

College moving to metered parking

By LUNA LOVEGOOD
Staff Reporter

Highline is no longer requiring parking passes as the college has installed a new metered parking system in each lot.

The parking switch is one of the changes being made on campus to compensate for potential budget cuts that the college is facing due to the weak economy.

"We hope to increase revenue that will benefit the students in the long run by providing more funds for financial aid," said Gary Yolldork, the newly named director of financial advising for facilities and administration.

Set to begin early this quarter, the new parking system will charge \$3 for the first hour, and \$1 for each additional half-hour.

Similar to those seen in Seattle, each parking space has been individually numbered and students will insert their money into designated parking deposit boxes. The forms of payment that will be accepted are cash, debit, and credit.

Students who are enrolled in more than 15 credits will receive a 5 percent reduction on their total parking fee, up to a \$1 discount.

Highline has also struck a deal with a local towing company, and drivers who fail to pay



Bunny Shutter/THUNDERWERD

Parking meters such as this one in the North Lot soon will be common all over campus.

the parking fees will have their vehicles impounded.

"We will be receiving 15 percent of the company's profits from the towing and storage fees from the student vehicles," Yolldork said.

The college anticipates that the new system will not only boost funds, but will also contribute to the green movement to protect the environment.

The change may influence students to use alternative commuting methods, including taking the bus or carpooling, said

Yolldork. Switching to alternatives will reduce the college's impact on the state's carbon footprint by reducing the levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

Carpoolers will also be entitled to the 5 percent discount on their parking fee.

The college's current high enrollment numbers have left students struggling to find parking spaces in the past.

The metered parking acts as a "first-come, first-served" basis, allowing drivers to get what they pay for, contrary to previ-

ous quarters when students with parking passes would feel automatically entitled to spot.

"The parking lot was always full and a lot of those drivers didn't even have a pass, so some days when I couldn't find a spot I just skipped and went home," said student Ronald Weasley. "This system will help save money, which helps because I already have to pay a lot to retake those classes I failed from

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Tuition to be charged based on grades

By MAMBO DANZER
Staff Reporter

Tuition will be charged on a sliding scale based on grades beginning in Fall Quarter, college officials announced this week.

Tuition rates will be altered so that students who get good grades will pay slightly less than students who don't, said Vack D. Grader, under assistant deputy dean for revenue.

"If you think about it, it's a lot more work to teach bad students. We don't have enough space as it is, and the Legislature isn't giving us any money because it's important that we keep taxes low for wealthy people," Grader said.

"So, if we use the congestion pricing model, we charge less for good students and more for bad students, and we'll have fewer bad students on campus," he said.

Students who earn over a 3.5 GPA will be charged up to 5 percent less for tuition, Grader said. Students earning over a 3.0 will be charged regular rates, while students earning less than a 3.0 will pay a 5 percent surcharge.

As that will put pressure on students to maintain higher grades, students will be given the option to buy additional grade points to boost their GPAs.

Payments will be split between the college and professors, Grader said.

"So, the professors who attract the most business will be getting a bonus," Grader said.

Grader acknowledged that more gifted or wealthy students will have an advantage over less gifted and poorer students.

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Winter grades lost; some classes to be repeated

By ANGELICKA PICKLES
Staff Reporter

Students will be required to repeat many of the classes taken Winter Quarter due to a server problem, college officials announced this week.

"We are working to resolve the issue as soon as possible," said William Nye, the director of instructional computation.

"At this time we have enlisted the assistance of both the Microsoft and Apple companies.

They have agreed the problem stems from the overuse of laptops on campus," he said.

Both companies have been working together to review the server records, Nye said.

"Server records indicate a surge occurred on Wednesday, March 16 at 11 a.m. This is the time indicated to have been accessed at the highest rate during finals week," said Marshall Matters, supervisor of weakened server mainframe technologies.

Dr. Mackamillian Grey said

the college has placed a freeze and written letters to those students affected by the server problem.

