Spring 1995

SUNRISE
Contents

Art & Entertainment .................. 3
Learning a language is an eclectic experience involving all kinds of interpersonal and cultural experiences. In this section you'll find movie and book reviews, recipes, and an advice column.

Around the World ................... 17
One of the great things about studying in an international English program is the opportunity it presents to get to know people from all over the world. Here you can get the inside story on various countries around the world and their special places, people, and customs.

Stories & Poems ...................... 29
What would life be without the inspiration that stories and poems provide? This section features the creative talents of some fine storytellers and poets here at EPI.

Special Features
• Got a problem? Maybe you'll find the answer, or at least a good laugh, in the Dear Pat letters in the Art & Entertainment section. Whose problems are they, and who's Pat? You'll have to ask the members of the Grammar/Writing 60a and Reading/Vocabulary Upper Level classes.

• You may have a secret admirer and not even know it. In the personal messages throughout the magazine, here's your chance to find out.

• Congratulations to Ebert Guzmán and Carla Valencia, the winners of this issue's short poetry contest.
Editor's Note

Sunrise is like what Forrest Gump says life is like: It’s "like a box of chocolates; you never know what you’re going to get." You do know, though—just as Forrest comes to know about life—that you’re going to get a wide assortment of a lot of good things. We hope you’ll enjoy the many fine works featured in this issue of Sunrise.

Dick Holmes
Editor-in-Chief

Sunrise Staff

Editor-in-Chief    Dick Holmes

Editors  Natalie Paganelli    Carla Valencia
          Johanna Díaz    Sohwon Yun
          Sang Eun Cho    Shu-Chen Lee

Illustrators  Sang Eun Cho
              Gabriel Fernández
              Gabriela Páez
              Akane Miyazato

Layout  Natalie Paganelli
        Dick Holmes

Sunrise is a publication of the English Programs for Internationals (EPI) at the University of South Carolina
Byrnes 310, Columbia, SC 29208 USA
Phone: (803) 777-3867 Fax: (803) 777-6839
Copyright © 1995 by English Programs for Internationals
Art & Entertainment

Naoko Shinada Japan
Carla Valencia Perú
Sangwon Kang Korea
Bronia Holmes USA
Bilal Dosti Turkey
Johanna Díaz Venezuela
Amal Abel Kuwait
Forrest Gump is a poor Southern boy with a really low IQ who manages to overcome his handicap and become a great man. As he says his mother used to say, "Life is a like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're going to get."

As a child, he is picked on by big bullies. Only a girl named Jenny is kind to him. They are always together as they are growing up, but after graduating from the university, they each go their own way. Forrest continues to love her for his whole life.

Through the years, he becomes a football star, a soldier, a ping-pong champion, and a rich businessman. Each of his endeavors leads to a splendid result. Happiness and people seem to come to him naturally. He needs only one more accomplishment to make his life complete: marriage to his beloved but elusive Jenny.

Finally, after years of longing for her, Forrest convinces Jenny to marry him. The days that follow are the happiest of Forrest's life, but unfortunately, they are numbered. Jenny contracts a serious disease and dies young. Forrest is left to bring up their son by himself. The two of them face a lot of problems but, with each other’s support and encouragement, manage to overcome them all.

When I watched this movie, I couldn’t stop crying. I wondered if such a pure person could exist in the world. Instead of trying to be a great, famous, or successful person, Forrest just tries to do what is good, right, and enjoyable. He loves his friends, works hard, keeps his promises, and never wants to be a hero. But he becomes a hero because he is such a great example of a truly good person. His simplicity, humility, and generosity make everybody love and respect him.

I learned the real meaning of success and happiness from experiencing Forrest’s way of achieving them. Forrest Gump shows how good life can be.

---

To Natalie, my TOP 40 MUSIC teacher,
Who is going to teach me about Hootie, Melissa, etc., after you have taken off for Venezuela?—where, I hope, ALL your dreams come true! Bonne chance, viel Glück, good luck!!!
Your slow student

To my hard-working GWUL students,
I’ve enjoyed working with you and wish you all the best! Oh, and don’t forget those commas...
Bernie de Oliveira
Julio Cortazar was born in Brussels, went to Argentina when he was only four years old, and spent most of his life in Paris. Twenty years ago, he wrote a novel that has been read widely ever since, *Rayuela*.

Cortazar unfolds two different stories in *Rayuela*, both of which can be read on the same pages by adding, mixing and in some cases substituting parts here and there following the writer's suggestions. He develops the alternative stories with the same characters but with a different sense, enhancing the reader's curiosity.

The title relates to the general setting of the story, which passes in its entirety through the principal character's mind while he is looking out a window thinking about his life and watching some children playing hopscotch. Hopscotch becomes a metaphor for his life: Step by step he has been trying to arrive, waiting for the light of the sky ... at the end.

The first alternative story can be read in the normal way, and the second needs guidelines to the detours that may or may not be taken according to the writer's directions. Cortazar exchanges lines here and there and constantly changes the order of the pages, so each time you finish a page, you have to look for the next one.

Both stories revolve around the bohemian lifestyle. The writer analyzes every feeling that emerges in various situations involving various relationships. The first story focuses on the character Oliveira who immigrates from Argentina to Paris and lives among bohemian people. He becomes involved in a romance with a woman called La Maga (Magician), who has a little child, Rocamadeur.

Oliveira loves being with La Maga but he doesn't really love her at all. He likes people to love him but he's not able to love anyone in particular. He loves only "Life". Sometimes, he gets confused about himself as he tries to find the meaning of everything.

He and his friends feel and live life in an unconventional way, always doing only things that they really want to do, without caring about the etiquette of normal behavior. They play with life and death, passing through the limits of each.

