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The Thunderwerd

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Spring Quarter extended for snow

By SNOW BUNNY

staff reporter

Highline officials are extending Spring Quarter for an extra week to make up for days lost to snow and power outages.

Due to the absence of many students from classes caused by power outages in Fall Quarter and heavy snow fall in Winter Quarter, Highline officials have decided to add an extra week to Spring Quarter, making it end on June 21.

Dean of Student Schedules Scott Moen said the extra week will be used to reimburse students for cancelled classes and classes they missed because of the snow.

"When it snowed, many students missed several days of class," Moen said. "Myself and many of my colleagues felt that was detrimental to their education. We felt it would be best if students attended classes for an extra week in Spring Quarter to compensate for that loss."

Moen said he also felt there was a financial aspect to it as well.

"We want to give student



TAP CABALLERO/THUNDERWERD

Dump trucks dump snow during January's chilling, class-cancelling, student-annoying blizzards.

their money's worth," Moen said. "Since so many of them were unable to come to school on snow days because of safety concerns or because they were just plain stuck, it makes sense to give students all the class time they paid for."

However, many students say

they would rather have the extra week for summer vacation.

"That's messed up. I don't want to be stuck here for another week," said Highline student Meredith Clark.

"What are these guys thinking?" Rachel Pomp said.

"That just blows," Harry Me-

diocre said.

"That's whack. That's just totally whack," said a student who declined to give his name.

"What the hell? I've got plans and stuff," Jerry Alexander said.

"We understand some students might have to put their va-

cation plans on hold," said Vice President of Student Services Cara Les, "but the Bahamas will still be there a week later."

Les said she feels it is important that students remain at school for the extra week.

"So many students didn't show up on snow days because they were 'stuck,'" Les said, holding up air quotes. "They need to fulfill their academic obligation and make up the days they missed."

Professors say they are concerned about how it will affect their schedule and syllabus.

"I already struggle to fill the 10 weeks they give us. How am I going to fill 11?" said Biology Professor Dr. Chris Miss.

"I understand the administration's concerns, but I don't think this is a productive solution to the problem. It sucks," said Economics Professor Ned Worth.

"I actually have to show up and teach these kids things during what is supposed to be my time off?" said Spanish Professor Courtney Albedon. "What about my vacation to the Bahamas?"

Study shows campus must move buildings

By THORINA LLOYD WRIGHT

staff reporter

Highline will have to move most of its buildings to comply with the findings of a new study.

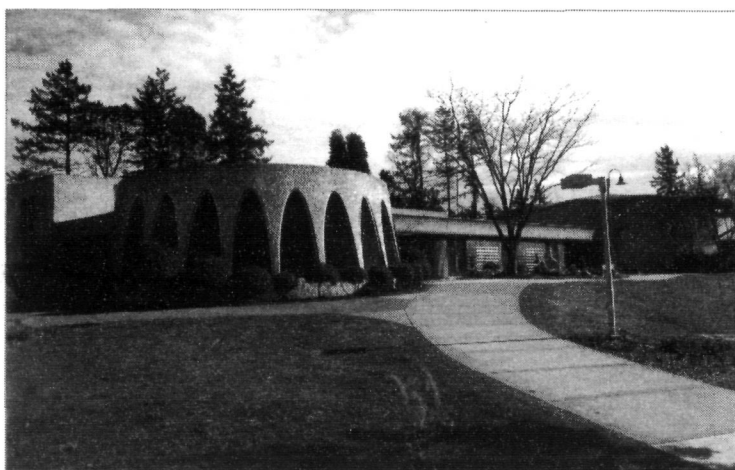
Director of Building Locations Dan Parsec explained that Highline hasn't been able to attract more students because the buildings are not strategically placed.

"The feng shui of the entire campus is off," Parsec said. "The only way that we will get more students is if we arrange the buildings so they are in harmony."

Highline's Research Department paid a feng shui consultant to figure out which buildings needed to be rotated and or moved.

The results were enormous.

"What we found is that almost every building needs to be rotated," Parsec said.



DICK NOLAN/THUNDERWORD

Building 4 is the only feng shui-ready building on campus, experts say.

Results showed the only building that didn't need to be moved was the Performing Arts Center, Building 4.

"That building has the most harmony out of any building that I entered," said Architectural Acupuncturist Debbie Schway.

"What I do when I walk into a room is close my eyes and feel if energy flow is good or bad," said Schway, who also works as a feng shui consultant.

"What I felt was bad energy in almost every one of the buildings on campus," Schway said.

Which building was the

worst?

