

The Thunderword

April 1, 2004
Volume 43, Issue 1
Highline Community College

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ADVICE COLUMN



Ask Barry:
What's up with
all this gay
marriage buzz?
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Free beer served
at local tavern
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Presidential
debate today
in Building 7
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Your
local
weather report:

Today,
Morning fire,
afternoon brimstone
Hi 45F, Lo 42F
Friday,
Morning coffee
Afternoon tea
Hi 56F, Lo 40F
Saturday,
Ultimate frisbee
Hi 68F, Lo 56F
Sunday,
4 p.m. all day
Hi 58F, Lo 45F

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CRANE TOPPLES



Photo by Gordon Jobber

The crane snapped just below the halfway point, then it just slowly fell, like slow motion. Everybody just started screaming. It was almost as if the crane were alive, if just for a moment, only to wail as it fell to its death. Then, it hit. There was metal flying everywhere. I don't know how I survived, honestly.

Hundreds look on as monolith crashes in on Jostens rally

By Curtis Engelhardt
STAFF REPORTER

Construction ground to a halt Saturday when the crane used to construct the new higher education building toppled to the ground. No one was injured, but construction has been delayed indefinitely.

The bright yellow crane has adorned Highline's skyline since

construction began on the new building in September.

"I grew to love that crane," student Johnny Blazed said. "It was like having another totem pole around campus, only taller. And uglier. And without the cultural significance. And could they have picked a more disgusting shade of yellow? When are they getting rid of that eyesore anyway?"

Occupational Safety and Health

Administration inspectors arrived on the scene of the accident within hours of the collapse.

"Why don't more people get maimed on weekdays?" OSHA inspector San Efort asked. "If people insist on being negligent on the weekend, they could at least wait until noon. Sleep is a big part of health."

The OSHA inspector's report indicates that the collapse occurred while workers attempted to hang an oversized "Safety First" sign above the crane's hook.

... See Crane, page 4

Building plans swapped

By Wally Monroe
STAFF REPORTER

Highline's new student center may have to be torn down, college officials admitted this week, because plans for a jail and a sewage treatment plant were mixed up with plans for the center.

Apparently the architects for the project inadvertently shuffled in designs for the other two facilities, leading Highline's project to incorporate some unintended features.

"We figured the extra bars for the windows were just to keep the students in check," said Highline Capital Projects Director Dudgeon Blunt. "And we figured all those extra pipes and vats were just to handle all that yummy cafeteria food."

If completed as currently designed, the \$15 million student center, which had been scheduled to open in fall, would feature two large sewage treatment vats on the first floor.

"We could use them as swimming pools," said Student Programs Underdirector Temp Spuddoon. "The impellers might get in the way, but that might make the students swim faster."

College officials became concerned when someone noticed that the second-floor offices began to look a lot like isolation cells found in many prisons, particularly the small windows and the anti-suicide toilets.

"The toilets could be plumbed to go directly to the sewage vats," Blunt noted. "Of course that might not make them useful as swimming pools."

Blunt said that while the guard tower taking shape on the fourth floor of the center would be an interesting architectural feature, even Highline students probably don't need that much supervision. All the floodlights might increase the lighting in the parking lots at night.

Spuddoon of Student Programs said it might be useful to be able to lock down Student Government members in their third floor offices, but otherwise found the Spartan nature of the new building somewhat disappointing.

"You call this carpet?" he said. "Where did we get this stuff?"

College officials said the ink-blot carpet pattern is actually one of the few features of the actual student center design to survive the mix-up.

"We could suspend psychology students from the ceiling to get

... See swap, page 4

Backpacks soon banned on campus

By Jarvis Kaizer
STAFF REPORTER

Highline's administration has formally banned backpacks from campus.

The decision stems from reports of rising theft and drug-related problems on campus. Jules Brenner, head of the campus security statistics office, has released a public document stating that backpack-related theft and drug crimes have risen 357 percent over the last five quarters.