"Anyone who was using their laptop during the surge has been affected; this is a total of 2,457 students," Grey said.

All of those affected will receive notification via their student e-mail, he said.

Grey recommended that all students check their e-mail regularly.

If you are one of the students

receiving notification, Grey said you should be prepared to prove you passed the class or classes affected.

This can be done with copies of all your tests and any progress reports you were given.

You may return this information to the college website.

You will need to scan all your notes, tests and progress reports into a PDF file.

Then you can attach the in-

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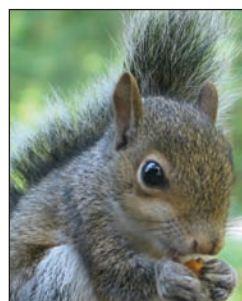
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Students wake up to new sleep center Police find meth lab on campus

By KENT CLARK
Staff Reporter

As remodeling on Building 9 comes to a close, college officials have decided that it can now be put to better use as a nap room.

Historically, Highline students have had difficulty finding places to sleep, as the student union is often too noisy, and sleeping is discouraged in the library.

Much to the dismay of Highline's teachers, this has led to repeated instances of students sleeping in their classes, often with heavy snoring.

That is all about to change, as Highline officials have appointed Building 9 as the college's Sleep Deprivation Center.



Pikachu Pokemon/THUNDERWERD

Building 9 has been converted to a sleep center after college officials realized they could live without it over the last year.

"College students of today are often overworked, with many of them going to school and holding a job, sometimes two, at the same time. We just thought it would be nice if they had a place for leisure at Highline, somewhere to 'take a load off,'" said Laffer T. Daniels, the resources department manager at Highline.

In order to maintain silence in the nap room, cell phones and mp3 players will not be allowed. In the wake of Highline's recent budget problems, students will be expected to bring their own pillows to minimize costs.

Students will be required to sign in with their name and the number of hours rested.

"This will be simply for feedback purposes," said Daniels. "If the nap room proves to be popular among students, we may convert other buildings to create nap rooms; I was thinking maybe the gym."

Building 9 is set to feature a variety of places for students to rest; one room will be devoted to heavy snorers, so as to not disturb the students in the light sleepers' room. There will also be a room with multiple electrical outlets, for the self-proclaimed "power nappers."

"I'm really excited for the new nap room, I think it will be an excellent addition to Highline's campus," said Highline student Freda Krueger.



Freda Krueger

By BARBER CONSTABLE
Staff Reporter

Local police raided a suspected meth lab on campus this week, disrupting classes as they arrested multiple persons suspected of being involved in the lab.

Police said they were responding to a disgruntled student who tipped them off to the operation.

"The student said he was unhappy because he couldn't get into 'the class,'" said Police Detective Charlie "Knuckles" Pincher. "We think that's a code name for the operation."

Police said they found dozens of students and at least two professors busily at work in the lab.

"Some were clearly just students, but some of them were identified as 'tutors,' teaching the others how to use meth in everyday life," Det. Pincher said. "Once we got in there, it all started to add up."

Det. Pincher said the police spent time graphing their angle of attack, drawing a vector on the heart of the operation before moving in.

"Once we got in there, one of the 'professors' started saying something about logger rhythms, but we didn't find any loggers anywhere," Pincher said.

"They had a lot of equations on the board," Pincher said. "We think it was either some kind of code, or formulas for making meth."

Professors and students re-

acted negatively to the raid.

"This is just more evidence of the overreaching power of the federal government," said math professor Jefferson Conservatore. "Government is just bad. I blame Obama."

When another professor pointed out that police are part of local government, and that Conservatore himself works for the government, he said "It doesn't matter. I know what I know. Government is the root of all evil."

Students said the police raid did give a real-world feel to their classes, and that the noise and confusion didn't hurt their studying.

