

### **“Hang-out” at Murphy**

The meeting held this week was the unofficial meeting that AHP has every other week. The AHP members call it hang-out day and they met at a bar called Murphy located at the corner that Green Street and Sixth Street intersects. I had not been there before and thought the bar is outside the campus. So I asked Dan, the head of AHP for a ride and Jordan, a vice president of AHP picked me up in front of my dormitory. She was the girl whom I described as a party girl in the first fieldsite-observation paper. While she was driving, I asked her some questions. She said that like Dan, she wanted to be a pilot since she was a kid and she thought it would be better to fly than to go to classes. We got to the bar first, and took a seat next to a long table. Murphy was a typical bar that sold not just alcohols but also some foods.

Around 7:30, there were about 22 people, and the number surprised me a little bit for no official meeting had more than 20 people. Actually, there were new faces that I had never seen at the official meeting. Some girls in WIA (Women in Aviation) were there also.

I tried not to engage in their conversation since I wanted to know what they usually talk about at the unofficial meeting. I would say nearly 60% of their conversation was about their private life and the other 40% was about their aviation-related episodes happened at ground school, flight school and etc. They talked about their flight professor who had 17 years old son (They had thought the professor's kid was 4 years old).

They were planning to make a T-shirt for AHP and WIA and one guy called Nick suggested putting hammer on the ground as a logo for the T-shirt. Including myself, everyone laughed and said that was a great idea. The joke was obviously, just a

joke, but in a way it reflected the pressure and stress they get from the aviation school.

While eating sandwiches with others as dinner, I found one guy who looked much older than AHP people. I asked Dan who he was, and he said that he is an instructor at flight school. He was tall and handsome and had tanned skin. He began smoking as he drank and some other people also started smoking. As a smoker, smoking was not unfamiliar to me but I wondered if there is a pilot who smokes. Major airline pilots who fly for more than 15 hours may get into a serious trouble if they exhibit abstinence syndrome when aviating an airplane.

I had to get out of the bar a little bit earlier than others because I had a test on the next day in the morning. During nearly two hours of observation, I could not take notes for it might make them feel unpleasant. (I would be annoyed if there's someone writing down my private life right in front of my face) So I wrote down everything I remembered right after I got out of the door. While struggling to conjure up their conversation as much as I could, I realized not being able to take a note is another challenge that I have to face every other week. It may be too tedious thing to be called challenge but as a short-term memorization-er, it is anxious matter for now.