"The building with the worst energy was your Student Union Building," Schway explained. "If I had to work in this building I don't think that I could get anything done."

Highline will be paying a lot for the new building rotation.

"Even though the costs will be great, we are prepared to pay anything to make sure that our students are able to learn an environment showered with positive energy," Parsec said.

Parsec explained that when asked for a bid for the building rotation a local contractor said that it depended on what shape they wanted the building in afterwards.

"We told him that we wanted each building in the same shape that it was before the move," Parsec said.

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New training courses offered

Student Programs has a whole new series of leadership training opportunities for Spring Quarter.

Topics this quarter include:

•Leading the Leaders, about leading leaders to lead others;

•Leaders who Lead Leaders to Lead, about leaders and the leaders who lead them;

•Leaders from Nowhere, about how anyone can be a leader;

•Leadership for Life, about how to continue to be a leader when you leave Highline and they actually expect you to do something;

•Lead My Lips: Communication for Leaders;

•Get the "Lead" Out: How to look like you're actually doing something;

•Leader-hosen: How to dress like a leader.

SEE TRAINING, PAGE 20

CSI:



HIGHLINE

Student caught studying in Library

College officials were prompted to call Security last week when a student was found studying on the fifth floor of the Library.

The student was found reading and taking notes for a class, which other students in the area found extremely disruptive.

"Like, we're trying to make out up here," said student Jam Johnson. "Somebody studying - that just blows the whole atmosphere."

The student, whose name was not released, was asked to relocate to the stairwell so as not to disturb the other students.

"Nobody ever uses the stairwells," said one librarian. "OK, well they get used, but not for that."

Highline to offer designated smoking classes

BY SHAKIRA VICIOUS
staff reporter

Highline will now have smoking classes to accommodate students with nicotine cravings.

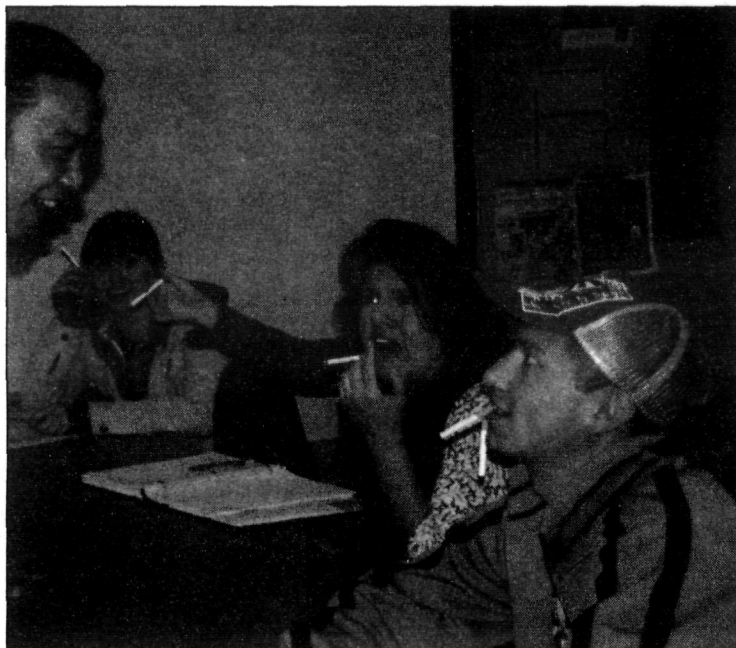
Starting in Spring 2007, Highline will have two designated smoking buildings where regular courses will be conducted, while students are smoking.

Highline implemented their smoking policy in Fall 2005, and statistics show that it's had a dramatic effect on Highline's smoking population.

In a recent study done by Highline's Lung Association, statistics show that a smoker's level of concentration drops when in areas without smoke.

Studies show that student's grades rose by at least .5 percent when allowed to smoke in class.

"This is really ground breaking news," said head of the Lung Association, Dr. Marlboro Smooth. "For years people have believed that smoking was detrimental. While they might have a small effect on your lungs, they increase brain activity from 10 to 15 percent."



SHAKIRA VICIOUS/THUNDERWORD

Students in a smoking class are overcome with learning.

Dr. Smooth added that it was not only unfair but inhumane to deprive a smoker of a dose of nicotine for hours at a time.

"It's like not feeding a baby, when they're crying," he added. "Honestly I'm surprised this campus adopted such an unfriendly policy."

Highline's smoking policy however will not change. Smokers must only smoke in

designated areas, and must be 20 feet away from a non-smoking building.

Building 21 and 22 are Highline's new smoking buildings.

"People used smoke in those buildings back in 1961," said Dr. Kamryn Kamel.

