University of South Carolina
English Programs for Internationals
Byrnes Building, Suite 311
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

S U N R I S E

Columbia, Summer 1993
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The most noble and eternal beauty is the beauty of the soul and the spirit. The world is small, especially when you travel by thoughts through it. Remember me....!

With the greatest respect to my instructor and friend Dick Holmes.

12.08.1993

Doncho Donev

You're better than Tom Cruise?!
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Living in a Foreign Country  Oumou Sangare

There is a big difference in lifestyle throughout the world. Obviously, living in a foreign country is both an exciting and difficult experience. People speak different languages, wear different clothes, eat different foods and think in different ways. In a foreign country, nobody knows who you are, and sometimes you don’t even know where you are.

It is exciting to live in a country where you are surrounded by new people because you want to learn their language, to know their customs, etc. Learning a language is likely the most exciting because you would like to express yourself and know so many things in a short time. Your lack of vocabulary and pronunciation, though, will make you feel sad or dumb. Sometimes, you have to say the same word two or three times without being understood. When you know the right pronunciation, you become like a child repeating this word in your
mind. You try to use this word as soon as you can, and look for conversation, where you can improve your pronunciation skill.

Moreover, the clothing style might be a challenge for many people who live in a foreign country. When you start wearing those strange clothes, you feel uncomfortable and you are afraid to go out. All day, you have to look at native people to be sure that your clothes are not ridiculous.

It is not only exciting but also difficult to live in a foreign country. You might have many nutritional problems or get sick from changing your diet. Most of the time, you have to look for specific stores where you can find food from your country. These kinds of stores are usually very expensive and most of their foods are frozen. So, you need to experience a new diet if you stay for a long time.

Nevertheless, we always learn a lot by living in a foreign country. Having lived in a foreign country, people get more experiences, become more open-minded and can easily manage many difficult situations when they return to their home.

As Time Goes On

Seon Hui Jeong

I used to wonder why many people made me so tired,
But now I want to know how I can make them happy.
I used not to understand why unhappinesses called on me
At his will, in spite of the existence of God,
But now I know there comes a pleasant sense of happiness
For me after the unhappiness has gone.
I used to like prose more than poetry,
But now poetry is my favorite
Ever since I started to feel wonder in everything I see.
I used to categorize things
And condemn half the pleasures of life as unaesthetic,
But now I am sure each thing is unique,
Even a touch of a breeze in spring.
I used to believe that my thoughts were only my own,
But now I can understand why my belief was wrong.

Domitilae

Ramon Rodriguez

Domitilae was in pain as usual, her firm, greasy, dark body completely exhausted, and each movement she made hurt more. The enormous load she was carrying became heavier and heavier with each step she took. She was strong but the heat of the sun was increasing as time elapsed and the path was becoming difficult to travel, especially without shoes. Like most of her co-workers she was starving; she had not eaten for several days and her body was screaming for food.

It is impossible to know what kind of force was leading her to accomplish all her daily duties without saying a word, in complete silence. She was so patient and humble that it was hard to believe she really existed. Since her early youth, she had been forced to walk several miles a day carrying those heavy loads and she had never complained. It is however difficult to say whether she was happy or not. Maybe she was fascinated with her job and liked it so much that she did not care about pain or hunger, although this would be pretty unusual for a slave.

Not everything was bad, I guess. Domitilae had a home, a job and occasionally she could eat something when she was lucky. In addition, she was
healthy, strong, and alive, and to stay alive is a very high privilege during war
time. The enemy was always there, outside, and ready, waiting for the slightest
distraction to attack and kill. So it was very important to be part of a group, to be
a member of a huge tribe. She knew that the larger the society, the stronger it
was, so she felt protected among the others, but protection was not the only thing.
Domitalie had the need to belong somewhere, to be accepted somehow within a
crew of similar beings because she was a social being by nature and there was no
other way to find herself identified but by the act of belonging. She was only a
slave but she was somebody, somebody who could be addressed and somebody who
could interact in a complex system. It seemed that this simple fact was enough to
make her feel important and secure.

Besides her strength, speed and agility, Domitalie had another important
skill. She had been blessed with the gift of imagination. Believe it or not, this was
particularly useful for a blind slave. All her body could be working as a machine
with perfect synchronization and she did not have to be aware of it. Instead, she
used to wander in thoughts. She would dream while working, traveling to all kind
of places because she could use the small amount of information allocated in her
memory to create new things and situations. She had never seen the light before
because she had been born blind so she did not know about the colors or shapes
but she could distinguish height, weight, width, and depth. She could even notice
different temperatures and levels of heat. The conception of time was also hers in
that she could tell past from present and somehow she could expect events in the
future. Mixing all this data in her mind, the patient Domitalie was able to build
mental images of all kinds in a progressive way, from simple and primitive
thoughts to very complex and elaborate ones, beyond space or time or shape or
motion and at the same time perform her job neatly and with total accuracy since
strength and obedience were more needed than concentration, so despite her
enslavement, Domitalie was free, free enough to imagine.

When she was a baby, Domitalie had been kidnapped from her original
home. Most of the babies kidnapped along with her, were killed and devoured
while they were helpless and weak, all because of famine. The remainder were
now slaves and occasionally they had to follow their masters in their hunting
games to carry the stolen fresh and easy meat. Sometimes slaves could also
participate in the cannibal dinner when there was enough.

Undoubtedly, Domitalie had been lucky. She had learned that in this life
survival depends on the sacrifice of others when there is a big difference among
individuals in a society. When a group of members are more powerful, they will
always take advantage of the others in one way or another and there is nothing
anybody can do about it.

Although Domitalie was only a black ant, perhaps this rule applies to all
kinds of societies. I don’t know... it may take a lifetime to find out.

Message

HELLO!
I am one of the stars.

I started out from the infinite universe,
but I prefer to be close to the earth
I've lived in the sky for a long, long time.

I entered your life, perhaps as a brightening
in your eyes,
or else I got into your being
as a part of yourself.

Now what makes me wonder is this:
At what point, as I shared
my shining, or was spreading my heat
around, was I part of your body?

And at what exact moment
(later on) do I extinguish
part of this eternity,
i.e., your thoughts?

Let me know what you think.

Yours,
Sun

Festivals and Ghost Month in Taiwan
Ya-Tsun (Bao-Bao) Chang

Taiwan is a small island shaped like a banana leaf with a total area of
nearly 36,000 sq/km (or 14,000 sq/miles). It only takes 6 hours to drive
from the north end to the south end. She is isolated in the Pacific Ocean next to
China and south of Japan. For a long time, people have called Taiwan Formosa,
which means "beautiful island". Just like what she is called she is full of magical
power and has become a never-never land, especially because of her culture and
festivals.

Based on the Chinese lunar calendar, all Chinese festivals are related to
seasons, myths, gods and ghosts.

For example, the Lantern festival is a seasonal celebration. In the spring
time, many parents prepare lanterns for their children to carry on the first
school day after Chinese New Year vacation. This practice symbolizes the hope
that children will have bright futures in the coming year. When I was a child, I
used to carry the lantern through the streets on the evening of the festival. I still
remember how every lantern was made by hand; paper and candle were used. My
mother would put a candle in the middle of the lantern for me. After a while I
would burn up my lantern and cry out for the next one. It was just like a game for
me but it meant so much to my parents.

Myth has been always a beautiful part of Chinese culture. The birthday of
the Goddess of the sea is especially honored. People believe she protects
fishermen on the sea. Her story is told in hundreds ways and she is celebrated in
elaborate ceremonies in Taiwan’s hundreds of temples dedicated to her.

There are also many gods in Taiwan; almost every month people celebrate
a god’s birthday. There are many stories about how each one became a god.

Festivals are very important for the Chinese family. During most of those
days, families spend time together and pray for their future. There are three
very important Chinese festivals, Chinese lunar New Year, Moon festival and
Dragon Boat festival.

Chinese lunar New Year is the longest holiday and most important festival
in Taiwan. Before New Year comes, people will clean their house and buy new
clothes for every family member. Businesses customarily pay their debts before
New Year. If they forget, it may signify that they will always have to borrow money the next year. New Year’s eve and the first three days of the New Year are official holidays, although this break sometimes lasts up to a week. Every school observes this holiday. Movie theaters and some major restaurants will be the only businesses open during this time. One very old-fashioned Chinese New Year custom is for people to give their children, friends or relatives “red envelopes”, inside of which are money for luck. Sometimes children can get a lot of money from their parents’ friends and become very rich during Chinese New Year but adults aren’t so lucky; they always go bankrupt for New Year.

Moon festival is in the mid-autumn on the 15th of August. This night the moon is the biggest and brightest full moon of the year. Chinese eat moon cakes and pomelos. Oldsters take a chair and sit in the garden with their next of kin and tell the story of the woman who lives in the moon. They say: “Hou Yih helped the goddess to build the temple in the Western Heaven. After he built the temple, the goddess gave Hou Yih some pills which would enable him to live forever. One day Hou Yih’s wife Chang O found the pills and ate them. As punishment, she flew to the moon and couldn’t come back to earth.” There is another story about an old man who is the supreme matchmaker. On the night of the Moon festival he ties the young couples together with invisible red silk thread. Then they will marry and be together forever and ever.

The Dragon Boat festival is on the 5th day of the fifth lunar month, when people celebrate their hero Chu Yuan, who was a poet and politician. He drowned himself in the river on this day 2000 years ago. Unable to save him, people threw bamboo stuffed with cooked rice into the river, so the fish would eat rice instead of his body. Since a long time ago, people have believed that the fifth lunar month is an evil month, so medicines are added to food or fastened to the clothing of children. Nowadays they give Hsing-Bao, which is a little sack filled with medicine and spices as symbols of affection.

The Chinese are very superstitious people and for this reason Ghost month, the seventh lunar month, is very special in Taiwan. During this month the gates of hell are opened wide. Ghosts are allowed to come out from their graves and live in the real world. People who want to ensure their safety during this month sometimes close their businesses and burn a lot of paper money as an offering to the ghosts. They also make lanterns like small houses, and cars parade between the cities and light up on the river to show ghosts the way to go home. There is a very special celebration in my hometown. Every day during this month, people invite their friends and relatives to come to their house to have parties. If celebrations were on the same day, nobody would come to your party because they would be having a celebration of their own. So people coordinate the celebrations in various areas or streets every day. During this month if you know enough people in my city, you can have a whole month of free meals.

Festivals are a very traditional part of Chinese culture. It isn’t only to eat certain meals on those special days or to see the folk arts. For me, it is the power of getting all the family members together. It is to keep strong family ties among all Chinese families, so important for Chinese society.

A Special Time: The Ghost Festival

Shih-Yang Wu

The Chinese who live in Taiwan believe that the world has ghosts, but that they exist in another dimension which is not our world. Between the two dimensions the god has made a wall, so people and ghosts are separate. However, there is a door on this wall, and this door opens only fifteen days per year, during
the Chinese festival, from July 1st to July 15th following the Lunar Calendar. During those days, we have a lot of special taboos and activities. Even though today is the twentieth century, we always follow these traditions.

Among the taboos are: Don’t swim in the sea or the river, don’t take a journey, and don’t play a flute at night. According to Chinese legend, people who have drowned need to find someone else to drown, and then he/she can come back to the human world. So during the ghost festival, people don’t swim. Not taking a journey is also to protect yourself from ghosts; outdoors is more dangerous than indoors. Why not play a flute at night? Because the sound of the flute can call ghosts.

During the fifteen days, some families put a bowl of rice on the table every night and stick a pair of chopsticks into the rice. The meaning of this custom is to provide food for ghosts. Until the last day of the festival, we have a lot of special rites and activities. One is to make boats and balloons just using paper and bamboo and put a candle in each one. At night, we light the candles and then put the paper boats on the river or the sea or use hot air to make the paper balloons fly. The meaning of this activity is to guide the ghosts back to the other world. Another custom is that rich families prepare a lot of food and welcome everyone to come and eat. One special custom takes place in just one town, I Ian. The people who live in I Ian make a huge tower made only of bamboo. It is about thirty meters high and has a flag on the top. People try to scramble up it to take the flag, but it is not easy because a lot of oil is put on the tower. Some people get hurt by this game every year, but people continue to play it because whoever gets the flag will be lucky during the year.

What do you think about this ghost festival now? Is it a kind of superstition? Hoo! Oh, I almost forgot a very important thing: We do not use the word “ghost” during those days; we use “good brother” to replace “ghost.” The reason is that if you say “ghost,” the ghosts will follow you.

“I Am Not a Drinker Anymore”

Manuel Reta Hernandez

This is a popular Mexican story which makes us reflect. It is about a poor family, a father, mother, and son, suffering the consequences of the father's drinking habit. Having realized the magnitude of his bad behaviour, the father tells his friends, in a touching manner, why he suddenly decided to eliminate his bad habit. This is his speech.

"Please, excuse me everybody! I don’t want to be impolite not sharing a cup of wine with you, but I am not a drinker anymore. Yes, I know, I have not been a saint. I like alcohol very much, but I am not a drinker anymore, forever and ever!

Before I got married I enjoyed drinking wine, and after that, I continued more and more. I made my wife suffer by me. She was a lovely woman who always had patience with my bad habit. Unfortunately, I lost her very soon. The doctor said she died because of a heart-attack. I don’t know. My feelings tell me that my stupid drinking habit had been the real cause of her death, and I stopped drinking. Now my son, an eight-year old kid, and I live without her lovely presence.

I felt so sorry for my child. He was always sad, missing his dear mom. Eventually, I couldn’t tolerate the situation and I began to drink again trying to forget everything. That was another mistake. When I finished my daily work, I would drink at my house until I was completely drunk. In this condition, I would ‘speak’ to my wife, who would “answer” me so tenderly.
‘Dad, where is my mom? Where is she? Why can’t I see her?’ I asked my son, so very surprised.

‘You should pay attention! She is over there. Go and receive her kisses!’ I answered him. Of course, my son couldn’t see anything and only became more confused and sadder.

One afternoon after work, I arrived at my house, and before opening the door, I heard some strange noises inside the house. When the door was open, Jesus! My little boy was lying on the floor, shouting and crying like a crazy boy. Beside him was a bottle of wine, now empty, which this morning I had left on the table. At this time, I realized what had happened.

‘What have you been doing? You have drunk the wine! I am going to teach you to respect your father! I am going to hit your mouth!’ I shouted violently.

Then, my surprised son, trying to get up, with tears rolling down his cheeks, watched me and began to speak in a very sad way that I’ll never forget, ‘Daddy, please, forgive me! I did it because I wanted to see to mummy, and say that I love her, that I need her! I wanted her to caress me in the same way you get it every day! I wanted to tell her that I miss her!’

Since that day, I haven’t drunk a drop of alcohol. My son taught me a lesson. Sometimes I want to drink a little bit, but I just remember my son and I forget it immediately. Please, excuse me everybody. I am not a drinker anymore, forever and ever!’
Our Paradise

Seon Hui Jeong

There are a lot of cafes in Korea. Among them, a cafe named "Our Paradise" is one of my favorite ones.
On the surface, Our Paradise is not attractive at all. It has such a dim, dismal, ugly appearance that a lot of people run away from it. But if you happen to go there and experience its wonderful uniqueness, you are forced by your heart to go there again.

The atmosphere in Our Paradise, which seems like that of a living room, comes as a surprise to most people because it is so different from other cafes' appearance and atmosphere. First, you see the door on which some strange sheets of paper are hung. Then opening the door, a feeling like comfort comes over you because Our Paradise is equipped with many familiar things: carpet, several sofas, armchairs, cushions, coffee tables, bookcases, many kinds of books, drawing papers, easels, stereos, pictures, table lamps, house plants, and a lot of dried flowers.

Sometimes the owner of this cafe, a painter, comes in from his studio, draws one of the customers, and gives his painting to his temporary model. It is very pleasant to watch the delicate movements of his fingers, but it is not so exciting to talk with him because he is very reticent.

As for the waitress, I can say that she is kindness itself. Her most remarkable characteristics are her sad eyes, long hair, and quiet smile. In her free time she enjoys talking with other people or reading a book. All the people who go there like her very much.

When I was in Korea, I used to go there and enjoy everything that was given to me. Now that I am in Columbia, whenever I need more courage, feeling myself very small, I remind myself of Our Paradise.

The Mind

Dick Holmes

a body
doing
what it's doing

makes...
like you
sitting there talking

or that tree you gaze at
noting the breeze
and constant change of color,

this leaf
waving
this fact, this

one
this
one.
What Is Japanese Thinking?  Mari Inoue

Each country has its own culture, and there are a lot of different factors in the development of their cultures. Between the USA and Japan, I can see the differences in emotional expression, working system and family relationship. And now we Japanese and Americans have a difficult time understanding these subjects, but I hope that we can respect each other as persons and cooperate as nations.

When I first visited the USA, I was impressed that American expression of emotion was so straight, overabundant and humorous. I wanted to become familiar with such expression and I was able to find the differences from emotional expression in Japan. There is a historical reason for these differences. Japan has a very long history, about 2000 years. We Japanese have had the custom of thinking that it is good to suppress our emotions. Men aren't supposed to emphasize their emotions in social situations, and women de-emphasize their emotions not only in social situations but also at home. I don't know why we have kept this custom for such a long time. However, recently young people's expression has tended to be close to that of Americans.

Why do the Japanese (called “economic animals”) like working so hard? The reason behind this tendency started after World War II. Almost all the Japanese were shocked by the defeat, and they were eager to recover and grow their country as America did with its independence. Meanwhile the Japanese started to work to restore their country without having time for their families or vacations. These facts were reflected by the abnormal increase in the Japanese GNP. In the last ten years this tendency has been changing a little; a few Japanese have decided that the first thing is their family, not working.

Family relationship in Japan has also changed since World War II. The extended family style, which was composed of at least two or three generations, has changed into only a couple or a couple with just a few children. Therefore, parents are strongly concerned with their children. Children are especially dependent on their mother, because their father has to work and doesn’t have time to communicate with the family. In addition, there are those cases in which the company makes them live in another place far from their family home because of their job. Therefore, many Japanese set a higher value on money than their family relationship, and parents are offering their children money even if they are grown up. Now almost all Japanese students who are going to a university depend on their parents to pay their school tuition and other expenses.

Finally, in Japan, these differences from Americans are changing day by day. We Japanese would like to open our minds. Americans and Japanese need to respect and cooperate with each other and, particularly, encourage each other in all fields, as God wills be done for us.

Household Duties: A Shift Occurring  Ruth Hatori

"If a husband and wife are working full-time, who should do the housework?" This is a personal question. So there are many answers depending on each one’s situation. The most important thing is not who should do the housework but how to keep the couple’s happiness. To keep their happiness they must hold consultations with their partners and decide who is responsible for the housework according to their situation.

