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# ELI STUDENT VOICES

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Volume 5, Issue 3

Fall 2001

## The Right Kind of Love

*Waka Tominaga*

*R/W 60*

**1<sup>st</sup> Place**

I found an interesting meditation method presented on a website. Describing a way of meditation, it says, “You can sit in your chair or you can sit in whatsoever posture you feel to be comfortable. Then fold your hands together in your lap with the right hand underneath the left hand – the position is important because the right hand is joined with the left brain, and fear always comes from the left brain. The left hand is joined with the right brain, and courage comes from the right side”([www.innerself.com/Meditation/weekly/from\\_fear\\_to\\_love.htm](http://www.innerself.com/Meditation/weekly/from_fear_to_love.htm)). After reading this article, I thought being in love might be strongly influenced by the different functions of our right brain and left brain.

The human brain is divided into the right and left hemispheres, and each hemisphere has different characteristics. Vivian Gornick explains the difference between the right and left in her essay “Watch out: Your brain may be used against you,” “The left half is apparently the seat of logical thought, speech and language, and the ability to process information sequentially, while the right half is responsible for orientation in space, for intuition and imagination, and the ability to integrate information in a diffused, simultaneous fashion” (Gornick, 1982, p. 14). In other words, the left brain is verbal, rational, and processes information based on the reality. In contrast, the right brain is nonverbal, emotional, and processes information with creativity.

However, today, we live in the left-brain-dominant society, yet humans used to live in the right-brain-tended world for millions of years. Unlike the modern times, in the Stone Age human thoughts were more nonverbal and concrete. What happened in the past few thousand years is that humans have discovered that logical thinking is more correct and works better than intuitive thinking. People also have created alphabets to write about events and thoughts, which enabled them to give the knowledge that they gained to the next generation. Becoming more logical and verbal, that is to say, becoming more left-brain-dominant, humans have tremendously developed their skills and built up the modern technology (Blakeslee, 1980, p.110).

Therefore, we may have to just accept that today’s society encourages people to use their left brains as much as possible if not only. On the other hand, our right brains are often overborne and atrophied. Say you are an office worker, then what kind of person should you be? You must be verbal because you need good speech and language to work through

documents, convince co-workers, and deal with demanding customers. For the same purpose, you need good logic, too. Also you have to be temporal and sequential in order to advance your work efficiently and finish it on time. We are educated by schools and work and obtain the abilities to function well in this being-supreme-logical society. People become more left-brain-dominant as the years go by and lose the good points of the right side, even though we are naturally imaginative and spontaneous when we are very young,

Nevertheless, we still have things which are not for the left-brain-dominant people but for the right-brain-dominant. For example, love is not logic. When you are in love, you are possibly less logical or rational but more emotional and imaginative. According to the literature, love often comes from metaphors and imaginations. Swann fell in love with Odette when he found the resemblance between her and Zephora in a painting by Giotto in “Remembrance of Things Past” by Marcel Proust. Thomas loved Theresa because of the metaphor of Moses as a baby who is sent to him through a river in “The Unbearable Lightness of Being” by M. Kundera. The right brain processes information with creativity and fantasy while the left brain conducts information based on reality. Love is a child of the right brain.

Thus you start to know the right-brain-dominant world when you fall in love. However, this new world is nothing but a terror for left-brain-dominant people because they will be out of control in this primitive, confused world, something like the Dark Age. We would lose logical thinking there whereas we depend on it in our normal lives. The sense of time would disappear when we are with our beloveds, although we are quite conscious of time when we are at work. You might no longer be able to do things in order from the most important to the least, which cannot happen when you are in your office, and you may try to stay with your mate even though you have something else to do. Jealousy is not at all logic, but you might not be able to avoid being jealous because you can’t stop your imagination running at full blast in your right brain. Having an affair? Falling in love with a married person? Suffering from an impossible love? Broken heart? Committing manslaughter for jealousy? Everything could happen because you are far from rational when your right brain becomes stronger than your left brain. I guess it’s very difficult for everybody to separate and forget about the person who tortures them, while it would be easier to do so if only they could follow their logical thinking. How terrible, you may think. Many people actually fear being in love.

However, others admire love because they think love makes people pure, spontaneous and creative, which is important especially in today’s left-brain-dominant world. When the right brain flies freely, people become more

imaginative, creative and artistic. Love has given artists great inspirations for their work, like Picasso's wives and girlfriends have done for his works, or Camille Claudel for Rodin. Similar to the great artists, while you are suffering from love, you could write a romantic poem or at least beautiful letters. For another thing, why are people who fall in love often looking up to the sky for the sunset and stars? It is because we would be more sensitive when our right brains become active, and we could be impressed a lot by environments and nature. Finally, listen to a couple murmuring to each other. You would find that they are using something like baby's language or animal's purr to communicate together. They are nonverbal, and we know that the most important thing to understand each other is not to speak well but to feel other's feeling.

To conclude, today, people are too left-brain-dominant. We are afraid of the things which come from our right brain, such as emotions and fantasy, and often try to eliminate and oppress those things, although they are important parts of our nature. We may fear being in love because love comes from our right brains. Once we fall in love, we would be out of control and struggle in this left-brain-dominant world. Obviously the life could be easier without love. However, there is something we can gain being right-brain-dominant. It is, for example, an inspiration, sensitivity, or the truth of life. After all, I would say we should stop discriminating against our right brains. It is our nature, and as you know, "everybody needs love," actually.

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## A Wedding in Venezuela

*German Borregales.*

*R/W 30*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

In my country, Venezuela, weddings are one of the most important and familiar events. Even for those who don't have a lot of money for a wedding it is something that they want to celebrate at least once in their lifetime. I think it has the same importance in many other cultures and countries because it is a great occasion where parents, relatives and friends meet.

When both the bride and groom agree to be married, they arrange first the wedding date and set it with enough time in order to arrange the preparation for the wedding, such as looking for a justice of the peace to perform the civil marriage, place where the party would be held, dresses, rings, church, number of guests, choosing the food, musician group and

bridesmaid, etc. These activities must start several months before wedding.

In Venezuela marriages are performed in two steps, one by the civil law and second by the church. The Catholic ceremony is more important than the other ceremonies because Catholicism is our main religion. Before the marriage, both the bride and groom must take a brief preparatory marriage course in their parish church. The celebration would come after the church has married them, although many people celebrate both weddings, civil and church.

A Venezuelan tradition is that once the bride and groom are ready to be wed, the groom must ask permission from the father of the bride. In case the father has passed away he must speak to the mother. Once the father has given his consent, they will start talking about the ceremony, number of guests and of the party, etc. Traditionally, the bride's family pays the wedding cost. However, if they are too expensive both parents will share the cost. Another important thing is the choosing of the time of the wedding. It would be during the day or in the evening.

It would take several months to have all of the wedding details in place. The bride would be dressed in a wonderful white dress, which was previously designed for her. She must have tried it several times, making sure that fits her beautifully. The groom will be dressed in an elegant black tuxedo. On the day of the ceremony, the groom would only see the bride at the church. He enters the church on the arm of his mother and waits for the bride at the altar. She arrives at the church with her father. Her father brings her arm in arm through to the altar and hands her over to him. Then, the bridesmaids wearing also elegant and beautiful dresses, will also enter the church and they are placed beside the bridegrooms. Finally, the relatives and friends would come into the church seating closely to the soon newlyweds.

During the wedding, the newlyweds sit together in front of the altar where the priest would be leading the ceremony. The priest celebrates a mass in order to bless this marriage. During the mass, the marriage ritual would be performed. At the beginning, the reading of the promises is made, and then the priest would ask them the most important question: Do you accept to be married and be so for the rest of your lives, until death takes you apart? If the answer is yes, the priest will declare the marriage and then crossing the wedding ring is made.

Usually, after the church wedding ceremony both the bride and the groom will ride in a beautiful old car to go to the place of the party. When they enter the site, a white bell full of rice falls down on their heads, and then they will start receiving the greetings and congratulation from all of their relatives, friends and guests. The party begins with a dance where the bride will initially be dancing with her father and then she would be dancing with groom. At this time, parents, relatives and friends would also dance and the party will start with guests enjoying the fabulous food, drinks and pop music. The party lasts even after midnight until the newlyweds disappear. They will stay the first night at a very fine local hotel and would fly the next day to their honeymoon place.

## Hot Spring Bath

*Issei Imagawa*

*R/W 41*

In Japan, people like to take a hot spring bath. Some people go to a place where there are lots of spas to heal daily bodily pain and strain. Taking a hot spring bath has an effect on our bodies because a spa has a miracle power beyond comprehension of medical science. They call the treatment a hot spring cure.

First of all, the treatment of a hot spring cure cures rheumatism, frozen shoulder, poor circulation, and so on. It improves our constitutions. This remedy is commonly used to get rid of a disease. When we go to a spa, we don't need a doctor's permission because hot springs gush out grandly from nature. Taking a spa is not harmful to the health, so it is very good for us to take a hot spring bath.

Second, taking a hot spring bath decreases the influence of symptoms. People who have those diseases like rheumatism, frozen shoulder, and poor circulation need to take a hot bath for more than 2 hours per day several times per day. However, whenever we take a hot spring bath, we can feel more comfortable.

In summary, taking a hot spring bath is a natural treatment. Therefore, it has an effective healing effect as well as a pleasant feeling for us. And I hope that by the treatment, a lot of people will recover from sickness and be fine.

