

Campus library closed as 'crime magnet'

By **RICKY RECORDO**
Staff Reporter

The Highline Library will be closed at the end of Spring Quarter following a rash of violent crime that has left students and faculty afraid to use the campus resource.

Just how long the Library will stay closed remains uncertain, but campus officials insist that the move is in the interest of public safety.

Alan Weitzel is a member of Highline's Board of Trustees. He was the chairman of the committee who made the decision following the Des Moines Police Department's recommendation to close down the facility.

"We realize what closing [the Library] will mean for the countless students and community members who view porn or play World of Warcraft on their laptops," Weitzel said. "But our goal is to keep those perverts and gamers safe."

Weitzel said that hundreds of high school students who spend their after-school hours on Library computers will be displaced as a result of the closure, but plans have been made to create a space exclusively for them.

"The new Future Thunderbird Technology Center will be located in the Highline Student Union, where ping-pong tables have just been taking up space," Weitzel said. "We've been looking for a good use for the room



Manfred Mannheim/THUNDERWERD

Entrance to the rediscovered parking garage in the North Lot. Students will be allowed to park there for an additional \$10.

Parking found under campus

By **FINN TUXEDO**
Staff Reporter

The college's longstanding parking problem may be solved after officials announced the discovery of a long-buried underground parking garage.

The garage is located under the North Lot near the Library, extending down several floors

beneath the campus.

The entrance to the garage apparently was inadvertently sealed off during a repaving of the lot in the 1980s.

"Dang, I knew I forgot something," said now-retired Director of Parking Pat Paver. "I'd forgotten all about that thing."

Campus Widget Wrangler Tom Thumper said he was

long suspicious about the space under the North Lot.

"Sometimes I go yodeling in the utility tunnels, and the echo would seem to indicate a much greater space underneath. And when you drop something down one of the manhole covers, you never do hear a plop or nothing."

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for a long time, and finally the FTTC will provide a place where high school students can check their MySpace and play FarmVille for hours at a time."

Closing the Library and moving its resources around campus presents a challenge for the school, but those challenges are met with creative solutions, said Darlene Flack, director of library services at Highline.

"Library staff, including myself, will become employees of the King County Library System," she said.

Students won't have to worry about missing their regular li-

brary staff.

"The Library staff will be by every Tuesday and Thursday in the KCLS Bookmobile," Flack said. "We are still very much a part of the Highline community, only instead of students stopping by the library, they can find us twice a week in the North Parking Lot."

At press time, Security did not respond to questions about issuing a parking ticket to the Bookmobile during its visit last quarter. It doesn't seem as if the space left vacant in the library will remain unused. A recent proposed land-use action posted

outside the library indicates that the money saved by the closure of the library will be used to construct a sky bridge between Student Programs in the HSU and the top floor of the library.

One Student Programs staffer, who asked not to be identified, said that when the bridge is complete, Student Programs will not occupy the entire building, only the top five floors.

Adam Holmquist, a Highline student, appeared confused and crestfallen when he found out about the upcoming library closure.

"We have a library?" he said.

Biology Lab escapee leaves campus chilled

By **CHAOS WELLINGTON**
Staff Reporter

The Biology Lab's newest resident has escaped from Building 12.

Oswald, a 2-year-old emperor penguin, was brought to Highline from Antarctica only two weeks ago to see if he could survive the weather in the Northwest. He was last seen by Donald Gretchen, who said he thought it was just a student.

"I had no clue it was Ozzie,"

said Gretchen, a Student Programs employee. "I just thought he was a well-dressed man in a tux. He is such a sneaky fellow. I don't know what happened."

Although there have been reports of Oswald being seen walking down the hill toward the Des Moines Marina, Biology Lab Supervisor Tiki Malone said that he is very worried for his safety.

"Oswald is a valuable member of our family in the bio lab," Malone said. "He is just a pen-

guin. I'm afraid there are people out there who want to kick him or do other practical jokes."

Even though he hasn't been found yet, Highline Hunting Club president Cletus Hunter said they will do their part to find Oswald.

"Since we heard that Oswald was lost, we have been in full gear in trying to find him and keep him out of harm's way," Hunter said. "There are some freaks out there that would love to get their hands on a penguin."