"The only possible solution is to ban the packs," Brenner said. "There just aren't enough officers to handle the problem."

Administration agrees that banning backpacks, while creating a frustrating situation for students, is the right thing to do.

"We gave it a lot of thought, we held a lot of meetings trying to find an alternate solution. But, there just simply isn't one," said Jim Cockerel, assistant director of



student safety. Negative student reaction has already come back to administration.

"I think the idea is ludicrous," said Highline student Ike Brown. "I sure as heck ain't going to ditch my bag because some people want to snatch them or sling out of them. Nobody should have to."

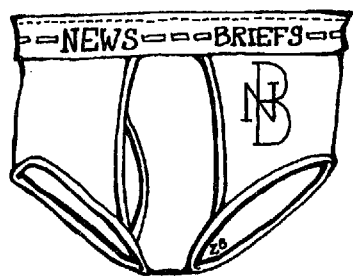
Some other ideas were kicked around by administration, though after serious thought, the plans were scrapped in lieu of the backpack ban. Some considered alternatives included; increasing secu-

rity patrols, teaming with Des Moines and Kent police K-9 units, and setting up student patrols. None of these options panned out for Cockerel and his staff.

"They all seemed like easy fixes for a complicated problem," Cockerel said. "We needed a complicated solution."

Security will be beefing up their patrols, and a student watch force will be set up to enforce the backpack law. Random K-9 searches will also be conducted on campus to root out any students secretly carrying any book-holding apparatus. This includes all traditional backpacks, shoulder bags, purses, wallets and coin purses. Security says that students should leave all these items in their cars while attending class, so that no criminals will be able to nab the hot items from their person. The ban will be put into effect on April 5, and any

... See Ban, page 4



Woman finds pencil

A Highline student was amazed Monday when she found her pencil months after she had misplaced it in a college computer lab.

"Oh my God!" exclaimed the student. "It's my pencil! I lost this last quarter."

The woman said the Care Bears pencil was definitely hers, identified in part by the peculiar bite marks left just below the eraser.

"You see, that's where I like to chew," the student said.

The student said it was her most amazing recovery since she found a glove that may have once been hers in a 7-Eleven parking lot.

New courses offered

A new coordinated study is being offered this spring, combining Library 101 and Psychology 101 and entitled "Cataloguing Your Neuroses."

"This will help the students be able to keep track of what's wrong with them," said Professor Dewey Rorschach, who will help teach the course.

A second new coordinated study, combining drawing and karate, will be entitled "The Art of Self-Defense."

Finally, a third new course will combine Tai Chi and penmanship and will simply be called "Coordinated Study."

Student Government to meet

Student Government will meet next Wednesday in the fifth floor Library conference room.

Agenda items will include reviewing last month's meeting; planning next month's meeting; a report from the Committee on Committees; and a presentation from a motivational speaker on "MMGood! Making Meetings Meaningful."

All students are invited to attend the meeting.

Campus Closed

Highline's campus will be closed for the quarter. The closure is due to lack of funds. Highline administrators say that the lack of funds was caused by over funding of the funds in the fund balance.

College officials said they were planning a fund-raiser to create a fund-raising director.

Science predicts future

Professor details what's coming up

Your fate is in the stars, a Highline professor said this week.

Highline Astrology Professor Tarot Starr told this week's Science Seminar that more students should pay attention to astrology.

"I know you, I know all about you!" Starr said, pointing to a few unlucky students.

"For example, you are going to fail," Starr said to a student in the front row. "You've probably wasted a lot of time coming here."

He pointed to another student. "You're probably facing a debilitating injury, or perhaps a gender change."

Starr said that astrology is the science of relying on celestial bodies that are millions of light years away to avoid taking responsibility for your own life.

