Smoked Out

by Martha Molina and Jacob Forston
STAFF REPORTERS

Smoking concerns ignite restrictions on smoking

Smokers can no longer get a quick drag between classes, unless they want to go to one of six new designated smokers areas.

The smoking areas are located between buildings 17 and 30 at the north edge of campus; on the Thunderwalk at the south edge of Building 19; east of the Cafeteria between buildings 3 and 5; at the northwest corner of Building 9; between buildings 25 and 26; and near the Pavilion.

Under the policy, students are supposed to smoke only in the designated areas. Ashtrays already have been removed from the rest of campus, although college officials say they will pursue a "soft" enforcement of the new policy, at least at start.

Covers for the designated areas eventually will be built, and the policy is expected to be in full force by the start of Fall Quarter 2004.

Students expressed mixed reaction to the new policy, with some saying they favored it while others promised to ignore it.

It was students, however, who pushed for the new policy, beginning with Student Government officials who began to pursue a smoking ban beginning in 2002. They initially pushed for a total smoking ban, which was eventually modified to the current restrictions.

College officials eventually agreed that this was the right move, following the lead of other area colleges including Bellevue and Pierce. The policy reads, in part, "Highline Community College supports the health and well being of all campus community members. For this reason, smoking is prohibited on the campuses of Highline Community College, except in designated smoking areas."

Campus Security will not be writing tickets for smokers. Violators will be disciplined according to the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code. Disciplinary action in the code starts with verbal warnings, working all the way to suspension and dismissal from Highline.

A committee has been assigned to develop an information campaign to publicize the new policy. Signs are expected to be posted to inform students of the designated smoking areas.

Some students said they support the ban.

"I believe it's a good idea," said student Meredith Thomas, who is a smoker. "I feel bad, and it's not right for them to breathe our smoke, when they don't smoke."

Non-smoking students such as Khalid Abdilahi are glad that there is now a policy that will restrict smokers to designated areas. He said that he is tired of walking into smoke, when he chooses not to be a smoker.

Abdilahi also said that six designated areas are still too many. Thomas said that if there were a few more, there is a greater chance of students following this policy.

Vice-President of Administration Laura Saunders said that the number of designated stations will change depending on students' reactions.

Saunders said she believes that students will most be cooperative with this new policy. "Next to the alternative (a total ban), I believe most of everyone will cooperate," said Saunders.

But some students say they do not care for the policy at all, and say they will refuse to follow it. One smoker, who chose to remain anonymous, said, "I will smoke in all areas, no matter what." As he walked off he told his friends that he wouldn't follow this policy, and did not.
Team Highline looking for five new members

By Jacobah Watkins

Team Highline is looking for five students interested in becoming part of Highline's leadership and events planning team. Members will be responsible for executing a variety of social, educational and cultural events.

"It's more than just a job, it's an experience," said Hai Ton, 2003-04 Team Highline member. Team Highline gives students the opportunity to enhance their leadership skill, add to their resume and earn money. Applicants will be considered for the 2004-05 school year. The ideal student they're looking for is "very people oriented and that likes working on a team and also interested in developing their leadership skills," said Natasha Burrowes, multicultural and student programs advisor.

Team Highline members are expected to work 30 hours per week during summer training and 15 hours per week during the school year. Also, they must be able to balance their commitment to classes and Team Highline.

During the year members are required to have a class load of eight-credit minimum and a 2.5 GPA. Second jobs are strongly discouraged because of the commitment that is involved in working for Team Highline.

To help Team Highline's members become essentials student leaders and productive event planners, several training sessions are required that will start as soon as August.

Training includes several summer leadership workshops and planning for the year's events.

Leadership conference is the second week of training members will participate in a statewide conference including other student leaders from Eastern Washington state community colleges.

Winter Leadership Retreat is a two-day overnight retreat at a local campsite. Student Government and club leaders will also join together. This time will be spent on looking back on the positive and negative aspects to plan for the remainder of the year.

First Friday Institute is the first Friday of each month from 2-4 p.m. workshops will be offered on campus. Public speaking, conflict resolution and philosophy of leadership will be some of the topics of the workshops. Team Highline members are required to attend the year round professional leadership skills building program.

The experiences that Team Highline members leave with are beneficial for college and work environments, many students find that the skills that they learn are applicable and valuable in any life situation, said Burrowes.

Members will work on their trouble shooting, organization, team building, time management and goal setting skills.

Applications are available in Student Programs Office, Building 16 and due by May 7, 2004 at 5 p.m. When you submit your application year will be asked to schedule an interview. The interviews will be held on May 17, 18, 19.

For more information contact Burrowes in Student Programs at 206-878-3710, ext. 3256 or e-mail at nburrowe@highline.edu.
Campus Life

Low enrollment makes for tight S&A Budget

By Danny Bergman

There might not be any lights in the hallways of Hightline Union but students will still be finding themselves crowded at the beginning of spring classes.

Many have been having trouble parking, standing in long registration payment lines and finding "seats" in full classes.

As of Thursday, April 1, Hightline's head count is 8,023, which is down from 8,669 people in the winter but up from 7,778 students at this time last spring.

Enrollment is probably going to be a little down from Winter Quarter, said Joanne Jordan, registration secretary. This is just the start at later registration so more people will continue to register.

Last spring's head count was 9,505 at the end of spring, said Jordan.

Even though registration is a little down, some classes are too full.

"It's hard to write when you have to sit on the floor," said Angela Nelson.

Her math class has had at least six students either standing or sitting on the floor this first week of the quarter. The class should be moved to a larger classroom soon, she said.

Seventy-seven percent of the students enrolled in Winter 2004 are enrolled this spring and 65 percent of students registered in Fall 2003 are still attending classes here at Hightline.

Hightline has a large range of enrolled students.

There are 668 running start students, 209 international students, and 474 worker retraining students. Seventy-three percent of the students are high school graduates or have earned their GED and 47 percent attend full time (12 or more credits). Parking continues to be a problem and is affecting those attending Hightline.

"After 8 in the morning it is hard to find a spot," said Grace Lee, a major in social welfare.

Students are regularly arriving late to class because of the shortage in parking spots.

"I arrive to school at 9 in the morning when I have a class at 10 just to get a spot," said Angela Nelson, who is pursuing her AA transfer degree.

Nelson said the forced closure of the Midway parking lot to build

Spring classes, parking remain crowded

By David Larpenste

Students line up to pay tuition last week in Building 6.

"The lines are frustrating," said Daniel Cavreiro, an international student.

"It makes it tough to start out a new quarter this way.

Several students also said there should be more than one window open for the registration tuition payments.

There are challenges at Hightline early this quarter and the students are doing their best to work through them.

Being nice to others can pay off in different ways

For many students, school seems to have become a daily grind. Everyday you do the same thing: you wake up, get dressed, then head out. Some days are good and some are bad, but usually they stay the same, just OK.

