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# ELI STUDENT VOICES

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## **What Love Is** (1<sup>st</sup> Place)

*Hung-Ju Chen*

R/W 4

My grandparents had very different personalities, but they had a successful marriage based on their mutual love, appreciation and tolerance. My grandmother was a person who was strict and tough while my grandfather was kind and easy going. They met each other at work during World War II; she was a typist and he was an accountant at that time. My grandfather said that he was attracted by her beauty and ability. Though I never heard my grandmother talk about this, I think that she must have been fascinated by his handsomeness. They had dated for a while before they got married. Not long after their happy marriage had started, my grandmother became pregnant with their first child. Therefore, she needed to quit her job since pregnant women wouldn't be hired back then. They had four lovely and healthy children together. However, it wasn't easy to support a family of six with only one meager salary. In spite of hardship, they lived a happy and substantial life. She was very provident. As a result, by the time my grandfather retired, they had bought a house and saved enough money for the rest of their lives.

Even though my grandparents emotionally depended on each other, they had disagreements over many things due to their different characters. I remember that if they had a fight, she was always the one who insisted on her opinions, but he would usually mutter and try not to escalate it. When I had grown older, I started to wonder about why my grandfather could stand my grandmother's temper. So I asked him, "How did you and grandma get to know each other?" And that's when my grandfather told me about their romance. I asked him if he would marry my grandmother were there an afterlife. I will never forget that smile on his face as he replied, "Without a doubt." He said, "I appreciate your grandma for being a frugal housekeeper and for helping me bring up our four children. Were it not for her, I wouldn't be what I am now."

My grandmother left the world before my grandfather. She had a stroke one night, which became coma that lasted nine months; during her stay in the hospital, he went to see her every day regardless of weather changes. There, he would give her massage and talk to her, in the hope of that she would wake up one day. Unfortunately, she never did. My grandfather was full of sorrow when my grandmother was gone. Although we were there for him, we could feel that there was something missing deep inside his heart. Years after she passed away, he still carried her picture wherever he traveled, and he would put her picture against the bus window, as if she could enjoy the view, too.

## **As a Foreigner in the U.S.** (2<sup>nd</sup> Place)

*Dasol Kim*

R/W 41

I am taking my first step in America, the new continent I have never been to, and I feel huge differences from my home country. Then, I keep walking from the entrance of the small airport and imagine that Americans surround me and are looking at me strangely and curiously. Oops! Sorry for myself; nobody is staring at me. (Oh, I got one, a small kid who is jealous of the M&Ms in my hand) Yes, I am grown up enough to wake up from that sweet-prince-who-thought-everyone-cares-me dream, but at least *someone* should recognize me as a foreigner who took a 14 hour flight, shouldn't they? Of course, right after that disappointment they easily noticed my accent and sheltered voice which shows I am the person coming from a non-English nation. However, they were not seemingly surprised about seeing a new visitor.

After that first little disappointment, I had to tour Gainesville in order to live here for a while, and I soon got a second shock at the mall. *Americans do not eat Big Macs at all!* Instead of McDonald's, they enjoy tons of diverse foods from Italy, Mexico and Asia with chopsticks or even burgers, not with triple cheeses and beef patties, but with wheat bread and chicken. Even though they always make a joke about their meals and eating behavior, they seriously take care of it. Surely Americans recognize what problems are and figure out the solutions to decreasing obesity and other eating disorders. I can tell that the man in the movie 'Super Size Me', which strongly presented the topic of avoiding fast food, does not have to eat Big Macs anymore in order to show how bad it is.

As I was getting involved in American culture, I found that not only were my thoughts about my first impression and foods were wrong, but also people's way of thinking here did not exactly meet with my expectation. When I was an exchange student in Finland a year before, my friends and I from other European countries talked a lot about "Yes, we can," President Obama's most famous catchphrase from the election. We usually connected this phrase sarcastically with some nasty reality shows or violent comics in American television programming, presenting that U.S. culture allows inappropriate images of sex or violence to be opened too much in public without any discomfort. Making a joke and talking about taboos and personal issues publically tended to look thoughtless and unconscious to me at that time. But after 3 months in the U.S., I found the Oprah show and I was so impressed. I had never believed a TV show could move people's minds, but it was! Talking a lot and expressing your own emotions works tremendously in the U.S., and moreover it encourages people to

think deeper. Yeah, I still am suspicious of some crazy reality shows but now, I believe that yes, they can and do change society by opening minds and thoughtfulness.

Don't be disappointed that people do not recognize who you are and what you expected in the U.S, instead, they welcome and are open to whoever you are and whatever you thought in the U.S.

## **A Day in Shela**

*Anfal Hathah*

*R/W 31*

"I will have to leave the village for the day. Kai will look after you" said Dr. Miller. "Maybe you can learn something from him one day" He added after a moment. Twelve-year-old Molly was happy to hear that. She lived with her father Dr. John Miller who was the only doctor in Kipungani, the village they lived in. After her mother died a year ago, her father devoted his life to his job. They moved a month ago to Kenya and she did not have any friends other than Kai who was her father's assistance. Kai was not really her friend, he never answer her questions or talk to her. Nevertheless, she would tell him about her hometown, how pretty it is, and how different it is than Kenya. Therefore, she was really surprised when Kai told her that he would take her to his house in Shela. Consequently, they rode the donkies –which were the only transportation there.

By the noon they reached an old cottage. Kai knocked on the door and they heard footsteps rushing to open the door. Two kids were standing by the door, a boy and a girl. Kai introduced them as Kojo and Chika, his brother and sister. They stared at her before Kai said something sharp in Swahili- the official language in Kenya. She stepped into the house where she found herself in the living/dining room. There was only one old couch and an old wooden table. She stepped into the kitchen which looked as old. She asked Chika and Kojo if they wanted to play, but they giggled and Kojo said "We have to work. If we want to have dinner we must get clean water from the well." "Why?" asked Molly "What's wrong with the tap water?" Kojo looked confused. "What do you mean 'tap water'?" he asked "You cannot get clean water just like that. Do you want to help me?" However, Molly did not want to carry water for a couple of miles, so she refused. She asked Chika if she wanted to play with her. But she said no because she was going to pick up the vegetables.

Molly was very bored, so she went to the beach by herself. The beach was quite different than what she expected, nobody was laying down to get tanned, and there were no kids playing and making castles from sand. Rather everybody seemed busy. There were many women picking crabs or algae. It seemed to Molly that nobody had time to relax.

Then she went back to the house. She found that Kojo had brought the water, and Chika was preparing dinner; Molly asked Chika why her parents did not do it. And Chika said "But my parents are working in the field, they cannot make dinner." Slowly she realized why Kai had brought her here; he did not want her to play with just kids in her age. He wanted to show

her the way kids had to live here, and how they appreciate everything. She thought about how she took everything for granted. She never thought how hard it is to live in a poor country or to have to participate in the community in such an early age. She thought about the times she complained to him about the hardship of this life, because they did not have cable TV or video games. She was really ashamed of herself and she never complained about her life again. Every time she thought she was having a hard day, she thought about what Chika and Kojo had to go through every day. And thus Molly learned to appreciate every little thing in her life.

## **How to Spend the Perfect New Year in Sri Lanka**

*Nadeeka Salaman Arachchige*

*R/W 31*

New Years is the most important holiday for the Sri Lankan people. For Sri Lankan, New Year comes on the sun changing from Pisces to Taurus, between April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. One week before New Year, you have to clean and paint your house. Also, you have to go shopping with your mother because you need to buy some decorations, bananas and cooking pots. Another important thing is to buy new clothes for New Year. It's important to start the New Year in new clothes and a new house. During this time your grandmother and your mother make many sweet foods. Furthermore you can smell food in your neighborhood. You have to finish preparing the day before. If you follow these steps you can enjoy the rest of the New Year Day.

On New Year's Day, you have to get up early in the morning. Then you need to shower, wear new clothes and get together with the family and wait for the New Year to begin. When you hear fireworks it's the start of the New Year. To begin your mother opens the stove to boil the coconut milk. You and your family gather around the stove waiting for the coconut milk to boil over. It's good luck for the house and the family. Second, your mother will start to cook special food called milk rice. You have to help your mother cook this so you grind the coconut to make coconut milk while your mother is making the white rice. Then your mother mixes the coconut milk with rice. After you cover the cutting board with coconut oil your mother put milk rice on the cutting board and cut diamond shapes to put on a big tray and make the New Year's table. Put in a small brass lamp polished for the occasion in the center of the table and new wicks and oil ready for lighting at the auspicious time. Also your mother put next to the lamp the big milk rice tray and you help her to arrange the sweet meats around the tray of the milk rice. Now the New Year table is ready.

In the morning between 10 o'clock to 12 o'clock you have to go temple with your family then come home. Since 12 o'clock to 5 o'clock you and your family wait to eat. On New Year all day you hear fireworks but when you hear many fireworks, it's time to eat. Your father lights the lamp and he first feeds your mother, then your older brother, and your older sister, then you and finally your three younger brothers.

Your mother also feeds your father and everybody like your father did. After that everybody starts to eat. This time you are feeling so peaceful and happy. The New Year is an important time for you and family. It's a tradition for you and your sister and brothers to bow to and touch the ground with the forehead in front of your mother and father. After that your mother and father give you and your sister and brothers to gifts or money. So this time you, your sister and brothers are so happy. In addition you and your family play many games also visit the neighbors' house and hang out with them

On New Year's evening you and your family get ready and go see grandmother and grandfather. Don't go without a gift. You have to bring something and visit with them. Also you have to bow and give gifts for them. You can see their happy faces and you can have a great feeling. You have a little party and a great time with your family and grandparents. Now your perfect New Year day is almost finished. So you will probably come back home with the family and spend time watching TV program about the New Year. The family enjoy it, and talk about the beautiful day. Finally you go get a shower after go lying down on bed and think about you had a wonderful day. Eventually you will be fall asleep. You have to hope next New Year also repeat these steps then you and your family can have wonderful New Year in Sri Lanka.

## **Puerto La Cruz and Gainesville**

*Mariandreina Duran*

*R/W 3*

Puerto La Cruz and Gainesville are two beautiful cities, but they also have many differences; let's get to know these cities. Puerto La Cruz is in Venezuela, and is always hot because we only have two seasons: summer and winter (drought and rain), but Gainesville is in USA and is different because it has four seasons: spring, summer, fall, and winter. The weather turns hot and cold. In Puerto La Cruz, there are a lot of beautiful beaches but in Gainesville there are no beaches. Gainesville is a very safe place, but Puerto La Cruz is a really dangerous place. Puerto La Cruz and Gainesville have beautiful and friendly people. Both of these cities have a mix of cultures, races, and religions. In conclusion, these cities are really good places to visit and in any of these you can have a nice time.

## **The Differences Between Taiwan and Gainesville**

*Li-wei Hsu (Jack)*

*R/W 3*

There are many differences between Taiwan and Gainesville. First, the languages which the people speak in Taiwan and in Gainesville are totally different. Second, the weather in Gainesville is better than in Taiwan. Even though there are many differences between Taiwan and Gainesville, there are still some things that are alike. For example, there are many delicious foods in both places and the people in Taiwan and in Gainesville are all nice. Although most people are used to living in their own countries, I think I can adapt to many

different environments because I hope I can see things that startle me, feel things I never felt before, and meet people with a different point of view.

## **Comparing Friendship, Family Structure, and Education in Collectivist and Individualist Cultures**

*Masafumi Imai*

*R/W 50*

Even though there are various kinds of cultures all over the world, we can classify them all under two categories, collectivism and individualism, based on many factors such as personalization and synchronization. The former considers individual dependability and aim to be a low priority whereas the latter considers them to be a high priority. Collectivist cultures, which account for about 70 percent of the world's population in non-Western areas, such as, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, predominate more than the individualist cultures, which exist in most northern and western European countries and in North America. The differences between collectivist and individualist cultures can be seen particularly in the areas of friendship, family structure and education.

Making friends and keeping friendships are different for collectivists and individualists. Collectivists tend to be good at making friends with "ingroup" such as classmates, and tend to trust them rather than "outgroup" such as strangers. In addition, they are likely to hang out with ingroup to achieve personal relationships, and keep in touch with them for a long time. Individualists, on the other hand, tend to be good at making friends with outgroup, and to trust them. However, their relationships tend to be more shallow and weaker than collectivist relationships, so they make and leave friends more easily. In conclusion, collectivists take notice of the ideas and aims for groups, while individualists concentrate on pursuing individual benefits and aims.

Most families cannot be classified as completely collectivist or individualist, but instead have a tendency to dominate one of the two orientations. Families who are predominately collectivist have a tendency to have close family relationships and to respect keeping company with them, whereas families who are prominently individualist tend to have distant family relationships and have pessimistic outlooks of their family. In terms of eldercare, collectivists totally take care of their parents until they pass away because they are glad to spend time with them, whereas individualists want their parents to live in nursing homes and residential facilities, for they do not want to waste time on family issue. Collectivists are more likely than individualists to have a great esteem regarding elder people, and use polite form in conversation. Hence, the values of family and elder people in collectivist and individualist societies are of high and low priorities, respectively.

Just as the way family and elder people are treated in collectivist and individualist cultures is different, teaching and learning styles are also different. The purpose of education in collectivist and individualist cultures is to fit themselves into a

communal environment as a member of society and expand the new vision as a leader respectively. In school, collectivists feel comfortable working in groups, studying demonstrations, mentioning their opinions with only the teacher's permission, and protecting egoism, while individualists feel comfortable working individually, looking for approaches to solutions, speaking their ideas without the teacher's permission, and having flexibility. In brief, the education of individualists is more aggressive than that of collectivists in school.

Since there are so many different cultures in the world, it can be difficult to communicate with someone from a different country. In order to, especially, adapt to foreign cultures, we must do a lot of trial and error, and have much culture shock. The problem can be made easier by roughly dividing cultures by characteristics of the collectivist and the individualist concepts. If we understand the traits these two culture orientations, we can efficiently interact with people who come from different cultures.

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## Gainesville and Seoul

*Yunhui Kim*

*R/W 3*

Do you have the experience of moving your home to a new place? If you have, you have experienced the same thing I have. I come from Seoul in Korea. Now, I live in Gainesville. Gainesville is very different from Seoul, although they have some of the same things. First, Seoul has a lot of high buildings, but in Gainesville's most of the buildings are one floor. So I was excited because it is good for looking at the sky. Seoul has a many buses or subways, but Gainesville has only RTS bus system. It's little uncomfortable. Also Gainesville is quiet and has fresh air. However, Seoul is noisy and has a smoke in the air. Nevertheless, Gainesville and Seoul have some of the same things. Almost all the people are nice and kind in both of these two cities. Also Gainesville and Seoul have a famous University in each city. Anyway, I like both Seoul and Gainesville. The face of two cities are very charming and this is only too true.

## Eastern and Western: Not Only Divided by Greenwich

*Francisco Garrido*

*R/W 50*

It is logical to think that depending on where you were born you will have different customs. But the fact is that the differences go beyond customs and traditions, the differences can also be appreciated in the way we think, and even the way we interact with the rest of the society. These characteristics that make each society unique can be summarized in collectivism and individualism, and it can be seen in the day-to-day life. For example, an American kid who doesn't want to eat will be told by his parents that "you should finish your meal because it is bad to waste it." On the other hand Japanese's kids will be encouraged to eat it appealing to their sensitive side; their parents will tell them that they should eat the food because the farmer spends a lot of time and effort making it. The main difference between those ways of living is that Individualism sees "me" as center, while collectivism sees the group as center. Individualism is often associated with western cultures and individualism with eastern cultures. Individualism and collectivism can be easily recognized in three fundamental aspects of our daily life such as friendship, family structure, and education.

You can easily identify an individualist or collectivist society by the kind of relation they have with the ingroup and the outgroup. For example, collectivists are not very skillful at making new friends, but they spend much time building relationships with other people of the group, and maintaining a lifelong intimate relationship with them. They also pay more attention to the views, needs and goals of their ingroup. On the other hand, individualists are very good at entering and leaving a group; therefore, you can conclude that they have skills in making friends. But, often those friendships are relatively superficial, and they have nonintimate relationships with other members of the group. Individualists also tend to trust more in strangers and outsiders than collectivists. Consequently individualists have more friends than collectivists, yet more superficial ones. These characteristics in the way individualists and collectivists treat their ingroup and outgroup can also be founded in the families of each society.

Individualists and collectivists also differ in the behavior of their families. Collectivists are more likely to see everyone who shares blood with them as family; they are also used to taking care of their elders, and talk with respect about them, frequently honoring them. While Individualists see as family only their wife, kids, and in some cases grandparents, they also prefer that the eldercare process be done by some professional institution like nursing homes, and finally they are likely to see that eldercare process as a burden. For example, individualists' grandchildren often criticize the care giving to their grandparents by their parents, while collectivists grandchildren tend to help their parents in that matter. This is mainly because collectivist sees the groups as center, in contrast to the individualist who sees the "me" as a center.

