The Thunderword

Rights activists take over lab

By DAX BUBBLEMAN
Staff Reporter

The nursing lab was taken over by a wild herd of PETA supporters last Monday. The PETA supporters broke into Building 26 and began hanging up banners smeared with what they thought was fake blood.

“Those dumb hippies actually smeared pig’s blood all over their banners and themselves,” Des Moines Police Officer Ernie Jones. The PETA members, however, were not shaken up. Martial screams came floating out of the nursing lab, as they started pelting the officers with small rodents.

“Witness the power of nature!” one PETA member yelled as he nailed Officer Jones in the face with an acouah. Acouachs are adorable rodents that get up to 7 centimeters long in length.

After hours of being holed up in the nursing center, and one failed attempt by the police to infiltrate, the PETA members were starting to starve.

It was Chartwells, the new catering service at Highline, who saved the day. They made an abundance of tofu burgers and set them at strategic points around Building 26. One by one the PETA members tried sneak out and snatch a burger, but the police tackled them like fierce jungle cats leaping on a baby zebra.

‘Reply all’ keys to be disabled this month

By WALLY MONROE
Staff Reporter

Officials with the Administrative Technology department have announced that they will disable the “reply all” function on campus computers later this month.

“Our goal is to stop the campus hours of labor every time,” said Rupert Nano, assistant director of computing efficiency for Highline. “Just the processing of the repeated campus-wide e-mails literally raises the college’s electric bill.”

Nano admitted that the reply-all e-mail function is in fact useful for ongoing group discussions.

“But most often it’s used for people who want to share something with the whole campus—those e-mails that only need to be shared with a few people.”

Some on campus celebrated the move.

“It’s like the students in class who say something just to say something,” said Professor Gus Curmudgeon. “For some people, it’s almost like Tourette’s.”

Others were less happy with the decision.

“I have just so many things I want to tell people,” said Professor LaWanda Wandermind. “It’s a part of my computer. All those e-mails that won’t be seen... those e-mails, they’re like e-mails to me.”

Others expressed similar frustration.

“This college sucks,” said one employee who asked not to be named. “They keep trying to make me work.”

In other tech news on campus...

• College officials will host a “blood for cash” drive to help ease budget cuts. Please see page 24.

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Nursing student Card Pulmer argues with PETA leader DQ Berger at the height of the standoff on Monday.

The man to chose violently and everybody looked to Nursikkis and her nurses for help.

“This is the most ridiculous thing I’ve been witnessed in my three-and-a-half years of teaching,” said Nursikkis as the last of the PETA members was shoved in a police car. “Nurses don’t do CPR; you’ll need to call respiratory care.”

Officials were unsure, later, however, which group the people calling themselves PETA actually represented.

Originally, it was believed that the group might be People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. However, upon questioning some of the activists identified themselves as emmbers of Persons Eager to Annoy. At least one of the group said he was disappointed to find out that the group was against eating meat.

“I’m a vegetarian,” he said. “Salad is cruelty to vegetables.”

“Salad is cruelty to vegetables,” the PETA member said. “They’ve got a real steak in this group.”

“They’ve got a legitimate beef. They know how to cut out the fat and bring home the bacon. There’s nobody here who’s hamstringing it up. Yes, they don’t like me eating meat, but all I get from it is a little ribbing now and then. But we’re going to stop this pork-barrel politics once and for all.”

College to expand enrollment options

By LARRY LABRUM
Staff Reporter

College officials said they will admit students of any age beginning Fall Quarter 2009. The new program will expand on the successful Running Start program and will be called Random Start. Students’ age will not be considered in admis-
edons any longer, Highline officials say.

“We have an open-door admissions policy already,” said Random Start coordinator-designate Wyndham Hill. “This just opens the door a little wider.

Students will be placed in classes according to their Compass scores, Hill said. We realize that we’ll have to offer some more remedial classes, since a lot of the younger students probably won’t be up to speed on subjects such as English, math, science, history, speech, business, engineering, arts, and social science,” Hill said. “But a lot of them ought to do really well in courses such as early childhood education. Let’s face it — they’re experts!”

