Contents

Around the World .................. 3
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, customs, and viewpoints.

Around Here ....................... 13
Making a foreign place your home away from home is an important part of acquiring a second language. This section offers a few reports on the writers' favorite places and experiences in Columbia, some tongue twisters, and a humorous advice column.

Stories & Poems .................... 21
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.

Personal Messages
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.
Editor's Note

The Winter 1998 quarter at EPI has been a time of special celebrations and observances, including Chinese New Year, Ramadan, Eid, and Carnival. In the Around the World section of this issue, you can find out all about these important events. Valentine's Day came this quarter, too — no wonder love happens to be the dominant theme of the Stories & Poems section. A lot of love shines through all the writers' and artists' works here, and I think you're going to love this Sunrise. Enjoy!

Dick Holmes

Sunrise Staff

Editor-in-Chief  Dick Holmes
Editors            Glen Rice
                  Susan Rogers
                  Christine Discoe
                  Margaret Perkins
                  Robin Dean
                  Marit Bobo
Layout           Dick Holmes
                  Hilda Shumate
Illustrators     Bitnara Kim
                  Gabriel Fernandez
                  Sang Eun Cho
                  Saho Murata
                  Naoko Otsu
                  Keiko Azuma
                  Masako Yamamoto
                  Jong Mun Back
                  Clara Pena

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 © 1998 by English Programs for Internationals
Around the World

Aret Cilingir  Turkey
Ju-chu Chung  Taiwan
Hiroyuki Tanaka  Japan
Pia Vasquez  Peru
Ayako Mizunuma  Japan
Flavia Vieira  Brazil
Selcuk Gureli  Turkey
Burgaz Island
Aret Clingir
Turkey

The Marmara Sea, belonging to Turkey, features several islands. Although everybody calls them the "Princess Islands," only one of them is princess for me: Burgaz Island. It's a small island with a small population which varies according to the season. This small paradise is surrounded by a blue sea that gives us fresh fish every morning. I usually spend my summertime there. Instead of the impurity of air pollution—a big problem in nearby Istanbul—the smell of flowers and trees fills the air.

Transportation between Istanbul and the islands is set up at the city’s harbor. The islands aren't accessible by car, so you have to take a ship between the city and the islands or from island to island. This transportation takes between fifteen and fifty minutes. One reason that there is no air pollution on Burgaz Island is that driving cars there is forbidden. Nobody there has a car. Horse-drawn carriages take people places for a fare. It's enjoyable to move from one place to another slowly there. With its many trees overhanging the streets, the island looks like a small forest.

Every morning, getting up with the sound of birds makes people happy. Sometimes, the ferocious sun doesn't allow you to sleep in late. However, I like this push to get up early because I don't want to miss the nice day. You can have breakfast in the sunshine, lighting up the blue sea with dazzling tints of yellow and gold. The sun gives you energy and draws you to the beach. After swimming and sunbathing, you can replenish your energy in one of the island's small restaurants. Usually, people prefer to eat outside. Seeing the sunset on Burgaz Island gives you considerable pleasure. In the evening, the moon shines like a white plate on the surface of the sea. This magnificent scene invites you to drink Turkish Raki, the most popular alcoholic beverage, during dinner. If the wind is blowing warmly, you might want to eat and drink until midnight. Sait Faik Abasıyanık, a Turkish poet, lived his life this way and contributed a lot of poems to Turkish literature.

All this is the special experience on Burgaz Island that everybody who knows about the island wants to have. If you're ever in Istanbul, don't forget to visit Burgaz Island. Stay a night to experience its special charm. But attention!!—you won't want to leave.
When people are saying "Happy New Year!" to each other here in the United States, the Chinese New Year is still to come. January 28th on the solar calendar is January 1st on the lunar calendar. The Chinese celebrate New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Day on the last day of December and the first of January according to the lunar calendar. Daughters Day, January 2nd on the lunar calendar, is also very important in Chinese culture.

