

Strike 101



Bryce Sizemore/THUNDERWORD

Faculty and students wave signs and chant to protest administration practices at Green River College.

Green River faculty and students participate in three-day strike

By Thunderword Staff

AUBURN – Faculty of Green River College traded pencils for pickets earlier this week.

On Monday, May 23, some faculty at Green River abandoned their classes to participate in a three-day strike to protest what they say are unfair labor practices of the college's administration.

This is the first strike in 42 years at Green River. This is

also the first strike that is not over contracts; the real problem derives from what is within the contracts and how the administration is going about it.

"The two primary reasons we are striking are to retaliate collected concerted action that has protected bosses and administrations power to unfairly treat faculty and staff in attempts to intimidate and subdue them," said Richard Burton, the inter-

national organizer of the American Federation of Teachers, which represents faculty at Green River. "And to combat the currently imposed process of evaluation rather than a bargaining agreement they desire."

Faculty and student supporters stood on the strike line, waving signs that read "Think

See Strike, page 11

Feelin' frisky

Highline students have no problem with PDA

By Thunderword Staff

Spring fever is hitting Highline students hard.

Students have recently been having sex all over campus, people say. Students have been admittedly getting down in the hallways, parking lots, bathrooms and grassy knolls overlooking the Puget Sound this Spring Quarter.

"There's been about five incidents in the last three weeks," said Public Safety Sgt. George Curtis. "I don't think it's necessarily a bad thing, healthy sexual activity is never wrong. But I just think they could probably pick a better place than on a college campus."

Many students say they have seen or caught other students in the act.

An anonymous couple was seen kissing on a blanket in the grass. They admitted to doing more than just kissing on many occasions by the spot where they first met outside of class.

"We have a great view, and it's nostalgic. This is the spot where we first met," the boyfriend said.

"I was shocked, I didn't even know what to say. I think they

didn't see me," said Highline student Everlyn, who declined to provide her last name.

A few students provided more detailed recollections about the activities they've witnessed.

"I was going to one of my evening classes in Building 30," said student Juwon Kim. "The classroom was at the bottom of the hall. I opened the door and I saw these two people interacting. They saw me, but that didn't stop them from having sex in the classroom."

A student who would only identify himself as Otuma said he knew people who had sex on campus and he also claimed to have witnessed instances but would not give further details.

"Yes I've seen people, especially around the dark areas," said student Poula Barsoum. He said he gave them a "what the hell are you doing" look, "but they don't care."

Student Mackenzie Tinsley said that she had seen a couple that was making out and kissing heavily while the woman moved her hand around the man's pants.

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Achieve students want better treatment

By Mike Simpson
Staff Reporter

Highline student Devon Adelman's personal fight to improve the educational rights of people with learning disabilities has gained her at least one prominent audience – First Lady Michelle Obama.

Adelman was called to the

White House on July 23, 2015 along with 140 students across the country to highlight the need to extend educational opportunities to people overcoming struggles such as learning disabilities.

Last week, she brought her message to an Honors Colloquy on campus.

People with learning disabili-

ties can achieve academic and personal success despite societal prejudices based on outdated medical models and sometimes a lack of support from their own families, a trio of speakers, including Adelman, said in last week's Honors Colloquy.

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Mike Simpson/THUNDERWORD

Devon Adelman, left, Madison Williams and Ivanova Smith.

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Des Moines Creek Trail reopens to the public after renovations



Suspects still at large in murder case

By Ani Miller-Wells
Staff Reporter

The police are still searching for suspects for the shooting of Adam Gutierrez, a Highline student, who was murdered in Federal Way on May 11.

Gutierrez was randomly shot and killed while walking his dog late that night. Gutierrez was a veteran of the Navy, and in addition to taking classes at Highline; he was attending the University of Washington, working towards his degree in Electrical Engineering.

A number of groups have put together \$17,000 in reward money for anyone who can give information that may lead to the arrest of the murderer.

The reward is being handled through Crime Stoppers of Puget Sound. People with information can call the Federal Way Police Department at 253-835-2121 or send an anonymous tip to safecityfw.com.

Student's car found vandalized

A student had the back window of their car smashed out on May 19 at around 12:04 p.m. There was nothing taken from the car.

Medical attention declined by student

A female student had a seizure-like reaction on May 20 at around 10:12 a.m. The student had been exercising on a standing cycle in the school gym before the incident occurred.

The student declined medical assistance three times and simply waited for her parent to pick her up.

Homeless man denied shower

A homeless man called Public Safety to ask if he could use the showers in the school gym on May 21 at 10:30 a.m.

The man had a locker in the gym and the man stated that the coaches have let him use the showers for approximately the past year and a half.

Public Safety didn't allow him to shower, but did let him in to change into jeans, as he was wearing shorts in inclement weather.

Highline honored with diversity award

Highline's commitment to diversity and equity has earned it another award.

The Washington State Association of College Trustees recognized Highline's Board of Trustees and president for their commitment to achieving equity in the development, administration, educational programs and services at Highline by awarding them the 2016 Equity Award.

"Highline College serves a very diverse community with a wide range of income, varying educational backgrounds, and over 80 languages spoken," said Dr. Ruth Windhover, Highline professor and president of the Highline College Education Association, in a press release.

The president and Board of Trustees has promoted diversity and helped make it part of Highline's culture, she said.

Events such as Unity through Diversity Week, LGBTQIA Month, and the Faculty and Staff of Color and Allies reception, are all ways that Highline celebrates its diverse campus and promotes cultural aware-



'Highline's faculty, staff and students are the ones who merit this recognition and we must continue to work on improving our progress to create greater opportunities for all students.'

— Dr. Jack Bermingham

ness, said the release.

"Part of the recognition on receiving this award is focused on the activities that we believe are examples of how we can increase our support for all students toward greater access and attainment in the educational experience," said Highline President Dr. Jack Bermingham.

The commitment to equity is manifested in curriculum,

student support, programming, services, and administration, Dr. Windhover said.

Students, staff and faculty are so used to Highline's diverse policies and equity people often forget that they are a product of collaborative approach between Highline leadership and employees to meet the needs of the community, Windhover said.

In April, the American Asso-

ciation of Community Colleges also recognized the collaborative work by the board and Dr. Bermingham by presenting them with the Award of Excellence. The award was for promoting economic and social vitality for the community and their continuing commitment to success for students.

"Dr. Bermingham has created, and the trustees have supported a highly effective learning and teaching environment where faculty, staff and students are inspired and enabled to do their best work," Dr. Windhover said.

The Board of Trustees includes Dan Altmayer, Fred Mendoza, and Debrena

Jackson Gandy, Bob Roegner and Sili Savusa.

"We feel honored to have received this recognition," said President Bermingham. "Highline's faculty, staff and students are the ones who merit this recognition and we must continue to work on improving our progress to create greater opportunities for all students."



Internship Fair next Thursday

Highline will host an Internship Fair on June 2.

A number of employers will be in attendance and looking to hire student interns for Summer and Fall Quarters.

Students should bring a resume with them, and be prepared to interview on the spot.

The Internship Fair will take place on June 2 at 2:30 p.m. in Building 2.

Highline will learn more about Puente

The integration of a national educational support program onto Highline's campus will be discussed during a meeting that will be held next week.

The Puente Program provides counseling, mentoring, and academic support to educationally underrepresented students and prepares them for transfer to a four-year university.

The meeting will be held on May 31 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Building 2.