## Folk Medicine

*Taiyo Okabe*

*R/W 41*

Folk medicine is used for sick people as the main medical treatment when there were not enough medicines in the old time in Japan. For example, they are honey radish, plum tea, and grilled orange. They are called "Grandma's Wisdom" these days because folk medicines are taught from elder people to younger. However, these remedies are not conventional recently. We usually use scientific medicines instead of folk medicines nowadays.

Before I describe honey radish as one example of the folk medicine, I have to introduce the radish. The radishes which are used for radish honey are special. We call them Japanese radish. They are 50-60 centimeters long and 10 centimeters in diameter. They look like baseball bats. We can buy them at every grocery store in Japan. They are very useful because they are not only cheap but also contain many kinds of foodstuffs such as vitamin C and some enzymes. Also, they say that this radish is the most valuable vegetable.

Now, I can tell you how to make and take honey radish. First, we have to cut them into little cubes. Then, we put them into a big bottle. After that, we pour honey into the bottle and leave them all day. Then, take the radish out. This is honey radish. If you have a sore throat, you can drink this two or three times per day, for a week. Your throat is going to be better because radish and honey are good for your throat.

What is the benefit of folk medicines? First of all, we don't need to have prescriptions. If you are sick you can get then at many supermarkets. Furthermore, if you feel enough effect, you don't have to take scientific medicines. Chemical medicines cause side effects. For example, when women are pregnant, taking chemical medicine is bad for their babies. Therefore, folk medicines are highly valuable for females that have a child inside of the body. Finally, I really trust that these folk medicines are good treatment because they were made by great ancestors that had a lot of experience.

## A Traditional Saudi Wedding

*Abdullah Al-Kobraish*

*R/W 30*

In every culture, a wedding is an important event. For me, this subject is very interesting because my culture is different from other cultures. In this case, I'll be talking about the wedding in Saudi Arabia, beginning from the choice of a bride, to the preparation, and finally what happens on the wedding night.

In Saudi Arabia, the mother, sister, or aunt looks for a bride for the groom. The reason why the groom's mother or sister searches for a girl for him is because boys and girls or men and women always work and study separately. Afterwards, the two families meet to get to know each other. When the bride's family says welcome, the groom goes to the bride's home to see if they like each other. If they do, then they will get married.

After, the groom pays dowry to the bride (usually around \$10,000), the marriage officer comes to write a contract of marriage between both of them, and two witnesses watch. First, the officer hears the agreement that the families have for the wedding. Second, he writes how much the groom should pay for his wife and the conditions of the marriage.

Since then, the groom's family and bride's family start the preparations for the wedding night. They buy some jewelry and new clothes. In addition, the groom buys furniture and appliances for his home. Often, this preparation takes several months before the wedding night. However, when the groom, bride and their families are ready for the wedding night, they send out invitation cards for their families, relatives, and friends. During that time the groom's relative and friends give him some money for help.

At the day of the ceremony the bride goes to the hairdresser. In the evening, she always wears a special white dress. At 7:00 PM she and her family go to the wedding place where they wait for the groom and his family and friends. At 10:00 PM the groom and his relatives go together to that place. There are around 400 people. The groom rides a nice car. Moreover, everyone drives behind him. When he and his family arrive, the bride's family waits for them. Then her family greets the groom and his relatives with incense, Arabic coffee, and tea. However, men and women are placed individually. When everyone meets the groom, they say, "Congratulations and may Allah bless you and your wife." Furthermore, they say, "May Allah bestow godliness upon the

groom and bride.” Then they go to eat dinner. Sometimes the main plate for the groom and his Father is a special plate; for example, mutton. It is stuffed with chickens and those are filled with pasta. After they finish, the groom carries his wife to a hotel. The party for women has musicians and they all dance. This party seldom ends before midnight, but it usually finishes in the morning.

The next day, the groom gives his bride jewelry. That day in the evening, the groom, the bride and their relatives go to his family’s house to eat dinner. Then the groom and bride both travel to some place they like.

Finally, when the groom and his wife get back, they give some presents to their families. Then they begin to start their new life together.

Saudi proverb (Never buy a donkey in the spring. Never choose a wife at a party.)

## **How to Apply Makeup**

*Gulbatu Akgun*

*R/W 30*

This description is going to teach how to put on makeup. Makeup is a very important thing for women. Women like good looks. In order to put on makeup you’ll need the following implements: a cleanser, a moisturizer cream, some paper towel, a foundation, some eye shadow, some rouge powder, a mascara, a corrector, an eye liner, a lip pencil, a lip brush and a lipstick.

First, clean your face before putting on makeup. Then use the moisturizer cream all around the face. Wait until it absorbs the cream. Dab the cream off your face with the paper towel.

Second, rub the corrector on the eyehole. Next, rub the eyeliner to the edge of the eyelid from the inside to outside. After that, rub the eye shadow only on your eyelid. Use the mascara for eyelashes.

Third, rub the rouge powder to the cheekbone from the inside then up and out. Use the lip pencil for the edge off the lips. Start at middle of the lip and then go to the end of the lip slowly. After this, rub the lipstick with the lip brush.

Indeed, finish the makeup and you have a beautiful and different face. You are ready to go to a party. Have fun!

## **The Evolution of the Seeds**

*Prapot Prasertsomsook*

*R/W 51*

When you are enjoying eating fruits or vegetables, you may not ever think about where those fruits and vegetables came from. There might be many answers, which come to your mind, such as the kitchen, a tree, a garden, and etc., but they are not the source. Seeds are the first and basic generators of those products. The seeds are the indicators of every trait of those fruits and vegetables. Therefore, if you have some knowledge regarding seeds, you will know both general information and

the detail in depth. Concurrently, we have been classifying seeds into three genres, categorized by their generations. Those are open-pollinated seeds (OP), F1 hybrid seeds, and genetically modified organism seed (GMO).

Since our ancestor’s era, farmers have been using the open-pollinated seed to grow produce. OP seeds have been known for millennia. They are non-hybrid seeds, which produce offspring just like the parent plants. OP seeds allow growers to harvest and save seeds for the following year, thereby reducing the need to obtain more seed from outside sources. Because farmers obtain the seed naturally, there is no cost in gathering the seed for the next growing season and then farmers could save on their cost of investment. By the natural growing method, products from OP seeds would not only give the standard nutrition of the normal scale such as protein, vitamins, and so on, but also provide safe food. In contrast, an OP seed has not been improved or developed; it gives the lowest yield compared to those of other seeds. In the same way, plants of these seeds are sensitive in growing. Only someone with a green thumb would successfully grow OP seeds. They also produce many unwanted qualities of fruit and vegetables such as a bad shape, tasteless fruit, and blackish flesh.

Through the development of researchers, F1 hybrid seeds are found to overcome all the threats in growing OP seeds. Growing F1 hybrid seeds makes possible a higher yield, an appealing fruit, and an easy cultivation. Hence there is no doubt why many farmers agree to pay much money to have them. F1 hybrid seeds could be defined partly. F1 means the first generation offspring coming from the mating of two parent plants. This is the first generation resulting from a cross mating of distinctly different parental types. Normally to launch any single variety of the F1 hybrid seed, researchers need more than 3 years to process the selective mating procedure to find the parent line. Though it has been developed from generation to generation, farmers still face some disadvantage in using it. Because it gives an outstanding high yield, it devours nutrition in the soil swiftly, causing the need to rotate crops or the use of much more fertilizer. Since most of the F1 hybrid seeds are invented for the purpose of faster growth, approximately 5-10 days earlier depending on the crop, their products produce lower nutrition when compared to the other naturally growing seeds due to the shorter period of metabolism.

Not only OP seeds and F1 hybrid seeds but also genetically modified seed (GMO), most recently introduced, are known to farmers. A GMO seed is the seed that is obtained from genetic engineering technology. Genetic engineering is a laboratory technique used by scientists to change the DNA of living organisms. The classic specimen of a GMO seed product is that of the tomato seed. A tomato plant is a crop that is very sensitive to cold conditions. There is a kind of fish that can survive in the severe cold conditions. To make possible the cultivation of tomatoes in cold conditions, the scientists adopt a gene, which allows the fish to live in the cold, and combine it with the tomato plant to produce GMO seeds. GMO seed technology lets scientists perform the duty of God. They could make plants resistant to any virus, tolerant to any disease, widely adapt to surrounding conditions, and other specifications

as desired. Monsanto is the broadest known, as well as the most advanced, researcher in GMO world technology. They have been spending billion dollars in researching GMO technology. Although the GMO seed seems to have the least weakness among them, there are a great number of people opposing the use of it. The representative organization of global food reservation, NGO, in every country plays the most important role in rejecting the wide spreading of GMO seeds into those countries, especially in Europe. They believe that the products from GMO seeds are not safe to use and no one can guarantee there is no side effect. Thus GMO seed is still being quarantined in some nations as well as being openly used in many other countries.

OP seeds, F1 hybrid seeds, and GMO seeds are all fabulous, but which is the best to use? The ratios of the use of each type in each country are varied on its requirement. For instance, countries having plentiful arable land and small populations might not need to use F1 hybrid and GMO seeds. If they use those seeds, their prominent yield would affect the balance of demand and supply of fruits and vegetables and then lead to the decline of the prices of those produces in their markets. On the other hand, countries having a great number of people and a majority of arid land might need to grow the GMO seeds and F1 hybrid seeds to conquer these threats. What is your opinion? Which type of seeds do you prefer? You are the one to make the decision.