Toward the end of the story, Oliveira, feeling unfulfilled and restless, decides on a whim to go back to Buenos Aires, where he discovers that another woman has been waiting for him. This situation intensifies his ennui, and contemplating suicide, he decides to disappear.
Rayuela . . .

In the second alternative version of the story, Oliveira faces life in a different way. At the same time that he's suffering, he laughs at himself. Always analyzing everything, he makes sense of everything and enjoys his bohemian life among other people like himself. He has the soul of an artist, and he accepts and respects everybody's life, though sometimes abandoning others.

*Rayuela* takes us into a world of living in complete freedom without any responsibility. Some of the bohemian knowledge we encounter here reflects our own thoughts. Accordingly, we the readers become Cortazar’s accomplices in the unfolding of the novel, which needs us as well as the characters.

Cortazar uses an abstract style that perhaps requires reading *Rayuela* twice to understand it. One of the author’s trademarks is the way he painstakingly describes some events so vividly, passionately, and powerfully that his readers are transported into the real scene. He surprises us, skillfully obliging the reader to act constantly and make subtle distinctions in meaning. Besides manipulating the order of the pages and sections of the text, he mixes three languages (Spanish, English and French).

Cortazar makes us think hard and feel strongly with clever thoughts and expressive passion. *Rayuela* teaches us how to fly with him and go back with delight into our own life.

---

Blue

Sangwon Kang
Korea

*Blue*, directed by the great Polish filmmaker Krzysztof Kieslowski, is the first of his trilogy of French films named after the colors of the French flag—blue, white, and red. Juliette Binoche stars as the wife of a famous French composer. At the beginning of the film, the composer’s wife is traveling by car with her husband and daughter when they have a terrible accident, which only she survives. At the time of his death, her husband had been working on a symphony he was commissioned to write for the upcoming celebration of European unification. After the composer dies, a composer friend of his reveals his love for her. She is attracted to him but can’t give herself to him completely since she is still mourning the loss of her husband. Trying to avoid her husband’s friend and the rest of the world, she moves out of her family’s country manor into a flat in Paris and lives a lonely, haunted life. Eventually, though, after searching everywhere for her, her husband’s friend finds her and gradually wins her over.

The composer’s widow, like the color blue in the French flag, represents liberty; her husband represents the traditional beaurocracy of European nationalism; and his friend represents the move toward European unification. This story is about the process of fighting the political status quo and obtaining liberty. The composer’s widow (liberty) wants to give herself to her husband’s friend (the new unified Europe), but she is inhibited by the overpowering memory of her husband (traditional Europe). In the end she manages to let go of the past. She embraces a new life with her new love, and together they set out to finish the symphony her husband started.

This movie raises questions about what liberty is and where it comes from. Is it a privilege that allows us to do anything we want? Is it just a slogan that dictators use trying to persuade people? Do we actually live freely? Now, it’s up to the new Europe and the new society everywhere to find the right answers and bring true liberty into the world.
Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus
Bronia Holmes
USA

Do you have a hard time communicating in a foreign language? How would you feel if you traveled to another planet and tried to communicate there? According to John Gray, author of *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus*, learning to communicate with the opposite sex in an intimate relationship is a lot like learning to communicate with creatures from another planet. Perhaps when men and women communicate on a superficial level, the differences in their styles of thinking and communicating don’t create a lot of problems, but once the walls of formality come down in an intimate relationship, men and women find that their communication style can easily be misunderstood by their partners.

According to Gray, men and women handle problems, for instance, in very different ways. When a man has a problem, he thinks about it, takes his time, and tries to solve the problem on his own. Discussing the problem with other people is not the first thing a man wants to do about it. His initial reaction is to withdraw into himself to search for the solution. Perhaps after he’s thought it over carefully, he may decide to seek advice or another person’s assistance, but to him, talking to others represents part of the solution that he’s decided to pursue as a result of his reflection. During the time he takes to reflect on his problem before deciding on a course of action, his mate, coming from her Venusian style of thinking and communicating, interprets his silence as a form of rejection. While he’s thinking that he’s doing the right thing by not involving the woman he loves in his problem until he can figure it out, she’s thinking that he isn’t talking because he doesn’t care enough about her to share his problem with her or because she’s the problem.

When a woman has a problem, on the other hand, she feels an immediate need to talk about it. For a woman, talking is an essential form of thinking and a great emotional release. When a woman expresses her problem to her mate, he assumes, according to his Martian way of thinking, that she’s already thought it over and is now asking him for advice or assistance, so he quickly offers a solution. At this point, though, she’s still at the thinking-it-over stage and isn’t ready to consider a solution yet.
Men are from Mars . . .

She continues expressing her thoughts and feelings and basically ignores what her mate tells her. She goes on in great detail about the problem and may even weave a number of seemingly unrelated problems into a litany of what’s bothering her. Eventually, her mate gets frustrated, thinking that she’s not listening to him because she doesn’t value his ideas or that she’s blaming him for her problems. She feels frustrated because she thinks that he’s being impatient and doesn’t want to listen to her. As their frustration mounts and they continue to try to communicate in their disparate styles, they both get defensive, and instead of working together to solve the original problem, they end up creating another, perhaps more serious one between themselves.

How men and women go about solving problems is only one of many kinds of situations in which men and women can misunderstand each other even though they’re deeply in love. In addition to stylistic differences in problem solving, Gray insightfully examines a variety of other male and female characteristics that lead to misunderstanding and offers sound advice on how men and women can overcome the communication problems resulting from such differences. He tends to stereotype men and women, but the information he presents is illuminating and useful.

During a recent discussion of this book on an e-mail list focused on the understanding of listening, everyone who had read the book agreed that what they had learned from it was helping them interact better with their loved ones, though some of them pointed out that, in fact, men sometimes communicate like Venusians and women like Martians. Recent research shows that men’s and women’s brain structures and functions are different in some ways, so it’s no wonder that men tend toward one style of communication and women toward another, but ultimately, recognizing and being sensitive to both styles within each other is the key to more successful communication.