Kamel was in Highline's first graduating class and now teaches nutrition.

"I'm really excited for this

new policy," Dr. Kamel said. "I'm proud to be a part of such a forward institution."

Dr. Kamel added it might cause problems in some of the chemistry courses.

"There are still kinks we're working out, including ash tray locations and such," Dr. Kamel added.

This is just a five-year pilot program, said Dean of Learning Art Wassel.

"Finding professors will not be an issue since we have professors that smoke on campus," Dr. Wassel said.

Dr. Wassel said that they have already found instructors willing to participate in this program.

"I'm can't wait to sign up for classes," said student Rajwinder Singh. "Halfway through class I need a cigarette and then I just get pissed off."

Singh was one of the students used in the original research study. Her grades improved by 1.0.

"My parents are going to be so proud of me," Singh said beaming.

Smoking classes will be listed on Highline's website a week before spring classes will start.

College to add clown and circus training program

BY JOODEE VOO
staff reporter

Highline now has a program for all you class clowns out there.

This quarter, Highline implemented its new Circus Arts program.

Students in the program may work toward a two-year associate of applied sciences in pre-circus training.

The program is accredited by the National Circus Performing Arts Education Association.

After completion of the program, students are almost guaranteed job placement in prestigious circus acts such as Cirque De Soleil and the Barnum and Bailey Brothers, said Gregory Ambitus, the head of the program.

"I feel [this program] could reach out to those who just can't find their calling in other programs that Highline offers," he said.

Ambitus himself is a retired Cirque De Soleil trapeze artist. Trapeze art has been a tradition in his family since "my great-grandfather was alive."

Trapeze Fundamentals is one of the classes that the program will offer. This excites Highline student Vola Tillis.

"I've been doing gymnastics since I was 5 years old," she



Clown professor Raymond Balatro says "Clowns are not something to be afraid of. OK, maybe you should be afraid of the ones with knives and baseball bats, but most of the others are good folks."

said. "I was sad because Highline didn't offer a gymnastics program and I didn't have good enough grades to get into a university."

Tillis favors the parallel bars in gymnastics, "which seems pretty similar to the trapeze stuff."

"I saw a show on T.V. showing those trapeze people and I thought 'Wow! I could so totally do that!'" she said.

Although it will be her first time doing trapeze art, Tillis said she is not scared "one bit."

"Hey, I did do parallel bars, you know. I'm used to flying up in the air and doing flips and all that stuff. And hey, if anything goes wrong, that's what the net is for," she said.

Intro to Sword Swallowing will also be offered in the program. Student Bruce Sharpe hopes to pursue this as a career.

"I've always had an affinity for sharp objects," Sharpe said.

When Sharpe was a child, he swallowed his mother's car keys.

"It wasn't a big deal to me at

the time, although my mom was pretty upset," he said as he recalls the memory with a sly grin on his face.

"But from that moment on, I knew... I know it sounds freakish, but hey, everyone has a calling and I'm pretty certain this is mine," Sharpe said.

To get ready for his class, Sharpe practices daily with various types of silverware around his house.

Of course, no circus arts program can be complete without clowns.

Raymond Balatro is the instructor for Intro to Core Clown Concepts.

"People really underestimate the skill that goes into being a great clown," he said.

"Clowns can serve different purposes, but essentially they serve important ones."

Clowns are not just meant to be there for entertainment and amusement, Balatro said.

"We get the crowd pumped up for the main act," he said, "and when things go sour, we soothe it. Behind all the paint and funny outfits are hard-working people who are true experts in their field."

"In this industry, we as clowns take a lot of crap and are underappreciated, but nevertheless, it is a job I love and I am honored to teach these skills to

aspiring young artists," Balatro said.

Before becoming an instructor, Balatro was doing what he calls "contract work" as private entertainment for children's parties. Although he has only done three parties in the past six months, he said that they were "three amazing parties that wouldn't have been the same without me there."

Gregory Ambitus would also like to include an animal training course in the program as well.

"However, that has proven difficult because of the 'safety issues' involved," he said as he rolled his eyes.

"Personally, I believe the administration is just too scared to try new things."

Ambitus says that currently 100 students are enrolled in the program so far.

"That's 100 aspiring individuals who wish to pursue an elite and wonderful career to change their lives and I will be there to assist them in every way possible," he said.

With so many clowns already on campus, he said he didn't expect much trouble finding more students.

"We have a great history of clowns at Highline," he said. "I see clowns on campus almost every day."

College now offers nude painting class

BY DE GOMEZ NUDERO
staff reporter

Bare all with the Nude Painting class offered this Spring Quarter.