I know a wife who has a job but does the housework all alone because she thinks the housework is the duty of women. She takes it for granted that she is the
one who has to do it. The husband understands her way for them and they are happy.

On the other hand, I know of a different case in which the husband is responsible for the housework as well as the wife. The husband’s time is flexible enough to do housework, and he is willing to do it. Sharing the work is a natural style for them.

When my sister had a job, she and her husband shared their housework. They discussed what the most comfortable way to do it would be. They each had responsibilities for each part of the housework and always tried to find what the most comfortable way was. This was the best way to organize their housework.

I can’t tell what the best way for me will be because I don’t yet know what kind of situation I will have. Anyway, though, I think the key to a happy life with my partner will be discussion. I’d like to decide who should do the housework by deciding together.

**A Special Time: The Independence of Macedonia**

Doncho Donev

The citizens of the Republic of Macedonia, at the referendum held on the 8th of September, 1991, expressed their will and gave their votes for the Republic of Macedonia to be established as the sovereign and independent state Macedonia. Once again in its long history, the Macedonian people had managed to preserve their identity as a unique nation.

The deconstruction of Yugoslavia began on the 15th of May, 1991. Yugoslavia was left without a head of state when Serbia blocked a procedure and prevented Croatia’s candidate from becoming President of Yugoslavia. On the 25th of June, 1991, Slovenia and Croatia issued declarations of independence. The Yugoslav People’s Army quickly intervened in an attempt to restore order and preserve territorial unity, but without success because Slovenia and Croatia had been building republican armed forces in addition to their territorial forces. A few months later independence was declared by Bosnia-Herzegovina and by Macedonia. On the other side Serbia and Montenegro established a confederation under the name United Republic of Yugoslavia.

The new Constitution, adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia, once again confirmed that Macedonia had been established as a national state, in which are provided complete citizen equality and permanent fellow-townsmanship to the Macedonian people, Albanians, Turks, Romanies and other nationalities living in the Republic of Macedonia. The main purposes of the new Constitution are:

- establish the Republic of Macedonia as a sovereign and independent as well as a civilian and democratic state;
- guarantee human rights, civilian freedom and national equality;
- provide peace and fellow-citizenship to the people of other nationalities living in Macedonia;
- provide social justice, economic welfare and prosperity for the personal and common life.

Now Macedonia is an official member of the United Nations and has been recognized by many countries in Europe and all over the world. Back in ancient times Macedonia was an important meeting-place of various civilizations and religions. Many conquerors have passed through it during the centuries. This has influenced the culture and the customs as well as the spirit of the Macedonian people, who have always fought for survival, freedom and better days.
The Republic of Macedonia now covers an area of about 26,000 square kilometres and counts about 2,100,000 inhabitants. Its capital is Skopje, the administrative, political and cultural centre in which live nearly one third of the population of Macedonia. After a disastrous earthquake in 1963, Skopje become recognized as a city of worldwide solidarity, having been rebuilt with the help of people and nations from all over the world.

Macedonia has an outstanding picturesque landscape, a rich, colorful mosaic of natural beauty. Many mountain- tops are over two thousand metres high and abound in lovely areas for rest, sports and recreation. Its rivers are relatively small. The Vardar is the longest river, springing from and passing about four hundred kilometres through Macedonia. Macedonia has three widely-known tectonic lakes: Ohrid, Prespa and Dojran, and also many man-made lakes of a more recent date. Many modern roads provide good communication inside Macedonia and with neighbouring countries. Transportation by rail is over one hundred years old, and recently a super-modern railway station was built in Skopje. There are two airports in Macedonia, one near Skopje and the other near Ohrid. The airport Petrovec, located about 20 km to the east of Skopje, has modern flight control and a wide runway, so it can accept even the most modern aircraft.

Macedonia has undergone intensive economic development in the past few decades. There are several metalurgical and industrial giants producing crude iron, sheet metal, lead and zinc, nickel, various metallic profiles and many other products and constructions. Beside Petrochemical Industry /Raphinery/, Organic Chemical Works /OHIS/, Cement Factory /USJE/, Bus Factory (with an annual production of about 2,000 buses) and several hydroelectric power plants, there are a great number of factories for food, textile, tobacco and leather industries and many other industrial plants and trade capacities.

Macedonia has its own unique culture. A great number of historical monuments, ancient cities and fortresses, Roman style theatres and public buildings, churches and monasteries, mosques and towers, and archeological excavations give evidence of a rich Macedonian culture in the past. There are many historical and memorial museums, monuments in honor of the distinguished Macedonian spiritual teachers and revolutionary leaders, as well as a Modern Art Museum in Skopje holding more than 3,000 works of art by almost 1,000 artists from about 40 countries. The Macedonian University "St. Ciry and Methodius" in Skopje, consisting of 13 faculties with almost 40,000 students, has its own tradition spanning almost five decades. The Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts /MANU/ was founded in 1967 to meet the need for greater pedagogical, educational and cultural growth. Today it has a strong influence on the cultural and educational life in Macedonia, and organizes traditional links of cooperation with European and other foreign academies. The modern Cultural Theatre Centre in Skopje, with its drama, opera and ballet companies, the great number of drama theatres in other cities, the Macedonian Philharmonic, Macedonian Radio-television, Kliment Ohridski National and University Library and many other libraries, as well as various festivals, music and literary events all enrich the cultural and spiritual life in Macedonia.

Recognition of Macedonia as a sovereign state by the United Nations has opened a new epoch in its history. The Macedonian people have gained the greatest possibility, in the conditions of independence, social and national freedom, to facilitate economic, cultural and social progress, and to create their own state as an equal unit in the European and world community.
A Piece of Land in the South  

Maritza Ramirez

There is a paradise in the Caribbean Sea, where the landscape seems like a dream which an artist had wanted to paint. Its hot weather reflects its people's friendliness and hospitality. This paradise is the beginning of a new land and another part of America; it's the entry to the South and the place where my heart is.

Wherever I go, my family is always in my mind. I cannot get out of my thoughts the little star that I left in Venezuela shining far away from here. She is the reason for my life and I just hope to hug her and feel her little hands cherish my face once again. I miss not only my piece of land, with its sun and its moon over the ocean, but also my people, those groups of old close friends with whom I have always been smiling and enjoying life. I need to hear their voices, a sound that reminds me of the sweet melodies of hopeful children.

It's an amazing thing to experience a new culture and a new lifestyle, but being far away from Venezuela sometimes makes me feel like it's difficult for me to breathe. I don't know how I can express the feelings which overcome me, but it's like only my body is in a strange land; my thoughts and my heart are in a paradise in the South of America.

Zigzag  

Dick Holmes

from sea
to shining
sea to see
sí
claro
from to see
shining
sea

But Now . . .  

Doncho Donev

I used to dream,
but now I think.
I used to believe in people's words,
but now I value people's worth.
I used to appreciate keeping the word of honour as a vow,
but now I know that even without giving your word to someone you shouldn't betray yourself.
I used to be satisfied whenever I learned something new,
but now I know that discovering and drawing from new sources of knowledge is never enough.
I used to wonder why I have always been in a race with time,
but now I know that an anomaly of nature is that the length of one day and night is only 24 hours.
I used to believe that no one is perfect,
but now I appreciate each person who tends to build on top of his/her values.
I used to believe that to be successful everything you do must be with quality,
but now I know that you must try to prepare everything with quality in time.
I used to believe many people would become happy by fulfilling their dreams,
but now I know that it is much better to awaken them.
I used to believe just in balance by harmony,
but now I can see balance sometimes in each person pulling things to his/her side.
I used to believe that undeveloped countries have to escape from poverty and then from illiteracy,
but now I know that the process is visa versa.
I used to believe each crisis could be solved by eliminating its cause,
but now I know that the capital solution for many crises lies in capital.
I used to wonder why some people couldn't participate in various sports,
but now I know that for many of them the basic athletic discipline is staying in a place with difficulties.
I used to criticize empty promises,
but now I know it is a profitable business for many people.
I used to wonder why some histories are like comedies,
but now I know that sometimes the main characters are buffoons.
I used to believe that some people are born to be successful,
but now I know that there are no obstacles on the way for someone who is pacing in place.
I used to believe that progressive people make positive changes,
but now I know that some of the ones who force changes might in turn be changed themselves.
I used to believe in destiny and fortune,
but now I know that mainly people's destinies are in their own hands.
I used to think that justice always prevails,
but now I know that the truth coming out into the daylight might close its eyes.
I used to believe that each person gets equal chances for success,
but now I know that the keys to success are often kept by the ones who have the master key.
I used to believe that the first steps are the most difficult,
but now I know that some people prefer crawling their whole lives.
I used to appreciate each fight for the truth,
but now I know that people can dirty their faces even by clapping their hands.
I used to understand that whoever works can make some mistakes,
but now I am astonished that people make so many mistakes without learning from them.
I used to believe people who read know much,
but now I know that those who observe know more.
I used to believe the human being is the greatest fortune for society,
but now I know that becoming and being a man or a woman in the real sense of the word is a more beautiful thing than becoming a king or a queen.
I used to believe the first tears of the child are requests,
but now I know that without controlling them they can become commands.
I used to believe friendship is everlasting,
but now I know you oughtn't step up to your friend who rises aloft until he/she sends for you.
I used to believe all people consider books as real friends,
but now I know that the ones who are indifferent to books frivolously impoverish their lives.
I used to be surprised that some people are so greedy,
but now I know that whoever is satisfied with little has more than everything he/she needs.

I used to believe happiness produces friends,

but now I know misfortune verifies friendship.

I used to be surprised that some people act in an affected manner,

but now I know that to be the greatest master you must become a master of yourself.

I used to believe that leaders have to share the destiny of the people,

but now I know many of them persistently divide the people.

I used to be surprised that professionals spent so much time on work,

but now I know they sometimes have to go home, even though they shouldn’t exaggerate.

I used to believe each one entering my office was bringing joy inside,

but now I know some people do that in coming in while others in going out of my office.

I used to believe that time is money,

but now I know even in the most terrible lack of time you should be in a hurry slowly.

I used to believe that life is composed of bad and rarely of good things,

but now I know that when you miss a good thing you ought to create or even to invent it.

I used to wonder why some people suffer terribly from their job,

but now I know that the constant platform for yourself to be happy is to fall in love with your profession.

I used to believe that you deserve reproach if you lie to me the first time,

but now I know that you deserve compliments if you succeed in lying to me a second time.

I used to believe that human life is so complex if observed through a microscope,

but now I know that it is so irrelevant if observed through a telescope.

I used to believe that people think about how to work better,

but now I know that some of them think about how to avoid work.

I used to believe that to survive in a mountain you should be able to eat everything, from roots to fruits,

but now I know that to survive in town you should be able to swallow and stomach various kinds of injustices.

I used to believe that someone is wise if he/she presents him-/herself as wise,

but now I know that the wise person tends to the endlessness of wisdom in the common.

I used to believe that I always saw what I saw,

but now I know that everything might be relative except relativity, which is absolute.

The Alley Party

Fernando Mireles-Garcia

Zacatecas, Mexico, my home city, has some special events. The alley party, a fun trip through the core of the city, is one of them. This kind of party is held by a group of tourists, friends, associations, or clubs who want to have a new experience. During the party, time stops and the night is not over until sunrise. Participants are able to feel, breathe and touch this exceptional experience, their hearts beating to the tempo of the exciting music.

The great hospitality of the city makes the tourist feel very good. Its romantic alleys are different from those of other cities: They go downstairs and
upstairs and are very narrow. Cars can't go into many of these fantastic alleys; only joyful people are able to walk there. There are many legends about Zacatecas' alleys. For instance, one narrow alley is called "Kiss Alley" by its neighbors. As this name suggests, a kiss may happen when the couple is walking along it. But the romantic atmosphere of Zacatecas isn't confined to Kiss Alley. Every building in the downtown is made of pink stone, looking like a dress of roses. Alleys and streets are made of gray stone. In other words, the downtown is as strong as a stone and as beautiful as a rose.

The people meet in one of the downtown squares around 8 p.m., and then the party begins with cheerful music. A party group consists of married couples, girlfriends and boyfriends, friends, relatives, colleagues, etc. The band and its music are of a special kind for this event. The band is formed by twelve musicians, who play instruments such as a drum, a bass, a tuba, trumpets, trombones and flutes. The music is folk style with a fun tempo. Now the music links the group, who get ready to run through the core of the city, and then the partygoers begin to make a lovely trip. They run, sing and enjoy the alley party. Don't forget the terrific beverage, tequila, that is used as a catalyst. Everyone drinks to their own limit. Finally, the fun group reaches the end point, a square where the people dance, drink, sing and eat.

The alley party is an enjoyable time for laughter and relaxation; a lot of imagination goes into it. This experience has a cultural sense which is a lesson in customs and lifestyle. The kind of music, food, beverage, feeling and dress are typical for this party. The participants are able to share their joys with the spirit of the city. The party is an opportunity for exchanging their knowledge about human feeling. Would you like to be at one of these parties?

My Special Time

Akiko Kawarai

The special times in my life have revolved around learning new cultures and languages.

The first time I came to the highly developed city, Tokyo, I was surprised that there were so many buildings, cars, and colorful sights because I had never seen such things in China. It was marvelous! It made me wonder where I was. I thought that I had slipped through time into another world.

During my first month in Tokyo, I began to learn Japanese characters and conversation from my grandmother. Learning Japanese wasn't so difficult for me because I was just ten years old. Everything was very easy to accept.

However, when I went to elementary school, where there were no other returnee students (students whose families had returned to Japan after having lived abroad for some years), I was maltreated by my friends. For this reason, I felt mortified and studied Japanese hard so that I could survive. It took me only about four months to be able to speak Japanese. Then I could quarrel with the other kids on common ground.

When I began to study in junior high school, I was humiliated again. In my school there were many bad boys who said to me that I was a war-displaced Japanese in China or that Chinese people had to go back to China. "Why do you live in Japan?" they asked. Such sarcastic remarks made me very angry. I couldn't put up with such unjust treatment, so I bravely stood up to fight my adversaries. I wondered why they looked down on me. Everything was almost the same, our faces, frames, and movement; only our backgrounds were so different. For some time, I had an inferiority complex about my background.
Fortunately, a miracle happened in my high school life because the students there not only were very interested in my background but also respected me. My friends said that they envied me as I could speak two languages. Suddenly my situation had changed, and as a result, I didn’t have an inferiority complex about it anymore; in contrast, I felt proud of myself. I realized that I was not a real Japanese and could not be one. Furthermore, I didn’t want to be a real Japanese. My opinions were always different from theirs. This was the youth I experienced.

Now I would like to help people who are very depressed or are very sad because not only can I not stand to watch them, but also I can’t stand people who bully weak people. I realize that I have to care for people and think about them, being careful not to be a selfish person. For this reason, I am interested in going abroad to study other countries’ culture, lifestyle, and people. Now, learning English and speaking English are my pleasure and my golden time, too.

Learning a second or third language is very difficult. When you are young, you learn very fast and your memory is better than it is when you are older. Young or old, most people learn a second language from very bad words or very good words. Such expressions are easy to remember and make language learning interesting to everybody.

A few years ago, I wanted to go to the U.S. to study, but my parents thought it would be too dangerous for me to live here and sent me to China to study English instead. Finally, though, they surprised me by telling me that they would let me come here. They agreed with me that to learn a foreign language it’s best to live in the environment where the language is actually spoken. They told me that if I wanted to study English, I would have to study right now because I was young and still in my golden time for learning a foreign language easily. I was 19 years old at that time, and now I understand everything that my parents told me. I think that before coming here, I probably lost sight of myself, but now I am deeply impressed that I have discovered my real self in the United States. I have fully realized that I am surviving every second of my golden time. As people say, life is hard, but that is life.

Ada

Milton Matus

Several years ago I was working in the Civil Engineering Department at Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, a private university in Guatemala. I usually worked part time in the afternoons teaching one or two courses each semester. Sometimes I went alone or with two or three colleagues to the cafeteria, and had a refreshment. Meanwhile, a beautiful nineteen-year-old woman was frequenting the same cafeteria and trying to get some information about me from her co-workers. She was plotting to meet me in a seemingly casual way.

One day, when I was waiting for my next class in front of the library building, this beautiful young woman gave me a wonderful smile as she was walking to her office. I was so surprised by this, and I was very happy because when a person gives a sincere smile, she/he transmits good feelings that make the receiver happy. That was her first step.

In the following weeks we had only the opportunity to see each other from a distance in the cafeteria. Sometimes when I was coming into the cafeteria, she was going out, and vice-versa, so it was difficult for us to have a conversation. But she told me later that just the fact of seeing each other had been better than nothing. That had been enough for her, and for me too.
Her second step came when I was having lunch in the cafeteria one day. She approached me and asked me if she might sit down at the same table. Of course, my answer was, "Yes." My eyes brightened, my heart began to beat faster, and strange sensations invaded my body. We began the conversation talking about general subjects. After several minutes of looking at and smiling at each other, she shifted the conversation to personal topics. She told me that she bet that she knew where I was from and when my birthday was. I said, "No, you don't know," and she replied, "You come from Puerto Barrios, and your birthday is on October 4." I was very quiet, almost frozen, for a few minutes. Then, she continued telling me other information related to my family. I had been so surprised that I thought, "Is she a private investigator? How did she get that information?" She was looking at my eyes with attention, and she either guessed what I was thinking, or read my mind. Then, she explained to me that she worked as a secretary at the University and had access to the teachers' files. That was how she knew a little about me. But she was not sure about my marital status because my file said that I was single, but some of her friends were jealous and had told her that I was married. So, she asked me some questions in a way that I didn't notice that she was trying to confirm my single status. She was very smart in asking such questions, as many women are. She changed her face and gave me another wonderful smile when I told her that I was single.

One month later, she quit her job and we didn't see each other for several weeks. I was thinking, "Where did she go? How can I find her?" But one fact I was sure of: that I missed her, principally her smiles.

Two months later, we met in a theater where a comedy movie, whose title I don't remember, was playing. This really was a casual meeting. She was already sitting down when I came in and tried to find an empty seat. She saw me and called me by my last name, Matus, and pointed at an empty place beside her. We were so lucky, and so happy to see each other again. We enjoyed the movie very much. Everyone else in the theater laughed a lot, too. After the movie, we walked around the Central Park and talked about several topics, including how wonderful the movie was. By the end of that afternoon I asked her about her job situation and she explained to me that she had been having very hard days with her boss, to the point that she had decided to quit. Then, came the moment to go home, and I asked her, "Can you give me your telephone number?" "26-3-72," was her answer.

One day after that meeting, I called her and asked her for a date. She said, "Yes, of course. I've been waiting for you to ask me that."

