Do you like to dance? I am not good at dancing, but I enjoy the moment when I dance with friends. It can make me be hyper and forget everything besides dancing. Whenever I dance, the smile appears on my face. Dance can be a social event for some people, but it is an entertainment for me even though sometimes I feel nervous and shy and stop dancing.

Half year has passed since I came to America. I have experienced many things and joined different events while studying at Highline. On February 25th, I went to the winter dance with my friends. I was looking forward to going there because it was my second time joining prom. Every girl dressed up and wore makeup and every boy wore suits and did their hair. I felt like I saw the other side of them. Usually, when we go to school, people only wear casual clothes. But in the winter dance, they dressed differently and formally. I spent more time taking pictures with friends than on dancing.

There was a photo booth which can let people take pictures. I stayed around that area and went to the dance floor at the end of the event where I danced for a while. People made a big circle and danced to the rhythm of the music. Above all, there were different foods and drinks. I did not really have time to sit down and eat, but I enjoyed the light dinner. I ate and danced with great music, lights, and decorations. It was painful and torturous to wear new shoes while standing and walking for a whole night, but I had so much fun there. It was an unforgettable night and a wonderful memory! For the people who went to winter dance, I hope you had fun there. And for the people who did not go, make sure to not miss the upcoming event, globalfest! I am sure you can have fun with your friends there.
What do you think when you see the word “burlesque”? Do you see some sexy girls dancing with a pole? The first time I saw this word I had no idea what it meant, until I watched the movie called “Burlesque”, with Christina Aguilera. This movie is about a girl from a small town who is really good at singing and dancing. She went to the big city, Los Angeles, and got a new life. She could not find any job when she got there. But one day she went to a club and saw many sexy girls doing a chair dance on the stage and she wanted to be the one of them. Finally, she got the job. After I watched this movie, I think the girls were awesome because they could wear 4-5 inch high heels and dance fluently. I cannot imagine how they do it. I cannot even wear high heels and walk naturally.

This year the theme of the winter dance was Burlesque. My friend asked me to do the chair dance with her in the winter dance. I was excited and worried at the same time because I hadn’t done this before. Crystal, Rainy, and I started to practice every week. After we learned the routine, we tried to wear the high heels and the corset while doing the dance. OMG! I almost fell after I wore the 4 inch high heels. I cannot believe how the girls in the movie could do this. Besides, the corset is too tight and we could not even breathe. Yet, the dance is coming and we have to do it. The three of us have been practicing a lot. Finally, we just gave up the 4 inch high heels and changed to 2 inch high heels. Even though 4 inch high heels look better, safety is the main concern for us and we changed it at the end.

The Student Union was decorated with pink and purple. It seemed like I was in a Burlesque dance hell. I was so nervous before the performance. I was worried about falling. Finally we did it and everyone was screaming and clapping hands. We felt so happy and successful. I appreciate that I had this experience in my life. It was fun and the sexiest dance I ever did.
**AWESOME WINTER DANCE**

**BY: BINH PHAM**

**FROM: VIETNAM**

“WINTER DANCE!!!! You are going there, Binh!!!!” I heard someone yell to me as I yelled back, “No way, I’m not going there.” And after two weeks, I was there at the winter dance. I realized that I absolutely made the right decision; the winter dance was awesome. In Vietnam, where I come from, people don’t usually have that kind of event. We don’t really dance. That’s why I didn’t want to go at first. But then my friends told me that I should go just to experience it. It was nice to everyone dressed up and looking so pretty. I couldn’t even recognize some of my friends at first because they looked so amazing. This formal dance was a new experience for me. I don’t usually wear suits, and I was fighting with my tie for fifteen minutes to make it look just right. I went to the dance and still had my friend fix my tie for me for about twenty minutes. You could say my tie was a disaster. It’s fun to talk with your friends about how they prepare for this event. For boys, it’s also a chance to see girls in their most beautiful looks and to take pictures with them. To me, girls are the ones who are most excited for this kind of event. They prepare for it weeks in advance with dresses, appointments for makeup and hairstyles; it’s obvious that they want to look their best on that day. I see that people don’t really care if you have a partner or not. It’s still fun because you can just go there and hang out with your friends. Just go whether you have a partner or not; it’s a fun time.

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**DANCE ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT**

**BY: HRITEY WEREDE (FREEDOM)**

**FROM: ERITREA**

To me, dancing defines who I am. I love dancing because it is my passion and it describes my personality. To dance, you need to be flexible, fast moving, and creative. And guess what? That’s who I am. I am not only that, but when it comes to dancing, I am just a different person. I totally go to a different place where the mind is empty and no words are spoken. The body is the only movement anyone would notice and through that movement I communicate.

Dancing takes me to a different world, where my adrenaline rises high and I feel good. It doesn’t matter to me where I dance or which song I dance to as long as my body is moving. When my mom showed me pictures of when I was young, she said dancing was the first thing I did instead of walking. At first, she thought I was walking in a funny way and then she realized when the music was switched on, I was actually trying my best to move on the beat. Since then, whenever I hear music, my legs automatically starts moving as well as my arms, then suddenly my whole body sways to the music. I love dancing to hip hop music, slow songs, Latino music, and belly dancing music. I never took any dancing classes, so I am not saying that I am perfect. It is just that my body is very flexible and moving it doesn’t seem to bother me much or hurt me. If you know me, you would know that singing and dancing is my passion. I have been on stage almost all my life, performing with a bunch of people of different cultures and traditions.