"I always have the TV and the radio on when I study at home, and I'm usually texting and playing a video game," said student Tansy Ragwort. "So it wasn't much different than studying at home. Except I don't study at home."

Police said that any meth found would be redistributed through the new DARE (Drugs Are Really Excellent) program recently adopted by the Legislature as a way of raising state revenue.

Inside the lab, police said they found lots of evidence of criminal activity.

"This may look like a graphing calculator," said officer Al Gebra. "But this is a weapon of math instruction."

"Oh, MATH lab!" Det. Pincher said. "Still, if you saw the calculating looks in the eyes of the students, you wouldn't blame us for what we did."



News Briefs

Highline to add four-year degrees

Highline will be converting to a four-year college next year, college officials announced this week.

Four-year majors will include majors in leadership, event planning, leadership training, discussion leadership, transfer counseling, and web design theory.

"You just won't ever want to leave Highline now," said Harley Sticker, dean for retention services.

Campus dance break planned for fitness

All students on campus will be required to participate in a mandatory dance break be-

tween 10:45 and 11 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Campus Fitness Manager Tubby Chooper said the dance break will help fulfill the Legislature's recently announced fitness initiative, in which state agencies will be forced to demonstrate that employees and clients have shed pounds toward the goal of better fitness and lower health-care costs.

"Let's face it, we are one lard-assed nation," Chooper said. "When the big one comes, we're all going to bounce, but then we won't be able to run away."

The dance break will take place outside, across campus, unless the weather is bad, in which case the dance break will take place in hallways outside classrooms.

"That should be fun to watch," Chooper said.

New class added to PE offerings

The Highline Physical Education Department will be adding a section of Wii Fitness to its Spring Quarter offerings.

"Weeeeeeee," said depart-

ment director Farley Drinkwater. "It'll be fun."

"Technology makes everything better," Drinkwater said. "I just love how this thing vibrates."

Highline to get AARP discounts next year

Highline will get AARP discounts beginning next year when it turns 50. Food Services will begin serving senior meals in the fall, and students will get discounts on lodging.

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“ Check the date. ”

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Bieber's tour debuts at Highline

By KATHY SLEEPWICH
Staff Reporter

Justin Bieber will be embarking upon a nationwide college tour this spring and Highline is slated to be one of his stops.

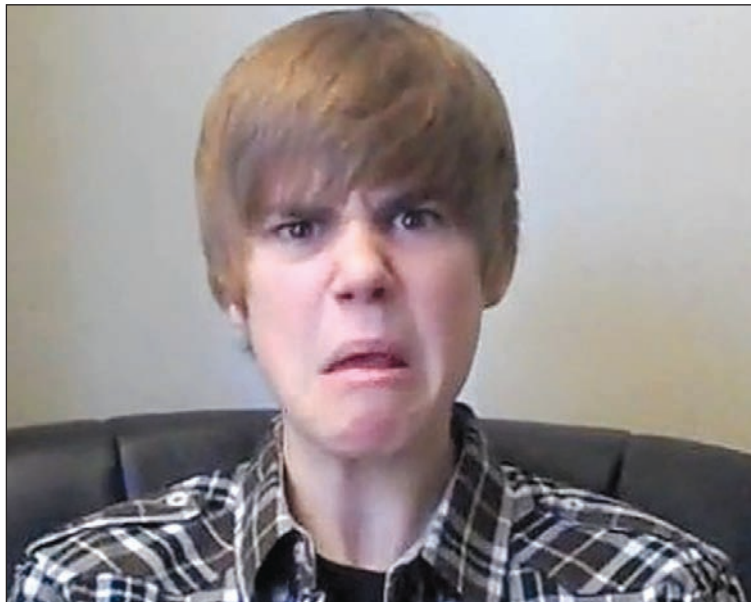
The immense diversity in the college student body and its urban setting made Highline a first choice for Bieber and his management so he can widen his fan base.