If you’d like to learn more about how men and women communicate differently and how to achieve more understanding of and compassion for the opposite sex, I recommend that you read this thought-provoking book.

---

Dear Naoko,
I really enjoyed living with you. I’ll never forget that when I was sick you cooked for me and took care of me. I hope we can meet again in our country. I’ll miss you. Thank you!

from your roommate

Dear Abdulmalik,
I hope to learn English very well because with friends like you, I want to talk a lot. Never change. Okay?

Your friend always,
Johanna

Dearest Julia,
Thank you so much for your kindness.
Love,
Shiho

Dear Naoko,
I really enjoyed living with you. I’ll never forget that when I was sick you cooked for me and took care of me. I hope we can meet again in our country. I’ll miss you. Thank you!

from your roommate

To all,
I want to say thanks to all my EPI teachers and friends. I had a very good time with you. And I want to say that it was a very nice chance to get to know all of you, especially Hani, Saeed, Faisal, Ahmed, Abdulhamid, Tony, Felipe, Maria José, Khaledon, Khaled, Ahmed, Rease, Salih, Johanna, and of course, my baby Giselle.

Thank you again,
Nasir

To my RV 50a and CSUL AM/AV classes,
It's been great working with all of you this quarter. I hope you have a fantastic fun-filled summer.
All the best!
Kay
Karniyarik
Bilal Dosti
Turkey

Ingredients
2 medium-size eggplants
vegetable oil for deep-frying
1 small onion
1 pound of minced meat
1 teaspoon of salt
1 tablespoon of spices,
such as black pepper, cumin, etc.
1 small tomato
2 small green peppers
a few sprigs of parsley (optional)

Preparation
Wash the eggplants and peel strips of the skin off so that the eggplants have a striped appearance like a zebra. Slit them open. Heat some oil in a pot and deep-fry them until they become soft. Dice the onion and sauté it in a separate pan while the eggplants are frying. When the onion becomes brown, add the minced meat to it and continue frying, stirring occasionally. Add some salt, black pepper, and other spices to the mixture. Place the fried eggplants into a shallow baking dish, stuff them with the meat and onion mixture, and decorate them with thin slices of tomato and green pepper (and a few sprigs of parsley if you like). Pour a little boiled water into the dish, and place the karniyarik into a pre-heated oven. Bake at 250° for half an hour, and then your delicious Turkish dish is ready to serve.
**Strawberry Pie**

Johanna Díaz  
Venezuela

**Ingredients**
- 2 cups of flour
- 100 grams of soft butter
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 4 ounces of soft cream cheese
- 1 1/2 tablespoons of milk
- 2 tablespoons of powdered sugar
- 1 tablespoon of vanilla
- 8 pints of strawberries, hulled and halved
- 2 cups of cold milk
- 2 packages of Strawberry Instant Pudding
- 1 package of Strawberry Jello
- 1/2 cup of water
- 1 eight-ounce tub of COOL WHIP Whipped Topping

**Preparation**

First, prepare the dough for the crust by mixing the flour, butter, and 1/2 cup of sugar until the mixture is smooth. Roll out the dough, arrange it in a pie pan, and bake it in the oven for 10 minutes at 350°. Take the crust out and let it cool.

Next, whisk the cream cheese, milk, powdered sugar, and vanilla in a bowl until the mixture is smooth. Stir in 1 1/2 cups of whipped topping. Spread this filling over the crust. Press most of the strawberries into the filling, reserving several for garnish. Then, pour 2 cups of milk into a large bowl and add the 2 packages of pudding mix. Whisk vigorously for 1 minute. Let stand 1 minute or until the pudding thickens. Gently stir in 1 cup of whipped topping. Spread this filling over the first layer of filling. Next, dissolve the jello in 1/2 cup of water and pour it on top of the second layer. Refrigerate the pie for 4 hours or until it sets. Garnish with the remaining whipped topping and strawberries and serve. Store the leftovers in the refrigerator.
Amal's Arabic Sampler

Amal Abel
Kuwait

Fatoush

**Ingredients**
- 1 loaf of pita bread
- 1 cucumber, cut into thin slices
- 2 small tomatoes, cut in half and then into slices
- 1/2 head of lettuce, shredded
- 2 teaspoons of olive oil
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1/4 cup of lemon juice

**Preparation**
Toast the pita bread in a 450° oven for 5-7 minutes. Set aside. In large bowl, mix the cucumber, tomatoes, and lettuce. Cut the pita bread into small pieces, and add it to the mixture. Add the olive oil, salt, and lemon juice and serve.

Mushroom Soup

**Ingredients**
- 2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 pound of mushrooms, sliced
- 1 cube of chicken bouillon (2 1/2 ounces)
- 4 cups of water
- 2 tablespoons of cornstarch
- salt and lemon juice (optional)

**Preparation**
In a medium-size pot over medium heat, heat the vegetable oil for about 30 seconds. Add the diced onion and sauté until the color of the onion becomes yellow. Add the sliced mushrooms and the chicken bouillon and stir for about 30 seconds. Add 3 1/2 cups of water and stir until the mixture boils. Cover and cook the soup over low heat for 10 minutes. Stir the cornstarch in 1/2 cup of water and then add the mixture to the soup. Add salt and lemon juice if you like. Stir until the soup boils. Serve hot in a small bowl.
Metabal

Ingredients
2 medium-size eggplants
2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
3 tablespoons of plain nonfat yogurt
3 tablespoons of lemon juice
3 tablespoons of tahina (crushed sesame seed paste)
3 tablespoons of olive oil
1 1/2 teaspoons of salt

Preparation
With a fork, make several holes in the eggplants. On a medium-size baking pan, bake the eggplants uncovered in a 450° oven for 45-50 minutes. Let them cool for a while and then remove the pulp from the eggplants. In a blender, mix the pulp with the garlic, yogurt, lemon juice, tahina, olive oil, and salt for 2-3 minutes. Serve.