But every now and then you see something that makes you feel good.

Last week as I was going home I encountered the most genuinely good act of affection I have ever seen. Not in the usually sense, as is seen in where you see two high schoolers making out on the door of your next class, but a true act of affection, where one person genuinely

In our S & A revenue over the past seven years," said Brown.

This has allowed the committee to save up and be prepared for times like those when enrollment is down.

If necessary the committee could pull funding from the contingency fund but since the enrollment decrease isn't huge the committee isn't resorting to pulling any money out.

An increase in budget requests from new and existing programs has put a strain on the committee to figure out who will get what. These programs will most likely not see an increase in funding.

"Last year we had 17 programs and this year we have to budget for 37 clubs, so we had to dip into the contingency fund to support these programs," said Brown.

The increase in programs makes for more work for the committee. The decisions are made after a thorough process of sorting through all the requests. The committee will begin filtering through all of the requests from program wanting more money to day. This is also the last chance for programs to state their case as why they need the money.

"The committee spends two months collecting information before we make any decisions on the budget," said Brown.

The committee will meet next Thursday to begin deliberations about what programs will receive in Building 19, room 108 at 2 p.m. The meetings are open to students.
**Opinion**

My turn to whine

I've never much liked the first day of classes and for me as a financial aid student it's dreadful. Everything from trying to find a spot to park my Buick Skylark with the broken rear window and the drooping interior to standing in a line after class to get a signature from the professor to get your financial aid award so you can mentally prepare yourself to get your required text from the bookstore.

Take a suggestion from me and plan ahead. Buy all your school supplies early, like your parking pass, and not to forget, first dihs on the elusive used textbooks.

But wait! What about me the lowly financial aid student who lives on my own. I have to pay rent each month, not to mention food, power, and phone bills? Yeah I know maybe I'll try and save and prepare for the college thing each quarter. Who am I kidding? I couldn't even save my milk money from the first grade.

I enjoy an occasional beverage every once in a while. If I start saving my pennies now, how can I afford to go out and socially educate myself every night?

So financial aid students, let me tell you what I think we should do for next quarter.

Exactly what I did this quarter, sit idle while students not on financial aid breeze through, especially the ones with the BMWs and Mercedes Benz at given to them at age ten get first choice on the lovely used textbooks.

Now lets examine this for a minute or two.

I can barely afford to survive on my own, and going to school to educate myself taken time away from work. Those luscious used books should be left aside for me and the students who could actually benefit from not paying the full ridiculous price for some textbooks that you will get for a quarter only to find out that they won't buy it cause it outdated.

Should we stand with our hands out pockets while the massive herds of students devour the used books?

Or, should we wait until little Timmy with his BMW that mommey and daddy bought come sweep with his bundle full of cash and buy the used books?

Its bad enough that all the used books are gone after we finish the first day of class, we're forced to remember to get signatures and wait in anticipation in line that resembles a same lame Beatles concert only to have some lady tell you that your financial aid check isn't here.

Sit down children and take a suggestion from me, if you one of the lucky ones who's financial aid check made it through the gauntlet of paper work. That's money and spend it elsewhere.

If Highline continues to allow used books to be bought by students not on financial aid, so be it. Buy your books online, travel to other colleges to find your specific text.

Let's show them how resourceful our financial aid students can be. Why not? We've been doing it all our life, why stop now.

Yes, I agree I'm not seeing the big picture regarding financial aid and its process and why things are the way they are.

Tell you what I'm going to do, I'm going to tighten up the belt and start pinching pennies and cut back on buying pointless items.

I must leave you now, I have to go to the record shop and buy the new Cradle of Filth album.
Art through new eyes

Child artists light up Highline library gallery

By Cazzeri Upton
STAFF REPORTER

Through the artist's eyes, Midway is a city. A beautiful city made up of bright reds and vibrant oranges. Everything is held together with Elmer's glue and stands tall with the help of some Popsicle sticks.

The artists can be seen on the campus of Highline, though probably not in any of your regular classes. They are all under the age of 5 and come from various different child programs around the community.

Through the month of April the library will be displaying the artwork of these children in their newest exhibit.

Alice Madsen, the coordinator of the education department here at Highline, has been in charge of the show for three years. She makes no set standard or theme that the children have to follow. Instead, they are free to use their creative licenses however they choose.

Trees can be any shade of purple that they create and the sky doesn't always have to be blue. Goats can talk to people and houses can be built out of cardboard.

There are drawings of families and race cars. Abstract drop paintings and bright pictures of rainbows. They made sculptures out of Popsicle sticks and blocks, creating totem poles and volcanoes.

Even a small scale version of the city of Midway, complete with a drive-in theater, graces the library's exhibit.

Madsen is just as enthusiastic about the exhibit as the young artists appear to be. "Children's art is truly refreshing," Madsen said.

One look at the photos that also appear there, which show delighted smiles and tempera paint covered faces, helps justify that statement.

Madsen understands that getting children to express themselves with art is an important part of their development.

"Art is another avenue of communication for children," Madsen said. "Even for very young children who don't have competent language skills, they can communicate with their art." The kids' ages range from 2 to 5 years old and their artwork comes to us from the Parent Education Program, Highline's daycare/preschool programs and the Tukwila Community Center.

It will be displayed on the fourth floor of the library until the end of April.

Got Talent? International Night wants YOU

By Roger Heuschele
STAFF REPORTER

Got talent with some international flavor? Wanting to show it off?

The International Night on May 6 from 6-9 p.m. is looking for you.

The event is organized by assistant director of the International Student Programs Sophia lIakis.

Her goal is to celebrate the various cultures at Highline and the surrounding areas. "The event's purpose is to create interest in possible opportunities but at the same time create awareness about the surrounding international students. It also gives Students to learn about other cultures without actually having to go overseas," she said.

"You do not need to be a student at Highline to participate," Ilakis said.

The event is in its second year and last year brought in more than 100 people. This event in very important because Highline has more than 200 international students.

Highline college also is at least 46 percent non-white, making it one of the most diverse campuses in the state.

The night also includes a five-course meal as well as various booths that supply knowledge and assistance that students of international origin can go to.

So if your schedule is open on May 6 and you want to showcase your talent. She is looking especially for belly dancers and males who can dance the salsa.

For more information she is in Building 6 in the international Programs office or call at 206-878-3710, ext. 3374.
Highline choir brings Pacific rhythms from Pacific Rim

By Billy Naylor

For the past week, it seems like an island breeze has been wafting through the choir room.

Smiles abound as the choir members practice for the upcoming Pacific Rim performance with the South Seattle Community College choir, slated for June 2.

They've planned a comprehen- sive mix of ethnic songs to perform. The majority of which will be from Japan, China, Thailand, Samoa, Korea and Hawaii, as well as traditional choir pieces.