Nowadays in Taiwan, the elders still keep their traditional customs in celebrating New Year's. Even though young people do not uphold all the traditional customs, these customs continue to exist.

After the fall harvest, people are thankful for having a good harvest, and a lot of foods are preserved for New Year’s to entertain guests, perform rites in honor of ancestors, and thank God. Delicious wine, dried fish and meat, dried fruits and vegetables, sausage, ham, and various traditional foods are prepared for New Year’s.

About ten days before New Year’s Day, people clean their houses in order to replace the old with the new, and decorate them to create a new atmosphere. During the cleaning and decoration, Chinese couplets are written and hung up on the door posts. These couplets symbolize wealth, high position, peace, and good health.

By New Year’s Eve, everybody arrives back home from the cities or regions where they work or study. People wear new clothes that they have bought (or made) before New Year’s Day. A feast is prepared by the women, and on New Year’s Eve a big dinner is offered for the whole family’s reunion after ancestor memorial rites are performed. During the feast, men play a drinking game. The dinner lasts until midnight. After dinner, people do a countdown, shoot fireworks, sing special songs, and bow down to their elders to show them respect and receive their blessing. The elders give children money, which is put in a red envelope. The children put the red envelope and money under their pillows before they go to bed. This means that they will grow up fast and become wise. The adults play mah-jongg; kids play cards or chess. Everyone is very happy.

On New Year’s Day, everybody wakes up early and says “Happy New Year!” to each other. Some people go to the temples to pray and promise to do certain good deeds in the future. Dramas, puppet shows, operas, and movie performances are held in front of the temple. Some people go to parks to gamble and play the lottery just for fun, because these activities are free and legal on New Year’s Day. People usually enjoy these things very much.

January 2nd, the day after New Year’s Day, is Daughter’s Day. On this day, the husband’s family has to visit his wife’s family, because they are the most
Chinese New Year . . .

important guests of the day. It is the best chance for daughters who are married to reunite with their families. The husband’s family present gifts to show filial piety and respect for his parents-in-law. A ceremony is held, the meaning of which is almost the same as the New Year’s Eve ceremony. It means that their ancestors’ spirits and their spirits will join together and that there will continue to be people who carry on the family tradition from generation to generation. After the ceremony, a big lunch is provided. It is excusable for a husband’s family that live far away from the parents-in-law not to join them. However, the husband has to at least make a greeting by phone, wishing that the parents-in-law’s lives will be as lofty as the Southern Mountains and that their happiness will be as immense as the Eastern Sea.

The Chinese New Year celebration continues after Daughter’s Day, lasting for five days in all. On January 5th, people are ready to resume their work and studies, and businesses reopen. People greet each other wishing each other prosperity in the New Year. And a happy, wonderful holiday season comes to an end. ☐

Dear Do Hyoung,

I’d like to give you a hand for your firm devotion to your studies. You’ve done very well so far. Do Hyoung, you’re very special to me because you remind me of my younger brother in Korea. Don’t be upset when you don’t always carry out your decisions. You’re going to make it. Go, Do Hyoung!

Nara

During the 1994 summer vacation of my university, I traveled in China for three weeks by myself. All the cities I visited were historically important, vigorous, and exciting. However, the most wonderful place was Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, which is a Chinese territory close to the border with Mongolia. Hohhot features a great steppe, or grassy plain, region. Some Mongolians there make their living not only by nomadism—raising horses and sheep—but also by tourism, which allows tourists to experience Mongolian life.

I took part in a tour of the area. I stayed in a tent like that in which Mongolian people generally live, rode on a horse, enjoyed Mongolian folk dances, and wrestled with a Mongolian sumo wrestler (I lost).