Arayes

Ingredients
1 pound of ground meat
1 garlic clove, finely chopped
1 small onion, diced
3 tablespoons of lemon juice
1 teaspoon of spices such as black pepper, cumin, cardamom, clove, and turmeric
1 1/2 teaspoon salt
2 small tomatoes, diced
4 loaves of pita bread, cut in half
2 tablespoons of vegetable oil

Preparation
In large bowl, mix the meat, garlic, onion, lemon juice, and spices. Set aside. After 1 1/2 hours, add the salt and the tomatoes. Fill each of the pita halves with 1 1/2 tablespoons of the meat mixture. Add the vegetable oil to the surface of the bread. Place the arayes on a baking pan and bake them in a 350° oven for 4-6 minutes. Remove them from the oven, place them in a pot, and cover the pot for 5 minutes to soften the bread. Serve.

Halwa (Dessert)

Ingredients
4 tablespoons of butter
2 cups of sugar
2 cups of water
1 teaspoon of ground cardamom
3 tablespoons of cornstarch
2 tablespoons of ground walnuts

Preparation
In a small pot, heat the butter for about 30 seconds. Add the sugar and sauté until the butter and sugar become a reddish color. Add 1 1/2 cups of water and the cardamom. Stir the mixture until the sugar disappears. Then, mix the starch with 1/2 cup of water. Add the second mixture to the first and stir for about 2-3 minutes. Place the mixture on a plate and sprinkle the walnuts over the surface. Serve.
Dear Pat,

My accent is terrible. Every time I speak, people ask me to repeat. Then I feel even more nervous than I did to begin with and my speaking gets even more unintelligible. How can I make myself understood the first time I say something?

Don't Like To Repeat

Dear Pat,

Sometimes, I feel like a cat. I really like to chase mice. What should I do? Pat, am I a cat?

Meow

Dear Meow,

Do you catch the mice or just chase them? I don’t know if you’re a cat or not but there are some mice in my house and I need to get rid of them. Let me know if you want to earn a little extra cash. And if you want to solve your identity crisis, I suggest that you get a dog. You won’t even think about being a cat anymore. (But how about taking care of my mouse problem first?) Pat

Dear Don’t,

You don’t have to make yourself understood the first time you say something, and you don’t have to repeat, either. Just keep a tape recorder with you and whenever you say something, record it. When people ask you to repeat, rewind the tape and press “play”.

Pat
Dear Pat,

When I was young, my parents told me that I was too young to do certain things. Now they say that I'm too old to do these same things. When can I do these things?

Confused

---

Dear Pat,

Every Friday night, I go to Five Points, and after a few hours there, I start getting double vision. When I look in the mirror, I even see two of myself. Strange, huh?

Dizzy

---

Dear Dizzy,

Yes, Five Points can be dangerous. You'd better stay home on Friday nights. If you're in a bullfight fighting an imaginary bull, you're an easy target for the real one.

Pat

---

Dear Confused,

Sorry, but you should have written sooner. I already answered a question just like yours in a recent column. Why don't you write me again sometime in the future?

Pat
Dear Pat...

Dear Pat,
When I get nervous, my left eye begins to twitch. What can I do to get rid of my twitch?
Twitchy

Dear Twitchy,
You know, the more problems I read about in the letters sent to this advice column, the more I realize that problems are not things to get rid of but actually opportunities to take advantage of. In your case, for example, you don't need to get rid of your twitch; you need to expand it so that your whole body twitches. People will think that you're a really cool dancer. Maybe you can even become a professional dancer.
Pat

Dear Pat,
I have a big problem. Whenever I say something, people totally misunderstand me. They think I'm saying the exact opposite of what I mean. What can I do to get people to understand?
The Priest At The New Church

Dear Priest,
It must be great to have no problems and be perfectly understood by everyone... Just kidding. Father! Seriously, though, since everyone always takes your meaning to be the exact opposite of what you really mean, you're in a good position to be perfectly understood. All you have to do is to say the opposite of what you mean. Then when people understand the opposite of what you're saying, they'll actually be understanding your real meaning.
Pat
Who's going to win?
Peace in El Salvador

Manuel López
El Salvador

Beginning in 1979, El Salvador was wracked by civil war. During this conflict, which lasted until 1992, between 70,000 and 80,000 people died and millions of dollars were lost. Eventually, events during the war led the guerrillas and the government to negotiate seriously and make arrangements to stop the hostilities.

Numerous negotiations had been held during the war, but without good results. Neither the guerrillas nor the government would give up, and neither seemed able to win. Finally, however, late in the 1980s when the superpowers lost interest in Central America and reduced the amount of aid they were sending to the area, the government and the guerrillas were forced to find a true solution. The Peace Agreements ending the war were signed on January 16, 1992, in Mexico, despite the opposition of some who were perhaps taking advantage of the war to benefit themselves.

According to the Agreements, several points were to be carried out. Ownership of land was to be transferred from the few wealthy landowners to the farmers who were working the land. Guerrillas were to cease their clandestine activities and begin working within the system. Institutions such as the police, army, and Supreme Court were to change and improve, and war crimes were to be investigated. Finally, a schedule was set to carry out these Agreements as fast as possible.

However, some aspects of the peace treaty weren’t thought out so well. For instance, the transition from the old police system to the new wasn’t really provided for. The old police hadn’t done anything about crime—traffic violations, robberies, kidnapping, etc.—because if they had done their job responsibly, they knew that they would be fired. The new police have had many problems in trying to stop crime. Another problem is land transference since the large landowners don’t want to sell the land that they don’t work to other people that really need it and could work on it. Anyway, there have been some good effects from the Agreements, too. Now we have less militarism, the corruption during the war years is being exposed, our institutions are improving, and, best of all, we don’t have war.