## **The Ways to Generate Electricity**

*Jose L. Isoardi*

*R/W 40*

We clearly know that all industries, people's houses and other things need electricity to manufacture and live. A big problem for people and their security is way in which the electricity is generated. It is a controversial topic because the government has four different ways to produce it. One way is through nuclear energy, which is very useful, yet very dangerous for humanity. The second way is solar energy, but at the moment it is practically impossible in a great scale because it is much too expensive to create. The third way is with petrol, which is the best solution when the country does not have hydroelectric energy, but we know very well that petrol emanates pollution to the air. Also, it is a natural resource therefore it is exhaustible. Finally, the best way is through the hydroelectric energy, and there are several reasons for this.

The main reason hydroelectric energy is the best way to generate electricity is that it is free and unexhausted. Water has a natural cycle in its process of production. It does not need extra items or artificial energy to provide its own source of generation. It will surely disappear some day, but the day will come when the earth does not exist anymore. All the water running on the earth's surface is liberating energy, including stagnant water, which also has potential energy to liberate. It depends on man's intelligence to take advantage of it. The only cost that the generation of electricity has is the initial investment on the construction of the dam. Once this is built, the water runs and the impellers generate electricity. Just like

the generation of electricity, its transportation to a city or to a center of consumption does not cost anything since electrons can travel freely through a cable.

Another reason is that the dam can regulate floods avoiding large disasters and human losses. When a river cannot be controlled during a rise, it can increase its current washing away every single thing in its way. The sand of its coast is dragged downriver destroying them and besides creating a big problem if the coasts are an important tourist attraction. This activity is usually an important source of income for local government.

A further reason is the utilization of the dam to supply a city with drinkable water. Since a dam has the possibility of controlling the volume of water going into a lake, we can keep the water's provision secured. The suction of the liquid from a river is very daunting and expensive because the river cannot keep a constant level of water and its turbidity is variable. In times of drought, it is complicated to supply a city with water taken from a river.

In conclusion, to generate electricity with hydroelectric energy is highly safe and inexpensive. The initial investment is useful to create other resources and to avoid irreparable disasters during a flood. Man must know how to take advantage of the possibility that nature gives us freely.

## **A Spanish Wedding**

*Judith Valls*

*R/W 40*

The wedding is an important event in our life. For this reason, we usually spend so much money on this ceremony because it is an unforgettable day. This is an occasion if you want to join your family together, otherwise it means beginning to share your life with another person.

One year before the bride and groom get married, they must start looking for a nice church. In addition, they will need to bring their birth certificate to church where they are going to get married.

Second, they must enroll for the pre-matrimonial course at the church where they belonged since their childhood. After that, they must decide on a date for the wedding. They are usually in summer or spring due to the nice weather.

Next, when they have already chosen the church, they can continue selecting which restaurant is the best place to have the meal. Furthermore, they have to agree with the restaurant on the date of the big day.

Six months before, they buy the wedding dresses for the event. The bride goes shopping with her mother and the groom goes shopping with either his mother or father. They can also choose where they want to go for the honeymoon. After that, they have to prepare the guest list. It is a very hard process, since they have to decide who is going to be invited.

After making the decision, they must select the cards for the wedding and order them.

Three months before, more or less, they send the wedding cards to the invited guests. Besides that, they need to hire a photographer for the day.

One month before the big day, the bride would try out a variety of make-ups. At the same time, she will have to try different hairstyles and have the manicure done, as a test. Furthermore, they will have to hire the master of ceremony. Also, they need to coordinate the floral arrangements and the musical accompaniment.

In the end, they have to confirm how many guests will attend the wedding and decide upon who pays for the wedding banquet. Some days before, the bride chooses the hand bouquet of flowers.

At the end of the ceremony they are pronounced husband and wife. They promise to cherish and love each other forever and ever. For this reason, Spanish people spend so much money on this day, since it is sometimes only one time in our life.

## How to Ride a Jet Ski

*Jose L. Isoardi*  
*R/W 40*

Jet Ski is a vehicle that you can only ride in water. It basically works by slipping like a skiboard. It consists of the following special items: a fiberglass "casco" and cover, a "tower" with a handle bar, the engine, a water propelling system that works with suction, a propeller and an impeller. The driver must have some skills and abilities to be able to ride it. These are balance, physical resistance and a great deal of adrenaline.

When you ride a jet ski balance is very important. It is the ability to remain standing while the jet ski is moving. It is very important to control the jet ski from the beginning. As soon as you start the engine you need to hold the handle bar tightly. At this moment, you need to kneel on the floor of the jet using only one knee while the other leg is out in the water. Then you need to accelerate while you try to stand up with both legs and hold the handle bar firmly with both hands. Once you manage to stand up, going straight is not complicated as you can regulate the speed with the accelerator according to your own balance. The difficult part begins when you take a curve since the body tilts with the jet. You need to put pressure with your feet against the floor in order to prevent the jet from going straight forward. The point here is to control the jet so that it follows the curve.

It is after the curve when the second requirement to ride a jet ski comes to play: resistance. This is necessary so that the jet returns to its original position. Repeated movements of this kind can lead to physical exhaustion for which you must have a good physical resistance.

Finally, you need a lot of adrenaline to be able to ride a jet ski. Adrenaline in sports is to enjoy vertigo and speed without thinking about risks. This energy should be used according to our own resistance so that muscular exhaustion is not produced.

In conclusion, riding a jet ski is difficult because the conditions that you need to have are very demanding. Once you manage this, you can enjoy riding a jet ski very much.

## Prapot's Terrible Day

*The entire class of R/W 51*

Prapot's plane crashed deep in the African jungle early yesterday morning. His plane was in a very deep swamp. He fought with mud to get outside the swamp. He finally emerged. He realized he was surrounded by hungry and angry alligators who would start to eat him and he was yelling and asking for help. Somebody heard his cries, but unfortunately they weren't people. There were hundreds of piranha. The alligators ran away. The piranha started to eat his toes but they didn't like him because his feet smell so bad. Finally he got out and crawled, looking for a safe place. Then he was really hungry so he tried to eat beautiful fruit for lunch. But he got a stomachache because the fruit was poisonous.

After eating the fruit he felt very depressed and went to the plane to get something to eat, but couldn't find any food. Instead of the food he found liquor. After he drank all the alcohol which was in the plane, he was thinking about eating again because he was starving. So he saw a deer and tried to kill it with his gun. But before he could do that, a group of indians hunted him and took him to their village.

The hunters tried to cook him like a chicken in a pot, but before they started to burn him up, a pride of gorillas attacked them and left Prapot in the middle of nothing. Then he tried to escape by running into the nearby water to cool down. After 30 minutes, some alligators attacked him again and bit him up all over his body, especially his face. So, he swam very fast to try to escape from death. Then he jumped into the woods again but didn't notice he was under a bee's hive. While he was pawing his body because of the bees, the bees got mad and attacked him. So he started rolling all over the ground to get rid of the bees, but because of his drunkenness, he passed out.

Until this time Prapot still had nothing in his stomach. He tiredly walked about three miles but couldn't find any food. Instead, he would become food because he confronted some cannibals. He swiftly ran away through the woods until he reached a tall cliff. There was no more place to escape, so the only way to survive was by jumping into the deep ocean below, which was roughly a mile below the cliff. He decided to do that before the cannibals could eat him. After jumping, an unknown tornado appeared and he fell down into its funnel and stayed there until midnight.

Hours later he landed on an island and woke up. He had no idea where he was. Then it started raining so Prapot was looking for a place to sleep and went into a cave. But the cave was full of vampire bats! He got bitten all over! He tried to get out of the cave and while he was running, he fell down into a black hole which was connected to outer space. He kept falling down for several years. He hit some satellites but finally landed on Mars. He got caught by the Martians and became their slave. Unfortunately, there was a war on Mars at that time. He had to go to the war as a soldier and died for his new planet. Now he is free from suffering.

## Social and Emotional Education

*Marcela Andrades*

*R/W 51*

Social and Emotional Education (SEE) is a learning process offered to the students through their school years to develop values, social skills and knowledge about themselves and others. This helps them to turn real everyday problems into opportunities and increase their learning and creativity.

Educators, social scientists and mental health professionals have discovered that providing a social and suitable emotional education helps children to develop into responsible adults with healthy relationships and people who contribute to the society.

Social and Emotional Education is also about teaching the process to parents and educators because this is important, not only at school, but also in the relationships inside the family. We need to teach parents about the many benefits of Social and Emotional Education for our children including: reduces violence and behavior problems, improved cooperation, flexible problem solving, etc.

We want our children to be:

- Lifelong learners
- Responsible
- Self-motivating
- Able to work and learn with others in school
- Able to say NO
- Able to have friendship and intimate relationships
- Ask for help when they need it
- Self regulate their emotions

In my own words, we need to try to realize that these skills and concepts help to develop values and social and emotional intelligence. And we also need to realize that fewer children are getting proper emotional education. We need to know that our behavior influences and determines our emotional life which provides lessons and opportunities. We should learn about our mistakes and need to stay aware of our emotions and the others because we aren't always in touch with our feelings.

There are social and emotional learning programs available to educators and parents today. Together, school, community and families can make the difference. Many people are working to raise and teach "citizens of the future" now in many schools around the world.