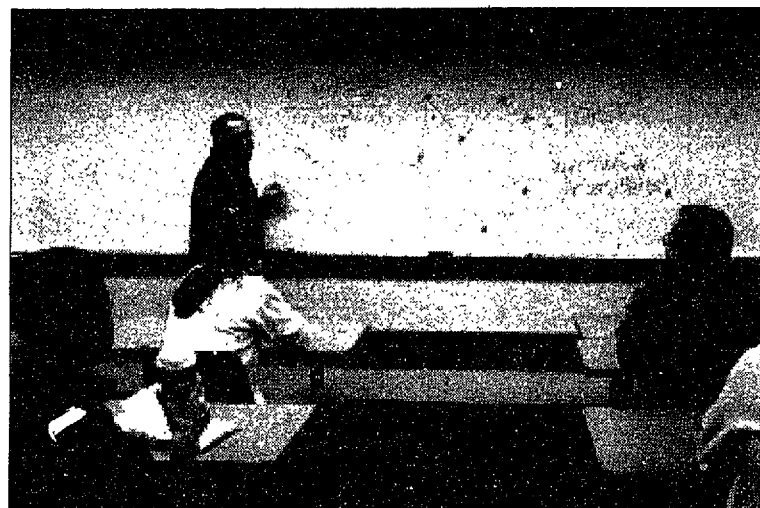


Photo by Fluffy Kittaeen

Professor Starr explains how astrology can change your life.

Starr then said that there are 12 basic signs in the zodiac, which is similar to a calendar. The cycle starts with Auntie, the relative; followed by Taurus, the car; Jim'n'I, the twins; Cancer, the disease; Leo, the bartender; Virgin, the airline; Scorpio, the tattoo artist; Skagit, the county; Aquarius, the

musical; and finally Pieces, the chessman.

Starr described how the ancients, who didn't have television, drank a lot and stared at the sky all night until combinations of stars began to look like other things.

"It's a horse, dammit!" Starr said, pointing to a picture of the constellation Seabiscuit. "Look at the hooves!"

"I think they're all pretty much accurate, except for Taurus, and that's pretty much bull," Starr said.

Starr said students should study astrology, as most of them don't take responsibility for anything and therefore astrology should be resonant with their truncated worldview.

Next week's science seminar will be presented by Professor Axel Failer on the topic of "Rubric's Cube: Random Grading and Your Chances of Passing."

Class days to be shorter for free Fridays

By Dank Dark
STAFF REPORTER

Highline will adopt a new "flex-day" schedule in Fall Quarter to meet professors' demands.

"We need a schedule with longer class periods," said Professor Thurman Thumkins, chairman of the Work-Health in New Environments committee. "Also, I hate working on Fridays."

Under the flex-day schedule, classes will meet two, three or four

days a week, instead of the traditional five.

For example, 8 a.m. classes will start at 7:30 a.m. and meet until 8:32 a.m. and meet four days a week.

Classes that began at 9 a.m. will meet in fall at 8:15 a.m. or 8:47 a.m., and finish at 9:17 a.m. or 9:36 depending on when your 7:30 a.m. class starts.

Classes that began at 10 a.m. will start three days a week at 9:30 a.m. and run until 11:15 a.m., unless the subject being studied be-

gins with the letter "a." Classes starting in "a" will meet two days a week beginning at 9:26 a.m. and meet until 11:43 a.m., unless you are beyond your fifth quarter at Highline, at which point you will be excused from class by 11:36.

Classes that began at 11 a.m. will now begin at 11:27, except for students who are in their first two quarters at Highline, who must report to class by 11:15, unless the class begins with the letter "b," in which case the class meets three days a week beginning at 11:39

unless the day is within two days of recognized family- or pet-oriented holiday.

Classes that begin at noon will begin at 12:17 but will have at least two days designated "distance learning days," unless the class begins with the letter "d," in which case the class will meet either at Saltwater State Park or the Lowe's construction site on alternate Thursdays.

"It's going to make this more like a real college," Thumkins said of the new schedule.

CRIME BLOTTER

April 1-April 8
Mad COWs on campus

An outbreak of mad COWs, (Computer On Wheels) has hit the Highline campus. COWs all over the campus have been falling. Several faculty members have reported COWs just falling over or COWs with terrible non-stop shaking. One shaken faculty member commented, "It's horrible they just don't ever stop shaking."