I will always remember that date. After we went to watch a movie (again I don't remember its title), we ate apple pie and drank hot chocolate in a little cafeteria. After two hours of talking, we went to her house. In front of the house, I was so nervous when I asked her to close her eyes. I gave her a soft little kiss. Then, we kissed each other. It was a long kiss and she told me, "You match with me." I asked her to be my girlfriend, and she said, "I'll think about it." I said, "Take your time, I'm not in a hurry." She took about one minute to think about it and then she said, "Yes, I will be your girlfriend."

My Kids Remind Me of My Childhood

Milton Matus

GOD has blessed me, as He always blesses me, with two children. My daughter Samantha, three years old, and my son Joshua, seventeen months old, have permitted me to travel retrospectively to my childhood. I have greatly enjoyed how they have learned to walk, to imitate, to talk and to eat food by themselves.
The two kids learned to walk in different ways. Samantha began to take her first steps holding sometimes onto her mother’s hand and other times onto mine. After helping her for several minutes, we began to get tired, principally in our back, so we took a break, just as our parents usually had when we were children. Another interesting phase started when my little girl began to move alone from one sofa to another, walking short distances in order to gain security on her own in experimenting with her muscles and also to see how to control her balance. My daughter did not have as many falls as my son did. Joshua, like other little boys, had “weak” muscles compared to his sister’s, so took several weeks more to learn to walk. And unlike Samantha, he preferred to practice walking alone, without help. These facts triggered a process of imagination in my mind and I could see myself, like watching a movie on TV, walking and falling and my parents helping me to get up.

It’s interesting to see how my children use the process of imitation in their learning. Since they were in their mother’s body, they began to listen to all the sounds that were in the environment, including the songs that Ada, my wife, and I sang to them frequently. And when they were born, the process continued and one day they began to look carefully at how we moved our mouths. The first words that Samantha and Joshua learned were “Mama” (mother) and “Papa” (father). My wife and I were so excited the first time they pronounced them that we talked to everybody about these great moments. Now, we know what our parents felt years ago in moments like these. Now that they have learned many words, nobody can stop them. On some occasions Samantha invents her own words, like “pedunka” and “achi lachi lachi”, and neither her mother nor I can translate them or imagine their usage. Other moments that transfer my thoughts to my childhood are when Samantha sings and combines several children’s songs, jumping randomly from one topic to another.

Ada began to give solid food to our children when they were seven months old. We enjoyed the times when they ate black bean soup with little pieces of tortilla. Usually my kids tried to use both hands to eat, spreading the black soup on their faces, and it was funny how they looked like clowns. Samantha was patient in drinking liquids in glasses and practically she began to sip, but Joshua was not so dainty. He took the glass quickly with both hands, and half of the liquid went into his mouth while the other half spilled onto his clothes.

The wonderful days that we are together with our children let us see how kids begin to do several things by themselves, and at the same time remind us of our own childhood, especially if we do not have pictures of ours.

**My Most Important Goal in Life**

Manuel Reta Hernandez

One day a TV interviewer asked Joan Manuel Serrat, a famous Spanish singer, what his greatest desire in life was and he answered thoughtfully, “Just to be happy.” To me, these few words mean everything. I’d answer exactly the same words he said to express my most important goal in life. Of course, happiness or unhappiness are abstract concepts which may have different meanings to different persons. In my own understanding, happiness is interior peace, feeling good with oneself knowing that the things one could do were done.

In my concept, education, or the acquisition of knowledge, is a good way to understand many things about life. Now I consider myself an ignorant person, but I have an enormous desire to study as much as I can, according to my capability. It’s my ambition to study electrical engineering in a Ph.D. program in the USA, but first of all I have to know the English language adequately.
I don't care about luxurious things. To me such things are superfluous. What is indeed important to me, focusing my complete attention and preparation, is to take care of my family. I want to grow up together with my family. Maybe I can't be a rich man and maybe I will finally die in complete poverty, but if I realize my desire to help humanity, even in the most modest manner, and if I can see that my children are looking for their own happiness, that will be enough for me.
Special Customs and Culture:
Ohrid, a Natural and Cultural Treasure of Macedonia

Doncho Donev

Two beautiful towns lie like pearls beside the exceptional Lake Ohrid, the
town Ohrid and the town Struga. Each of them has a plenitude of natural and
cultural values.

Lake Ohrid is one of the loveliest lakes not only in the Europe, but in the
whole world. Its area is about 350 square kilometers and its altitude about 700
meters above sea level. It is 30 km. long and 15 km. wide. Its maximum depth is
nearly 290 m., and its water is transparent to a depth of 80 m. The summer
water temperature climbs to 24°C. Its animal life is unique and there are many
demic varieties. Especially attractive are the Ohrid trout and eel. There are a
few springs near the bank and the best known are Biljana's Springs (Biljanini
izvori) and the springs near the Monastery of St. Naum., about 30 kilometers
from Ohrid.

Various periods have all left their marks on the town Ohrid, the richest
cultural treasury in Macedonia. The best known monument is the Church of St.
Sophia (Crkva Sv. Sofije), the former Cathedral of Ohrid Archbishopric. It was
built in the 10th and 11th centuries and contains many priceless frescoes from
the 11th to the 14th centuries. Every summer the Ohrid Summer International
Music Festival (Ohridsko Leto) is held in the Cathedral Church of St. Sophia. This
festival is a great tourist attraction and a real challenge for many musicians and
folkloric groups from various countries all over the world. The old part of the
town Ohrid is a real museum in itself. It contains many cultural monuments,
unique Macedonian icons, the Fortress which had been built by the first
Macedonian Emperor Samuil in the 10th century, the grave of Kliment of Ohrid, a
Roman amphitheatre, etc.. Ohrid is the most developed tourist area in Macedonia,
with many workers' rest centers, a large number of exclusive hotels and a few
high-class camping sites.

The picturesque town Struga is located about 15 km. from Ohrid on the
north shore of Lake Ohrid. A Macedonian folk song says that there is no other town
as beautiful as Struga. The river Crni Drim, flowing out of Lake Ohrid devides
Struga into two parts. A few bridges provide communication between the two
parts of the town. A special attraction for swimmers is jumping into the river
from the bridges. There are several comfortable and modern hotels and touristic
settlements. In the peak of the season many tourists also make use of private
accomodations.

Struga Evenings of Poetry is an international event, probably unique in
the whole world. It is held every year at the end of August in the original site of
the first bridge across Crni Drim, near the lake. Many poets from various
countries all over the world come to present some of their poems during those
few poets' days. Many prizes are awarded and acknowledgements are given cut
during the event, the most famous among them being the Laurel Crown of Poetry.
A few years ago an American poet, Allen Ginsberg, was the winner of this glorious
honor.
Metamorphosis

I used to be a storm
But now I’ve learned to calm down.

I used to do everything just one time
But now I believe that I should try again, and again, and again.

I used to be a star illuminated by the sun
But now I am a light shining into infinity.

I used to believe that life was to dream, to be loved, and to forget
But now I know that it’s to wake up, to love, and to forgive.

I used to go out
But now I go back.

I used to feel good when my father gave me some gift
But now I feel even better when I can share everything with my son.

I used to think that the world was alright
But now I understand that it can easily die.

I used to speak theoretically about some idea
But now I attempt to focus on realities.

I used to believe that God was in heaven
But now I realize that He is in my hands, in my mind, in my eyes, in everything.

Kyoto

There are a lot of beautiful and exciting places in Japan, but I prefer some places which make my feeling calm. I like mountains, rivers, lakes, natural things like these, but I also like old cities. One great old city is Kyoto.

When I went to Kyoto, I strongly realized that I was Japanese and my heart felt something dear, because there I found a lot of temples which made me relaxed, especially Ryuan temple, a very famous stone temple. There are only fifteen or fewer stones in this temple’s garden, with pebbles spread like sand around them. It is so simple, but when I was viewing this garden, I was able to forget every evil thought and reconsider my life. Of course, I could feel a similar feeling in other temples, though that feeling was clearer in Ryuan temple than in the others.

However, the reason that I felt such a good feeling in Kyoto was not only the temples but also the atmosphere of the town. Kyoto retains an old Japanese mood and style of buildings. And people who live in Kyoto a long time speak with a different intonation which is softer and calmer than others. I like it very much, and so do my friends.

But it is difficult to preserve these buildings and beautiful sights. Some companies wanted to build high-rise buildings near Kyoto, but they weren’t allowed to because it was decided such construction would disturb the sights in
the area. Now Kyoto has a traditional mood, but I am not sure whether or not it will be able to avoid becoming a city like Tokyo or other big cities.

I think many foreigners' imagination of Japan is Kyoto's mood, but I want to point out that this impression is wrong; Kyoto is a special city even in Japan. Kyoto reminds me of the Japan, Japanese feeling, and Japanese religion which I usually tend to forget about. Kyoto may be the heart which I usually forget, and Kyoto is the place where I can become Japanese again.

Native Worship Ceremonies in Taiwan

Chiu-Tzu Lin

Until 1978, when civilization overtook Taiwan, the native people had three important worship ceremonies: wedding, prayer, and thanksgiving ceremonies. I was able to experience these ceremonies personally because my father is of a native tribe. Although my mother is Cantonese and a Christian and I am influenced more by my mother, I used to like to join certain ceremonies with my father.

Weddings were very serious. Before men got married, they had to catch five wild boars and bring a bag of corn and rice and other kinds of crops. On the wedding day the couple couldn't meet each other until the ceremony. The next day the groom had to go to the bride's house and carry her to his house on his back. The chief presided over everything. He didn't permit divorce, so after marriage there was no divorce.

People prayed to the gods for health or for good crops. Many witches would make a circle and wear special black clothes; sometimes a ghost went into the witches' bodies, and they acted strange and started saying things that people didn't understand. Only the witches understood, and they explained to people what
their gods wanted them to do for health and crops, but sometimes the people who asked about health still became ill or died. The witches would say that the people had sinned too much; the gods wanted to punish them.

For thanksgiving, once every six years, the chief chose who the best men were, and this occasion involved a special worship ceremony. First the people would come together in the public square and make a big circle. They put knives together and made stairs out of the knives in the center of circle. The best men, those who had a mission, would accept ghosts into their body and start to climb the knife-stairs, and their feet would bleed. But they didn't feel any pain. After climbing, they used ginger on their bleeding feet, and the bleeding stopped quickly. Then they would cut their tongues and show everybody because the ghosts liked to show off. After they cut themselves, they used ginger and rice wine to stop the bleeding. Finally they would hold the ginger plants and run in a circle putting some rice wine in their mouths and spurting it out on the people. This was to give the people luck and bless them. Finally, the ghosts would go out of the best men. Then everybody would mix some rice to look like a cake, kill a strong ox and cook it, and share the meal. After the meal, they would dance all night.

**Camel Racing**

Abdulnasir Al-Zaabi

Camel racing is one of the traditional sports in my country, the UAE. I watch it whenever I have the chance. It's really interesting, if you know the importance of camels, the history of this kind of racing, and the rules.

First of all, the camel is the most important animal not only in my country, but in many other countries. People have long used camels to transport themselves and goods across the desert. They use their milk and meat. The camel in my country is like the kangaroo in Australia, having the same importance to the people. Even after the introduction of new equipment like cars and other technology, people couldn't forget the value of the camel and how it had helped them during the years before they had started to use cars.

Camel racing has existed for many years. Originally, races were between two or three camels only. People organized camel racing to celebrate on special occasions, like weddings. Over the years this race has changed. It has become more organized than before. Camel racing is officially organized these days by the Camel Racing Union, a special union like a horse racing union. Camel racing is organized seasonally, starting in October and ending in March, because during this period the weather is nice and cooler than it is the rest of the year.

Finally, the Union has been taking care of the racing and everything relative to it. They set standards that organize the racing, like how the jockey's age must be under twelve years since heavy weight affects the racing camel. They divide the camels into many categories depending on their age, and there is a special race for each category or for each age, from one-year-olds to five-year-olds. Also there are different races for male and female camels because the female weighs less than the male and the female is faster. The race track is ten miles long, and depending on the camel's age, races range from six to ten miles.

It's really enjoyable, and big crowds are attracted to the races. There is a stadium for the people who come to watch races, and you can also watch them on TV live. Many tourists watch the races. There are special buses which take them to the races and bring them back to their hotel. If you have the chance to visit the UAE, take my advice and don't miss the camel races.
Jammur Day 1992

Florence Ohito

Jammur Day falls on December 12th. This is the day Kenya became independent from British colonial rule. Although this great day in the history of the people of Kenya has been an annual event since 1963, I had never before attended the celebrations.

On December 12th, 1992, my family set out for Nyayo National Stadium, where the celebration was going to take place. Seated in the stadium were ordinary people, members of different dancing troupes, diplomatic corps, and government dignitaries. At the start of the ceremony the Mayor of Nairobi welcomed everybody and outlined the schedule for the events of the day.

First to take the floor were the Masai warriors dance troupe. The women members of the group were dressed in beautiful traditional regalia with headgear, necklaces, and beads around their waistlines. They looked gorgeous. The men had their hair plaited and linen cloth tied around their waist. They appeared smart in their outfits. While they were performing their traditional dance which involved jumping high up in the air, one of the men's cloths dropped to the floor. The crowd burst into a loud uproar. It was very funny to watch the man grope for his cloth and try to cover his naked skin. But he went on dancing with the rest of the group as if nothing had happened. When their time was up, the dancers received loud applause from the spectators.

Next was the young Borana women's group. They had their faces painted like pussy cats. They wore skirts made of goatskin with sislal frills around the waist. The outfits appeared oversized for each one of them. Their look was so amusing that when they stepped on stage people started giggling and cheering. As they were dancing round and round in a circle, one of them accidentally slipped and rolled down like a log. The crowd burst out into uncontrollable laughter for about five minutes.

The third group to entertain the guests were the Dagoretti Acrobatic troupe, who were all young men. Their outfits were decorated like leopard skin and their faces were colored to resemble leopards. They performed three acrobatic drills. One was particularly interesting. They climbed up on top of each other to form the letter "A". The man right at the top balanced himself while at the same time he tried to balance a beer bottle on a stick stuck out from his mouth. We held our breaths fearing he might fall down. This action looked risky but after about thirty seconds, he managed to do it. The spectators were so impressed that they clapped loudly while cheering and whistling for what seemed like an eternity but was actually only ten minutes. Subsequently, other events went on as scheduled but none could match these three humorous ones.

Finally, the president gave his speech for the occasion. He reminded us not to discard our rich cultural heritage. As we were driving back home at the end of the cerebrations, we could not help but wonder at how much fun we had been missing in past years. We promised ourselves to continue attending these colorful ceremonies on Jamhuri Day in the future. After all it is only one day in the whole calendar year.

A Fantastic Island

In-Gyoo Hwang

Why did Dante go to Heaven through such a perilous Hell and a terrible Purgatory? Where is this Paradise? Have you ever seen Paradise? Here I introduce you to Paradise, which is the most exotic island in the world. It is Jeju-do, shrouded in mystery with a fantastic landscape and seascape.
In the southernmost part of Korea lies an island Jejudo, which is famous as the island of three plentiful things: women, stones, and wind. Many women there are divers for seaweeds and pearls. Most of the roofs of the houses near the sea are fixed with stones, and are lower than usual so as to protect them from rough wind. Many stone statues shaped like a grandfather can be found here and there.

Korean weather is very precise every season; winter is very cold and summer is hot, but Jejudo is always warm and breezy. Palm trees decorate the streets and mandarin orange plantations are spread throughout most of the island. In the center is the highest mountain in South Korea, Mount Hanra, with its volcanic basin at the top. The panorama from the top is beautiful. Here and there in this mountain, you can find some nice waterfalls, like angels flying.

Jejudo is the best tourist resort in Korea, having many scenic spots, tourist facilities and hotels. It attracts lots of tourists. It takes about fifty minutes from Seoul and about one hour from Japan by plane. There are lots of hotels, from which visitors are able to see fantastic views of the sea and to hear the exotic voice of seagulls.

You cannot find Dante and Beatrice in Jejudo, but you can experience an island shrouded in mystery. No wonder Jejudo is the most famous place for a honeymoon in Korea.

Poem

Ramon Rodriguez

I used to think that when somebody that I knew well walked towards me and didn’t say “hi” it was because he or she was distracted.

But now I know he or she was only pretending to be so.

I used to ask a lady for her phone number and then dial it expecting her to answer my call.

But now I know it will never be her real phone number.

I used to be very impressed by the generosity of people who make donations to a charity institution.

But now I realize they were just reducing their taxes.

I used to see the smile on a person’s face and think it was friendly.

But now I look into his or her eyes carefully and try to find out for sure.

I used to believe in people’s feelings.

But now I know people are just being polite.

I used to imagine that when someone writes a poem it is because he or she is inspired.

But now I know he or she is just trying to accomplish his or her homework.
I used to consider English an easy language to learn.

But now I do not know how to consider it.

I used to wonder what extraterrestrial beings would be like.

But now I have met people that might be from outer space.

I used to be looking hard for a sentence that I could write down in my poem.

But now I am about to give up.

I used to be entirely surrounded by doubts.

And now I still am.

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**Fitness Park**

Somchai Ariyasirichati

Lumpinee, where people want to relax and exercise, is located in Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand. This area makes you feel fresh because it is composed of big trees and a small lake, where some ducks swim.

Coming here, I like to jog, an exercise that makes me healthy. I usually warm up before I run around the park. Like most people there, I dress in comfortable sport clothes. Some people wear headphones while they are running.

Sitting on benches, some people spend their time talking. Others have some food and juice with them on the benches. Maybe they have finished their exercise because they look tired. Still others read magazines, watch people doing their activities, or sleep on the bench.

A few stores in front of the park sell some food such as hot dogs, sandwiches and orange juice. Their customers, about ten or twelve people, stand in front of the stores and talk about the weather or health. These stores operate two times per day, from 5:00-8:30 a.m. and from 4:00-8:30 p.m., the main times people like to go to the park.

Parks like this one are built by our money and are places which prolong our life. We should take good care of them; we need to use them for a long time.

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**Tibidabo**

Santiago Quintana.

In Spain, my country, there is a proverb that says: “People start to value something that they own when they lose it.” Since coming here to the USA I have noticed that there are a lot of things and places in my country that are very important to me, feelings that I had never known before. For instance, my city is bordered by a mountain called Tibidabo and I had never thought that I would feel nostalgic about it.

In Tibidabo, there is a panoramic view of my hometown. When there isn’t air pollution in the city and if you go to the viewpoint that is located at the top of the mountain, you can find a great view. You can see all the city and all its buildings, for example the “Sagrada Familia”, “La Caixa”, etc. And behind the city you can see the Mediterranean.

Also, there is a small fairground in Tibidabo where you can go with your family to have a good time. In this spot you can see that everybody is happy. All
the children are playing with other children and the parents are looking after them. If you close your eyes, you can only hear the voices of the children, who are having such a good time.