## Terrorism

*Juan Marquez.*

*R/W 30*

Terrorism is the biggest concern for many people in the world. In some circumstances and for some countries terrorism is the result of factors such as: religion, drugs, guerrillas, and money. For some countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Ireland, Egypt, and Palestine, terrorism is a war instrument of pressure with the objective of causing the enemy physiological disturbances. However, for other countries and in

other circumstances such as Colombia, Spain and The United States, terrorism may come from several economical power branches. In my opinion terrorism is the new enemy for the international community not only for the east, but also for the west.

For instance Colombia represents a very particular case since revolutionary groups supported by drug trafficking have been growing since 1948 mostly known as "guerrilla". The first of all is the FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia). This group began during the 50's as a consequence of two-political parties division, and the Marxist winds from the Ex-Soviet Union. Nowadays the FARC is a big threat to the American continent, because it has more than forty thousand people monitoring drug traffic from Colombia to The United States and some countries of Europe worth USD 1600 million. In my opinion after finishing the war against Taliban Regimen in Afghanistan, the FARC should be the second target for the Pentagon.

Second in the list is the ELN (Ejercito de Liberacion Nacional). This group was created in 1968 with the support of The Cuban Government. Currently made up of ten thousand people the ELN causes USD 1 million losses per day destroying oil pipes daily around the country.

The last group is AUC (Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia). They originated in 1985 and their purpose was to protect some civil society fields, but some years later, terrorism in Colombia was increased and the actions of AUC against the FARC, and ELN became more violent. These days Colombia accounts for 10% percent of the worldwide terrorist groups according to he State Department of the US.

In conclusion, terrorism does not have laws and does not operate fields in permanent form. It is important to make the most of the extraordinary congruence of interests among the most important countries in the world to combat this threat and get rid of this scourge. Fortunately, terrorism aroused big feelings of world community unity with the purpose of creating a new order in the world. The war against terrorism does not involve terrorist hunting only but also is an extraordinary opportunity to rebuild the international system.

## A Dark and Stormy Night

*Sachiko Kamiya*

*R/W 51*

It was a dark and stormy night. Rain fell heavily against Michelle's window as she sat alone at home. The storm had caused a power failure so Michelle nervously read her book by the dim light of the candles, which only slightly chased away the darkness. Suddenly she heard a loud knock at the door . . .

She slowly walked to the door, and opened the door timidly. There was her friend, who she hadn't heard from for several years, at the door. He was sopping wet so she let him come in even though she didn't know why he was there.

Before she started asking him questions, he started to talk. They talked for such a long time as if they had lost the sense of time. She even forgot to ask him the reason of this visit, why he came to visit her all the way from England--He

left America several years ago because he was offered to do some research there.

They, who lost themselves in conversation, just kept chatting about old days just like they used to talk. They laughed a lot like kids. But then, suddenly he fell silent, which looked like he was brooding on something and he abruptly stood up and said, "I've got to go now . . ." She was totally confused and thinking if she did something wrong or not. She didn't lose any time asking "What's wrong?! John?"

He just said "No, nothing, really . . ." And turned his back on her. She hurried to him and when she was about to put her hand on his shoulder to stop him, he suddenly turned to her. He bent his head sadly and then looked at her straight and said quietly, "I'm so sorry, Michelle." She had no idea what he was sorry for. She was just stunned and remained standing as he walked away, disappearing in the darkness.

Rain was badly coming down. It seemed to be getting worse. Then suddenly something she had completely forgotten flitted through her mind---she and he had had a big argument a long time ago and that was the reason why they hadn't talked for a long time. He was her best friend, but he suddenly started to avoid her . . . just after she was engaged, which didn't work out at last.

After a while, she, who was standing still, barely brought herself back by the phone ring. She vacantly walked up to the phone and answered anyhow. That was her old friend. She was listening to her silently for a while, and then suddenly dropped the phone. She even forgot to breathe for a little while.

"Michelle, do you remember John? The guy we used to hang out with? He just finished his work in England and was on his way back to the US but . . . well, actually, ah . . . the airplane crashed tonight . . . I guess a couple hours ago . . ."

The glass he had just used was glimmering under the dim light of candles . . .

## **Parasailing**

*Ilona Drozd*

*R/W 40*

One Saturday in June, after an appointment in West Palm Beach, I realized that I had a chance to do something exciting before I moved to Gainesville. Moreover, I could do this with my friend Aga. Not far away from West Palm Beach on Singer Island we found a place which provided air and water attractions. We decided to try parasailing. The special bus took us to the port where the boat and a crew were ready to take care of us. Somewhere on the deep ocean water, the process started. After wearing a life jacket and a lot of different kinds of protective lines we waited on the back part of a boat for an immense wave of wind which could fill the parachute to soar us up into the sky. I was terrified when that happened. The boat was at high speed during this moment. I held my hands very tightly on a metal stick which was hanging over me. I was watching the line that kept the parachute and boat together. When the rope is straight, the vibration will cease. My presumptions were right. The tense line made our flight very smooth. I felt infinite serenity. I hung up with my friend, on

the light parachute construction, and only air was around us. At this moment an incredible view of an island was only a background to my feelings. The most important thing was discovering this kind of endless serenity. I was enjoying the fact that I've become a part of the sky. I felt that I was free of earthly problems.

## **A Traditional Taiwanese Wedding**

*Chien-I Kao*

*R/W 40*

Weddings are very important events in everyone's lives, and it is a very big decision for the bride and groom. They should let their parents agree to their wedding before they marry. Then, they pick a good day to marry from the calendar. People believe that if you choose a good day to marry this will help the marriage. After deciding to get married, the groom's family always buys a lot of gifts for the bride's family before the two get married. The families of both the bride and groom begin to prepare for the big day.

The family of the groom prepares the room for the couple because the bride will live with the groom and his family after they get married. His parents arrange the house, and there is a lot of red in the house. The color red in Taiwan means wishes for happiness and good things. They paste a Chinese word "Shi" that means wedding in the bride and groom's bedroom. Before the wedding, the groom should have a ceremony to their ancestors, and tell the ancestors about the wedding.

At the wedding also, the groom should have a ceremony to the ancestors before he goes to greet the bride. The bride should eat with her family before she leaves with the groom. Then, when the groom arrives at the bride's home, he gives flowers to the girl he is going to marry. At this time, the bride's sister or friends should stop the groom. They will let him go after he implores them, and gives them nine hundred ninety-nine dollars. This is a wish for the couple to love each other for a long time. Then, the groom puts down the bride's veil. The bride and groom pray to their ancestors, and the bride kowtows to her parents.

Later, when everyone leaves the bride's home, they never say goodbye to the bride's family. After they leave, the bride's family throws a bowl of water, rice and paddy to the bride. This means their daughter is going away from them just like the spilled water. The rice and paddy are to wish that their daughter does not have to worry about food and clothes.

The groom's family should burn the artillery piece when the bride and groom arrive. There are two children who take oranges to greet the new couple. They should then hurdle the threshold. The bride should also hurdle the fire pot and tread the tile. Then, the groom introduces his bride to his parents. Another ceremony starts now. First, they bow to the sky and ground. Second, they bow to their parents. Then they bow to each other. The bride and groom will go to the bedroom after the ceremony is completed.

## **Cruelty to Animals**

*Soli Rojas*

*R/W 40*

Bullfighting is something that has been practiced in the Mediterranean for many years. It started during the prehistoric times and continues today. In a lot of countries, they really enjoy this sport because it is exciting, dangerous, and interesting. On the other hand, some people do not support bullfighting because the bulls are abused. In my opinion, this kind of sport is cruel to the animals because the bullfighter takes advantage of the bull, while the bull is at a disadvantage.

One of the reasons I disagree with bullfighting is because of the way the bulls are treated before the bullfight. The people who take care of the bulls do not feed them. They starve the bulls, so the bulls are weak during the fight. This is not fair to the bulls.

Another reason I do not agree with bullfighting is because the bulls are also tortured during the bullfight. First of all, they put Vaseline in the bulls' eyes so the bulls cannot see clearly. Secondly, the nerves in the bull's neck are cut so they are unable to lift their head and stab the bullfighter with their horns. In addition, the bulls eventually die at the end of the bullfight.

In conclusion, bullfighting is a controversial subject to many people because of the abuse of the bulls. Although many people enjoy watching this sport, they might not realize how much the bull suffers.

## **My First Day in Gainesville**

*(Cheese Boy)*

*R/W 30*

Wherever any body travels, he or she will come across problems. During this article, I will talk about my first day in Gainesville as well as the first time I traveled outside my country. I arrived in Gainesville on Sunday, June 24th, 2001 at 3:15 PM. Then I rented a room in a motel in the downtown area. I was thirsty so I went looking for any store where could I buy water but I didn't find one at the time. However, I found a restaurant. I asked him, "Do you have water?" but he didn't understand me because my pronunciation was bad. After 10 minutes when I wrote for him this word he understood. Later that night exactly at 2:10 AM suddenly someone knocked hard on my door and on the window. Actually, I was scared since this was the first time for me in the US. Another reason was that I didn't know the police number while I tried calling the front desk. In 15 minutes someone from the reception came but he thought I was joking because he didn't find anyone around my room and he gave me the police number 911. At last I'll try next time to write about events in the U.S. Finally, see you later alligator.