Every agreement has problems and El Salvador’s Peace Agreements aren’t an exception. The Agreements have almost all been carried out, and we are being guided by the UN in developing our institutional system. We Salvadorean trust that our future is going to be better than our past. We think we will become a better society with fewer lies and more pluralism. We hope so.
New Year's Day in Korea

Moon-Shik Kim
Korea

New Year's is a special holiday in my country, Korea. At this time each year, we Koreans celebrate our rich heritage.

In Korea, both the solar calendar and the lunar calendar are used. The Korean government allows a rest from the lunar New Year's Eve to the second day of the lunar New Year. This means that when New Year's Day falls on either Tuesday or Friday, we get to rest for four days.

Every year on New Year's Eve, most people return to their hometown, and with about thirty to forty percent of the population heading home all at once, serious traffic jams develop. Trains and express buses are full, too. If you want to travel by train or express bus, you have to make reservations four months in advance, and then to purchase your ticket, you may have to wait in line from 5 a.m. to 12 p.m. To get a good place in line, some people sleep in front of the ticket office the night before tickets go on sale.

There is a Korean myth that if you sleep during the last night of the lunar calendar, your eyebrows will turn white. So when I was a child, I couldn't sleep during the night of New Year's Eve. My grandmother would tell my brothers and me old stories, and sitting around the room, my family talked to one another all night long.

On New Year's Day, "Sul",
a lot of foods and prepare fresh fruits and fish as offerings to our ancestors. Among the special dishes are a grilled pizza-like food (jun), shish kebab (sanjuk), flat cakes (boochimgae), several kinds of herbs (na-mool), apples, pears (bae), jujubes (daechoo), persimmons (gam), chestnuts (bam), chicken, minced raw beef (yookhoei), pork, rice cakes (dduk), steamed rice (moei), soup (gook), and alcohol (jung jong). These dishes are presented in wooden bowls, and at the beginning of the celebration, we burn incense and candles to invite our ancestors.

After the memorial services and dinner, we play "yoot", a traditional Korean game handed down from generation to generation since long ago. The game consists of tossing four sticks into the air, and according to the shapes they make where they fall, the result of each toss is judged as "do", "gae", "gul", "yoot", or "mo". These configurations symbolize dog, cow, horse, pig, and lamb, respectively. Yoot originated in ancient times when...
New Year's Day in Korea...

Korean society revolved around farming and ranching. Playing this game, our ancestors wished for a good harvest.

In rural areas, most children fly kites on New Year's Day, and even in Seoul, the capital city of Korea, a few children can be found flying kites in Han River Citizen Park of Seoul. The kite-flying custom has a fifteen-hundred-year history. In the seventh century, Korea was divided into three dynasties, the Kokoo-ryu, the Baekje, and the Shinla, each of which was trying to conquer the other two. The Baekje dynasty and the Shinla dynasty, especially, fought furiously. Gradually, the Baekje dynasty gained the upper hand over the Shinla dynasty. Then, a general of the Shinla dynasty, Yoo-Sin Kim, played a trick on the Baekje dynasty. Taking advantage of the Korean belief that a falling meteor meant that a hero was going to die, Yoo-Sin Kim made a big kite, set it on fire one night, and flew it over the territory of the Baekje dynasty, hoping to sink the morale of the Baekje soldiers. Yoo-Sin Kim's scheme worked beautifully; when the Baekje soldiers saw the kite, they misook it for a falling meteor and were overcome with worry that their hero was going to die. The Shinla attacked and vanquished the Baekje.

We Koreans deeply value our history and traditions, and the way we celebrate New Year's reflects this characteristic.

Adult's Day in Japan

Reiko Yabiku
Japan

Adult's Day is one of the most important holidays in Japan. We celebrate Adult's Day on January 15th every year for young men and women who have reached the age of twenty.

On this day, those who have come of age wear traditional Japanese costumes. Men wear "hakama", or suits, and the majority of women wear a special kind of kimono with long sleeves called "furisode." Furisode are very expensive costumes, but people who can't afford to buy them are able to rent them cheaply. For a long time before the celebration, women talk about what color and design of furisode to wear on Adult's Day. This is the only time in their lives, except for very formal occasions such as weddings and graduation ceremonies, that the Japanese wear these traditional clothes.

In Okinawa, the little Japanese island I come from, twenty-year-old men and women return to their hometown for this occasion to join the other new adults and celebrate Adult's Day at the city hall with the mayor of the city. After the celebration, they visit relatives, or relatives visit them, and they receive gifts of money.

No matter how mature young Japanese people are, they are not considered adults until they become twenty years old and celebrate Adult's Day. With adulthood, we receive privileges such as voting, getting married without parents' permission, and drinking in public. People consider twenty-year-olds "real" adults who can make their own decisions after that day.
In 1990 an important national conference was held in Benin, leading to a complete change in Benin’s political system. For years, a military junta had ruled Benin and threatened its peaceful citizens. People were unjustly arrested for insignificant reasons and were automatically put in jail for criticizing the regime. Not free even to express themselves, the people of Benin despained and their lives turned into a kind of hell. In addition to the political oppression they were under, a severe economic crisis developed.

The situation became worse and worse, and finally, the people began to demand a change in government. Street demonstrations and strikes were staged throughout Benin, breaking down the administration of the country and eventually leading to total chaos. In the end, the leader of the junta was forced to give in to the people’s demand that a national conference concerning Benin’s political system be held. The conference convened in February 1990. Even Beninese citizens who had fled from the country for political reasons were allowed to return and attend the conference, a fact that greatly enhanced the credibility of the conference and built up the people’s confidence in Benin’s ability to heal its wounds and move forward. The conference lasted nine days and ended up with the election of a prime minister who was to share the power with the leader of the junta until general elections could be held in 1991. The elections in 1991 brought about a real change in the leadership of the country. A new president was elected and a new, democratic political system was instituted.