During the night, it is a great place for romance. On the top of the mountain near the fairground with your girlfriend or boyfriend, you can see a romantic view of the city. There are no noises, cars, or people. There are only two lovers with the lights of the town under their feet and the lights of the stars above their heads. Here you can have an unforgettable night with that special someone.

Sometimes human behavior is very strange. People who are far away from home start to think about the things of their country and they feel very nostalgic about what before had seemed insignificant.
The Albanian Oath

Ardjan Mandija

It isn’t difficult for me to decide about what I want others to know about my country. I would like to create in the reader’s mind an association of ideas, “Albanian --> Oath”, creating a new synonymy of the words. Albanians tend to give to the word oath a special meaning, which covers a broader area of notions than the word does in English. Over this word we have built legends and myths, canons and legislation, our moral and behavioral code. Over this notion we have constructed our own world, so magic and beautiful, a world which sometimes seems beyond reality, or at least at its boundaries. If you are able to understand this binomial expression and what it means for us, you have taken the biggest step toward explaining Albanians’ lives, deaths and miracles.

Albanians are the oldest of the not-so-famous neighbors of the ancient Greeks. Around three thousand years ago, all the Balkan peninsula, from the Danube River in the North to Greece in the South and Macedonia in the Southeast, was populated by various tribes of the same ethnic origin and language, Ilirian. It’s been scientifically demonstrated that Albanians are direct descendents of the Ilirians. Being neighbors with Greece conditioned many issues in both positive and negative ways. Both peoples exchanged a great deal in their cultures, explaining the fact some Ilirian myths were transformed by the Greeks in such a way as to fit them into their Olympic mythology. So exchanging myths or sharing legends, fighting in Troja, sometimes shoulder to shoulder and other times against each other, Ilirian (Albanian) tribes were learning from Greek civilization and culture. Greek culture was going strong; it was a period of sunshine in their civilization, and they dominated all the other cultures in the Balkan and surrounding area. So high was their cultural performance that when all the Balkan peninsula fell under Rome’s domination, Rome itself became a culture invaded by Greece culture, a phenomenon representing one of the rarest cases of cultural influence in history. Most likely, it was at the time of Greek domination that Albanians developed another myth, one that is unique in its dimensions. They felt they needed to elaborate something new to be able to preserve their identity, so in need they gave birth to their great myth: OATH—the given word.

There are many Albanian legends and stories, with very different subjects, covering all of human knowledge, but they have the same nucleus: “Oath” is their key word. Time has passed from one generation to another and people have enriched their cultural heritage, so this myth has gained more and more connotations. It doesn’t mean only a given word or a promise to keep risking your life; it is more important than your life. It is to honor your action and also to honor your clan and your nation. Nourishing their children, mothers gradually changed the original meaning, transforming the myth into an example to follow, a style of life, a mode of responding and finally to an institution. The situation evolved from myth and legend to a group of oral laws based totally on the concept of oath and embodied in the so-called Leka’s canon. Many invaders passed over this troubled land, from Romans to Turks, from Slavic Communists to German Nazis, but they never succeeded in ruling or governing this population with their rules. Albanians never accepted them and as a reaction they built this marvelous rare monument to high moral values, their canonic code of self-government. Leka’s canon has been able to govern Albanians for 2000 years and its first amendment is “Don’t be an oath-breaker. . .”.

This little nation has survived throughout history while others haven’t been able to accomplish the same, absorbed by other stronger cultures and complaining about their destiny. Now after surviving communism Albanians are
again at another crucial point: We are preparing ourselves to take on the challenge of this adventure called the United Nations of Europe. Will we be able to enter this union and at the same time preserve our identity? I am sure we will because we have been able to create such tools as our "oath", which enable us to protect ourselves from the mythic Olympus.

One Day

Dick Holmes

Your arms awareness of weird taxes
that can't seem to wake up, you
credit the whole organism for its
clear purpose anyhow. Red leaves shake
so history can burn on,
bursting into tears. Everything circles
nothing we don't know, born into it.
Therefore in love we laugh, all real,
and dreams made of empty atoms implode.

My Motherland Shanghai

Akiko Kawarai

Shanghai is developing very fast now.
Two years ago, there were not so many huge buildings and modern boutiques. The girls were not very fancy in their hairstyle, makeup, cosmetic treatment, or fashion, but now they care about such things very much; even the boys do too. Many colorfull silks can be found at the department stores and they are very cheap. Recently many millionaires have been coming to Shanghai, not only to set up expensive hotels such as the Hilton, the Garden, and the Regal, etc., but also to set up famous brand shops such as Benneton, Tiffany, and ELLE. During my recent trip to the city I was suprised that a subway is under construction now. This is the biggest change in Shanghai. Hopefully, it will solve the terrible traffic problem there, and help people a lot.

Food is surely very important to everybody in Shanghai, just as it is in any other big city in the world. Everybody knows about the population of China: There are now about twelve billion people in China. Although Shanghai doesn't have a very big area, the population is larger than that of other Chinese cities, so all the various kinds of food, such as rice, vegetables, meat, and fruits are highly sought after by crowds of people. No wonder riding bicycles is normal and the public buses and the streets are overflowing with people. Especially in the summer, the lack of air conditioning in the buses is terrible. Sometimes people are very rude and have a sharp tongue, however in general they are very kind and nice.

Nowadays, as many people from America, Germany, France, or Japan are walking on the street, Chinese people will look at them as strange. They call foreigners "Gagonin", or "Sebanin" in Shanghai dialect. They call Western people things like "Big Nose" because they have clear-cut features. American faces are totally different from Chinese faces, so they are conspicuous. People turn around and stare to study the differences in eyes color, movement, etc. At first you feel uncomfortable.

To go to the black market to change money was marvelous not only to me, but also to everybody. It was very dangerous; however you can get much more money than at the bank. In China there are two kinds of money, "Renmingbi" and
“FEC”. Native people use Renmingbi commonly while foreigners have to use FEC, sometimes because American dollars are changed into FEC at the bank. FEC are worth a little bit more than Renmingbi. Anyhow, they give you change in Renmingbi when you buy something using your FEC. For this reason, my friends and I were very concerned about the rate because every day it was a different price. Shopping was our pleasure because if you are able to speak Chinese, you can bargain down the price to half. This was my specialty.

Shanghai is going to be the second Hong Kong, I expect. I hope that it will be the most beautiful city in China and people will love it because China is my first motherland. I am eagerly waiting for the opening of the gate.

The Palace Alazem

Ayman Mohiddin

The desire to create a personal paradise ("One's home, one's paradise") inspired the Damascens to build beautiful homes. The palace Alazem is one great example of the architectural style of the ancient homes of Damascus.

Having passed through a small wooden door, you enter a long corridor with a marble floor and candles. Emerging from it, you step into an open sunny yard with a lovely big water fountain, colored flowers, and singing birds. The glowing lamps divide their charming lights between the smooth water surface and the mirrors, which cover the wall of the south side, while at the north side sits a big wooden deck furnished with elegant carpets where the family meets for feasts.

This yard is surrounded by eight exciting rooms, each one having a wooden roof ornate with Quran Verses. Nicknacks fill the windowsills. The antique furniture reminds you of happy dreams, and the mosaic windows smile back at the sunshine.

The dreams never conclude, the lights never sleep, the birds never feel tired . . . they share with Damascens their paradise.
Problems, Problems, Problems
There Is a Lot of Waste in America

Tazuko Takahashi

I wish Americans would be much more conscious about their environment. Before coming here, I had thought Americans were more conscious about environmental programs, but I have found that there is a lot of waste in America.

First, I was surprised that the people who live in my apartment don’t have to separate the waste into burnable and non-burnable items. In my country, we have to separate our garbage strictly, and we usually bury our food garbage in our backyards. I think if we separate our garbage before it is taken away, it will be much more gentle for our environment.

Second, I was surprised at all the shopping bags I got from the supermarket. I am always given a lot of shopping bags, and I always worry about dealing with them after I get home. In my country, we try to use our own shopping bags or big paper boxes which you can use again and again. Why do we need so many bags? I think it’s a waste.

The other thing I have noticed is that people waste their food in America. Mitsue, one of my friends, says that some American girls in Texas where she came from always left uneaten food. In the cafeteria at USC I go to I sometimes see this kind of waste, too.

I think it’s great that people use recycled products at the university, but there is something more basic we should do: We should make as little garbage as possible. To respect our environment, we should keep our garbage to a minimum in our daily life, and we should not use unnecessary things, because nature is limited.

America Has Too Many Guns

Mark’s Grammar/Writing 60 Class

“Go ahead, make my day”: The popular image of America, both in the United States and around the world, is a country with a history of guns. The gangs with guns and drive-by shootings have become as much a part of American culture as cowboys and Indians were in the past. Americans have the right and an easy ability to own guns, and therefore, facing the consequences of the use of guns, perhaps change is needed in how guns may be purchased.

To have a gun in the U.S. is very easy. For foreigners it’s difficult to believe this, but since the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution gives the right to people to have guns, you can buy weapons here as easily as buying clothes. Flea markets, pawn shops, department stores, army shops... all of these stores can sell guns, handguns, rifles, and even machineguns. The prices are inexpensive; for the price of one dinner you can buy a gun. In many states you can own a gun immediately, even if you are a foreigner.

There are many criminals in the U.S., especially in New York. It is common knowledge that nobody should walk the streets alone at night. Although a lot of patrol cars drive around the streets, innocent people walking the streets may be killed by gunfire, either accidentally or intentionally.

Criminals with guns are not the only problem. People who own guns use guns to protect themselves and sometimes make tragic mistakes. For example, last October in Louisiana during Halloween, a young Japanese man was killed by a gun. He had just gone to the wrong house, but the housewife was frightened because he was wearing a mask. So, her husband shot him to protect his family. In addition, numerous domestic accidents involving guns occur.
Getting a gun should be difficult. The tax on guns should be much higher. If
the import and sales taxes were higher, it would be more difficult to get guns. The
person who owns guns should pay a high tax every year, and the number of guns
must be reduced. Second, the procedure for getting a license should be changed. To
get a license should be difficult. A test like the Japanese college entrance exam
should be required. Also, an interview like the EPI oral interview should be part
of the procedure. Finally, children need to be educated about how dangerous guns
are. This education should be started at a very young age. These proposals need to
be implemented as soon as possible so that the number of guns and their terrible
consequences will be reduced.

Gun Control

In-Gyoo Hwang

"Crime War!" I read this terrifying expression in an American
newspaper article a few months ago. When I think of America, New York and
Washington flash across my mind, and at the same time, the shots of guns explode
loudly, and the vision of blood spilling on the streets floats before my eyes. Why
does America have a lot of crimes with guns? This terrible but real situation is
created through the permission of the American government. Therefore, America
absolutely has to control guns, to keep true human rights.

The Second Amendment of the U.S. constitution, the "right to bear arms",
is a point to be considered seriously because it obstructs legal gun control in
America. Koreans have hardly any crimes with guns because Korean civilians can
never own guns. According to the Second Amendment, Americans can have too
many arms. So this Amendment should be revised.

The government or the police must control completely all arm sales,
greatly increase the price of weapons, and prevent the private sale of arms. The
government has to levy very high taxes on guns and unconditionally and severely
punish people taking a gun in the streets. Because America has a capitalistic
tradition and the sale of arms has been privately operated for trade and the
economy, the government can intervene in it now only with great difficulty. But
America has to set about gun control right away, step by step, for a long time, so
as to diminish crimes with guns.

Of greatest importance is concentrated education for Americans. They have
a strong desire for guns, especially in big states, only to protect themselves, but
they are not aware of the fatal consequences these guns for defense can have.
Therefore, America has to invest in a public campaign and education against
owning guns, and to combat crime for the future. The government and the police
should regularly reinforce information for owners about the danger and
treatment of arms. Especially, the police have to perfectly control offenders, the
young, the unemployed, and the uneducated bearing guns.

Anxious about the great number of crimes with guns in America, I offer
the above solutions. If Americans don't want to have to carry pocket money for
criminals, and if all want to walk comfortably in the streets, the American
government has to prohibit bearing a gun rather than permit it to protect
yourself. Diminishing the number of crimes with guns depends on gun control.
Eventually, America must absolutely not permit private ownership of guns.
The Custom Of Tipping In America

Yoko Kuroda

Tipping is one of the typical customs in America, and I can’t agree with this system. I think it should be changed for several reasons.

First of all, when we have to pay the tip at restaurants or in taxis, we always have to be worried about tipping. Of course, if you have a custom like this, you might never mind. But in my country, Japan, we don’t have a tipping system, so it always bothers us. We don’t know how much we have to pay for services that are usually tipped.

Second, this system is unreasonable. We always have to make sure that we have some coins or small bills so that we can pay tips. If we have only 20 dollar bills, what should we do? Another bothersome fact is that we need to require the clerk or the driver to give us change with the tip in mind.

Third, unfairness will result from this system. Two persons are working as taxi drivers, for instance; one of them may get a lot of tips while the other may get only a few. In this case, an unfairness arises between them, though they work equally hard. If the custom of tipping were changed, a problem like this wouldn’t arise.

For these reasons, I am against tipping. My guess is that most people who don’t have the custom of tipping will agree with me. I hope so, anyway. We are just not used to this custom. Why not include the tip in the price? Absolutely, in Japan, the reward for services is included in the price. Of course, I’m afraid the prices here would be more expensive than they are already now, but at least the price would reflect the honest cost. As another idea, the price of the tip could be written on the menu, bill, or wherever.

If such changes were made, it would be easier for foreigners to pay. I hope tipping will be abolished or reformed someday.

The Time Lost Forever

Ardjan Mandija

More than ever now, I am thinking about the time I have lost in vain, and that is nothing, compared with the time that my country lost in the way of civilization and democracy in the second part of this century. We fell under one of the most tyrannical communist regimes in the world for a period of 50 years and it wasn’t only our fault but another misfortune persecuting us again. An old storyteller in my country might begin this story with the words, "It is so... It is not so..." Instead I wish to state: "Time has only one direction, from the past into the present and through it into the future", and that’s exactly the way I would like to explain the story of my country.

Geographically speaking, Albania is in Europe on the Balkan peninsula, situated southeast of ex-Yugoslavia and northwest of Greece, just across the Adriatic sea from the east coast of Italy. Albania is a unique country; we Albanians consider ourselves autochthonous in this part of the world, with our roots lost in the gloomy night of history and our language having no affiliation with other families of languages.

Albania was born as an independent state on 11/28/1912, after the second Balkanic war, when the Turkish invader was forced to leave these regions forever. During this process of Turkish decline, many other nearby countries were constructing their states, and for this reason after the first world war we lost half of our population and territory to the construction of the former Yugoslavia.
Albania was a kingdom till 04/07/39, when Mussolini decided to annex it to Italy. Before and during the second world war Albania had the same level of society as many European countries had. Our misfortune was the fate of little countries and begins with the Yalta convention between the big powers, the winners of the second world war. There is no document or any other written form from this convention that says anything about us. We were simply forgotten by the democratic world and so we fell under the control of the East communist countries. Th3 communist movement, imported from Serbia under the auspices of Russia, succeeded through a hidden civil war, under the flag of a national liberation war against Italian and German invaders, in winning over and eliminating all the other nationalistic and democratic movements. We are the only non-slavic country in Europe which remained under the domination of the USSR. Greece escaped this destiny. After this dark night of the communist regime, Albanians find themselves one of the lowest-level countries in Europe, having suffered horribly for five decades.

The foreign imposed communist party was at last defeated in the elections of 3/22/1992, and a group of democratic parties is now governing Albania. There is no choice for them; they have to repair everything wrong done in the years since World War Two, and everybody wants this accomplished in a short time. Albanians have a very hard life, confronting the following four big issues of our time.

-An economically disastrous situation. Big state property enterprises with an old technology and without profitability, subsidized by the government, need to be privatized.

-Lack of legislation. Many laws of the past are no longer useful for the new political and economic situation, and the continuous changing process of rewriting laws takes time.

-Indoctrinated mentality: During those 50 years, communism systematically built social and ideological behaviors which are very harmful during this transition phase and we must create new ones to confront our situation, and this is not so easy.

-Uncertain foreign policy: This is connected to all the events that have recently happened in Eastern countries, and especially to the aggravation of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, our neighbor to the north, and more generally to what is happening now in ex-Yugoslavia, where about 3 million Albanians reside. Each of the problems is correlated to the others and implies hundreds of others, so nobody is able to resolve them successfully in their complexity. How shall we pass from a central state economy to a free market one? Which way do we go to catch the train that goes from socialism to capitalism? In this big forest we haven't yet found a safe path to come out on.

The solution, I think, lies in our beliefs. A lot of us are investing in the future, some studying, others working around the world, all with one aim: to return to Albania and reinvest our knowledge of the world there. We hope that we will make up for the time we lost in the last part of this century.

Japanese Problems

Naoki Matsukawa

The world is changing quickly, and Japan has many problems as a result of all these changes. We can't easily solve these problems, which need a great deal of money, time and the support of the people. Three especially important problems in Japan are its foreign policy, its people of advanced age, and its housing problem.
First, Japan is experiencing international trouble with the U.N. There is a big dispute involving the Japanese constitution, which emphasizes giving up military power, and the U.N.'s Peace Keeping Operation. Currently, Japanese militia are being sent to Cambodia and Somalia; however, there are still many opponents of this action in Japan.

Second, the Japanese population is about one hundred twenty million. 30 years from now there will be thirty million old people, and this causes two problems. One of them is welfare for old people. The pension for old people will become a great burden and the government has to budget for this. The other one is the living conditions after retirement. Most Japanese enterprises have an age-limit system, so many old people have to retire and find another job. Japanese people have a very long life span. We have to solve the problem of our aging population in the near future.

Third is our housing problem. The price of a house is over five hundred thousand dollars, which is over ten times the annual income of normal people in big cities. Consequently, most people that are living in big cities can't buy a house. Many enterprises and all of the main government organizations are concentrated in big cities; this is the big cause of the inflated housing cost. The government programs that have been instituted to help the situation, for example, the policy of controlling land prices and the establishment of more housing developments, aren't improving the situation, and we still haven't discovered the solution to the housing problem.

These are big problems in Japan and Japan has a lot of other problems, too. The Japanese people have to think about these problems, and all of us have the responsibility to solve them.

Social Problems in Japan

Manabu Nakamoto

Today, in the nation of Japan, there are many social problems which need to be dealt with. I'd like to present three particular recent problems in Japan, and hopefully come up with good solutions to them.

First, one of the most serious problems in Japanese society is the increase of elderly people. The average life in Japan is now about eighty-three years, the longest life span in the world. Because of the tremendous increase of elderly people after World War II, the burden on young people has been getting heavier. For example, the people of Japan need to pay more tax as a national pension, so that their income will be guaranteed when they become old.