Nude painting is an art that has been around for years, however this class is going to take a step further by requiring all students be naked. The class offers options of using each others' body as a canvas, your own, and/or painting others on a canvas.

Instructor Katherine Curious, who prefers to go by Cat, said she has been trying to get this class approved for a long time, but never had the courage to bring it up to anyone.

"I was mostly worried my colleagues would question my motives since the majority of paint classes are filled with young, fit, and beautiful humans," Curious said.

Curious requested the class start a week earlier so the students could adjust before the quarter actually began.

The class filled up 10 minutes after being added to the quarterly, and had a waiting list of over 20 students.

"A lot of Running Start students who were on the waiting list said they wouldn't mind just auditing the class. The response is much better than I expected," Curious said.

With only one week into the class, students say while being nude in front of everyone was at



SHAKIRAVICIOUS/THUNDERWORD

After her experience in the nude painting class, Highline student Lindsey Blush says she prefers to always be nude while painting, including in her job as a house painter.

first awkward, it is the most unified class they've ever taken at Highline.

To make people feel more comfortable everyone had to strip down together in a circle the first day of class.

"It was really a bonding experience," student John Fondler said. "For once we were all allowed to stare at each other without feeling like a creep. You know, everyone was check-

ing out everyone's everything, and it was OK."

The first three days of class students were offered the option of being nude behind a hospital curtain; however after that the students would be docked points for choosing to be hidden.

"Only a couple of us hid behind the curtain. It didn't take long to realize we were in the minority being hidden," student Lindsey Blush said. "Plus, ev-

eryone else had imperfections on their bodies that were much worse than mine who didn't hide."

Curious said she really wants to help her students understand how beautiful the human body really is.

"We're all beautiful. Some beauty is just more accepted than others in today's society," Curious said. "If you really hate a part of your body, you just

paint it beautiful."

Student say the class has helped them appreciate themselves more, and has increased their creativity.

"I don't know what it is, but being around a bunch of naked women has opened my eyes to options I'd never known before," said student Phillip Lee, who was home-schooled all his life, and had never seen his own naked body before, let alone a bunch of women.

Some students have taken to a more abstract painting on each others bodies, while some nursing majors have used the class a study session for Anatomy by painting organs on bodies. Some paint clothes on themselves, and say they wish they could just walk around the rest of the day like that.

"I wish I could afford the kind of clothes I paint on myself and my friends," student Jacob Pickle said.

"My boyfriend just cheated on me, so for my most recent project I painted how my heart felt," student Felicia Shio said.

The class has not only inspired some students to become art majors, but has also increased their hygiene.

"I am always clean shaven everywhere," said student Carter Chase said with a laugh. "But really, I shower a lot more than I used to now that I'm in this class."

The class will also be offered next quarter.

Drama to go wild in 'Apocalypso'

BY HAL S. NEPHEW
staff reporter

It's the end of the world for the Drama Department this Spring Quarter with their adaptation of *Apocalypso*.

Apocalypso was originally film directed by Mel Gibson, about a man trying escape being sacrificed so he can get back home to save his family.

The quarter's production will be overseen by guest Director James Burke. Drama Department Director Tim Idman personally chose Burke as guest director for the production.

"I met with him and after just five minutes of conversation I knew he would bring something different to Highline's Drama Department," Idman said. "I just didn't know how different it was going to be."

As head of the Drama Department, he will not only be making sure that Burke has everything he needs to make his vision realized, but that his show is ap-

propriate enough to be shown on Highline's campus.

"He's show me his conceptual designs for the stage and costumes," Idman said. "I will have to double check to make sure loincloth is appropriate length on the actors."

Idman is disappointed to say though that he will not be able to see the finished product when the play premieres next month.

"I'm not too good with blood, so I will unfortunately be unable to attend some of the rehearsals and the play itself," Idman said.

Director James Burke attributes his passion for the project to his experience seeing the film for the first time.

"When I first saw the film in theaters, I was completely blown away," Burke said. "I want to capture the essence of the film that Mr. Gibson so perfectly crafted."

The sacrifice scene in the film served especially well as inspiration when conceiving the idea.

"Seeing that native's head roll down the steps of the pyramid; it became obvious to me that this would be perfect to adapt for the stage," Burke said.

Pre-production has not been without its own set of problems, including in casting the play.

"I knew it would be a challenge for the actors," Burke said.

It was Burke's plan to have actual native Central Americans act in the play, unfortunately a search for them came up short.

"I was hoping to get exchange students from Central America to audition, but there were too few to choose from," Burke said.