"The informational meeting that is happening next week is to share information around Puente," Highline Dean of Instruction Rolita Ezeonu said. "We are still in the initial stages of gathering information and seeing what the participation is on our campus."

The Puente Program has been active for over 30 years

and is involved with 3 middle schools, 34 high schools and 64 colleges around the country.

The MaST Center octopus graduates

Salish, The Marine Science and Technology Center's giant Pacific Octopus will be graduating.

Salish has been a resident of the MaST center since October 2015, and has gone from 18 inches to over 72 inches.

On June 11 Salish will be released back into the Puget Sound by divers.

The event is open to the public, and cake and refreshments will be served.

The event will take place on June 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The MaST Center is located at 28203 Redondo Beach Drive S in Des Moines.

Building 6 will get improvements

Construction around building 6 will start next week.

Facilities will be replacing the cooling tower on the north side of Building 6.

The external second floor stairs will be demolished and replaced.

The pathway between Building 6 and 11 will be demolished and replaced as well.

Pathways between the thunderwalk and the east lot, and between building 6 and 11 will be closed during construction.

Noisy work will be done very early, however, noise should still be expected.

Construction will commence on May 31 and is expected to continue through mid-July.

Film contest open to all students

Highline will have the first annual Student Film Contest this fall.

The contest is free to enter, and is open to current students and alumni. The entry deadline is October 3 by midnight.

Film Screening and Award presentation will take place on October 26. First prize is \$250, second is \$125, third prize winner will receive \$100, and fourth prize winner will receive \$75.

There will be a public information session to find out more about the contest on June 2 at 1 p.m. in Building 29, room 105.

Water treatment in the third world

Water Treatment on Remba Island will be presented by

Thomas Zerkel, a civil and environmental engineer, at this Friday's Science Seminar.

Municipal water treatment and the challenges third world countries face will be discussed. Zerkel will use Remba Island in Kenya as a case study.

The Science Seminar takes place on May 27 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in building 3, room 102.

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Student council rejects request for new election

By Cierra West
Staff Reporter

A challenge to the certification of the recent Student Government elections was rejected Tuesday by student officials. The student council also moved forward with plans for new plaza in front of Building 6.

The Associated Students of Highline College certified the election of president James Jackson and Vice President Gabbi Fuller and also denied objections to amendments to the organization's Constitution.

Jacobi Boudreaux, member of the Movie Appreciation Club, moved for a new election based on what he said was a conflict of interest influencing the outcome of the election and inadequate announcement of the constitutional amendment.

Vice President Richelle Enriquez ran the election booth while her "romantic interest" was running for the office of president, said Boudreaux.

"She was there for 75 percent of the election times," he said.

Speaker of the Caucus Abdul Aziz Bah said that Enriquez ran the booth, but he was there, as well as others who were always helping with the booth.

Current President Pa Ousman Jobe said he also was in the booth with the vice president and witnessed no bias from her.

"What is the proof of favoritism?" asked President Jobe.

The Student Government did everything it could to control for conflict of interest, said Dr. Jonathan Brown, associate dean for Center for Leadership & Service, Engagement and Assessment.

"People are going to have relationships," he said.

Student Government recognized the potential for a



Mike Simpson/THUNDERWORD

Student Government President Pa Ousman Jobe, Vice President Richelle Enriquez, and Speaker of the Caucus Abdul Aziz Bah.

conflict of interest prior to the election and it made sure the candidates had thorough conversations and took precautions from the beginning, during and after, said Noory Kim, CLS adviser.

"The voting process is very removed," said Dr. Brown.

People can't vote without logging in with a student I.D. This mitigates any conflict of interest, he said.

"Richelle has been a very responsible person," Bah said. President Jobe agreed.

"She is one of the most professional people I have ever met," he said. "She did her work according to the book."

"I respectfully disagree [that] the conflict of interest affected elections, but I am happy with his [Boudreaux's] concern," Dr. Brown said.

Boudreaux said the constitutional amendments were invalid although passed by voters because the council did not adhere to the 10-day notification rule in the Constitution.

With regard to the constitutional amendments, Dr. Brown said, "It was an executive decision" on behalf of the

executive council (president, vice president and speaker of caucus).

He pointed out Article V section 2 that states, "The ASHCC Executive Council has the sole authority to administer and enforce this Constitution and the By-Laws."

It was a unanimous decision by the council, said Dr. Brown.

The ASCH council rejected motion for a new election with a vote of 5-1.

Turning to other matters, the council reviewed its Capital Project Initiative Project, which prioritizes possible ASHC budget uses according to student need, said Bah as he presented the budget.

According to the initiative, some immediate proposed changes include a gender inclusive restroom on the third floor of the Student Union; a new sign for the Center for Leadership and Service and Multicultural Affairs; designing new offices for the new leadership and intercultural advisers; getting more AED's for the Student Union; repainting

the Student Union and upgrading the media systems as well as purchasing new tables for the Student Union, and new couches and a plasma screen for Building 30.

The initiative also called for the Student Government partnering with the college to build a new covered entry plaza on the east side of Building 6.

"So students won't have to worry about waiting in the rain," Bah said.

Short-term (one-two years) and long-term projects (three-five years) include student hang-out space in the Library and new furnishings for multiple places on campus; an extension of the community garden to an off-site location; a bigger and more advanced Fitness Center; renovating the soccer field; and providing specialized equipment to the MaST Center.

The proposal is not official yet and still needs to be reviewed with college administration following development of cost estimates and collaboration with Facilities.

The formal allocation could come in June.

Get ready to graduate

By Ariana Thomas
Staff Reporter

Highline student Dulce Armas will be the class of 2016 Commencement Speaker on June 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the ShoWare Center in Kent.

Check-in for Commencement begins at 4:30 p.m. Rachel Collins, Highline conference services manager and co-chair for Commencement, said that is important for graduates to be on time.

"Registration opens at 4:30 p.m. You don't have to be there at 4:30, but don't show up any later than 6:15. You will need time to get lined up," she said.

She emphasized that graduates should only show up in their cap and gown and not to bring anything extra.

"No personal belongings, backpacks, and children while waiting to be seated," she said. "Children are welcome to attend, just not in the back with you and while lining up," she said.

She also said to make sure you are wearing your robe and that you are checked in before 6:30p.m. Students will write their names on two different cards and are supposed to keep them until it is time to get on stage.

Check in will be on the north side of the ShoWare Center. Don't go into the main entrances," Collins said. "There should be signs leading students to the North entrance."

Parking is available at ShoWare. Graduate's families are advised to get there early for better seating, which is festival-style (not reserved) seating, Collins said.

"Every year 550-600 students graduate," Collins said.

The Commencement video that was shot during Graduation Fair will play at 6:15 p.m. This video will have graduates sharing their excitement about their big day with their friends and family.

"There will also be a hash-tag that students can use as they take photos. The hash-tag is #Highline2016," Collins said. The photos students use with the hash-tag will be displayed on the screen in the front for the audience to see.

President Jack Bermingham will speak to the graduating class as well as Student Government President Pa Ousman Jobe. A Board of Trustee member will also speak.

Art Department instructor Tracy Carrera and Program Coordinator Teresa Trillo will be faculty marshals.

Commencement will end at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Check out the Commencement Website, it has information about parking, directions, accommodations, photography and other information at <https://registration.highline.edu/commencement.php>



A very happy First Friday

Shaun Knittel gets students smiling in a workshop on activism recently in Building 8. Knittel is an activist and journalist from Seattle. He is an executive with Social Outreach Seattle, a group that works on a variety of issues in the Capitol Hill neighborhood.

