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# ELI STUDENT VOICES

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## Eugene Onegin

Jiin Jung

(First Place)

R/W 51

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In this piece, Jiin Jung shares her impressions of a famous opera, Eugene Onegin, by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Jiin has also translated verse written by the famous Russian poet, Alexander Pushkin, from Korean into English. This verse was used in the opera.)

1.

During my childhood, I used to follow my father whenever he went to a barbershop on whose wall some pictures were hung depicting a hut near a water mill on plains at dusk and a garden in spring. Even in my childish mind, it seemed to show off its masterly skill as if it had been printed, so I guessed there may be hundreds of the same pieces in the world. Later on, I became to know they were called "Barbershop Pictures." In those days, they were just like a mass-produced cheap candy, containing some artificial dyes and saccharin. It is what we call "kitsch," referring to works of art or objects that are popular but that are considered to have no real artistic value and to be lacking in good taste.

There was a poem as well as the pictures in the barbershop. It opened with, "Though life conspires to cheat you, do not sorrow or complain." Even though it was in my language, I thought that it would be something abstruse beyond my imagination; I completely forgot the poet afterward. It occurred to me again when I went to a bookstore where I found a familiar name, the name written at the bottom of the poem in the barbershop. The poet was "Alexander Pushkin," one of the master writers in Russia. How the famous poem came to decorate the wall of the barbershop in my country didn't concern me that much; I was able to assume that it would be used as a shallow trick of the trade. As supposed, for some time, we could see the poem wherever, such as souvenirs in a tourist attraction, picture postcards, pencil cases, plastic sheets and so on. However, the fact that all of a sudden, the work of great labor of Pushkin in Russia was to be degraded to "kitsch" in my country made me fascinated with Pushkin and his works.

Pushkin, named "The Barbershop Poet" to us, became well known as a forerunner of modern literature, and he was a courageous intellectual practicing his will of social reform through his literary works. Moreover, he greatly contributed to the development of music in Russia because the gem of their works, the operas 'Eugene Onegin' and 'The Queen of Spades' by Tchaikovsky and 'Boris Godunov' by Mussorgsky, were

born in his literature, by which the footing of Russia's opera was able to be established.

Among them, the opera 'Eugene Onegin,' a novel in verse by Tchaikovsky, one of the best works, has been performed around the world since the current accepted version was published in 1837.

Its plot is as follows. One day, a young poet Lenskey and his friend Onegin come to the house of his fiance Olga where Olga's sister, Tatianna, falls in love with Onegin at first sight and sends a letter to convey a declaration of love to him; however, Onegin, a licentious man not believing in true love, rejects Tatianna's love saying that he is not an appropriate bachelor for marriage, and he is not interested in being a husband or a dad.

While Tatiana is suffering from a broken heart with a sense of shame and insult, her name day celebration comes near. Lenskey and Onegin go to Tatiana's place where a ball is given with a military band. By chance, Onegin arrives to hear people whispering about him and feels bad. Resenting that Lenskey brought him to the ball, he means to provoke Lenskey to fury, and he flirts and dances with Olga, Lenskey's fiancé, all through the party. With this, Lenskey challenges him to a duel burning with jealousy.

The next morning, Lenskey waits for Onegin at a snow-covered field, where he sings a tragic and poignant aria, reminiscing about the good old days with Olga. After the song, he is shot to death by Onegin.

2.

Pushkin wrote the final soliloquy of Lenskey in Eugene Onegin nine years before he passed away; however, did he have a premonition of his gloomy destiny befalling him? The barbershop's poet, Pushkin, also ended up dying in vain by fighting a duel for love at thirty eight years of age. After all, the aria was for Pushkin, himself. How fickle the finger of fate is!

Oh! Where, where has it gone?  
Golden day of my youth!  
What did I prepare for myself coming tomorrow?  
Vainly, I just look at it  
Everything is veiled in the dark  
Yet, whatever it is  
The way of destiny is always right  
Though an arrow of destiny kills me  
And takes me away  
It has nothing to do with me

Though I open or close my eyes  
 Everything moves at the set time  
 There will be bliss in days of an anxiety  
 There will be bliss in days of darkness  
 Tomorrow, morning twilight shines  
 Glorious sunshine twinkles  
 Maybe  
 I will go a mysterious shelter  
 A young poet's reminiscence  
 Will be swallowed up in a wave of the river Lethe  
 Yet, though the world forget me  
 Only you will remember me!  
 You, Olga!  
 An incarnation of beauty!  
 Only you will come to my grave  
 Only I loved you  
 You will shed tears too late  
 My life like a rainstorm  
 Was sacrificed for only you  
 Tell me, you, a beautiful lady!  
 Are you coming to me?  
 I am your love  
 I am waiting for you. My love!  
 Come on let's hurry to your love

Oh! Where, where has it gone?  
 Gold day of my youth!

The young poet, Lenskey sings the last song in his life on a snow-covered field, where a white birch grove is seen, while it dawns. The long prelude of this aria, ominous and dismal, forebodes that he is nearing his end.

The first libretto of the aria in Russian, 'KudaKuda' in phonetic spelling in English, touched my heartstrings although I don't understand its meaning. Lenskey's clear and flowing voice in the aria sounded as if the sorrow of life had been purified by a filter, so even his lament for his hard fate seemed to be sublime. For sure, music must be such a thing, transcending language. It also would be impossible if there wasn't Tchaikovsky's music giving a shape to a latent meaning of the phrase.

Lenskey's lover, Olga!  
 Olga!

Though the name "Olga" consists of two sounds, I guess how many significant meanings it has in a brief syllable: love, love and hate, regret, and so on. Tchaikovsky seems to obtain a rather dramatic effect by contracting them in two syllables.

Lenskey asks her this; are you coming to me?

Then the last question of the young poet, destined to die, vanishes into the air.

It would be also Pushkin's void question and monologue about his life and youth.  
 In the meantime, how is Onegin after Lenskey's death?

Onegin, going gypsying about the world feeling guilty, appears with a haggard face in a magnificent ball in the Gremin Palace in St. Petersburg. When Prince Gremin and his wife appear, Onegin is very surprised at finding that Tatiana is now Gremin's wife.

Tatiana had become a polished and elegant woman in society, not the countrywoman of the past. From that moment, Onegin anguishes; his love flares up like a flame. He sends a love letter to Tatiana as she sent him one in the past, but she doesn't respond. Unbearably, Onegin comes to her in the Gremin's parlor where she says that she still loves him, but she will be faithful to her duty as a wife of the prince Gremin. The opera ends with Tatiana's rejection of Onegin's continuing proposal and troubles between them.

About the time when the opera came to end, I found myself give a low groan at the bitterness of love and wished earnestly that love had died out of the world before we died for it. At that moment, we were all sick for love. Their ardent love and agonies of broken heart drove them mad with jealousy and to despair and death rashly, which hurt my heart bitterly; for a moment, I thought that I might not get over it. Nevertheless, that we still can't give up love in our lives shows human frailty and limitation that we can't live without love for a single moment. It represents that even the greatest artist Pushkin was to be a mere human being not being above love.

## Coming to the USA for First Time

*Aldo Schenone*  
*R/W 41*

*(Second Place)*

Can a fish live in the desert? When someone visits another country, he/she can realize how different every place is in the world, and how difficult the adaptation to the new environment can be. Everybody experiences changes from different point of views. Gulsah's experiences of coming for the first time to Gainesville had some challenges that she had to go through like language, food and transportation.

The main problem for Gulsah in her first visit to the USA was the language. She arrived in Gainesville, and she didn't know how to speak English, so she felt like a fish out of water. For example, every time she went to the supermarket she felt afraid due to the impossibility to understand the cashier. However, that wasn't enough to break her spirit, and she found a new better way for communicating-with gestures. Language is one of the most frequent problems for foreign people in the USA, but it's something that a person can beat if he/she uses imagination.

The second challenge was the huge difference in kinds of food between Turkey and the USA. These two countries have as many differences in food as dissimilarities in religion, and one of the victims of this situation was Gulsah. She was used to eating healthy and salty foods. Nevertheless, she found only junk food that was too sweet surrounding her. Once Gulsah went to a restaurant and ordered a huge tasty steak, but she couldn't eat it as a result of the strange taste to her. The key to

success is flexibility, but when the problem is food, it's really hard to handle.

The third problem that Gulsah experienced in Gainesville was transportation. When a person is used to living in a metropolis and comes to a small city like Gainesville, this is the first problem that stands out. Because Gainesville's transportation services only provide a few buses, so Gulsah frequently had to wait a long time or walk a huge distance to arrive to her destination. One day she got lost downtown, and she couldn't find a way back home due to the lack of buses. Thankfully, two UF students drove her safely home. In conclusion, transportation in the daily activities is as necessary as the sun for the flowers, and it's a huge problem if the person used to live in a big city.

In conclusion, Gulsah's coming to the USA for first time could be considered as a daredevil experience. Arriving to a new city so far away from your country, culture, family and friends is like taking a fish to the desert where everything is complete different and strange. For Gulsah the challenge and the main problems were language, food and transportation. However, this experience, in spite of these problems, improved Gulsah's ability of adaptation, so she learned to be like the river that makes a path between the rocks.

## **Dark Night**

*Talal Almeelbi*

*R/W 42*

One day, when I was hunting with my friend in middle of the desert in Saudi Arabia, we had a car accident. It was ten o'clock at night. I was following a rabbit and traveling very fast. I did not see the large pile of rocks in front of me when we crashed into it and the car then flipped on its side. At that moment, I could not see anything, but I could feel the dust in the air and hear my friend calling my name. "Talal, are you ok?" he asked.

I was very happy that we were alive, but then I realized that we were in the middle of the desert, and had driven two hours outside the city. On the way there, I had not seen any other cars around, so I was worried that we would not be found. I was tired, did not know where I was, and not wanting my friend to lose his confidence in me, did not tell him these things.

We first tried to use our cell phones to call for help, but there was no signal. The worst thing that could have happened at that time would have been if we had died in the accident, so it did not matter if we died somewhere else. So, we decided to walk in search of help, not knowing where we were going.

It was dark, and the hot summer air was blowing. What made it even worse was that I started to feel thirsty and it was impossible to find water anywhere nearby. While we were walking, we also heard creepy sounds. After walking for about three hours, we were about to give up, when we saw a light. We decided to continue walking towards the light, because we thought it must be close by. However, in the empty desert, it is possible to see light from far away. We ended up walking for five more hours before we reached it!

The sun had begun to rise, and we were now able to see more of the things around us. When we arrived at the source of the light, we saw a small shack and an old car. At that point, I felt safe and I was filled with hope. I began shouting for help, and a man came out of the house carrying a gun. I was shocked and thought he was going to kill us. He began asking us many questions at gunpoint and I had to answer all of the questions quickly, fearing for my life.

After he heard my answers, he believed our story and he offered to help us. He gave us water, something to eat, and even served us coffee. I told him that I did not want the coffee and that I needed to go home. He said that serving coffee is an Arab tradition, and that I should respect it. After he drove us home, I decided that this was the last hunting trip for me.