Inside the classroom is a place where you can easily identify a collectivist or individualist society. For example,

collectivist based classrooms tend to be bigger than individualist. Also individualist environment is often more dynamic while collectivist prefer to be more static. Individualist teachers also encourage the students to be self-reliant, and to pursue personal goals. On the other hand collectivist will feel very uncomfortable if teachers impose this kind of thinking on their classroom. As a result, collectivists' classrooms are less likely to present a debating situation because they don't like to be pointed out of the group. While individualist do not have trouble in expressing their opinions.

I think that there are two mayor differences between eastern and western societies: Individualism and Collectivism, and that those differences can be extremely well expressed by these two quotes: western societies are led by "The squeaky wheel gets the grease" and eastern by "the nail that stands out gets pounded down."

## People

*Megumi Ishikawa*

*R/W 50*

Nobody can make life alone, so people support each other. In Chinese character, letter of person is made that two lines support each other as 人. This word may show that people support each other. While I am staying in the US, I get a lot of help from people who are friends, teachers and others. Even if somebody didn't know me, they helped me. I received tenderness, gratitude and grace in the US, and I didn't notice them before I came here.

In the US, there are a lot of tender people. When I came here, I felt alone because I didn't know any people and couldn't speak English very well. For example, one time I was standing at a roadside intersection and didn't know how to cross the road. I waited for the walk signal to appear for 15 minutes but unfortunately the "don't walk" signal appeared the entire time. Fortunately, after 15 minutes of waiting, two people arrived at the intersection and taught me how to use the crosswalk indicator button. Afterwards, they directed me towards Norman Hall. Even now, I don't know them, but I know that they are really kind people. Also, one of my friends dropped me off at a Fedex location in the northwestern part of town. I needed a ride because there were no bus stops near the Fedex building, but I didn't have any friends who had a car. One of my classmates had a car and he dropped me off. At that time, he told me international students had to support each other. I felt grateful for his support. Before I came here, I didn't felt so, because I didn't have the kind of these problems in Japan. I thought that these were natural that people helped me, but these were not natural, and I recognized their tender behaviors. I really appreciate their hospitality. Also, I am a lucky person because a lot of people helped me. I have not only the above incidents but also many other events with my friends, teachers and others. These are my treasures and it is difficult to get them in Japan.

If I don't have any friends, teacher and others, I can't make this life. I enjoyed staying here, because I have relationships. They helped me and support me, and they made

my life. My life is splendid and I really appreciate people who make up my life. I recognized people had to appreciate people's hospitality by these incidents. So people make life by people's hospitality.

## Thank You

*Megumi Ishikawa*

*R/W 50*

I always hear people say "Thank you" in the US. While most people inherently think that Japanese culture revolves around politeness, I have rarely heard people say thanks when I lived in Japan. In Japanese culture, it is considered polite to bow. But since bowing is a form of nonverbal communication, it is sometimes difficult for people to notice or understand the messages people are trying to imply when they bow. In contrast, Americans habitually express gratitude. They often express their gratefulness by saying "Thank you." I think that "Thank you" is a polite expression because most people feel comfortable when people verbally thank them in a direct and soothing manner. If it is said "Thank you" from somebody, nobody feels bad, for "Thank you" is good meaning and the meaning includes positive. So, verbal gestures, such as saying "Thank you" are better than nonverbal cues like bowing, because saying "Thank you" is a simple and lucid way to express gratitude. Words have power, so these days I tell myself to say "Thank you" more frequently.

## The People of Kuwait

*Mohammad Buhamad*

*G/W*

There are six billion people in the world, and there are over two hundred countries, and there are millions of cultures; every group of people has characteristics that make them who they are. It has always amazed me how any group of people, no matter how small their community is, creates their own values and characteristics over time. I am from Kuwait, and even thought Kuwait is a small country, the people there have their own characteristics that make them Kuwaitis. Generosity, an outgoing personality, and love for freedom are some of the things Kuwaitis are famous for.

The first thing Kuwaitis are famous for is their generosity. Hosting people is one way to comprehend Kuwaitis' generosity. I remember when my father's friend, who was from Europe, visited us. My father asked him to stay at our house, he treated him to many restaurants and he let him join us for lunch many times. He also gave him a tour around the city. After five days my father's friend left Kuwait and he was very happy. Another example of Kuwaitis' generosity is my personal experience when I first came to the U.S.A. When I first came to the USA, one of the Kuwaitis and his friends picked me up from the airport and took me to their apartment, where I stayed for over a week. They took me to restaurants, they gave me a tour around the city, and they helped me find a good apartment.

They treated me just like my father treated his friend; I was very happy about that.

The second thing Kuwaitis are famous for is that they are outgoing. If you visit Kuwait on the weekend, you would be surprised by how Kuwaitis like to go out and have fun. You would see a lot of people going shopping, you would see a lot of people swimming in the sea and playing in the beach, you would see a lot of people in restaurants and cinemas. Another thing that shows how Kuwaitis are out going is that we like to visit each other. Every weekend every family visits their grandparent's house where families see each other every week. Also, friends visit each other and they watch TV, talk and play. This is one of the things I like about Kuwaitis.

Finally, love for freedom is one of the important things Kuwaitis are famous for. For example, Kuwait is one of the first and the few countries in the region that has democracy. Kuwaitis have been governing themselves since the 1960s. Another example is the journalism freedom in Kuwait; Kuwait has the best journalism freedom in the region. The journalist in Kuwait does not get arrested because of his writing or his beliefs. Democracy and journalism freedom is one of the things that Kuwaitis are proud of, and they are in Kuwait because of the Kuwaitis love of freedom.

It is amazing how a small population like Kuwaitis has their own characteristics. Some of the characteristics that Kuwaitis have are generosity, outgoing personality, and love for freedom. Therefore when you finish reading this essay think about the things that the people in your town are famous for; you will be amazed how people in another towns in your country do not have them.

## **Transition**

*Marco Pazmino*

*RW1*

I come while I'm scary and afraid  
I come while I'm whisper and shadow  
I come while I'm remember my life and friends  
I come while I'm a new world  
I come while to ELI  
I come and found classmates  
I come and found friends  
I come and found teachers

## **Tuesdays with Morrie: A Book**

*Sein Jang*

*R/W 50*

Do you have any book which leads you whenever you are in a trouble? I have one. The title of this book is "Tuesdays with Morrie." It is a story about one professor who was dying with terminal illness. When he was told that he would die, he was frustrated at first. However, he didn't let the frustration get him down. He changed his mind and decided to make his last life as the last lesson. He was gradually dying, so he could explain how he felt and what he thought. He also said a lot

about the meaning of life and the most important thing in life. From his view, I could see the most important thing in life, because his terminal illness make his eyes clear to see the truth. From the book, I could learn that the relationship between people is the most important thing in life. Money and nobility are also important, but if you cannot make good relationships with people, life does not have any meaning. In the last stage of your life, you cannot be happy with your material thing such as money, but you can be happy with the relationships which you have had. The book gave me a lot of lessons like that. Therefore I firmly recommend this book for you. If you read this book, you can realize the meaning of life; you can find what is important for life; you can be content with your life.

## **The Effects of Exercise**

*Chia-Chun Lin (Claire)*

*R/W 50*

For better health, people usually do exercise such as simple walking for 20 or 30 minutes, playing different kinds of sports, or doing weight-lifting exercise in the gym. After exercise, they may expect to feel energized or relaxed. Although exercise is not the panacea for everything, it indeed has various effects on humans' health, particularly in the areas of physical health, mental health, and brain health.

Current research reveals that the benefits of exercise for weight loss, prevention of diseases, and the treatment of diseases is not as significant as people once thought. Exercise alone has not meant someone can continue losing his weight. For example, Jack Wilmore, an exercise physiologist found that after men gained an additional 2 kilograms from exercise, the metabolic rate only increased by 24 calories a day. In fact, you have to diet as well as exercise to attain weight loss efficiently. In addition, exercise may reduce the risk of some diseases such as cancer and heart diseases; however, people who exercise are less likely to smoke or have unhealthy habits. Thus, we cannot distinctly establish direct benefit of exercising in. Also, exercise helps elderly people have better body balance, so it prevents osteoporosis indirectly. People who go from being sedentary to being moderately active lower their blood pressure and cholesterol; however, there are only slightly greater benefits for intense exercise. Therefore, exercise has undeniable benefits for physical health, but its effect is neither direct nor comprehensive.

Exercise can result in either beneficial or detrimental changes in mental health, and the outcome appears to be largely dependent on the 'dosage' employed. Generally, most long term exercise benefits individuals with elevated anxiety more than healthy people. For example, healthy individuals exercise for prevention, but those suffering from mild to moderate emotional illness do so for treatment. However, aerobic activities are exceptional cases. Both kinds of people are changed in mood and improved in state anxiety 3 to 4 hours after the exercise. On the other hand, exercise to an excessive degree may result in mood disturbance and worsened physical health. Clearly, the benefits or damage is based on what magnitude of exercise is done.

In addition to physical health and mental health, brain health is another area which has connection with exercise. Although the effect of doing “brain exercise” to improve brain performance is limited, brain health can benefit from physical exercise. Elderly people improve certain skills by practicing a challenging computer-based task; however, they only gain the specific ability but not general mental fitness. Moreover, having mentally challenging hobbies can help maintain cognitive performance, but any single brain exercise late in life cannot become a quick fix for general mental function. Actually, physical exercise has been shown to maintain and improve brain health. Even if inactive people start to exercise more in their 70s, it still works. Also, exercise can reduce the risk of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease late in life. Therefore, instead of spending time and money on doing brain exercise, people should do physical exercise for their brain health.

In conclusion, exercise helps people maintain their physical health, mental health, and brain health even if sometimes it works the best accompanied by other factors or effects health indirectly. We should do physical exercise moderately to improve and maintain our health.

## **Jeddah and Gainesville**

*Mohammed Bayazid*

*R/W 3*

Do you know what the differences are between Jeddah and Gainesville and what the things that are similar between them? They both are beautiful places. First, the two things that are similar between them are the weather and a lot of international people. The weather in Jeddah is often hot and warm, but sometimes it will be a little bit cold and the same weather is in Gainesville too. In fact, they have crazy weather . In Gainesville, there are a lot of international students from different countries and the same thing is true in Jeddah, but not all of them are students actually. Second, the two different things between them are the size and the populous. The size of Jeddah is bigger than the size of Gainesville because Jeddah is the second city in size after the capital of Saudi Arabia. In Gainesville, the populous is less than Jeddah because in Jeddah, there are four million persons, but in Gainesville there are two hundred thousand probably. Finally, both of these cities are wonderful and lovely places and all the people who visited them before have liked them.

## **Seoul and Gainesville**

*Youngha Park (Amos)*

*R/W 3*

Do you know Seoul? I’m going to explain Seoul by comparing and contrasting it with Gainesville. First, Seoul is the capital of Korea and the population is 12 million, but the land is not big. So Seoul is not very crowded and complicated. On the other hand, Gainesville is small town. So here it is peaceful and a quiet place. I like Gainesville’s vast green tracks of land which Seoul doesn’t have. Second, the two cities have

different weather. Seoul has very cold now like New York, but here Gainesville is not cold, but warm. So I am enjoying the warm weather. Third, there is good public transportation. I can go everywhere using public transportation. So I don't need my private car. But in Gainesville, I need private a car because if I don’t have my car, I can’t hang out on weekends. In contrast, there are also similar things. Fourth, Korea and Florida are peninsula cities. So if you live in the two cities, you can go three sides sea. There are blessed cities. In conclusion, I think that all cities have their own attraction. So I can’t say which city is better. Every city can become a good city! It depends on yourself!!!

## **The Differences and Similarities between Women and Men as Consumers**

*Hojun Kim*

*R/W 31*

Women and men differ in many ways. They differ in their thinking, habits, what they like, and in their consumer practices. Women usually enjoy shopping more than men but the internet may be changing that. The ease of internet shopping is closing the gap between men and women as consumers.

Women often make their shopping trips into a social activity. They will many times go shopping with friends and spend hours together going to stores. Women enjoy buying clothes, shoes, and accessories, even when they don’t need them. Women of 20-30 years old do more shopping than women of other ages. Even though they do not have money, they will go to the mall. Fashion is very important to many women. When they watch TV programs or look at some actress’s clothes in a magazine, they will want to go and buy it. Women also do a lot of window shopping. After they see something they like, they will bring their friends to ask their opinion first before buying it. Almost all women know the sale periods so they might do window shopping before and then wait for the sales to buy something. They will never buy at full price. Many women also tend to look for coupons before they go shopping and they like to compare the prices of items at many stores before buying them. If a new store opens, they will also go there to see what they sell. At supermarkets, women tend to plan what they will buy by making lists before going.

Men, on the other hand, will often go shopping alone. They do not like to spend a lot of time in stores. Men will just buy what they need. They buy clothes and shoes only when they need new ones. They do not care as much about fashion. Unlike women, they do not go to check new stores to see what they sell. They will not look for coupons in magazines before they go shopping and they do not tend to spend time window shopping. When buying food, men only go to the supermarket if there is really nothing to eat at their home. They will not plan ahead and make lists. They will buy some essential items and then anything else that looks good. However, men do like some stores. They like to look at sport and car shops and they will buy sports equipment and accessories for their cars.

Men and women probably enjoy internet shopping equally. It is very easy to search and compare prices online. It is

also less time-consuming to shop online. You can buy almost anything on the internet and women and men both like the convenience of having things shipped to their houses. It is easier for women and men to buy clothing, electronics, and “window shop” for expensive items, such as TVs and cars, before buying them. The internet may also be making both women and men spend more money because it is easier to buy what you want. Clicking to pay makes impulsive buying too easy and happens more frequently.

Although men and women have many different consumer practices, the internet has made them similar. Before using the internet, women would shop more than men and spend more time in stores. Men tended to spend less money and only go to stores when they really needed something. But today, men spend probably as much time as women buying products on the internet because it is so easy and they do not have to leave their home.

## **The Differences between Seoul and Gainesville**

*Minsang Kim*

*R/W 3*

How much do you know Seoul and Gainesville? Now I wanna talk about Seoul and Gainesville. I think both cities have the same things and different things. First, in Seoul and Gainesville, many people live there. Many University of Florida students live and study in Gainesville, so Gainesville has been developed by many students for a long time. Also many people live in Seoul, but Seoul has been developed not only students but also many different people. Second, the cities have important things each other. Seoul is the capital of Korea. So Seoul is the kingpin town in Korea. Many different fields of people work in Seoul, and it is a very busy city. I think, Gainesville is not busier than Seoul, because Seoul is bigger than Gainesville and Seoul is a commercial center for Korea. Last, the cities are nice places. Seoul is very old city for over 1500 years. Before 500 years, Seoul is already the capital of Korea. So when you visit Korea, you can see many good places. I think Gainesville is also a good city. It is clean and not noisy. Also, there is the University of Florida. So when you visit Gainesville, you can see clean streets and the beautiful University of Florida campus. Seoul and Gainesville have many of the same things and many different things. My conclusion is the cities are nice cities for you.

## **Comparison and Contrast between the United Arab Emirates and Gainesville**

*Hasan Alhammadi*

*R/W 3*

In this paragraph, I will write about the comparisons and contrasts between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Gainesville. First, I will talk about the comparisons about the locations and the education systems of UAE and Gainesville. The location of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is in a federation of seven independent states located in the southeastern corner of the Arabian Peninsula. The total land area of the United Arab Emirates, including its islands, is 83,600 sq km (32,300 sq mi) the capital city is Abu Dhabi, but Gainesville is a city in Alachua, Florida, in the United States. It is the county seat and the largest city in Alachua Country. It is not the capital in Florida. The education system of my country is similar to the education system of Gainesville. The weather in my country is the same as in Gainesville. Second, I will talk about the contrasts between my country and Gainesville. On the other hand, in my country the language is also different. The people of my country speak Arabic, but in Gainesville the people speak English. Finally, these are some sentences about the comparisons and the contrasts between my county and Gainesville.

## **How to Become a Good Student**

*Wilfried Kassi*

*R/W 3*

Do you know how to be a good student? Let me give you the secrets. First, you have to get motivated and confident because that will allow you to always do your best and move forward. Second, you have to pay attention, help your friends, and participate in class because the teacher gives a lot of information and explanations. Also when you help your friends by giving them answer to their preoccupations according to the class, it permits you to practice. Next, you have to do your homework and a lot of research on your own. But all this will have no effect if you don't behave well and are not humble because this is the beginning of glory. Finally, being a good student needs much effort and encouragement and parents must help their children in that way to make these things happen.