Wearing a bright smile on her face, a flurry of tropical flowers behind her ear, Sheryl Akaka seems to radiate with the Hawaiian feeling, which is, in her words, "... a compulsion, a feeling of support. Of Ho'oponopono." (Meaning, to make right or whole.)

Every Wednesday, Akaka, a native Hawaiian and musical instructor here at Highline, helps the choir with the musical pieces they plan to sing. "I think it's important that people understand the feeling and meaning behind the Hawaiian music," said Akaka. And one might suspect that feeling is well understood.

"Shae (Akaka) really gives us an image, and a feeling of what its like to be Hawaiian," said choir member Tina Higashi.

"It's a tremendous resource to have people like this who can . . . . . See Choir, page 7

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- Math
- Computers
- Science
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- Languages
...and most other classes offered at Highline

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Mon - Thurs ............ 7:30AM - 7:30PM
Fri ................................ 7:30AM - 12:30PM, 2PM - 4PM

Specializing in turning good students into better students

Puyallup Fair invites you to ‘Do That Spring Thing!’

New attractions now dot the South Sound Carnival

By TeriAnn Davis

The Puyallup Spring Fair will open its gates with several new features to impress regulars and newcomers alike.

Renee J. LaFlamme, a member of the fair's public relations office, says "[to] mark your calendar for Thursday, April 15 through Sunday, April 18 for this great family oriented event."

"Approximately 90,000 [people] attend each year," says LaFlamme and she hopes to find some of Highline's population among the throngs.

Adding to the present list, new shows and attractions have been added this year, catering to a variety of age and tastes.

One new draw is the Karaoke Contest. Puyallup Spring Fair is teaming up with the Lightning and Karaoke Store to bring the carniv- al awesome rhythms or terrible blues (depending on the vocal chords).

At specific locations, the Karaoke store has been holding qualifying rounds in various local cities. While those rounds have already passed, (the rounds were Feb. 22 through April 3), the preliminaries begin the day of the fair on the Showplace Stage.

People from Tacoma to Everett will be competing on stage and the incentive is cold hard cash. "There are cash prizes totaling up to $1,000," said LaFlamme. The first prize is $1,000, second prize $500 and third prize $300.

LaFlamme mentions an interest- ing quirk about the contest; the fact that a singer of any age could win. For example, a 20-year-old woman singing show tunes could lose out to a 6-year-old girl singing opera.

The show lasts the duration of the fair from Thursday 5-10 p.m. (preliminary) to Saturday 4-10 p.m. (preliminary). The finals oc- cur the last day of the fair on Sun- day from 3-7 p.m. There will also be times for non-contestants to sing.

For more information, it's pos- sible to contact the Karaoke store 1-888-746-5483.

Continuing the music theme, a Battle of the Bands is being held April 17, from 7-9 p.m., as eight local high school bands duke it out for the title of the fair's best bands.

The music selection is punk and heavy metal, with a little classical on the side. The judges, of course, have their own experience on the subjects. "107.7 The End will be judging this contest," says LaFlamme.

Another big event will be the in- clusion of the Xtreme Jeremy. Puyallup Fair will introduce Jer- emy VanSchoonhoven, the 2003 North American Trials Series (NATS) Champion. NATS is a collection of top-notch bike-trials events from across the continent, and Jeremy won them with some insane skills.

"He is the highest placing Americans to win World Competi- tion in the bike stunt categories," said LaFlamme. Being a four- time USA World Team member is quite a dossier, and LaFlamme says that Jeremy has traveled around the country doing stunts in front of thousands.

To see just how Xtreme the event is, check out the show on Thursday from 5 and 7 p.m., Sat- urday and Friday at 1, 3, 5, and 7 p.m., and Sunday from 1, 3, and 5 p.m.

These shows are only a tip of the iceberg. Other shows include The Coats, a nationally recognized local a cappella group; the Hypocrates Comedy Improv, per- formed by local comedians; and the Western Heritage Gathering, featuring poetry, prose, music, and stories from cowboys and cow- girls. Lastly, KOMP is showcas- ing Blue County, a local country duo set to perform at the Great American Stage. Of the course usual fun and games (arts and craft shows, carniv- al rides, scenes, and midway games) are also included. But this year there will be a slightly more serious side to the festivities in re- gard to those in the military.

Military Appreciation Day oc- curs on Thursday, April 15, and al- lows active, reserve, and retired military and their dependents to enter with free admission, providing they show a military ID.

"The reason we do that is be- cause we're [the fairgrounds] are located near to several military loca- tions like McChord and Ft. Lewis," explained LaFlamme.

She said that so many people who serve in the military have families from around the area and the fair wants to show their apprecia- tion.

"We want to thank all of them for the sacrifices they are mak- ing," said LaFlamme. The pro- gram lasts from 3-10 p.m.

The Puyallup Spring Fair lasts from April 15-18 at the Puyallup Fairgrounds, 9th Avenue South- west & Meridian; Gold, Blue, and Red gates entrances.

General admission is $8; youth (6-18) is $6 and kids 5 and under are free. However, the fair is run- ning a discount special where, if you buy the tickets in advance, the price is cut down a bit ($6.50 for general, $5 for youth).

The advance discount ticket ad- missions also include the Ride Pack coupon, "$7 Rides for $11" (excluding the prices of the Roller Coaster and the Extreme Scream). The vendors include Fred Meyer, Safeway, Columbia Bank, South Hill Mall, and The Com- mons at Federal Way (SeaTac Mall). "If you go these locations you'll get savings," said LaFlamme. "It's another way to provide value for our guests."

For more information on fea- tures and tickets, you can contact the fair info hotline at 253-841- 5045 or check out the official Puyallup Fair website at www.thefair.com.


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For more information on fea- tures and tickets, you can contact the fair info hotline at 253-841- 5045 or check out the official Puyallup Fair website at www.thefair.com.
From April 3 to May 15, Shoreline Community College will be hosting a gallery for painter Barbara Earl Thomas. The gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday. An interview with Thomas is available on Saturday April 17 from 1-3 p.m. For more information contact 546-4101 ext. 4433.

The City of Auburn Arts Commission is accepting applications from craft artists, non-profit vendors, and community groups. Application deadline is Friday, May 2 and there is an $35 entry fee. For more information or an application, call Auburn Parks, (253) 931-3043 or visit www.ci.auburn.wa.us. To download a vendor application, click on Arts, Parks and Recreation, then 4th of July activities.

Come celebrate the grand reopening of the Tukwila King County Library. Offers refreshments and prizes. The Tukwila Library is located on 14475 51st Avenue S. Tukwila 98168 and the reopening begins Saturday, April 10 from noon to 5 p.m. For more information call the Tukwila Library at 206-244-5140 or log on to www.kcls.org.