## **My Change**

*Megumi Ishikawa*

*R/W 30*

I had a lot of first experiences since I came to the US. I never had been to the foreign countries until I came to Gainesville so I have lived in only Japan and I stay in only Japan. I didn't know different country's manner and culture. And I didn't know that in the US, they who are foreigner use Japanese company product, for example TOYOTA, NISSAN, HONDA, SONY, CANON, PANASONIC and more. When I saw Japanese company's name, I was surprised. I realized that I didn't know many things.

When I came here, I had many questions. In Japan, the traffic signal changes automatically, but here if we want to cross the crosswalk, we have to push the button. I didn't have the habit that we push the button when I cross the crosswalk, so I couldn't understand it. Also, when we go to the restaurant, we have to pay tip. In Japan, we don't need to pay tip, and almost all Japanese use cash. Here, it is natural that we use the credit card. I didn't know that how to pay the tip. My friends taught me that we have to indicate our own signature and tip price on the receipt. Since that, I didn't notice this part on the receipt. The US and Japan have many different manners.

I changed dramatically since I lived here. One of them, I can kill a cockroach. I lived alone for about eight years but I couldn't kill a cockroach. When I lived in Tokyo alone, I couldn't enter my apartment because there was a big frog in front of my apartment door. I was afraid even of the frog. But now, I can kill a cockroach by myself. When summer comes, I will look for the cockroach many times, in addition the cockroach will be very big. I hope that I can kill a cockroach when I see it.

When I lived in Japan, I had my family and many friends. If I had trouble, they helped me anytime in Japan. However, when I came here soon, I didn't have any friends, so I couldn't depend on anyone about anything. I had to do everything by myself. So, I became strong enough to kill the cockroach by myself. Now, I have many friends, so if I have the trouble, they will help me. I also can help them if they need my help. If you have trouble, let me know, and I will help you.

# Good Parents and Good Children

Denver Morales

R/W 3

According to Webster's dictionary, a human relationship is a connection, or association between two or more persons. A good parent-children relationship requires hard work, but it worth it. Growing is a natural process during which children learn how to make their own decisions, but based on experiences that are not only their own. Also, to be a parent isn't easy, if you are a parent, you might know how difficult it is to keep order without repressing children's desires or altering children's feelings. Parents and children have to find a way to keep their relationship strong. Actually, there are two mandatory things to be a good parent or good children: to be happy and to love your family; however, there are many important items that can strengthen the parent-children relationship, such as: communication, agreement, respect and tolerance, understanding, and goodwill.

## Communication

Parents and children are required to listen to each other's ideas, sharing their individual opinions, and asking for advice in order to get and strengthen new insights. Mostly common problems begin with bad communication. Even though everyone knows that communication has adopted an important role in politics, writing, and other fields, children and parents must know how important a healthy communication is in a human relationship. Communication is the imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information by speech, writing, or signs [1]. In other words, to establish good communication there must be present at least one transmitter and one receptor. Children and parents must listen to each other. Children must understand that parents have been living for more time, and they might know things that children couldn't understand just by guessing; on the other hand, parents must figure out that times change and the things are not the same; new ideas could let you adapt easier to the changes.

## Agreement

Parents and children must agree about behavior and actions because it helps keep order in the parent-child relationship. Agreement could be used as a bound or limit between what is allowed and what is not. For example, adolescent children can go out, but he/she isn't allowed to drink until he/she gets 21 years old. It's an agreement. Small children must agree about being supervised because they are not aware about the consequences that their acts could generate. Also, it is the first step in order to keep respect and tolerance.

## Respect and Tolerance

They are extremely important to *control* and *adapt* your opinions and needs in order to achieve harmony. Parents should respect children's decision because they have to have their own experiences. Parents must not argue in a rude way. For example, a parent shouldn't yell to children because they have made a mistake, or violated an agreement. They must

explain the consequences of children's acts, giving examples about their experiences; this is probably the best way to achieve children's understanding. Children might feel that they aren't doing anything wrong, but they have to show respect to older people. They shouldn't be rebels, and they shouldn't shout at their parents and think that they are just right. Actually no one is really right, each life is different, and everyone knows that, but there are customs and social rules that everyone should adapt to it; nevertheless, it's not obligatory. For example, there is nothing wrong yawning without covering the mouth; however, it's a social rule that you ought to cover your mouth meanwhile you are yawning; therefore, you should do it.

## Understanding

Parents and children must understand each other's role. Parents must understand that a child needs to face all the good and bad things of life; otherwise, they won't be able to realize whether they are "good" or "bad". No one can live our life; nobody can explain the consequences of actions until they have lived them. Parents must know how to explain and how to understand even when they do not agree with the actions. On the other hand, even when children might be doing the right things, they could be wrong, and parents are the closest people to them. They would always try to ensure that their children are just fine; therefore, children must understand their parent's behavior. For example, sometimes, if a child did an action that's not agreed by parents, or it is against respect and/or tolerance, a parent could get nervous and argue because he/she could be just worried. Children ought to should understand it. Usually, parents get worried about children; that is the role of being parent.

## Goodwill

Both, parent and children, have to bear in mind that they must make a good decision in reference to other people. You ought to act in the way you want, as long as this doesn't affect or alter other's feelings and needs. Parents are required to teach, advice and be there at any moment for their children

Communication, agreement, respect and tolerance, understanding, and goodwill are the main things that could help strengthen the parent-child relationship. Parents have to bear in mind that they were once children, and children have to accept that they will be parents; moreover, a parent ought to be one of the most significant people of their children, a friend, somebody who become a hero for them, just like my parents have been for me.

## REFERENCES:

[1] Dictionary.com, 2009, online resource:  
<http://dictionary.reference.com/>

## Being Nervous on April 1<sup>st</sup>

ArturoAlonso

## R/W 31

April 1<sup>st</sup> is a day to make jokes with friends and enjoy the time but that didn't happen to me because I felt so nervous on that day. The day began as usual. I woke up at 7:00 am. I had the breakfast at home, and took the bus to school. When I arrived at my first class at 8:30 am, I would have never imagined that this day would be so dramatically.

After one hour Reading and Writing class we had a break, and I stayed in the classroom. I have a lot of homework this week so I decided to finish it during the break. Four minutes before the end of the break, my teacher asked me why I didn't go to the main office to greet Chelsea, the receptionist.

At the first moment I thought that it would be a bad idea, and I thought it was unnecessary. I told my teacher that I just wanted to drink some water. Therefore, I left the classroom. The water filter is on the same way to the main office. After I drank water, I couldn't resist the temptation to go there because it has already become my habit. Every day, I enjoy too much speaking with the beautiful Chelsea and my mother in USA, Sonya. They are so kind to me, and I could practice my listening and speaking skills with them.

I decided to go there, without thinking about the warning that my teacher just gave me. Unfortunately, Chelsea wasn't there. She was in a meeting with the administrators of the ELI. However, my "mom" was there. She gave me a very warm greeting as usual, and she asked about how is going the problem of my country's government and the tuition. I told her that they denied my application to approve the permission to buy dollars with the official cost. We talked about 20 minutes and I completely forgot the time, so I walked back to the classroom feeling very relaxed. To my surprise, when I entered the classroom, my teacher asked me "How do you feel now for being late?" "NERVOUS" was my answer.

## How to Drive Lili crazy

Arturo Alonso

R/W 31

Lili is my Reading & Writing teacher, and she has a lot of patience. Everybody in the ELI thinks that she is calm at all situations. Therefore, my classmates and I decide to work out a guideline drive her crazy!

First of all, Jean will speak with a fast frenglish. She might ask a lot of unclearly questions, and she will beg pardon every two minutes "my bad... I'm sorry... I'm so sorry Lili.....". Lili will answer as usual "you don't have to worry Jean; you don't need to apologize" with a big and sweet smile.

Then, Jose will start to use his Black Berry cell phone throughout the class. He will send a lot of text messages and make unbearable noise when he types the keyboard of the cell phone. We hope that Lili would lose some patience but she would control herself and say "Jose, you know that cell phone is not allowed in class" with a smooth voice.

After the break, Arturo and Lucas will return to the classroom very late. They will talk loudly about the qualifying soccer games for the World Cup, and they might enter the

classroom without apologizing to Lili. She will be mad as a hell. Maybe she would punish them with a strong voice but very polite "Hey guys, I know you are very excited with the soccer games of your teams but we are in class now and you are bothering your classmates and me".

The next step is to use our native language in the classroom. All the students from Saudi Arabia will talk about their country's traditional food in their native language. They would laugh without paying any attention on Lili. At this moment, Lili would start to lose control.

Our next weapon of driving Lili crazy is that everybody wouldn't do the homework. When Lili checks our homework, our answer would be "I didn't do it. I have had a lot of homework this week. It is so boring".

Finally, everybody would start to pack their bags fifteen minutes before the end of the class. Then, all the students will stand up and say: "Bye Lili, we are so starving. It is time to have a delicious lunch and relax. We decided to change the due time of the Essay from Sunday to the next Thursday. This weekend is the Barbecue of the ELI and we want a free weekend without worrying about the homework." We believe that she would run back her office crying alone.

To sum up, if you want to drive Lili crazy or other Eli's teacher follow these steps: ask a lot of question mixing your language with English and beg pardon all the time; use your cell phone during the entire class; return late to the classroom after the break; speak other language not English in the class; don't do the homework and leave the class before the normal hour. If you implement this guideline into practice, your mission would be accomplished!

## The Real Meaning of the Student Life

Anne Traub

R/W 50

When I was 18 I was very anxious about going to the University. In that order of ideas, my father always told me and my sibling that university was interesting, educational and formative, but overall, the most fun and free days he had ever had. He remembered those days with happiness and some sort of nostalgia. That is why he gave us all the necessary tools to reach this worldwide youth dream. I studied in Chile in one of the most popular universities and I really involved myself in the student life. Now, without even choosing it by myself, I am living in Gainesville and I have had a second chance to live like a student and to participate in and enjoy the university activities. After experiencing both universities' lifestyles, I can certainly illustrate some differences and similarities between them like how to apply and get a position to enter into the university, the youth attitude regarding political issues and their lifestyle.

In Chile there are a lot of universities. Most of them are private and the others are public. The desire of almost everybody is to get a position in a prestigious public university because even today, they are recognized as the better. To reach this purpose it is required that all the applicant students take a special test. The day and time have been scheduled one year

before. The score you get on the test allows you to choose a better or worse university. Also, the grades you got in high school are valued. On the other hand, in the USA every university has its own test and you have to take it if you want to apply to this university. Notwithstanding the score you get in the test is important; there are other things that the university takes in mind when it does the selection process. In fact, the grades you got in high school and the personal interview are appreciated. Moreover, the special qualities and less common talents you have are essential at the moment to make the decision to accept you or not. For example, if you are a very good football player you have more chance to get it.

Continuing with some differences between my country and the USA, lifestyle, which means the way the students develop their life, has some variations. For example, in the USA when you are 18 you leave your parents' home and move to a place with a roommate or some friends. In Chile when you go to the university you still live with your family, except when the university where you were admitted is located in another city. Every student stays at home and almost nobody works during the university years. Indeed, the universities are very tough and the schedule is very busy. Furthermore, nobody has scholarship and you don't have enough money to solve your expenses. Your parents pay the tuition and all your other expenses. Conversely, in the USA the students almost never get money from their parents to pay their costs, with the exception of the university tuition, and some of them work in restaurants or other places to earn some money. Finally, in the USA the students have more access to borrow money from the finance system than in Chile. The banks lend money to the youth in a very expeditious way and almost without asking for guaranties. The consequence of it is that they live carrying important liabilities, a lot of debts, but a good quality of life, great cars and beautiful places.