Mike Simpson/THUNDERWORD

Firearms are too easy to acquire

Firearms in this country are simply too available and come without enough restrictions. This reality has killed far too many Americans.

This epidemic of gun violence hit home for many of us last week when three shootings occurred in Federal Way and Des Moines.

One of the shootings involved two teenagers shooting a man on the street with a gun that they stole.

The U.S. has a problem with firearms. It has the highest firearm ownership per capita of any country, the highest gun suicide rate per capita of any country, and the highest firearm-related murder rate per-capita of any developed country.

Firearms are simply too accessible to kids, felons, and anyone with bad intent or a mental illness.

However, in the wake of incidents of gun violence, conservative commentators respond with asinine remarks about not politicizing the issue of gun violence, and instead just encouraging people to pray that something like that doesn't happen again.

There may not be a single instance where completely ignoring a national problem has ever fixed that problem.

In fact, mass shootings often cause a rush on gun stores, because people want to buy up all the guns they can, due to misguided fears of the government banning all firearms.

Let's get real, guns will never be banned, and it's not because the government is afraid that you and your uncle Joe are going to be able to take on the might of the U.S. military with a couple rifles and a few thousand rounds of ammo. If black helicopters filled with G-Men come to take away your guns and put you in a FEMA camp, there is really nothing you could do about it.

No, guns will not be banned because no government official could ever be re-elected after such a move.

Americans need to get past their unfounded fears of the U.S. government and pass some reasonable gun regulations to reduce gun-related deaths in the U.S.

Canada is very similar to the United States, yet they have a much lower rate of gun-related homicide and suicide per capita.

This is probably due in part to a lower amount of guns per capita, as fewer guns will result in less gun violence.

However, Canada also has some common sense laws that should be implemented in the U.S.

Canada has a mandatory 28-day waiting period for gun purchases, which allows people to cool down before receiving a firearm, which means that heat of the moment gun deaths could be reduced.

Canada requires a safe, secure storage place for firearms before they are purchased. These restrictions prevent kids from getting access to guns and reduces the likelihood of the theft of those guns. Stolen guns are regularly used in the commission of crimes, so reducing gun thefts would make a solid dent in violent crime.

Canadians are required to attend classes on the type of firearm they intend to purchase, learning how to be safe with that firearm, to clean and maintain their firearm, and the fundamentals of safely shooting their firearm of choice. This training can prevent accidental gun deaths by people mishandling firearms.

Americans love their guns, but by making common sense regulations like Canada's, we can reduce gun-related deaths relatively painlessly.

Congress has banned the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from conducting gun-death research, and finding a comprehensive solution is next to impossible without any hard research into the problem of gun-related violence.

Prayers and bowing to the pressure from the National Rifle Association to maintain the status quo will lead to more needless gun-related deaths of Americans.



Julie Bradbury photo

Volunteers from Highline help to build a Habitat for Humanity home for a family in Tacoma.

Helping others is fun and rewarding

Guest Commentary

I knew from my early years in high school that nothing gave me greater satisfaction than being able to make a difference in someone else's life. Knowing you were able to help someone in need is something I can't describe.

Being a writer for the Thunderword led to me to writing an advance story about students signing up to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity last quarter.

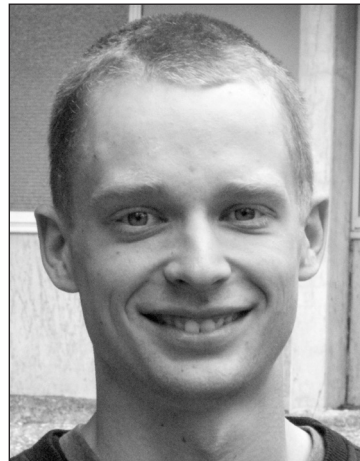
The Non-Traditional Students Club was hosting this event and told me about how they wanted to make this event a yearly tradition. Seeing their passion for this cause and desire to make a difference convinced me to sign up.

Before we could volunteer, we had to attend a safety orientation hosted by Habitat. In this orientation not only was safety covered, but I was amazed at how advanced the homes were.

They told us about how many homes use solar power and are made out of recycled materials. The families that receive the homes are also required to put in many hours of labor, called "sweat equity".

The families also pay a mortgage, but it is only the cost of what it took to build the home. Habitat makes no profit on any home they build. The families also only pay a monthly payment they can afford, which is a percentage based on their income.

After this orientation, I was extremely excited to be able to volunteer. I love everything Habitat stands for and how they include the families in the process.



Taylor Lee

Our job site was a neighborhood called Golden Given in Tacoma. This is a whole neighborhood of homes that Habitat is currently building. Many of the homes are already built and have families living in them.

Upon arriving, I was amazed. The homes were beautiful and extremely well kept. This neighborhood also has a play area with a jungle gym. There is also a community garden that the families work in and grow vegetables. If I didn't know this was a Habitat neighborhood, I wouldn't have been able to tell the difference.

Our day started with removing nails and large pieces of wood from a concrete foundation that had been poured. Everyone tackled removing the hundreds of nails with amazing effort. It was a hard and tedious job, but time flies when you're having fun with your friends.

After that, our jobsite manager told us that he had a job for some "strong men". We were assigned to clear some trees and

blackberry bushes, and dig up fence posts.

Unfortunately, due to us being volunteers, we were only allowed to use certain tools while on site. All we had were shovels, hand saws and large metal digging poles.

While a chain saw would have made this job a breeze, it was amazing to see the whole group work together and get this job done. Our job site manager was amazed at what we got done in the time we had.

Our final task was shoveling gravel into wheelbarrows to be poured around piping at the base of the foundation. This again was some heavy lifting. However, our team came together and was able to completely fill the entire foundation. Everyone took turns doing the heavy lifting; it was an amazing display of teamwork.

Our group consisted of 14 people of different age groups and ethnicities. Everyone did an amazing job and I'm so proud of every one of them.

While on our jobsite, children were riding their bikes and playing. You could see how happy they were. Obviously at some point they were faced with hardships, but now they can lead normal lives and enjoy their childhoods.

Knowing I was able to be of service and help another family eventually receive this same joy is an amazing experience. If you haven't volunteered somewhere before, I can't recommend it enough. So many of us have so much to offer and don't realize how lucky we are.

Taylor Lee is a reporter for the Thunderword.

the Staff

I wish there was Control + Z in real life.

E-Mail: tword@highline.edu

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Writers, artists feel the burn

Arcturus literary magazine returns with work from across the campus

By David Moran
Staff Reporter

The literate and artistic at Highline have once again come together to distill the best of their work into the annual Arcturus literary magazine.

A free reading of this year's Arcturus publication will be on June 2 at noon and again at 6 p.m. in Building 7.

The publication represents the best of student-created poetry, fiction, nonfiction and visual art.

Arcturus is named after the storyteller of the heavens in Greek mythology. Arcturus is the character telling the listener of how the constellations formed and what they mean.

The publication has not always had this name, but the college has published a literary magazine since its inception in 1961.

Highline students create and manage the publication every step of the way until printing.

The task of editing and illustrating the publication falls to students enrolled during Winter and Spring Quarter.

Sharon Hashimoto is the English professor in charge of the Arcturus project again this year.

"They're all up to the task," Hashimoto said.

The publication has won



Cover art of the 2016 Arcturus magazine.

awards from the Washington Community College Humanities Association in 1999, and most recently, in 2012.

English 290 is the course responsible for the content of the publication, and is six credits over two quarters.

"This is a really good program, and it's good for students professionally," Hashimoto said.