Hill acknowledged that some professors may be less than happy about having to teach remedial classes, but said that many on campus are already developing a talent for that in their work with Running Start students.

“So for a lot of people, this is a natural progression,” he said.

Some of the classes will be housed in the former Early Childhood Learning Center, which is being closed due to budget cuts. Hill said the classes also will be open to students 5 feet tall and under, of any age.

“You have to be able to fit in those tiny desks,” he said.

Because of the change, the 10 a.m. class hour now will include a 10-minute “morning recess” period, and any class scheduled for noon or later will include a designated nap time.
Juvenile caught studying in library

Students called Security to take care of a juvenile who was causing a disturbance by quietly reading his textbook at one of the library’s ukelele practice tables.

“We can’t function with people making sound like this,” said an aspiring ukelele hero.

Security office stolen

Security officers arrived at Building 6 last Monday, March 30, to discover the Security office had gone missing.

“We came back from a meeting, and it was just gone,” said Officer John Mustard.

MaST Center attacked by pirates

Highline’s Marine Science and Technology was attacked by pirates on March 17.

Lost and Found

The following items were reported lost: virtue, innocence, one bag of marbles, Rey Mystario, three pair size extra-large women’s harem pants.

The following items were reported found: faith, hope, pursed, the internet, meaning, one case men’s New Baby hair gel.

College turns to ads to help pay the bills

By JAREK NARROWS
Staff Reporter

Building 8 will be providing advertising billboard space to help make up for budget cuts.

In a fund-raising effort to cover recent budget cuts, Vice President of Student Affairs Jeff Meetingwell has arranged for the window space on the sides of Building 8 to be converted to commercial ad space.

The plan was proposed by a group of students in the Business Program. After the rash of cuts made to the S&A budget last quarter, “I was really distressed by the announcement of the closure of the Child Learning Center,” said Mike Philpes, a student. Philpes had hoped to be admitted into the center.

“Yeah, I’m 21,” he said. “But I’m short.”

“So many people hang out around the Student Union. We thought there had to be people out there wanting to reach that market,” he said.

The idea just sort of hit us. I pulled out my Nokia 6720 Classic and called to meet with Meetingwell the next day,” he said.

Although the revenue from the ads is coming too late to save the child care center, Philpes said, he hopes that it will keep other programs important to the school from being shut down, such as the TV in Student Union.

“We actually thought about putting ads on that, too,” Philpes said.

The ad space will be sold at competitive rates based on size, placement and printing quality.

“And about 60 percent of the remain- ing space.” Meetingwell said.

“We’re hoping to prepare about 60 percent of the remaining space.”

“Apple has been a big buyer,” he said.

“We think we might be able to make up at least 80 percent of the money that we thought we’d have to cut from the S&A if we can sell all the space,” Meetingwell said.

Student response to the idea has varied.

“I think it’s a shame,” said Cassandra Lorne, a chemistry major.

Lorne explained that the chemistry department had hoped to harness all of the glass on the side of Building 8 as a giant burning glass.

“But this totally ruins the building’s potential as a convex mirror,” Lorne said.

“We want to be able to burn something large.”

New club hopes to make a splash

The new Old Ones Cihullu Club will be holding its inaugural meeting Saturday, April 4, at Salty’s near the Highline MaST Center.

The meeting will begin at 11 p.m. with an open discussion of the topic, “are we worthy?”

Proceedings will conclude at midnight with a ritual in an attempt to summon an elder god. Club President Frank Thurston said he was “very excited to have this opportunity.”

Light refreshments such as coffee and a vegetable assortment will be provided by the club.

Occult Seminar says ‘me too’

Occult Seminar has been announced for Spring Quarter.

Modeled after the already-successful Science Seminar and the new History Seminar programs, Occult Seminars will be held on Tuesdays in various rooms on campus.

The program was proposed by phrenology instructor Andrew Stewart.

“Several seminars are really catching on,” Stewart said. “We wanted to get on board early while there were still days of the week free.”

The seminar’s schedule has not been determined yet, but Stewart said he will do the first presentation, “How to tell whether your students are zombies or just asleep?” on Tuesday, April 7.

