CRANE TOPPLES

Hundreds look on as monolith crashes in Jostens rally

By Curtis Engelhardt

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 dented 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 it 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 mauled on weekdays?" OSHA inspector San Efor 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.

Backpacks soon banned on campus

By Jarvis Kaizer

Highline's administration has formally banned backpacks from campus.

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

"There is only one possible solution to this ban the packs," Brenner said. "This is the only way to handle the problem." Administration agrees that banning backpacks, while creating a frustrating situation for students, is the right thing to do.

"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 security 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. Randomly 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...

Building plans swapped

By Wally Monroe

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 Dougco Billlut. "And we figured all those extra pipes and vents 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 Tom Spadron. "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 toilet.

"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.

Spudoolon of Student Programs said it might be useful to 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 a carpet?" he said.

"Where did we get this stuff?"

College officials said the ink-stone 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..."
A Highline student was amazed Monday when she found her pencil months after she said she lost it in a college computer lab. “Oh my God!” exclaimed the student. “It’s my pencil! I lost it a long time ago.” 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 “Catastrophic 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 with 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 motion picture speaker on “MMPMGood: 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

By Sugar Aspartame

Professor Starr explains how astrology can change your life.

Photo by Fluffy Kittens

Class days to be shorter for free Fridays

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 Thuman 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 begins with the letter “z.” Classes starting in “w” will meet two days a week beginning at 9:26 a.m. and meet until 11:45 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.

Bar codes will be issued for every item and person on campus, so that nothing will be able to leave or enter campus without a 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 to 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 Osvald 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, or only that minutes before he stormed off the site he yelled off that it’s, 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 6:06 p.m. in 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 Pietro LaFay.

“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 rise 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 feature, 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 audience 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 auditorium must be prepared 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 gear before the show starts, there will be a small booth located next to the ticket booth inside Building 4, which will be selling gloves 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 Ramirez.

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 suit-

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 Konny Cartman. “Sometimes you hit somebody, though, and that’s a penalty.”

Highline next plays an exhibition match against the Kent Warren House 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. They almost came away with a point in overtime.

Highline’s record is now 0-1-1. The team will be traveling to Pakistan for Spring Quarter, where they will be engaged in the Stady Abroad program while playing a full schedule of matches against international competition.

“Should we get past the first few games, we’ll be very capable of breaking,” Berkowicz said.

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 great having it back,” said Highline’s Ultimate Fighting director Jack Mohr.

“Actually, 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.

“T-Birds’” says the Skyline Octagon 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,” said Cosmetologist Pastor LaFrance.

“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 Skillard’s background and qualifications,” Mohr said.

“Then I met him and I knew I didn’t have to worry. I knew instantly from the warm stream running down my leg that I had found the right man.”

Head Coach Skillard comes to Highline with extensive experience in Australia, the Chinese art of staf-fighting.

“No one wants to see my windmill coming. No one,” Skillard said.

Skillard rest 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-

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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, muggy tire at the end of the crane’s hook,” administrative assistant Jeanie Jany said.

“Of course I’m outraged at the accusation,” foreman Grant Grindler 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 B. Blisted 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.”

Swap

Continued from page 1

them to stare at the carpet, then record their responses,” said Stephen Stevens, director of Tuat" roles.

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

“Certainly 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

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 periods to 40 to 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 nit 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.

“What’s that?” The commission that set up the ban on backpacks and the compensatory riders to it? Oh.”

Ironside is an investigative journalist instructor at Highline.

In light of all the complaints pouring in to the Student Safety Administration, Cockrell 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,” Cockrell said. “Even if that means mucking the whole undertaking.”

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

Fighting

Continued from page 1

developed 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- Emsu and Stoned-Lemur,” Cracker 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 lemon stove,” Cracker said emphatically.

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

Unlike Cracker, 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.

“Isn’t 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 ferb,” Skullard said.

The Ultimate Fighting Thunderbirds open their season against the Blue River Bar Brawlrs 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.

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.

Photo by Cal Rumpkin

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Fighting

Continued from page 1

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