My most impressive memory was simply sitting on a steppe and gazing at the horizon. The green plain extending as far as I could see made a beautiful contrast with the blue sky. I had never seen such a view. A large flock of sheep passed by. Then the steppe fell silent until about twenty wild horses went running by. The beautiful view and the silence made me happy. The noise, busy life, air pollution, and convenience of urban life such as that of Tokyo didn’t exist on this plain. Of course, I knew that a city person couldn’t live for long, much less for a lifetime, under such conditions. However, at that time I said with conviction to my guide, “I am very happy now.” ☐
The Mystery of the Jungle

Pia Vasquez
Peru

Jungle comprises a vast portion of Peru, almost one-third of the country. The weather is hot and humid, and the density of the vegetation makes it difficult to walk in. If you take a walk in the jungle on a moonlit night, you’ll see a lot of weirdly shaped shadows and feel a scary sense of uncertainty, especially if it’s your first time there and you’ve heard mysterious tales about the jungle and its wizards.

The people who live in the jungle have a lot of superstitions and beliefs that might seem strange to people living in modern society. For example, if a snake crosses the path in front of you, that means that you will get into trouble that day. Or if you point a certain kind of monkey bone at the person you’re in love with, you can be sure that you will marry that person.

One of the deepest beliefs is about wizards, or shamans. A shaman is usually an elder man who has a lot of experience and knowledge about everyday problems. People go to him to try to resolve their problems, and he can resolve almost anything. With some of his potion, he can straighten out an infidelity problem. By spreading coca leaves on the floor and interpreting their position, he can find a set of lost keys. But his real mastery is revealed during the rituals held in the jungle—usually at night—when he drinks a hallucinogenic potion called ayahuasca. It’s said that a shaman under the influence of this potion can transform himself into various animals and that if you get in his way he might kill you or drink your blood. Interesting, isn’t it? Now, could you walk alone in the jungle at night without worrying about the jungle’s wizards?

To Dick Holmes & the students of GW60a,
I thank you from the bottom of my heart for sharing a good time. Not only have I studied English, but I’ve experienced interesting times and made special memories with you.
GOOD LUCK!!

Sergio

To Robin Dean,
You have been such a good teacher and friend that you made this term a really good experience for me. Thanks a lot for your patience and teaching.

Fusayo

Aylan,
Hi. How are you doing this week, Jock? You should play every day to become a good soccer player. I hope you will be a good player.

Bye,
H?
Coming of Age Day

In Japan, January 15th is Coming of Age Day, on which a ceremony is held to celebrate twenty-year-olds' becoming adults. Beginning on this day, these young people can join adult society and can start drinking and smoking.

A great number of people get busy in preparing for the ceremony. First of all, most of the twenty-year-old women in Japan arrange their hair on the tops of their heads and put some decorations in it. Then, they put on a kimono, a traditional Japanese costume having many kinds of colors and designs. They also wear two layers of clothes under the kimono and shoes like sandals. It isn't easy for them to walk because they aren't accustomed to wearing this outfit. Their walking looks awkward. In my case, I wore a kimono having a deep purple color and a design of flowers and birds. I dressed up my hair early in the morning of the day—at 2 a.m. So, until the ceremony, as I had to try not to mess up my hair, I was sitting on a chair alone while my family was sleeping. It was really a hard time.

On the big day, a short ceremony is held in a public hall, a gym, or some other large meeting place. Only twenty-year-olds take part in the ceremony. I was looking forward to this time because I wanted to see how my friends and teachers whom I hadn't seen for a long time had changed. During the ceremony, we listened to speeches given by one of us and by the principal of my junior high school. I don't remember what they said because I was talking with my friends.

After the ceremony, we stayed to talk with our classmates and teachers of our junior high schools. We got to meet people we hadn't seen for a long time. Of course, we had a lot of things to talk about.

After we had talked awhile, we went to see our relatives or our girlfriends/boyfriends in order to show off our stylish appearance. Other people who weren't involved in the day's festivities could also enjoy looking at the beautiful kimonos on the street. It was wonderful. Each place became colorful. The last thing that we did was to gather in a bar or restaurant that night and talk with our friends or teachers again. By this time, we'd already changed from our kimonos to normal clothes.