On Friday, April 9, the Burien Arts Gallery will be introducing a special oriental collection. The collection includes Sumi paintings, Ikebana floral art, silk batik creations, and watercolor art. The Gallery’s regular hours are from noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. For more information contact the Gallery at 206-244-7808.

**CROSSWORD SOLUTION**

**MARIA’S BEAU**

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**Channel Hopping**

**Across**

1. Vögelsang
2. Endure
3. 10 Jail at sea
4. Louisiana sight
5. Always
6. Sierra Nevada city
7. Affirm
8. Tipper, for one
9. Saudi Arabia neighbor
10. Barber, for one
11. John Spencer’s employer
12. Remove the lid
13. Adhesives
14. Debra Messing’s employer
15. Adjust
16. Misplaced
17. Envelope abbr.
18. Special passport
19. Donna and others
20. The majority of the choir members this quarter are female, with only a handful of male counterparts. They are in need of guys to balance out the group.

21. The choir makes use of their range of experience levels, with the more advanced helping others hone and progress their craft.

"I'm actually learning how to find pitches and now I know I'm not completely tone-deaf," said choir member Eric Bacon.

So, if you have passion and a knack for singing, you’re certainly welcome to join the choir. Contact Paul Mori at pmori@Highline.edu for more information.

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**Crossword 101**

**By Ed Canty**

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**Quote of the day**

The one function TV news performs very well is that when there is no news we give it to you with the same emphasis as if there were.

- *David Brinkley*

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Men set off on the right foot for NWAACCs

T-Bird men set the pace for a fast season to come

By Mikhail Fomenko
STAFF REPORTER

Hard work and dedication has guided the men’s track team through spring break, the T-Birds head coach says. They have competed in three meets, the Puget Sound Open at University of Puget Sound, the Spring Break Open held at Edmonds Community College and the Willamette Invite in Salem, Ore.

Head Coach Robert Yates credited team effort for a number of outstanding spring performances. “It was the best turn out and effort in the last three years,” said Yates.

Clay Hemlock in the 800 meters, took the first place with a time of 1:57.60. Right on his tail was Mike Dickson with a second place time of 1:58.13. Jake Foyston won the 110 meter hurdles with a 15.25, beating the next place time by a second and a half. The Highline 4x1,600 miles relay team came in second with a time of 19:22.78. Kyle Jones won the high jump at 6’9”.

Bryan McVey won the long jump with a distance of 22’02.25”, which is a personal best by 6 inches, which got McVey into the No. 3 spot in the conference. At the Spring Break Open, Mason Kien won the long jump at 21’9.5” and the triple jump at 44’11.25”. Jeremiah Armstead got fourth in the long jump with a length of 20’1.25”. Melvin Jenkins set a meet record with a time of 47.62 seconds in the 400-meter dash and placed second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.03 seconds. Alex Harcourt placed sixth in the 200-meter dash 22.66.

Jake Foyston placed third in the 400-meter hurdles at 54.99 seconds. Brynnen McVey tied for sixth place in the 100-meter run with a time of 11.50 seconds. Robert Bartholomew ran a 16:25.7 in the 5,000-meter run, getting a seventh place rank.

The men’s track team traveled to Salem, Ore. on Friday, April 3 for the Willamette University Invitational meet. They had strong results and many of the athletes have already qualified for the NWAAC championships in May.

“This is the strongest team Highline has had for the past six years,” said Yates. “This is easily the best team since I have been here.”

Mason Kien set a personal best by three feet in the triple jump, jumping 48’02.5” (“The best performance of the weekend,” said Coach Yates. “Really big day for him.”)

Kien also won the long jump with a 22’06.5” jump. And he is now the No. 4 all time school record holder.

Melvin Jenkins won the 200-meter run with the time of 21.99, a personal best time, and placed second in the 400 meters with a time of 47.8.

Robert Bartholomew leading the pack during the 1,500 meters at Willamette last weekend.

Photos by Amber Trillo

Travis Glover running the 400 meter dash.

Clay Hemlock won the 1,500 meters with a personal best by five seconds and a time of 3:54:61. He is leading the conference. He also ran a personal best in the 5,000 meters and is second in the conference with a 14:59.88 run.

Dylan Bailey ran the 5,000 meters on Friday and had a poor race but came back on Saturday and had a great run in the 1,500 meters with a personal best time of 4:12.15.

Josh Frazier ran the 10,000 meters for the first time, he ran a great race with the time of 34:45.19. He is ranked fifth in the conference. “Great effort for him,” said Yates.

Rickey Moody threw the shot put for a distance of 47’04.25”, which is a personal best by six feet. He is No. 2 in the conference after coming off an injury.

Kyle Jones threw a personal best in the discus of 134 feet and another personal best in the hammer with a throw of 140’02” placing him No. 2 in the conference. “He is improving every week,” said Yates.

Jake Foyston came in second in the 110 high hurdles and won the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 54.88. “He ran solid times,” said Yates.

The 4x400-meter relay places second after a really close race, with a best time this year of 3:21.98. The team included Alex Harcourt, Jake Foyston, Mike Dickson, and Jerome Sirmans.

“I think we will break the school record this year,” said Yates. The current school record is 3:12.

Highline men’s track team has high hopes of doing very well in the conference.

“If we get everything together we will be hard to beat, we could definitely place in the top three and even have a chance to win,” said Yates.

The team is running in the Mt. Hood Relays this Saturday, April 10. “We have placed second in the past two years and hoping to win one,” said Yates. “We have been training really hard this week,” said Yates.
Highline women small but still good

By Pat McGoire

Despite having a small team, and battling injuries, the women’s track team is working hard and improving at every meet.

Amanda Kamm is leading the conference in three events. Monaka White is leading the conference in the 100-meter dash, and almost every other woman has already qualified for the N W A C C championships in May.

The women’s track team traveled to Salem, Ore. to compete Friday, April 2 and Saturday, April 3 at the Willamette University Invitational. Team results were not available at press time.

Many of the women competed in more than one event. It was the first time all the women traveled and competed at the same meet.

“The Willamette Invitational is one of the most competitive track meets in the Northwest,” said Coach Robert Yates. “The women had a lot of competition.”

Monaka White ran 12.61 seconds in the 100-meter dash, and took first. She came back to run the 200-meter dash and took seventh place with a time of 26.98 seconds.

“I was very pleased with my performance in the 100 meters,” said White. “My goal is to win both the 100 and 200 at the championship meet this year.”

In the 400-meter dash the T-birds had a sixth place finish from Zori Garasimchuck with a time of 1:01.99, Brittny Boysen took 10th place running in 1:04.59. Amanda Kamm took 11th place in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:19.82 seconds. Garasimchuck ran 2:35.70 seconds in the 800-meter run, taking 23rd place.