Early symptoms of Mad COWs are slight trembles of the body, or a wheel that seems to be rolling slightly ajar. If you notice any of these symptoms you are encouraged to call the Mad COWS hotline at 1-800-4MAD-COWS.

Security to be improved

Highline security will be beefed up next quarter by the building of a security fence and a series of bar code scanners around campus.

Bar codes will be issued for every item and person on campus, so that nothing will be able to leave or enter campus without Security or a librarian knowing about it.

Students taking unauthorized materials from campus will have their grades lowered by the value of the item taken considered as a percentage of their tuition.

Non-students taking items from campus will be forced take classes at Highline so they can have their grades lowered as well.

The electronic fence, installed by Max-Tech of Boise, will permit small animals to pass unharmed but may occasionally leave students who are not quite ready for college feeling confused.

"It tends to confuse those students with small animals," said Max-Tech President Orville Mackey. "We're still working out the bugs."

He ain't gonna take it

A disgruntled construction worker walked off the construction site yesterday morning. It is not yet known why he left only that minutes before he stormed off the site he yelled out, "That's it, I'm done."

Another construction worker was heard mumbling, "Maybe it was because I ate his lunch." The lunch was reportedly a tuna sandwich with Miracle Whip.

Drama to fire up spring 'Inferno'

By Cheese Cathedral
STAFF REPORTER

Auditions for the Drama Department's spring production, *Dante's Inferno*, will be April 5, 6 and 7 at 6:66 p.m. inside the Little Theatre.

"Every student wants to eventually set the world on fire, or at least make a difference in society. However, most have not had the opportunity to do so," said guest director Fifi LeFay.

"Well, now they can achieve at least part of that dream. These students will be given the chance to set the stage on fire. Literally."

As audience members are taken through the familiar ride of Dante's journey into the darkness of men, hell, purgatory and paradise, they will also be treated to an act previously unseen on the Highline stage: Pyrotechnics.

Most staff and students are excited about this new and exciting theatrical feat, however, some are a tad worried about the possible fire hazards.

LaFay said that she is "not too worried about the fiery effects. I appreciate fire and think students should as well. It's going to be a great show."

As a precautionary measure the Performing Arts Department will have an on-hand fire specialist during every performance, as well as water buckets under every audi-



Set designer's sketch of the Drama Department's upcoming production of 'Dante's Inferno.'

ence member's seat - just in case effect matters get out of hand.

As far as the cast ensemble is concerned, LaFay said that she is looking for students who are willing to give 100 percent to every rehearsal and are "fire-retardant."

She also notes that in order to be cast, the auditioner must be pre-

pared to devote quite a lot of time to the rehearsal process, as members will eventually have to learn how to work with the pyrotechnic effects.

To ensure their safety, the Performing Arts Department will be devoting an entire week to lecturing cast members on the basics of

fire safety.

"It's amazing how some students have forgotten the basics. The concept of stop, drop and roll is definitely not a laughing matter. Some students don't even know how to use a fire extinguisher," said one department official.

Aside from regular costumes

pieces, that are yet still unknown, there will be official fire garb donated by the Des Moines Fire Department available to any worried cast member. And if audience members wish to purchase a piece of protective garment before the show starts, there will be a small booth located next to the ticket booth inside Building 4, which will be accepting cash, checks and all major credit cards.

Audience members will be warned before entering the theater that the temperature could reach a fairly high number once the fiery effects are put to use, and are therefore encouraged to dress lightly.

"I think it's great that the school is finally doing something different this quarter for the play. I'm definitely auditioning," said student Pedro Ramini Smith.

Due to the exciting subject matter, LaFay is expecting quite a large turnout.

However, as the performance revolves around an adult theme and uses frightening visual effects, younger children are advised not to attend performances.

Well, it looks as though the Highline Performing Arts Department is gearing up for one spectacular production and starting out the quarter with a bang.