Stewart said he is also interested in having seminars on astrology, palm reading and alien sightings in the King county area.

Movie Fridays Isa very exciting, mon

Spring Quarter’s Movie Fridays program will kick off with Star Wars 1.5: The Jar-Jar Binks Story.

The film was directed by Alan Smith and stars Ahmed Best as the voice of Jar-Jar Binks, a fan favorite character since his debut in The Phantom Menace.

The film explores Jar-Jar Binks’ troubled past through flashbacks interspersed into a wending narrative full of intrigue and deception.

Star Wars 1.5 was a huge critical success, garnering a 94 percent “sweet” rating on review site Overripe Bananas.

Famed reviewer Zebert Roggers called it “a deep and satisfying biopic about the undoubt- edly most beloved character in the Star Wars franchise.”

The film will be shown Friday, April 3, at 12:30 a.m. in Building 33, room 802.

Binks himself will be visiting Highline classes soon.

The Nike swoosh on Building 8 will help make up for last state revenue, college officials say.

Correction

• There was an error in last week’s paper on page 13: the correct spelling is “immortal bear.”

• The bookstore will not be offering free textbooks this quarter. The story should have said “freak textbooks.”

The Thunderwerd

Just like a real newspaper.

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News Briefs

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Idolicious Sanjaya to perform at Highline

By NICHELLE NICHOLEs
Staff Reporter

Sanjaya Malakar is coming to Highline this weekend to perform works from his upcoming self-titled album, Sanjaya.

Malakar is a Federal Way native who rose to fame and infamy during his time on a popular television singing contest. American Idol fans will remember Malakar from the sixth season of the series. The reality show discovered him during the show’s Seattle auditions which were hailed by the judges, Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul, and Randy Jackson, as the worst auditions in the history of American Idol. Despite this, two of the top 12 finalists were from those auditions, including Malakar and season runner-up Blake Lewis.

Malakar made it into the seventh round of the competition through viewer votes despite much criticism from the judges and the media.

Malakar’s performance at Highline will be his first since the American Idol tour, which took place after the season aired from July 6 to Sept. 23, 2007.

He was approached for the performance by Highline’s activities coordinator, Lauren Jewis.

“I’ve known Sanjaya for as long as I can remember,” said Jewis. “I knew he wasn’t working right now and Highline could really do for some great entertainment, so it was a great fit for all of us.”

Malakar is also excited about the upcoming performance.

“I’m really pumped,” he said. “This is gonna be my chance to show everybody what I can do without American Idol.”

This will be the first stop on Sanjaya’s Reunion Tour.

“I was falling apart for a long time there,” he said. “But now I’m coming back together.”

Sanjaya poses for the cover of his next album, Just Like Me -- But Better.

News of the singer’s upcoming performance has received mixed reactions from Highline students.

“I can’t believe this is happening,” Highline student Molly Sims said. “I thought the whole Sanjaya thing was over. It should have stayed that way. I can’t believe Highline’s trying to bring him back.”

During Malakar’s time on American Idol, Sims was one of the viewers who protested the singer’s inclusion on the show by starving herself until his eviction. She also ran an online video blog to share her fasting experience and encourage other viewers to do the same.

“I’m thinking about starting the blog back up,” she said. “It was one thing when Sanjaya was on my TV, but him coming to my school is just not cool.”

Sims is starting a petition to stop the performance and organizing a website to stop all future performances by Malakar. She said she is trying to make this a nationwide movement.

“This time, it happened to me and my school, next time it could be yours,” she said.

Malakar isn’t worried about the negativity his appearance at Highline is already causing. He considers the reaction a positive thing.

“Some viewers did the same thing when I was on Idol,” he said. “If anything, it just helped me out and got me more votes.”

To join the movement against Malakar, visit JustsaynotoSanjaya.com.

Meanwhile, an alternative group claiming that Sanjaya is being controlled by agents from UNESCO, say they plan to be at the concert to protest Sanjaya’s continued exploitation by Western cultural forces.