“I have been battling shin splints for a month and it has been affecting my training, but I’m starting to heal and get stronger,” Kamm said.

In the 1,500-meter run, Sitges Marshall ran 4:51.11, and took eighth place. Jami Jablonsky ran 5:32.96 taking 29th place.

Marshall also ran the 5,000-meter run in 18:14.92, taking eighth place.

“She’s [Marshall] had really strong performances this weekend,” Yates said.

Taryn Plyphick got fourth place in the high jump with a leap of 5’7. She came back to compete in the long jump, placing 14th with a jump of 12’06”.

Articier West threw in three events. She took eighth place in the shot put with a throw of 36’09.75. She took 14th in the discus throw, throwing 100’62”. In the hammer she threw 139’09., taking fifth.

The women’s track team competed during spring break showing their dedication in practice is paying off, said Head Coach Robert Yates.

Most of the women competed at the University of Puget Sound Open in Tacoma, on March 26. Two women competed at the Spring Break Open in Edmonds, on March 27. Their events ranged from the 100-meter dash up to the 3,000-meter run as well as the high jump.

“They gave great efforts over spring break,” Yates said. “It’s exciting to watch how well the women are doing this early in the season.”

Brittny Boyesen ran her first race in two years at the Puget Sound Open. She ran the 200-meter dash in 28.49 seconds, placing second.

“My time is all right for just starting the season,” Boyesen said.

“BUT I definitely need to improve for the championships.”

Also at the Puget Sound Open, Amanda Kamm and Stiges Marshall went one-two in the 3,000-meter race, posting times of 10:35.77 (Kamm) and 10:42.16 (Marshall). Kamm’s time broke the school record for the 3,000-meter. She is currently leading the conference in the 800-meter, 1,500-meter, and 3,000-meter races.

Marshall has the second fastest time in the 3,000-meter and fourth fastest time in the 10,000-meter races.

Taryn Plyphick took third place in the high jump, with a jump of 4’10.25”.

“It was her [Plyphick] first meet of the season and she showed great strength,” Yates said.

At the Spring Break Open, Monaka White ran 12.69 seconds, in the 100-meter dash, placing third. She also ran 27.05 seconds in the 200-meter dash, placing seventh. Zori Garasimchuck also ran the 200-meter dash and placed 13th, with a time of 28.18 seconds.

“Monaka is leading the conference right now in the 100-meter dash and steadily improving in the 200-meter dash,” Yates said.

The next track meet is the Mt. Hood Relays on Saturday, April 10, starting at 11 a.m. The meet is located at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Ore.
Fastpitch ready to play after poor preseason games

By Jordan Goddard

After a shaky preseason, Highline's fastpitch softball team started its season red hot, winning its first four games. Twin victories against Bellevue and Green River have quickly left behind memories of a tough week in Arizona for the lady T-Birds.

"Preseason's always used to see where we're at," Head Coach Ann Schmidt said. "We had a week of practice and we were able to work out the kinks."

Tuesday's doubleheader at Bellevue brought Highline two hard-fought victories. The Thunderbirds fell behind in the fourth inning of the first game after surrendering a two-run homer. The T-Birds answered back in the fifth inning with four runs. However, Highline's lead did not last as the Trojans scored three more in the bottom of the fifth. Things looked bleak for the Thunderbirds until the seventh and final inning. With only three outs standing between them and their first loss, the T-Birds started a rally with patience at the plate. Highline quickly loaded the bases as Bellevue's pitcher struggled to throw strikes. The Thunderbirds managed to tie the game and threaten the lead before earning their first out.

A pitching change came too late for the Trojans as the Thunderbirds tallied nine runs total in the seventh inning to take a commanding 13-5 lead.

Freshman pitcher Katie Michaels turned the bottom of the seventh inning over to relief pitcher Lacey Walter who closed the game without difficulty, earning the win. Center fielder Andra Hinskey led the T-Birds' offensive efforts with a pair of triples.

The second game against Bellevue left little room for a comeback finish. A leadoff double from Hinskey set the stage for a three-run first inning. Scoring continued to come in bunches for the Thunderbirds as they built a nine-run lead. Highline's ace starter, Amanda Richardson, pitched a stingy game. Bellevue struggled offensively until the final inning when three fielding errors and a wild pitch loaded the bases. Highline refused its defensive efforts though and wrapped up the game while allowing only one run. "She [Amanda Richardson] is outstanding. She had a great year last year, and she'll have another this year," Coach Schmidt said. The Thunderbirds 9-1 victory marked their fourth win of the season in as many games.

The winning streak began when Highline kicked off its regular season three days earlier against Green River.

Saturday's season opener brought a decisive victory for the T-Birds. Amanda Richardson threw a dominant game, not allowing a single runner to get past first.

"The defense was outstanding - very aggressive," Coach Schmidt said.

Highline recruits for next season

There is no place to go but up for T-Bird basketball

By Jordan Goddard

A year ago no one thought that the Thunderbirds would be thinking about a basketball championship run in 2005, no one. However, after overcoming low expectations to earn a berth in the NWAACC playoffs this year, Highline's men's basketball program has begun recruiting players for the 2005 season.

Despite three NWAACC championships in the last seven years, hopes for Highline's 2004 season were not high. Coming off the worst year in school history, a new coaching staff had only two returning sophomores to build on.

"We had a whole new program this year. Everybody underrated us," student manager Will Smallwood said. Five recruits from 2003 state champion Franklin High School anchored the incoming group of freshmen.

"Some of these guys are champions. They came in here with a championship attitude," Smallwood said.

The Thunderbirds, heavy on talent but lightweight on experience, struggled early in the season before getting into an effective team. "We did all that damage with a freshman team," Smallwood said. "Imagine what we're going to do next year."

Highline's 9-7 division record qualified the team for a spot in the playoffs. The young Thunderbirds played with enthusiasm but went home with two losses.

"We should play a lot harder next year, more consistently," Head Coach Cha Dawson said. "We'll be able to pressure people more effectively."

Next year's hopes rest on another strong class of athletes coming in to Highline, especially a talented ball handler. Coach Dawson expressed confidence in his ability to find a top point guard.

"There are a lot of quality kids out there. We simply have to expose them to the opportunities at Highline," Coach Dawson said.

"We're looking to get quality student athletes who take academics seriously, want to get better, and are willing to sacrifice for the team."

The coaching staff sets high expectations for incoming freshmen, but Coach Dawson assures them that Highline offers much in return.

"There are opportunities here for freshmen to come in and get playing time for a diverse school in contention for an NWAACC championship," Coach Dawson explained.

Some of these opportunities are being created by the departure of league co-MVP Kellem Williams for Eastern Washington University next year. The 6'4" forward averaged 20.5 points and a league-leading 11.7 rebounds per game.