Or perhaps flame is better suiting.

Spring sports round-up: Cushman team drives to victory

Highline's Cushman polo team is off to a hot start this spring.

The scootin' T-Birds waxed Green River 7-1 to open the season over spring break, then returned home to pound Pierce 9-0 last weekend in their home opener.

"Maintenance has the carts in top form, and the team is really focused," said Cushman polo Head Coach Karl Klanger. "We're going for the title this year."

The T-Birds say the fact that the team trains on Highline's tricky hills helps the team when they visit a relatively flat school such as Green River.

"We can really corner well," Klanger said. "Those hills are great training."

Klanger said Highline would have shut out Green River except for a penalty for whacking a student during the first half.

"Part of the fun of this sport is dodging students while they're trying to get to class and you're trying to score a goal," said team captain Kenny Cartman. "Sometimes you hit somebody, though, and that's a penalty."

Highline next plays an exhibition match against the Kent Warehouse Drivers.



"Those guys are good," Cartman said. "This is going to show us what we're made of."

Field hockey loses

Highline's women's field hockey team lost its home opener 14-1 to the University of Victoria.

"I blame Canada," said the T-Birds' Lois "Frenchy" Berkowicz, who scored the team's only goal. "They actually play this sport up there."

It was the T-Birds' closest match of the season, and their first goal as well.

Highline's record is now 0-11. The team will be traveling to Pakistan for Spring Quarter, where

they will be engaged in the Study Abroad program while playing a full schedule of matches against international competition.

"This should really get us ready for the playoffs," Berkowicz said.

Tryouts scheduled

Tryouts for Highline's full-contact luge volleyball team will be next Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Pavilion.

Players are expected to bring their own level-1 protective gear as well as a note from a veterinarian or clergyman.

Players achieving level-2 status this season will be awarded free cans of tuna.

Ultimate fighting team seeks pain

By River Tuscon
STAFF REPORTER

After a 10-year absence, the long, rich tradition of the Ultimate Fighting Championships is returning to Highline.

Once a UFC powerhouse school in the '80s, Highline lost its Ultimate Fighting program in 1994 after refusing to build a new stadium exclusively dedicated to the sport.

"It's a real shame that we had to break our relationship with the UFC," assistant athletics director Jack Mohr said. "I think they forgot that it's supposed to be about the fighting."

After several years of negotiations, Highline has agreed to meet the UFC's demands by converting the Athletic Pavilion, known affectionately as the ThunderDome, into a suitable arena.

"We all love the ThunderDome so much that it's going to be tough to see it changed," Mohr said. "I'm sure we'll all come to love the ThunderOctagon just as much."

The \$2 million renovation was made possible by a sponsorship agreement with the Washington

State Cosmetic Surgeons Coalition.

"We fully support the UFC and all its endeavors," coalition spokesperson LaBraun Lee said. "I've got boat payments to make."

In addition to the renovation, Highline has shown its commitment to the revitalized program with the hiring of an experienced head coach.

"At first I was a little uncertain about Roc Skullard's background and qualifications," Mohr said. "Then he threatened to kill me if I didn't give him the job. I knew instantly from the warm stream running down my leg that I had found the right man."

Head Coach Skullard comes to Highline with extensive expertise in Juhitsu, the Chinese art of slap-fighting.

"No one wants to see my wind-mill coming. No one," Skullard said.

Skullard rests his hopes for quick success in the abilities of his two top recruits, Chip Crackor and Hiroshi Jackson.