## **Students Decry Idea of Monitoring**

*Marcela Andrades*

*R/W 51*

With regard to an article about monitoring international students studying in the US, I agree and disagree with it. I agree with the commission's recommendation about monitoring because . . . for some way it is strongly necessary to avoid terrorism.

But I disagree with the idea of monitoring all the foreign students because it seems to me to be an exaggeration. Maybe at the time when the article was written it wasn't necessary. It seems like only a "pilot" program. Although for sure, today it is a reality in many universities around the US.

I disagree about "monitoring" all the international students because some Americans are also potential terrorists, like Timothy McVeigh. When this tragedy (Oklahoma) happened all the eyes were looking for a foreigner.

I think there must be monitoring of all people who are suspicious for one or another reason. Also INS must investigate people before issuing the student visa or any other kind of visa. It is sufficient to make two phone calls to the applicant's home country and they will know what kind of person you are.

Crazy people can be Hispanics, Orientals, Arabs, etc. I think that to do evil, it is not necessary to belong to a specific ethnic group. In each community, society, country there are 1-2% of the population who are fanatics or injudicious people, and not all the community are the same.

The ability to do evil or good acts is not distinct between races, religion, social status, countries, etc. Nothing . . . only our hearts determine this. We are all made of the same substance.

## **Andy Warhol**

*Sachiko Kamiya*

*R/W 51*

In a room, which was surrounded by snow-white walls, I saw this inspiring painting hanging on one of the walls. The painting was called "Flowers." And a while later, I found out its artist, Andy Warhol. Even if you are not familiar with his name, you might be familiar with his paintings. If you have seen a colorful painting of Marilyn Monroe, that is his painting. If not, don't worry. You'll see it sooner or later, in a movie, restaurant, theaters or even a brand name boutique. It is sure that he had a big influence on American society and received various reactions to his work. So many people have been trying to analyze his paintings as well. So, when you talk about Andy Warhol, his influence, reputation and the messages of his paintings are things which can't be ignored.

The effect he left can be seen anywhere as I mentioned above. The reason why he had so big an influence can be because he did something no one had done before. He was a pioneer of a new genre, "Pop Art." Until then, most artists tried to explore different aspects of objects, but what he did was repetition in a mechanical way. By using a tool called "Silver

Screen,” he created his own way to paint. And the American art scene shifted from passionate abstraction to the impersonal and realistic surface of popular culture.

However, it wasn't so easy for people to accept this new art at first. At Warhol's first exhibition, people thought his work was a giant joke at their expense. His painting was completely new and extraordinary to anyone. Some people didn't consider it as an art and, he was condemned by many critics at the beginning. Little by little, however, his paintings were accepted in Europe, Australia and Japan enthusiastically and American people also began to accept them and love them as well.

As many people were attracted by them, they began to wonder what the message of his paintings was. Also, people tried to analyze them. Some people said, "The message of repetition is equality" because it was the time when there was intense discrimination in the US society. And some people said, "The message is that you don't have to be full of feeling or supercool anymore." However, the reason why he painted ordinary things and repeated them was much simpler and reasonable. "I painted things I always thought beautiful-- things you use everyday and never think about," he once said.

In conclusion, he just painted what he loved and people also loved it and still, people love it. They never fade even though it was painted a long time ago. You don't need to be a specialist to see his paintings and comment about them. You like it and that would be the best reason for him. No analysis, no arty comment. You just like it. What else do we need to say? Nothing. You just like what you like. There is nothing better than that.

## **A Korean Traditional Wedding (Hollye)**

*Haekyung Lee*

*R/W 40*

“Hollye” means wedding ceremony and we do have a traditional wedding these days. In Korean society, marriage is not personal but the family unit is emphasized, so the intricate marriage preparations involve the whole family.

While nowadays, young couples often marry for love, traditionally most marriages were arranged by the parents of the bride and groom. When the parents felt they had made a good match for their children, they arranged for the couple to have a meeting at a teahouse accompanied by their mothers. The future relationship depended on the satisfaction of both partners with their parents' arrangements, and that's how the wedding began.

Several days before the wedding, the groom and his friends visited the bride's home. They brought with them a large chest (ham) to her family. In return, the bride's family prepared food and drinks for them and before they left, they gave them money for their work.

The wedding ceremony was traditionally held at bride's home. The groom and the male members of his family went to the bride's home to have a wedding ceremony. In the center was placed the wedding ceremony table and before the ceremony the groom would present the bride's parents with a

pair of wild ducks, meaning love, harmony, and fertility for everything, specially, children.

During the ceremony, the bride was not allowed to show her face, which she hid behind a white scarf held over her arms. The couple would make many ceremonial bows to each other and exchange cups of wine.

After the ceremony, the wedding night was spent at the bride's home. That night, all of the people of the village would crowd around the home and poke holes in the paper windows (Korean traditional house windows are made by paper) to watch the new couple. The next day, the groom took his new wife to his home. “Shijip” means the woman goes to her in-laws' home. Once she is at her new home another ceremony was held to welcome her into her new family “P'aebek”, in which she had to bow to her husband's parents and relatives.

Today, the Koreans prefer to marry in Western way, wearing white wedding dresses for women and tuxedos for men, which is much simpler than the traditional wedding, but after they celebrate their Western way wedding “P'aebek” is a mandatory course of the wedding. “P'aebek” is still alive, and that's why Koreans will never forget their traditional wedding ceremony in their heart and remind them of the ancestors.

## **The Death Penalty: Justice or Arbitrarily Used?**

*Daniella Silva Kleinschmidt*

*R/W 40*

The Death Penalty is a capital punishment accepted in many countries. Death Penalty is the way to kill murderers or criminals by electrocution, hanging, shooting or lethal injection. The United States is one of the very few industrialized countries in the world that executes criminals. For some people, it can truly be necessary to find justice. However, for others, it can be arbitrarily used, irreversible state sanctioned murder. This is a real issue. In my opinion, it is arbitrarily used to find justice.

One reason is the fact that innocent people are sometimes executed. Some people are prosecuted, and they are innocent. Maybe they killed to defend themselves or they have psychological problems. If they are executed, they don't have the possibility to become better. The Death Penalty is an irreversible state sanctioned murder; if the judges makes a mistake then they cannot do anything to repair this act.

Another reason is the fact that in the United States many teenagers are executed. I am opposed to Death Penalty in all cases. However, the execution of teenagers is particularly outrageous. Teenage offenders under 18 at the time of their crimes must be exempted from the Death Penalty in recognition of their immaturity and capacity of change.

A further reason is the fact that no one has the right or power to kill trying to find justice. If somebody wants justice capital punishment is not the best way to find it. An execution is not simply a death. It is just the privation of life. If one member of your family were assassinated, maybe you are going to feel relieved if the assassin dies by capital punishment, but that is never going to return your relatives to life.

In conclusion, the Death Penalty is an arbitrary act to kill criminals trying to find justice. In my opinion, it is not the best way to do it. In the United States, since 1976 over 670 prisoners have been executed, while another 3700 await electrocution, hanging, shooting or lethal injection. This is to respect the right to life and to recover?

## **The Pressures of Being a Student in the USA**

*Carla Cardenas*  
R/W 42

Being a foreign student in the USA is something that makes you grow up. I went to the USA as a teenager without knowing any English at all, and for a very spoiled girl like me to be far away from home it became really hard. I also experienced a culture shock, and I had to learn to eat different food. So, it made me to open my mind to a different new culture. I also met new friends and people and shared with them a new language and a new culture. Overall, the pressures of being a foreign student in the USA are caused by a foreign language, by being far away from home, and by a different culture.

First of all, English as a foreign language can make you feel confused and frustrated. For example, when you talk with native speakers, you do not understand everything. It makes you feel confused and it even depresses you. In addition, you do not know how to express yourself, how to order or describe what you want, or how to express your feelings to other people.

Second of all, being far away from your country might make you feel lonely; therefore, when you wake up in the morning and find yourself in a different space, house, people...you will feel lost, because you miss your family, your pets, your friends, and those little things that make you feel at home. So all these things upset you a lot at the beginning until you get used to them.

Finally, the culture shock brings out different types of emotions. You start to eat different kinds of food that you were not used to before. You adapt yourself to new customs which are a little different from your own, and also to the parties, reunions, festivals, parades, and so on. So, it is kind of hard at the beginning, even more if you have never been away from home.

Therefore, to reduce these pressures for a foreign student, you should learn a little bit of English before you go there. The United States is a wonderful country to know and to meet nice people, but you must be an open-minded person, ready to meet new people, new customs and share yours with them. Also, you need to have a lot of patience because it takes time. Remember, you will be in a different country and everything takes a while to get used to. Good Luck!!

## **Puerto la Cruz**

*Arnelly Parejo*  
R/W 40

Puerto la Cruz is a small city located in the north east of Venezuela. There we can find interesting places to visit and very nice people.

We have beaches in the coast and islands that you can visit by boat; however, the best option is "LA PISCINA", a beach that is like a swimming pool and you can go in boats that takes 20 minutes.

The nightclubs are very good, they have all kinds of music, you can dance until 5:00 am and they are always full of people. The best night club is Baja Beach Club that is located near the beach and is opened on Mondays and on weekends.

Plaza Mayor and Caribbean Mall are the most important town centers in the city. Both of them are located near the beach and they have all the things that a good and a big town center has.