Tyler Durden, a Highline student, said that the penguin should be free to make its own decisions.

"He obviously wanted to escape, why else would he try to go?" Durden said. "For all we know he is just trying to get back home to Antarctica out of homesickness. I think if anyone finds him, they should be allowed to take him in and to do what they want with him."

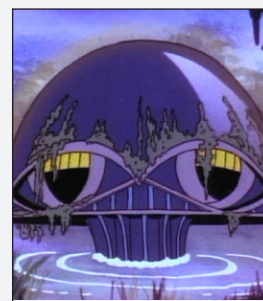
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Weekend Weather



Rain of frogs Friday, shower and shampoo on Saturday, rinse on Sunday.

Full forecast, page 17.

Crime and Punishment



High speed chase ends in getaway

Security reported that they chased but failed to capture a golf cart being driven at a high rate of speed across campus on Monday, March 29.

The golf cart was clocked at speeds of up to 10 miles an hour. Both the security cart and the mail cart were called in during the chase, which stretched from S. 240th to the North Parking Lot before the suspect eluded security somewhere near the Pavilion.

“What a driver,” marveled Security spokesman Walter Napp.

The suspect was described as athletic and directive.

Fish stolen from cafeteria over break

More than 32 pounds of fish was stolen from the cafeteria over spring break.

The suspect was described to be around three feet tall, dressed in a tuxedo and seen to walk with a pronounced waddle.

Campus workers believe that the suspect is still on campus after wet footprints were found in the Student Union and goldfish crackers and tuna were missing from several offices on campus.

Student reports brain missing during final

A Highline student reported that his brain turned up missing in the middle of a final last week.

“I had it when I came to school, but then it disappeared,” the student told Security.

The student subsequently did poorly on the final exam. “Maybe I should have studied,” he said.

Students protest plagiarism rules

Security forces used classical music and poetry to break up a rally by students protesting the college’s rules against plagiarism.

Carrying signs featuring such slogans as “Copying is hard work” and “But I had a footnote!” the students marched across campus to stand in front of the Administration building to demand changes to the rules.

Security was eventually called and the protest was broken up. “That poetry doesn’t rhyme, one of the protestors complained.

MaST Center floats away from Redondo

By SCORPA MARMORATUS
Staff Reporter

Highline’s Marine and Science Technology Center floated away last night because of abnormally high tides and wave action.

“Damn, I thought that structure was bolted down,” said Dr. Pisaster Ochraceus, the center’s administrator.

Highline officials are at a loss as to the best course of action in recovering the wayward building.

“We are reviewing all our options, before any decision can be made,” said Dirona Albolin-eata the school actuary.

“Earlier this morning, waves from an unusually high tide caused the building to break away from its pilings,” said Ochraceus.

“Calls have been coming in all morning with people telling us that the building is floating in the Puget Sound, somewhere north of Des Moines.”

“The atypical high tides are due to the El Niño phenomenon we are experiencing this year,” Ochraceus said.

In typical El Niño winters, the Northwest experiences



Peter Parker/THUNDERWORD
The MaST Center floats near Three Tree Point in Burien after breaking its moorings in Redondo.

weather that is warmer and drier than normal. With aid from continual low atmospheric pressure, warm oceanic waters expand, piling up at the entrance into the Puget Sound due to Southwest winds.

Just last week, record low barometric pressure along the west coast played a major part in local tides rising as much as five feet above normal levels.

El Niño weather conditions also cause higher than normal tide conditions. University of Washington scientists say this year’s tides may be even higher than predicted.

“We are seeing record setting tides,” said University of Washington maintenance supervisor and amateur scientist Sebastes Maliger.

Coast Guard officials and the

local police department have been contacted about the absent building but could not be reached for comment at press time.

“It was tied down when I left it,” said MaST technician Clammy Mollusk. “Maybe the crabs got a little frisky. Those pincers are pretty sharp. I don’t trust them. My wife was bitten by a crab.”

New course system to dethrone Angel

By LEVI BYRD
Staff Reporter

Only a year after Angel replaced Blackboard as Highline’s online course management system, another new system will be in place starting next fall.

The Student and Teacher Academic Network, known simply as SATAN, will be taking over from Angel.

