of healthy alternatives in the Student Union are frequently at the top of student concerns voiced in informal polls of students by Thunderword staffers.

"[The food] is good, but after five days in a row it tastes like grease," student Terrick McGhee said.

"It's not healthy, it's not fresh, and it's way too expensive," student Abby Gregory said.

Staff and faculty members are generally more circumspect in their comments, preferring to remain anonymous and more apt to cite concerns such as orders failing to be delivered and the lack of options.

Highline administration officials, however, say they are satisfied with the service provided by the company and have no intention of ending the contract before its 2016 termination date.



Rebecca Starkey/THUNDERWORD

The Chartwells operated Union Café is undergoing major changes.

Part of the problem, they say, is that students are unfamiliar with the relationship between the college and Chartwells.

Many students say they believe Highline creates the menu for the food offered on campus, however Rachel Collins, manager of Hospitality Services, said it is primarily Chartwells' decision as a corporate company.

"Chartwells decides what is being served but with our [Highline's] partnership they are open to suggestions and we work with them in suggesting other items. But they do decide what is being served," Collins said.

Collins said she believes Chartwells has offered healthier options in the past, but the fried foods were more popular and sold better.

As far as affordability, Collins said she believes the prices are determined by Chartwells to cover food and labor costs.

"The other side of it is that they're a retail business and they absolutely have to make money to support themselves," Shirley Bean, director of financial services, said. "They aren't part of Highline. They're a private corporation, so they absolutely have to pay for their staff and pay for everything while they're at Highline. [Pricing] is kind of a balance for them."

However, Chartwells pricing may not be as simple as some might think. Sandy Gonzalez said that Chartwells calculates wages, taxes and employee benefits into prices, and also compares product prices to food service competitors in the area such as Subway and McDonald's.

After adding these values together, Chartwells prices must be the same or lower as much of their competition in order to effectively sell their product.

"Ounce per ounce, size per size, we try to match it up," Gonzalez said.

In addition, Gonzalez added that Chartwells can lower their

prices at any time. However, if they wish to increase food prices, Chartwells goes through an approval process, working with both Bean and Collins to determine if the proposed prices are fair to both employees of Chartwells and students of Highline.

Although some on campus may have the impression that Chartwells is a small company that only serves Highline and other local community colleges, Chartwells Food Services pro-

vides meals in colleges as well as elementary, middle and high schools throughout the nation.

Chartwells is also a brand, owned by Compass Group North America, which is a subdivision of Compass Group Global, a British food service conglomerate that extends into Europe, Asia and parts of Africa.

Several students, staff and faculty were under the impression that the Chartwells contract was set to expire this year, opening an opportunity for a new food provider, however Collins confirmed that this is a misunderstanding of the contract. The actual agreement continues until 2016.

Bean said that the original Chartwells contract, which began in August of 2008, was for five years. However, when the contract began, Chartwells made a capital investment of \$50,000 with a clause stating that if Highline did not remain with Chartwells for eight years, Highline would have to pay back part of the investment that has not been amortized.

"[Because of this] we made the decision to remain with Chartwells so the college wouldn't suffer any financial

penalty," Bean said.

In addition, another clause in the contract states that all food sold and catered on Highline's campus must come from Chartwells exclusively.

"[Exclusivity contracts] are very, very common," Bean said. "Most food service providers will not bid on a contract that is not exclusive."

Other suppliers on campus, including Coca-Cola, also hold exclusivity contracts.

Bean said this has not been a source of trouble for Highline.

Come 2016 however, who provides food at Highline will be open for discussion.

Bean said Highline will put the contract out to bid and create a committee for deciding if Highline will renew with Chartwells or seek a new food service provider.

The process, she said, will include voices from Student Government and student opinion.

"I can only speak from a contractual perspective, but I think Chartwells has been a very good partner with Highline," Bean said. "They don't always get it right, but they're always very open to constructive criticism and they're always very open to trying new things."

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Highline student takes PRISM by storm

By Rebecca Starkey
Staff Reporter

Although Kari Blomberg may appear to be an average student, Highline instructors have said she has the potential to change the world and has already started to do so here at Highline.

Blomberg is the president of PRISM, the Gay-Straight Alliance of Highline, which stands for People Respecting Individuals and Sexual Minorities.

"We're all about creating a safe campus environment for everyone and educating our community and surrounding communities on LGBTQIA issues and whatnot," Blomberg said.

As a lesbian herself, Blomberg said standing against the discrimination of sexual minorities is important to her.