Another aspect that is attractive to compare between Chile and the USA is the youth interest in politics and their level of involvement. In both countries we are living the same phenomena. Youth are apathetic, political issues are no matter of their concern. The main reasons of such attitude are that they lost faith and don't trust in politics. People who conduct politics have been involved in lot of pathetic scandals and youth reject it. Another explanation regarding their position is the change from socialism to capitalism. Nowadays youth don't involve in problems and social issues that are not affecting them in a direct manner. The students are less idealistic than in the past; they don't try to change the world!

The life of a student in USA, Chile, and other countries is different and has some particularities. Obviously people have different customs, traditions and styles of life, but without taking in consideration these few cultural gaps when we go to the university all of us are following the same target and the same dream: Live, involve and absorb the so called "University Life." The university is the only moment in our life when we are completely free; we don't have to care about anything else than pass our lessons. Everybody can be more idealistic. We can try a lot of thing, we can meet a lot of people, and we can make mistakes...you can do all these things because you are maturing and discovering your preferences; you are on the way to be an adult. You can search and reach your

happiness. You can find your best friends for your whole life. The university where I studied in Chile says to their new students: Welcome to the beginning of the best days of your life!

## **My Experiences When Coming to the USA**

*Ameera Mouzen*

*R/W 41*

"It is better to be Roman, when you are in Rome. " When people move to another country, some of them decide to follow the customs of the new country. Others who prefer to keep their own customs have different challenges. My friend Samantha moved to the USA to complete her PhD. At first, the most difficult things for her were using the language, the transportation, and the communication problems. Now I am going to tell you about her challenging.

The first challenge Samantha experienced when she started living in the USA was learning to speak English for academic purposes. In fact, she was very scared when anyone tried to speak with her, she was afraid because she didn't understand them at all. For example, one day she went to the cell phone store to change her plan, but because she couldn't explain what she wanted plus she couldn't understand the salesman, she made a mistake. Then she paid more than \$100 per a month. So far, this is some of Samantha challenging that she face when she came to the USA.

The second issue for Samantha was the huge difference in the transportation system between Korea and Gainesville. In addition, the traffic system in Gainesville was very limited, the buses didn't go everywhere, especially on the weekends there is no bus service, which is the time when everybody wants to have fun and enjoy his/her weekend. On the other hand, compared with her city, the transportation was very flexible. They can use the buses, subways, and trains, every ten minutes, 24 hours, 7 days a week to every single place.

Also, another challenge for her was the communication problem. The first time when she arrived, she was prepared for culture shock. She tried to adjust as much as possible as a way to improve her relationships with people. For example, the way that people check in USA is very different in her country. However, Samantha thinks when people move to some new country they should follow their own customs but also respect the customs of the new country.

In summary, moving to another country includes many challenges. The language, the food, the transportation, and the different cultures. In my opinion, many people move to another country to seek a better life, and consider good things. So people who say I can't change myself, really make me sad.

## **Easy Steps to Convince Your Boyfriend to Marry You**

*Kathleen Marinelli*

Love is in the air when Valentine's Day comes, and brings with it lots of proposals. To achieve the always wanted "Yes, I do" from your boyfriend you may want to follow these easy steps. First of all, prepare a delicious meal (or buy it if you are not a good cook). It is important to keep his stomach full while you are suggesting marriage. A juicy steak or an aphrodisiac food would be a good option. After you have satisfied his needs with food, start suggesting some ideas about marriage and hand him a beer; that way you will get his attention again and at the same time you will make him happy. In addition, watch a football game with him (or his favorite sport), just to make him feel that you like the same things as he. It is important to remember that you should not talk or ask for explanations during the game, just cheer the team with him. After all these steps he will be so fascinated with you and your abilities that he will agree with everything you want to ask, including marriage.

## **My Mother**

*Sohyun Kim*

R/W 42

If there is only one word to describe my mother, it should be "Wonder Woman." She is short and thin but because of her powerful energy, she doesn't look small. She is pretty, especially her eyes. I wish that I had my mother's eyes. She has beautiful but sturdy dark brown eyes with double eyelids. She not only has this beautiful "Wonder Woman" appearance, but also her life has been busy and active like "Wonder Woman." When she was at home, she was always doing something: making food, cleaning house, washing dishes, etc. Anyway, most of the time, she wasn't at home. Before my family moved to China, she had been working since I was five years old. She was a hard working saleswoman. She left home very early in the morning and came back home after sundown. Sometimes, she even came back home after midnight. No matter how late she came back home, she always started doing housework, again. Though, she had never forgotten to ask us about our daily life in school. It could be nothing for a non-working mother to do but it was a very meaningful thing in our relationship. That question tells us my mother thought us and cares us even though she can't be with us in daytime. She has said that she feels sorry for my sister and me. She thinks that she didn't care enough us because she had a job, but I already know how difficult her life was and I don't think that she didn't care for us. She did care for us in her own way although she couldn't do same as other mothers who are just housewives. She totally was a smart business woman but she also has been our great mother. In my heart, she has always been my hero, my "Wonder Woman."

## **Student Life in Venezuela and the United States**

*Veronica Perez*

The college life is a phase in our life that some people have the privilege to get. In Venezuela the education system started in 1950 and since that date has been changing slowly and the student life since that date has been changing too. The college life in Venezuela and around the world plays an important role for everyone because the education is an essential thing to succeed. The college life in Venezuela has some differences between the United States that were caused by political, lifestyle, social and economical reasons but those are basically suffered by the students.

One difference between college students in Venezuela and United States is the lifestyle. In Venezuela the students are used to life with their parents; they start their college while they are living with their family until the moment they find their first professional job and own a house. In the United States, in contrast, the students start to live without their family since the moment they end high school, and when they start college that is considered like one phase of independence because they start to do the chores by themselves. While in the United States the universities and colleges have their dorms on campus or have apartments around for the students to live, in Venezuela the universities do not have a place on campus or around to live.

About political difference which affects the students life. In the United States the students have strong beliefs in the political system; they wanted the control of their country back and they are trying to get it back. That has been reflected since a few years ago. However, in Venezuela the students have been affected by the politics, and since a long time ago they have always had the control of the country. Both countries have suffered political scandals but in Venezuela those have been more continuous; the reactions against the government by the students have been very serious and have caused suffering to all.

With respect to the economy, in Venezuela the economic problems are getting worse like around the world but that does not stop the rights of education. The shortage of money does not affect the standard of the education, which just has been affecting the maintenance of the university areas whereas in the United States the economic crisis has been very strong. Also the lack of money has caused the closure of programs and colleges around the country and also some people have been losing their jobs.

Despite the fact that both Venezuela and United States are countries where the education is a right, the college life in those has a lot of difference, caused by economic or political problems and also are affected by the lifestyle of the students. We can consider that the most relevant difference is shown if we talk about the lifestyle because in this one is when the students start to realize that they have to overcome what can only be achieved with their personality and their teachings. In both countries the educational system is good but the difference is relevant with respect to the personal view of the student.

## **Changes in the Venezuelan Family**

*Arturo Alonso*

R/W 31

The most important event to affect the Venezuelan family in the past 60 years was the change in the economy. Before the 1950s the economy of Venezuela was supported by the exportation of coffee and corn, but after those years the production and exportation of oil dominated the market. This change had a domino effect in the farming and city family culture. In the farming areas, there was a decrease in the opportunities to find good jobs and salaries.

On the other side, with the beginning of the oil era began the industrialization of the country, especially in the principal cities. The development of urbanism was accelerated resulting in new jobs, better salaries and the creation of new universities. All these events affected the Venezuelan family. For example, before oil became the main export, most families consisted of many members making them bigger. Men worked in the fields and women at home. Only a few young people went to high school in their hometown, and less than that had the opportunity to go to the university. In that time, they were located only in the most important cities of Venezuela.

However, after the 1950s, all changed because of the high cost of living. Families became smaller. Families also moved to the big cities to have more opportunities and to find better jobs and salaries. The men would change their farms for oil factories. Before 1950, my mother's father worked in a corn farm but after that year he had to work in an oil company 2 hours away from his hometown. My mother's mother only did housework. My grandfather was only the breadwinner of his family. My grandparents had 5 children: 3 sons and 2 daughters. Each of them had to travel far away to a big city to go to a university for a career.

Now I live in a small family: mother, father and 2 sons. We have been living in a big city since I was born. Both of my parents are physicians and the breadwinners of our household. My brother and I had the opportunity to go to high school and the university in the same town. We don't need to move to other place to find jobs with a good salary. I can say that we are a lucky family now.

## **Sake Bomb**

*Arturo Alonso*

*R/W 31*

Sake Bomb is a special drink from the Japanese culture mixed with the occidental culture. If you want to make this drink, follow the easy steps: 1) Fill a shot glass with sake (sake is the traditional Japanese liquor, made it through the fermentation process of the rice, it is the final product, a kind of alcoholic beverage) 2) Fill a larger cup with beer (it doesn't matter what brand of the beer, whatever you like it will work) but not until the end, and put it onto the surface of a table 3) Put two chop sticks or bamboos (pieces of wood used to eat in the Asian countries on the top of the cup filled with beer, in a parallel form, with a small space between them. 4) Then, put the shot glass filled with sake onto the chop sticks 5) Finally, You should hit the surface of the table with one of your hands

very near of the cup to drop the shot glass into the beer cup and then you drink it all at once.

This is a drink for everyone over 21 years old, especially who likes Japanese culture. It is common only to find it in the Japanese restaurants, those who make sushi. The sake alone can be used like a digestive after the meals.

If you want to sing happy birthday song to one partner, and you are celebrating the birthday in a Japanese restaurant, it is an excellent opportunity to try with sake bombs. Your partners and you could have one sake bomb for everyone, after you sing happy birthday and just at the end of the song, you hit the table and everyone drinks!! One recommendation, if you are the designated driver of the day, you shouldn't drink more than one drink because over one drink you could get you out of control and then you could not drive back to your home. I won't want to feel guilty if something happen to you because I was the creator of the original idea about this drink, and shared with you. Take care of yourself!!

## **An Important Thing Around the World**

*Jonathan Vazquez*

*R/W 30*

Globalization is extending to other or all parts of the globe. Globalization is really important because people can improve their factories and enjoy these benefits. The global advance affects everyone around the world because there are many factors that involved, for example technology, languages, and food.

Technology in the world has been evolving from the 1960's to 2000's. Now technology continues to evolve. It's very important because people can communicate with other people anytime also technology is used in cars to give comfort and security for passengers. Technology was used in military science to protect or preserve a country. People apply technology to explore the world and space to learn more about how to live better there.

Languages are very important for everyone because in the there are different speakers. A long time ago people didn't understand other people but years ago specialist studied the different languages. Today there are a principal's language (English, Spanish) that it's important for all to know about these languages because we can communicate through them.

In the past, every culture had a traditional food. Today there are different cultures around the world is because people immigrate to other countries. For example in Venezuela everyone knows about hamburger, sushi, and pasta. Nowadays, food is the most important businesses in the world. Food has a high rate around the world for example McDonald's, Taco Bell, and Chili's.