Zeke Jeremiah, co-creator of

SATAN, said the new system is more user-friendly than any other he has seen.

“I wanted to come up with something that was easier to use than all these complicated systems with their endless layers of windows and options,” he said. “SATAN is so simple, it can appeal to even the simplest of minds. I just worship SATAN, I tell you.”

Students who are used to

having to click through a few screens to find their grades or assignments on Angel will find a simpler interface with SATAN.

“On the main screen, there is a list of the classes available to the user, with links to each class’ assignment list and grades,” said Faith Tomlinson, who will help train Highline instructors on using the new system.

Along with being more user-friendly, SATAN will provide

666 megabytes of storage space for each student to keep homework assignments all in one place.

There are some peculiar features of the system that officials are still trying to work out. For instance, instead of resetting every day at midnight, the system will reset at noon.

Also, SATAN officials recommend turning off all lights in the room because the system seems to work best in the dark.



News Briefs

Actor Joel McHale comes to Highline

Joel McHale, the star of the hit NBC television show Community will be visiting Highline as part of a promotional tour for the comedy series.

McHale went to the University of Washington and played for the Huskies Football team for two years.

McHale reportedly will take the Compass test and also tour Student Programs, but he will have to sign in.

McDonald comes to supersize class

Noted fast food clown Ronald McDonald will be teaching at Highline in a late-start Spring Quarter class entitled “Do you want fries with that?” as part of Highline’s Hospitality and Travel Program.

Calendar

•Movie Fridays will be showing a double feature, *The Cats Pajamas 2: The Bee’s Knees*, and *Disco Beaver from Outer Space*. The films will start at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, April 7.

Correction

In the March 18 issue of the Thunderword, many things went wrong. I blame myself.

The Thunderwerd

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The Thunderwerd / April 1, 2010

Online orchestra plans live concert

By **WALLY MONROE**
Staff Reporter

Highline's Online Orchestra will perform its first concert in Spring Quarter.

The orchestra, composed completely of online music students, will meet for the first time to perform on April 15 at 7 p.m. in the college concert hall.

"This is very exciting," said online music professor Bing Tuner. "All these quarters together, and I've never heard them play."

Tuner admitted that teaching music online is a bit of a challenge.

"But it works better with many students' schedules," he said.

The 39-piece orchestra includes violins, kazoos, Indonesian gongs, drums, and a boom-box.

"The students get to choose their instruments," Tuner said. "You can't really tell the students what to do."

Steve Tympanian, who is first chair in the recorder section, said he's very excited about the upcoming concert.

"It's going to be great," he said.

Tympanian said he already has learned something from the group's first live rehearsal.

"I didn't know that a recorder was this flute kind of thing," he said. "All this time I was thinking, OK, so what am I recording? But apparently you have to blow into the recorder and it makes a sound."

"I just hope I don't run out of tape before we're finished."



Cuddles Warmonger/THUNDERWERD

The French horn section of the Online Orchestra gets ready for their spring concert.

The orchestra will perform a variety of works, including Bidet's *The Fountain*, *The Duke's Duet* from *Il Schizophreno*, *Waltz for Three* by Pegleg, plus a reading from the *Carmen Miranda Rites*, with music.

"It's an excellent program," said Tuner, who said he hopes to be at the concert, but does not plan to conduct.

"I think it's important to let

the students explore when it comes to music," Tuner said. "I just don't want to get in the way of that."

Tuner said he's very proud of the progress the orchestra has made so far.

"Actually, we performed once in Winter Quarter, but we didn't tell anyone about that concert," said online music professor Bing Tuner. "We

don't actually like people coming to Highline music events. If people show up, then you can't complain that they weren't there."

Tuner said that he also missed the winter concert as well. "I was busy," he said.

The opening act for the concert will be the Phil Harmonica Orchestra, who will be reciting *The Book of the Dead*.

Ice club carves out niche

By **TESLA MCKEE**
Staff Reporter

Highline has a cool new club meeting on campus — literally.

The Ice Sculpting Club's goal is to give students the opportunity to learn the fine art of Ice Sculpting.

"We really think there isn't enough acknowledgement of the challenges of non-traditional media in art," said Alyssa Rogers, the club's president.