Today, we Beninese are happy and proud that this peaceful change from a dictatorial regime to a democratic government occurred without bloodshed. Benin’s national conference in 1990 was a very important event in every Beninese citizen’s life, an event which none of us will ever forget.

---

To all EPI teachers, faculty, and staff,
I can’t believe that it’s come to an end. What a time this has been. I sincerely appreciate all the help that you have given me in my professional and personal development.

Natalie

---

To Bernie,
Thank you for teaching me for two quarters. You are so special for me. Whenever I’m in your class, I feel like I’m in my home.
Thank you, Bernie.

Naomi

---

Dear Natalie,
It has been a pleasure for me to be a fellow traveler with you for a while. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you, breakfast from Lizard’s Thicket and our discussions about a certain movie flop. You are kind, smart & humorous! I wish you all good things for the rest of the trip, & keep both of your feet firmly planted in the air.

Maria
Reiko
Naoko Shinada
Japan

Reiko Yabiku is from Okinawa, a famous resort island in Japan surrounded by a gorgeous sea. People from all over the world visit Okinawa to enjoy marine sports, such as windsurfing, diving, and swimming around the coral reef. Tourism and sugar cane are Okinawa’s most important areas of business.

Although Okinawa is part of Japan, it has its own unique heritage. The original language of the native people of Okinawa is totally different from Japanese. Reiko can understand what her grandmother says, but she can’t speak the Okinawan language.

Reiko really loves her home. “Okinawa is a beautiful place surrounded by blue sky, a coral reef, and a clear ocean, and the people are so friendly,” she says. On the other hand, she’s concerned that the US military operations conducted there and the heavy tourist business that the island attracts is spoiling its natural purity.

Reiko has a close relationship with her family. She has one older sister and a younger brother. Three times a week, her family calls her from Japan.

This is not the first time for Reiko to live away from her home and family. She went to school in Nagasaki and graduated from Nagasaki Jr. College, where she majored in early childhood education. After finishing her English training at EPI, she wants to continue to study her major in the US.

When she has completed her studies, Reiko wants to return to Okinawa and find a job teaching children in Okinawa. She hopes to work at an international school for children.

Some people think that the typical Japanese woman is shy and weak. Reiko doesn’t fit that stereotype at all; she’s outgoing, independent, and strong. I’m sure she has a bright future.

José
Manuel López
El Salvador

José Mercedes Calero Montoya is a thirty-one year old man from Nicaragua, a country in Central America. He is the only son among six siblings in his family, is married, and has a young son. All of his family live in Nicaragua.

He enjoys doing a lot of things, for instance, reading, swimming, listening to music, watching movies and TV, talking with friendly people, and studying. He considers himself a somewhat introverted person, but he is very friendly and ready to help people, and for this reason, he has a lot of friends here at EPI.

Before coming to the US, José worked at the National University of Nicaragua. He was in charge of the Mauricio Diaz Laboratory. Thanks to his hard work at the University and his high grades there as a student, he got a scholarship from a US organization to study in the US for his master’s degree in pharmacy. When he returns to Nicaragua, he would like to work as a research pharmacist to improve the quality of medicine in his country, help sick people, and earn a better life for his family.

José is very happy studying at EPI because here he has the opportunity to get to know a lot of people from various countries and also because he is learning what American culture is like, which will help him while he is studying in his master’s program.

I hope José will always keep his positive attitude, continue to enjoy learning new things in the US, and reach all his goals.
Glen Rice
Carla Valencia
Perú

I: Why did you choose to be an EPI teacher?
GR: I really like working with international students. I lived in Ethiopia and Jamaica as a teenager, and I worked in the Peace Corps in Thailand for three years as a young adult. I know what it feels like to be homesick and struggle with a new language and new culture, so I think I understand the feelings of EPI students.

I: What do you like most about your job?
GR: Sometimes I get might get tired after a long day at EPI, but I am never bored. EPI students are cheerful and fun to be around, and they usually laugh at my corny jokes (they want to get an A!). Their cultures are very interesting to me and they are interesting to me, so I really do enjoy my job.

I: What are the pros and cons of teaching in EPI?
GR: The pros are as I said: I'm never bored, and I do get fulfillment in helping students learn to read and speak better. I also like helping them adjust to life here and learn how to survive in the university. The cons are probably similar to any teaching job around the world: I'll never be rich and I'll probably never drive a Mercedes Benz... but I feel rich in my heart!!

I: Would it be different teaching Americans?
GR: Yes! Teaching Americans would be much less stimulating. We would all be from the same culture, and it just wouldn't be nearly as interesting.

I: What is your style of teaching and how did you develop it? Have your teaching methods changed much over the years? In what way?
GR: As my students know, I like to give "Ts" for tardy (five minutes late) and make corny jokes. My daughters say that the only reason EPI students laugh at me is that they are still learning English and don't realize how awful my jokes are. More seriously, in reading class, I feel that summary writing and learning to mark a textbook to get main ideas are very important. In communication seminar I like to get students out using their English with Americans as much as possible. This is how I learned the Thai language—by using it every day!! At the end of almost every quarter I ask my students to write down what helped them most in the class and what didn't. I think that this information from my students has been the biggest factor in my growing as a teacher.

I: Would you like to add anything else?
GR: I would just like to say that I thank God for my job and for letting me teach so many enjoyable students from so many interesting countries!
Jennifer Gardner

Johanna Díaz and Ebert Guzmán
Venezuela

I: Why did you choose to be an EPI teacher?
JG: I was here and EPI was here and we met.