Puerto la Cruz is a giant city located in the coast. It has all the things that we like, beaches, clubs and town centers.

## **A Scary Walk**

*He Guanyan*  
R/W 42

I experienced a scary moment when I was about twelve. Thought it occurred many years ago, I often can't help getting scared while recalling the time.

One night in autumn, the time was one o'clock in the morning, when I got to the end of a talk with my friend at my friend's house. I still had to climb a mountain which has many cemeteries on the way to my home. There was no moonlight, no torch in my hand while I was walking alone. Suddenly, I heard something make a scratching noise. I thought someone was behind me, but I couldn't see anyone when I looked back, except the calm dark screen of the field and chilly wind. I suspected that there might be a ghost. So, I walked faster than before and had no courage to look around the cemetery. The faster I walked, the stronger the scratching noise became. I felt as if I were grasped by a ghost and my heart would rush out of my chest. I began to run though the scratching noise was becoming stronger and stronger.

When I arrived in my house and sat down, the scratching noise disappeared. Suddenly, I saw a big leaf of bamboo tied on a string behind me attached to my waist which my friend made.

## **The Pressures of Being a Student**

*Kamolrat Norasetkamol*

*R/W 42*

Have you ever had a student's life? I believe that everybody was once a student, including me. Absolutely, everyone must once get a feeling of both happiness and pressure at some time. Someone might feel happiness more than the pressure. On the other hand, some people might feel the pressure of being a student much more than I did. In my case, I was faced with some pressures of being a student since I started my school. Sometimes, I didn't even go to school at all and I pretended to be sick. The pressures of being a student are caused by several factors, such as a friend around you, parents who expect you to be the best, and teachers who give you hard tests.

First of all, when you're surrounded by your friends, you might feel a great deal of competition among each other. For example, once you need to change the level of educational institution, whether it's from a high school to a university or to a graduate school, you want to be in the most famous institute in the country. It's probable that you'll meet different competitors whom you don't know. In addition, you will be among classmates that are smarter than you, and who want to get a good grade, too. So you must work much harder than them.

Secondly, some parents expect their children to be the best. There are many families who want that. Basically, they obtain happiness and feel so proud when their neighbors admire their child who is the first in his class or school. Do you know how parents try to bring up their children? For example, they try to find a famous teacher for their child for private tutoring and even they make their child take a course in a tutoring center. Moreover, they still want their child to join activities' club and they never ask what their child wants or doesn't want.

The last cause of students' pressures is that they have to pass hard tests that teachers want them to complete. According to that, a teacher can determine a grade of a student, which is important for most students. They need to do their best for getting a good grade and doing a good job. As a result, some students are always nervous and have a stomachache and a headache during an exam period, and some even become unconscious.

Finally, although these pressures are inevitable as in the above situations, you can do something that will help you to relieve these pressures. For example, talk about something with your close friend that makes you relieve your stress or go outside with your family on weekends to share their opinion with each other. However, some pressures you have to solve yourself. Whether there is a friend around you or whatever your parents want or how much the tests are difficult, if you can control it yourself by telling your mind that you're satisfied with everything you did because you tried your best, you will conquer these pressures.

## **All That Glitters Is Not Gold**

*Francisco Moreno*

*R/W 42*

This is a very weird and funny story about a ghost and a house that you never heard of. Everything began 5 years ago when my father decided to buy a big and wonderful land in a country site away from a big, crowded, and loud city. It always seems to me like a paradise. The land was beautiful like an oasis in the middle of the desert surrounded by high green mountains and clear, quiet, and immense river. But nobody asked about why such a marvelous land has been there for many years and nobody wanted to buy it.

We found the answer just one year after my father built the most wonderful house that we could ever dream about. The first night that we slept there everybody heard all those strange noises in the middle of the full moon and silent night. It seemed as if people were talking very close to the house and singing with drums, and dancing, laughing, and yelling. Then my father told us that he would talk with our neighbor about it. When he came back just one minute after he left the house, his face looked like he saw a ghost. Nobody lived near our house. Our next neighbor lived 5 miles from there.

Every morning an old man who was in charge of the garden came to our home and my father asked him if last night somebody had a big party around the town. But the answer was that nobody had one. So if you hear these strange noises, don't worry about it. You probably built your house on an old Indian cemetery. And every night the spirits come out to celebrate the new full moon of the month.

## **Operations Research**

*Maria Luz Camargo*

*R/W 40*

Operations research is a topic relative to Applied Mathematics. The principal objective is to model situations in all of sciences to find the best solution. First, it considers deterministic models, probabilistic models, and mixed, which consider both deterministic and probabilistic models.

Deterministic models study specific cases in many areas of knowledge. Their most important characteristic is the behavior of variables. The variables are known or they can be known with precision. Transportation, assignment, linear programming, goal programming are examples of deterministic models.

Probabilistic models are characterized by the stochastic behavior of the variables. Their values are unknown, and they can take some values which may occur with a probabilistic behavior. Line models, stochastic process, decision theory, games theory, dynamic programming are some examples of these models. These are very difficult because the probability of behavior is not easy to find it some times.

Mixed models have deterministic and probabilistic variables. For example, dynamic programming, problems of

investment and other ones have probabilistic variables like the games problems where there exists a probability of win or lose.

Truly, Operations Research is a very important science for the solution of problem of real life in many areas like industry, medicine, agriculture, financial management, business, mix, etc. If the workers would know about it they would find a solution to many problems in their work.

## **Dormitory Ghost**

*Tomohisa Kurokawa*

*R/W 42*

This horrible story is based on my friend's experience. I was deeply touched with his words. He is friendly and funny guy. On the other hand, unfortunately, he is familiar with a ghost.

When he went to the destroyed hospital, which was burned by the fire, he saw the poor and lonely girl in front of the dusty entrance. He felt strange feeling to her. It was complete dark and unbelievable chilly midnight. He said to his friends, "Can you see the girl who is wearing bright and shining white shirts?" They said, "What are you talking about?" He recognized that she is the one. And then, he broke his mind easily. He screamed at the moment and ran away like a tiny rabbit.

From that night, he has been familiar with ghost. He has been seeing some ghosts sometime who is staring, mounting him and walking thorough the veranda to next room in his dormitory. It seems that he is haunted by ghosts. I have never seen ghosts, but he has been living next door to my room in the large and modern but little bit scare dormitory.

## **Pressure for Japanese Students**

*Tomohisa Kurokawa*

*R/W 42*

The Japanese word "Ronin" that you can see in the movie title from Hollywood, has two meanings in the Japanese dictionary. One is "a samurai who doesn't have a boss." The other is "a student who is studying to be a University student." Nowadays, does "Ronin" sound cool? Does "Ronin" have position in a society? How would you feel if you were a "Ronin"? Unfortunately, Japanese society tends to judge people based on their profession. A lot of students in Japan feel many pressures such as from parents, society, and friends.

First, the parents strongly hope for their children's success. This is natural. But in the case of Japan, it is more excessive than in other countries. For example, some parents in Japan force their children to study so that they are admitted to kindergarten school. Of course their children don't understand that. Instead of that, they want to play. Regarding the entrance examination, children feel the pressure from parents.

Second, society, especially a company, tends to hire a person who has a higher education. In truth, a company which is well known in the world requires higher educational background. Unfortunately, Japanese society tends not to judge

someone's ability but educational background. It makes students uncomfortable in their school life.

Third, because of the above reason, friends change attitude based on your educational level. This is not so usual, but sometimes we can hear it in a conversation. When you meet some girl, one of them might ask you about your educational background. If you have a higher education than her, you would have some kind of respect from her. But, if you don't have it, she might not be interested in you.

In conclusion, Japanese students feel strong pressures from their surroundings. As a result, juvenile crimes in Japan are increasing year by year. We have to consider this fact quickly. We, the society, have responsibility to make a better community. Unreasonable pressures should be removed from students.

## **Left and Right Hemisphere**

*Jose Mayorga*

*R/W 60*

The brain is divided in right and left hemisphere and each side controls different aspects of our life. The left side runs the right parts of the body, and it is the logic side. It is used for verbal, analytic, symbolic, rational, and scientific activities. Meanwhile, the right hemisphere controls the left side of the body and it is the intuitive side. It is used for nonverbal, creative, concrete, artistic and spontaneous activities. Both sides are usually fighting to have power over the other. Usually, the left side controls our life, specially, because we live in a society that is left hemisphere oriented, but mankind got to the point where we are now because of the synergism between both hemispheres. In our life, if we want to be successful, we need to use both hemispheres. We should hear the right hemisphere opinion and combine it with the left side opinion. This does not apply just to important decisions; we have to use both hemispheres for everything: work, sports and school.

When we are at work, sometimes we have to combine the left and right hemisphere to make assertive decisions. We cannot run a business based just on logic, and I am not saying that we have to base all our decisions on intuition because it is obvious that we have to be analytic and rational, but sometimes we have to hear our instinct. Research said that the most successful businesses are those that are run by people whose majors are oriented to communication and philosophical skill. Business people are more likely to be left hemisphere oriented. They make decisions based on fact and statistical analysis. In contrast, people with liberal arts and science majors are more expected to combine both hemispheres or at least take more into account the right side belief.