The theme for this year is "Burning," and will highlight student, staff and faculty work that relates to passion, or the state of being consumed, Hashimoto said.

Three hundred total submissions were submitted and 26 pieces were chosen to make the final publication.

Submissions were taken

blind, and given scores of one through five by students to determine the quality of the work and the engagement with the theme, Hashimoto said.

"We want to respect the author and have no bias for the work," she said. "The critical thinking comes through the artwork."

Students, faculty, staff and alumni are allowed to submit work to Arcturus.

Arcturus is also a collaboration with the college's Visual Communications department.

Twelve images are contained within the publication.

Tracy Carrera, a Highline professor of fine art, encouraged students to submit work to Arcturus.

"I harp on my students all year to get stuff in," she said. "I ask everyone because it's the best opportunity."

Some artists will be published here for the first time.

There was a broad array of submissions to the magazine, Carrera said.

"We had one [drawing] of a little girl dressed up as a firefighter, playing to that theme of burning, and another of an older woman burning sage as medicine," Carrera said.

Maggi Lecrone is the artist who submitted the girl dressed up as a firefighter.

The piece is titled *When I Grow Up*, she said.

The girl is framed as a portrait in black and white, smiling at the viewer.

"This kid doesn't know hardship, she has a plan," Lecrone said. "I want it to make people aspire to feel, give themselves optimism."

Lecrone is one of the artists who will be published for the first time.

The Building 16 gallery assistant, Sofiya Yakubovskaya, will also be published in this year's edition, as she was last year.

Yakubovskaya's piece is untitled, and depicts her holding her daughter close in an embrace.

"All artists want to be appreciated," she said. "This is a way to get my work out there."

Perhaps the most striking feature of the magazine is the cover.

Diana Boyd, professor of Visual Communications, is the faculty member overseeing the students and interns who designed and chose the cover.

Career Start and Visual Communications students designed and chose the cover from among 20 submissions.

It depicts a solid steel-gray background with a straight fibrous rope fraying while smoldering.

The cover is simple and powerful, said Boyd.

The smoke from the embers rises up to make the title, Arcturus.

"It was drawn by hand at first, then put into Photoshop," Boyd said. "This year's cover has a more of an art focus."

Anyone who attends the reading of the magazine will be given a free copy. It will also be available in the Bookstore afterwards for \$5.

White night: Ladies Night out offers stylish theme



Tevin Campbell will be one of the several acts at Ladies Night Out Vol. 7.

By Ryan McCandless
Staff Reporter

Ladies who love R&B and whose wardrobes include an all-white outfit: This is your weekend. Ladies Night Out Vol. 7 unfolds this Saturday at the ShoWare Center in Kent.

It's an all-white-attire affair that will feature numerous R&B artists dating back to the R&B wave of the '90s.

One of the headliners will be Tevin Campbell. In the early 90s, he was a major R&B singer whose Billboard hits included *Tell Me What You Want to Do* and *I'm Ready*. He was nominated for five Grammys, including best rhythm and blues album.

For this night only, Ruff Endz will reunite. Ruff Endz is from the early '00s and consists of David Chance and Dante Jordan. Their most famous song *No More* reached No. 5 on the Billboard charts in summer 2000.

Other acts will include The

EriAm Sisters, El DeBarge and Domino.

Chris Thomas, the original host of the Black Entertainment Television music program *Rap City*, will host the event. Additional music will be provided by DJ Funk Daddy.

Ladies Night Out is also teaming up with Dignity for Divas, a local non-profit organization that provides personal care items for homeless women in the Seattle area. Attendees are asked to bring travel-sized women's toiletries that can be given to people in need.

ShoWare Center is in Kent at 625 W. James St.

And while it is highly recommended that you wear white attire, it is not required for entrance to the event.

Ticket prices range from \$32 to \$62. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. on May 28 and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. sharp. Tickets can be purchased in advance at 866-973-9613 or at ShoWareCenter.com.

Students perform traditional Pacific Islander dances.



Mike Simpson/THUNDERWORD photos



Making Highline a happy place

College uses new luau to reach potential Pacific Islander students

By Mike Simpson
Staff Reporter

Slack-key guitar and drums echoed through the Student Union last weekend as students dressed in feathers, flowers and intricate patterns danced within a shower of dollar bills tossed overhead by a cheering audience.

This was the first Highline Luau, an event designed to encourage higher education for Asian-American Pacific Islanders in Washington and preserve traditions of Micronesia, Polynesia and Melanesia through collaboration between Federal Way High School, Highline and Green River College.

Luau is a Polynesian celebration marking happy events and the college wants students to know that education at Highline can be a happy experience.



Above: Highline student Velovaa Leifi set the beat for the native dances, while Highline Pacific Islander Club President Rita Ava, left, welcomes guests during the Luau last weekend.

Performers, some shirtless and wearing grass leggings, crowded and clapped their hands, chests and the floor, all

the while smiling and reaching for their partners as they hopped from side to side.

Generous portions of kalua pork, Hawaiian chicken and sugar-coated malsada pastries kept diners happy as they moved between shell-decorated tables to chat with family, friends and faculty.

Leis made of tuberose flowers, flown in the day before from Hawaii, perfumed the auditorium from the side table where they were on sale next to hand-printed Tahitian wrap-around skirts called pareos.

"[The best part is] bringing our kids to a space where they belong," said Pacific Islanders Club of Federal Way High School coordinator Mane Tuiaanna.

Tuiaanna sees the event as a mentorship opportunity for his students to connect with college-aged Asian-Pacific Island-

ers that show them the benefits of college life, he said.

"Some are planning to come here and hopefully transfer out to university," Tuianna said.

"Most P.I.s think that life stops after high-school," said Highline Pacific Islanders Club President Rita Ava.

She said she hopes this event encourages Asian-American Pacific Islanders to continue with education by giving them exposure to a college environment.

Ava walked around campus, days before the event wearing an "ask me about the luau" button and offered free tickets.

In addition to serving as a role model to Asian-Pacific Islander youth, she wants to share cultural awareness with everyone by making this an annual event, she said.

More than 160 people attended the Luau, and Ava sees it as a success because of the teamwork she saw between the Asian American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions and the Highline College Asian American Pacific Islander Taskforce.



Federal Way High students dance at Highline's first ANNAPI Luau.

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Brighter future

Softball coach jazzed about prospects for next season

By Samuel Biehn
Staff Reporter

The T-Birds softball team finished the season 6-14, and didn't make the playoffs, but Head Coach Jason Evans is already looking ahead toward next year and the potential on his roster.

"I think the core of the team that's coming back, we've already been through it now. Now they're going to be hungry, they're going to want it more," Evans said.

Throughout this season, it was clear to Evans that the team always had the talent to go far. But for whatever reason, different challenges kept getting in the way of the Thunderbirds.

"This is the first year I've had a losing record. It's been frustrating on my part," Evans said. "You always self-reflect and think, 'What can I do?' I found that I needed to get back to the fundamentals. That helped us toward the end. We battled a lot more."

Despite the moments during the season where Highline struggled, Evans said there was always a chance for the T-Birds to be in any game in they played. All the team needed to do was capitalize on opportunities.

"Our runs batted in were not good, we did well when nobody was on base," Evans said. "We got a lot of people on base but that's where it ended. When you leave 10 to 12 runners in scoring position, that definitely could have made a difference."

Additionally, one of the things that Evans pinpointed as a difficulty throughout the year for the T-Birds was the amount of transitioning that had to happen for freshman players from high school to college.