Bieber, everyone's favorite 17-year-old Canadian pop/R&B singer, is nearing his high school graduation and the college tour will give him the opportunity to visit colleges from coast to coast so he can make a decision on where he will apply, Bieber said.

"I tour all over the country," he said. "So often I'm performing in sold out arenas in the world's biggest cities, but I wanted this tour to be personal because the process of picking which college I will go to will be personal for me. I'm a very sensitive person, you know?"

All of the dates for his tour are community colleges, which Bieber says is due to the easy classes. "It's a proven fact that the popularity of pop singers has a lifespan of only a couple years, so I need to prepare for a real future," he said.

Bieber, who was first discovered in 2008 after a talent scout



Justin Bieber/BIEBERLICIOUS MEDIA
Bieber practices his facial expressions, which he uses to woo the audience.

came across one of his videos on YouTube, has been the brunt of jokes since the beginning of his career.

The jokes range from him sounding younger than his age, his frequent media coverage, his image, and teen-pop music.

"The jokes are cruel, but behind every joke is some truth," Bieber said. "Heck, I may be a girl. I haven't quite figured that out yet."

He is familiar with performing for younger audiences, but doesn't think being in front of audiences of his peers will be intimidating.

"I have experienced hostile-

ity from my peers for reasons that I don't understand. I'm just like them, except really rich," he said. "I'm not intimidated by them, though. They don't scare me."

"He should be scared," Andrew Dunkin, a Highline student, said upon learning the news of Bieber's concert. "We are a rough crowd and we will take him down."

The details of Bieber's upcoming concert at Highline were not available at press time.

Check out Bieber's official website for the most up-to-date information, www.justinbieber-music.com.



Justin Bieber/THUNDERWERD
Students work on a mural in Building 19 this week.

Mural class creates conflict

By KENT CLARK
Staff Reporter

Students in a new class on campus, Mural Painting 101, have gotten out of control and started painting public property.

"This all began when we caught a student trying to recreate the Sistine Chapel in the school library," said Highline security officer Matthew McGruff.

One of the students said they aren't breaking the law but simply making a statement.

"It's all about reclaiming public property," said Tom Adams, a student in the mural class. "Is it really ours if we can't write on it?"

Murals have been popping up all over campus, especially in what the painters call "heaven spots," or walls at high altitudes.

One of the most popular murals to date is one proclaiming

"Mickey Mouse has a posse." Highline's most brilliant minds are currently at work trying to figure out the meaning.

The class, taught by professor MC Destornillador, deals with several different art forms, such as "wild style," cartoon, stencil, and wheat pasting.

"I'm so proud of all my students; they've really taken the lessons to heart, although they could use some work on their spelling," said Destornillador.

The class is currently planning a field trip to downtown Seattle, where they plan to "take it to the next level."

"My students are doing well but I feel they are somewhat limited by Highline's campus, as there are only so many walls to paint on.

"I feel that all the skyscrapers and buildings will really allow my students to spread their little wings and fly," said Destornillador.

Spring production sets sail to sink

By PASTY MCPALE
Staff Reporter

The Drama Department splashes into Spring Quarter with *Titanic* as its upcoming production.

Highline's newest director, Jack Whistle, who just retired from being the captain of the *Waking Beauty*, has chosen to follow his passion for theater will be the head director of this production.

"With my expertise as a previous captain, I feel I can bring this production to life and make those attending feel like they are in the middle of the ocean with Jack and Rose," said Capt. Whistle.

The Drama Department has already shared information on one of the biggest scenes they are planning.

"For one scene we will have the actors perform under water," Whistle said.

It's going to take a lot of time and money to accomplish this ambitious endeavor.

"I really wanted to use the real remnants of the *Titanic*, but that didn't work out," he said



Rose Dawson/THUNDERWERD
Highline's Drama Department could only afford an inflatable representation of the Titanic for the production.

"We [the Drama Department] are planning to have a giant tank installed on stage. For one scene the actors will perform in the tank, under the water," said the director.