Another example where we have to use both hemispheres to be successful is sports. Since I was very young, I have loved to play sports. In high school, I was on the basketball team, and I learned all the basic techniques to play. It did not take me too long to discover that knowing how to shoot, dribble and pass was not enough to be a good player. To be a good player, it is necessary have intuition and creativity. In

a basketball game we only have a fraction of a second to decide if we should pass the ball, or dribble to the basket, or to make a jump shot. You don't have time to analyze the situation and choose the best option. If players use only the left side they will be like robots repeating always the same play. The opposite team will learn how to defend against your team, but if you use both hemispheres, you will add creativity to their game and your plays won't be predictable.

In school, it is very helpful use both hemispheres because it can help us to learn more and easier. The right hemisphere could help to memorize and to find answers to some problems and exercises. For example, if when I'm taking a test a get stuck in some exercise, I leave it and continue with the rest of the test. While I'm doing the rest of the test, my right hemisphere is still working on the exercise that I could not do, and when I get back to it I can add something more or sometimes answer it completely.

In this world right now, we can survive using just the left hemisphere, but our life will be very monotonous and boring. In contrast, if we only use the right hemisphere it will be impossible to live in this society because it is a dominated by the left side of our brain; we will be called crazy and probably sent to a clinic. What we need is to mix both hemisphere opinions. In spite of using the left hemisphere all the time, we have to give a little chance to the right side, and I'm sure our life will be better.

## **Pressures That Foreign Students Have in the First Months in the United States**

*Bonifacio Mostacedo*

*R/W 42*

Many foreign students come to the United States to try to learn more about English language or to seek their own interest. They have to leave their countries, customs and families, and they have to adapt to a new life style in the US. In addition, they have to save money because they do not have parent's support or maybe they come alone to the US. When they begin to study, many students are shocked by the educational system. The US education system is very different from other countries. Therefore, foreign students have many different pressures, such as economic, emotional, and educational.

First, economic problems are one of the things that the foreign students have to take in account while they are studying abroad. Usually, they have money only for paying rent, food, and school supplies. Also, they do not receive economic support from their parents or relatives. So, they need to take control of their money. For example, my friend has to make a budget every month for spending his money. He cannot spend his money on parties, trips or other things.

Secondly, foreign students have many emotional problems in the first months after they arrive to the US. They leave behind many things in their country. They live alone without their family. Also, they leave their friends, and they do not have anybody there. In addition, sometimes the new customs affect them emotionally.

Finally, foreign students feel some pressures because of the different educational system in the US. Every country has its own system of education. So, when foreign students come to the US, they have to adapt to a new system. Maybe they have to study more, and they have to learn new studying methods.

In conclusion, foreign students should prepare for these pressures before they come to US. Although it is impossible to eliminate the emotional pressures, maybe it is possible to solve the economic or educational ones. Foreign students should save more money or read more about the educational system in the US before they decide to leave their country.

## **Marketing**

*Frederico R. Gomes*

*R/W 30*

Marketing is a social process that the person or group of people create products or services ("free negotiation" inside the market) for supplying the costumers necessity. You can define marketing as a process of how you'll execute your plan to decide the price of your product or service.

First, you need to know about: sales promotion, publicity, sales force, public relations and internet (e-commerce). After you take your product, for example: shoes, you have to choose your marketing social economic group.

Second, you need to do a research for you to know which color, size and other information. Ask about comfort, when and where they will use these shoes.

Finally, you need to tell your company about your research result and decide if your company will produce it or not, if yes you must decide when and where you'll sell your product.

## **The Pros and Cons of Divorce**

*Lionel Favry*

*R/W 30*

Today in Belgium divorce has become usual. Since women freedom in 1968, the number of divorce has grown and nowadays more than half of the marriages break up after 10 years of common life. Should we accept divorce because we are more free than our parents and it's our choice to lead our lives? Or should we respect the traditional engagement and even if a marriage is going in a bad way, would we have the obligation to remain together?

In my opinion, divorce is a process that gives more freedom to couples. If they begin to fight, they have the possibility to change their lives and try to be happier without the presence of the partner with whom they had initially decided to spend their life with.

Love is almost always the reason of marriage but after a time together in common life, a lot of people consider more the real character of their partner. It's for me normal to be free

and decide to break the marriage if the common life goes wrong.

However, the problem becomes really complex when the couple has children. Actually, the education of children and money are the biggest difficulties that a couple can meet. Indeed, without money a parent can't give to his/her children all they need. And without a good education and the love of both parents, a child begins his/her life in a wrong way.

In conclusion, I think that divorce is just and can be practiced when circumstances require it but the couple must think carefully about it when they have children even if it's preferable to be separated.

## **To Go Solar or Not**

*Mustafa Ozel*

*R/W 40*

To use Solar Power recognizes that we need to conserve our natural resources. The other side might be the initial cost to set up and possible maintenance issues in the future. The possibilities for Solar Power are many and varied.

In my opinion there are very few arguments against going solar. The paybacks are a cleaner world now and in the future, less fossil fuel use so less hydrofluorocarbon emissions adding to the greenhouse effect, and a more economical energy package for the end user.

One of the most compelling reasons for solar is to preserve a dwindling reserve of fossil fuels. In the 70's we had "The Energy Crisis" where not only the gasoline we need to drive but the oil to heat our homes and businesses was in short supply. Prices skyrocketed and there were shortages everywhere.

Another reason for using Solar Power is a purely economical one. Most people who go solar also are hooked up to a commercial grid in case of down times or some unforeseen accident. There have also been instances where the commercial entities have bought some of the power that you have as extra.

Additionally, we are experiencing a severe warming trend due to the "greenhouse effect." Using fossil fuels emits hydrofluorocarbons into the atmosphere. But if we go solar there would be fewer emissions to add to the atmosphere.

In conclusion, encouraging Solar Power would have many paybacks for humankind. All the arguments against Solar Power are just ways to justify our innate laziness with the one exception for those of us who live where sunshine is a limited commodity.

## **Eucalyptus Tree**

*Catalina Londono*

*R/W 30*

"Eucalyptus" are Colombia's trees; these are beautiful trees. These live in the mountains in cold weather. The most important description of these trees is the color of the leaves, the aroma and the romance that is felt in the forest.

The leaves of the Eucalyptus tree are special for the color. There are different and a lot of medium and small leaves with special platinum colors; these colors could be green-platinum, pink-platinum and gray-platinum. These leaves give these trees a spectacular look which you can see.

The aroma that you feel when you smell the Eucalyptus is very special. This aroma makes people take some leaves for their home and you can smell the same aroma in your house and remember the natural smell.

When you always go to the Eucalyptus's forest you will feel a moment of romance and peace. You will always see many Eucalyptuses in the same place and these forests of Eucalyptus are very important for the life of the planet, because these forests give humidity to the ground and prevent erosion.

In conclusion, the Eucalyptus tree is very important for the life of people and the world. These trees give feelings and health to persons and the planet.

## **My Home State**

*Armando Lopez*

*R/W 40*

My home state is called Bolivar, and it is located in South Venezuela. This is a big state, and it is the most important one because Bolivar state has a lot natural resources, industrial plants, and beautiful natural parks.

Their natural resources are giant around the different cities. You can find iron in Puerto Ordaz, bauxite in Los Pijiguaos, and gold in El Callao. These minerals are produced mainly to obtain steel, aluminum, and beautiful jewelry.

Their industrial plants are located in Puerto Ordaz. This is the most important city because it has a lot industrial plants and it generates opportunities for employees. The main factories are SIDOR (transform iron to steel), VENALUM (make aluminium), and FERROMINERA (obtain iron).

Their natural resources are amazing. In the south of Bolivar, the two most important parks of Venezuela, Canaima and La Gran Sabana, are located. In Canaima you can find the highest waterfall in the world "Angel Fall" almost 1 km. high. In La Gran Sabana, you can look at a lot of rivers, rainforest, and waterfall, and enjoy the unbelievable night.

In conclusion, Bolivar is a special state because, you can find all that you need, natural resources, industrial plants, and natural parks. Also, you will be able build pretty cities with all these things.

## **Al-Taqweem**

*Abdullah bin Mohammed Al-Kobraish*

*R/W 30*

The Islamic calendar "Al-Taqweem" is a very accurate calendar. The Islamic calendar started 1,400 years ago, when the Prophet Mohammed left Mecca to Medina, he established Islamic country. This calendar uses the moon to account for it. Almost all the months have crescent moon after the sunset for one and a half-hour. If Muslims see the new moon that means

the month is beginning. After the first quarter in this month the moon becomes quadrant moon then in middle of the month it becomes full moon. That night is called "Bader". After that month the moon decreases until the end of the month. You can't see it but when they see crescent moon a new month starts. Actually, the month in Islamic calendar has 30 days, or incomplete 29 days. The difference between Islamic and Westerner calendar is 12 days each year.

## **Why are the Americans Running?**

*Ilona Drozd*

*R/W 30*

While considering the subject of cultural shock, a suggested question is: "Why are the Americans running?" In general, worldwide populations are similar. All of us work to satisfy the necessities of both material and spiritual life. In spite of this, the adaptation process for foreigners, coming to America, can result in culture shock. Being surrounded by residents, who, in general, look like they are running, well-rounded individualists, foreigners may be filled with pressure, like in the proverbial phrase: "keeping pace with them." You start running with them through the fashionable lifestyle, which possesses three main stages: first of all is financial independence, then health and, finally, sharing.

Financial independence is the first cultural statement. In America, many kids learn how to make money by selling candy at school. In middle school, students sell candy and hold car washes. It's common that they are working by the time they are in high school or college. By learning, the meaning of money, they usually treat education very seriously and study hard to build their future financial independence.