## **Legalization of Drugs**

*Sila Marcos*

*R/W 60*

Although nowadays it is commonly accepted that marijuana must be legal for medicinal purposes, legalization of drugs continues being a hot button issue in all first world countries. Often the people's position on this issue is based on beliefs about the morality of drug use instead of on practical approaches to the real problem. But now it is time to find the way to reduce the harm and to control the supply and the demand for drugs, it is time for legalizing drugs. In my opinion, the first step to face the real problem would be to recognize the war on drugs has failed. Despite the



astronomical amounts of money that governments have spent in fighting against the drug dealers and the successful busts, data tell us that drugs are easily available wherever you are, and their use is increasing. To give an example, the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse data show that the percentage of people aged 12 or older who had used illicit drugs past month grew from 6.3 per cent in 1999 to 8 per cent in 2008. The point is, whenever some people are willing to use drugs and to pay for them, there will be criminals ready to sell them. Although police arrest many of them, there will always be somebody ready to get the profits which can be made by supplying drugs. This is the supply-demand market rule. So, let us recognize it: This is not the way; the battle against the supply has been completely unsuccessful.

Only regarding financial issues, if drugs were legalized, the profits would not only be taken away from criminals who are getting rich thanks to this business, but the state could tax drugs and it would provide a source of additional tax revenues. On the expenses side, in US the jail system costs 60 billion per year, and 20 per cent of the total 2.3 million prisoners are in prison for drug offenses. By legalizing drugs two birds would be killed with one stone: the money which is in the criminals' hands now, would be in the state's, i.e. citizens', hands, and this money along with the sum saved by not holding people in jail for drug offense could be spent in prevention and educational campaigns, programs in order to reduce the demand for drugs.

Opponents of legalization argue, on the other hand, that drugs are harmful and that they are very concerned about the health damages caused by these substances. Naturally, there is no doubt that drugs are very harmful, as other allowed "sins" like tobacco, alcohol or sleeping aids are, or worse indeed. However, this is not the point to debate, because when we talk about legalizing drugs we are not talking about encouraging or promoting them, of course. We are talking about using a more effective way to fight against their consumption. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning that if drugs were legalized, the state could control the quality and the safety of the product, and adverse effects from impurities added by criminals to make more money would be avoided.

In short, the war against drugs based on prohibition and criminalization has not succeeded: drugs are a profitable business for criminals nowadays, they are readily available, and drug consumption is increasing year by year. Drugs are very harmful and for that reason we should find the best path to control them and to avoid criminals earning money with the suffering of others. Let us legalize and the state will be able to control the product and it will obtain additional resources from taxes on drugs to focus the fight on drug demand through education and treatment.

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## Compare and Contrast Between Riyadh and Gainesville, FL

*Waleed Alaskar*

*R/W 3*

Do you know the differences and similarities between Riyadh and Gainesville? Well I will tell you some differences and similarities between each one. First, Riyadh which is located in the middle of my country is big and overcrowded. On other hand, Gainesville which is located in the state of Florida is small and quiet. My city has a lot of activities and events such as huge parks and entertainments. In contrast, Gainesville seems to be a small town which does not have a lot of activities like my city.

Second, on the other hand, there are some similarities between each cities. They have the same weather and the people who live in both cities are friendly and you can find many races like here. In conclusion, if you want to write about any cities in the world, you will find as many variations and similarities as are found here.

## Tarija and Gainesville

*Paola Koski*

*R/W 3*

Tarija is the most beautiful city in the world. Tarija is a small city like Gainesville. But, at the same time, both of them are really different. I would like to start talking about the people. All the Tarijenos (people from Tarija) are always relaxed. Every day, they have time to spend with their families and friends. During lunch time, they have time to go back to their houses and eat lunch with their families. After work, people try to get together with their friends. So, I think this helps people to be more relaxed. On the other hand, people from Gainesville are always in a hurry, they're always worrying about the time. They don't have much time to spend with their families or their friends. I think the people from Gainesville have a lot of stress because they're always in a hurry. Also, the people from Tarija eat healthy and fresh food, but the people from Gainesville eat a lot of fast food. Finally, I can say that both cities have different cultures and different customs. But, both of them are beautiful.

## How to Spend the Perfect Saturday in Gainesville

*Carolle Yehouenou*

Gainesville is a small quiet town. There are not many entertainment centers nor any beaches. But there are great restaurants and some little places that can make your Saturday wonderful. The day before, you have to stock your fridge. Do not forget to tell your friends that you will have a little party Saturday. You can try to finish your homework and everything for school. You can clean your house and do laundry. Now, you have all Saturday for yourself. There three ways to spend a great Saturday at Gainesville. Stay home, party at the pool, and go outside. Follow these suggestions to see how you can do it.

The first major step is on Saturday morning is to wake up at 10 o'clock; eat breakfast in bed. For breakfast, prepare 1 cup of hot milk and 2 slices bread with fried eggs plus 1cup of orange juice. You can watch your favorite channel when you are eating your breakfast. You can go back to sleep after breakfast. Go ahead. You can wake up when you want, but do not stay in bed too long; you should not waste the rest of day. After you wake up you can go to take shower. Put a lot of warm water in the bathtub until it is almost full. Then put body wash and bath salts. Light candles that smell nice in the bathroom. Don't put the candle very close to the bathtub; you could turn it off with drops of water when you are going to get into bathtub. Put slow music on and turn off the bathroom light. Now lying down in the bathtub close your eyes. If you have neck pains, you can use a bath pillow. Do not think about anything. Just relax. Stay about 1hour, dry your body and wear light. Then, you can go to the kitchen, try to cook a new recipe or make cake, whatever you want to cook with pleasure.

The second major step is to invite your friends to a small party at the pool, and bring your new recipe or cake, drinks and some pizza. Don't forget your sun glasses and sun block. You can do swimming pool game that is very interesting. Play a basketball game in the pool; teach each other a good practice to swimming. Talk about your family, boyfriend or girlfriend. You can tell also a funny story. Enjoy the pool. But conserve your energy for shopping.

The third major step is to go to shopping at the Oaks Mall with your friends. Visit all the stores you like and try everything you want even if you do not have the money to buy it. You can take pictures of each other in the fitting room. It's a lot of fun and less boring this way. Take your time shopping because you could miss something, some interesting detail if you are in a hurry. When you are done, you can go to Ruby Tuesday to rest and eat fresh food with great ice tea for dinner. Then go home. Around 10 pm, you can go to a night club downtown. Dress up as you want. You can wear a little black dress with tall red shoes and good make up. Don't wear anything tighter; you won't be able to move as you want to. Dance, sing and drink as crazy but with moderation with your friends. Enjoy until you get tired. Now come back home. Take a quiet shower to remove the sweat from your body and go to bed. Do not forget to give thanks to God for this perfect day. Sleep like a new birth and have a wonderful dream about how you will have a great life.

To sum up, even though Gainesville is a small town, you can spend a perfect Saturday without being bored. Every

weekend there are a lot of fun parties down town which can entertain you a lot. You can also make up something that you will enjoy. You can try to see what pleasure you will have and how fun it is. All your friends are going to thank you for the perfect Saturday you give them.

## Up (A movie review)

*Diego Salazar*

R/W 50

Funny, original, and entertaining would be the three words I pick to describe the movie, Up. As always Disney and Pixar did an excellent job, bringing together a bunch of creative ideas to create a must see for all the family. In the first minutes of the film the audience grows an attachment to the main character, Mr. Frederickson, in a way hardly seen in any other movie, not even with two hours of film. Also, as the story continues, the variety of secondary characters is just incredible. Who could imagine a talking dog, a gigantic bird, and a boy scout together could mean that much fun! But at the end, the touching message of the movie is what takes most of the credit. It says something is not heard very often, but it is something we all need to hear at some point in our lives. Maybe your life and dreams don't come up as you planned, but anyway you can have a happy and fulfilled adventure.

## TOEFL Test is Unfair

*Trad Abu-Onq*

R/W 60

Most of the universities around the world have requirements, so they can make sure that the students are prepared for school. For example, most of the schools in Saudi Arabia ask for the Qyas test which tests each student in grammar, math, and general knowledge. Another example is the SAT in the U.S.A., which is basically like the Qyas, but it's in English. Also, there is another test called TOEFL, which is required from the international students in most of the universities in the U.S.A. that test supposed to test the students' abilities, but it becomes a nightmare for those poor students because of the time of the test, and the content.

The TOEFL test couldn't test most of the students fairly because it's a time test more than anything else. The TOEFL test takes more than four hours, and it has only ten-minute break. So, there are some situations where the test could be unfair for some students. For example, some students could do well if they had more time, so they are well prepared to pass, but they fail. Not because they don't know enough English it's again the time. Moreover, there are special cases where the test becomes unfair. For example, some students can't stay in front of the computer more than three hours because they have some medical reasons, which prevent them.

Not only the time but also the materials are not fair. Most of the passages on the test are academic passages, and most of the students are not familiar with them. In fact those students haven't joined any university yet, so it's not fair to test

them on those subjects. Furthermore, some of the passages contain subjects about the history of the U.S.A., which is new information to those international students. For example, if those passages have subjects about general knowledge, the students would answer faster than when it's about unknown specific information.

In addition, those schools argue that TOEFL is the only thing that shows the students ability in English. In contrast, those same schools accept exchange students, for one semester without the TOEFL. So, if those students can be successful for one semester, the international students who are studying English in the U.S.A can also pass more than one semester. Moreover, some schools in the U.S.A have international students who are successful in school without the TOEFL. Those schools allow them to join their programs when they finish the English program.

In conclusion, there is no doubt that the TOEFL can test the students' abilities, but there is no doubt that it won't be fair because it has some disadvantages like: the time of the test, and the content. There are solutions for every problem. The ETS can fix those points to make the test more reasonable, or the school can be more flexible at least by accepting those who have been studying English for more than one year in the U.S.A.

## **How to Spend a Perfect Day in Seoul**

*Bum Keun Park*

*R/W 31*

Today I'm introducing how to spend perfect day in Seoul. But maybe my story is not common because some people don't agree my story.

My town is Itaewon-Dong in the city of Seoul. It is a special town because there is a U.S ARMY base and famous travel destination, so there are many people from other countries. This is special district in Korea. If you want a special day in Seoul, you will have to go Itaewon and follow these seven steps.

The perfect day starts around 10 am. It is not early and not late; it's important because it gives you have enough rest that you feel happy and choose the best clothes and the nicest shoes. Nice clothes can make you feel high and nice shoes can lead you to have a good way.

Second, enjoy free time in your favorite coffee shop. Call your girlfriend and make a lunch appointment and go out early and waiting friend at the some coffee shop like Starbucks. In Itaewon famous coffee shop is "Coffee Bean" which is second floor and has big windows to see people in the street. Many people like this time and this view.

Third, have a delicious food in good restaurant. Also, delicious foods make people happy. Itaewon is a very famous date course and famous travel destination and there are many special restaurants for lunch. Perfect day need some special food. I recommend India style or Mexican style restaurant because in other Korea towns don't have these style restaurants.

Fourth, go shopping. In Itaewon, there are long shopping street. I like spending time on there. There store very

cheap. You can buy something on cheap price. Especially hip-hop style clothes are very cheap and a lot. In Itaewon has many women's clothe store too. If you have girlfriend or boyfriend buy some present for she or he. Present is makes feel happy. When you give to someone.

Fifth, drink liquor. Around 6 P.M start drinking with dinner. In Korea you must drink SoJu. It is Korean style liquor. Almost all Koreans love this liquor. It makes perfect harmony with Korean style B.B.Q.

Sixth, go to the club. Itaewon has many clubs. There are very exciting. My favorite club's name is Volume. There's music is good. Some time very famous DJ is come to Volume and open party. It is very fun. Beer and good music make me happy.

Seventh, go back home and rest. May be you are very tired so go back home by taxi. In Korea taxi is cheap so you can use taxi often. In home take a shower and go bed.

It is my perfect day in Itaewon. I always follow these seven steps on every Fridays before came United State. It is my how to spend Perfect day in Itaewon.

If you have a chance, come to Itaewon and spend perfect day with me. I always wait for you at Itaewon.

## **Do You Know About Japan?**

*Megumi Ishikawa*

*R/W 50*

I was interested in how much foreigners know about Japan. Japanese people think most foreigners know about Japan because there are a lot of travelers from foreign countries in Japan. The survey results showing how much foreigners knew about Japan was very interesting because the knowledge of Japan depends on geography or their relationship with Japan. Asians are interested in Asia, for example, Korea, China and Taiwan. However, Asians don't know about South America, the Middle East and South Africa so much. Asians know some Japanese culture and foods. On the other hand, other countries except Asia don't know about Japan so much. However, it is very interesting that everybody knows sushi. So, sushi is a popular food in the world. In conclusion, although Asians know about Japan and most people except Asians don't know about Japan so much, everybody knows sushi. Therefore, the foreigner knowledge to Japan depends on geography and their relationship with Japan.

## **Visiting Hongik University in Seoul**

*Hye-Lin Lee*

*R/W 31*

Do you have a plan to visit Korea? There are many cities in Korea, but you have to go to Seoul if this is your first visit to Korea. Then you can go to my university which is named Hongik when you stay in Seoul. If you visit there, this is satisfying for you, because Hongik University is very famous to foreigners who visit Korea. Follow these steps, and enjoy the perfect experience in Hongik University.

First, you need to go to HU to enjoy your perfect day. Go to the subway station and buy the ticket toward *Hongik Univ.* which is name of the station on the Green line. Riding the subway is better than riding a bus or driving your car, because the traffic in Seoul is very complex like New York, and parking is very expensive. If you arrive at this station, find exit 5 and walk upstairs. Can you see many people? Yes, this place is one of the very famous places to meet in Seoul. After walking up, go straight toward front until you are in front of a traffic light. You don't have to cross the road. After at turn left, go straight until you are in front of another traffic light. After you cross the road in front of you, you will be at the starting point in HU.

You can look at HU in the morning time, because many shops don't open in the morning. After you cross the road, you can see a very big building with a big opening. This opening is an entrance of HU. On the right side, you can find a small flower shop. Go to the flower shop and stand toward it. After that look at the left side; you can find a bakery which is named *Levain*. This bakery is very small, but the price of bread and drinks is cheaper than at other bakeries. In addition, their bread is very fresh and unique. If you enjoy your breakfast in that place, this is a good choice. Go back to the entrance and walk up. While you are walking, you can see ground which is made by sand on your right side and many trees on your left side. When the uphill road finishes, you will see a small park with two ponds. There are many statues which are made by students here and there, because art is a very popular subject in HU.

After that if you want special food around HU, you have to eat lunch in *Ilpumjang*. Go out of the campus, and go to *Ilpumjang* for lunch. This restaurant sells Chinese food, but Chinese food in Korea is different from Chinese food in the US. If you don't hate spicy food, you should order *Ojinguhmaekom-jajang*. This food is popular with the students of HU. This food is kind of *Jajang* noodle with squid, and a little bit spicy. So there are many Chinese food shops in Korea, and they sell *Jajang*, but this food has a unique taste.

In the afternoon, if you want to experience the clothing culture of young people, go to a street which is named *Kutkoshippen*. *Kutkoshippen* means that this street makes people want to walk. There are many shops on the street, and they sell clothes, shoes and accessories. Sometimes you can find very unique clothes. Many people in Korea come here to buy clothes and look at the newest trend. However, it is difficult to find traditional Korean things on the street.

Finally, you should enjoy club culture in Korea. There are twelve clubs in front of HU, because it is a very famous place for clubs. You can enjoy dancing, many kinds of music and beer. Furthermore, you can meet many foreigners, so you can get some information about your trip. This place is good to make friends because you will have a chance to speak Korean. Don't worry about the time and enjoy, because the subway runs until 1 am in Korea, but you need to check the subway time. If you want to enjoy the club past 1 am, you need to take a taxi. A taxi fee is more expensive than other rides, but we have many taxis at night time, so you can go back home safely.

The best place in Korea to experience the youth culture is around Hongik University, so you can have an interesting adventure. There are many things which attract people's

interest. Moreover, many events happen around HU, so sometimes you can see Korean stars like singers and actors. I hope that this will be your best experience in Korea and my advice helps your trip.

## **Marrying Someone from Another Culture: A Korean Example**

*Heajin Lee*

*R/W 42*

While I would consider marrying someone from another culture, for any couple there would be several problems to resolve including communication in the marriage, raising the children, and how to avoid divorce. In Korea, there are many problems that result from mixed marriages where one of the partners is from another culture including economic problems, problems in education, and even crime and divorce. Recently marriage of Koreans and non-Koreans has become a social problem because there has been an increase in Korean farmers marrying women from other countries. At first glance, this does not seem to be a serious problem; however, closer scrutiny reveals that it has made for big problems such as difficult communication in married life, identity problems for the children from such marriages and even problems for society in terms of the inevitable divorces that occur and economic issues because of such divorces.