Globalization in the world helps people because they can enjoy technology and we know about other languages and different kinds of food. It's important to know about other cultures, today are different cultures live in the same country

## **Living in the USA for the First Time**

*Ramon Padilla*

Is it easy for you to change everything? There were a lot of difficulties for me, when I came to the USA the first time. Language, family, and food were the most important aspects that affected me because I could not communicate, I felt very sad being far away from my family, and sometimes, I wanted to have the good taste of food from home.

First, the language was the most essential because if you can not communicate you can not get anything. For example, being in the airport was very difficult to me ask to someone where to find the right place to get my plane. I could not get a good haircut because I could not explain very well what I wanted. This situation made me very shy and limited me to express my feeling. This created a lonely person.

Second, the family is so special and when we are alone, we begin to feel the necessity to be closer to our loved ones. I spent time and money using my phone because I wanted to be in contact with my wife and my children. Living in a new country is difficult because it is hard to find people with whom we can share.

The last difficulty for me, food is very important because it has special characteristics in every country. The ingredients are different. How people cook and give flavor to food is special. This is the main reason why every person misses your home or your country when they eat your lunch or dinner.

Therefore, living in a foreign country is very difficult especially if we do not know the language, miss our family, and we can not get used to the new food taste. These are some of the reasons it was hard for me when I was in the USA for the first time.

## Arranged Marriage vs. Love Marriage

*TaeHwan Hyeon (Will)*

R/W 42

### Introduction

One day, my friend said that his girl friend would meet a man whom her parents introduced. I said, "What? How can she have an arranged meeting even though she loves you?" My friend said, "She said that there were many differences between love and marriage. Actually, I could not fulfill the requirements that she was looking for. She wants to get married with a person who has a good condition." I was very surprised. Until now, I thought that most people have love marriages, and only few people have arranged marriages. In Asia, many young people prefer arranged marriages over love marriages for several reasons. What makes them choose arranged marriage?

### 1. Definition and History of Arranged Marriage

Traditionally, the meaning of arranged marriage is to get married to a person whom parents introduce. Since ancient time, in Asia, most of the marriage was an arranged marriage. At that time, marriage was a way to unite between a family and a family. Although there was a love marriage, that was a few. Arranged marriage was done regardless of status. A person,

whose social position was high, got married to a person whose social position was the same or similar, and a person, whose social position was low such as a servant, got married a person whom their owner introduced. For these reasons, there were many cases that people who got married could see a face of their partner only after marriage. Marriage was a union of two families, so they lived together until they died. A divorce was not accepted even if they didn't love each other. However, in the present, the meaning of an arranged marriage is different from ancient time. Today's arranged marriage is that to meet each other before marriage, and getting married after they know many things about their partner whom parents or matchmaking company introduce. Today's arranged marriage is that to meet each other whose condition is matched, raising their love, and to get married on the based of that love, not the marriage that their parents force like ancient time's marriage.

### 2. Definition and History of Love Marriage

Love marriage means that to meet a person whom they love, to maintain that love, and to get married. Since the twentieth century, in Asia, people who have love marriage were increased because of the industrialization. As beginning of industrialization, young people had a tendency to get married with a person whom they loved, not whom their parents introduced. Why was this trend stronger than ever? First of all, young people could earn money by themselves in a society of industrialization. It led to independence from their parents. The thinking that people should improve their lives by oneself spread out. So many young people got married with a person who they had chosen by themselves. Second, it was related with improving status of women in that society. In the past, it was whole of women's working that to support parents, husband, and children. By industrialization, however, women's activities were increased, and this resulted in the improving of status of women in the society. Women had a strong tendency to get married with a person who they found by themselves rather than man. For these two reasons, the rate of love marriage had slightly increased in the beginning of twentieth century, and after the middle of twentieth century, the rate had sharply increased until 1990's.

### 3. Analysis and Comparison

Nowadays, the rate of divorce is much higher than ever. The average rate of divorce of OECD is 40%. That means that if 10 couples get married, 4 couples would be divorced. Particularly, the rate of Asia reason is incredibly increased. Thirty years ago, the average divorce rate of Korea, Japan, Taiwan was 20%. According to the Federal Census, the divorce rate of couples who had love marriage is more than 50%, and the rate of couples who had arranged marriage is 20~30%.

Why the divorce rate of love marriage's couples is much higher than arranged marriage's couple? First, in love marriage case, people have many expectations to the future before they get married, but these expectations would be deprived after marriage. Although they got married with love, as time goes by, emotion of love is faded, and a feeling of forfeiture is occupied in a relationship of a couple. This forfeiture is connected to disappointment to their partner, after

all, they get divorced. Second, marriage can not be maintained only by love. In fact, people get married because they love their partner too much. However, couples who have love marriage don't concern about many things related living except their love. Many problems, most of that is economic troubles, that they never know before marriage occurs, and they get divorced in the end.

If so, why is the divorce rate of arranged marriage lower than love marriage. First of all, people who want to have arranged marriage are looking for partner's conditions before marriage. They know that marriage is a reality. For this reason, their marriage is affected by the other parts, not love, such as money, status in society, appearance, and character. There is few forfeiture to their partners because expectations to their partners are not bigger than love marriage's couples. Secondly, there would be no problem among family if a person gets married by arranged marriage. In Asia, most parents have many expectations to their children. This leads expectation of mate of their children. If parents do not like a person who their child introduces, most parents strongly disagree with their marriage. Sometimes, this occur the split of the family. However, in case of arranged marriage, a mate is sufficient to parents' expectations, so there is no conflict that love marriage has, and they would get married in a blessing of everyone.

### **Conclusion**

In the present, a society has been changed quickly, so people spend almost their time to adapt the changing. There is a few time that people meet a person to get married. Why there are so many matching companies, and why many people use these companies. The present society makes a different marriage form that borrows the name of arranged marriage. This marriage form is suitable to the modern people.

## **Tips for a Newer English Speaker**

*Abdullah Alghamdi*

*R/W 42*

There are some tips for you that can help you to communicate with others through your daily activities if you are new to the English language. First, when you go to a fast food restaurant, don't try to pronounce the meal's name, because I have tried this before and it didn't work. I was lucky because one of the customers was foreign and helped me. So, just say the meal number and the size whether medium or large. Second, when you are at the bus station waiting for your bus and one of the passengers talks to you, just reply by "Yeah. What can we do?" because s/he is complaining about the bus system. Third, when you are walking on campus and someone with a foreign accent stops to talk to you, reply by "Sorry. I don't know. I am also new," because s/he is asking you about a direction. But if s/he has an American accent, reply, "Sorry. I am late for my class," because s/he is asking you to join or vote for one of the university clubs. Finally, when someone calls you on your cell phone, don't answer at the beginning. Let her/him leave a voice mail first and then ask one of your friends to translate the voice mail before you call her/him back. If you do my tips, you can

communicate well with others without someone making fun on you.

## **The Poverty Problem in the World**

*Yu-Cheng Lin*

*R/W 42*

When we look back in human history, we will notice that human beings have never experienced real wealth. Even in the 21st century, there are more than 1 billion people living under the poverty line. What is the poverty line? In short, it means you can't have enough nutrition for your daily life, usually equal to \$1 dollar of purchase-power parity (PPP) in 1993 a day. The definition from the United Nations is the absence of two of the following eight items: 1. food, 2. safe drinking water, 3. sanitation facilities, 4. health, 5. Shelter, 6. education, 7. information, and 8. access to service.

Different regions in the world have different reasons of poverty. For example, because of poor development and a low education rate, sub-Sahara and south Asia occupy 70% of world's population who live under the poverty line. On the other hand, in industrial countries, 12% of the population lives under the poverty line. The reason of these wealth countries is because of their huge income gap. Wealthy people in rich countries lead high price in food, utilities, and service, however, poor people in rich countries can't afford the relatively high price in their countries, so their quality of comes down. However, wealthy countries usually have better social welfare and better organized charities to help their poor population to satisfy their need in life. If we look at the case of poor countries, the poverty problem usually comes from ineffective systems in policy, medical, education, agriculture, and infrastructure. It is more complex and hard to resolve.

What can we do to against poverty in poor countries? We can refer to the examples of China and India. Both of them have had a huge decline in poverty in the past three decades. In the 1970s, there was more than 60% of the Chinese and Indian population lived under the poverty line, and it was as serious as Africa in that era. However, the policies to develop their economy changed their life a lot. Both governments opened their borders to encourage foreign direct investment, learned new technology, and extended education to their citizen. The government of China encouraged farmers to improve their agriculture technology, provided preferences to companies to hire extra labors from rural areas, and established several cities in different area to develop technology and industry. The policies of India stimulated the development of service, industry, and software which transferred their labor force from agriculture to higher income occupations. Both of them had huge success, especially in China. There, they reduce their poverty rate from 65% in 1975 to 8% in 2009. The huge success of China let them become a success story for reducing poverty.

Today, the most serious poverty problem in the world happens in the sub-Sahara. The national poverty rates in this region are usually higher than 60%, and it has been lasting for 3 decades. However, the cultivated lands of this region have become more and more vulnerable. Desertification, pasturage,

and over-irrigation lead the soil of sub-Saharan Africa to become hard or unable to cultivate. Besides problems with the land, the sub-Saharan Africa is also one of the most dangerous areas in the world. The wars between races and nations, and health problems have destroyed most of their labor population, and these problems become a huge burden of economic development.

In order to solve the poverty problem in Africa, we have to encourage more help from wealthy countries. There is no doubt that donated food can resolve their starvation problem directly. However, food aid can't reduce poverty. The charities and governments in wealthy countries have to study closely to understand the real needs of Africa. The reasons that cause poverty are always complex, but the wealthy countries can try to resolve the problems by helping with policy, education, infrastructure, and importing new technologies. As the example of China, after the poor countries become rich, the world would become more stable and people can have a better life.

## **True Stereotypes?**

*Veronica Perez*

*R/W 50*

Despite the fact that women and men are both humans and both share a lot of common qualities, incredible differences exist between them. At the moment you focus your attention to some qualities and compare those with the other sex, that moment is when you will realize those differences. Most of those differences are more reflected in the habit of communication, which would be considered a stereotype, but somehow they will be true; we can study male and female manners of speech in three common areas of development such as communication in a workplace, in the house and in relationships.

Considering that men and women usually have the same privilege of work, the way of speech manners in that area is highly variable. Men tend to be more competitive so they like to have the control of the situation showing superiority in front of everyone. Women, in the other hand, try to be cooperative with their coworkers regardless their status of dominance. At the moment of a meeting, women tend to keep control by making a sympathetic agreement between the people whereas men try to dominate talk time. Women seem to be more likely to negotiate consensus, taking time to make the people agree, and being sure of the decision and being more patient. Men, on the other hand, are declarative. They are considered task-oriented because they do not wait for the others, and they usually just give a solution.

Referring now to the place where we live, the house, there is the major dilemma of stereotype for both men and women. While women tend to share the tasks of the house, men just want to do nothing. The perfect example for defining a man in the house is "caveman" because he looks for rest after a hard day of work. They consider the house like a cave where they can forget all the stress outside. Women, in contrast, consider the house a place where the responsibilities are divided; the chores are spread between everyone. Also the way of request for help of women is indirect. They usually make questions or

make suggestions when they need something; however, men are direct. If they need something they just say it regardless of the subtlety.