"Two sophomores and 11 freshman, that's a little rough," Evans said. "It's a little more intense for college, the travel, you play four or six games in two days and that's a lot."

Evans said that the players returning next year will be better prepared to handle the demands of playing in a college softball environment.

"8 out of the 10 freshman aren't used to a weightlifting program. Now they're expecting it," Evans said. "They [the players returning] all want more. They told me they're going to lift and hit during the summer time."

Along with the growth and learning experiences also came some highlights.

After losing the first game against one of the best teams in the NWAC, Columbia Basin, on



Mike Simpson/THUNDERWORD

Highline pitcher Stefani Gollin winds up for a throw in a game against Centralia.

March 12 in a two-game series, Highline bounced back and showed their potential.

"In the first game against CBC we left 13 players in scoring positions," Evans said. "We had a 'coming to Jesus' moment and we beat them [in the next game] 12-6. It shows me the talent we have and it shines here and there."

Evans also saw a lot of perseverance in his team throughout the season, giving the example of a 10-9 loss against Pierce on April 30 where his team continued to fight through 12 innings.

"The game at the end of regulation was 6-6, that went back and forth and someone [from Pierce] broke out and won it," Evans said. "For the girls to be in the battle-competitive mode in a three-hour game, that

showed me exactly what we had on the team."

Evans said that the returning women on the roster know that the team has to capture the spark provided by its talent and run with it.

"Knowing that we can bring that every game next year, that was fun knowing that as a coach," Evans said. "We just need to get there mentally."

Looking back on the season, Evans and the team also had to cope with a new playoff format set by the NWAC, where instead of a sweet 16 playoff tournament, where four teams from each division were eligible, this season only the top two teams could participate.

"This is the first year in six years where we didn't go to the postseason," Evans said.

Along with his returning roster, Evans is confident in the new recruits being added to the team.

"We've always had limited pitching, only four girls this year could pitch for us," Evans said. "[We have] two this year [recruited], one is an everyday second baseman and outfielder. Knowing she can eat up innings and play for us is self assuring.

"We've got some good hitting players coming in, and the players we have returning."

Evans said that the team is not finished with recruiting yet, and the team is hoping to add another three to five players to the roster.

Not only are 10 players returning from this year's roster, all are fully committed to softball, and will not play other sports.

"We're going to have players that are more ready to be leaders on the team," Evans said. "This year we were more limited with them. Ten or 11 freshman had to run it. This year with softball only, there's going to be 10 leaders out there showing the freshman what we believe in, the way we run ourselves."

Even with the current smaller pool of recruits for two-year colleges such as Highline, Evans said that the school is still an attractive destination for student athletes.

"We try to push graduation rates of our athletes, getting an AA, higher rates of athletes graduating with an AA on time," Evans said. "The upper administration pushing that academic portion. That's a big thing that parents like to hear."

Evans also said that the facilities and staff for the T-Birds draws in recruits.

"Our facilities, that's a big selling point," Evans said. "Our staff is getting well known, which helps a lot, we've been perennially in the mix [as a program]."

The Thunderbirds have the pieces set in place, the talent, and the confidence from their head coach that could set them up for a stronger bounce back year. Evans said that this past season has been a good year for the program to reflect.

"I think this year as a whole was a whole was our step back, deep breath kind of moment," Evans said. "I think we'll come in hungry and relaxed. A team that's going to say 'We're going to make this happen', not be on our heels so much, more aggressive."

"We talked a lot this year, we have to walk on the field and take it and leave."



Mike Simpson/THUNDERWORD

Thunderbirds Head Coach Jason Evans.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Speed-of-sound number
- 5 Away from NNE
- 8 Differently
- 12 Jai follower
- 13 Island garland
- 14 Cambodia neighbor
- 15 Price reduction
- 17 African herd
- 18 Goes in
- 19 Old foundation garment
- 21 "Gee, ya think?"
- 22 Goblet feature
- 23 Young Lincoln
- 26 "Family Guy" daughter
- 28 Burn with steam
- 31 "Go away!"
- 33 Fix the soundtrack
- 35 Sandwich cookie
- 36 Chess soldiers
- 38 Periodical, for short
- 40 Barbie's companion
- 41 Approach
- 43 Dinner for Dobbin
- 45 Plot
- 47 Rhododen-

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| 57 | | | | | 58 | | | | 59 | | | |

- dron kin
- 51 "Hi, sailor!"
- 52 Native country
- 54 Part of GSN
- 55 Coach Parseghian
- 56 Small combo
- 57 Newspaper pg.
- 58 Small shots
- 59 Tosses in
- through the woods
- 5 Inebriated
- 6 Stitch
- 7 Offstage areas
- 8 Crete-born painter
- 9 Sightseers' stop
- 10 Devil's purchase
- 11 Brutus' being
- 16 Snare, for one
- 20 "Monty Python" intro
- 23 Recipe meas.
- 24 "Eureka!"
- 25 Quaint and unpretentious
- 27 Wrigley
- product
- 29 Director Spike
- 30 "SNL" announcer Pardo
- 32 Like some jacks
- 34 Nassau's islands
- 37 America's uncle
- 39 Stare
- 42 Place to heal
- 44 1945 conference site
- 45 Palm starch
- 46 Fellow
- 48 Fat
- 49 Oklahoma city
- 50 Commotions
- 53 Sphere

DOWN

- 1 Auntie of Broadway
- 2 "Two and a Half Men" role
- 3 Wagon
- 4 Walked

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Home conditions still demand attention. Also, keep an open mind about a sudden question of trust involving a close friend. All the facts are not yet in.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) With summer just around the corner, travel begins to dominate your sign. Make plans carefully to avoid potential problems in the first half of June.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A romantic Libra sets a challenge that your "sensible" side might question, but your idealistic self finds the prospect too intriguing to resist. The choice is yours.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Those tense times in your personal life are just about over. Concentrate on reaffirming relationships. Your love of travel opens a surprising new opportunity.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Big Cat usually loves to be in the center of things. But this week it might be wiser to watch and learn



from the sidelines. A Pisces wants to make you purr.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) "New" is your watchword this week. Be open to new ideas, both on the job and in your personal life. A romantic Aries or Sagittarian beckons.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Some difficult family decisions have to be faced, but be sure to get more facts before you act. Be careful not to neglect your health during this trying time.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You still need to support a loved one through a difficult time. Meanwhile, things continue to work out to your benefit in the workplace.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Aspects continue to favor

expanding social opportunities. A Gemini reaches out to offer a chance for re-establishing a once-close relationship.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) There's a potential for misunderstanding in both your job and your personal life. A full explanation of your intentions helps smooth things over.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might be feeling restless on the job, but delay making any major moves until all the facts are in. A Scorpio has a surprising revelation.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your business sense works to your advantage as you sort through the possibilities that are opening up. A Libra is Cupid's best bet for your romantic prospects.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for being open-minded about people. This helps you make friends easily. You would do very well in public service.



1. **GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What car company makes the Rio and Sedona models?

2. **MUSIC:** Who composed the "Wedding March"?

3. **GEOGRAPHY:** Where is the Isle of Wight?

4. **U.S. STATES:** What is the state bird of Louisiana?

5. **MOVIES:** What are the names of "The Blues Brothers"?

6. **INVENTIONS:** Who invented the tea bag in the early 20th century?

7. **CHEMISTRY:** Which chemical element has the symbol K?

8. **ANIMAL KINGDOM:** What is a more commonly known name for the Alsatian dog?