I: What do you like most about your job? What are the pros and cons?
JG: I am not sure there are really any bad things. What I enjoy the most about it, of course, is the students, and trying to help them acquire English. In perhaps a little different way. I’m interested in the process of language learning. I’m interested in the process that adults undergo to acquire a second language. I’m interested because most adults give up learning anything new. So, this is a special challenge. And I’m not always sure what the correct way to do it is, so I’m always trying new things.

I: Would it be different teaching Americans?
JG: Maybe, but I think I would do many of the same things that I do with you, with foreign students. My method might be the same, with certain refinements, but generally the idea would be the same. I want students to do their own work. I don’t want them to look in a book or think that there is always a right answer or whatever. I want them to learn by themselves. If you don’t learn by yourself, forget it. If you’re always looking for a teacher to provide the correct answer, you will never learn on your own. You will never be creative. You remember more when you do the work. The process is longer, it takes a little more time, but the student has to do most of the work. I try to do no work.

I: What is your style of teaching and how did you develop it?
JG: Most students say my style of teaching is disorganized. I accept that. I like that. If I were the head of a big company, the way I would decide whether or not to hire people would probably be to put them somewhere in a place where there is chaos, and ask them to arrange it. That’s what you are all facing when you are learning another language. You are facing, in some respects, chaos. You don’t know the code. What do you do? I hope my teaching method helps you to come to grips with that, to acquire the code a little faster. Okay, my teaching tends to be disorganized. I let the students provide the data. You are the data. That’s why I don’t use a book. If I use a book, the book is the data. But you are the data—you provide the data—and I just deal with the data as it is presented to me.
Thailand

My country, Thailand, has many special places, for example, Bangkok, Phuket, and Chiangmai. The capital of Thailand is Bangkok. One special place here is the Jade Buddha temple. This temple is different from other Thai temples because no monks live there. The Jade Buddha, as the name suggests, is made of jade, a precious green stone. The most important place in Bangkok is the huge Pimanmake Palace, made of gold timber and dating back to the time of King of Rama the fifth.

In the up-country, Phuket is very popular. Many people say that Phuket is the pearl of the Andaman Sea because Phuket has many beautiful beaches. The most popular places here are Koh Samui and Krabi. The favorite beach is Patong beach, the most developed of all of Phuket’s beaches. Phuket features water sports, exciting nightlife and gourmet restaurants. Leam Phrom Thap is a favorite sunset viewing spot for Thai tourists.

In the north of Thailand, Chiangmai is the most popular and most developed city. A favorite place here is Night Plaza, pronounced “Night Baza” by Thais. In Night Plaza, vendors sell all kinds of handmade souvenirs crafted by Chiangmai artisans. The most popular souvenirs are silver jewelry and sa-paper umbrellas. Chiangmai has many temples, for example, Pra-tad-doy-su-thap, a beautiful temple on the top of a mountain.

Thailand has many very interesting and enjoyable places. I invite tourists to come to my country and I’m sure you’ll be very impressed.
Sweden

Ola Kimrin
Sweden

Nicaragua

José Calero
Nicaragua

If you ever have a chance to travel to Central America, I suggest that you visit my home country, Nicaragua. There you can find interesting old cities built by the Spaniards during the time of Spanish colonization and beautiful countryside, including two big lakes and lots of volcanoes. Nicaragua is called "The country of Lakes and Volcanoes."

Nicaragua’s cities—Chinandega, Leon, Managua (the capital), Masaya, Granada, and Rivas—lie like a giant pearl necklace in the valleys. If you want to tour old colonial cities, Leon and Granada are the places to go.

There are two great lakes in Nicaragua—Xolotlan, next to Managua, and Cocibolca, or "Nicaragua’s Grand Lake", so called because it is larger than Xolotlan, next to Granada. There are hundreds of little islands in Cocibolca and one big one on which there are two extinguishepd volcanoes. Another interesting feature of Cocibolca is that although it is a freshwater lake sharks live in it.

Along the 200-mile-long Pacific coast of Nicaragua there are more than fifty volcanoes, six of them still active. Twelve others are extinguished and have beautiful tropical lagoons in their craters.

I think you will enjoy getting to know the Nicaraguan people, too. Most of us are Mestizos, the descendants of Mayans and Spaniards. We are very friendly and proud of our country. Why don’t you visit Nicaragua and get to know more about this beautiful land? It is a country to discover.

Dear Natalie,

Thank you for sharing your time with me. You are a very nice person, and I hope that you enjoy your travel to Venezuela.

Your friend, Johanna
Nazca Lines

Carla Valencia
Perú

There are a number of mysterious places in Peru. One of them, located south of Lima in a desert area in Ica, is Nazca Lines. People have various theories about the Lines' origin.

This mythical place features some huge ancient designs dug into the sand—so huge that the figures they make can be discerned only from above flying over them. The mysterious lines composing these designs form various figures, including a monkey, a hummingbird, a condor, etc.

There are various theories about the origin and purpose of Nazca Lines. Some people present theories related to astrological ideas and claim that the drawings are zodiacal signs. Another theory is that the lines mark an irrigation system used sometime before the Incan culture. The principal theory about this phenomenon is that the lines represent a landing field for visitors from other planets. This theory is supported by the fact that one of the lines is a long straight one that runs parallel to the drawings.

Years ago, Marie Richter, a renowned archaeologist from Germany, visited Nazca and decided to spend the rest of her life studying the designs in this lonely place, and at present, more than ninety years old, she's still studying them. She has been a major proponent of the alien visitor theory, supported by her personal experience of having sighted flying saucers in the vicinity several times.