Women speak a language of intimacy and connection, while men speak independence. So for men, conversations in relationships are primarily to maintain status in their social environment. Women's communication is typically called "rapport talk," which refers to the type of communication that maintains and makes stronger the relationship; for that reason, women are more emotionally expressive. Men, on the other hand, use "report talk," which refers to the type of communication that is basically for solving problems and focused aggressively on their objectives. Some of the qualities of speech by women in a relationship are indirect, collaborative and affective oriented, while men are characterized by being direct, autonomous and referentially oriented.

Considering the above, one can conclude that a lot of differences exist between women and men about gender speech. Most of those differences are reflected depending on the environment and situation. In the case of a workplace the women try to be collaborative while men just try to be the best; focused at the house the men just try to rest and do nothing whereas women try to share the chores; and finally, in relationships you can note the difference while women are "rapport talk," men are "report talk." These are only the differences between women and men about conversations that can help you to understand the interpersonal relations between the sexes.

## **The Death Penalty**

*TaeHwan Hyeon (Will)*

*R/W 42*

Over several decades, societies have taken great pains about the death penalty. Should the death penalty be maintained or abandoned? This problem has caused many conflicts, and it has not solved until now. Many people have opinions that the death penalty should be abolished because human life is the most valuable thing, and nobody has a right to take it. However, I agree that the death penalty should exist. The death penalty is necessary to realize a society of justice and to protect people from dangerous criminals.

People are social animals. So they make societies and live together. While living together, it is an unavoidable to cause disagreements and quarrels. As a result, people make a law for the safety of their society. The law is a minimum promise and must be impartial. So people have punished criminals as their guilt based on the law. In this way, societies seek regulation and are maintained peacefully. If so, what is the punishment of the law about murder, which the most atrocious crime? There is no punishment except the death penalty because a murderer takes a person's life that is the most valuable of people. If the law exists for to realize a society of justice, the correct punishment is the death penalty. For this reason, the death penalty is essential.

In addition, the possibility that murderers kill people once more is very high. According to Doctor Robert Hare as a

psychologist, a psychiatrist, and expertise of psychopath, 90% of the consecutive murderers are psychopaths. "Psychopath is currently defined in psychiatry and clinical psychology as a condition characterized by lack of empathy or conscience, and poor impulse control or manipulative behaviors." A second conviction rate of these psychopaths is 80% and major crime rate is 40%. There is an example that one psychopath who was punished by life imprisonment, but he killed a prison guard after three months. I have a question that the death penalty should be abandoned ignoring these situations. If the purpose of the law is to protect people's life and to prevent chaos of societies, the death penalty should be maintained.

People who assert the abolition of the death penalty worry that people who are not guilty may be executed by wrong justice. As long as we are people, we can make mistakes. Merely a few decades ago, many people were executed mistakenly by the law. However, in contemporary societies, there is no wrong execution by mistake. Hugo Adam Bedau said, "False sentimentality to argue that the death penalty should be abolished because of the abstract possibility that an innocent person might be executed." He investigated the 7000 executions in the U.S.A. from 1893 to 1971, and he found that such case has never occurred. The death penalty is atrocious punishment. Therefore, a judge decides a criminal's guilt through holding many courts, inspecting all evidence, and using every modern scientific method before the death penalty is practiced. While passing through these steps, the possibility of misjudgment is more and more reduced, and in the end, the possibility of misjudgment reaches 0% before execution. For this reason, the possibility that people are executed by misjudgment is nothing.

Human rights are very important and criminal's rights are important too. However, human rights are respected when one respects the rights of other people. There is an old saying, "An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth." When one destroys the rights of other people, their rights are effaced. That is, anyone who commits a crime should be punished by the law. If it is not observed, our society will collapse. A discussion of the death penalty will continue for long time. However, I agree that the death penalty to realize a society of justice and to protect people from dangerous criminals.

## **My Challenges in the USA**

*Ockshin Kim*  
*R/W 41*

Going to the unknown world makes me become curious as well as feel nervous, like a boat on the vast expanse of water. My curiosity and troubled mind in the unknown new world weaken day by day, instead, I adapted myself to the new environment, people, culture, and language. Because it requires time to accept new changes, I put up with temporary inconveniences and challenges. I overcame and absorbed new changes. Even though there are several challenges, I would like to mention the lifestyle, the weather, and regulations, for these troubled me a lot.

Before coming here, I had never prepared the meals, cleaned up my room, done the dishes and laundry, and so on; these had not been my responsibilities. Among me and my family each role was divided, so I had to do my work, that is to say, making money and the housework is none of my business. In the USA, however, I have to do everything from the beginning to the end. In addition, homesickness has me feel melancholy. My Korean community, like the Korean Church, helped me get over these problems.

Another challenge is to acclimate myself to was the scorching hot weather and diurnal temperature difference. It is very hot in summer in Gainesville; even though the air cooling system is well equipped not only in the classroom, but also in the house, it is not easy for me to adjust to the difference of temperature outside and in the room. Therefore, I need to change my clothes and bathe frequently. There is no other way, but adjusting myself to the new environment.

When you go to Rome, you must follow the Roman Law. Regulations such as traffic rules, smoking prohibitions, drinking age, etc are my third challenge. I have to keep in mind and obey these regulations; these are much different from that of my country. Unless I follow them, I will be given the penalty and it will likely be to be expelled from this country. What is more, I memorize so-called American taboos, for example, do not ask a woman about her age, salary and don't talk about politics etc, or I will be a rude foreigner.

It is said cultural shock is dissolved through conflict, harmony, and reception. Because I am aged, I could not get over the problems easily. In short, a challenge is worthy to defy it at any cost, so on account of the feelings of accomplishment my mind and spirit are going to be ripened.

## **The Challenges of Living in the USA**

*Seung Hei Cho (Samantha)*  
*R/W 41*

Departing familiar things, and living in a new environment would really be a big challenge for most people. Thus, people often are scared when they move to a new environment. Moreover, if the new environment is in a new country, the nervousness and fright will be more serious because there are a lot of obstacles such as a new language and a strange culture as well as new people. Also, for me, moving to Gainesville was a nervous task and a huge challenge. When moving to the U.S., speaking English, Gainesville's transportation system, and the multicultural environment were the most difficult things to adjust to in the new life.

The biggest challenge was speaking English. Living in the U.S. meant I have to use English wherever I go and use any facilities. It is the hardest thing because when using a new language, you make mistakes in communication. When I came to Gainesville at first, I went to a cell phone shop to open my cell phone account. At that time, I just needed a plan to use 450 minutes a month. However, the shop manger didn't understand my speaking very well, and I couldn't understand his speaking. Therefore, he made some mistakes in selecting my plan and opening my account. Just opening a cell phone account is not a

hard thing in my country. Kids can do that without any mistakes. However, it became the hardest task for me after I moved to Gainesville.

The second biggest challenge was using the transportation system, especially in Gainesville. When I was in Korea, I lived in Seoul, which is a capital city of Korea. There are various public transportation systems such as a bus, a subway, a taxi, a train, etc. Hence, we could easily go anywhere, and any place using public transportation system even though people didn't have a car. Actually, using a public transportation system it is easier to go some places rather than using a private car. Moreover, people who want to escape traffic jams, usually use the public transportation system because a bus and a subway use special routes, and those routes are usually not busy. However, people who don't have a car can use just a bus or an expensive taxi in Gainesville. Furthermore, people can't use transportation during the weekend. Therefore, now making some plan to go any place during the weekend became a hard thing for me.

The third challenge was adjusting to the multicultural environment. There are various ethnic groups and people who have various nationalities in the U.S. That means many cultures and customs coexist everywhere. Thus, sometimes problems can occur between people who have different cultures and nationalities because of misunderstanding each other. Therefore, people should be more seriously cautious to not make mistake to people who have a different background. Even though this is not huge challenge for me, still I am very careful to talk with other people. In addition, people try to don't touch emotion between people who have different nationalities in special situations such as the Olympic Game.

There are lots of difficulties such as different language, a culture, an environment, and people to live in a new country. However, in my case, the biggest challenges are using a new language, using a public transportation system, and the adjusting in multicultural environment. These can be kinds of obstacles to be a real member of the new society. Thus, if people want to live well and look like people who were born in American, people should overcome those obstacles.

## Special Day

*Haifa AlAli*

*R/W 30*

I was sitting in the stadium one day when suddenly, I saw a team enter. I sat to watch the game. There were many people there. Because the game was between two strong teams, many people came to watch. After that, the game began and the players began to play. All people started to encourage the players. When the game started, I was excited.

Since the game started until thirty minutes, everything was perfect. While the players were playing, it started to rain. The game was more difficult for the players. After that, it became a storm and the players could not play well. Everything was triple for the players.

Finally, I heard someone knock on the door. Then I woke up. All this was a dream. I have never gone to watch a

game. I dream a lot, but I like this dream so much. I can't forget this dream.

## Challenging in the U.S.

*Abdulghadir Alamri*

*R/W 41*

Do you know how much trouble you will be in when you go to a different culture? Coming to the U.S was an important step in Aldo's life. He had to express himself in many situations, and to learn from that. However, there were some difficulties and challenges that Aldo found when he come to the U.S for the first time including the language, the weather, and the culture. These challenges were all on the way to success for Aldo.

The first challenge was the language. Aldo came to the U.S to learn English. However, he had to live for month before he started going to the school. It was difficult for him to understand Americans when they talk. They speak fast and use a lot of slang that Aldo did not know about. When he tried to talk and make a conversation with Americans nobody understood him. That made it very difficult for him.

The next challenge was the weather. Gainesville was too cold in the winter when Aldo arrived in. His hometown, Valencia, is sunny and never gets cold. Aldo had to buy a lot of cloths .It was not easy for him to live in a cold place when he was not used to be in cold weather.

Another challenge was the culture. Aldo was used to living in a culture where he can talk and communicate with others easily. People in the U.S do not like to shake hands and they have a different way of communicating than Aldo used to. In fact, he could not make a lot of American friends He felt like if he lived alone.

In conclusion, it might not be easy to live in a different culture, but you will learn a lot from it. Aldo found many challenges in the U.S where the culture is not totally different and not too strange to him. Do you think he is going to pass these challenges after a few months learning the language and living with Americans?

## Special Day

*Mina Lee*

*R/W30*

When I arrived in the Ben Hill Griffin Stadium, I suddenly thought football game. I watched the TV which was playing a football game last year. Our school's football team won the national championship. Just then, I saw a football game that was my first time. When the game of our football team finished, my friends and me went to the street because we were delighted and excited.

When we reached the street of UF, many people had already arrived in Main Street or the street between the Griffin Stadium and the O'Connell Stadium or University Avenue. Many people shouted loudly "Go Gators." Also, many people were shaking hands and embracing each other during one hour.

I was feeling I kept on living owing to I was really indescribably happy. The next day, due to a ceremony, Gainesville and UF was quiet. I didn't understand because an instance of South Korea, pleasure and excitement lasts for a long time such as the World Cup of 2002.

Now, a lot of people are talking about the national championship that UF's football team won. I also remember the feeling when our football team won and the street ceremony with many students of UF and residents of Gainesville.