Actually, I didn't experience any big change in myself when I became twenty. However, I appreciated having an opportunity to wear a kimono and celebrate my age.

Dear Taku,

You really have an attractive personality. I admire you. Whenever anybody (including me) needs some help, you're willing to do anything for them. I'd like to say thanks, Taku. And I want to ask you something: are you really a genius? I think you really are when I observe your behavior. I know you've been keeping busy since you got a car. I'd like to inform you all that if you ever have a problem, especially concerning getting somewhere to buy something, calling Taku is more convenient than calling a taxi! Good job, Taku!

Nara

To "Irene Saez,"

I was being honest. I'm sorry for not being better for you. I hope all your objectives and dreams come true. I'll see you again someday . . .

You Know Who

Hiroyuki, Kenji, Min-ha, Papon,

I don't know how to express my thanks to you. No sooner will I finish this term than I have to go back to my country. However, I shall never forget these days that I spent at EPI. I hope you will lead a useful life next term, too.

Fusayo
Whenever I’m asked about the best thing to do in Recife, I have no doubt about my answer. Recife is a small, warm, and friendly city on the Northeast Coast of Brazil which is famous for its Carnival. Almost everybody that knows something about Brazil and its culture has already heard about this event.

Although many tourists are afraid to visit us due to the many beggars, thieves and other problems in our country, Recife is rich in culture and folklore, as can be seen through the various ways Carnival is celebrated there, and a visit to this special city is well worth the risk.

A month before Carnival, almost all the hotels in Recife are already full, and it’s hard to find a good place to stay during the event. Usually, this celebration is held in February in Brazil. On this occasion, people enjoy going to the four best venues in the metropolitan area where they can have a lot of fun: Avenida Boa Viagem, a large avenue right in front of the beach; Centro do Recife, the downtown center; various clubs famous for their glamorous parties; and Olinda, a city that borders on Recife.

Brazil’s Carnival celebration lasts for a whole week throughout the country, but it’s only in Recife that you can see all the dances and rhythms of the various regions of Brazil. It’s also there that you can see the biggest Carnival troupe in the world, Galo da Madrugada. You can read about this troupe in the Guinness Book of Records.

If you go to Boa Viagem, the place that I usually go because I live there, you’ll see huge music floats with singers and dancers on them, and hundreds of people around them dancing to axé music. These people wear comfortable clothes due to the small space that they have for dancing. It’s a crowded, hot place!

Downtown, you won’t see music floats, but you’ll see people wearing costumes and dancing to the local folk music—frevo and maracatu, though few people really know how to dance to them.

If you have the money to spend on a beautiful costume—Carnival costumes are pretty expensive—you should go to one of our clubs’ Carnival parties, where you can see elegant people and enjoy Carnival more safely than on the streets.

The Carnival celebration in Olinda, Recife’s neighboring city, is also a good option for tourists and people who live in Recife. Olinda is a very old, beautiful city, where you can admire lots of old buildings and gorgeous churches reminiscent of colonial days and also dance to frevo.

Finally, I always warn my friends that come to visit me and celebrate Carnival in Recife to watch out for drunkards and jealous boyfriends, who’re always looking for trouble. If you’re smart enough to keep away from these people, drugs, and fighting, you won’t have any problems, and you’ll for sure enjoy our Carnival.

I’ll always think of Recife as the city in which you can get a tan in the morning, play volleyball and water sports in the afternoon, and relax drinking coconut milk and feeling the wind on your face at night.
As you may know, Muslim people have to fast for a month each year during the religious holiday season of Ramadan. This year, Ramadan started on December 31st, so I was fasting on New Year’s Eve.

Muslims have several objectives in fasting during Ramadan. One of these is to give our stomachs a rest. Throughout the year our stomachs work without stopping except at night, so they get tired from all the eating. That’s one of the main reasons we fast for one month each year. During our fast, we don’t eat anything from sunrise to sunset each day. In this way, our stomach is being rested twelve hours a day and we can have a more healthy body.