"[It's] pretty personal since I identify as a sexual minority. I want to make sure I feel safe and that everyone else who is also a sexual minority also feels safe," Blomberg said.

Blomberg first became involved in PRISM last year as a member and was elected as president of the club this year after the previous president left Highline.

"[The presidency] kind of got handed to me. I wanted to do it though," Blomberg said.

While under Blomberg's leader-



Courtesy of Kari Blomberg
President of PRISM Kari Blomberg.

ship, PRISM members have represented Highline at the various conferences and have also helped sponsor events such as Pink Prom.

Jennifer Heckler, a Highline instructor, said she thinks Kari's leadership has taken PRISM far.

"Kari attended the Power of One conference—a regional leadership conference that brings together students [con-

cerned about] LGBT issues—in Boise, Idaho," Heckler said. "As a result of her participation, she has set in motion plans for next year that will benefit PRISM and the Highline campus."

Professor Craig Hurd-McKenny, PRISM's co-adviser and co-chair of the LGBTQIA Task Force, said he also thinks Kari's diplomatic personality has helped PRISM's cause.

"Kari has a quiet, but impactful leadership style. All voices are heard, but she is not afraid to make an executive decision," Hurd-McKenny said. "It is rare that someone so young has a consistency of vision and focus as Kari does."

Blomberg was recently recognized for her leadership in PRISM by winning Highline's "Outstanding Program Contributions" award.

Blomberg said that during her time as president she has tried to make PRISM as all-inclusive as possible.

"[PRISM is] not just queer people, we have a lot of straight people who come and have a lot of fun," Blomberg said. "If you're accepting of us, we're accepting of you."

"Kari has a thoughtful, empathetic way of making PRISM members feel at ease," Hurd-McKenny said.

Heckler agreed, stating that Blomberg, "is confident when expressing

ideas and conscientious when listening to others' opinions."

"Kari is one of the most diplomatic young people I have ever met," Hurd-McKenny said. "She is so keen at expressing her opinion without it feeling like a personal attack or like she is not being objective and fair. I envy that she has this characteristic, and I only hope I can take a fraction of this away in my time in working with her."

In the fall, Blomberg will be transferring to Western Washington University where she said she wants to double major in environmental science and psychology.

Beyond that, Blomberg is still discovering what she wants to do with her life, but said that mountain ranger, racecar driver and hot air balloon pilot all sound like exciting options.

Either way, students and faculty at Highline know that with her diligence and leadership, Blomberg can make her dreams become realities.

"Over this academic year, Kari has grown as a student and an advocate," Heckler said.

"She possesses an intellectual, ethical, and affective ability that will follow her to Western, where I believe she will be a successful student, a passionate advocate, and an exceptional contributor to the community," said Heckler.

Faculty member says she is looking forward to retiring

By Racquel Arceo
Staff Reporter

After 22 years of service at Highline, Norma Finsterbusch says she is ready to finally spend her time for herself.

With the countdown tacked to the wall by her desk, Finsterbusch eagerly awaits the day she can say she is officially out of here.

"Working since high school, I've never spent anywhere [vacation] longer than two weeks but now I'm like 'Wow, I don't have to check in with anyone. I'm free,'" Finsterbusch said.

Coming to work at Highline wasn't a difficult decision. Finsterbusch has worked in schools, from kindergarten to higher education, since 1984.

Since 2006, Finsterbusch has worked in Outreach Services and helped develop the program.

Her job entails constantly traveling to promote Highline at other colleges, high schools, middle schools, elementary schools and prisons. Finsterbusch has also contributed to Outreach Services by extending Highline's presence to the Wesley Garden senior home where Highline students now go to talk to the residents.

Just this past month Finsterbusch was awarded the 2013 Women in Action award from Women's Programs.

The honor of the award was elevated with the news that her nomination came from a student.

"I was nominated by a student, not a co-worker or anything. A student," Finsterbusch said.

At Highline since August of 1990, Finsterbusch started as a 1,000-hour, or part-time employee, in Registration as an office assistant.

"In those days, when Registration began each quarter, there would be around 800 people assigned to register on the same day. Eight hundred people would show up at eight in the morning and be there all day," said Finsterbusch.

She said the work was tedious and all had to be done by hand. She became a full-time employee a year later and moved to Veteran Services.

"Everything was manually done. The veterans would come back from the first Persian Gulf War and they'd apply for their benefits and we would do all the legal stuff so they would get their benefits," Finsterbusch said.

Being part of a military family, Finsterbusch really enjoyed working with the veterans and said she would try to help the veterans in any way she could, anything from dealing with paperwork to any advising they might need.