The healthy lifestyle is the second cultural statement, which is indicated by safety-rules everywhere. For instance, many institutions have signs that say NO SMOKING. To accentuate health, many stores advertise FAT-FREE foods and, almost everywhere, jogging people can be seen. To finish, for national health, you must remember to "smile when you recycle."

Satisfying the need to share is the last statement of America's "marathon" and it is very characteristic of American culture. The formal education of the sharing process is started in preschool where the idea of sharing is made a goal of playing. As a result, you can see many adults, who, instead of a tight weekly schedule, have space for their volunteering.

Consequently, you can tell that this (financial independence, a healthy lifestyle and sharing) is a worldwide desire. You are not "tired" and certainly not in "shock." But, instead of comparing your culture to the American culture, don't forget who you really are; because the variety of cultures makes every society interesting to run with.

## **A Traditional Ukrainian Wedding**

*Ganna Zelevska*

*R/W 30*

In every culture, weddings are important events. When a young man fell in love with a young woman and wanted marry her, he came to meet her parents. He explained what he wanted and then her parents ask their daughter her opinion. Sometimes their parents would force the daughter into marriage.

A few months before, the families of both the bride and groom prepared the wedding. The groom's family usually buys rings for the wedding.

Two weeks before the wedding the groom and his bride would start inviting their guests to the wedding. Then would choose their best man, bridesmaids and candle girl. On the night before the ceremony the bride's sisters or friends would traditionally sing songs and bathe her. The parents on both sides would hire a cook to prepare the food for the wedding feast. At that time the food was served in deep dishes. No forks or knives were laid out, only spoons, and napkins were not provided. The preparation for the wedding would start an evening before.

On the day of the ceremony the bride's sisters wore their traditional clothes: an embroidered shirt, waistcoat and skirt. A flower was sewn on the groom's hat. The groom wore wide red breeches and white embroidered shirt. The ceremony began in the church. After the newlyweds went to the groom's families house and celebrating the wedding.

The guests congratulated the newlyweds, sang songs, played games, etc. The groom took his bride for the first dance, following by the best man and bridesmaids. After all guests have finished eating, singing a song "Mnohoia Lita" (Happiness for many years). Then the guests left family's house.

Next morning, the bride left her family's house and went with her new husband to his house. It was both a happy and a sad day. It was a happy because two families were joining together and a young couple was beginning a new life. It was also sad because the bride was leaving her parents to become part of her husband's family.

After all the celebration, there was the honeymoon. The couple either stayed with the groom's parents or started their own home with the help of their parents. Sometimes they would get a team of horses, a cow and the chickens that were brought to the wedding. Those were the happy days!

## **A Special Friendship Ring**

*See Hee Kim*

*R/W 40*

Some people find that when life gets rough, having a heart-to-heart talk is helpful. This method helps people succeed in life. Hearing this statement I know I have already succeeded in life. This is true because I have three friends that I hold close to me and have held close for fifteen years.

Ten years ago, we purchased friendship rings together. This is a precious treasure and this event was special to me. When we all first met we attended elementary school together. We know each other very well now, what each of us wants out of life, what each does not want, and know all of our goals and aspirations. My friends at the university would say that I and my three friends looked like four princesses when we wore our friendship rings. I was a junior at that time when my friends and I started wearing the rings. The rings symbolize ten years of friendship and we all wear them on the same hand and ring finger, so this ring is very important to me.

We are women now, and have gone our separate ways. However, when we get together our time reverses back to when we were children and our thinking once again becomes the same. Sometimes when I am down and wonder if I will succeed at my goals or not, and I am so unsure at times, I will always surely know though that my three best friends are everything to me, and the ring reminds me of this special friendship.

## Energy Crisis

*Gulbata Akgun*

*R/W 30*

Energy is a part of our daily life. It's hard to imagine surviving without energy. The main energy resources are oil, coal, and natural gas. We use these resources for several things such as cooking, taking shower, moving cars etc. One possibility is the main energy resources because the world has them. Another is that solar energy is a new alternative for energy. In my opinion, the sun is a giant heat source for solar energy, which is the best option of the two or several reasons.

One reason is that solar energy is renewable. Renewable means that it can be replenished in a short period of time. The main energy resources are not renewable like solar energy is. Almost all countries have not enough natural resources to support their lives or factories. All countries need many more energy resources to develop their lives and countries.

Another reason is that solar energy is friendlier to the environment than fossil fuels. Fossil fuels contribute to the environmental problem while renewable energy of solar energy contributes very little. It's well known that fuels cause air pollution like smog, acid rain, and global warming. Burning these non-renewable fuels also pollutes the air we breathe. Solar energy is not hazardous for human health and environment. On the other hand, fossil fuels are terrible and have destroyed our environment.

A further reason is that solar energy can be stored. The sun does not usually shine at night or during wintertime. This is the main problem with solar heating; however, there are several ways to store the sun's energy. One way to collect heat is to trap solar energy with solar collectors.

The final reason is that you can generate cheap energy on your own house. It does not need transportation like fuel oil, gas, etc. For example, when you buy electricity this does not mean that the actual energy coming to your home is directly

from the sources. First, the energy is generated and put on a transmission grid. Then, you pull the electricity from this grid.

In conclusion, the solar energy solves the energy resource problem and for this reason it's a better alternative. The fuels burn and the supply of these fuels are increased every day. That is why people are trying to find new ways to heat their houses, offices, factories and schools without using so much contaminating oil or gas. The sun is a powerful source that makes solar energy. The sun rises every morning and brings us more solar energy.

## Date Tree

*Abdullah Al-Kobraish*

*R/W 30*

Date trees live in the hot weather. They are enjoyable. Many of them can be described as having this statement: tall trunks, long date leaves and raceme. Dates also refer to generosity.

Their trunk is well known to grow extremely tall. As they are they can grow straight up. Also, in Saudi Arabia we have proverbs that say, "This man is as tall as a date tree." That is why there are used to support as post in houses.

Their long leaves are very useful. They are used in many things, for example, roofing material, hats, shoes, rugs and mats.

They're a lot of racemes furcated from the trunk and they have dates. After plucking the dates we used them for brooms.

People use them to bring to you with Arabic coffee. Therefore, the best kind of dates in all the world are in Saudi Arabia and are called "sugary." One kilo is around \$40. The cry of Saudi Arabia has two swords that refer to equity. Also, it has a date tree that refers to munificence. I advise my friends to try dates because they are good for your health.

## What Happens to People Who Experience Culture Shock?

*Maria Gabriela Medina*

*R/W 40*

Culture shock is a serious condition that needs to be watched, and checked upon. Improvements in travel have helped communication between different cultures. It is now possible to travel to the other side of the world in a few hours. Although these improvements have benefited humans, people have been affected by what is known as culture shock. Culture shock affects humans psychologically in many ways, for example, depression, difficult communication and even hatred for the other culture.

Depression is one of the most common effects in culture shock. Some people have different manifestations, like crying, eating all day, sleeping and feeling sad. Consequently, this affects the health and some times causes sickness. It doesn't matter if you are rich or poor, religious or non-religious, the odds remain high that you will suffer this illness someday.

It is difficult to understand exactly why people become depressed, as a result of biochemical events, certain factors in a person's life, extreme period of stress, personal low self-esteem, and negative thinking patterns. In fact, depression is more common than high blood pressure.

A second effect is difficult communication. Traveling to a new destination with unusual habits and traditions can be a very traumatic experience. For this reason, people have learned about this language. Therefore, it will make an enormous amount of difference to you if you learn a little or as much as possible of the local language before you leave. Take up classes and try to practice with native speakers. This small step will make your life a lot simpler and will also give you immediate respect when you arrive in the foreign country, not to mention it will open many new doors. If you show an interest in other people's language and culture, they will show an interest in you.

Another important effect in culture shock is hatred for other culture. The people have hatred for other cultures because they don't know very much about the culture. Differences can be hard to accept for some people, thus causing hatred. For this reason, expats in a country can also cause hatred for a culture in other people. Expats tell all of the negative things about culture, and that can change the visitor's opinion of the culture, and keep an open mind.

In conclusion, culture shock basically comes from a lack of understanding and built up anxiety. Therefore, many people have suffered from it on numerous occasions and depression, difficult communication, and even hatred for the other culture. It is not so much a life threatening disease, but it can lead to some very serious problems if you do not take a few precautions. The most important thing is to actually leave with an open mind. A lot of people fly off without any research and expect things to be done in exactly the same way and at the same speed as they were at home, well this just isn't going to happen, and it is very important to try the culture and people of the country that you are traveling to.

## **Student Web Sites**

*R/W 51*

The students of R/W 51 have made a set of web sites to promote themselves and display their work. Visit them at <http://www.geocities.com/tesltimes/home.html>.

### **Thanks from the Editor**

Thank you students for allowing us to share your writing. I hope you enjoy reading your fellow students' essays and paragraphs. Also thanks to Noreen Baker, and Stephen Moreau at the HUB, for arranging the gift certificates; to Todd Allen for publicizing this issue of *Student Voices*; to the Reading/Writing instructors for supporting their students in their writing; and to Jeanie Mann-Hoehn, Jeff Forbes, and Darion Hutchinson for reading and evaluating the entries.

Thanks everyone!  
Steve Flocks