Crackor has studied kung fu since he was a child. Inspired by the famous Drunken-Monkey style of kung fu, Crackor has de-

See Fighting, page 4

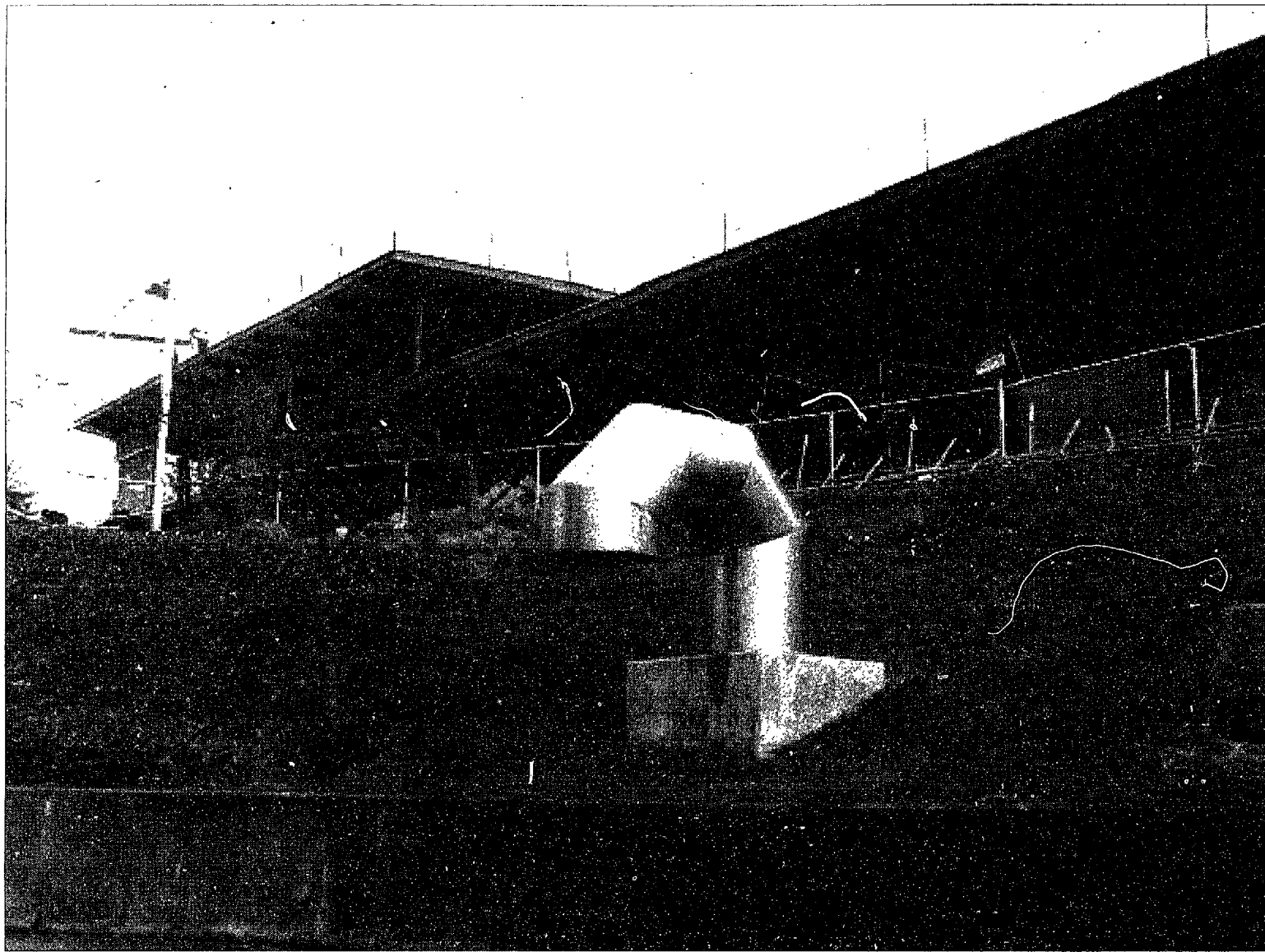


Photo by Cal Bumpkin

The drainage from the would-be vats currently leads from the basement level of the Student Union Building directly into the Child Care sandbox. Construction crews mistook it for a drainage field.

Swap

Continued from page 1
them to stare at the carpet, then record their responses," said Stephen Stevens, director of Tau-

tological Studies. "As it is, the entire facility could become a giant laboratory for the study of student behavior."