Because of this scene, all students auditioning for this play must first pass a swim test.

"We're really hoping for some amphibians," he said.

Auditions begin April 2.

The swim test will be held at Mt. Rainier Pool in Des Moines on 22722 19th Ave. S.

A number of students are planning to audition for this upcoming play.

"I feel like I have a good chance at getting a part in this production because I was the champion swimmer for my high school swim team," said student Chet Flipper.

Whistle warns those planning to attend to be prepared to get a little wet.

"You can't expect to be in the middle of the ocean and stay dry," the director.



Mural students' work as found in the Student Union.

DartBirds aim to defend championship

By NIKOLAI MAKAROV
Staff Reporter

Points will be sharpened as Highline gets read to defend its lawn dart championship.

After an eventful offseason which includes the signing of three high school All-Americans: John Richardson of De Le Salle High School in California, Tommy Evans of Claremont Preparatory School in New York City, and Seattle's own Joe Denson of Bellevue, Head Coach Suzy Pointer also returns two all-Americans from a championship squad that dominated the NJCAA, going 22-0 on the way to its third straight national title.

"I'd like to think that we have perfected our technique. We most definitely have very good technique which is the key to our success. We are very successful with the technique we have," Pointer said. "We use three-finger grip instead of more traditional two-finger grip and it gives us more stability with our dart throwing. We have a lot muscle so we can throw far; we just need to make sure we're more accurate."

The Thunderbirds boast two returning All-Americans, Cam Sticker and Red Green, who will be expected to set an example for this year's squad.

"We definitely have our work cut out for us. There is definitely a target on our backs," Sticker said. "Anytime you go out there and dominate the playing field in such a way that we have, it makes people jealous and it gets people aiming at you, if you know what I mean."

In addition to the two returning All-Americans and the signing of three high school All-Americans, coach Klimov



Fuzzy Fokus/THUNDERWERD

Lawn darts coach Suzy Pointer warms up at a recent practice.

also returns two key members of last year's quad with Jean-Louis-Hervé Lachenal and Louis-Fortuné Lacroix.

"Those two are very good throwers of the dart," coach Pointer said. "They do not let the pressure get to them, they are very precise with the throws they make, and they understand that there is no room for error. They will win many matches for us."

Highline opens the season ranked No. 1 for the fourth consecutive season and is riding a

67-match winning streak coming into the season.

In addition to winning its third straight national title last year, the Thunderbird men also boasted the highest accumulated GPA for any sports team in NJCAA history with a 4.0 cumulative GPA overall.

Coach Pointer said he attributes the team's success to countless hours spent both on and off the field practicing their geometry and the sciences involved with the game.

"To be successful at throw-

ing the dart, you must know the technique but also must use your brain as well," she said. "You must understand the angles involved and the wind involved and it takes a very good understanding of mathematics to make the correct calculations as to how to throw the darts."

She added that Richardson of De Le Salle is a key acquisition.

"This kid Richardson, he is a good kid, very smart, he knows the mathematics very well. He is a two time Mathematics Olympian in high school, he brings a very good understanding of what we need to do to be successful, I like his thinking," she said.

Last year the Thunderbirds shattered the national record with 459 bull's eyes in 25 matches. They also led the nation in blocked bulls eyes with an astonishing four, until lead-blocker Rick Davis went down with a shoulder injury after being impaled with a dart when he was unable to pick up the dart's trajectory in the sun.

"Davis was a good kid; he made several very good efforts to knock down the dart. He just lost sight of dart one too many times and he, no pun intended, became the unfortunate target of high thrown dart," Pointer said. "Jean-Louis-Hervé Lachenal was the best blocker coming out of France last year; this is his time to make his family proud. It's hard to recruit a blocker, especially after a man goes down after being impaled by a dart, but it's part of the game. Lachenal understands that and that's why he came to the best program in the United States of America."

The Thunderbirds begin their title defense when they travel to Florida next week.