Our other objective in fasting is to know the meaning of hunger. There is a saying in my country: “A person who has money doesn’t know what it is to be hungry for a long time, doesn’t know the feeling of poor people.” By fasting, we Muslims learn how it feels to be hungry for a long time.

During World War I and II, many people died because of not having enough food and not knowing how to manage their stomachs. They didn’t know what it was like to go hungry for a long time. Wars brought starvation to people who were used to eating a lot. Suddenly, they found themselves without enough to eat. They were in big trouble, facing a problem bigger than their enemies. So, we also fast to learn how to manage our stomachs and to appreciate the importance of food.

Besides fasting during Ramadan, we also help the poor people in our society by giving them money or old clothes. And we go to the mosque every night after we have dinner in order to pray to our God, who is called Allah by Muslims.

After Ramadan month we have a feast. In the morning of this holiday, all the Muslim men go to the mosque first, and then they go home for breakfast with their families. On the first day of our holiday, we go to the cemetery. After visiting our relatives’ graves, we go to our relatives’ homes to celebrate the holiday. Then our relatives come to our home.

The holidays continue for three days, and then everything returns to normal.

Dear Bo Ryoun,
Thanks for your kindness during your stay here. You’re back in Japan now, but I still think of you. You treated me like your younger sister. We agonized due to our personalities’ being different from others, but I believe that we do like our personalities, anyway. Can we meet again? Do I have to go to Japan or do you have to come to Korea? We should make sure about that first. Don’t forget me!

Nara

To Aiman Al-Mansouri,
Hi. How are you? At the end of the term, I want to congratulate you, and I hope you’ll have a great holiday. I hope I’ll find you in EPI next term. Have fun during your vacation.

See you,
Your father

Dear Gina,
Hi. How are you? You know me well. You are a good friend. You have a nice, smiling face at EPI. I hope you will know who I am soon.

H?

Susan Rogers,
You are a good teacher, nice and sweet. So, I want to say thanks for teaching me. I wish you well, and next year when I come back again, I will see you.

Bye,
Maria

To GW50a,
You have struggled hard with English grammar. Some of it you really can use now. Other parts are still difficult for you. Don’t worry; you will see many of the same structures again next quarter in the next level. EPI knows everybody needs review. Your writing is improving!! I’m proud of you for not giving up even though it is difficult! I have enjoyed you and I have especially enjoyed getting to know you through your journals! Thank you for sharing your lives with me.

Glen Rice
Dear CS 50,
I have really enjoyed this class.
You are a fun group! We have
laughed a lot and I hope learned a lot
of spoken English. Just remember
this. When I tell you I had dinner
with Bill Clinton, what do you say?
"Come on, Mr. Rice, you are putting
me on!" I hope I will see you next
quarter!
Glen Rice

How are you, Bronia Holmes?
I'm in my Grammar class right
now, and I wish you many happy
days. Always be happy. Don't worry,
be happy because if you are sad or
bad, you will get a disease. You know,
you are a good friend to me and a
good teacher, too. Okay, good luck!
Your best student,
Oscar

To Susan Rogers,
Hi, my teacher. How are you?
Whenever I see you, I feel your
kindness. I will always think of you
as my good teacher. I want you to
teach me next term. I will never
forget you because you are such a
good teacher. I need to get in your
class again. I want to see you next
term. Thank you for teaching me.
Abdul Amir

Hazaa,
Greetings! Hi! How are you
doing? I hope you are doing well. I'm
glad to have met you in EPI. And I'm
glad I'll continue to get to know you
next semester.
Ajan

To all the teachers in EPI,
Thank you for your patience with
me, especially how you taught me in
class, Robin, Kathy, and Dick
Norwood. Thank you for everything.
Moh'd Al-Abdulla