"I still have veterans and students alike that I still communicate with. Maybe its only once a year around the holidays, but over the years I still remain in contact with a lot of students.

It's wonderful," she said.

In 1996, Finsterbusch moved to the Financial Aid Office before finally moving to Outreach Services.

"That was a long haul. It was, like the Veterans Office, very technical," said Finsterbusch. "But overall, it was good."

In Outreach, Finsterbusch has had to do a lot of networking.

"I love talking to people, I love my job," said Finsterbusch, "[but] it's time for me, it's my time, it's me time."

Finsterbusch said she doesn't have any big trips planned for her retirement.

"[I'm ready to] just actually enjoy life and spend it with people I want to, my family and friends," she said. "I get to visit family. I get to visit friends. I've made a lot of friends here because it's been, you know, almost 23 years here."

Finsterbusch said that seeing a student go from school to their real, professional, lives and be successful is what she loves.

"Seeing the progress in the students. Coming, maybe struggling, leaving, then growing and coming back. They continue learning, finishing their education. They feel so accomplished. Then I see them in my own personal life when I'm just out in the community and they're in their professional life, doing well for themselves," Finsterbusch said.

Returning medication can protect marine life

By Michaela Vue
Staff Reporter

Eating salmon that has been swimming in people's birth control medication should be a concern for us all.

For years, people have been told that flushing their unused or overdue medications down the toilet was the safe way to get rid of it.

"It's horrible for the environment," Sue Padden, Senior Services manager for the City of Des Moines said.

A statewide Take-Back Your Meds program is working to prevent unwanted medications from harming the environment by allowing the public to drop off their unwanted medications in designated areas.

The program started in 2010 and has been successful in the Des Moines community. The most recent collection was made in April at two of the area Bartell Drug stores.

The next Take-Back opportunity will be on a to-be-determined Saturday in September.

The most recent med return day brought in 356 pounds or 12 boxes worth of medication totaling 1,888 pounds since the program was started.

"People are starting to get it," Padden said, "It [the Take-Back Program] is going to take off and [Washington is] the state to do it."

Returning medications is also about safety and preventing it from getting into the

wrong hands.

Oxycontin pills worth \$20,000 at street value were recently turned into the Des Moines Police Department at one time, Padden said. A family member, whose father was using the drug and had passed away, dropped off the medication.

Padden said the man did the right thing, lest the medication fall into the wrong hands.

"Research shows that people get them [medication] from family," Padden said.

However, the Take-Back Program does not take controlled substances such as Vicodin, Oxycontin, morphine, Adderall or Xanax.

The program accepts prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins and even pet medicines.

Highline Biology instructor Dr. Kaddee Lawrence urges her students to do their part in protecting the environment.

"Think of [marine life] as your neighbor. Our waste water plants are not designed to filter out medication," Lawrence said.

Rather than upgrading the wastewater plants to filter out medications, Lawrence suggests raising awareness.

"Don't put anything in the toilet other than what the toilet is designed for," she said.

For more information on locations people can drop off their unwanted medications and types of medications they accept, visit takebackyourmeds.org.

Eco-friendliness can clean up Sound, speaker says

By Taylor Rengstorff
Staff Reporter

The Puget Sound is home to thousands of marine wildlife, a massive ship highway and scenic views.

What most can't see is what lies beneath the surface.

Along the sound shoreline, barely below the surface, columns of billowing black filth are being pumped into the water, said a frequent diver who spoke last Saturday at Highine's MaST Center.

Those black columns are made up of water run-off from streets, trash that people are throwing on the ground and sewage that never made it to the treatment center.

"Don't feed the monster," Laura James, co-director of Tox-ick.org told an audience of 25.

Run-off is the Puget Sound's biggest pollutant.

Oil, gas and any other liquids



Daniel Joyce/THUNDERWORD
Laura James spoke at the MaST Center about the dangers of pollution and run-off in the Puget Sound and how to potentially reduce it.

that cars take to keep going are the biggest contributors to what lies within the columns of filth.

The statistics aren't pretty: Salmon levels are only eight percent of what they were historically.

Killer whales' first calves are

dying because of all the pollutants in their mothers' milk. One third of the shellfish taken from the Sound contain traces of fecal waste.

"There are things that [Puget Sound communities] can do to

reduce the amount of waste in our water system," said James.

Those measures include picking up dog poop.

"I know it sounds ridiculous, but if each person picked up one bag of dog poop a week, that column of pure black, would dissolve to a color of dark gray," James said.

Two hundred tons of pet waste is not cleaned up daily in the state of Washington.