## **Knowledge Gained from Experience vs. Knowledge Gained from Books**

*Raeda AlKhars*  
*GM 60*

It has been said, "Not everything that is learned is contained in books." There are two common ways of pursuing knowledge and using resources which are either books or experience. In one hand, some people prefer to gain and gather knowledge from traditional resources such as books for some reasons such as the more academic way of restating, paraphrasing and sighting the resources for the researches such as the dates, authors and how to locate the information if someone wants to refer to the same book or reference. On the other hand, some people prefer to gain knowledge by sharpening their skills with the real experience that add a lot of real practice for them that they never forgotten.

Some classical authors and academic educators advocate the usage of the books as a traditional way for gathering information and acquiring knowledge for some reasons. First, they think that this way is more accurate and academic for rewriting, tracking and documenting for the other generations. For instance, the written transcripts and ancient documents passed out from the past generations represented the first attempts for seeking the knowledge which were the initial steps for the modern civilization or the recent knowledge. Also, using written forms such as the books allows the writers to complete the voyage of a research that has been started or answer a question that another researcher couldn't find a clue for. So, I agree with those people that, it will be more truthful way of pursuing the knowledge that can be diffused and become widely acknowledged by various groups of readers from diverse ages and nationalities.

The other group of people advocates the importance of practice or sharpening the skills by getting the information from real learning contexts where the experience will be such as drawing on a stone that won't be removed. For example, they can master crossing the mini Bridge. By following the same way, repeating the same instructions and steps people know by experience how to cross or master the task by doing it more quickly and accurately. Moreover, they believe that experience comes by learning from our mistakes or keeping practicing. So this matches the anonymous saying that "Experience is something you get too late to do anything about the mistakes you made while getting it."

According to Adams, John the second president of the United States, "Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people." I agree with Adams in one point in this saying that people learn from each other or by the passage of knowledge which allows them to get rid of liberty. The liberty could be removed by reading a lot of books and writing a lot of references and documenting the information for the other generations to look at and to use as a fundamental stone for advanced academic achievements and paths of knowledge.

To conclude, while some people prefer gaining knowledge from traditional resources such as books that has the advantage of documenting and passing the knowledge from one generation to the other generations. There are some people who advocate the importance of practice and mastering the experience by learning from mistakes and know how to pass or cross bridges. I agree with the valuable importance of documenting and using written books as references for gathering the information and mastering the knowledge that helps societies to get rid of liberty and leads to more academic and bright future.

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## **The Problems of a Foreign Student**

*Mario Suanno*  
*R/W 41*

Do you think that is easy for a young man to study in a different country? Being a foreign student is one of the most difficult decisions that you will made in your life. For example, my roommate, Aldo Schenone, had incredible experiences when he moved here and therefore, he had a lot of things happen to him. When he moved to the US, he didn't know how to speak English, also he had a huge economic problem with his country, and worst of all he had difficulties adopting to the US culture.

First, the goal of his trip to the United State was to learn English, so it was so hard for him speak and understood the language. As a result, Aldo spent several hours trying to settle down in a complex, because nobody understood him. A similar situation happened with the telephone company. Now you can see, the English language was a huge obstacle to overcome when moving to the US.

Next, Aldo didn't have enough money to feed himself or pay rent, CADIVI, which is the organization responsible for distributing the dollars to the citizens in Venezuela, rejected his application. However, his greatest concern was paying the tuition to the ELI. Because of that, Aldo's father had to take the money from their savings to pay Aldo's bills, but his problems do not end there.

Then, when the bad times where gone, Aldo had to face another concern; the cultural clashes. He had to learn about all the traditions of the people in the US, because he was from a

Latin country, and the different between their cultures are from heaven to earth. It was a process which took about one month, and later, he felt very comfortable surrounded by US people. As a result, their friends started asking him to go out, that is something that makes Aldo very happy. Finally, things were apparently going well.

In conclusion, being a foreign student can be an incredible experience, you can have bad times, but also, tons of great memories. Therefore, you have to fight for what you want, no matter what. In addition, you can take these experiences for a lesson in life, that's why you have to take all the chances that life gives to you.

## **A Tour of One of the Roman Ancient Cities in Libya: Leptis Magna**

*Hanan Shaefi*  
R/W 60

Leptis Magna was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1982, as one of five historical places in Libya. Specifically, Leptis Magna earned a reputation for having the most complete and impressive Roman ruins in all of North Africa. It is located 75 miles east of Tripoli (the capital of Libya) on the western coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

Leptis Magna was originally a Berber settlement about 3000 years ago where after the Phoenicians make it into a trading center. Around the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, Leptis Magna was probably colonized by Carthage. Then it was invaded by the Romans and became part of the Roman Empire in 111 BC.

Under the influence of one of its citizens, Septimius Severus, who was born in 193 BC in this city and became the first African Roman Emperor, Leptis Magna became an extraordinary city and an important trading port. The city had a steady income from the slave trade, gold, ivory and metals between Africa and the Roman Empire.

Leptis also enjoyed a monumental architectural development. The architecture includes the colonnaded streets, the Severn Forum decorated with the Gorgon head, and the massive Basilica. The Hadrianic Baths are still impressive, and one of the pools, measuring 28 by 15 meters, remains intact. The bath house was one of the largest that was ever built outside Rome itself. Although the great monuments of Leptis Magna might make it a bit difficult to point out highlights, the beautiful Amphitheatre is clearly one as it has a splendid view from its upper tiers. Its diameter is 70 meters long. Large parts of the structure have retained their ornamentation, and many statues were left in good condition.

Another splendid place is the circus which almost a kilometer away from the site remains partly excavated. With its size of 450 by 100 meters, it was one of the largest in the entire Roman world. Nobody should miss out on the important museum located near the entrance of the city which has the distinctive Roman Statue and several tools used by the Romans at that time.

Because of all that rich history and wonderful architectural sites, Leptis Magna attracts a lot of tourists and

visitors from all over the world every year, especially those who are interested in Roman civilization.

Source: [www.temehu.com/Cities\\_sites/LeptisMagna.htm](http://www.temehu.com/Cities_sites/LeptisMagna.htm)

## **Taiwanese and American College Student Differences**

*Ying-Ju Chen (Maggie)*  
R/W 50

Every college student is a unique individual, and everyone has distinct conceptions about different objects in every single field. It is common knowledge that there are immense differences between Asian college students and the western college students. Recreation, the way of receiving the grades and the sense of having jobs in college life for American college students and the Taiwanese college students are different.

Recreation is very different between American students and Taiwanese students. This is related to the different cultural backgrounds. In Taiwan, students like to go to karaoke for relaxing or celebrating specific events. In general, Taiwanese students are more introverted than American students, and they prefer to express themselves when they have enough confidence or when they feel that they are in the best condition. Fortunately, karaoke provides a perfect environment for Taiwanese students, and they feel comfortable to be in there. Taiwanese students also like hanging out in night markets. The food in night markets is various and it is much cheaper than eating in a restaurant, and they have almost everything, for example, clothes, shoes, accessories, cosmetics, arcade games and even pets. The college students usually do not have too much money to eat or shop, and also the locations of night markets usually are very close to schools. Therefore the Taiwanese college students usually go to night markets after school or on the weekends. On the other hand, the American college students usually get together in restaurants, nightclubs, or in their own places. To compare with the Taiwanese college students, the American college students are more extroverted. The American college students like to make new friends more and talk, drink, dance, or have fun with all of their friends. Furthermore, there are not any night markets in the United States and the American college students, in general, cook for themselves, buy to-go food or eat out. If they want to go shopping, they may go to shopping malls, outlets, or department stores. Also the clothes, shoes, accessories, or cosmetics of some well-known brands in the United States are much cheaper than those in Taiwan. In other words, the American college students can find many good buys in shopping malls, department stores, especially in outlets, so they do not need to go to "night markets" to find cheaper stuff.

The differences between American college students and Taiwanese college students are not only in the recreations, but also in the way of receiving the grades in school. In Taiwan, teachers or professors grade students in numbers - from zero to one hundred points, and sixty points is the threshold of getting a credit. Nowadays, the universities and community colleges are

getting more and more, there is more competition among schools, and therefore teachers or professors of some schools have to give good grades to students by pushes from school administration. Otherwise, the schools will lose more students and cannot afford the salaries of the faculty and staff. In addition, the threshold of entering a university is way too simple, so students have fewer pressures for competing with each other, and they think they can get a credit very easily. Because of this situation, most Taiwanese high school students can go to college or university fairly readily without studying and the college students can get the diploma extremely easily in some schools. In contrast, universities use letter grades- a D to an A or a F in the United States. The D is equal to the sixty points to sixty-nine points in Taiwan, and a C is the same as seventy points to seventy-nine points, and so on, and a F means fail which is the same as the score from zero to fifty-nine points in Taiwan. Additionally, the condition is not like it is in Taiwan. Because there are more high school students desiring to go to college or university, the high school students are more competitive for entering a college or university. In other words, they have to spend longer and longer time studying to get a good score and obtain the scholarships to pay for the college or university tuition. According to a survey of American college students in the past and present, although two-thirds of professors think that most students lack basic skills for college level work, the college students are still more active and aggressive than Taiwanese college students because it is still hard to maintain their scholarships.

In addition to the way of receiving grades in school, another difference between American college students and Taiwanese college students is the sense of having jobs in college life. In the Asian culture, the only purpose of going to college is learning. Of course, in Taiwan, the families will try to provide everything that the college students need. Most parents do not like their college student children getting a part-time job, even a full-time job, when they are studying. The parents do not want the college students to worry about anything but studying. Therefore they will give the college students enough money for living and for recreations. However, even though most of the college students have enough money to survive in college, they still like having a part-time job for fun. They like to experience something else they are also interested in. Some of the college students at this moment do not have good sense of spending money. They spend money without considering their financial conditions, so sometimes they have to get a job to pay their bills. On the contrary, over forty-seven percent of American college students are concerned that they have to have a job in 2004. In American culture, after the high school students graduated from school they will leave home to live outside for their new college lives and become independent. Many of the college students are concerned about their financial conditions. Therefore, the American college students need to find a job to pay their apartment rentals, gasoline, electric bills, water bills, cell phone bills, and recreational costs. Furthermore, many of the college students have a job because they want to prove themselves. If they have more work experience, it is also an advantage for seeking a proper job in the future.

To conclude, the American and Taiwanese college students have differences in recreation, the way of being graded and the sense of having jobs in college life, and these are merely some aspects where American and Taiwanese college students are different. Although there exists so many differences between American and Taiwanese college students, their primary goal of attending colleges is finding a better job or making more money to improve their lives in the future. Because of the economic downturn, most American and Taiwanese college students are readying themselves to face a harder future.

## **Living in the U.S. for First Time Can Be Challenging**

*David Vasquez Perez*

*R/W 41*

When I came here alone, I felt that everything was different; the rules, the lifestyle, and the food. First, I had some luck, because I came with my brother and my cousins. But in the other way I wasn't so lucky, I missed my family and friends. There are many differences between Venezuela and the U.S., and I will explain three of them.

The first thing that I noticed was the different rules. In Venezuela, we have more freedom to do some activities. For example, about the driving rules in the U.S., we must be cautious of breaking a rule. The driving laws in the U.S. are taken very seriously. Another thing that we have to be cautious is about is doing something against the law because we are international students, and we can be deported to Venezuela.