To all the teachers at EPI,
Thank you for working with
your hearts while teaching us a new
language! That is the only way to do
a good job.
All the students of EPI

Flavia,
Hi. How are you? I hope you are
very well. My English is getting
better every day. Thank you for
making me speak English every day.
Now I can speak better. I'm writing
to thank you for helping me speak
English. Thank you.
Be happy,
Oscar Lopez

Dear Dam-Iee,
You're my favorite roommate!
I'm going to miss you a lot. Thank
you for everything.
Kisses,
Flavia Ferrari

Dear Jack,
Let's stop squabbling over who
is a real baby, okay? It's a waste of
time. We are beloved by every-
body... Now is that fair? Jack,
your sincere friendship is more
precious to me than anything else.
We're going to keep the faith, aren't
we?
Nara

To all the Arab students in EPI,
Eid Al Adha is coming, so I hope
to see you all in "Salat Al Eid" in the
Mosque. "3id Mubarak" and "3sakin
mn 3oada."
Mohammed Saif Hindi
Majed Al-Abdulla
Around Here

Ju-chu Chung       Taiwan
Aret Cilingir     Turkey
Bitnara Kim       Korea
Adnane El Eulj     Morocco
Ajlan Al-Mansouri  United Arab Emirates
Hazaa Abdulla Al-Shamisi  United Arab Emirates
Si Nai Byun       Korea
Dixsie Cobo       Ecuador
Maria Fernanda Gallardo  Ecuador
Marixi Gallardo   Ecuador
Pei-Yuan Hsu      China
Kenji Ishiguro    Japan
Chang-Guk Kim     Korea
Sang Hyun Kim     Korea
Mariana Zaramela Lopes  Brazil
Papon Silphiphat  Thailand
Hiroyuki Tanaka   Japan
Adriana Davila    Peru
German Molina Calvo  Spain
Ena Yoshioka      Japan
Yi-Huei Lin       Taiwan
When I was in Mr. Rice's class one year ago, a conversation report was required every week. No matter how poor my English was, I had to talk with people to make this report. I remember my first conversation partner: Nassasil, an African American groundskeeper here at the University of South Carolina.

My first impression of him was that he strongly resembled a member of the Atlanta Braves, a Major League baseball team. He was short, muscular, and healthy-looking, not particularly handsome but smart; he had big liquid eyes, full of vigor and vitality, and a nice medium figure.

Every time I saw him working in the garden near the Horsehoe on campus, he always smiled at me and said “Hello.” One day, I approached him without hesitation and said, “Excuse me, I am a foreign student studying English at EPI. Could I practice my English with you for a moment?”

“Sure,” he replied.

The last time I saw him, we talked in the sidewalk cafeteria during lunchtime. He told me that he was going to get married to his fiancé, quit his job, and go back to his hometown, Frankfort, Kentucky. I congratulated him on his marriage, and we said goodbye to each other.

Although we didn’t have much time to get to know each other, his patience and enthusiasm remains vivid in my mind. He was my friend. 

Dear Kenchan,
I feel we've known each other for a long time because you always make me feel at ease. You're really a nice guy, Kenji. Do you remember when we were in the “Gamecock?” That deserves our permanent remembrance. The fact that you were the person in the picture with me makes me happy.

Nara

Dear Anneliese (in the EPI office),

I want to thank you and let you know how much I appreciate your help. Perhaps you don’t remember, but I will never forget how you assisted us during our first weeks in Columbia. When I couldn’t understand English, you helped tremendously by explaining everything to us in French. Thanks!

Kadiatou Diallo from Guinea

To D.C.B.

Only . . . I love you!

E.V.E.

To all Taiwanese,

The China Airline accident on February 18, 1998, caused such a big shock in many families of Taiwan that we need to cheer everyone up as soon as possible. We are all concerned about this tragedy.

Someone who is proud to be Taiwanese
Sunrise

Winter

1998