They also have set up a website, freesanjaya.com. “Free Sanjaya,” said the group’s spokesman, Aldo Phat.

Malakar will perform in the Mt. Townsend dining room of Building 8 at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 4. With him will be his one lone fan, Ashley Ferl, who was fondly labeled “the Crying Girl” by Simon Cowell. Tickets will be sold in advance April 2 and 3 in front of both entrances to Building 8.

‘Watchmen’ musical to be spring production

By WHIP WHINER
Staff Reporter

Highline’s Drama Department will present Watchmen, the musical, for its spring production this quarter.

“We’re really excited that we were able to get the rights to this,” said guest director Frank Flopp.

“The musical is even more oddly obtuse than the real thing.”

Flopp said this is also a good way to prepare for next year’s production, V for Vaudeville.

In the musical version of Watchmen, the madcap gang of would-be superheroes tries to fight crime while battling existential angst and the desire to land roles in the chorus line of Bush War Drum Line, the musical within a musical that may or may not help explain the plot of the musical outside of the musical.

But it’s the music that matters the most, Flopp said.

Numbers in the show include Watchmen who Watch Watchmen who Watch Wind Me Up, Watchboy, I’m Killing You Because I Love You, and the lilting love ballad, Give Me Back My Freakin’ Movie Rights.

“It’s a story about stories within stories,” Flopp said.

Flopp said they will be casting for all roles in the show. He said it’s not necessary to be able to sing to sing in the show.

“It’s more about the music,” Flopp said. “It’s about music that’s inside of music, but more musical.”

Flopp said he would like, however, an entire bass section, which will sing in falsetto.

Flopp said he hopes to find one strong singer to play the lead, Dr. Manhattan Transfer.

“It will help if he looks good in blue,” Flopp said.

The Drama Department said that, in keeping with tradition, they will not promote the show until the last possible minute.

“We really hope people come to see the show,” said Flopp.
The first official Highline Hunting Club is now in session. After years and years of unsuccessful attempts by numerous people to get a hunting club, Cletus Hunter was the one that finally got it established.

Hunter, a fifth-year sophomore at Highline, said that getting the club going was a huge step for Highline.

“Getting this club going at Highline is amazing,” Hunter said. “All the other big schools in the state have a hunting club and for us to finally get one here is really monumental.”

Although Highline really doesn’t have a so-called forest around it, Hunter said this is not a problem.

“No forest, no problem. We hold our club meetings in the woods out behind the soccer field. At the meetings we take practice shots at birds, squirrels and basically all other animals that show themselves,” said Hunter.

Hunter said even if you don’t have a gun you still could join.

“It doesn’t matter if you’re equipped or not,” Hunter said. “I have several guns that I usually bring with me to the meetings that I allow all other members to use.”

Currently the Highline Hunting Club only has 10 members, but they are looking for more.

“We need to get as many people out there as we can,” he said. “If you like to hunt or even would just like to learn, we want you.”

The club not only has meeting expeditions, but they go on hunting expeditions as well.

“So far this year, we have taken one expedition up to Tiger Mountain. Most of us picked off a few birds and a couple of raccoons,” Hunter said. “Terry [Jackson] managed to rack up a huge deer with his Browning Cynergy Sporting shotgun. We are planning on taking trips every weekend from here on out to give others the opportunity to come out and join us. Basically we really like to shoot animals.”

Hunter said that you don’t have to do much to come out and join them.

“The only thing you have to do is fill out a release form, just in case something accidentally happens. We meet on Tuesday and Thursday every week, from 3 to 4 on the soccer field,” said Hunter. “We do ask that you don’t bring your guns on the first day as we need to process paperwork first.”

The release form is standard for all clubs and Smith said if you e-mail him that he will send you a copy of what needs to be done.

“The best way for you to contact me is by e-mail. I like to take a shotgun approach, so I check my e-mail a lot and will be able to quickly respond. My e-mail is cletus80@hotmail.com,” said Hunter.

With the decision just going final less than a month ago, Hunter said there is a few people he needs to thank.

“I can’t thank the administrators at Highline enough for being so supportive in this epic decision,” he said. “We are go-

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