First, in Korea there are instances where farmers and women who are from other countries have not met many times before marriage if at all. In many cases, these people decide to get married after they see each other's faces, but without enough time to really get to know each other. Besides this, neither person knows the culture, personality or living environment of the other. The result of these marriages is trouble while they are together or try to stay together. Even though such couples might complain to each other and try to talk about their problems, neither person really understands the feelings of the other. As we know, communication is the most important thing in married life. So, such difficult communication factors cause many problems including family relationship problems and even divorce.

Secondly, after people from different cultures get married, they usually have children, but when they grow up, they face a lot of problems such as communication with their friends, their educational experiences, cultural issues and different languages. The parents of these children have a different culture, language and way of thinking, so these children become confused and even have doubts about their identity. Also, they have different physical features compared to their friends, and cannot speak the national language (such as Korean in Korea) well. An additional factor is that they cannot adapt in school. Unfortunately, the parents usually do not know how to handle these problems for their children so the children suffer.

Finally, in Korea studies have shown that marriages to people from other cultures cause serious social problems in terms of an increase in the rate of divorce and economic problems that actually affect our national economy. When

Korean farmers, for example, get married to foreign women, they have to give money to the women's families. Yet, sometimes the wives leave their husbands after the marriage or ask for a divorce. This then becomes a problem due to the money leaving Korea and sometimes even the need for international diplomacy if children are involved.

Thus, as I mentioned above, marriage in Korea to women from other countries has proven to cause a number of problems including difficult communication in such marriages, identity problems for the children, and societal problems like divorce, and economic issues. If we want to reduce these problems, we have to find solutions such as changing the system to better deal with bicultural couples, education to diminish culture shock and communication problems, and an improved educational environment for the children of bicultural marriages. This should be done as soon as possible. These solutions are needed to allow everyone to be happy.

## **Chel Su and Young Hee**

*Hojun Kim*

*R/W 31*

Once, there were two people called Chel Su and Young Hee who lived in Dae Gu, a city in the south part of South Korea. Chel Su was from a very poor family who lived in the city of Ul Jin. When Chel Su was fifteen years old, he quit high school because his parents could not support him. After he quit, he began working in a factory. He lived in a small apartment alone near the factory. Young Hee came from a rich family who lived in the city of Dae Gu. She was a student at the university there. Her parents owned the factory where Chel Su worked. When Chel Su had time off, he would go to the downtown in Dae Gu with his friends to eat dinner. He liked his free time because during that time he could do anything he wanted. Young Hee would go to the downtown too with her friends to go shopping. When they were walking around there, he saw her and fell in love. He thought that she was the most beautiful girl that he had ever seen. He really wanted to talk to her but he was shy. He thought that he could not meet her again. Finally, his friends encouraged him. He talked with her. The next day, they met in the downtown again. They ate dinner, watched a movie, and walked around the park together. A few months later, they started dating.

Six months later, they wanted to go to his parents' house to introduce her to them. His parents lived in a very small village in Ul Jin, in the east part of South Korea which is in the heart of a mountain. There were less than twenty houses there. There was no transportation to get to his village so they had to take the bus to a city nearby and walk to his parents' house. His parents' house was really small. There were just two rooms, one bathroom, and a kitchen. The trip took almost one day. When they arrived at his parents' house, he introduced her to them. His parents invited them into the house. He had two brothers and two sisters. His older brother was working on the family farm and his other brother was fishing. His two sisters were cooking in the kitchen. They prepared a lot of food. They ate dinner together that evening. It was really delicious. After

they ate, they drank a cup of coffee and talked together. They had a good time there and his family really liked her. When Chel Su and Young Hee left, they were so tired; however, she was very happy because his family was so nice and kind to her. She thought that even though he was poor, she would get married to him.

A week later, they visited her house to introduce him to her parents. To get to her house was very easy. It was just 10 minutes away by car. He was so excited to meet her parents. He bought presents for them. When they arrived at her house, he thought that it was a great house. Her house was actually the biggest in Dae Gu. In front of her house, there was a large garden and a small lake. People could fish there. Her house had three floors. He had never seen a house like that until now. They came into the house. When he saw her parents, he was surprised and so were they. Her father owned the factory where he worked. Her father was upset when he saw him. He didn't like that his daughter was dating his employee. They did not say anything for a few minutes. Then her parents told her quietly that they wanted her to break up with him. When they said that, she started crying. Later, they all drank alcohol together and talked a lot. Her parents realized that he had ambition and that he was a very hard worker. He was also very kind. Although he was poor, it was not his fault. Because he was nice, her parents agreed that they could get married.

So, the next spring they had a huge wedding party with their whole family and friends. Many people congratulated them. They were so happy. Many years later they still remembered that day. They lived together their whole life. They were happy until they died.

## **An Ant and a Grasshopper**

*Jong Seok Ko*

*R/W 31*

Once upon a time, an ant and a grasshopper lived in the same village. They had been getting along as close friends since they were very young. They were always together drawing many flowers in the spring, swimming and fishing in the summer, hiking to the hill in the autumn and reading many books in the winter. But the ant's father was a servant of the grasshopper's family. Often, the ant could see his father working very hard and was mistreated by his friend's family. He determined that he would not become a servant of someone else and if he became a rich, he would help the poor. From that time, ten years passed. The grasshopper became the master because he inherited his father's estate. And the ant bought a little land with a little money received from his father.

After becoming a master, the grasshopper tried to help the poor and listen to their problems. People thought he was considerate and an affectionate master. They really honored and obeyed him. People worked hard and dedicated half of their harvest to their master every year. They always kept their master's house clean and prepared food for the festival of their master's family. They devoted to serve their master. However, their master, the grasshopper, was little by little accustomed to commanding everyone except himself and started to be idle.

Several years later, he was too lazy to do anything by himself. He spent most time of the daily life drinking or playing games. He gradually became indifferent to the poor; on the contrary, he exploited them.

After buying small land, the ant worked hard and thanked it. He would go to his field before sunrise and come back home after sunset. He felt how beautiful the sky changed at sunrise or sunset working in his field. When plowing the field and sowing seed in spring, he saw the world in full bloom. While working in the field in summer, he heard the singing of the insects in the grass. After harvesting in autumn, he realized labor's value and god's blessing. When the field was covered white with snow, he learned silence. He gathered a little bit of fortune as a result of working hard. Whenever he saw the poor, he divided his food with them and encouraged them to become independent.

Several years later, severe drought lasted for two years in the village. The crops withered to death. People experienced severe famine. Some people starved to death. But the grasshopper's storehouses were full of rice, fruit, vegetable and various kinds of nuts. So, people called him to divide the food for them. However, the grasshopper rejected their request; on the contrary, he confined some leaders to a cell. His behavior made the people angry. People gathered together to consult how to rise against him. They determined to make the ant their new leader and asked him. However, he hesitated accepting the proposal because he was a close friend with the grasshopper. After a while, at last he accepted the proposal, attacked the grasshopper with people and drove him out.

The endless wide estate which the grasshopper owned was properly distributed to people. The ant constructed a big irrigation reservoir for drought, taught people how to improve the productivity and encouraged them to become independent. He was always humble and sincerely worried about the pain of their people. Many people liked him like their family and honored him.

Another ten years later, people's life improved far more than before and they became happy. People believed their happiness came from their new leader. They felt gratitude to the ant. They came think he should be their king to improve their life. So, people went to the ant's house to ask him to be king. However, the ant had already left somewhere for a long trip. Maybe, he must have missed a drink with his friend, the grasshopper. The end.

## **How to Spend the Perfect Day at the Beach**

*Daniel Méndez*

*R/W 31*

Having a perfect day at the beach is something that is easy to do if you only complete the following steps. The first step is to have a group of friends to spend the day and you must find some cars to go to the beach. Also go to the supermarket to buy food for the trip. It would be preferable to get canned food, juices, snacks, sodas, and the most important thing, water. After that, you have to go to the liquor store to buy some alcoholic drinks but you must remember to be responsible when drinking.

Take a first aid kit for any unexpected event. When everything is ready, put it inside the cars, including your bags, and put gas in each car. You shouldn't be tired. If you feel like this, is prefer that you take a little nap, but be sure to wake up for getting entertainment and thus you can enjoy each second. Now you are ready to spend the perfect day at the beach by following these steps.

Second, you should go to a beach you know, preferably your favorite location good water quality, security, cleaning, restaurants and among others. When you arrive, you should find a located in a safe area where you can set up camp with everything that is necessary to have a lot entertainment. This includes chairs, tents, food, tables, towels, etc.

At some point in the day, invite your friends to swim in the beach. It might be cool and you could see lots of fish and corals and it is better if you have a snorkeling mask. Make sure to be in an area where swimming is permitted. Also, when you leave the sea, it is advisable to play the typical games that you can at the beach such as football, volleyball, soccer, or something else you can think of to play on the shore or on the dry sand. Also, see which teams are the best for everybody to demonstrate their skills.

When the sun sets, it might be a good idea to make some typical seafood such as: fried fish, fried plantains, octopus, crabs, squid, and others things, and share it with your friends. In addition, take your time eating it because is something very pleasant and healthy. After that, listen to the ocean waves and wind, and breathe fresh air. And observe each element that is present, for example: the people, the bright blue sky, the deep sea, the sand, the rocks, the stones, the shells, the palms, and anything else that catches your attention. Next, go with your friends to find a lot of twigs and sticks to build a campfire, but remember that it has to be prepared in a safe place. You can take some coconuts from the palms and eat them as your dessert. Later, you can take a nap inside the tent, and when you return home be sure to collect all the garbage and put it in the trash can and extinguish the bonfire completely to keep the beach in good condition.

Finally, you must take care of all your things and use the time with your friends. If you want to have fun, then following these steps is very important because you can save time and not allow bad situations to happen. To sum up, it will pay off in the end, if you do each step. It is better to be safe than sorry in situations like these. All in all, remember to repeat these steps, to improve your quality of your beach trip and to keep a good relationship with your friends. Enjoy your adventure.

## **How to Spend a Perfect Day at the Beach**

*Nina Tapsoba*

*R/W 31*

In order to spend the perfect day at beach, make sure you have swimsuit, umbrella, sunglasses and sun block, have

good songs in the radio in the car on the way. Don't forget to invite many people to participate. You must be sure your friends will be able to spend all day with you. So you will have a blast together and to take advantage of good weather. Remember you must bring a camera to take a lot of pictures. Go shopping so you have plenty of fruits, juices and your favorite dishes to eat at the beach. Finally, enjoy yourself, as if it was your last day to live so, you will do all things you have in mind.

This day must start as soon as you feel ready to wake up in the morning. This can be whatever moment in the day. After you wake up, think about how lucky you are to have nice and funny friends who want to spend time with you. Put on gym clothes and go running to get fresh air. It is an opportunity for you to see what the day is like outside and to relax yourself. So you will feel well all day and you will feel able to lift mountains. You might drink a lot of water to get strong. Also, bring your iPod with you; like that, you will be able to listen to music and to run in the same time. Listen to your favorite songs and think of your best days. You will believe you are able to fly.

When you return at home, take a shower and put on a comfortable dress for the beach without forgetting to wear suitable shoes and put gloss on your lips. Take all your time for to make yourself gorgeous. Also, make yourself some breakfast. Be sure if you have all what you need, such as towels, CD, food, juice. Yes, you must verify that you have not forgotten things. Then, put everything in your car. When you go to pick up your friends at their houses, thank them for going with you. Make sure they know you have prepared this perfect day. They must promise to be funny and pleasant people. Ride slowly; contemplate the view from car. You will see how it's a sunny day and how the weather turn warm, so you will know that it's really a good idea to go to the beach.

When you arrive at the beach, make sure to find the best place to put your things. Take a place where the sun is not too hot. After that, put umbrella, ice cooler, beach chairs, towels, etc. Take off your clothes and wear your bikini. Put CD on the radio and listen to the music with your friends. Kiss them and show them love, show them that you will be with them forever and you will take care of them too. Do not forget to turn off your cell phone, so nobody can disturb you. Sit down together and tell them about your adventures and favorite music. Remember that you went grocery shopping last day, so you have popcorn and ice cream and other food. Eat sandwiches and shrimp, and tuna fish. Take pictures while you eat and appreciate every bite.

Go enjoy yourselves in the sea together. Swim with your friends, play volleyball, handball, or soccer with them. These are exciting games. You can play on the waves together. That is fun. Take pictures with your friends in the sea. When you will feel tired, get a rest to taste wine and drink juices, beer. Take seashells of every color for a collection and to remind yourself of this day later, and built a sand castle. After that, do not forget to put on your sunglasses to protect your eyes and because it is a sunny day, then to sunbathe yourself to have a beautiful skin. Ask a friend to put a sun block on you and to give you a massage. You will do each other. That evening, walk together hand in hand and enjoy the sunset. Make a sprint in

the sand and take pictures of you while you run. While this moment, show them plenty of affection. You will probably spend a few minutes talking to your friends that you want schedule another day soon because it was so great. Tell them you appreciated every little moment spend with them.

Your perfect is almost ending. Go in the sea again with your friends one last time. Swim at sunset. On this moment the sea and waves are quiet, so you can play again on waves without a danger. Your friends and you will be able to do all that you want because there aren't many people like before. You will feel free and will relax. Sing a great song together and dance if you want. Burn fire and sit down around it. Remember to repeat these steps at least once a month to insure optimum health and a good relationship with your friends.

## **Marriage to Someone from a Different Culture**

*Modibo Keita*  
*R/W 42*

As we all know, marriage is one of the most important things in life, so the choice of a husband or wife focuses mainly on how much you love him or her and how comfortable you feel about living the rest of your life with that person for better or for worse. However, I would consider marrying someone from another culture for three main reasons: learning about another culture, contributing to understanding and cooperation between people of two different cultures, and because children from such a marriage would have an easier life because of their ability to integrate into different cultures.

First of all, if you marry someone from another culture, you will learn about his or her culture to avoid any kind of misbehavior and to avoid embarrassment by your partner. For example, in my culture eye contact is seen as impolite and people do not mind talking to their friends or family about their personal life. If I married an American, I would have to know that eye contact is important while talking to people, and that people do not always feel comfortable learning about your personal life.

Second, an intercultural marriage contributes to understanding and cooperation between two different families with different beliefs in some cases. For example, your family and your wife's family will be closer or may even be considered as one big family with people from different cultures who respect each other and cooperate together despite their differences. In addition, your marriage will, in some cases, have a positive impact on one of the two cultures. For example, in my country, there is an ethnic group called "SARAKOLE". In this ethnic group, people marry cousins and nieces in order to keep the money in the family. They think that marrying someone other than a cousin or niece would result in big expenses like the building of houses, whereas they can stay in their family when they marry a relative. Also, children from such marriages drop out of school because they are taught that money is more important than studies. However, if someone from this ethnic group marries an American, he or she has to be aware that studies for an American are more important than

money because you can lose your money and be poor in this life, but there is no way you can lose your knowledge until the day you die. For this reason, he or she will keep his kids in school and assure them a great future.

Finally, children from an intercultural marriage will probably have an easier life because of their background. For example, their integration in both societies will be easier because they are part of both societies. Also, they will have more respect for other people's values. For example, children from a black and white marriage will never be racist. In the same way, they will have the opportunity to complement some things from one culture with things from the other culture. For example, if I marry an American, our children will have the choice of either staying or leaving home at the age of 18 because in American culture people usually leave home at the age of 18, but in my culture they can stay home until they get married or even forever if they want.

In conclusion, I would say that culture really does not matter when marrying someone you love. As for an intercultural marriage, however, I would consider marrying someone from another culture because of the fact that intercultural marriages bring people together, contribute to understanding and cooperation between cultures, and provide a good future to the children of such marriages.

## **How to Spend the Perfect Day at Home**

*Mohammed AlGarawi*

*R/W31*

If you have a long disturbing week, choose the first day of the weekend to rest. Call your favorite friend to share this day with you then check your kitchen and go to the supermarket to buy whatever you need then clean the bathroom along with the living room. You have better to follow several steps below to help you to enjoy your day at home.

The first time of the day is in the morning. After you wake up take a perfect long shower until you feel refreshed then check your email and Facebook with a cup of coffee. Go to the kitchen to begin preparing breakfast, you can make a boiled or fried egg; don't forget to put honey, cheese, olives and jam on separate plates and make a small kettle of tea. After that, sit in the living room and enjoy television programs while you are eating. If you feel you are full, don't leave the food; you need to clean the dishes immediately and return them back to the refrigerator which you did not eat then finish watching the television.