Second, the whole nation has been suffering from a shortage of land. The island of Japan is able to fit within the state of California, but the population is about 130,000,000, half that of the United States. This fact shows how difficult it is to cope with housing, the environment, overpopulation, parking space and so on.

Finally, the workaholic character of Japanese business people has been causing many problems. For example, many Japanese workers in their early fifties have a high chance of having a heart attack. It is such a crisis for a family to lose a father who supports all the family members. No one can expect this sudden disaster. I think it is very important to realize that good health can't be gained with money. Also, this workaholic aspect of the Japanese breaks family communication. Compared to American families, Japanese families have a lack of communication among family members.

Now we must open our eyes and begin seeking solutions. First of all, we definitely need to restrict the number of children born in Japan. In China, the
government has established a one-child-per-family birth control policy. Following such a policy, people can help to solve the problems of elderly society and shortage of space and land. Second, in order to prevent health problems and broken communication in the family, each family leader ought to realize the importance of good health and family unity.

When I become older, I'd like to work on the happiness of my family (if I get married). I hope that our whole nation will realize that there are many problems which need to be dealt with and solved for the happy future of Japan.

The Children's Crisis in Japan  
Ruth Hatori

Recently, children who cannot adapt themselves to society are increasing in Japan. There are many causes of this problem; here I will discuss three: the lack of siblings, the housing problem, and the educational system.

Many couples think they don't want to have more than one child. They have just one child because many young wives want to continue to work even though they have a child. Under the circumstances they think it is impossible to bring up more than one child. Consequently, there are many children who have no brother and sister. This means they don't have any childhood experience of sharing refreshments, playing baseball, or quarreling with their siblings. The character of a child is built by the relationship with her/his siblings. If a child doesn't have this relationship, she/he will be confused in her/his relationships with friends.

Japanese land costs are increasing recently. Many ordinary people have to live in a small space. So the children have no space to play with friends. This is one reason that computer games have won such popularity among children. They play computer games all day long instead of playing outside with their friends. One theory is that absorption in computer games is responsible for some children's fear of relationships with people outside their family.

Japan has what is called "examination hell". Many people believe that their educational background weighs greatly in Japanese society, so many parents make their children study hard so that they will be able to enter a good school. Almost 50% of elementary students and more than 70% of junior high school students attend private lessons after school to help prepare for entrance examinations. Because of this, they don't have enough time to communicate with their friends. Many children say they would want to play with their friends if they had time. Many children have trouble making relationships when they become older because they don't have any experience in it from their childhood. It is a big problem for the future of Japan. There are many children who grow up not caring about other people, but we humans have to help each other.

Our Problem in Taiwan  
Chen-Hsin Yang

My country Taiwan is a small island. Like other countries, we have many serious problems. My city Taipei is the capital city of the country. I have lived there for almost fifteen years. I think the biggest problem is our traffic. The traffic problem is so serious because of the number of vehicles, the situation of the roads, and our citizens' behavior.

First of all, we have terrible traffic because there are so many cars and motorcycles. According to statistics, we have twenty thousand cars more each year and we also have more and more people riding motorcycles in the city. Most
people can afford their own vehicles, but we don’t have enough space for roads. Consequently, there is heavy traffic everywhere.

Second, because our government is working on a Mass Rapid Transit system, we have a terrible traffic situation with all the construction going on. Although our government is doing something about our traffic problem by building this system, we have the worst situation now. We can hardly drive on the roads. Construction signs are everywhere. Everyone spends most of their time going to and from work and home, especially during rush hour.

Finally, our citizens’ behavior is the most important cause of the heavy traffic. Our people are not very patient with the terrible traffic. They have no patience for waiting in line. Some people drive on the side of the road. It’s common to see three lines of cars on the two-lane roads. It’s really a shame that people do not obey our traffic regulations.

I believe that the traffic situation in Taipei will get better as soon as the number of cars and motorcycles is controlled, the transit system is finished, and our citizens realize the importance of rules. Having good traffic in our city is not just my hope and wish but every citizen’s.

My Soiled Hometown

Tsemin (Billy) Chao

Before coming to the U.S., I lived in Tao-Yuan, my hometown, where I spent my fantastic childhood. When I was a child, it was the most beautiful place I have ever seen. I used to have a sweet memory of her, but now I know that she is not a sweet country girl anymore.

She was a fabulous dream of mine. I can still remember that every summer vacation when I was an elementary school student. I walked my puppy along a peaceful stream and tried to catch butterflies to flatter my little girl friend. I always saw a lot of grasshoppers lying on the green grassy field to bask in the sun. I liked soaking my feet in the clear cool water when I was tired. Because of my childish heart, I would toss a little pebble into the stream to wake up those lovely fish from their daydreams. I really had a wonderful time with her.

Yet, the good fortune would not last forever. My home country gradually became industrialized, precipitating a lot of industrial solid waste and toxic waste which contaminated my hometown and the whole country. Those industrial solid wastes began to float on the stream. Toxic wastes discolored the pure water. One day when I sauntered along the stream at twilight time, I found in the stream no more clear water and no more lovely fish. I could not even find any grasshoppers or butterflies anymore. Everything was gone but an effluvial smell that filled the air. My dream suddenly turned into a nightmare. I cried grievously.

This happened twenty-five years ago, and since then I’ve always told myself: Never in the rest of my life will I forgive those civilized people, those profiteers, who have contaminated my beautiful hometown.

Three Russian Problems

Mikhail Orlov

Russia. Some people think that my country has too many problems now to count, much less solve. I don’t intend to give a scientific analysis of the situation in this short essay, but a general description is possible.
The three main problems most experts see in Russia are: the great inflation, the disorganization of the economic and political system, and the environmental situation.

Inflation is seen as the number one problem because it prevents us from solving the other problems and forces us to pursue momentary interests. For example, a lot of businessmen want to produce some goods instead of only buying and selling them, but they can't invest money in long-term enterprises with inflation so high. As a result we are experiencing a decrease in the production of goods in general along with other economic problems. Inflation makes us be in a hurry, which is not good when there are such complicated problems to be dealt with.

Hurry is also one of the conditions concerning the disorganization of the economic and political system, the second greatest problem in Russia. The system is like a car that has its wheels disconnected from the engine: All the car's parts may be in good condition, but the car can't move. Besides the lack of economic and political effectiveness, another danger of the disorganization is the way it changes people's minds. They don't feel protected by the state, the army, or the police; they are not sure that they will receive an acceptable pension when they retire, leaving them little motivation to work successfully.

Maybe it's a paradox, but in this situation people don't care about the future of the whole society, that is, the environment, although this problem is now very serious for all countries. The question is, can we combine human activities with the life of nature? In Russia, where development of industry has taken some leaps and sometimes new enterprises were built in too great a hurry, the situation concerning the environment is suspended. And now some people want to take advantage of Russia's need for money by selling to other countries the right to store dangerous waste in Russia. But will there be any healthy Russians left if we solve all our problems this way?

I am sure that Russia can find solutions to its individual problems because most people want to find them and because they are really just like the problems people have in beginning to build a new house. So many houses have been built around the world, so we can build one more, why not?

Medical Science and International Cooperation

Doncho Donev

Science plays an important role in society in general. Our progress depends on two different branches of science. The first of these is "fundamental" or "pure" science, which is primarily concerned with the development of theories, hypotheses and models establishing relationships among the phenomena of the universe. When they are sufficiently validated through basic research, these theories become the working laws or principles of science. On the other hand, "applied" science is directly concerned with the application of the working laws of fundamental science to the practical affairs of life and to increasing human control over the environment, thus leading to the development of new techniques, processes and machines. Fundamental science and applied science are mutually dependent and interacting.

One of the most striking characteristics of modern science has been the increasing trend towards closer cooperation among scientists and scientific institutions all over the world in general and especially in the area of health. International cooperation has been greatly intensified during the last few decades, largely owing to the initiative of the United Nations Organization (UNO) and its specialized agencies, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The World Health Organization (WHO) is another UN agency which coordinates many research projects on medicine all over the world and supplies advice and aid primarily in the control of diseases, especially in undeveloped areas.

Cooperation among countries in the field of health has a very long history. It appeared from the need for common action to prevent the spreading of infectious diseases from one country to another. Recently, with the contemporary achievement of science, technology and communication, this cooperation has taken on broader, increasing importance and greater possibilities. International cooperation in the health field is aimed at providing better conditions for the life of the people of all races and colors, independently of the social system and political affiliations, providing humanitarian relations among people and promoting the acceptance of medical science and its achievements by all people all over the world.

In general, there are five different kinds of international cooperation in the field of health care:

- cooperation among countries through WHO and other specialized agencies of the UNO;
- cooperation through the International Red Cross Organization;
- cooperation through professional associations, unions and leagues;
- bilateral cooperation and agreements between some countries; and
- cooperation among universities and research centers.

The cooperation through WHO and the Red Cross Organization are especially important.

The need for international cooperation in the health care field has increased after the adoption of the Global Strategy "Health for All People by the Year 2000" by the Assembly of WHO in 1979. The Global Strategy shows the directions, essential problems and basic principles for preparing specific strategies by different countries and regions, according to their own conditions. International and local action for the health of all, based on knowledge, is plainly needed. Part of this knowledge already exists but still has not been applied enough in practice. New knowledge is also needed. For this reason, each Member State of the WHO, before 1990, had to have formulated research strategies to stimulate investigations which would improve the application and expansion of the knowledge needed to support its people's health in all developments.

To provide the necessary knowledge, health care research must venture into fields which lie outside its traditional domain, health science and related sciences. To succeed, the health sector must seek cooperation with people in all disciplines that can contribute the expert knowledge necessary. This will mainly involve the biomedical, behavioral and social sciences. The answers to some questions will be required from engineers, architects, economists and other experts.
Women of the World
Women in Angola

Jordao Domingos

Women's lives differ from country to country, as cultures, traditions and laws also are different. India's constitution, for instance, requires equal pay for equal work by men and women. Its laws ban wife-beating and mental cruelty, child marriage and dowry, sexual enslavement, rape and sexual harassment, known as "Eve teasing". These social evils happen all over the world to varying extents.

In the past in Angola, women suffered doubly from "Eve teasing". They suffered from the behavior of both Angolan and Portuguese men. The latter were the rulers of the country before National independence was established. Wife-beating, child marriage and dowry were social evils that women endured in their relationships with Angolan men. Wife-beating may have been due to social and economic causes, while child marriage and dowry were more in connection with culture and traditional beliefs. The marrying of a teenage girl to an old man was mostly a way to honor an important person in the village. Child marriage was therefore a form of maintaining friendship between two families. In addition to these situations within Angolan society itself, Angolan women had to face rape, sexual enslavement and harassment from Portuguese men, practices stemming from various factors, from job offers to mental cruelty. As a result of these kinds of relationships, women in Angola gave birth to children whose fathers didn't recognize them.

With National independence laws protecting women's rights have been written and enforced, and the "Eve teasing" has drastically decreased. Nevertheless, Angolan women, not content to wait passively for equality, are maintaining their struggle against woman abuse and have succeeded in setting up women's organizations to fight for their rights. Because of that there are now many departments of law enforcement and other areas in which women have certain powers to manage the issues of woman abuse. Also, Angolan women are getting higher education than before. Consequently, their social responsibility is increasing and improving as well as their family responsibility. As a result of all these changes, many social evils practiced before now appear to be reduced.

Since Angolan women are now better understanding their social role, obtaining equal access to political power, and getting more educated, it is probable that in the future they will be independent economically and perhaps free from any women's discrimination.

Women's rights, most of the time, are viewed in terms of cultural principles, which are different in various places around the world. However, some of the principles are perhaps universal and because discrimination against women is a worldwide concern, it is probable that Angolan women, from their experience, will be able to contribute to the UN commission for women's rights all over the world.

Mexican Women

Ramon Rodriguez

Mexico is known as a third world country with some of the worst economic, demographic, cultural, ecological and organizational problems on the whole continent. It is a country with big debts, polluted cities, and lack of technology. This country of earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and natural disasters has a corrupt government and a fake democracy. On the positive side, however, not only is sexual discrimination not practiced by Mexicans, but women have a
very important status in this region of the world. This phenomenon stems from several reasons: First, women have developed a very important role in the nations’ history. Second, motherhood in Mexico is a sacred institution. And third, tradition protects women. Therefore outstanding female figures have always appeared in arts, sciences, sports and politics.

History teaches us that there were women in Mexico five thousand years before Christ. In the ancient civilizations women participated in society not only weaving, poaching, trading and fishing but in priesthood, medicine, government, poetry and the military as well. Many of the deities to whom half of the festivities of the Aztec religious calendar were devoted were female. An old Aztec history book called the codex explains how a female warrior led an army to defeat her enemies in 1040 a.d. Female doctors were so highly valued among the Mayan culture that they used to give public speeches and mediate quarrels. Both men and women fought to defend Tenochtitlan against the Spanish Invasion. The soldaderas left their homes and families to join the revolutionary troops and fight for their land against the dictator. All these historical events give us an idea of the equality between men and women through time. However, there was a lapse during the conquest of Mexico when a large number of native ladies died of viral diseases caused by the promiscuous relations the Spaniards had with them. The European soldiers (all men) used to buy females at auctions and keep several as slaves and sexual mates. This is maybe the only period in history when most Mexican women were treated harshly and brutally. Note that this treatment was conducted not by their male counterparts but by the invaders.

In addition to the historical factors, the status of Mexican women is high because the most important member of the Mexican family is the mother, for she is expected to assume the responsibility of looking after the proper religious and mental education of this nucleus of society. As long as she carries out this task, she can search for her own realization in other fields (intellectual, scientific, spiritual, etc.) as well. The worst insult in Mexico is the one which offends the mother of someone. Motherhood is a sacred duty in this third world country. This makes sense in that one can always be sure about who his/her mother is but never about his/her father.

The origin of the Mexican devotion to the mother comes from the belief in a religious legend that tells about a female deity who appeared on the Tepeyac hill shortly after the conquest. The important point in the story is that the Señora de los cielos portrayed herself in the clothes of a native Mexican and called him "The smallest of my sons." Following this legend came Guadalupe, who has become the mother of the country and the model for all Mexican women. The fact that the independence flag is a portrait of her shows how important she is to Mexicans. It is said that in Mexico 90% of the population is Roman Catholic but that 100% are Guadalupanos.

With all these cultural factors it can be seen why far from being a danger for women, tradition protects and helps them. Daughters inherit the family goods before sons do. The protection of the family’s females becomes a duty for male members and a lot of silly rules related to this duty remain unchanged today. For example a lady is not supposed to walk alone at night outside the home. Mexican males are taught to always be considerate of their female counterparts so they offer them seats and the first places. Doors are opened for the ladies by men when they have the opportunity to do it. It is the man who picks up dropped things and the man who carries the heavy packages. When men and women walk down the street together, men always have to walk on the side closest to the traffic. Men often curse in colloquial conversations but never in ladies’ presence. And the list of rules goes on and on.
Despite this special treatment, Mexican women are not easily spoiled and they contribute to the economic development of the country with the same opportunities and challenges men do. Sacred as mothers and respected as ladies, women in Mexico today perform their role in society with more strength than ever. They have all they need to succeed in their quest for happiness, and isolated cases of sexual harassment, rape or harsh treatment, committed only by severely brain damaged people and suffered by men as well as by women, does not represent an excuse for failing.

**Mexican Women's Changing Conditions**

Jesus Sanchez

Mexican women's conditions have changed markedly. She, the formerly obedient religious woman, has become an active and independent one. Today women are working in and out home. Men are also changing, and both are sharing the responsibilities. Together they are making a successful future life.

Women's conditions have changed markedly since the 60s. Before, the women married very young and often became mothers of more than ten children. They spent all their lives taking care of the home and the children. They had the right to education, but religious tenets encouraged them to get married, not to take birth control, and to obey their husbands. Sometimes pregnant unmarried women were abandoned by their boyfriends. These women were thought to shame their families, who in turn disowned them. If women worked, they could only get certain jobs. Sexual harassment was frequent but often there was no punishment for the guilty.

Today it seems that women have the same rights as men. In a modern family both spouses work in order to provide financial support for the family. Women do not get married so young as before and the average number of children is about two. Women participate in the leadership of the family, but they are charged with the care of the home. They work in and outside the home. They are educated and know about birth control, so they can decide how many children to have. They can work under almost the same conditions as men. They are still objects of sexual harassment, but the law protects them. They are more concerned about their social importance than they used to be; consequently, they can improve their own development.

The future for women would not be good without men's participation. Today women and men are sharing the home responsibilities. The size of the family has been reduced, so women and men can have a lot of time for other activities. This allows both women and men to work and get a better education. Women and men are deciding together how to make their family. Women have gained not only rights but responsibilities as well. The future will be even better for them. Men will not be the only financial supporter of the home and women will not be the only ones who take care of the home. Women will play a more and more active role in the near future. I think women will get more important jobs and responsibilities. Already today, some women are working as secretaries of the government and it is likely that women will improve their participation in society and politics. They will get better jobs and their rights will be considered as at the same level as men's.

During the Mexican Revolution women and men fought together in order to get a better future. At that time, women were encouraged to be loyal to their men. Today they are encouraged not only to be loyal but to honor their own rights and to pursue social and political importance. In the future women and men, together, will decide on the society they want.
Women in Mexico: They Have Rights?

Flor Caballero

At the beginning of this century, the youngest woman of a Mexican family couldn't get married because she had to take care of her mother when her mother got old. It was not until the 50s that women gained the right to vote.

Presently, a Mexican woman's situation has many faces depending on her type of work, marital status, geographical location, education, and social level, among other factors.

In the work field, women's rights are treaded on. A woman secretary or a woman bank employee is dismissed when she gets married. One reason is that she can become pregnant, a condition which is not profitable for the company because she has the legal right to three months of maternity leave. Also, the employer wants only girls with a good figure. If a woman has a new baby she will have a lot of domestic problems and sometimes she won't be able to work because, for her, the baby comes first and then the company.

Assembly companies in the north of Mexico prefer to accept only single mothers because these companies know that they can count on such women to work because they are afraid of losing their job and not being able to feed their children. Therefore, these companies are abusing single mothers.

On the other hand, in the newspaper there are employment advertisements stipulating, "Requirement: males only". We can also find racism mixed with sexual discrimination, for example, one girl I know about couldn't get a job in a big department store because she had dark skin and looked not so pretty.

Concerning the area of education, some private primary schools admit fewer girls than boys because it's thought that boys are going to be more productive than girls in their future life. The primary school of the "Cultural Institute" in Tampico, Tamps. admitted only 30 girls vs. 70 boys at the beginning of this school year.

In the middle-low social class it's common to find women that have only studied for a two-year degree or in a trade school because they are going to be married in a short time, and if they studied at a university it wouldn't be profitable.