The offense complemented Amanda Richardson's stout hurling with six runs. Krist Richardson contributed a pair of RBIs. Infielder Brittnae Stewart also played well with four hits in as many at-bats.

The second game against the Gators brought a more suspenseful contest. The Thunderbirds scored two quick runs in the first inning, but their lead would not last. The Gators responded with two runs of their own in the second, aided in part by a defensive breakdown.

Freshman pitcher Katie Michaels refused to show frustration with her team's mistakes though and quickly settled into an effective performance. Green River took a one-run lead in the fifth inning by sacrificing a leadoff single around the bases. The Thunderbirds tied it in the sixth inning thanks in part to an overthrow to first base.

With the score still tied at the end of the seventh, the game continued into extra innings.

The bottom of the eighth began with Murphy reaching first on an error. Two batters later, yet another throwing error to first allowed two T-Birds to come home for a 5-3 victory.

The strong season start comes as no surprise to Coach Schmidt despite losing all six preseason games in Arizona.

"We got a bit of a wake-up call in Arizona," Coach Schmidt said. Apparently, these Thunderbirds are early risers.

Highline faces Olympic College at home this Friday. Games start at 2 and 4 p.m. The Thunderbirds go on the road Saturday to face Shoreline at 3 and 5 p.m. The road trip continues on Tuesday against Edmonds at 1 and 3 p.m.

"It's going to force some of the guys on the team to step up," Coach Dawson said. "That's the nature of the sport."

Even without Williams, excitement over next season runs high throughout the Thunderbirds.

"Next year, we're going to be 'That Team,'" guard Aaron White said. "We should have the stadium filled out.

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The offensive complemented Amanda Richardson's stout hurling with six runs. Krist Richardson contributed a pair of RBIs. Infielder Brittnae Stewart also played well with four hits in as many at-bats. The second game against the Gators brought a more suspenseful contest. The Thunderbirds scored two quick runs in the first inning, but their lead would not last. The Gators responded with two runs of their own in the second, aided in part by a defensive breakdown. Freshman pitcher Katie Michaels refused to show frustration with her team's mistakes though and quickly settled into an effective performance. Green River took a one-run lead in the fifth inning by sacrificing a leadoff single around the bases. The Thunderbirds tied it in the sixth inning thanks in part to an overthrow to first base.

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Scoreboard

Track
Willamette Invitational
April 2-3, Salem, Ore.

Women's Hammer Throw
1. Cedarberg, Western Oregon, 169-3
2. Kristin Hepler, Western Oregon, 164-11

Men's Shot Put
Shaun Straka, Portland State, 50-8
2. Ricky Moody, Highline, 47-4.25
3. Kevin Johnson, Western Oregon, 47-15

Women's 100 meters
Monaka White, Highline, 12.61
2. Kerry Blackwood, Portland State, 12.68

Women's 200 meters
Patrice Pierre, Portland, 25.8
2. Mariah Hanson, Willamette, 26.33
3. Kociemba, Western Oregon, 26.5
Men's 100 meters
Kenneth Mackins, Portland State, 10.83
2. Jason Johnson, Cascade, 11.07
3. Greg Coleman, Western Oregon, 11.08

Men's 200 meters
Melvin Jenkins, Highline, 21.92
2. Fredrick Isaac, Western Oregon, 22.25
3. Aric Isfeld, Clackamas, 22.33.
Men's 400 meters
Ryan Chaney, Team XO, 47.4
2. Melvin Jenkins, Highline, 47.6
3. Alex Harcourt, Highline, 48.8.
Men's 1,500 meters
Brandon Robinson, Portland, 3:51.94
2. Jacob Stout, Willamette, 3:51.94
Men's 5,000 meters
Brayson Forsha, Team XO, 14:38.86
2. Rick Fuller, Team XO, 14:40.03
3. Will Vivianii, Team Eugene, 14:40.72

Men's 110 meters hurdles
Sam Hobbs, Western Oregon, 14.63
2. Jacob Foyston, Highline, 15.08

Men's 400 meters hurdles
Jacob Foyston, Highline, 54.88
2. Hobbs, Western Oregon, 55.03
3. Sexton, Clackamas, 56.78.

Men's 4x100 relay
Spartone 43.31, Highline
43.92. 2. Western Oregon DO.
Spartone's long jump
Mason Kein, Highline, 22.65
2. Colin McArthur, Team XO, 22.4.5
Brynnener Mover, Highline, 21.8.
Men's triple jump
Mason Kein, Highline, 21-2.5
2. Raymond Canton, Willamette, 45-7.25

NWAAC SOFTBALL STANDINGS
At 4/2004

NORTH League Overall
Highline 4-0
Olympic 5-1

SOUTH League Overall
Clackamas 5-1
Mt. Hood 1-4
Cheyenne 4-2
Centralia 2-4

SOFTBALL SCORES
HIGHLINE 13, at BELLEVUE 5
HIGHLINE 9, at BELLEVUE 1

Intramural sports season begins for student and faculty alike

Intramurals offer
By Trevor McDowell
Fun at College

It's time again for intramurals and this spring offers various sports and activities to get all students of all talents to come and participate.

Intramural volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, basketball, indoor soccer and even boomerang are being held this Spring Quarter between 1 and 2 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays in the gym. Ann Ren, coordinator of intramural programs said, "It's a cool thing to try and people should come down and try it." Intramurals on Tuesdays are volleyball and ultimate Frisbee as well as world-class boomerang instruction by Michael Gervin and Gary McCure.

Wednesdays is basketball. Thursdays is indoor soccer.

Fridays are open gym sessions where students can organize and take part in the sport or activity that they want to play since the gym is seldom available for student activities.

These intramurals cost nothing and are open to all current Highline students, faculty and staff who want to compete, just have fun or warm up before practice.

There is no need for you to organize teams, just show up and teams will be organized there. There has already been a great turnout in the first week of the quarter and Coach Roe. For anybody with additional questions, they should try to get a hold of program coordinator Amber Rose at 206-876-3710, ext. 3268 or at the following e-mail: arrow@highline.com

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Bldg 19 Room 107
New speakers for Honors Colloquy

By Jonathan Moon
STAFF REPORTER

Earning honors credits will improve your competitive edge. Dr. Barbara Clinton, director of the Honors Colloquy last Wednesday.

Dr. Clinton, the director of the Honors programs at Highline, also said, "The Honors Colloquy is a really unique opportunity for students to get the gist of what life-time learning is."

During the initial "Getting Started" meeting Clinton explained how Honors credits improve your chances of gaining entrance to the university of your choice.

"Doors are getting harder to open, they're sticking," Clinton said. Clinton went on to say that the University of Washington no longer honors the transfer agreement with Highline.