9. **ART:** What are the top

three secondary colors, obtained by mixing two primary colors?

10. **FAMOUS QUOTES:** What 20th-century first lady once said, "Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people"?

- Answers
- 1. Kia Motors Corp.
 - 2. Felix Mendelssohn
 - 3. Off England's southern coast
 - 4. Brown pelican
 - 5. Jake and Elwood
 - 6. Thomas Sullivan
 - 7. Potassium (original Latin name was kallum)
 - 8. German Shepherd
 - 9. Orange, green and purple
 - 10. Eleanor Roosevelt

Puzzle answers on Page 9

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

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DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

Event centers generally need subsidy

While Federal Way searches for money to finish its arts center, facilities in Kent, Wenatchee require ongoing support to operate

By Konner Hancock
Staff Reporter

Even with multiple tenants and dozens of events, two major event centers in Washington state have to be subsidized annually by their cities.

That could mean Federal Way residents could be on the hook for operating subsidies for the city's Performing Arts and Events Center. The project, which began construction in October 2015, is short \$8 million just to complete it.

Nonetheless, officials in Kent and Wenatchee say their centers have been worth the expense.

The ShoWare Center, in Kent, was built in 2009. The \$84.5 million facility is home to Seattle Thunderbirds of the Western Hockey League, Tacoma Stars of Major Arena Soccer League, many concerts and TNA Wrestling.

The arena averages a yearly subsidy of about \$250,000.

"ShoWare is a big attraction in Kent. We have the Seattle Thunderbirds and so many other public attractions there, not to mention it goes well with the businesses over at Kent Station," said Kent Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive Director Andrea Keikkala.



Wenatchee's Town Toyota Center had to get bailed out by the state to be finished.

"Typically people go out to eat before or after an event like a concert, it helps local vendors enormously," said Keikkala.

"The center was built in a rough time because the economy was bad. However it continues to grow every year since being built," said Kent City Council member Jim Berrios. "But this year has been the best year ever for ShoWare."

In Wenatchee, the Town Toyota Center was built in 2008, but only after the state Legislature bailed the project out with \$48 million worth of construction bonds. City residents now pay a 0.3 percent sales tax to pay off that debt.

The center also is supported by a .003 state tax rebate to the city, said Wenatchee Mayor Frank Kuntz.

"We received about \$810,000 this year and next year we will get \$900,000 that we use for the arena, so with the yearly kick-back the arena definitely holds

its own," Mayor Kuntz said.

Now managed by the Wenatchee Public Facilities District, the Toyota Center requires a \$70,000 annual public subsidy to operate in the black. It is the home of the Wenatchee Figure Skating Club, Wenatchee Curling Club, and the Wenatchee Wild of the British Columbia Hockey League.

But city officials say the center generates economic activity to compensate for that expense.

"Local restaurants, hotels and other business benefit greatly from the arena. However arenas tend to not generate enough revenue on their own," said Kuntz.

"Yes, we raised the sales tax, but it's such a centerpiece for the whole city," said Shiloh Schauer, executive director of the Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce.

"Just recently we had some local firefighters die and without the Toyota Town Center, we

wouldn't have anywhere to have their funerals," she said.

"The center has had everything from Sesame Street live, concerts and comedy shows," said Schauer.

Schauer said despite its rocky beginning, the center has been a positive addition to the community.

"Wenatchee took a bite out of an apple, and it was more than we could chew," she said. "And our friend had to come give us the Heimlich maneuver."

"It isn't a pretty picture when I say it that way, but it's true," Schauer said. "But it's all worth it now, because it's such an asset and a centerpiece."

Federal Way is different from Wenatchee because the city is more developed, Schauer said. "But in hindsight we could have always used more planning on the event center."



Kent's ShoWare center requires \$250,000 a year in city money to stay afloat. City officials say it's worth it, however.

Creek trail project gets concrete results

By Konner Hancock
Staff Reporter

Des Moines Creek Trail has been reopened and restored to its original form.

The 3.9-mile long trail is a public hiking route that offers a connection between SeaTac and Des Moines. The paved trail begins in Des Moines Beach Park and ends just south of the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

The City of Des Moines closed the Des Moines Creek Trail in January and later reopened it in April, because of a shift in a concrete strut cap in a road that crosses above the trail.

About a quarter mile in from the trailhead, Marine View Drive runs 80 feet above the creek trail.

"The bridge's concrete slats were originally put in place to help keep the bridge stable. The vibrations from the cars driving on the bridge eventually shifted one of the concrete slats," said Patrice



Konner Hancock/THUNDERWORD

The Marine View Drive underpass of the Des Moines Creek Trail has been stabilized, allowing the trail to reopen.

Thorell, director of Des Moines parks, recreation and senior services.

"The slat of concrete could have fallen on someone," said Thorell.

The strut cap moved about

eight inches from its original position and the trail couldn't have stayed open with that kind of movement, she said.

"We quickly shut down the trail once we were notified be-

cause it was a safety concern," said Thorell.

It took the Washington state Department of Transportation almost three months to secure and move the strut cap back into place, Thorell said.

Go Figure!
answers

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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Science Seminar shakes things up

By David Moran
Staff Reporter

Be wary around old buildings when an earthquake hits, a physical science professor warned at last Friday's Science Seminar.

Science Seminar is a weekly series of presentations in which staff and faculty members present on topics of interest and expertise to students and the public.

Dr. Eric Baer, a physical science faculty member for 18 years, said Seattle has more than a thousand buildings that are at risk of falling during a large earthquake.

These buildings are made of unreinforced masonry such as bricks, concrete and stone.

"Earthquakes hurt them a lot," Dr. Baer said.

When an earthquake hits a building with unreinforced masonry, the quake can push on the building, creating a compression force, he said.

Compression forces can destroy bricks very easily. To demonstrate, Dr. Baer set up a brick and hammered it once, crumbling it.

"That's how easily bricks can really break," he said.

Tension forces are also created when earthquakes happen. Tension is the force that pulls on bricks and stone, Dr. Baer said.



Mike Simpson/THUNDERWORD

Dr. Eric Baer speaks about the URM building at the Science Seminar last Friday.

Tension works, as well as compression force, to crumble bricks.

To show how earthquakes act on a house made of unreinforced masonry, Dr. Baer brought in a model. It was made of sugar cubes and peanut butter to represent brick and mortar.

"My daughter was building one for herself. I asked her to make another for the presentation," he said.

The highest parts of these old

buildings are called parapets, Dr. Baer said.

When Dr. Baer shook the model, the house was first pushed inward with compression force, causing the top to fall off. Then the top of the model fell down in front of the building as well.

"These fall right down in front of the building."

As the model was being rocked backward, tension force acted on the model to pull the building down.

The unreinforced masonry issue is taken seriously by the city.

During the Nisqually Quake in 2001, part of a brick wall fell from the Palmer Court Building due to tension forces.

"Of the buildings damaged in the Nisqually Quake, 20 of 31 buildings were red-tagged as dangerous," Dr. Baer said.

After the Nisqually Quake, there are still 1,100 unreinforced masonry buildings estimated to be within Seattle.

Despite conducting a survey,

Seattle officials are still not able to identify a definite number.

To show a modern building that used all the latest building techniques, Dr. Baer then walked his audience to Highline's newest structure, Building 24b.

Building 24b houses the facilities staff. It has no brick or stone.

"Urethane walls make up the siding here," Dr. Baer said. "It keeps the area cool." Despite being wide open and sunny out, the building kept very cool.