Ice sculpture is really challenging, Rogers said.

"It's hard to get ice that's pure enough, and sometimes as you're sculpting, you'll chip the ice wrong and it falls apart," she said.

"Then there's the temperature thing, and the moisture," Rogers said.

The club currently only has four members, but Rogers hopes that more people will take an interest when the club holds an exhibition in the library next month.

"It's going to be awesome," said Evan Rich, the vice president of the club.

"We've started sketching out what we're going to sculpt. We're a little worried, because the room we're using isn't refrigerated, but we're looking at solutions. We'll definitely have something by then, though," he said.

The members are planning a number of events over the next year, including a series of lectures on great works of ice sculpture, beginner's lessons, and participation in local competitions.

"Our big goal, though, is to get to the World Ice Art Championships in Fairbanks [Alaska]," Rich said.

Every month the club sculpts based on a new theme.

Maria Michael, the treasurer, is responsible for procurement of materials. She has also taken up the role of finding models.

Every month the club sculpts based on a new theme.

"Last month, the theme was interpretations of popular literature. This month we're doing a series on sculpting water fowl. We decided on that after I ran into this model. He's very friendly and has been willing to pose in exchange for fish," Michael said.

"Even better, he doesn't mind the cold at all. I couldn't have hoped to find a better subject," she said.

The club meets in Building 31, room 202. Meetings are held Thursday from 2-6 p.m.

'2012' musical promises to shake things up

By **CASSIDY DOOM**
Staff Reporter

Highline's Drama Department plans to put on an original production that is sure to bring the house down.

This year's spring musical is an original adaptation of the blockbuster movie *2012*. The story describes the end of the world and the events leading up to it.

To add music to the storyline, the Drama Department has added classic songs such as *It's the End of the World as You Know It* and *All by Myself*.

Gordy Hinkle has been cast in the lead role of Jackson Curtis and is looking forward to the death and distraction.

"I can't wait for L.A. to fall into the ocean on opening night. But the hard part is we can't rehearse that section though, because we only have one chance," he said.



Humphrey Winston has a great range as an actor.

Cosmo Brown, guest director at Highline, said that the greatest challenge has been to create and hide an essential prop to the storyline. He did not say exactly what the prop was, but students speculate it is the giant ark that appears later in the production.

"We finally have given up on hiding it and left it out in the open," said Brown.



So far, so students have not been able to find the prop. Drama students are worried that they will not find the mystery prop in time for the production.

Mabel Nightingale, who plays female lead Kate Curtis, said that they hid the prop and forgot where. Now a search party has been sent out to check the campus.

Humphrey Watson, who

plays President Thomas Wilson, has very little in interest in the actual production.

"I just like being called Mr. President. I plan on making people call me that even after the production," said Watson.

Choreographer Nedna "Shakey" Quaker said the show will include a new numbers, Dance the Apocalypso, which will include elements of jazz, hip-hop, break, rock, country line-dancing, clog stepping, kickboxing, tae bo, and spinning about vigorously until the dancers become ill.

"You should see them try to walk after about 15 minutes of spinning," Quaker said. "That's comedy, damn it."

Director Felton Drammer said the musical version of *2012* plays more to the humorous side of the story.

2012: The Musical will be performed May 21 in Building 7 at midnight.

The Thunderwerd / March 4, 2010

Scuba team dives into new season

By **JOHN DUTINHORF**
Staff Reporter

Ready. Set. Swim.

Members of the Highline co-ed scuba team are ready to get their feet wet in the NWAACC's inaugural season of competitive scuba diving.

"I'm so excited for the season to start," said sophomore scuba team captain Christina Drowner.

"I've been wearing my flippers around the house and sleeping with an oxygen tank for the past three weeks. My mom says it's really loud."

The scuba team practices in the drainage pond just north of the tennis courts and Highline Head Coach Donald Fitzer said, "It's bigger than you'd think."

Fitzer is also a biology professor on campus.

"It opens up into a vast chasm which makes for a great scuba course," he said.

The underwater course is approximately 300 meters wide by 200 meters long and 80 meters deep.