There are some activities to do it in the afternoon; you can spend the first part of this time in preparing and cooking lunch. In second part of it you can spend it by reading or washing your car. If you want to cook rice with chicken for instance, first cut the onion in small parts and roast it in the pot; then put the chicken in the pot with the onion and roast them for two minutes and pour water until it covers the chicken. Keep it boiling for one hour, take the chicken out of the pot because it is ready to eat but it needs toasting to be more tasty, put it on the tray and keep it inside the oven. Then, put the rice in the chicken pot, keep it until the water steamed and the grains

become fluffy, that means the rice is ready. For some people, they cannot eat rice without salad so wash a piece of tomato, cucumber, carrot and little lettuce cut them in a bowl and pressed a lemon on them with pour a little vinegar. After that, put rice in the plate above it the chicken next of it the salad plate and something to drink and enjoy with tasty lunch time.

After you end your tasty meal, wash the dishes immediately to prevent the stench then take a nap for one hour and a half. After you wake up, make a cup of tea, next clean your car in order to feel comfortable when you drive it. Do not forget to clean the trunk and scour the light cover. Finally, you can see favorite program on the television or read a magazine.

There are many things to do in the evening. The quietness helps you to do what you prefer to do with relax situation. For example, you can read, do your homework if you are a student or prepare for a class if you are a teacher. Also you can use the internet, read newspaper in the website, chat, or download a movie. Some people like to drink a cup of hot milk while reading a novel or while browsing websites. Evening is the time that you can do things that the long work day prevents you from doing.

At night, you need to get your body ready for sleeping. For instance, watching movies stimulates some bodies to sleep; on the other hand some bodies need classic music to feel drowsy. Also, reading helps a lot to sleep. Thus, turn off all the lights except the night light until the sleep close your eyes. Very simple methods help your body to subside.

Therefore, the day which you spent at home help you to take a break from daily routine and it gives you vigor for the new week.

## **Would You Consider Marrying Someone from Another Culture?**

*Gustavo Ruiz*

*R/W 42*

When I hear the word "marry" or "to get married", I think of love. Love is a feeling that everybody has. In fact, nobody can say that they do not feel love. When you are in love, everything seems to be different around you. In my opinion love can overcome cultural differences like customs, religion and stereotypes.

In the world there are many cultures, and some are different and some are similar. Sometimes when people travel or go to live in another country, they share their own culture with other people, and they usually enjoy it. When we talk about marrying however, it is different because the person you want to get married to might have a really different culture and customs. If that is the case, then in the marriage relationship as husband and wife, there might be some problems. Nevertheless, I think a couple's love is stronger than any cultural differences.

Another difference to consider is religion. Religion is probably one of the biggest problems between cultures. In fact, religion can start a debate between a husband and wife because if they want to have a baby, the conflict would come when they have to decide which religion the baby should follow. Most of



the time, however, couples find a good way to decide which religion the baby should have.

When people fall in love and they are from different cultures, many conflicts can happen between both families because of stereotypes. There are many such stereotypes that could become big obstacles. People should not pay attention to these stereotypes when there is a relationship in the middle. In addition, a couple in love can end up in a fight because of the family. However, if a couple is really in love, it should not be a big obstacle.

I would consider marrying someone from another culture because love is a big feeling that everybody has. In my opinion everybody should give himself or herself the opportunity to meet a person from a different culture and put away any stereotype that could affect the relationship. When you love someone, there are no cultural differences.

## **How to Spend the Perfect Day in Gainesville**

*Juseok Lim*  
*R/W 31*

Have you ever been to Gainesville? Gainesville is a clean, calm, and small city in which many retired men or women prefer to spend their life to rest. You don't have to walk fast and to do something quickly compared to the big city like New York. In Gainesville, you can spend a perfect day if you follow the steps. You should prepare something for a perfect day. First, you have to go the Publix to buy some fresh vegetables and meats for next breakfast, and then go to Walmart to buy swimming pants, towels, sunscreen etc. You need these things for swimming. Last, you could choose the restaurant for dinner but you don't have to worry about it because following instructions show the recommend restaurant for you. Now you are ready to spend the perfect day in Gainesville by the following these steps.

First, you get up in the morning when you want to do. It will be 9 or 10 O'clock. Don't worry about the wake-up time because today is your perfect day, and open your window for breathing in fresh air. Now go to the bathroom and take a shower. Then you feel happy emotion. It is recommended to sing a song while showering. Then go to the kitchen to eat breakfast. There is a toaster machine making bread soft. Put the bread, which is soft and delicious, on the dish with milk. The food makes you powerful. And put on comfortable clothes to go to the outsides but you don't need to put heavy clothes because the weather is good except for one or two months in winter. When you are in the front of your house, your cleaned car is waiting for you. Now you have to get the car only.

Second, you had better go shopping in the morning. There are many places to enjoy your shopping like Oaksmall, Sam's club, Target, Best buy, Walmart etc. If you want to eat fresh vegetables and fruits, you can go to the farmer's market in which there are many people to buy fresh food materials, famers to show their own crops to the customs, and also singers to sing a song to the people. If you have the membership, you ought to go to the Sam's club, there also many goods and foods

in low price. There are various kinds of things to buy. But if you are married, you should go to the Oaks mall because most women like the luxury shop or complex market. There are also playground with alligator statue where the children like to play. It takes one or two hours. When you are hungry, you could go to the food court in Oaks mall.

Third, you would better go to the swimming pool for next pleasure. Because it is very hot in the daytime in Gainesville, the water is good item. Also you are somewhat tired with shopping. You can rest there. There many swimming pools located in your apartments, located in Parks. If you are tired, you could get the swimming pool in your apartment. Your children play with themselves. They are energetic and dynamic. So they splash water with pleasure. If you have a suntan under the sunshine, put on the tanning cream on your body and lie on the chair. if you want to read the books or surf in internet, do yourself. Now go to the restaurant for dinner. After dinner, go back home, and talk about what happened today with your family.

To summarize, enjoy your life in Gainesville. It is very easy and happy. First, feel great in the morning. Second, go shopping and swimming. Last, talk to your family. If you finish this process, you or your family will be happy, and appreciate for a perfect day.

## **My Adventure in "El Avila" National Park**

*Daniel Méndez*  
*R/W 31*

Three months ago, I went with my family to "El Ávila" National Park. It is located in the north central region of Venezuela, specifically in the middle of Caracas and the Caribbean Sea. My parents Douglas and Sonia, my twin brother Ricardo and I (Daniel), had always wanted to go summering, so we stayed a week camping at the highest tops called "Naiguatá". We had to walk for two days to get to this place and we did that little by little because we had to eat, drink and rest so we could have strength to continue to our goal.

On the first night, we had to set our campsite at nightfall because I knew that we would stay longer. Our camping equipment included tents, utensils, batteries, first aid kit and a lot of food. The weather was cold and humid with no stress or noise. Every night we could hear the sounds of nature, it was very wonderful.

This place was beautiful and amazing. We felt so lucky because we could see the sea and Caracas at the same time. The sea looked blue and the city is in a valley with many buildings, vehicles and people. I thought that some of these houses could be mine. We were so happy because all the family was together and we made coffee with milk, ate vegetables and fried eggs, and we never thought about being on a diet. Also, no one got hurt.

Every day, amazing things happened. Three times we saw some beautiful waterfalls and some spectacular rainbows twice. We swam in rivers and could see a variety of fish. Since the spring water was clean and pure, we could drink it. We were

healthy because we were breathing clean air. We felt an atmosphere of peace.

On other days, while we walked, we saw several animals, such as crocodiles, alligators, monkeys, fish, birds, rabbits, horses, squirrels, snakes, bears, bees, frogs, toads, grasshoppers, ducks, fish, and many others.

After that, we read a sign saying that this area was formerly occupied by Caracas Indians and its Indian name was “Warairarrepano”. The people still living in this location still keep some culture.

After a while, we could see that it was a society within Caracas, with wonderful things. On day, we were invited to a traditional celebration, and we participated in their dances. It was amazing just to listen to their music and watch them dance. We ate “Hallacas”, which is their typical food and it was delicious. Its ingredients are cornmeal, meat, chicken, potato, olives and onions. After it is prepared, it is covered with plantain leaves. Indeed, we could learn many things from them.

Finally, we were very grateful and proud of our trip because everything went well and as soon as we can go back, we will repeat it instead of going to the beach. We would like to repeat this journey because it meant something very big to us. It was a safe trip, for there were no dangers and every day we appreciate this National Park more.

## **The Challenge**

*Carolle Yehouenou*

*R/W 31*

Every day in the jungle, the turtle and the snail argued with each other about the best runner. Every day it was the same thing until one day they fought. The other animals of the jungle told the jungle king that turtle and snail were fighting because they didn't agree about who was the best runner among them. On night, the king gathered all the animals of the jungle around a fire in the yard of his palace. He told everyone that the next day there would be a race at noon between the turtle and the snail. He also promised he would give a big gift to the best one.

On that night, the snail told his parents the news. He also told them that he would have to win this challenge. So, he would need their help. His parents accepted to do anything he would ask them. Turtle's parents also were impatient and trusting; because they knew that the turtle could run faster than the snail.

It was time for the race; all the animals of the jungle took their places under the biggest tree where they usually had important parties and meetings. The king lion was dressed up with his crown on his mane that made him the boss of the jungle. He sat on the big chair placed on the red carpet in front of the big tree. At his side were his wives, the lionesses and their 4 kids, the lion cubs. All the animals of the jungle were also dressed up. They seat around the king. They had in their hands flags that had the color of each runner's T-shirt. This day was the big day, which everyone wanted and waited for. There was a group of folklorists, who entertained the audience before the ceremony started. Both the turtle and the snail wore their

most wonderful clothes. The turtle wore green shorts and a green T-shirt with his big shell in back. The snail also wore a red T-shirt and red shorts with his small shell in back and his stomach lying on the ground.

They took place for the departure. But a couple minutes before the race started, the snail asked one of his parents to stay at the halfway of way and another at the finish line. All wore the same clothes. At the end of the distance, there was a big flute. This flute was so big that everyone in the jungle could hear when someone blew into it. The first to arrive had to say his name into the flute. It was the hare who had to signal the departure. He was the best runner of the entire jungle. He was also the cleverest. He was dressed up with a big hat that left his large ears out. When he whistled, they started to run. They had one hour of race. After 10 minutes, the turtle outran the snail although he couldn't see him behind. Then, the snail went to the grass. In the middle of the race, when the second snail saw the turtle so far ahead, he started to run. And once again, the turtle outran him. He also went into the grass. Thirty minutes later the third snail shouted in the flute and said “My name is Snail! I am the first!” When he said that, the real snail that wasn't so far in the grass, appeared in front of the king. All the animals started to cheer and to applaud him. They were all surprised. The king shook his hand and they hugged each other. The other animals congratulated him. The king gave him the half of his wealth as a gift, as he has said. The turtle came back shameful and sad. He was punished because of his vanity. He was more embarrassed and nervous. He couldn't believe how the snail was the first although he outran him during the race. The turtle parents were ashamed and promised they would get revenge on him because they knew something was wrong. But for this moment, the snail enjoyed in the big party with his parents and friends.

To this day, the king considers the snail the best animal in the jungle. He also gave him a big place to live with his family in his kingdom.

The snail was a cheater but was smart.

## **The Circus Life**

*Bernardo Pinzon*

*R/W 31*

This is the story of Michael. He wrote about how wonderful his life was in the circus. This story happened in the United States forty years ago. The circus was for him a fun show where he lived unforgettable moments always accompanied by family, friends and pets that were together under the circus big top. Here begins this beautiful story. He says.

I remember my father, his name was Andrew. He was the owner of the circus. He was the protagonist in all the shows. He was the most intelligent, and was responsible for organizing the show, with a series of numbers that were always in the classical repertoire of each role. He was an excellent master of ceremonies and a true gentleman. He also was the magician, tamer of elephants, lions and tigers. My mother, her name was Emily. She was a great artist on the trapeze and acrobatics. She

performed movements like rubber. She had a perfect balance on the ropes. My mother was a beautiful woman; she loved her family and the circus.

I remember my parents were wonderful people, always had time for me, gave me lots of love, affection, understanding, good examples and were always worried about me getting a good education. We could not go to school like other children. We had hours to study but we also had to work. The organization of the circus was perfect; we had good food for all the people, also for the animals. The diet for everyone living in the circus was very strict. The health was very important in the circus; they had an excellent doctor who was to worry on each of the people living in the circus. A veterinarian was responsible for animal health.

The animal shows were the most marvelous spectacle. I had the privilege of having many pets, all very beautiful. I remember when all the pups were beautiful but my favorite pet was the elephant named Dumbo. It was very intelligent, every calf from the elephant was trained by my father and then for me. The elephant and I did a show that was admired by everyone attending the circus, always had a role at three in the afternoon and again at eight at evening, the show had a duration of three hours. One of the saddest moments was when Dumbo's mom was killed by an infection that killed her, but Dumbo learned fast and together with me we became the stars of the circus.

Clowns wear pants and shirts of various colors and big buttons. Many times the clowns were sick but the show must go on, the clowns are an example of responsibility, and commitment. Clowns personal problems never interfered with work; we knew of the problems of each person, but the public did not know, as the family came to the circus for fun.

I was fortunate to have many friends in the circus. I had five families, and three children in each family. They all were of different nationalities, such as Colombian, Mexican, Italian, French and Japanese. They came to the United States as illegal immigrants looking for job opportunities. All the children had time to play, study and work but it was great fun. My favorite friends were Daniel, Anthony, Christopher, Joseph, Emma and Samantha. My great love was Samantha. She was always my friend and confidant; she was a beautiful girl, now a beautiful woman is tall, thin, and tender. I was twenty years old when I married Samantha, our marriage was in the circus. We had two children Paula and Bernard. In the circus everyone lived happily and everyone thought like me, was born in the circus, and in the circus will die. The circus was our family lifestyle.

## **Day in Zell am See**

*Nasser Alkhaili*

*R/W 31*

There are many places to travel in Austria. For example, Zell am see is a nice place to visit snow covered mountain, waterfall, Zell am See Lake and glider. Before your trip, you must follow some steps. When you arrive in the Zell

am See, reserve a hotel on the lake. Be ready for tomorrow morning at 6:00 to start. Before that, ask the hotel about the direction of the mountain of ice, waterfall, Zell am See Lake and glide.

The next day you are ready to visit snow covered mountain for skiing. First, define your direction to the snow covered mountain. The distance between the lake and the mountain is 40 minutes. Second, expect rain on the way, so be careful when you drive and drive slowly. When you arrive at the mountain you must take a ticket for the cable car. Third, you will take cable car three times to arrive to the top. Before you go to skiing, you must rent a jacket and tools for skiing. After that, you are ready to skiing. The skiing is wonderful, you must try it. You will never forget this day. There are two slopes for skiing. One is for professionals and the other for beginners, so I advise you to go to the beginner. After you finish skiing there is a restaurant you can eat there and get rested for your next step.

Next place to visit is waterfall. You will drive to the waterfall between 50 to 70 minutes, so enjoy the nice view when you drive your car. First stop your car in the parking and you must to pay \$ 5 for the parking. Second you must take ticket to entrance. It is between \$ 20 to 30 per person. Third you should walk about 3 minutes to arrive at the waterfall. The waterfall is very nice you will see more people there. You can take pictures there, so don't miss this chance. When you finish there is another restaurant you can eat and get rested for your third step.

Next place to visit is Zell am See Lake. The distance between the waterfall and Zell am See Lake is between 60 to 70 minutes, so drive carefully. When you arrive at the lake stop your car in the parking and go walking to the lake. First you can take a boat to make round the lake for one hour. Second when you finish you can go to take a ticket for the ship the cost between \$ 110 to 150 over and above the meal. Eat your meal on the ship and enjoy in the ship to see a nice view. When you finish, you are ready to your last step.

Next place to visit is glider. The distance between Zell am See Lake and the glider is between 15 to 20 minutes. The glider is a small air plane only for three to four people. First, when you arrive there you must get buy a ticket. The ticket costs \$50 for half an hour or \$ 100 for one hour per person. You should to wait your turn. When the glider takes off it is will take you around the lake and the mountain. You will see the lake from the glider after that the glider will get you to the mountain. In the mountain you will see the people skiing, and you will see the snow. You can speak to the pilot to drive the glider it is amazing if you do it. Finally, you will get bake to the land. When you finish get bake to the hotel and sleep you will arrive tired.

In summary, this trip is very nice trip to see and recognize Zell am See from the morning until the evening you will see more things there, so do not miss any steps if you are following this steps you will get a nice day in Zell am See.

## **Culture Shock**

*Modibo Keita*

*R/W 42*

Culture shock is the feeling of surprise, disorientation, uncertainty or confusion felt by people when they are in foreign countries. It has three phases which are the honeymoon phase when people are excited about the new environment and meeting new people, the negotiation phase in which people begin to notice the differences between their own culture and the new one, and the adjustment phase in which people try to get accustomed to the new culture. Most people go through these phases, but more specifically, many people face culture shock because all countries do not have the same culture, weather, or time zones.