The urethane walls also act to prevent building collapse in case of an earthquake.

There are ways to make buildings safer for all people.

Cross bracing is one way to make a building resist the forces of earthquakes, Dr. Baer said.

Building 24b has steel beams that crossed each other to make the structure safer.

The other strengthening methods include fiber reinforcing, steel reinforcing and steel bolting.

"Steel bolts stop parapets from falling during earthquakes," Dr. Baer said.

Science Seminar will take place again this Friday, May 27 at 1:30 p.m. in Building 3, room 102. Tom Zerkel will speak about the water treatment on Kenya's Remba (or so-called Slum) Island.

Financial planning starts now, says instructor

By David Moran
Staff Reporter

Students have a major advantage when planning their financial future; they have time to build up their financial security, and students need to prepare for their financial future warned a part time business instructor in a meeting sponsored by the Students Small Capital Investment Club last week.

"Financial planning is one of the most important things students can do for themselves," Bill Webster said.

When investing, Webster encourages more people to consider a process called dollar-cost-averaging.

"Dollar-cost-averaging is an effective way to invest over time," Webster said.

To show how the method can work, Webster showed a total investment of \$150 over five months, investing \$30 per month.

Two investments were shown, one that rose steadily from \$10 per share, and one that lowered in value from \$10 to \$2 per share, then rose back up to \$10.

"The investment that low-



Bill Webster

ered in value is the better investment for dollar-cost-averaging," Webster said.

As the investment lowers in cost per share, the same \$30 that was invested last month now buys more shares for the same cost.

Once the price per share rises back up to \$10, the investment has more shares that are worth more collectively than the steadily rising investment.

"That means the lowering investment is now worth more in

net profit," Webster said.

Webster covered some basics of how to assess one's financial state.

"Everyone needs to know what their net worth and personal budget is," Webster said.

Students can find their net worth by listing their assets and comparing to their liabilities.

Students should also have an emergency fund containing three month's salary in case their position is terminated.

In case of being laid off, people need some money to fall back on, Webster said.

One goal that all people would want to have is total home ownership.

"Owning your home is a major step to financial security," Webster said.

Students should also avoid co-signing a major purchase with anyone.

"Even if they have a good credit score, it's too risky," Webster said.

He also stressed the importance of filing their taxes on time. Insurance is a huge part of financial security as well, Webster said.

"Renter's insurance is one of

the most important things people can have while they rent," he said.

"Homeowner's insurance is just as important to have when you live in a house," Webster said.

Medical insurance should also be high on students' list of priorities, Webster said.

"Medical insurance helps you pay exorbitant bills without dipping into your three months emergency fund," he said.

Identity theft is another threat to personal financial security.

"Identity theft affects 1 in 5 Americans each year," he said.

Identity theft insurance is one way to keep yourself protected, Webster said.

Retirement planning is also one of the most important criteria to consider, Webster said.

The most common type of retirement account is an IRA or Roth IRA.

"In most cases, a Roth IRA is better for individuals than a regular IRA," Webster said.

Traditional IRAs work by deposits of money over time that become accessible at 59.5 years of age. Before that, withdrawals have penalties placed on them, Webster said.

Traditional IRAs also qualify for tax deductions when deposits are made.

Roth IRAs can be withdrawn from tax-free at any time after 59.5 years of age, but do not grant deductions for deposits.

Another type of retirement account is a 401(k) that allows employees to choose how to invest parts of their paycheck over time, Webster said.

But not all companies offer 401(k) plans, he said.

The other most common plan for retirement is a pension.

Pensions provide another investment opportunity, and guarantee a certain amount of monthly income after retirement, regardless of how the investment grows or fails, Webster said.

Students interested in learning more about finance, and investment planning may want to consider joining the Student Small Capital Investment Club.

The club is dedicated to studying the practice of personal finance, Webster said.

For more information about the club, Webster can be reached at wwebster@msn.com.

Strike

continued from page 1

tudents first,” “Cut reckless spending, NOT programs,” and “It’s time for new leadership.”

The strike is due to the proposed budget cuts in Green River’s courses and programs for the upcoming quarters.

Occupational therapy, Geography, Early Childhood Education, Drama, Drafting, and two foreign languages, French and German, are among the courses to be eliminated.

The removal of courses will lead to the loss of jobs for some instructors, including tenured professors and longtime employees.

Between 2010 and 2013, 24 administrators received average salary increases of 34%. Faculty pay remained stagnant during this period, and classified staff salaries were cut by an average of 3%.

Faculty received a 1% raise in salary in 2015, their first salary increase since 2008.

“Close to \$2 million in brand new [auto body] equipment will not be used due to the elimination of the program,” said Lead Carpentry Instructor Glen Martin.

“I’m out here because of unfair labor practices,” he said.

Staff and faculty say the Green River College President Eileen Ely and Board of Trustees are largely to blame for the chaos because of their misuse of budget funds, and for violating the course review and removal process stated in faculty’s contracts.

This strike comes after Green River faculty have voted no confidence in President Eileen Ely twice, then voted no confidence in the Green River Board of Trustees for retaining President Ely.

The Green River College Board of Trustees voted 4-0 in favor of filing an injunction to halt the strike, according to school officials.

College administration officials did not respond to requests for comment.

“They had the opportunity to end the strike soon after if they had just abided by the proper contract review process,” said Steve Kinholt, a mathematics professor at Green River.

Kinholt, who has worked at Green River for 24 years, says the change in administration over the years has been detrimental to the college.

“There’s a night and day difference,” said Kinholt. “We used to have a president that believed in shared governance and would communicate with students.”

“Now, this president stays locked in her office,” he said. “We rarely ever see her. The campus is toxic because of the fear administration has created.”

This fear, Kinholt says, is that President Ely could easily remove any staff or faculty who speak out against the college leadership.

Notably absent from the

strike lines were Green River staff members.

This is because they lack job security, said Dr. Narayanan, a physics and astronomy instructor at Green River.

“They [Green River administration] have harassed classified staff,” Dr. Narayanan said. “They have used security camera footage to discipline staff for picketing.”

Led by megaphone-wielding Fine Arts Instructor Sarah Dillon Gilmartin, faculty chanted “no cuts, students first,” and “union power,” among other slogans.

Dr. Narayanan said that programs are not the cause of Green River’s budget issues.

“They have put their local dollars into buildings rather than faculty and staff,” said Dr. Narayanan.

In the last four years, Green River has spent \$99 million on building remodels. In comparison, Highline has spent \$10 million.

Highline officials could not immediately verify the amount.

“They spend it on fancy new buildings instead of educational benefit,” Kinholt said. “Can’t do that and then claim budget crisis. There is no budget crisis. It’s all fabricated.”

Although campus is not closed, it certainly looks like it is, students say.

“I understand why they are doing it but I also don’t see what it is going to accomplish either,” said Green River Student Miranda Mauthe. “I was told by one that he was going to be in class and it was going to be normal but then he wasn’t there.”

Other students face similar class struggles.

“It’s only a short inconvenience. But it is getting late in the quarter so it wasn’t the best time for [a strike],” said Jordan Nelson, a Green River student.

Most students are concerned with how the strike will affect their grades.

“The strike may come across to be entertaining to students that don’t attend Green River but for students like me, I haven’t stopped worrying about whether or not my final grade at the end of the quarter will be what I should have earned,” said Autumn Arment, another Green River student.

“I live on the street side of the Campus Corner Apartments (Green River student housing) where the strike is currently happening,” Arment said. “My roommates and I have not been able to sleep or relax where we live due to all the foot traffic, constant chanting, and honking from outside our window.”