The second thing is the family and the lifestyle. In Venezuela, I had really good parents and they helped me a lot to keep going and reach my goals. They helped me in everything at home, like cooking, and cleaning. Here, I have to take care of myself and do all my stuff. This is one of the hardest challenges.

The last problem is the difference between the kinds of food. When I buy something in the market, like meat or chicken, and I cook it, the taste of the food is very different from my country's food. Another difference in the food is the cook; in my house my mom was a very good cook and did a good job, however, here I have to do it. That changes the taste of the food a lot.

In conclusion, here in the U.S. I feel a lot of differences; it can be the taste of the food, the lack of family, or the presence of too many rules. In the end, we have to become accustomed and accept the differences. Just take the good things, accept them and forget about the bad things.

## **Stadium Fight**

*Ehab Musharbash*

*R/W 30*

I was sitting in the stadium one day when suddenly I saw how the players fight in the stadium it was amazing because I never seen in my life how the players fight in the stadium before that day. First, they started fight in a small group but after one hour they started again to fight and the second time was scary because the fight was big not like the first time. After that, the police officer came over to stadium because people started fight with each other. After four minutes the policeman fixed the problem. Then, I saw how some people were bloody because they were fighting with the policeman too; however, after that, I was still in the stadium because it was Sunday and was nothing for me to do so I still looking to the stadium how big is because it was my first time when I go to the stadium I felt myself free and I didn't know why I felt that feeling maybe because I was alone in that moment, and I didn't feel how the time Gan fast, maybe because I was writing when I was in the stadium about my feeling how was my first day in the stadium after that I still coming to the stadium to write what I feel or if I have a bad mood I come here, because every needs to be alone sometimes and now am here in the stadium and writing for you this history with all my feeling because the weather is nice sunny and a little bit hot and I like this weather and I recommend if someone want's to be alone or has a bad mood to come over here to make a happiness.

## **To Reach Your American Dream!**

*Gulsah Billor*

*R/W 41*

People who move from overseas to the U.S. every year to study have the American Dream. They want to have a good career in the future. However, it is not easy to adapt to a new culture. There are difficulties and challenges when coming to the U.S. for the first time. Aldo is one of my classmates. He came from Venezuela. Before I came to the U.S., I thought Latin America culture was close to American culture, but he told me when he came to the U.S. he experienced some problems. The problems included; culture, language, and weather. We can say all these problems are common for everyone.

Aldo told me when he came to the U.S. his first problem was the culture. He experienced cultural shock when he came to the U.S. He thinks Americans are more individualistic than Venezuelan people. They don't like to talk much and they don't like to use body language (hugging, kissing, etc.). He told me in Venezuela people always like to talk and touch each other. When he rides the bus, no one makes eye contact with him. Instead, everybody listens to mp3 players and they are looking somewhere, but he doesn't understand what they are looking at. Therefore, he feels lonely even though he came to Gainesville with his other Venezuelans friends.

Aldo's second problem was language when he came here. He had studied English in Venezuela, and had visited the U.S. before. However, it is difficult to understand Americans when they are talking because of their accent and their fast-talking. At first, he couldn't understand anything, so he felt like

a fish out of water. I can relate to him because when I came to the U.S. I felt like Aldo. In addition, this was my first experience in the U.S.

Weather was another problem for Aldo. He told me in Venezuela the weather is always sunny, but when he first came here, he froze even though he was in Florida because the weather was so much colder than his expectations. I cannot imagine if he went to Canada. What would he do?

In conclusion, everyone will have some problems when arriving in a new country and being introduced to a new culture. Some people can adapt easily, while others find it difficult to adapt and some cannot adapt at all. We came to the U.S. to achieve our dreams about America. Therefore, we should try to adapt without losing our identity. In addition, if you like to meet new people and learn a new culture, it will be easy!

## **Differences Between Men and Women: Who does What?**

*Anne Traub*

*R/W 50*

Every day, when I get up in the morning I see the same picture: the dining is room completely messy and dirty. I can't understand why there are four empty cups of coffee, three half-drunk diet coke glasses, and the chocolate milk out of the fridge. It drives me crazy. My husband studies until 3 AM every day and, of course, he is tired. I scold him, but peacefully he answers me, "I am sorry, I can't avoid it." Then, I start to clean the house up, and, immediately, he takes the garbage out. That is how our day begins. Taking in mind these reactions I think to myself every time: Why are Rodrigo and I so different? Is his "exhaustion" the main reason why he doesn't put the glasses and cups away? The answer to that lays in the gender differences of style of behavior, brain structure, and specific occupations.

Men and women conduct their actions in two very different ways. While men use fewer words, talk almost always only when it is necessary, and speak with declarative statements; women speak almost every time, invent new issues when the last topic is over, and use question statements in their speech. The same occurs when both discuss; most of the time men give a short and unfriendly answer, like: "I am sorry, I can't avoid that." However women try to be more polite and look for a real solution to the problem. Sometimes, just a "no" answer would be hurtful for a woman, but in some cases, it tends to be more assertive and could avoid an imminent struggle between man and woman.

Another important topic between the gender differences is the brain predisposition. Men are single-minded. It means that they cannot do more than one thing at a time. If he is studying, he just pays attention to it and unquestionably he performs very well in his lessons. Clearly, there is no relation between the disaster in the dining room and Rodrigo's exhaustion; he never remembers to clean it up because it is not a matter of his concern, it does not cause any problem to his studies' purposes. On the other hand, women are multitasking;

their brain organization allows them to do a lot of things, more than their typical-preassigned chores. Indeed, if a woman has a problem with her car, obviously she will try to solve it by herself before calling her husband for help. However, if a man has a problem with a classic women task, such as cooking, probably he will not try to solve it by himself. The most probable reaction would be to call his wife to say, “Honey, something strange is happening in the kitchen, can you please come here and take a look???”

Regarding the eventual reaction of a man doing a woman chore, it is proven that men and women undoubtedly have different occupations and culturally it is so understood. Men belong to the mines, construction, army, air force and police. On the other hand, women fit in better in nursing, elementary school, and of course fulfilling all the house tasks. Regarding these home chores, sometimes men have some prefixed duties and they respond only to them. In the case described before, his work is to put the garbage away, and he never forgets it, but cleaning the kitchen and washing the cups and glasses are tasks not included in the agreement between them. In conclusion, he doesn't understand that he could have done it. In his head these jobs are only for women.

The differences regarding genders in subjects like way of conducting themselves, intellect configuration, and jobs maybe cause that men and women don't understand each other, but finally, at the end of the day, those dissimilarities between them certainly make the world function better, because men and women provide different and independent valuable things to the life and environment. Men perform in a direct, assertive, but more inefficient manner. However, women act in a sensible, polite and more productive way. It is true that women complain about men and men nag about women, but, it is more certain that they cannot live without the others and nobody imagines a world without both of them. In conclusion, the one is the “support” or “little engine” of the other and an indescribable necessity exists between them.

## **First Moments Passed in the USA**

*Fofana Oumou*

*R/W 41*

Have you ever woken up one morning, and found that you're in another country where everything is different compared to your home country? This is what all those for whom English isn't the native language are confronted with everyday. Indeed, this is one among all kinds of problems. These could be limited to three main ones: speaking English, which is new for them, the food and the new culture. During this essay, we'll explain in detail those three issues.

First of all, the new language is English. The problem of coming here for the first time without speaking English is a serious change. As a result, they feel lost and isolated. They can't watch TV or listen to radio in their native language. Furthermore, most of the time, they have some difficulty in reading and understanding the highway driving laws. Namely, they can't drive or cross the street safely. To sum up, the fact that they aren't English speakers in an English speaking country

is very difficult for them. However, English isn't the only one issue.

Next, when they come to the USA, they have to adapt themselves to eating local USA food. Indeed, most of the foreigners complain about USA food, because they find that it's not spicy enough. On the other hand, most of the foreigners find that fast food is eaten too often here, despite the fact that it's not very healthy. Lastly, they also complain about the taste of the food. They find that USA food is tasteless compared to their country. In essence, changing eating habits such as no spicy food, fast food or tasteless foods, tends to disorient foreigners.

Finally, a third issue can also contribute to the problems; it's the new culture. The foreigner finds himself in a new culture when arriving in the USA. The foreigner, often, don't know much about tipping rules, eye contact, and American football, the most popular game in the USA. On the tipping rules for example, they don't know that they must give a tip for services such as the restaurant or on an order delivered at home. Next, most of the time, they aren't aware about the eye contact, which is very important in the USA. It's the same for the American football game; they ignore the rules most of the time, and don't feel involved during the big championship games. Finally, the foreigners have to experience a new culture and new manner such as tipping, eye contact, and American football.

To summarize, coming to the USA for the first time can be challenging. The new entrants have to face three different issues: the new language (English), the new food, and the shift in eating habits. Nevertheless, coming to the USA can also be interesting and pleasant because it's always good to see new places, new faces, and try to be immersed in a new culture, especially, for persons who are seeking for new sensations.

## **When I Came to the U.S.**

*David Lorente*

*R/W 41*

“A mountain, when you have no knowledge about it, you see the mountain like a mountain, but when you begin to have knowledge, you stopped seeing it like a mountain.” Have you ever heard this before? For me, this means a lot, when you don't know about something, you see things easily. However, the more knowledge you have, then the more you realize that it is more complex than you thought. Some of the things that you have to deal with are the language, the food, and finally, the transportation.

First, once I thought that my English in Spain wasn't bad at all. But I only needed one day in the U.S., to find that my English level wasn't even a good beginning. Thus, you have to deal with many different accents here in the U.S., which are really difficult to understand. This is one of the main characteristics in this country, as well as it is a multicultural country. Then, when you finally are able to understand something and try to answer it, you feel blank and nervous. This is the moment when you realize that there are a lot of improvements in English that you need to make.

The next thing that I had to handle was the food. As it is different from the food of my country. I find it difficult to get used to. The food of the U.S. is spicy and doubles its size so you have to control what you eat, if you don't want to gain weight. This is why you have to adapt your mind and your body to this new experience that you are living.

Finally, I want to talk about the transportations in the U.S. compared to the ones in Spain. Here in the U.S., you have to have a car if you want to go anywhere. The distances are longer than in Spain where if you want to buy some bread you only need to go to the street and walk three steps to get it, so driving everywhere is also a new aspect that you have to get accustomed to.

In conclusion, going to live to another country has its pros and cons. You have to deal with a lot of different situations such as the language, the food and also the transportation. However, this is an experience, which I would recommend to anyone.

## Gender Differences

*Deborah d'Abreu Regina*

*R/W 50*

Since the time of Adam and Eve we can see the differences between those two sexes, but does it change anything? Does sex matter? We always have many questions about the differences of genders--the way they think, how they behave in many situations, among other diversities. We already know that male and female are entirely poles apart. Feminists claimed in the 60<sup>th</sup> that both the female and male sexes should be exactly the same; however, things changed and they become unequal by the way society started to treat them. Researchers still find some differences in those genders the way they act in relationships, at work and at home.