Dance team adds robotics to the waltz

By W. NAMESAKE HOPPER
Staff Reporter

Highline's competitive dancing team is preparing for their spring season.

Dizzy Spinner, head coach of Highline's dancing team, is expecting his dancers to do well this season.

"Dan Singmann and Sally Swirl have been working on perfecting their robotic waltz, and it's looking really good," Spinner said.

Although a bit unorthodox, as far as ballroom dancing goes, Spinner is confident that the robotic waltz will be good enough that all competition judges will still accept it.

"The main competition is against Fox Trot and his partner, Grace Fuller, of Green River," Spinner said.

"They have mastered the hokey-pokey, something they have been working on for the past year," he said.

Trot and Fuller blew the judges away last year with their imperfect hokey-pokey waltz.

Spinner is expecting them to do even better this year.

They have put a lot of time into it, he said, and the changes they have made will make them the team to beat.

The team from Green River is confident that they will beat Singmann and Swirl.

"A robotic waltz? Really? That's just dumb," said Trot. "The judges are looking for something way more classy."

Pam Breaker and George Jiggle are Highline's jive team. Spinner has high hopes for the rookie pair.

"They have really blossomed this year, they should do well in [NWAACC] competitions this year," Spinner said.

Breaker and Jiggle's jive is a breakdance jive, on which they have been working hard.

While Spinner is pleased with their progress, he isn't sure where they will place at in competitions.

Betsy Bumper and Ron Pool, of South Seattle Community College's jive team, have been working on a square jive for competition.

"It's hip and cool, so they should do well with it," said Betty Twirl, South Seattle Community College's head coach. "Our main focus has been to do our best. We try to focus more on that and less on going up against a good team like Breaker and Jiggle."

Water baseball squad makes spring debut

By MACH DADHI
Staff Reporter

The NWAACC water baseball league players and coaches are reporting to spring training camp and preparing for the approaching season.

"Spring training camp is extremely important. It gives us a chance to crosscheck and see the guys' conditioning. It takes a lot of effort to swim to a line drive. Or back stroke to a pop fly," said Head Coach Billy Backwood.

"We are still a month away from the season so the guys are hitting the water and working on their fundamentals. There's an upbeat feeling among the players in the clubhouse and an eager anticipation to be a part of

Highline's first water baseball team," he said.

Skeeter McCray, the top water baseball prospect recruited out of Gutbucket Nebraska, said that he was excited about being in the Pacific Northwest to play for the newly assembled Thunderbirds water baseball team.

McCray was originally attending the University of Florida, but inappropriate conduct during the recruiting visit caused his stock to go down among the Division I colleges.

"I was such a stupid kid. One of the other recruits had some alcohol and I got a little drunk and cussed out the Dean of Admissions for the University, boy was he pissed," McCray said.

He has tried to make amends

for shooting off at the mouth to the dean. He has written several apology letters to the University of Florida's baseball coach Pepe Rodriguez.

"It was such an unfortunate situation. He is such a damn good player. I wish him luck on his new quest to play water baseball," Rodriguez said.

McCray has been practicing his water game.

The transition from regular fast pitch, high speed baseball, to the slower more methodical water baseball has been difficult for everyone but McCray.

"I caught on to this game like it was second nature. It's easier to see the ball coming and the pitcher has a disadvantage by the water slowing down the velocity and pitch placement," he

said.

Thunderbirds pitcher Elroy Pinkerson got into water baseball after coming from a water polo and baseball background.

Elroy is a 6' 10" pitcher that everyone calls the "Baby Big Unit."

"I just played the game for fun for a water baseball league in Kent. I loved it instantly," Pinkerson said.

The homegrown kid has piled up an impressive record of 67 strikeouts last season for the Kent Otters.

The year promises to be an interesting one.

The Thunderbirds have assembled a collection of talented athletes to begin its first year in the NWAACC as a water baseball active school.