In the low social class the father sends women to work like servants to help in the family economy or he decides that because they are women, they must help their mothers taking care of young children. Another situation is that the father keep girls at home after they finish primary school until they get married and if they want to work, their father says, "No!" because the rest of the community is going to think that he doesn't have enough money to support his family.

If the woman is married and has children, she has less opportunity than her husband to get a postgraduate degree. It's common to find couples where the man has a master's degree and the woman doesn't even if she is more intelligent than he. It's considered that the woman has to take care of her children and stay at home; if she wants to work it's better if she works at only a part-time job.

Currently, the number of women that want change in their situation is increasing. They are studying more even if their husbands, fathers or community do not agree.

All of this shows that there is a long way most Mexican women have to travel. It doesn't matter the social class, marital status, etc. Mexican women changed, are changing right now, need to change more and to struggle for their rights.
Being a Woman in Korea

Seon Hui Jeong

One day on the evening news in Korea, there was a piece about a raped woman. Five boys had battered and raped her. Two of the boys were sentenced to jail for about a year, but not the other three because it was judged that they were just persuaded by the others.

When my family talked about it at the table, my grandmother told us that it might have been the woman’s fault if she was wearing a miniskirt. That reminded me that my grandmother didn’t let my sister go outside when she was wearing a miniskirt. But what is the connection between miniskirts and rape? I asked my grandmother this question. Then Mother answered instead of her that it might not be her fault but in any case, it was a shame on her family and relatives, and maybe she could not marry when this terrible incident was made public.

In the past in Korea, sexual discrimination happened more often than now. Until after the Choson dynasty [1392-1910], we did not have divorce laws, only taboos for woman. If his wife committed just one of them, the husband forced her to leave forever. She could be cast out, for example, when she couldn’t have a male baby, when she was talkative or jealous or when she was not obedient to her husband. What is worse, people in their age thought that it was the woman’s fault if a man fell in love with her before marriage. People thought that the man had been a good guy before she seduced him even if it was just a one-sided love, and she had never seen him. So, sometimes the woman’s parents made their daughter have her head shaved and sometimes confined her to a room.

These days, we have divorce laws and we do not think the old taboos for women reasonable. But we still think that most sexual incidents are caused by women. Sometimes it is understandable, but sometimes it is not. For example, to go to the library in a university in Korea, the female student must not wear short pants or short skirts. Just women are not allowed to choose what they wear. Yes, though this policy is not be understandable, most people, even women, accept it because they think that women cause men to be excited when women wear such clothes, causing men to become distracted from their work.

Some young women are against this kind of sexual discrimination, but they are forced to accept old Korean customs concerning the matter. Today there is a generation gap about the sexual discrimination issue. The old people force the young to keep their culture and it drives the young women to be against it. They drink beer, smoke with their boyfriends, and compete with men, for example, by working hard.

Who knows about the change of Korean culture in the future? What I know is just that our culture can be changed, even if the old thinking about sexual discrimination is confirmed in our society. However I am sure that someday the old will think that the end of the world is near because there is no line between women and men.

Kenyan Women: The Past, Present, and Future

Florence Ohito

In many African countries, Kenya included, female children are bred by a paternalistic society that imprisons and confines them to the backstage throughout their lifetime. In Kenya there are 42 different ethnic groups. Each group has its own traditional beliefs and practices. These vary slightly but generally there are a lot of similarities regarding the way the women are treated.
In the past the female child grew up in a very hostile environment. Right from infancy, the female child was treated less compassionately than the male child. There was marked preference for male children over female children. The parents argued that sons would take care of them in their old age and that daughters would be married off elsewhere and so would not be very useful to them. If in a family there were both boys and girls and their parents did not have enough money to educate them, then ways had to be found to get some money to pay school fees for the boys. The girls would be forced to provide cheap labor somewhere else or get married off. It was a traditional practice for the bridegroom to pay some dowry to the parents of the girl. This boosted the parents’ income and could help pay for the education of the boys in the family.

In other circumstances, the girl child was in danger of being married off at an early age, sometimes as early as 10 years old. The child bride, more often than not, was married off to an old man five or six times her age. If this happened, then it meant the girl was joining a polygamous marriage. The planning and the decision for such marriages was done by the male members of the girl’s family without any consultation with the girl.

Once married, the role of the woman was to give birth to children, rear them and take care of household matters. As no family planning existed, most women had very many children. It was not uncommon to find one woman with as many as 15 children. In addition to their role as mothers, they were also expected to grow subsistence crops. The women worked very hard and for long hours every day while the men spent their time in beer halls discussing how to discipline their wives. If the women complained of maltreatment by the men, they were beaten.

There were also certain foods that women were forbidden to eat even though they were the cooks for the men. Among the Luo ethnic group, for example, foods like mutton, chicken and eggs were strictly for men and their sons. The wives and daughters were fed on less nutritious foods. Moreover women were exposed to certain health hazards. Due to poor nutrition, hard labor and lack of proper medical care, many of them died of complications during childbirth and other poverty related diseases. The average life expectancy for women was only 40 years. This was the world in which my greatgrandmother and grandmother lived.

With the coming of Christianity those traditional beliefs that were considered harmful were discarded. However, some customs that discriminated against women are still being practiced today. Most men would like to retain their traditional way of life as much as possible but they have to accept certain realities. Recently, in 1963, the constitution was changed to make life easier for the Kenyan woman. Dowry, child marriages, and wife beating were banned. Free education at the primary level for all children was introduced. Consequently today the ratio of girls to boys in primary level school enrollment is 2:3. There are also more girls attending secondary school level education than there were 30 years ago. In the universities, the proportion of female students is only about 10% but is steadily rising.

The traditional way of marriage is also dying slowly. Modern parents rarely accept dowry from their son-in-law. Furthermore as more and more girls attend school, the age at marriage is also increasing and now they can choose their partners.

However, there are still other problems that face women. Kenya’s birthrate is 4% per year. This is quite high by any standard. Family planning is practiced by only 30% of Kenyan women. There is high maternal and infant mortality rates. The root cause of these problems can be traced to poverty. In fact poverty makes it more difficult for Kenyan women to acquire educational skills
needed to get more desirable and highly paid occupations so that they can improve the standard of living of their families. There is also continued marginalization of women. Women and men are not evenly represented in every consequential aspect of national life. For example, no woman has ever been appointed to a ministerial position since our national independence. Women are kept away from national politics by a tradition that regards them as docile, submissive, and inward looking human beings. The woman has no business breaking the past. If she does, she is branded a dissident. Society views with suspicion women who contradict traditional expectations.

Hopefully, it is not too late for Kenyan women to be held back by backward beliefs. They need to work very hard for their rights. In the future our society should make a conscious effort to involve women in development projects, especially in the areas of agriculture, environment, education and health. This should be done through a reduction of disparities in access to educational levels for both men and women. Positive gender roles should be portrayed and women should be allowed equal access to information and decision-making bodies. Family planning should target men who by virtue of tradition have greater influence on family affairs. Men should not see women as a threat but as equal partners in development.

It is pathetic that women all over the world are being discriminated against. But there is hope. If the United Nations can recognize this as a human rights violation, take it seriously, and debate the issues, then all women, including Kenyan women, can hope to live in a better world in the near future.
Proverbs

A Proverb in Taiwan

There are many proverbs in my country. One of the proverbs is "If you are near the red color, you will become red; if you are near the black color, you will become black." This is one of my favorite proverbs. It is an old saying from old Chinese times. I would like to introduce it to everybody.

What does it mean? It means "There are many good friends around you whose behavior will become docile and your motivation always is good. On the other hand, if you always follow an evil-doer, you will become a bad man or woman."

People usually hear the proverb from their parents or their teachers in their school. My parents always tell me when I was young. They said, "You will touch many kinds of friends in your life. Friends look like good books when you make a smart choice. They will effect you so deep in your future. On the other hand, there are many bad people around you who will become trouble. Especially if you are a girl. Don't forget it!"

Until now, I always remember it. I think it is a good saying. I would like to share it with everyone.
An Arabic Proverb
Mohammed Al-Masroori

There are so many proverbs in Arabic culture. These proverbs have been said by people from long time ago at different situations, and little by little these proverbs are memorized, and the people become used to them at those situations.

Commonly these proverbs are like a short saying in a certain situations, and generally these proverbs have two different meanings, one of which is just the words as they are. And another meaning is a deep meaning, which is required and you can understand it beyond the words.

For example, we have a proverb which says, "The door through which the wind blows is a door which needs to be closed." So, the first meaning of this proverb is; if the weather is very bad and the wind is very strong and at that time the main door in the house will open, the wind is going to destroy the people in the house and it is going to bother you, so in this case the best thing you have to do being is to close that door to maintain your own things away from destroyed.

The second main meaning of this saying which the people always use is, for example, when you have a friend or a partner and this person is trying to bother you and all the time he is trying to abuse you and get you in trouble. So, you are suffering because of him for a long time; in this situation the best thing you have to do to solve this problem is to break up your relation with him, so in this case you will go away from his problem and you will feel relieved.

Generally, the people say this proverb when someone complains to them about his problems with his friend so many times, so the people in this situation will advise him to break up his relation with that guy.

The people in my country use this proverb and they follow this advice even in the relation between the man and woman in one family, and that become after the all solution with the another person become useless. It is not easy to decide to follow this saying especially with the person like your wife or your friend. But the people often follow this proverb, and I have tried too!

The One-eyed Man is a King Among The Blind
António André

Usually people believe that proverbs are the wisdom of the ages. Also, today we support that proverbs reflect our culture and customs. I'm not sure about the past use of the proverb written above, nor is its origin known to me. Nevertheless, I think it was probably brought by the Portuguese who colonized my country during the 1500s.

The proverb has been used throughout ages however, at present its meaning changed. Actually this proverb is normally used for joke by young people. The real meaning of the proverb is that when you are talking to people who don't have enough knowledge about the subject which you are talking about, you are seen as a king and you can say everything you want in other words, you can lie and get away with it.

Therefore, young people use this proverb to caricature expatriates who are working in my country. As it is known, most African countries are underdeveloped, and usually there are many foreigners working or teaching in these countries. We have discovered that some of them when they are working there, use academic titles that in reality don't belong to them. For example, a computer technician may say that in his country, he is a doctor in "spatial food" or things like that. A simple carpenter or an expert in house construction will tell you that he is an engineer in naval computers. Also some foreign companies
operating in Africa believe that most African people are illiterate, so they send to
Africa people who are not experienced in the jobs that they are going to do there.
As a result, sometimes, national technicians have more knowledge and experience
than foreigners. Thus, this proverb is often used against the government because
young people think that the money spent to pay foreigners (salary some times
twenty times more than nationals working in same position) could be used on
formation and professional training, instead of contracting foreigners. When you
use this proverb with your foreign colleague, it means that you are "not buying"
what he or she are saying.

A Saying in Oman

Abdullah Al-Rasbi

I am from Oman which has a lot of sayings or proverbs. A proverb is a
short sentence or phrase which carries more than one meaning. The surface
meaning and the deep meaning. Many sayings are passed on from one generation
to the next. I don’t know precisely who first came up with the saying I plan to
discuss here, and when it was first used. But maybe many sayings came from
wisemen.

For example, "YOUR TONGUE IS YOUR HORSE; IF YOU MAINTAINED HIM,
HE WOULD MAINTAIN YOU". This proverb has been said always, i.e., it is very
popular not only in my country but also in many Arab countries. This proverb is
easy to understand that your tongue like your horse. If you take care of your
horse feeding him and caring for his health, then the horse will protect you in
the war court, so the enemy will never grab you. The same thing about your
tongue; if you care about what you are saying then you will not get in troubles and
problems with others. I think that this proverb came from a wiseman who knew
about the war in which the horses were used.

Usually, the people say this saying when the heated conversation occurs
between them, i.e., if anyone says something bad for you then, you will respond by
that saying in a strong advice. If he doesn’t care for your advice then, you will
punish him to get your right.
Dear Pat,

My husband hates my cooking but my friends say that I am an excellent cook. What should I do?

Yours,
Queen of the Kitchen

Dear Queen,

The solution to your problem is easier than you think. If your friends say that you cook well, that means that you do. So, all you have to do is to change your husband and keep your friends.

Yours,
Pat

Dear Pat,

I have a terrible problem. My right leg likes to run quickly and my left leg prefers to walk slowly. Sometimes my feet are fifteen or twenty meters apart, and everybody laughs at me. Please, what can I do?

Yours,
Gum Man
Dear Gum,

Your left leg needs a tune-up plus a supercharge to catch your right leg. Get these and no will laugh at you anymore, because no one will see you anymore.

Yours,
Pat

Dear Pat,

Please help me! When I'm alone, I'm always thinking about my friends, but when I'm with them, I easily get angry. What should I do?

Yours,
Mr. Moody

Dear Moody,

Your problem can be solved easily: If you buy a nice computer you'll never feel alone again, and if you get angry, you just have to unplug it! Try it. It works.

Yours,
Pat

Dear Pat,

I'm crazy—sometimes I feel I'm a dog but other times I feel I'm the president of the United States. What can I do?

Yours,
Napoleon Bonaparte

Dear Napoleon,

Take it easy, man! What you have to do is to try to keep in your mind that you are the president of the U.S. Do you really have these dreams? Poor guy!

Yours,
Pat

Dear Pat,

My problem is that I can't laugh. I know I need to, but I can't seem to do it. I try but nothing happens. No one wants to be around me because I'm so serious. How can I laugh?

Yours,
Too Serious
Dear Serious,

Your problem in not such a difficult one. Remember Jack Nicholson in the *Batman* movie? He was able to laugh using an electronic device that allowed him not only to laugh but also to cry and to perform various other kinds of expressions. Please call toll free at 1-800-221-2210 and ask for a free demonstration. This device can be yours for only $44.99.

Yours,
Pat
Spoofs

SPOOFS
Beauty Contest and Handsome Contest Is Coming to EPI Soon

Mitsue Fujisawa

A beauty contest and a handsome contest will be held on August 13 in the Nursing Building. The contest is very popular and honorable. EPI has this contest every year. If you are an EPI student or an EPI teacher, you can apply at the EPI office for the contest. If you have some questions, Julia Holman will give you information about it.

Last year, the winners were Mitsue Fujisawa and Cecil Melo. Mitsue came from Japan. She is studious and cheerful. Cecil came from Columbia. He is funny and a good teacher. They won a prize of $10,000 and a trip to Hawaii. The money prize has been rising every year. Also winner can take EPI classes free for one term. In the case of a winning teacher, the teacher can take a vacation for one month. Some of EPI students enter EPI for applying for this contest.

This year, the contest will have a special guest. EPI will invite Michael Jackson. If you enjoy his songs and dance, register today. The contest is a very big event for EPI, so everybody is looking forward to it.

Course Description Is Interesting for EPI Students

Leon Patrice Ngueretia

The majority of EPI students applaud the statement by the Steering Committee of the Faculty Senate concerning the course "Christian Fundamentalism and Public Education." The course is intended to teach EPI students how to develop an intensive relationship with God. Such a course proposal is welcome.

It would be very interesting for EPI students to start, probably next quarter, every class with a prayer made by the teacher. Some students testified that one of the EPI teachers named Cecil Melo used to praying before starting his class and they greatly appreciated what he does. So, last week they held a meeting in order to discuss more deeply this issue. All of the students who attended the meeting accepted this innovative idea and seized the moment to charge Mr. Cecil Melo to convince his colleagues about this suggestion.

One of the crucial points which was examined was to know if each student could pray freely at any time during the class if he or she wants to. The majority agreed this hypothesis which complies with the freedom and democracy principles. So, the one who desires to pray should only notify his or her intent to the teacher who, of course, is supposed to accept this demand.

The students who attended the last week meeting had chosen among them four spokesmen and Mr. Cecil Melo, who will represent students and teachers at the meeting which will be held next week. This decisive meeting will be headed by the EPI Dean and we look forward for hearing from its results.

Learn English ... Incredibly Fast

António André

The subject is English. The students are foreigners mainly from Japan and Latin America who are in the upper level (grammar/writing class) and are learning how to speak and write English in an entirely different way. Instead of going to the class, students will have lessons in theirs apartments. They will need only to buy, from E.P.I. office, 30 tapes and spend about 10 minutes per day hearing the tapes.
"Students don't need to spend a lot of time learning English grammar. Memorizing grammar rules, is not the best way of learning any language. The language become familiar to us when we swim in it. Therefore, students need more listening than writing classes. I spent two years to record and prepare tapes with all essential lessons. I want help students to jump to the pool and swim into English language," said Mr. Glen Rice.

The 2-month-old accelerated learning project, developed by Mr. Glen Rice, famed learning expert and teacher at E.P.I., aims to make English as easy and as essential to all foreigners students. "It allows students to comfortably and fluently converse in a new language within 30 days. After 56 days, students will be able to take GRE with 99.9% of probability of getting scores above 1600," Mr. Rice said.

The project is based on the premise of involving both hemispheres of the brain in the education process. The analytical or logical left side of the brain, when properly activated with the musical or artistic right side of the brain, both increases the speed and heightens the retention of learning. Utilizing these untapped mental capacities of your learning ability is the basis of this unique, highly effective method.

According to Mr. Rice, students will learn English as stresslessly as a child does, by hearing new vocabulary and phrases in alternately loud, whispered, and emphatic intonations, all accompanied by Michael Jackson's music in digital stereo. This perfect combination of pop music and words allow the two halves of the brain to work together to dramatically facilitate the assimilation of the English language.

Mr. Rice said that the first 15 tapes of this 30-tape package, which cost is about $100.00 each, help activate the learning capacities of the brain because all were recorded with female voice and have more music than words. The second 15 tapes, which cost $200.00 each and have a lot of humor, are the very same tried and proven tapes used in the White House (E.P.I. sold these tapes to the White House last year) to train foreigner Presidents. This marriage of two concepts literally gives you two courses in one, providing the best of both words in language instruction.

"To correctly converse in English, you must understand the meanings and intent of the native speaker. If after 30 days of listening to the study and memory tapes, students are not comfortably understanding and conversing in English, they can return the tapes for a full refund," said Mr. Rice.

The Rice (attention Japanese students; look how you spell this name) project's goal is to make sure that students who don't "get" English when it's taught the traditional way - going to the tiring classes every day and listening the teacher's hoarse voice - aren't left out of the TOEFL and GRE preparation.

"Students aren't ready for TOEFL and GRE when they get E.P.I classes, and I just had to find an imaginative way to get at there."

But not all teachers are enthusiastic. For some, the project only benefits the G/W teachers. "It's not difficult to see how the new method gives to G/W teachers, time to be with theirs families," said a R/V teacher.

"That's exactly what is going to make the project work," said Mr. Rice. The Project not only teaches students how speak English rapidly but also it teaches teachers how to find the way of how to help students.
A Bloody Battle between EPI and the U.S. Army in Columbia, SC

Maritza Ramirez

After ten days of a very tough battle, the U.S. Army in combination with the FBI finally took control of the situation in which a group of international students at English Programs for Internationals (EPI) were bombing the city and killing people in Columbia, South Carolina.