Tourists from all over the world visit this wonderful place every year. Nobody knows the real story behind Nazca Lines, and maybe this mystery is the best part of its magic.
Stories & Poems

Yahia Al-Gahtani  Saudi Arabia  Carla Valencia  Perú
Rayyes Al-Rasheedi  Kuwait  Reiko Yabiku  Venezuela
José Calero  Nicaragua  Ebert Guzmán  USA
Sang Eun Cho  Korea  Jennifer Gardner  México
Dick Holmes  USA  Irene Berlenga  Chile
Moon-Shik Kim  Korea  Andrea Rodríguez  Venezuela
Ola Kimrín  Sweden  Ernesto Coello  Venezuela
Pimsiri Lilavivat  Thailand  Johanna Díaz  Iran
Manuel López  El Salvador  Ramin Radfar  Haiti
Jongchul Park  Korea  Kanes Prevot  Japan
Naoko Shinada  Japan  Mika Honda  Japan
Chun-Chin Tseng  Taiwan
A Taxi after Midnight

Yahia Al-Gahtani
Saudi Arabia

After spending a nice evening with a Saudi friend, I took a taxi home. It was a little after midnight. When the taxi pulled up at my apartment building, I found that the cash I had wasn’t enough to pay for the taxi. I asked the driver whether he accepted checks or not.

“No,” he answered shortly. And then after a short period of silence, he said, “Come on, I don’t have time for this! Pay me so that I can get going!”

“I don’t have enough cash to pay,” I said.

“That’s not my problem,” he said. “Just give me the money!”

“Okay, then,” I said nervously, “take me to the bank so that I can get some cash.”

“Okay, but you’ll have to pay more,” he said, and I nodded.

On the way to the bank, I remembered that I was in the United States now, not Saudi Arabia, and that the bank I’d just opened my account with hadn’t sent me a teller machine card yet.

The driver was big, tall, and mean-looking. “Oh?” I thought. “What’s going to happen to me tonight if I tell him about my situation? But I have nothing else I can tell him even if he doesn’t believe me.”

I decided to tell him the truth, keeping my right hand on the handle of the passenger’s door just in case.

When we reached the bank, I told him I’d forgotten that I didn’t have an ATM card yet.

He turned off the engine, turned around, and said, “Look, man, you’re playing a dirty game. What are you trying to tell me?”

Scared and mixed up, I trembled and my face paled. I told him with great difficulty that I’d just arrived in this country and that I wasn’t familiar with the taxi rules here.

He didn’t look very happy with my explanation, but finally he said he’d accept a check.

After we’d returned to my apartment, I wrote him a check. He looked suspiciously at my signature and said, “This looks weird. Show me your ID.”

I showed him the ID I’d received the day before from the English Program for Internationals, where I was enrolled to study English.

“Your ID looks weird too,” he said.

I told him that this was the only one I’d gotten so far.

Before leaving, he said, “If I can’t get this check cashed, you’re not going to like me when I come back.”

Later that day in the afternoon, I called a taxi to take me home from school, and—what a surprise!—the taxi driver was the same one that had driven me that morning! When he recognized me, he said, “Okay, we have to go to the bank first.”

“No need,” I said, having already gone to the bank and gotten cash as soon as the bank had opened in the morning. I gave him cash for the midnight ride earlier that day, and he gave me back my check.

“Now, we’re friends,” he said.
Over the Fields

by the GW60a Living Poets' Society: Rayyes Al-Rasheedi (Kuwait), José Calero (Nicaragua), Sang Eun Cho (Korea), Dick Holmes (USA), Moon-Shik Kim (Korea), Ola Kimrin (Sweden), Pimsiri Lilavivat (Thailand), Manuel López (El Salvador), Jongchul Park (Korea), Naoko Shinada (Japan), Chun-Chin Tseng (Taiwan), Carla Valencia (Perú), and Reiko Yabiku (Japan)

Over the fields, language
Lives and dies and lives again.
You can hear another voice
Carrying you to solitude.
I call out in the pouring rain—
Where are you?

We see the sky every day
Over the fields,
We watch the world
As it turns,
We dance with the fleeting clouds.

I can hear you in the night.
You are the moon rising over dark hills,
And I am the sun dreaming of you.

Jump into
Yourself
Rising,
Surround light
Like a gift,
Like a wave
In the voice
Over the hills,
Jump into
Your warmth.

You are a marvel.
I am also a marvel.
We are marvelous.

I am you,
You are me,
Dancing in the wind.

Jump into the fresh winds
And fly through the darkness.
Open to silence in which you can
Hear nothing or everything.
Touch the color of something you see.
Measure cold and hunger.

Your warmth like ripe fruit,
I dream at the edge of earth turning,
Nothing and everything,
I see the transparent
Beauty of light touching you.
Erasing the Borders and Sowing the Future

Ebert Guzmán
Venezuela

In the air, I had a feeling
That something good would happen
A generous hand appeared, followed by another
And I saw how the five rivers met at the sea
The crystal surrenders its hard edges
And the brilliancy of friendship overflows all borders
I know that winter will come and the five eagles will fly again
but carrying on their wings the promise of a new morning

Clothes or ??

Jennifer B. Gardner
USA

Oh, what should I wear today
When all’s in such disarray?
Should I pluck a shirt off the floor
Or a blouse out of the drawer?

Should I snatch a skirt from the closet
Or a dress from the clothes basket??
And this is only the outerwear—
What about the underwear??

The little seen, the rarely mentioned,
Necessary for the well-fashioned.
Oh, can’t clothes be dispensed with??
After all, it’s only a myth

That the unseen is true
And the seen taboo.

I Can’t...

Irene Berlanga
México

I can’t see the night
because in its silence you are not there.
I want to forget you
with another person but with your image in
my heart, I can’t do it.
I can’t detach myself from you
and your way of kissing me.
You run freely in my veins.
I can’t live without you.
I'm seeing you...