For example, when I first came to the USA, I was really shocked to see girls in short shorts because in my country and mainly in my religion women are supposed to hide all parts of their body that can make men desire them. Another example comes from Saudi Arabia where men kiss each other on the cheek while they are greeting each other, but in the USA, people would probably think that they were gay and would certainly be shocked. Also, in my country, boys and girls study together, but in Saudi Arabia, it is forbidden to put girls and boys together. If someone from Saudi Arabia went to Mali, it would probably be difficult for him to study with girls around.

Like culture, the weather can also be a factor in culture shock. For example, when I came to Gainesville last summer, it was hot with a lot of humidity. It was unbearable for me because generally even though it gets hot in my country, there is almost no humidity. Also, people from my country who live in New York rarely go out in December when they first arrive there because of the cold and the snow. This kind of weather can only be seen on TV in my country.

The difference in time zones is also a factor in culture shock. For example, when I first came to the USA, I went to bed at 6pm and woke up at 3 or 4 a.m. in the morning because there is a 4 hour time difference between my country and the USA. Also, because of the time difference, I cannot call my country after 7pm.

In conclusion, culture shock is faced by all of us when we go to a foreign country because of culture differences, differences in weather, and time differences. It is difficult to get accustomed to new cultures and environments but it has its advantages. The advantages include learning the differences between your culture and other people's cultures and learning to respect and accept others cultures despite those differences

## **Kuwait City vs. Gainesville City**

*Talal Thwaini*

*R/W 3*

Today I am going to write a compare and contrast paragraph about the city of Gainesville and Kuwait City. The first thing that everybody can easily notice is the differences in the environment because the city of Gainesville is filled with

nature and rain as a result of its unique location. On the other hand, Kuwait City is located in a desert area, so you can rarely see nature such as plants, trees and also animals due to the lack of rain during all four season of the year and the harsh weather in summer and winter. The second thing is the history of the two places. The city of Gainesville's history goes back more than 150 years, but on the other hand, Kuwait City is roughly a new city when you compare it to the city of Gainesville. The third thing that anyone can easily spot is the difference in the language that people speak in their daily lives and the main religion of each of the two cities. In Kuwait City, almost everybody speaks Arabic and most people are Muslims; however, in the city of Gainesville the main language is English and the key religion is Christianity. Even though there are many differences between the city of Gainesville and Kuwait City, there are many similarities such as the heat in summer because both cities are extremely hot in summer and also people in both cities are friendly and always welcome other people from other countries and cultures. I think that both cities are beautiful; I think that anyone can easily live in them without any troubles.

## **St. Augustine**

*Mahmoud Khedher Agha*

*R/W 31*

Have you been in a Hispanic Fort? Do you want to see the Atlantic Ocean? Do you want to see the old lighthouse? If you want to visit all these things and more, follow the steps below. They are easy steps and you will enjoy a lot when you go there. There is the oldest European city in the United States which has a lot of places to visit. You can go there by a bus or by car, but the best thing you can do to enjoy it is to take your car. First of all choose the best weekend. Do you know there is free parking on the weekend? Then check your car one or two days before you go, check the oil, fuel, tires and filters. Also, you can prepare a picnic by taking some food, drinks, a hat, sun screen, swim suit, Frisbee, a ball, folding chair and don't forget the most important thing which is a camera. You can go there with your family and your friends; it's a very nice trip. The second step is to go online to get the direction from your house to this place you can also use the GPS to go there. Now you are ready to spend the perfect day in St. Augustine by following these steps.

The first step is to wake up early, wake up your family and phone your friend. After that put your bags in the car and make sure to drive the speed limit. When you get to St. Augustine, you can go directly to the main street in St. Augustine which is Florida A1A Street and go south until you see the huge fort on the left before the bridge.

The first gorgeous place is St. Augustine Fort which cold Castillo De San Marcos. When you get there, park your car in the garage; make sure to bring your camera with you from your car. After that, buy the tickets to enter the fort. While you are entering the fort, don't forget to take picture in front of the huge gate and buy a map of the fort to help you recognize all the places you can go there. After you enter the fort, you will see in the middle a nice plaza around the plaza there are

different kinds of rooms, for examples, in the ground there are the guard rooms, prison, bathrooms, chapel, British room, storage rooms, a horse barn and a weapon room. In these rooms, you will see a lot of old things like the Native American tools, Hispanic swords and handguns, and the bed of a Hispanic soldier. On the first deck of the fort there is a huge roof. In it there are four watchtowers and a lot of old guns, also you can see the Atlantic Ocean from the roof and a lot of old ships in it. Around the fort there is a moat, a covered way, a shot furnace and a narrow fence. You will really enjoy this fort a lot.

The second gorgeous place is St. Augustine lighthouse. You can go there by crossing the bridge and go south east for 1 mile then turn left on Busam Street. Then turn right on Lighthouse Ave. You will see the beautiful light house ahead. When you look at it, you will see tower painted with white and black. While you enter in it you will see a nice, black and round stair. If you look from the lighthouse you will see all of St. Augustine like the fort, the beach, the bridge and the Ocean. The upstairs of the watchtower is covered by glass and the outside of the glass rounded by walkway with red iron fence. You can walk on it and you can see what you want. It's really an amazing lighthouse and the highest place in St. Augustine.

The third gorgeous place is St. Augustine Beach. You can go there by going back to the Florida A1A Street and go south for 1.8 miles then turn left on Co Road A1A then turn right onto Pope Road. You will see the beautiful beach ahead. Park your car in the garage and change your clothes in the restroom. Don't forget to take with you the sun screen, ball, Frisbee, folding chair and some food. On the beach you can swim, play with the ball or the Frisbee in the water or on the shore. Also you can lie on the folding chair to rest, enjoy looking at the Atlantic Ocean and you can eat some food. After that you can enjoy building a sand castle. Don't forget to take some pictures of the sand castle, the beach and your family. As a result you will relish the time at the beach because it's a relaxing place.

In short, you can enjoy seeing the fort, the lighthouse and the beach all these different places in one day. All in all, it is clear that you will get pleasure from the oldest fort, lighthouse and the nice beach. You will never forget this trip at all.

## **Sudan: Unique and Diverse**

*Ammal Eltigani*

*R/W 50*

Sudan is my country. It is the largest country in Africa; about 1,000,000 square miles. Sudan has the longest river in the world, the Nile River. It divides the land into South and North. The Nile River has an amazing natural sights; it makes the area beautiful and green all year around. Sudan is a big country, and that is why it has different cultures and different tribes. This

mixture of people has given Sudan a unique type of tradition and over 142 different local languages. Arabic is the official language in Sudan, and then comes English in second place. Besides that, we have different religions actually all type of religions that you can think about, the reason is the great mixture of these people that Sudan have.

## **Love and Detoxification**

*Tara Shaker*

*R/W 41*

I guess love is the first language around the world because feelings are the only bridge between lovers, and there is no age, no time, and no place for this gift. So, it is not surprising to see people from different backgrounds fall in love. But for me, LOVE has a different meaning. It is not between female or male. It takes place far away from reality and is like imagination, but it is for me. It is the best thing for a human being. I can fall in love in small grape leaf because I alone stopped in front of this tree, or I can fall in love in a simple ring I cannot ride of it. So, fall in love without borders; let us fly without airplanes or visas. Close our eyes to be in Spain or France whenever we want; let us hold the arms for humanity and peace. Celebrate all of our days not just on Valentine's Day. We can do it. It is not hard. We need to love each other again, especially in these hard days. Let us buy wings to fly and tell all the nations about love instead of buying unnecessary gifts for Christmas and the happy New Year.

In this month we are going to celebrate Christmas and enter 2010, some people have decided to travel or prepare for a party. But, have you ever decided to make a resolution for the next year? For me, I wrote down a good resolution for 2010, and it is not about finding a job or traveling. No, it is far away from these thoughts; I decided to take care of my health. Yes, my health. All of us with the advantages of technology have forgotten our health. Have you asked yourself if your body contains toxins or if you eat healthy food? A few people can answer 'yes,' but what about the rest of the people? Five years ago, I started to think about my diet seriously. I kicked many habits and I am enjoying eating healthy food that does not mean "Rabbit Food." So, let's put forth this resolution about "Detoxification." We can try it just for one week; just enjoy eating raw vegetables and fruit, and after that I'm sure that you will have another mood and I'm positive you are going to lose weight. So, just do don't hesitate and make it the first thing for the New Year.

## **The Strongest Weapon on Earth**

*Miguel Dempere*

*R/W 41*

Since the beginning of time, people have made ways to entertain themselves. In times of suffering, hard work, and searching for a new way to survive, they found a way to calm the hardest minds, the wildest beings, and broken hearts. In fact, they found the strongest weapon on Earth, but not everyone can handle it. Only a few are born with the knowledge to use this

weapon, but all people like it. Let me explain better, this weapon is not for killing. One of the most important effects that this weapon has on people is their heart rate starts to go up, the muscles start to constrict, and the bones start to move without authorization from the brain. It is a weapon, but it was made for change. People feel fear the first time they feel it, but after time flows by we love it. People use it when they want to confront the government without having war. In addition, this weapon has many kinds of bullets, so the people around the world can feel comfortable with it. In my opinion, this is the greatest discovery of human kind, and I love it. Music.

## **To Have Fun in Universal**

*Anfal Hathah*

*R/W 31*

Do you have any plans for your vacations yet? Have fun without spending a lot of money with Universal Orlando Resort! Universal Orlando is the best place for people who like dangerous riders and the pleasant rides for the children too. Thus, if you are one of these people or planning to visit Universal one day, this is your guide.

First of all, get your ticket by logging in online to the Universal website ([www.universalorlando.com](http://www.universalorlando.com)). After you log into that page, click on the BUY TICKET link. After that, choose the park ticket on the left hand side of the screen. Then select the ticket which has one day with two parks. The most important step is to have express ticket! Do not forget to get the express ticket which lets you skip the regular lines at participating rides and attractions throughout the theme parks. Finally, print out your ticket report and drive to spend the perfect day at the Universal.

The second step after you get your ticket is to arrange your trip and your time to get on all the rides. First, go to the line to get your express ticket. After that, go to Universal's Islands of Adventure to have an unforgettable journey as the world's most cutting edge rides. Go to The Hulk Incredible Coaster to feel the rage as the Hulk shoots you from zero to 40 miles per hour in two seconds. Do not worry about the waiting line you already have the express ticket! So, it will take around 4 to 6 minutes to finish this ride. Then, go to Spider Man's three-dimensional spider man's adventure. Many people love Spider Man, so it will take a little bit longer around 10 minutes to finish this ride. After Spider Man, go to the Dueling Dragon to try the most dangerous ride in Universal's Islands of Adventure and live the events of air duel between the fiery dragon and ice dragon and it will take around 7 minutes. Now you have finished the important rides in Universal's Islands of Adventure theme park and you can ride the rest within 75 minutes. Finally, keep in mind to take as many commemorative photos with Universal's Islands of Adventure heroes such as Spider Man and Popeye and The Cat in The Hat as you can. Then, rest and find something to eat.

The last step is to go to Universal Studios to continue enjoying your fun time. First, go to see the moments of death and see the cow flying as many Oklahoma residents saw at the Twister. The Twister will take 7 minutes. Then go to the Shrek

to spend 5 minutes to help save Princess Fiona through the miracle of Ogre Vision will see, hear, and feel the action. After saving Princess Fiona, take your favorite music for a ride on the Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit. On this ride, you choose your own music and feel the real horror and enjoy listening to the music within 15 minutes include the waiting line. Also, you can ride in the rest of the other games within 60 minutes in Universal Studios Florida. Finally, take the photos with your favorite Universal's Studios characters like Scooby Doo, Shrek and Snoopy.

By following these steps you would have enjoyed the exciting adventures in Universal within just 185 minutes. Then, you can go back home to share your photos and the experience with your friends and tell them about your great adventure in Universal.

## **Cultures Differences**

*Ammal Eltigani*

*R/W 50*

Societies have been divided into two basic beliefs: Individualism and collectivism. Individualist cultures, such as the United States, Western Europe and Canada, look after themselves and their personal goals. In contrast collectivist cultures, such as China, Korea, Japan, Africa and Middle East they emphasize family and group work. These differences of values reflect in their friendships, family structures and educations.

Depending on how people interact with others in and out of their group these two cultures modes differ significantly. Individualists are very good at entering and leaving their groups, they can establish these relations superficially, seeking their own personal needs and interests. Some studies reveal that individualists are more likely to trust strangers which makes them very skilled in making new friends. In other words, they are less social with people in their in group. In contrast, collectivist are very loyal to their group, they have very intimate relations with the member of their group, which is why they are not very skilled at making new friends, but they can maintain their relationships for a long time and pay more attention to the needs and goals of their in group members. In conclusion, individualists are more concerned with their relations depend on their needs and personal goals, whereas collectivists have long intimate relations looking after their groups needs.

Individualist and Collectivist value their family relationships in different ways. Individualists are independent, more voluntary in their family relations, and some have discontinued contact with their family members because they have no values or interests to share with them. But, collectivists have strong relations with their family, close family ties and loyalty. Moreover, they describe family contact as a pleasure. An example of these differences is their care for the elderly. Individualists do not usually provide care themselves they hire someone else or send them to nursing homes. Their elderly do not expect in home care from their children, because they have a feeling it is more of an obligation. On the other hand, collectivists take care of their elderly in person and describe it

as more of an attachment towards their parents rather than obligations. In conclusion, individualists provide less care for their elderly; because they do not think it is their responsibility, but collectivists honor this elder care and consider it as a high level of commitment to their family members.

Besides differences in family structures, there are also some changes in the way these cultures value educations. According to some studies the purpose of education varies between these two cultural modes. For instance, students in individualist culture learn how to learn by being more independent in their studies and continues throughout. This learning would prepare the individual for the future and new life situations, also students are encouraged to be self-reliant and competitive to reach their personal goals. In collectivist cultures the purpose of learning is to focus on the customs and traditions of society to be a better group member. In other words collectivists learn how to conform to society. The learner in collectivist culture feels comfortable with traditions; they work as a team and cooperate in their classroom, but they cannot speak up unless asked a question by the teacher, however individualists speak even if they are not personally asked. Over all, individualists teacher let students search and learn by themselves with some headed lines and that can help them to be prepared to the future and be self reliant on the other hand, Collectivists might feel uncomfortable if the teacher practices this type of learning with them. Collectivists are always comfortable with the traditional and team work.

In conclusion, values and cultures differ between these two types of societies, individualist think more about "I" and they focus on changing the environment to fit themselves, they are more self reliant, independent and have more freedom. In contrast a collectivist thinks more of "we" and they change themselves to fit the group and their society's needs, so the others are more important than the person. In the end culture is responsible of the way we learn, how we relate to the people in our lives, and cultures is starting step to understand our behavior and how to live.

## God and Aliens: What Do They Have in Common?

*Francisco Garrido*  
R/W 50

Believe. What is to believe? Affirming that something exists without having factual proof. Therefore, if someone believes in life on other planets, he should believe in God too. Because both questions come from the same concept of thinking that something is there without actually knowing. But, the fact is that we don't have the proof to either accept or reject the existence of God or aliens. That takes us to a death point--where the only way out is having faith.

Faith has been on the Earth since humans had a sense of existence, and it was always used to explain things that our science couldn't explain. For example, three thousand years ago people had to be buried facing the east because they thought that the sun would give them redemption. Two thousand years

ago, people thought that thunder was made by an angry God. Five hundred years ago the whole civilization thought that the Earth was flat. A hundred years ago, that flying was only for the birds. Fifty years ago people actually thought that men would never be able to land on the moon. The point is that we have always used faith to explain things that our science hasn't reached yet. So, the next time you are asked if you believe in aliens, think that is always better to say you don't know than to make something up.

## Male and Female Differences in Communication

*Philipp Baires Herrera*  
R/W 60

Men and women have developed differently over the past thousands of years. Nowadays, both sexes are distinguished by a lot of differences which can sometimes cause misunderstandings and dispute in workaday life.

Women often think that men don't take them seriously and misbehave. Men, on the other hand, can't understand why females trouble over men's behavior and why, from men's point of view, they do some things in an unusual manner. These conflicts and problems have always existed. Even if it's almost impossible to explain why men and women possess such different personalities and attitudes, it isn't a big difficulty to recognize them. For this reason, many studies have been conducted to discover all these contrasts of the male and female nature. Experiments have demonstrated that they differ not only physically but also mentally.

For example, men and women have diversities in spending their money, working and especially communicating. But what can you imagine if you hear this word? Communication is defined as a "process whereby information is enclosed in a package and is channeled and imparted by a sender to a receiver via some medium. The receiver then decodes the message and gives the sender a feedback" (Communication, no year, no page). The communication between men and women is mainly characterized by the pursuit of intimacy and independence.