The students at Green River have played a major role in the strike, Kinholt said. The students’ support and concern have helped bring attention on the unfair labor practices at the college.

“I’m here because the instructors have done so much for me,” said Kiegan Rosser, a student at Green River.

The Green River faculty is currently awaiting arbitration for their unfair labor practice complaint from the Washington Public Employment Relations Commission, which may take a month or more.

“Our area has a lot of diversity with large portion of overseas immigrants who pay higher tuition rates than Washington state residents,” said Vic Bahl, co-chair of the Green River diversity and equality council, and English faculty for 18 years at Green River. “We should be investing in our local citizens and shifting focus from profits to helping enrich the culture in our surrounding area.”

Staff reporters Bryce Sizemore, Taylor Johnson, and Olivia Sullivan contributed to this story.

Achieve

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Adelman is earning her degree in Marine Biology despite strangers who doubted her because she has Down Syndrome.

“It is an extra copy of the 21st chromosome. So I have three copies while most of you only have two,” she said, adding that she and her mother are experts in the subject.

She pointed out in her slides that people with Down Syndrome have beautiful eyes, low muscle tone and are less susceptible to heart disease.

Adelman’s slides displayed the new opportunities such as marriage, independent living and prospects for longer life expectancy that people with learning disabilities have earned by fighting for equal rights.

“People with Down are not kids forever,” Adelman said.

She is completing her childhood passion, a degree in marine biology, and said that she had help from her community despite other people’s doubts.

“They didn’t see what I was capable of,” Adelman said, “My friends also believed in me in every stage of life so far.”

Highline student Madison Williams is also living her lifelong goal of attending college.

“I wanted to get a job but I wanted to get an education too,” Williams said with the aid of an audio program on her computer tablet, “Everyone loves learning.”

Williams said in her slide presentation that she knew from a young age that she was a very determined person and called for equal employment rights for people with learning disabilities while attending a

self-advocacy day in Olympia earlier this year.

Highline College faculty member Ivanova Smith also overcame odds. She has a bachelor’s degree in history despite her learning disabilities, but had to run away from home to prove herself to her own family who doubted her.

She had to work to show her family that her disability wasn’t going away, Smith said.

“I didn’t have to get rid of my disability to become successful,” she said.

The common notion of perceiving that a person with developmental disabilities as having the intelligence of an 8-year-old child is not true, Smith said.

She said that people usually underestimate her because she rocks back and forth and are surprised when they find out that she’s married and has a degree.

“[People with developmental disabilities] were put to rot,” Smith said, adding that people inside and outside of institutions were beaten, isolated, sexually assaulted, sterilized and segregated from society.

Smith said that in order for education to become more inclusive, the current academic model that evaluates intelligence based on writing, reading and lecture needs to acknowledge other methods such as physical and visual functioning.


Students could be evaluated on skits, Powerpoint presentations or artwork, Smith said.

Adelman, Williams and Smith all participate in Highline’s ACHIEVE program that provides post-secondary education to people with intellectual disabilities.

“We’re all in this journey together,” said Associate Director of ACHIEVE Julie Jine.

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Sex

continued from page 1

The most common places on campus where students are getting it on are in the North Parking Lot, Building 4, and the Library.

"It would bother me to think that people are walking by and using me as a source of amusement or entertainment if I was trying to be intimate with someone I care about," Sgt. Curtis said.

These recent incidents have been the most Highline's had in the past few years. This behavior seems to be more frequent throughout this Spring Quarter, Sgt. Curtis said.

"Some of the behavior probably has to do with the change in the weather," said Sgt. Curtis. "It's getting nicer out. I call it the 'Sunshine Effect' because everyone's emotions are better and people are happier."

Sgt. Curtis said students might be engaging in sexual activity in public for the thrill of it.

"Students just try to do it some place a little risky, add a little fun and excitement to it," he said.

"I think some of [motivation] is sport," said Dr. Steve Lettic, a Highline Criminal Justice professor. "It's the challenge. But

also, this is a place people may feel safe at in a way."

Although campus has some secluded areas, it is obvious when and where students are engaging in risky acts, Dr. Lettic said.

"One of the things we always urge people to think about before they engage in sex in a public place is you could be setting yourself up for assaults," he said.

According to the Highline Student Code of Conduct, item 11 WAC 132I-125-100, discusses the definition and possible repercussions for lewd, indecent, or obscene behavior by students on campus.

Sgt. Curtis said if you were in or near a park, school, or anywhere with kids around, the repercussions may be more extreme.

The students' prior offenses, how open and honest the students were about the behavior, or how compliant the students were during the situation may help decide the consequences of the risky behavior.

Some cases are referred to judicial student affairs, then the allegations are investigated, says Sgt. Curtis. Students then could face possible sanctions like academic probation, suspension or even expulsion.

"The college always tends to err on the side of error in judgment of the student," said Sgt.

Curtis. "Public Safety officers are educators, too. We try to educate the students on why their behavior was not the best decision."

"We give some level of sanction so they understand the seriousness of the issue, but we always try to keep them in the educational system," he said. "We don't want to ruin anyone's education here."

There is also concern about the student's well being.

"Usually the first thing you do is make sure that each person wants to be with each other, to make sure there's nothing non-consensual or illegal going on," said Dr. Lettic.

Couples should also think about their personal safety, Highline officials say. Being in a remote place at night is unsafe for both people because of the potential for robbery or worse.

Unfortunately, there is still a problem with prostitution on Pacific Highway, Highline officials say. If Public Safety finds people engaging in this type of activity after hours or on weekends, then they are more likely inquire about who the people are and what they are doing.

"We understand hormones and we understand excitement and what it's like to be in love and all that," said Sgt. Curtis. "But this is not an appropriate

environment."

Most students felt other people's sexual activity is none of their business.

"Sure, but what am I do? It's their choice," said an anonymous student. "I can't stop anyone from 'hooking up' if it's what they really want. I just walk away and let them be free."

"I believe that Highline students are responsible and autonomous enough to know what is right, so I just would go away and ignore the scene," said student Chris Towle.

"I would be scared and walk away," Murillo said. "People bring their kids here."

"That's their business," said student Rayshawn Blackwell. "Unless they are disturbing class or my learning."

Not all students are amused by the affection they witness and others indicated they would probably report the incidents to campus security, or worse.

"I would call the security, take pictures of them and send it to the Highline newspaper," said student Nicole Matiz.

"I would do a quick Snapchat and walk away," said student Isidro Castro.

"I would video tape them and then blackmail them later," said student Rich, who only disclosed his first name. "Extortion is the way."

"I just wonder why students can't keep it in their pants, I mean keep it in the bedroom, I don't want to see your business." Said Claire Anderson, a student concerned with the morality of her generation.

"I think people need to be more like they were in the old days," Anderson also said. "People don't go on romantic dates anymore, tinder and hook-up websites have ruined romanticism."

Other students were relieved to say they had never seen any sexual activities on campus.

"No, thank God," said student Jocelyne Murillo.

Some students would feel the need to report the incident.

"I would probably report it immediately because that type of thing is not supposed to happen on campus," said student Martina Li.

"It would creep me out," said an anonymous student. "I would walk the other way and call security."

Some students would be more vocal in their responses.

"I would say, congratulations man," said student Otuma.

Student Jessica Hunter said she would tell them to "go get a room."

Staff reporters Olivia Sullivan, Cierra West, Taylor Johnson, and Whitney Barrera contributed to this story.

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