There are five other things that James spoke of regarding cleaning up the Sound:

1) Practice natural yard care. Don't cut grass too short and use healthy soil, instead of beauty bark. The soil will soak up water and naturally filter it. And always think twice about pesticides, James said.

2) Instead of washing the car in the front yard, take it to a commercial car wash where the business is required to dispose of the dirty water appropriately.

3) Walk, ride or bike. Combine car trips, drive slower, car-pool and lighten up the load.

"If you take 100 pounds out of your car, you can decrease your miles per gallon by 2 percent," James said.

4) Plant and help protect native evergreens. Their root systems are natural filters for run-off water.

5) One of the best ways to help the aqua system, is to keep water within one's own yard.

When watering plants and the grass, the water soaks into the ground and is naturally filtered through the roots of the plants. Only then does it move [slowly] back out to the oceans.

"The waters we live around are increasingly polluted, and it takes the smallest of actions to start to help clean and protect them," James said.

This was the last Science on the Sound seminar for the quarter.

Science Seminar types out history of fonts, printing

By Taylor Rengstorff
Staff Reporter

Books, newspapers, advertising and everyday reading, all have one thing in common – they are printed. And in order to produce those printed pages, one must depend upon type, John Pfeffer, a Highline chemistry instructor told the audience at the final Science Seminar for

the quarter last Friday.

Type comes in all shapes and sizes. And each of those different typefaces is called a font.

Although the Chinese had introduced moveable type by 1040, Europe wouldn't catch up until around 1450 when Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press. Then came the idea of being able to put words to paper without having hands cramp up.

Foundry type was the first way of printing letters on paper.

Letters were sculpted backwards by hand, cast in metal and then lined up horizontally to create on line of type. Each line of type would be inked and then pressed onto a sheet of paper.

"The only problem with this is that you could only 'type' one line at a time," said Pfeffer.

The Monotype system came

next. It was a way of typing letters onto a film that was then transferred to a machine that printed out the letters row by row.

"The problem with Monotype, is that the spacing isn't efficient, letters get scrambled into the letters next to them," said Pfeffer.

Then came the Linotype system, which produced lines of type much more efficiently by casting type line by line in lead.

"Computers were becoming big, and right after that came the printer which are capable of printing pages at a time. The Linotype became history, fast," said Pfeffer.

To have been able to print a line out in cast metal was a big accomplishment for the 19th century.

As a result, new fonts are produced every day, creating new ways to communicate.

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Rentals not returned by June 14th, will be turned over to the Business Office.

Thefts

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or showing presence of a weapon,” said Noyer.

“From my point of view this is clearly organized,” said Yok.

However, due to the disparity between descriptions, there may be more participants in these different thefts and robberies.

“We don’t have very good descriptions for most of them,” he said.

This may be due to the fact that many of the students that have been targeted are international students, as Noyer said at a meeting last Friday.

Many international students are unaccustomed to the level of crime perpetrated in the United States, said Highline student Marcelo Carvajal.

Carvajal, a student of international business and friend of many Japanese students on campus, spoke up during the Personal Safety Community Meeting discussion concerning the recent cell phone thefts at noon yesterday. He said that he wants the campus to help out international students in particular.

“I just want them to be better educated and better protected, he said.

Apparently, due to all the cell phone thefts and robberies,

Marcelo said that many international students have decided that they just want to go home to their home countries, where they feel safer.

“It not only hurts the school, but it hurts us as a society,” he said.

At the same meeting, Yok, Noyer and Operations Commander Barry Sellers and Community Service Officer Kory Batterman from the Des Moines Police Department spoke to an audience of more than 70 on personal safety and the measures that Highline is taking in response to cell phones being stolen.

Yok said that over the past three years the college has installed more lighting, security telephones, and video surveillance.

To make the campus much more secure, they could fence it and have limited access points where identification is checked before entrance, he said, but “we have to seek this balance between security and a sense of personal freedom and open access.”

“We have placed as many resources as we can [...] but we have 80 acres here and lots of people,” he said.

The measure the school has taken so far is to increase security patrols in the areas of the crimes, Yok said after the meeting.

“Crime’s kind of like whack-a-mole,” he said.

It comes down to students needing change habits in order to protect themselves, said Officer Batterman.

Officer Batterman passed out a hand-out and explained several points on how students can protect themselves.

“There’s things we do that makes it easy for bad guys,” he said. “When people live by this [advice], they don’t get victimized.”

For the first point, Officer Batterman said that there are three parts to crime: opportunity, ability, and desire to commit crime.