Honors Colloquy, or Honors 101, is a class that meets once a week on Wednesdays, from 1:10 to 2 p.m. in Building 7. It provides information on how to gain entrance to a four-year university, and offers the opportunity to listen to speakers tell their stories of how they got doors to open for them.

The list of speakers has been lined up for the quarter includes directors of honors programs from both the University of Washington, and Western Washington University. There will also be speakers from Seattle Pacific University, The Evergreen State College, and from Highline.

The Wednesday meetings are open to the public, but in order to receive credit for the class you must enroll.

Mathematics explains global problems

By Rob Goodman
STAFF REPORTER

By nature, humans are inquisitive creatures.

Relentlessly they search for the true meaning of unexplained phenomena.

As they gain more knowledge, their curiosity to understand is broadened, which leads to the conception of many elaborate questions, involving the measurement of such things as space, earth, and even time, said Eric Scott, Highline mathematics instructor and speaker at last Friday's Science Seminar.

Some mathematicians would argue that math has a theme to everything. It holds the key to the questions that humans continuously ponder, unlocking the doors that lead to their resolutions, he said.

"Is it possible for (mathematics) to convey some of its power not just as a model, but to use it in a way metaphorically?" Scott said.

Logistics and computation aside, math is a remarkable observation tool when it comes to extensive questions that humans have created over time, Scott said.

Scott asked the simple question, "How do you figure out the shape of the earth?"

By looking at the earth from a global point of view, in outer space, images clearly convey that the earth is a sphere shape, Scott said. However, why does the earth look flat to those who live upon it?

According to Scott, if we only use information obtained locally, or mathematically-speaking in "our neighborhood," the conclusions we draw are limited.

"In math, one of the key distinctions is local properties versus global properties," Scott said, meaning that something is limited under smaller local circumstances, as opposed to greater global circumstances.

When mathematics is applied, people are enabled to make better observations based on what they've learned, which may or may not draw them closer to a conclusion, Scott said.

So for instance, those who are highly educated in mathematics may possess the ability to prove mathematically that the earth is truly flat, or they may only end up in confusion, Scott said.

Scott also explained the theme of mathematics in time.

"In reality is time really special, or do we make it special?" Scott said.

Mathematically-speaking, time may be just another variable, meaning it doesn't really exist on its own, it's just a measurement of other things, Scott said.

Essentially, time may only be something that humans have created in order to organize events chronologically. Therefore, the manipulation of time, like a variable in a math problem, is a possibility, Scott said.

"(Time) is something like a background; it's just a sequence of events," Scott said.

With so many questions humans have formulated, especially with the help of mathematics, do humans ever truly come closer to the answers that they seek?

The answer is yes and no.

While some answers may be found, others may only become more complicated, Scott said.

"The more questions we include in our models of reality, the more complex our models and reasoning becomes," Scott said, referring to Goedel's Incompleteness Theorem that states that the more questions (humans) raise, some of them will indeed be unanswerable.

In retrospect, you win some, you lose some, but regardless of the outcome, mathematics is still an extremely resourceful way of establishing scientific reason to the mysteries of everyday life.

Science Seminar is held every Friday in Building 3, room 102 from 2:10 to 3 p.m. Students who sign up for Science Seminar may receive one credit based on attendance and participation, however all are welcome.

The seminars slated for the rest of Spring Quarter 2004 are:

• April 9, "Mad Cows Disease: Prions Can Kill You, But You Can't Kill Them!" with Kaddece Lawrence.
• April 23, "Biological Batteries," speaker Jo Stromecky.
• April 30, "Where the Brain Learns," speaker Jo Hoppe.
• May 7, "Follow the Stars: A Brief History of Navigation," speaker Ron Davidson.
• May 14, "The Coolibility and Weight of DNA Evidence in Civil and Criminal Trials," speaker Buzz Wheeler.
• May 21, "Slides, Slides, and the Patterns of the Plane," speaker Ed Morris.
• May 28, "Sexology: scientific findings that even your mother would find interesting," speaker Michael Campbell.

Evergreen State College might not be for everyone

By Jonathan Moon
STAFF REPORTER

The Evergreen State College has no set curriculum, it changes every year. Students do not get a letter grade at the end of the quarter, instead they receive an evaluation.

Ted Whitesell, a geographer and professor of the Evergreen State College spoke at the Honors Colloquy this week, and he explained how their system works.

They combine disciplines into one class that can be worth up to 16 credits. You only sign up for one class each quarter, and there may be three different professors teaching the class. At Highline there are similar courses, called coordinated studies, that are based on the same idea as those of Evergreen.

One of the advantages that he mentioned is that you get evaluated on your own potential, and effort is highly rewarded.

"Evergreen isn't for everyone," he said.

Successful students of Evergreen are self-motivated and want to learn. If you are not sure what you want from college, Evergreen might not be right for you.

One disadvantage that was mentioned was that the ever-changing curriculum can have a downside also. The classes that interest you may not be offered during the time you want to attend.

Whitesell also said that students of Evergreen carry a reputation for good writing and communication skills. During the course of three quarters, one of his classes wrote and published a book about protecting the environment that was more than 400 pages in length.

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Seminars focus on academic success

By Amanda Downs

By Linh Tran

Seminars will be held throughout the quarter, including

• The Seattle office of Minority Affairs, which is responsible for coordinating and supporting the workshops

• The Transfer Center, which offers workshops on various topics

• The Career and Workforce Development Center, which provides workshops on career planning and job search strategies

• The Office of Student Life and Engagement, which offers workshops on personal and social topics

• The Office of Diversity and Inclusion, which offers workshops on cultural competency and diversity

Each workshop will be advertised in the Student Life and Engagement newsletter and on the campus website. Students are encouraged to attend and participate in these workshops to improve their academic and personal success.

Photo by Chuck Cortez

Transfer Center offers new workshops

By Amanda Downs

The Transfer Center at Highline has planned a busy Spring Quarter with workshops and events to help students get a better understanding of their education and their future.

Throughout the quarter, representatives from many different offices will be visiting Highline to answer questions and offer information.

The workshops will cover a variety of topics, including:

• University of Washington Seattle
• University of Washington Tacoma
• University of Washington Bothell
• Seattle Central Community College

Each workshop will be advertised in the Student Life and Engagement newsletter and on the campus website. Students are encouraged to attend and participate in these workshops to improve their academic and personal success.
Celebrate Cambodian New Year

By Amy Xayarat
STAFF REPORTER

Next Tuesday, April 13 is the actual Cambodian New Year, but Highline students will get a chance to celebrate it on April 8. That's when the Khmer Student Association (KHSA) is holding its annual celebration for the Cambodian New Year, noon to 2 p.m. in Building 2. This time of the year represents the end of the harvest. It is the time for farmers to enjoy the fruits of their harvest before the rainy season begins.