International students were fighting against the U.S. Government because its decision to increase the tuition cost and application fee. Last Monday, some teachers were taken as hostages while some of the principal streets and the Metropolitan airport were locket by the students who make people to live one of the most terrible moments in the U.S. south's history.

Police department efforts were not good enough to solve the confrontation, so the Army, the FBI and CIA intervention were required by Mr. Bill Clinton. The bitter row became worse when international terrorist groups joined the resistance. The leader of the students was Shabib Almagid who works for the famous Arabic terrorist group which bombed the Twin Towers in New York early this year. Shabib was playing Camaleon, hiding his real identity behind an international student facade.

Besides this, a Spanish student, Santiago Quintana who is nephew of ETA's leader asked him for help to face U.S. armed forces. South American students who were under Maru Ramirez orders requested the aid of Shining Path Guerrilla and The Medellin Cartel; They joined the insurgents as soon as it was possible.

Desperation and panic were the feelings which came over people during the past ten days when the whole of the city was bombed and almost three hundred people were killed by students and the Army during the confrontation.

Yesterday, the lethal game was over when the leaders of the resistance escaped with the terrorists in a private jet. Nobody knows where they are. The FBI said "they are very smart people, and we couldn't avoid their escape; however we know that Shabib Almagid, Maru Ramirez and Tsuna are still at large, and we will work hard to find them."

The EPI Cows Play the Chicago Bulls

Abdullah Al-Rasbi

The EPI Cows are preparing themselves for next basketball season. EPI's Cows coach, Cecil Melo, says all the players are ready to play the Chicago Bulls and take the champion this season*.

Melo offered a lot of money to sign a contract with Loen Patries as,a 6'10", 220- pound small forward who plays professionally in Italy.

The EPI officers increased the tuition of the students, and the rent of the students who are living in the Cliff Apartment. That increase will help EPI to make a contract with Loen. Chicago coach is worried about EPI Cows to offer a contract to Loen.

EPI Cows team has a lot of good players. All these players play professionally in their countries; the Middle East, South America, Africa and Asia. Everyday, they play basketball in the Jym center for about five hours. Despite the time they spend, they are very good students. They don't miss their classes, or nor do they do anything which might effect their study.

Everyone in South Carolina hangs his hopes in EPI Cows to win the next championship. Everyone thinks that EPI Cows can defeat the Chicago Bulls.
No School Means Headaches for EPI Students

For thousands of international students, the end of the summer quarter means more time to study, miss school, be schoolsick without homework. The EPI students feel lonely, bored, and frustrated. They didn't want to feel schoolsick, so they came up with a plan to solve this problem.

First EPI students went to Miami and Disney World. They planned to be there for three weeks, but they felt so bad and sad that they weren't enjoying it. Also most of them had a fever, nausea, and didn't want to eat. Consequently, the next day they met and talked about how they felt and agreed that they wanted to return to Columbia because they preferred to be with their teachers who gave them homework and things to do.

When they returned to Columbia, Koura Diallo who was the coordinator, contacted the teachers who were not on vacation. Then the teachers came to the students' apartment by special bus that they provided to the teachers. The students began to feel better and less schoolsick because the teachers gave them a lot of homework and something to do. Moreover the teachers didn't give lectures. The students gave lectures to each other instead of the teacher, so the teacher just had to listen to the class and gave homework.

Finally, the students talked with Alexandra, EPI director. They suggested to her to found an organization which helped the students who felt schoolsick, so they could meet their goal. The Organization was called GWUL (Great and Wonderful understanding loners at EPI).

Michael Jackson Has a Concert in Columbia: Guess Who His Special Guest Will Be

Michael Jackson will come to EPI, the most famous International English Program in South Carolina. July 1, afternoon 5 o'clock has a party in the Koger Center. What is the reason he chose EPI? Because Michael will come here to visit Cecil Melo, his best friend. Anyway he will have a concert here, for Cecil on his birthday.

Michael Jackson said, "I haven't seen Cecil for a long time, so I decided to give him a big present as I have a special concert here, and I am going to ask my friends to help my show. There will be lots of big stars like Mel Gibson, Cavin Cosner. It will be a big party for him, but I am still wondering if he will like it or not."

Furthermore, the concert will be free for EPI students who can say," happy birthday Cecil. We love you." Anyway, Jackson hopes all students can go to the concert on Cecil's birthday. And he doesn't doubt that Cecil, a grammar teacher in EPI, will be a famous man in Columbia.

"Welcome to the concert. I really hope that nobody will miss this wonderful concert for my friend Cecil. I love EPI." - Michael Jackson

The International Food EPI Restaurants Network

If food is a travel destination in itself, you'll find inexpensive cuisine around the world as close as EPI.

Let's take a cheap ride around the world through EPI cuisine. It could be inexpensive and brain nutritional. But why has the main EPI purpose been changed from teaching English for internationals to international food? Indeed
only God knows; however we'll explain how it works, what are the different kinds of food they prepare, and describe some of the food's contents.

Why did EPI change its purpose from teaching English for internationals to international food restaurants? In the opinion of most EPI students, from almost all continents and races of the world, is more delightful to enjoy a delicious Letters Soup than to study boring grammar rules. Besides, Dick, Alice, Cecil, Millie, John, Mark, Kathie, Karen among others, EPI professors believe that it could succeed with a few changes on a World Tourism School. However, Alexandra, Jim and Bill, the EPI Directors think that learning English will be reinforced by food, so also the people can enjoy their own food, share it with other people and in the same time learn interesting and charming English.

The International Food EPI Restaurants Network join the students in groups and levels. It could be possible through a rigorous Michigan Placement Tasting standardized exam on their tasting ability, thus in EPI there are several groups of internationals, one example is the so called GWUL group, which means Gourmets and Worships UnLimited. This is a successful case with restaurants in buildings like Byrnes, Humanities, Gamble and Nursing on Campus, and Cliffs, Bates, Whaley's Mill, Cornell Arms, Claire Towers among others off campus. They are always improving the serve's quality and their low cost. It lure many people and important organizations who work under contract with the GWUL group for instance the United Nations of America (UN) and North America Free Tongues Agreement (NAFTA).

The different kind of international food that they are preparing are: From Central African Republic Kokonayama, it is good for get an easy tongue free by Leon Patrice. From Venezuela: Pabellon Criollo with Caroatas and Arepas, are good for the thinking plainly in English by Susanita. From Oman Arsi: this is good for good feelings and goodwillings to English teachers by Abdullah. From Korea: Kil-Bul-Go-Gi it is good for don't forget to do any amount of homework by Myoung-Ki. From Spain: Pavada and Paella by Carlos, he assure that if you eat it could be better in English than before. From Japan: Miso Soup, Suchi and Noodle, they are good for readers digest because has a lot of new japanglish words by Mitsue. From Mozambique Matapa, Xima, and Galina Assada, any of them can help you ability to speak fluently and fastly, by Antonio Andre. And from Mexico: Enchiladas and Tacos Dorados, they are very useful before the TOEFL or Michigan because whit any of them you can get diarea and so you have to finish it very quickly by Polo.

All of these foods are irresistible and delicious because they fill a connoisseur's highest requirements on international food, also because for less than one buck you can eat and drink all that you can, and learn English inconspicuously. This food has a high content of grammar and writing digest rules. It is one of the reasons why EPI Directors turning point about teaching English. They think that all international student need to learn English like a second language in the most fun way and profitable way. On base this success, they are working on an International Food Restaurant Network. Soon you will have in your own country one of these EPI's Restaurants, don't be afraid.

Begonias and Ivies under Stress

Jesus Sanchez

Columbia police claim to have stopeed flower theft. Approximately thirty houseowners of a luxury zone have reported that their flowers have been stolen from their gardens.
This morning, at a luxury residential zone of Columbia, the gardens were visited by thieves. The most beautiful flowers, mainly begonias and ivies, were stolen from the house gardens. Houseowners missed the flowers when they tried to water them at approximately 6:30 A.M.

A young jogger that was running at place reported to have seen an unknown 60-years-old-woman around the place. The suspect was seen driving a blue chevy van and leaving the place near one of the houses where flowers disappeared. This witness informed police that the suspect woman was about 5’ tall, and red haired, and had a geranium tattooed on left forearm. Other neighbor of the place, Lucy Villagra, whose begonias were also stolen, reported to the police to have seen a red haired dressed in a jumpsuit woman leaving the garden of her house.

Police report that approximately 30 houses were visited by the thief. It seems that geranium and ivies were preferred by the thief. Caesar Cabello, the Police Department Chief, in a press conference said, "an emergency program has been implemented in order to stop this kind of theft" and asked houseowners to be patient.
Hideki Wakita, a Hero of the 21st Century, Has Met His End

Hideki Wakita

FUKUOKA

Services for Hideki Wakita, 100, will be held on Monday at 6:00 a.m. to Sunday at 6:00 p.m. The family will receive everybody at the same time. We expect that more than one hundred million people will be there. Most politicians and journalists said, "It will be the biggest ceremony in this century." The ceremony will be held at his high school's small church.

Mr. Wakita died on Friday the 13th, December 2073. Born in Japan, Fukuoka, he was the son of Kenji Wakita and Hisako Yamaguchi. He attended Harvard University in Massachusetts and majored in computer & physical science. When he was 19, he became a major league baseball player and in that year, he hit 50 grand slams and got the triple crowns. But the next year, when he was 20, he became a tennis player and got all four major titles also. Three years later, he played basketball in the NBA and left the average score of 56.7 points per-game. Everyone said, "He surpassed Michael Jordan's records." When he was 30, he was in Russia and saved the Russian president from terrorists. There was a rumor that Russian president danced a cossack dance for him. Six years later, he was in the U.S. and became an actor. He was an overnight success in Hollywood. He married five beautiful actresses and built expensive houses in several countries.
But when he was 50, he became an anthropologist and travelled all over the world studying ancient cultures. Finally, he found a small number of people who were living on a small island in the Pacific near Japan. No one else had discovered it. His wide perspective on life spread into space. He made a starship by himself and travelled into space. He found the 10th planet between the Earth and the Mars that has the same environment as the Earth. In addition, he found people living there. He named it, "Hi-deki".

Unfortunately, when he came back to the Earth, he had to fight with terrible brain-disease instead of exploring a fantasy. He died in his house in Japan, but just a few minutes before he died, he left this wise saying, "There is no more eventful life than the one I have experienced."

Abdullah Al-Rasbi, Philanthropist
Abdullah Al-Rasbi

OMAN, AL-WAFI

Services for Abdullah Al-Rasbi, 65, will be at the general Mosque in Al-Wafi at 12 p.m. Then, the burial will be at 1 p.m. His brothers will receive the men for three days in his house and his wives will receive the women.

Mr. Al-Rasbi died Friday, October, 2085. He was born in Al-Wafi. He was the son of Salem Khamis and Nafja Abdullah. He graduated from Sultan Qaboos University as a petroleum engineer in 1992 and did postgraduate study in America. He worked in Petroleum Development Of Oman, PDO, as a reservoir engineer who dealt with estimating the amount of oil in the reservoir.

He was department manager and then company manager. In 2010, he started his own petroleum company which dealt with reservoir engineering. His life was very good. He was a popular person, not only because he had a lot of many, but also because he was a very helpful person. He gave opportunity to many people to get the job in his company. Specially, the students who graduated from high school and university and they didn't get the job in the government. He also provided financial assistance to his relatives every year. He was a very tolerant person. He built a big Mosque in his city. Each Friday, there is a big dinner offered to the prayers. Before he died, he wrote in his will that one million dollars have to be distributed to the poor people. The king of Oman said,"Abdullah was one of the wealthy people who raised the economy in the country and gave an opportunity for the citizens to get jobs".

Surviving are his wives, Mary Nasser and Hana Ahmed. Five daughters, Zahra, Amal, Natja and Amina. Four sons, Said, Salem, mansoure and Bader.

Hyung Park, EPI's Best Teacher, Dies
Hyun Gyu Park

COLUMBIA

Services for Hyung Park Sumter st. 211, will be held at 10 a.m. Monday at E. P. I. 701 building, with burial in the GameCock cemetery. The family will receive friends and students from 1 to 6 at Burger King Funeral home near E. P. I. Memorials may be made to Horse Shoe Chapel room.

Mr. Park died Friday, November, 25, 2066. Born in Seoul, Korea, he was a son of the late Ryong and Horang. He was a famous teacher in E. P. I. at the South Carolina of University. Especially he taught Asian students because he already knew the problems Asian have learning English. English is difficult for them. He was a student at E. P. I. for three years. Therefore he already got much experience about English problems. He contributed with lots of money during his
entitled "How to learn English the easy way." A lot of students used that text book. E. P. I. director, Alexandra Henry has said, "Hyung was one of our most the dedicated teachers. I will never find again his teaching method."

Surviving are his wife, Hanna; son Jong and two his brothers and two sisters and a few EPI teachers.
I Remember

My First Day in America

It was a patchy blue sky on March 16th, the first time I went to the U.S. and also the first time I went abroad by myself. Not only was I excited, but I was also nervous. I hadn't been able to sleep well my last night in Japan because I knew I would miss my family and my friends. I would be alone and have to do everything by myself. But since studying English and going to an American University were my purpose, I had to do it.

My brother, my boyfriend, and my best friend came to the airport to see me off. We were waiting for two hours at the airport, so we took some pictures and had breakfast. It was very nice. While my departure time was drawing near, my heart pounded with excitement and expectation. I was also very uneasy and lonely; however, nobody was crying. Anyhow, my flight schedule was: from Tokyo to Portland, then from Portland to Atlanta, then Atlanta to Columbia. I would be at the Columbia airport at 8:40 p.m., and my American friend's mother would come to meet me there.

I got on the airplane and I had lunch. It wasn't so bad. I listened to the music and watched the movie, which was boring. Sometimes the plane was shaking. I was afraid that it would crash, so I couldn't sleep well; I slept just two hours on the plane. It took us about nine hours to arrive at the Portland airport.

I had to go through customs, and because that took so long it was too late to get on my next flight. When I had arrived, ten customs officers were waiting for me to check my luggage. They didn't find anything that they expected they might, but it was terrible because they opened my luggage and my stuff was scattered everywhere. I was the only person left at the airport and my flight was gone. I stood there petrified. I felt an absence of mind for the time being. I was angry
with them and I hated them. I really wanted to cry, but I didn't. "Oh, my God! What am I going to do?" I asked myself.

The clerk at Delta said to me, "Don't worry! Don't worry!" I'll arrange another flight for you, but I would have to change three times to be able to get to Columbia airport. I would be there at 11:40 now instead of 8:40, so I had to make a phone call to my friend's mother. Walking with quick steps, I found a public telephone.

But a big problem suddenly occurred to me: I didn't know how to make a long distance phone call and I didn't know how much money I should throw in. So I asked a woman to tell me how to use the telephone. She asked me, "Do you have 25 cents?" and I said, "What is 25 cents?" She was surprised that I didn't know about American money. She smiled at me strangely. Then she asked me again, "Where would you like to call?" I said, "I want to call Florence, S.C." She said, "Wow! Such a long distance! I don't know how much it will take." In this case, we decided to make a collect call to my friend's mother. She taught me what number I had to push and told me to say that I would like to make a collect call.

I tried to call my friend's mother and I told the operator what the woman had taught me, but the operator didn't understand what I was saying because my pronunciation wasn't correct. I said that I would like to make a "correct" call. The pronunciation of "I" and "r" made her confused. Finally my call went through, but nobody answered. She had already left, so I was worried that nobody would come to meet me at the airport when I arrived there. I was disappointed and I really wanted to go back to Japan.

Suddenly a splendid idea flashed across my mind: I should send my message to the Columbia airport where my friend's mother was waiting! I tried that, but I wasn't sure she would get it.

Eventually I arrived at the Columbia airport, and I was praying to my God in my mind. She was standing in front of the gate with her friend. I was so touched that I was almost crying when I saw them and I was so happy that I was in vast America. Finally I got home at two a.m. Closing my eyes, I was going to have a long rest. My long and marvelous trip was ending peacefully, and at the same time my new life was starting like the sun rising in the east.

### Horseshoe Park at USC

Mandija Ardjan

I have an hour and a half to spend between my second and third classes and I like to sit on one of the benches in the Horseshoe park to have my lunch there. This happens four days a week and as time passes I am discovering something new in this park every day. I appreciate almost everything in it, but especially nature there, the nice architecture surrounding the park, and the people passing by.

After I have finished my morning classes, I like to cross the road and enter under this beautiful shadow that makes me feel better. Here in the summer a lot of green grass and high trees cover the sky, and you can appreciate the delicate whistle of the wind. I was thinking hard to find the names of these trees but I couldn't, so I asked someone and even he, a native of these parts, couldn't give me a reasonable answer, so at last I thought that their names aren't so important. Another fun thing here is that there are a lot of squirrels climbing the big trees, going up and down to get your attention. They are used to people so have no fear coming up to your bench to share lunch with you. I like to play with them, offering little pieces of bread, and now I have the impression that they recognize
me. I like to take these fifty steps from the EPI building and feel submerged in nature.

There are a lot of buildings surrounding the park and they were generally erected in the 19th century, with a nice, fine architecture which defines in main lines a good combination of wood, red bricks and stone in a Victorian style mixed up with local requirements, which is so evident and characteristic of this zone, forming all together a unique style. All the colleges around are built in harmony with each other and in respect of nature, and form the center of the whole campus of USC. Here you can find the roots of the present and the past also. It is necessary to study these buildings carefully to understand the USC's present. Sometimes I like to stand in front of South Caroliniana Library, which is one of the oldest libraries erected in the United States, and other times I prefer to go to the end of the park, up to one little hill, where McKissick Museum is situated, an imposing building looking over the Horseshoe Park.

I like to observe the many people passing through the park and guess what they are doing there. That is not as difficult as it seems; after a certain practice everyone can easily identify the students in a hurry to change their building to get to another class, or the state employee in a necktie. I often see people jogging there, or some USC employee who exercises by walking during this period of lunch time, or someone like me who enjoys having lunch here.

Closed off in a triangle of buildings most of the time, EPI-Byrnes, where I have my first and third class, Carolina Plaza the second, and Whaley's Mill, where I am obliged to live, I enjoy the hours spent in Horseshoe Park. This special park gives me all the necessary peace, sense of quietness and relaxation that I need. All this is so sweet, like the music that you can hear there. I cannot use better words than Pope John Paul II expressed in this park:

- It is beautiful to be young.
- It is beautiful to be young and a student.
- It is beautiful to be young and a student at USC.