Spuddoon wasn't so sure. "We really wanted a new student center," he said.

He said that if the student center has to be torn down, it might have to be replaced by a new, virtual center, the e-Center, in which students will be invited to create cyber-avatars of themselves who actually attend class, read and do

homework.

"It really would be a lot less work for the students," he said.

"Also, we could sell the rights for a reality-based TV show, and call it like *Classroom Rules* or *Grade Survivor*."

Ban

Continued from page 1

student offenders will be cited and fined \$75 per offense.

Administration has thought up some compensatory riders to the ban, to ease some of the tension the change will cause to students, the paramount of which will be a predetermined limit on the amount of books professors can order for their classes.

"We will be shortening class pe-



riods to 40 minutes to give people time to run to their vehicles between classes to exchange books,"

said Wilamena Bic, tension avoidance adviser for student safety. "Also, we plan to nix all forms of standardized testing in any and all classes here at Highline, so no more tests."

Unfortunately, these measures have done little but upset faculty, who are now robbed of a critical tool used in the teaching process.

"Who thought this one up?" faculty member Rich Ironside said. "Jim Cockerel? Who is that? Assistant director of the student safety administration? What's that? The commission that set up

the ban on backpacks and the compensatory riders to it? Oh."

Ironside is an investigative journalism instructor at Highline.

In light of all the complaints pouring in to the Student Safety Administration, Cockerel has set up a comment box outside his office located in Building 46, room 102.

"We hope to tweak this thing until everybody is happy," Cockerel said. "Even if that means mucking the whole undertaking."

He said they might also encourage less use of books in class.

Crane

Continued from page 1

"I don't need a Master's Degree in Western Literature to see the irony in that," construction worker Jake Grimes said, "Come to think of it, why did I get that Master's Degree anyway?"

Several Highline employees at the scene expressed concern over the details of the official OSHA report.

"I don't remember any 'Safety First' sign that morning. I do remember several workers swinging on an old, muddy tire at the end of the crane's hook," administrative assistant Jeannie Janay said.

"Of course I'm outraged at the accusation," foreman Grant Grinder said. "If my men were using the crane as a tire swing, they had better charge admission. I get a 50 percent cut, you know."

Despite the controversy, OSHA officials indicate that further investigation into the collapse is unlikely.

"Things could have been so much worse with a tragedy like this," OSHA regional director Rob M. Blined said. "I'm so thankful they got a picture as it was falling. I usually have to use my imagination with these kinds of cases. It's never half as funny."

**The
Thunderword:
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Fighting

Continued from page 1

veloped several unique variations on the tradition.

"The first style I developed from Drunken-Monkey was Dizzy-Hamster. Eventually I worked out more potent styles like Sea-Sick-Emu and Stoned-Lemur," Crackor explained.

The energetic Ultimate Fighter defended the effectiveness of his unorthodox methods.

"If I can give you just one piece of advice in life: Never get a lemur stoned," Crackor said emphatically.

Crackor's traditional kung fu style is complemented by the more modern fighting techniques of teammate Hiroshi Jackson.

Unlike Crackor, Jackson has only studied martial arts since the release of the movie *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

"I know I don't have the experience that some of the other fighters possess," Jackson said. "My innovative techniques and enthusiasm for hurting people weaker than myself should make up for a lot though."

Jackson's style has evolved through several stages from his original *Crouching Tiger* method.

"At first I tried sort of a Cowering Kitten thing. Then it became

more of a Squatting Eskimo technique," Braker explained. "Now it's reached maturity. I'm finally ready to introduce the world to Fetal-Position Panther."

Coach Skullard expressed excitement over Jackson's development.

"I'm not too sure what he's supposed to be, but when he curls up in a ball like that, I'm just glad that I'm not a fetal," Skullard said.

The Ultimate Fighting Thunderbirds open their season against the Blue River Bar Brawlers Saturday at 3 p.m. in the ThunderOctagon.

The T-Birds then hit the road for a cage match against the K-1 All Stars in Japan.

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