"The Cambodian New Year is one of the major celebrations in the Cambodian culture. It is based on the lunar calendar, and is celebrated in mid-April, which is the first month of the year in Cambodia. During this time, people take time off work to commemorate the New Year. They spend time visiting family and friends, as well as paying proper respect to Buddha at the temple. The Buddhist religion plays a major role in many of the celebratory activities. "On the first day of the holiday, people clean (and reorganize) their homes as well as set up an altar to welcome the New Year spirits, which are thought to come down this time of year," said Sonn.

The following day is to show consideration to the elderly. Parents, grandparents, and teachers are given gifts from children to show proper respect. Moreover, it is the time to ask for forgiveness of misdeeds they may have done to their elders.

Finally, on the third day, people are supposed to clean their Buddha statues with scented water. In doing so, it is thought to bring good luck, long life, and happiness.

"The statue of the Buddha is put on the altar along with flowers, candles, incense, a bowl of scented water, food, and water," said Sonn. "For this reason, people thank god and ancestors for watching over them for the past year and hope to continue to bless them for the upcoming year," said Sonn.

Aside from these traditional festivities that are followed annually, members of KHSA are sharing and providing an opportunity for Highline students and staff members to experience Cambodian traditional activities during the New Year celebration.

Members of KHSA are presenting some Cambodian traditions with traditional outfits in a fashion show and two traditional dances by a group of students from South Seattle. Also, there will be a power point presentation of the Angkor Wat (Temple), garden, and desserts and beverages for the audience to taste.

Furthermore, Miss Cambodia 2004 of Washington State, who is currently attending Evergreen High School, will be on campus to sing one solo song as well as sing with a group.

"We encourage everyone to attend the Cambodian New Year celebration to experience the Cambodian culture and to see what KHSA is all about," said Sonn.
Professor seeks knowledge in Mexico

By Justin Williams

Highline writing professor Rosemary Adang said that she wanted to go to Mexico to study the language and experience first-hand the social justice concerns that the people there are currently facing. “I was looking for the inside information from the people who lived there,” she said. “Especially social justice issues affecting women. I was also interested in how NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) is affecting Mexico.”

The majority of her time was spent in southern Mexico, where most of the population is comprised of indigenous people who live in rural, unindustrialized areas; she also spent a few days in Guatemala.

It is NAFTA’s 10-year anniversary, and, from Adang’s perspective, NAFTA hasn’t exactly worked out the way it was supposed to for Mexico.

Adang said the Mexican people have very mixed feelings about it. NAFTA is an agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico that regulates, and, to some extent, abolishes the ability of member countries to place tariffs and barriers on imported products. “The basic idea is that they’re avoiding any kind of protections against each other,” Adang said.

Proponents of NAFTA say that by removing the ability for member countries to protect their industries by placing higher taxes on imported goods, it will stimulate the economies of all participating countries.

According to a report by the United States Embassy in Mexico, Mexico’s exports to the US and Canada have increased by 225 percent. The World Bank also reports a 4.5 percent increase in Mexico’s GDP over the past eight years.

Although these statistics seem to support the claim that NAFTA is helping Mexico’s economy, The Center for Economic and Policy Research reports that the trade deficit growth rate might be misleading.

The report says that based on current data, Mexico’s annual per capita GDP growth rate over the period with NAFTA is more like 1 percent. The report also says that there is still a strong military presence in the region of Chiapas (one of the places Adang visited).

Although NAFTA might be having a negative affect on Mexico and women’s rights, there are programs that are helping women and having a positive impact, Adang said. One of these programs was in Guatemala.

“I visited a couple of classes that grew Mayan women were going to; they’re taking mainly Spanish and math,” Adang said.

The classes are part of a program that is trying to offer free education to women who have little or no education so that they have a chance to work.

Lack of education for women has been a major social justice issue in southern Mexico and Guatemala, Adang said. “The men have been getting educated for a while, but the women haven’t been getting educated.”

Public school in Mexico, like the US, is free, but in Mexico families have to pay for uniforms and supplies, Adang said. “Usually families will only spend the money to send their sons,” because they think they have a better chance of getting a job and earning money, Adang said.

She said that most older women have never had any education, and the younger women have usually only had a primary education, if any.

“Another obstacle is their husbands,” Adang said.

She said they feel threatened by the idea of their wives receiving an education and looking for work.

This is a cultural aspect that she said anyone who is organizing these programs needs to take into consideration.
Smoking
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She went on to say she follows the rules that are in place now and says she will follow the new rules, but she won't be happy.

Non-smokers said they are tired of breathing smoke everywhere they go.

"I'm tired of walking through smoke clouds," Malcolm McLeemore said. "I am for the new zones."

Some students say they don't care about the new policies.

"I don't know if I like it, I don't know if I don't," he said.

Mexico
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Adang also visited education programs in Southern Mexico. "I saw two kinds of programs," she said. One was a boarding school run by Catholic nuns in Chiapas that holds about 45 girls.

The school provides low-cost education for younger girls, Adang said. "They [the girls] seem very bright and excited that they have a future," but it still costs money and the program is in need of more scholarships.

The other school she visited was in San Miguel De Allende (just north of Mexico City in the central highlands region). The program was called Mujeres En Cambio, Adang said, which translates to "women in change." Adang said that the program is being run by locals, and ex-patriot American volunteers.

"They collect money for scholarships" and give the money directly to the families of girls who want to go to school.

The families can spend the money however they want, Adang said. "As long as they [girls] are in school and doing well, they [families] continue to get the scholarship.

Adang also observed programs that were trying to provide women with job opportunities with good working conditions and decent wages, another social justice issue that affects women in Mexico.

Adang said she visited a number of weaving co-ops that were providing women with jobs.

"In many places in Mexico weaving is a very important traditional craft," practiced by women, Adang said. "Their patterns are indicative of their ethnicity and the regions they are from."

Adang said that at one of these co-ops "they built everything they could from scratch," including the building and even the stove.

The co-ops provide women with the ability to have fixed prices and quality control, Adang said.

Once again, the husbands seem to be one of the bigger obstacles to the weaving programs.

"The husbands have not been supportive because they feel threatened," Adang said. She said the husbands also feel that these co-ops place their wives in an immodest position.

The organizations are trying to explain to the husbands that they don't need to worry, and that the economy desperately needs their wives to enter the workforce, she said.

Adang said that her trip to Mexico was not only a huge learning experience, but it also significantly affected her outlook on life.

"It really changed me in the sense that I wanted to feel more connected to Mexico and now I do," Adang said.

"I feel like Mexico is more a part of my life, and that, as an American, that is how it should be. They're our neighbors. I can't see living on the west coast and not caring about Mexico's future."

Adang says she plans to use her experience to expand the emphasis on women's issues in Mexico in her women's studies and her culture, gender, and global studies classes. She also plans to have her students to projects that involve interaction with people and agencies working to help women in Mexico.