As desire is not something that can be easy changed, “really the only thing we can do is take away the opportunity,” he said. “Don’t walk away and leave the property unattended. [And] if you don’t have to use it in public, don’t use it in public.”

Secondly, be alert and aware. “Bad guys are looking for people that aren’t paying attention,” said Officer Batterman.

Anyone who is engrossed in music, reading, or studying makes an attractive target for thieves, he said.

The officer also said to listen to “gut signals.”

“If you feel, ‘Something’s not right here, something’s going to happen’,” Officer Batterman said. “[We need to] be aware of what our bodies tell us.”

Commander Sellers, Officer Batterman, Yok, and Noyer all encouraged students to report people who look like they do not belong on campus.

“Even smiling and making eye contact achieves it,” said Officer Batterman. “Bad guys, ultimately, want to be undetected.”

People who walk with their head down and don’t look at people make themselves seem more like prey, the officer said.

This influx of cell phone thefts and robberies is not just happening at Highline.

“We’re not the only ones,” said Noyer last week. “There’s a rash of this stuff going on right now.”

Noyer said that new unmanned kiosks in the area that allow users to insert a phone, enter information and then receive cash may be contributing to this “rash” of thefts and robberies.

“Most or all [of the stolen cell phones] were valued at \$300 or more,” said Noyer.

Yok encouraged any with further concerns to contact him via email: lyok@highline.edu.

Staff reporter Daniel Joyce also contributed to this story.

Loans

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Without a resolution of the dispute, the 3.4 percent rate student loan rate will double to 6.8 percent due to the sequester, which went into effect March 1.

The sequester – a series of across-the-board cuts on federal programs – was an agreement between the president and Congress last year to provoke a deal on the national budget.

The president’s plan’s include dropping the new subsidized Stafford Loan rates to 2.9 percent from the current 3.4 percent.

The plan also guarantees that loans for all borrowers, in the past and future, have the payment capped at 10 percent of income.

For a typical borrower in Washington state, savings are estimated to be about \$1,045, according to an official White House press release.

Another alternative would be “keeping student loan interest rates fixed and annually tied to the market rate,” said Lorraine Odom, Highline director of Financial Aid.

“The importance of this plan is that borrower interest rates will remain the same throughout the repayment period and not fluctuate throughout the life of the loan. This will guarantee a fixed loan repayment amount allowing borrowers to be confident that monthly payment amounts will not increase unexpectedly,” she said.

With no clear indication as to which plan will prevail, student loan holders are reduced to waiting and calculating how they will cope with the possibility of a bigger bite from their wallets.

Canvas

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Quarter. Pilot programs and the availability of some faculty to make the switch will occur during Winter Quarter.

The main transition is set for Spring Quarter 2014 with total access to Angel for students eliminated by Summer Quarter 2014, although Angel will still be available to faculty for back-up purposes.

Jeff Ward, a Business Department instructor, previously learned how to use Canvas at Seattle Central and Edmonds community colleges.

“There will be a learning curve with Canvas – sort of like when you change cars – there are the main controls in the same place, but some of the buttons for other stuff are in different places or operate slightly differently. It’ll take some time to know how to turn on the radio, move the driver’s seat back, or adjust the heat settings in Canvas,” he said.

Ward said the program is easy to use for both students and faculty.

“In a few days it was as if I had been using Canvas forever,” Ward said

Features that students may like and find most useful are the texting, email and Facebook capabilities of Canvas.

And the speed grader allows students to receive their current grade on their smartphones through text message at anytime.

Unlike Angel, Canvas will allow

students to use the email of their choice rather than having an Angel and Highline email account.

There is also the option for students to connect Canvas to their Facebook account.

This will allow students to get notifications through Facebook.

Smartphone users can also download the free Canvas for iOS app.

With this app, students will be able to check their grades, view the syllabus, participate in discussions, and more.

“They are trying to be where you want to go,” Frantz said.

Smartphone users will also be able to use their iCal app to organize all of their class sched-

ules onto one calendar rather than a personal calendar and separate class calendars.

Some Highline faculty members are not currently using Angel because it is too difficult.

The ease of Canvas may encourage more instructors to use the new program, Frantz said.

“I would guess more faculty will get on board,” she said.

However, Frantz said some faculty may have trouble with Canvas because they are making it more difficult than it is.

“In Canvas, its just drag and drop,” Frantz said explaining

how simple it is compared to Angel.

Canvas is much faster at fixing requested problems than Angel. Sometimes so fast that faculty may be unaware of the changes.

“On the downside, changes happen frequently,” Frantz said.

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