**I Remember You**

Seon Hui Jeong

I remember when I first met you at the church. You put an insect on my head and I was very surprised and cried out. Hearing my crying, your elder brother came to see me and slapped your face. After you left, what I felt was just pity.

I remember the tree you hid behind to startle me. When you startled me, I plopped down on the ground and cried bitterly, clasping the tree in my arms. After I stopped crying, I could see your eyes filled with regret.

I remember when I used to have a ponytail. Whenever you met me, you teased me, yanking it. It made me so mad that I had my hair cut, but you teased me again, this time about my short hair like a man's.

I remember what a good player you were. Whenever I went to see a basketball game in which you were participating, you used to miss the ball. But my friends told me you were a good player.

I remember you presented me as a nice girl to your friends. As your face became red, I felt that your eyes got brighter. And having been shy, I could not help raising my head.

I remember how many times you called me up before moving. At that time I was not at home and all you could do was just leave a message on my answering machine.
I remember you although you disappeared from my life when I was thirteen years old and I haven’t seen or heard from you since.

**A Visit to Columbia**

Shiho Shimizu

My friends, with great pleasure I received your letter, and I will welcome you to Columbia. I have recently reserved a room for you in two hotels, and I expect that we will spend a fun weekend here.

On Friday you will settle in the Royal Motel, which is comfortable and inexpensive and very close to the downtown area, where you can do a tour. On Saturday we will have a chance to be in a nice place in open nature near Lake Murray in Lexington County. You will be staying at a hotel called Lake Murray House, and from there we can enjoy swimming, boating and fishing.

My friends, I welcome you again to Columbia and I would like to help you during this vacation, but be prepared and bring at least $175.00 for each one of you.

For the first day’s dinner we will be a little formal and eat at an Italian restaurant named “Villa Tronco” to see how to use a fork and knife and have an experience of America’s formal mood. Maybe we will want to eat spaghetti, but we will not because it will be a good chance to eat other Italian food.

The next morning, we will eat a very light breakfast, because we will have eaten a huge Italian meal the night before. For lunch we will go to a Japanese restaurant named “Sakura” to compare it to Japanese restaurants in Japan. We will eat sushi in spite of its being an expensive food.

That night, we will go all the way to “Yesterday’s Two” in Ashland Park Shopping Plaza, as we hear that it is a nice restaurant. There we will eat American food.

I am sure that we will have a great time together during your visit to Columbia!

**A Typical Weekday, My Room**

Tate Kim

At 4:00 p.m, my room, room 202 in Whaley’s Mill, is always calm. It seems nobody lives there. As soon as I open the door, the first thing I do is turn the radio on. Then I check the answering machine. There is no massage. Although I didn’t expect one, I am a little disappointed. I take out a soda from the refrigerator. The big bothering refrigerator makes a lot of noise. Probably the noisy thing is old. I sit down on the dark brown sofa, which is located opposite the window. I can’t see anything through the window because there is just a white wall outside the window. Anyway this is the only place to take rest. Empty potato chip bags lie on the dirty carpet. I do not remember when I ate such things. Many tiny pieces of potato chips are scattered everywhere on the dark blue carpet. They look like stars in the sky. Anyhow I feel that I have to clean the room up. But I am exhausted because I stayed up until 3’oclock last night. For some reason, the poster beside the door looks funny. “I can’t drive 55,” it says, picturing a young couple who have been caught by a policewoman. I feel my eyes getting heavier. Maybe I am going to fall asleep. I had better take a short nap. Have a nice dream everybody!
My Diary

Ya-Tsun (Bao-Bao) Chang

My diary: There is no place like it, full of illusions but so real for my dreams. However things are going in my diary is how things are being remembered in my life. My diary is a special kingdom worth everything to me and a secret castle that I would like to spend all my life with. Never has a person had a chance to share with me my own world of mortals but now there is no more mystery. I open my heart and invite everybody to come into my fantasy world, to know how I start my notes, to comprehend what kind of memories I have in my diary and to understand my need to live in my dreamland.

I remember that it was when I was 12 years old that I started to write my diary. At first, I couldn’t say that it was a diary but something like notes that helped me to remember things in school and the troubles that bothered me in the sleepless nights. However, I burned all of them when I went to high school. Since that time, I changed my way of writing my "notes"; every day I wrote more than a thousand words, including everything in my daily life, and never separated anything in the composition. One year later, I read a summary from the news that taught me how to write a real diary. Even now, I can still remember what she said: "A diary is a place to remember things and to feel the heart. The things should be the major events in daily life and the feeling one that senses deep inside one’s heart."

From that moment till now, I write my diary with my heart. Whatever goes in my heart I try to put in words and pass into sentences. I make stories, glue flowers, write poems, draw pictures or stick pictures in, burn the little space and sing my songs with my own words, everything, everything I can show myself. Everything, everything I can remember for the rest of my life. Those things make my life so distinctive and harmonize my individual character.

My inspiration to write in my diary comes with the night. So many lonely nights I can’t wait to let myself be surrounded by the darkness and collect smoke into my diary. Also I can’t wait until daybreak to pick flowers for remembering someone that has passed through the world so that I can add them the next night. I sigh with feeling and turn into a spirit dance in my diary. Every punishment I have gone through the filter of my diary; only the diary can release my sin. Old friends’ faces are recalled in the dusk sky. Every cloud that comes into my diary becomes many pictures. I love everything that I draw in my diary so much that I don’t even know how to live without it.

Wise Guy is the name I call my diary. Believe it or not, I used to be a very stupid person; it is a diary rich with my life and makes everyone everlasting in my memory. Diary, together we are one; separate I am nothing.

One Hot Tuesday

Ruth Hatori

One hot Tuesday in the middle of August, Sally didn’t go to work. She wanted to be alone, so she took a train to the seashore. She walked slowly along the beach until she was far away from the crowds, the ice cream sellers, and the lifeguards. Then she changed her clothes and ran into the cool water. She swam out a long way, enjoying the hot sun and the cool water.

Looking up, she saw a gull in the clear blue sky. The gull looked as though he was enjoying his flying. She gazed at the gull vacantly and thought, "I want wings so that I can fly like a bird."

Suddenly, the gull came down straight toward her and said, “Let’s fly together.” At first she didn’t know who was speaking to her. But the voice came
from the gull. She looked at him with surprise. He smiled and said again to her, “Let’s fly together.”
“But I don’t have any skills to fly,” she answered him confusedly. “You can do it if you have the desire to fly. And I know you have it, right?”
She really wanted to fly, but she was uncertain of his word. Flapping his wings, he eagerly allured her into his world of flight. She was still thinking about whether to try to fly.
“Come on, let’s fly together. It’ll make you feel relaxed and happy.” Then she heard something ringing from a distance.
“Hurry up!” he cried. “Hurry up! I have no time. I have to go before the bell stops.”
“I want to fly, but . . .”
On hearing her say this, he turned his face sadly, and said, “Okay, I’m going to leave you now. I gave you a chance to fly, but . . .” And the gull left her.
“Wait!” she cried, and then she noticed where she was. She was in bed, and the alarm clock was still ringing. “A dream . . .” she murmured. It was a hot Tuesday in the middle of August.

I Remember . . .

Franck Boussion

I remember the first time I drank alcohol; I was so drunk that I couldn’t remember where I lived.

I remember my first boxing match, how afraid I was for my nose!

I remember I dreamt about Miami every time I drank an orange juice. Now it is not so far away.

I remember the last dream I had.

I remember the night before I came here. I celebrated with all my friends and they promised me a lot of letters but today I still haven’t received one.

I remember my first girlfriend. I was so enamoured that I thought she was the girl of my life, but after one month she left me.

I remember her when Balavoine Daniel sang, “To love is harder than to be loved.”

I remember the Nazi occupation during World War Two and I remember the French collaborators responsible for deporting a lot of Jews to Nazi death camps. How forget it?

I remember my weight before coming to Columbia, and I remember all the hamburgers I have eaten here. I hope I don’t weigh more than I used to . . .

I remember I have writing class at 8:30 a.m., and it is time to go . . .
I Remember EPI in Columbia

I remember the episode of my life being for the first time in the USA.

I remember my arrival at the airport of Columbia, my last destination after a 14-hour flight, when a representative from Byrnes International Center met me and took me to the apartment reserved for me.

I remember the first orientation meeting at the very beginning of the English program, when Dr. Alexandra Henry, the director of the EPI Center, welcomed all the students with her exceptional politeness and smile.

I remember my impressions of the highly professional approach of all instructors who participated in that meeting giving us the necessary explanations for further realization of the program.

I remember all the other staff-members of the Center, who were always ready to inform and help the students in various ways.

I remember the patience and perfect methodology of my grammar class instructor Dick Holmes, who makes the students fall in love with English grammar.

I remember the tireless reading-vocabulary class instructor Kathy Bledsoe, who compelled us to follow her intensive rhythm of work.

I remember Mark Stiteler, the communication seminar instructor, who managed always to include a new dynamism and fun in his classes.

I remember the extraordinary efforts and responsibility in editing the EPI magazine Sunrise, a very important task, since postponing sunrise would cause a delay in all daylight activities.

I remember a lot of tests and everyday homework occupying our after-class time till midnight.

I remember attending the baseball game for the first time in my life, when I was trying to understand the rules and, until the end of the game, kept expecting the play to become interesting to me.

I remember the EPI mid-term party at Bubba N' Buck and my pleasure in practicing and performing two cowboy dances.

I remember the 4th of July celebration of American independence in front of the Capitol building and the fireworks in various colors.

I remember my three roommates in our Whaley's Mill two-bedroom apartment and the morning crowd in front of the bathroom.

I remember my traveling by thoughts to Macedonia and to my family trying to alleviate my homesick feelings.

I remember my readiness with pleasure to remember always my two-month stay in Columbia.
Personals

To EPI,
  Thank you for helping me. I hope to speak English well someday.
  Chiho Kaneko

To whom it may concern:
  Work hard for keeping your blood and don't be influenced by the
  intercultural aspects.
  Your best friends

Good bye to all EPI students and especially to my friends in level 40 grammar
class, and see you at the beginning of the new quarter.
  Ahmed Almazrouei

To Mimi:
  Thanks to you and you know who. It's been a great summer at EPI. LYKKE
  TIL PA COLLEGE, SKATTEN MINI KLEM, MAMMA.

Thank you to all the teachers and students in EPI, and thanks to everybody who
helped me this quarter, and sorry about any problem or bad thing that I gave to
anybody in EPI. Sorry about anything not agreeable, and thanks EPI.
  Thanks all very much ...
  Al-Menhali

Hello Diego and Ali- Hammoud;
  Do not DRINK too much! Do not SLEEP too much!. And PLAY a lot.
  Your nice friend ..... Reiji

To my friends:
  To my friends who will leave EPI in this month, I really feel sad and miss
  you, and I want to say for you thank you very much and GOOD LUCK !!
  A long haired girl

To Epi teachers: Thank you very much for sharing ideas and experiences, and for
giving us the opportunity to enjoy our English classes.

To EPI students: Thank you for telling us about your countries and cultures. We
are not alone in this planet.
  Milton Matus

Dear GW 50,
  You're a fantastic class, and its been a lot of fun teaching you! I'm really
  sorry the semester is almost over. Keep up the good work and keep in touch!
  B. K.

To ICFE: We always remember the days that we passed together. Good luck
everybody. See you in Barcelona.
  Cristina and Monica
To Monica: We spend a lot of good time together. You are always wonderful! Continue being special.

Christina

To Barbara Kubodera: It's really nice to be your students. Our English have increased tremendously during this quarter. Thanks for all!

Monica and Christina

To Yang, Dulce, Guillermo, Juan, Maritza, Ronaldo and Joel.
I wish you all the best!! GOOD LUCK!! BYE!!!

Manuel Layrisse

To Cristina, Monica, Azucena, Carlos V.,Carlos S., Santiago and Sergi
("Delegacion Espanola") Entonces chamos:
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!!! OUR TIME TOGETHER WAS COOL!! CHEVERE!!! I hope to see you in BARCELONA OR CARACAS. GOOD BYE!!! WRITE TO ME.

MANUEL L.

To MY WIFE SUSIE
SEE YOU NEXT TERM; Yo tambien quiero estar con mi mama !!!
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING

P.D No estoy escondiendo ninguna novia OK.

Your first husband.

To John "Mr. Stopa"
THANKS FOR YOUR "AMISTAD" AND PATIENTE.

Manuel Layrisse

To Glen Rice
Thanks for all your advice. It really helped me.
FELICITACIONES!!! You are an excellent teacher.

Manuel Layrisse

To John "Mr. STOPA": Thanks for your "amistad" and patience.

Manuel Layrisse

To EPI: I think EPI is very interesting place because there are many people from different countries studying here and they have different personalities. I have new foreign friends. They are very inteligent and hard workers. I look up to them.

From a Japanese girl

To Salem: I think you are the best of funny people. You are from the UAE. You always talk, talk, talk... during the class. There are many Japanese in your class. You sometimes speak funny Japanese. Everybody laughs at you. The teachers always say to you "shut your mouth". According to another arabic classmate you are the only crazy person. Other Arabic people don't look like you, he said to me. But I had a funny class in your class. If you and I have the same class next term, please be quiet!!!

From your classmate
For Snopek, John: I am sorry John, I missed your class many days because my brother-in-law and my sister and two nieces recently came to Columbia. I was excited. I'll never miss class again, "promise"

Weon Senk Yu

To EPI SPECIAL FRIEND: I can tell you that if you need a girlfriend you have to move yourself. A girl won't come to you. The point is your mind. Anyway, I thought you would never come back to my apartment while I'm in America. Have a good break!

Tatsuo Alkawa

Dear husband in training!

Today in the morning,
when the sun send a very bright light to our body,
I could feel a warm our love with happiness.
In addition, your unexpected kiss was too fantastic for me.
I am sure we will awake by taking a warm light every morning and feel endless happiness forever.

From your pretty woman

To Carlos Santamaria: When I opened my thoughts you stood near to me to understand all that I said to you. Thank you.

Azuara

To Galileos: I'm very glad to met all of you. I always remember the days that we stood together.
I've a special friends.

Azuara

To Yago: I have had a great surprise when I have met you. I like to have a friend like you.

Azuara

To a handsome boy who studys in EPI Grammar 60a:
Since I have got know you about few months ago, you always help me to do many things, but there are many girls have invied me, because they thought I have been your girlfriend. I can't belive it. There are many troubles around me. How about you? Haven't you got too, have you? I'm so sorry! Anyway, I just want to say "Thanks for your help", you are my the best friend.

A girl from Taiwan

I am going to miss my friends and teachers. I had a good time in my classes
an EPI student

To EPI teachers and staff: I'm impressed of your high professionalism and responsibility.

Thank you for everything.
I love y'all.

Doncho Donev

Dear EPI;
I enjoyed American life. I have many good bad friends. I want to call something to EPI's attention. In Whaley's Mill Apartment R#327, many ghosts appear at midnight. This is a joke. A serious problem is that my restroom gets
out of order many times. Water can't flow! Please don't use my restroom! I am going to go back my country in August. See you!

From Alice

To my friends, Ali and Abdullah, Good luck in your future life and in your study.
To my friends, Hilal and Nidhal, good luck in your study in EPI. Really, I had a good time with you. If you want to reach me, try! I will be there, don't forget!? Bye.

To my roommates, Carlos, Stuna, Matius and Toshiki: Good luck in your future life and future study.

To all my teachers in EPI and to all staff, thank you very much for your help.

Mohammed Al-Masroori

I would like to say thank you to all EPI teachers, classmates and roommates. It was the most exciting term of my life. Sunrise!? Is it a good movie?

J.T

Dear Juliet;
Sometimes I think I know about you very well, but sometimes I can't understand you very well. I like you as my best friend, of course your country too. I want to understand you; however, it is difficult for us to speak English and to express our thought and emotion.

From your friend

Dear Al-Rawas;
Congratulations!!! on August, 19, which is an important day for you. I heard that you will enter the married life on that day. Don't forget to invite EPI teachers and students in your WEEDING PARTY in your country. Don't even think about paying tickets. They will go with me in my airplane.

YOUR BEST FRIEND

Don't be late anytime and every class. When you do so, your sponsor is crying in your country.

POP

Dear Alexandra:
Do you know why Don Quijote De La Mancha, never, never, could be written in English? It is because spelling is not necessary in Spanish but in English, don't you?

TO Ruth
When I was talking with you I feel dreaming because your speaking was very sweet, and made comfortable. Please don't change your humorous face.

Your class partner

YO

RV60
Beware of Kammel. Is that person beside you your friend, boss, mate, etc.??
Are you sure? You have been a great class. I have enjoyed you and appreciated all you have done to help me carry my heavy loads.

Kathy.
Mexican friends:
I can't find the words to express my affection for you and my gratitude for everything that I shared with you. Just hope we will not forget each other, because this is the beginning of the beautiful friendship. Remember you have a friend in South America.

Thanks, take care and good luck!!! S-A, tiene un ratón.

To Doncho:
It's been fun, hasn't it? Your great energy and focus are an inspiration to me.

Yours, Another Editor Who's Ready for a Long Nap

I want to thank the teachers of EPI for their understanding, patience and encouragement.

Koura Diallo.

To Keelwyn Volcanes
Thank you for your friendship. I love you!!

Grapitas

To Cecil Melo, Christy Cabrera and Mark Wenger
Thank you for your knowledge. I enjoyed your classes.

Carlos Santamaria

CS 50b: You were a great group to teach and lots of fun too!! I enjoyed teaching you!

Glen Rice

To People from Venezuela
Chamos soy unos tios cojubudos!! Espero que mis sangrias no os hayan destrozado. Suerte para todos. Deseo que os vaya muy bien en el futuro. No os olvidare.

Carlos Santamaria

To my grammar/writing, reading/vocabulary & TOEFL classes this summer: It's been a great pleasure working with you and getting to know you. Thanks for being yourselves, so kind and intelligent.

Best wishes, Dick

To Galileos
You are the best! I don't forget you.

Carlos Santamaria

To Daniel Castellon
Visca el Barca !!!

To Keelwyn Volcanes
Este diciembre aprendes a esquiar. Te espero en Barcelona.

Grapitas

To People from Barcelona
You are the best friends.

The Lider
To Christie & Cabrera: Thanks to you. I will never forget the life in EPI. Good luck!

Christina

To EPI (office, teachers, students): I'll miss all of you. I've had great times in EPI and have met some special people. Don't forget the "DAHDAH woman".

RV40a: We've had a lot of fun and, I hope, we've learned a lot too. Thanks for being a great class! —Glen Rice

To Chamos from Venezuela: We're very happy to know you. Thank you for your friendship. You are really special. We will never forget you.

Christina and Monica

To all who contributed to this literary endeavor with your talents and hard work, my thanks and admiration! Together we've delivered a little more beauty and truth into this world.

Love, Dick