Scuba dive meets are held semi-weekly and consist of three events, including diving for glow bracelets, baton relay



Tank Fishman/THUNDERWERD

Scuba coach Donald Fitzer comes up from a practice dive at the pond.

and an obstacle course.

"Think of it like underwater track," Fitzer said.

Because competitive scuba diving has never been a part of the NWAACC sport circuit, Fitzer said he's not quite sure what to expect from his team as well as the performance of other schools.

"I speculate the [Green River] Gators and the [Clark] Penguins will do well considering their aquatic mascots," Fitzer

said.

"As for us, we'll just see how it goes."

Fitzer also said he couldn't be more pleased with the turnout. In the first year of the sport, more than 80 people showed up for tryouts.

"Unfortunately, there were only 10 spots available on the team," Drowner said.

"Coach sent a lot of soggy and sad divers home."

Drowner also said she is con-

fident in her team.

"I think we have a lot of talent this season. With a good balance of freshmen and sophomores, we will have a mix of veteran wisdom and young talent. I think our strongest event is the obstacle course."

With the roster set containing five freshmen and five sophomores, the team has had to move to the next order of business: fundraising.

A series of five car washes

will be hosted at the Union 76 gas station across the street from Highline's south end of campus. These car washes will take place on Saturday, April 3 through May 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Most of the team is optimistic about earning funds for new equipment.

"I really hope we can raise enough money to get some neoprene wetsuits for this season," Drowner said. "These woolen ones are itchy and take forever to dry in the early months of spring. We can't put them in the dryer because they'd shrink and restrict our performance. Also, the air hoses sometimes leak after being put in the dryer."

Highline's first meet took place last Wednesday, March 31, with results literally unavailable.

"We've had some trouble with the score books getting soaked and being rendered illegible," Fitzer said.

The T-Birds next meet will take place Monday, April 5 when they dive into the competition head first against the Lower Columbia Red Devils.

"We're going to try to give them hell," Drowner said.

Racing team to put track back to use

By **TOMMY TURFTOE**
Staff Reporter

Highline's Thoroughbred racing team is off and running for spring.

The Thunderhooves, as they like to call themselves, are planning a full spring schedule of races on Highline's former track.

"We're very excited to be bringing this new sport to Highline," said Coach Floyd "Horsy" Lloyd. "The track was just sitting there, so why not put it to use?"

The team has collected some horses, but would like some more.

"Some of the riders still are having to use wooden horses," Floyd said. "They look good, but it's not the same."

The team's top horse is a 5-year-old gelding named Emperor.

"He's a real stud," Lloyd said. "No, wait ..."

Highline also needs more jockeys, so as to always have fresh riders for long-distance races.

"We're really hoping to attract some Running Start students, because they tend to be kind of small," Lloyd said.

Team captain Sandy Shingler



Commander Warf/THUNDERWERD

Highline's Sandy Shingler, aboard Emperor, chases Green River's Jack Jockette, aboard Accreditation, in a recent race.

said she thinks the Thunderhooves can be a threat on the Northwest racing circuit.

"Most of us don't actually have a lot of riding experience," Shingler said. "So, frankly, on the track we're kind of danger-

ous."

Lloyd said they're hoping for more NASCAR-style crashes on the track to build fan interest.

"Watching the horses go round and round isn't all that interesting," the coach said. "But

a crash -- that's entertainment."

Team member Ken "Crash" Churchill said he's ready to take one for the team if need be.

"I'm pretty good at falling over," Churchill said. "I bounce pretty well too."

Athletic director fires golf coach

Athletic Director John Dunn announced that he will be firing himself as golf coach after the team's recent string of poor performances.

"I really needed to do something to shake the team up," Dunn said, adding that he was sorry to see himself go and that he would give himself a good recommendation.

"John Dunn is a good golf coach," Dunn said. "I know John Dunn; I've worked with John Dunn. You, sir, are not John Dunn."

The golf team recently lost to Green River 72 to infinity, when the Highline players lost their ball on the first hole and were unable to finish the match.

The team was engulfed in scandal earlier this year when, in a match against Lower Columbia, they plagiarized the score on a golf card.

"It's been a rough season," Dunn said, adding that he has enjoyed his time as coach. Dunn named himself as interim coach while a search for a new coach begins.