While women tend to share their plans with their partners, men often make decisions on their own (Deborah Tannen, 1991, no page). For example, they sometimes invite guests to their homes without discussing the issue with their wives so that they get really upset and react incomprehensibly. However, according to Deborah Tannen, this attitude doesn't mean that they are ignorant and aren't thinking of their wives, but they just want to have the feeling to be free and independent and not be treated as children. Women in contrast, assume that partners should talk about their plans and consult each other before making their own decisions (Deborah Tannen, 1990, no page). These are the main reasons why sometimes conflicts arise between these two sexes and why one side feels inferior, while the other side feels neglected.

In addition, women expect consensus. For them conversation has nothing to do with pulling down the two partners. Quite the opposite is the case; women want their partners to be a new, better version of a very close friend. They want their spouses to talk about their current situations and emotions. That implies that their lives are involved with their partner and that they talk about everything, both problems and good experiences. In their opinion this represents the closeness of a relationship. Men, however, associate this mental attitude with control. It makes them feel that their spouses want to know everything and that they have the duty to talk to their wives first, before making decisions. Because of that they think their independence and freedom are alleviated (Deborah Tannen, 1991, no page).

Women and men also have differences in the way of talking and listening to each other. According to a study by Deborah Tannen, women spend much more time on a topic, while men changed their conversation topics numerous times. (Deborah Tannen, 1990, no page).

Additionally, as a comedian in a youtube video comically demonstrated, women tend more to connect these topics because of the fact that their brains are wired. (Differences between the brain, male and female, Azores45 , 2009) These two conversation styles could also be further reasons why women have sometimes the impression that men aren't listening to them.

In fact, the male sex pays attention with only half of their brains. A study conducted by Lindsey Tanner showed that men only use their right hemisphere of their brain when they are listening to another person. Women in this experiment, however, used not only their left side of the brain which is mainly responsible for understanding and language, but they also used their right hemisphere. Even if this study proves that the organization of the brains differ between the sexes, there is no proves that women have better abilities to pay attention than men. Quite the contrary could be the case; men could have the ability of receiving the same information as women do by using just one side of their brain (Lindsey Tanner, 2000, p. 4A).

Another conspicuous difference of talking between men and women is the quantity of speaking. According to "Women talk three times as much as men, says study," women are much more talkative than men are. "In fact, women talk almost three times as much as men, with the average woman chalking up 20,000 words in a day - 13,000 more than the average man" (Fiona Macrae, 2006, no page).

Nevertheless, women tend more to show the speaker that they are paying attention and are also interested in its topics. Lynette Hirschman, a linguist, examined these behaviors and summarized them in a study. She found out "that women make more listener-noise, such as 'mhm', 'uhuh', and 'yeah'" (Deborah Tannen, 1990, no page). This attitude might also be a possible reason why women expect this kind of behavior from men and why they feel uncomfortable when they are confronted with a listener who doesn't give the speaker any of these signals.

First and foremost, they want men to be conversational partners who listen to the speaker, whereas the male sex prefers

the passive conversation because in their opinion too many signals of attention symbolize "overreaction or impatience" (Deborah Tannen, 1990, no page). Another way of conversation which women exhibit is finishing the sentences of the opposite person and initializing the following sentence. Men interpret these behaviors as "interruption, intrusion and lack of attention" (Deborah Tannen, 1990, no page).

Another major difference of the communication between men and women is the body language and the way both sexes are listening to each other. A study made by the psychologist Bruce Dorval who analyzed videos of men and women showed that "at every age, the girls and women faced each other directly, their eyes anchored on each other's faces. At every age, the boys and men sat at angles to each other and looked elsewhere in the room, periodically glancing at each other" (Deborah Tannen, 1990, no page).

This difference how men and women behave themselves can cause misunderstanding because sometimes women get the impression that the men they're talking to aren't listening and aren't interested in what they are saying. This male behavior probably has its origins at the child age (Deborah Tannen, 1990, no page).

All these differences which make out the male and female sexes since its inception, influence human beings in our society the whole time, sometimes without recognizing them.

People's attitudes act in accordance with whom they are talking to. Their behaviors change when facing the opposite sex and all of their differences become noticeable. Especially, differences in their way of communicating show obviously and there is no distinction if it's about simple conversations, their body language or listening to other people.

On the other hand, how would the life of human beings look like if there weren't any contrasts at all? These particular characteristics just make men and women unique and complete their personalities. Even if a lot of conflicts arise between both sexes, neither of them could live a complete life without the other part. In contrast, for some reason they depend and have to get along with each other. Moreover, both should be open-minded and tolerant instead of judging the other sex.

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## Gender Differences in the Workplace

Jie Xiang

R/W 60

### Introduction

Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus. That is true. Men and women have so many differences. They have different values, habits, communication styles, the way of thinking, even different brains. They play by different rules. It is undeniable that some differences between men and women are biological, which are unchangeable. Have you heard a really common saying from women: "I do not know what I can do with him. I seem to push them away. Maybe I'm too demanding, or not demanding enough. Men are so confusing." Men, in contrast, are complaining: "I never get women. I must be doing something wrong. Women are so hard to understand." Men and women are like attractive contradictions which are totally different from each other. But, God made the world of men and women. Even though they have been fighting all the time, they have to live and work together.

Since women succeeded to earn the equal work rights with men, the big differences between men and women have come to the offices. Generally, men are more likely to pursue achievement and success at work; in contrast, women focus on relationships and communicative satisfactions at work. In the workplace, men might be more aggressive, hard, direct, controlling, and professional than women. On the other hand, women are more likely to be moody, gossipy, catty, and emotional. Results of the survey conducted by Elle and MSNBC.com in 2007 showed that among 60,000 respondents, 41 percent of male respondents thought men do tend to be good leaders, and 33 percent of women agreed (Tahmincioglu, 2007). To analyze the differences between men and women in the workplace it is meaningful to create a company's culture and to diminish conflicts at workplace. Obvious differences include communication style, work value, decision making and office relationship between men and women as follows.

### Communication style

When gender difference becomes a discussion topic, without any surprise, communication is usually still the first thing brought to the table. In the same way, when gender difference in the workplace becomes our specific discussion topic this time, there is no way to skip this very interesting part! Communication, as most of other human natures, is conducted in really different ways by men and women. The difference exists obviously in family, school and social lives. And, after up to years of professional training, after instilling all the concepts of working equality in gender and after being restrained by all the rules, duties and regulations, it is still there at the workplace.

The typical and basic communication in the workplace is of course something about work. It can be discussing solutions, describing tasks or reporting situations. In these cases men extremely need direct and clear words. They prefer exact facts and numbers, clear commands and detailed allocation of tasks. At the same time, they don't care much if the conversation is very polite. Women, on the other hand, are more sensitive and they have a more collaborative attitude, so they tend to use many courtesy words in these cases. For instance, when some emergency work is due at 5 pm today, women tell you they would like it if it can be done by 5 pm today, while men probably tell you directly it has to be done by 5 pm today. When women think your idea is wrong, they may say, "Maybe, we can try it in another way" or "If we do it in another way, it may be better." In the same case, men will directly say, "No, you are wrong, it won't work. We should do it in another way." This difference always brings problems to people who don't realize it. Men are confused about the polite women's expression. They get the wrong message about exactly when, what, and how the work should be done. By the same token, women get offense from men's "bossy" expression.

In addition, men always like to talk to get information, but women like to ask questions to get information and to come up with answers. When women are asking questions about a job, men are trying to think for themselves until they feel that they can't fix them.

### Work value and job preference

Work value is another relevant element to differentiate men and women. People expect to achieve certain ideals from their jobs, employers, and careers. Work values differ across the board depending on the work that is being done, the people that are doing it and how they are being managed. According to Marianne Legato, M.D., founder and director of the Partnership for Gender-Based Medicine, Columbia University and one of the study's lead advisers, the top three values at work to men are pay and benefits; achievement and success; status and authority. While those three values are also working with women, the more important values to women are friendships and relationships at work; recognition and respect; and communication and collaboration (Valentine, 2009).

Generally, in the workplace, men are as aggressive as on the battlefield. They emphasize how much they are making and how much they are going to take. They are pursuing the profits by all the ways. Promotion is considered as the biggest motivation to strive harder. They are not willing to have real friendship at work, just teammates. Success on the job might be the only way to prove their personal values.

Meanwhile, as catty office ladies, achievement and success are also the values they are looking forward to. But there is something more important than promotion and benefits. They care much more how do people think about them, and how do the others treat them. They could be more excited to have a good office friend than to have a potential client. They are more likely to appreciate the satisfaction from good relationships and communications at work rather than success of achievements. They try to find who they are and where they are exactly in workplace.

The differences of job position at work show the differences of work value. Based on the survey, most of the respondents preferred men to be leaders (Valentine, 2009). Generally, men always have the more important and competitive seats at work which need more ambition and power, such as managers, developers, and project leaders. However, the stereotype for women is that they are supposed to be able to do the tiny, communicative, and coordinate jobs. We can see a lot of women being accountant, secretary, and coordinator at work.

In addition, men and women show their different preferences for kinds of job. A survey conducted by Pompa mentioned that 59 percent of female respondents want to be an elementary teacher which only has 7 percent male candidates; 41 percent of men preferred airline pilot, but only 6 percent of women want to be; 29 percent of men tend to be a lawyer which 21 percent of women are also interested in (Pompa, 2006). Because of differences of characteristics, men always choose more challenging and risky jobs than women who prefer stable, communicative and collaborative work.

### **Professional office relationship**

Office relationship is considered part of a company's culture. The atmosphere of the office influences employees' performance and efficiency. How do we get along with colleagues? Men and women have their different answers for these questions.

Probably, men are likely to build up a simple and direct relationship with all the colleagues. Actually, office politics is more complicated than they thought. Men have a good sense of teamwork, they will get along very well with their teammates to achieve their goals, but they do not want to keep a very close relationship with mates out of work. At this point, men behave more defensively and self-protectively.

Back to women, they perform a different way for working with other. Because of their emotional nature, women always have a strong willingness to have a good and close relationship with their surroundings. The best way to get others' trust is sharing secrets. That is the reason why women always are considered as the speaker of gossip. Women easily show their preferences and unhappiness for other people which sometimes will influence the team morale. According to the survey, about 33 percent of respondents preferred to work for a man; only 13 percent want to work for a woman (Tahmincioglu, 2007).

In addition, the romantic relationship is coming to be a hot button issue in the workplace nowadays. As Anderson said, the workplace is a natural environment for a romantic relationship because men and women always work a long time together in a relatively small space (Anderson & Fisher, 1991). But men and women are looking for totally different attractions from romantic relationships. Men are looking forward to the excitement, ego satisfaction, and sexual advantage. Women, though, are more likely to care about organizational rewards (Quinn, 1977).

### **Decision making**

Decision making is viewed as a socially desired response. Jayson said, "Women tend to make more decisions in terms of the home and taking care of the home and taking care of the kids. Men make more decisions in terms of the finances and around jobs" (2008, ¶2). This is a nature difference between genders. As long as women have relatively equal work rights with men, and women are supposed to be leader more and more, it is necessary to find out differences of decision making specifically between men and women more. These differences determined totally different decision strategies for work and the consequences. We can never forget the nature aspect for women. That is emotion. Even though she is CEO of this company, she is still supposed to be viewed as an emotional decisive leader. When women come out with a decision, they always are interrupted by many other things, even though some of them are unrelated with the decision. Women also like to talk with others to get more information and ideas when they are thinking of the decision. "Here is an interesting idea in gender differences in decision making. Women use other people's opinions to help make their own decision. Men use other people's decisions to help them form their own opinion" ("Gender Differences in. . .," 2009).

Moreover, men always make decisions in logical way. They do not like to discuss with other people, some of them refusing all the suggestions and help from others'. Usually, men do a lot of research for making decisions appropriately. They do not like women to come out the decision immediately. They are more likely to think of it alone for a while. Men are focused on more long-term results, instead of short-term for women. Men are good at acting out their authority to make decision; women prefer to work through people, even if they have the power to act unilaterally.

### **Conclusion**

Gender difference is such a broad topic which gets involved in every area. The workplace is a typical sample to determine these differences between men and women. Men are always viewed as logical, rational, reasonable, and wise, so they are supposed to take the decisive, responsible, supportive and organized missions. Women are viewed as talkative, emotional, sensitive and collaborative, so they are expected to be competent for group work, and coordinative tasks. Men usually like a relatively simple, direct but efficient way to communicate, but women talk and share all the things with their surroundings to show their friendliness and respect. Different work values decide different performances in the workplace. Some people may feel that a woman's emotionality and difficulty making decisions is a professional weakness. These characteristics might not be changed, but they can be improved. Analyzing gender differences in the workplace may help us know what the differences are exactly and then improve performances by avoiding the weakness.

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## Differences Between Men and Women in Communication: Do You Understand What I Mean?

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*R/W 60*

Since the beginning of time, men and women have had different ways to look at things, to think, to communicate. These differences are the result of different ways in which women and men are raised. Always, women are treated in a different way. Since we were children, we can see that men and women are separated in the games we play, the parties, the people whom we share most of our time with. For example, it is more likely that boys spend more time with their dads and women spend more time with their mothers. On the other hand, women not only are treated in a different way. Also they have a different environment, where everything is girl-like. They practice different sports, like ballet, gymnastics, and music, among others. In fact, even if they had had the same environment they act in a particular way. Women tend to be friendlier, they gather in small groups where there are no hierarchical positions, and only think about sharing feelings,

emotions, and thoughts. In contrast, men are tougher. Our environment makes us like that. There are hierarchical positions, we gather in big groups where there are challenges, competition, and we do not care much about the other if we are playing. That's why men and women also communicate in a different way. We can see these common differences in the way they communicate, use body language, listen, and which topics are used in conversation.

Conversation has always been the most effective and direct form of communication among humans. On the one hand, women communicate in a particular way. They are always looking for intimacy and creating connection with the people they talk to; it does not matter if they are talking to people of the same gender or people from the opposite gender. According to Andra Stanton, "For women, an important part of life consists of an effort to develop and preserve intimacy. And conversations help to achieve this goal" (2001, p. 1). Also, when they are talking women in general usually do not want an opinion or suggestion; they are seeking a listener that helps them to release their tension or stress about a certain topic or situation. Moreover, women do not have or use status in a conversation, and they can interact with more than one person back and forth in one or more topics at the same time without having any problem.

On the other hand, men use a different way to communicate. Men in conversation are more concerned about their independence. If they are talking to another person of the same gender, they would be cautious because conversation in men has hierarchical status. If someone interrupts another person that would be a loss of control in the conversation, and among men this is a huge deal. In addition, men in conversation always will try to assume a position and stick to it without hesitation. For example, if a man is having a conversation with another person, and this person is giving him advice or saying to him that he is wrong or maybe he has to change his mind, this man would react with some kind of dislike because men assume that they are totally independent and something like this would be seen like the other person is trying to take control over him. This is in line with Deborah Tannen's thought that "independence is key, because a primary means of establishing status is to tell other what to do, and taking orders is a marker of low status" (1990, p. 1)

With this in mind, we can see the different styles that men and women use to communicate and also the different points of view that they have. This is why men and women have issues communicating with each other. A proof of this will be the divorce rate in America, which it is close to 50%, and in most of the cases it is attributed to bad communication (Tannen, 1990, p. 1).

All these issues that men and women have with communication are not a matter of coincidence or the age. Studies have shown these patterns are present since they were kids. "The beginnings of these differences can be seen in childhood interactions. Boys and girls tend to play in same-sex groups and, though some play-activities are similar, boys' and girls' favorite games are different" (Stanton, 2001, p. 2). Boys tend to play more in the outdoor, playing with animals, cars, trucks, and also these games could always turn a little bit

aggressive. On the contrary, women play more inside the house. Dolls, Barbies, family house are among the most popular games for girls.

In addition, another difference in conversation between men and women is that men tend to be more open to talk in public rather than at home. This behavior could be the result of men trying to assume the control of a situation in a speech, lecture or workshop. They are likely to engage in “report speech” (Stanton, 2001, p. 2). Women differed in this point. They are not as confident as men in public. They prefer to leave all the talking and expressing their feelings at home where they feel safe and comfortable.

Another way that men and women communicate is using body language, although most people act unconsciously in this matter. Body language derives from the limbic system, which is the oldest part of the brain and it is the one in charge not only of feelings, emotions, hunger but also of the blood pressure, pulse, and breathing in a certain situation (Rodriguez, 2005, ¶ 1).

The majority of the gestures that men and women use in their body language has been studied for a long time, and most of the time are compared with the same gestures that animals do in the wild. For example, many people have seen animals when they lick their lips. This happens when they are about to hunt or kill prey, and it's compared to humans in the way that men lick their lips when something appears desirable. Another example is when men sway while they are talking. This behavior is an unconscious reflection of a mother's moment when they were babies; in addition, this means they are happy. Yet another example is when a man runs his hand through his hair. This means that he is trying to show his best potential and also his look; this is compared to birds in the wild when the birds spread their wings to show off to a potential mate (Men's body language, decoded: What's he really telling you? 2005, ¶ 1,3,7).