Instead Burke will be using the actors already enrolled, and get them accustomed to living in their parts over the next couple weeks.

"I'm putting the entire Drama Department through a two-week boot camp," Burke said. "They will be living in huts, fishing out of the Puget Sound, and learning

to hunt with sharpened rocks."

Burke has also had difficulty obtaining large quantities of blood from local butcher shops.

"Every place I go to always has a limit on the amount of blood they will give me, but I have had a lot more luck with

them than I did with blood banks," Burke said.

He is still hopeful that when everything comes together, his vision will not be compromised.

"It's going to be very exciting," Burke said.

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Flooded, frozen Pavilion to host curling team

BY CAL SKIPPER

staff reporter

A fresh sheet of ice coats the Pavilion floor as a few people stand around scratching their heads and yawning, holding basketballs and badminton racks uncertainly.

Curling has come to Highline, and it has quietly frozen the hearts of sports fans and students alike.

If you've no idea what curling entails, think of the fast pasted intensity and physicality of hockey; now take away both of those things, swap the hockey stick for a broom, and the puck for a fat round stone.

"A lot of people don't give credit where it's due in regards to the talent and dedication it takes," T-Bird Skip and team captain Brice Slider said.

A curling team consists of four players, the lead, the second, the third, and the skip. Each player has two throws towards the target, or house, and the closest rock to center bull's-eye in the house scores along with all other rocks their team has thrown closer than their opponent's closest rock.

"We bring the rock down hard in our house," T-Bird Lead Isis Prince.

Thus far Highline has had little success in the very few games they've played, partially due to the fact that the only other colleges participating are scattered all over Canada, where curling



WANDA HICKEY/THUNDERWERT

Women's curling team captain Van Ella Icey lays down a hot one at a recent practice in the Pavilion.

has developed a huge following. Canada has earned 29 gold medals at the Winter Olympics, nearly six times that of the next-closest Sweden with five.

The ice covering the floor of the pavilion has proved a challenge for spectators trying to reach the stands, but that's ok

since nobody has gone to watch anyway.

Curling maintains a strict tradition of sportsmanship throughout competition, even after the game has been won. After the completion of rounds, it's a well-known tradition that the winning team buys the los-

ing team a drink.

Despite their losses, the T-Birds remain optimistic and enthused about future competition.

"Wha'd you call my-, my mother?" Slider said of their loss to British Columbia.

T-Bird curlers said they are

proud of the heritage their sport has developed, especially after being the first event in history to combine ice, rocks, and brooms/brushes that hasn't ended in an incredibly clean apartment or a jail sentence. The T-Birds travel to Ontario next, to take on the Ducks at noon on April 32.

Anonymous gift sets up new Highline golf team

BY MISSA PUTZ

staff reporter

A mystery donor has given \$1 million to the Athletic Department to start a golf team.

"It's a famous golfer," said Underassistant Deputy Athletic Director Chip Shott. "I can't really say more."

The money will be used to buy equipment and hire a coach, allowing the team to start begin play in the NWAACC this spring.

The bequest comes with strings attached, however. The only requirement of the grant is that Athletic Director John Dunn not be the coach of the golf team.

"The donor doesn't feel that Dunn's up to par," Shott said.

The department is looking for a coach.

"You know, someone who likes golf," Shott said.

McConaughy Field will be used as a driving range during golf season, and members of the



Golf team members get ready to tee up on the seventh hole of the Peasant Run course in Burien.

track team will be put to work shagging balls for the golfers.

"That will help the track team with their sprinting and dodging abilities," Shott said.

Prospective golf team member Shorty Duffer said he's very

excited about the prospect of playing golf.

"I just love whacking little balls around," Duffer said. "This will be the greatest thing since our NASCAR team went away."

Highline's NASCAR entry was dissolved along with the automotive program last year. Track team members were employed as pit crew for the NASCAR entry, which was started in hopes that NASCAR would be

tempted to build a track on the Kent Highlands Landfill.

"Just think of it," Duffer said. "We could have had methane-power right from the landfill to use in the cars."

The addition of another men's sport of course forces the Athletic Department to add women's sport to maintain gender equity.

"We could add women's golf, but they won't let Dunn coach that either," Shott said. "We're also thinking of women's wrestling, ringball or maybe quoits."

The troubles with the women's bowling team have prompted the Athletic Department to be very careful in choosing a new women's sport, Shott said.

The women's bowling team's fall season was marred by reported episodes of drinking and random violence after games. "They kept spray painting the mens' lockerroom," Shott said. "The wrestling team won't even go near them anymore. They're just trouble."