I really cannot wait to be back on stage again. It has been a really long time now and I have been anticipating Globalfest since fall quarter. But it is finally here. It is going to be a lot of work and practice but it is dancing, a passion I would do anything for. If you love dancing, then I love you!
**INDONESIAN DANCE**

*BY: INDAH DWI WARYUNI*

*FROM: INDONESIA*

Indonesia is an archipelago country that has more than 17,000 islands. These are both big and small islands. With a big number of islands, Indonesia has the motto, “Unity in Diversity”. This is because each island in Indonesia has its own language, ethnicity, and culture. However, they still unite in the Indonesian Republic and use one national language, “Bahasa Indonesia”.

By knowing that piece of information, of course everyone can imagine how many kinds of dances Indonesia has. There are a lot of traditional dances in this country. Usually, each island has one or more traditional dances. For example, Bali Island is popular with “Pendet” and dances, Aceh province with “Saman” dance, Sunda region with “Jaipong”, Java Island with “Bedaya” dance, etc. Every dance usually has a certain purpose like welcoming guests, performing ceremonies or religious events, entertainment, and so forth.

Furthermore, since every dance represents its society, every dance has a certain value in its movement. In this article I will describe one kind of dance from an island which is very famous in the world. That is the “Pendet” dance from Bali island.

The “Pendet” dance is performed by young girls carrying bowls of flower petals, handfuls of which are cast into the air at various times in the dance. “Pendet” can be thought of as a dance of greeting, to welcome the audience and invite spirits to enjoy the performance. “Pendet” is the presentation of an offering in the form of a ritual dance. As a religious dance, “Pendet” is usually performed during temple ceremonies. “Pendet” may be performed intermittently throughout the day and late into the night during temple feasts.

In short, “Pendet” dance is a symbol of welcoming God in some ritual ceremonies in Bali. “Pendet” actually has simple dance movements. These movements are the basic dance movements of Balinese dances. “Pendet” has undergone later development in variations and now is not only performed in ritual ceremonies, but also in some social events.

Finally, if you want to see how wonderful the different dances Indonesia has, just visit my country.

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**DANCE**

*BY: ELIZABETH KIM*

*FROM: U.S.A*

Hello, my name is Elizabeth Kim. I am currently a senior at Decatur High School as well as a running start student. I am Korean-American and a true Californian. I moved to Federal Way with my family about 6 years ago. In times like these, I really regret leaving the warm California sun for the uncontrollable and hectic weather of Washington. One interesting fact about me is that I have done several different types of performing arts, such as ballet, hip hop, gymnastics, and other types of dance. Around the age of 5, I began taking ballet and tap dance classes. Eventually, I also took a hip hop class. During my adolescent years, I was not very active in dancing, but I began picking it up again as a hobby after my family moved to Washington. Throughout my middle school and high school years in Washington, I joined the gymnastics team at Lakota Middle School and began developing a sense of the meaning of competition. In my sophomore year in high school, I took an interest in the Decatur Dance Team. Around March 2010, I secretly auditioned for the team. After I made the cut, I told my parents and
For competitions, there are several different performance categories. Our coach decided to put us in drill/military, pom, and kick. Drill/military dance is a very sharp and precise dance that is similar to many traditional military movements. We do many tricks such as headstands, splits, leg extensions, spins, flips, and so on. The majority of the competitors were always intimidated by us because we were the best when it came to drill/military. Pom is a dance that is done with pom-poms and ballet both incorporated into the majority of the choreography. When we performed our pom dance routine for our school, many people thought we were cheerleaders due to the pom-poms. Nonetheless, our skills are far more developed than the simple cheerleaders at our school, so the people eventually figured out that we were a dance team. Our team is known to have very fun themes in our pom routines. For the Washington State dance competition, we did a monkey themed routine in 2010 and a Snow White routine in 2011. Our team won first place with the monkey themed pom routine in the 2010 WIAA Washington state dance competition in Yakima. It was the Decatur Dance Team’s first state championship in over 30 years. Next, kick dance consists of routines where everyone kicks in unison and in different patterns, heights, and formations. This was the most tiring routine because we were literally kicking as high as we could for about three to four minutes straight. By the time we finished practicing, we would be on the floor breathing in as much air as possible before we had to do it all over again.

During my time on the team, everyone gave over 100% of their effort to live up to the Decatur Dance Team’s expectations. Decatur Dance is well-known to everyone; some schools were even afraid to perform and compete in the same competition as us. Regardless of our status, our coach always reminded us to never bask in glory because it will haunt us in the end. She told us that we always had room to improve, so we should only focus on our improvements instead of boasting about our trophies. Our practices were from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays. When it got close to the state competition, we extended those times and worked full-force to obtain a first place trophy once again.

My involvement in the dance team has made me a very competitive person. However, I don’t use my talents to be better than others, but to better myself. The time that I have spent with my team is probably one of the most valuable memories that I have so far. I officially understand the meaning of, “You are as strong as your weakest member” through the hardships and memories I had with the Decatur Dance Team. I learned what it truly means to work as a team, to lead a team, and to unify a team.

I had to quit the dance team in my senior year to focus on my studies and my future, but that doesn’t mean that I have stopped dancing! Since 2008, I have been involved in Highline’s Globalfest held by the ILSC every year. In 2008, we performed “Gee” by Girl’s Generation. The moment I stepped off stage after our performance, I realized that I had a passion for Korean pop music (also known as KPop). In 2009 we performed “Mister” by Kara, and in 2010, we performed “Ah” by After School. After Globalfest 2008, our team began grabbing the attention of many people (mostly in the Korean community) and we have performed all over Western Washington, mostly in the greater Seattle, Tacoma, and Federal Way areas. We all worked very hard for every performance, but we ultimately disbanded due to personal reasons and school.

I am now involved in teaching the dance for the Korean performance for this year’s Globalfest!! We will work very hard to put on a great show and to blow the audience away with our performance. So please buy your tickets in April to come watch our performance and many other great performances as well!! I am looking forward to May 12th (the day of Globalfest) and I hope you are, too!