Women usually tend to be more sensitive than men in most of those situations. For example, they always like to have more intimacy and be very close to their partners. It is the way they show their love; on the other hand, men want to have more privacy. They know their partners want to be close, but they do not accept that. The other characteristic is the way they talk to each other. Usually women are more patient than men and they tend to make questions even when they are sure what they are talking about like "Are you sure?" or "I was wondering" or even "Don't you think?" Contrary to women, men have a tendency to be stricter. Men never make questions when they are sure about what they are talking about. For instance, men always use phrases like "You are wrong" or "I am sure" or even "Don't say that." Women at all times like to spend most of the time with their partners even if they want to enjoy their friends; however, men tend to spend more time with their friends by themselves, which is very healthy for the relationship for the relationship because everybody should have their social life outside of the home.

Not only can they be different in day-to-day relationship, emotionally, but also they can be very different in the workplace. Women are constantly more susceptible when it comes to male-female interactions in this field. For example,

when it comes to giving orders, men and women can act in different ways. Women are more likely to soften their demands, using tag lines more harmoniously. Moreover, they tend to use phrases like "I think you could" or "Maybe it is better in the other way" or even making questions like "How about...?" or "Don't you think...?" When it comes to a demand, women tend to make suggestions instead of give orders. Men, on the other hand, tend to be bossy at all times. Usually, they do not ask – they demand. Phrases like "You should do it that way!" or "I don't like it." Making suggestions is not common for men. Another important difference between men and women is that women normally ask more questions than men. Of course men ask questions as well, but with the other completely different purpose. Men ask questions to collect information. Women, in contrast, ask questions to either obtain information or just to confirm what they already know the answers. It occurs because they want to show attention in what the other person is saying. It is a way to promote a good relationship.

Asking questions is a natural habit of women; for example, they are more likely to ask questions in all the situations above. Women are used to asking questions all the time even with their families, even though they know the answer for those questions. They do it for many reasons. The most important reason is to have a good relationship with their families. In the home, women tend to ask questions to give orders, as they do in their jobs; however, sometimes this kind of attitude does not work the way they want; on the contrary, they irritate members of their families by using "Why?", "How so?" among other questions. On the other hand, sometimes it is very helpful because when they want to demand, they do it politely by using "Could you, please...?" or "Would you, please...?" However, men still tend to be straighter to demand, even at home. They use phrases like "Do it!" or "This way is wrong!" are very common in men's attitudes.

Relationships are like those two poles of a battery. There is no energy without both of them. Without it there is no power and without power the relationship can fail. Each gender has its particularity; hence, it's very important to respect the other person's sex. They can be either more emotional or more rational, but we always need both characteristics to have a good connection. As a result, men and women should work together on their relationships together for a healthy liaison; so, there is no waltz without a pleasant couple.

## Tu Table Etiquette

*Haiyan Xing*

*R/W 3*

Nowadays, more and more people realize that the table etiquette is a hot topic. It's undoubted that the etiquette is very important part of folk culture, and it plays an important role in people's life. But, due to the different backgrounds, there is different table etiquette in many countries. In China, because there are 56 ethnic groups living together, you can find a lot of table etiquette in the customs. Now let us give an example to introduce some rules of Tu's table etiquette. If you visit the

Tu's family, you must understand their customs and pay attention to three rules.

The Tus are especially hospitable. All guests, including passersby and anyone that should ask for an accommodation, are welcomed with open arms. They believe the visitors can bring good luck. They have some special foods, a kind of round cake called 'Tahuri', for a rare visitor. Traditionally, guests are treated to a five course meal, such as buttered tea, deep fried noodles with stewed beef ribs, a variety of stuffed buns, meat eaten with the fingers. The last course of the Tus' specialty is homemade long noodles.

Firstly, you should wait for the older people to sit down before you find your seat. As the guests enter, they are seated and join the dinner, but you must wait if there are some old people in the dinner because the old people must be seated in the middle seat. In the Tu's opinion, the middle seat is related to the folk religion. And you can't touch any foods before the eldest man does.

In the second place, Tu nationality has another custom that shows their respect to you. The host will propose three toasts for you, and sing some old folksongs when they give you three cups of wine. If you don't drink, you must use dip your finger in a little wine and spray it into the air three times. This is symbol of your prayer to sky, earth, and ancestors. It is impolite that you eat anything before you do it.

Thirdly, even though many people have lunch or dinner together, every body must keep quiet, because it is very rude when someone at the table is talking loudly, especially when he has some food in his mouth. In addition, you must be attentive to other people on the table, and usually use your chopsticks give them some food, such as vegetables, fruits, meats and so on, when you find other people's plate is empty.

In short, the Tus has an interesting table etiquette as part of their customs. For example, they respect their guests and their children must be on their best behavior as not to drive guests away. In my opinion, there are many things need we to learn about table etiquette if we want to go the other place or counties. Abiding by those rules is very useful for communication between guests and hosts.

## **The Differences Between Men and Women**

*Ying-Ju Chen (Maggie)*

*R/W 50*

Humanity has known that men and women are very dissimilar in physiology and psychology for a long time. Since the scientific journal was created in 1665, there have been over tens of thousands of scientific articles about the differences of men and women. People can notice the differences between men and women very easily; for example, most men are interested in cars, sports or women; on the other hand, most women are not interested in those subjects, instead they are into make up, fashion or things that look pretty. No matter what the subjects are, men and women have different point of views. Many scientists have done research on how different it is between men and women in relationship, communication and the structure of the brain.

The differences between men and women are not only in their interests, but also in their behaviors in relationships. Men and women have very different standpoints about their relationships. Men can date women just because of their wonderful shape of body or good looks. When asked what is the most important thing that men care about women they may answer loyalty or appearance. Also, when men are in relationships, they usually need some personal space. They can just watch ball games all day long without talking to their wives or girlfriends or even by themselves. According to Mark Gungor, men do not have many connections in their brain. In other words, men have many boxes in their brain, but most boxes do not connect with each other when they are working. In addition, the favorite box of men is the "nothing box" which does not have anything in it and men use it all the time. In contrast, most women would not fall in love just because of men's appearances while they value the harmony much more and they think the most important thing about men is loyalty, hard working or dependability. Women like to have more intimacy with their husbands or boyfriends, and they always keep thinking and like to share every little thing with others.

In addition to relationship, the communications between men and women are different. Most men are more direct in the way of talking, which is probably affected by education or society so that they are taught to be more active and protective. For example, men like to interrupt each other aggressively, and they prefer, "Hey, listen to me!" or "That's bull shit!" instead of "Sorry for the interruption!" or "Could you listen to me for a while?" Men usually do not talk about their personal relationships or private lives because they care more about what others think and therefore are more defensive and concealed. In comparison, when women talk to each other they are more polite or circumlocutory. For example, women are more prone to say, "sorry," "maybe," "probably" when they do not agree with others. In addition, most women usually let the speakers finish their sentences, and then interrupt with "Sorry, may I say something?" or "I am sorry for the interruption but I am afraid I cannot agree with you." Women like to have more empathy and become more involved with others, therefore they love to share and discuss their personal relationships and feelings.

In addition, many scientists have proved that one of the reasons of the differences between men and women in relationships and communications are because of the structure of the brain. The studies showed that the sizes of men and women's brain are different, that is, men's brains are bigger than women's. Men and women sometimes use the different parts of the brain when they are thinking, talking, learning, hearing or memorizing. Women have more connections (more widespread white matter) in brains hence they have better concrete thinking. For instance, women are usually better in human relations, esthetic appreciations, verbal languages and recognizing emotional behavior of others. Research has also shown that brain's serotonin (the neurotransmitter called "the happiness hormone") system is dissimilar between men and women, causing women to suffer depression and anxiety more easily.

Men and women are different in behaving in relationships, in the ways of interacting with and responding to other people and structural properties of the brain. These are just some of the aspects where men and women are different. Although men and women are very dissimilar in certain fields, they have gotten on well with each other for a long time. For instance, most men are attracted by the women's expression of speech and emotion, or their appearances. Moreover, most women love men that are active, have initiative, and some women even like to be dominated by men. In conclusion, men and women can complement each other very well because of the differences.

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## All My Needs are Adjusting

*Young-Dae Lee*

*R/W41*

"People can't live without society." I saw this quote in a sociology class when I was a high school student. It means people have to adjust their society and then they can live together. When I came here in the U.S, I needed to change and challenge a lot of things for adjusting the U.S. Everything are continuations of challenges such as language, food, and transportation. These things pushed me to challenge them. It took a very long time, and made me tired.

First of all, it's challenging to learn a language in a new country. Without this, I couldn't do anything what I wanted to do. For example, I couldn't eat food. When I ordered "Coke and Sashimi", the waiter asked me "how do you want to it cooked". I was embarrassed and I couldn't understand why she asked me that. So, I told her again, "Sashimi and Coke." At that time, she understood what I ordered. They had understood "Cooked Sashimi." This event taught me that pronunciation was very important and how my pronunciation was poor.

Next, every meal was a challenge to me. When I get hungry, I need to think what do I want to eat. In my country, I know what was delicious to me, so I could choose what I wanted to eat. However, in the US I didn't know what is good at a restaurant. Actually, I still don't know what is good, so I have to read the menu and then check what is in the food. Sometimes, it gave me tragic experiences. I couldn't eat food that I ordered, so I left the food. I was sorry about it, but I didn't want to make an experiment with my stomach.

The last thing of challenge was transportation. When I knew that on every Sunday in Gainesville, there was no bus. I thought Gainesville was like a prison. I couldn't go anywhere on Sunday without other people helping. During that time, I was going to be crazy and felt lonely. So, I tried to meet someone who had a car and took me somewhere. Now days, I can go to everywhere, because I made a lot of friends who are very kind, so they delightfully help me when I needed them.

In conclusion, sometimes I thought Gainesville was a terrible city, because of the language, meals, and transportation. However, when I had overcome all of my challenges, it became to change. Gainesville is a good city if you understand and adjust more and more. These experiences taught me that every challenge could give me not only failure and frustrations, but also the success of overcoming my challenges. When I succeed, the feeling can't be compared to any thing else.

## Positive Effects of Globalization in Peru

*Wagner Guzman*

*R/W 30*

Nowadays globalization is the most important process around the world. Globalization is integration in different subjects. Globalization effects are positives for developing country economies. South America countries to find in this process an opportunity to improve their economies. In Peru, globalization helps to improve the economy through product commercialization, communication and tourism.

Commercial agreements with different countries help to improve the product commercialization. For example, commercial agreement with US will increase exports in \$9,000 M beginning with 2010. In addition, 81,000 new direct and indirect employments will be creating. (1) Commercial agreements with China and European Union will subscribe in the next months. These agreements will have a great impact in the Peruvian economy.

New communication alternatives help to improve the economy. For example, three international highways have been built with support of Development International Bank, DIB. These communication alternatives have increased export and import of products inside South America and between South America and Asia. Today, new products between Peru and Brazil are trading and a lot of families receive economic benefits. The results are also positive inside regional economies.

Nowadays more tourists are visiting Peru because of globalization. The tourist quantity arrived Peru in 2008 was over 2.0 M people. The economic activity benefits associated with tourism were over \$2000 M. In addition, tourism gives employments in restaurant (41%), transportation (36%), hotel (18%), and travel agencies (5%). (2) Today, tourism is the more important activity in Peruvian economy enjoy with mining.

Globalization effects are dynamics. Around the world a lot of countries are integrating and they all to obtain great benefits. Diverse activities have different effects in developing country economies, and in general these effects are positives.

Peruvian economy grows constantly because of globalization.  
Diverse indicators show us these results.

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

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