In contrast, women use another kind of body language to communicate and express what they are thinking and feeling. In fact, studies have shown that women use more body language than men, about five times more. This makes women more familiar with body language, and yield them to become experts in this subject, making it easier for them to read men's body language (Women frequently send body language messages to men, 2005, ¶ 1).

These results show that men and women use their body language to express what they are thinking and feeling, but in different ways. Women use more body language than men, and they use it to flirt with people of the opposite sex. Thus, this is why men make a great deal of mistakes trying to send the right signals to women, and this facilitates women reading men's body language.

Another subject that men and women differ is the way in which they listen. On the one hand, men listen with one side of their brain, the left part, which is the one to process the information in a linear matter, logical thinking, mathematics, and calculus. On the other hand, women use both sides of their brain making them able to maintain more than one conversation at a time. A woman can be listening and talking to more than

one person at the same time with different topics and perfectly interact without losing track of any of the conversation.

In order to find more results studies have used FMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) and the results clearly showed “increased blood flow in the left lobes of men's brains,” according to Lindsey Tanner. “In women, both lobes showed activity” (2009, p. 1).

Also this study showed that women are the prime beneficiaries of this phenomenon and according to Edgar Kenton of the American Stroke Association, “women might recover language ability more quickly than men” if they suffer a stroke (2009, p. 2).

Yet another subject where men and women encounter differences is the topics that they use in conversation. Generally speaking is easy to assume that men and women talk about different things, but goes beyond that. This behavior was first studied by Henry Moore in 1992, where he found that this tendency will “persist over time” (Bischopping, 1993, p.1). Since then, many studies have supported this first statement that these differences will persist over time.

The main reason is the background that men and women have when they were children. For instance, men mainly talk about sports, sex, business(money), cars because this have been the environment that surrounds men or even makes men feel more comfortable. On the other side, women tend to be more susceptible about their topics. They rather talk about relationships, feelings, gossips, food, among others. This behavior occurs when they are talking with people of the same gender.

However, through the years since the first study, researchers have found that there are slight changes in the topics of conversation for each gender. This is a natural process because as the world change, people change as well. The reasons of these changes are mostly related with education. When people become more literate they start to talk about deeper subjects. For example, history, arts, business, politics, among others. This is nothing to be afraid of, on the contrary is a good thing from my perspective. I could not imagine if both sexes would talk about the same topics. It would be tedious and strange.

In conclusion, men and women will always have differences between them, it's just nature. The importance in this matter is how to manage these differences because it has been proved that one of the main reasons people have troubles and get divorced is related to bad communication. It could sound strange, but people do not know how to communicate with the opposite sex. This is also why there are a great deal of psychologist writing books and articles, and also that's why they have become rich and famous. People should take a little more time and patience when talking with the opposite sex because the most effective way to understand and communicate is through conversation.

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## Gender Differences Regarding Financial Aspects

Raeun Kim  
R/W 60

### Introduction

Men and women are very different. It is commonly recognized that there are many differences between men and women. In fact, there is a famous statement that shows these differences obviously: "Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus" (Gray, 1992, p. 1). Men and women are different in many aspects, for example, way of thinking, abilities in certain area, habits, communication way, having relationships, and so on. Some researchers found the reasons in different way of raising children depending on sex or being treated in society or their friendship of same sex. However, it is very difficult to define the exact reason because they are related with each other complicatedly.

It is commonly known by the people in general that men like playing sports, talking about women, gathering together and drinking, but women prefer shopping, gossiping, and reading magazines. Men are generally independent, strong, tough, and outgoing. However, women are more likely to be emotional, intimate, introverted, and talkative than men. Because of those differences, men and women often argue with each other. In terms of communication, according to Deborah Tannen (1990, p. 1), "The different notions of communication that women and men have can lead to conflict between them." Besides the communication, there are so many differences that we can think about. There have been a lot of studies about gender differences over the decades, and we have seen some general characteristics and abilities depending on sexes.

To study and find out gender differences between men and women regarding certain aspects is very important because it can help to make some guidelines in the way of understanding the opposite gender's properties. Also, we can learn the general and specific tendencies so that we avoid misunderstanding each other. This research paper will focus on differences of financial aspects, such as, investment, shopping habits, and salaries. Moreover, I will show the reasons why these differences came about, and what we can learn from these differences.

### Investment

Earning a lot of money is every human's dream. Of course, money cannot be the first objective, but money could be an important manner to live successful lives. In modern society, as life span is getting longer, it is emphasized that we have to think about our old age while we are in the working age. People should prepare their own lives for the time after they retire. To have enough money, our salaries are very important. Also, these days, not only just saving money but also investing money in certain areas is considerably brought into relief. Investment is one of the most necessary ways to expand the amount of money that we have had.

As a matter of fact, there are several gender differences in investment. A recent survey showed that "more women than men describe themselves as 'bargain hunters' while more men than women describe themselves, in terms of money style, as 'risk takers'" (Financial practicality vs..., 2001, ¶2). This means that women usually use practical methodologies while men hope for big success as they have many chances (Financial practicality vs..., 2001, ¶2). In other words, women tend to invest in an area with which they are more familiar, and men are more likely to take risks than women. One of the reasons that men take more risks is that men think they have more knowledge in investment. According to Barrett (2007, ¶ 5), "While just 19% of women felt they had a comprehensive understanding of investments, this figure soars to 31% of men. Additionally, 54% of men would be happy to put a significant amount of their money into high-risk investments, compared with 43% of women." It is substantially connected with the percentage of market share depends on sex. Usually, the stock market is dominated by men. Most fund managers are males, and women are less likely to invest money. Because of this trend, males can have more knowledge in investment, and feel they have higher confidence. Those enable males to take high risks, and these all factors are reflected in the stock market.

The reason why women want more security and certainty than men is found in our early lives. The results of a study conducted by Professor John Maule of the Leeds University Business School showed that gender differences of investment style came from women's status in society. "In traditional female roles they may not have the same amount of money, so it's more to do with status than any fundamental difference," said Maule. "Women tend to look after the day-to-day family finances, and don't look any further. They budget within their allowance, pay all the bills and do all the shopping, but they don't look ahead" (Coles, 2009, ¶27). In addition, there is another reason. Because women generally cannot work

as long as men do, earn less money, and don't have enough benefits, "it is important for women to know there are practical, affordable, easy-to-use tools available that can help them pinpoint and achieve their short- and long-term financial goals and priorities" (Financial practicality vs..., 2001, ¶3).

However, these women's properties don't always explain women's inferiorities in investment. Ironically, females showed better achievement in stock market than males. Research conducted in 2007 found that "while the FTSE All Share Index had risen by 13%, the average male portfolio had increased by 11% and the average female portfolio by 17%," said Barret. "While the stock market fell by 22% and the average male portfolio by 26%, the average female portfolio beat the lot by growing by 2%" (Barret, 2007, ¶2). Although men have more ideas about investment, and trade five times more than women, their returns are quite worse than women. Women could gain more profits as they approached it controlling risks.

Moreover, it could be helpful for men and women to take advantage of each strategy. If they cover their weaknesses in investment fields, returns can maximize in terms of efficiency. Men should learn advantages from women, for example, reconsidering risks, getting to know stocks in reality rather than just on a paper (Coles, 2009, ¶34, 35). For women, taking a risk is acceptable if they look at the market for the long term. Indeed, do your own research about market tendency, and try to learn a lot of things regarding investments (Coles, 2009, ¶36~38).

## Shopping

In addition, if there is an obvious difference of view between men and women, it is probably about shopping. Shopping is usually an indispensable hobby for women, but it is like a torture for men. Shopping is, for women, not only for buying something necessary but also for relieving stress. Women are really enjoying shopping. On the other hand, men are struggling with shopping. A psychologist David Lewis reported that in his research, "Every man in the survey registered considerable increases in blood pressure and heart rates while only 25 percent of women registered a significant change" while shopping (Stacy, 2002, p. 5A). It means that men have much more stress than women when they do shopping. There is another expression that shows men's behavior because of shopping stress. Most men said in the survey that "the stress of Christmas shopping makes them choose the first gift they see rather than spend time in crowded stores" (Stacy, 2002, p. 5A). We can easily see the men who are sitting on the bench in the shopping mall. While men are waiting for their spouses, women go into the stores, and enjoy shopping. Sometimes, men share their waiting strategies such as reading a book, stacking bags neatly, catching a nap, and so on. Mall patrons regard these men-in-waiting as ornaments in the holiday scenery of Christmas trees (Men reveal shopping..., 2002, p. 19).

In recent studies, researchers have found this reason in the "Hunter, Gatherer theory." They focused on this theory to explain why women tend to enjoy shopping. According to

Jardine (2007, ¶ 13), "Perhaps women have developed shopping skill from the days when they had to remember the right bush in which to forage for berries while the men were out hunting." In addition, new survey results showed that "women are 'gatherers', treating bargains as a 'discovery' while men are 'hunters' because they go with the intention of buying specific items and tend to be incisive" (Vicky, 2003, ¶ 2). Women can go shopping without a plan. They just enjoy wandering through the clothing or accessory collection even though they didn't plan to buy those things. However, for men, shopping is designed work before they go. Men are likely to buy something that has been already planned. When they finish buying that item, they usually go out the store directly. Some males tend to look for the fastest checkout line because they don't want to spend extra time on shopping. The study titled "Men buy, women shop" indicated men's and women's different shopping tendencies obviously about what they think most important. Researchers at Wharton's Jay H. Baker Retail Initiative and the Verde Group, a Toronto consulting firm, found that "women react more strongly than men to personal interaction with sales associates. Men are more likely to respond to more utilitarian aspects of the experience -- such as the availability of parking, whether the item they came for is in stock, and the length of the checkout line" (Men buy, women..., 2007, ¶ 3).

## Salaries

These days, salary difference between men and women is still a hot button issue. Though women have the same roles and position as men, the earning that women get is less than men. It has been regarded as sexual discrimination. In fact, president Obama said in his campaign pledge he would remove sexual wage discrimination when he was a president candidate. From a 2004 study by the Census Bureau, which was actually a comparison of median earnings of working men and women who clocked in at least 35 hours per week, women make 77 percent of what men earn (Lee, 2007, ¶ 3, 4). Gender gap in salaries causes social conflicts, and can be a big handicap for women. However, there is a study which shows gender gap in wage earning is not due to discrimination, but to their different life style choice (Doughty, 2008, ¶ 2). It comes from individual lifestyle preference rather than gender discrimination. Men generally choose jobs offering higher salaries. Those jobs are more dangerous, and have more difficulties such as engineering, science. Women, on the contrary, are likely to prefer comfortable work condition, flexible working time, and less dangerous jobs. Because females usually do housework more than males, they don't tend to have jobs requiring spending a lot of time or traveling. Indeed, such jobs don't offer high income. Professor John Shackleton, of the University of East London, said that "men work longer hours in more dangerous jobs and face a greater risk of being sacked, while women who take career breaks outnumber their male equivalents by more than five to one" (Doughty, 2008, ¶ 10). He added that "large numbers of women prefer part-time work because of family responsibilities and so choose to accept lower wages" (Doughty, 2008, ¶ 17).

## Conclusion

This paper introduced gender differences so far, especially in financial aspects. Men and women have their own characteristics in life. In terms of money, we have seen a lot of differences between men and women, for example, investment, shopping habits. As to the wage gap, there are some properties which lead to making difference in salary. Sometimes, these differences can cause conflicts or misunderstanding. However, if we can treat differences in harmony, all of us could complement the opposite sex. Also, it could make synergy.

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## Saudi Woman Driving Her Car Freely in Gainesville

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(The following is a letter to the editor written by an ELI instructor)

Dear Editor,

I would like to share an experience that happened today to my wife, me, and the rest of my family. Although I have spent six years in the US, still I would say that I, with my family, went through a wonderful culture shock today. Today's experience is one to remember. This letter is addressed to those people who choose to be considerate to different people and different cultures.

My wife, Tagreed S. Alasker, a Muslim Saudi woman, who freely unreservedly decided to wear her traditional *Niqab*, or face veil, was shown great respect by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) personnel here in Gainesville. The respect and dignity that we all experienced today is highly appreciated and we're thankful for it. So, let the history record this experience to my two US citizen infants whom I addressed by saying, "You should be very proud of your country."

Today, after I was done teaching at the English Language Institute (ELI) at the University of Florida, my wife, Tagreed, who enjoyed driving her own car for over five years, was waiting for me to go to the DMV, where we can register for a Florida drivers license.

With the usual courtesy and politeness that we experienced in the previous DMVs, the lady who was at the front desk told my wife that "with all the due respect to you and your culture and privacy, in order for us to give you your drivers license, we need you to unveil your face so that we can have photo of your face." And then she said, "This in no way may offend you or violate your freedom of choice." We understand standards and normal procedures. My wife said, "That is fine."

Needless to say, the DMV is generally crowded, and after we waited for 45 minutes, my willful wife decided that she would ask if this is something that is normal. Immediately, her number popped up on the screen. She went ahead and talked to the nice lady who showed great affection to the cute, little angel that we have in our three-month-old girl.

My wife and I noticed strange movement in the second hall. At that time, I did not know what was going on. It turned out that the DMV director or someone in charge had asked all male personnel and male visitors to temporarily leave the hall till my wife's picture was taken. I did not ask for this, nor did my wife. Everybody, around 5-7 men, willingly and happily left the room and waited in the corridor till my wife was photographed, signed her license and put her *niqab* back on.

This situation was remarkably and extraordinarily memorable. Tagreed and I thanked everybody there and showed a deep appreciation. The employees succeeded to apply what the system allows taking into consideration people's freedom of choice.

Actually, I was appreciative not only for the DMV personnel, but also for everybody in that room at that moment. I could not help it but I thanked with tears everybody at the DMV and precipitously I grabbed a piece of paper and I jotted down a letter of appreciation to the DMV and to the other people. I am very thankful and appreciative for their acceptance of the other 'peoples', 'cultures' and ways of lives. If Muslim women in some 'modern and civilized' countries have difficulties wearing *niqab*, I would assuredly say that Muslim women of Gainesville are not only accepted but also warmly welcomed and highly received. It is a fact that only in open and free countries, can one enjoy the freedom of choice and expression.

In 2005, my wife decided that she wanted to go beyond her two-year Fine Arts degree. She decided to do something different. She determinedly learned the English language fluently in less than two years while she was wearing her *niqab*. Her *niqab* has never been an obstacle to her education or normal life.

On her first day in an English language program at Salt Lake City, the director approached Tagreed by asking if it's possible for her to take off her *niqab*. The director said, "We have a lot of Saudi girls who decided not to wear the full *niqab*. Can I convince your husband to agree to that." My wife replied saying, "I don't wear my *niqab* because of my husband, I wear it because it's my choice." After that everybody showed respect for her freedom of choice.

Here, I am relating this story to tell the general public and the respected readers that a full-time wife and mother is indispensable for me. Definitely, my wife plays a very essential role in my success, so I am very proud of her and proud of being a helpful husband as well. I am here to say that there is a human need for respect that should be satisfied inside each one of us. Most of the time, we can avoid conflict if different cultures are tolerated and understood.

One Muslim thinker traveled to Paris some 70 years ago and when he was asked what he saw in France, he replied, "I saw Islam without Muslims." Sadly, nowadays, Muslim women are denied their French citizenship because of wearing the *niqab* and the French are calling for a law to ban wearing the *niqab*. So, I personally would say, in 2009, that I saw Islam and Muslims in the United States of America.

I wish that this type of experience that we had today will occur to every Muslim woman in the world who decided to enjoy her freedom of choice by wearing *niqab*, or what have you, namely at airports. I wish and hope as the president of the Association of Saudi Arabian students, ASAS, that this level of treatment that I have received today with my family will be applied to all other Saudi students who have some cultural differences that caused them further unpleasant predicament.

Definitely, I will talk to my students, friends, and colleagues about this experience; I will write about it more. I will encourage people to show more respect and admiration for other different people. I am sure that this pleasant attitude will

fruit only love, compassion, and understanding. Today's experience is a lesson of not assimilation but integration and acculturation.

At the end of this happy day, I invited my family to a very delicious and expensive dinner and we have pictures for memory.

#### **Thanks from the Editor**

Thank you for sharing your writing with everyone. I hope you enjoy reading your fellow students' essays, paragraphs, and poetry. Also thanks to Megan Forbes and the University of Florida Bookstore for arranging the gift certificates, to Todd Allen for publicizing this issue of Student Voices, to the Reading/Writing instructors for supporting their students in their writing, and to Todd Allen, Daryl Bish, Tom Ratican, Melina Jimenez, and Fiona Llana for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone!

Steve Flocks



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